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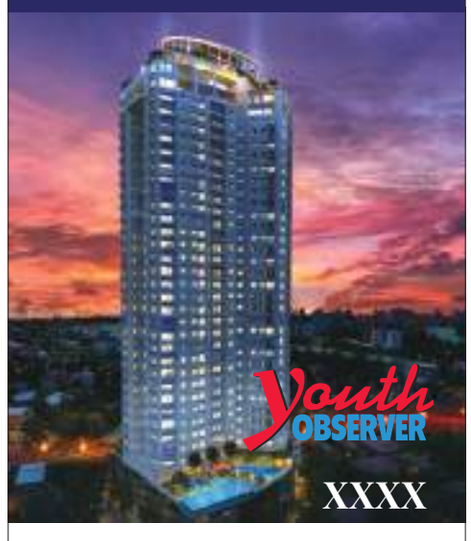


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MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON PCOI REPORT

# CID, TID TOLD TO CARRY OUT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

**By Uditha Kumarasinghe**

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said the six-member Ministerial Committee appointed to study the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that probed the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks has given instructions to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) to conduct further investigations and also set up a new institution, if necessary, and to inform the Attorney General regarding the steps to be taken against the then Ministers who were in charge of the police but failed to take any remedial measures to prevent the carnage despite prior warnings by the state intelligence agencies.

Minister Ranatunga who was also a member of the six-member Ministerial Committee said the PCoI report has not mentioned anything about the then Ministers who were in charge of the police and shirked their duties to prevent those multiple terror attacks on April 21, 2019 on Easter Sunday. However, such references and information are there in the evidence given before the PCoI, the Minister told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

The Ministerial Committee has given its recommendations regarding so many... SEE PAGE 2

ISSUE OVER 'LTTE POLICE UNIFORMS'

## Jaffna Mayor on bail

**By Ananth Palakidnar**

Jaffna Mayor V. Manivannan who was taken into custody on the allegation of attempting to revamp the now defunct Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the early hours of Friday (9) was released on bail in the evening on the same day.

Manivannan was taken into custody last Friday following his formation of a special security unit attired in the blue uniform similar to the so-called Police force set up by the LTTE.

According to sources, Mayor Manivannan had not obtained prior permission from the authorities... SEE PAGE 2

ILLUSTRATION: JAGATH PUNCHIHEWA

"DISCUSSION WITH THE VILLAGE"

## President appoints Task Force to achieve goals

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has appointed a Presidential Task Force to effectively guide, pursue and review the realisation of objectives and needs of the people that the government seeks to achieve through the "Discussion with the Village" program.It has been named as the "Rural Development Presidential Task Force on Discussion with the Village".

A 15-member team of state ministers and parliamentarians has been... SEE PAGE 2

AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2019

## EC gives ultimatum to four parties

The National Election Commission has issued an ultimatum to four recognised political parties to submit their audited accounts for the year 2019. An official said these four recognised political parties have not submitted their audited accounts, as per the law, to the Election Commission so far and they have been asked to do so before April 22.

The party representatives have been summoned to the Election Secretariat on April 22 where they will be required to hand in the records of their audited accounts. "If they fail to comply with the law, the Commission will suspend the status of 'recognition', so that they will be barred from contesting any future election," the official said.

The names of the political parties have not been made public so far.

IMPORT OF CONTAMINATED COCONUT OIL

## Five companies under investigation

**By Nihal P. Abeysinghe**

Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardana said the Consumer Affairs Authority and Sri Lanka Customs will take action against the companies which imported coconut oil containing the highly carcinogenic substance Aflatoxin under the Consumer Protection Act and the Customs Ordinance.

Information about five large scale companies has been received following... SEE PAGE 2

## Rs. 5,000 allowance for Samurdhi recipients and low-income families

State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-Employment and Business Development Shehan Semasinghe said steps have been taken to provide a cash allowance of Rs. 5,000 for Samurdhi recipients and low-income families.

The State Minister said the decision... SEE PAGE 2

## WHO slams 'shocking' vaccine imbalance between rich and poor

**Geneva (AFP):** The World Health Organization on Friday condemned the chasm between rich and poor nations in accessing coronavirus vaccines, saying more than a dozen countries were still completely unprotected.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus -- a fierce critic of wealthy countries buying vaccine supply for themselves -- blasted the scarcity of doses available for poorer nations.

His target of seeing vaccination under way in every country by Saturday -- the 100th day of 2021 -- is set to be missed.

"There remains a shocking imbalance in the global distribution of vaccines," Tedros told a press conference. He said, "Of the 220 territories, 194 had started vaccination, while of the remaining 26, seven have received doses and are preparing to start, while a further five should take delivery of their first batches within days."

Of the remaining 14, some had not requested vaccines through the Covax scheme, some were not yet ready, and some planned to start in the coming weeks and months.

"We're encouraged that almost all countries.... SEE PAGE 2

### 'Easter Sunday Commission'

# Government is duty bound to implement recommendations – *G. L. Peiris*

**Speech by Education Minister G. L. Peiris in Parliament at the last week's debate on the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday attacks**

"The Easter Sunday Commission has done a great service to the country. There are many misconceptions. We must be clear that this Commission is not a court of law. Hence, it has no powers to name the offenders and say what punishment to be metered out to them. And it cannot carry out investigations and come to conclusions the way the police does, the commission does not wield such power. They have fulfilled an important duty within their mandate.

The government is duty bound to implement the recommendations of the Commission. That will be fulfilled and no one must have any doubts.

There are many misconceptions about the Cabinet Sub Committee headed by Chamal Rajapaksa appointed to study the Commission report. Their mandate is not to do another independent investigation on the findings of the Commission that was headed by a Supreme Court judge.

It has a separate mandate. This report has hundreds of pages and many recommendations. It is highly complicated. The government must decide where to begin implementation and what recommendations need to be given priority.The Sub committee will study the PCoI findings and make recommendations to that effect.

To have an idea on the government action on Easter Sunday Commission report, we must try to understand the role of the Government, the role of the Attorney General, and the role of the Judiciary. If not it will be very confusing.

The government will operate via the police - basically through the TID (Terrorism Investigation Dicision) and the CID. So far a great deal of work has been done in this area. By today 99 people have been arrested in connection with this incident. A total of 36 investigations related to this attack have been completed.

I studied the report with interest. This Commission report has clear reference to people, incidents and places. They are not simple statements. For example there are quite a few recomendations on the detection of weapons and ammunition haul at Wanathawilluwa . There are even names mentioned as to the people involved in that incident.

Investigations have been carreid out on these revelations.

The Cardinal moved the Appeal Court seeking a ruling to expose 6000 numbers of swords which are allegedly being hidden and intiate an inquiry to bring out the truth. Even without a ruling from the Court, the police can take action to seize those weapons. IGP, has deployed two units to probe this allegation.

It is a very serious situation, these daggers and swords can be used to commit crimes in the future. These weapons were brougth from overseas, then who sactioned its release from the customs, such a huge consignment of weapons. The police is probing the truth behind this also.

The other fact is overseas connections. Even the LTTE, during their time, could not carry out eight coordinated bomb attacks from Colombo to Baticaloa within hours. It should have been planned for years. Who funded this deadly project, who created this ring, and who aided and abetted these people ? The Sri Lankan government is committed to finding answers to these questions.

The government is liasing with foreign governments to investigate overseas cells and individuals. To my knowledge, 54 Sri Lankans from five countries have been arrested so far in keeping with these investigations and 50 are already repatriated. The government is making efforts to get the others repatriated.

The report says in 2020 a number of people have been arrested in Qatar. Some are not Sri Lankan citizens. A few of them have travelled to Australia and they have been investigated by the Australian authorities. The government has enthusiastically followed up on these leads, not only to punish the perpetrators but to prevent such tragedies from recurring, which is the most important thing.

The Commission has also addressed the question whether funds were channelled from overseas sources. The report says a Turkish organisation has provided funds for this project. This organisation is a deadly organisation fighting against the current Turkish government.

The government has already completed these tasks. The Police have completed several investigations and the files have been sent to the Attorney General for the purpose of initiating court cases.

The AG must take an independent decision on the question whether the available proof is enough to serve indictments. On behalf of the Government, I would like to state this with honesty, that this process will not be a witch hunt. At the same time we will not hesitate to take action against any person irrespective of their power and status, culprits will be brought to book.

It is impossible to file 36 court cases at once. But if there are completed cases, I believe it is timely to initiate judicial processes on such cases without delay. This is a humanitarian issue, we must not look at it in a political view point. Small kids, young couples who were engaged to marry, died in the tragedy. Their bodies were torn into pieces.

A father had to leave his job to look after a young child since the mother perished in the attacks. We can understand Cardinal's sentiments. Naturally the priests at Katuwapitiya church are seeking his intervention.We call upon the Attorney General to expedite court cases on those of which investigations have been completed.

In addition to the above short term action, the Report has recommended a number of long term actions. Several pages of the report have been allocated to spell out recommendations on Madrasas. These come under the purview of the Education Ministry.

Currently there are about 365 registered Madrasas in the country. Apart from that there are different types of such unregistered religious schools.

We need to have standards and regulate these places. Children below 16 years of age are prohibited from attending such institutes under the current law.

If they attend such institutes, they will not acquire necessary skills to find a job in the future. Their future will be ruined.

The government has a major responsibility to look into their curriculum, who teaches the children in them and who is funding these places. The report has very practical recommendations to address these issues.

The government plans to bring in amendments to update the present law on areas such as foreign funding, extradition, money laundering and counter terrorism to secure existing loopholes and streghten the provisions.There are recommendations to improve on the Executive and Legislature as well as the Judiciary.

One such recomendation is to appoint a special Court to hear the case on Easter Sunday terror attacks and hold sittings on a daily basis. To implement this recommendation the Chief Justice's views will be sought.

The government has done all that is possible to push this forward, and ensure that justice is served and perpetrators punished. On behalf of the government I will vouch that it will do its utmost to protect the people and ensure that there will not be room for such tragedies in the future.

## Prince Philip: What are the plans for his funeral?

Funeral preparations are under way for Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II's husband, who died on Friday aged 99.

Details will be announced in the coming days, but it is expected to be a ceremonial event rather than a large state affair usually associated with the death of a monarch.

What will happen next?

The UK government has announced that union jacks and national flags will fly at half-mast on all government buildings until 08:00 BST on the day following the funeral. Union jacks on royal buildings, where the Queen is not in residence, will also fly at half-mast.

The Royal Standard, which represents the sovereign and continuation of the monarchy, never flies at half-mast and will be flown at full mast where the Queen is present.

Gun salutes will take place at 12:00 BST on Saturday to honour the duke. Guns at locations across the UK and in Gibraltar will fire 41 rounds at one round every minute for 40 minutes.

**Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at the Palace of Westminster after the state opening of Parliament on May 8, 2013 in London.**

Royal Navy ships at sea, including HMS Diamond and HMS Montrose, will also fire the salute, a tribute to the duke, who served as a naval officer during World War Two and held, among other titles, the office of Lord High Admiral.

The public are encouraged to observe the gun salutes from home, online or on television.

Out of respect, the main political parties in England, Scotland and Wales have suspended campaigning for next month's elections. The House of Commons will sit on Monday for MPs to pay their tributes to the duke.

How can the public pay their respects?

Coronavirus restrictions on mass gatherings in England mean the long-held plans for the days leading up to the funeral, and the funeral itself, have been amended.

Members of the public have been asked not to try to attend any of the funeral events, in line with public health advice.

The Royal Family has also asked people not to leave flowers and tributes at royal residences.

On the Royal Family website, members of the public are asked to consider making a donation to a charity instead of leaving floral tributes in memory of the duke. An online book of condolence is also available for the public to post their personal tributes.

A plaque that was displayed outside Buckingham Palace, announcing the duke's death, was later removed because of concerns it would attract crowds. However, people have started to leave flowers, cards and tributes outside the palace and at Windsor Castle, despite requests not to do so.

## President's condolence message

On behalf of the government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I convey my deep and heartfelt condolences on the passing away of your beloved husband His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness had a special affection for Sri Lanka and often recalled with warmth his short stay in Ceylon during the World War II. The people of Sri Lanka carry fond memories of his stay as well as of his subsequent visits to Sri Lanka accompanying your Majesty on two State Visits.

While we mourn with great sorrow the passing away of His Royal Highness, we recall his great service to the British nation, his distinguished naval career, and his service to the Commonwealth.

Please convey, your Majesty, my condolences and those of the people of Sri Lanka to members of the Royal Family. Our thoughts are with your Majesty, the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom during this sorrowful time.

Please accept Your Majesty, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**– Gotabaya Rajapaksa**
*President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.*

## Jaffna Mayor on bail... From page 1

... to set up this police unit.

He said that the unit was set up largely to maintain the cleanliness of the Jaffna city and to check on residents neglecting several hygienic guidelines introduced by the JMC following the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, following a complaint made to the Jaffna police against Manivannan, a lawyer by profession was later arrested.

The duo was later detained at the TID Unit until the early hours of Friday as officers conducted a lengthy investigation. Manivannan and Partheepan were later produced before the Jaffna Magistrate A. Peter Paul and enlarged on Rs 200,000 surety bail. Jaffna district Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarian and President's Counsel M. A. Sumanthiran along with several other lawyers appeared for Mayor Manivannan and JMC member V. Partheepan.

Police also questioned the five personnel who were recruited into the unit and recovered the blue uniforms. The issue was also brought to the notice of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by Minister of Fisheries and Jaffna district Parliamentarian Douglas Devananda who said that the Mayor had acted on his own without considering the legal implications.

Several Jaffna district parliamentarians also called for the release of Mayor V. Manivannan soon after his arrest.

## Five companies under... From page 1

... investigations conducted on the containers of the contaminated oil. A special investigation on the five companies will be conducted immediately. Minister Gunawardana said the CID has already commenced questioning five senior officers of three leading companies.

Knowing the fact that Aflatoxin is harmful to the people, this contaminated coconut oil had been imported violating all imports and other consumer protection laws enacted for health and food commodities.

The Minister said if the investigations conducted by the CID and other relevant institutions confirm that this contaminated coconut oil stocks had been deliberately imported to Sri Lanka, it would be able to charge billions in compensation from those multinational companies which produced such coconut oil.

At present tests are being conducted by the Health Ministry (Food Control) unit, Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLI) and Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) on the coconut oil and other foods that contained Aflatoxin.

## President appoints Task Force... From page 1

...nominated to the Task force chaired by Minister Namal Rajapaksa. State Ministers Nimal Lanza, Dilum Amunugama, Kanchana Wijesekera, Seetha Arambepola, Channa Jayasumana, MPs Cader Mastan, Kapila Athukorala, Sanjeeva Edirimanna, Nipuna Ranawaka, Chamara Sampath Dassanayake, Tiran Alles, Gevindu Kumaratunga, Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan, Chinthaka Amal Mayadunne and Jayantha Weerasinghe are the other members of the Task Force.

Coordination is carried out by Chandima Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary to the President, providing all the information related to rural development activities in line with the "Discussion with the Village" program. The Task Force has the primary responsibility to direct all officers at the divisional level, including the District Secretary, the Divisional Secretary and the heads of all other institutions, based on the requirement of services, to expedite the implementation of the President's instructions and directives to address issues and problems raised by the people during the "Discussion with the Village" program.

The Task Force is vested with the responsibility of speedy completion of projects such as the development of Roads, Drinking Water Supply, Electricity, Telecommunications, development of Playgrounds, Schools, Hospitals, Vocational Educational Institutions, Urban Universities, Land Transfers, Banking and Financial Facilities, Market, Warehousing and Infrastructure facilities, implemented at the national level by the Government Institutions in the Pradeshiya Sabha and Divisional Secretariat areas under the Budget Provisions for 2021 – 2023. The Task Force is expected to expedite all projects financed by local and foreign funds under the Public Investment Programme within the specified timeframe.

The President has directed the Task Force to report to him any instances of delay or omissions in the performance of the duties assigned by the Task Force to any public servant or any official of a Ministry, Department, Corporation or any such institution.

## Rs. 5,000 allowance for... From page 1

...has been taken in view of the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year. He said Samurdhi officers have been instructed to take steps to present the cash allowance to the relevant families prior to the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

## CID, TID told to carry out further... From page 1

...references made in the PCoI and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security. Sometimes, no evidence had been recorded from those who were in charge of the police at that time so that action should be taken against them as well. Such matters should be referred to the AG as the political authority is not in a position to initiate legal action against the accused.

Minister Ranatunga said the recommendations in the PCoI report on politicians, police officers and Government officials who have been charged under the criminal offences for shirking their responsibilities were referred to the Attorney General.

The Ministerial Committee has also instructed that those recommendations be implemented.

The Committee has also instructed the IGP to conduct an immediate investigation on the police officers who have been accused in the PCoI report and initiate legal action against them.

He said it is up to the AG's Department to take legal action on the criminal charges levelled against all those who shirked their responsibilities to prevent the Easter Sunday carnage.

The Minister said the six-member Ministerial Committee has made over 70 recommendations after studying the reports of the PCoI and Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security.

Minister Ranatunga said recommendations have also been made to provide compensation to the families of the victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks and assist the children who lost their parents to continue with their education.

The Committee report has made several recommendations relating to education.

He said it has also recommended to confiscate the properties of those who were involved in those terror attacks and take action against them under the money laundering laws.

The Attorney General's Department and the IGP should immediately act to bring the culprits to book. This is the request made by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith as well. Chairman of the six-member Ministerial Committee, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa handed over its report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat on April 5.

## WHO slams 'shocking' vaccine... From page 1

...which want to start have now started," Tedros said.

"However, I emphasise the word start. Most countries do not have anywhere near enough vaccines to cover all health workers, or all at-risk groups -- never mind the rest of their populations."

More than 732 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in at least 195 territories around the world, according to an AFP count.

Some 49 percent of the doses have been injected in high-income countries accounting for 16 percent of the global population.

Just 0.1 percent have been administered in the 29 lowest-income countries, home to nine percent of the world's population.

Tedros compared some high-income countries where one in four had received a shot to low-income ones, where fewer than one in 500 had done so.

The WHO co-led Covax facility, which aims to ensure that poorer nations can access Covid-19 vaccines with donors covering the cost, had been expecting to distribute its first 100 million doses worldwide by the end of March.

But only 38 million have been distributed so far, to 105 territories.

"We hope to be able to catch up during April and May," said Tedros.

"Covax works. It's a strong mechanism that can distribute vaccines faster and more efficiently than any other mechanism. The problem is not getting vaccines out of Covax; the problem is getting them in.

"Some countries and companies plan to do their own bilateral vaccine donations, bypassing Covax for their own political or commercial reasons.

"These bilateral arrangements run the risk of fanning the flames of vaccine inequity.

"Scarcity of supply is driving vaccine nationalism and vaccine diplomacy."

Europe's medicines regulator said this week that the AstraZeneca vaccine could cause very rare blood clots among some recipients, prompting several countries to scale up restrictions on the jab.

On Wednesday, the WHO's vaccine experts said a link between AstraZeneca's Covid-19 jabs and blood clots was "plausible but not confirmed", adding that reported occurrences were "very rare".

Tedros said on Friday that the UN health agency continued to back the jab.

"The benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risk of these very rare side effects," he said.

"All vaccines and medicines carry a risk of side effects. In this case, the risks of severe disease and death from Covid-19 are many times higher than the very small risks related to the vaccine.

The novel coronavirus has killed over 2.9 million people since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, according to a tally from official sources.

# POLICE Log

BY LEON BERENGER

## *Deegadanthu Eka* returns from the dead

**KALAWEWA:** A tusker known as 'Deegadanthu Eka' who was believed to have been killed in an elephant battle in the Kalawewa Reserve some two years ago was recently spotted very much alive.

The tusker was sighted repeatedly this week in the Kalawewa Reserve prompting Wildlife experts to roll back their earlier decision they took some two years ago.

Now it believed that the dead elephant found some two years ago was that of another tusker known as *Deegadanthu Deka*.

Both tuskers were famous in the reserve for their unusual long tusks so much so that they earned their respective names.

## Father's wrath ends in bloody tragedy

**GALAWELLA:** An enraged 41-year-old man is alleged to have stabbed his young niece to death after the victim had supported a love affair between the suspect's underaged daughter and an older man.

According to reports-the father was a single parent after his wife died when his daughter was only a toddler. Thereafter he had placed his daughter at an orphanage.

Days prior to the incident his daughter had arrived from the orphanage for the oncoming festive season and the father made arrangements to leave her at his sister's home.

It is here that his niece is alleged to have brokered a love affair between her cousin and an older man despite several warnings and advice to his niece to drop the matter.

So on this fateful Monday morning the father is alleged to have stormed a bookshop in which his niece was employed and repeatedly stabbed her to death before turning over to the police.

## Gambling den-Chinese only

**BAMBALAPITIYA:** Five Chinese, including a woman were rounded up after police busted an illegal gambling centre at a plush private residence in Lauries Road Bambalapitiya this week.

More than Rs. 1 million in cash and 2,600 Yuan Chinese currency was also recovered during the raid that took place during the late hours of the night.

The all-Chinese gambling den in believed to have been in operation for a considerable period of time and was patronized exclusively by Chinese nationals police have found out.

It was subsequently found out that the suspects had landed into the country on visit visas.

The raid was carried out by a joint team of police officers from the Bambalapitiya and Kollupitiya police stations.

## CI swallows currency bills to avoid arrest

**WELIWERIYA:** A Chief Inspector (CI) of Police is alleged to have torn up and later swallowed two Rs. 5,000 currency notes in a bid to evade arrest as bribery officials closed on him.

The Officer attached to the Minor Offence Branch at the Weliweriya Police is alleged to have demanded Rs. 10,000 as a bribe from a truck driver who had been booked on a traffic offence.

The CI had later allegedly swallowed the money on spotting the sleuths from the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC) a Magistrate was told.

The Magistrate then went on to remand the suspect until his medical reports are made available to the Commission.

## Three held for coir mill worker's death

**MUNDALAMA:** Three suspects including a woman are alleged to have beaten a man to death and later hanged the limp body onto a wooden rafter in the roof to portray a suicide in a bid to mislead police.

This case was reported from a village in Mundalama in the Chilaw Police Division this week.

The incident allegedly took place after dusk when the mistress of the dead man along with her brother and a female member of the extended family had alleged pounced on the man who had been highly intoxicated at that time.

The actual reason for the killing was not clear but initial investigations have revealed that there had been a festering dispute between the victim and his mistress.

The victim-an employee in a coir mill situated nearby and is also known to be married on two earlier occasions.

## Officer bitten in dog fury

**MINUWANGODA:** An irate man is alleged to have set his dog upon two policemen who had arrived at his home to inquire into a complaint that had been made against him.

The man was apparently not in a mood to be interviewed by the two policemen and therefore had opted to set his pet canine on the two officers.

The two police officers had bolted but not before one of them sustained vicious bites on his legs while the man was subsequently arrested and ordered to be remanded by a local Magistrate.

The incident was reported from a location in Nilpanagoda in Minuwangoda.

# First Zonal Office of CMA opened at Maligawatta

The first zonal office of the Condominium Management Authority was opened at Maligawatta Housing Complex on April 5, 2012 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 opened 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 Mr. 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.

As the initial step, the Authority will make 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.

Infrastructure facilities required for conducting the general meetings of Management Corporations and matters incidental thereto.

Inspecting the maintenance and conditions of such properties.

Making interventions to resolve issues that arise in respect of properties.

The Chairman and the General Manager said 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 apace across the

**CMA Chairman Attorney-at-Law Sarana Karunaratne and General Manager Dr. Indunil Liyanage opened the first Zonal Office of the Condominium Management Authority**

# Tourism industry stake holders oppose new Act Industry up in arms

BY SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The Sri Lanka tourism industry stake holders are vehemently opposing the proposal to formulate a new Act for the sector for which Cabinet approval was given last week following a proposal by Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga

Under this proposal amalgamating the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) and the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) was proposed along with other changes.

However, in a joint statement The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL) and Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO) stated they oppose this and said that priority is not a new Act but getting down tourists and other burning issues. There are more important things to be done right now and we want the government and Sri Lanka tourism to focus on these areas now, said President SLITO Tilak Weerasinghe.

He said under the present Act Sri Lankan tourism from 500,000 arrivals in the 1980s and Rs. 1 million revenue increased it to 2.5 million arrivals and 4.4. billion revenue under the guidance from then Minister Basil Rajapaksa.

He said that tourism while bringing much needed Forex to Sri Lanka and also contributed to the government coffers by paying high taxes and is a key employment generator. "The changing of the current Act, which has served its purpose in challenging times, is not the answer for the future development of the tourism industry," said, THASL President Sanath Ukwatte. He said tourism is 99 per cent a private sector-driven industry even raising funds for tourism promotion through the TDL. The SLTDA only should play the role of regulator cum facilitator, he said.

"The current Act has been drafted in a manner that the private sector and public sector can cooperate and work together in partnership for the betterment of the tourism industry," he added. Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarli Fernando has stated that new thinking is needed to move the industry forward and needs a new Act.

## "Opposition cries foul over environment destruction"

# Move aimed at targeting youth votes

### - Prasanna Ranatunga

### Disinformation campaign launched to mislead people

—By—
Uditha Kumarasinghe

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said the Opposition similar to the strategy they followed in 2015 to defeat then President Mahinda Rajapaksa now attempts to spread falsehoods and misconceptions to tarnish the image of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. At present, they have launched a disinformation campaign to mislead the people that an environmental destruction is taking place in the country. The Minister in an interview with the Sunday Observer said the Opposition deliberately makes these attempts to upset the mindset of youths by targeting their votes at the next election.

He said the people are well aware of who set up jogging tracks in and around Colombo including those at Independence Square, Viharamahadevi Park, Diyatha Uyana, Bellanwila and Nawala.

Therefore, a leader who loves the environment will never allow it to be destroyed. However, certain sections with the help of the social media carry out a false propaganda campaign to discredit the good image of the President and the Government.

**Q: Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith has demanded legal action to be taken against politicians and officials who have been accused in the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) that probed the Easter Sunday attacks before 21 April, 2021, otherwise they will get on the streets. Would you like to comment on this?**

A: After the Easter Sunday carnage, the Cardinal was the religious leader who faced the biggest issue. Following the attacks, a backlash in the Negombo area was prevented due to the Cardinal's influence. Otherwise, the Muslims in those areas would have faced a big issue. All Christians expected from the Cardinal that justice would be meted out for all those who faced this untoward incident. Therefore, following the Easter Sunday mass on April 4, the Cardinal made that statement.

The six-member Ministerial Committee appointed by which I was also a member has made nearly 70 recommendations after studying the report of the PCoI that probed the Easter Sunday attacks and Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security. The Ministerial Committee report was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on April 5. The contents in the Committee report was revealed to the media at a press conference held on April 6. I think there is a very good response to the recommendations made by the Committee. The recommendations made in the PCoI report on politicians, Police officers and the Government officials who have been charged under the criminal offences for shirking their responsibilities were referred to the Attorney General.

The Ministerial Committee has also instructed that the recommendations be implemented. We have also instructed the IGP to conduct an immediate investigation regarding the Police officers who have been accused in the PCoI report and take legal action against them. Now the Attorney General's Department and the IGP should immediately act to bring the culprits to book. This is what is requested by the Cardinal as well.

**Q: The Cardinal speaking to the media questioned the Government as to why they are waiting further to initiate legal action against politicians and officials when the PCoI report has clearly stated the persons who should be held responsible for the Easter Sunday attacks. Your comments?**

A: Actually, it is a task entrusted upon the AG's Department. The AG's Department has successfully conducted its inquiries. They have been given the report of the PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks. All the evidence given before the PCoI was not subjected to any external pressure. That is why a Presidential Commission was appointed by allowing the people to voluntarily give their evidence freely without any influence. The Police can conduct further investigations based on these evidences and thereafter that they can seek the AG's advice on the action to be taken against the accused.

**Q: The Cardinal has also called on the Government to take legal action against former President Maithripala Sirisena who has been found guilty in the PCoI. Could you explain?**

A: There is no debate about it. The entire country knows the then Head of the State who was in charge of national security was aware of those incidents as recorded in the evidence given before the PCoI. It looks like he just allowed those incidents to happen. This is similar where if some thugs had threatened the parents that they would rape their daughter but they just allowed it to happen. Former President Maithripala Sirisena and all others of that Yahapalana Government should be held responsible for this.

**Q: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said the same group which spread falsehoods about white vans, crocodiles and sharks are now trying to propagate falsehoods and misconceptions regarding the environment with their target to tarnish the image of the Government. Would you like to comment?**

A: Murders and underworld activities are still taking place in the country. Such incidents happen even in the well-developed countries as well. However, the present Government has taken steps to control crime and underworld activities.

A statement by the girl named Bhagya that the Sinharaja Forest is destroyed went viral on social media. Before she made that statement to the media, she should have first acted in accordance with the existing laws of the country. There is a law in the country which clearly stipulates the methodology in regard to the felling of trees.

Before that girl made that statement, she should have asked the Grama Niladhari in that area whether that land belongs to the Sinharaja Forest or otherwise. If that land belongs to Sinharaja, she should have asked the Forest Conservation officers as to why they allowed the felling of those trees. The irresponsible statement made by her gained a lot of publicity in the social media. When false information is circulated among the people, it is very difficult to rectify it.

Similarly, comments against the Government by some Sri Lankans working in foreign countries are on Facebook. It has been revealed that some people who have covered their faces spread falsehoods to cater to some political interests. Similar to the strategy they followed in 2015 to defeat then President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Opposition through the spreading of various falsehoods and misconceptions is attempting to tarnish the image of the President. Now they also attempt to portray that an environmental destruction is taking place in the country. Actually, it is the youth who speak a lot about the environment.

The Opposition deliberately makes these attempts to upset the mindset of youths by targeting their votes at the next election. The people are well aware of who set up walking paths in places like Torrington and also built the Diyatha Garden, Battaramulla.

We know the attempts made by the President to set up forest conservation areas including in close vicinity of the rivers.

Therefore, a leader who loves the environment will never destroy it. However, certain sections with the help of the social media are carrying out a false propaganda campaign to discredit the Government and the President.

**Q: Several Maha Nayaka Theras have directly told some Government lawmakers that the Government even though having a two-thirds majority have failed to meet the expectations of the people. Your views?**

A: Some of these bhikkhus change their sides from time to time. They have also been disappointed as they didn't receive any portfolios. Even before the election, I requested the people not to vote for a candidate who is even connected to former President Maithripala Sirisena.

Today the people have realised as to why I made such a statement. At present, the charges made against former President Sirisena are also directed towards the Government as he is a part of this Government. Some of the SLFPers who were with Maithripala Sirisena got elected to Parliament as they all contested under the SLPP banner.

If they contested alone, none of them would have been elected to Parliament. They would have also faced the same scenario faced by the UNP. That is why I requested the people not to vote a single person who has links with former President Sirisena. These kind of persons attempt to destroy the Government. A similar group was there in the Government in 2015 as well. Some of these bhikkhus and others make these statements as they don't have any portfolios. They have ulterior motives and there is no problem about it. As a Government, we have necessary strength to face these challenges. If we are in the Government, we all have to act together. Otherwise, they should quit the Government.

**Q: Certain sections have raised their opposition to the Provincial Council system and say it should be abolished. Has any decision been taken by the Government to hold the Provincial Council elections?**

A: No final decision has been taken so far to hold the PC elections. However, it is the responsibility of the Government to act according to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Otherwise, allegations will be leveled against the Government that it acts in an unconstitutional manner. When we were in the Opposition, we complained against the postponing of the Local Government elections which had created a complicated situation.

At that time, we demanded that the PC elections be held with immediate effect. Therefore, after we assumed office and if we attempt to postpone elections, it will be an undemocratic move. Therefore, we should go for the PC elections. If the PCs are going to be abolished when the new Constitution is drafted then we agree to that. If the PCs are abolished and a new system is introduced, we agree to that as well. We have given the opportunity to the people to decide on it.

A Committee headed by Ramesh de Silva PC has been appointed to make recommendations regarding the matter. When the Committee gives its draft, its recommendations will be made available for public discussion. The Government intends to act based on the consent of the people.

**Q: How do you view the recent resolution passed against Sri Lanka at the UNHRC?**

A: How many innocent people have been killed by the LTTE in this country? How many of those who had links with the LTTE terrorists are protected and provided with asylum in countries like the US and Canada? When Bin Laden attacked the US, they could go to Pakistan and kill him. However, those who had resorted to brutal killings in Sri Lanka are living in those countries without any hindrance.

They don't utter even a single word regarding that. Those days, there were LTTE child soldiers in the North and the East but these western countries didn't raise any concern about it. It was after 2009, that the children in the North and the East were able to go to school and conduct their education. The economy of the people in the North and the East were strengthened after 2009 by bringing their products to the South. The Northern railway track was built after 2009.

These Western countries never speak about those positive developments taking place. Some politicians in these western countries cannot win elections without the votes of Tamils. Therefore, they attempt to satisfy the interests of Tamils in those countries.

There are so many countries which vehemently violates human rights including the US. We don't know what actions are being taken by the UNHRC regarding such grave human rights violations. If the present Government also acts according to the whims and fancies of some western countries as it was done by former Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera by co-sponsoring the resolutions such as 30/1, they may be very happy. Whatever the obstacles come, this Government will never betray the war heroes or act in a manner which would be detrimental to the country's national identity.

**Q: The Opposition complains that the cost of living and the prices of food commodities have gone up. Is there any truth in this?**

A: We do agree that the prices of rice and vegetables have gone up. A Committee was also appointed under the patronage of the President and it held extensive discussions over the past few weeks.

At present, the prices of rice and vegetables have been drastically reduced. Therefore, the people have been given some sort of relief. We have to remember the fertiliser subsidy was curtailed by the former Yahapalana Government.

As a result, the agriculture sector faced a severe setback. That was how the former Government treated the agriculture sector.

This Government has just completed eight months in office. The President has implemented a program to uplift the living conditions of those who are engaged in the agriculture sector and also to develop the country's agriculture. However, certain sections have launched mudslinging campaigns against that as well.

Chena cultivation is mainly done in areas close to jungles. However, another falsehood is propagated that the environment is being destroyed. What the President clearly stated was that permission be granted to those who have already conducted their cultivations in those respective areas and not to clear or destroy new forest areas.

However, the Opposition along with some NGOs hold protests and demonstrations to give a wrong impression to the country. If we don't develop the country from agriculture, it will be ruined in the future.

## FACT-FILE

### Prasanna Ranatunga

- **1967:** Born in Minuwangoda, Gampaha to a political family. Prasanna Ranatunga is second son of late Reggie Ranatunga, a former Cabinet Minister and Governor of Sabaragamuwa. He is also the brother of 1996 Cricket World Cup winning captain and Parliamentarian Arjuna Ranatunga. Educated at Asoka Vidyalaya and Ananda College, Colombo
- **2008:** Entered active Politics joining the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and its main alliance, United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA)
- **2009:** Seventh Chief Minister of Western Provincial Council
- **2015:** Contested the General Election under United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and elected to Parliament from Gampaha district
- **2019:** Minister of Industrial Exports and Investment Promotions, Tourism and Aviation in the Government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- **August, 2020:** Re-elected to Parliament from Gampaha district having contested under *Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna* (SLPP) and secured 316,544 preferential votes
- **August 2020:** Minister of Tourism in the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Source: Internet, Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

# Around 270,000 metric tons of vegetables and fruits are wasted annually - *COPA*

An audit conducted by the National Audit Office in 2015, the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) disclosed that about 270,000 metric tons of vegetables and fruits are being wasted annually and as a result, the loss to the Sri Lankan economy is around Rs. 20 billion. This was mentioned at the COPA Committee chaired by Prof. Tissa Vitharana which was held at the Parliament Complex recently.

According to the report, the post-harvest damage upon the vegetables and fruits in Sri Lanka is estimated at 30-40 percent.

The report further reveals that about 73 percent of the adult population of the country does not consume adequate amounts of vegetables and fruits and that the malnutrition level of children under the age of five is also approximately around 21 percent.

It was also revealed at the Committee on Public Accounts that Sri Lanka does not have a standard agricultural policy that covers the whole scope pertaining to the agricultural sector.

The fact that the last domestic agricultural policy formulated in 2019 is currently at the draft level and the need for an agricultural policy targeting the local and foreign markets was also brought to the attention of the Committee on Public Accounts.

The aforesaid was brought to light while taking into discussion the audit report regarding the Minimization of Post-Harvest loss of Vegetables and Fruits in Sri Lanka and Production Assistants for an Enhanced Agricultural Economy.

## Local farmer

Another important area of focus of the Committee members was to establish an expeditious mechanism to prevent the unlimited profits made by middlemen causing a problem for both the local farmer and the consumer, minimising post-harvest damage to vegetables and fruits in the country and the sale of agricultural products at reasonable prices.

The COPA Committee also pointed out that due to the lack of an extensive cultivation plan covering the island to meet the food demand of Sri Lankans, farmers have resorted to cultivating to their liking thus resulting in over-harvesting of certain crops.

Though the Department of Agriculture is conducting a crop forecasting program every fortnight with a pre-announcement pertaining to the suitable vegetables to be cultivated for the next two weeks at present, it was noted that there was an inadequacy of the measures to resolve the said issue.

Thus, the COPA Committee chair Prof. Tissa Vitharana instructed the officials present before the committee to pay further attention towards resolving the matter.

The Committee also paid attention towards obtaining the contribution of the District / Regional Agriculture Committees for this purpose; increasing the participation of agricultural officers engaged in the field of giving basic advice on cultivation plans related to vegetable and fruit cultivation, providing adequate training to a sufficient number of Agricultural Instructors, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants who are directly involved with farmers and farmers, minimising the damage caused by the use of plastic crates during harvesting and transportation, the use of dehydration In accordance with an audit conducted by the National Audit Office in 2015, the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) disclosed that about 270,000 metric tons of vegetables and fruits are being wasted annually and as a result, the loss to the Sri Lankan economy is around Rs. 20 billion.

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Agricultural Instructors, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants who are directly involved with farmers and farmers, minimising the damage caused by the use of plastic crates during harvesting and transportation, the use of dehydration methods to reduce food waste, and formulating a proper mechanism to resolve the difference between wholesale prices in economic centers and retail prices in the surrounding area due to transportation costs as well as the large number of intermediaries.

# "Discussion with the Village" brings results in three months

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last 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" program held in Kebithigollewa.

The Kanugahawewa village in the Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariat was selected for the "Discussion with the Village" program 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 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 terrorism, villagers continue 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 works 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.

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

President Rajapaksa and First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa handed over the houses to the people.

Keys were also handed over to a newly built teachers quarters at the Kanugahawewa Primary School premises.

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 eye surgeries performed at the Mobile Eye Hospital.

Families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership is to be given land and under the project 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 15 km long elephant fence at the Kanugahawewa Model Village.

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

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa presents a gift to an elderly woman

An Air Force official explains a point to the President

First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa makes a presentation to a school teacher

A house constructed by the Air Force

A home garden

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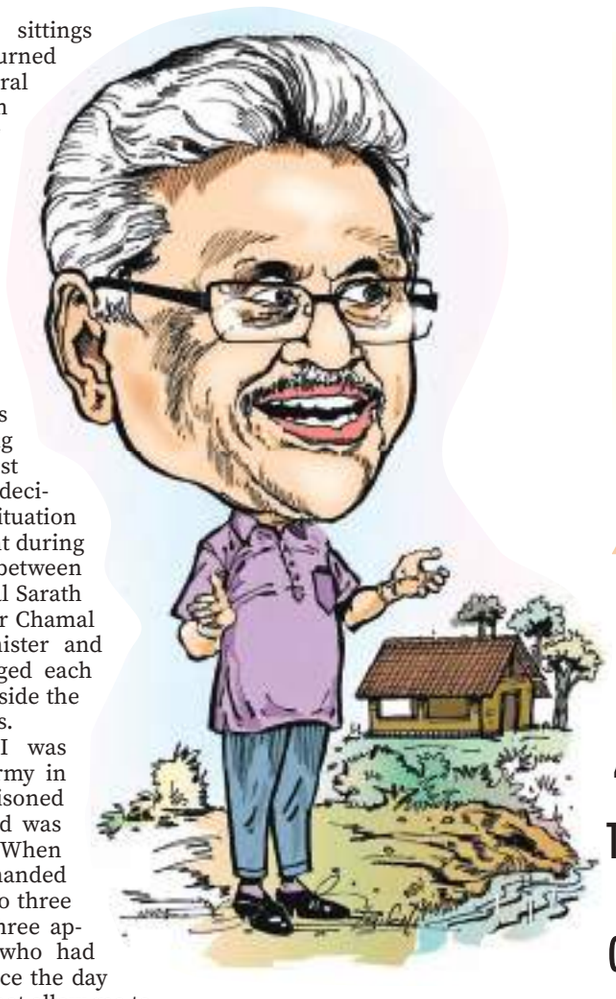
# SLPP will continue in power beyond 2025 – Ramesh Pathirana



Parliament sittings were adjourned for several minutes on Thursday (April 8) following a heated exchange of words between Government and Opposition lawmakers over the decision on unseating of SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake.

Opposition MPs were seen wearing black bands to protest against the Speaker's decision. Later, a tense situation erupted in Parliament during a heated argument between SJB MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka and Minister Chamal Rajapaksa. The Minister and the SJB MP challenged each other for a brawl outside the Parliament Chambers.

Fonseka said, "I was sentenced by the Army in a court. I was imprisoned for eight months and was in remand custody. When that sentence was handed down, we appealed to three courts. Despite all three appeals, the Speaker who had been sitting here since the day I was sentenced did not allow me to come to Parliament."

Responding to Fonseka's allegation, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said, "I allowed you to come to Parliament. Your decision was made after considering the decision in the books. Were we not allowed to convene Parliament because you were not present?" However, after Parliament proceedings were resumed, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said that he regretted the incident that took place in Parliament.

## Seat rendered vacant

Tensions rose when the Speaker told Parliament that the Secretary General of Parliament had acted in accordance with the Constitution when he informed the National Election Commission on Wednesday (April 7) that Ramanayake's seat has been rendered vacant owing to his extended absence.

Responding to the Speaker's statement on Thursday (April 8), Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa told Parliament that Ramanayake will challenge the Court of Appeal's decision in the Supreme Court. He urged the Speaker to recognise his colleague's right to challenge the Court of Appeal's decision.

Premadasa said, "Ranjan has every right to appeal the decision and until the appeal process commences and an ultimate final verdict is provided by the Supreme Court, he should retain his seat." Later the Speaker who issued a statement denied all the allegations levelled against him by the Opposition concerning his decision on MP Ranjan Ramanayake. He said that the Opposition is trying to create a wrong opinion among the people regarding the decision taken regarding Ramanayake's Parliamentary Seat.

Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said demonstrations will be staged if legal action is not taken against the perpetrators of the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks before April 21. "We will take to the streets if the law is not enforced before April 21. We will not remain silent on this. Remember that," the Cardinal told reporters following the Easter Sunday mass on Sunday (April 4).

He insisted that appointing multiple committees to investigate the attacks does not serve any purpose. "If they are planning to protect certain individuals by appointing multiple committees, that would mean that this is a lawless state." He also accused former President Maithripala Sirisena of shirking his responsibilities and acting irresponsibly over the April 21, Easter Sunday attacks that occurred under his presidency.

THE CID HAS LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION AGAINST PARLIAMENTARIAN DIANA GAMAGE OVER THE COMPLAINT THAT SHE HAD OBTAINED A SRI LANKAN PASSPORT AFTER FURNISHING FALSE INFORMATION TO THE CONTROLLER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION

## Crocodile tears

Indigenous Medicine Promotion State Minister Sisira Jayakody told the Parliament the Opposition members who held press briefings without any guilt in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday attacks are now shedding crocodile tears.

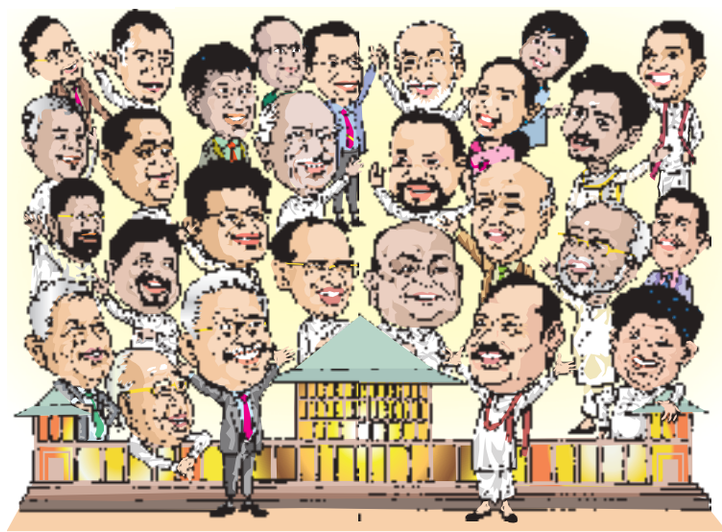
The State Minister was responding to SJB MP Ajith Mannapperuma during the Adjournment Motion on the report submitted by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on the Easter attacks. He said that the Yahapalana Government had enough opportunities to prevent the attacks, but allowed nearly 300 people to die.

He said that those who did not take any action to prevent the attacks were equally responsible as those who carried them out. Jayakody said that those who wanted to come to power in any way were assisted by extremists and separatists to bring about destruction.

The State Minister said the former Government tactically took over the Parliamentary Committees and extremists were appointed to Commissions, thereby weakening national security. During the former Government's tenure, room was created for separatists and Islamic extremists funded by foreign sources. He said, "These are the serious damages caused by the UNP and their Yahapalana Government."

## Falsehoods

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



## University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

'TRADE UNIONISTS TOOK THE LEAD TO OVERTHROW THE YAHAPALANA GOVERNMENT AND BRING THE SLPP GOVERNMENT TO POWER UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT RAJAPAKSA. HE IS A CLASSIC LEADER WHO CARRIES FORWARD THE POLICIES AND IDEALS OF THE SLPP'

At the "Discussion with the Village" program at the Vavuniya district recently, the President said that people should counter these organised local and foreign forces that circulate these falsehoods against him and his Government to protect the ideology of the people that brought him to power.

The President said, "I always maintain that; the individual Gotabaya Rajapaksa is not important. What matters is the ideology and forces that brought me here. We should protect that ideology." He said, "The aim of the false propaganda now being carried out by the hostile forces is to defeat this ideology. I will fulfill the promises I made to the people."

## Disappointed

Former President Maithripala Sirisena has expressed his regret over a statement by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith on Easter Sunday focusing on him.

He told the media following an event in Colombo, that he was disappointed by the Cardinal's statement. SLFP General Secretary State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara said the former President has no intention of contesting elections again adding that a statement he made in the past has been misinterpreted.

He said the report by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Easter Sunday attacks has not found former President Sirisena guilty of any wrongdoing, adding that the Commission has inquired from the Attorney General of the possibility of filing legal action on claims of negligence.

He expressed his disappointment with the Cardinal for misunderstanding the content in the report. Jayasekara said former President Sirisena didn't carry out the suicide attacks on the April 21, 2019, highlighting that it is important to identify the true masterminds of the attacks.

## Beyond 2025

Plantations Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said the Sri Lanka Pudujana Peramuna (SLPP) will rule the country not only till 2025 but also beyond 2025.

"Trade unionists took the lead to overthrow the Yahapalana Government and bring the SLPP Government to power under the leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He is a classic leader who carries forward the policies and ideals of the SLPP, which originated under the leadership of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and SLPP National Organiser Basil Rajapaksa," the Minister told a SLPP trade union conference in Galle recently.

"The SLPP will develop the country and lead the progressive movement. The Government will remain in power until 2025 and the SLPP will definitely rule this country even after 2025. People's problems may not have been solved. So, let's go on that journey together. The people will eventually reap the benefits of that journey. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the Head of State on the promise of defending Sri Lanka and protecting the four corners of the country," he said.

Former Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Parliamentarian Sunil Handunnetthi said the public should always elect people who love this country and have a definite plan and a set of good policies to develop it as their political representatives. He said it was not possible for a single person to take this country forward.

He was addressing a public gathering in Deniyaya.

Handunnetthi said that the country is now ruled by a group of businessmen who have gone beyond politics and the political authorities are dancing to their tune taking decisions regarding the country's resources and the people's tax money as required by those businessmen.

He said that the politician will go to their electorates and become a fellow member of the village only during the election campaign period and after victory the people will have a hard time finding their political representative.

## British citizen?

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) has commenced an investigation against Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) National List Parliamentarian Diana Gamage over a complaint that she is a British citizen residing in Sri Lanka without Dual Citizenship status.

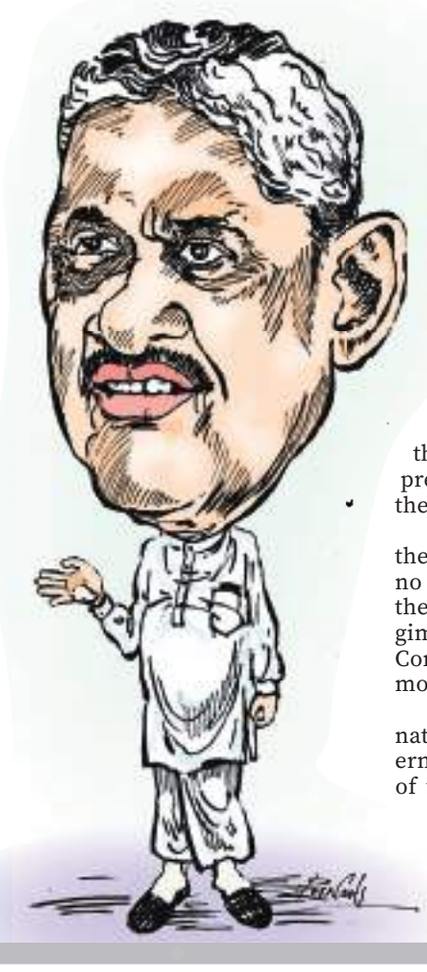
The CID has commenced investigations into this incident subsequent to a complaint lodged by Oshala Herath who contested the 2020 General Election under the UNP ticket from the Colombo District.

Herath had made a written complaint with CID on November 2, 2020 alleging that Parliamentarian Diana Gamage had fraudulently obtained an official Sri Lankan passport without disclosing her British citizenship.

The CID told the court that they have already recorded a statement from the complainant in respect of his written complaint and further said his statement was accompanied by supporting documents.

The Anti-Human Smuggling Investigation Bureau (ASIB) attached to CID has launched an investigation against Parliamentarian Diana Gamage over the complaint that she had obtained a Sri Lankan passport after furnishing false information to the Controller General of Immigration and Emigration.

SLFP GENERAL SECRETARY STATE MINISTER DAYASIRI JAYASEKARA SAID THE REPORT BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE EASTER SUNDAY ATTACKS HAS NOT FOUND FORMER PRESIDENT SIRISENA GUILTY OF ANY WRONGDOING



The United National Party (UNP) Working Committee has decided not to hold a May Day rally this year. It has been decided to hold a meeting on May Day to commemorate the founding members of the party without much public participation and to broadcast it live on the internet.

The decision has been taken with the safety of the people in mind as the Covid-19 situation is yet to subside. The UNP celebrated May Day last year with a low-key event which was broadcast online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Sworn in as MP

Former State Minister Ajith Mannapperuma sworn in as a Member of Parliament before the Speaker on Friday (April 9) to fill the vacancy left by MP Ranjan Ramanayake in Parliament. The Election Commission announced in an Extraordinary Gazette Notification on Thursday (April 8) that Ajith Mannapperuma, is to replace Ranjan Ramanayake in Parliament as an MP for Gampaha District.

The Gazette Notification confirmed that this move was made to fill the vacancy created by the loss of Ranjan Ramanayake's parliamentary seat.

Mannapperuma is the next in line in the Gampaha District preferential vote list of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). He came in fifth among the SJB contestants from the Gampaha District obtaining 47,212 preferential votes in the 2020 General Election.

State Minister Susil Premajayantha said the members of the former Yahapalana Government that did nothing to find the culprits of the Easter Sunday attacks are alleging today that the Government used the incident to come to power.

Joining the Adjournment debate on the report of the PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks, he said that as the report of the PCoI pointed out that the conflict within the Yahapalana Government weakened national security, paving the way for the attacks.

Premajayantha said the people had understood that the economy, development, and the security of the country had collapsed under the Yahapalana Government long before the Easter Sunday attacks and expressed their feelings by bringing the SLPP to power.

Premajayantha added that at the time of the attacks, there was no intention to hold elections in the country under the previous regime. He said that the Presidential Commission was appointed seven months after the attacks.

He said the enthusiastic nature exhibited by the Good Governance Government in setting up of the Financial Crimes Investigation Division (FCID) through Gazettes to arrest and file cases was not exhibited in taking action against the Easter Sunday suspects.

# Sri Lanka's first eco school

April 9 marks the opening of our new campus as well as the official recognition of our move and development towards a full cross curricular, sustainable curriculum. This means teaching all subjects with sustainability at the core, topic based learning that infuses lifelong skills to create lifelong environmentally conscious people.

These children are our future, they will make Sri Lanka and our world a healthier and a better place for all. We are not only talking about teaching students about the environment but about creating sustainable humans who have the qualities and strength to make a better change for the future world. To appreciate and have an awareness for the environment and community around them.

The students and teachers have fully embraced this vision for a holistic sustainable curriculum and taken ownership of it in their teaching and learning.

Students are already making a change, finding and emailing existing projects in Sri Lanka and finding out how they can be involved. By offering an integrated curriculum with our TGS ethos, we offer a learning environment that encourages, awareness, curiosity, empathy, love, passion and tolerance and much more.

We will create people that appreciate and accept others as equals and respect their environment and the community around them. This cross curricular way of teaching equips students for a successful life and is the most powerful form of education.

We are in the process of becoming recognised as Sri Lanka's first Eco School. This is a global movement run by the Foundation for Environmental Education. Currently there are 68 countries registered, teaching 19.5 million students across the globe and we will be the first school in Sri Lanka to be registered as an eco school. There are seven steps we must follow in which to do this and we have already completed four of these.

Having reached out to our experts in this field, we have been overwhelmed by their interest and support. Also by the interest coming from non-experts, enthusiasts who wish to support us, we can offer them a platform and a voice in their wish for change. For years TGS has been proactive, cleaning beaches, recycling, growing, and they are just a few of our environmentally friendly practices.

Today we are launching a more dedicated mission by becoming the first school in Sri Lanka to qualify as an eco school, addressing our sustainability with the right people on board to guide and inspire us, to achieve and deliver what an eco school promises its community and its country. To bring awareness and to help with the rain forests , our wild life, our water issues , cultivating our food, cultural and religious issues regarding tolerance and equality are but just a few of our obligations as an eco school.

We know that we will face challenges in growing our vision to teach not only our students but the wider community and young people of Sri Lanka. We face these challenges as a strong community with strength and passion as we know that this is the only way forward for our young people to have a healthy planet and future for themselves, and for the next generation. This past year has highlighted the need for this in movement education and change that must start now. We are already seeing the change in our students here, however, we have a long road ahead of us and this is only the beginning. *- TGS*

**YESS Academy Kalubowila, Dehiwala won an award at the National Vocational Training Excellence Award for 2020 at the BMICH on Monday. Minister Seeta Arabepola was the chief guest. YESS academy won the award for the best small-scale private sector training provider in the Western Province. Here Ms Manel Atukorale Principal of YESS Academy Kalubowila, Dehiwala with the award.**

The ceremony of President's Awards for Scientific Research was held on 06th April 2020 at the Auditorium of Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Colombo 07. The awards were given to the 100 top-ranked research papers published in prestigious scientific journals that had been done or contributed by Sri Lankan scientists. The ceremony was held as a semi virtual event with the participation of only 20 awardees and the Council, due to the pandemic situation.

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SUNDAY OBSERVER

# A new beginning

Around 12 months ago, the entire country – and the world – was in lockdown. One of the biggest casualties of this strict lockdown was the biggest national festival of Sri Lanka – the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. It was strange, almost eerie, to herald Avurudu in without the traditional firecrackers, Raban sounds and festivities. Avurudu this time last year was a strictly family affair, sans relatives and friends. Yes, the entire nation did celebrate Avurudu, but at household level, not as a national ceremony per se.

This time, things look much more promising. The pandemic is still raging around the world, but Sri Lanka has managed it remarkably well even after a second wave back in October last year that saw an exponential increase in the number of cases and even deaths.

The credit for this success (Sri Lanka was placed 10th in a list of countries that had managed the pandemic best by the prestigious Lowy Institute of Australia) should go to the political leadership, the healthcare sector and the Security Forces/Police, who collectively devised effective strategies to contain the contagion.

Thus Sri Lankans have earned the freedom to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year this time around, albeit under the "New Normal".

This means that we cannot still go back to 2019-level of celebrations of any national festival, unless the virus completely dissipates, which might not happen this year. Thus the freedom that we have gained through the hard work of our healthcare and defence sectors must be enjoyed with responsibility and prudence.

First, we must make sure that we follow all the Covid-19 related health guidelines at all times. It is best if crowded venues can be avoided altogether. Many people were seen heading to crowded shopping centres to buy Avurudu gifts, which many doctors frowned upon.

As one prominent doctor said, "You have to select what is more important for you – new clothes for the family or their very lives". That sums up the equation rather bluntly. In the same manner, we must avoid crowded *Bak Maha Ulelas* (New Year Festivals) where it will be next to impossible to maintain physical distancing (at least one metre apart from the next person), even though the attendees are supposed to be kept to 100. But this is more like to be observed in the breach once the festivities get going.

There could also be a tendency to let go of the mask in the midst of Avurudu revelry. Health authorities have warned against such complacency, noting that stern action would be taken against those who violate the health guidelines and laws. We have to take a cue from neighbouring India, where people let their guard down during several recent national festivals, leading to a massive spike in cases and deaths.

This is a situation which we have to avoid at all costs as the Government already spends a massive amount of money on PCR Tests and other preventive measures.

Any surge in cases at this point would place a huge burden on the healthcare system which has allocated most of its resources to fighting the pandemic. Thus organisers of all Avurudu festivals must strictly observe the restrictions and guidelines in place to ensure that the virus is kept at bay.

We must also be careful in visiting hometowns and other areas from the Western Province. There could be asymptotic carriers among us who could 'gift' the disease to the elderly and vulnerable relatives. Again, the Government has arranged random Rapid Antigen Tests for those leaving the Western Province to the other provinces. Those who are flagged down for these tests must cooperate with the authorities.

Even while at home celebrating the Avurudu, the health guidelines must be kept in mind. The frequent washing of hands is a must.

It is also advisable to invite one's relatives to visit at separate times instead of having them all at once. Yes, this could be more expensive, but one cannot take chances with this runaway virus.

This arrangement could ensure physical distancing and some leeway in case one or more of them have the virus. The health authorities must be informed immediately if one or more persons in your household develop any symptoms associated with Covid-19 following such visits by relatives and friends.

By a happy coincidence, the start of Ramadan for the Muslim Community also falls on April 13. This is one of those juxtapositions that we experience in our multi-ethnic, multi-religious milieu. Ramadan, based on the Five Pillars of Islam Faith (Sahada), Prayer (Salat), Alms and Generosity (Zakat), Fasting (Sawm) and Pilgrimage (Hajj) is a holy period for Muslims the world over where they engage in activities connected to the above. Just like their Buddhist and Hindu brethren, they will have to face certain restrictions in terms of religious activity this year, but that is the price we have to pay to ensure the health and well-being of all.

All communities in Sri Lanka are still reeling from the shock generated by the dastardly Easter attacks that took place exactly two years ago. It is thanks to the Sri Lankans' inherent belief in religious values that a massive bloodbath was averted on that occasion.

Religious leaders worked hard to ensure that the attacks did not harm our very socio-religious fabric and they have succeeded to a great extent. In this context, the fact that all three major communities and religious groups in Sri Lanka are having a new beginning more or less on the same day is a happy omen for the future.

President's top priority

# Ensuring long term progressive policies

*by*
**Rajpal Abeynayake**

The President knows that tax cuts have have led to lost revenue, but he considers that an investment, and his new tax regime would be in force for the five years of his tenure. So said the president's secretary Dr. P.B. Jayasundera, according to news reports. This clear indication about fiscal policy came in the same week that Dr. Jayasundera announced that all palm oil imports would be stopped.

Oil palm cultivation will be halted in a phased out program. The tax cuts and the palm oil policy are just two of the progressive policy measures that reversed the right-wing UNP years of pandering to the advice of external elements, and put a stop to the crass and unguarded importation of anything and everything, again pandering to the diktat of external capital.

The policy of the tax cuts goes in tandem with the slashing of interest rates, and it's a sustained fiscal measure that goes against the UNP paradigm of 'balanced budgets', and forcing an unbearable tax burden on the people aimed towards achieving that end. Meanwhile, the importation of any muck ends. This island is not a dumping ground for goods that are meant to stifle local industry and local produce.

A Minister who was much maligned recently, had said that he has a goal of replanting some thousands of acres of coconut. These are progressive policies, that would have to run the gauntlet of ridicule, protest and outright sabotage. But they are progressive policies. As far as taxation policy goes, it seems the Opposition is trying to make the people forget what they got by way of tax relief after this government came to power. The unfair tax burden was lifted, and that was relief from a tax regime which targeted the piggy bank savings of kids.

## UTOPIA

The right-wing UNP's dumping policy, remember, extended to raw garbage. There was a real initiative taken by a certain branch of that government to encourage various Western nations to ship their un-disposable garbage here. That was the level to which we'd sunk as a right-wing lackey of certain powers whom we were eager to please.

The policy correction that took place subsequent to that with the advent of the Gotabaya Rajapaksa regime has reversed years of dumping, and years of taxation policy based on misguided models enforced from abroad. The impact cannot be underestimated. Unburdened from the tax stranglehold, there is a genuine chance for business to spring back into action after enforced atrophy.

This even goes for the conglomerates that were hit with so called super taxes. The reversal initiated by this government is progressive policy, but it's not growth retarding as the policies of the Bandaranaike era of the 70s was. The policies of today are progressive in this writer's opinion, because they are based on a correct understanding of capitalism. They are not 'progressive' based on a socialistic vision of utopia. The policies of the UNP were to offer ourselves to the highest bidder. The UNP allowed anything. The UNP asked the shipping companies to compete with foreign concerns that were allowed to operate here with complete laissez-faire. There were no restricted goods and that policy of laissez fair meant that local industry had no chance against dumping.

Contrasted to that, when locals tried to export to the West, they were subject to protectionism through legitimate sounding means. They had to adhere to scrupulous standards that had to be met from every quality control metric imaginable. But the usually foreign advisors of the then government wanted no protectionism whatsoever in Sri Lanka, so open season was declared on our industries.

Brought back were the policies that weaned our people away from local products, as was stated in last week's column in this space, with regard to the long term policies that through disinformation made our people spurn coconut oil. That may not have been an initiative that was introduced by the last government — but it was a racket introduced by several UNP governments before it. The last

The UNP government followed the same playbook, with different commodities. The paddy cultivator was basically told that there was no use of his produce because paddy fields were anyway going to be converted into lands that housed industry!

## SLEW

We became such a dumping ground that cars were grounded for days on end, because the wrong grade of fuel was being imported. The UNP now points to coconut oil contamination forgetting the fact that there is vigilance these days, and no importers can get away with dumping and other unscrupulous market practices. The dumping during their time was so comprehensive that we became an enslaved people. We were the international lab rats, that's all. Remember the google loon fiasco? Whenever various adventurous elements wanted to experiment, they chose us as the guinea pigs.

Progressive policy has now replaced this national sellout. That led to a whole slew of folk who were getting rich from these policies, losing their status as collaborators. Remember that Arjuna Mahendran was foisted on us during that era.

That was emblematic, and was just the surface veneer of a problem that ran much deeper. The entire hit job on our economy was such a success that the hit men had a field day seeing a country pillaged as it had never happened before.

In this context, the changes being made now are monumental. As a nation, we came to the brink, and were rescued at the time we were hanging off the cliff-edge.

But if we ever go back to having a right-wing dispensation again, we may not be so lucky. Parties such as the SJB, which pretend to have learned from the UNP's misrule, will follow the same right-wing playbook if they are ever elected to power.

So what's incumbent upon this government is to ensure that there is continuity because we may not survive one more calamity of the kind we suffered from 2015 upto late 2019.

If real progressive policy gets undone and the tax regime go back to what it was because certain puppeteers want it that way, it would be the last straw, and this time we may never recover from one more right-wing onslaught.

## INITIATED

The progressive gains that have been made cannot be undermined with falsehoods, with those such as Mangala Samaraweera trying to cast themselves — wait till you hear this — as patriots.

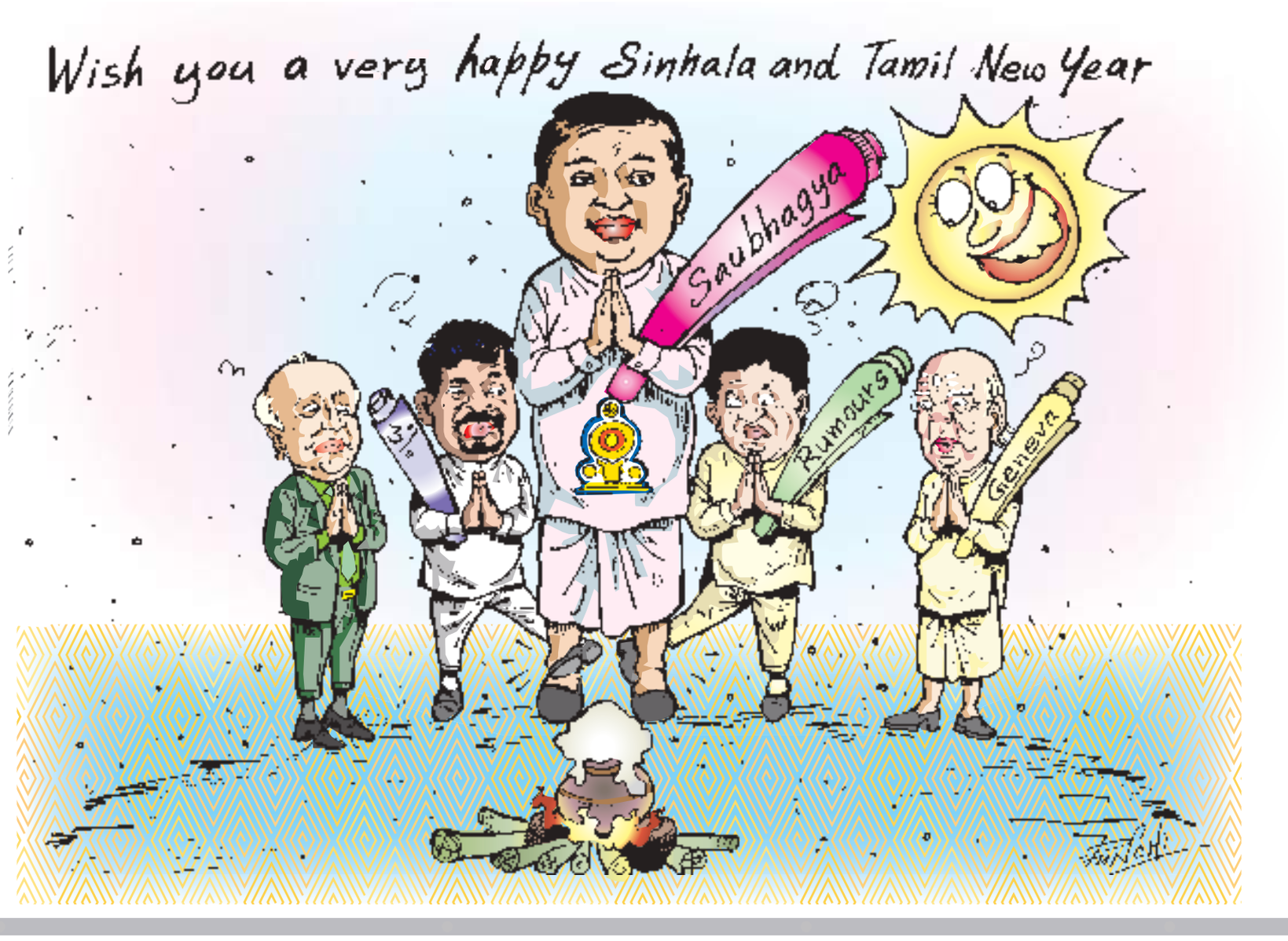
The ease of doing business, is at least something that's now being looked into on a daily basis. During the time of the UNP, their tax regime and their regulatory straight-jacket made it harder for people to do business — and that was deliberate, because if business thrived in this country, there would have been no market for the muck they dumped here on us.

So, the number one priority of the government should be that there is a lock on the progressive policy they have initiated. The people do remember the nightmare they went through — especially, the salt of the earth, the cultivator, and those who turned out local produce for a living, be it in SMEs or in the rural farmland, or in small time startups.

However, there are elements that the right-wing targets for their propaganda, and they feel that they can have pandemic induced conditions undermining the progress that has been made. The progressives therefore have to build themselves up as a Movement, not just a political party or a loose coalition of political groups they currently form.

If we reverse progressive policy now, we run the risk of becoming a permanent client state. We were a client state for five years from 2015, and had been during the tenure of several right-wing regimes before that.

But they never succeeded in totally ransacking us. Not the colonisers, though they came very close, and not the neo-colonisers who came extremely close. It's incumbent upon this government to ensure continuity — not just continuity of policy in the five years of the regime — but long term continuity, so that we don't become the victims of pillage one more time — and perhaps this time, irreversibly.



# Our own Avurudu

BY LAKMAL DILRUKSHIKA

The Sinhala and Hindu *Aluth Avuruddа* - New Year will fall shortly. The auspicious times for the main rituals begin with the *Nonagathaya* on Tuesday at 8.09pm. The New Year will fall along with the dawn on Wednesday (April 14), continue via the lighting of the hearth, having meals and Ganu Denu, anointing oil and finally setting off for work (profession) the next Monday (April 19). The auspicious color codes for this year are light green, blue and white according to the day that the auspicious time for each ritual has fallen on to.

## Changes in 2021

Unlike last year, even amid the risk of the country's health sector's warning to be cautious against the new wave of Corona, our people seem to be getting ready to welcome this year's *Avurudu* with their usual excitement, energy and interest.

The clothes shops, supermarkets, village fairs in the city, suburbs and countryside could be seen filled with crowds buying new clothes, gifts, food items and other necessities for their households to embrace the New Year.

Since ancient times, preparing milk rice and sweetmeats such as *konda kavum, mung kavum, athirasa, kokis, aluwa* and *aasmi*, then cleaning and white washing the houses, business places and, clad in new attire according to the auspicious color, getting together as a family, playing *Avurudu* games and having fun and relaxing from the hustle and bustle of the usual routine are a few refreshing happenings that take place

## during the season.

Simple yet impressive and heartwarming rituals such as paying gratitude to parents, teachers and elders by worshiping them offering a sheaf of beatle leaves are among the major significant role played by celebrators.

## Special month

Hence the *Avurudu* celebrated in the month of Bak (April) in Sri Lanka consists with full of unique sense of spirit, generosity and harmony.

The environment also becomes vibrant and delightful with trees bearing fruits and plants blooming with flowers during this season. Generally, this was the time our ancestors used to reap and store the harvest of the rice paddy. Hence they were relaxed and had time to celebrate the festival.

Along with this the ritual of `Nawa Sahal Mangallaya' (offering the new harvest to the Buddha and the gods) was held. However, though with white collar jobs, modern ages and busy lives we have still managed to follow rituals and celebrate *Avurudu* till date even with few modifications that occurred along with the changing of the society and life style.

White raw rice, coconut milk, coconut oil, *mung eta* (green gram) and sugar are the main ingredients used in preparing the milk rice and sweetmeats– the most essential `Avurudu' food items. Though knowing and facing the health issues and high prices of these, (especially that has propped up a few days back in the country), people do not seem much bothered.

They may be too busy getting ready for the festival or have some assurance from the Government that they would be supplied with all what they need clean and clear without a scarcity.

However, people can be seen buying and storing things in advance. The businesses which went down last year seemed thriving again, just as it was during the earlier `Avurudu' seasons.

The Pamunuwa Street, the famous area for clothing at Maharagama could be seen `illuminated' with garments and materials in many vibrant colours and styles hanging in every nook and corner and been sold for affordable

prices for wholesale and retail.

Apart from that all the shopping malls and market places in the country are also filled with crowds so that one who sees them would wonder whether people have to spend and store such a lot in such a hurry.

## Busiest city

The commoners, the middle class and the affluence, no matter which income level they belong to, everybody seems wanting to buy something.

The happy faces of the whole family moving together in groups show not a single sign of tiredness though they walk for quite long hours to and fro among the crowd and in the business spots, not much bothered about the plague.

Ice cream parlors and restaurants are also filled with people swarmed in looking for refreshment after a hectic day of shopping.

Many extra buses and trains are scheduled to run to the remote areas during *Avurudu* carrying the people whose souls are tied in the villages though they work in Colombo and elsewhere.

We hope the railway workers are also getting busy with `Avurudu' celebration with their families and have abandoned the idea of their strikes at least during this season.

The *Avurudu* means many happenings are taking place in the Sinhala and Tamil communities in the country. During the *Nonagathaya*, people refrain from work and attend religious work and play indoor games mainly with family members.

At the auspicious time they cook milk rice, lay the *Avurudu* dining table with sweetmeats prepared earlier, bananas and betel leaves. The mother and the grandmother of the family play the major role in cooking and preparing the meals. At the auspicious time to consume meals, it is the eldest male member of the family either father or the grandfather that lights the oil lamp for the Buddha statue and offers the first portion of milk rice. (The Hindus offer poojas to their gods and goddesses).

He then feeds a mouthful of milk rice to every member of the family. The *Ganu Denu* (exchanging money) during the auspicious period for the first time in the New Year expecting prosperity and wealth follows next.

The youngsters offer a sheaf of betel leaf and worship elders and get the blessing from them. They exchange gifts and sit together and have the first meal of the year.

Anointing oil on the head (*Hisa thel gema*) is done by a healthy adult after about two days. This symbolises getting the blessings for good health.

Visiting parents and other family members who live elsewhere, teachers, adults, relatives, friends and neighbors and other people including the chief incumbent of the temples would also take place during the season.

Apart from that our community never forgets to share *Avurudu* with neighbouring non-celebrators such as Burghers and Muslims as well. They are invited for a meal or sent plates of *Avurudu* food gracefully.

By lighting fireworks including crackers, it is expected to have fun and also to drive away evil. Playing `Avurudu Rabana' (the big round drum which is played by many sitting around it) to a beautiful tune has been very famous among villagers. Holding the *Avurudu Kreeda Ulela* (New Year Sports Festival) in which the games especially played for the season is still a popular event both in the city and village.

All these rituals and events mark and symbolise the family togetherness, developing harmonious ties among community members, expecting blessing, prosperity and fortune for everybody.

## Childhood happiness

When we were children, we were waiting for *Avurudu* season to enjoy.

Due to the health risk that has come up with present plague, not only our children but also all the community members and the whole society are advised to maintain distance. Hence we abide to follow certain restrictions for our own safety and our families' protection.

In addition while you are spending to celebrate *Avurudu*, just think a bit about your neighbour, relative or someone known to you who would be having a low income or who has lost his/her job due to the present situation.

Spare a little amount from your share with them too. The Government has also introduced a *Sahana Malla* - a relieving pack with essential dry rations worth Rs. 1,000 for the season.

Think twice before you pull your purse to spend on clothes or some other `not really necessary item'. Use that money to spend on the necessary things. If possible, take a pack of some edible dry rations instead of a packet of sweets when you do your *Avurudu* visiting. It is much useful and might be most welcoming by your hosts of nowadays.

# Bitter truth about Aflatoxins

BY DR. PRASANNA J.P. GUNAWARDENA

You have probably heard about the chilling effects of aflatoxins from the horrifying news headlines, but do you know what aflatoxins are? In this article, I will explain to you what aflatoxins are, which foods they affect, and describe how the health risks associated with the aflatoxins can be mitigated and avoided.

## Dreaded Aflatoxins?

Chemically speaking, aflatoxin is a type of "mycotoxin". Aflatoxin is a common name for specific secondary metabolites produced by Aspergillus fungi, primarily Aspergillus flavus, Aspergillus parasiticus and Aspergillus nomius. These types of aflatoxigenic fungi produce various members of the aflatoxin group of chemicals- AFB1, AFB2, AFG1 and AFG2.

There are natural moulds found around the world and concentrated mostly in the food supply in areas with wet and warm climates. Under favourable conditions typically found in tropical and subtropical regions, including high temperatures and high humidity, these moulds, normally found on dead and decaying vegetation, can invade food crops. Drought stress, insect damage can also contribute to higher occurrence of moulds.

The aflatoxins were first discovered immediately after an outbreak of a disease which affected turkeys of unknown etiology in England in 1960. Since then, there are numerous scientific researchers who have conducted investigations in order to understand how exactly these toxins affect the mankind. Aflatoxins do not only pose significant health risks but also create a high economic burden, since approximately at least 25 per cent of the world's food crops are being destroyed due to the aflatoxins annually.

## Zooming-in on Sri-Lanka

Recent media speculation about imported consignments of coconut oil, which were highly contaminated with aflatoxins, have made Sri-Lankan society furious.

Unfortunately, the media merely presents a distorted view of the situation, since most people who present arguments for and against aflatoxins are extremely far from scientific community and lack the understanding of basic biological concepts.

The situation at hand has resulted in circulation of myths or half-truths about aflatoxins and the health risks associated with them. Most people believe that contaminated coconut oil is the only way in which aflatoxin can enter a human body.

However, this is simply not true and there are plenty of alternative ways aflatoxins can sneak into our bodies. The bitter truth is that some goods which are regularly consumed by ordinary Sri-Lankan citizens on daily basis are already contaminated with aflatoxin. Let's have a closer look at some examples.

## Greatest threat?

Coconut oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in Sri Lanka. There are handful of scientists, who have done research on the topic of 'Aflatoxin contamination in edible vegetable oils in Sri-Lankan market' over the last decade and you can read their findings via open resources on the internet.

Most of researchers have found that nearly 20-30 per cent of the coconut oil samples (locally produced as well as imported) were contaminated with aflatoxins.

The total aflatoxin contamination in coconut oil ranged from 2.25 to 72.70μg/kg and Aflatoxin B1 contamination in coconut oil ranged from 1.76 to 60.92 μg/kg. This is an alarming result because unlike other agricultural commodities, that get contaminated with aflatoxins, consumers get exposed to greater and continuous health risks through using coconut oil on a daily basis.

High levels of aflatoxin contamination in coconut oil may be a result of improper agricultural practices that facilitate toxigenic fungal growth on copra. The only solution to the problem lies in getting the market coconut oil tested (at accredited laboratories only) for the presence of aflatoxins and while introducing good manufacturing practices to the industry.

## What about rice?

In Sri Lanka, rice is the main staple which is mostly processed into parboiled rice. Among cereals, rice and corn are mostly contaminated by aflatoxins in natural conditions due to changes in agricultural practices.

There are some interesting studies which analyzed the levels of aflatoxin B1 and aflatoxin G1 in parboiled and raw milled rice collected from major rice producing areas and rice consuming townships in Sri Lanka.

In almost all the samples of parboiled rice examined, the aflatoxin B1 and G1 contents were significantly higher than in raw milled rice.

## The enemy in plain sight

However, Aflatoxins do not only affect rice and coconut oil. Aflatoxins can invade the food supply at any time during production, processing, transport and storage.

Improper storage under conditions that favour mould growth (warm and humid storage environments) can typically lead to levels of contamination much higher than those found in the field.

Moulds that produce aflatoxins are regularly found in improperly stored staple commodities such as rice, maize, cassava, chilli peppers, cottonseed, millet, peanuts, sesame seeds, sorghum, sunflower seeds, sweetcorn, tree nuts, wheat, palm kernel (copra), nuts and oil seeds especially peanuts, tree nuts and dried fruits and a variety of spices (ex. nutmeg, pepper and paprika).

Pre-harvest contamination with aflatoxins is mainly limited to maize, cottonseed, peanuts and tree nuts. Post-harvest contamination can be found in a variety of other crops such as coffee, rice and spices.

Food processing techniques are not sufficient to eliminate aflatoxins from contaminated food and feed due to their heat- resistant nature.

When contaminated food is processed, aflatoxins enter the general food supply where they have been found in both pet and human foods, as well as in feedstocks for agricultural animals.

Milk and milk-based products contain another type of aflatoxin M1, which can be detected in dairy cattle that have ingested feed contaminated with aflatoxin B1.

Animal fed contaminated food can pass aflatoxin transformation products into eggs, milk products, and meat. Subsequently, humans may be exposed to this aflatoxin through milk and milk products, especially in areas where the contaminated grain is used for animal feed. While infants could be in danger of intoxication through breastfeeding.

## Health consequences

Exposure to aflatoxins through diet can lead to serious health complications and consequences. These effects can be both acute and long-term, and their effects on the human body vary.

They can be teratogenic (cause a birth defect in the child), mutagenic (cause a mutation or a change in the DNA of a cell), carcinogenic (promote carcinogenesis, the formation of cancer), immunotoxic (adversely affect immune system) and hepatotoxic (cause damage or destruction to liver cells). Aflatoxins predominately affect the liver and kidneys but can also negatively impact reproductive organs.

| Organs/ Systems | Effects |
|---|---|
| Pathological changes | Liver, kidney, and spleen enlargement, fatty liver syndrome |
| Digestive system | Decreased protein and fats digestion and absorptions, impaired carbohydrate breakdown, decreased mobility, diarrhoea |
| Nervous system | Abnormal Behavior, depression |
| Growth | Reduces the rate of growth |
| Gene and Gene Expression | Teratogenic effect (birth defect) |
| Urinary System | Kidney inflammation leading to kidney failure |
| Gene and GeneSuppression | Carcinogenic effect — higher incidence of cancer |
| Immunosuppression | Decreased resistance and susceptibility to, HIV, TB, and other opportunistic infections |

## Limits for aflatoxins

Even a low concentration of aflatoxins is hazardous for humans and livestock. The identification and quantification of aflatoxins in food production is a major challenge to ensuring food safety today.

Most farmers do not know about the existence of aflatoxins, let alone the grave risks associated with their consumption, and therefore are not concerned about their mitigation.

Quantitative analysis of aflatoxins is optional for locally consumed foods, but mandatory for crops designated for export in order to meet international regulatory standards. Therefore, different countries have implemented strict regulations for aflatoxins in food and feed to ensure that the health of individuals is not impaired.

The safe limit of aflatoxin lies in the range of 4–30 μg/kg for human consumption. The European Union has the strictest standard level with AFB1 and total aflatoxins not beyond 2 μg/kg and 4 μg/kg, in any product meant for direct consumption. Similarly, the maximum acceptable limit set for aflatoxins in the United States is 20 μg/kg.

On the other hand, in Sri-Lanka total aflatoxins levels is can reach 10 μg/ kg, while the maximum level of aflatoxins B1 is set at 5 μg/ kg. However, there is sufficient evidence that demonstrates that this amount does not do enough to protect everybody, especially people living in developing countries where these crops are consumed in high amounts and immunity is already low for other reasons.

## Inactivation of aflatoxin

Removal or inactivation of aflatoxin in food and feedstuffs is a major global concern. Aflatoxins can be detoxified or removed from contaminated foods and feeds through physical, chemical, and biological methods depending on the conditions.

However, the treatment has its own limitations, since the treated products should be safe for human health and essential nutritive value should not deteriorate during the process.

The following methods are often suggested for effective decontamination of some mycotoxins. Aflatoxins' contamination of crops at pre- and post-harvest conditions can be controlled to some extent by the implementation of good agricultural practices (GAPs), good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and good storage practices (GSPs).

The novel processing technologies involving a microwave, UV, pulsed light, electrolyzed water, cold plasma, ozone, electron beam or gamma (μ) irradiation in combination with either biological, physical, chemical or genetic engineering methods have the potential to improve the efficiency of aflatoxins decontamination as well as to overcome the limitations of any specific technology.

Therefore, utilisation of the novel technologies along with raising public awareness for implementing GAPs, GMPs and GSPs are crucial for controlling aflatoxins contamination in food and feed to ensure food safety and security for maintaining human and animal health.

Control Strategies of Aflatoxins which can be helped in Sri-Lanka:

Comprehensive, multi-sectoral approaches are required to control the complex aflatoxin problem and improve the health, income, and livelihoods of local farmers, farm households and consumers. A comprehensive aflatoxin control program could include a range of complementary components, for instance:

1. Effective policies, standards and regulations, policy-relevant information (from economic, food security and health assessments);Campaigns to raise consumer demand for safe, high-quality food;
2. Distribution and adoption of improved inputs and technology solutions, and improved quality of production;
3. Market mechanisms to inspect commodities, regulate quality, and ensure proper storage;
4. Access to safe and high-quality food ingredients;
5. Efficient withdrawal of and alternative uses for contaminated commodities.

Action is needed at all levels (local, regional, and national) to reduce aflatoxin prevalence and exposure in Sri-Lanka. Although we do have sound standards on aflatoxin levels, the flaw of the current system lays at the implementation level.

If there is a general awareness of aflatoxin in our country and there are supporting regulations and institutions, then the impact on humans stemming from the aflatoxin contamination will be low, but the positive market impact will be high.

# Education policy: A dire need for Sri Lanka

by Hemantha Kulatunga

Pic courtesy of public domain

The education system is one of the most important elements in sustainable development and shared prosperity of a country.

Although Sri Lanka is considerably far ahead compared to other developing countries at school level education, a clear disparity exists between them and us in education and producing skilled professionals and technical experts to suit the job market of the country.

Therefore, a new education policy is long overdue and promptly required to keep up with the rapidly developing world.

As an encouraging and inspiring move, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has launched a digital platform, offering a great opportunity for the public to submit creative proposals and innovative ideas to formulate a new policy framework.

The President pledged a reform in education in Sri Lanka in his manifesto 'Vistas of Prosperity' to design and nurture knowledge-based human capital to suit the 21st century.

## Skills development

It is a known fact that the current education system in Sri Lanka is outdated and falling behind many other countries concerning skills development, although the school level education is considered healthy.

Therefore, it is a salient fact that the system requires an urgent reform through a holistic approach to address key issues concerning this disparity. The country desperately needs an explicit long-term national policy with an effective strategy.

President Rajapaksa has established the Presidential Task Force on Sri Lanka's Educational affairs that comprise an elite panel of intellectuals and experts in March 2020 and reinforced the panel again with more members in September, the same year.

The President emphasised the urgent need of reforming the University curricula to target the country's job market and also to focus more on technology and information technology-related education.

According to available information, the task force has already outlined many viable and pragmatic new reforms. Concerning the said reforms at present, the habitual criticism by the opposition parties also cannot be seen as in other situations.

From what this writer gathered from various recent forums, many of the current proposals seem to be acceptable to most of the intellectual members of the opposition.

The important segments in the discussion are predominantly on the student-centered education system at school levels, activity-based learning, promotion of TVET education, University education to suit the job market, production of practical students rather than theory-oriented education, and several other relevant areas.

Most of these were envisioned in the Presidential Election manifesto that was reconfirmed at the General Election in August 2020.

It is known that Sri Lanka provides very high access to primary and secondary education for the past several decades, making the country's literacy rate as high as any developed country in the world.

According to the World Bank Group (WBG) assessment, Sri Lanka's net enrolment rate in the primary sector is 99 percent while it drops down to 70 percent in the senior secondary level that is considered exceptionally high for middle-income countries.

As per the assessment, the country's average student attendance is 10 years compared to 6 years in other countries in South Asia.

## Recurring issue

This means that the level of education in Sri Lanka is creditable although the level of quality of education in terms of skills and knowledge has to be reformed by upgrading curricula.

However, the recurring issue is that out of approximately 600,000 students who face the GCE O-Level examination, only about 20 per cent attend higher education institutions and another 33 per cent are absorbed into TVET education. The remainder of 47 per cent of them enter the extremely competitive labour market without any skill.

As an experienced business executive for over forty years, this writer can confidently declare that most of the private sector employers are concerned about the quality and significance of knowledge and skills of these students. Also, they are uneasy about the employability of the students entering the job market, even if they are graduates.

Their constant complaint and criticism are that the new entrants to the job market lack specific skills or knowledge. Even the attitudes of the students leaving schools or universities are often questionable as they are not given a proper understanding of the behavioral patterns of the industry when at school level.

**THIS MEANS THAT THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA IS CREDITABLE ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN TERMS OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE HAS TO BE REFORMED BY UPGRADING CURRICULA**

The majority of employers declare that general education in Sri Lanka does not produce youth with up-to-date knowledge of methods, material, industry, and technology. Besides, important TVET education is not promoted at appropriate times in schools where students can be directed to job-specific technical education and training.

Most of the parents wait for the student to complete the secondary level education before deciding on TVET, as they expect their children to gain entry to university education.

It is a fact that entering into university education in Sri Lanka is extremely competitive compared to the number of students who sit for the GCE Advanced Level examination.

For example, in the year 2020, 360,000 students sat for the GCE Advanced Level examination and only about 10 per cent of them will be taken into universities.

Therefore, the new reforms must address this issue and educate both the parents and students and encourage them to make early decisions.

There is a large vacuum currently prevailing in Sri Lanka for mid-level skilled workers with job-relevant abilities. Employers say that prevailing TVET programs are irrelevant to skills they expect from the workers they intend to recruit.

## Higher Education

Even those who have completed higher education often fall into this category. The mismatch between the skills supply and demand is an exceedingly crucial area to explore and provide immediate solutions.

Hence, the recently established digital platform will create a productive bridge for experts to respond in this regard. Education is an integral part of a nation's growth and progress.

When the citizenry of a country is educated, they contribute to their families, the society they live in, and the country's overall economy. However, in order to facilitate all these as responsible citizens, people need secure employment.

The leading issue in the Sri Lankan job market currently is the mismatch between the formal education and skills required for the jobs in the private sector that provides the largest number of jobs.

Among the range of labour factors, companies identify worker skills as the third most important after the work experience and employee turnover.

Particularly, at the entry stage, organisations look for skills more than educational qualifications when they recruit. The private sector considers that skills shortages as a major barrier to their productivity and growth.

This disparity arises from the weak alignment of curricula with competencies required for specific occupations. Also, the disproportionate number of students pursuing the trades in demand is a setback. Mostly, Sri Lankan students, after the completion of senior secondary level tend to chase after what they think is easier where they are ignorant about the low demand for such employment.

Consecutive governments have attempted to introduce reforms in the past. The authorities have long recognised the necessity of creating a system that suits the future. To build a solid human capital, the country needs to create a proper balance in school-level education and skill-based education. Hence, a flexible skills development system that can adjust to changes in demand must be available for the larger proportion of students.

With the new reforms, the government will no doubt will consider expanding senior secondary education opportunities by widening the study streams offered to students. As already known, attention would be given to increase opportunities to access the technology-based curriculum.

The elite panel with the proposals from the public receives through the newly established digital platform will consider broadening access to higher education while enhancing the quality of the education.

In order to succeed, the government will take series of coordinated actions on human and financial resources, academic practices, and administration of the entire education-al system. Every Sri Lankan expects that comprehensive reforms will be undertaken to establish a quality education system.

### Narco-terrorism across Palk Straits

# Drug money to fund extremism

## Sleeper cells in Lanka – *Indian officials*

BY SUGEESWARA SENADHIRA

**COLOMBO (IDN) —** Indian security officials believe the interception of a Sri Lankan boat carrying 300 kilograms of heroin, five AK-47 guns and ammunition off the coast of Vizhinjam in Kerala in South India on March 25 points to a network of narco-terrorism with strong links to a group in Sri Lanka.

The Indian officials told the media the network of narco-terrorism has created sleeper cells in Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries, and exports drugs to foment trouble. They added that the drug income is then used to fund illegal activities, including extremist activities.

The Indian Coast Guard and the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) found heroin worth Rs 3,000 crores (LKR 720 million) stashed in the boat along with five AK-47 rifles and 1,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition. "A number of incriminating documents were also seized from the occupants of the vessel," said the NCB, adding that six Sri Lankan nationals were arrested.

The investigations so far have revealed that an unknown vessel carried the heroin and arms consignment from Chabahar Port, Iran, and handed it over to the Sri Lankan fishing boat, Ravihansi, in the high seas near Lakshadweep.

Ravihansi then attempted to traffic the consignment to Sri Lanka when the Indian authorities intercepted it. NCB officials said that earlier, Sri Lankan authorities, too, had seized drugs worth Rs 2.5 billion that had been smuggled from the Gwadar port.

Sri Lanka has become a vulnerable transshipment hub for Transnational Organised Crime (TOC) since the Tamil terrorist's commenced drug trafficking and money laundering in the 1980s. The LTTE smuggled drugs to raise money for arms and ammunition. However, after establishing links with Norway, Canada and few other Western countries the LTTE transferred its drug money into legitimate businesses in the West.

## Organised crime and new terrorism

That was the era in which the distinctions between organised crime and new terrorism, as distinguished from old terrorism in cause and effect, have increasingly become blurred.

According to A. P. Wickramasekara, a Sri Lankan researcher at Naval Postgraduate School in California, referring to the convergence of TOC and new terrorism in Sri Lanka proposed three hypotheses.

First, new terrorism often avails itself of the means and methods of organised crime. Second, increasing TOC and the existing ethnic and religious disharmony pose a national security risk in Sri Lanka, increasing its vulnerability to new terrorism. Third, a lack of national strategies have prevented Sri Lanka from harnessing the instruments of national power to the fullest effect.

A case study evaluates Al Qaeda and the Abu Sayyaf Group as potential examples of a TOC-new terrorism nexus. The thesis statistically proves the increasing TOC trends and provides evidence on the emerging roots of Islamic radicalisation that might lead to new terrorism, which could cause serious threats for the national security of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee of the Indian Council of World Affairs pointed out that terrorism stands out to be a method of combat in which random or symbolic victims serve as instrumental targets of violence.

In his research paper, Narco-Terrorism and South Asia, he said Narco-terrorism could be defined as the "use of organised terror to secure control over a state by another state or organised criminal networks or by insurgents or by a combination of any or all of them to achieve fixed political, economic or social objectives based on organisational and financial empowerment through drug trafficking".

The involvement of the LTTE in narcotic transactions in the 1980s included bulk delivery of heroin and cannabis from producing areas in Asia via transit points to destinations in consuming countries, conveying relatively small consignments of heroin concealed in personal baggage from suppliers in Asian countries to intermediary contact persons in the Middle East, North Africa, South Africa and western countries, the operation of drug distribution networks dealing in consuming regions or countries and working as couriers between dealers and distributors.

## Contraband trade between India and Sri Lanka

Contraband trade between India and Sri Lanka has, for long, been a lucrative commercial enterprise, controlled, for the most part, by gangs operating from both sides of Palk Strait.

While Velvettiturai is considered to have served as the foremost centre of the smugglers from Sri Lanka, on the Indian side, Chennai, Tuticorin, Pattukotai, Rameshwaram, Tiruchendur, Ramnad, Nagapatnam, Cochin and a host of smaller localities inhabited by fishing communities have figured prominently among the smuggler bases and hideouts.

The experts say although terrorism is not a recent phenomenon and has been playing an important role in the world since the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, terrorism since the 1960s is the child of the war created by the imperialist powers.

The current Islamic terrorism is by and large a byproduct of the conflicts initiated by Western powers to control countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Iran.

The Indian Coast Guard seizure of the drugs and arms consignment on March 25 was not the first such instance. Early March, there was another seizure. Indian security sources told the media that one Dubai-based smuggler was working for a multi-national drug smuggling racket, and the money from this has been used to create unrest, and fund extremism.

They said the money was used for the 2019 Sri Lanka Easter bombings and fuelling the farmer protest in India.

According to Rakesh Asthana, the Director-General of the NCB, this network has cells in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Dubai, and East Africa.

In January this year, M.M.M. Nawas, a Sri Lankan national was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau along with his compatriot Mohamed Afnas for alleged involvement in an international drug trafficking racket. They had travelled to Gulf nations on a fake Indian passport.

"Investigations are underway to determine the facts. Both were living in Chennai under assumed identities after they fled Sri Lanka," a Customs official said." Nawas is wanted for an attempt to murder the Sri Lankan narcotics control bureau's inspector, Rangajeeva, on May 9, 2017. He went underground thereafter," the official added. Nawas is said to be a key associate of Kanjipani Imran, now lodged in jail.

The accused arranged vessels to transport drug consignments from the Gwadar port through maritime routes to transit points in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Payments were made through the *hawala* channel via Dubai.

Imran worked with Sri Lankan underworld figure Makandure Madhush. Madhush was killed in a crossfire between the police and some drug peddlers in October last year. They had earlier operated from Dubai, where they were arrested in 2019 and extradited to Sri Lanka.

"In the recent past, some pointmen for drug smugglers in Sri Lanka have been found operating from Tamil Nadu," Indian security officials said, adding that a probe was underway to find out if Nawas had developed links with local criminal gangs for logistics support.

Last year, the drug enforcement agencies found that another Sri Lankan national, Angoda Lokka, a notorious drug trafficker and associate of Madhush, had been living in India since 2017.

He died under mysterious circumstances in Coimbatore in July 2020. Lokka had fled Sri Lanka following an attack on a prison bus in February 2017, in which rival gang leader 'Samayan' was killed along with five other jail inmates and two prison officials. According to Indian NCB, the drug trafficking network involving Nawas has links in Afghanistan, Iran, the Maldives and Australia.

The six Sri Lankan suspects arrested by the Indian Coast Guard were identified as L.Y. Nandana, H.K.G.B. Deshapriya, A. H. S. Gunasekara, S. A. Senarath, T. Ranasingha and D. Nissanka.

# Consultations between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan

## Both countries sign MoU

An MoU on the setting up of a political consultation mechanism between the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan was signed recently.

The MoU which provides for regular engagement and partnership between the two South Asian countries was signed by Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Afghan Ambassador in Colombo Ashraf Haidari.

Under the MoU, the two countries expressed confidence that the Sri Lanka–Afghanistan bilateral partnership will grow further through active facilitation by both Foreign Ministries, thus enabling a yearly review of the whole gamut of bilateral relations.

This would cover areas such as political, economic, security, culture, health, social, people-to-people contacts and other areas of common interest including regional cooperation.

With this MoU, Sri Lanka completes the setting up of bilateral instruments of Political Consultations or Foreign Office Consultations with all countries in South Asia. The MoU is an important bilateral instrument in the 63-year history of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to further enhance bilateral relations and to hold the inaugural session of the Political Consultative meeting at a mutually convenient time in the near future. Close cooperation in economic and trade matters and connectivity with neighbours, and Members of the SAARC remains Sri Lanka's foremost economic diplomacy goal.

Both sides underscored the high potential areas for bilateral trade, including tea, gem and jewellery, dry fruits, nuts and cereal and highlighted that direct air connectivity would provide both countries to have closer cooperation in tourism, cultural and social engagements.

State Minister for Regional Cooperation, Tharaka Balasuriya, Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, and officials of the Afghan Embassy in Colombo and Foreign Ministry were present.

**Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and Afghanistan Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Ashraf Haidari sign the MoU**

# Ex-LTTE cadres need help to rebuild their lives

**BY FRANCES BULATHSINGHALA IN VAVUNIYA**

Fifteen years ago, it would have been unthinkable for 35-year-old Thuraisinkam Mathanathas, known as Mathan to his family and friends, to talk to a fellow Sinhalese citizen from the South and narrate how 'nallam' (wonderful) it was to travel to districts, such as Nuwara Eliya and Kandy.

It would have been unthinkable because 15 years ago, he was gambling with death as a member of the LTTE, having joined the movement at the age of 20.

In his understanding, the Sinhalese were enemies. He was clueless about the existence of friendly citizens and districts of different geographical make up than North such as Kandy and Nuwara Eliya.

His visit to these two districts about six years ago had been as a family holiday with his wife and in-laws. When asked if he met new Sinhala and Muslim friends, his smile is worth a thousand words.

**Nanthani**

**Thuraisinkam Mathanathas**

## Aspirations

I met him in his home in Vavuniya town, a well maintained home run by his wife, Nanthani, a seamstress. Mathanathas is one of the thousands of ex-LTTE cadres pardoned, rehabilitated and re-integrated into society in September 2011.

I did not ask him any questions of the past because I did not want to follow the obsession of some Western nations who dominate the UN, but tried to understand his situation and his aspirations for the future.

With all kinds of international allegations of excess vigilantism and so-called oppression, I tried to understand if there is any vestige of this. What has been his interaction with the Security Forces and the police? Do they harass him?

He laughed when this was asked and said an emphatic "No". He said that as part of the regulations, they visit the house once a month only when he is present and not when women are alone in the home. The main purpose of their visit is two-fold – to find out how he is and if he needs any assistance and to simultaneously ascertain if he is in the official address he has provided.

He said that he never faces any embarrassment by the officials visiting him in his office or other location, but that they only talk to him in his private residence as a matter of protocol.

He has full freedom to travel either abroad or to any other district by informing the officials concerned. He is not interested in travelling abroad but his interest is building his future within his hometown and his country.

## CEB job

He was employed from 2014 to 2019 at the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) Vavuniya branch as a member of the technical labour force earning a basic salary of around Rs. 40,000. However, on account of difficulty in submitting educational certificates during his tenure at CEB (having lost all his possessions under the exceptional circumstances that he and many others in the North faced in the 30-years of terrorism) he lost his job in 2019.

His immediate wish is to regain his job at CEB and the potential he had for skill mobility to get further trained in the technical know-how he gained pertaining to high voltage related technology knowledge.

He is currently not jobless but under-employed when compared to his previous positions, earning Rs. 30,000 as a driver for a private company.

**WHAT HAS BEEN HIS INTERACTION WITH THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE POLICE? DO THEY HARASS HIM? HE LAUGHED WHEN THIS WAS ASKED AND SAID AN EMPHATIC "NO"**

He likes to learn English and look towards learning more skills such as getting into the tourism sector but there are no opportunities in the area with few private sector involvement and as far as he knows zero NGO or INGO support for those such as him to build up their lives.

He has five friends who were formally with the LTTE and rehabilitated along with him who are severely under-employed, working as temporary hired labourers in agriculture and some dabbling in carpentry without any opportunity to further themselves in skill building for a stable earning as main breadwinners for their family members.

## Appeal

The following is his verbatim appeal specifically to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa:

"My friends and myself never thought we will see this normalcy we are having now and we like to serve Sri Lanka and help to build the country. We are hard working.

"We lost everything in the past 30 years, our houses, educational certificates, everything. We, therefore, look forward to helping young people such as ourselves stabilise their future while evading the trap of certain groups who do not want normalcy in the North or Sri Lanka."

His appeal for looking into job stability of the youth of the North including those reintegrated to society such as himself comes in the backdrop of two recent arrests of two youth on suspicion of being associated with an online channel with connections to the LTTE propaganda machine led by the diaspora.

This writer having interviewed the parents of the two persons concerned, both of them in their 30s was moved by their insistence that their children was only responding to a job opportunity paying around Rs. 30,000 relating to online media and that they were attracted by a high ranking designation which made them technically take official responsibility for any promotional material of the organisation.

Hence the need of the hour is for the so-called international self-proclaimed human rights saints to support Sri Lanka to help rebuild the lives of youth impacted by 30 years of terror.

A thorough field visit in the North shows that there is a severe lack of international interest in completing the humanitarian assistance in areas such as housing and sanitation begun in Sri Lanka and continued in stages to date.

This article is part of a series that will shed light on the needs and aspirations of the residents of the North and the East recovering from 30 years of terror.

# United we (under)stand divided we fall (prey)

By
Dr. Thilan U. Hewage

"United we stand divided we fall" is a quote that is used quite often to encourage collaboration, team work and patriotism. One of the important characteristics employers look for in their employees is their willingness and ability to be good team-players. Whether it is the family unit, a business organisation, a particular industry or even a nation, the unity among the members of an entity certainly strengthens the energy of its existence and the efforts of achieving its goals.

Surprisingly enough, one important place it is not seen is our formal education system where the learners are divided into specific subject areas as early as possible. Especially in our State education system, not only do we divide them into different streams but also we prohibit them from even trying out any subject outside their chosen stream.

## One or other

One's future is pretty much decided right at the time when one decides on the subjects one would like to do for GCE O/L examination. Then the GCE A/L program requires one to be in one of the areas from science, arts, commerce or technology. Science stream then divides again into physical sciences and biological sciences. Only the physical science stream requires further knowledge of mathematics. A familiar phrase seen and heard in communications about knowledge and or education is 'Math & Science'.

The common understanding of the phrase is two-fold. 1. The word 'Science' in this phrase refers to 'Natural Sciences' which include 'Physical Sciences' and 'Bio Sciences'. 2. The word 'Math' (for Mathematics) is connected to the word 'Science' with the word 'and (&)' because mathematics is considered as something different from the 'Science' as it is used. It is also very clear that the word 'Science' in this common usage does not include anything coming under the category of 'Social Sciences'.

Therefore, it wouldn't be illogical to assume that Mathematics, excluded from 'Natural Sciences', could be considered within one of the other categories such as 'Social Sciences' or 'Humanities'. Though it is not easy to see mathematics included in those categories, what is becoming more and more common in universities, is having all different departments in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities within the College of Arts & Sciences or the College of Liberal Arts. Facing the challenges due to rapid social, technological and economic changes of the world, it will be easier with a broader knowledge that can identify all the different factors involved with them and with skills that can formulate the connectivity of those factors spreading through all those different disciplines.

The origin of Mathematical Biophysics which led to the creation of mathematical theories and models of human behaviour through the works of scientists such as Nicolas Rashevsky, who started out as a physicist and ended up creating and teaching a 'Mathematical Sociology' course in the University of Chicago, is a good example of crossing the boundaries of different disciplines in order to understand human behavior.

## Promoting and opposing

Though there seem to be two main camps, one promoting and the other opposing, the use of mathematics in all areas of education including Social Sciences and Humanities is becoming more and more popular around the world. The role of mathematics in problem solving strategies, irrespective of the discipline through which it is done, is recognised as an extremely important aspect of the skill development programs.

The intention is to have sustainable development activities leading to better living standards for all the inhabitants of the planet. Economics, out of all subdivisions of social sciences and humanities, seems to be the discipline that has leaped over the others, in reaping the benefits of using mathematics for deeper understanding of constraints and arguably for better formulations of economic systems and policies. Nobel Prize winning economist Paul A. Samuelson considered mathematics to be the 'natural Language' of economists.

Formation of clusters, due to ideological differences, among certain groups of people whose group identity is kept intact under a more general definition, such as economists, scientists, athletes, artists and even members of political parties, has always been an area of interest for sociologists, psychologists, political scientists and ironically even for economists to study in the process of understanding human behavior. Paradoxically, those studies will also be using mathematics in the process of analysing data and or in making generalisations and future predictions through the equations and models suggested by that data.

## Specialising in one area

Starting from the latter part of the 19th century people started treating different areas of interest such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, sociology, geography, economics...etc. in their own individual cocoons and specialise in one of them without paying much attention to the connection of that to any of the other disciplines.

Branching out into more and more specific areas became the trend in the academic world where the competition among them was even encouraged as a natural stimulant to increase the rate of development of each discipline. Little that they realised, this branching out, though it facilitated certain economic benefits through career advancements and marketability of expertise, was taking them into isolation through narrower and narrower arteries.

This trend can be seen even within a particular discipline due to overcrowding of these arteries. Overcrowding is felt due to competition.

The competition creeps in because there is a market for knowledge. The market then controls all the economic factors influencing the individual or the group. A century of forced separation of different branches of knowledge inadvertently made the educators/researchers in one discipline insensitive to the effects of their actions on any of the other disciplines.

When things went wrong with some of the policies introduced in some countries during this period it was not easy even to find out what went wrong and why, since the experts themselves were trying to analyse things with their tunnel vision. The trend of separation and isolation started to change towards the latter part of the twentieth century and 'inter-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary education/training' became magic words.

## Mathematics

There are enough people including policy makers, who are willing to take the risk of using mathematical models especially when the failure of the theory or the model is not going to have much of a negative effect on them. Theories and models based on mathematics attract people to rely on predictions made on stocks, bonds and other markets where they can trade options and futures.

Overreliance on mathematics may even have contributed to economic disasters around the world over the years, including the failure to predict international financial crises in time, to make relevant players aware of the imminent dangers.

Interestingly enough, the concept of deciding a price according to the future expectations and buying options has been tried successfully by Thales of Miletus (624 – 547 BC) by using his knowledge of 'stars' to predict the type of olive harvest months ahead and paying deposits on all the oil-presses in advance. That perhaps was nothing more than a clever usage of astrology which is also based on mathematics.

The use of astrology for future predictions and or finding out the causation of certain phenomena which were difficult to explain otherwise was an ancient practice which is still in use by the modern forecasters and or gamblers time to time, though they may shy away from admitting it.

People of the calibre of Charles M. Schwab and J. P. Morgan who are considered as successful businessmen were known to have consulted the famous astrologer Evangeline Adams before they made important business decisions.

It is interesting to note that, when Ms. Adams was accused of illegally helping some of the players in the financial market to gain an edge over the others using a pseudoscience (or witchcraft) she managed to get an acquittal by showing the courts that astrology is based on astronomy which is based on mathematics and therefore it is a pure-science and should not be considered illegal.

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

# Saint Vincent volcano: eruption sparks mass evacuation

A volcanic eruption has blanketed the Caribbean island of St. Vincent in ash and smoke and forced thousands of people to flee from their homes.

La Soufrière, which has been dormant for decades, first started showing volcanic activity in December, but that increased this week.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves called on over 16,000 residents in "red zones" to evacuate.

The volcano has since spewed dark ash plumes 6 km into the air.

Ash fall has been recorded as far from the volcano as Argyle International Airport some 20 km away, St Vincent's National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) said.

The volcano had been dormant since 1979, but in December it started spewing steam and smoke, and making rumbling noises. The first sign that an eruption was imminent came on Thursday evening, when a lava dome became visible on La Soufrière. Then just before 09:00 on Friday (13:00 GMT), seismologists from the University of the West Indies confirmed that an "explosive eruption" was under way. Evacuees were taken to cruise ships and safer parts of the island.

One resident, Zen Punnett, told AFP news agency that he saw "a huge ball of smoke", and that there was panic when people were first ordered to evacuate.

"I can feel and hear rumbling here in the green safe zone... keeping calm as much as possible and praying," he added.

Lavern King, a volunteer at shelters on the island, told Reuters news agency: "People are still being evacuated from the red zone, it started yesterday evening and into last night. The place in general is in a frenzy."

Later on Friday another explosion was recorded, the UWI Seismic Research Centre tweeted. Some evacuation procedures were hindered by the heavy ash fall, which had made visibility "extremely poor", Nemo said.

"Now that the La Soufrière volcano has begun erupting explosively, ash falls will soon overwhelm us," the organisation wrote on Facebook, adding: "Be sure to get rid of or clean up the ash, soon after it falls. If rain falls, the ash could harden and pose a danger to you."

Most of the Lesser Antilles islands are part of a long volcanic arc in the Eastern Caribbean. The last eruption, in 1979, caused more than $100m of damage on the island. The worst eruption on record, in 1902, killed more than 1,000 people.

Local media have also reported increased activity from Mount Pelee on the island of Martinique, north of St Vincent.

*- BBC*

**A second explosion caused a large vertical column of ash.** *- BBC*

## Chinese regulator slaps huge fine on tech giant

The world's biggest online retailer - China's Alibaba - has been hit with a record fine equivalent to $2.75bn (just over £2bn).

Regulators in China said the internet giant had abused its dominant market position for several years. In a statement the company said it accepted the ruling and would "ensure its compliance".

Analysts say the fine shows China intends to move against internet platforms that it thinks are too big.

While not well known outside China, inside the country Alibaba is an ever-present behemoth, the BBC's Robin Brant reports from Shanghai. The company is China's Amazon meets eBay, our correspondent says. Retail is its main activity but its work has spread to digital payments, credit and cloud computing. The fine amounts to 4% of Alibaba's revenue in 2019.

Regulators say Alibaba restricted competition by stopping some sellers using other platforms. It is the latest in a chain of events targeting the company that kicked off last October, just after its high-profile co-founder, Jack Ma, told a gathering of China's leading regulators that they were stifling innovation.

Jack Ma is well-known in China as one of the country's most successful entrepreneurs.

"This penalty will be viewed as a closure to the anti-monopoly case for now by the market," Hong Hao, head of research at BOCOM International in Hong Kong, told Reuters news agency.

"It's indeed the highest profile anti-monopoly case in China. The market has been anticipating some sort of penalty for some time... but people need to pay attention to the measures beyond the anti-monopoly investigation."

The country's other tech giants are also coming under increasing pressure from regulators worried about their growing influence.

Last month 12 companies were fined over deals that violated anti-monopoly rules. The companies included Tencent, Baidu, Didi Chuxing, SoftBank and a ByteDance-backed firm. - *BBC*

## Israel "will not co-operate" with ICC war crimes investigation

Israel has said it will not co-operate with an investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) into possible war crimes in the occupied territories.

In a letter to the court, Israel says the ICC is "acting without authority" in carrying out the probe.

The ICC gave both Israel and the Palestinians, who instigated the action, until Friday to respond.

The issue threatens to further damage already strained relations between the two sides.

Last month, Israeli authorities cancelled the VIP travel pass of the Palestinian foreign minister on his return to the Israeli-occupied West Bank from talks with ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, Palestinian officials said. - *BBC*

## South Korean beauty brand sorry for 'paper bottle' label

A popular South Korean cosmetics brand has apologised for "confusion" after selling a beauty product that is less environmental-friendly than its packaging suggests.

Last year Innisfree launched a green-tea beauty product in what it labelled a "paper bottle".

The new-look product was released as part of the brand's initiative to reduce the use of plastic packaging. But this week, one customer questioned the product's eco-friendly credentials.

In a Facebook post, the customer from South Korea shared photos of the product that showed it was actually packaged in a plastic bottle wrapped in paper. In comments reported by the Korea Herald newspaper, the customer accused the brand of "greenwashing" and "misleading marketing".

In recent days, the post has been shared widely in South Korea, prompting criticism of Innisfree and debate about the labelling of purportedly green products.

Some critics cast doubt on the brand's commitment to reducing plastic waste.

Innisfree clarified the labelling on the packaging of its Green Tea Seed Serum in a statement on Friday.

"This product is called 'paper bottle' to make it easier to explain the role of paper labels wrapping outside of the bottle," a spokesperson for Innisfree said. "However we understand that the entire container can be seen as paper material because of the product name. We are deeply sorry for the confusion caused and will try to deliver more accurate information to you."

Innisfree says the product's plastic bottle uses 51.8% less plastic than previous packaging. "Both the paper bottle and lighter plastic container can be sorted out and recycled after use," Innisfree's parent company, Amorepacific, says of the product on its website.

The product's packaging does include instructions on how to recycle the paper and the plastic bottle. In July last year, Amorepacific launched several eco-friendly products with a view to reducing its use of about 700 tonnes of plastic packaging by 2022.

There has been a wave of public concern about plastic pollution in recent years. - *BBC*


**CYPRIAN ASHLEY FERNANDO**

**Born on 26th September 1950**

Beloved son of late Henry Marcus and Christobel Fernando.

*A dutiful and caring husband. A loving brother, uncle, grand uncle, nephew, cousin, friend and colleague.*

*We bade you farewell on the 8th of March 2021.*

*Although we are at a loss for words to express our grief on your very sudden departure, we embrace and cherish all the joy and love that we always shared, and this will linger in our memories.*

*We now celebrate you, as you rest safely in the arms of our loving Heavenly Father along with your loved ones who are with you, Amma, Thaaththa, Lasantha and others.*

*Until we meet again,*

**Your loving, brother Lalith, and sisters Sherine and Shyama and all the loved ones.**



**5th Death Anniversary**

**Mr. S HILMAN FERNANDO**

**Died: 12th April 2016**

Loved and respected by all who knew him and especially those who could understand his character.

*He lives with us in memory and will for evermore!*

**With much love and affection from your ever loving three sons Harindra, Rohan & Indike and their families.**



**WALLES, DION JOSEPH**

Formerly Accountant at Brown Brothers, Prominent ship building Firm, Edinburgh, Scotland,for at least two decades. Accountant, afterwards briefly, at Royal Bank of Scotland, George Square, Edinburgh, Scotland. Youth club leader /indoor sports trainer, fr longer still, Edinburgh Scotland. Capt/coloursman, Edinburgh University Crickert, mid - Fiftees, Capt/ Cup -holder ,St.Peter's College Crickert XL , 1946 and 1947 Grandson of Stephen William Walles (SWW), (Philanthropist), prodigions benefactor,Catholic Church in SL,landowner ,or his father before him , of Cinnamon estates which were later to become much of colombo 2,7 and 8 ,and of Meraya Ann Nugara (MAN), residing at premises extending from Christ Church ,Galle Face ,and interior as far as canal and railway leading to Fort Station , the railway and canal having recently been installed, late Nineteenth Century Dion Jo SephWalles Nephew of Godwell NicholasWalles (GNG Walles), ( eldest son of SWW AND MAN race horse owner and trainer, President Ceylon Turf Club (the Patron of which had been his Excellency, Sir Oliver Goonatilleke, Governor General of Ceylon under Dominion Status, since 1948 ),residing at High cliff, 176 Thimbirigasaya Road Colombo 5 (converted presently into a privately owned road transport centre, the horse training grounds of which having been disposed of and converted to housing estates, since mid - seventies ). Nephew also ,of Dr. Joseph Walles ( Doctor of Medicine ) domiciled in United Kindom since early Twentieth Century. Nephew also of, Stanley Walles,employed lifelong by his eldest brother, Godwell Nicholas Walles, (both Dr Joseph and Stanley having been intermediate sons of SWW and MAN). Dion Joseph Walles beloved younger son of Denzil Walles (Founding and first Ceylonese director,Rowlands Motor Car .co Ltd Colombo 7, youngest son of sww and MAN ), and of (British Colonial ) Mona Clarke. Beloved brother of late Lorna Furlong, (nee Lorna Walles, LRSM, LTCL, symphonic / operatic sacred music composer in her later years, accepted as compositions by Sudney Music Conservatory, Australia. Of late Revd. Sister Marie Veronice Apostdic Carmel, nee Eileen Walles, LRSM, FTCL, A. Mus . TCL , double Gold Medalist of Trimity College London for the whole of Asia , 1935 & 1936 Theology and Philosophy instructress of newly Professed Junior Sisters, Apostolic Carmel, for about three decades, Music teacher,Piano and Theory upto advanced diplomas levels for over sixty years, in religions and lay life, Previously ovgamist /choir mistress, St. Mary's Church,Bambalapitiya in lay life,1942 to 1950. Head Prefect, Holy Family Convent Bambalapitiya , 1935and 1936, the same two years she had been awarded the Gold medals /Scholarships, however disallowed by her father from proceeding to London on the Scholarships), Of Sheila Van Starrex (nee Sheila Walles, ATCL Teachers) of late Dennis, and of Revd. Sister Marie Grace ,Apostolic Carmel,(nee Marie Walles : Alumna London University VIA University College ,Colombo 7, in lay life ,and of University of Rome, after religions profession.Theology / Philsophy insructress / Novice Mistress, Apostlic Carmel in SL, for at least three decades .Sacred Portrait artist at the disposal of the entire Catholic Church in SL for at least the same period of time. Head Prefect, Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya, 1946 and 1947 the same two years her brother had captained St, Peter's Crickert 11.Beloved uncle of Sonia, Michael (A . M I Mech E.Lond. Bsc Mech Eng , Heriot - Watt Univ., Edin. First Class Honours) and of his wife Nayani Furlong (nee Munasinghe ),of Deirdre Clarke (married previously to SL planter late Francis Jennings, Justice of the Peace, NSW, Austr, upto his death; and subsequently to Austr. National late Robert Clarke); and of Roderick Furlong. Called to Eternal Rest on 6th January 2020, and laid to rest at Kanatte Cemetery on 7th January 2020. Contributed by his eldest niece, Sonia Marie Furlong, 75/ 1 St,Peter's Road, Moratuwella, Moratuwa and Dambahena Estate, Deniyaya.

**0772089021.**

**Please address any correspondence**
**C/o Revd . Sister Prioress,**
**Melville Elder's Home,**
**56, St. Peter's Road,**
**Moratuwella, Moratuwa.**



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**

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**IN MEMORY OF**

**SUPRAYAR WIGNARAJAH**

PhD (Durham), BSc (Ceylon) and MMSt (Toronto) - former professor of Zoology at the University of Colombo.

Beloved husband of late Manimekalai; caring father of Naresh (Jennifer) and Kanji (Vinay); loving grandfather of Olivia and Benjamin; affectionate brother of Manonmani (late Dharmarajah), Dharmarajah (Yogeswari) and Savitri; and brother-in-law of the late Balasubramaniam, Jegatheeswari, Ratneswari, Dr. Ramachandra, Sriskandarajah, Mahendrarajah and Wignarajah, passed away peacefully at his home on February 4th 2021.

A private Hindu Service and cremation was held according to his wishes on February 6th 2021.


## Obituaries

**FERNANDO - A.T.P (TERENCE)** - Retired (D.T.I - Sri Lanka Railways) - Called to Eternal Rest - Dearly beloved husband of late Gerty, much loved father of Manoj (Manju) Australi & Piumica (UK), father-in-law of Dharshika & adored grandfather of Marsha & Samara. Remains lie at Mahinda Florists - Mt. Lavinia Burial will be on 11/04/2021 at 3.00 p.m. at **Mt. Lavinia Cemetery (Catholic Section)**. 028450

**FONSEKA - AMITHA** (nee PATTIARATCHI). Beloved wife of late Jayantha (Raju of Horana), loving mother of Thilani, late Buddhika and Malind (OZ), expired on 23rd March. Funeral took place according to her wishes. 026777

**ILANGARATNE - S.B. (Mahinda)**. Beloved husband of Seetha (nee Marambe), loving father of Niroshana and Kaushi (Udayangani), loving father-in-law of Visaka and Bhathiya, grandfather of Mindula, Dulinika, Nivin, Saveen and Ravin. Remains lie at Restpect by **Jayaratne on the 10th at 5pm.** Funeral will be held today (11th April) at 4pm at the Borella General Cemetery. 028448

**JEYANAYAGAM - SHEILA RANJITHAM**. Loving wife of Daniel (late), beloved mother of Virajini and Shiyalini, loving mother-in-law to Rajan Arulganesan and Bennett Olegesegaram, much loved grandmother to Dylan, Davon and Dan, sister of Sonna (late), Girlie (late), Dolly, Thiyagarajah (late), Rosy (late), Raja, Chandra (Australia), Leela, Malar and Pon Sheila, passed away peacefully**. Funeral will take place on Tuesday 13th April 2021 in the UK.** May her soul rest in eternal peace. 028309

**SIMMS - SUGANTHI (nee PALVANAM).** Much loved wife of Dennis (Darrel), precious mother of Gillian (Bahrain), loving M.I.L. of Hisham - (Bahrain), adoring grandmother of Seravi, loving sister of Mano Wijesinghe, Rachel Karunaratne, Neville, Christopher, Roveena, Rebecca De Silva, Anna Vasudevan, Valma Gunaratne and Sandra Balraj - UK, expired on 7th April and laid to rest on April 9th, 2021 at General Cemetery, Kanatte. In view of Covid restrictions, health guidelines, a private burial was conducted. 028419

**THOMAS - JUNE** - Dearly beloved wife of Chris Thomas and loving mother of Shervin and Shannon, passed away on Friday 9th April, 2021. Cortege leaves Mahinda Funeral Parlour, Negombo Road, Wattala at 3.30 p.m. on 12th April (Monday) to **St. Mary's Church, Nayakakanda** for burial at the Nayakakanda Catholic Cemetery. 028447

# DMX, American rapper and actor, dies aged 50

**NEW YORK, April 10. (BBC)** - US rapper and actor DMX has died at the age of 50, five days after suffering a heart attack.

The performer, whose real name was Earl Simmons, had been placed on life support and died with his family by his side.

In a statement, his family said he was "a warrior who fought till the very end".

"Earl's music inspired countless fans across the world and his iconic legacy will live on forever," they said.

DMX, aka Dark Man X, was a leading hip-hop performer who collaborated with such artists as JAY-Z, Ja Rule and LL Cool J.

He took his moniker from the name of a drum machine used in rap tracks.

The chart-topping artist's songs included Party Up (Up in Here) and X Gon' Give It To Ya.

He also acted on screen, appearing in such films as Cradle 2 the Grave, Romeo Must Die and Exit Wounds.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York in 1970, DMX publicly battled substance abuse for years and spent several periods in rehab.

A father of 15, he served jail sentences on charges including animal cruelty, reckless driving, drug possession and weapons possession.

According to his family, DMX died on Friday at White Plains Hospital in White Plains, New York.

"He loved his family with all of his heart and we cherish the times we spent with him," their statement continued.

"We appreciate all of the love and support during this incredibly difficult time.

"Please respect our privacy as we grieve the loss of our brother, father, uncle and the man the world knew as DMX."

His manager Steve Rifkind also paid his respects, writing on Instagram: "The team is going to finish what we started and your legacy will never go away.

"That's my word. Rest Easy X".

Tributes were paid throughout Friday, with a host of stars expressing their admiration for the musician and offering sympathies to his family.

"His gift meant so much to so many," tweeted actress Halle Berry.

Rappers Ice Cube, Soulja Boy and Chance the Rapper also tweeted their condolences.

## Derek Chauvin trial:

# Police restraint killed George Floyd, says expert

**WASHINTON, April 10. (BBC)** - George Floyd died because of how police restrained him, a medical expert at the trial of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis has said.

Forensic pathologist Dr Lindsey Thomas said "the activities of the law enforcement officers resulted in Floyd's death" from lack of oxygen.

Chauvin, 45, was filmed kneeling on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes during his arrest last May.

The ex-officer is on trial for murder and has denied the charges against him.

The footage of Chauvin, who is white, with his knee on African-American Floyd's neck sparked global protests against racism.

Prosecutors are trying to prove Chauvin's use of force resulted in Floyd's death, while Chauvin's defence are seeking to show he was following his training and that drugs and heart disease may have caused Floyd's death.

On Friday, the prosecution also called medical examiner Dr Andrew Michael Baker, who performed the post-mortem examination of Floyd.

He said Floyd's death was due to his interaction with law enforcement, but said his drug use and underlying heart disease also played a role.

The official autopsy of George Floyd makes no mention of asphyxia, but Dr Thomas - a veteran forensic pathologist who has performed well over 5,000 autopsies in multiple US states - said she believed it was the primary manner by which he died.

Dr Thomas reviewed Floyd's autopsy, medical reports and other materials on behalf of the prosecution. She also trained Dr Andrew Baker, the chief medical examiner who issued Floyd's official death certificate. "This is not a sudden cardiac death," she said. "It's a death where both the heart and lungs stopped working."

She said Floyd was unable to get oxygen into his lungs with three police officers on top of him because he was handcuffed, in a prone position and had a knee on his neck.

"What that means is the activities of the law enforcement officers resulted in Floyd's death."

She said she could confidently rule out other possible causes of death, including a drug overdose, a fatal heart attack and lung disease.

When asked if Floyd's underlying health issues and ingestion of drugs might lead to a reasonable conclusion that he died of heart disease, Dr Thomas asserted it made no sense to ignore the reality of his "subdual, restraint and compression" by police.

**Black America 'exhausted' by deaths and trials**

# Myanmar citizens flee to India to escape violence

**NEW DELHI, April 10. (BBC)** - Myanmar nationals have been fleeing the country amid violence against civilians in the aftermath of a military coup. Many who live close to the border are seeking refuge in India, reports BBC Hindi's Raghvendra Rao.

It was on her third attempt that Makhai finally made it to India. She used a dirt track through the forest to cross. Others have come via an underground storm drain that connects villages on both sides of the border. Unlike the previous two attempts, this time Indian security forces didn't stop her. The 42-year-old, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, fled her home in Myanmar, in the border district of Tamu, earlier this month, along with her sisters and her daughter. They crossed into the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur. It was the only thing they could do to save themselves, Makhai said. "I had a chance to escape now," she said. "If I waited longer, another chance may not have come my way."

Myanmar, also known as Burma, is in the grip of violence. In February, the country's military overthrew the democratically elected government and detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi. In the weeks since, it has crushed protests against the coup.

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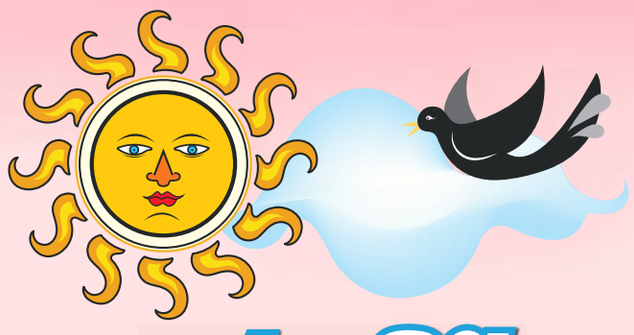

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SPORTS

# For Heaven's sake Bens and Wesley no-ball big match syndrome

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

Hooliganism, rowdyism, drunken behaviour and vehicular road parades that pose a public nuisance will not be part of their culture as two of Sri Lanka's oldest schools, St. Benedict's College and Wesley College get down to commence playing a historic cricket series starting with the maiden match on April 23 and 24.

The series was inaugurated at a grand media launch held at the Hilton Hotel in Colombo on Wednesday where as many as nine commercial partners or sponsors weighed in while Wesley College's youthful principal Avanka Fernando declared the match will be an occasion only for the discerning.

"Yes we will play a match (against St. Benedict's), not a big match. We will create history based on Christian values and discipline. We will create a significant feature in the schools cricket arena", said Fernando recalling what he told a group of old boys from Wesley who never had it easy convincing him to start a series against the Benedictines.

Organisers claim the match was made in heaven that even God will watch.

The first match will be played at St. Benedict's College ground and the two schools will also move into a 50-over one-dayer on May 8 at the historic P Sara Oval in Colombo with both matches to be streamed live on YouTube as spectators will have to put up with coronavirus regulations.

"St Benedict's College has been a humble institution that has produced some of the finest gentlemen in this country and it is very fitting that we start this association through the gentleman's game of cricket", said Rev Bro Pubudu Rajapakse the director of St. Benedict's College.

The two schools take pride in recalling that they first met on the cricket field 125 years ago, but the match was never considered to be of any high-value unlike today when they will play for one of the biggest Cups in the world, a giant one named the Rev James Cartman Cup at the two-day encounter and Shield for the limited overs match named in memory of Rev Brother Luke Gregory.

Both schools say the encounter did not happen overnight and was three years in the pipeline which was kept as a jealously guarded secret.

"This match will focus on the development of students and we will not call it a big match. It is much more than that", said Lalith Madappulli, the head of the Joint Organizing Committee.

**St. Benedict's College captain Kaviru Perera (right) and Wesley College skipper Thenuka Perera shake hands ahead of the Cup and Shield they will play for**

## Stanley Jayasinghe felicitated

**The Old Nalandians Sports Club felicitated one of the true legends of cricket in Sri Lanka, Stanley Jayasinghe (right) at a ceremony held last week at Nalanda College's Malalasekera Hall. Here Jayantha Senevirathne (left-project chairman) and Pryantha Dassanayake (President, ONSC) present Jayasinghe with a trophy. Jayasinghe, now aged 90, was a polished batsman who represented Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in the early 1960s and was one of the first islanders to play county cricket in England before retiring in 1968**

# Kandy cricket fans deprived of witnessing Bangladesh Test series

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

For the first time Kandy will host an international cricket match without spectators when Sri Lanka take on Bangladesh in the first of a two-Test series behind closed doors as the authorities are still debating on allowing fans to once again witness matches due to the coronavirus.

It must be recalled that Indian cricket fans were able to witness their team play a Test match in Chennai in February against Australia.

Test cricket returns to Kandy after the Sri Lanka versus England Test played in November 2018.

The first Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will be played from April 21 to 25 and the second Test from April 29 to May 3 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

According to history cricket was first played in Kandy in 1863 that paved the way for Asgiriya to become the third Test venue in Sri Lanka and the 54th in the world.

The first official Test match to be played in Kandy was between Sri Lanka and Australia from April 22 to 26, 1983 where Australia won by an innings and 38 runs.

# Martial arts exponent Hassen Khalid no more

Hassen Khalid, the Grandmaster of Fei Quando which is a martial art, is no more. He suffered a massive heart attack after returning from conducting a class on Thursday (8) and passed away in hospital.

There were many followers of his martial art, Fei Quando or 'Way of flying fists', that caught up with school children, clubs and institutions, adults, the armed forces and Police and many well educated individuals such as doctors and lawyers. Khalid often conducted rigorous grading tests to award Colours after its followers attended classes conducted him at the Royal College Sports Complex.

Khalid first learnt karate as a young boy from a Chinese. He then soon became a master at it and created his own martial art and named it Fei Quando or 'Way of flying fists'.

Khalid was 72 years old at the time of his death and leaves behind his wife, five daughters and two sons.

Janaza took place at the Maligawatte Muslim burial ground the same night.

**File photo of Hassen Khalid (left) presenting the black belt to T. Rangatharan**

# Family Run Saturday commences as Minister appeals for more participants

**Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa and his wife Limini set off at the inaugural Family Run Saturday from the Race Course ground yesterday morning**

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

'Family Run Saturday' organised by the Sports Ministry and Sportrizen LSR held its maiden yesterday from the Race Course ground at Reid Avenue in Colombo to focus on physical fitness for a healthy society.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa who took part in the inaugural run with his wife Limini said the event will provide a platform for an enhanced sporting nation and hope it will continue without a break every Saturday morning and snowball into the provinces as well.

The participants have to run a distance of five kilo metres.

"Earlier we started the 'Sunday Cycle Program' and it was very successful and now this Family Run Saturday program will open up for families and our aim is to promote this to develop the fitness of the people and parents will have to encourage their children", said Minister Rajapaksa.

# HNB clinch Super League netball title

A confident and determined HNB women's team led by Dharshika Abeywickrama put up a superb display of skills to beat Air Force SC led by Sureka Gamage 54 to 37 to clinch the Super League Netball Championship played at the Ratnapura Public Indoor Stadium on Friday.

In the play-off match Police SC overcame a tough challenge from Army SC to score a 28 to 26 win to finish in third place.

Trackmaster Netball Club withdraw from the tournament complaining about their team being subject to discrimination before giving a walkover to the SL Schools team.

Officials denied the allegation as false.

HNB took the lead 15-7 in the first quarter and kept extending their lead in each of the following three quarters and led 28-17 at the half time.

Air Force played better early in the second half to score 11 points to 10 by HNB, but in the final quarter HNB put up a fine display to score 15 points as against just eight points.

Sri Lanka player Dharshika Abeywickrama scored 50 goals for HNB while Sri Lanka skipper Chaturangi Jayasinghe scored 20 points and Madumali Sinhabahu 17 points for the losers.

**The HNB squad comprising Dharshika Abeywickrama (Captain), Umanya de Zoysa, Dulangi Wannithilake, Gayanjali Amarawansa, Anjalee Ekanayake, Malmi Hettiarachchi, Gayani Dissanayake, Kumarine Silva, Pabasara Gunasekera, Hazeena Abdul, Imashi Subasinghe, Hansi Bandara, Coach Sashika Samarasinghe, Manager Jayanthi de Silva and Physio Mahesh Wanigasooriya pose with the trophy**

# Bangladesh name squad for Sri Lanka tour minus Shakib Al Hasan

Bangladesh named a 21-member squad for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka for two Test matches.

The tour party will be minus key all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan opted out of the Sri Lanka tour to play in the IPL.

The first Test will be played from April 21-25 while the second game will be held from April 29 to May 3 in Pallekele.

**Bangladesh Test squad:** Mominul Haque (captain), Liton Das, Mohammad Mithun, Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Khan, Shadman Islam, Abu Jayed, Taijul Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Nayeem Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain, Mohammad Hasan, Yasir Ali, Shoriful Islam, Khaled Ahmed, Mukidul Islam, Shuvagata Hom, Shahidul Islam, Nurul Hasan

# NCC at the mercy of giant killing Ragama cricketers

Two unbeaten teams, Ragama CC and NCC clash in the final of the SLC Major Club Limited-overs cricket tournament at the SSC ground Maitland Place today.

As both teams are unbeaten predicting the side favoured to win will be difficult and the outcome will depend on how their players fare on this particular day.

Both teams won five games out of five and collected 23 points each. However, Ragama CC seems to have acquired some morale booster having thumped the high riding Army SC by eight wickets in the semi-final whereas NCC managed to beat Baduraliya CC by 18 runs in the other semi-final.

Ragama CC will rely heavily on Janith Liyanage and Nishan Madushka to contribute generously in the batting line up. Liyanage in particular has scored 419 runs so far and is the most impressive while Binura Fernando with 20 scalps and Ishan Jayaratne with 15 wickets are the main bowlers expected to shine for Ragama CC.

NCC will rely heavily on skipper Angelo Perera and Kamil Kishara to contribute heavily with the bat. Perera has scored 333 runs while Mishara has contributed 324 runs, along with Upul Tharanga form their batting forte.

Sri Lanka fast bowler Lahiru Kumara and Ashain Daniel will be their power in the bowling department.

Ragama CC has beaten last year's champions Chilaw Marians CC, Galle CC, Panadura SC, Lankan CC and Navy SC in the first round. They then beat Tamil Union by six wickets in the quarter-final.

NCC beat Tamil Union, Negombo CC, Nugegoda S & WC, Kalutara TC and ACE Capital CC in the first round. They then beat Navy SC by 167 runs in the quarter-final. **(YK)**

**Ragama CC squad: Ishan Jayaratne (Captain), Binura Fernando, Janith Liyanage, Saminda Fernando, Nishan Madushka, Dineth Thimodya, Udara Jayasundara, Sanjula Bandara, Delon Peiris, Amila Aponso, Maneesha Rupasinghe, Gihan Koralage, Janaka Sampath, Shashika Dulshan, Shehan Sandaruwan, Kalhara Senaratne**

**NCC squad: Angelo Perera (Captain), Upul Tharanga, Kamil Mishara, Chaturanga de Silva, Lahiru Kumara, Chamika Karunaratne, Hasitha Boyagoda, Dineth Jayakody, Kavin Bandara, Lahiru Udara, Chamika Gunasekara, Sahan Arachchige, Praveen Nimesh, Yugeesha Dishan, Ashain Daniel**

# SLSI

## setting progressive standards since 1964

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is the National Standards Body of Sri Lanka, established under the Bureau of Ceylon Standards Act No 38 of 1964. The Institution functioned under the name of Bureau of Ceylon Standards until the Act was repealed and replaced by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution Act No 6 of 1984. The Institution now functions under the Ministry of Technology and is governed by a Council appointed by the Minister in terms of the above Act.

SLSI is also a member of the Geneva-based International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO members, in their capacity of National Standards Bodies, exchange on reciprocal basis copies of their National Standards. They also disseminate information on standards, technical regulations and standard-related activities to the community at the national level.

In its role as the National Standards Body (NSB), the main function of the SLSI is formulation of National Standards and promotion of the application in industrial and trade sectors. SLSI reviews and updates the Standards to keep pace with the advancement in technology and the changes in the economy and trade. The published Standards are reviewed and revised from time to time. Amendments are also published for minor changes.

The SLSI has so far formulated about 4500 National Standards. The services of the SLSI can be divided into nine segments.

1. Formulation of National Standards
2. Product Certification
3. Laboratory services
4. Metrology services
5. Import and Export inspection
6. Systems certification
7. Training
8. Information services
9. Sri Lanka National Quality Award.

The formulation of National Standards takes place with the participation of representatives of all stakeholders such as Academia, Manufacturers, Industrialists, Researchers, Exporters, Importers, Regulatory bodies, Authorities and also Consumers.

Certain products in Steel, PVC, Cement, Food, Electric and some other categories have been identified as the products which strictly require the SLS mark. Although every product does not need to have the SLS mark, it is the most recognized symbol of quality and it offers value for the money of consumers. Therefore certain manufacturers approach the SLSI for the mark even though it is not really necessary for them.

The registered certification mark owned and awarded by the SLSI, to be displayed on products that comply with the requirements of the product certification scheme. The SLS mark on a product or commodity assures that is consistently manufactured or produced in accordance with the relevant SLS specification which leads to striving the customer expectations. The SLS mark is monitored by well qualified and experienced auditors who are experts in their fields.

The SLS mark is issued by the Product Certification Division of the SLSI. The SLSI has no authority to force the manufacturers to obtain the SLS mark. The Consumer Affairs Authority has identified seven food items and 39 non-food items compulsory for the SLS mark. Any manufacturer, whose product is not on the list, can submit an application for the certification voluntarily. The application undergoes several assessments before reaching the Permit Committee to obtain approval. In connection with a procedure in which a manufacturer applies for SLS certification for their products and takes those products when they do not conform to the relevant standards. This means that we will give some concessionary time to the manufacturers to adapt the products and production processes to the relevant standard specifications. In short, this concessionary period is an effort to encourage and nurture local manufacturers. If the final product conforms to the relevant product standard specification after the concession period, the SLS mark will be awarded for final product.

Once the permit is granted, the post surveillance audits take place. Permits have to be renewed when the validity period is expired.

During the initial phases, a permit is given on a six-month or one-year basis. Later it will be renewed every three years. The SLSI has its own laboratory facilities to execute the sample testing. In certain instances, the samples will be sent to outside laboratories, government or private.

The SLSI can take legal action only if the SLS mark is misused. Under other conditions such as poisonous food items, the SLSI cannot take any legal action. Taking legal action in such matters is entrusted with the Consumer Affairs Authority and Food Authority.

In issuing the SLS mark, the SLSI considers the brand as well as the manufacturer's location. If one product is manufactured in two or several locations, each location should obtain separate permits / SLS marks. The renewal of the permit follows a rigorous inspection of previous audit reports. Once the permit is issued, the SLSI would randomly buy the samples from the market as well for testing purposes in order to check safety and quality and monitor during the validity period of the permit.

In food products, the testing is done to ascertain the existence of any contaminants and chemicals hazardous to health. Certain food items which need to be registered in the Department of Health should also conform to the Standards formulated by the SLSI. Although the mark is not compulsory for all food items, the items which need to be registered with Health Department must conform to the standards formulated by the SLSI.

In that respect, the SLSI issues recommendations to the relevant regulatory bodies such as Health Ministry, Sri Lanka Customs and the Consumer Affairs Authority. Certain products have also been identified by the Import and Export Controller for which recommendations of SLSI are needed. For instance, if a certain product fails, the SLSI conveys its rejection to the relevant regulatory body.

When designated food products are imported to the country, the SLSI officers obtain the samples from the port in order to check whether the products are conformed to the respective national standards. The samples will be sent to the SLSI laboratories. The laboratory results lead to the assessment in order to decide the safety and quality of the product. If a product is assessed as not suitable for consumption, the SLSI would convey its decision by way of a rejection letter to the regulatory bodies concerned including Sri Lanka Customs. The regulatory bodies will act subsequently.

Sri Lanka has several regulatory bodies to take actions against manufacturers of harmful food products. When it comes to the regulations of the Food Act No. 26 of 1980, the body is Food Control Administration Unit, functions under the Ministry of Health. If the overseas manufacturer can produce a valid report obtained from an accepted Accredited Laboratory in their country, the SLSI would review it and assess it for conformity with the relevant Sri Lanka Standard. If it conforms to the relevant Sri Lanka Standard, SLSI makes recommendations to the Sri Lanka Customs to release the consignment. Moreover, some manufacturers are already registered with the SLSI and this registration is considered as acceptable. However, the SLSI would inspect and obtain samples on random basis for testing purposes to ensure safety and quality. If the samples are failed, the registered manufacturer will be blacklisted.

The agreement with the WTO has been reached in order to reduce the trade barriers between countries related to imports and exports. If every consignment is to be tested, the importer will have to bear a large financial burden. That will ultimately lead to a price increase. If their products are already tested in their own country, double testing would not be necessary. However, an assessment will be performed before the release.

As for importers and manufacturers with no such valid certificate to produce, the SLSI shoulders the task of taking samples, sending them to the respective laboratory and assess the results for conformity before making the decision. As the importer is not allowed to release their product to the market until the SLS recommendation is issued, they have to stay within the confines of the port. This adds a double burden as they have to pay for occupying the space. The Sri Lanka Customs, in liaison with the SLSI, allows the importers to leave the port with a personal guarantee letter ensuring that they cannot sell their product until the final recommendation is issued.

The SLSI Laboratory Services Division delivers its services in six different fields. Electrical and Electronics Laboratory, Food Laboratory, Materials Laboratory, Microbiology Laboratory, Chemical Laboratory, and Textile Laboratory.

The Microbiology Laboratory is accredited for fruit juice and beverages, tea (black and green), milk powder, ice cream, desiccated coconut, dried fish, canned fish and spices, biscuit, butter, chocolate, cheese and fat spread, yoghurt, flour (kurakkan and rice), poultry meat, sauce/ketchup, jam, jellies, marmalade, bottled drinking water, potable water, bottled natural mineral water. The Chemical laboratory is accredited for water, wastewater, fertilizer and fertilizer mixtures and porcelain tableware and ceramics. The Food laboratory is accredited for milk and milk products, edible oils, fats, and tea (black and green).

The Laboratory Services Division has two categories of customers: internal and external. The internal customers are the Product Certification Division, Quality Assurance Division and Standards Formulation Divisions. The external customers are manufacturing industries, Sri Lanka Police, Tri-Forces and Civil Security Department, Public Institutions etc.

To perform laboratory tests according to the standards, the Laboratory Services Division is comprises competent analysts, equipped with proper equipment and relevant chemicals. With all these the Laboratory performs the test according to standards. The primary duty of the Laboratory is to issue test results to the internal customers who assess and take decisions on consumer products to decide whether to issue the SLS mark or take decisions on release of imported consignments referred under the Import Inspection Scheme. It plays a crucial role in ensuring consumer safety.

The competent staff in the Laboratory constantly monitor the instruments as well as the quality of the chemicals used. It will uphold the credibility of the SLSI Laboratory test results as well as the safety of the consumer.

The Systems Certification function of SLSI plays a vital role in promoting Quality Assurance in the following sectors through operation of:

1. Quality Management Systems Certification Scheme
2. Environmental Management Systems
3. Food Safety Management Systems Certification Scheme
4. Certification Scheme on Good Manufacturing Practices
5. Occupational Health and Safety Systems Certification Scheme
6. Energy Management Systems Certification System
7. Organic Certification Scheme.
8. Super Market Management Systems Certification Scheme
9. Vegetarian Certification Scheme
10. COVID-19 Safety Management Systems Certification Scheme
11. GHG Verification
12. Sustainably Produced Fuel Wood Certification Scheme

Some of these Certification Schemes have been accredited as well.

As an ISO 17025 accredited calibration laboratory, the Metrology Division of SLSI fulfills this national obligation by being a part of our national measurement system. The Metrology Division provides an extensive industrial calibration service, covering a wide range of measurements which are traceable to National / International Standards established through reference standards maintained by the Institution. The test/calibration reports consist of all information as per requirements of ISO 17025. This assists with maintaining quality management systems to international standards.

The Institution provides training on standardization and quality management for personnel in the industry, private/ government sector organizations and individuals with a view to imparting the knowledge base required for producing good quality products/services. SLSI covers training programmes on standardization, management systems such as ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems, ISO 14001 Environment Management Systems, ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems, ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems etc. and other Quality related fields for all grades of personnel. These programmes are conducted at client premises also on request.

The vision of the SLSI is "to be the premier national organization providing leadership to uplift the quality of life of the nation, through standardization and quality improvement in all sectors of the economy. The organization shall be a model of excellence, having a self-motivating organizational culture fulfilling the aspirations of the beneficiaries of its services as well as its employees.

**- Indievara De Mel**

## Goals

- *Formulate National Standards required for the development of the National Economy*
- *Promote the use and application of national standards in all spheres of economic and social activity.*
- *Promote Quality Assurance and Quality Management in all sectors of the economy.*
- *Promote and disseminate valid measurement practices at national level and provide calibration services.*
- *Provide consumer education and consumer protection.*
- *Educate and train industry/service personnel on concepts, practices and techniques of Standardization and Quality Management.*
- *Provide test facilities and develop the National Test Capability.*
- *Provide documentation and information services on standards, technical regulations and related publications and also to function as the WTO/TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) Enquiry Point.*
- *Participate in international and regional standardization activities to safeguard national interest.*
- *Constantly develop and upgrade the institution and its services.*

Aflatoxin test using UHPLC instrument

Ultra pure water system

Heavy Metal analysis using ICP-MS/MS technology

Documentation & Information Service and WTO/TBT enquire point

Food products tested at SLSI Laboratory

Calibration of Torque Wrench

*Basic requirements for obtaining the SLS mark permit*

*First, ascertain whether the Sri Lanka Standards specification is available for the concerned commodity or the product.*

*The product / commodity should conform to the relevant Sri Lanka Standard specification.*

*A satisfactory quality management system should be established and implemented.*

*The manufacturing process should comply with the relevant code of practices.*

*The applicant should agree to the general and specific permit conditions issued by the SLSI.*

**Co-ordinated by Anuradhi Hathurusinghe**

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APRIL 11, 2021

# Sri Lanka drug buster takes up fight against cricket corruption

**BY CALLISTUS DAVY**

An intellectual anti-doping crusader in Sri Lanka is planning to do what no pundit or purist has succeeded in to make the country's corruption-ridden cricket administration a cleaned-up entity within a month.

Claiming to see himself only as a messiah on a mission, Professor Arjuna de Silva has become the instant head of cricket's governing body as more questions have been raised over financial misdeeds running into millions in dollars like never before.

He entered the fray last Monday as the government was forced to install what is being called a Management Committee to hold the fort until May 20 when an election of office bearers to run cricket is held.

"We have had so much of a Bad Press (public exposure to financial misdeeds) and my priority will be to look into streamlining the Accounts and legal aspects of Contracts that have been signed and be more transparent", said Prof Arjuna de Silva who until now was serving only as the head of Sri Lanka's anti-doping agency for the prevention of illegal drugs in sports.

Prof Arjuna de Silva

But nothing large scale is expected to change as De Silva's appointment is been seen as a cover-up until the same old administrators that he replaced are back in the saddle next month expected to win the May 20 election.

De Silva though refuses to project himself as a stooge saying he is on no one's side and will do what his government mandate requires of him.

"We want to open out things and show that things are not as bad as it is or bad or whatever. We don't have a personal agenda. I am not in anyone's (election) camp", said De Silva.

The administration of cricket in the country has currently been brought onto its knees over accusations of large scale corruption and nepotism taking centre stage while a Court ruling for an overhaul of the system remains pending.

De Silva made no secret that sports psychology, player fitness and cautioning cricketers, most of whom come from financially unstable homesteads, with the right mindset to handle massive amounts of money that flow into their pockets through professional contracts will also be a priority.

Gehansa Methnadi plays a forehand

# Methnadi advances to Girls' U-12 semis

**BY CHRIS DHAMBARAGE**

Gehansa Methnadi powered her way into the semi-finals of the girls' under-12 singles event at the Hutch-HNB Clay Court Tennis Nationals, continued at the SLTA Courts at Sri Marcus Fernando Mawatha yesterday.

Methnadi made her intentions clear from the start and rallied around magnificently to overcome Venuli Jayasinghe in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

Meanwhile, Sajida Razick went through some anxious moments before defeating Vishmi Serasinghe 6-3, 6-4 in the girls' under-16 quarter-final encounter.

**Results:**

**Girls' U-16 singles quarter-finals:**

Sajida Razick beat Vishmi Serasinghe 6-3, 6-4. Dinethya Dharmaratne beat Anithra Dharmaratne 6-2, 7-6 (4). Ruvi Lewkebandara beat Nelani Jayasuriya 6-1, 6-4. Hasali Gajaba beat Nishkha Vivekanandan 6-3, 6-3.

**Boys' U-18 singles (3rd round):**

Mathisha Nettasinghe beat Nisal Hemakumara 6-0, 6-0.

**Boys' U-16 singles:**

Anujan Abeywickrama beat Sands Usgodaarachchi 3-6, 6-2, 10-6.

**Girls' U-12 singles (quarter-finals):**

Gehansa Methnadi beat Venuli Jayasinghe 6-1, 6-1. Githmi Fernando beat Sandathi Usgodaarachchi 6-1, 6-3. Movindi Fernando beat Imesh de Silva 6-3, 6-3.

**Boys' U-14 singles (quarter-finals):**

Methwan Wijemanne beat Janava de Saram 7-5, 1-6, 11-9.

**Girls' U-14 singles (quarter-finals):**

Arushi Thomas beat Inuki Jayaweera 6-4, 4-6, 10-2.

# Suwahas' ton in vain for Bens

Pasan Suwahas hit an unbeaten century for St. Benedict's College but his efforts were in vain as Zahira College took major honours in their drawn cricket fixture, that concluded at Kotahena yesterday.

Suwahas scored 102 not out but the Benedictines fell well short of overtaking Zahira's massive first innings total of 300 for nine declared.

**Scores**

**Zahira:** 300/9 dec (Zaidh Naleem 55, M. Venket 45, Sameer Majeed 43, Mohamed Ruhaim 44, Chamod Lakshan 28, Akindu Karunarathna 4/56, Hasindu Kavirathne 2/23) and 80/6 (Isuru Lakshan 2/19, Hasindu Kavirathne 2/21)

**St. Benedict's:** 185 (Pasan Suwahas 102 n.o, Thenuka Nandalal 24, Mohamed Ruhaim 4/44, Chamod Lakshan 2/6, M. Venket 2/17). **(YK)**

# Kingfisher Cricket Academy win title

Kingfisher Cricket Academy emerged the title winners of the Nelson Mendis Under 13 Inter Academy Cricket tournament recently.

Kingfisher CA scored 190 runs in 30 overs and then bowled out Freedom Cricket Academy for 128 as Mishika Abeywardane picked up five wickets for 13 runs.

**Kingfisher CA:** 190/5 (30) (Hirun Matheesha 90 n.o., Senuja Wekunagoda 25, Nehan Anuhas 22 n.o., Thisum Jayathilake 2/19)

**Freedom CA:** 122 (28.4) (Viran Chamuditha 22, Pasindu Amarasinghe 22, Mishika Abeywardane 5/13) **YK**

# Royal decimate answer-less Anandians

A complete and commanding performance by Royal with centurion Kavindu Pathirathna and bowlers Prashan Kalhara and Uthum Dissanayake running through the Ananda line-up left them only a wicket away from an innings win at Ananda Mawatha yesterday.

Despite the home-side giving no fight throughout the match, their captain Saviru Bandara smelling an innings defeat went on to hit a bold half-century with three sixes, still trailing by 134 runs.

The visitors Royal made the most of their momentum by enforcing a follow-on and this time the home side were off to a respectable score.

Until the second wicket fell, their innings was in control. But it was then, the mini-repeat of their first essay collapse returned to haunt them. The collapse also featured a rare hat-trick of the same bowler-fielder combination. The rare occurrence also removed opener Nushan Dharmarathne for a decent 45.

Royal continuing from an overnight 359 for 6 declared at 386 for six after Pathirathne reached his century.

Royal then sent Ananda crashing for a first innings score of 88 and had them reeling at 169 for 9 in the second innings.

**Brief Scores:**

**Royal:** 386 for 6 dec (Pathirathna 100 n.o., D Manchanayake 67, Fernando 3-63)

**Ananda:** 88 (Bandara 42, Dissanayake 4-22, Yabesh 3-27) and 169 for nine (Saviru 66 n.o., Dharmaratne 45, Kalhara 5-46, Dissanayake 3-67) **PS**

Mahoshode Fernando of Ananda College plays a stroke in their inter-school cricket encounter against Royal College at Ananda Mawatha yesterday (Pic by Hirantha Gunathillake)

# Trinity, Wesley settle for tame draw

**BY HAFIZ MARIKAR**

The inter-school Under-19 two-day traditional cricket match between Trinity College and Wesley College ended in a tame draw at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy yesterday. The match came to an early end at 3.00 pm due to rain when Trinity had reached 15 for two wickets in their second innings.

Earlier, the Wesleyites were dismissed for 185 in reply to Trinity's first innings score of 220.

**CHIEF SCORES**

**Trinity:** 220 and 15/2

**Wesley:** 185 (Kushan Chamalka 80, Semila Liyanage 47, Dinuka Tennekoon 4/39, Abhisheck Anandakumr 3/50, Pasan Kularatne 2/19)

# Officials blunder as steeple chaser denied better timing

Nilani Ratnayake performs at her pet event

Blundering officials at the national athletic trials will reduce the chances of steeple chaser Nilani Ratnayake's qualification rankings to the Tokyo Olympics Games.

Ratnayake will be vying to qualify in the women's 3000m steeplechase event and currently stands as the 35th in the list.

World athletics will select the top 45 runners for this event to the Olympics.

Her performance was hampered as the officials had mistakenly raised the height of the five steeples that has to be cleared during one round.

The blunder certainly denied Ratnayake of achieving a better timing as she had to go over these steeples 45 times during the seven and a half rounds that has to be completed to cover the distance.

Her coach has lodged a strong protest over the incident and will be expecting a quick solution to this injustice, the Sunday Observer learns. **(TBR)**

# Kylian Mbappe not distracted by 'crossover moves'

Kylian Mbappe is not distracted by rumours of a possible move to Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain coach Mauricio Pochettino insisted on Friday.

The France World Cup-winning superstar has long been linked with an eventual move to Madrid, who courted him as a teenager before he signed for first club Monaco.

His current contract with PSG is due to expire at the end of next season. The player and PSG are in talks over a possible extension, but Spanish television station Cuatro this week claimed Mbappe wants to move to Real and has decided not to sign a new deal in Paris.

The story was denied by sources close to Mbappe, who spoke to French broadcaster RMC Sport. **(Agencies)**

# Peterite Hemananda shines in drawn game

Danal Hemananda took a five-wicket haul to help St. Peter's College dominate their inter-school Under-19 two-day traditional cricket fixture against Thurstan College that ended in a draw at Thurstan ground yesterday.

Hemananda returned splendid figures of five wickets for 58 as the home side were dismissed for 189 runs in reply to St. Peter's total of 277 for five declared.

**Scores:**

**St. Peter's:** 277/5 dec and 167/7 (Nimathu Gunawardena 50 n.o, Vinoda Liyanage 30, Ranga Rasanka 2/25, Punthila Kumara 2/61)

**Thurstan:** 189 (Ramesh Silva 66, Vihanga Jayanama 49, Danal Hemananda 5/58, Monil Silva 3/32). **(YK)**

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APRIL 11, 2021

# The glorious years of Jaffna were hijacked by Ponnambalam

By
H. L. D. Mahindapala

Between the mid-twenties and mid-thirties, Jaffna stood as a shining beacon, showing the path to a future filled with humane and liberal values aimed at bonding a divided nation into one united brotherhood, rising above castes and divisive creeds.

Jaffna held the future of the nation in the palm of its hands. Influenced, on the one hand by liberal-democratic values imparted in the schools run by American missionaries and, on the other, by the Gandhian ideals, the English-speaking Tamil youth took to non-violent radical politics with a passionate mission to give new directions to the nation struggling to be born.

This radical movement was led by the Youth Congress of Jaffna, known originally as the Students' Congress, Jaffna. It was launched in the mid-twenties and wielded a powerful political clout in the peninsular during this decade. That decade proved to be the most glorious period for ethnic harmony not only in Jaffna but the whole of Sri Lanka.

Jaffna – not Colombo -- was the epicentre of dynamic radical politics in the mid-twenties and early thirties. Long before the Left took up the cry of independence, the English-speaking Tamil youth, influenced by the Gandhi-Nehruvian ideals, were the most powerful and energetic radicals who went all out for swaraj (full independence) without compromising one whit for piecemeal constitutional concessions.

The Youth Congress of Jaffna was the first to daringly reject the two evils that warped the peninsular politics of the North: communalism and casteism. It was the only time Jaffna had the courage to resist and run against the ingrained casteist forces that ruled Jaffna during feudal and colonial times. In fact, under the overwhelming influence of the Jaffna Youth Congress – the leading nationalistic and iconoclastic political force in Sri Lanka in the twenties and thirties – neither Vellalaism nor communalism had a place in Jaffna. G. G. Ponnambalam, the father of Tamil communalism, had to contest the first elections under the Donoughmore constitution in 1931 in Mannar and not in Jaffna – and he lost there too.

## Radical politics

Jaffna was the magnetic centre that attracted all progressive forces. Colombo became the political capital of radical politics with the coming of the Left in the late thirties. Jaffna was the cosmopolitan centre that attracted iconic international figures like Gandhi (in 1927) Nehru (in 1931), Sarojini Naidu etc.

Jaffna was leading the nation with visionary and radical values, eschewing narrow communalism and casteism, in the mid-twenties and early thirties. Political discourses on critical national issues were stirring the Jaffna intellectuals and leading the nation into a new political consciousness.

It was time when the conservative elders of Jaffna in the Legislative Council were demanding communal representation as against territorial representation. Territorial representation was democratic but narrow communal representation would preserve the privileged position of the Tamils in the Legislative Council where they were virtually on par with the Sinhalese. Rising above communalism, the radical Jaffna youth rejected racial representation and demanded territorial representation.

In another bold move, the Jaffna Youth Congress rejected in 1931 the reformed Constitution recommended by the Donoughmore Commission, which devolved more powers to the elected representatives in the new State Council. They called for a boycott of the first elections under universal franchise recommended by the Donoughmore Commission.

The Sri Lankan reformists (a.k.a. as "memorialists" / paper tigers) were content to work within the framework of the new State Council which gave greater powers to the elected representatives, though the overriding powers controlling the state were still in the hands of the Governor. The radical Tamil youth were not content with a *hemin – hemin* (Governor Andrew Caldecott) path to independence. Inspired by Indian ideals they wanted independence without any further postponement, They demanded instant swaraj and the movement to the boycott the first elections were successful.

It was the first biggest blow to British imperialism.

Young and restless Philip Gunawardena, the Father of Sri Lankan Marxism, writing from London to the Searchlight (June 20-27, 1931) wrote: "During the last few years the Jaffna Students' Congress was the only organisation in Ceylon that has been displaying political intelligence..... Jaffna has given the lead. They have forced their leaders to sound the bugle call for the great struggle for freedom – for immediate and complete independence from Imperialist Britain. Will the Sinhalese who always display supreme courage understand and fall in line? A tremendous struggle faces us. Boycott of the election was only a signal: It is the duty of every Sinhalese now to prepare the masses for the great struggle ahead."

"Jaffna is the centre of the Tamil and the aggressive youth leagues," wrote Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter to his sister, Krishna Nehru Hutheesingh, in 1931. "We had a heavy program, motored all over the neighbourhood, and had a dip in the sea and swam towards India – she was only 16 miles across" (p. 94 – The Jaffna Youth Congress, Santasilan Kadirgamar.)

The leading light of the Jaffna Youth Congress was S. Handy Perinbanayagam (1899 – 1977), educationist, reformists, radical activist, pioneer of the independence movement and one of the most respected national figures. His national stature was summed up in the following paragraph: "When he retired as Principal of Kokuvil Hindu College his total years of contributory service was short by a year to entitle him to a pension. The Parliament of the day resolved by a Special Bill to set aside the pension regulations that prevented him receiving a pension. This was the tribute an overwhelmingly Sinhalese Parliament paid to him for his services to education. Such acompliment has been rarely paid to any other public man either before or since" (p. xvii – Ibid).

## Jaffna Youth Congress

If the liberal and humanistic values of Perinbanayagam and the overarching spirit of nationalism of the Jaffna Youth Congress triumphed, instead of communalism and casteism of Jaffna, the history of post-independent Sri Lanka would not have been written in blood. But evolving history, which never moves in a straight line, deemed it otherwise.

Whether the Jaffna Youth Congress was an aberration that went against the grain of the Jaffna political culture and, therefore, had no chance of survival is another question that needs examining. The reality, however, is that the Youth Congress faded away in the late thirties and Jaffna was swamped by the rise and rise of Ponnambalamism – the force that turned the North away from the liberal mainstream politics into the narrow peninsular politics of mono-ethnic extremism.

Ponnambalamism, as it manifested in its diverse forms in the post-independent period, became the over-determining force that shattered centuries of communal harmony and peaceful co-existence. In his marathon speech to the State Council in 1939 Ponnambalam was the first to define the Tamil ideology that would guide the Jaffna Tamils into mono-ethnic extremism. He was also the first to provoke the first Sinhala-Tamil riots with his incendiary attacks on the Mahavamsa and Sinhala-Buddhist history and culture. His insensitive and provocative attacks demonising the Sinhalese and their history in Navalapitiya in June 1939 set the entire neighbourhood – Matale, Passara and Nuwara Eliya – on fire.

The overarching impact of G. G. Ponnambalam in laying the foundations and moulding the mono-ethnic ideology of the peninsular that rules North-South politics to this day has been totally under-reported and under-analysed.

In fact, hardly any attention is paid to this factor of Ponnambalamism because the main focus has shifted to blame the Sinhala-Buddhist for the worsening of the North-South inter-ethnic relations. Besides, those who tend to blame Northern politics focus more on S. J. V. Chelvanayakam because he broke away from his senior partner and established the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (toned down as Federal Party in English) which had as its hidden agenda the establishment of a separate state.. It is true that Tamil politics took a sharp turn when it took to separatism and violence under Chelvanayakam and his Vadukoddai Resolution which declared war on the nation. But what is overlooked is that the foundations for the incremental swing to Tamil extremism began with Ponnambalam.

In short, Ponnamabalam combined the three most critical factors that went to construct an anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology which exacerbated inter-ethnic relations in the post-independent era: 1. Demand for a disproportionate share of power. 2. The accusation of discrimination against the minority (in

S. J. V. Chelvanayakam

G. G. Ponnambalam

S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike

government jobs particularly) which exploited the basic fears of a minority in a majority community. 3 The provocative denigration and demonisation of Sinhala-Buddhist history and culture which created the Sinhala-Buddhist bogey-man.

This triad collectively served as the primary tools for Ponnambalam to mould and sustain an anti-Sinhala-Buddhist ideology and, through that, consolidate his leadership as "the sole representative of the Tamils" in Jaffna. Denigrating and downgrading the Sinhala-Buddhist culture of the majority was necessary to create the Sinhala-Buddhist bogeyman and hate politics - a political manoeuvre he gathered from his visits to Hitler's Germany.

The Sinhala intellectuals returning home from Western universities brought in their baggage Marxism and liberalism. Ponnambalam brought racism. Downgrading the Sinhala-Buddhists was his way of proving the superiority of the Tamil race which, in turn, justified his claim to an equal share of power. To further boost his extremist demand he threw in the cry of discrimination – an accusation rejected by the British Soulbury Commission which heard his complaints for nine hours.

## British period

Combined together these three incendiary factors were explosive enough to justify anti-Sinhala-Buddhist hatred among any minority group obsessed with the bogey of majoritarianism. As highlighted by The Hindu Organ, the leading publication in English of the Tamils of Jaffna in the British period, there were Tamils "who in season and out of season trot out the bogey of Sinhala domination". (ibid- p. 56). Even a cursory glance will reveal that the overarching ideological offensive against Sri Lanka has been driven by the bogey of Sinhala-domination.

In the main, what developed as "Tamil nationalism", "self-determination", "and grievances", "aspirations" "Eelamism" were various shades of anti-Sinhala-Buddhist Ponnambalamism which became the catalysing force that sustained and steered peninsular politics in the post-independent period.

Ponnambalam's triad became the template for all anti-Sinhala-Buddhist politics. Even the intellectual and academic exercises operated within this framework. No one from the higher end of S. J. Tambiah's Buddhism Betrayed? to the lower end of Dayan Jayatilleka's diatribes against "armed Dharmapala", deviated from the triad laid down for mono-ethnic extremism by Ponnambalam.

Their theories, models and formulas are all derived from the roots of the triad sown by Ponnambalam. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that the entire anti-Sinhala-Buddhist intellectual mob consists of ditto-heads of Ponnambalam, regurgitating one or the other part of the triad raised by Ponnambalam against the Sinhala-Buddhists. They had nothing original in them.

All their intellectual exercises boil down to either justifying or expatiating on anyone of the three factors marketed by Ponnambalam, or a combination of all three. All Tamil politics developed and went wild based on this three-pronged attack. There is nothing in Tamil politics outside these three-pronged anti-Sinhala-Buddhist attacks.

Later the intellectuals embellished Ponnambalamism by adding Anagarika Dharmapala, S.W. R. D. Bandaranaike and "1956", the Sangha, and everything associated with Sinhala-Buddhist culture for the violence generated by militant minorities that had destabilised the nation and retarded its progress.

So when Dayan Jayatilleka belittles Dharmapala he is doing exactly what Ponnambalam did in Navalapitiya – attacking the Sinhala-Buddhist base to reinforce Tamil extremism. He becomes a ditto-head of Ponnambalam. He fancies himself as a cultivated Gramscian when he is nothing but a servile ditto-head of Ponnambalam, serving even as a minister of a pro-Indian outfit.

The battle lines of coming events in the North and the South were drawn clearly in the thirties. The Navalapitiya riots provoked by Ponnambalam's attack on Sinhala-Buddhist culture and history in June 1939 was the breaking point.

This event and his marathon speech in the State Council, defending "50-50", made him the new icon of the Vellala middle-class in professions and the public service. By mid-thirties Ponnambalam had emerged as the leading champion of Tamil communalism in the north. It was Bandaranaike who led the counter-movement against Ponnambalam in the south in the latter half of the thirties.

These two key actors in the political arena crossed swords publicly over the provocative hate speech of Ponnambalam targeting the Sinhalese at Nawalapitiya. The Hindu Organ (p. 4 — June 22, 1939), the leading voice of Jaffna Hindus in the first decades of the 20th century, headlined this politically significant story featuring the two key protagonists of the Nawalapitiya incident. The headline said: "Mr. Ponnambalam's N'pitiya speech" followed by the strapline beneath it: "Mr. Bandaranaike's challenge."

Ponnambalam's confrontational, derisive, divisive, communal politics came under heavy fire not only from the Sinhalese but also from Jaffna which, in the twenties and thirties, was constructively promoting national unity by decrying communal politics. In its prophetic editorial titled, THE WRITING ON THE WALL, The Hindu Organ, (Ibid) said: "....A verbal bombshell dropped unwittingly by a Tamil politician at Nawalapitiya appears to have set the South on fire... .....A slander against a community by an individual, though unintended, is inexcusable.... "

In a preceding paragraph it said: "Communal differences, though there existed hardly any during the time of the last generation of leaders, have now been multiplied and intensified, thanks to the hot-heads and irresponsible talkers in the country who care more for the plaudits of the mob than for the welfare of the people.

Ceylon today is seething with petty problems which have been created by thoughtless gas-bags, and which threaten to poison the peaceful conditions in the country...." It concluded by saying: "Let us hope that wise statesmanship will prevail among leaders who should realise the imperative need for the welding of the communities into a Ceylonese Community for the political and economic salvation of the country. The writing on the wall is too clear to be ignored."

This editorial predicted the future accurately. After Ponnambalam launched his hate speeches and anti-Sinhala campaigns, loaded with the "insane fury" (*Yalpana Vaipa Malai*) of communalism, in the thirties, Jaffna politics never regained its balance. Instead it proceeded relentlessly rejecting multi-ethnic co-existence that was the only means for building lasting peace. The responsibility of steering Jaffna into irreversible and intransigent communalism that led to confrontations with the Sinhalese from time to time and finally to the Vadukoddai War should be placed squarely on the communal politics fathered by Ponnambalam.

The rise of Ponnambalam on the wave of communalism he whipped up marks the beginning of the end of communal harmony that prevailed in Sri Lanka throughout the preceding centuries.

Bandaranaike who grasped the hidden realities of Ponnambalam's racist political agenda said, in inaugurating the branch of the Sinhala Maha Sabaha in Nawalapitiya shortly afterwards, that a statute of Ponnambalam should be erected in Nawalapitiya for helping him to open the branch of the Sinhala Maha Sabha.(ibid). In other words, he was saying that it was the provocative extremism of Ponnambalam that prompted the Sinhala people of Nawalapitiya to rally behind him. Clearly, one communalism was promoting the other. The Sinhala Maha Sabha which was established by Bandaranaike in 1936 did gather momentum in the thirties as a reaction to Ponnambalam's virulent anti-Sinhala hate speeches.

Apart from recognising the legitimacy of the suppressed grassroot forces to regain their lost heritage the politics of Bandaranaike was shaped by what he called "the more and more rapacious demands of the Tamils" (p.240 — Jane Russell.) Here it should be noted that though the Tamil Mahajana Sabhai was established in 1921 the Sinhala Maha Jana Sabaha was not formed until 1936.

This again contradicts the popular notion that it was Bandaranaike who was exploiting Sinhala communalism. On the contrary, his movement was a logical response to the rising waves of anti-Sinhala communalism from the north that was exacerbating the North-South relations. The offensive launched by Ponnambalam was aggressive and virulent. Bandaranaike was the most prominent leader of the southern elite to pick up the challenge of Ponnambalam with a counter Sinhala movement.

Bandaranaike's response, however, was measured and targeted the historical inaccuracies. He said: "It is not my intention to speak against the Tamils. I am only replying to Mr. Ponnamabalam." Unlike Ponnambalam he was careful not to offend the Tamil community. And proceeded to analyse the hidden agenda of Ponnambalam. He said: "There is more in Ponnampalam's (sic) speech than an ill-considered and thoughtless insult.

It was an attempt to prove that the Tamils had the chief claim to Ceylon, by saying that they (the Tamils) were the original settlers, that there was no pure race, such as the Sinhalese, and the Tamils were responsible for this culture, literature, etc." Here Bandaranaike had identified, quite succinctly, the tactic of Ponnambalam to denigrate and demonise Sinhala-Buddhist history and culture for him to make disproportionate claims.

## Sinhala Buddhist

He added: "Mr. Ponnambalam had said that the Sinhalese could not be trusted and they were unfair. He had forgotten that with the help of the Sinhalese he had obtained a scholarship and gone to England; that the Sinhalese majority had voted him to be an acting Minister and the pan-Sinhalese Board of Ministers had elected him to represent Ceylon at Singapore. Was this gross injustice the Sinhalese had done him?" Bandaranaike's riposte has exposed the typical tactic of Tamils to exploit all the advantages available in the Sinhala-Buddhist state and accuse them of discrimination.

Ponnambalam's communalism distorted historical perspectives and dragged peninsula to the extreme point of no return. Ponnambalam's interpretation of history made them believe that the Jaffna Tamils were the founders, the makers and the breakers of Sri Lankan history. This was leading them into an unwarranted sense of superiority over the other communities. The distorted and arrogant version of history was partly the reason that boosted their mono-ethnic politics demanding "50-50" and finally to a separate state.

This also explains why the other two Tamil-speaking communities did not go down this hubristic path of Tamilian history which claimed that Sri Lanka came out of the womb of the pre-historic Tamils settlers. The Muslims and the Indian Tamils did not concoct history to glorify their past with myths.

Challenging Ponnambalam "to point out the nation that was free from mixture ("hybrids") Bandaranaike said: "A large part of Sinhalese history had been created in their fight against Tamils." Bandaranaike was focusing on accuracy compared to the farrago of historical inexactitudes uttered by Ponnambalam's desperate bid to project himself as the new messiah of the Tamils. In most Western democracies hate speech is banned, particularly if it leads to violence. Ponnambalam got away with his hate speech that led to violence.

Ponnambalam was bent on pursuing rabid racism and ruthless casteism. He would not hesitate to exploit any issue to further his career with racist politics. For instance, when the thirties and the forties were still under the British colonial regime he never failed to blame everything that happened on "the Sinhala Government" and not the British masters who were in overall command.

## Monkey Mason

Example 1: The Marxists who led the General Strike of 1947 — the biggest in colonial times — started marching from Kolonnawa to Colombo on June 5, 1947. Gov. Henry Monck-Mason Moore (Colvin R. de Silva called him" Monkey " Mason Moore at a Galle Face meeting) rushed down from Kandy to deal with the emergency situation.

Admiral Sir. Geoffrey Layton, Commander-in-Chief of the island, too was in Colombo. The State Council passed the controversial Public Security Act hurriedly to meet the challenge of the biggest ever strike. The march ended with Police opening fire and killing V. Kandasamy, a clerical servant in the public service.

Kandasamy's body was sent by the night mail to his relatives in Jaffna. When the body arrived at the Jaffna station next morning Ponnambalam was there to denounce it as an act of the Sinhala government killing a Tamil. The Marxists organisers of the strike were blaming the British and their "comprador bourgeoisie agents" for the death of Kandasamy. Predictably, Ponnambalam was demonising the Sinhala bogey-man at the Jaffna station.

Example 2: During the World War II the British introduced the cooperative system to control the distribution of food and essentials in the market place. Every suburb in the cities and villages had these cooperatives. The main objective of the cooperative movement was to prevent the black marketeers from cornering the scarce food stocks and exploiting the consumers. People were issued with coupons to collect their rations weekly and it worked effectively in delivering the essentials to the people. Ponnambalam, however, went before the Soulbury Commissioners and complained that it was a plot by the Sinhala government to undercut the Tamil traders.

Ponnambalam was unrelenting and implacable. Besides, anti-Sinhala politics was a tool he devised and honed to advance his career. With the decline of the Jaffna Tamil Youth leading anti-communal campaigns he had a field day with no opposition in the north.

In the South, Bandaranaike was reacting to Ponnambalam's new wave of communal politics. Bandaranaike's role was to unite the Sinhalese and champion the rights of the oppressed masses who were denied their political and cultural right under centuries of colonialism. He was not going to stop at the transfer of power from the foreign colonial elite to the local elite. The White Sahibs were leaving and the Brown Sahibs were taking over with no meaningful empowerment of the grassroots.

There was an urgent need for correcting the historical imbalances left behind by centuries of colonialism. It was for opposing the mono-ethnic extremism of the North and also for empowering the grassroot forces that he was labelled as an "opportunistic chauvinist." Besides, in opposing Ponnambalam he had foreseen the threats of the rabid communal forces that were rising in the peninsular political culture — a violent force that would undermine the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.

Ponnambalamism had been the main force that initially paved the path to end up in the current impasse. There is nothing in Tamil politics that is outside Ponnambalamism.

After Ponnambalam came the deluge. S. J. Tambiah, Neelan Tiruchelvam, Jehan Perera, Jayadeva Uyangoda, Dayan Jayatilleka et all are all ditto—heads of Ponnambalam.

In their ignorance, they all fancy themselves to be original theorists, analysts and political scientists, refusing to acknowledge that they are merely regurgitating Ponnambalamism – the original source of Tamil extremism that has misled them into a political dead-end. It is not too late even now to recognise the reality that all anti-Sinhala-Buddhist intellectuals are, in one form or another, nothing but plain "Ponnambalayas".

# Experience of a lifetime

## - part 1

My name is Maximin Indrajith Perera, an Associate Physician, working in England, with three daughters. My wife also works for the National Health Service. Throughout my life, I have found myself surprising. As a young boy in the town of Katuneriya, I would never have thought I would be where I am now.

So, let's start from the beginning.

Elizabeth, a nurse, and Joseph, a police officer were living in Colombo, Kalubowila, when they had me, their first child, in 1968. But moving away from Colombo the year after, it was Katuneriya that I called home, moving to live with my grandparents and aunt Annie. This was where I grew up, in a small house, with a smallholding in the garden housing chickens from which we would get our eggs, pigs and bulls.

I would not change my childhood for anything, growing up in an age where there were no electronic devices apart from the family radio. The day would last as long as the sun would stay up, with no light bulbs, only Crocin lamps to light the table at dinner.

I spent my days playing with other children in the village, getting into trouble, collecting fruit from the woods, swimming in the river and finding anything that made me happy.

### Jack-of-all-trades

Every now and then, I would go to the paddy field with my Grandad, a man I looked up to and still do – a jack-of-all-trades, who set the standard for the kind of person I wanted to be. He carved wood, fished using a net and treated me like any good grandad should.

I still remember laughing as I rode his shoulders all the way to the river and back, feeling like I was on top of the world. On a good day, we'd end the day with a basket of fish that he had caught but let me present with a huge smile and extreme pride to my Grandma. She would smile back and cook the best curry in the world out of the fish we caught.

To this day, I am 52 years old, have travelled around so many countries, stayed in five star hotels but still have never tasted any cooking better than hers.

With my Grandad keeping me adventuring and my grandma keeping me fed, I grew into a fit and bright young boy, finding myself as a cub scout, passing the Grade 5 scholarship examination, dedicating myself to being an altar boy in the church. I led the children's society in the church. That was when I found my first ambition in life: to be a priest. As you can probably tell by now, I quickly changed my mind.

In 1980, I started secondary school in Joseph Vaz College.

At this point, my parents had moved to Katuneriya, where we lived as a family, with my younger brother, Jagath, born two years after me, my Uncle Sarath, also two years younger than me, who grew up like a second brother to me and my adopted sister Suneetha.

Our home quickly became everyone's home, our garden doubled as a badminton court, our kitchen became the hub for my friends, Jagath's friends, Sarath's friends, our living room became a boys' club. We would spend days playing, shouting and laughing. As a pupil, I can't say I was the shining star, but always pulled through, finding more joy in being a scout and Army cadet, even playing hockey.

Eventually, my passion for becoming a priest faded, in year 10, deciding that Medicine would be the route for me. Quickly, I realised my academic performance might not be able to match this ambition, turning my heart, instead, to following the footsteps of my dad and his dad before him – to become a police officer. With that admiration for the forces already in mind, in 1986, when the Science Exhibition came around, I and two friends decided to set our hopes high, building a light aircraft in a CTB workshop using scrap aluminium, taking the engine from a 150cc motorcycle for power.

### Test pilot

Whether you call it reckless or brave, I took it upon myself to be the test pilot for our grand creation, confident that with our youthful determination and the sureness that flying was a 'learn-as-you-go kind of skill, nothing could go wrong.

Sadly, to my extreme disappointment, the battle that was raging on at the time, meant that airspace was restricted (unless I wanted to be shot out of the air).

Looking back now, with 35 years more wisdom, I realise this was probably for the best and would only have ended in a disaster.

A/levels came along. As I said, I was bright, but found more appeal in being outside of the classroom than being in it, getting good grades, but not what was needed for Medical School.

Though I was accepted to one in India, the cost meant that I would have to leave my dreams of being a Doctor behind. So, a police officer it was, just like the men in the family before me. There I stood, having passed my interview with flying colours. With my father's credentials and many contacts backing me, I knew I was ready to embark on the next stage of my life. I would carry on the Perera legacy. Then, I was told the news thatI was half an inch too short.

### Next check

I was crushed. No matter how many stretches I did, no matter how long I hung upside down, the half an inch remained half an inch. And no matter how many people my Dad spoke to, height was one of those things that are hard to overlook. And even if the interviewers were to turn a blind eye, what then? What about the next check?

Convinced by my mum, I let this dream go reluctantly. The next option? Nursing training. I wasn't happy with it honestly. But she told me: 'just try it for two years. If you hate, it you can leave.'

I did it. But only to make her happy, joining the Kurunegala nursing training school in 1988. She was right, I didn't hate it, finding myself new, lifelong friends and enjoying freedom away from home. But deep down, I still didn't feel like I was on the path.

I wanted to join the Army. At that time, I felt that I would do a better service to the country by fighting the battle against terrorism rather than treating the ill. Reflecting on this, I couldn't disagree more. It was my youth and pride that spoke back then, the desire to be like my Dad, to put on a uniform to have the authority and respect I always saw him get from anyone in the village who saw him.

Now, I understand the importance of healthcare, the impact on society and I put on my uniform and stethoscope every day with the same pride that an Officer puts on his beret and booths.

Anyway, I stuck with nursing training. My life could have been very different if I hadn't. I didn't only find an interest in anatomy and medicine at college, but I also found the person who would go on to become my partner for life. As you can tell, I loved to get stuck in everything and became the first student rep.

### Nursing college

Spending my time organising events, I quickly became well-known and even popular by the college students. Since this was a nursing college in the 80s, the student body was dominated by girls.

As a young man, I wasn't too upset about the attention- it was refreshing after leaving a high school for boys. I liked it so much that I even took a guitar to college, wearing the case on my back, feeling like a Rockstar and failing to tell anyone that I had no idea how to play the guitar!

Among the students at college, there was one that really caught my attention- a pretty but proud girl who kept her uniform white and clean and arrived on a moped every day. She was quiet but I could see that she had a kind heart and was actually the sister to one of my closest friend's wife. I had already heard good things about her.

She wasn't like the other girls who fell for my fake guitar skills or my loud jokes or my boyish (slightly arrogant) attitude and turned her head at my advances. But I didn't give up. She told me she needed time to think. We ran in the same circles and would go on the same trips with the cohort and, over time, we became good friends. And, with even more time, her pride melted away and she became my lifelong companion.

We graduated in 1991 and so began the next stage of my life. In Colombo, I had my first experience of being a fully qualified nurse, working in the National Hospital's Neurosurgery unit, while also completing a Diploma in English at Aquinas College. I was thrown into nursing headfirst and saw, first-hand, the impact that the battle against terrorism was having on the soldiers and civilians, treating everything from head to spinal injuries.

For a lot of people, seeing the awful consequences of the battle, the extreme pain that these people were in, would have frightened them. But seeing these civilians harmed by the war only fuelled my desire to join the army. I wasn't scared, I was determined. Maybe it was naïve, but I knew that I could help.

I wanted to protect the people being hurt by a battle that they had no say in and get back at the people who were doing this. It was on August 8, 1992, I remember, the then Army Chief Denzil Kobbekaduwa had been airlifted out of Jaffna to the National Hospital, Colombo, where I worked, following a landmine blast. He suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead in hospital. I had enough. I couldn't sit around and just observe this anymore. I had to be in the action, I had to help.

**WE GRADUATED IN 1991 AND SO BEGAN THE NEXT STAGE OF MY LIFE. IN COLOMBO, I HAD MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF BEING A FULLY QUALIFIED NURSE, WORKING IN THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL'S NEUROSURGERY UNIT, WHILE ALSO COMPLETING A DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH AT AQUINAS COLLEGE**

### Joining the Army

I decided to join the Army and completed the application within the day. There was no time to think about it any longer. Two interviews (commissioned board) and a fitness test later, I was an Officer Cadet. Finally, I felt like I was on the path that I was destined to be on. My parents, concerned about my safety, didn't feel the same.

But I had a supportive girlfriend and a passion to serve the public, so I didn't let that stop me. In December 1992, my Officer Cadet journey begins. I slogged my way through Officer training at the Military Academy, which was possibly the most physically challenging year of my life.

Training to join the Army is probably exactly what you'd expect: waking up at dawn, running for longer than any human should ever be running, polishing shoes until they were shinier than any diamond you could buy from a jewellery shop, being shouted at by men with big moustaches and even bigger feelings of authority.

It wasn't easy, but I made it. So, in July 1993, I was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army pioneer Corps.

The life of an officer was something I quickly fell in love with. After a year of training, where the trainers were actually paid to treat the recruits like dirt, graduating with the pip felt better than anything I could ever imagine. Being saluted, being called 'sir', being respected, was like a dream come true.

There was even a part of me that was happy when I saw soldiers get nervous when I came into the room, wanting to make sure everything was to the standard of their Platoon Commander. During my brief military career, I was appointed as an officer instructor in Maduru Oya Army training school, detachment commander and was posted to Operation Rivirasa.

Another perk of being an Army Officer is the Ceremonial Wedding that came with it. In May 1996, I married the girl that I fell in love with within the nursing college all of those years ago, holding hands as we walked down the aisle, lined, not with flowers, but with rows of my fellow officers, swords raised above our heads. With my new wife beside me, her hand over mine as we cut the cake with my Ceremonial Sword, I saw the happy life that was ahead of us.

My military life was full of great, as well as sad, memories. I learnt so much from it. I realised that the sky is the limit, that I could do anything I put my mind to. It was in the training that I turned from a boy to a man, to a soldier, to an officer. I learnt how to go into strategising and survive with the bare minimum, how to go into a battle with confidence. I gained a family in my platoon and my colleagues and learnt, too soon, how to cope with losing one of them.

### Losing best friend

You never think it will happen to you, but things become a lot more real when you see the dangers of war, first-hand. My best friend, killed in action. This was painful in ways I do not have the words to express, even more, painful when I was given the role of commanding the parade, with deep sorrow but a brave face, as my duty required.

I almost made it to the end of the parade and was handing over his medals when his sister hugged me, crying my name. I couldn't take it anymore. In full uniform, I fell to pieces, the realisation hitting me fully. He was gone.

More than anything, being in the Army taught me the value of life, seeing it drop away around me, even the lives of the LTTE fighters, who, often, did not choose the terrorist path, forced into it by others or by the idea of earning money to feed their family. We should remember them as young Sri Lankans, mislead and trapped in brutal LTTE terrorism, along with our brave soldiers on Remembrance Day. What they did was not right, it was not just, but you would have to be blind to say that everything the Army did was right. Warfare is messy. Each life is not a number but somebody's son, daughter, sibling, aunty and friend.

My wife, Kumari, had different dreams, bigger dreams, her eyes set on travelling from the homeland. If I'm being honest, I wasn't happy; we had so much here, we had it all set out for us, with a nicely paved road to good money, good food, a nice house, respect and authority. I could see us having children, who would grow up with soldiers as mentors.

But she had her own plans, getting a nursing job in Oman and going, whether I liked it or not.

As I said, she wasn't like some of the others at college, which was why she caught my eye in the first place. She had her own ambitions and dreams. And who was I to tell her no? She wouldn't have listened even if I did- and trust me, I tried.

### Travelling to Oman

In February 1997, I resigned from my commission. I hang up the beret and travel to Oman to be reunited with Kumari. Looking back, this was one of the best decisions of my life. There are certain points in a person's life that shape their life, that completely transform the way their future will be. This was one of them.

Without my wife, I wouldn't be where I am now and, even though I was upset, even angry about it then, today I see that moment and I don't regret it in the slightest. I would make the same decision again and again and again, because the life I have now is worth 100 times more than a salute or an officer's accommodation.

So, back to nursing for me. In the months leading up to joining Kumari in Oman, I re-joined the National Hospital, working in the neurosurgical theatre, simultaneously lecturing in a few private nursing trainings.

Then the time came to leave the country that I called home for Oman, where finding a job was difficult. I can't think of a bigger contrast to my life as an officer from being in command of a platoon, having soldiers salute me as I walked into a room, to being a farm labourer. My life had gone from shiny boots and polished rifles, to picking potatoes in 40 Celsius temperatures. It wasn't easy but I did it, knowing that this was just a step on the way to finding a job I truly enjoyed.

Finally, I said goodbye to the farm, finding a job as, first a Factory Safety Officer and then as a Staff Nurse in Sohar Hospital. Clearly, my brief stint as a farmhand influenced me more than I would've thought, because, moving into a small villa, with a reasonably-sized garden, I began planting my own vegetables. Our life really was looking up- a house, good jobs, fresh vegetables to feed us and, most importantly, our first child.

In March 18, 1998, I didn't know an hour could take so long, until that day.

My wife in the operating theatre, undergoing her planned caesarean section, I spent the longest 60 minutes of my life pacing outside the theatre, sweating with nerves or excitement or both.

We called her Vimukthi. She was beautiful. After a couple of days in an incubator, she was finally allowed to come home with us and so began the next chapter of our lives.

### Parenthood

Without the help of our own parents, it was difficult to navigate these new waters, all while trying to make a living for our new family. But we were lucky enough to have a kind nanny who made our life easier. In fact, more than easier, our life was great. Oman really was and still is, a beautiful country. Looking back, there is so much to love about it.

The bustling markets, the delicious food, the culture of giving and welcoming, the friendliest, warmest people you'll meet and the beautiful, clean street. The hospitals were state of the arc and the scenery and architecture would take your breath away. But Omanisation meant that our jobs would never be permanent- we were just placeholders until a national citizen was qualified to take that job. We did what we had to do and we set our eyes further.

### To England

Like most things in our life, it took hard work to get to where we wanted to go. We had hope, but more than that, we had determination.

We surrounded ourselves in the English Language, set on the idea that we had to improve our skills so that we would be able to tackle the interviews with as little accent as possible.

You would walk into our little villa and be immediately attacked by the sound of BBC World News which would play every hour of every day in the background.

We spent every minute not working, reading, writing, applying and reapplying to jobs. We failed many times. But we only needed one success. In 2001, I got what I wanted- a stable job and a full UKCC membership. Settling, first, in Ipswich, I started my course, eventually joined by Kumari in November.

We wanted to set down some roots before bringing a baby into the picture, so left Vicky with my parents in Sri Lanka.

I joined Torbay Hospital with my wife and started building our new life in Torquay- where we have lived ever since, bringing our daughter to join us.

# Sri Lanka Railway: An insight to unveil the potential

BY W. A. D. S. GUNASINGHE

Sri Lankan railway, one of the oldest in Asia was introduced primarily for the purpose of transporting plantation products from the hill country to the capital from where those products have been exported largely to the European continent.

At the time the railway was introduced in 1864, coffee was the main crop of export, tea together with coconut and rubber made their way through subsequently. Therefore, the railway route was built mainly through plantation regions rather than densely populated areas giving due prominence to cargo rather than as passenger transport.

Still the network is far-extensive. Having a closer look at the network created by the British, one can find that all the provincial capitals and almost all district capitals were linked by the original railway network.

Out of 21 districts in the British period, only Ampara, Moneragala, Hambantota and Kegalle were left out. However, the purpose of building some routes such as the Eastern line seems going beyond just transportation of plantation products and inputs.

The very purpose of such lines could be to open remote regions to improve the mobility of resources and people in those regions so that full contribution of those regions to the economy can be derived. The Naval base in the Trincomalee port which was operated as a commercial port after independence provides a strong justification for eastern line.

Ironically, this has not adequately been focused in the development agendas of post-independence period and the potential of Trincomalee harbour to stimulate the economy of the Eastern region was not harnessed.

At the time of inception of the railway, the bullock cart was the main transport mode in the country. It is evident that there was a gravel road network at least between the main cities where trade activities took place.

With further development of trade, more and more townships had been formed around such network. Introduction of railways made transport of goods much more efficient.

## Flexibility and agility

However, railway by nature does not have flexibility and agility to reach all settlement areas rather was able to going closer to such townships in most cases. For these reasons, we can see that most of the railway routes are located far from the cities, towns and often away from highly populated areas.

Later, asphalt roads were built following the traces of those old gravel roads linking all major cities as well as townships. With the changes of the economic structure and the urbanisation, passenger transport became important as movement of people was increased.

There was a surge in passenger movements with the expansion of service sector and government sector activities. All these developments led to expand the land transport modes such as buses, lorries and other vehicles faster.

However, the railway seems not able to keep pace with these developments due to various reasons. High capital cost associated with railway infrastructure and rolling stocks as well as heavy overheads and maintenance costs of the existing network prevented required expansions to more commercially viable areas and services.

Unlike some of the other transport modes such as road transport, railway lines run point to point and do not have ability to freely penetrate into periphery in between. Therefore, the distribution pattern of the network over the space and location of stations are important factors to be considered in evaluating the performance of a railway network.

Comparison of the spatial distribution of network in different countries gives us an indication on the potential of our rail system network to be operated as viable venture.

## Spatial distribution: a comparison

The railway network in Sri Lanka is the most extensive compared to South Asian neighbours but lower compared to most of the high-income countries particularly countries where high speed railway services are in operation.

Accordingly, 1 km of railway track in Sri Lanka covers 43 km2 and catered for 13,696 persons (indices for the Western Province are 16.8 km2 and 26,583 persons). Optimum level of population and area catered for, can vary depending on the factors such as livelihood patterns, service quality, connectivity with other modes, affordability etc.

**THE RAILWAY SEEMS NOT ABLE TO KEEP PACE WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS DUE TO VARIOUS REASONS. HIGH CAPITAL COST ASSOCIATED WITH RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROLLING STOCKS AS WELL AS HEAVY OVERHEADS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THE EXISTING NETWORK PREVENTED REQUIRED EXPANSIONS TO MORE COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AREAS AND SERVICES**

However, if densely populated urban and sub-urban settlements are connected with appropriately spaced stations, the passengers and goods available for our network to transport are adequate to run our railway as an operationally profitable venture while handling traffic flows efficiently.

Current coverage and route design have limitations in achieving this goal. One should not overlook the fact that our commuter traffic patterns especially in the capital city and around are different from many other countries and therefore need further analysis for the purpose of developing the network further. Particularly, in the western region there are peak hours during morning and evening and in the off-peaks, volume of passengers drops significantly.

When we compare the traffic density, it reveals (figure 2) that our usage level of network for moving people is comparable with our neighbours in relative terms but India is way ahead of us. However, as a country with comparatively small land area, our system must be developed on our own way to tap the full potential.

In the meantime, it is necessary to take different rail routes; urban, sub-urban and interregional lines etc. separately for such analysis to identify uneconomical routes and to make necessary changes for service enhancement.

We should not forget the fact that the population in this country as well as large part of economic activities are concentrated in the Western Province. Though the Western Province comprised only 5.6 percent of the land area of the country, around 29 percent of the total population live in this part. Future plans for expansion of network including connectivity plans with other modes and introducing new modes such as LRT should focus on the ways to better serve densely populated areas while ensuring links with the other regions for spatially balanced development.

Countries observed to be divided in to two main groups in railway utilisation patterns. Some high-income countries like Japan or Netherlands concentrate on passenger transport by railway rather than freight.

Countries such as the USA and Ukraine use railway mainly for goods transportation. India widely uses railway as means of goods transportation while giving equal weight to passenger transport. Closer look at the economic structures of these countries indicates that this is not mere spontaneous development but a result of successful adaptation of transport management and planning while creating conducive legal, regulatory and institutional framework to facilitate such navigated development.

It is reported that a few decades ago, the share of goods transportation in the country by rail was fairly high.

Today the rail freight traffic density of our country is very low whereas the same indicator in India is exceptionally high. In fact, around 65 per cent of income of Indian railway is reported to be coming from goods transportation. At this point we should not forget the fact that our railway network was originally designed mainly for goods transportation.

It is at a later stage the focus was diverted more towards passenger transport. Evidence from many countries shows that the earning operational profits from passenger transport alone is not realistic. Lot of countries uses freight transport to cross-subsidise the passenger transport which in most cases the transport mode for common people.

## Revenue and operational income

Railway as a transport mode is economically more viable among other land transport modes. Railway is more fuel efficient than road transport owing to low friction between steel wheels and steel rails. Rail transport is operationally efficient as it can carry high volumes of bulk commodities or passengers by single train. Other advantage is railway often less time consuming as it is not associated with the traffic congestion issues having in the roads.

As a rule, negative externalities of railway such as pollution (air, land, water and noise), greenhouse gas emissions and accidents are identified minimum compared to many other transport modes.

However, capital cost of railway such as; construction of track, bridges, tunnels, terminals, signaling and communication systems are high, therefore the railway to be commercially viable, usage levels of infrastructure have to be maximised as much as possible.

It is evident that many railways in the world struggle to achieve at least operational profit unless some of its operations are (vertically) separated from the infrastructure (Rail Track) authority to give more room for flexibility in operations specially using state of the art technologies.

For example, private sector can be invited to participate in freight transportation service where the private sector will obtain the service from the railway while maintaining container yards and connecting freight forwarders.

## Status of Sri Lanka Railway

At present SLR is far from the status of running operationally profitable so to minimise operational losses we have two paths; reducing operational cost and increasing operational revenue.

Taking the contribution given to the economy into account, operational costs have to be reduced without compromising service levels and volumes. At present, the railway is the cheapest passenger transport mode in the country and therefore, increasing income of railway is not desirable by increased passenger tariffs.

## Revenue

Passenger income which is the main income source of SLR can again be divided into two main categories; ticket income and season ticket income. Season tickets for government and private sector workers are subsidised at different levels. Currently, on average 82 percent of the income is coming from tickets and the rest (18 percent) is coming from the season tickets. It is estimated that if the forgone amount due to subsidy is taken into account, this ratio will change to 57:43.

Using the above assumptions, the operational loss and estimated subsidy amount for the past ten years have been calculated (figure 5). The graph reflects the operational loss with and without forgone income. For instance, operational loss in 2019 was Rs 7,562 mn and if added forgone income by subsidy the amount will come down to Rs 3,611 mn. The graphs indicate that though the operational loss of the railway is generally increased in past several years, the volume of the service rendered has also increased significantly.

## Revenue enhancing

It is worthwhile to examine the revenue and revenue sources of Sri Lankan railway.

As mentioned at the beginning, railways in our country as well as many other countries introduced for the main purpose of transportation of goods.

As economies of scale exists it's the most competitive modes among land transport for large volumes of bulky goods. For instance india's main business in freight is coal transportation.

Railways in many countries rely heavily on freight transport as their main revenue source. Highly industrialised and large countries have advantage of having bulky commodities such as coal, metal ores, minerals, construction material, timber etc. availble for transport for long distances.

Due to various reasons freight transport in Sri Lanka by railway has been dramatically declined over the time. One of the main potential areas that can contribute to revenue enhancing is fright transport. It is about time for us to concentrate on the ways and means of enhancing frieght transporattion by bridging the missing links and through inter-agency coordination.

In the meatime, it is required to increase other income sources such as land rental, waste material management, adverticing and explore the possibility of tapping new sources such as container transport, real state develoment using railway land etc.

## Operational expenditure

Generally, railway expenditures are threefold. Cost on rail infrastructure network, train operation related expenditure and corporate overheads. Unit costs of these three components tend to lower when traffic level increases with heavy use of the network.

Increase of rolling stock fleet with acquisition of several DMUs and locomotives, train operations in the country have substantially been increased specially during the past decade. As a result, operational expenditure increased. The data show (Figure 6) that main contributor for increase of operational expenditure is personal emoluments.

Total staff in terms of numbers hasn't changed much during this period. Apparently, the salary hike in the government sector during this period is the main cause of this increase. It is important to note that gap between gross operational income and expenditure widening with time.

It is clearly visible with liner trend lines in the graph at Figure 3 above. Further analysis is required to determine the capacity thresholds for the system to achieve economies of scale so that unit operational cost will come down while looking into matters related to institutional and procedural inefficiencies that prevent to enhance operational income.

## Organisational structural aspects

Railways in many countries have traditionally been managed as government monopoly. One of the main disadvantages of such monopoly is poor level of service and inadequate customer orientation.

Institutional structures of such entities are often created to cater to internal needs or needs of other government units. Such situation often creates a vicious cycle.

On the one hand such entities depend heavily on subsidies from the government as they have no ability to earn operational profits.

This on the other hand leads entities to resist restructuring or changing traditional monopolistic structures which prevents them making independent decisions as a commercial entity.

To break such a vicious cycle, a management structure which will more accountable for revenue, expenditure and investment is required. Separate revenue and cost centres have to be identified with adequately delegated power. Otherwise, profitable services and sections which are mixed with unprofitable ones in the system couldn't be identified.

Some Management Innovations introduced by other countries.

| Name and country | Form | Function | Relationship with Government authority |
|---|---|---|---|
| CONCOR (Container Corporation of India Ltd.) (India) | Corporatised entities to manage business segments (vertical separation while creating government owned separate company) | operates 60 container terminals, provides container service between hinterland and ports | Indian railway provides locomotives and train crews |
| RailTel (India) | Commercialising telecom assets by sharing Infrastructure between the railway and telecommunication | Fiber optic network deployed in ducts, private network services, dark fiber leasing to cable TV operators and many other ICT services | Self-financed and not receiving grants from the government. Consortium of banks finances the venture |
| Kings Cross (UK) | PPP implemented at a transport hub leading to attract real estate market activities | Mixed-use urban regeneration project which created new vibrant urban space around the biggest inner-city transit interchange in London | Land owners are London and Continental railway, private sector together with developer implemented the project |
| Australia ARTC - Australian Rail Track Company | (Vertical separation with private sector participation) | Maintain upgrade build rail infrastructure (track) and provide service to private freight operators | Government provide grants for capital investment in the meantime ARTC also raise funds |

## Summary

The Sri Lankan Railway designed one and a half centuries ago mainly for goods transportation has hardly had significant additions or change in track route layout and institutional structures.

In the evolution, we tend to deviate from the originally designed function and gradually passenger transport has become the main focus. This has led to encompass with several challenges; utilisation of the railway network as a whole become sub-optimal and low operational income which resulted often in cutting regular maintenance operations leading to major repairs incurring additional costs.

Despite all these shortcomings the SLR provides substantial service to the society though it has a potential to provide much higher contribution. The current contribution has to be duly recognised and quantified in order to make strategic decisions while system and institutional related inefficiencies have to be identified and rectified.

Government policy framework recognises the importance of establishing sustainable, user and environment friendly, affordable transport system where the railway has to play an explicit role.

Connecting economic hubs such as ports, airports along the C shape economic corridor identified by the policy framework will open new economic opportunities while mobilising resources in the regions for the economic development of the country. Rail transportation is an integral part of such economic corridor.

Steps have already been taken to increase volume of goods such as sand, flour, fertiliser, petroleum, solid waste and cement transported by railway. Timber, salt, vegetables are the other potential items. Also, ancillary facilities for goods transportation have to be improved.

Increasing public transport volume is another area of propriety in the policy framework. Recent decision of the government to expand the railway network in Colombo and suburban areas targeting passenger transport is an equally important initiative.

**W. A. D. S. Gunasinghe**
**Director General (Planning)**
**Ministry of Transport**
**Currently, General Manager**
**Railway (covering)**

# Features

## Technical and Vocational Education

# Training innovations for quality improvements

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has become a priority in the global development agenda as it addresses unemployment issues, productivity in employment and skill shortages experienced in many countries.

Sri Lanka also has given equal if not higher prominence to the TVET system in the country and many programs have been launched in the past few decades to develop quality framework of the TVET.

Formal TVET, as we know of it today, had its beginnings in 1893 when the first Technical College was established at Maradana to train skilled workers needed for the development of physical infrastructure such as laying of railway lines and construction of roads.

The period after independence (1948) kindled a renewed interest in the development of skills required for achieving the development objectives of a newly emergent nation.

Accordingly, action had been taken to establish the Hardy Technical College, Ampara, Ceylon German Technical Training College, Katubedda and a network of technical colleges, the National Apprentices and Industrial Training Authority and the Vocational Training Authority. In parallel, private and NGO sectors had established many training centres as well.

### Different training

However, this expansion did not have a focus on quality and relevance. Therefore, from 1990, an attempt has been made to co-ordinate different training institutions to deliver training with quality and relevance according to a nationally agreed plan.

This was symbolised by the establishment of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), the regulatory body in TVET sector in 1990 and establishment of a separate ministry for the TVET in 1994.

These developments have led to establish the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) framework as the first south Asian country to establish a qualification framework. This qualification framework facilitates the qualification progression for entrants to TVET to have a vocational diplomas and degrees and it was made a reality by the establishing of nine Colleges of Technology and six University Colleges to conduct NVQ 5 & 6 National Diploma courses and the University of Vocational Technology (UNIVOTEC) to implement NVQ Level 7 degree programs.

In parallel, TVEC and TVET institutions have introduced following programs for skilling industry employees.

i. NVQ Level 3 & 4 Qualifications through Recognition of Prior Learning
ii. Flexible Modular Learning (FML) programs with 50 percent subsidy from the Skills Sector Development Program.
iii. Part Time Delivery of Diplomas by Colleges of Technology of the Department of Technical Education and Training and part time Degree programs by the UNIVOTEC
iv. Mature Candidate Route for Industry Employees to get NVQ Level 5 Equivalent Certificates

Now the TVET system is in place for skilling youth and industry employees. But, it has a challenge of achieving quality in training programs which will pave the way to attract more and more youth and industry employees to these skilling programs. The Ministry, TVEC and TVET institutions have launched many programs to face the challenge of quality improvements in the TVET system.

### Quality Assurance

TVEC with the assistance of projects implemented from time to time have introduced following programs to ensure quality in TVET programs.

- Registration of Technical and Vocational Training centres
- Accreditation of courses to enable them to award NVQ qualifications

Registration of Technical and Vocational Training centres

According to the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act No 20 of 1990, it is a legal requirement to register all vocational training centres and courses with the Commission.

The TVEC registration is based on quality parameters such as course content and curricula, course duration, trainers' qualifications and experience, training facilities, hygienic, health and safety factors. According to the current practices, for a training centre, TVEC registration is a must for its qualification to have local and international recognition.

When a Sri Lankan with a local vocational qualification qualifies for a job abroad, the Qualification Authority in that country inquires whether the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), the Vocational Qualifications Authority of Sri Lanka, has recognised his / her qualification. It means that the foreign qualification authority check whether that person received the vocational qualification from a training centre registered with TVEC.

In the past, foreign qualification authorities sent written inquiries to TVEC to get information on TVEC registration but at present, they verify TVEC registration from TVEC website.

Many people have fallen in to trouble in employment issues when they have vocational qualification form a training centre without TVEC registration.

TVEC has repeatedly published warning notices each year soon after the release of the GCE (O/L) and the GCE (A/L) exam results to make public aware of needs registration of training centers by the TVEC

### Course accreditation

Under the NVQ framework, courses are developed based on Competency Based Curricula {CBT curricula} which are delivered to meet the competencies relevant to a qualification specified in relevant National Competency Standards (NCS).

Course accreditation is the certification given to courses after proper assessment by a panel of experts to verify that each course is delivered to meet competencies specified in relevant NCS.

Here courses are assessed on curriculum, training facilities, trainer qualification, duration to suit entry qualification, courses and lesson delivery plans, OJT and continuous assessment of competencies. No course could award NVQ without getting TVEC accreditation.

### Innovations for quality improvements

Registration and accreditation ensures the quality training and produce competent NVQ holders, but the public expect excellent training centres and expert performance from NVQ holders. Therefore, TVEC with the assistance of projects, piloted following innovations to improve the quality and competency level.

- Quality Management System
- Quality improvement System
- Skills Competitions
- Competition among training centers with excellence awards

Quality Management System and Quality Improvement System

With the introduction of NVQ Framework, TVEC with project assistance introduced a quality management system (QMS) with internal and externally quality audit to training centres for which TVEC has the mandate from the Tertiary and Vocational Education (Amendment) Act No 50 of 1999. With piloting of QMS for a few years, TVEC introduced a simplified QMS with nine processes listed below.

I. Ensure Availability of Training Equipment, materials and consumables
II. Maintain Safe and Conducive Learning Environment and Infrastructure
III. Ensure availability of Curricula and Learning Materials Available for all Courses
IV. Ensure appropriate and proper academic staff hired and staff requirements fulfilled
V. Students Affairs well managed and student enrolment criteria available
VI. Training Delivered as per Plan and training records maintained
VII. Timely Conduct of Continuous and Final Assessments, and issue certificates
VIII. Evaluate customer satisfaction by taking feedbacks from Students, Parents and Industry
IX. Ensure the Financial concerns and stability

QMS has been installed in about 250 training centres but it demanded further innovations. Therefore, TVEC with the assistance of projects and foreign consultants developed different quality concepts and introduced a quality culture training program for the staff which has been delivered at the University of Vocational Technology.

As Training centres considered QMS as difficult and hard work, Quality Improvement System (QIS) with star certification was introduced and launched with the label 'Quality if Fun'. QIS has 15 steps and it start with kick off meeting which is done with lot of fun.

It has steps such as quality attitude, happy committee and critical friend which get high level of social attraction. It gives 3 star certification before QMS and that motivates the staff to work for QMS and beyond. Eventually, training centre could get 4 star and 5 star certification. TVEC and Skill Sector Development Programs (SSDP) monitor the implementation of QMS and QIS with annual targets. But quality is a difficult area as it is dependent on attitude, habits and culture.

### Competition for expertise and excellence

Registration, Accreditation, QMS and QIS explained above push the training centres to achieve quality. In parallel, the Ministry responsible for Skills Development and Vocational Training and TVEC introduced competitions to pull the training centres to achieve the quality.

These programs are well geared to meet public aspirations as public expect expert performance from NVQ holders and excellence performance from Training centres.

### Skills competition

Vocational training programs are developed and conducted to provide competencies required for employments. Here, competency means ability to work according to standards.

But, when the public wants technical services, they search for experts in the trade. For example, the public always goes to expert vehicle mechanics or expert hair dressers. This applies to other technical areas too. Therefore, competent people should be lead to expertise fast.

In 2012 and 2013, then Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skill Development with TVEC had nationwide skill competitions for 16 occupations in 2013and 24 occupations in 2014.

Competent people in occupation competed at the Skills Competition and best among competents won. Best among competent persons means experts. In preparation for Skill Competition, all participants get opportunities develop expertise. This is well matched with the 'Dreyfus and Dreyfus' model (1986) on beyond competency which explains dimensions of performance in 5 Stages from novice to expert.

### Competition for excellence

Many quality measures have been introduced to training centres to achieve quality. These quality measures should be ordinary or habitual work in a training centre and they become excellence when they perform those ordinary work extraordinarily well.

In 2019, in line with International Youth Skill Day celebration, the Ministry and TVEC introduced a competition to identify training centres with excellence. This year, the ceremony for excellence awards to training centres will be held under the patronage of Prof. G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education and Dr. Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Training, Research and Innovation on 05th April 2021 at BMICH.

It is hoped this program will contribute to the endeavours of training institutions to meet employment the aspiration of youth and the skills needs of the industry.

# SLHC and APSL Research Symposium 2021

The High Commission of Sri Lanka (SLHC) in the United Kingdom and the Association of Professional Sri Lankans (APSL) in the UK are jointly organising a Research Symposium on September1, 2021 from 9.30 am - 6.30 pm.

The objectives of this symposium are:

· To provide a common platform for Sri Lankan Academics living in Sri Lanka and the UK;

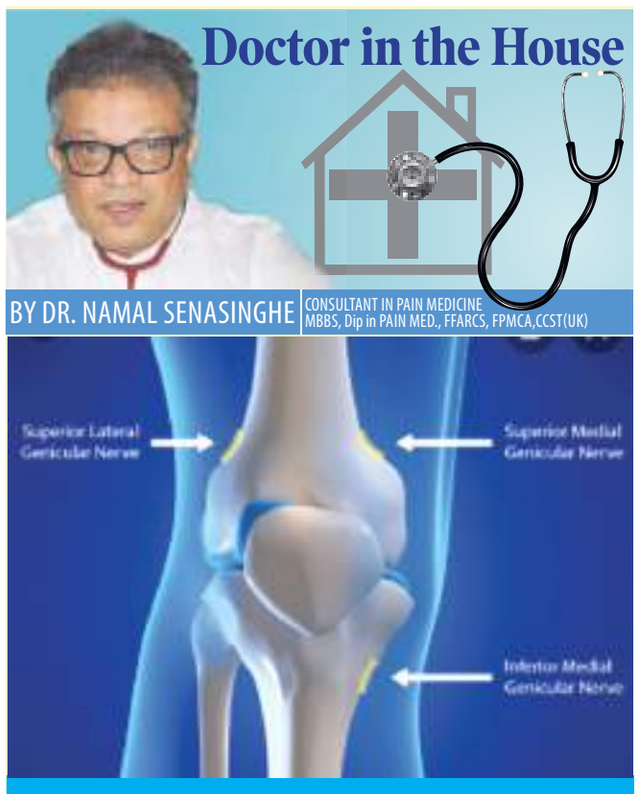
· To promote and uplift research to share the best practices, and to create opportunities for researchers to gain further knowledge and skills;

· To expand the academic and non-academic professional networks linked to SLHC and APSL with an expectation to obtain their contribution towards the betterment of the motherland;

· To strengthen the relationship between academic professionals domiciled in the UK, SLHC and APSL.

The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Nishan Canagarajah, Vice Chancellor, University of Leicester, UK, and a guest address will be delivered by Professor Sudantha Liyanage, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Abstracts should be submitted to education@apsl.org.uk with a copy to education@slhc-london.co.uk by Friday, May 28, 2021. Following review by a panel, acceptance notifications will be issued by Friday, June 4, 2021. To submit an abstract, please follow the guidance information that can be found at https://www.apsl.org.uk/research2021/




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

## Two case reports

These are two patients suffering from chronic pain for over a decade. Patient No 1 with back pain and patient No 2 with knee pain.

**Patient No 1**

The patient is a 49–year-old gentleman. He travelled all the way from a peripheral town to see me at the 'London Pain Clinic' for his back pain going on for a decade or more.

He has been suffering with lower back pain with pain shooting down the legs. In a layman's term, this is sciatica.

In medical terms, back pain with a radiculopathy.

He is supposed to have a L4/5 disc bulge and had spinal surgery on two occasions. Unfortunately, the symptoms have not got better following the first surgery. As a result a second surgery was carried out with no positive outcome. No improvement. Both surgeries were carried out privately in Colombo. Following the surgery he also had single level facet injections on two occasions by the same surgeon. After suffering for eight years, he came and saw me in clinic last week. Unfortunately, he did not have the scans taken prior to surgery. The scans available were scans taken following surgery.

I spent 30 minutes in the clinic with him and carried out a thorough examination of his back. The lumbar facet joints and the sacroiliac joints were tender.

Currently he is on pain killers such as Panadeine and Diclofenac. Diclofenac is a non steroidal anti inflammatory drug (NSAIDS). I am not keen for patients to go on long term NSAIDS as it has drastic side effects such as gastric bleeding, renal failure and higher risk of heart attacks. My approach is a one off procedure and limit the pain killers.

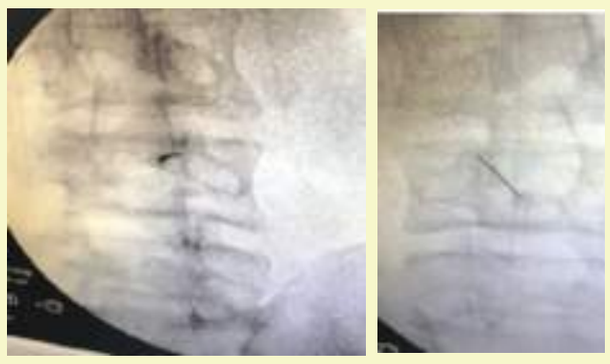
Paracetamol or Panadeine long term is safe. But Panadeine can cause constipation due to its Codeine.

As the treatment I did carry out

Bilateral L2/3 L3/4 L4/5 L5/S1 facet injections.
Bilateral Sacroiliac joint injections
Caudal Epidural with an Epidurogram

All procedures were carried out under X ray guidance and pictures sent to his phone via what's app.

**Caudal Epidural plus Epidurogram**



Lumbar Facet Injection

**Sacro Iliac Joint Injection ®**

Patient No 2 with knee pain

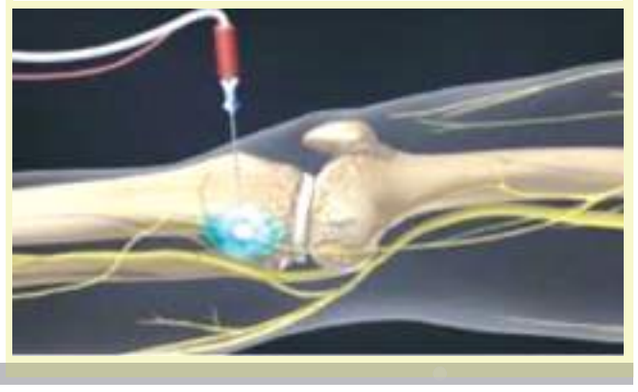
A 68-year-old female with osteoarthritis has suffered pain in both knees for a long time. Various treatments did not help her knee pain. She should be having a total knee replacement but not keen on surgery. She weighs over 90 kgs.

I did carry out a radio frequency to the Genicular nerve on the left side.

Genicular nerve is the sensory nerve supply to the knee which has three branches: Superior lateral, Superior medial and inferior medial branches. Ideally a block should be done, which should be followed by radio frequency. Due to the costs involved both were done together.

A pulse generating machine is used to generate the heat via a current. The nerve is heated up to 82 degrees for 120 seconds. This will coagulate the myelin sheath of the nerve which will prevent the transmission of pain impulses. Probably this procedure was carried out for the first time in Sri Lanka. Osteoarthritis is not curable. It's a lifelong disease, such as diabetes.

The machine I used in Sri Lanka is the 'Radionics' radio frequency pulse generator.



# Mercantile cricket in full swing

Zillione Systems and Orient Finance registered upset wins to book their berths in the quarter-finals in the ongoing 10th Stafford Motor Company sponsored, 'Honda' Trophy – MCA 'G' division 25-over League Tournament 2021.

Zillione Systems ended VS Information Systems unbeaten run with a thrilling six runs win, while Orient Finance eliminated another unbeaten team, Kish Group with a smashing eight wickets win.

Thus, Hayleys 'B' team remain as the only unbeaten team in the tournament as they maintained their status with a cakewalk 186 runs win over ShipXpress.

**Pre-Quarter Finals highlights:**

Highest total was scored by Hayleys Group 'B' 275-3 in 25 overs vs. ShipXpress: Lowest total scored by ShipXpress 89 all out in 21.3 overs vs. Hayleys Group 'B'.

Best batting: one century and eight half centuries:

Dimantha Kulugalage from Hayleys 'B' (121 n.o. vs. ShipXpress): Lasith Fernando from Pyramid Wilmar (65 vs. Singer 'B'): Chathuranga Silva from Zillion Systems (64 vs. VS Information): Gihan Gunathilake from Hayleys 'B' (73 vs. ShipXpress): Lakshina Rodrigo (56 vs. ShipXpress): Thilan Nugawela from Aitken Spence (72 n.o. vs. CIC): Dushan Hettiarachchi from Abans (59 vs. MD Gunasena): Vimukthi Madushanka from Baurs (51 vs. Regnis Appliances) and Methusha Wijethilake from Orient Finance (62 vs. Kish Group)

**Best Bowling:**

Shan Nanayakkara from Hayleys 'B' (4 for 18 vs. ShipXpress), Damitha Jayaratne from Baurs (4 for 18 vs. Regnis Appliances) and Asela Sanjeewa from Regnis Appliances (4 for 22 vs. Baurs)

Weekend's Results: (Pre-quarter-finals)

Hayleys 'B' beat ShipXpress by186 runs: Hayleys 'B' 275/3 (25), ShipXpress – 89 all out (21.3)

Pyramid Wilmar beat Singer 'B' by six wickets: Singer 'B' 162/7 (25), Pyramid Wilmar 166/4 (23.2)

Mattegoda: Aitken Spence beat CIC Group by 87 runs: Aitken Spence – 189/4 (25), CIC 102/9 (25)

Mattegoda: Zillione Systems beat VS Information Systems by six runs: Zillione Systems 173/5 (25), VSIS 167/7 (25)

Orient Finance beat Kish Group by eight wickets: Kish Group 149/8 (25), Orient Finance 152/2 (20.3)

A Baur and Co. beat Regnis Appliances by 58 runs: Baurs-185 (25), Regnis App 129/9 (25)

Hilton Colombo Residences beat ACl Cables by four wickets: ACLC 109 (24.2), HCR – 113/6 (21.2)

Abans Group beat MD Gunasena by 124 runs: Abans 221/7 (25), MDG 97/9 (25)

# Negombo shooters dominate Trap Open

**BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

**Champion shooter Rishan Dias flanked by Muditha Samaranayake (L) and Ambrith Samaranayake (R)**

Negombo Rifle Shooting Club (NRC) dominated the NSSF Trap Open Championship as Rishan Dias accumulated 34 points in the final round to clinch the overall championship of the three-day competition held at the Clay Target Shooting Club of Colombo's Shotgun Range in Payagala, Kalutara recently.

Dias' team mates Muditha Samaranayake and Ambrith Samaranayake won the silver and bronze medals after curling up the final round with 31 and 22 points, respectively. Anil Peries, representing Clay Target Shooting Club of Colombo (CTSCC) was placed overall fourth among six finalists with 18 points while NRC's Jeremy Fernando completed at fifth place with 16 points. Mohamed Fahim, representing Hill Country Shooting Club earned 14 points to finish sixth.

In the Open Category, NRC continued their dominance claiming the top three positions. Muditha Samaranayake was far ahead among 12 shooters with 87 points to claim the gold medal, followed by Rishan Dias (82) and Jeremy Fernando (80) to secure the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Other competitors to follow behind were Mohamed Fahim, Johann Fernando, Vivantha Vaas, Andrew Subasinghe Lakshan Hettiarachchi, Nalinda Ranasinghe, Dilanjan Jayasooriya, Dulan Dharmaratne and Shehan Patterson.

NRC secured two podium finishes in the Masters' Category when Amrith Samaranayake clinched the gold medal with 87 points and Dallas Martenstyn claimed the bronze medal with 69 points.

Anil Peries of CTSCC missed the top position by a whisker and had to settle in with the silver medal after accumulating 86 points, just one behind the winner.

In the two new categories introduced this year, Methushal Fernando and Anitra Dharmaratne impressed as youngsters competing among much experienced seniors. Methushal took the honour of becoming the first gold medallist in the Junior men's category while teenager Anitra will go down in history as the first female shooter to claim the gold medal of the Youth Female Category.

In addition NRC 'A' earned enough points to top the team category with Muditha Samaranayake, Amrith Samaranayaka and Nihal Perera taking their team to the pinnacle. The Clay Target Shooting Club of Colombo 'A' team, represented by Maurice Wambeek, Anil Peries and Lakshan Hettiarachchi, helped their team to earn the second slot, while the NRC Clay Dusters represented by Dallas Martenstyn, Sean Silva and Rishan Dias occupied third position.

# Ex cycling champ Krishantha elected to top seat

Former National cycling champion H.L Krishantha was elected president of the Sri Lanka Cycling Federation at their AGM held at the Sports Ministry Auditorium recently.

The close contest took place between two former national champions Krishantha representing Galle Cycling Association and B.J Sumanasekara from Sri Lanka Port Authority for the top post. Krishantha received 21 votes and Sumanasekera 19 votes to be elected.

Krishantha entered the cycling field for the first time from the Sri Lanka German Friendship SC and was able to win the National championship in 2000 and 2003. He also went on foreign tours as the captain of the National team in 2003. He is presently working as an MP of the Ambalangoda Predeshiya Saba.

Meanwhile, Nalin Adhikari from Gampaha district was elected the Secretary defeating HA Karunaratne also from Gampaha with a majority of 12 votes (26-14) while Jayasena Guruge was elected as the Treasurer and AM Dissanayake the Assistant Secretary.

**H.L Krishantha**

The six vice president posts went to HW Panditharatne, Krishantha Fernando, Nishantha Piyasena, Prabath de Silva, Chandana Kandanarachchi and NH Molligoda. The other vice president's post will be from the Schools Cycling Association. **(DR)**

# Djokovic's dad accuses Federer of attacking son

Novak Djokovic's father has made an extraordinary claim that his son was "attacked" as an 18-year-old by long-time rival Roger Federer and that the Swiss "is not such a good man".

World No 1 Djokovic, 33, and 39-year-old Federer first faced each other on court in 2006, the Serb since then having moved to 18 Grand Slam titles while Federer and Rafael Nadal have 20 apiece.

But Srdjan Djokovic has spoken out after what he claims have been a string of "defamatory" media comments about his son although it was not clear why he had Federer in his sights.

"About 15 years ago Federer attacked my son when he was still young, he was 18 or 19 years old," said Djokovic senior in an interview on Serbian TV reported by The Sun.

"I knew someone would be there who would be better than him. So I said that [Federer] was a great champion, the best at the time.

"But as much as he is a great champion, Federer is not such a good man. It is obvious that foreign media outlets do not have the best opinion of us and think that we are constantly bothering them.

"To tell you the truth, I do not want to be part of your twisted world. I'm sorry you don't like Novak. I just tell you the truth. What should I do?

"They defame him so much and say so many disgusting things about him that it is unbelievable.

"My answers are much clearer compared to how they treat this great champion, that they won't have again in this world."

**(The Telegraph)**

**Novak Djokovic and father Srdjan Djokovic**

# Yehani and Osmone wins squash titles

**BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Yehani Kuruppu (Visakha) and Ilham Osmone (DS Senanayake) emerged boys and girls champions respectively at the Sri Lanka Junior Open Squash Championship, held at the SSC squash courts recently.

A keen contest was witnessed in the boys under-19 final between Ilham and Nevindu Lakman that went up to four sets. Nevindu Lakman also from DS Senanayake won the first set 12-10 in a stiff battle but Ilham made a fine come back winning the last three sets 11/4, 11/6 and 11/8.

The girls under-19 final between Yehani and Wanithma Sinali (Visakha) also went to four sets. Yehani Kuruppu lost the first set 9-11. But fought back strongly to win the next three sets 11/9, 15/3, 11/7.

Assistant General Manager of Bank of Ceylon Rajith Thushantha was the chief guest at the awards ceremony.

**Yehani Kuruppu and Ilham Osmone receiving the champions trophy from the chief guest Rajith Thushantha**

# Badoordeen re-elected head of Colombo Malay Cricket Club

Rizwan Badoordeen was elected the president of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) for the second consecutive year at their annual general meeting held at the 'Padang' in Slave Island recently.

Badoordeen is at the helm at an important juncture in the history of the CMCC as the oldest cricket club in Sri Lanka prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2022.

A steering committee has been formed to organize several events to mark the event such as an Invitation T/10 cricket tourney, Tag rugby, hockey tournament for schools and clubs, a netball carnival, Sepak Takraw and badminton competitions, a Malay Rally and Malay Walk.

Following were elected as office-bearers for 2021-2022:

Patron: DIG BMN Jurangpathy (Rtd)

Vice Patron: Trustee: Brig. Kumban Bohoran (Rtd)

Vice Patrons: Sagara Amit, Thaj Sariffo'deen, Mashood Ahamath, Tuan Assen, Thalip Iyne, Branu Rahim, T Yunus Raheem, Ruby Dole, Rohan Musafer, Mareena Lye, Shafeena Fajudeen, Tony Packeer, Ramalee Adjumain, Thaj Girsy.

**Executive Committee:**

**President:** Rizwan Badoordeen JP
**Vice Presidents:** Thaj Lantra, Iqram Cuttilan, Uvaiz Samsudeen, Hussain Jayah, Shanaz Bohoran, Marlene Lantra, Roy Marso, Taslim Rahaman, Taarik Booso, Melanie Samsudeen, Maj. Gen. Roycelan Sallay (Rtd), SDIG M Ruwaiz Latiff (Rtd), Sabrina Jayah, Richie Sappideen, TJ Packeerally.
**Club Captain:** Rinaldin Rahaman
**Secretary:** Roshan Allang
**Asst Secretary:** Allaam Ousman
**Treasurer:** Irfan Allang
**Asst Treasurer:** Yaseem Samath
**Branch Secretaries**
**Ground and Pavilion:** Akbar Samidon
**Cricket:** Thassim Junkeer
**Hockey:** Azad Jurangpathy
**Rugby:** Dilshan Allang
**Netball:** Perry Jumat
**Indoor Games:** Rienzie Johar
**Social Entertainment:** Sabina Halalldeen
**Refreshment & Bar:** Zulsky Passela
**Youth Affairs:** Rizan Nizam
**Committee Members:** Ayub Muthaliph, Nizhar Allang, Binthan Rahaman, Niameth Raheem, Shiyam Razak, Alvin Sallay, Shad Jamalon, Anver Falil, Haroon Musafer, Asha Hannan, Rozy Laxana, Ramzi Raheem, MF (Ivor) Maharoof, Rizvie Jallil, Riza Ahamat. **(TBR)**

**Rizwan Badoordeen**

# South Africa lose players to IPL

Many of South Africa's best cricketers will be involved in the IPL and some of them will be playing for their country in the first of four T20 internationals against Pakistan at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

The series is being played at the same time as the early stages of the Indian Premier League and the juxtaposition provides a clear illustration of the relative standing of the two international teams.

Former South African captain Faf du Plessis, fast bowler Lungi Ngidi and leg-spinner Imran Tahir are in the CSK squad, while fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje are contracted to Delhi.

Although they may sit out the first round of IPL games because of quarantine restrictions, all three of South Africa's pace battery in the first two one-day internationals against Pakistan last weekend – Rabada, Nortje and Ngidi – will be in Mumbai instead of playing in Johannesburg.

**Faf du Plessis**

**Lungi Ngidi**

Also in India after playing in the first two games against Pakistan are batsmen Quinton de Kock and David Miller, while IPL stars AB de Villiers and Chris Morris appear to have been lost to international cricket.

Pakistan, by contrast, have not lost any players to the IPL.

The non-participation of Pakistan players in cricket's richest league owes more to politics than playing ability because the likes of Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Shaheen Shah Afridi would slot comfortably into any IPL side.

Cricket South Africa want to stay on the right side of their Indian counterparts by releasing their stars and in any case cannot afford to pay the sort of money that would persuade their leading players to put country ahead of club, especially for a tournament that was arranged less than two months ago.

South Africa head coach Mark Boucher put a positive spin on the loss of key players to the IPL, noting that they will be sharpening their skills against world-class opponents in the country where the T20 World Cup will be played later this year.

And the holes left in the national side provide opportunities for fringe players to push longer-term claims.

# La Liga says no evidence of abuse

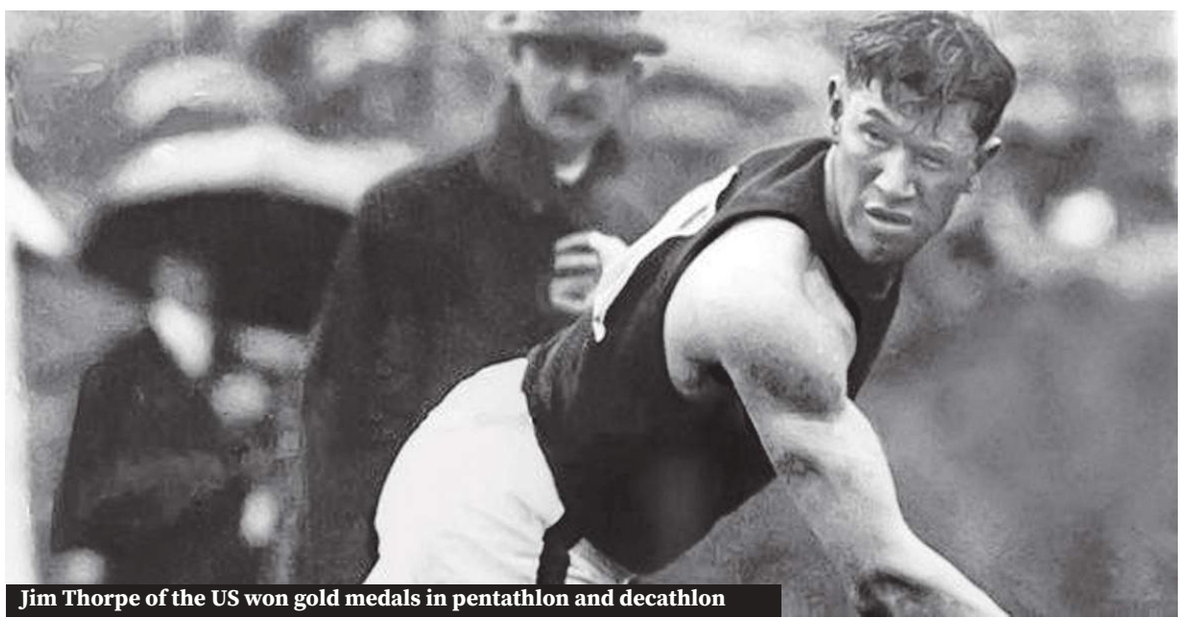
La Liga said Friday it had found no evidence that Valencia's Mouctar Diakhaby was racially abused by Juan Cala of Cadiz during a La Liga match last weekend.

The Spanish football federation, which has the final say on disciplinary matters, still has to make its ruling on the incident that has received widespread coverage in Spain.

A furious Diakhaby walked off the field after being involved in a heated exchange with Cala and claimed the Spanish player had used a racist slur towards him in the first half of the game in Cadiz on Sunday. **(Agencies)**

# Summer Olympic Games of Stockholm 1912 were a model of efficiency

—By—
Rear Admiral **Dr. Shemal Fernando**, PhD



Jim Thorpe of the US won gold medals in pentathlon and decathlon

Hannes Kolehmainen of Finland was the most successful athlete

The 1912 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the V Olympiad, were held in Stockholm, Sweden, between May 5 and July 22, 1912. The Stockholm Games were a model of efficiency. The Swedish hosts introduced the first Olympic use of automatic timing devices for the track events, the photo finish and a public address system.

If there was an unofficial theme of the 1912 Games, it was endurance. The course for the cycling road race was 320km, the longest race of any kind in Olympic history. In Greco-Roman wrestling, the middleweight semifinal match between Russian Martin Klein and Finland's Alfred Asikainen lasted 11 hours and 40 minutes.

It was the last time that solid gold medals were given out. The United States won the most gold medals (25), while Sweden won the most medals overall (65). The first four positions in the medal table: United States - 25G, 19S, 19B, Total 63; Sweden - 24G, 24S, 17B, Total 65; Great Britain - 10G, 15S, 16B, Total 41; Finland - 9G, 8S, 9B, Total 26.

The 1912 Olympics saw the introduction of art competitions. Events were implemented for literature, sculpture, painting, architecture and music. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, entering the competition under pseudonyms won for literature. Italian Riccardo Barthelemy won for music with his Olympic Triumphal March, and fellow countryman Giovanni Pellegrini won for painting.

The Swiss architects Eugene-Edouard Monod and Alphonse Laverriere shared the gold for their stadium design. Walter Winans won the gold medal for his sculpture, An American Trotter, which added to his previous gold inLondon 1908 and silver in Stockholm 1912for the running deer competition.

## Host Selection, Organization and Opening Ceremony

On May 28, 1909 at the meeting of the IOC in Berlin, the Swedish representatives declared that they had full financial support for hosting the Games in Stockholm. The Games were duly awarded to Stockholm as the only nominated host city for the 1912 Olympics. The news that Stockholm was to host the 1912 Games was received with enthusiasm by the Swedish public.

Pierre de Coubertin expressed his desire that "the Games must be kept more purely athletic; they must be more dignified, more discreet; more in accordance with classic and artistic requirements; more intimate, and, above all, less expensive." The organizing committee took de Coubertin's words to heart, and aimed to remove those elements which detracted earlier Games. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf was appointed as Honorary President of the organizing committee.

The official invitations to compete were issued on November 18, 1910, either directly or through representatives on the IOC. Free transport was arranged for the invited nations' equipment, and a discount of 50 percent was arranged for competitors and delegates on the state run railway. A daily newspaper covering the Olympics was published during the Games, in both English and Swedish.

The Games opened on July 6, 1912. The Swedish Royal Family were welcomed at the Olympic Stadium by members of the IOC. Three thousand competing athletes had already assembled in the nearby Ostermalm Athletic Grounds began to enter the stadium. The Swedish team entered last, but unlike the later tradition, the Greek team did not enter first.

A hymn was sung, a traditional Swedish chant was conducted and prayers were read first in Swedish and then in English. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf addressed the King on behalf of the Swedish Olympic Association. King Gustav V then declared open the Games with a speech. Then a trumpet fanfare was played and the Crown Prince called for cheers for the King. The athletes in their national groups marching out of the stadium ended the ceremony.

## 14 Sports and Athletes from 5 Continents

For the first time, competitors in the Games came from all five continents. Japan made their Olympic debut, marking the first appearance of an Asian country at an Olympic Games. Egypt, Iceland, Portugal, and Serbia participated for the first time. Chile made its first appearance as a national team.

This was the last Olympics that allowed "private entries," i.e. individual athletes that were not part of a country's official team. Arnold Jackson was one such private entry and he won 1500m.The modern pentathlon, women's swimming and women's diving all made their Olympic debuts.28 nations and 2,407 competitors - 48 women and 2,359 men, competed in 102 events in 14 sports under 18 disciplines.

**Aquatics:** In diving Erik Adlerz of Sweden won the gold in high dive and 10m platform. Paul Gunther of Germany won the gold in 3m springboard. Sweden's Greta Johansson won women's 10m platform gold. In swimming, Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku won 100m freestyle for the United States. Harry Hebner of the United States won the gold in 100m backstroke. Canadian George Hodgson won two gold medals in 400m and 1,500m. The German Walter Bathe won gold medals in 200m and 400m breaststroke. The Australasian team was victorious in the men's relay. In women's events, Fanny Durack won 100m freestyle whilst the British team won the women's team relay. In water polo, Great Britain won the gold defeating Austria 8 - 0.

**Athletics:** The athletics included 30 events and saw the introduction of a fully automatic timing system. It involved attaching electromagnets to chronometers in a system which attached a control lamp to the starting gun for each race. This resulted in the firing of the gun starting a timer which was then stopped by one of the judges at the finishing line.

Hannes Kolehmainen of Finland was the most successful athlete with new Olympic Records in 5,000m, 10,000m and cross country. The final of the men's 100m suffered from seven false starts. Ralph Craig of the United States won the sprint double of 100m and 200m. Portuguese Francisco Lazaro who died from heat exhaustion became the only athlete to die during an Olympic marathon.

Kanakuri Shizo, a Japanese marathon runner, went missing during the race. He lost consciousness by heatstroke and a farming family helped him to stop at a party taking place in a villa on the marathon route in order to quench his thirst. Then he caught a train to Stockholm and left Sweden and returned to Japan without notifying race officials. 50 years later, after being invited back by the Swedish authorities, he completed the marathon with a time of 54 years, 8 months, 6 days, 8 hours, 32 minutes and 20.3 sec.

The men's decathlon competition was held at the Olympic Games for the first time from July 13, to 15, 1912. Twenty-nine decathletes from twelve nations competed and Jim Thorpe emerged winner. His gold was stripped by the IOC in 1913, after learning that Thorpe had taken expense money for playing baseball, violating Olympic amateurism rules, before the 1912 Games. Avery Brundage, who served as the IOC President from 1952 to 1972, competed in the decathlon finishing 16th.

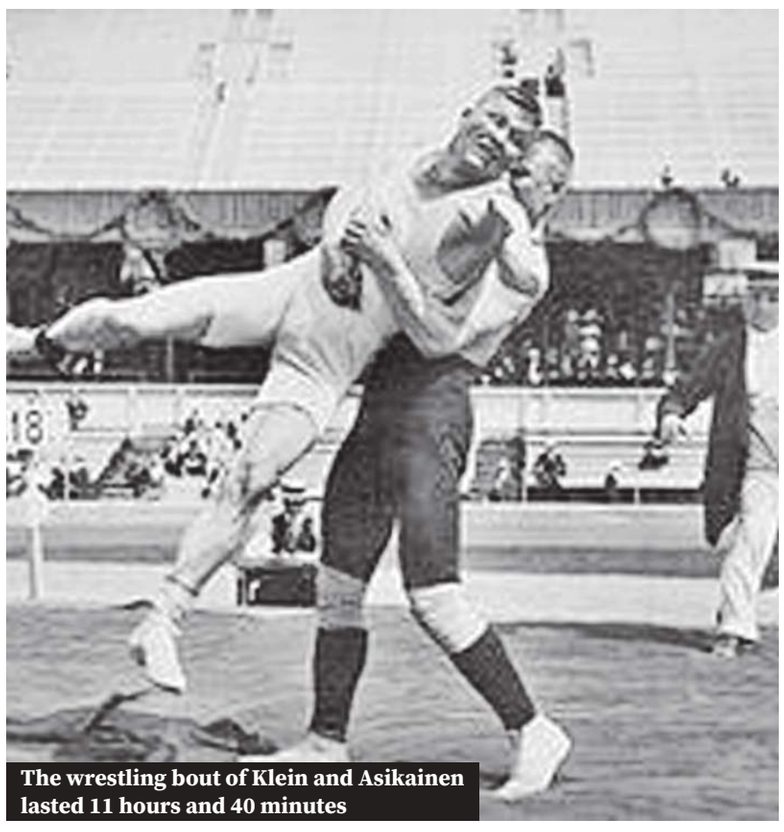
**Cycling:** The cycling events were limited to a road race around Lake Malaren and 19 nations entered. South African Rudolph Lewis won the gold in the individual race whilst the Swedish team won the gold for the team competition.

**Equestrian:** It was the first appearance of modern Olympic staples such as dressage, eventing and show jumping. It was expected that the competitors would be military personnel with cavalry experience. The competition was split between the military competitions, prize riding and prize jumping.

In military competition encompassing 55 km, Sweden's Axel Nordlander won the individual gold and led the Swedish eventing team to victory as well, earning himself two gold medals. In dressage, Sweden took all three medals, with the gold going to Carl Bonde. The individual show jumping competition gold was won by Cariou of France and the team event saw Sweden take another gold.

**Fencing:** The foil competition became an Olympic event and Nedo Nadi of Italy took the gold. There were individual and team events in both epee and sabre. Paul Anspachof Belgium won the individual epee gold whilst epee team also was won by Belgium. Jeno Fuchs of Hungary won the individual sabre gold whilst team gold was won by Hungary.

**Football:** Only FIFA affiliated teams were allowed and Great Britain retained its gold beating Denmark.



The wrestling bout of Klein and Asikainen lasted 11 hours and 40 minutes

The first winner of Modern Pentathlon, Lilliehook of Sweden

**Gymnastics:** The gymnastic competition featured one individual and three team events. Alberto Braglia of Italy won the individual all-round whilst Italy won the all-round team gold. The team free system was won by Norway whilst Sweden won the team Swedish system gold.

**Modern pentathlon:** Modern pentathlon marked its first appearance in the Olympics. It was for these games that five events of shooting, swimming, equestrian, fencing and cross country running were decided to make up the pentathlon. The competition was spread out across five days.

For shooting, each competitor was allowed to bring their own pistol. The American competitor George S. Patton (better known as the Second World War US Army General) used a Colt revolver, while the Danish competitors preferred the Danish Army service pistol, the Germans and Norwegians used the Luger P08 pistol and the Swedes used a target practice pistol by Smith & Wesson.

The swimming event was three lengths, each of 100m. The fencing competition saw each competitor face off against each other. The equestrian course had penalties. The cross country run was over 4,000m.GostaLilliehook of Sweden won the gold whilst the highest placed non-Swedish competitor was Patton, who finished fifth.

**Rowing:** Wally Kinnear of Great Britain won the gold in Single Sculls. Germany secured the gold in Coxed Four whilst Denmark won the Coxed Four In-riggers. Great Britain won the gold in Eights.

**Sailing:** The 12m class and 10m class were won by Norway and Sweden. The 6m class saw the most diverse field of any of the sailing events and France clinched the gold.

Shooting: There were 18 shooting events of which 8 were team events. The competition was split predominantly into three sections: military rifle shooting, shooting with miniature rifles, pistols and revolvers, and clay bird and running deer shooting. The Swedish and American competitors won seven gold medals each.

Tennis: Frenchman Andre Gobert was victorious in Tennis on covered courts. The gold in gentlemen's singles was won by South African Charles Winslow beating Harold Kitson, 7 - 5, 4 - 6, 10 - 8 and 8 - 6. The duo also competed as a pair in the gentlemen's doubles and took the gold. Marguerite Broquedis of France won the ladies' singles gold. In the mixed doubles Koring teamed up with Heinrich Schomburgk to win the gold.

**Tug of war:** Sweden beat Great Britain to win the gold medal.

**Wrestling:** Greco-Roman wrestling was the only style of wrestling competed and the winners were: Featherweight, Finland's Kaarlo Koskelo; Lightweight, Finland's Emil Vare; Middleweight, Sweden's Claes Johanson; Light Heavyweight, after nine hours of trying both Anders Ahlgren of Sweden and Ivar Bohling of Finland were awarded with silver medals; Heavyweight, Yrjo Saarela of Finland.

## First Modern Pentathlon

The Official Report described the event: "The five events ought to be such as would test the endurance, resolution, presence of mind, intrepidity, agility and strength of those taking part in the competition, while, in drawing up the detailed program, it was necessary to have events of equivalent value, in order to make the modern pentathlon a competition of really all-round importance."

32 athletes took part in the inaugural modern pentathlon and it would prove a sapping test of their all-round sporting and physical ability. Gosta Lilliehook, a local from Stockholm who had turned 28, became the event's first winner. First up was the shooting, which involved five shots fired at a target that was visible for three seconds per shot. Lilliehook came third.

The next day the competitors took part in the 300m freestyle swim. Lilliehook came tenth. The third event was the fencing, which took up almost two entire days. His performance is mentioned briefly in the Official Report, which says: "Lieutenant Lilliehook displayed great skill." He finished fifth, and moved up to second overall.

Riding was the penultimate event, and this was to be a cross-country over 5,000m. There were 17 different obstacles, including fences and ditches. Lilliehook came fourth and had completed the course without any point deductions, and remained second overall.

The final event was a 4,000m cross-country beginning and ending in the Olympic Stadium, with athletes starting at one-minute intervals and racing against the clock. Lilliehook finished fifth, which was enough to win the gold. Despite not having won a single event, his consistency saw him triumph overall. The general consensus was that the first ever Olympic modern pentathlon had been a great success.

## Jim Thorpe, the Greatest Athlete in the World

James "Jim" Francis Thorpe became the first Native American to win a gold for the United States at Olympic Games. Considered as one of the most versatile athletes, he won two Olympic gold medals in Stockholm 1912. However, both medals were stripped by the IOC in 1913.

Thorpe was born in Indian Territory of the United States but no birth certificate has been found. He was generally considered to have been born on May 22, 1887 in Oklahoma. His parents were both Roman Catholic, a faith which Thorpe observed throughout his life. Thorpe died on March 28, 1953 at the age of 65.

In 1912, he started training for the Olympics. He had confined his efforts to jumps, hurdles and shot-puts, but now added pole vaulting, javelin, discus, hammer and 56-lb weight. In the Olympic trials, his all-round ability stood out in all these events and so he earned a place on the team.

The 1912 version of pentathlon consisted of long jump, javelin, 200m, discus and 1500m.The decathlon was a relatively new event in modern athletics. Along with the decathlon and pentathlon, he competed in long jump and high jump as well.

He began the Olympics by crushing the field in pentathlon that consisted of five events in a single day. He placed first in four of them, dusting his competition in the 1,500m run. Besides, in high jump, he finished in a tie for fourth, and was placed seventh in the long jump.

At Stockholm 1912, Thorpe's final event was the decathlon. Thorpe was placed in the top four in all ten events, and his Olympic record of 8,413 points stood for two decades. Even more remarkably, as someone had stolen his shoes just before he was due to compete, he found a mismatched pair of replacements, including one from a trash, and emerged victorious. Overall, Thorpe won eight of the 15 events in pentathlon and decathlon.

As was the custom of the day, the medals were presented during the closing ceremony. Along with the two gold medals, Thorpe received two prizes, donated by King Gustav V of Sweden for the decathlon and Czar Nicholas II of Russia for the pentathlon. Several sources recount that, when awarding Thorpe his prize, King Gustav said, "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world."

Thorpe was named the "Greatest Athlete" from the first 50 years of the 20th century. Thorpe's monument, stands in the town named for him, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. The grave rests on mounds of soil from Thorpe's native Oklahoma and the stadium in which he won his Olympic medals.

After 30 years of his death, the IOC ruled that the decision to strip him of his medals fell outside of the required 30 days. In a ceremony on January 18, 1983, the IOC presented two of Thorpe's children, Gale and Bill, with commemorative medals as Thorpe's original medals held in museums had been stolen. Thorpe's name now appears as co-champion in both decathlon and pentathlon in official IOC records.

**(The author highlights spectrum of sports extravaganza. He is the winner of Presidential Academic Award for Sports in 2017 and 2018 and recipient of National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc)**

## 87TH MAHAGASTOTA HILL CLIMB 2021

# None to challenge Ashan, Gunawardena brothers Jaden, Aaron still unmatched

BY BERNARD PERERA

Sri Lanka's champion driver Ashan Silva was the star at the SLT Mobitel Mahagastota Speed Hill Climb last Sunday (4) when he was declared as the fastest driver of the day. Ashan who held the record for the Hill Climb in Nuwara Eliya did well to lower his own record when he clocked the best time for the day with 31.699 seconds for the run.

Ashan who also set a new record at the Eliyakanda Hill Climb last February in Matara, maintained his supremacy as the best hill climber driving his Mitsubishi Evo 3500cc vehicle in grand style.

He is expected to make another landmark today competing at the Kukuleganga Hill Climb that will conduct its first Hill Climb organized by the Sri Lanka Army Motor Sports Committee.

Ashan has been winning tarmac events for nearly a decade and became the National Champion in SL-GT class continuously for five years. After the Covid-19 pandemic brought all motor racing events to a standstill, all riders and drivers are making a comeback to the sport with a few events planned out for the year.

The Gunawardena brothers Jaden and Aaron were unbeatable riders at Mahagastota winning their respective events establishing the best times in two classes, the 600cc and 1000cc with 34.166 seconds and 34.156 seconds, while his brother Aaron had a time of 35.048 seconds in the 250cc class.

Other drivers who came up with good performances on that day are Viren Boteju winning two events and Dammika Peiris too winning twice, showing that they have still not lost their enthusiasm in motor sports though they were out for nearly one and a half years.

Ashan Silva the fastest driver who lowered his record for the Mahagastota Hill Climb

The fastest rider at the Mahagastota Hill Climb last Sunday Jaden Gunewardena and his brother Aaron (right) first runner-up and second runner-up W.M. Sudara (left)

All drivers and riders praised the organizers, Ceylon Motor Sports Club for a job well done.

**Results: (Motor Cycles):**

**Class O 125cc 4/T:** 1. Supun Dhanushka (45.454), 2. Anusha Eranga (46.510), 3. Dilan Ratnayake (47.150)

**Class SM Tracker 250cc:** 1. RM Mimshad (38.943) 2. Mohamed Rizwi (40.524), 3. ADSA Suraj (40.726)

**Class M Street Trail Bikes 250cc 4/T:** 1. Sarath Kumarasinghe (38 507), 2. S. Vasudevan (42.187), 3. Shane de Silva (42.913)

**Class M Street Trail Bikes 250cc:** 1. Sarath Kumarasinghe (39.695), 2. Sivalingam Gnanapragash (40.295), 3. Shane de Silva (41.609)

**Racing Bikes 100cc up to 125cc:** 1. Gihan Sanjeewa (38.919), 2. Sudara Deshal (38.996), 3. Dilan Hettiarachchi (41.290)

**Racing Bikes 85cc:** 1. Henry Roshan (40.449), 2. Gihan Sanjeewa (40.946), 3. WM Gunasinghe (41.612)

**Class SM Super Motard 250cc:** 1, Nimesh Sandaruwan (336.485), 2. Sivagnanam Harris (37.006), 3. Henry Roshan (38.958)

**Class SM Super Motard 250cc Open:** 1. Jaden Gunawardena (34.156), 2. Aaron Gunewardena 34.957), 3. Raguraja Palaniyandi (39.656)

**Class O 125cc up to 160cc $/T:** 1. Derrick Gananasegar (43.322), 2. WMSS Weerasinghe (43.399), 3. Dhammika Nishantha (44.790)

**Class M 100cc up to 125cc 2/T:** 1. S. Vasudevan (44.626), 2. Sivalingam Gnanapragash (44.742), 3. Dhammika Nishantha (47.202)

**Class M Sport 250cc:** 1. Sivalingam Gnanapragash (49.681), 2. Tharanga Madhushanka (52.624), 3. Shehan de Silva (53.183)

**Class M Super Sport 600cc:** 1. Heshan Pasindu (38.997), 2. Gihan Sanjeewa (42.369), 3. Supun Dhanushka (43.994)

**MS Sport 250cc:** 1. Heshan Pasindu (39.043), 2. Janka Dinesh (39.104), 3. Gimhan Perera (42.715)

**MS Sport 600cc:** 1. Jaden Guneaardena (34.166), 2. Aaron Gunawardena (34.204), 3. Sudara Deshal (41.951)

**MS Sport 1000cc:** 1. Aaron Gunawardena (35.048), 2. Jaden Gunawardena (37.259), 3. Insaf Basheer (39.375)

**MS Touring 600cc:** 1. Supun Suraj (38.794) 2. Navindu Silva (42.173), 3. KDS Sandaruwan (42.795)

**Motor Cars:**

**Group E 1000cc:** 1. Adeesha Kithwith (44.852), 2. Thenuka Liyanaarachchi (45.327), 3. Daham Jayanath (45.460)

**Group H Mini 1275cc:** 1. Sandaru Weerasinghe (43.751), 2. Chanaka Ratnayake (44.035), 3. Nishath de Alwis (45.644)

**Group Sl- GT 3500cc:** 1. Ashan Silva (31.699), 2. Dinesh Jayawardena (34.013), 3. Darin Weerasinghe (34. 762)

**Group Y&J:** 1. Ushan Perera (37.699), 2. Darin Weeerasinghe (37.852), 3. Sanjaya Senarath (41.639)

**Formula Mc 1300cc:** 1. Viren Boteju (39.015), 2. Chandima Guneratne (39. 493), 3. Kevin Perera (39.688)

**MC Formula 1665cc:** 1. Nadeera Jinasena (34.015), 3. Dilan Seneviratne (34.421), Rohan de Silva (35.918)

**Group E up to 1300cc:** 1. Thanuka Liyanaarachchi (44.458), 2. Rasitha Pasan (45.543), 3. Thushan Jayasooriya

**Group N up to 1300cc:** 1. Dammika Peiris (43.374), 2. Susantha Gunewardena (44.502), 3. Shenal Gunewardena

**Group N up to 1500cc:** 1. Dammika Peiris ( 43.070), 2. Tharindu Dharmaratne (43,272), 3. Shenal Gunewardena (43.377)

**Group A Mini 7 1000cc:** 1. Sandaru Weerasinghe (43.056), 2. Lakmal Wijayaratne (43.232), 3. Neil Weerasinghe (45.386)

**Group A up to 1050cc:** 1. Dilupa Palliyaguru (41.417), 2. Charitha Ranatunga ( 42.767), 3. Avishka Premadasa (41.959)

**Group S up to 1500cc:** 1. Samantha Tissera (46.699), 2. Hafiz Wahab (46.781), 3. Michael Muthumani (48.035)

**Group S up to 1500cc:** 1. Chaminda Mannapperuma (38.987), 2. Zakir Wahab (39.196), 3. Kushan Peiris (39.533)

**Group HS-HL 1600cc:** 1. Viren Boteju (37.934), 2. Irshad Fahan (38.156), 3. Irfan Fuard (38.405)

**Group HS-LH 2000cc:** 1. Shiran Doole (41.162), 2. Menaka Sandaruwan (41.973), 3. Asanka Bandara (42.605)

# 'Family Run Saturday' to boost a healthy society

BY BERNARD PERERA

A new concept was introduced from yesterday (April 10) named 'Family Run Saturday' to entice families into sport with the aim of bringing about a Healthy Society, a concept evolved by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Namal Rajapaksa.

He is ably supported by Lanka Sportsreizen who are known to organize and conduct sporting events in Sri Lanka.

The police will also assist in keeping the course clear from opposite the Ministry in Colombo 7 for the run that takes in Buller's Road and Independence Square from 6 to 8 am every Saturday.

Addressing the media, Minister Rajapaksa said that the Family Run Saturday is a novel event that will give the opportunity for the whole family to get involved in sports.

"The people should understand that sports play a vital role in keeping them healthy. This novel event will come into action for the first time and will help them to enjoy as well as improve their skills and be competitive in sporting activities," said Minister Rajapaksa at a media briefing held at the Duncan White Auditorium in the Sports Ministry.

He also added that though this race is limited to five kilometers those who want to run further will be allowed to go on further. This will make them better long distance runners of the future.

The Ministry is set to take this program to other Provinces too in the near future and have planned to go to places like Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Galle, Matara, Hambantota and Badulla.

Over 500 participants have confirmed their participation and the number is expected to rise as there is no registration requirement.

The Family Run Saturday will commence opposite the Sports Ministry at 6.0 a.m. and proceed through Phillip Gunewardena Mawatha, Stanley Wijesundera Mawatha, Sri Lanka Foundation Mawatha, Independence Avenue, Maitland Place, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Kinsey Road, R.G. Senanayake Mawatha, Wijerama Mawatha, Maitland Crescent and finish opposite the Ministry of Sports.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa briefs the media on the 'Family Run Saturday'

## Johanne Peiris steers Lanka Cavaliers to easy win

Left hand opening batsman, Johanne Peiris (59 with 8 fours and a six) steered Lanka Cavaliers to a thrilling four wickets win over Ambalangoda Masters in their annual 30-overs-a-side cricket encounter played on April 4 at Ambalangoda.

Lanka Cavaliers chasing a challenging total of 216 runs to win in 30 overs reached their target in 28.5 overs thanks to Johanne Peiris' solid batting performance.

Peiris was engaged in two productive partnerships, a 55 runs opening stand with Sujith Perera (38) and 95 runs for the second wicket with Wasanthalal Fernando (32).

Suranjith Dharmasena put the finishing touches by remaining unbeaten on 39 runs.

The Ambalangoda Masters would have scored much more if not for the excellent fielding performance of Susan Bandara, who certainly saved more than 20 runs for the Lanka Cavaliers.

**Ambalangoda Masters:** 215/9 (30) (Saman Mohan 40, Sriyan Hewawasam 58, Indika Peiris 27, RM Jayantha 18, Lal Ranasinghe 18 n.o. Manoj Perera 3/35, Asoka de Silva 2/45, Krishan Dharmasena 3/41)

**Lanka Cavaliers:** 219/6 (28.5) (Sujith Perera 38, Johanne Peiris 59, Wasanthalal Fernando 32, Suranjith Dharmasena 39 n.o. Sudarshana Guruge 18, Ruwan Pushpakumara 2/29)

## Volleyball finals postponed

The Galaxy Cup under 25 Men's and Women's volleyball finals scheduled to be played yesterday has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances according to the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation.

The SLVBF said the finals are now scheduled to take place on April 23 at the National Youth Services Council Courts in Maharagama.

## HNB emerge shuttle champions

Hatton National Bank (HNB) emerged overall champions while Seylan Bank and McLarens Group finished second and third respectively at the 37th Mercantile Badminton Association Inter-Firm Team Championships held in Colombo recently.

HNB emerged champions in three divisions and also finished runners-up in five divisions to bag a total of 203 points. Seylan Bank which collected 137 points throughout the championships, won five divisions. McLarens Group won the Masters and Men's 'D' Division titles, while finishing runners-up in two other divisions as they collected 106 points.

More than 425 players participated and a total of 580 matches were conducted during the 10 days of competitions. **(DR)**

## Tiger Woods releases statement after car smash

Tiger Woods has released a statement following the conclusion of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office investigation into his February car crash — but the pro golfer didn't mention that he was found to have been speeding nearly 40 miles over the speed limit at the time.

Tiger Wood

"In the last few days, I received words from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department that their investigation regarding my traffic accident back on February 23rd in Los Angeles has been completed and closed," Woods, 45, said in a statement shared on Twitter Wednesday.

"I am so grateful to both of the good Samaritans who came to assist me and called 911," he continued, also sharing his gratefulness to the first responders who helped him and took him to the hospital. "I will continue to focus on my recovery and family, and thank everyone for the overwhelming support and encouragement I've received throughout this very difficult time," he concluded.

# New Zealand name squad for England tour with question marks over Williamson and Boult

New Zealand named a squad of 20 players on Thursday for their upcoming tour of England including three uncapped players but with a question mark over the talismanic Kane Williamson and Trent Boult.

The pair are expected to again be involved in the Indian Premier League play-offs -- Williamson with the Sunrisers Hyderabad and Boult with the Mumbai Indians -- in the last week of May with the first Test against England starting at Lord's on June 2.

But they will be back with the Black Caps squad by the time it is pared down to 15 for the World Test Championship final at Southampton on June 18.

Williamson said it was a frustrating situation but if he missed the first Test he hoped to rejoin the Blacks Caps before the second Test.

"As soon as your team is no longer in (the IPL), whenever that is, it will be a quick trip across and prepare for the Test match that as soon as possible you can be available for," he told the Stuff website.

The newcomers to the New Zealand squad are 21-year-old all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, swing bowler Jacob Duffy and in-form batsman Devon Conway.

Conway has tasted international experience in recent months, averaging 75 from three one-day internationals and 59.12 in 14 Twenty20 matches and coach Gary Stead sees a big future for the South African-born batsman.



Kane Williamson



Trent Boult

THE PAIR ARE EXPECTED TO AGAIN BE INVOLVED IN THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS -- WILLIAMSON WITH THE SUNRISERS HYDERABAD AND BOULT WITH THE MUMBAI INDIANS -- IN THE LAST WEEK OF MAY WITH THE FIRST TEST AGAINST ENGLAND STARTING AT LORD'S ON JUNE 2

"He's got all the skills of being an amazing player," the coach said.

"We're really fortunate, at the moment, that we've had people in our squad like your Ross Taylors and your Kane Williamsons, then you see someone like Devon Conway come along, and you think this is another guy that could also be in that class."

Duffy took four for 33 in his one appearance for New Zealand, a Twenty20 match against Pakistan, while Ravindra hit a century for New Zealand A against the West Indies, is a handy left-arm spinner and was in New Zealand's Under-19 World Cup team in 2018.

"Rachin's been earmarked as a star of the future since his Under-19 days and we've been really encouraged by the advancement in his game this season, with both bat and ball," Stead said.

"He's obviously an opening option, but also has the ability to bat in the middle order which combined with his left-arm finger spin make him a great asset to our squad.

"Jacob's been a consistent performer on the domestic circuit and his ability to swing the ball made him a particularly compelling option with a Dukes ball in English conditions."

Colin de Grandhomme, who missed the home summer with an ankle injury, veteran Ross Taylor and Doug Bracewell all have to prove their fitness to finalise their places in the side.

**New Zealand squad:**

Kane Williamson (capt), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling, Will Young. ***(Agencies)***

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APRIL 11, 2021

# Lankans still to win a series in Calypso land

When the Sri Lanka cricketers came out unscathed in the first Test against the West Indies and had them on the ropes and having them fighting to save the game, one expected the Lankans to ride on that advantage and win the second Test. But that was not to be.

The Lankans have never before achieved a series victory over the Calypso Boys in their land and here was the opportunity that they had been waiting for and could make winning a series a reality.

But what was inexplicable and unacceptable was that captain Dimuth Karunaratne won the all important toss and instead of taking first strike asked the Windies to bat on a wicket that was favourable for big run making with the wicket not having any moisture or grass on it.

When Karunaratne asked the Windies to have a first hit, it was apparent and obvious that the Lankans were in a negative frame of mind, not looking for victory, but wanting to go for a draw, not wanting to suffer the fate that they suffered in the T20 and 50-over series.

Had the Lankans batted and put up a formidable first innings score and they had the batsmen who could deliver, they could have certainly had the Windies under pressure. The Windies would then have had to bat last on a crumbling turf and could surrender.

Maybe what prompted Karunaratne to not bat first was that he was not having a bowling attack that was up to Test standard that could rip through the opponents' batting in both innings. Only paceman Suranga Lakmal looked a Test class bowler and whom the Windies batsmen feared.

Anyway we won't whip captain Karunaratne for winning the toss and asking the Windies to bat. It would have been a majority decision and so Sri Lanka lost the chance of batting first putting up a big score and having the Windies under pressure.

Now that the Windies tour has been done and dusted with the Lankans losing both versions of limited over games and drawing the two Test series, the question to ask is what is the big deal in continuing to play two Tests? Playing three Tests would have been more meaningful. The next Sri Lankan opponents will be Bangladesh.

However we say well done to Lahiru Thirimanne, Oshada Fernando, Dinesh Chandimal, Dhananjaya de Silva and newcomer Pathum Nissanka Silva for being among the runs. Thirimanne had been in the cricketing woods for long and when recalled grabbed the opportunity with both hands and excelled as a permanent opening batsman.

It was a memorable tour for young Nissanka who made a debut hundred facing the pace bolts of Roach, Gabriel, Joseph and Holder. It is hoped that he will continue to make runs consistently so that he could be bracketed with batting greats.

Of the bowlers the only one who always looked threatening and who troubled the Windies batsmen and was among the wickets was paceman Suranga Lakmal who always bowled his heart out bowling long spells.

## Administration suffers ignominy

Never before after the Britishers introduced the wonderful game of cricket to the country has its administration and the game suffered such ignominy as it is facing now.

With a club seeking legal action to the effect that Sri Lanka Cricket ended its stay on May 20 and succeeding and asking for an Interim Committee to be appointed to run the affairs of SLC and with the AG agreeing the Sports Minister appointed a high-profile five-member SLC Management Committee to carry out the day to day affairs of SLC until the AGM is held next month.

The five-member management committee will be presided over by Prof. Arjuna de Silva with SLC Chief Executive Ashley de Silva appointed as secretary of the Committee with Sujeewa Mudalige, Chartered Accountant from Picewaterhouse Coopers appointed treasurer.

Uchitra Wickremasinghe will serve the Committee as a member while Amal Edirisooriya, Director General Department of Sports Development will be an observer.

And the man who has to face all these vicious bouncers is Minister of Youth Affairs and Sport, the efficient Namal Rajapaksa who captained the school on the Mount by the Sea, STC Mt. Lavinia and played for Navy and captained the national rugby team.

Never since the first Minister of Sports VA Sugathadasa and later KB Ratnayake had the country a Minister of Sport who has played a game. Rajapaksa joins that exalted company of Sugathadasa and Ratnayake. When Sugathadasa and Ratnayake steered sport in the country, cricket was played for the love of it with the country gaining Test status nearly 50 years later that has led to war in cricket in the country.

The writer who has played cricket at the highest level and written about it for well over 50 years never witnessed politics in sport as it is now the fad. This malady struck cricket as the dreaded covid-19 disease is now doing.

Today holding office in SLC has become an obsession. That is after respected men with vision and the game at heart – Gamini Dissanayake, Rajamahendren, Wimalasena and Fuard prepared a pitch, batted on it successfully and hit the bouncers of the Lords at Lord's who always bowled Wides and no-balls saying Sri Lanka is not fit for Test cricket and the cricketers justified their inclusion in the elite league when the country won the World Cup in 1996 in Lahore, Pakistan.

With the winning of the World Cup dollars began flowing into the game and the administration like the Mahaweli river in spate and with it began the war with every Dick, Tom and Harry wanting to run the administration because the icing was on the money cake and everyone was dog-fighting to hold office.

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# Final countdown gathers momentum

By Dinesh Weerawansa

The glittering array of eye catching trophies on display that the winners of the Observer SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year Mega Show will be yearning and waiting impatiently to carry away for all the sweat and toil they shed to win awards during the inter-school cricket season will be the main focus come April 20.

The trophies will remain with the winners for prosperity. It is not all cricketers who have the good fortune to win these rare awards. So the joy and happiness that the winners will enjoy grabbing these trophies and kissing them with smiles written on their faces will know no bounds.

Former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya will be the chief guest at the 42nd Observer School Cricketers of the Year awards show to be held at the BMICH, Colombo 7 on April 20 commencing at 5.30 p.m.

The Mega Show which was postponed on a couple of occasions due to the Covid-19 pandemic will finally be a reality and the health authorities have given a firm guarantee so that we could host the event in keeping with strict guidelines.

With less than two weeks to go for the glittering show, we went down memory lane to recall what the past winners had to say:

ICC Chief Match Referee and former Sri Lanka captain RANJAN MADUGALLE, the first ever winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1979:

"I could well remember the day I received the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in the inaugural show, hosted by the Sunday Observer. The award is a lasting memory and I will treasure that moment forever.

"Cricket is a noble game. It moulds one's character and makes it a way of life to the individual concerned. The great game of cricket is governed by laws. Although the laws have changed from time to time to suit modern demands, one has to play the game within the laws because no one is greater than the game and its laws of cricket.

"While playing the game within the laws of the game, the players must respect their opponents. All are human beings and we must learn to take victory and defeat in the same spirit. In cricket what I have learnt all these years is to treat the opposite side players not as opponents, but as friends. There are many things that one has got to learn from the game. Team strategy and leadership will ultimately bring success and rejoicing and a disciplined mind and body"

Sri Lanka s World Cup winning captain ARJUNA RANATUNGA, who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice in 1980 and 1982:

"It's a tremendous boost for a schoolboy when he is adjudged the Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Allrounder or the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year. He could then aim at club level and international level. You may go places and win many other Awards at higher levels, but an Award won at the 'Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year' event remains the most memorable in any cricketer's life. Winning the Award twice remains the most cherished moment in my life. The titles had given me tremendous inspiration and confidence when I stepped into the international arena.

"It is sad to see the deteriorating standards of school cricket. Unfortunately, officials do not pay much attention to school cricket. The cricket authorities have forgotten the fact that the foundation of the national pool is school cricket. They must keep in mind that school cricket is the cradle of the national team.

"The government must also focus on sports and particularly on cricket which has brought glory to our country internationally".

Former Sri Lanka captain and ex-ICC Match Referee ROSHAN MAHANAMA, who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice in 1983 and 1984:

"These award ceremonies motivated us as emerging cricketers. It is always a great motivation when you know that your achievements are being recognized. To emerge as the best schoolboy cricketer and be honoured for the hard work at the end of the season was a great encouragement. I was privileged to receive this award as it was one of my dreams.

"It was a memorable occasion and a stepping stone to club level and to international cricket thereafter. Being crowned the best Schoolboy Cricketer made me even more determined to work harder to reach greater heights and get the taste of international cricket".

Former Sri Lanka cricketer and ex-Sri Lanka manager Asanka Gurusinha, winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1985:

"When Roshan (Mahanama) won this award twice in 1983 and 1984, I truly understood how prestigious it is to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award. It was a rare honour and a rich award that not every schoolboy cricketer had the fortune to win. One has to be outstanding and be consistent right throughout a season to win that – work really hard to reach the pinnacle of school cricket.

"I was eager to win that title after watching the proud moment when Mahanama won the award which was also an honour for his alma mater Nalanda. I knew hard work and dedication with exceptional performance could take a schoolboy cricketer towards that goal. I successfully achieved my dream as a schoolboy the following year.

"Winning the title gave me tremendous confidence and I started believing in myself more. In less than five months after that I made my Test debut for Sri Lanka. I am glad that the Sunday Observer is hosting the awards show uninterrupted, thus encouraging the budding schoolboy cricketers. During our time, this was the only one school cricket awards show and we were eagerly looking forward to it".

Former Sri Lanka captain and ex-Chairman of Selectors SANATH JAYASURIYA, who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer Outstation title in 1988:

"It is a fine gesture on the part of Lake House and the Sunday Observer to host the show uninterrupted so that the young boys across the country will have something to look forward to when they end their school career.

"The Observer SLT Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year would take outstanding young players closer to the Sri Lanka 'cap'. When I won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year outstation title, I thought I should stand a greater chance of playing for Sri Lanka, if I continue to focus on the game with dedication and devotion.

"It inspired me to go places. Once you win this coveted title, all you need is commitment and dedication to find a place in the Sri Lanka team".

Former Sri Lanka captain and ex-Sri Lanka coach Marvan Atapattu, winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1990:

"I consider winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title was a turning point in my career that transformed me from school cricket to international cricket. At the time I had been performing well and scoring consistently for Ananda as a schoolboy cricketer and many considered me as a future Sri Lanka prospect. Although I too had felt that way that I had a chance, there was no guarantee.

"But my crowning glory as the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1990 gave me an assurance that I would play for Sri Lanka. In the past, all those players who had won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title before me had gone on to play for Sri Lanka with distinction. Hence, when I won the title, I too knew that I could join that select band, provided I work hard.

"I was always considered to be a prospect to play for Sri Lanka, and a source of encouragement that gave me tremendous inspiration was winning the schoolboy cricketer title. Hence, I worked harder, dedicated myself to achieve that goal. I finally made it to the Sri Lanka team shortly after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title".

ICC Elite Panel Umpire and former Sri Lanka cricketer KUMARA DHARMASENA, the winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1989:

"The Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title I won in 1989 inspired him to excel in the international arena. It was one of the greatest moments in my cricket career. It was a big inspiration for me to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title. It helped and encouraged me to work hard to win my Sri Lanka cap.

"The Mega Show title gives a huge image and great confidence for a schoolboy cricketer to go places. That would definitely make young schoolboy cricketers more determined to reach the top of the ladder.

"Compared to our era, I feel that outstanding cricketers with exceptional performances and milestones are hard to find nowadays. That could be the reason that had prevented schoolboy cricketers marching directly to the Sri Lanka team in recent times, unlike our playing days".

Former Sri Lanka cricketer and world record holder for most number of Test wickets MUTTIAH MURALIDARAN who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1991:

"Our school cricketers are the future Sri Lanka players. You must keep the Sri Lanka flag flying wherever you go. Play hard and dedicate yourself, then success is bound to come. As young cricketers, you must keep in mind that only 11 could play in a team. When you get that rare chance of playing, you must put your heart and soul and give hundred percent to the team, so that success will come your way.

"We must pay a tribute to the Sunday Observer for its role in rewarding the outstanding schoolboy cricketers since 1979. Don't be disappointed if you fail once or twice in the early stages of your career. Keep absolutely cool even when the going is not the way you want. I learnt this from my captain Arjuna Ranatunga who sported a cool head even when the going was not good. He used to take the pressure off the players when the going is not to his liking".

Former Sri Lanka cricketer and ex-Sri Lanka batting coach THILAN SAMARAWEERA, winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice in 1994 and 1995:

"It was unique to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title twice. It is not easy. I'm also happy about my Test average. Among the Sri Lankan batsmen I am third behind two of our greatest batsmen.

"I must pay a glowing tribute to former captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who had won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer twice in 1980 and 1982 before us. He used to be such a great example in my first years at SSC. I mean, here was this guy who was a huge personality in international cricket. Even for a club game, he gets there early. He plays the game with an intensity you wouldn't believe. In the SSC team, only two players avoided getting an earful from him as captain at that time – me and Marvan Atapattu".

Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel continues to provide that 'smart connection' to the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest for the 14th successive year.

Thanks to the longstanding association of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA), the Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), headed by Shammi Silva, the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength.

Ranjan Madugalle

Arjuna Ranatunga

Roshan Mahanama

Asanka Gurusinha

Sanath Jayasuriya

Kumara Dharmasena

Marvan Atapattu

Muttiah Muralidaran

Thilan Samaraweera

**WHILE PLAYING THE GAME WITHIN THE LAWS OF THE GAME, THE PLAYERS MUST RESPECT THEIR OPPONENTS. ALL ARE HUMAN BEINGS AND WE MUST LEARN TO TAKE VICTORY AND DEFEAT IN THE SAME SPIRIT. IN CRICKET WHAT I HAVE LEARNT ALL THESE YEARS IS TO TREAT THE OPPOSITE SIDE PLAYERS NOT AS OPPONENTS, BUT AS FRIENDS. THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT ONE HAS GOT TO LEARN FROM THE GAME. TEAM STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP WILL ULTIMATELY BRING SUCCESS AND REJOICING AND A DISCIPLINED MIND AND BODY**

# BUSINESS

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## BIZ SNIPPETS

### Vidullanka commissions second solar power plant

Vidullanka Group commissioned its second roof-top solar project recently with Trendy Connections (Pvt) Limited, the company said in a disclosure to the market.

This project was undertaken by Vidul Engineering Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Vidullanka PLC. The plant has an installed capacity of 240kWp and has utilized the roof area of the Trendy Connections (Pvt) Limited's factory premises located in Nugegoda. The project is developed with an investment of Rs. 27mn and is expected to contribute 0.33GWh of energy to the local gridannually.

The PV modules used were manufactured by JA Solar Holdings, while the inverters are sourced from Huawei Technology. This solar power project is aimed to save 225 metric tonnes of carbon through clean energy power generation annually.

### Tax wealth to shrink inequality - *IMF*

Governments should consider raising taxes on the wealthy to help cushion the cost of combating the Covid-19 pandemic, the International Monetary Fund said.

It suggested a temporary increase in taxes on wealth or high incomes could help tackle inequalities that have widened due to the crisis.

In its fiscal report, it said the move would help the worst affected by the pandemic feel a sense of cohesion. But the organisation urged governments to "carefully assess trade-offs". The International Monetary Fund (IMF) pointed to the reform of current policies on inheritance taxes or property, for example, before turning to wealth taxes. "To help meet pandemic-related financing needs, policymakers could consider a temporary Covid-19 recovery contribution, levied on high incomes or wealth," the report said. - BBC

### WB warns against 'high' global tax minimum

The head of the World Bank (WB) has warned world leaders against setting a global minimum tax rate for companies that is too high. David Malpass said he did not want to see new rules that would hinder poor countries' ability to attract investment.

The 21% global minimum rate called for by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen "strikes me as...high", he added.

Officials said on Wednesday they hope to reach a global tax deal by mid-year.

Ms Yellen has said a global minimum tax on companies is necessary to stop a "30-year race to the bottom", which has seen countries slash rates on companies, in an effort to woo business investments.- BBC

# GOOD NEWS ON CONTINGENCY FUNDING IN THE OFFING - *CB*

—By—
**Lalin Fernandopulle**

Sri Lanka will have positive news on contingency funding soon as discussions on swap arrangements with regional partners are in progress, said Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman. He was addressing the media on the monetary policy stance of the bank last week.

"Negotiations on contingency funding is in progress with certain regional countries and the latest is with partners in the Middle East," the Governor said.

The Central Bank and the Government continue to engage with investment and lending partners to secure foreign financing and remain committed to honouring foreign currency debt service obligations on time.

Recently, the Central Bank entered into a bilateral currency swap arrangement with the People's Bank of China (PBOC) amounting to CNY 10 billion (equivalent to approximately US dollars 1.5 billion).

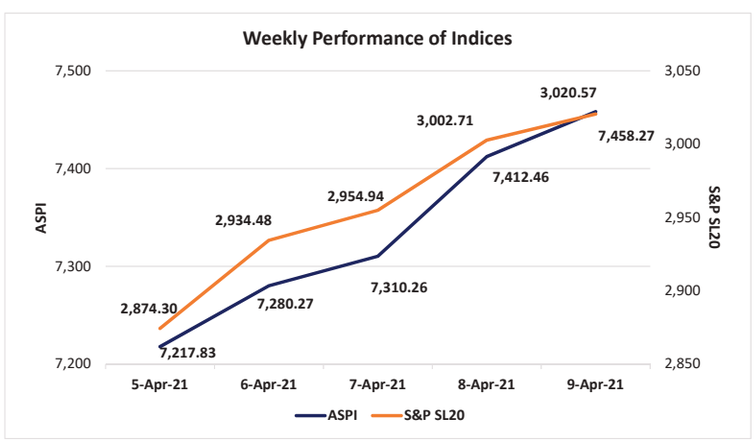
Contingency funding has also been sought with Bangladesh following the recent visit by Prime

Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to Dhaka. When asked about a funding program with the IMF, the Governor said an emphatic no and reiterated the policy of the government to focus on non debt creating foreign inflows.

"Sri Lanka has not discussed a funding program with the IMF except for certain technical assistance," the Governor said.

However, economists warned that given the fast shrinking foreign reserves the country will have to seek funding assistance from the international donor soon. The gross official reserves were estimated at US dollars 4.1 billion (excluding the swap facility with the PBOC), with an import cover of 3 months,... TO PAGE 28

With a few more days for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, shopping is now in full swing. Here crowds throng a 'Shopping Festival' in Colombo. Pic: Sudath Malaweera




Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Apr 5 - Apr 9 | US Dollar $ | Euro € | Japanese yen ¥ | Pound sterling £ | Chinese Yuan ¥ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monday | 201.95 | 238.38 | 1. 8324 | 280. 08 | 30.963 |
| Tuesday | 202.70 | 239.99 | 1.8424 | 282. 10 | 31.110 |
| Wednesday | 202.88 | 241.41 | 1.8554 | 281. 14 | 31.231 |
| Thursday | 203.50 | 242.17 | 1.8608 | 280.52 | 31.285 |
| Friday | 203.50 | 243. 11 | 1. 8718 | 280.73 | 31.222 |

## Tourist guide lecturers seek soft loans

BY RAJITHA JAGODA ARACHCHI

The Ministry of Tourism and Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) have been blind to the grievances of national tourist guide lecturers despite several appeals to intervene, the Secretary of Sri Lanka Institute of National Tourist Guide Lecturers (SLINTGL), Sumedha Chandradasa told the Sunday Observer Business last week. Since the beginning of global pandemic in March last year, the country received... TO PAGE 28

With right focus and resources

## Lanka's IT export revenue could hit USD 10 billion - *Softlogic chief*

Sri Lanka's IT industry export revenue could go up to even USD 10 billion per annum if the right focus and thinking are in place, Softlogic Holdings PLC Chairman Ashok Pathirage said.

He was addressing the media on the partnership forged between Softlogic Information Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of Softlogic Holdings PLC and one of the world's leading ICT solutions providers, Huawei in Colombo last week.

"We certainly could reach a higher target than USD 3 billion in IT exports revenue if the country has the human ... TO PAGE 28

Ashok Pathirage

# PUCSL to get nod for water

Receives approval for petroleum

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), the electricity sector regulator is at last seeing the light of the day to regulate the petroleum and water sectors of which the Commission has been a designated regulator, said a top official of the Commission.

"The Commission has received approval to regulate petroleum and now we are awaiting the green light for water," the official said on the sidelines of a ceremony to launch the program for interest payments for security deposits of electricity consumers under the Sri Lanka Electricity Act. "Entrusting the regulatory role for water and petroleum on the PUCSL is good news to consumers of public utilities whose rights will be ensured by the Commission," PUCSL Chairman JanakaRatnayake said. The PUCSL has been awaiting the mandate to regulate the petroleum and water sectors for a long time as approvals had been on the back burner of subsequent governments. TO PAGE 28

## Advocata launches tool to track daily food price changes

Advocata's latest policy product tracks the average retail prices of a basket of goods and provides an indication of how much prices have changed over time. With the use of such tools, anyone including policymakers and politicians alike could track price fluctuations.

This enables anyone to see if policies that have direct or indirect effects on food have a direct impact on the food consumed by households. The indicator launch was held at the BMICH on Wednesday.

The newly launched Bath Curry

Indicator tries to provide such a policy direction while highlighting the importance of the affordability of food. Around 35% of household expenditure is on food and drink. Therefore, the Indicator is a tool to see how policies coming into effect directly or indirectly impact food prices.

A research executive at the Advocata Institute, Naqiya Shiraz outlined the rationale behind the Bath Curry Indicator by commenting that the BCI "represents any average Sri Lanka household. The items are Samba rice, beans, pumpkin, tomatoes, brinjals, coconut, green chillies and fish. Therefore it is important to understand the decisions... TO PAGE 28

# Gains in poverty reduction reversed - *IMF*

A recent IMF report states that gains in poverty reduction have been reversed. It says people counted as extremely poor are likely to have increased by 95 million last year, with a rise of 80 million in the number who are undernourished.

The Fund notes the divergences are occurring not just between but also within countries. Income inequality is likely to increase as young people and those with relatively low levels of skills have been harder hit in both developed and developing countries.

Women have already been affected as they account for a large share of employment in some sectors, such as tourism, where there is a lot of personal contact.

The pandemic has also had an impact on workers whose jobs are vulnerable to automation. That is a process that has been accelerated as a result of the health crisis.

The IMF has upgraded both its UK and global forecasts compared with what it projected in January.

But the British economy is still predicted to return to its pre-pandemic level of activity only in late 2022.

The agency also warns that recoveries are diverging dangerously within

and between countries. The new UK forecast is for growth of 5.3% this year and 5.1% in 2022. Both figures are upgrades, though the latter is only marginally higher than the January forecast. The recovery follows last year's pandemic driven contraction of 9.9% which was the deepest of any of the G7 major developed economies. Bringing in the two predicted recovery years, the UK's performance over 2020 to 2022 would be ahead of one of the G7 countries, Italy. The new global forecasts are growth of 6% and 4.4% this year and next. Both are upgrades, a fairly modest one for 2022.

That mainly reflects up-rating to the forecast for developed economies, especially the United States. In a blog on the forecasts, the IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath says a way out of the health and economic crisis is increasingly visible. Vaccinations, she writes, are likely to power recoveries in many countries in 2021. But she is also concerned about how those... TO PAGE 28

Business

# Challenge your boss for business progress

**BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes**

Workplaces are no more places where you can have your own way. With so much diversity within organisations and with conflicting individual values and egos, there are times when dealing with your colleagues at work can evoke a mixture of complex emotions inside of you.

While challenging your equals is relatively easy for you, it's another thing entirely to challenge those who are above you. But there are times when you have to challenge your boss. Unless you have the courage to challenge, you will be a Yes Man who will never progress in career life.

Challenging your boss at work is something that might cause weaker employees to crumble at their knees. The very idea of arguing or disagreeing with higher management might very well be the thing that could cause you to lose your job.

However, people shouldn't be afraid of standing up to their superiors at work, especially if the argument revolves around an important issue directly related to business matters.

Despite what kind of professional relationship you might have with your superior, there's nothing for you to fear about engaging in some sort of debate with your boss if you are thinking about the wellbeing of the company you are working for. You need to challenge your boss in a constructive manner and end up being respected for your actions at the end of it.

It is tricky when you have a beef with your boss. How do you disagree with a person who most likely hired you — and has the power to potentially fire you? Say something, and you run the risk of being seen as difficult or even adversarial. Stay silent, and you could seem ambivalent or complacent.

But your boss wants you to be successful. Your company hired you because they think you are an asset, so bring your experience and point of view to the table — but do it strategically.

**Time it right**

Bringing something up at an inopportune time can spell doom for whatever issue you are trying to address.

Choose the right moment — likely a private chat — to discuss things.

Key in any negotiation is understanding what the other side values. The best way to get them to listen is to be able to reflect back to them that you understand what's important to them and to the organisation.

This might take some detective work on your part.

It may be that you have to ask some good questions, because you may not understand what's behind the decision or action that you're disagreeing with. So before you state an opposing view, "You have to understand what it is you are disagreeing with at the root & how it kills value. You can use this information to frame your suggestion as something that's different from theirs—but that still serves your boss's ultimate purpose or priority.

**Make it their idea**

If you present information in the right way, you might change your boss's mind about things — and let her come to her own conclusion.

This approach will usually take more than one discussion, so don't give up. Plan on having a few conversations over time to make this happen.

**Help them look good**

When managers and bosses are dealing with their team, they get a lot of the brunt of what's not working and the complaints. Remember that your boss is trying to look good, just like everyone else, and if you can help her do that, you have got a greater chance of success.

***Bringing something up at an inopportune time can spell doom for whatever issue you are trying to address. Choose the right moment — likely a private chat — to discuss things***

You may not agree with them, and you may have some constructive feedback, but if they feel like you are trying to help them shine, they will be more open to your ideas.

Don't wait until the last minute

Sometimes people will bring up a dissenting point of view after the fact, when no one can do anything about it, and that's just not productive. No matter what, make your thoughts known while there's still a potential opportunity to take action.

**Be prepared to lose**

There is never any guarantee whether you will emerge as the victor of an argument with your boss, and if the end result paints you as the loser, then you need to be gracious about the outcome and move on.

Even though you put up a good fight and managed to remain poised under pressure, you should still respect the decision of the aftermath and walk away from it knowing that you have said what you needed to say to your supervisor.When your boss sees that you are gracious in accepting the loss and emerges from the conflict with no hard feelings, then it helps them see that you are someone who understands the value of professionalism.

Your gracious demeanor will allow them to raise their level of respect towards you, not to mention strengthening the level of trust, which just goes to show that you can survive a fight with your boss and live to tell it. There's always a chance that you will speak your mind and nothing will change. And you have to mentally prepare for that possibility.

Your point may be taken, but it may not be taken well, in that it's not going to change anything. It doesn't mean losing your job, it just means you may have to comply with something that your boss feels is the best approach.

**Know what is at stake**

Another thing that you need to take into serious consideration when picking a fight with your boss at work is that you should know exactly the reason why you are disagreeing with your immediate superior, and the possible consequences that could come out of that argument if your challenge was proved to be unsubstantiated and not objectively driven but personal.

This is of the absolute importance because you need to see the bigger picture in any debate so that you will know exactly where you will stand once the issue is laid to rest.

# Everyone knows HR

Though there is no standard size, a two-three page CV helps the hiring manager(s) better understand the candidate's experience for the position being hired.

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

# Hilton launches development program for women

Hilton inked a partnership with the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) to launch Hilton Liya Diriya – a female development program in Sri Lanka recently Translating to 'female courage,' Hilton Liya Diriya aims to provide training opportunities for local female students keen to build a career in hospitality. Selected participants will undergo two training phases to pick up practical knowledge, skills and experiences, involving a one-month period dedicated to theoretical training with SLITHM and a six-month industrial traineeship at one of Hilton's properties in Sri Lanka.

The program is in line with Hilton's Travel with Purpose 2030 goal of doubling its social impact investment, and underscores its continued commitment to ensuring inclusive growth, sustainable solutions and economic opportunities for all, even during these unprecedented times. On top of the training, participants will receive support from Hilton throughout the duration of the program, in the form of accommodation, allowance and mentoring. Upon graduation, they will also be awarded certifications, as well as employment opportunities at a Hilton property in Sri Lanka or abroad.

Chairperson of Sri Lanka Tourism, Kimarli Fernando said, "We aspire to achieve a higher level of female participation in Sri Lanka's hospitality industry, especially in the skilled and value creation areas which would provide more opportunities for them to further their careers in the longer term. Currently women make up less than 10 percent of the hospitality workforce locally, compared to the 54 percent globally. This is a strategic change Sri Lanka Tourism is striving for."

# NDB Wealth celebrates *Avurudu*

This year NDB Wealth Management celebrates Avurudu by encouraging a wealth of seasonal joy for its customers.

"This is the time of the year where you thoughtfully reflect upon the bygones and make definite decisions for your future. Taking that a step in the right direction, everyone aspires to be able to make the Avurudu season a memorable one for their family and themselves," said Vice President of NDB Wealth, Ms. Vindhya Jayasekera.

"Being able to indulge in all the festive celebrations, the gift buying, the caring and sharing with a newfound peace of mind is a dream come true for all of us. Financial security and prosperity have become a very integral part of life's journey. It's imperative to be prepared to face the changes and challenges of the future," she said.

NDB Wealth offers wealth plans that will help you prepare for your future by allowing you to benefit and maximise on your returns. The Money Plus Fund is an ideal wealth plan for new beginnings. Currently, the Money Plus Fund yields 5.50% per annum (as at March 25, 2021). Current yield is variable and subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Exploratory Memorandum before investing. Among others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved.

# Program to help youth set up SMEs

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) and Youth SME business Trust Guarantee Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding recently to set up SMEs for young people.

Minister of Youth and Sports, Namal Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Anuradha Wijekoon, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Saman Waduge, Director, Small Enterprises Development, Sudheera Jayarathna and Founder, Youth SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited, Rehan Jayatilaka were present.

The purpose of the MoU is to Inform, Inspire, Influence and raise 4,000 youth business owners by 2025.

The target segment is between 15-24. The initiative will be a country wide program carried out in Sinhala, Tamil and English. It will highlight the benefits of SMEs versus employment and develop youth who can create jobs. The know-how on how to start, develop and grow SMEs will be instilled together with financial investment, business development and training.

These will be delivered by Youth SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited and will work in tandem with the Small Enterprises Development Division.

# People's Insurance launches solar panel insurance

People's Insurance PLC, has launched an insurance cover for solar panels mounted in homes, offices and solar parks across the country.

Manager, Fire and Miscellaneous, Uvindu Pathirana said, "Many Sri Lankans are looking towards producing and using energy in a sustainable manner. While solar panels are the ideal choice for this, people often hesitate because of the high cost and risks such as damage associated with solar panel usage. This is where we have stepped in to ensure that a customer's investment in solar energy will be protected from perils via a cover developed specifically for this."

The basic cover provides protection against fire, lightning, storms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and accidental damage, inclusive of electrical extra covers.

The insurer has also pledged more additional covers at no extra charge. These include the labour costs of debris removal if panels are damaged by an insured peril, the cost of removing and repositioning the solar panel system if the building or structure is damaged and the cost of transporting damaged panels to the service agent's workshop.

Customers who wish to have their losses covered in case of an untimely theft of panels involving forced entry, riots, terrorist activities or electrical extras without visible burn marks can do so by paying a minimal premium.

**Royce Delpechitra receives solar panel policy from Director, People's Insurance and CEO and GM People's Bank, Ranjith Kodithuwakku. From left: Royce Delpechithra, Director People's Insurance and CEO and GM People's Leasing, Shamindra Marcellin, Director, People's Insurance and CEO and GM People's Bank, Ranjith Kodithuwakku, CEO, People's Insurance, Deepal Abeysekera and Head of Operations, Mrs. Jeewani Kariyawasam.**

# Showcasing a collection of management cases

A pioneering effort by a premier entity

The Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), the nation's management mentor, is delighted to present its pioneering collection of cases based on the projects undertaken by students local and overseas, as "PIM Cases in Management". It was a collective authorship by my faculty colleagues Dr. A.K.L. Jayawardena, Dr. Samantha Rathnayake, Dr. Ravi Bamunusinghe and myself. Let us discuss the details.

**Overview**

Case based learning in management is an effective way of imparting knowledge, skills, and attitude, particularly in postgraduate courses. A case in fact is a story with issues to explore in finding solutions and insights to excel in applying the key lessons. It is a symbol, metaphor, or a parable in one way or another, revolving around people interacting in institutions. In other words, it is a simulation of real life through depiction of planning, organising, leading, and controlling, which are the four key pillars of management. Well-crafted cases enrich us in multiple ways in enhancing our competence and confidence in contributing towards organisational success.

These carefully selected cases were primarily prepared by our committed "learning partners" as their final projects, supervised by the PIM faculty, under the guidance of the PIM's research centre. The cases were further refined and reinforced with additional material with a view to providing a rich platform towards reflective reading, ease of comprehension, rigorous investigation, resound analysis and resourceful application. It is worthwhile stating the essence of each case in identifying the priority management theme in focus.

**Creating shared value**

The collection of cases begins with a shared value creation initiative now known as "The English Tea Shop", with an interesting term "Prajava" derived from the Sinhala language highlighting the community involved. This case revolves around making organic tea for a niche market in an innovative manner. It reveals an entrepreneurial initiative by Mr. Suranga Herath, and the power of "Prajava" in creating shared value, initiated by a transformational leader in action. It is an invitation to discover the significance of demonstrating sustainability, implementing shared value creation and transformational leadership.

The input for this case study was from a final year MBA Management Case Study Project submitted to the PIM by a telecommunication engineer at Mobitel, Lalitha Udayanga.

Exploring elegance in elephant dung

The second case on Maximus invites us to have a deep understanding of social entrepreneurship, and also to identify the ways of implementing solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues with the discovery of entrepreneurial characteristics.

This case revolves around an entrepreneurial firm creating handmade paper and other value-added products out of elephant dung. Maximus with its humble beginnings has come a long way in becoming a dominant player in eco-friendly manufacturing of 100 % recycled products. The case invites us to have a deep understanding of social entrepreneurship, and also to identify the ways of implementing solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues with the discovery of entrepreneurial characteristics.

The learning partners involved in providing the inputs for this case were , Senior Quality Assurance Lead, Ms. J. B. Amandakoon and Manager, HR Strategies and Policy Section of Cambio Software Engineering, Ms. S. Y. Wijesiri.

**Mega heights of multi-constructions**

The third case on Multi-Constructions revolves around visionary leadership, organisational culture, and human resource development (HRD) climate in reaching mega heights.

This case reveals the solid success of a leading construction firm with its vibrant leadership in being visionary towards building a sustained competitive advantage. Harping on its strengths and capitalising on its rich human resources, creation of a conducive climate for performance with needed cultural elements are key features. As such, the case revolves around visionary leadership, organisational culture, and human resource development (HRD) climate.

It was the MBA final project inputs of Operations Manager, Refreshments Category, Unilever Sri Lanka, I.L. Ariyarathna and Head of Procurement, Phoenix Industries, A.M. Sampath used for developing the above case.

**Enterprise technology sphere**

The fourth case is about showcasing excellence in the enterprise technology sphere, which focuses our attention to explore innovation in the context of a supportive organisation culture with visionary leadership.

This case revolves around the global reach and relevance of a local software developer in the broad area of enterprise platforms. It highlights the power of a persuasive leader in creating a world class organisation providing a variety of web-based solutions. The case hinges on the significance of a superior support service model as well as an open-source business model. It invites us to explore innovation in the context of a supportive organisation culture with visionary leadership.

The learning partner whose inputs were involved was Head of Product Innovation IT Group of John Keells Computer Services, K. Chandrasekera.

**Stormy seas**

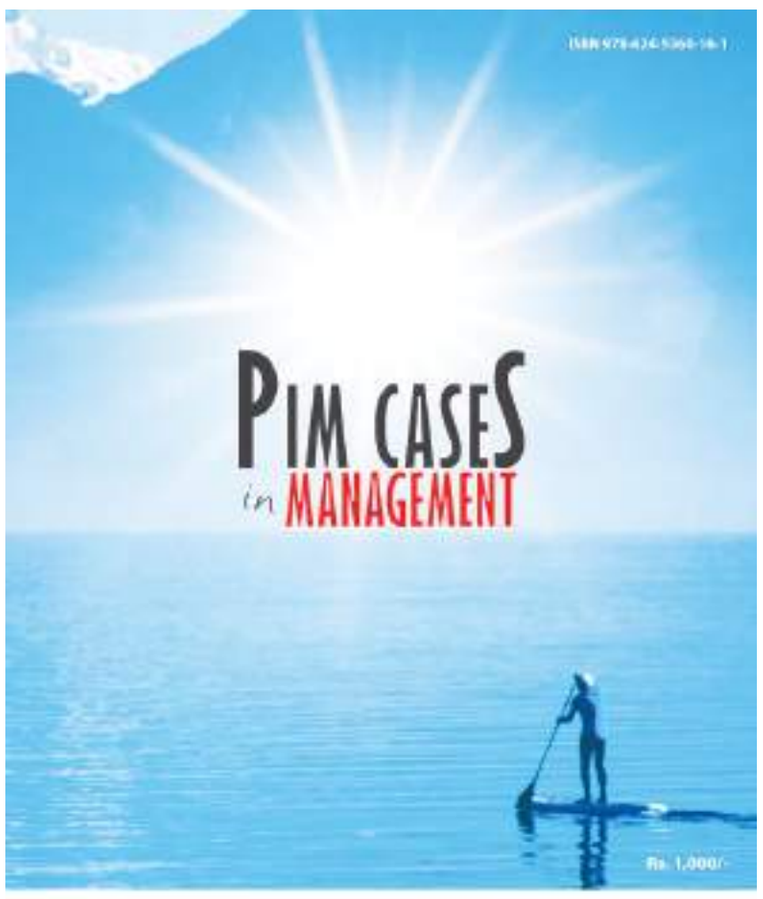
The fifth case is a success story of a family business involving two generations, and reveals us four learning phases, namely, learning business, learning our family business, learning to lead our business, and learning to let go of our business.

This case showcases the success story of a family business involving two generations. It highlights how successful family business leaders understand the progression through two stages, apprenticeship, and stewardship. Optimising the likelihood of business survival requires family businesses to lay forth a workable plan in securing next generation involvement.

The inputs from Manager, Technical Operations and Scrum Master at Savantis Solutions Lanka, Poorna Senaratna and Lecturer at the Department of Management and Finance, Faculty of Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, at the Kotelawala Defence University, Ms. W.D.H. De Mel, were used to develop this case.

**Banking and Finance**

The sixth case included in this volume depicts a dedicated institution for the banking and finance studies as a pioneering move in Oman, inviting us to have a deep understanding of the strategic management process, inclusive of an inspiring vision and an implementable action plan.




This case involves the establishment of a dedicated institution for banking and finance studies as a pioneering move in Oman. It highlights the power of a vision becoming a reality. How valuable is the right way of crafting and executing strategies is also emphasised through a success story of dynamic growth. The case invites the reader to have a deep understanding of the strategic management process, inclusive of an inspiring vision and implementation plan.

The learning partners providing inputs for the development of the above case were lecturers at the Department of Professional Studies and Undergraduate Studies of the College of Banking and Financial Studies, Muscat, Oman, Mohamed Farzan and H. C. Feroskhan. They in fact represent the richness of the six overseas study groups of PIM in the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Bangladesh.

**Baking local delights**

The seventh case is about the Colombo Bakery in the UAE, showcasing the solid presence of seven Ps of marketing, viz. product, price, promotion, place, packaging, positioning, and people.

This case revolves around a successful Sri Lankan entrepreneur baking delightful food items in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Colombo Bakery with its humble beginnings has now reached mighty heights with vibrancy of a variety of quality foods at an affordable price with a true Sri Lankan flavour. It highlights the spirit of entrepreneurship whilst showcasing the solid presence of seven Ps of marketing, viz. product, price, promotion, place, packaging, positioning, and people.

Again, it is a delightful input from two overseas learning partners of PIM, Senior Auditor, Meralis Chartered Accountants, Dubai, Ms. K.A. N. S. Kuruppu and Associate Director, Head of Trade Services, Al Hilal bank, Abu Dhabi, R.N. Z. Jayman.

**Serving millions**

The eighth case involves a multinational giant with a long presence in Sri Lanka providing fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), highlighting the efforts of social marketing.

This case revolves around a multinational giant with a long presence in Sri Lanka providing fast moving consumer goods (FMCG). Its continuous growth amidst local competition is a success story of a pioneer with a social marketing focus. Social marketing aims to influence behaviour that benefits individuals and communities for the greater social good. This case illustrates its promising potential, proven over eight decades of serving millions. The MBA final project inputs of Executive Assistant to HR Director and National Finance Director and Engagement Pillar Lead of Unilever Sri Lanka, Ms. A. S. Jayatunge has been used for this case.

**Eggs**

The ninth case is about a phenomenal progress of an entrepreneurial venture specialising in egg-related food products, namely Raju Omelet, depicting the significance of the need for achievement, risk taking, locus of control, self-efficacy, innovation, proactiveness, and autonomy.

The phenomenal progress of an entrepreneurial venture specialising in egg-related food products is the simplest way how Raju Omelet could be described. It showcases the entrepreneurial orientation of Rajiv Meherish. The need for achievement, risk taking, locus of control, self-efficacy, innovation, proactiveness and autonomy which are essential for business growth, especially when operating in a highly competitive hospitality industry, are vividly demonstrated in the road less travelled taken by Raju Omelet in demonstrating business "egg"cellence.

Cluster Credit Manager, The Meydan Hotels, Dubai, Ms. R. S. D. Perera, and Senior Technology Auditor, Group Internal Audit, DP World, Dubai, Ms. M. S. Sudurikku, provided the needed inputs through their MBA final year project.

**Flying high**

The final case in this collection is all about flying high with people at the Airport and Aviation Services, illustrating the vital presence of the seven Gs of human resource management, namely Goal (strategic significance), Get (attracting right talent), Give (rewarding for results), Grow (nurturing talent), Glue (engaging employees), Glow (driving performance) and Guard (controls for conformance). This case contains the coveted contribution by a set of committed people in the context of airport and aviation. It highlights the strategic significance of linking the people factor to organisational progress.

The learning partner involved in providing inputs was Deputy Head of Finance and Senior Advisor to the Commercial and Properties Division of the Airport and Aviation Services, J. A. M. D. S. S. Abeywardena.

**Way forward**

Whilst thanking all those who have contributed towards this coveted publication, it is my heart-felt wish to reiterate the PIM's commitment towards creating and communicating applicable knowledge as the premier postgraduate management entity of Sri Lanka.

We look forward to seeing the versatility and vibrance of the value addition by the PIM cases to all postgraduate management education providers local, regional, and global alike. In believing in excellence as essence, the PIM calls on you to read, reflect and relate so that the resulting actions would lead to higher results in a wider arena.

## CSE approves first Empower Board listing

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has approved an application by Chrissworld Limited, for the listing of its Ordinary Voting Shares for subscription on the Empower Board of the CSE.

The company will offer for subscription 7,500,000 Ordinary Voting Shares at Rs. 7.50 per share to raise Rs. 56,250,000. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) is due to be opened on April 27.

## DFCC Bank offers cardholders savings and discounts this *Avurudu* season

DFCC Bank has made a commitment to offer credit cardholders up to 60% in savings across 300 islandwide partner outlets.

From shopping to electronics and e-commerce online platforms, the bank for everyone has left no stone unturned, allowing for customers to rejoice in shopping sprees with their loved ones this festive season.

CEO, DFCC Bank, Lakshman Silva said, "Year after year, we have made the Avurudu season happier for our cardholders by offering amazing incentives and discount deals through our partner merchants. As last year's celebrations were subdued due to the lockdowns, we are hopeful that this year, our customers will again be able to celebrate the Avurudu season with their loved ones. We encourage customers to make maximum use of our card offers this year, so that they can make their dream purchases come true."

Every transaction will entitle the cardholder to 1% CashBack credited to a DFCC Bank account throughout the year. This allows for customers to save while they spend on treats for themselves and family members as they ring in the new year. As many customers prefer to shop for appliances and high value items during this period of the year, DFCC Bank has also enabled a Buy Now Pay Later incentive to cardholders. Featuring payment plans of upto 12 months with 0% interest during the month of April, cardholders are encouraged to make use of this offer.

## CSE forums on good corporate governance concludes

The two-part series of online forums themed 'Beyond Basics: Excellence in Corporate Governance' hosted by the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) concluded recently, offering representatives of listed companies an in-depth understanding on the importance of good corporate governance practices and how it would increase investor confidence through transparency and accountability.

Over a 100 people including board members and senior management representatives of over 50 listed companies were present. Good governance is an essential cornerstone of a listed company. It encompasses the processes, practices and policies that a company relies on to make formal decisions and to manage the company. The concept has earned its place as an essential growth tool for organisations and will continue to extend in prominence with time.

The first session on March 3 focused on a comprehensive discussion on the salient governance aspects set out in the CSE listing rules (corporate disclosures and related party transactions), responsibilities of directors, board sub-committees and their working (audit, remuneration and nominations committees).

The second session, on March 18 further directed the conversation towards sharing corporate best practices on implementing internal standards of compliance and business conduct, managing conflict of interest, managing stakeholder relations and safeguards, the importance of maintaining a whistleblowing procedure and its implementation, and ESG performance reporting.

**The panel discussion in progress.**

The topics ensured that globally accepted and implemented practices were discussed and listed companies were encouraged to look at these practices progressively to embrace governance as an enabler of growth and better business outcomes. The sessions were followed by a panel discussion which offered an opportunity for participants to engage in a discussion regarding practical implications distinctive to Sri Lankan corporate environment.

The CSE strives to engage listed entities through sessions such as these to provide a deeper understanding of the elements that combine to create effective corporate governance in a listed environment and provide leadership on issues related to Governance and Sustainability.

CSE has set governance standards among other broader continuous listing requirements, to set a robust foundation to ensure that companies commit towards operating with streamlined, transparent procedures and good governance, as better corporate citizens.

"The interest in the event, among the leadership of listed companies indicates that governance is increasingly a key priority for corporates at a time where investors and stakeholders place greater emphasis on organisational governance of listed companies," a CSE spokesman said.

Business

# Ceylinco General Insurance - 'People's General Insurance Brand'

## Fifteenth year in a row

Ceylinco General Insurance expresses its heartfelt thanks to the people for being crowned the 'People's General Insurance Brand of The Year' at the 2021 SLIM Nielson People's Awards, for the 15th consecutive year.

This award reflects public perception about brands and as 'People's General Insurance Brand of The Year', Ceylinco General Insurance is closely intertwined with people's lives as a trustworthy and reliable brand that keeps its promises, a company spokesman said.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Patrick Alwis said, "We are truly humbled to receive this award for the 15th consecutive year and are deeply grateful to people who vote for us year after year.

Our unique insurance solutions, customer-centric culture and our unconditional support to people in times of crisis are the key pillars of our success, coupled with our skilled and professional team. This award really inspires our stakeholders both internal and external, amidst what has been a difficult year for all."

The selection process for these awards consists of a nation-wide survey covering all nine provinces with over 5,500 respondents interviewed one-to-one, making it representative, unbiased and relevant. Therefore, the winners of the People's Awards reflect the true voice of Sri Lankans from across communities, regions and social strata. The People's Award is the most coveted award for corporates because it reflects the voice of the people and indicates the brand they love and respect.

**Director of Ceylinco General Insurance, Ajith Perera and Deputy General Manager, Marketing, Senaka Rajapakse receive the award.**

During 2020, Ceylinco General Insurance recorded a premium income of Rs. 20.1 billion and paid claims to the tune of Rs. 9.1 billion. The unprecedented amount of money provided in lieu of claim settlements and benefits reflect the company's continuing commitment to ensuring timely claim settlements to all customers, as Ceylinco General Insurance has always maintained an undisputed and unsurpassed reputation for speedy settlement of claims, most of them On The Spot.

In a survey carried out on service providers by LMD magazine among the public for 12 weeks last year, Ceylinco General Insurance had the honour of being chosen as the most popular insurer in terms of 'Service Excellence' in the general insurance industry.

Ceylinco General Insurance, over the last three decades, pioneered many innovations, spearheading the growth of the insurance industry towards a brighter future, while raising the bar and setting new benchmarks for service excellence and product innovation to ultimately benefit the people of Sri Lanka.

# Govt grants relief to marketing communications industry

The MarCom Collective, an association that came together with the onset of Covid-19 to propose relief measures for Sri Lanka's marketing communications industry – welcomed the government's move to introduce double tax deduction for advertising and other related expenses. The proposed tax relief has been cleared by the Cabinet, gazetted and is to be presented to the Parliament for approval.

The MarCom Collective had put forward several recommendations for the Government's consideration, with double tax deduction being one of the key proposals amongst them.

The Collective will continue to engage with the Government and all other stakeholders to seek relief for the Marketing Communications industry which provides direct employment to over 100,000 Sri Lankans. President of the International Advertising Association, Sri Lanka Chapter, Tharaka Ranwala said, "After engaging all stakeholders for over a year, we are extremely pleased that the government has been receptive to our proposals.

The relief granted by the government must be responsibly used by companies for the benefit of brands and any form of misuse could only jeopardise ongoing efforts by the MarCom Collective to develop the industry with the assistance of the government."

Ernst & Young Sri Lanka, the independent consultancy that was retained by the MarCom Collective to study the sector and prepare a report on a three-point agenda to mitigate, revive and sustain the industry.

# vivo launches festive season campaign

This festive season vivo brings wide options in smartphones to choose from, from the Y20 Series, Y51 and V20 Series and stand a chance to win gift boxes.

CEO of vivo Sri Lanka, Kevin Jiang said, "vivo believes in enriching customers' lives with newer and innovative smartphones to add value and provide support to their day to day lives.

We are excited to offer our customers an opportunity to celebrate with vivo and get a chance to mark new beginnings by embracing vivo's innovative smartphones from the Y Series and V Series on the occasion of new year celebrations. vivo is working tirelessly towards setting new benchmarks in the technological development process and will continue to open limitless possibilities for our users in Sri Lanka."

## PUCSL to get... Continued from page 25

On deposit interest payment, Ratnayake said Lanka Electricity (Pvt) Ltd, a distribution licensee will start paying interest to its customers from April 7. LECO alone will pay Rs. 42 million annually to customers as a benefit through the interest payment benefit on customer deposits.

The Commission recently decided that the interest rate for this year would be 8.68 per cent. Licensed companies that provide electricity services have to calculate the interest benefit based on that interest and pay it to their customers.

"We hope that in the future other licensees will implement this interest payment program. When other electricity distribution licensees also implement this interest benefit scheme in the future, around Rs. 1,200 million will flow into the hands of electricity consumers annually," Ratnayake said, adding that the implementation of the decision to pay interest benefits was delayed due to various issues such as determining the interest to be paid and resolving issues.

PUCSL issued guidelines in early 2017 to the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and the Lanka Electricity Company private limited (LECO) to pay an interest on security deposit of electricity consumers which CEB and LECO receive when providing an electricity connection.

Electricity consumers are entitled to receive a payment for the security deposits under the Section 28 of Electricity Act No.20 of 2009.

"The Commission has also been appointed as the regulatory body for the lubricant market in Sri Lanka and we provide advice and assistance to the Ministry of Energy for the promotion of the lubricant market.

"The Commission has been entrusted with the regulation of electric vehicle charging stations. We also have plans to expand the network of electric vehicle charging stations to protect the rights of electric vehicle owners.

"This year, we are also implementing a program to enhance the quality of professionals in the electricity sector and ensure the maintenance of high-security electricity service.

"At present, nearly 45,000 people are working as electricians in the country. Only by standardising the work of these people, can the quality of home electrical systems in our country be guaranteed.

"We have also paved the way for these electricians to be recognised nationally and internationally. The National Electrician Licensing Scheme prepared by the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka will be introduced this year.

"To obtain this license, we have implemented an expeditious process of awarding at least the third level of National Vocational Qualification or NVQ 3 Certificate," the PUCSL chief said.

Under this expeditious program, 2,500 electricians will be issued NVQ 3 qualification and professional licenses by next July. The awarding of the licence and NVQ 3 certificates to the first group of professional electricians is due to take place in June.

Over the next few years, the Commission hopes to implement programs for the advancement of all sectors under the purview of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka. Licensing licensees who provide utility services under our regulation are also required to improve in their respective fields.

The Commission was set up in 2002 to regulate the multi-faceted industries of the country. The regulatory powers of the electricity industry were vested in the Sri Lanka Electricity Act passed by Parliament in 2009. Since then, the Commission has initiated the economic, technological and security regulation of the power industry.

## Gains in poverty... Continued from page 25

...recoveries are diverging. Countries with slower vaccine rollouts, more limited support from economic policy, and those more reliant on tourism are likely to do less well.

The first two of these are particular issues for developing countries. Many have less access to vaccines, and they also tend to find it more difficult to finance economic and health policy actions. Among emerging and developing economies, China has already returned to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity. But many others in the group are not expected to do so until well into 2023.

The report says the cumulative losses in income per person over the period 2020 to 2022 are likely to be 20% for those countries, compared with a less severe but still large figure of 11% for the developed world.

## Advocata launches... Continued from page 25

...that impact the prices of goods. According to Economist Deshal de Mel, "The idea behind the BCI is that in Sri Lanka the cost of living is a concern. The inflation in Sri Lanka has been of single-digit levels for the last two years but it is still a concern for the public. The Bath Curry Indicator is similar to the 'Big Mac Index' by The Economist. It is simplistic and real."

Economic Researcher and Blogger, RehanaThowfeekZain was of a similar opinion when she commented that such indicators can be used to highlight the impact of policies that affect people's food consumption.

According to her, the BCI will "Capture a relatable way to cover the cost of living and also investigate the merit behind politicians when they use the cost of living as a hook in their election manifesto. Fifty-three percent of the Sri Lanka population can't afford a healthy diet, That's a huge number. We are food secure but are we nutrition secure? Children don't develop as they should. Trade policies should focus on the overall objective and cater to the health of Sri Lanka's population." Thereby highlighting the socioeconomic impact of rising food prices on the public. The panelists for the discussion were Deshal de Mel (Economist), RehanaThowfeekZain (Economic Researcher and Blogger) and Naqiya Shiraz (Researcher). The discussion was moderated by Research Manager, Advocata Institute, AneethaWarusavitarana.

## Lanka's IT export... Continued from page 25

...resources for which the partnership between the two renowned entities for IT solutions will enable Sri Lanka to the required workforce for the industry," Pathirage said. Sri Lanka's IT/BPO export revenue has been close to USD 1.2 billion. The partnership encompasses providing Enterprise Solutions, Cloud and AI to bring innovative ICT solutions to the Sri Lankan market.

"If the IT industry can grow by around -40 percent per annum the country could achieve the envisaged economic growth rate of between five to six percent," Pathirage said, adding that the world tide over many hurdles during the height of the pandemic shows the potential of the IT industry.

Huawei Technologies Lanka Co (Pvt) Ltd Enterprise Business Group Vice President Indika De Zoysa said around 10 percent of Huawei's global revenue is invested on research and development globally.

"We cannot quantify the investment component in Sri Lanka but since launching operations over two decades ago have invested on capacity development in education and many other key sectors," Zoysa said.

According to the World Bank, the global economy is worth USD 86.598 trillion, of which the digital economy contributes approximately 15% of the overall GDP and is anticipated to grow to 24.3% by 2025 (UNCTAD).

Softlogic Information Technologies Chief Executive Officer/Director RoshanRassool said in the past 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.

Huawei Sri Lanka CEO, Liang Yi said, "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 from," Liang Yi said.

He said 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.

## Good news on... Continued from page 25

...at end March 2021. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank decided to maintain the Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR) and the Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR) of the Central Bank at their current levels of 4.50 per cent and 5.50 per cent.

The Board arrived at this decision after carefully considering the macroeconomic conditions and expected developments on the domestic and global fronts.

The Board remains committed to maintaining the low interest rate structure, thereby ensuring continued support for a sustained economic recovery, in the context of the prevailing low inflation environment and well anchored inflation expectations.

The global economy is expected to recover faster than expected, supported by policy stimulus measures and the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines As per the World Economic Outlook (WEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 2021, global growth in 2020 was estimated to have recorded a lower than expected contraction of 3.3 percent, reflecting the faster recovery of economic activity during the second half of 2020 underpinned by extraordinary policy support.

Global growth projections were revised upwards to 6.0 percent in 2021 and 4.4 per cent in 2022. The pace of economic recovery varies across regions and countries, reflecting the differences in the speed of vaccine rollout, the degree of economic policy support, and structural features.

The regulator notes that the economy has rebounded from the effects of the pandemic and is poised to record a growth rate between 5.5 to 6 percent this year.

The economy contracted by 3.6 percent in 2020, lower than the Central Bank's initial projections.

Despite the second wave of the pandemic the economy grew by 1.3 per cent in the last quarter of 2020 from a year earlier.

The merchandise trade deficit continued to narrow during January 2021, while preliminary data for February 2021 showed a further reduction in the trade deficit, driven by a larger contraction in expenditure on imports over earnings from exports. Workers' remittances continued to record a healthy growth thus far in 2021 and this momentum is expected to continue in the remainder of the year.

The tourism sector is expected to recover gradually with the opening of the borders with the rollout of vaccinations locally and globally, the bank observed.

Although the Sri Lankan rupee experienced some volatility recently, the continuation of the existing restrictions on non-essential imports and certain foreign exchange outflows, among others, is expected to help cushion pressures in the domestic foreign exchange market.

Nevertheless, some upward pressure on yields on government securities was observed recently, in contrast to monetary policy expectations. Thus, the Central Bank reiterates the necessity to maintain the low interest rate structure, amidst the significantly high excess liquidity in the domestic money market, thereby facilitating the take-off of domestic investment.

Credit to the private sector expanded notably thus far in 2021, reflecting the impact of growth supportive policies Growth of credit extended to the private sector gathered pace in February 2021. This momentum is expected to continue, supported by low lending rates, surplus liquidity in the domestic money market and the expected rise in lending to micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) sector.

Inflation is expected to remain subdued in the near term and any upward pressures over the medium term could be mitigated, to a large extent, by the envisaged supply side improvements.

However, the bank noted that pressures on inflation could emerge over the medium term due to the envisaged improvements in aggregate demand conditions and the projected recovery in global commodity prices, among others.

Taking into account the domestic and global economic fronts the Monetary Board of the Central Bank decided to maintain the Standing Deposit Facility Rate and the Standing Lending Facility Rate at their current levels of 4.50 per cent and 5.50 percent.

## Tourist guide... Continued from page 25

...almost zero international tourists until the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) was opened in January this year.

Currently foreign tourists are arriving from selected countries, as the impact of Covid-19 is still serious, especially within countries (such as Germany, India, France, the UK) which traditionally generate the lion share of tourists to the island nation. The Ministry announced that international tourists from January-March 2021 has been around 4,500 whereas the country received 740,600 international tourists during January-March in 2019.

As a result, the dependents of the tourism industry are severely disturbed as their main source of income has dried up completely.

"In July and August last year the SLTDA offered us Rs. 20,000 as a gesture of courtesy. However, that was a one-off stipend and there had been no other benefit to the national guide lecturers ever since," Chandradasa said.

"We are not actually requesting a grant or a give-away from the authorities. We have requested the government to provide us loan facilities at a low interest rate. A minimum of Rs. 1 million from such a facility would allow us to use such money on another business," he said.

Meanwhile, the national tourist guides are also waging a struggle to win a minimum daily wage as the legal provisions have not been updated since the late 90s. The Minister of Tourism has appointed a committee to resolve the issue, but the commission is yet to announce its decision.

Currently the minimum wage is determined by private tour operators and a national tour guide receives about $13 (Rs 2,500) per day, while $100 per day being the globally accepted, industry standard.

"Even India pays $80 for a licensed tour guide. But the sad part is that, tour packages of an international tourist to Sri Lanka includes "international fees" for the service of a licensed guide, which we do not get fully. Therefore, we anticipate immediate action on this. Also, we do not request $100 per day, but we need at least $35 per day," Chandradasa said.

# The customer is always right: a controversial motto

by Hemantha Kulatunga

***Customers' feedback and complaints must be the core ideology and the utmost priority of everybody in the business. The important thing to understand is that if you neglect this reality, your competitors will grab them***

Most of us have heard the catchy phrase 'The customer is always right' and on almost all occasions as a customer, you may have felt that this applies to you. However, in reality, is this statement correct at all times? The slogan that is known to have been popularised by the respected American-British retail magnate Harry Gordon Selfridge, Sr. in the 1900s has come into criticism time and again.

The idea behind this phrase is to inculcate a sense of importance to sustain the quality of the customer service provided by commercial organisations. Retention of customers for repeat business is one of the most important tasks in an organisation. Therefore, the employees of the organisation must be trained to make decisions that can benefit customers to build up loyalty. In my long experience in selling, I opine that this customer-centric ideology is still valid and relevant even as of today.

However, everyone who is engaged in direct customer handling knows that this statement cannot be taken as absolute truth or certainty. In the span of my forty-year career in selling, I have come across thousands of customers with varied attitudes, characteristics, and personalities. Hence, I would say that the customer should be managed by offering him or her the center stage without consenting to every negative action of them, just because they are customers. The statement is more of a figurative motto rather than a classic golden rule. In my opinion, the statement is subjective and situational in actual application.

**Not in reality**

A key point to remember is that the customer is always right in their own mind but it may not be so in reality. Nevertheless, it is dangerous to disagree with the customer and make them argumentative or unhappy. Such action may drive them away forever. Having stated that, I must reiterate that the negative-minded customers, who most often have a justifiable reason, can be and should be handled with caution to dispel bad opinions.

There are two sides to the actual meaning of the phrase. On the positive side, the most significant task of a commercial entity is to make customers happy as best as possible. Therefore, one must understand that there are many benefits when the staff of the organisation believe the sentiment that the customer is always right. It is also an absolute truth that finding a new customer is far more difficult and costlier than retaining customers.

On the contrary, organisations should not accept this motto in its literal meaning as there are many misconceptions related to the statement. There are cases where customers overstep the boundaries, abuse employees, and attempt to rip off the business. Particularly, almost every customer believes the statement, whenever they become customers and sometimes demand unwarranted benefits. This is the reason that companies must train the staff to 'manage' customers rather than merely handling them.

Critiques of the phrase say that treating customers like they are always right can be detrimental to businesses in the long run. They say that it can weaken employee morale, use up important resources and even hurt other customers.

Award-winning researcher in marketing, Prof. Peter S. Fader says that not all customers deserve your best efforts. Despite the adage, customers are not always right and there are good customers and then there is everybody else. I agree with this opinion as I have come across both types of customers.

Multiple benefits come with the 'Customer is always right' approach. There is no doubt that your customers are your business. The success of a business is completely dependent on customers' trust and loyalty. Without them, the business will not survive, let alone be successful. Besides, customer feedback, whether negative or positive, can improve the quality of service tremendously.

**Core ideology**

Customers' feedback and complaints must be the core ideology and the utmost priority of everybody in the business. The important thing to understand is that if you neglect this reality, your competitors will grab them. Letting the competitors steal your customers is the most critical issue in a business. Neglecting this truth can lead to the closure of many business entities around the world.

Ignoring complaints from the core customer base can turn against the business. Unattended complaints can lead to animosity and the backlash can take a long time and a lot of money to resolve. On the other hand, if the complaints and feedback are managed well, it can help identify new business lines and new revenue sources.

In this internet era where your customers are becoming more personal through social media, email, texting, and live chats, the impact of unsatisfactory comments can be injurious to the business. Therefore, more refined strategies must be developed and relevant staff training must be considered to manage customers.

There are always nasty, unreasonable, and irritable customers in a business. Depending on the size of the business, at least ten percent of your customers can fall into this category. If your staff becomes too gullible on the phrase, these customers can make them miserable. I have come across such situations multiple times as a salesman and a manager.

In these situations, the management has to strike a balance and support the employees. By giving adequate training on customer complaint handling, this situation can be managed for the mutual benefit of both the company and the customer.

**Unreasonable customers**

Some customers try to imply that they are more knowledgeable than your employees who know the products or services thoroughly. Similarly, there are those who presume that they can run your business better.

For example, when I was selling telephone systems for an organisation long years back, I came across one of the most respected medical professionals in the country at the time, who acted as if he knew everything about the product. He refused to accept almost every explanation I attempted to make and was compelled to act dumb and deaf to secure the sale. Ultimately, however, the said customer made a wrong buying decision. At the time, I was guided by the 'customer is always right' motto.

Unreasonable customers can create a bad experience not only for your staff but also for other customers. These customers are simply not right but they are usually influenced by the phrase and presume that they are always right and the company is bound to act accordingly. They can create unpleasant and stressful situations involving other customers as well.

I attempt to emphasise that even though the customers are extremely important, you have to manage them appropriately when it comes to issues. It goes without saying that the company and its staff should strive for service excellence. You should make your best attempt to make the clientele happy.

However, if you always adopt the 'the customer is right' policy, there are chances that you may hurt the business. In such situations, you lead your employees to become disappointed and kill their morale. You will empower rude customers by setting bad examples, slow down innovation and even create unhappy situations for other customers.

Therefore, rather than acting like the customer is always right, you have to treat them the best way you can as professionals who know best about your products or services. There are many ways to manage bad customers and your employees must be made aware of those by training them. Without being unpleasant, in a helpful way, the customers must be made to understand that you are in the business of serving them to their maximum satisfaction.

# A healthy Indian Ocean feeds, protects and connects all South Asians

BY PRASAD KARIYAWASAM

**Fishermen in India's southern state of Kerala were paid to recycle the plastic bags, straws, flip-flops, and other plastic detritus caught in their nets.**

It is the oceans that engendered life. The lives of humans remain connected to the seas, making the good health of the seas and the efficient management of sea-based activity essential elements for the well-being of people and nations.

The Indian Ocean offers tremendous opportunities and some challenges for the island, coastal, and inland nations of South Asia and beyond.

Regional cooperation is an excellent platform for leveraging opportunities.

Take the problem of plastic waste. Up to 15 million tons of plastic makes its way into the Indian Ocean each year, contaminating it with a trillion pieces of plastic and making it the world's second most polluted ocean after the North Pacific.

South Asian countries have developed isolated projects to manage the ocean's plastic waste. Fishermen in India's southern state of Kerala were paid to recycle the plastic bags, straws, flip-flops, and other plastic detritus caught in their nets. Once shredded, the plastic was sold to construction companies that used it to strengthen asphalt roads.

The formal basis for such cooperation is being laid. All eight nations of South Asia are now coming together through a new regional project, supported by the World Bank and its partners to fund innovative ways to prevent, collect, and upcycle plastic waste into global supply chains . The project also supports research and innovation grants to find and support alternatives to plastic.

The Plastic-free Rivers and Seas for South Asia project aims to help build a circular economy for plastic that will stop plastic waste from leaking into the environment. The Indian Ocean Rim Association, whose two dozen member states stretch from Australia to South Africa and north to Iran and the United Arab Emirates, are watching the project and may expand it across the Indian Ocean.

As the world's economic growth engine pivots toward the Indo-Pacific, activity in the Indian Ocean increases. This growth must be managed in harmony with nature and in tranquility, to ensure optimum and shared benefits, and prosperity for all.

It is essential for South Asian nations to work toward evolving a system where all communities that use the Indian Ocean pursue their aspirations and competing claims in accordance with international law, regional conventions, and age-old traditions.

A system with greater cooperation among states, and with differential treatment for resource and technical capacity asymmetries is needed for tackling natural disasters, promoting maritime security, and keeping sea lanes open and safe . This system should also enhance economic connectivity within South Asia and facilitate access to markets in the region and beyond.

The Indian Ocean needs better overall management which, among other measures, needs:

Protecting the marine environment and pollution control;

Managing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

Protecting fish and other resources in exclusive economic zones claimed by governments in coastal waters;

Combating trafficking of humans, drugs, and arms;

Combating piracy and marine terrorism;

Safeguarding energy supply chains at maritime choke points;

Managing port security and ensuring secure cargo loading;

Promoting ocean-based tourism and leisure activities with a connected regulatory framework for safety in territorial waters and the high seas;

Ensuring that Indian Ocean sea lanes, which carry much of the world's cargo, including petroleum, are safe and secure; and

Ensuring the safety of fibre optic cables on the ocean floor that transmit internet traffic, including financial transactions, e-mail, and phone calls.

Working in partnership with countries and sharing information, expertise, and best practices is essential as no single country can meet these maritime challenges on its own. Disputes must be settled within a rules-based system that follows international norms.

South Asian nations can work together, with other major maritime nations beyond the region, and with multilateral institutions to promote health and harmony in the Indian Ocean. The results will benefit South Asia now and the generations to come.

# Achieving gender equality: Quō Vādis, Sri Lanka?

**From left: Ashani Abayasekara, Kithmina Hewage, Harini Weerasekera, Chaturga Karunanayake and Tharindu Udayanga.**

What are some of the challenges women in Sri Lanka face from a gender equality standpoint and how can we tackle them? Below are the responses from researchers at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Ashani Abayasekara, Kithmina Hewage, Harini Weerasekera, Chathurga Karunanayake and Tharindu Udayanga.

**Ashani Abayasekara:**

The failure to translate Sri Lanka's female educational achievements into similar achievements in the labour market is a long-standing puzzle. Even among employed women, the share in managerial positions and STEM fields like engineering and IT, which are typically high-skilled and offer higher earning potential, are negligible. A key underlying reason is ingrained cultural norms about the gender division of household chores; that is, women have lower chances to engage in more demanding jobs as primary bearers of family responsibilities.

Better provision of quality and affordable childcare, active labour market policies that inform women about job openings and career opportunities, mentoring schemes and other interventions that minimise gender stereotypes and biases in work settings, and flexible work arrangements – such as part-time work and work-from-home options – can potentially help bring more women into productive employment.

**Kithmina Hewage:**

Small and Medium Enterprises form the backbone of the Sri Lankan economy. Women-led SMEs in particular face considerable structural challenges because of policies, processes and cultural biases that limit the scope for economic growth as well as empowerment. This is why we see women facing challenges such as lack of access to finance, harassment in public and private sector institutions and numerous other challenges.

Structural issues can be solved through better intersectional representation, but that representation should not just be tokenistic. We need to make sure that insights are taken into consideration, and then translated to actionable policies and processes that solve these structural problems.

**Harini Weerasekera:**

One of the issues affecting working women in Sri Lanka is the lack of flexible working hours and conditions granted by employers. Although the private sector in Sri Lanka has made some headway in this respect, the public sector still has a fairly rigid 9-5 work policy in place, except for the brief pandemic work-from-home stint that was experienced over the last year. Accommodating this as a long-term policy option in sectors where it is possible to do so would be progressive – rather than it being a one-off pandemic-only policy.

Flexible working options for women is a strategy that can be implemented to increase the country's low female labour force participation rate, and for it to work, employers should move towards results-based evaluation criteria as opposed to the standard time/attendance-based evaluations that we see today.

**Chathurga Karunanayake:**

Closing gender gaps in the labour market is one of the most pressing challenges today both globally and locally. The challenges are reinforced by gender wage gaps, voluntary or involuntary discrimination in the workplace, and archaic legislation that makes hiring women more expensive, as well as work environments that are unfriendly towards females.

To bridge these gaps, the country needs to: (1) ensure having equal remuneration for work of equal value, (2) introduce policies that change conventional gender ideologies that hinder women's participation in non-regular work environments and (3) introduce more targetted interventions that enable female night work, shift work and working from home.

As a whole, these policy reforms should acknowledge that the bulk of unpaid family and household work is currently performed by women. Realising these policy targets will require a cohesive effort on the part of the government, policymakers and the corporate sector.

**Tharindu Udayanga:**

We have smart, educated women in the country, but the percentage of women who are in political and public decision-making bodies remains dismally low. Sri Lankan women, especially younger ones, need to acquire marketable skills and be encouraged to take up STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) subjects so that the imbalance in the field of science and technology – where men vastly outnumber women – can be rectified. Women should also receive equal pay.

Providing career development initiatives, improving access to part-time/flexible work thereby enabling them to maintain a work-life balance, and addressing socio-physical constraints are essential to support women in the workforce. Such measures can generate overall economic gains for the country, while also bringing about a more equitable sharing of development benefits.

Business

# Higher education: academic leadership in the new normal

BY PROF. CHANDANA JAYALATH

Context is important in any consideration of leadership practice. Context has the capacity to shape meanings and underlying organisational behaviour. This article describes the context in which a typical educational institution with no pre-plan in hand responded to the new situation, the spread of Covid-19. Initially, Operational Guidelines on Preparedness and Response for Covid-19 Outbreak for Work Settings was issued by the health authorities. A specific guideline for universities was also issued while emphasising on the teaching and learning atmosphere. Indeed, teaching and learning is the primary aim of dissemination of knowledge (learning about), and the practices in the knowledge domain (learning to be). However, online learning became the only option all had since then.

Achieving these through remote teaching and learning is in fact a challenge for the academics and students. Hence, the universities set up an action plan to actively steer its activities for any anticipated lockdown. The goal was not necessarily to retain normalcy but absorb interruptions to some extent and continue to deliver teaching and learning through a variety of online platforms.

Google Class and Zoom were among the digital platforms the academics and students soon embraced. Academics reported that teaching approaches had to be adapted and varied, creating smaller sections of module content, discussion forums and mini assessments and revising.

There was a sense of urgency and purpose, with the goal that no student or staff member should be left behind. The first module delivered online was the research methodologies via Google Class and Zoom platforms. As such, the centerpiece in the strategy was to ensure that academics and students were actively represented in the processes of response. In hindsight, more time for reflection and coherence would have been valuable. A work home plan was devised and implemented while sign in and sign out mode of attendance introduced. As befits the situation, the academics and non-academics reported to work on a rostered basis. Nevertheless, students had no access to the university. They too were worried over the technological interruptions during online deliveries. A massive shift like this inevitably raises an onslaught of questions.

**Planning**

As a remedy, several academic considerations had to be factored in continuing the academic year. In planning to transition to remote teaching and learning, the university had to undertake the following actions given the disruption to contact teaching and learning; Covid-19 response plan, Revision of the academic calendar; Making available guides and toolkits for remote teaching and learning for staff and students; Workshop for student and staff orientation (how to learn remotely); Revision of modules to take into account deferring of practical, laboratory sessions or field training; Online assessment of modules and how best to transition all undergraduate modules, Revision of assessment for remote learning; Ensuring that all academic changes to modules including assessments were submitted through Faculty Boards and to the Academic Council.

While the preceding account is true for almost every university, the speed of transition to online teaching required the sequential processes described above to be collapsed into one strategic maneuver. The IT arm stimulates the use of academic teaching, learning and assessment technologies at the university. With the strategy to recover the academic year, the staff methodically reviewed every undergraduate module for online readiness using the markers as follows: (a) a structure students can easily follow, (b) a learning guide, (c) evidence of engagement in online activities, (d) presence of assignments, and (e) presence of online assessments. Capacitating academics for the new normal was the key component of curriculum delivery under vastly changed conditions.

Academics were supported by multiple divisions in the university before and during the transitional period. As academics have had to acquire new skills, they have also continued with research, administered and reflected on the changes required, and engaged with one another pertinently on teaching and learning issues. In sessions with academics, it was patently clear that juggling multiple tasks took its toll.

Unfortunately, the lockdown resulted in the suspension of many research symposiums. While the pandemic can affect all stages of the research process, the severest impact is likely to be on the data collection phase. For example, students who were conducting experimental research can no longer access the laboratory or field and students planning to conduct face-to-face interviews or use paper-based questionnaires can no longer meet participants and will only be able to do so if following strict health and safety guidelines when lockdown ends.

While online methods could be explored, there were still restrictions, which led to revision of strategies. The final semester students can also focus on writing the parts of their dissertation that can be written prior to data gathering and analysis. In some cases, students can start on writing the articles and other pieces of work that are required prior to the completion of their degrees. Given the circumstances and uncertainty, it became necessary for some students to rethink their research design. However, students found that the change in research design also represented an opportunity by challenging predominant research methods in a discipline and encouraging supervisors to learn new methodology and methods. Although the research progress of some students may be impacted, students who are able to continue with their research designs are being encouraged to do so and concomitant ethical aspects are being reevaluated.

**Teamwork**

The choice of the mode of delivery was not a conscious one but was propelled by circumstances. Collegiality and teamwork were needed at every step in the shift to remote learning and teaching, which needed fine-tuned multiple teams and student cooperation throughput. Meanwhile, much discussion has taken place about how universities might effectively adapt in a new normal way. For example, although the university may have the infrastructure, there can be no assumptions about the students' ability to access learning, or whether it is effective. This may require us to redefine our teaching and learning enterprise – to consider whether we need to invest in technology, provide different resources to support the new mode of delivery, and what kind of graduate is being produced for a post Covid world and society. Indeed, new technologies were rapidly bought, sourced and adapted, and budgets must offer the green light to accommodate this. The rapid transition required redirected resources. These included human resources, academics to transition teaching fully online, assessing online and the conundrum posed by disciplinary differences where practical, clinical training, and work integrated learning were required.

Much discussion took place on what the key skills of the future are and on the different skill sets that will be needed, with digital capabilities identified as critical for success. This was not straightforward – it required a paradigm shift in attitude towards curricula, teaching pedagogies, and how to provide students with the highly flexible, mobile mindset that they will need in the 21st century workplace. Will the future be one where online is the norm? If yes, then social exclusion and inequity could deepen with the distinctions between advantaged and disadvantaged students determining access to learning in yet unprecedented ways. An appropriate social justice framework must therefore, be a key to Sri Lanka's higher education approach.

From the academics perspective, distributed leadership has become the default leadership response in this current crisis requiring more leaders, at all levels, to connect, share, learn and network their way through issues. Through absolute necessity, rather than by design, effective leadership is now connected, collaborative, creative and responsive.

A new leadership order has emerged which has no leadership standards, no preparation or development programs, no audit or appraisal framework, no KPIs, no benchmarks. There are no precedents and no blueprints to help leaders through the current tumult that is Covid-19. Leading in disruptive times means being able to navigate a different course.

***The writer is attached to the University of Vocational Technology.***

## Bitulink Emulsion bags two awards

CNCI Achievers Awards 2020

**A Bitulink official receives one of the awards.**

Bitulink Emulsion (Pvt) Limited, a bulk supplier of bitumen in Sri Lanka, received two awards at the CNCI Achiever Awards 2020. Contesting under the manufacturing sector, extra-large category the company won the National Merit Award and Provincial Silver Award. The event organised by Ceylon National Chamber of Industries was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo recently. Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa was the chief guest.

## IPS launches Resource Digest

The Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) has released a Resource Digest on 'Pandemics, Public Health and Economic Prosperity' with policy recommendations based on in-depth research on how Sri Lanka can respond effectively to public health concerns in the age of pandemics.

The new publication is for policymakers and other public and private sector stakeholders, as well as the public to gain a better understanding of the key issues that need to be addressed, and outlines prevention and mitigation strategies to protect public health and foster economic growth. As our researchers argue, the impact of adverse public health shocks can be reduced through appropriate policy and preparedness measures.

# CAPITAL HEIGHTS CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION WITH SRI LANKA'S LEADING BANKS

**The Chairman and Board of Directors of Access Engineering PLC together with Blue Star Realties (Pvt) Ltd the Developer of Colombo's new residential complex, which is a study in absolute luxury, hosted the senior members of five of Sri Lanka's leading banks to a gala event recently, in appreciation of the sterling services provided and the successful collaboration. Bankers from HNB, NDB, Commercial Bank, NTB and Sampath Bank were hosted to cocktails and dinner at 'Elevate' by Access, on Friday, the 19th of March 2021.**

Already, nation's leading banks have partnered with Capital Heights, in order to provide exclusive loans to discerning customers, while several other banks are in discussions to do the same, providing convenient and flexible financial solutions for this lucrative investment opportunity.

Capital Heights in Rajagiriya is a luxurious, 40-storied complex, featuring tastefullydesigned homes that offer plush, gracious living, with sprawling views of untouched natural mangroves and water fronts, as well as the ever-changing Colombo's city skyline. The unsurpassed luxury features a fully-equipped gym and fitness centre, a function room and a roof terracewith a 360-degree view of the Colombo skyline, a national-standard infinity pool and a kiddies' pool with a timber decksurrounded by nature.

Moreover, 85% of the project has been completed and 60% of the apartments are already sold: thus, Capital Heights has already obtained the COC, as completion is imminent. A compelling, lifestyle-enhancing investment option, Capital Heights is the perfect home to come home to. Replete with 5-star luxuries and built to international standards, from both a local an expatriate perspective, it is the perfect investment and the quintessential 'home away from home'.

# "Sunset Cocktails by The beach"

## At Oceanfront Condominiums Galle by ICC

**"Our smart development and our international exposure, backed with four decades of engagement across the construction space have paved the way for the success of the Oceanfront series. The property certainly complements the lifestyle of the elites who have an affinity for seaside living and prefer a glamorous and design-led lifestyle" - ICC Chairman Harsha de Saram**

### Sunset Cocktails by the Beach - Oceanfront Condominiums Galle

An award winning premier contractor, International Construction Consortium (PVT) ltd commenced "Sunset Cocktails" at their newest residential property Oceanfront Condominiums Galle over the weekend, allowing their investors to experience the finesse and the luxury of the property at firsthand.

Home owners were invited to Oceanfront Galle over the weekend (03rd and 04th April) for them to inspect on the construction progress and to have a look and feel of the apartment complex that would be officially handed over in coming months. Spelling class and elegance from the very first step into the building, homeowners were given the opportunity to witness the plethora of benefits they would reap for investing in OFC Galle in every sense.

On entering the property, visitors were able to have a sense of what life at sea would be with the spiral wooden staircase at the lobby mimicking a sail ship mast. A few steps further leads to the heritage building, and then the lush open courtyard that provides a panoramic view of the open sea via the grand Dutch arch, all which resonate historic vibes of the rich city of Galle. Capitalizing on Galle's glorious blue waters, ICC has tastefully conceptualized Oceanfront Condominium to have a view of the clear ocean from all possible angles. The unique 16th century Dutch inspired architecture transforms the property into a mini-fortress within itself that is embraced by the clear sea.

The event also provided a glimpse of what living at the luxury Oceanfront Condominium would be while letting homeowners to witnessing the sunset from all of the 101 apartments spread across 15 floors, Sunset Restaurant and the majestic Dutch Arch, which is a standout feature of the property. Residents need not look further to de-stress and get into vacation mode as the property entails a double floored spa that will offer a variety of treatments carried out by trained therapists, ensuring the retreat by the sea is relaxed and revitalized.

Furthermore, not just a rarity but an unheard of in residential complexes in Sri Lanka so far, is the option of enjoying a workout with a view of the beautiful courtyard from one side and the splendid city view from the other side at the gym which is designed with the latest equipment. Adding on to the convenience factor is also an array of common facilities which include; a restaurant named as "Sunset" presenting panoramic views for the beautiful blue ocean, two elevators for passenger transport, CCTV monitoring in lobby areas, entrance and exit, fire protection and detection and systematic garbage disposal, amongst others.

The project consists of one - four bedroomed units where Investors of the Condominium have the option of selecting from five different apartment layouts including penthouses and studio apartments.

A standard apartment of the Ocean Front Condominium is designed to have two floors; where the lower floor has the living, dining and kitchen area in addition to a bedroom and powder room and the upper floor features a television lounge, additional bedrooms, bathroom and a utility balcony facing the courtyard.

Individual apartment units are fashioned to allow residents to sink into luxury indulgence by having crafted every single apartment unit to bask in the scenic view of the crystal blue ocean that looks beyond the horizon. This has been achieved by constructing the condos on a single horizontal pane.

The entrance of mock-up rendition of the three bed roomed duplex unit makes way to a spacious dining area that further doubles up with an elegantly furnished lounge. The layout provides a breathtaking view of the ocean that can be witnessed from the main balcony that consists of toughened glass handrails.

Keeping up with the life at sea theme is the wooden stairway from the main entrance that leads to the upper floor and lands on a TV longue. The lounge itself has an urban flair. A few steps further lead to the master bedroom that has its own private balcony and provides a view similar to the ground floor. The upper floor consists of one other spacious bedroom and a common washroom, in addition to a utility area which is well hidden yet easily accessible.

ICC has kept their promise in carrying out constructions in a responsible manner by keeping sustainability at the core. Some of the measures in this regard include the reduced usage of VOC materials to improve the comfort of occupants. The building maintenance will be carried out by embracing the green concept by reducing the use of plastics wherever possible. Meanwhile, bio-gradable waste will be converted into compost with the installed machine that has the capacity to convert 100 Kgs of organic waste into fertilizers during a single session. Facilities have also been set up to collect rain and gray water for the maintenance of the lush landscape of the property.

ICC has developed the property for investors and homeowners to reap the benefits of Galle's well established tourism sector. Located in the historic city itself, the Ocean Front Condominiums stands tall on the Colombo – Galle Main Road. It is within close proximity to a number of attractions such as the Galle National Museum, Historical Mansion Museum, Galle Lighthouse, Harbor and the Maritime Archaeology Museum amongst others. The property is also no more than eight minutes away from the Galle Fortress, a major tourist attraction.

Furthermore, allowing investors to seamlessly enjoy the returns of the luxury residential property , ICC has introduced an all-inclusive rental management system which offers and end-to-end solution that includes, marketing, managing, guest screening check-in/checkout, payments processing and accounting.

The service is handled by a group of handpicked experts, will be executed in coordination between the Reservation team, Front Office Team, Marketing and Sales Team and Accounting Team.

### ICC – A major success story

A strong player in the local construction sector for 40 years, ICC holds the highest ranking by the Construction Industry Development Authority of Sri Lanka (CIDA), which further adds value to investors and making certain a steady ROI flow. Having bagged a number of awards and accolades for their unique construction concepts, ICC has expressed confident in Oceanfront brand, will continue to be an immense success as its value offering is unmatched by any other.

### Project Snapshot

With the launch of the Oceanfront brand in Nilaveli, ICC became the first developer to complete a beachfront condominium in Sri Lanka. Oceanfront Condominiums, Galle was constructed following the overnight success of the Oceanfront Condo's, Nilaveli. The structure design of the luxury property in Galle is reviewed and confirmed by teams of experts attached to the University of Peradeniya. Keeping safety at the core, Oceanfront Condominium, Galle has already received the BS sstandards and the SLS ccertificates.

In addition to carrying out the basic testing on the building, ICC assures that all possible precautions have been taken to avoid corrosion by the sea. The project commenced in May 2018 and has reached its construction milestones as planned since the kickoff. End 2018 saw the completion of the Courtyard, whereas by January 2019 the construction reached the first floor. Keeping up with the steady momentum, the 5th floor was completed in March2019 and the by end 2020 the complex was topped off. Oceanfront Galle structure constructions were done on time, even with the restrictions imposed by the authorities on imports and labor management to contain COVID 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, ICC has taken the necessary initiatives to speed up the process and will be applying for COC in the beginning of June 2021.


# Sri Lanka Insurance

## BID NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

| Name of Bid and Bid No. | Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.) | Bid Security Requirement (Rs.) | Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SLIC/ICT/014/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE TALLY DASCOM BRAND - Ribbon** | 3,000/- | 100,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 10.00 am Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/015/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE HOODOR AND ENDURO BRANDS - Ribbon** | 1,200/- | 50,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 10.30 am Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/016/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE JAVELLING BRAND - Ribbon** | 1,500/- | 65,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 11.00 am Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/017/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE FOR DATA CARD PRINTERS - Ribbon** | 1,100/- | 35,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 11.30 am Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/018/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE EPSON BRAND - Ribbon** | 1,000/- | 20,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 2.00 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/019/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE HP BRAND - Toner/ Cartridge** | 1,300/- | 55,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 2.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/020/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE TOSHIBA BRAND - Toner/ Cartridge** | 1,100/- | 30,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 3.00 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |
| **SLIC/ICT/021/2021 - IT CONSUMABLE RICOH BRAND - Toner** | 1,000/- | 20,000/- | 19.04.2021 @ 3.30 pm Via Zoom facility to parties collected bid documents. |

- Bidding documents will be issued from 12.04.2021 to 26.04.2021, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, at the following location on production of a letter of request for documents on a business letterhead together with the proof of eligibility at a None Refundable fee as above.
- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office during normal working hours.
- Bid Closing Date & Time : on or before 27th April 2021 at 1.00 P.M.
- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- All items will be used to fullfill the annual requirement.
- Eligibility requirement of the bidders are
  - Bidder should be a Authorized Distributor or Local Agents of stated brand.
  - Bidders should have been in business (Availability of BR) for more than 03 years, with corporate clientele.
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously.
- Selected suppliers should provide the Guarantee/Bond as stated below.
  - **a)** A Performance Bond to the value of 5% (whichever applicable) of the total contract sum, with validity over the stipulated contract period should be provided within two weeks of the confirmed order
  - **b)** If advance payment needed, a Bank Guarantee equivalent to 30% of the total contract value should be taken with validity period of over 90 days.
- Bidding documents can be obtained from below mentioned address.
- The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

Manager - Procurement
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02.
Tel: 0112 357 905
Web: www.srilankainsurance.com
Company Registration Number - PB 289

SLIC Sri Lanka Insurance
Like a father - Like a mother

# Sri Lanka Insurance

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Sri Lanka Insurance calls for quotations for suitable properties to be obtained on lease or outright purchase basis to be used as branch premises in the following areas :**

**New Branches - Rental**

| | Branch | Sq. ft Area | Price Offered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pelmadulla | 700 - 1000 | |

**Relocations - Rental**

| | Branch | Sq. ft Area | Price Offered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Digana | 2000 - 2500 | |
| 2 | Kalawana | 2000 - 2500 | |

| | Branch | Sq. ft Area | Price Offered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Ratnapura | 2000 - 2500 | |
| 4 | Bakamuna | 2000 - 2500 | |

**Outright Purchase**

| | Branch | Sq. ft Area | Price Offered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Digana | 2000 - 2500 | |
| 2 | Ratnapura | 2000 - 2500 | |
| 3 | Bakamuna | 2000 - 2500 | |

## Requirements

- Invitation for suitable property to be obtained in lease basis.
- Located in a commercially feasible area of the mentioned towns and facing the road.
- Minimum of five vehicle parking slots.
- Minimum two bathrooms with standard quality fittings.
- Completely tiled floor finish.
- 63A – Three phase electricity supply with separate electrical meter.
- Direct water supply with separate water meter and overhead water tank to be provided.
- Space for generator installation (10' x 10').
- Space for salvage storage from ground floor level (10' x 15').
- Glass façade and glass double door. (Front facade Minimum 30 feet)
- Walls and soffit/ceiling to be painted and finished.
- Basic electrical wiring with distribution panel and ceiling fans.
- Parking area to be finished with paving blocks.
- Building should be ready to occupy within two weeks by the time quoting for the advertisement.

**Following documents to be forwarded with the quotation and the quotations without offered price and the legal documents will be disqualified.**

Sealed quotations with **owner's contact number and address,** stating whether it is on lease rental or outright purchase basis (on the envelop) should be submitted only by the **legal owner** of the property indicating the **relevant area of quoting on the top left hand corner of the envelope.** Quotations to be sent to under mentioned address via Registered Post/hand delivered on or before 27th April 2021 at 1.00 p.m.

Also, building owner should provide copies of the documents mentioned hereto when required. **(Approved building plan or Certificate of Conformity (COC), Street Line Certificate from the local government authorities obtained within 6 (six) months from the current date, Ownership Deed,Site Plan, Extract for the last 10 years obtained within 6 (six) months from the current date, owners contact number).**

The Quotations without the legal documents will be disqualified.

The final decision will be made at the discretion of Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd. after the inspection of the respective properties.

Manager Procurement
Procurement Department
Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor
No.21, Vauxhall Street
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Company Registration Number - PB 289
**Tel : 0112 357 905 Fax : 0112 357 913**

SLIC Sri Lanka Insurance
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Advertorial

# Cargills paves car park with plastic modified asphalt concrete

As a socially responsible corporate citizen, Cargills holds a strong commitment to serving the nation and preserving the planet for future generations. By partnering with AGC Innovate Pvt Ltd – one of the country's leading innovative solutions providers – Cargills initiated the launch of "Paving with Plastic" as a means to address Sri Lanka's plastic waste menace in an ecofriendly and pragmatic approach.

The benefits of plastic are irrefutable – this versatile material is ubiquitous in our everyday lives, due to it being cheapand convenient to produce as well as being highly durable and user friendly.

However, once used and disposed, plastic lingers in the environment for too long and does not decompose.

As a result, the inherent problem of plastic pollution is a global crisis, with Sri Lanka generating approximately 7000 metric tons of mismanaged solid waste daily, with 6% accounting for plastic and polythene waste.Therefore, in the absence of a proper waste management system, non-recyclable plastic is dumped in large landfill sites.

These sites are now exceeding their maximum capacity, and has lead to pressing environmental and social concerns in the country.

As a first step to tackling this waste plastic problem, Cargills made a landmark decision to pave the Cargills Food City Carparks using Plastic Modified Asphalt Concrete, partnering with AGC Innovate. A sustainable solution, PMAC harnesses green technology by enhancing conventional asphalt on the polymer level with the use of waste plastic. Furthermore, extensiveresearch has shown that PMAC also improves road strength parameters and durability, when compared against traditional blacktop asphalt concrete.Beginning from waste collection to the laying of the PMAC, thisprocess is a technical achievement and a promising response to plastic pollution in Sri Lanka.

The car park of the Walgama Food City outlet, will be the launchpad of the "Paving with Plastic" initiative, with the final PMAC laying process being undertaken on the 1st of April with approximately 200,000 waste plastic bags being used.Subsequent to this would be the official opening of the Walgama Food City car park, which will take place in the near future.

# "Tradition and modernity must be equal in our digitalisation"

**By D. P. K. Gunasekera**

Never before in our 80 years of existence have we faced the odds we are facing today. The pandemic has, for over an year now, crippled world economies and laid to waste business and commerce. With it has come a sea change in the way we look at doing business, i.e. we have begun to see digitalisation with fresh eyes.

When it comes to the digitalisation of our bank we cannot and will not compromise on that one thing — our personal touch or the human engagement of our services. Digitalisation can become impersonal given the very nature of the animal.

We are building hybrid systems that will help us face the challenges of the new world order. This is where digitalisation interfaces with human resources.

Our plan is to ensure that tradition and modernity will have equal places going forward.

We will not cast aside traditional engagement with our customers who visit our brank branches located in the little towns of their rural villages, just to sit with one of our bank managers for a chat. For decades we have used the knowledge gained from these informal chats to understand the market we operate in.

This grassroot local information has helped guide and direct our policies; and it is the emotional intelligence that has formed the backbone of our existence.

From 1961, when the bank was made into a national institution, we have supported our governments to achieve their goals be it in food security, improving productivity, ensuring sustainable incomes for the rural sector or strengthening trade and commerce.

It is this same thinking that we take into other areas of our expansion — rethinking our traditional engagements with customers.

We have set up a think tank that is looking into newer types of business that are emerging; like new start-ups. How do we lend to people who have no collateral but their knowledge? And how do we manage risk, especially since we are well aware that out of 10 start-ups only two may become a success? So emotional intelligence will have to play a role in this process, rather than sole reliance on artificial intelligence to make that decision — to lend or not to lend.

It is with this thinking that we have joined hands with the Federation of Information Technology Industries (FITIS), to support their inaugural Internet Day as platinum sponsor. We believe that such engagements and interactions have to be supported in order to broaden this discussion with all stakeholders.

We are very encouraged to see that they have drawn in experts from other countries to be part of this event. The internet is not just one or another thing, it is everything just like banking.

As we traverse this digitalised world we have to find common ground with it and create interfaces that are not only robotic but also human. Yes, we need automation, but if we lose the human touch we cannot operate in a real world.

*The writer is the General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon.*

# AIA wins Inter Insurance Company quiz competition

AIA Insurance Lanka Limited are the winners of the Championship Challenge Trophy at the Inter Insurance Company Quiz Competition – 2021 organized by the Sri Lanka Insurance Institute.

Team AIA competed against 19 strong teams from the insurance industry in five grueling rounds that put teams to the test. But at the end of it, AIA emerged undisputed champions and brought home not only the coveted award, but also much honour to the company.

Congratulations to Hasaan Samseer, Thusara Ranasinghe, Surani De Alwis, Oshan Dharmarathne, Pradeep Rodrigo, Malinda Edirisinghe and Denver Oorloff who comprised the wining AIA Team. Their outstanding general knowledge, analytical thinking, appraisal of current affairs, competitive competence and great teamwork has done AIA proud.

**The winning team**

For AIA, this win is a testament to talent and aptitude of their team of professionals that is the company's biggest strength. As Sri Lanka's Best Life Insurance company for the 2nd consecutive year (awarded by Global Banking and Finance Review), AIA never hesitates to appreciate the immeasurable contribution made by its employees to the company's success and pride themselves in having a team of outstanding professionals and experts that make AIA what it is.

The Inter Insurance Company Quiz hosted by the Sri Lanka Insurance Institute was organised with the intention of promoting friendship and fellowship along with some healthy competition amongst the insurance fraternity.

The quiz was based on Insurance, History, Geography, Science, Literature, Entrainment, Sports, Current Affairs, IQ and Logical Reasoning.

# "Midea air-conditioners consume less power"

Midea an air treatment company has introduced an air-conditioner that consumes as low as one unit of electricity per night's sleep for as low as what it costs for a half a pound of bread, says Telesonic, the global giant's exclusive partner in Sri Lanka.

Dramatically, its revolutionary triple filtration introduces air filtration of a higher grade than an N-95 mask, making Midea Xtreme Save Inverter Air Conditioner the ideal choice in a post-pandemic world, says Arun Mahtani, Managing Director of Telesonic.

As temperatures keep rising, the need for air conditioning is felt more than ever. However, the exorbitant operating cost has kept it beyond the majority until now, says Mahtani who believes in total ownership rather than the initial investment.

The Midea Xtreme Save Inverter Air Conditioner stands out on three core factors, its Gear Shift technology bringing adjustable intelligent cooling while its innovative triple filtration and self-cleaning technology creating healthy buildings with advanced smart technologies and voice command features bringing value beyond performance with Telesonic's illustrious track record.

# Brandix Associates present PPEs to frontline health workers

As a gesture of gratitude, Associates from Brandix facilities island wide came together to manufacture export quality protective gowns and face masks (PPE) for frontline health workers in Covid-19 hospitals and treatment centres in Sri Lanka.

The handover of PPE to these hospitals and treatment centres by Brandix Associates took place over the last few weeks.

In a show of solidarity with healthcare workers risking their health to treat Covid-19 patients, Brandix Associates manufactured export quality protective equipment including 490,000 protective gowns and 250,000 face masks that met the physical and micro-allergy testing standards by the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) prior to distribution.

**Brandix team members handing over PPE to Dr. (Ms.) V. W. Mihiri Priyangani – Director of the Kegalle Teaching Hospital**

# Seylan Bank installs ATM at Ratnapura Teaching Hospital

Seylan Bank recently installed a new off-site ATM unit at the Ratnapura Teaching Hospital recently, enhancing convenience to the public to effect emergency cash transactions. The new ATM will allow customers in the vicinity to carry out their transactions in the hospital at any given time of the day without the hassle of having to commute a distance.

The ATM was ceremonially opened by Dr Anoj Rodrigo, Director of the Rathnapura Teaching Hospital and Mr Delvin Pereira, Deputy General Manager Branches ZONE II, Seylan Bank. The participants in attendance included the President of the Rathnapura Hospital committee, Members of the Hospital committee, Seylan Bank Area Manager of Rathnapura, and Branch Manager of Rathnapura Seylan Bank.

# S-lon obtains Covid-19 Safety Management Systems Certification

S-lonLanka (Pvt) Ltd, recently obtained the SLS 1672: 2020 certification which is the Covid-19 Safety Management Systems Requirement for Organizations.

The certificate was presented to Group Director S.C. Weerasekera at at the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) by its Chairman Dr. Nushad Perera. The senior officers of SLSI and S-lon Lanka also were present.

Explaining the rationale for the Certification, SLSI Chairman commended S-lon for formalising their commitment in controlling the spread of Covid–19 within its employees and the community by ensuring all health and safety guidelines and protocols. These measures adhered withinboth the manufacturing facility and the office. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Perera said, "Assurance of safety is a relief to everybody associated with the brand and the country more broadly because S-lon is involved in a very sensitive industry: water supply.

"We hope their proactive approach will inspire other organizations too to come forward and obtain this certification to stop the spread of Covid-19," he said.

S-lon Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Group Director S.C. Weerasekera thanked the SLSI for introducing this certification which is a timely requirement.

# Abans launches LG Ambassadors Challenge program

The LG Ambassador Challenge – commenced its four selected community projects. With the partnership of LG and the Abans Group; along with Korea Friends of Hope International, Sri Lanka (KFHI), this programe gave Sri Lankan youth the opportunity to bring forward solutions to the issues in their villages.

The first selected village problem came from the Sasthrikoolankulam village in Vavuniya, which is inhabited by over six hundred families. These people are unable to get unpolluted, clean water for their daily needs.

**Muwangala Volleyball ground Ampara**

**Sandiweli life jacket project, Batticaloa**

This project titled 'The Drop of Life' will see the provision of a RO water purification/filtration system plant which will be constructed in their village. The Handagiriya village's public midwife centre was the second selected problem, where the midwife centre is beyond any kind of usable condition.

This project named 'Nurturing the Future Generation' will see therenovation of the building to include a meeting place for the midwife and mothers with their children, plus safe storage and sanitary facilities.

The third selected village concern was reported from Ampara. According to the villagers of the Muwangala area in Ampara, students who come home from school and are interested in sports, spend their time in a temporary ground as a way to practice their volleyball skills. By initiating this project, titled 'Uplifting the Youth for a Better Tomorrow', over 2000 people in two neighbouring villages will be highly benefitted.

The final chosen village concern came from the Batticaloa district, where the villagers of Sandiweli (over 8,000 families) face an extremely life-threatening situation because they cannot travel to the next village, forcing them to cross the large river in an electric boat.

This project named 'Every Life Matters' will see the provision of life jackets and safety boards to put up near the river.

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APRIL 11, 2021

# Celebrating Sinhala and Tamil New Year with pride and unity

**THE KOEL ALSO KNOWN AS THE KOHA IS REGARDED AS THE HARBINGER OF THE AVURUDU SEASON, AS ITS CRY, ALONG WITH THE BLOOMING OF THE ERABADU FLOWERS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEASON IN SRI LANKA. AS THE SEASON BEGINS, PEOPLE OF THE SINHALA AND TAMIL COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR THE JOYOUS OCCASION AND TO ENGAGE IN THE TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS THAT COME ALONG WITH IT**

BY METHLINI HEWAGE

Sri Lanka, enriched by its multi-ethnicity is a treasure trove of culture. One of the main cultural events celebrated within the nation is the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Celebrated annually on April 13 and 14, this joyous occasion is a specimen of the cultural diversity in the country and the way in which it enriches the nation in every aspect.

Since ancient times, Sri Lanka has been an agricultural nation. Therefore, the Sri Lankan people of different ethnicities have paid homage to the main aspect of nature on which their livelihood depended; the Sun.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year falls during this specific time of the year as, according to Eastern astrology, it is the time when the Sun moves from Pisces (commonly referred to as *Meena Rashiya*) to Aries (commonly referred to as *Mesha Rashiya*), marking the dawn of a New Year.

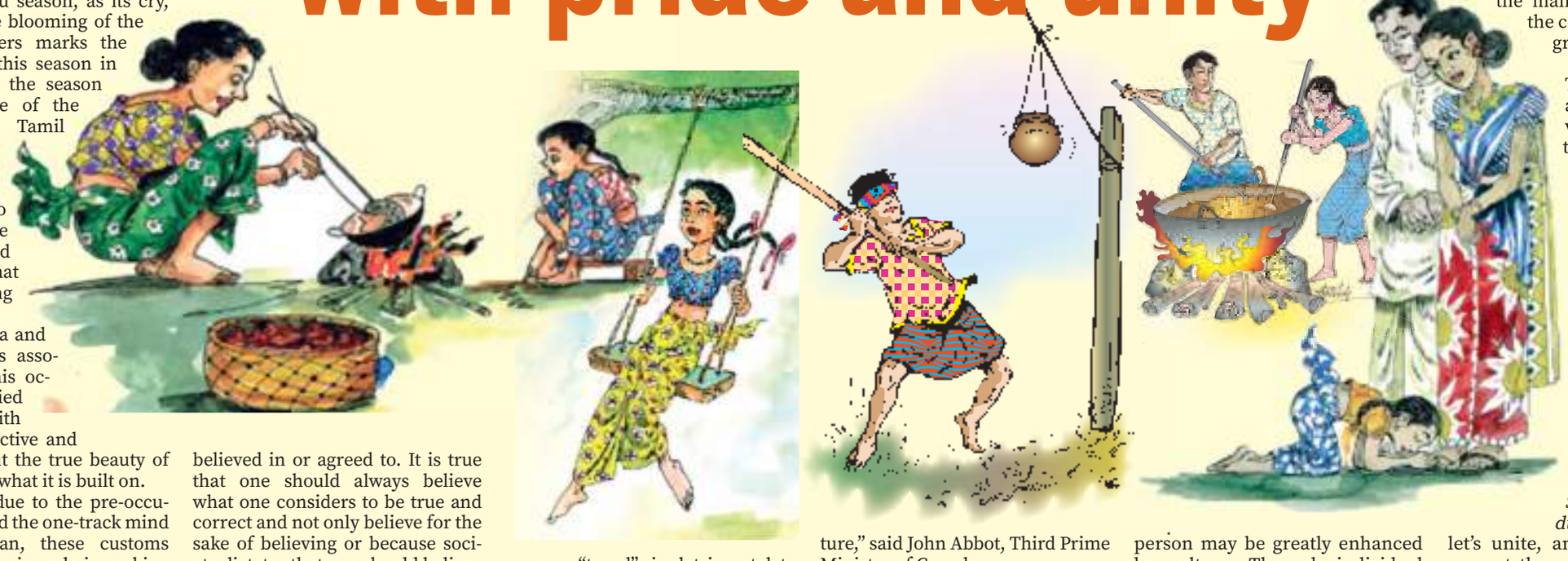
There are many different ways in which Sri Lankans pay homage and seek blessings for success in the New Year. The *Aluth Sahal Mangalyaya* is one of the main ways in which Sinhala Buddhist people do so.

During this tradition, farmers offer a portion of the first harvest they reap from the paddy field along with cooked traditional food such as Milk Rice or *Kiri Bath* to the Sri Maha Bodhi and seek blessings for the new year.

Sri Lankans of other religions and ethnicities too engage in such interesting traditions to seek blessings for themselves, their families and the nation for New Year.

## Heralding Avurudu

The Koel also known as the Koha is regarded as the harbinger of the Avurudu season, as its cry, along with the blooming of the Erabadu flowers marks the beginning of this season in Sri Lanka. As the season begins, people of the Sinhala and Tamil communities prepare for the joyous occasion and to engage in the traditions and customs that come along with it.



The Sinhala and Tamil customs associated with this occasion, carried out together with the same objective and idea brings out the true beauty of Sri Lanka and what it is built on.

However, due to the pre-occupied nature and the one-track mind of today's man, these customs which play a major role in making our country unique, are gradually being forgotten and ignored. It is a fact that with the advancement of science and the thought processes of humans, all traditions are not believed in or agreed to. It is true that one should always believe what one considers to be true and correct and not only believe for the sake of believing or because society dictates that one should believe in something.

However, shunning of one's culture due to a misguided and incorrect ideology that is inculcated within oneself through ignorance or as a "trend", is detrimental to oneself and the country as a whole and can unfortunately be witnessed in today's society.

"Every man's ability may be strengthened or increased by culture," said John Abbot, Third Prime Minister of Canada

## Cultural diversity

As said by the former Canadian Prime Minister, the ability of a person may be greatly enhanced by culture. Through individual enhancement, the enhancement of a nation's society as a whole, is inevitable.

Hence, as Sri Lankans, we should focus on cherishing our rich cultural background, not at the expense of our personal beliefs but to truly understand and appreciate our roots and origin.

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people" - Mahatma Gandhi.

Sri Lankans are of different religious and cultural backgrounds. However, each and every Sri Lankan, irrespective of their religion, race, beliefs and background contributes to the uniqueness and the eminence of the country.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we are a nation with a deep and rich culture but continue to ignore the fact that the diversity that exists within Sri Lanka is the main reason as to why the country's culture is so great.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is an occasion during which, two ethnicities come together and celebrate a common occurrence with their own traditions and cultures, along with the rest of the Sri Lankan society. Therefore, this Avurudu season, whether we greet each other in Sinhala as "*Subha Aluth Avurudak Veva*" or in Tamil as, "*Iniya Siththirai Puththandu Nalvazhthukkal*" let's unite, and understand and respect the undeniable fact that the great culture of Sri Lanka is made up of and includes each and every Sri Lankan and their cultural ideologies, beliefs and traditions.

# Yuri Gagarin's space flight and visit to Sri Lanka

The inauguration ceremony of the 60th anniversary celebrations of Yuri Gagarin's Space Flight and visit to then Ceylon was concluded on April 6, 2021 at the Russian House in Colombo in the presence of dignitaries at the event.

Among them were Chief Guest, State Minister of Skills Development Vocational Education, Research and Innovation Dr. Seetha Arambepola, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation Alexey Budanov, State Minister of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion and President of the Sri Lanka – Russia Friendship Society, Susil Premjayantha, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and General Secretary of the Sri Lanka – Russia Friendship Society, Anastasia Khokhlova, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and Director of the Russian House in Colombo and Chief Executive Officer of the Russian House in Colombo Buddhapriya Ramanayaka.

The event was organised by the Russian House in Colombo in partnership with the Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society in a joint collaboration with Anura Samaraweera, Member of the International Association of Philatelic Societies and Assistant Treasurer of the Philatelic Society of Sri Lanka.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the presence of *Magilin Nona*, 'the girl who was chosen to garland Gagarin' back in 1961. She was chosen for this honourable task due to her heroism in saving the lives of people from drowning when she was merely a teenager.

State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation Dr. Seetha Arambepola inaugurate the 60th anniversary celebrations of Yuri Gagarin's Space Flight and visit to Sri Lanka.

Dignitaries at the ceremony

# Unique trees of the world

By
Gwen Herat

The world has never been in dire need of the sustenance of the environment as of today. Common trees and uncommon trees that make up the environment are on the verge of disappearing. With this situation comes thrashing on weather patterns, the changing seasons; delayed rainfall, scorching sun, floods, drought, melting glaciers that affect not only man but the dwindling polar bear. Pause, think and consider. Do your bit to reverse the situation.It is believed that the first tree evolved over 370 billion years ago which was complete with a woody trunk and branches attached to the trunk the same way the modern trees do and a root system. If you are a keen observer, identification will help you recognise the different species of forests rather than trees. Discovery is so fascinating and absorbing to the mind. A systematic approach will reward in the identification of leaves to an extent as to amaze everyone no matter where you are. One can also use fruits for the identification of trees and their bearing. There is also the structure of tree bark that carries out an important function such as transporting nutrients throughout the tree. Leaves play an important part. To put it simply, it is the food factory of the tree. They are the site of photosynthesis which is the process whereby sugars are made by water and carbon dioxide and the energy from sunlight. As for tree reproduction or grow to reproduce are gymnosperms which are the reproductive systems. Pollination too accounts for reproduction. Then there is seed disposal, germination and self-propagation.

**Unique trees: A Douglas Fir**

Douglas Fir is fast growing tree, Native to North America.

It is highly valued for timber and commercially grown.

The tree was introduced to Britain in 1827 by plant hunter David Douglas in whose honour it is named. It is a tall tree.

**Coast Redwood**

The Coast Redwood tree in California is the world's tallest living tree which stands at 370 feet. The location of the tree is kept as a secret to protect the tree.

**Dawn Redwood**

Dawn Redwood growing only in China, was discovered by chance by a forester in 1941.

Because of its ornamental appearance, it is planted for display, around the world in botanical gardens. It remains critically endangered in the wild.

**Banyan**

The world's largest Banyan tree is in Calcutta's Botanical Gardens and covers about four acres. Sacred to Hinduism and Buddhism, it is India's National tree. It is also considered a symbol of eternal life. Sacred to Sri Lankan Buddhist, the tree is held in reverence in temples around the country.

**Pecan**

Pecan is the best known tree in the USA. The tree is native to North America. Its nuts are used in confectionery and the famous pecan pie. Tall, spreading, in shades of green, it is a rare beauty.

# There's a mouse in your muscle!

By
R.S. Karunaratne

Animals lurk everywhere in the English language. There are many phrases, expressions, idioms and proverbs involving animals. Does it mean that English is an animal-friendly language? It seems to be so.

I still use a dog-eared Oxford Dictionary. Most of its pages are turned down at the edges. When people are competing against each other to get what they want, I see a dog eat dog world out there.

When the Yahapalana regime was calling the shots, people said the country had gone to the dogs. However much we boast of civilisation, there are dishonest people in society. Nobody knows how to get rid of such dirty dogs. If you are married to a nagging wife, you are bound to lead a dog's life.

When I attended a party many moons ago, a super-rich woman came dressed like a dog's dinner. Some people say the Opposition will not have a dog's chance in the forthcoming election. When my plans go haywire, I console myself because every dog has his day. When you have a lot of money and power, you may behave like a dog with two tails. If you are dog-tired now, relax.

When I am tired in the afternoon, I take a cat-nap. If you tell someone a secret, especially without intending to, you are letting the cat out of the bag.

If you put the cat among the pigeons, that will lead to a lot of trouble. Sometimes the police play an elaborate game of cat and mouse to trap a criminal.

When the principal walked into our classroom with a cane, we were like a cat on bricks. I heard a minister saying that the Opposition will not have a cat in hell's chance of being elected.

## Cats and dogs

Apart from cats and dogs, many other animals have enriched the English language. Maitripala Sirisena was a dark horse in the Presidential Election, because no one knew or expected him to win.

A lone wolf is someone who does not mix socially with other people. A cold fish is someone who is not very friendly and does not show their feelings. When a new vaccine is invented, it is usually tried on someone who acts as a subject in an experiment. He is called a guinea pig. If you love to attend parties, you are a party animal. Some people love to be a fly on the wall to see an important private or secret event.

We seek the help of animals to describe people's characters and actions. Sometimes you will note that your boss's bark is worse than his bite. Some people have a fierce look, but they wouldn't hurt a fly.

If you get the travel bug, you will have a strong desire to travel. When you do not wish to divulge the name of an informant, you can say, "A little bird told me."

If you are feeling hungry, make a beeline for the food. Just before an examination, you always get butterflies in your stomach. If you ate too much at a party, you made a real pig of yourself. If you have so much work to finish before a certain event, you are just chasing your tail.

If blackmarketeers are fleecing the public, it really is the law of the jungle. If you open a can of worms, you raise huge problems. If you are trying to solve too many problems and ending up not achieving anything, you are just running round like headless chickens. Now a lot of people do not use snail mail. They send E-mails.

## In the buff

If you want to make informal inquiries, you are putting out feelers. When buffalo were abundant in the 19th century, buffalo hide was a popular material for making coats. The yellowish colour of the skin inspired the expression "in the buff" which is an allusion to the similarity of buff leather and human skin tones.

The name buff leather was then applied to other types of soft leather used for polishing metals. When you buff up, you do exercises to make your muscles bigger. If you are in the buff, you are not wearing any clothes!

There are many proverbs involving animals. The proverb "All cats are grey in the dark" suggests that beauty is unimportant. Beneath the outward appearance people are all much alike. If a man utters threats in a loud voice, do not take him seriously because barking dogs seldom bite. We find that the best things in life are hard to come by.

The proverb says, "The best fish swim near the bottom." The proverb "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" reminds us that it is better to accept something small than to reject it. We always look for people with similar tastes and interests. As they say, "Birds of a feather flock together." Sometimes we meet people who boast of their courage in safe and familiar surroundings. You should remember that, "Every cock crows on his own dunghill." We often hear that, "Fine feathers make fine birds."

WHEN A NEW VACCINE IS INVENTED, IT IS USUALLY TRIED ON SOMEONE WHO ACTS AS A SUBJECT IN AN EXPERIMENT. HE IS CALLED A GUINEA PIG. IF YOU LOVE TO ATTEND PARTIES, YOU ARE A PARTY ANIMAL. SOME PEOPLE LOVE TO BE A FLY ON THE WALL TO SEE AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE OR SECRET EVENT

The peacock with its bright plumage is a beautiful bird. Similarly, smart clothing makes a person look more impressive. The book of proverbs says, "If one sheep leaps over the ditch, all the rest will follow." It applies to human beings as well because we too have the herd instinct.

You may have heard that the leopard cannot change his spots. Even men cannot change their characters. Do not buy anything without examining it. They say, "Never buy a pig in a poke."

Most of the dictionaries do not have the word "sommelier" meaning a restaurant employee who oversees the wine cellar and knows which ones best complement which foods. Its origin is not so elegant.

## Hands down victory

The Old French word "sommelier" means an officer in charge of provisions and more specifically, a pack-animal driver. "Sommelier" comes from an older word "sommier" meaning a beast of burden. The proverbial expression "As deaf as an adder" means deaf.

Adder is the only venomous snake in Britain. The word is often used as a synonym for a poisonous snake. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the Presidential election hands down. The expression comes from horse-racing.

A hands down victory occurs when a jockey's win is so assured that he drops his hands and relaxes his grip on the reins when nearing the finish line.

The word "kibitz" means to look on, offer meddlesome advice or make wisecracks. It derives from the German verb "kiebitzen" which means to look on especially in an annoying way while others are playing cards.

The word for this activity comes from the German word "Kiebitz" which is the name of a little bird with a reputation for being noisily imitative.

Have you ever tasted Oolong? It is the strong, dark tea that is grown in China. It has a beastly name because the word derives from the Chinese term "wulong" which literally means black dragon.

Sri Lankans are familiar with the word queue which means a line of people. It comes from the Latin word "cauda" or tail. However, English speakers borrowed "queue" from the French which also means tail.

If you want to see a muscle, clench your fist and make your biceps pop. The ancient Romans referred to a muscle as a "musculus, literally a little mouse. Today 'mouse' is a synonym for muscle.

We should be thankful to numerous animals which have enriched the English language.

# Gratiaen Prize 2020 shortlist out

The shortlist for the Gratiaen Prize 2020 was announced at an online event recently. This year out of the eight longlisted writers, five have been short-listed for the next stage of the competition: Ameena Hussain for Chasing Tall Tales and Mystics: Ibn Batuta in Sri Lanka – a creative telling of the journeys of Ibn Batuta; Carmel Miranda for Crosswatch – a medical mystery novel; Jehan Aloysius for Mind Games – a dramatic script; Lal Medawattegedara for Restless Rust – a novel in manuscript form; and Ciara Mandulee Mendis for Red Brick Wall a collection of short stories in manuscript form.

This year the judging panel is chaired by Mahendran Thiruvarangan, a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Jaffna and an active arts and political commentator.

Other members in the panel are well-known creative writer and public personality Ashok Ferrey and Victoria Walker, a former diplomat and passionate supporter of arts and culture, currently working as a volunteer for Sri Lanka's Design for Sustainable Development Foundation. Detailed bios of the jury members can be found on the Gratiaen Trust website.

The event was livestreamed on the Facebook page of the Gratiaen Trust. The Gratiaen Prize 2020 is the second award event to be presented under the Gratiaen Trust's new partnership with John Keells Foundation – the CSR entity of the John Keells Group - following the Primary Sponsorship Agreement entered into between the parties in October 2019.

This partnership falls within John Keells Foundation's focus area of Arts and Culture aimed at nurturing the livelihoods of artists towards safeguarding and promoting Sri Lankan arts and culture under its overall vision of "Empowering the Nation for Tomorrow".

The announcement of the winner of the Gratiaen Prize 2020 will take place on June 9.

# The plight of the University Student

TODAY'S SCHOOLCHILD IS NOT THE ONE OF THE PAST. IN THE PAST A SCHOOLCHILD'S BAG CONTAINED A HEAP OF BOOKS AND A BOX OF MATHEMATICAL TOOLS. HOWEVER, TODAY, A CHILD'S BAG CONTAINS CDS, COMPUTERS, PEN DRIVES AND THE LATEST MOBILE PHONES MOST OF THE TIME.

**BY RAVINDRA WIJEWARDHANE**

When reading the series of Gunadasa Amarasekara's novels beginning with '*Gamanaka Mula*', what strikes the reader is how knowledgeable university students were in the 1950s'. Piyadasa, the protagonist of the novel, albeit educated up to grade twelve, had a thorough grasp of the Sri Lankan nationalist movement beginning with Anagarika Dharmapala.

In the University, he becomes a leading scholar and an expert in international politics including Marxism, religions in the West, Western civilisation and modern literary trends. That was in the 1950s. But the present university student's knowledge is far below the level of Piyadasa and does not come closer to that of Balamahattaya in the novel.

Instead of becoming centres of intellectual discourse, Universities have become a place for inhuman ragging, violence and petty demonstrations. Why have Universities become such bad places nowadays? Why isn't there any meaningful discourse or discussion at these places?

There may be several reasons for this situation in our universities. One could say it is because of party politics encroaching into universities or the examination-oriented nature of universities or the fact that our students would not have employment opportunities after their graduation. These factors may be true, but the most prominent factor is the influence of globalisation.

Today's schoolchild is not the one of the past. In the past a schoolchild's bag contained a heap of books and a box of mathematical tools. However, today, a child's bag contains CDs, computers, pen drives and the latest mobile phones most of the time. This is especially true for upper grade students. In this way, a child's mental status has changed today. Those days, children woke up to the sound of the crockerel and commenced reading books after listening to pirith chantings.

## Child of today

Today, they would wake up to the alarm bell of the clock or the alarm of the mobile phone. Thereafter, they would not do their homework or any other studies, but go on watching cartoons on television. From then onwards, their timetable would be filled with tuition classes late into the evening and after coming home again, they start watching the television.

A child who leads such a hectic life has no time to admire nature and there is no space to develop any instinct or talents.

This is a sample student of today who would eventually end up in the university. The important fact is that the majority of students who enter the university are products of the television, social media and tuition culture. The question to be asked is not about the absence of discourse in universities or knowledge outside the syllabus, but how they are going to pass examinations.

It is, therefore, clear that all these consequences are the by-products of globalisation or the invasion of Western culture which comes through television, the Internet, new media and multinational companies. We, who have become pawns on a fast-moving conveyer belt, have no option, but to run as fast as the belt moves, lest we be thrown out.

This is exactly what happened to university students who are also the same as those who run on that belt. Therefore, how can there be a discourse and meaningful dialogue? Today, the university student has become a pawn in the political struggle outside the university too.

## Intellectual bankruptcy

One can argue that university students have become empty-headed people who do not engage in any discourse because of the foregoing factors. Though it is true, to a great extent, they themselves are responsible for their plight. Why should they become victims of a cultural invasion?

When University education commenced in Sri Lanka, there were a couple of issues that the university student faced. First was that students were unable to adapt to the university culture though they were well versed in English.

Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra described that issue in his autobiography '*Pin Athi Sarasavi Waramak Denne*'. Second, was to find the learning material; that is to find books.

The next issue was to go abroad to face examinations. It is similar to students who passed the London Matriculation examination, having to sit for the Cambridge Senior and the Ceylon Civil Service examinations. Has today's university student faced such issues? Thanks to globalisation, there is no such issue any more for university students.

There are endless resources which can easily be found on the Internet in terms of the education. Though some of the Internet resources are unreliable, most of them are not.

In the present context, it is not difficult as old times to pursue the knowledge if one really wants to acquire it. Hence, student himself, more or less, is responsible for their plight.

# Creative activities for children

Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Foundation (LCYTF) or popularly known as Somalatha Subasinghe Play House will commence its next session of "Creative Activities for Children" program on May 8.

Children from ages four to fourteen can take part in the program. The prime objective of the program is to develop child's mental and physical aspects and to enhance artistic taste, cheerfulness and playful sense of the child through aesthetic experiences.

Therefore, this program can be considered as an extracurricular learning that supplements the formal education the child obtains in school. The program gives the child the opportunity to learn the basics of enjoying and appreciating music, free movement, dance and rhythmic movement, acting and language, art, singing, puppetry and handwork.

The program is conducted by Kaushalya Fernando and Dr. Chandana. They are supported by a trained artistes. The Late Somalatha Subasinghe founded Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Foundation in 1981 to promote theatre productions and performances specifically for children and youth, training of actors and research on theatre studies.

This organisation presently is the top most institution for children's and youth theatre productions in Sri Lanka. Since 1981, the organisation has produced a repertoire of mainly musical theatre for children and youth and mainstream art theatre productions and performed them in the island as well as abroad. This institution was incorporated in Parliament in January 2007 under the Act of Lanka Children's and Youth Theatre Foundation, No. 3 of 2007 to further its quest for the young audiences in Sri Lanka.

# UNDP water project in Dry Zone

The world over, water is under extreme threat from a growing population, increasing demands of agriculture and the worsening impacts of climate change. In 2017, 29 percent of the world's population did not have access to drinking water that was free from contamination and available on premises when needed, while 11 percent of the global population lacked even basic drinking water services. Eight out of ten people that lacked access to basic water lived in rural areas.

In Sri Lanka, only 57.7 percent of the population has access to a pipe borne water. Although the remaining population has access to basic water through other methods such as protected dug wells, rainwater harvesting systems and nearby public point sources, access to safe water continues to be a critical issue. Due to the many effects of climate change, Sri Lanka's Dry Zone, which covers 70 percent of the country's land area, has experienced some of the worst droughts in the island's history, with the 2016 drought continuing for almost two years.

## CRIWMP

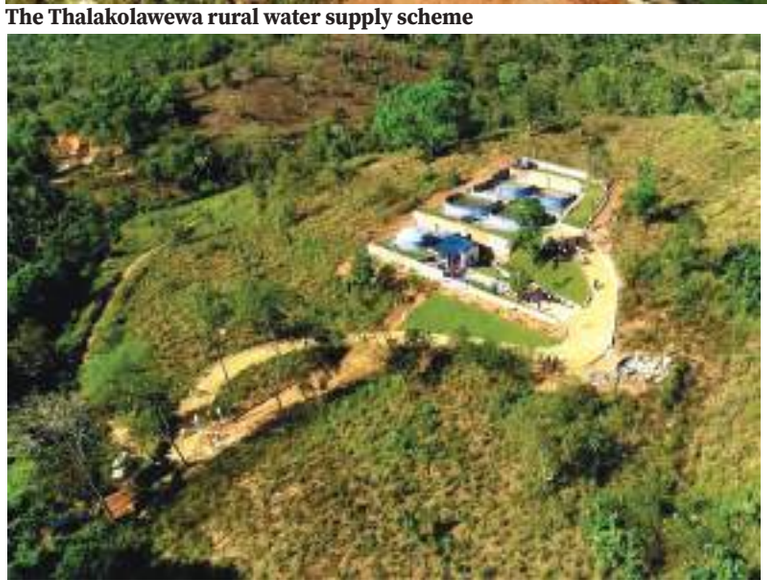
To address this, the United Nations Development Programmme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka together with the Government, financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is implementing the 'Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project' (CRIWMP), in the rain-scarce Dry Zone; which covers Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa,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

One key aspect of the project's aims is to improve access to potable water by enhancing community-managed drinking water infrastructure. In this vein of improving access to water, the project handed over Rural Water Supply Schemes and Advanced Filtration Systems to the communities in the Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Vavuniya districts recently.

Project Director (CRIWMP) of the Ministry of Irrigation Eng. Chandana Edirisooriya said, "We must note that nature alone cannot guarantee water security for people in every situation. Built and natural infrastructure 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 adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."

The Thalakolawewa rural water supply scheme



THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMME (UNDP) IN SRI LANKA TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT, 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 Rambepitiya Rural Water Supply Scheme was handed over to the public on March 24, 2021, assuring year round access to clean drinking water to more than 400 households in the Dry Zone in the presence of State Minister of Rural and Divisional Drinking Water Supply Projects Development Sanath Nishantha.

The Thalakolawewa Rural Water Supply Scheme related to rural paddy fields was also handed over to the public on March 30, 2021 by State Minister of Tanks, Reservoirs and Irrigation Development Anuradha Jayaratne which will assure year-round access to water to over 1,512 beneficiaries.

Also participating at these events were represententatives of the Government, UNDP and communities of the area.

With the Dry Zone being home to a majority of the country's farmers and smallholders, rural communities are forced to bear the severe impacts of water issues in the country. Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of drinking water during periods of drought; reduced quality of water from public point sources - which scientific speculations had 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.

Adding the importance of these water supply schemes to communities, Project Manager of CRIWMP, UNDP in Sri Lanka Asoka Ajantha stated, "Climate Change is worsening the degradation of our natural resources, especially essential resources like water. We must work towards saving every drop of clean water and making clean water accessible to all.

This timely intervention is life changing for many in the Dry Zone of the country, and 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. "

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.

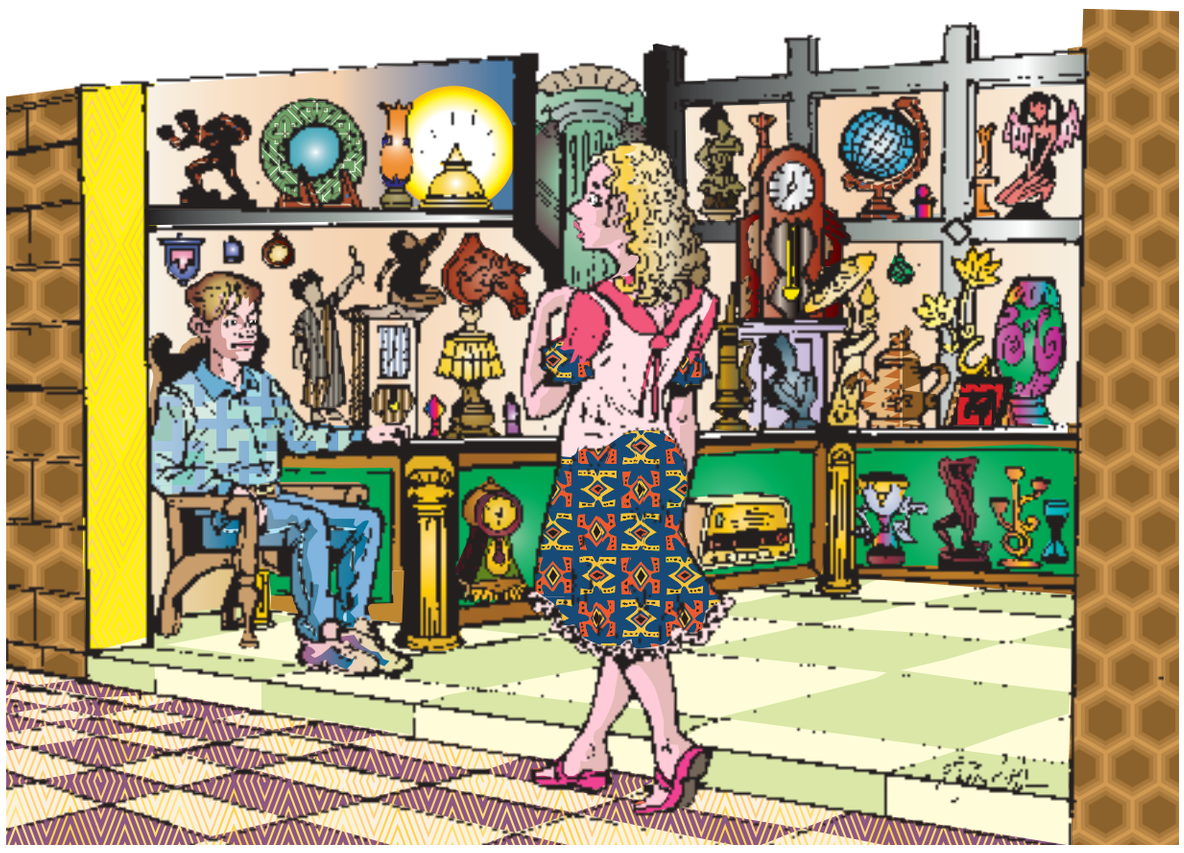
# Sarah's marriage and pregnancy

## SARAH'S BIGAMY

-The Devastation Revealed-

BY SANTHOSHYA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE

Sarah and Nicolas, the soon-to-wed couple bring Samara across the border, hidden in their vehicle as she's wrongfully accused of carrying illegal drugs. At the border, they pretend to be married, although they aren't, and Sarah is arrested for carrying an ornamental gold pagoda in her handbag. She's bailed out the following day and a court case is filed. She wonders why Nicolas and Samara don't turn up to inquire after her, and learns later that they're in a secret affair and they've betrayed her. She attends the court case alone, pays a fine and faces a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment. The following week, she flies to a city far away, finds employment there and settles down. She follows a university course to become a teacher. She coincidentally meets a young man (Sherman) and falls in love with him. He suggests Sarah be his niece's home-visiting tutor, and introduces her to his family. She gets negative vibes from his sister, Kumberlin, whose husband has faced a tragic death in the past caused by a sudden heart failure after learning that his wife has deceived him. The relationship continues between Sarah and Sherman. She moves in with him. Sarah is conceived, and on the same day she finds it out, she gets to know some corrupt doings of Jerad. She lies low about what she experiences with regard to Jerad. Her visits to the library in the convent becomes more regular, where she falls into a close association with Sister Priscilla. Sarah and Sherman get married, and on the day they get married, Sarah gets to know that the lawyer who represented her at her arrest is a friend of Kumberlin.



### Episode 13

Sarah went to sleep that night, weighing everything that happened during the day; She had never thought, at least for a moment, that Veronica Williams, the lawyer who represented her at the time of her arrest at the border, was a friend of Kumberlin. She had her fingers crossed now, ready to accept the worst. No precaution could be taken. She was in the bad books of everyone for signing a document for a legal seizure, and right after, a lawyer who had existed long ago at a far-away incident had appeared all of a sudden.

Sherman fell asleep having his mind on the disclosure Sarah made about Jerad. It wasn't hard to believe, as he knew his brother more than anyone else. However, the misdeeds done by Jerad or Sidney, for that matter were accepted and, indeed, welcomed by the family, so Sherman was torn in-between. He was lacking the strength to accept the truth as it was.

For Kumberlin, Jerad and Sidney, it was a little Christmas. In their eyes, Veronica Williams's visit was an eye-opener. The evening had passed as follows:

Veronica Williams entered, happy to visit her friend Kumberlin. She was visiting her family in the same town, and had planned to visit Kumberlin. At the very first glance, she recognised Sarah, but she made sure that she didn't show any such recognition. She was introduced to her, but she kept quiet about knowing her. However, at a time she was left alone with Kumberlin when they were taking a walk outside, she made sure that she informed what she knew about Sarah, or rather, what she didn't know about her.

"Are you very sure it's her?" Kumberlin asked.

"Yes, I'm pretty sure." Veronica confirmed.

Kumberlin gave out a laugh. Diving in a sea of joy, she was jubilant about her finding, listening to and grasping every word she heard.

"Her name is Sarah Sanderson, right? She was arrested at the border for smuggling gold, and as far as I remember her husband, his name was Nicolas. He's the one who hired me and sent me to help her out of the mess, but at the hearing he was missing, and I guessed that they broke up."

Kumberlin was well informed by Veronica of the devastating truth or the untruth about Sarah, and she laughed wickedly. Well, Sarah had been married earlier! That was excellent knowledge! She was delighted to hear it. It looked like the information simply made her day. In her eyes, it was the washing of dirty linen, and she was overjoyed to hear that Sarah also had faced an arrest at a border. Well, Sarah was a smuggler! She had smuggled gold! And it was time to celebrate! In her vacant eyes, Sarah had a ruptured past, and now she had a weapon against her. Well, Sarah was an indecent woman, also a smuggler, who had been married earlier.

"Oh my poor brother, Sherman!," Kumberlin screamed, "He just got caught by this disgusting woman, a smuggler, who had tried to fool the immigration officers, the police and all the authorities. What a shame! What foul play she had done! Now, she's trying to create trouble between the brothers. She made up a story to save herself. She's trying to say that Jerad stole something from Sherman."

There was no end to Kumberlin's yelling and screaming.

"Oh, my poor Sherman! What an innocent man she is! He got caught. She knew how to have him in her grip and manipulate him as she wished."

The two friends were outside alone, and for Sarah, clearly it was bad omen. When Veronica left, Kumberlin called her two brothers, Jerad and Sidney, for a brief visit to the town, and they stopped at a restaurant, the best place to pass the information to them.

"She's a gold smuggler," Kumberlin said, "also she had been married earlier. Veronica had been her lawyer once when she was arrested for smuggling gold."

"Wow!" Jerad said, overjoyed to hear the news.

"What shall we do now?" Sidney asked.

"There's nothing we could do. We'll just see what she's up to." Kumberlin confirmed.

"I'm feeling so sorry for Sherman. He just got tricked by her." Jerad said.

They returned home, and Sarah was counting down every second until the glorious moment. She was waiting for the wondrous get-together, which she knew would happen any time now.

At dinner, they all sat at the table. There was silence everywhere and all around. Also, little Kristina was as quiet as unusual. Sarah could hear the sound of the silverware and she thought the chandelier was giving a sound too, unlike the other days. After quite a long time of silence, when they were almost done with dinner, Sherman made the much awaited announcement.

"We got married today."

That was the least expected, and Kumberlin came to an abrupt pause of her dinner. She kept staring at Sherman as she moved her eyes regularly towards Sarah. Jerad and Sidney looked at each other in anticipation. The news about their marriage came at the most unwanted time.

"You what?" Kumberlin asked, in her attempt to confirm what she just heard.

"We just got married today, and Sarah is going to have a baby."

Kumberlin stood up, leaving her dinner.

"She's going to have a baby?" She asked, in disbelief.

"Yes." Sherman confirmed.

Sarah had her eyes still on Kumberlin.

"How could that be? You mean you were pregnant before you married? What a misfit it is! No one in our family has conceived before marriage. Oh, what a shame! I just can't believe that. And also I know you were married earlier. Sherman, do you know that? She had smuggled gold, and was arrested for that. Veronica was her lawyer then, she was just bailed out." Kumberlin screamed.

"I know all that, but she wasn't married. She had a boyfriend and they pretended to be married." Sherman explained.

Sarah maintained silence, listening to every word she heard. Words - just words and sounds with no meaning. She was grieved, but she wondered if she would have been in grief if the same words were told in a language she didn't understand.

"She's been manipulating you, having you in her hand all the time. She was married earlier. She just hoodwinked you and clung to you. I feel so sorry about you. What an innocent man you are! You got trapped by a con woman."

Sarah began to feel weak. She had no energy, not even to lift a finger. She stood up, leaning on the table and walked herself to the room. Far away, she heard some more words - sounds, just sounds.

"We all feel so sorry about Sherman, including Jerad. She also made up a story saying Jerad stole from you just to have a fight between the two brothers, even after Jerad paid the loan and saved her from the trouble she put herself in."

Sarah ended up in her room saying nothing, no explanation, as she knew that anything said would have been just futile. She lay in bed, weighing her thoughts between everything that happened - her marriage, Veronica William's sudden show-up and the dinner. Sherman lay down beside her, wondering if there was any truth in what Kumberlin had said. Had Sarah been really married earlier? Was there a possibility that she had been lying to him? Perhaps, Kumberlin was right. After all, Veronica Williams, the lawyer, knew more than anyone else.

So passed three more months with less conversations in the house, but where Kumberlin, Jerad and Sidney were concerned, they were more than talkative. In their wonderful conversations, Sarah was the main topic. After every visit to the church, Sidney made sure that he made a good rapport with Kumberlin and stood by her side. Jerad, in spite of his crookery, never failed to support Kumberlin at every opportunity he had. Kumberlin, of all, leaving her deceitful past, went a long way in search of Sarah's dealings of smuggling, the marriage that she thought Sarah had been in, or to prove Sarah's bigamy, if at all. And she received maximum support from her brothers.

Sherman and Sarah spoke less, and before long, they began to fall apart. Sarah made to the doctor by herself, and at the third month of pregnancy she was told that she was conceived with triplets! It was great news for her, but she wondered if it would be great news for Sherman as well. On the same day she received the news about being conceived with triplets, she met Arsen, who was Sherman's cousin, when she was coming home after consulting the doctor.

"Sarah, I know you're going through a very bad time with them. I wonder if Sherman is taking care of you. Really, I'm in the same situation as you with Gittel, and I've been wanting to tell you many times - I love you." He abruptly mentioned as he bumped into her in town.

"What?!" Sarah asked.

"Yes, I love you and it's true. I've been wanting to tell..."

He couldn't complete the phrase; Sarah hurried her steps away from him. She was thunderstruck. That was something she had never expected. In her bewilderment, she didn't know which way she was walking, but quite unknowingly, she took a turn which drove her to a narrow commercial lane that she hadn't come across earlier. She found herself walking in front of an antique shop, and she saw something striking in a shelf inside - her gold pagoda, the ornament, confiscated at the border!

**To be continued next week**

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# The negative consequences of colourism and its history

By Nirosha Rajapakse

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN USING VARIOUS METHODS TO EVALUATE THE VALUE OF SOMEONE IN SOCIETY. COLOURISM CAN BE CONSIDERED AS A GLOBAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PHENOMENON OF WHICH ROOTS ARE DEEPLY IMPLANTED WITH RACISM. IT IS SEEN AMONG MANY ROOTS WHICH INCLUDE THE BLACK, LATINO AMERICAN AND ASIAN COMMUNITIES

You may have heard some people saying that they are colour blind. You find it difficult to deny the fact that there are some people who take colour as a form of determinant with which they try to interpret and adjudicate someone's character.

Colleen Campbell, a PhD candidate in Sociology and African Studies at Princeton University said that colourism is an offspring of racism and also in the absence of racism, the value and perceived superiority of a person cannot be based upon the colour of the skin.

Campbell added, "When we think of racism in the U.S. especially, we think of anti-Black attitudes or institutional processes that entrench whiteness at the top of the social hierarchy".

More attention and concern on lighter skin tones is a consequence of slavery.People have been using various methods to evaluate the value of someone in society. Colourism can be considered as a global, social and cultural phenomenon of which roots are deeply implanted with racism. It is seenamong many roots which include the Black, Latino American and Asian communities.

### Discrimination

At the same time, the discrimination based on the colour of the skin is referred as colourism. It is also noted that due to colorism, the people with darker skin colours are marginalised whereas those who have lighter skin colours are privileged.

Researchers have found out that owing to the prevalence of colorism in some societies, the people with darker skin colours receive relatively lower incomes, lower marriage and job prospects. It is also recognised as a constant form of discrimination which should be negated.

The origin of colourism is still a mystery. Nina G. Jablonski, the author of "Living Colour: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Colour" has brought out an argument where it is illustrated that albeit the characteristic of the skin colour has plentifully been narrated in a vast of historical texts, majority of them has not been able to illustrate an implication of dislike for the people with dark skin colours or supremacist attitudes on the people with light skin colours.

Jablonski said that the medium brown skin colour was mostly preferred by the ancient Romans and Egyptians. The causes for being enslaved were still recognised as independent of skin colour. Certainly, as far as archaeological evidence is concerned, it is understood that within the Roman Empire, the Black Africans intermixed with the White Europeans. During the supremacy of the Arab empire, colourism as a form of a determinant of the value of someone as a human being possibly appeared sometime around the seventh or eighth century CE.

Lightness of skin colour continued to remain disengaged from attractiveness, whereas the well to do Arab men had the preference on the paramours of every skin colour and nationalities; the Eastern Ethiopian women were perceived as the most attractive.Karim Bettache, in his research on "A Call to Action: The Need for a Cultural Psychological Approach to Discrimination on the Basis of Skin Color in Asia" has stated that, "Indeed, this can arguably be considered one of the first indicators of the sociocultural construction of meanings attached to skin tone (e.g., beauty or superiority) and hence evidence of its arbitrariness".

In the Asian continent, there has been a long standing tradition where the lighter skin tones are preferred over those of the darker skin tones. A portrait of a Chinese empress who lived during the period of 690 CE represented herself as a royal who had an exceedingly light-toned skin as a mark of a royal highness.

A considerable number of colonised societies around the world preoccupied by a hierarchical system which was based not simply on colourism but also on the aspect of "racial" superiority of European phenotypic features. Colourism prevalent in Asia was frequently found to have expressed itself independent of colonialism; venerating the fair skinned (East) Asian phenotype. Most of the Asian cultures were deeply rooted in the class-based hierarchies which demonstrated that light skin represented the nobility. Geishas, the professional entertainers who attended guests during meals, banquets and other occasions in ancient Japan preferred to paint their faces with the white colour as a token of nobility and femininity.

### Fairer skins

The makeup style of the Japanese is even today denoted by the exclusive 'white' face and that the Japanese women apparently try to achieve the 'right' face by using foundation which makes them broadly whiter. In this way across the Indian continent, it is noticed that there is a preference for fairer skins whereas the darker skin tones were considered as socially downgraded and 'untouchable' castes such as the Dalits, who used to perform tough and difficult manual labour. Such class based trends are also identified in many other countries in the Asian region.

Around the Asian continent, the cultures of colorism are widespread. With contemporary Asian families, a hugely rooted form of colourism is transferred from generation to generation. Elsewhere in the culturally and geographically diverse continent of Asia, the privileges and preferences given on the element of fairness are apparently a norm.

The cultures of colourism receive the public attention as they rotate around the 'perceptual priming' of the cognitive salience of the attitudes which are related with the colour of the skin and their consequential behaviours in the social arena.

MONTAGE

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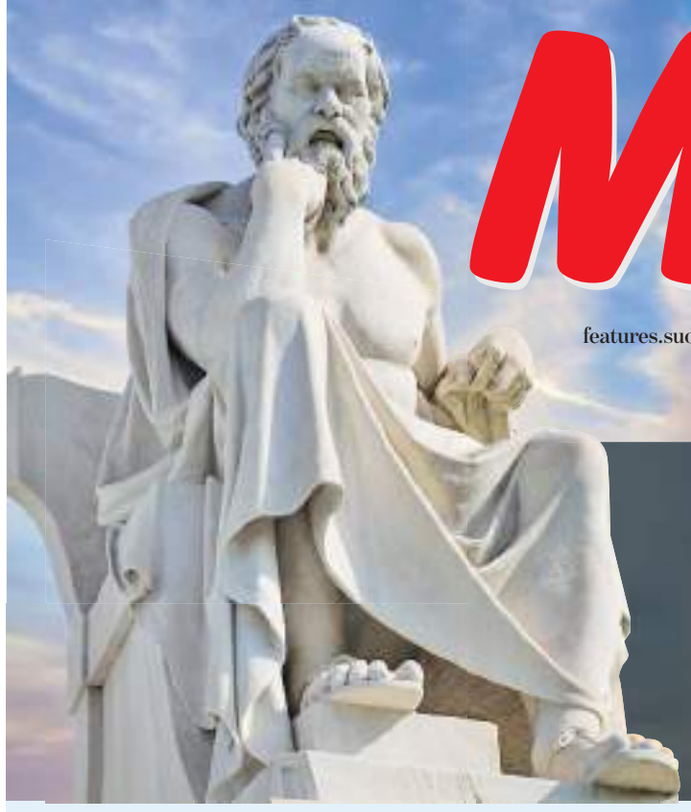
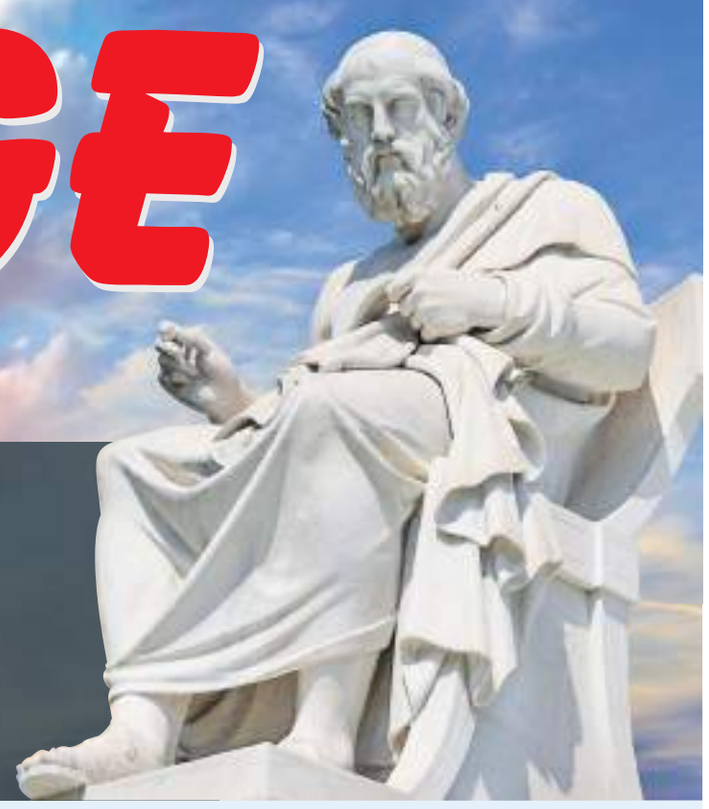




# Philosophy and Social Theory in Sri Lanka

**BY PROF. SASANKA PERERA**

In my essay in the Sunday Observer on March 28, 2021 on the status of social sciences and humanities in Sri Lanka, one of the issues I flagged was the relative lack of critical theoretical engagement which negatively impacts knowledge production in this broad disciplinary area. I want to explore this issue further today.

My point of departure is a 2016 essay titled, 'The Work of Theory: Thinking across Traditions' cowritten by Prathama Banerjee, Aditya Nigam and Rakesh Pandey. One of the things the trio note is, "Theory appears as a ready-made body of philosophical thought, produced in the West, which either fascinates us" "or makes us turn away".

According to them, "The more theory-inclined among us simply pick the latest theory off-the-shelf and 'apply' it to our context, notwithstanding its provincial European origin, for we believe that 'theory' is by definition universal." What they are referring to is the fallacy of the belief in theories' universality that most of us seem to take for granted.

With reference to India, they argue, "Our relationship to theory is dependent, derivative and often deeply alienated." I fully agree with this characterisation. But this is a condition that explains the situation in much of South Asia as well and not simply in India alone. On the other hand, this dependence is not only about theory. It applies equally to philosophy as well, which is closely related to social theory.

## Theory and Philosophy

In terms of Status of Theory and Philosophy in Sri Lanka, we can ask ourselves if Sri Lankan social sciences and humanities offer a serious critique of and substantial engagement with dominant bodies of knowledge in Western philosophy and social theory. Surely, the answer is in the negative. When exploring this situation, we can see two broad tendencies as far as our universities are concerned: 1) In most instances, many academics have embraced these bodies of work uncritically and unreflectively and teach them as an integral part of their courses and 2) Some others have crudely discarded them as 'alien' merely because these ideas are from the 'West.'

It is in the first manifestation that the beginning of the teaching of philosophy in local universities can be located along with 'teaching' theory in various social science and humanities disciplines. But pedagogically, this knowledge is generally presented as mere summaries of the original ideas. Formal philosophy teaching programs have now effectively collapsed in terms of their rigour while institutional remnants in the form of archaic academic departments continue.

In neither case, there is any serious engagement with these ideas including if their alleged universalist appeal makes contextual sense in our social, cultural and political situations. To put it differently, a reflective attempt to deal with theory and philosophy has not emerged from Sri Lankan academia in social sciences and humanities in recent times.The gap created by academia's relative lack of interest in theory and philosophy has been filled since the latter part of the last millennium and the beginning of the present millennium by two other trends. The first of these trends has emanated from the outright discarding of Western theory and philosophy merely due to their Western genesis and alleged affinity with Christianity. The attempt here has been to replace what has been rhetorically discarded with an extremely restrictive and superficial understanding of Sinhala cultural and political history as well as a nebulous understanding of the vast spectrum of knowledge offered by Buddhism.

Both have been presented as an invitation to theory and philosophy. Some manifestations of this trend have even promoted conversations with spiritual beings -- such as God Natha -- as a formal body of knowledge, affectively blurring the borders between empirical facts and matters of faith in the construction of knowledge.

At a fundamental level, the problem in this approach has always been its extreme lack of depth in comprehending what is being criticised as well as what is being promoted along with its forays into the hazy domains of faith. What is known as Jathika Chitanaya or 'national modes of thinking' typifies this approach.

The second trend is an extra-academic and popular enthusiasm in theory and philosophy that has mostly played beyond universities and has been promoted by what might be called small bands of peripatetic, medicant, sloganeering and loud rhetoricians. But they have certainly acquired a significant following among undergraduates in local universities and among some teachers.

**FORMAL PHILOSOPHY TEACHING PROGRAMS HAVE NOW EFFECTIVELY COLLAPSED IN TERMS OF THEIR RIGOUR WHILE INSTITUTIONAL REMNANTS IN THE FORM OF ARCHAIC ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS CONTINUE. IN NEITHER CASE, THERE IS ANY SERIOUS ENGAGEMENT WITH THESE IDEAS INCLUDING IF THEIR ALLEGED UNIVERSALIST APPEAL MAKES CONTEXTUAL SENSE IN OUR SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL SITUATIONS**

Collectively, they have embraced theory as a form of ultimate truth akin to a secular system of radical belief. These preachers and their followers generally discard systems of traditional belief and local cultural traditions and have adopted their own understandings of western theory and philosophy as their 'religion' and have presented it as a medication for all known societal ills.

But they too, like their university-based counterparts, have merely embraced newer bodies of theoretical and philosophical knowledge from the West and their better-known 'gods' such as Derrida, Foucault and latter-day 'saints' such as Žižek, without any reflective critique and engagement with these ideas to explore how best they might be understood, deployed, re-cast or discarded in our context or in the broader context of the global South.

So while the exit of the discourse on theory and philosophy from academia to the popular domain was a pedagogically important transformation, it simply became a matter of newly emergent bands of blind leading yet other bands of deaf. As a result, despite its pedagogic potential, this intervention made no difference to Sri Lankan social sciences and humanities in the long term. The lose amalgamation of people once known as the X-Group typified this approach.

## The realm of possibilities

But none of these approaches had the necessary intellectual capacity or vision to address the fundamental issues that afflict Sri Lankan social sciences and humanities. That is due to the complete lack of creative and reflective engagement embedded in these approaches and the vocal and pronounced intolerance of the plurality of ideas typified by them. The question is, whether anything be done about this situation? I can offer one recent and incomplete example of an effort in which I have also been involved with my colleague Ravi Kumar that attempted to address the situation within the institutional and pedagogic limits imposed on us by virtue of our professional location. But this is merely one possible model among many.

My example is the mandatory PhD course offered to graduate students in sociology at South Asian University titled, 'Social Theory, Society and Modes of Thinking.' It replaced the more conventional and didactic course, 'Advanced Sociology Theory' that was previously in its place like in most similar academic departments in sociology, which introduced students to a body of conventional Western social theory.

Compared to this, our aim was to introduce something more open, continuing and conversational while introducing our students and ourselves to the writings of scholars from the Global South that included colleagues such as Ng g wa Thiong'o, Aníbal Quijano, Ashish Nandy, Enrique Dussel, Walter D. Mignolo, Maria Lugones, Partha Chatterji and Prathama Banerjee.

This is because theses scholars have offered a critical and reflective engagement with Western theory and philosophy.

They have offered ways of thinking through the hegemonic ideas of 'Western masters' rather than uncritically discarding them or religiously embracing them. In this backdrop, we also offered our students selected readings from South Asian thinkers from the precolonial and colonial past to explore if we could derive a body of contemporary theoretical and philosophical knowledge from this engagement.

These readings included the works of B.R. Ambedkar, Jyotirao Phule, Periyar or Thanthai Periyar and limited forays into selected aspects of the Buddhist system of knowledge. In this experiment, we were also quite mindful, in trying to deal with the universalist claims of Western theory and philosophy, we also had to ensure that we would not fall into the parochial traps of nativism, cultural exclusivism and revisionist and reactionist historiography that have emerged throughout South Asia as an alternative form of thinking.

Admittedly, ours is an incomplete and ongoing effort without an end yet in sight. It might even fail in the long term. But in the very least, rather than a blind endorsement of Western social theory and philosophy or a mere critique of their potential limitations within their universalist claims or an outright rejection of them in favour of a reactionary, dangerous and supposedly 'local' modes of thinking, we have offered an intellectual space for engagement with these ideas and explore something new in the context of thinking from our own region as well as contemporary ideas coming from other parts of the Global South as well as the West. It is an interactive space.

## Intellectual curiosity

It seems to me, if adequate political will and intellectual curiosity exists, there is enough space for such an engagement in Sri Lanka too. But to do that, one must also become familiar with what is being critiqued; what is currently offered from the Global South; as well as political and ethno-cultural concepts and philosophical and conceptual categories emerging from our own political histories, texts as well as the region's thinking in the philosophical-religious domain ranging from Buddhism to Jainism to the thinking of the Charvaka school.

But it is quite evident that such a broad and wide-ranging engagement has hardly been imagined in the universities or in the 'noisy' corners of social media and the slippery slopes of the streets of rhetoric where self-styled mendicant theoreticians roam.

The bottom-line, however, is without such an engagement with theory and philosophy, Sri Lanka's social sciences and humanities in general would merely remain ordinary for the foreseeable future. And without a robust tradition in critical thinking and training in social sciences and humanities in our universities and beyond, the way we deal with ideas would be burdened by an unhelpful poverty of intellect.

# Cultural factors associated with Tamil Hindu New Year

**DR. SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN**

Hindu Tamils in Sri Lanka are mostly connected to the South Indian festive culture and traditions. Each Hindu year has a particular name from ancient times. The total number of the Hindu Year is 60. The different 60 years routinely follow one after the other in the Hindu *Panchaangam* calendar (Hindu almanac.) Tamil Hindus from time immemorial have closely associated themselves with Astronomy and Astrology. Each New Year of the Hindu calendar is repeated after 60 years with the same name.

Weeks before the New Year, people clean, whitewash and polish their houses and household items. They discard unwanted items with the expectation to bring in positive vibrations to the house.

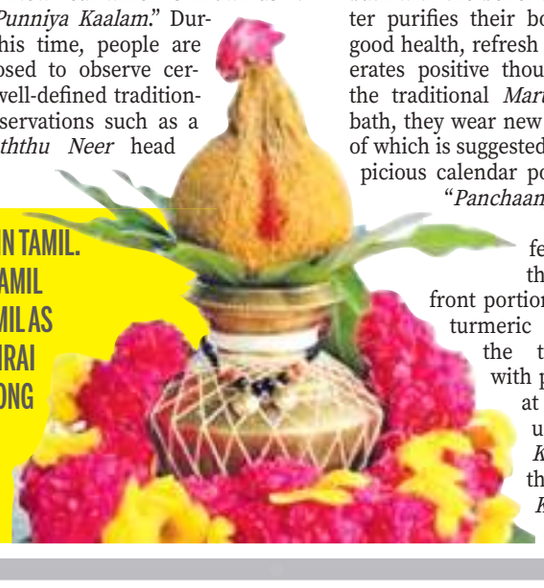
## Movements of Sun

The Hindu New Year normally falls around April 13 or 14 of every year. The month of April is known as *Chithirai* in Tamil. That's why the New Year is known as the Tamil New Year which is commonly known in Tamil as "*Chithirai Puthu Varudaperappu*," "*Chithirai Varudaperappu"* or *"Puthuvarudam*." Among the planets in Hindu Astronomy and Astrology, the movements of the Sun occupy a significant role.

This is the period that the sun moves from Pisces (*Meena*) to Aries (*Makara*) in the Hindu calendar. That means the movement from the last house to the first house of the Zodiac in the Hindu calendar. According to Hindu astrology, there are 12 *Rasis* or signs. They are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.

The New Year is believed to be the dawn of Sun God (*Surya Bhavan*) to the earth. According to Hinduism, Sun God regulates and determines the seasons in the universe. In other words, it is believed that it is a day to express gratitude to Sun God whose cyclic movements determine and control the seasons in the universe ultimately bringing in prosperity to the world.

There is a particular period before and following the auspicious birth-time of the New Year which is known as "*Vishu Punniya Kaalam*." During this time, people are supposed to observe certain well-defined traditional observations such as a *Maruththu Neer* head bath.



**THE MONTH OF APRIL IS KNOWN AS CHITHIRAI IN TAMIL. THAT'S WHY THE NEW YEAR IS KNOWN AS THE TAMIL NEW YEAR WHICH IS COMMONLY KNOWN IN TAMIL AS "CHITHIRAI PUTHU VARUDAPERAPPU," "CHITHIRAI VARUDAPERAPPU" OR "PUTHUVARUDAM." AMONG THE PLANETS IN HINDU ASTRONOMY AND ASTROLOGY, THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SUN OCCUPY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE**

Especially after the birth of the traditional New Year, the people are supposed to take a traditional bath by applying *Maruththu Neer* (it is a variety of herbal and divine water). *Maruththu Neer* is prepared and distributed only at Hindu temples. It is made of numerous herbs, leaves, selected flowers and saffron. Such sacred and especially made water could be obtained only from Hindu temples.

The temple authorities make *Maruththu Neer* with certain flowers and divine leaves which are used for *Pujas, Abhishek* and *Archannai*. Fresh lotus flowers, pomegranate fruits, *Arugham* grass, Vilva leaves, *Thulasi* leaves along with saffron and *Thipilli* are used for the preparation of the sacred *Maruththu Neer*.

## Herbal water

The people add *Maruththu Neer* water in their bathing water and take a bath with the belief that the herbal water purifies their bodies and induces good health, refresh the mind and generates positive thoughts. After taking the traditional *Maruththu Neer* head bath, they wear new clothes the colour of which is suggested by the Hindu auspicious calendar popularly known as "*Panchaangam*."

The head of the female member of the house cleans the front portion of the floor with turmeric water and draws the traditional *Kolam* with pure rice flour. But at present, people use artificial colour *Kolam* powder. In the middle of the *Kolam*, an effigy of Lord *Ganesha* is placed.

The idol of Lord *Ganesha* is traditionally made out of turmeric power and *Arugham* grass. In ancient times, the idol of Lord *Ganesha* was made out of cow dung. Even today at villages, the effigy of the Lord is still made out of cow dung. Keeping the idol of Lord *Ganesha* at the entrance of the house is to seek the blessing and protection of the residence from all the evil effects and to bring in happiness to the house.

To welcome the traditional New Year, they place a *Purnakumpam* at the main entrance of the house. It is a Hindu tradition to keep the *Purnakumpam* at the main entrance of the house. It is placed on a table along with lighted traditional silver or brass *Kuthuvilakus* (traditional Hindu oil lamps). The *Kuthuvillakus* are kept on both sides of *Purnakumpam* (a brass or silver pot filled with water, and top of the mouth of the pot a coconut is kept). Around the coconut, five, seven or nine mango leaves are decorated. *Purnakumpam* is always placed on the front edge of the banana leaf on which red raw rice is spread.

The *Kuthuvilakus* (traditional cultural oil lamps in brass or silver-plated lamps) are always used for the traditional occasion. Besides, to mark the traditional New Year in the auspicious manner, three to four trays are kept for different purposes. One tray contains *Vibuthi* (holy ashes), auspicious red *Kumkum* powder and sandalwood paste and *Panneer* water (a particular incense and herbal water).

## Different customs

Nowadays, instead of *Panneer* water, artificial flavoured rose water is used in urban areas. Another tray has to be arranged for betel leaves with three, five or seven *arecanuts* with one ripe yellow lemon fruit. Another tray has to be kept with fresh flowers of different colours and a variety of fruits. All the practices are observed to welcome the traditional New Year in a Hindu customary manner.

The front entrance upper frame of the door has to be decorated with seven or nine fresh mango leaves. But at present, instead of fresh mango leaves, people prefer to use plastic mango leaves which are freely available in urban shops.

After finishing the *socio-cultural* formalities, the hearth has to be lit to cook the sweet milk rice (*Pongal*) and offer it to the Sun God and invoke its blessings. After the offering all the family members participate in a joint prayer in the shrine room. The traditional worship is performed with a lighted oil lamp in the shrine room with camphor *Deepam, Sambrani* smoke and incense sticks. They provide a divine atmosphere to the house.

After finishing their prayers and other ritual formalities, the head of the family offers *Kaiveshaham* to all family members. *Kaiveshaham* contains a currency note, raw rice grawins, lime fruit, fresh flower, red *Kumkum* and holy ashes kept on a fresh betel leaf. It implies the first money transaction between family members at home on the prescribed time of the auspicious day. It implies that the head of the family gives *Kaiveshaham* in a form of blessings to all of his family members for economic and financial prosperity of the forthcoming days and months of the New Year.

All the traditional activities of the New Year include taking the first bath, lighting the hearth, exchanging the *Kaiveshaham*, visiting temples, houses of friends and *neighbours*. Work has to be performed according to the guidelines given by the traditional *Panchaanga* calendar.

# Prof Sarachchandra enriched my literary career – A.M.P. Padeniya

BY RAVINDRA WIJEWARDHANE

Veteran writer A.M.P. Padeniya's autobiography in Sinhala, Neerawwa (The Pond which hasn't seen the rays of sunlight), published by Grantha was launched recently at Paradise Rest in Uthuwankanda, Mawanella. It mainly deals with his struggle to enter the University of Peradeniya and struggles in life thereafter.

Padeniya is a student of Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra. He featured in the chorus of Sarachchandra's opretic drama *Pematho Jayathi Soko*. His young adult novel *Lokottarayek Noweemi* won the State Literary Prize in 2005. The Sunday Observer spoke to him to discuss his autobiography and his life at large.

## Excerpts

**Q: Your name is A.M.P. Padeniya. What do those initials stand for?**

**A:** It means Arachchiralalage gedara Mudalihamige Piyadasa Padeniya. There are 12 members in our family, but I am the only one who uses this type of surname.

For instance, my eldest brother used Wanasingha Atapatturalalage Gedara Thilakaratne Padeniya. One of my younger brother used Wanasingha Atapatturalalage Gedara Dharmadasa Padeniya.

My parents named me as Wanasingha Atapatturalalage Gedara Palitha Padeniya. But I changed it to earlier name. There is a story behind it. In my younger days, I taught Mathematics to a boy in our village called Piyadasa who was of low caste. My parents who were of caste prejudice didn't agree my action. They always attacked me towards my teaching. I thought I should change my name. I renamed me as Arachchiralalage Gedara Mudalihamige Piyadasa Padeniya or A.M.P. Padeniya.

**Q: How did your autobiography Neerawwa come about?**

**A:** Once I and my wife visited my guru Prof. Sarachchandra who lived at Epitamulla road, Pitakotte after retiring. When I went there, I saw three people were in a conversation with Prof. Sarachchandra -Those were Sucharitha Gamlath, Thissa Kariyawasam and Simon Nawagattegama. However, when Sarachchandra saw me, he at once came towards me. We went to the town and came back with some home stuffs. By this sudden change in the situation, Prof. Sucharitha asked Sarachchandra, "Is there anything special in Padeniya more than any of us do?"

Sarachandra said them, "Padeniya hasn't written as many books as you have written. He is not a person who did things like you to the country, but I admire him as a naïve village boy who has been disciplined by the values of village." This incident was over after that, but I was affected by Sarachchandra's comment on me. I began to think myself, why I can't write books. Thereafter, I started to write a book in 1990s. It was a memoir written as a fictional form. This is how my first novel, young adult novel Dadabbaraya appeared in 1998. Then, I wrote two more novels which were Lokottarayek Noweemi and Wasawarthiyekda Noweemi. This autobiography Neerawwa is another part of my early novels.

> IN MY YOUNGER DAYS, I TAUGHT MATHEMATICS TO A BOY IN OUR VILLAGE CALLED PIYADASA WHO WAS OF LOW CASTE. MY PARENTS WHO WERE OF CASTE PREJUDICE DIDN'T AGREE MY ACTION. THEY ALWAYS ATTACKED ME TOWARDS MY TEACHING.

A.M.P. Padeniya

**Q: When we talk about your books in general, there is always a child protagonist?**

**A:** I worked as a school teacher and a Zonal Education Director for a long time. In those years I saw many children who were struggling to learn with their poor family conditions. Most of them came to school without having any food. When I saw them I remembered my childhood too, because my situation was also not different from theirs. You know, I had a big family, I had 12 siblings. So I had to undergo so many hardships when I was schooling. When I passed the University entrance, I did not have money to pay the hostel charges. I begged money along the road to continue the university education. With this background when I started to write, invariably a poor child in me comes forward. Still I see the world with a poor child's point of view.

**Q: In your autobiography, Neerawwa, you mainly relates your experiences in the university, especially your relationship with Prof. Sarachchandra?**

**A:** Yes. My other three books focused on my childhood days. But through this book I wanted to write my experiences in the university and struggles in life thereafter. In fact, my biggest achievement in my life is to meet Prof. Sarachchandra. He was a father to me and always escorted me on a correct path when I was confused. So I owe to him if I come to some position in my life today.

A.M.P. Padeniya with literary figures

**Q: You were the President of the Drama Society in the University?**

**A:** Yes, I was the president of the university drama society. I came to that position after I was selected by Prof. Sarachchandra to his operatic drama *Pematho Jayathi Soko*. My colleagues were then Jayalath Manorathne and Nishshanka Diddeniya. They helped me a lot to carry out my tasks in society.

I have many memorable experiences working with Prof. Sarachchandra in his dramas which I narrate here in this book. For instance, we launched an oriental musical group called La Padeniyas in the university. We held many musical concerts with the participation of Amaradewa and other classical singers. Sarachchandra wholeheartedly supported these functions.

**Q: Is there any writer who influenced you?**

**A:** In my younger days I collected photos of Sarachchandra, Martin Wickramasinghe and Gunadasa Amarasekara from the newspapers. I love them so much that I read most of the books written by them. I think they invariably influenced me.

I still enjoy Sarachchandra's novels as *Malagiya Attho*, *Malawunge Awurudu Daa*. World literature didn't influence me. There is a reason for that. In our childhood days, we hadn't any translation book to read. And we didn't have the enough English knowledge to read English books too. Russian or any other foreign writer didn't influence me.

**Q: You always focus on the actual experiences when you are writing. One can say you don't imagine things, you just write things as it is.**

**A:** You are right. There is no fictional world in my writing. I try to depict the reality as truly as possible. I have so many life experiences. I don't want to create a fictional world with them to entertain the reader. I just want to motivate the reader to face the life bravely. For instance, through my young adult novels, I wanted to encourage children to challenge the life. When I recall my life, I always see sad scenes, bitter pictures. So I cannot ignore them and write a fictional world with them.

**Q: What is your next book?**

**A:** On March 31, my autobiography Neerawwa was launched at the Paradise hotel in Mawanella. I didn't know about the book launching until I came to that place. It was organised by my children without informing me anything.

My 50th marriage anniversary also fell on that day. However, there were so many close friends who couldn't come to this book launching. Without some of them, this book wouldn't have been a reality. However, I thought to write another book when I participated in the book launching, because the people there talked about me highly.

# First anniversary of Sri LankaNZ

The Sri LankaNZ, a free bilingual community newspaper, started its journey a year ago to provide a platform for Sri Lankan writers and social media enthusiasts in New Zealand. On its first anniversary in March, 2021, the founder, Harsha Weerakoon and co-founder and designer Charith Ekanayake and media co-ordinator Anu Weerakoon recollect many milestones in its passage.

The paper publishes articles on religion, literature, history, politics, philosophy, psychology, medicine, science and other subjects of general interest.

It is a forum for new and experienced writers to publish their short stories, poems and other creative works.

The children's page is a busy corner where schoolchildren can send their creative work on their way to be the writers of the next generation.

Many communities in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Australia contribute to the newspaper.

The Sri LankaNZ once held an online meeting with the writers who contributed from the inception. The feedback was encouraging. Their suggestions were considered for planning the paper's future direction.

The paper has identified many talented and young Sri Lankan writers, graphic designers, distributors, interviewers and budding journalists with the acumen for a thriving industry journey.

Charith Ekanayake

B. Karasinghe Arachchi

Harsha Weerakoon

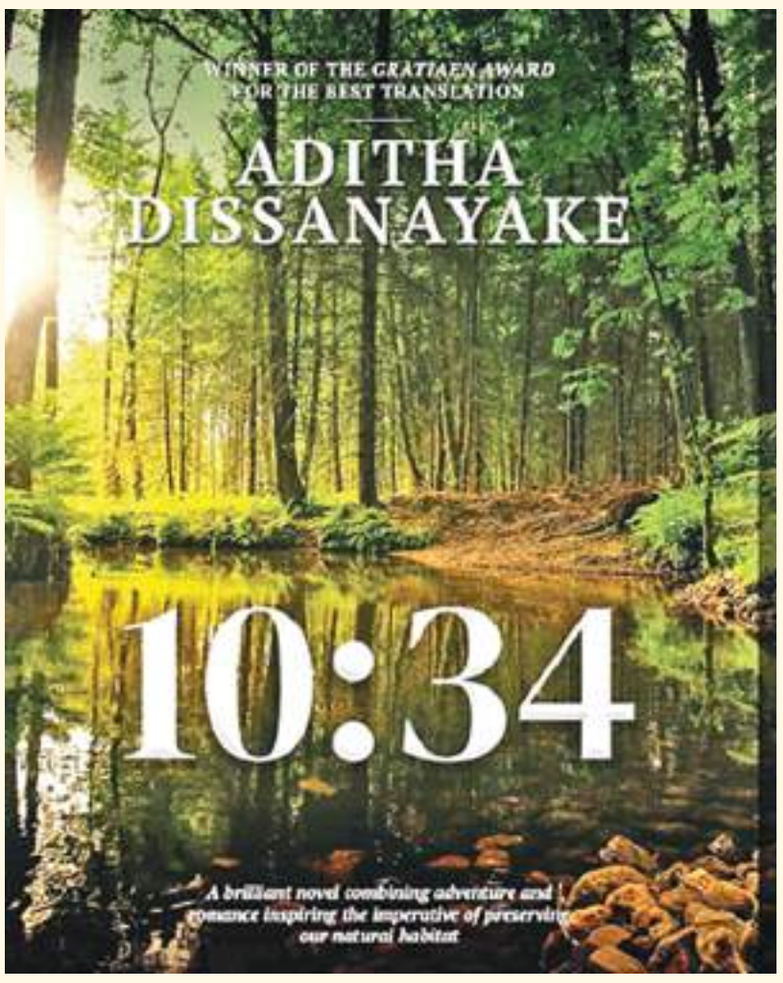
New Zealand is six times bigger than Sri Lanka. The printed paper, issued on two monthly basis, is distributed countrywide, mainly through the Sri Lankan business organisations in major cities; Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch and Dunedin.

The readership could be estimated at well over 8,000; a remarkable success for one year journey in an epidemic hit environment.

It has started networking with other Sri Lankan community organisations in New Zealand and Sri Lanka and look forward to having contacts with similar social entities in other countries.

The future plan of the Sri LankaNZ includes making it a monthly issue, hold more regular online meeting with the contributors, increase the number of the printed version, redesign its website and online version and social media platforms with more features facilitating the writers and the readers to build up a better rapport.

# 10.34 – A novel that touches the heart




REVIEWED BY NANDASIRI (NANDI) JASENTULIYANA, Former Deputy Director-General, United Nations

**Author:** Aditha Dissanayake
**Publisher:** Vijitha Yapa Publications

> 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 VIBRANT AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL AND TRUE TO LIFE. THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE COMPELLING AND ENIGMATIC

10:34 is a dramatic love story of a poetic and tender quality written with a deep respect for 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 from what either of them intended.

Aditha narrates a twenty-four-year-old school teacher'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 home town in the fictional village of Maliyadda on the banks of the Kothmale Oya.

She goes there directed 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. He was going ahead to settle affairs in the new country they were moving to before Kumi arrives.

## Abandoned house

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 next book.

Abandoning her plans to move to New Zealand with her urbanised 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.

## Endearing story

Aditha makes her characters 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 Vinoo, 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 an 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 is. Novel writers are not screenwriters whose story is brought to life by an entourage of directors, actors, sound engineers and 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. 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.

# Observing food discipline, Covid guidelines, key to a heart healthy New Year

## Reduced intake of rich food can prevent early Non Communicable Diseases

By Carol Aloysius

In a couple of days, the National New year will dawn on us. As we celebrate this joyous harvest festival, one must not forget that we are still in the midst of a Covid-19 spread where observing strict guidelines issued by the Health Ministry is a must even when re-uniting with our families for the occasion.

Excessive consumption of rich sugar and oil laden foods is common even among patients on prescribed diets leading to cardiac problems, cholesterol and early non-communicable diseases.

Senior Cardiac Surgeon, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya, Dr Namal Gamage said nearly 70 percent of patients who come for bypass surgeries are diabetics. The *Sunday Observer* asked him to share some tips on how and what foods one should avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the heart.

**Excerpts**

**Q: The Sinhala and Tamil New year is almost upon us. However, this annual national holiday which is celebrated islandwide is likely to be different from previous New Year festivals. What do you see as the most significant difference?**

A: As I foresee it, this New Year festival would be a more disciplined one. Let me explain why. In the distant past, the New Year was observed in a traditional manner where people were more interested in cultural and religious customs. However, later indisciplined elements were introduced by various groups of people sometimes with ulterior motives, such as alcohol consumption, smoking, gambling, drugs abuse and less acceptable behaviour.

However, thanks to Covid-19, a big percentage of these antisocial behaviour is likely to be reduced allowing the good old traditional New Year norms to predominate this year.

**Q: As we are now under the new normal and most people are trying to get back to our normal lives, do you see the relaxation of strict rules and regulatations preventing free movement of people to their traditional homes to visit their kith and kin and have family get togethers for the New Year celebrations is a good thing?**

A: It is always good to be with one's kith at a time like this. However, every one of us should see and treat the others we also meet at these gatherings, like one's mother, father, brother, sister, son or daughter. Things which we don't do to our people should not be done to the others. That attitude and thinking should be cultivated in us. If we change our thinking that way, even Covid-19 spread could be stopped.

Avoid over eating oily starchy foods to prevent heart probems

**Q: As this is the time of the year when revellers following strict diets put them on hold temporarily to enjoy the rich foods served at New Year, tell us what health impacts do you foresee on especially those with underlying illnesses such as Diabetes, Hypertension and Cholesterol if they were to forget to stick to their prescribed diets during this time around?**

A: Ours is a festival laden society. There is a row of festivals all over the year. So when you calculate the days this happens, breaking one's food ritual only at festive times itself will carry a fair number of days about 5-10% of 365 days. Food served at festive times is not prepared scrupulously like day-today meals. Raw materials are not carefully selected. Hence the risk is higher that toxins could be in higher concentration in this festive food. Therefore, eating discipline must not be broken on any account as it would result in grave health consequences.

**Q: Are there any safe food they can eat? What are the kind of foods that should be avoided during the New Year? Fried? Steamed? Cooked?**

A: Traditional new year foods are generally not bad as traditional homemade coconut oil which is made out of fresh coconut kernel has no aflatoxins is used. But sadly, today nobody prepares coconut oil the traditional way nowadays. Hence minimal quantities of toxins are there in coconut oil anyway. Traditional Kitul treackle which has low glycemic index is very rare now. Some 99 percent of the times you get sugar adulterated treacle. The same story goes for the other raw materials also. As we don't have those good old days traditional New Year food nowadays, it is always better to eat them in minimal amounts.

**Q: So what kind of oil do you recommend when cooking? What are their benefits or disadvantages?**

A: As pure coconut oil is not available, nobody can make a safe fry nowadays. Palm oil is anyway harmful as they contain large quantities of bad fatty acids. Soya sunflower corn cannola sesame or olive oil are healthier if they can be used.

**Q: Regarding traditional dishes, can you specifically mention a few that are found on every New Year table e.g. Butter cake, kavum, kokis, asme,lavariya etc?**

A: Kawum, kokis and mung kawum absorb a lot of oil during cooking and frying. When made for commercial purposes as the same oil is recycled over again which is a harmful for health, as toxic material is made inside this type of oil makes such oily foods much more toxic than the first fry food. We should remember that there are enough traditional sweets which don't use much oil for their preparation. In this category, *halapa, gotupittu, uda balum, lavaria variety of dosia, aluwa mee gamu aluwa aggala, kiribath imbul kiribath walitalapa rice talapa* or *payasam* are some others. We can also use fresh fruits prepared in various decorative ways to decorate the New Year table.

**Q: What about sweetened drinks or fizzy drinks?**

A: Artificially sweetened or coloured drinks are best avoided. Natural fruit drinks are available in our country in ample amounts. Uncommon drinks, such as *katu anoda,* ripe *ambarella, kirala, guawa* maybe a welcome alternative.

**Q: Other alternatives or healthier substitutes to take? water? tea, milk?**

A: Water is always the best. Thambili, *Kurumba,* black tea, green tea, *belimal*, boiled young *beli* nut are some suggestions.

**Q: Consumption of liquor - It has been said that a pint of beer or glass of wine is good for the heart. Do you agree?**

A: Wine - red wine contains some amount of rosveterol- a substance which is heart friendly. But if one takes larger amounts of red wine, the benefits of rosveterol is superseded by the harmful effects of alcohol. The other kinds of alcohols are, anyway, harmful and have no cardio protective substances.

**Q: What about smoking?**

A: Smoking is harmful. It is said one's life span is shortened by six minutes each cigarette smoked.

Smoke carries more than 100 toxic agents. Passive smoking which means inhaling somebody else's smoke when close to him is equally harmful.

**Q: At this time around many children leading sedentary lives tend to overeat especially snacks, fried foods, biscuits, cake and sweets and drink a lot of artificially sweetened juice. With the rise of obesity in children in Sri Lanka, will this lead to early non Communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart problems, hypertension and cholesterol?**

A: The April New Year festival is a blessing for these children, especially those who go to their native villages and participate traditional physical New Year games. Their parents should encourage them in such activities, always keeping in mind they are performed within the Covid-19 prevention guidelines. Parents should also allow them to taste wholesome toxic free traditional village food varieties and how to prepare them. It would be an enjoyable exercise in contrast to ready-made fast-food items provided over the counters in big cities.

**Q: Since you referred to Covid guidelines, social distancing is difficult when families get together during the New Year. Masks are put aside, hugging and kissing becomes normal instead of the elbow bump or hand clasped greeting the Ministry informs. Since the danger of Covid transmission is still prevalent what will be the health impact on those who are exposed to these risks by not adhering to the safety rules?**

A: Covid-19 guidelines have been issued by the Health Ministry and most people know what is expected, how to follow them and what way to behave. All of us know direct spread of Covid-19 is by inhalation of one's miniature droplets showering out when the person talks coughs sneezes or falling them on conjunctiva of eyes. Indirect spread is by touching the surfaces where those droplets are deposited on and then touching once mouth nose or eyes using that uncleaned hands- so called nosocomial spread.

Dr Namal Gamage

DIABETES IS BECOMING COMMONER AMONG YOUNGER SRI LANKANS. NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF PATIENTS WHO COME FOR BYPASS SURGERIES ARE DIABETICS. MOST OF THEM HAVE POOR CONTROL OF IT OVER THE YEARS. IT COULD BE THE REASON FOR INCREASING ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASES IN YOUNGER PEOPLE

**Q: It has been reported that a few limited studies had found that many people were healthier during the Covid-19 lockdown as they ate limited quantities of healthy homegrown food without pesticides grown in their own gardens. It was also reported that hospitals reported less heart patients being warded. Your comments?**

A: There are good things and bad aspects regarding health impacts, in relation to the Covid-19 lockdown. People learned lot of things during this long Covid-19 vacation and it is true a lot of people thought about healthier ways of food habits thanks to Covid-19.

On the other hand I have seen some needy patients losing their golden hour of treatment during the process of fulfilling Covid-19 screening requirements when they are hospitalised for an emergency heart attack treatment.

**Q. Compared to previous years, is there a rise in the number of heart patients requiring treatment?**

A. It is difficult to say. Most of the patients did not turn up and transfers from distant hospitals were discouraged. The impact is not fully studied yet.

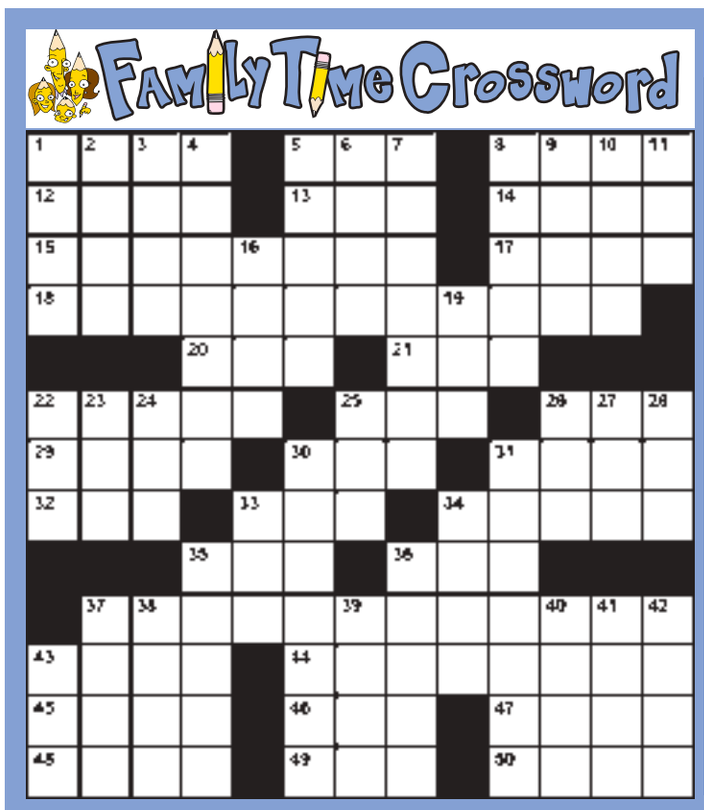
**Q: Is it also true that many of these patients are younger than the 60 plus patient of yesteryear? What are the reasons?**

A: Diabetes is becoming commoner and commoner among younger crowds. Nearly 70 percent of patient who come for bypass surgeries are diabetics. Most of them have poor control of it over the years. This could be the reason for increasing ischemic heart diseases in younger people.

**Q: Your advice to readers on how to enjoy a heart healthy New Year.**

A: As we are partially imprisoned by this pandemic, we should look for new ways to enjoy our longer hours staying indoors. Gardening, cooking, indoor exercising and bonding with the family are great for the health in general and the heart and other NCDs in particular.

## Family Time Crossword



### DOWN

1. (K) VV Cephei A, for one
2. (K) Bat's home, often
3. Flitted down to a perch
4. "Getting warmer," in a game
5. (K) Really, really needing a shave
6. Fake butter
7. Lack of agreement or harmony
8. (K) Strong building material
9. (K) Fireplace's output
10. (K) Snacks for a horse
11. Middle of summer?
16. Wander far and wide
19. (K) First-aid ___
22. (K) Grow older and wiser
23. (K) Roof sealant
24. (K) "Little Miss Muffet sat ___ tuffet" (2 words)
25. (K) Lengthen (with "to")
26. (K) X, in Roman numerals
27. Pester, pester, pester
28. (K) Put forth an effort
30. Managed and ran
31. Didn't surface for a while (2 words)
33. (K) Gentle forest female
34. Pad ___ (fried noodle dish)
35. Quick and straight to the point
36. (K) Little kisses
37. (K) 2017 Pixar film
38. Berets and such
39. Old currency in Milan
40. Ireland, to some
41. (K) "Amazing" contest of reality TV
42. (K) Rice Krispies sound
43. Drain the energy from

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

### ACROSS

1. Do a price check
5. Mortar tray
8. (K) Coverer of tootsies
12. Fish story
13. (K) Muhammad the legendary boxer
14. (K) The Indianapolis Colts, for one
15. (K) Bird buildings
17. (K) Enjoys liver and onions
18. (K) Spaceship slowers
20. (K) Climbing plant
21. (K) Stuff between gears?
22. Make up (for)
25. (K) Class with clay
26. Blasting stuff
29. Turf roamers
30. (K) Quite strange
31. Jet type
32. (K) Stat for a pitcher
33. Film format
34. Like sharp cheddar
35. (K) Baby's piggy
36. ___ Beta Kappa
37. (K) Pompom wavers
43. (K) Majestic eagles do it
44. A certain Italian
45. (K) Broadway play divisions
46. (K) Biblical watercraft
47. (K) Type of whale
48. Strike a stance for a selfie
49. (K) Is, three days ago?
50. (K) Display sadness to the max

## Sudoku 12

Have fun with this highly addictive logic-based number placement puzzle, the objective of which is to fill the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 subgrids that compose the grid contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The solution to the puzzle will appear next week.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 4 | | | | | 1 | |
| | | 1 | | | 3 | | | 6 |
| | 2 | | | 1 | | 4 | | 9 |
| | | 5 | | | 4 | | | |
| | | | 8 | 3 | 9 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| 1 | | 3 | | 5 | | | 6 | |
| 6 | | | 7 | | | 8 | | |
| | 4 | | | | | 9 | 7 | |

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

**Riddle:**

**Counter act?**

**Last week answer:**

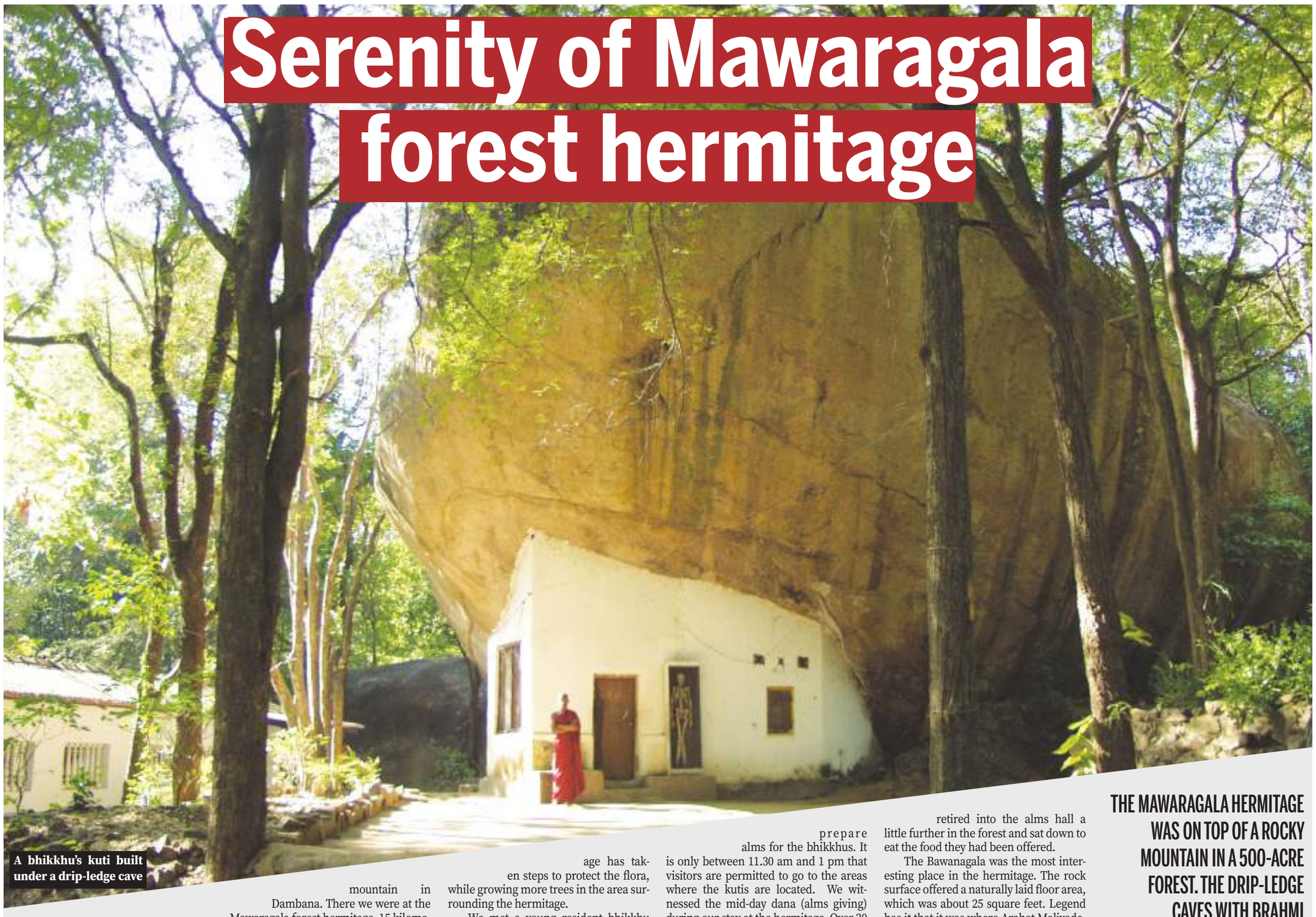
**19-D) Tune**

### Last week solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |

# Feature

# Serenity of Mawaragala forest hermitage



A bhikkhu's kuti built under a drip-ledge cave

—Text & Pix by— Mahil Wijesinghe

It had been our cherished dream to visit Dambana, the ancestral Adivasi village. We had spent years looking forward to it and finally it took months to plan the trip. Dambana was not a disappointment, but there was something different for us in the trip as well.

Long before we reached Dambana, our minds were made up on what we wanted to do there – to document the daily life of the fast-vanishing indigenous people of our land. However, as we drove along the A-26 Mahiyangana-Padiyatalawa Road on one sunny morning, we were struck with the idea of visiting the ancient forest hermitage called Mawaragala, which lies on the slope of a rocky mountain in Dambana. There we were at the Mawaragala forest hermitage, 15 kilometres away from Mahiyangana, taking a turn just before the ancestral Adivasi village, Kotabakiniya.

A neatly kept pathway led us on a steady climb through the forest and rock boulders, the greenery all around providing a salubrious climate. It was a hot sunny morning, yet the ample tree shade protected us from the heat. The rocky landscape and the serene undisturbed environment seemed ideal for meditation. Those pathways were leading to kuti or bhikkhu's abodes built in drip-ledge caves, where bhikkhus stay and meditate.

## Drip-ledge caves

The Mawaragala hermitage was on top of a rocky mountain in a 500-acre forest. The drip-ledge caves with brahmi inscriptions had been built on the slope of the mountain. The chief bhikkhu of the hermitage has taken steps to protect the flora, while growing more trees in the area surrounding the hermitage.

We met a young resident bhikkhu named Kewle Samitawansa who took us to every nook and corner of the hermitage, while explaining the history of the site to me. First, he took us to the chief bhikkhu's kuti and met the chief bhikkhu at his spacious kuti.

According to the chief bhikkhu, the hermitage's history goes back to the King Walagambahu's reign. He said that according to legend, an erudite bhikkhu called Arahat Maliyadeva and 60 other bhikkhus lived in the place during that time. Later, those rock caves had been used by Wanniyale-Atto of Dambana for dwelling.

There are enough kuti for at least 25 bhikkhus at the hermitage. These have been built in the drip-ledge caves in the forest reserve, away from the entrance to the hermitage, where the shrine room is located. A building has been built for the devotees to prepare alms for the bhikkhus. It is only between 11.30 am and 1 pm that visitors are permitted to go to the areas where the kutis are located. We witnessed the mid-day dana (alms giving) during our stay at the hermitage. Over 20 bhikkhus were present.

At around 10 am, one Samanera rang the bell to alert the bhikkhus in distance kutis, informing them to gather near the main entrance. From there, they walked to the danasalawa (alms hall). It was a rare sight, to see them walking silently down the pathway on pindapatha, in keeping with the tradition dating back to the days of the Buddha.

## Partaking of alms

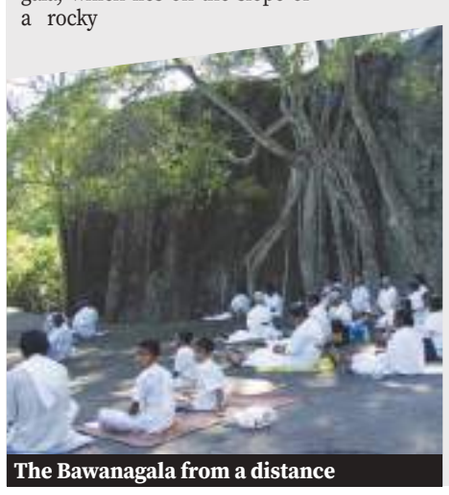
They came in a single file, one after other, each carrying an alms bowl. Once their feet were washed, they moved as one and patiently let the devotees serve the alms, which they prepared in the morning, into their begging bowls. Then they retired into the alms hall a little further in the forest and sat down to eat the food they had been offered.

The Bawanagala was the most interesting place in the hermitage. The rock surface offered a naturally laid floor area, which was about 25 square feet. Legend has it that it was where Arahat Maliyadeva and the 60 other bhikkhus meditated.

The holes on the rock surface, it was learnt, were covered with a roof to offer shelter to the bhikkhus from the rain and the sun. Foreign bhikkhus also visit the hermitage to practise meditation. The hermitage has a pirivena (school for novice samaneras) for those who come from areas, such as Padiyatalawa, Maha Oya and other remote areas.

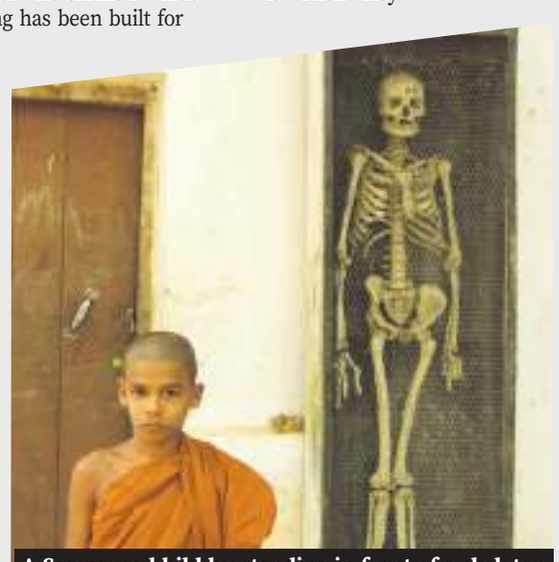
The Mawaragala hermitage was a gift of nature where silence and serenity prevail – the ideal place for meditating bhikkhus who struggle to seek emancipation. The chief bhikkhu of the hermitage said the place is open to nature lovers – the best medicine for a stressed mind.

**THE MAWARAGALA HERMITAGE WAS ON TOP OF A ROCKY MOUNTAIN IN A 500-ACRE FOREST. THE DRIP-LEDGE CAVES WITH BRAHMI INSCRIPTIONS HAD BEEN BUILT ON THE SLOPE OF THE MOUNTAIN. THE CHIEF BHIKKHU OF THE HERMITAGE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO PROTECT THE FLORA, WHILE GROWING MORE TREES IN THE AREA SURROUNDING THE HERMITAGE**



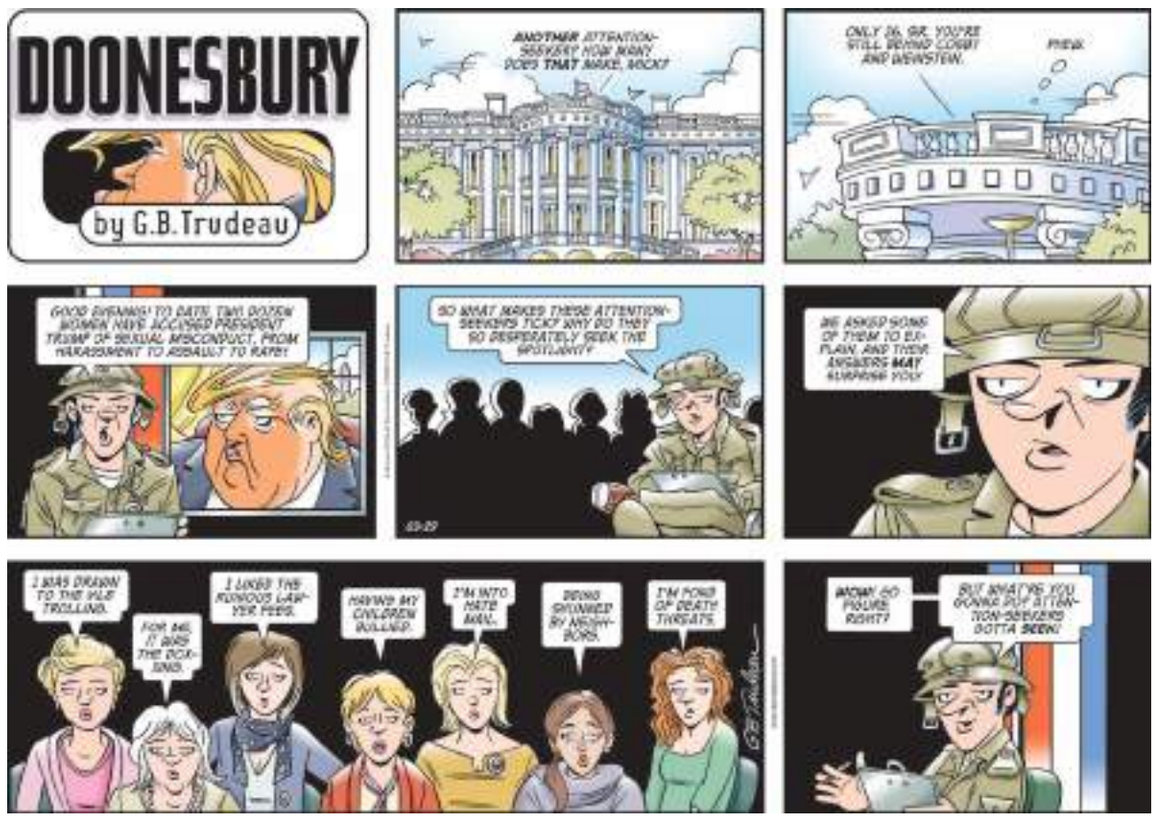
The Bawanagala from a distance

The Ruins of the hermitage which dates back to the reign of King Walagamba



A Samanera bhikkhu standing in front of a skeleton that bhikkhus use as object to meditate on

Bhikkhus on pindapatha for mid-day meal at the hermitage



SUNDAY OBSERVER | ADVERTORIAL

# OBSERVER EDUCATION

APRIL 11, 2021

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A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF TWO CULTURES PAGE 44

# "Participation of the whole country is essential for the Digital Platform for Educational Reforms"

## - Minister of Education, Prof. G.L. Peiris

Minister of Education Prof. G.L. Peiris said that the natural resource that we have is the 'human resources' and the inherent capabilities and creativity are the backbone of the country and what we expect from education is improve these capabilities to the highest level and our Education should change to suit the social requirements.

Minister made these observations while addressing the gathering at the launching of the Digital Platform to obtain the opinion of the general public for educational reforms that took place recently at the Temple Trees under the patronage of His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Speaking furher the Minister said, "If anyone happen to ask me what is the biggest problem in today's educational system, without any hesitation I can say it is the gap between the education our children receive and the livelihood opportunities. This is in no way a favourable sign. Through that what happens is the youth intolerance grows. Closing that gap is our anticipation. If we are to provide good jobs to our children, we have to co-operate to reform the education system".

We have to add computer technology, information technology and knowledge of languages to our school syllabuses said the Minister. He also pointed out that required attention has not been focused regarding this for many decades and mentioned that he expects to study about the syllabuses deeply under this programme and to make the changes to suit today and to update the teaching methods.

Minister Peiris also pointed out that instead of scoring high marks at exams after by hearting it is the requirement of the era to develop skills such as productive strength, creativity, ability to face the challenges in life and these cannot be carried out solely by the Ministry of Education and the contribution and participation of the children, parents, teachers and all people are essential. He also said that this programme would be implemented after obtaining the opinion of the clergy including the Venerable Maha Sangha, Past Pupil Associations and from all.

**President Gotabaya Rajapaksa launching the Digital Platform to obtain opinions of General Public at a ceremony held at the Temple Trees**

Minister also mentioned that priority has to been given to 'Vocational Education' in the Vision for Prosperity Policy Statement of His Excellency the President and it is very important to make our children feel about our traditions, virtues, cultural heritage that have been preserved from ancient times and effort should be taken to improve them, and this cannot be done only by introducing new laws.

Minister, who pointed out that this programme is not limited only to the Colombo city and suburbs but would be introduced to all parts of the country, invited all parties to join in this programme considering this as an important duty for the prosperity of our country.

Minister of Sports, Namal Rajapaksa, State Ministers of Education Susil Premjayanth, Vijitha Berugoda, Sita Arambepola, Secretary to the Ministry of Education Professor Kapila Perera, Secretary to the State Ministry of Education Dr. Upali Sedara were present at this occasion while officers including Directors of Education participated via zoom technology.

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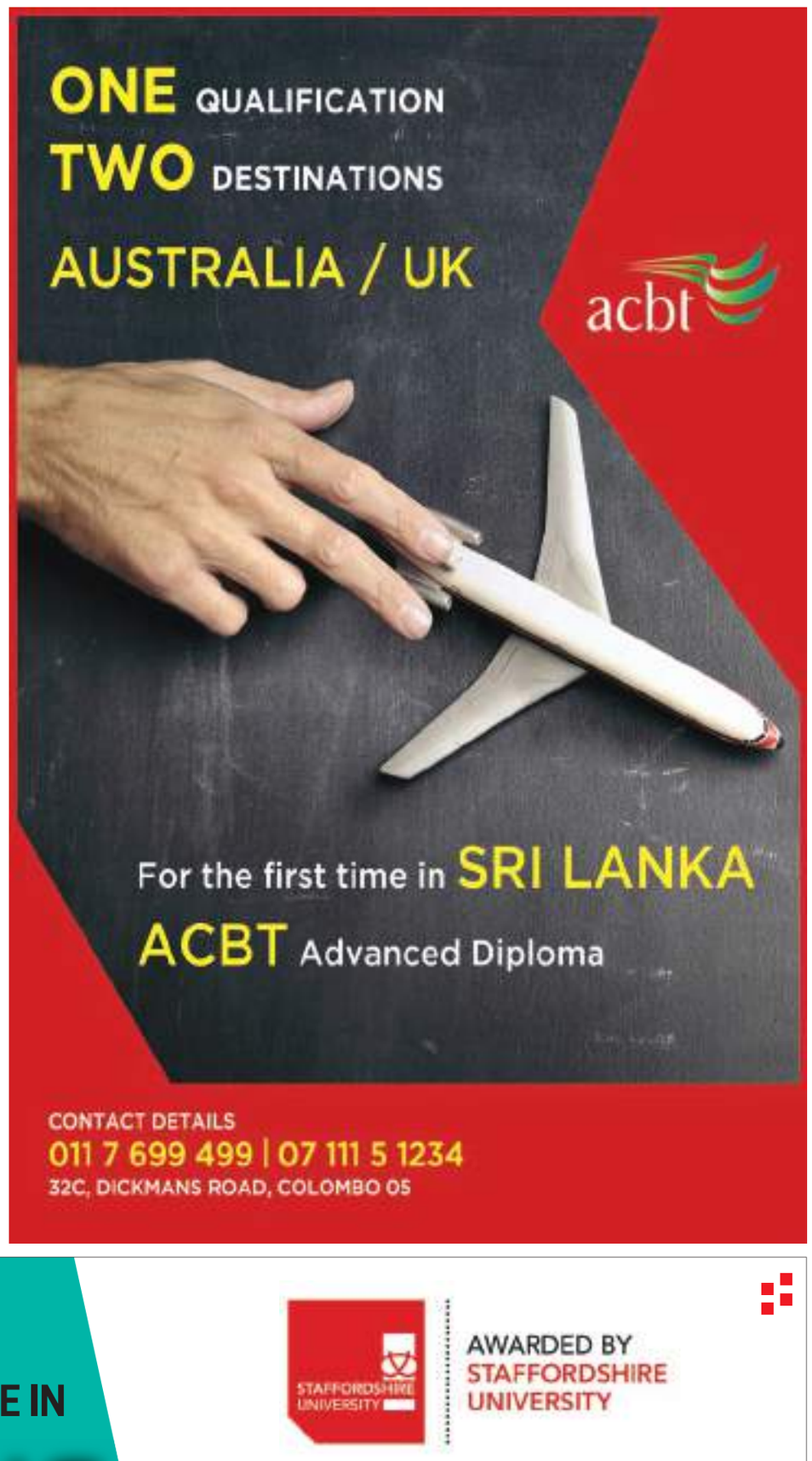

# Advertorial

# MSU Hospitality & Tourism Management Degree Students hold Training Programme

## A/L STUDENTS OF NATTANDIYA/KATUNERIYA ST. SEBASTIAN CENTRAL COLLEGE

With the basic objectives of reawakening the Tourism industry of this country that suffered a massive breakdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic that spread throughout Sri Lanka and the world unexpectedly and edifying youth about facing such problems in the future, the Management and & Science University (MSU)students who are following the Hospitality & Tourism Management Degree Programme of the Management and Science Institute (MSI) have taken steps to launch a new project. With the theme 'Empowering youth to face every kind of Problem Centering on Tourism', the first programme of the project was held for G.C.E. (Advanced Level) students of the Nattandiya /Katuneriya St. Sebastian Central College, the school selected by the Institute. This special training programme was held at the auditorium of the Avenra Gangaara Hotel Complex, Wennappuwa on 26th March and the Nattandiya Divisional Director of Education Jude Fernando and the Principal of the Katuneriya St. Sebastian Central College Rev. Father Viraj Fernando and Sam Peiris The Director of MSI participated as chief invitees.

The fundamental concept of this training programme held under the direction of Sam Pieris of the MSI, the guidance and leadership of Lecturer Suranga Thennekoon and the supervision of the management of the Management & Science Institute was edifying Youth on the future of the Tourism Industry.

In holding such programmes, they expect to generate interest in being employed in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Youth and giving them a better understanding of securing such Employment opportunities. This training programme comprised two main sessions and in the first session, the attention of the participating students was directed to basic theories of Hospitality and Tourism industry and professional skills. In the second session, the participating students were given an opportunity to experience the practical aspects of the Hospitality and Tourism industry. Furthermore, steps had been taken to uplift quality education on objectives of sustainable development.

At the end of this training programme that was held adhering to Covid-19 health guidelines, the students of MSI participated in a Tree planting programme in the Anawilundawa RAMSAR Wetland in partnering with the United Nations Sustainable Goals. The Principal of the Katuneriya St. Sebastian Central College Rev. Father Viraj Fernando, a teacher at that College Rukshan Hettiarachchi and several high officials of the MSI addressed the ceremonial gathering.

**By Sunil Fernandopulle**
***- Wennappuwa Special Corr.***

# Khiriya Girls' College launched its Logo and Website to mark 140 years

The Khiriya Girls' College Colombo 9 , one of the most prominent Muslim Girls' Schools in Sri Lanka will be celebrating its' 140 years of Academic Excellence on 20th February 2022.

To initiate the celebration, a Logo and a Website launching ceremony was held at the College Zam Refai Hajiar Auditorium on March 19 evening.

Chief Guest Zonal Director of Education Colombo G.N. Silva launched the logo and website at this ceremony.

Also Assistant Director of Education Mumthaz Beghum cut the cake to mark the anniversary. Divisional Director of Education Ranjith Premathilake, Principal Mrs. A.L.S. Nazeera Hassanar, Deputy Principal Mrs. M.M.A. Cader, OGA Vice President Ms. Ndhiya Sheikh Mubarak, SDC Secretary M.N.M. Shirazdeen, Teachers, Students, Members of the SDC and OGA were also present.

# UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

## Faculty of Information Technology

## Department of Computational Mathematics

## MSc in Artificial Intelligence - 14th Intake

Department of Computational Mathematics of the University of Moratuwa announces the commencement of the 14th intake of MSc./PG Dip. in Artificial Intelligence.

The primary objective of the programme is to impart the knowledge of theory and applications of modern Artificial Intelligence technologies to devise intelligent software solutions for tomorrow's world thereby ensuring multifaceted career paths for the potential candidates.

### Entry Requirements

The Honours degree of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology or the Honours degree of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Management of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka;

OR

The Honours degree of the Bachelor of the Science of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in a relevant field of specialization as may be approved by the Senate;

OR

A four year degree from a recognized university in Information Technology/ Computer Science/ Computer Engineering or any other related field as may be approved by the Senate;

OR

A four year honours degree from a recognized university in a relevant field with a minimum of one year of appropriate experience as may be approved by the Senate;

OR

A three year degree from a recognized university in a relevant field with a minimum of two years of appropriate experience as may be approved by the Senate;

OR

Any recognized category of membership of a recognized professional institute, obtained through an academic route, with a minimum of two years of recognized appropriate experience obtained after the membership, as may be approved by the Senate.

### Course Structure

The first year offers a wide range of courses in Artificial Intelligence covering:

***Semester 1***

- Programming Essentials for Artificial Intelligence
- Essentials of Artificial Intelligence
- Mathematics for Artificial Intelligence
- Distributed Computing Concepts for AI
- Deductive Reasoning and Logic Programming
- Neuroscience & Neurocomputing
- Evolutionary Computing
- Artificial Cognitive Systems
- Fuzzy Reasoning
- Reinforcement Learning

***Semester 2***

- Data Mining and Data Warehousing
- Software Agents and Swarm Intelligence
- Cryptography and Security Mechanisms
- Semantic Web and Ontological Engineering
- Intelligent Solutions for Industry
- Natural Language Processing
- Embedded Robotics
- Inductive Logic Programming
- Kansei Systems
- Applied Machine Learning

The second year offers a Research project and the following compulsory modules

- Research methodologies
- Philosophy of Science
- Scientific Communication

### Application Procedure

Application forms and other relevant information can be obtained from the Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa Katubedda, Moratuwa.

Application forms can also be downloaded from our website:

**https://uom.lk/itfac**

Duly filled applications should be handed over to the Faculty office at Mortuwa or sent under Registered Post with a paying-in-slip Voucher obtained from any branch of Bank of Ceylon for Rs.5,000/= (being the application fee for MSc/PG Dip in AI) drawn in favour of the Bursar, University of Moratuwa (Account No.70993353) together with copies of relevant educational & experience certificates to reach:

**Course Coordinator MSc/PG Dip in AI**
**Department of Computational Mathematics,**
**Faculty of Information Technology,**
**University of Moratuwa**
**Katubedda, Moratuwa.**

(Please indicate "**Application for MSc/PG Dip in AI 2021**" on the top left hand corner of the envelope)

### Fee Structure

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Non Refundable Application Fee | Rs. | 5,000 |
| Registration fee | Rs. | 5,000 |
| Non Refundable Library Deposit | Rs. | 2,000 |
| Refundable Library Deposit (per book) | Rs. | 2,500 |
| Course fee year 1 | Rs. | 350,000 |
| Course fee year 2 | Rs. | 125,000 |

Closing date for the submission of applications is **21st May 2021**

**Further details:**
**Tel : 2650301 Ext: 8200 (Amal)**
**Email: sagaras@uom.lk**

Registrar
University of Moratuwa

# SLIIT the perfect choice for students seeking careers in Engineering

## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR SAMAN THILAKASIRI, DEAN, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, SLIIT

SLIIT, Sri Lanka's leading Higher Education Institute, established its Faculty of Engineering in the year 2007 to produce world class graduates who can step into the corporate limelight with confidence, according to the vision of the institute to offer excellence in higher learning, research and other Engineering centered activities.

"The Faculty of Engineering has state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities provided by the parent institute SLIIT, which began its journey as a pathway to higher education as far back as 1999 by identifying the need for high quality education for global careers. For the past 20 years SLIIT has produced over 27,000 success stories that have enriched many lives and created a high demand for those who seek globally acclaimed educational standards. The institute provides quality education and it is evident by the prominence of the SLIIT alumni have gained in all parts of the world through their outstanding achievements in all spheres", stated the Dean- Faculty of Engineering Prof. Saman Thilakasiri,

SLIIT State of the Art Electrical and Electronics Engineering Laboratories

SLIIT State of the Art Mechanical Engineering Laboratories

SLIIT State of the Art Civil Engineering Laboratories

SLIIT State of the Art Materials Engineering Laboratories

### SLIIT Engineering Departments

The Faculty of engineering is comprised of five academic departments. At present, students have the option of choosing from a range of degree programs with the Bachelor of Science of Engineering being provided in four disciplines; Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Material Engineering. These degree programs are categorized into over eight specialisations including the specialisation in Mechatronic Engineering. Students can avail themselves of these valuable degrees at a minimum cost. Our graduates will find that the qualifications they earned at SLIIT are fully recognised as all the engineering degrees awarded by SLIIT are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka under the Universities Act. Moreover, the Department of Quantity Surveying in the Faculty of Engineering offers the highly recognized three-year BSc Hons degree in Quantity Surveying in partnership with the Liverpool John Mores (LJMU), UK and the Quantity Surveying degree we offer is RICS accredited in UK.

### Professional Lecture Panel and Academic Excellence

With a highly qualified full time academic staff to offer guidance at all times, state-of-the –art well-quipped laboratories and other infrastructure facilities, students are guaranteed to emerge as world class professionals with the ability to reach their maximum potential on par with global standards. During their undergraduate studies, they are provided compulsory 6-month on-the-job training, which will give them valuable hands-on experience within their respective fields in the industry. "Much like extracting a diamond from the rough, our full time lecturers bring out the best in each of their students and trained to assist a student in making the best choice in terms of education and career opportunities.To assist this process, our undergraduate curriculum is prepared according to the outcome base education system to comply with the Washington Accord Accreditation through the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL)" added Professor Saman Thilakasiri.

Prof. Saman Thilakasiri, Dean, Faculty of Engineering

SLIIT State of the Art Mechatronics Engineering Laboratories

### Overall competency

The quality system adopted in the degree programs offered in the Faculty of Engineering are governed by the same system adopted in the parent institute SLIIT under the guidance of a well reputed quality assurance expert. Further, the complete university environment provided in the SLIIT Malabe campus and the other infrastructure facilities such as library, internet and sport give the students the best learning experience in the Faculty of Engineering. After thorough review of its capabilities, the faculty of Engineering was granted permission to award postgraduate research degrees leading upto MPhil and PhD by the Ministry of Higher education, Sri Lanka.

### Unity is strength

SLIIT's Faculty of Engineering is further structured to promote unity among students and enhance their communication skills and other inherent talents through various extracurricular activities such as the RoboFest which is a national level competition organized by the Department of Electronics and Electronics.In addition to that, 'Ganthera', 'Bridge fest', 'SLIIT's Got Talent, Young Engineers Expo, IEEE Day, IMechE, Pitstop, and Esala-Pandolare organized by SLIIT Engineering Faculty. Students are also encouraged to develop a strong sense of compassion through numerous charitable activities organized by the Faculty of Engineering and SLIIT.

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Software Engineering
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Computer Systems & Network Engineering
Data Science
Information Systems Engineering
Cyber Security
Interactive Media

AUSTRALIAN DEGREE PROGRAMMES — Curtin University

Bachelor of Computing (Software Engineering)
Bachelor of Information Technology
Bachelor of Science (Computer Systems and Networking)

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BSc (Hons) Architecture

Business Management
Human Capital Management
Marketing Management
Accounting & Finance
Logistics & Supply Chain Management
Business Analytics
Management Information Systems
Quality Management

BRITISH DEGREE PROGRAMMES — LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons)

WILLIAM ANGLISS INSTITUTE @SLIIT

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Commercial Cookery
Event Management
Patisserie

Civil Engineering
Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering (Mechatronics)

AUSTRALIAN DEGREE PROGRAMMES — Curtin University

Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Civil & Construction Engineering
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Mechanical Engineering
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Mechatronic Engineering

BRITISH DEGREE PROGRAMMES — LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Engineering Quantity Surveying

BRITISH DEGREE PROGRAMMES — LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES UNIVERSITY

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BSc (Hons) Psychology
LLB (Hons) Law

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

BEd (HONS) in
Physical Sciences
Biological Sciences
English

BSc (HONS) in
Biotechnology
Financial Mathematics and Applied Statistics

Please call 011 754 4801 to obtain the entry requirements for above degrees.

These degrees are offered by SLIIT as approved by the University Grants Commission and Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.

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# SLIIT's 3rd annual Reviewing Research Colloquium held

## RESEARCHERS SHOWCASED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, OUTPUT AND OUTCOME

**Prof. Rathnayake, Chancellor, SLIIT and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, FGSR Recognition Award to Prof. Pradeep Abeygunawardhna, Computer Systems Engineering, Faculty of Computing, SLIIT.**

**Prof. Gamage, Vice - Chancellor, SLIIT and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Mudith Karunaratne, Head, Department of Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, SLIIT.**

**Prof. Gamage, Vice - Chancellor, SLIIT and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka, Senior Lecturer, SLIIT Business School.**

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

Organised by SLIIT's Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research (FGSR), 'Reviewing Research 2020' was organised with an objective of providing incentives, encouragement and to promote research related activities among academics, thus benefitting SLIIT, students and the society.

Held since 2018, the colloquium affords a platform for researchers in all SLIIT faculties to come together and present their findings. This ensures all faculties are in sync with each other on key elements of research being conducted and the ability to plan ahead. The event highlighted the research activities, outputs, outcomes and direct and indirect benefits for the betterment of society based on SLIIT's vision. This was the 3rd consecutive year that the event was being held.

A new dimension was included in this year's colloquium with researchers being recognised and incentivized for the work done, and awarded

**Reviewing Research 2020' was organised with an objective of providing incentives, encouragement and to promote research related activities among SLIIT Academic.**

certificates and plaques based on their research performance during the past year.

Awards were presented to selected recipients based on their publications of highly rated scientific research work in top - end international journals and citations received during 2020. In this regard, there were two categories of awards encompassing, Merit and Special awards

The basis of recognition was for researchers who published their work in the top 10% of acclaimed global journals received special awards. Similarly, researchers who achieved success in the top 25% of respected journal were recognised with a merit award.

During the sessions, each faculty presented three selected most impactful research work and findings.

**Reviewing Research 2020' was organised with an objective of providing incentives, encouragement and to promote research related activities among SLIIT Academic.**

This was followed by Q & A sessions and deliberations by the respective Deans.

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

The annual colloquium has been successful in showcasing our academic staff's research output with their graduate students' contributions and external and internal financial support.

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

# 'The NASCENT' a new video from SUSL Undergraduates of Department of Tourism Management

The third-year second-semester students reading for B.Sc. (honours) in Tourism Management degree programme of the Department of Tourism management, Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL) organized a charm and colourful ceremony for the launching of a video series based on the success stories of creative minds into the social media: "THE NASCENT", on 5th April 2021 at the premises of Faculty of Management Studies, SUSL.

The proud event was graced by Dean, Faculty of Management Studies Prof. Athula C. Gnanapala, as the chief guest of the ceremony, Head Department of Tourism Management Dr. Sarath Munasinghe, Head Department of Accountancy and Finance Prof. D.G. Dharmarathna, Head, Department of Business Management Dr. Rasika Priyankara, Department of Tourism Management Prof. M.S.M Aslam and Subject Lecturer, Department of Business Management Mrs. Buddhika Dharmarathna,.

The leader of the project, Chandeepa Kasun, extended a heartily welcome to all distinguished invitees on behalf of his team "The Nascent". Further addressing the gathering he commented on the efforts behind the screen, how and why they decided to organize a remarkable ceremony, hence THE NASCENT.

"THE NASCENT" comes to the surface from the uterus of the earth and with no doubt that it creates a greater value to people on earth. But nobody knows the extent to which the nascent has struggled to survive beneath the ground from the conceived. Similarly, in the concept of Entrepreneurship, the outer world sees only their achievements but not the flight corners that they had to experience from their origin to the bliss.

Ms. MalshaAbeyratne and Yasiru Silva representing their teams stated that, THE NASCENT was an effort taken by the third year second semester students of the B.Sc. (honours) in Tourism Management Degree programme of the Department of Tourism Management as a part of their continuous assessments for the subject; Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management. The project aimed at identifying different types of entrepreneurs and building up a wider awareness among the outer world about them, while providing

the young generation with the inspiration, motivation, ideas, tips, experience and networking potentials required to foster entrepreneurship in the community at large.

Another team member, Ms. Shani Fonseka, delivered the student's speech and stated that "Being exposed to these success stories, as undergraduates we acquired a lot of experience as well as developed a positive mindset about an entrepreneurial career and we are more than grateful to our dearest lecturer for giving us this opportunity".

Senior Lecturer, Mrs. Buddhika Dharmarathna explicated the purpose of "THE NASCENT", accounting to her responsibilities as the subject lecturer of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. She detailed that a subject like Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management was hard to teach online via zoom as it requires a lot of student-centered activity-based teaching to enhance students' entrepreneurial skills and mindset. This is an attempt to overcome the problem of this project was assigned to be completed by students as teams. Further, she stated that the plan was to complete six short videos by six teams, but the project was successfully ended up with eight videos. The secret behind the success of the project admits this pandemic was the commitment, dedication and team spirit of the students, she added.

Addressing the gathering, Dean Faculty of Management Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Studies emphasized the importance of promoting an entrepreneurial mindset within undergraduates and developing an entrepreneurial culture within Universities to produce job creators in place of job seekers from universities. Further, he stated the University curricular must be developed by giving more weight to Entrepreneurship related subjects and components.

Head Department of Tourism Management Dr. Sarath Munasinghe, confirming the ideas of professor Gnanapala remarked that Entrepreneurs and SMEs play a vital role in economic development in many ways. Furthermore, he elaborated on the advantages of being in an entrepreneurial career. Concluding the speech, he thanked all the students of THE NASCENT team and the subject lecturer for bringing the Department of Tourism Management and the Faculty of Management Studies to the notice of the public.

As the most iconic item of the ceremony, the official launch of the video series was honoured by the chief guest of the event Professor Athula C. Gnanapala together with Dr. Sarath Munasinghe, Dr Rasika Priyankara and Senior Lecturer Mrs. Buddhika Dharmaratne. The official launch of the video series was symbolized by releasing the video of an Entrepreneur, the proprietor of Boocat, Kanishka Asela Widanage.

Entrepreneurs; Ms. Nadee Senanayake the founder of Meuronarz.com, Hareendra Mahakumara, founder of Hela coco, Indika Siriwardane, founder of the Wild Rabbits Products, Wasantha Fernando, founder of Cocoshella, Mrs Nalini Kodikara, founder of Coffee Art, Mohamad Ahsan, founder of NAFA Bags &Travelmate, and Mrs Janet Fernando, founder of Belihuloya travels and Belihuloya fuel station, also contributed in the success of the video series, representing Commercial entrepreneurs, green entrepreneurs, mom-preneurs, nonconventional and women entrepreneurs.

Dr. RasikaPriyankara, Dr. Shashi Naotunna and many other academics who graced the occasion praised the team of students for their wonderful effort to make this event such an amazing one. They highlighted the need of assigning more projects like this to give them opportunities to add value to their University career.

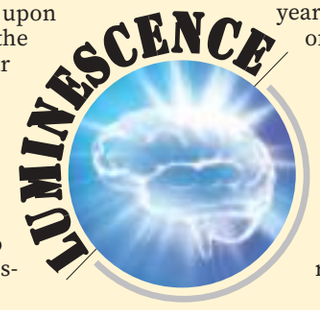
Concluding the ceremony Ms. Hashini Gamlath, a team member delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of all the members of the team. In her few words she conveyed the gratitude of all the students to key parties; The successful entrepreneurs who accepted the invitation to participate in the video series, all the distinguished guests including the Dean, Heads and all Academic Staff members, all the parties who extended their support in making this project a success.

# A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF TWO CULTURES

By Vasana Abeynayake

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is a season of celebration and joy to everyone all over Sri Lanka irrespective of age, colour or religion. It is indeed an opportunity to strengthen the bond between the Sinhala and Tamil communities. Since ancient times, the time and seasons were counted based on the Sun. The Sun festival was a common practice carried out by most races since prehistoric times, owing to the reason that the Sun was considered as God.

With the evolution of such practices, Sri Lankans have come to celebrate the Sinhala and Hindu New Year on the 13th and 14th of April, which is a festival based upon the journey of the Sun. The New Year marks the transition of the Sun from Meena (Pisces) to Mesha (Aries) in the Zodiac. All Sri Lankans join in unity to celebrate this prosperous festival by holding various events and preparations for over a week before and after the respective date.




**THE SINHALA AND TAMIL NEW YEAR IS A WELL CELEBRATED CULTURAL FESTIVAL THAT BRINGS ALL LANKANS TOGETHER IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. THIS OFFERS ALL SRI LANKANS A CHANCE TO OFFER GRATITUDE AND CELEBRATE AS ONE FAMILY**

Preparations for the New Year are done well in advance over here in Sri Lanka. From cleaning and repainting their households to buying new clothes for family members and preparing traditional sweetmeats, the chores are endless. The purchase of the new clay pot is also considered to be an important tradition. When the Auspicious time arrives, the New Year is welcomed with the lighting of the hearth and boiling of fresh milk in the newly purchased clay pot which is a symbol of prosperity. The spilling of the milk from all sides of the pot is considered to bring good luck for the entire family. The milk rice is prepared thereafter and the rest of the sweets are served among the family and then distributed among neighbours as well. This simple gesture symbolizes unity amongst all with no boundaries. Money and business transactions are carried out during this specified time seeking blessings for success.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is a well celebrated cultural festival that brings all Lankans together in many parts of the world. From a list of customs to deliciously mouthwatering sweetmeats and fun activities, this time of the year offers all Sri Lankans a chance to offer gratitude and celebrate as one family.

It is a major anniversary celebrated by not only the Sinhalese people but by most Sri Lankans. It also marks the end of the harvest season and of spring.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is quite an important occasion for both Sinhala Buddhists and the Tamil Hindus of Sri Lanka. The uniqueness of this occasion is the celebration of the beginning of the New Year as well as the ending of the old year at the auspicious times stated by astrologers. There is also a time period in between, which is called the Non-auspicious (neutral period). During this time, people stop work and engage in religious activities. In many village temples, the chiming of the temple bell is accompanied with the beating of drums to make the people aware of the exact auspicious time to perform each ritual. The ending of the old year and the beginning of the New Year take place several hours apart from one another. During this time, according to tradition, the Sri Lankans are encouraged to refrain from routine actions and engage solely in religious activities. During this transition time, people stop all their day-to-day activities, and visit the temple to accrue merit and get their blessings from the priests in the temple. Rituals of the New Year begin with a bath on the last day of the old year and viewing the moon on the same night. People apply 'Nanu' (herbal mixture), on their head and body before bathing. This herbal, according to belief, has a purifying effect on the body and the soul.

New Year is the best episode to do good, to forgive and to forget the old rifts and to make peace and harmony among all the fellow human beings. As a matter of courtesy it is forever advisable to make it a point to forgive and forget the mistakes in the past misunderstandings, errors and to bury them forever in order to get a beautiful, fresh start without worries and grudges. Moreover it is the two vibrant cultures combined together to make this splendid celebration extra special. Thus, we as Sri Lankans always must make sure to celebrate this joyful occasion with peace and harmony, adding the essence of this celebration to our lives throughout the new 365 days that lie ahead of us. May this New Year bring you every success, good Health, Happiness along with Contentment. Happy Sinhala Hindu New Year to all!!

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## Bride

Able, extremely attractive, exceptionally young looking only daughter, well qualified substantial assets. G/B affluent professional family seek a tall, handsome, financially well established partner, TT/NS above 42, well qualified professional/businessman fluent in English with an outgoing personality. Caste, religion, horoscopes not much considered. Divorced innocent party may reply. Only those who wish to live and work in Sri Lanka considered. Email FB link with full details and contact number. niro671@gmail.com OB161790

About pretty daughter , 1987/3 born, 5'3'' State University Senior Lecturer, PhD Final Stage. Inherits considerable wealth. Professional Colombo Sinhala Buddhist/ Christian parents seek an equally qualified well employed son from respectable family. Email: prop p2021@gmail.com OB161652

About 1990 Bodu Govi Matara 5'2'' pretty, slim Colombo Government registered Nurse following Pharmacy course registered for MSc interview of Lecture post. She has substantial assets including house, car, land. Looking for Bodu Govi Doctor, Engineer in Sri Lanka. Email: nadeeshaband ara1220@gmail.com OB161784

About 43, 5'2" pleasant professionally qualified BSc. Science well employed PR in Australia well established. Never married and caring. Seek professional partner. Doctors, Engineers preferred. mpropo s.aus@gmail.com OB161803

Academically and professionally qualified handsome, tall son sought by B/G family residing in UK for daughter born in 1997, 5'4", pretty, well mannered, honest and decent. She is BSc and MSc qualified. Please reply with family details. Email: brideproposal97@gmail.com OB161813

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by mixed parents (mother Sinhala and father Muslim) for their daughter. She is 31 years of age, graduated in Finance & Accountancy from recognized Australian University, dual citizen of Australia/ Sri Lanka, well-mannered and permanently employed in Australia. She is born in October 1989. Prefer a partner currently living in Australia or willing to migrate to Australia. Please reply with family details to: hkumuduni@yahoo.com OB161753

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu Govi retired parents from Maharagama for their eldest daughter 5'3", 39 years, BA, MA Graduate Deputy Director of a Government Department. OB161613

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered partner sought by B/C Govi parents for only child born 1980. She is medium complexioned attractive accomplished down to earth lover of nature and animals and wide range of other interests. Widely traveled educated mostly abroad while living with parents. Graduated and postgraduated from highly prestigious university abroad. Partly qualified CIMA licentiate piano fortee Trinity College London. Was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad presently employed in Senior Position abroad. Will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, horoscope and Telephone number. Email: tityvone@hotmail.com OB161630

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered, non-smoking, teetotaller and kind caring son is sought by Buddhist Govi Karawe professional parents for their very kind hearted, well mannered, religious 27 year old daughter who works as an Electrical Engineer - Asset Management Consultant in a well reputd company in Australia. Reply with all family details and copy of horoscope. Email: lakminipeiris60@yahoo.com OB161757

Academically and professionally qualified, caring, well-mannered son sought by B/K parents living in Australia for their daughter Australian citizen pretty, age 26, 5'4" holds a Bachelor's degree in Business major in Marketing and Communication well employed. Please reply with family details and contact phone numbers to; subamangalam21@gmail.com OB161721

Academically professionally qualified caring son from respectable family is sought by B/G/S educated parents suburbs Colombo for their pretty beautiful attractive only daughter 5'2" 1992 holds BSc. MBA Diploma Psychology Childcare employed as a Senior Executive assets luxury house vehicle. newswwj@gmail.com OB161663

Academically professionally qualified caring son from respectable family is sought by B/G/S parents suburbs Colombo for their extremely pretty fair well accomplished only daughter 5'0" 42+ Graduate holds MBA Administrative field employed in Executive position in state sector religious good family values divorced no kids. j.z.1428@gmail.com OB161658

Academically professionally qualified partner is sought by brother from suburbs of Kandy now living Australia for his only sister 39 years old (1981 born), height 5'3" working as an Executive in a Semi Government organization in Colombo with BA (languages) and postgraduate qualifications. Caste immaterial. Reply with details and horoscope. Email: mproposal1981@yahoo.com OB161647

Academically professionally qualified, living in US, B/G partner is sought by B/G educated lawyer father and former teacher mother residing close to Colombo for their pretty only child daughter, Kuja in 4th house, born in 1985, 5'3", Attorney-at-Law, education up to Bachelor's Degree in Sri Lanka and postgraduate qualifications in US, planning to do PhD in US. Please reply with family details, contact number and horoscope to: bride10071962@gmail.com OB161639

Academically and professionally qualified kind hearted son (NS, TT) is sought by Colombo suburb respectable parents (retired bank officers) for their Lecturer daughter who is 35 yrs. She is 5'4" in height and looks pretty and young. She holds a Honours degree in languages and a Masters in English. Please reply with family details. Email: mpd1985@yahoo.com OB161581

Academically & professionally qualified Muslim/Moor well mannered son (below 35 yrs) is sought preferably from Canada/ USA/ Sri Lanka by respectable parents for their youngest daughter. (1989) - a Software Engineer with MSc. in IT. She is well employed in Canada as Business Analyst in a reputed organisation. She's on a short holiday now. The groom should be willing to relocate to Canada. Email: moonstone.rln12@gmail.com OB161704

Academically & professionally qualified son below 40 years with sober habits from a respectable family is sought by B/G Kandyan parents for their daughter 33 yrs. old. She is 5'1" tall and having a very pleasing personality. She is presently reading for her Masters in Canada. Those living in USA, Canada, Sri Lanka please reply with family details to: skproposals@yahoo.com OB161694

Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by Roman Catholic, Sinhalese parents for their daughter born 1985, height 5'5", completed her postgraduate studies & currently working in a private bank in managerial grade. She inherits assets. Please reply: Email: negombo789@gmail.com 0312235016. OB161793

An educated partner is sought by respectable middle class retired executive parents (GB & SPC) from Colombo suburb for younger daughter (ACMA, CGMA & MBA) who is a Buddhist, born in 1987, slim, fair, pleasing personality & 5'7" height (never married) employed as a Senior Executive in a private firm. Differences immaterial. Please reply with family details, contact nos. & horoscope, if available. Email: fgunatilake@gmail.com OB161651

Australian resident Sinhalese Buddhist parents (G/K) seek an educated and professionally qualified son from a decent family for their daughter, an Australian qualified Doctor, she is 30+ (1990/01) slim 5'3" in height fair, truly, pretty and bears an impeccable character with a simple lifestyle. Interested parents please send their fmaily details either in English or Sinhala along with a copy of the son's horoscope to: dinuprop10@gmail.com OB161782

A qualified well employed son sought by B/G respectable retired parents from Colombo suburbs for fair, 1981/08, 5'5", well mannered, IT professional (BSc / MSc) elder daughter well employed. Owns assets. Divorced as innocent party without kids. mproposals552@gmail.com OB161579

A S/G/B Bachelor of 40-50 years decent, scrupulous, of respected heredity, above 5'10" study, with a simlar status sought for a spinster from a well respected distinguished family. Quality is essential. OB161556

Born 1960 employed in a private company as Manager seeks partner for marriage between 60/64. Should be within Colombo limits and free of all encumbrances, religion immaterial. 0113664220. OB161746

British Citizen Govi Buddhist/Hindu Vellala parents seek academically and professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in London 31 yrs, 5'3" Law Degree from an Elite University in the UK, Senior Legal Advisor for UK Government Department. Email: edmonton1944@yahoo.com OB161755

Buddhist Karawa parents seek a son who is a Doctor or a suitable other profession with sober habits and height 5'8" or taller. Father is a consultant in the Medical Field, from Colombo District for the pleasant, fair in complexion, pretty, well mannered only daughter 25 years 5'4" MBBS Doctor. Completed her Intership and planning to settle in United Kingdom. At the moment going through UK entrance exams. Reply with full family details. Email: desilvas397@gmail.com OB161780

B/G parents Colombo seek for their 32, very pretty, fair, kind BSc, MSc qualified 5'4" daughter employed as a Senior Chemist in a global company. Please reply with horoscope. Email: proposalslk2021@gmail.com OB161696

B/G parents seek an educated well employed partner for daughter 29 years fair and beautiful educated at leading girls school in Colombo graduated from leading university in UK. Employed in Sri Lanka, inherits assets and house in Colombo, willing to migrate. Please reply with family details, horoscope. horoscopew1949@gmail.com OB161701

B/G parent seeks academically qualified respectable son for 5'4" 43 yrs pretty kind caring quailfied (BSc, MSc, PGDE) Chemistry teacher only brothers a Scientist (USA) and sister is a Lecturer. Possess a house and other assets including income from tuition. salusri123@gmail.com OB161702

B/K parents from a well respectable family from Panadura seek an academically or professionally qualified well mannered son from a similar background for daughter born 1987 April graduate slim and fair earning a six figure salary employed in private sector not willing to migrate. Reply with family details and horoscope email: akhfdo@gmail.com OB161636

**Catholic Business** parents from Marawila seek professionally qualified well mannered son age 34-37 years height not below 5'6" from Catholic respectable family for their Colombo Convent educated professionally qualified daughter age 33 height 5'5" Telephone Address details to: rjbm60@gmail.com OB161828

Catholic mother seeks a professionally qualified, English speaking groom who is well-mannered, mature and independent, kind-hearted for their pretty slim medium complexion well-mannered kind-hearted soft-spoken daughter (28 years). Height 5'3". She is an Executive in one of the leading companies in Sri Lanka, completed Masters and who studied in a leading Catholic Convent n Colombo. Please send all personal details and contact Telephone No. of the bridegroom in first response. Email : proposal2021165@mail.com OB161675

Catholic, Negombo parents seek educated, employed religious son for pleasant daughter 5'1", 41, passed A/L and Higher Studies, gifts-furnished house, coconut properties 12 acres, fixed deposit cash. Email: kjmsmale@gmail.com OB161700

Colombo B/G professional parents seek qualified employed son for only child daughter. 1994, fair, 5'2", slim, studied in a leading school in Colombo. Attorney-at-Law, employed as Government Judicial Researcher. Inherits in Colombo. saw i7218@gmail.com OB161617

Colombo Govi Buddhist parents seek partner for 1991 born 5'4", pretty, kind hearted, well brought-up daughter from a respectable family. Youngest of two sisters, she inherits our two storied house in Colombo suburb and other substantial assets. Father is a Medical Consultant and the sister and husband are also Doctors. She studied at a leading Girls' School in Colombo and holds a Degree in Marketing and Management. Presently she works as a Digital Marketing Executive in a private company. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Contact email : proposal.dis2021@gmail.com OB161605

Colombo G/B parents seek academically and professionally qualified son for their daughter in USA Postgraduate born December 1990, 5'4", fair, beautiful. Preferably in USA. Respond with T.P. No. : proposalsde@gmail.com OB161798

Colombo G/B parents seek a qualified employed son for their daughter born 1978 and 5ft height MBA Graduate and qualified Accountant (CIMA) she will inherit substantial assets in cash/property. Owns a vehicle. Please reply with family details/horoscope. Email: m2021prop@gmail.com OB161562

Colombo R/C respectable family parents seek an employed partner or a businessman for their pretty younger looking daughter 47 years, 5'1" working in reputed company as an executive, she inherits valuable deposit 2 million caste religion immaterial divorced innocent person without children will be accepted. Reply with full family details. nethufernando127@gmail.com OB161590

Colombo suburbs Buddhist parents seek partner for 34 years daughter 5'2" tall slim smart BSc (IT) MBA quailfied Project Manager caste immaterial. thilakmuthumala@gmail.com OB161715

Colombo suburbs S/B/G mother from a respectable family. Father (deceased) was in most senior position in a Govt. Department. Seeks a well mannered financially stable pleasant looking well educated son for their youngest daughter born in 1984 March. She is fair pretty looking well mannered daughter studied in a Colombo 7 Pvt Convent. She is a University Graduate, working in a private company. Her salary is six figure. She inherits substantial assets : 10 perch land in Rajagiriya, a car & a coconut land. Please reply with family details & horoscope. OB161800

Dehiwala, 1992.11, Buddhist, Govi, QS Degree Holder, height 5', fair, owns house, likes music, daughter, parents seek educated, virtuous, Executive Grade employed son. Kumbha Uthraputupa. 0112728172. OB161619

Educated and respectable Sinhala B/G parents living in USA looking for a professionally qualified NS/ TT, son raised with good family values, for their 22 years old daughter, to have a marriage. She was raised with Sinhala Buddhist values and currently doing her studies in Engineering field. Caste immaterial. Maximum 4 years age gap. Those who are doing studies in USA, Canada can contact. Please reply in English or Sinhala with family and son's details with horoscope to: slusasl@outlook.com OB161558

Father is searching a loving son with sober habits for her daughter. She is a Chemical Engineer born in 1984. Height 5'3". Pl send your son's details with horoscope. OB161271

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## Bride

**Govigama Roman** Catholic parents from Gampaha district seek a suitable son for their daughter born in 1989. She was educated in a leading Catholic Convent in Colombo. She is a degree holder in the stream of Business Management from a well recognized local university and also ACMA qualified. She is 5'4" in height and fair in complexion. Currently she is engaged in the family business and will inherit assets. Both elder siblings are married and well settled. Please reply to email: marriageproposal89@hotmail.com OB161570

Govi Buddhist retired parents in Galle seek a well educated son for their only daughter 1984, 5'4" Masters holder employed as an Engineer in a leading IT Company. 0112519170. OB161672

G/B family living in Colombo, father retired Senior Executive in Government Sector, mother housewife, seek kind, educated, professionally qulaified well employed in Sri Lanka or abroad having good family background, groom for their daughter with good character, 64", slim, fair, pretty 30 years Visakhian, having BSc. Management Degree and CIMA presently working as Consultant at Global Coglomerate having assets. Please reply with horoscope copy, family details, and contact Nos. in first letter email: wimalsam2000@gmail.com OB161817

Jaffna Vallala R.C. professional parents seek a partner for Doctor daughter born in 1991 studied in Colombo. OB161555

Kadawatha Buddhist parents seek suitable son for only daughter 32 years 5'4" tan divorced after short marriage. No encumbrances. English teacher. Gradaute. Willing to migrate. Email: myproposal2019@outlook.com Tel: 0332264618. OB161708

Kalutara B/S mother seeks a suitable partner for her 1984 born height 5'3" fair pretty professionally qualified young looking daughter work in private sector as a Senior Executive. Ku/Sh 9. Reply with horoscope. mproposals2021@gmail.com OB161706

Kandy, Buddhist / Bodhiwansha respectable parents seek a qualified partner for their daughter, 25 yrs., 5'2", educated in a leading International School, obtained Honours Degree in Business Management, working in private sector. Expecting to migrate or overseas also considered. Email : 1995cha9@gmail.com OB161565

Malay parents from Colombo seek a professionally qualified Malay Groom (teetotaler), age below 30 years for their daughter age 25 years. Fair / Pretty, BSc graduate in Financial Accounting. Presently working in a reputed mercantile firm. For further details. Reply email: proposal8951@gmail.com or call: 0112771036. OB161716

Moor mother Malay father from Colombo looking professionally qualified Moor partner below 38 years for their only daughter 32 years, 5'6" pretty slim divorced after brief marriage, no encumbrances, Dowry house in Colombo 5. U.K. preferred and foreign employees. Email : nikaahproposal695@gmail.com OB161661

Moor parents from Dehiwela seek an academically and professionally qualified partner for their daughter age 26 years / height 5'3" / Accountant (CIMA). E-mail: sitthy05@gmail.com 0112764254. OB161815

**Moor parent** from Colombo seeks professionally qualified, stable partner either in Sri Lanka or overseas for daughter 30 years, educated at a leading school in Colombo. She is well qualified and holds a Managerial Position in a reputed company in Sri Lanka. proposal.fra@gmail.com OB161725

Muslim very respectable family seeks well qualified partner below 35 years for our English educated beautiful daughter from Dehiwala. officeal42@gmail.com OB161668

Our daughter is 39 + years old, divorced, has a baby of three years, graduated and is living in Australia and has investment properties. Dual citizen. We are expecting a partner of less than 45 years of age with good education and fluent in English for marriage. Please email your reply to ratnemangala@gmail.com OB161593

Respectable parents seek a Christian partner for their only child born in December 1988. She is 5 ft. 5 inches in height with a pleasing personality. She was educated in a leading school in Colombo 7. She is an Attorney-at-Law employed in the Mercantile Sector attached to the Legal Division. Mother is a Christian and father a Buddhist. Please write details to : props1988daughter@hotmail.com OB161596

Respectable Sinhala Christian parents search a groom for pretty daughter born 1988, 5'5 1/2". Working as a Senior Executive in leading firm. Please contact with full details to Email : proposalm713@gmail.com OB161616

Seeks educated partner for 89/03 B/G professionally qualified pretty daughter well settled in US with dual citizenship. US residents preferred. Non-malefic horoscopes only. Email : slmatrimony2021@gmail.com OB161611

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek partner for their 23 years old daughter a final year Undergraduate in Management & National University. 5'4" in height, she is smart, attractive, employed, abroad minded honest partner below 27 years with sober habits and similar qualified is sought. Should be willing to associate for a considerable period to cheek compatibilities. Please respond with horoscope and details to daisyquake98@gmail.com OB161670

Sinhala Catholic parents seek professinoally qualified partner for their eldest daughter, 26 years, 5 feet, fair CIMA qualified, BSc (Business Management), currently following MBA, Senior Executive employed in private sector and residing in Colombo District. Email: dem8393@gmail.com OB161648

Sinhala Catholic professional parents seek educated professional partner for their daughter, born in 1996, 5 feet, fair, BSc. (International Business Management) and currently following CIMA, employed in a private company. Email: bmp9456@gmail.com OB161646

Sinhala Govi Roman Catholic parents from Kurunegala seek qualified and caring son for their daughter graduated in BSc (Hons) Accounting and Fiinance from University of Plymouth UK, CIMA and reading her MBA from University of Colombo, born in May 1992, 5'6" in height and fair in complexion. She studied in a leading convent school in Kurunegala in English Medium and currently working as an Accountant in our own real estate company at Kurunegala. She owns valued substantial assets. Caste and religion immaterial. Kindly reply with family details to: the proposal. Email: proposal8072@gmail.com OB161712

Sinhala/Govigama highly respected, retired Public Servant father seeks a partner, who is academically qualified and from a respectable Sinhala family for his only daughter, pretty and English educated, 39 yrs. old, academically and professionally qualified with substantial assets, who is divorced, innocent party with no encumbrances. Manager in a private bank in Colombo. E-mail: victorious0166@gmail.com or call on 077 3667878/ 0112623730. OB161727

Sinhalese Buddhist/ Karawa retired parents residing in Canada, seek professionally qualified well mannered son for the eldest daughter born in 1985, currently studying in a State Medical Faculty, Sri Lanka, completing MBBS in 2021. Brought up with Sri Lankan Buddhist values. Please reply with family details, horoscope, contact numbers to: proposal.sl@gmail.com OB161664

Western Province, Sinhala Buddhist, 27 years, legally separated from short-lived marriage, Pre-School Teacher daughter, parents seek, state employed partner age below 31 years. Only those having malefic horoscopes need respond. Differences immaterial. Dowry available. 0114911298, 0781662211. OB161588

1988 April B/G up country respectable family from Matale seeking smart qualified son from suitable family, their daughter 5'3" fair complexion, attractive, studied leading school in Kandy, graduated from Colombo University (BSc), presently employed as a senior executive officer in a leading firm in Colombo, father retired Government officer & mother retired teacher. OB161568

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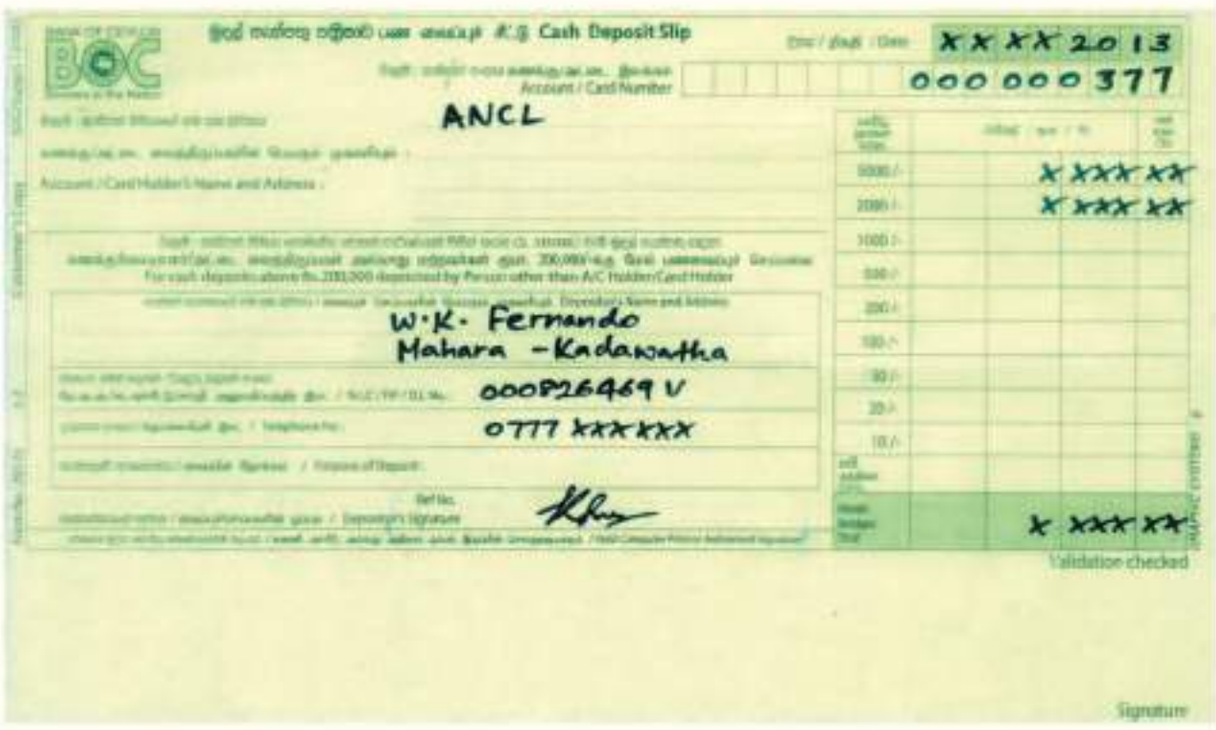

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## Groom

A well-mannered, educated & pleasant, working or non-working, Sinhala Buddhist girl with a good character, is sought by well-connected respectable Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents for the eldest son. He is presently managing the fmaily Business Companies, 46 years, 5'9" tall, educated at a leading school in Colombo, and will inherit valuable assets. He is a non-smoker & teetotaller with excellent character and managerial skills and no family encumbrances. Reply in English or Sinhala with full family details and a copy of horoscope and contact Telephone Numbers, in the very first letter. Email: mpgroom@gmail.com All information treated strictly private & non-residential. OG160236

Able B/G Colombo Lawyer parents seek academically qualified daughter living in Australia for their handsome, young looking never married Software Engineer son, who is an Australian Citizen, educated in a leading private school in Mt. Lavinia he is 42 years old. TT/NS. Reply with horoscope, full family details and telephone number. Email: eprop333@gmail.com OG161584

Able well established professional 46y young looking, divorced with one son invites an independent lady for a marriage write yourself, with children also welcome. mithila12d@gmail.com OG161821

About 40, 5'11", handsome BSc. Science, IT Engineer Govt. Aus. PR owns house in Melbourne, Kuja 7, legally separated. Retired parents invite suitable daughter to live in Australia. proposal5645@gmail.com OG161801

Academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter is sought by B/G parents (retired Engineer and Banker) for our younger son working in an operational capacity for a foreign airline. (Additionally working as a piloting instructor), born 1987 - 5'11" handsome non smoker, sober habits. elder son studied in UK. Presently works as an Engineer in Austria with his family. (liteoflife@yahoo.com). OG161553

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered eldest son is sought by B/G parents for their son 5'1" born in 1992 August studied in a wellknown International School in Colombo graduated in CIMA and MBA, working in a well reputed company in Sri Lanka in a Management position, living in Colombo suburb expecting to migrate, looking for a well mannered and educated daughter who may be already living abroad by the parents of business family. Horoscope pertains Kuja 8 and Libra (Thula) Lagna. Please reply with family details and horoscope to Email : kassajj@live.com OG161677

Academically and professionally qualified, pretty, slim, kind hearted daughter from a respectable family is sought by well connected, respectable Bodu Govi family for their smart, very handsome, 5'10" tall, 33 years old, well mannered, caring son. He graduated with a BSc, an MBA and well employed as an executive in a reputed company in USA. Prefer a daughter living in USA or willing to migrate to USA. Inherit substantial assets. Reply with family details, and horoscope to email: marriagep2021@yahoo.com OG161577

Academically and professionally qualified, well mannered, fair, slim, kind, very beautiful daughter fluent in English, age between 24 and 29 years from a respectable family, willing to migrate to Canada, is sought by Sinhala Buddhist Canadian parents employed by United Nations, for their very handsome, fair, charming, pleasant, well mannered caring son with an exciting personality, born in October 1989, 5'4", Aerospace Engineer (MSc.), brought up in Europe and currently working in Canada for a leading Aircraft Manufacturing Company. Please reply with family details, and a copy of the horoscope to : hema.ana.8953@gmail.com OG160734

Academically qualified (employed) well mannered kind hearted pretty daughter from a respectable family is sought by B/G parents (father is a Senior Banker) in Kandy for well brought up only son (1993 May, 5'8") qualified in CIMA, CGMA & reading for MBA. Please reply with family details / horoscope. Email : propkdy93@gmail.com OG161641

Academically qualified, pretty fair well mannered daughter is sought by respectable B/G parents for their son born in 1989, 5'5", very handsome, NS/TT kind hearted, BSc., CIMA and MBA qualified, currently residing in New Zealand. Daughter residing in Auckland preferred. He inherits substantial assets. Please email : lakuproposal@gmail.com OG161805

Academically qulaified, kind hearted, Buddhist fair and pretty daughter is sought by professional parents for their 30 years old, handsome son, 5'8", who is a qualified doctor and lives here in the UK. Please reply with all the family details and contact telephone number. Please reply via email: gupali@btineternet.com OG161768

Academically & professionally qualified kind caring daughter to settle abroad after marriage is sought by Govi B/C parents from Kurunegala for son 89 Jan, 5'8" NS/TT handsome smart BSc. IT Curtin University, Senior Consultant in IT with substantial assets. Please reply to propodamsel@gmail.com OG161607

Academically & professionally qualified kind caring good looking daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Buddhist/ Catholic parents from Kandy, now well settled in Colombo for their son handsome, professionally qualified Accountant, BSc, CIMA born 1989. Owns a vehicle and inherits a two storied house in Colombo suburbs working for a leading Bank in Colombo with a six figure salary. Canadian PR holder height. 5'6" prop1467@gmail.com OG161788

American Uni Graduate working USA looking for a habited bride from USA or willing to go there. Born in 1984 July. Parents both retired Bank Managers & presently in USA for a holiday, pls send your details to email: bgayaperera@yahoo.com OG161710

An educated pleasant R/C daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Roman Catholic/ Buddhist parents from Gampaha District, (close to Colombo). Son is 30 years Roman Catholic 5'8", N/S, T/T, educated in a leading Catholic School in Colombo, holding two degrees, (from Government University & Foreign University in Sri Lanka working in a well established organisation and inherits business and assets. Please reply with contact no. and horoscope: prasangid@yahoo.com OG161623

An educated pretty & well-mannered daughter is sought by respectable BG family for their Engineer son with BSc. (Eng) & MSc. (Eng) born in 1971 September, 5'7" height, divorced with no kids. Running his own company in Melbourne. Replies are welcome from prospective brides who are willing to relocate to Melbourne after marriage. Email : partnersearch0045@gmail.com Phone : +61420614760. OG161600

An educated slim fair attractive daughter below 38 years from a respectable family is sought for their Sinhalese Buddhist 6" tall, fair handsome well-mannered N/S, T/T youngest son who is in mid forties. Legally divorced, MBA qualified, working for a reputed multinational company at a higher position. Well established. Intends to work abroad till end of this year & get a transfer to Sri Lanka. He has done several income generating investments in Sri Lanka. Caste immaterial & Catholic will be considered. Also welcome proposals from the teachers. Currently he is in Sri Lanka on vacation & will stay till mid of April. Kindly reply with family details & horosocpe to: chamiraw2000@yahoo.com OG161759

Australian citizen son, 1988, 5'8", legally divorced without children or encumbrances, mother seeks a daughter from Melbourne who is without parent commitments. mpropo salsau@gmail.com OG161795

Australian temporary resident (T.R) (PERTH) an Accountant Roman Catholic, slim, 1987 born 5'4" Govi son seeking kind hearted, educated daughter preferably Australian/ Canadian/ UK/ citizen or PR. 031-2260439. Email: dishensilva@gmail.com OG161698

A B/G Doctor working in Western Europe and working in the UK from August is looking for a bride. 38, never married with sober habits. Family upper middle class from Colombo. If interested please reply to proposal010118@yahoo.com OG161602

A B/G Doctor working in Western Europe and working in the UK from August is looking for a bride. 38, never married with sober habits. Family upper middle class from Colombo. If interested please reply to: proposal010118@yahoo.com OG161774

A bride of disabled or lives in wheelchair kind hearted, caring presently who lives or studied in UK, Canada or New Zealand, is invited for handsome educated groom with excellent qualities. Age 38, 5'10" unmarried, we are B/G living in Kalutara with valuable inherits assets. Im planning foriegn studies too. praneeth456w@gmail.com OG161807

A fair & pleasant daughter, professionally qualified is sought by R/C parents for their son 38, 5'10" who is attached to an international financial organisation. He is academically qualified BSc, MIS, divorced from a brief marriage. Overseas proposals also considered. Please reply with family details. sonsprop21@gmail.com OG161654

A Govi, Buddhist family living in Battaramulla seeks fair and slim partner below the age of 25 years for their son who is a Civil Engineer, studied at a leading private school in Mt. Lavinia. Very fair in complexion, 5'7" tall & handsome. For further information contact 0112867463 or wed.proposal93@gmail.com OG161825

A pleasant, slim partner below 55 years, only from German speaking countries (Germany preferred) is sought for the 5'7", 55+ B/G Doctor in Germany by his cousin brother. Caste and religion not considered. Email : sldeu411@gmail.com OG161673

A pretty and educated daughter from a respectable family is sought by Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs for their son, thrity four, qualified and gainfully employed in a leading corporate. He is financially stable to lead a comfortable marriage life. Please respond with details. Email: mprp998@gmail.com OG161791

A suitable partner, preferably living in the USA is sought by Sinhala parents from Colombo for their son who is a very qualified and a well accomplished pofessional holding a senior managerial position in a prestigious company in Colombo. He frequently travels to the USA on work and is well acquainted with the life and culture in USA. A teetotaller, non-smoker. He is 46 years old but looks much younger than that, Divorcees are also considered. Please send us your daughter's details to: sudafer@gmail.com OG161659

Badulla, Govi, Buddhist, parents in Government Service seek an educated, fair, well mannered, employed daughter, compatible to Kuja 07, for born son, from in January 1992, height 5'6" employed in Sierra, Colombo, Quantity Surveyor (QS) graduate. Possessing assets/property, with sober habits. Telephone: 0552051722. OG161729

Bodu/Karawe respectable parents from Southern Province seek a fair, slim kind hearted daughter for their MBA qualified smart only son who is engaged in family business. He is religious minded. Non smoker/teetotaller 31 yrs - 5ft 11inch in height. Looks music younger. Fluent in English. Loves much and travelling. Owns a brand new vehicle. Inherits valuable assets. Please send horoscope without Kuja Dosa including a recent photo or FB link of the daughter. Email: humbleride61@gmail.com OG160942

Buddhist Govi retired Government servant parents living in Sri Lanka, seek a kind daughter academically and professionally qualified for Engineer son MSc, BSc, 6' tall, 1991 born and lives in the UK. Prefer a daughter living in UK. Reply with full family details and horoscope to sithuwtsup@gmail.com OG161582

Buddhist medium level parents residing in Ganemulla seeking a beautiful, educated daughter with honest attitude. The proposed son is 32 years. (born 12/1988), 5'7", truly handsome, fair, well-mannered and has an excellent personality. He is qualified master holder in Australia and working. Daughter who lives in Australia preferred but others also welcome. Horoscope is immaterial. Please reply with details to proposalson1988@gmail.com OG161609

B/G decent teetotaller good looking son the age of 35 who works in a reputed company as Managing Post seeks a kind attractive girl. She must be well accomplished. Email: kasunthiva@yahoo.com OG161649

B/G mother from Kurunegala seeking a suitable pleasant for daughter for her son who engaged in business, born in 1980, 5'8", handsome, looks much younger, never married, BSC IT, owning modern house. propo9800@gmail.com OG161671

B/G mother seeks well-mannered daughter, preferably below 35 for Oxford edcuated son, 47 nver married, returned to SL presently advisor to US entrepreneurs. Responses from Sinhalese and Moor families welcome. C/o newspaper or : replymail24@gmail.com OG161719

B/G 1985 born, 5'11" divorced, Accountant Australian PR, educated in a Buddhist school in Colombo 7. Obtained BSc Peradeniya and Accountancy Degree from Australian University. Inherits substantial assets including bugalow in upcountry. Horoscope considered. jinanjali67@gmail.com OG161645

Christian parents (non RC) belonging to a mainline denomination seek a committed Christian partner with a good educational background for their son 34 years 6'7" in height, with BSc and MSc holding a reputed position in a leading school in Colombo. Reply with details to: nwkafdo@gmail.com OG161827

Colombo MBBS Doctor 39 yrs Buddhist Wishwa parents height 5'11" only child Royalist Legally separated from short marriage no encumbrances. htb202020@outlook.com OG161560

Colombo moor parents look for an educated girl around 23 years with pleasant looks and qualities for their son 27 years, 5'6" height, employed in a Senior Executive position at a foreign based private firm in Colombo. If interested, please email details to: proposal.son2021@gmail.com OG161656

Colombo Sinhala Buddhist mother seeks slim fair pretty educated daughter below 35 years for her son management executive at a private company holds Business and Marketing Degree (ECU Australia) Born in 1985 June, height 5'11". Kuja 8 Aswida 2 Vrushika lagna. Please reply with details HC copy, contact No. etc. to email: skmanel@yahoo.com Tel - 0112360988. OG161829

Colombo suburbs S/B/G mother from a respectable family, father (deceased) was in most Senior position in a Govt. Department. Son born in March 1981 smart 5'9" tall well mannered, Royalist, S.L. Hotel School Graduate, now doing private business. Has a steady monthly income. He inherits substantial assets : house in Rajagiriya, vehicle, coconut land, seeks a pretty looking well mannered educated daughter for her son. Please reply with family details & horoscope. OG161799

Educated daughter, 25-31, preferably from a UK based family, sought by Sri Lankan Buddhist professional parents for their qualified Engineer son, 33, 5'6", UK resident, employed in a multinational company. Reply with family details and the horoscope. mps22d@gmail.com OG161303

Friend seeks a partner for divorced, Roman Catholic, Sinhala, 42 years old businessman from Nawala. email: animationstu@gmail.com Tel. 0112686050. OG161575

Govi Buddhist parents seek English speaking educated girl for their youngest son residing in Colombo 7. Born in Kandy. He is an International School teacher additionally doing, three other jobs. Height 5'6". Entire education at an International School Colombo and completed Higher Studied abroad. Parents reside in Kandy and Colombo both. OG161761

Continued on page 48

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Continued from page 47

## Groom

G/B parents seeking bride for handsome son only child 1981/ 5'1" well employed professionally qualified owns & inherits house & properties pending divorce, Reply with horoscope. ghrprop3803@gmail.com OG161713

I'm looking for an educated, professionally qualified unassuming lady in her mid or late twenties for a relationship leading to marriage. Born in 1987 in Sri Lanka, brought up in a Sinhala Buddhist professional family, youngest of three siblings, 5'7", UK qualified graduate Engineer, employed in the UK, I/m career minded, rational, modest, travel-crazy, but not very outgoing a person. I'm interested in someone who would share life experience and travel the world with me. Caste, creed immaterial. My parents may ask for the horoscope. If interested. Email: ckeglpt@gmail.com OG161307

Kandyan Govi Buddhist family 1990/10, 5'6" height living in USA (PR holder) B/ Eng. (hons) electrical & electronics / UK graduated and CCNP, CCNA certificated to and employed in reputed company, retired mother seeks a pretty fair educated daughter for above my son, only brother is an MBBS doctor, married. Email - proposalkandy081@gmail.com OG161551

Malay parents from Colombo seek a suitable Malay or Moor working bride from a respectable family for son 31 yrs height 5'9" fair working in a reputed company pls respond with family details. suncrestlanka@gmail.com OG161561

Moor MSc adjunct lecturer in USA, 1992 October, six feet, medium complexion, unmarried. Prefers educated, employed, moderately religious bride from families settled abroad. a.sabarullah.khan@gmail.com OG161574

Moor male 52 years professionally qualified from respectable family from Kegalle looking for a kind, understanding religious lady to live a good life. Please email toursserendib@gmail.com or send_mail64@yahoo.com OG161748

Moor parents from Colombo seek religious and educated bride for their son age 25 years, height 6'3" currently following Masters at BSc. Working as an Assistant Manager in a foreign Company. OG161678

Of a well respectable family parents look for a suitable bride for an only child well qualified 45 yrs. old businessman son divorced with no encumbrances, suitable bride should be unmarried, beautiful and below 37 yrs. old. 2587501, 2503525, 0777739257. OG161717

Panadura Bodu Govi retired parents seek educated pretty daughter for their only son born in 1991 - 12 height 5'5" studied in a leading School in Colombo. Works as Head of Growth Global Company. He owns a 2 storey house and a motor car. Earning six figure monthly salary. Elder sister married and settled in Australia. Please reply family details with copy of horoscope. Email : greengarden762@gmail.com OG161614

Professionally qualified, employed as a Manager/citizen in Austrlaia, B/G 39 yrs is looking for a kindhearted qualified caring, pretty daughter from a respectable family. He is currently legally separated from an incompatible marriage with no encumbrances, preference will be given to daughter, already in Australia (or prepared to live in Australia). If you wish to contact please respond with full family details, copy of horoscope. Email: mproposal2323@aol.com OG160886

Respectable B/G parents seek a pretty, kind hearted and educated daughter for son born in 1979 December, academically and professionally qualified, employed in a well reputed organization, 5'6", NS/TT, owns a house, vehicle and a unit of a twin house. Please respond with the horoscope and details of the family to: proposalwk1@yahoo.com OG161572

Sinhala Buddhist Govi Kandyan parents living in the USA looking for an academically qualified (preferably living in USA or Canada) or Sri Lanka, pleasant, kind-hearted daughter for our only son 6'1", 26 years, non-smoker with Sinhala values. He graduated from accredited university in the USA. Major as Finance and Accounting. Currently working as an Auditor in a prestigious Accounting Firm in the USA and studying for C.P.A. Please respond with the family details and horoscope to the Email : jprop130@gmail.com OG161679

Sinhala Buddhist parents living in Toronto, Canada seek an academically and professionally qualified daughter from a family preferably living in Toronto, for their son, Canadian qualified Engineer, born in 1995, 5'9". Please respond with family details, HC, and contact information. Email: mp4h2021@yahoo.com OG161751

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Sinhala B/G Kandy Budddhist parents seek kind, pretty, Doctor / Medical student daughter from respectable family for son BSc. Electrical Engineer in a leading International Company, 27 (1994 August), 5'8"", TT/NS, handsome. Prefer those who are willing to migrate or from abroad. Send details to sarath1232020@gmail.com OG161598

Sinhala G/B professional UK citizen parents seek smart, pretty doctor, dentist for our son living in UK, with parents. UK qualified doctor 31 yrs, 6'1" working in N.H.S London. Value Sri Lankan culture, religion. No malefics. Preferred Sinha, Mesha, Dhanu, Vrushchika Lagna. Kindly reply with horoscope and family details. proposalkb2020@gmail.com OG161549

Sinhalese/ Christian (born-again) parents living in Europe seek a beautiful, slim & fair educated age 22-25, same belief daughter from a respectable family, willing to mgirate for the eldest son 28 years 5'8" tall, handsome, neither smoking nor alcoholic, Medical Doctor. Please forward all the details of the family to: snow20p20@yahoo.com OG161699

Well connected moor family in Sri Lanka seeks a kind hearted, good looking, virtuous and moderately religious working bride for 1988, 5'11" handsome son academically and professionally qualified, CIM passed finalist, currently running his professional business venture in Colombo. Prefers moderately religious working bride based in Colombo. moorproposal1988@gmail.com OG161818

1975 fair very handsome Business Administration graduate of Sri Jayawardenepura University owning two storey house and properties, working in reputed private company. Mother seeks suitable bride. OG161629

93 September born, reside in Colombo, employed, undergraduate, mother is looking for a partner for her son with a property. Email : sumanape57@gmail.com Call : 0703291085 / 0112502062. OG161592

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| ❖ **Dancing Teacher** | | |

**Attractive remuneration packages await the right candidates.**

Please send your CV within 10 days of this advertisement to "The Principal, Musaeus College, No. 58, Rosemead Place, Colombo 07 or by email to **vacancies@musaeus.lk**

(Please state the position applied for, on the top left hand corner of the envelope / subject line on e-mail).

# SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL

**VACANCY**

## Post of Consultant Anaesthetist

Applications are invited for the above post.

Advance Cardiac Centre at Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital is one of the leading cardiac centres in Sri Lanka performing high end, high volume adult cardiac surgeries which with than 500 surgeries per annum. It also has a 12 bedded ICU and 06 bedded HDU. The successful candidate is expected to function as In Charge of the Cardio Thoracic ICU/HDU apart from the routine duties as Cardiac Anaesthetist Therefore experience in the above field will be an added advantage.

**Qualifications** : PGIM Board Certification in Anaesthesia
or
Eligible for privileges of Board Certification in Anaesthesia

: Retired Consultants are also welcome

**Salary Scale** : The salary will be negotiable

**Terms of Employment** : on Provident Fund Basis

Applicants holding the Posts in the Government Service should send their applications through the Head of the Department or institute in which they serve.

The Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital Board reserves to itself the tight to make/not to make an appointment.

The Post applied for should be marked on the left - hand corner of the envelope.

Applicants should send their applications with full Curriculum Vitae and the names of two (02) non-related referees it reach the undersigned on or before **27.04.2021**.

**CHAIRMAN**
**SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL**
**THALAPATHPITIYA**
**NUGEGODA,**
05.04.2021

# VACANCIES

# DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Applications are invited from qualified citizens of Sri Lanka to fill the vacancies that exist in the Disaster Management Centre.

## 01. Director (Human Resources and Administration) – HM 1-1 - 1 Post

**Qualifications**

Should have obtained a Degree in Human Resources Management, Public Administration, Public Management, Business Administration, Business Management or Management recognized by the University Grants Commission

And

Should have obtained a Postgraduate degree (Masters) in any of the above subject fields or should have obtained an Associate Membership of a recognized Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

And

Should have obtained at least fifteen (15) years experience in the relevant field in Managerial level post in Government, Government Corporation, Board, Statutory institution or reputed private institution.

## 02. Director (Finance) – HM-1-1 – 01 Post

**Qualification:**

Should have obtained a degree in Finance, Financial Management, Commerce, Accountancy, Business Management, Business Administration, Management recognized by the University Grants Commission

And

Should have obtained a Postgraduate degree (Masters) in any of the above subject fields or should have obtained an Associate Membership of a recognized Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

And

Should have obtained at least fifteen (15) years experience in the relevant field in Managerial level post in Government, Government Corporation, Board, Statutory institution or reputed private institution.

Or

Should have obtained full membership of a recognized Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

And

Should have obtained at least fifteen (15) years experience in the relevant field in Managerial level post in Government, Government Corporation, Board, Statutory institution or reputed private institution.

**Qualification for Recruitment of Internal Applicants for Posts 01 and 02 above**

Should have fulfilled the educational qualifications for external applicants relevant to each post or should have a satisfactory service period of 05 years in a Grade I post in the Management Service Category at the Disaster Management Centre.

**Salary Scale**

HM-1-1 – 2016 – Rs. 81,670 – 15x2,270 – 115,720.00

**Age Limit**

Should be not less than 35 years and no more than 50 years

**Other facilities relevant to Posts 01 and 02**

Transport facilities as per Department of Public Enterprises Circular No. PED 01/2015 dated 25.05.2015 and settlement of Telephone Bills as per Circular No. PED 02/2015 dated 25.05.2015.

## 03. Assistant Director (Mitigation) – MM-1-1 – 01 Post

**Qualifications:**

Should have obtained a degree in Civil Engineering or Geo Engineering or Geography (Special) degree or Special degree in Physical Science stream recognized by the University Grants Commission

Or

Should have obtained a degree in Civil Engineering or Geo Engineering / Geology (Special) degree or General degree in Physics recognized by the University Grants Commission with a postgraduate degree relevant to the field recognized by the University Grants Commission

Should have obtained three (03) years experience in the subject field relevant to the post.

**Salary Scale:**

MM 1-1 – 2016 – 53,175 – 10x1,375 – 15x1,910 – 95,575.00

**Age Limit:**

Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years

## 04. Assistant Director (Research and Development) – MM-1-1 – 01 Post

**Qualification:**

Should have obtained a degree relevant to the subject field of Agriculture or Geography or Geology or Civil Engineering or Communication Engineering or Information Technology or Social Science or Natural Science recognized by the University Grants Commission

And

Geo Information Science (GIS) and Remote Sensing should have been followed as a subject with any of the above degree course. Or else with the above said degree course should have three (03) years experience in Geo Information Science (GIS) and Remote Sensing field.

**Qualification for the recruitment of Internal Applicants for Posts 03 and 04**

Should have completed a satisfactory service period of five (05) years in a post in the relevant field, in Grade One of the Junior Management Service Category at the Disaster Management Center.

**Salary Scale:**

MM 1-1 – 2016 – 53,175 – 10x1,375 – 15x1,910 – 95,575.00

**Age Limit:**

Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years

## 05. Librarian – MA 3 – 01 Post

**Qualification:**

Degree with Library Science as a subject recognized by the University Grants Commission

Or

Should have obtained diploma with a proficiency Certificate of not less than N.V.Q. Level 05 in Library Science with 05 years experience

**Salary Scale:**

MA 3 – 2016 – 32,200 – 10x445 – 11x660 - 10x730 – 5x750 – 54,960.00

**Age Limit:**

Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years

## 06. Communication Technician – MA 2-1 – 01 Post

**Qualification**

Should have obtained a Proficiency Certificate of not less N.V.Q. Level 05 issued in the subject field relevant to the post of Communication Technician by a technical / vocational training institute recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission

**Salary Scale:**

MA 2-1 – 2016 – Rs. 30,310 – 10x300 – 7x350 – 4x495 – 20x660 – 50,940.00

**Age Limit:**

Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years

Preference will be given persons who are able to work during day / night as per the service requirement of the Disaster Management Centre.

**Nature of Appointment:**

Permanent with entitlement to Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund

**Age Limit:**

Maximum age limit will not be applicable to internal applicants.

**Every candidate,**

(a) Should be citizen of Sri Lanka

(b) Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post and to serve in any part of the island

(c) Should have an excellent moral character

**Method of Applying :**

Self prepared applications as per the specimen appearing below should be sent by registered post addressed to **"Director General, Disaster Management Centre, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07"** to receive on or before 30.04.2021. Post applying for should be clearly mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

It is mandatory that the applicant should submit the copies of educational certificates, professional certificates, service certificates, Certificate of Birth and National Identity Card, self certified as "True Copy". Disaster Management Centre will not be responsible for any application lost or delayed in post.

Applicants already in public/provincial public service or state institutions should direct their applications through the heads of respective institutions and the applications that are not routed as above and the late applications will be rejected. Applicants who possess the required basic qualifications and are short listed only will be called for the interview.

**Punishment for providing false information :**

When filling the application you have to be extra cautious and should provide true information. Provision of false information, if detected at any time after the appointment he/she may be dismissed from the post.

**Director General**
**Disaster Management Centre**

**Application for the Post of ..... of the Disaster Management Centre**

(For Office Use only)

1.0 1.1 Name of the Applicant with Initials : .....
(In English Block Capitals)

1.2 Name in Full : .....
.....
(In English Block Capitals)

1.3 Name in Full : .....
.....
(In Sinhalese / Tamil)

2.0 National Identity Card No :

3.0 3.1 Permanent Address :
.....
.....
(In English Block Capitals)

3.2 Permanent Address : .....
.....

4.0 District : .....

5.0 Telephone No : .....
E-Mail Address (If available) : .....

6.0 Whether you are a Sri Lankan by birth or by registration : .....

7.0 Marital Status : .....

8.0 Date of Birth : Year Month Date

9.0 Age as at Closing Date : Years Months Days

10.0 Educational Qualifications :
.....
.....
.....
.....

11.0 Experience :
.....
.....
.....
.....

12.0 Details of Previous / Present Employment

| Organization | Post | Period of Service | Reason for Leaving |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |

13.0 Have you ever been convicted by a Court for an Offence ?
(Place a tick (✓) in the relevant cage. If yes, please describe)

Yes ☐ No ☐

14.0 Affirmation by the Applicant :

(a) I declare that the information furnished by me in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I have completed every section accurately.

Date : ..... .....
Signature of the Applicant

**Certification by the Head of Department (in the case of those engaged in Public Service)**

I certify that Mr / Mrs / Miss ..... is employed in ..... with effect from ..... as ..... (post held) in a permanent / temporary / casual (Please delete the unnecessary words) position, and that if selected for appointment as per the results of this interview, he/she can/cannot be released from his/her present position, and that the information furnished above is true.

.....
Signature and Official Frank of Head of Department

Date : .....

Name of the Attesting Officer : .....

Designation : .....

Address : .....

# EXPAND YOUR
## SRI LANKAN CULINARY CRAFT AT THE CITY'S MOST ICONIC HOTEL

**A new landmark is coming up in the heart of Colombo. The "ITC Hotel Colombo" will offer a world-class experience, elegantly combining modern design and green spaces to bring alive the essence of Sri Lanka.**

**Its restaurants will offer fine dining experiences with stunning views that overlook the ocean. We look forward to making its Sri Lankan culinary experience a luxurious and elegant one, which attracts all palates, domestic and international, introducing the taste of Sri Lanka to the world.**

## Sous Chef - Sri Lankan Cuisine

The cuisine would be a blend of traditional and progressive renditions of Sri Lankan cuisine, rooted to the gravitas of the unique tastes, aromas and flavours of native ingredients.

WelcomHotels Lanka Pvt Ltd. is looking for an enthusiastic and creative Chef with adequate experience to assist in developing the cuisine and drive operations.

**Requirements**

*Qualifications and Experience*

- A graduate from a recognised Culinary School
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in a hotel/premier restaurant

*Knowledge and Skills*

- In-depth hands-on expertise with authentic Sri Lankan cuisine (mastery)
- In-depth understanding of international cooking techniques
- Familiar with industry's best practices, culinary trends, setting menus, food pricing, ordering and monitoring supplies
- A thorough understanding of kitchen operations and food hygiene/ safety regulations
- Good communication skills and working knowledge of computer software

*Attitudes and Competencies*

- Passionate about food
- A high level of creativity and novel thinking to produce innovative dishes
- Team work oriented with excellent people management skills
- Ability to lead by example
- Accuracy and speed in handling emergency situations and providing solutions

*Basics*

- High level of energy and a "can do" attitude, willing to go the extra mile
- Honesty and integrity
- Discipline
- Humility

All those inspired kindly forward your profile within 2 weeks of this advertisement to recruitment@wlpl.lk. An attractive remuneration package, with career growth opportunities commensurate with competencies, await the right candidate.

**Head of Human Resources**
**ITC Hotel Colombo**
21 Galle Face Center Road, Colombo 1.

WELCOMHOTELS LANKA
A subsidiary of ITC Limited, India

# CAREER OPPORTUNITY
## IN TALENTFORT (PVT) LTD.

**TALENTFORT PRIVATE LIMITED IS AN ASSOCIATED COMPANY OF THE SRI LANKA TELECOM GROUP. TALENTFORT OFFERS TOTAL HR SOLUTIONS INCLUDING HR OUTSOURCING, HEAD HUNTING, BP OPERATIONS, SYSTEM SOFTWARE, HR CONSULTANCY AND FOREIGN COLLABORATIONS. THE COMPANY PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL OUTSOURCING SERVICES SOLUTIONS, SHARED SERVICES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

## ACCOUNTANT

Talentfort is in search of a high calibre, results-oriented, qualified individual capable of playing a key role in the finance function. You will be engaged in a range of tasks in financial and management accounting in an IT backed work environment and be expected to collaborate with cross-functional departments to implement key business drivers and operational controls.

### PERSONAL PROFILE

a) Associate Membership of ICA/CIMA/ACCA with 03 years' post qualifying experience in the field of Finance/Audit in a reputed organisation.
AND
b) Be a resilient leader with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
c) Oracle experience in CRM & ERP systems will be an added advantage.
d) Preference will be given to the candidates who have professional qualifications and post qualifying experience in a large organisation.
e) Four-year full-time Degree in Accountancy/ Finance from a University/Institute recognised by UGC – Sri Lanka equivalent to SLQF 6 will be an added advantage.

### THE OFFERS/CONDITIONS

- Upper age limit is 30 years as at the application closing date.
- Appointments will be on permanent basis subject to a one-year probation period.
- The successful candidates would be provided with a competitive remuneration package on par with the industry standards and other fringe benefits.
- Rewarding career progression.

### METHOD OF SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Complete curriculum vitae together with copies of birth, educational and other relevant certificates should be sent within 14 days of this advertisement by post to reach the below address, attaching copies of all the original certificates. Applications sent without supporting documents will not be entertained.

The post applied for should be mentioned in the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Talentfort (Pvt) Ltd is an equal opportunity employer and any type of canvassing will be a disqualification.

**Chief Executive Officer,**
**Talentfort (Pvt) Ltd,**
**No. 800, Maradana Road, Colombo 10.**

www.sltmobitel.lk

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If you're looking for a career that will help you stand out, join HSBC and fulfil your potential. Whether you want a career that could take you to the top, or simply take you in an exciting new direction, HSBC offers opportunities, support and rewards that will take you further.

HSBC is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, with operations in 64 countries and territories. We aim to be where the growth is, enabling businesses to thrive and economies to prosper, and, ultimately, helping people to fulfil their hopes and realise their ambitions.

## Digital Insights Manager

**Skills and experience:**

Provide guidance and monitor implementation strategy for websites across all areas of the HSBC Group to achieve their digital campaign objectives through various communication channels (website, social media etc), and timely analytical reporting
Knowledgeable in SEO best practices, Google Analytics, Webtrends, Tag management (Tealium), WCAG and other website standards (W3C)
Proficiency in website quality, SEM and SEO tools such as Sitebeam, Google and Bing Webmaster tools and other external tools

## Technical Manager

**Skills and experience:**

Create digitised customer forms to simplify internal and external customer experience and data capture
Experience in advanced HTML, CSS, JS, XML, JSON based front-end web development and interactive PDF forms with form- side validation
Good knowledge of Adobe LiveCycle Designer/Adobe Experience Manager software
Adobe Acrobat Professional Software and Adobe Reader Software experience required
Manage multiple projects and maintain strong business relationship with stakeholders, ensuring Service Level Agreements are being adhered to

## Web Content Manager

**Skills and experience:**

Responsible for content management and accountability for HSBC Group internal and public websites, check facts and ensure overall governance and integrity of website content
Work with specialist teams to generate and analyse web metrics and manage incidents and publishing risks
Required to have experience with HTML, CSS and JavaScript
Knowledgeable in web metrics and web development industry standards and best practices
Ability to liaise/coordinate with a multi-disciplinary interactive development team

**If interested, please email your CV to hdplcareers@hsbc.com indicating the position applied for as the subject.** Candidates with less relevant experience or skills may be offered a lower global Career Band than stated above. Due to the urgent hiring need, candidates with immediate right to work locally and no relocation need will be prioritised.

*The health and safety of our employees and candidates is very important to us. Due to the current situation related to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), we're leveraging our digital capabilities to ensure we can continue to recruit top talent at the HSBC Group. As your application progresses, you may be asked to use one of our digital tools to help you through your recruitment journey. If so, one of our Resourcing colleagues will explain how our video-interviewing technology will be used throughout the recruitment process and will be on hand to answer any questions you might have.*

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HSBC is committed to building a culture where all employees are valued, respected and opinions count. We take pride in providing a workplace that fosters continuous professional development, flexible working and opportunities to grow within an inclusive and diverse environment. Personal data held by the Bank relating to employment applications will be used in accordance with our Privacy Statement, which is available on our website.

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# PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

## VACANCIES

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who are physically sound and of excellent moral character for the below mentioned posts on the Staff of the Secretary-General of Parliament.

1. **Assistant Librarian**
2. **Food & Beverage Assistant**

Applications prepared in accordance with the specimen given in the gazette notification published on **April 09, 2021** should be sent under registered cover to reach the **"Secretary-General of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte"** on or before **April 30, 2021**. Post you are applying for should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. This notice is accessible via **www.parliament.lk**

**Secretary-General of Parliament**

**Parliament of Sri Lanka**
**Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.**

April 11, 2021

# NOW HIRING

- Qualified Registered MLT
- Laboratory Assistant
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy / Dispensing Assistants
- Registered Nurse
- Trained Nurses
- Cashier

Please send your applications at
plannerscolombo@gmail.com
or
The Human Resource
562 A. Aluthmawatha Road.Colombo 15

**IMMEDIATE VACANCIES EXIST IN A TEA EXPORT COMPANY**

## Assistant Tea Catalogue Marker

To assist Tea Buyers/ Tea Tasters in entering in Tea catalogues Standards + Valuations + Pricing for auction purposes. Having worked in a similar position in a Tea exporting firm essential.
Please email CV as per details below with names of 2 non related referees.
**tealeaves521@gmail.com**

## Tea Boy, Tea Room Duties

For all Tea room activities including opening and closing of Tea Tins Collection of all Tea Samples Valuation Tin + Purchase Sample Tins All relevant duties preformed in a Tea Room Having worked in a similar position in a Tea Exporting firm essential.
Please Email CV as per details below with names of 2 non related referees.
**tealeaves521@gmail.com**

# JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) SRI LANKA OFFICE

**Selection of Consulting Service**
**Survey on COVID-19 Prevention of Children with Disabilities**

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an incorporated administrative agency of Japan's Official Development Assistance. JICA Sri Lanka was established in 1982 and has implemented many bi-lateral cooperation programme/projects in various sectors via its main modalities – loan, technical cooperation, grant aid, etc.

Currently, we are seeking a consulting firm/registered NGO to conduct a survey on COVID-19 prevention of children with disabilities (CwDs).

The consultant will be responsible for implementation of following tasks:

**1)** Surveying the situation of the CwDs and people/environment surrounding them under circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak in Sri Lanka; **2)** conducting workshops for personnel of relevant entities to support CwDs; **3)** producing reports of the latest information and analysis on the collected data; and **4)** proposing recommendations (e.g., prevention systems, measures) to JICA and respective Ministries for protecting CwDs from COVID-19.

Expected Duration: 5 months (June 2021 – November 2021) on a contract basis

Requirements for the Applicants:
The Team Leader should have:

- Degree or Diploma in supporting CwDs/Person with Disabilities or a related discipline
- Certificate or training in project management or development related disciplines is desirable
- Experience of leading teams for conducting participatory data collection and/or workshops
- Sufficient experience in working with government officers in the central, provincial and/or district levels, development partners, donor-funded projects and/or UN agencies for managing, coordinating, communicating, and/or supporting implementation of the projects/activities
- Excellent documentation skills in English.
- Fluency in English and Sinhala and/or Tamil

Interested applicants are requested to contact the email address below to obtain the Request for Proposal (RFP), including Terms of Reference. JICA evaluates all applied proposals and credentials in CVs and makes a shortlist of selected ones. Then, JICA Sri Lanka will call the shortlisted candidates for presentation as the final selection.

- E-mail address (Rupasinghe.Megumi.SL@jica.go.jp) with title **"Request for Proposal (Survey on COVID-19 Prevention of Children with Disabilities)"**.
- Closing date and time for the Request: 12:00 pm on April 23rd (Friday), 2021 (RFPs will be issued between 19th to 23rd April 2021)
- Closing date for the Submission of Application: May 14th (Friday), 2021.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

# SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION (SLIATE)

## VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the following posts in SLIATE. The duly filled **online** applications of the applicants **(http://www.sliate.ac.lk/app/forms/applications-to-recruit-lecturers/)** should reach SLIATE on or before **09.05.2021**. **Please indicate the preferable location (Maximum 03) in the application. (The locations would be changed at the recruitment with the service requirements of the institute).**

### 01. Assistant Lecturer - (Vacancies 29)

| | Subject Areas | Locations |
|---|---|---|
| A | Engineering - Civil (Vacancies 05) | Galle - 02<br>Colombo - 03 |
| B | Engineering - QS (Vacancies 01) | Galle - 01 |
| C | Engineering - Electrical (Vacancies 03) | Galle - 01<br>Colombo - 02 |
| D | Engineering of Mechanical (Vacancies 02) | Galle - 02 |
| E | Project Management (Vacancies 01) | Kegalle - 01 |
| B | English (Vacancies 08) | Nawalapitiya - 02<br>Vavuniya - 01<br>Mannar - 02<br>Sammanthurai - 01<br>Ratnapura - 01<br>Anuradhapura - 01 |
| C | Information Technology (Vacancies 07) | Vavuniya - 01<br>Badulla - 01<br>Batticaloa - 01<br>Rathnapura - 02<br>Trincomalee - 01<br>Tangalle - 01 |
| D | Tourism and Hospitality Management (Vacancies 02) | Batticaloa - 01<br>Trincomalee - 01 |

**Educational & Other Qualifications:-**

**1)** **Engineering - Civil /QS / Electrical / Mechanical**

1. A Degree in Engineering in a recognized University or equivalent.

**and**

2. Ability to conduct lectures in English.

**2)** **English/ Information Technology / Project Management / Tourism and Hospitality Management**

1. Degree from a recognized university in the relevant discipline with 1st class or 2nd class upper Division.

**or**

2. Degree in relevant discipline with 2nd class lower division along with 2 years post-qualifying academic experience in a Higher Education Institute or industrial experience as a middle level manager in a recognized field.

**and**

3) Ability to conduct lectures in English.

**Salary Scale:-**

**AR 1 - 2016 - 53150 — 10 x 1375 - 15x1910 - 95550**

**Note: In addition, government approved allowances will be paid.**

**Conditions of Service:-**

(1) Selected candidates will become the contributors to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributing 10 % of their earnings and the SLIATE contributing 15 % of their earnings from its funds and also contributing 3 % of their earnings to the Employees' Trust Fund (ETF).

(2) Age limit is below 45 years for all categories. However, it will not apply to those who are in the permanent cadre in the Public/State sector.

(3) Applicants in Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards should submit their original applications with the recommendation of Heads of respective Institutions.

(4) Selected applicants holding pensionable post in Government Departments will have to obtain their release through the Director General of Establishments. However, they will not be entitled to pension rights whilst in the service of the SLIATE.

(5) Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

(6) The employees are not eligible for transfers from the appointed location until 06 years' from the date of appointment.

The original application with a set of certified copies of the certificates should be submitted at the interview.

Applications received after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

**Director General**
**Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education**
**No. 320,**
**T.B. Jayah Mawatha,**
**Colombo 10.**

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**EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND TO SRI LANKA AND THE MALDIVES**

# EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND TO SRI LANKA

The Government of Switzerland, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation represented by the Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka has been supporting a Safe Labour Migration Programme in Sri Lanka since 2010. The overall objective of the programme is to promote decent working conditions, improving wellbeing for migrant workers and their families as well as to enhance the development benefits of migration.

The Embassy of Switzerland invites professionally qualified candidates to apply for the following post:

## Senior National Programme Officer

Location: Colombo - with frequent field missions to project districts

**Applicant must possess:**

- University Degree in Social Sciences or any other relevant field
- Above 8 years of experience in programme/project management including monitoring and provision of programmatic guidance to implementing partner organizations
- Excellent report writing skills in English
- Migration and Development related experience is preferable
- Diplomacy, negotiating skills and ability to maintain healthy and professional relationships with both Government and non-governmental stakeholders
- Team-work, leadership, staff management and capacity building skills
- Ability to plan and carry out tasks independently with minimal supervision

The Application from and the detailed Terms of Reference of this position can be obtained from **https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/sri-lanka/en/home/news/open-job-vacancies.html**

Qualified candidates are invited to submit your **Curriculum Vitae** (max two A4 pages) together with an **Application Form** (refer above website) and your expectations and possible date to assume duties.

This position carries an attractive remuneration package and many other benefits. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Offers of employment will be on an annual renewable basis and subjected to a satisfactory security clearance. Strongly encourage qualified female candidates to apply.

Please forward your **applications on or before 30 th April 2021** to:

Head of Migration and Development Unit
**Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and the Maldives**
63, R. G. Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo 7.
Or email to **colombo@eda.admin.ch**

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LAKE HOUSE

## Manager - HR & Administration (MM 1-1)

for Sri Lanka's Largest Retail Store

**Qualifications:**

**External Candidates: (1 or 2 below)**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management/ Public Administration / Public Management or Business Adminstration which is recognized by U.G.C.
   AND
   01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.
2. Having completed Professional Qualification in Human Resources Management at any recognized Professional Chartered Institute (Intermediate level)
   AND
   01 year post qualifying service experience at in the subject area relevant to the post.

**Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below):**

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
2. Completion of five (05) year of satisfactory service in Assistant Managerial Level (JM) in the subject area relevant to the post.

***Age:*** Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.
(The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates)

***Salary & Other Allowances:*** MM 1-1 2016 Rs. [53,175 - 10 x 1375 - 15 x 1910 - 95,575]
Basic Salary Rs.53,175/= (In addition allowance approved by the Government will be paid)

***Other Benefits:*** Transport Allowance Rs.12,500/= + Mobile phone reimbursement Rs.3,000/=

***Nature of appointment:*** Permanent

***The Ideal Candidates should also:***

- Have excellent analytical, Problem solving and organizing skills with the ability to evaluate, review, interpret data and should be highly self-motivated individual
- Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal communication skills;
- Be able to demonstrate good IT skills;
- A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources.

***Every applicant,***

i. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
ii. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of Sri Lanka.
iii. Should be of excellent moral character.

If you have the right qualifications and experience, please submit your curriculum vitae with copies of certificates under registered cover to below mentioned address or email to vacancies@lankasathosa.org within 14 days of this advertisement: (The post applied should be indicate on the top left hand corner of the envelop/ "Subject" line of the email.)

**(The organization will correspond only with the sort listed candidates)**

Ministry of Trade

The Chairman
Lanka Sathosa Limited
No.27, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

LANKA Sathosa

## Manager - Information Technology (MM 1-1)

for Sri Lanka's Largest Retail Store

**Qualifications:**

**External Candidates: (1 or 2 below)**

1. A Bachelor's Degree in IT/ Computer Science/MIS which is recognized by the U.G.C.
   AND
   01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.
2. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical /Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission.
   AND
   01 year post qualifying service experience in the subject area relevant to the post.

**Internal Candidates (1 or 2 below):**

1. Having obtained the qualifications required by the external candidates above.
2. Completion of five (05) years of satisfactory service in Assistant Managerial Level (JM) in the subject area relevant to the post.

***Age:*** Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years. (The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates)

***Salary & Other Allowances:*** MM 1-1 Rs. [53,175 - 10 x 1375 - 15 x 1910 - 95,575]
Basic Salary : Rs. 53,175/= (In addition allowances approved by the Government will be paid)
Transport Allowance Rs. 12,500/= + Mobile phone reimbursement Rs. 3,000/=

***Nature of appointment:*** Permanent

***The Ideal Candidates should also:***

- Experience in working with and ERP system, conceptions and methodologies.
- Experience in installing, administering, and troubleshooting network security solutions, firewall and antivirus software. Ensure security of Data, Network access and backup systems.
- Having experience in system maintain and enhancement and the integration of new systems with existing systems.
- Updating software with the latest security patches and ensuring the proper defenses are present for each network resource.
- Have excellent analytical, problem solving and organizing skills with the ability to evaluate, renew, interpret data and should be highly self-motivated individual;
- Possess strong leadership qualities, interpersonal communication skills;
- A proven ability to lead and direct multi-disciplinary teams. Experience in proper deployment and efficient management of human and other resources.

***Other :***

***Every applicant,***

i. Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
ii. Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of Sri Lanka.
iii. Should be of excellent moral character.

If you have the right qualifications and experience, please submit your curriculum vitae with copies of certificates under registered cover to below mentioned address or email to vacancies@lankasathosa.org within 14 days of this advertisement: (The post applied should be indicate on the top left hand corner of the envelop/ "Subject" line of the email.)

**(The organization will correspond only with the sort listed candidates)**

Ministry of Trade

The Chairman
Lanka Sathosa Limited
No.27, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

LANKA Sathosa

## JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) SRI LANKA OFFICE

### Selection of a Consultant for Procurement Assistance

JICA is the implementing agency of Japan's bi-lateral Official Development Assistance. JICA Sri Lanka office has been involved in a number of programmes/projects in various sectors through its main modalities - Loan, Technical Cooperation, Grant Aid, and so forth.

Currently, we are seeking a Procurement Assistant (consultant) for a newly launched technical cooperation project in the health sector. The proposal should not split tasks into two or more consultants.

The Procurement Assistant will be responsible for procuring various medical equipment. For instance,

- Investigating about reference or designated brands based on information collected from the counterpart (C/P) organizations.
- Finalizing specifications collected from the C/P organizations and information.
- Conducting a market survey of local vendors dealing in equipment and materials to be procured
- Preparing procurement documents in accordance with JICA's formats
- Others

Expected Duration: 3 months (May 2021 – August 2021) on an individual contract basis.

Requirements for a prospective procurement assistant:

**Core Skills:**

- A degree/diploma in Business, Public Administration, Project Management or related fields
- 3 years of working experience in procurement or general administrative or clerical work
- Experience in usage of computers and MS Office software (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Fluency in both oral and written English and Sinhalese/Tamil
- Strong emphasis on accuracy and detail
- Good time management and organizational skills
- Good communication skill with suppliers and the counterpart organizations, including inquiring quotation and specification
- Strong sense for observance on compliance regarding public procurement

**Advanced Skills:**

- Previous working experience with a UN/Government agency
- Sourcing (RFI/RFQ/RFP/ITB) experience

Interested applicants are requested to contact the below to obtain detailed TOR and application documents;

- E-mail address (RupasingheMegumi.SL@jica.go.jp) with the title **"Request for Proposal (Procurement Assistant)"**.
- Closing date for the request: 23 April (Friday), 2021
  (The RFP are distributed between 19 to 23 April 2021)
- Closing date for the submission of application document:
  May 7 (Friday), 2021

# SRI LANKA NAVY - REGULAR NAVAL FORCE

## VACANCIES FOR OFFICER CADETS AT NAVAL & MARITIME ACADEMY

### NON TECHNICAL BRANCHES

- Executive Branch
- Logistics Branch
- Naval Infantry
- Provost Branch

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- For following branches the candidate should have passed 03 subjects at the GCE (A/L) examination in one sitting with minimum qualifying results for university admission (Certified copy of certificate issued by the Commissioner General of Examination to be attached) and
  - Executive Branch - Bio & Mathematics stream( Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Combined Mathematics).
  - Naval Infantry - Mathematics, Bio, Commerce, Technical or Art stream.
  - Logistics Branch - Commerce stream.
  - Provost Branch - Mathematics, Bio, Commerce, Technical or Art stream.
- Should have obtained a minimum 30% for the Common General Test at the GCE (A/L) examination. and
- Passed GCE (O/L) in two sittings with credit passes for English and Mathematics.

### ENGINEERING BRANCH

- Electrical/ Electronic Engineering

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- The candidate should have obtained 02 "C" & 01 "S" in Mathematics stream (Combined Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry) in one sitting at the GCE (A/L) examination with minimum qualifying results for university admission (Certified copy of certificate issued by the Commissioner General of Examination to be attached). and
- Should have obtained minimum 30% for the Common General Test at the GCE (A/L) examination.
- Passed minimum six subjects in the GCE (O/L) Examination not more than in two sittings with credit passes for English and Mathematics.

### BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- A citizen of Sri Lanka
- Unmarried male
- Age between 18 - 22 years - as at 05th May 2021
- Height - 168 cm (5'6") (provost branch minimum 171 cm (5'7"))
- Weight - 52 Kg
- Chest - 81 cm
- Vision colour - STD - II
- Visual acuity 6/6 (without spectacle, lens)

### SALARY, ALLOWANCES & OTHER FACILITIES

- Uniform
- Insurance
- Local / foreign training
- Accommodation
- Meal
- Transport
- Medical
- Over SLR 40,000.00 salary (for training period)

### APPLY WITH CERTIFIED COPIES OF

- Birth certificate
- School leaving certificate
- Certificates of extra curricular activities
- Certificates of professional courses
- Two character certificates obtained within six months prior to the closing date
- Educational certificates
- Grama Niladhari certificate
- Sports certificates

### NOTE

1. A degree will be offered from General Sir Jhon Kotelawala Defence University upon completion the course.
2. Additional subjects are not considered for educational qualifications.
3. Technical branch officer cadets will be given opportunities to follow foreign degree programmes subjected to availability.
4. Physical standards may be waived at the discretion of the Commander of the Navy on service requirements.
5. The candidate should pass physical efficiency and medical tests conducted by the SLN.
6. Please write "Officer Cadet" at the top left corner of the envelope. (Application should be sent by registered post)
7. Late applications will not be entertained.
8. In the event of any inconsistency between Sinhala, Tamil and English texts of this advertisement, the Sinhala advertisement shall prevail.

### SPECIMEN APPLICATION

1. Full name
2. Postal, E-mail addresses and telephone numbers
3. Branch/branches applied (In order of priority)
4. Date of birth DD..... MM.....YY.....
5. Age (as at closing date) DD..... MM.....YY.....
6. Height .....(cm) Weight .....(Kg) Chest .....(cm)
7. Marital status
8. National identity card number
9. Electorate and number
10. Nearest police station
11. School/schools attended
12. Educational, professional qualifications
13. Extracurricular activities
14. Previous employment if any and reasons for termination
15. Present employment with address of employer if any
16. Previous service in Armed forces if any

I hereby certify that the details furnished above are true and correct.

..... .....
Date Signature of Applicant

**More information**
**Tel. No : 0117195154**
**Web: www.navy.lk**

**Closing Date :- 10th May 2021**

**Applicant to be Addressed to**
**Senior Staff Officer (Recruiting)**
**Naval Headquarters, PO Box 593,**
**Colombo 01.**

ASIRI HEALTH
LIVE MORE
A Softlogic Group Company

Asiri Health is the leading healthcare provider in Sri Lanka with six hospitals delivering highest quality of clinical standards. Asiri Hospitals own a track record of being an innovative leader and a hi-tech provider of a wide range of medical specialties.

We are looking for experienced and self-motivated individuals to join our team of Nursing professionals.

If you are truly determined to make your career with the leading brand in the private healthcare industry in Sri Lanka, you are invited to apply for the following positions.

## NURSING SISTER – IVF CENTRE

**Qualifications, Experience and Attributes Required**

- Degree/Diploma in Nursing from a recognized state/private institution
- Minimum of 05 years work experience
- Work exposure in Fertility care would be an advantage
- Age below 50 years

## NURSING SISTER – NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

**Qualifications, Experience and Attributes Required**

- Degree/Diploma in Nursing from a recognized state/private institution
- Minimum of 05 years work experience
- Good competency in IV cannulation is a must
- Work exposure in Radiology/Nuclear Medicine would be an advantage
- Age below 55 years

Please send your updated CV within 7 days of this advertisement by email or post, indicating the post applied for as the subject line of the email or on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

Director – Human Resources,
Asiri Hospital Holdings PLC,
No.181, Kirula Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.
E-mail: hr@asiri.lk Web: www.asirihealth.com

**For further inquiries, please contact:**
**Dr. Samanthi de Silva - Director Operations, 076 551 5385**

## ACCOUNTS CLERK
**Required by a reputed company**

- G.C.E. O/L and/or G.C.E. A/L with Accounts as a subject.
- Computer literacy and ability to use ERP System
- Those living with easy accessibility to Nugegoda/ Kirulapone area preferred
- Should be available for immediate appointment

**Work - Monday to Friday and Saturday half day**

**Please send CVs to: hrdepartment007@yahoo.com**
**(Withing 10 days of this publication)**

## JOB WANTED
**A 54 years old male looking for a job as**

(1) An **Work Assistant** for a foreign investor.
(2) Supervisor in a small hotel or a guest house.
(3) Personnel Driver for a Company owner or Director.

**Contact No. 077 8859166**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE — UNIVOTEC

## University College of Kuliyapitiya
**University of Vocational Technology**
**State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research & Innovations**

## VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the below mentioned posts in the **University College of Kuliyapitiya.**

**01.** Lecturer (Probationary) - 03 posts
(Drafting Technology/ Building Service Technology/ Management)
**02.** Demonstrator - 01 post
(Cosmetology)
**03.** Lab Assistant - 01 post
(Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology)

Please forward your application with copies of certificates under registered cover to reach the below address on or before **30th April 2021.** The post applied should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelop. Those who are employed in the state sector, co-operate firm, statuary board should forward their application through the respective Head of the Institutions.

**For Required qualifications, Applications and further details, please refer to *www.uck.ac.lk***

**Chief Executive Officer,**
**University College of Kuliyapitiya,**
**Ashoka Mawatha, Pannala Road,**
**Kuliyapitiya.**
**0372059570/0372059576**
**11th April 2021**

## Ministry of Education
# Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)
## Recruitment of Visiting Lecturers for the Academic Year 2020 - Semester 1

SLIATE

Applications are invited from qualified personnel to conduct lectures on **Visiting Basis** at Advanced Technological Institutes (ATI)), under the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education.

Names of the courses conducted by the SLIATE are listed below.

| No. | Study Program |
|---|---|
| 01 | Higher National Diploma in Accountancy – (HNDA) |
| 02 | Higher National Diploma in Business Administration –(HNDBA) |
| 03 | Higher National Diploma in Business Finance– (HNDBF) |
| 04 | Higher National Diploma in Building Services Engineering – (HNDBSE) |
| 05 | Higher National Diploma in Consumer Sciences and Product Technology – (HNDCSPT) |
| 06 | Higher National Diploma in Engineering-Civil–(HNDE – Civil) |
| 07 | Higher National Diploma in Engineering - Electrical & Electronic–(HNDE-Electrical & Electronic) |
| 08 | Higher National Diploma in Engineering –Mechanical(HNDE- Mechanical) |
| 09 | Higher National Diploma in English - (HND in English) |
| 10 | Higher National Diploma in Food Technology – (HNDFT) |
| 11 | Higher National Diploma in Information Technology - (HNDIT) |
| 12 | Higher National Diploma in Management – (HNDM) |
| 13 | Higher National Diploma in Project Management-(HNDPM) |
| 14 | Higher National Diploma in Quantity Surveying – (HNDQS) |
| 15 | Higher National Diploma in Technology –Agriculture– (HNDT- Agriculture) |
| 16 | Higher National Diploma in Tourism & Hospitality Management – (HNDTHM) |

**Minimum Qualifications**

A degree or equivalent professional qualification in the **relevant field** with minimum 5 years of Teaching/ Industrial experience.

Duly completed **applications should be forwarded to the relevant Advanced Technological Institutes** by registered post **on or before 30thApril 2021.**The words ***"visiting lecturer with the relevant course"*** should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Applicants who are attached to the Government and Statutory Bodies should forward their applications through their Heads of the Departments. Selection will be made by the interview panel at the relevant ATI.

All the educational & Professional Qualifications should be relevant to the subject undertaken by the visiting Lecturer. Subject details can be taken from ATI's.

For more Information & application form please visit our website :**www.sliate.ac.lk**

**Director General**
**Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)**
**No: 320, T.B.Jaya Mawatha,**
**Colombo -10.**

| | Name of ATI | Address | Telephone Numbers | Courses Offered |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Hardy Advanced Technological Institute, Ampara. | Prof. Even A Hardy Mawatha, Ampara. | 063-2222056 063-2223035 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDIT(FT), HNDT (Agri), HND in English (FT), HND in English(PT), HNDTHM, HNDPM** |
| 02 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Anuradhapura. | Akkara 111, Anula Mw, Pandulagama, Anuradhapura. | 025-2234417 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HND in English (FT), HND in English (PT), HNDIT(FT), HNDIT(PT), HNDTHM** |
| 03 | Advanced Technological Institute, Badulla. | Greenland Drive, Badulla. | 055-2230218 055-2223818 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDIT(FT), HNDIT (PT), HND in English(FT), HND in English (PT), HNDTHM** |
| 04 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Batticaloa | Main Street, KovilKulam East, Arayampathy, Batticaloa. | 065-2247519 065-2247470 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HND in English (FT), HND in English (PT), HNDIT(FT), HNDIT (PT), HNDTHM** |
| 05 | Advanced Technological Institute, Colombo. | No. 42, Rodrigo Place, Colombo 15 | 011-2521152 011-2521282 | **HNDE (CIVIL,MECH,ELEC), HNDQS, HNDBSE** |
| 06 | Advanced Technological Institute, Dehiwala. | No 51, Waidya Rd, Dehiwala. | 011-2738349 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDBA, HNDIT(FT), HND in English (FT), HNDin English(PT), HNDBF, HNDTHM** |
| 07 | Advanced Technological Institute, Galle. | Siridamma Mw, Labuduwa, Akmeemana. | 091-2246179 | **HNDE (CIVIL,MECH,ELEC), HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDTHM, HNDBA, HNDIT(FT), HNDIT(PT), HNDT (Agri), HND in English(FT), HNDQS** |
| 08 | Advanced Technological Institute, Gampaha. | Naiwala, Essalla, Veyangoda. | 033-2287519 033-2292544 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDIT (FT), HNDIT (PT), HNDT(Agri), HNDFT, HNDCSPT** |
| 09 | Advanced Technological Institute, Jaffna. | No. 665/2, Beach Rd., GuruNagar, Jaffna. | 021-2222595 021-2229803 | **HNDE (CIVIL & ELEC), HNDA (FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDIT(FT), HNDIT(PT), HND in English (PT), HND in English(FT), HNDTHM, HNDQS,HNDPM** |
| 10 | Advanced Technological Institute, Kandy. | No. 16, Keppetipola Mawatha, Kandy. | 081-2232097 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM, HNDBA, HNDIT(FT), HND in English (FT), HND in English(PT), HNDTHM (FT), HNDIT(PT)** |
| 11 | Advanced Technological Institute, Kegalle. | Bandaranayake Mawatha, Kegalle | 035-2221297 035-2221713 | **HNDA(FT),HNDA(PT),HNDIT(FT), HND in English(FT), HND in English (PT), HNDPM** |
| 12 | Advanced Technological Institute, Kurunegala. | No. 22/1, Wilgoda Rd, Kurunegala. | 037-2229583 037-2224911 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HNDM (FT), HNDIT(FT), HNDIT(PT), HND in English(FT), HNDin English(PT), HNDTHM** |
| 13 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Mannar. | No 201, Provincial English Support Centre (PESC), Thalaimannar Road, Mannar. | 023-3122555 | **HND in English (FT),HNDTHM, HNDIT (FT)** |
| 14 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Nawalapitiya. | 154/6,Gampola Road, (Back street), Aishwarya Hall, 4th floor, Nawalapitiya. | 071-3702889 | **HNDTHM, HNDin English(FT), HND in English(PT), HNDM** |
| 15 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Rathnapura. | New Town, Ratnapura. | 045-2231492 045-2231493 | **HNDA(PT), HNDA(FT), HNDIT(FT), HNDIT(PT), HND in English (FT), HNDin English (PT),** |
| 16 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Sammanthurai. | ATI Avenue, Sammanthurai. | 067-2261304 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT), HNDin English (FT),HND in English (PT), HNDIT (FT), HNDM,HNDIT (PT)** |
| 17 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Tangalle. | Yayawaththa, Netolpitiya, Tangalle | 0472241845 0472241846 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT), HNDIT(FT), HND in English (FT), HND in English (PT),** |
| 18 | Advanced Technological Institute, Trincomalee. | Kanniya Rd, Varothayanagar, Trincomalee | 0262223232 0262050617 | **HNDA(FT),HNDA(PT),HNDIT (FT), HNDIT (PT), HND in English(FT), HND in English (PT), HNDTHM** |
| 19 | Advanced Technological Institute Section, Vavuniya | Off A 9 Road, Veppankulam, Ómanthai, Vavuniya. | 0242052733 | **HNDA(FT), HNDA(PT),HND in English (FT) HNDIT (FT), HND in English (PT)** |

Note:-It is compulsory to attach the accreditation of the university Grants Commission (UGC) for all the foreign degrees to be considered as the equivalent qualification for selections.

Specimen Application forms can be found in the next page.

**CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION 30th April 2021.**

**Dr. K.L.Jayarathne**
**Director General**
**Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)**

**Application Form for Visiting Lecturer Post- Academic Year 2020- SLIATE**

| | Preferred place (ATI) to serve | Preferred subjects to teach |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |

1. Name in Full (Dr./Mr./Mrs./Miss.) ……
2. Name with Initials ……
3. Date of Birth ……
4. Contact Information
   Postal Address - ……
   Phone Number - Official - ……
   Mobile - …… E-mail -……
5. Academic Qualifications:

| | Name of the Degree | Name of the University | Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| i. | …… | …… | …… |
| ii. | …… | …… | …… |
| iii. | …… | …… | ……. |

6. Professional Qualifications

| | Name of the Qualification | Name of the Institute | Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| i. | …… | …… | ……. |
| ii. | …… | …… | ……. |

7. Other Qualifications .....
8. Working Experience

| | Position | From | To | Years |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Present | | | | |
| Past | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

9. Teaching Experience:-

| Institute | Name of Program | Subject | Number of Years |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

10. Name, Position and Contact Information of two Non-related Referees.

Applicants who are attached to the Government and Statutory Bodies should forward their applications through their Heads of the Departments.

I hereby certify that all the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

…… ……
Date Signature of Applicant

**To be completed by the present employer (if any)**

Applicant can / cannot be released, if he/she is selected for this position.
Any special comments:

……
Signature of the Head of Department

Official Stamp:-…… Date :- ……..

WMC
Women and Media Collective

## VACANCY

# Executive Director, Women and Media Collective

The Women and Media Collective, is a feminist organization working on gender equality.

We are seeking a dynamic person with strong leadership skills to steer the organization by responding to the changing social, political, and economic context in Sri Lanka

### The Executive Director will be primarily responsible for :

- Fundraising and overseeing financial management
- Guiding program development in keeping with our vision and mission
- Directing and mentoring staff

### Qualifications:

- A degree from a recognized local/international university of repute in a relevant area including the social sciences, humanities, law, and management. A post- graduate qualification will be preferred
- Knowledge and sensitivity to current socio-political trends in Sri Lanka and a strong commitment to social justice and feminist values
- At least 10 years proven experience in a similar senior management capacity
- Strong leadership ability and proven management, interpersonal, and team building skills
- Proven record in conceptualizing programs, proposal writing, and fundraising through national and international donors;
- Strong analytical, report writing, and communication skills
- Excellent English language skills, both written and spoken.
- Proficiency in Sinhala and/or Tamil is essential
- Excellent knowledge of MS Office and other relevant computer skills

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the selected candidate.

Please forward a detailed CV, a cover letter describing how your experiences and expertise fit the selection criteria, and contact details of two non-related referees by **30 April 2021** to **wmcsrilanka.recruit@gmail.com**

# Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

## Vacancies

### Assistant Directors (Contract Basis)

**Applications are invited from qualified candidates to fill the above vacancies posted in the TRCSL website**

**Please refer www.trc.gov.lk for more details on the vacancies, qualifications, Job descriptions and other related information.**

**Recruitment Procedure**

Selection will be through a structured interview preceded by a written examination to assess the skills of the applicants based on the criteria in the scheme of recruitment of TRCSL. After initial screening, only short-listed applicants will be called for a written examination. Applicants who obtain the highest marks in the written examination will be invited for an interview.

**Duration of Contract:**

One year

**Method of Application**

- The application format should be downloaded from www.trc.gov.lk.
- Applications which are not compatible with the format will be rejected.
- Completed applications should be send together with copies of educational / professional qualifications and details of work experience.
- Applications should be clear and legible and those which do not confirm to the requirements will not be considered.
- All applications **should be** sent **through the Registered Post to "Director General – Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, No. 276, Elvitigala Mw, Colombo 08" indicating the post applied on the top left hand corner of the envelope on or before 30.04.2021**

**General Conditions**

1. Every applicant should be a citizen of Sri Lanka & should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
2. Applicants who do not possess the required qualifications as at the closing date of applications will not be considered.
3. Any form of canvassing will be treated as a disqualification.
4. The Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) reserves the right to decide on the number of positions to be filled or postpone / cancelled with the recruitment.
5. The TRCSL is a regulatory authority, wherein any person being recruited for employment in the TRCSL shall not promote, advance or advocate directly or indirectly for appointment or employment of his/her spouse or any member of the family in or to a position in an institution that is under to the regulatory control of the TRCSL.
6. Employees from Government Departments. Corporations and Statutory boards should forward their applications through the respective Head of the Institution indicating the possibility of being released if selected.

**Director General**
**The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka**
**No. 276, Elvitigala Mawatha,**
**Colombo 08.**

Dreamron™
LIVE BEAUTY

# Sales Representative

**WHO ARE WE** Dreamron Group of companies is in the business of manufacturing and marketing a wide range of quality Professional Cosmetics, Hair Care, Skin Care , Toiletries products and making inroads into Perfume market to extend its product portfolio for more aggressive growth. It's 120,000 sqft manufacturing facility and office complex is located in a 10 acre land with two plants certified by GMP, ISO 9001-2015 – one plant is dedicated to exports with BOI approval and another for local brand manufacturing and 3rd party contract manufacturing. The group has 4 business entities namely; Kindai Kagaku Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Harumi Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, Dreamron Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and Dreamron College of Art and Beauty. The group employees over 650 people. Currently Dreamron products are marketed in over 20 countries and the group is specialized in manufacturing OEM brands and Private labels for several leading global cosmetic and toiletries brands. Dreamron has a very dominant market position in the local professional Cosmetic market with a wide range of solutions.

## WHO WE WANT

We are looking for smart, intelligent and energetic young professionals with experience in field sales from around the country.
Candidates with good OL results with credit passes for Maths and English while A/L qualifications and experience in FMCG sales environment with a proven track record of performance would have an edge.
A strong & pleasing personality with a sports background and passion to pursue a career in sales would be prerequisites.

**The successful candidate will be offered a market competitive remuneration package including sales commissions.**

Submit your application within 7 days to;
E-mail : **hr@dreamroncosmetics.com**
Address : Dreamron Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.,
No. 112, Sunethradevi Road, Kohuwala, Nugegoda.
Tel : 0112 853 804 Fax: 0112 853 805 www.dreamron.lk

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A

# Head of Supply Chain

**Morison PLC, a subsidiary of Hemas Holdings PLC, is a fully Sri Lankan owned company. We are one of Sri Lanka's largest pharmaceutical manufacturers, having led & guided the industry for more than eight decades with our pioneering spirit and drive. We are continuously committed towards enriching lives of consumers of Sri Lanka and beyond for generations to come. We are expanding our operations through a state of art manufacturing facility built to EUGMP specifications that will enable greater capacity and manufacturing flexibility in gearing up to compete globally.**

**Job Profile**

- Responsible for end to end supply chain of the company which includes demand planning, raw material sourcing, finished good sourcing, production planning, warehousing & logistics.
- Develop and upgrade the procurement standards & processes to comply with the global pharmaceutical standards and enhance the supplier base to comply with the increasing demand of the industry.
- Responsible in implementing processes to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the supply chain function and benchmarking them with industry best practices.
- Develop strategic supplier bases to engage into long term partnerships and bring the price stability, favorable trade terms to facilitate new product development.
- Develop sourcing strategies and functional strategies to align with overall strategic objectives of the company.
- Responsible in building and improving on adaptable and lean business processes to support Supply Chain transformation, enabling clear communication, prioritization, and escalation within and external from Supply Chain.
- Responsible for maintaining positive sustainable customer relationship through high degree of customer satisfaction.

**Applicant Profile**

- Candidate should possess BSc in Biology / Physical Science Degree along with ACMA or a similar professional qualification from a recognized University or an Institute.
- Candidate should possessa MBA.
- Minimum of 10-12 years' of overall experience with at least 5 years' of work experience in a supply chain management role in a healthcare sector is preferred.
- Experience in dealing with international vendors and commercial agreements/ long term contracts.
- Strong analytical, negotiation, people management and communication skills to work along with multiple stakeholders across the business with the eagerness to learn & research.

**Application Procedure**

If you believe you've got the drive to take our organization to the next level, apply with confidence.
Email your CV to careers@morison.lkwith the subject carrying the role you are applying for within 07 days of this advertisement.
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## Vacancy Announcement

### Community Liaison Officer (Internal / External)
### Northern / Eastern (Contract Position)

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is a British Non-Governmental Organization undertaking humanitarian mine action around the world. MAG is working to save lives and build futures in Sri Lanka by reducing the risk presented by remnants of conflict.
MAG Sri Lanka is seeking applications from suitable Internal/External candidates to fill the above position immediately. Selected candidates will be deployed in MAG operations in the Northern / Eastern province and should be flexible in working all parts of the region according to operational working patterns. As part of MAG's commitment to safeguarding, this post is subject to background checks before an offer is confirmed.

**Essential Skills & Requirements**

- Communication skills in English and Tamil is a must and Sinhala would be an advantage
- Able to liaise with local communities, civil society organizations and government agencies
- Should be proficient in MS Word, Excel, Power point
- Ability in creating a good network among stake holders in the working area
- Previous NGO experience would be an added qualification
- Preferable given for candidates who are energetic and result oriented
- MAG operates on a 21-day rotational cycle.

Salary will be based upon the MAG Salary Scale on a fixed term contract.
Please submit a CV to:
Human Resources Coordinator: recruitment.lk@maginternational.org
(Include "Community Liaison Officer" in the subject line)
**Deadline: 4:00pm Monday 19th April 2021**
www.maginternational.org

***MAG is an equal opportunity employer. Women are highly encouraged to apply the above post.***

## Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme (SAPP)
### Ministry of Agriculture

SAPP

## Vacancies for Programme Management Unit (PMU)

Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships (SAPP) Programme is a project implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture, jointly funded by the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with programme cost of US$ 105 Million. SAPP is designed to contribute to Sri Lanka's smallholders' poverty reduction and competitiveness. It mainly focuses on the development of 4P (Public, Private, Producer Partnerships) value chain projects in collaboration with private sector promoter companies and farmers/Farmer Organizations to develop production and marketing system with commercial orientation while increasing the income of rural communities for sustainable rural development. The programme is implemented islandwide.

The applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka with the below mentioned qualifications to fill the following positions of the Programme Management Unit of the Programme.

### MIS (ICT) Officer – 01 post (PS 5)

The MIS (ICT) Officer has to work closely with all the divisions of the Programme as well as with the external stakeholders to manage PMU MIS system and to support program operations and would contribute immensely towards monitoring and evaluation of the project to meet the expectations of IFAD and GoSL.

**Qualifications, Experience and Skills**

1. A Bachelor's degree in ICT/Mathematics/Statistics which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.
2. At least 02 years' experience in managing MIS systems
3. Experience in analyse field data and generating reports
4. The individual have knowledge on network and systems and infrastructure support, data handling and security.
5. Must possess excellent supervisory skills and must be able to communicate with management and stakeholders relating to the data entering, handling and information dissemination. Strong problem–solving and analytical skills are preferred.
6. Preference will be given to candidates those who have broad experience in agriculture partnership projects, data management and handling and report generation in foreign funded projects.

### Post of Programme Secretary – 1 Post (PS06)

**Qualifications and Experience**

1. Having passed G.C.E.(O/L) examination in six (6) subjects with three (3) credit passes including English and Sinhala / Tamil language.

**With**

A Secretarial course from a recognized institution or pursuing examinations leading to Chartered Secretary.

**With**

Minimum 05 years' experience in relevant field.

**OR**

2. A Chartered Secretary with at least 04 years' experience in relevant field.

(Working experience in a GOSL and donor funded Project in a similar capacity is desirable)

**General Conditions Applicable for the Abovementioned Positions**

**Age Limit -**
Below 64 years by the closing date of application.

**Salary Scale :** Based on the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of the Treasury

**Location -** Programme Management Unit (PMU) is in Nawala Road, Rajagiriya. However, traveling to project locations are involved frequently.

**Languages -** Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Sinhala/ Tamil is a must with sound knowledge in Microsoft Office packages as most of the work need to be done by him/herself. Working knowledge of another official language is desirable.

**Appointment :**

Appointment is made on contract basis in accordance with the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019, renewable annually based on the performance and will be subjected to 06 months probationary period.

**Other terms :**

The employee will be a member of the Employees' Provident Fund and Employee Trust Fund and contributions would be made to the said schemes by the Employer and Employee in accordance with the relevant Acts.

**Method of Selection :**

Only shortlisted applicants based on the highest qualifications and experience, will be called for an interview and selection will be based on the performance at the interview.

Applications giving all particulars of qualifications, experience and other relevant information with two non-related referees should be sent under registered cover with the name of the post as appearing in the advertisement written on the top left hand corner of the envelope to the **Programme Director, Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme,No. 214/A, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya** or by an e-mail (info@sapp.lk) within 14 days of this advertisement date.

Applicants employed in Govt. Departments, State Corporations, Boards and Authorities should send their applications through the Heads of their respective organizations.

**Programme Director ,**
**Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships Programme (SAPP)**
**No. 214/A, Nawala Road,**
**Rajagiriya.**

## Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

### VACANCIES

### Post of ELECTRICIAN
### (Contract Basis)

Applications are invited for the above post.

**Educational qualifications :**
Should have passed G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) examination in six (06) subjects, with at least two (02) credit passes in not more than two sittings.

**Vocational qualifications:-**
Should have obtained competency certificate not less than Level 4 of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ 4), issued by a Technical / Vocational & Training Institute, recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC).

**Age** :- Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 30 years of age.

**Salary Scale** :- (I) Rs. 34,815 - 10 x 365 - 38,465
(II) In addition to the above salary, all the allowances will be paid.

**Conditions of Service** :- Under contract basis, and entitled to contribution to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees Trust Fund (ETF).

Applicants in the Government Service employment, should send their applications through their respective heads of the Departments / Institutions, with a copy direct. A certificate from the relevant head of the Department / Institution certifying whether applicant could be released from the present post, if selected, should be attached to application.

The Governing Board of the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital reserves the right to make or not to make appointment to the post. The post applied for should be clearly indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope, containing applications. Applicants should send their complete bio-data (CV), with names of two non related referees, to the undersigned to receive on or before 27.04.2021.

**Chairman**
**Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital,**
**Thalapathpitiya, Nugegoda.**

## IMMEDIATE RECRUITMENT

An internationally recognized laboratory is searching for suitable applicants for the following vacancies.

1. **Trainee Metrologist** : Passed GCE A/L in Mathematics subject stream.
2. **Junior Metrologist** : BSc Degree with Physics as a major subject.
3. **Accounts Assistant** : Passed GCE A/L in Accounts subjects and part professional qualification.
4. **Administrative Assistant** : Passed GCE A/L in Accounts subject stream.

**Forward your CV to: gsstm@gsstm.lk**

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HR Manager,
No.304/10,Wawanawatta,Piliyandala
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## SriLankan Airlines

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SriLankan Airlines, the award-winning National Carrier of Sri Lanka, and a member of the reputed oneworld airline alliance, is well known for its customer service, onboard comfort, safety, reliability and punctuality. The Airline currently operates a route network of 113 destinations in 51 countries (including codeshare operations) across the Middle East, the Far East, Europe and Australia, with a consolidated presence in the Indian Subcontinent.

SriLankan Airlines operates an all-Airbus fleet including the state-of-the-art A330-300's and A320/321NEO aircraft where the features of contemporary air travel blend in seamlessly with Sri Lanka's inherent attributes such as culture, heritage, nature, warmth and hospitality.

SriLankan Airlines embarks on a journey to strengthen its global presence through strategies and necessary vicissitudes to ensure a sustainable future and a progressive contribution to the country's growth.

### Chief Commercial Officer (CCO)

The Airline is in search of a Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), a key position in the Senior Management Team, to lead its Commercial & Cargo functions whilst reporting to the Chief Executive Officer.

CCO will be responsible for the Commercial functions inclusive of Passenger Sales, SriLankan Holidays, Customer Support, Network Planning & Pricing, E-Commerce, International Relations, Industry Affairs, Advertising & Marketing and Cargo Operations & Cargo Sales.

The selected candidate will be responsible for achieving the Airline's annual budgeted revenue targets, developing long term strategic objectives and plans for areas that come under his purview, develop and rollout robust and effective marketing and network strategy to stay ahead of the competition, as well as to lead technological rollouts and to provide inspirational leadership to motivate his teams.

**The ideal candidate should possess:**

- A Bachelor's degree from a recognized university and a MBA or equivalent professional qualification.
- A minimum of 10 – 15 years of experience in a similar role at senior level in an international airline; preferably in Network Planning, Pricing and Commercial Strategy.
- A proven track record in achieving results and driving the change management programs in an international airline.

Remuneration and other benefits are negotiable.

Applications enclosing a CV and contact information together with names, contact details of two non-related referees and post applied for on the email subject/ written on the top left hand corner of the envelope, should be sent on or before **21st April 2021**, addressed to:

**Chairman**
SriLankan Airlines Ltd.,
Airline Center
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## A&R MANUFACTURING

# APPERAL VACANCIES

### Work-Study officer

- ✓ Minimum 2 years work experience
- ✓ Having passed the G.C.E O/L with 5 Passes including English and Mathematics and G.C.E A/L 3 passes.
- ✓ Should have good computer skills with Microsoft office package
- ✓ Age between 18-35
- ✓ Female/ Male

### Merchandises

- ✓ Minimum 2 years work experience
- ✓ Having passed the G.C.E O/L with 5 Passes including English and Mathematics and G.C.E A/L 3 passes.
- ✓ Should have a degree for Merchandising from recommended university or institute.
- ✓ Age between 18-35
- ✓ Female/ Male

### Fabric and Accessories Inspector

- ✓ Minimum 1 years work experience
- ✓ Having passed the G.C.E A/L 3 passes.
- ✓ Should have good computer skills with Microsoft office package
- ✓ Knowledge of testing fabrics and accessories
- ✓ Experience with fabric inspection techniques
- ✓ Age between 18-35

### Senior executive human resource development

- ✓ Minimum 1 years work experience
- ✓ Age between 18-35
- ✓ Female
- ✓ Overall knowledge about HRD operations
- ✓ Degree /Diploma from a recognized university or institute

### Import Export documentation officer

- ✓ Minimum 1 years work experience
- ✓ The ideal candidate should have pass GCE (A/L)
- ✓ Handling of import /export/local BOI/custom documentation
- ✓ Age between 18-35
- ✓ Female/ Male

### Personal assistant to the director

- ✓ G.C.E. (A/L) with 3 Passes
- ✓ Age below 30 years
- ✓ Female
- ✓ Should have good command of English (both written and spoken)
- ✓ Should have good computer skills with Microsoft office package
- ✓ Should have pleasing personality

APPLY - A & R MANUFACTURING (PVT) Ltd.
GOMADUWA- YATIYANTHOTA
SRI LANKA
PHONE- 0364932120
EMAIL - info@ar-manufacturing.org

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## Academic Vacancies - Uva Wellassa University

***Faculty of Management***

*Department of Management Sciences*

- **Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)**

*Preferred Subject Areas:* (01) Entrepreneurship
(02) Business Management

***Note:*** *Candidates should have a BBA, BBM or B.Sc. special degree or equivalent in the fields of Business Management/Commerce/Entrepreneurship*

*Department of English Language Teaching (DELT)*

- **Senior Lecturer Gr. I/ Senior Lecturer Gr. II/ Lecturer (Unconfirmed)/ Lecturer (Probationary)**

*Preferred Subject Area:* (01) TESL
(02) English Language
(03) ESP

***Note:*** *Candidates should have a degree with specialization in teaching English as a second language (TESOL) or in English language*

**Qualifications**

**Note:** Candidates, whose specializations are compatible with the requirements, are requested to refer the relevant **UGC Circular Nos. 721, 996, 08/2016 and 07/2018** or visit www.ugc.ac.lk

**Application Form, preferred qualifications and other relevant details can be obtained by visiting the University Website www.uwu.ac.lk.**

***Remuneration and benefits***

*Salary Scale*

- ➢ **Lecturer (Probationary)- [U-AC 3(IV)]**
  Rs.54, 600-10 X 1, 335 - 67,950 p.m.
- ➢ **Lecturer (Unconfirmed) [U-AC 3(III)]**
  Rs.69, 580-5 X 1, 630 - 77,730 p.m.
- ➢ **Senior Lecturer (Grade II) [U-AC 3(II)]**
  Rs.79, 360-11 X 1, 630 - 97,290 p.m.
- ➢ **Senior Lecturer (Grade I) [U-AC 3(I)]**
  Rs.91, 310-7 X 2, 170 - 106,500 p.m.

In addition, the Government approved allowances applicable to the University system will be paid.

The duly completed applications should be forwarded with copies of relevant certificates (with transcripts) under registered cover to reach the **Senior Assistant Registrar, Human Resources Division**, Uva Wellassa University, Passara Road, Badulla on or before **10.05.2021**

The candidates who apply for more than one post should submit separate applications in separate covers for each post. **The preferred subject area should be clearly indicated in the form of application.**

Applicants from the University System/Government Departments/Corporations and Statutory Boards should apply through the Heads of their respective Institutions. Applications which are not received through proper channels will not be considered.

Incomplete applications, applications without supporting documents and applications received after the closing date will not be considered. University reserves the right to shortlist the candidates and call only such candidates for the interview.

**Registrar**
**Uva Wellassa University**
**Passara Road**
**Badulla**
**11.04.2021**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

## MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

### Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project – AIIB

# VACANCIES – PROJECT STAFF

The Government of Sri Lanka has negotiated for financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) towards the construction of about 5,500 housing units and redevelopment of lands in Colombo City and suburbs under the Urban Regeneration program as a priority investment in the Megapolis Region. This Project is executed by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and implemented by the Urban Development Authority (UDA).

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced citizens of Sri Lanka to fill following positions in the SCURP. Proficiency in English, familiarity with government regulations and computer literacy are essential prerequisites for these positions.

| Srl. No. | Position | No. | Required Qualifications & Experience |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **LEVEL PS – 3, AS PER MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 01/2019** | | |
| 1 | **Deputy Project Director (Technical)** | **01** | (1 or 2 or 3 or 4 below)<br>**1)** A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.<br>**Or**<br>A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field<br>**Or**<br>An Associate membership/A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field<br>**With**<br>At least 15 years post qualifying experience at Managerial Level out of which 07 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.<br>**2)** A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.<br>**Or**<br>A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field<br>**And**<br>Corporate/Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.<br>**Or**<br>A Postgraduate Degree in the relevant field with at least 13 years Post qualifying experience in Managerial Level out of which 6 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.<br>**3)** A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.<br>**Or**<br>A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field<br>**And**<br>A Postgraduate Degree in the relevant field.<br>**And**<br>Corporate/Chartered membership or a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.<br>**With**<br>at least 11 years Post qualifying experience in Managerial Level out of which 5 years should be in the Senior Managerial Level.<br>**4)** Grade I officer of the government All Island Service or a similar status in the relevant field.<br>**With**<br>At least 06 years of experience in a Grade I post |
| | **LEVEL PS – 4, AS PER MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 01/2019** | | |
| 2 | **Senior System Analysist** | **01** | (1 or 2 below)<br>**1)** A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission or having passed the intermediate examination of a recognized professional institute in the relevant field.<br>**And**<br>At least 09 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field.<br>**2)** An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field.<br>**With**<br>At least 11 years' experience in the Class III/II post |
| 3 | **Project Accountant** | **01** | |
| | **LEVEL PS – 5 AS PER MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 01/2019** | | |
| 4 | **Senior Quantity Surveyor** | 01 | (1 or 2 or 3 below)<br>**1)** A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.<br>**Or**<br>A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field<br>**Or**<br>An Associate membership/A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field<br>**Or**<br>Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**And**<br>At least 06 years of experience in the required area of specialization.<br>**2)** Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6, issued by a Technical/Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**And**<br>At least 11 years of experience in the required area of specialization.<br>**3)** Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**And**<br>At least 16 years of experience in the required area of specialization. |
| | **LEVEL PS – 6, AS PER MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 01/2019** | | |
| 5 | **Assistant Sociologist** | **02** | (1 or 2 or 3 below)<br>**1)** A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission<br>**Or**<br>Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**With**<br>At least 04 years' experience in the required area of specialization.<br>**2)** Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 6, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**With**<br>At least 09 years' experience in the required area of specialization.<br>**3)** Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical field.<br>**With**<br>At least 14 years' experience in the required area of specialization. |

**Terms and Conditions :**

Remuneration, Terms and Conditions will be in terms of Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 of 15.03.2019. Working station will be in Colombo with field travelling in Western Province.

**Applications :**

The applicants are requested to forward their Curriculum Vitae giving educational, professional qualifications and experience along with the names of two non-related referees by registered post on or before 19.04.2021 to reach the addresses :

1. **Address to which applications should be sent for PS-3**
   The Secretary,
   Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,
   17th Floor, Suhurupaya,
   Subuthipura Mawatha, Battaramulla.
2. **Address to which applications should be sent for PS-4, PS-5, PS-6**
   Project Director,
   Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project (AIIB),
   5th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.

Please indicate the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applicants who are in the Government Sector should forward their applications through the Heads of the Departments and are advised to send a copy in advance to ensure timely delivery of the applications. Short-listed applicants will be called for interviews.

**Project Director,**
**Support to Colombo Urban Regeneration Project (AIIB),**
**5th Floor, Sethsiripaya,**
**Battaramulla.**

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## LANKA ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PRIVATE) LIMITED

### Employment Opportunities

Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited, a distribution utility in Sri Lanka which has seven Branches covering operational areas of the coastal belt of the island from Negombo to Galle serving over 500,000 consumers and has a workforce of 1500 employees is seeking qualified personnel for the following posts.

1. **Analyst Programmer**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Educational Qualifications & Experience** | Degree in IT or Computer Science from a recognized national university with one (01) year experience in the relevant field<br>OR<br>Degree in Mathematics or Physical Science from a recognized national university with two (02) years experience in the relevant field |
| **Job Knowledge** | Programming knowledge in Java, .Net and C. with Strong analytical skills in business processes. |
| **Other Requirements** | Effective Communication skills (both verbal & written). Strong leadership and teamwork abilities. |
| **Age** | Below 30 Years |

An attractive salary will be offered to the selected candidate with a wide range of fringe benefits.

Please forward your detailed Curriculum Vitae with copies of certificates together with names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of two non-related referees to reach the undersigned on or before **19th April 2021**

The post applied for should be clearly stated on the application and on the top left hand corner of the Envelope.

Head of Human Resources & Administration
**Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited**
1st Floor, E.H. Cooray Building,
411, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Mr. Ganimegedara Nuwan Vimukthi**
N.I.C. 843280633V
No. 1/6, Sapugasthanna, Kalagedihena.

This is to notify the general public that the person named here is no longer an employee with EAP Film & Theatres Limited and hence not authorized to represent, transact any business on behalf of the company. Any liabilities incurred by him will not be honored by the company.

**EAP FILM & THEATRES LIMITED**
No. 05, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.

**BEN HOLDINGS (PVT) LIMITED**
No. 42, Dr. N M Perera Mawatha, ( Cotta Road),
Colombo 08.

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR FABRICATION OF ALUMINIUM DRYWALL PARTITION AT BLOCK No. 03 AT DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA.

**CONTRACT NO: DHQC/PROC/2021/H/122**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified tenderers for **Supply of undermentioned Items for the Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

   **Description of Item - Aluminium Items**

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. **To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful tenderers shall not have been blacklisted and shall Possess a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least 05 years. Documentary evidence shall be established with the Bids.**
4. **Bidders are strongly adviced to present Registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies as per the 8th paragraph of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds tenderable amount of Rs. 5.0 million, and copy of certificate to be presented when purchasing the bidding document.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees Twelve Thousand Five Hundred (LKR.12,500.00)** (The method of payment shall be by cash) by the interested bidders on the submission of written application to the address below, from **0900 hrs to 1600 hrs during 12th April 2021 to 1000 hrs on 05th May 2021.**
6. All Tenders shall be accompanied by a Tender Security , to the value of **Seven Hundred Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred (LKR. 711,700.00)** obtained from any commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Tender Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand guarantee and shall be **valid from 05th May 2021 to 01st September 2021** (120 days including Both Days).
7. **Validity of Bids - Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of Bids Opening (From 05th May 2021 to 02nd August 2021).**
8. Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** on or before **1000 hrs. on 05th May 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

   The address referred in para 5 is as follows.

   **The Chairman,**
   **Project Procurement Committee,**
   **Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
   **Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,**
   **Battaramulla.**

   **Tel: 0094-11-4209885, Fax : 0094-11-4209885**
   **Email - pmudhqc@gmail.com, dhqcproc2015@gmail.com**

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## Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

## Department of Buddhist Affairs

## Notice

### Recruitment to the post of Assistant Composer of the Buddhist Encyclopaedia on Contract Basis

Applications are called from qualified Sri Lankan citizens for the abovementioned position.

**Qualifications : 01. Age must be not less than 21 years and not more than 45 years. This age limit will not be relevant to those who are working in the Public Service.**

**02. Candidates should have obtained a Honours Degree with a 1st or 2nd Class in Buddhist Culture and a Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Art Degree in relevant fields from a recognized university.**

**03. Should have an excellent knowledge of English Language. Must have obtained at least a credit pass in the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination.**

**Application Closing Date 10.05.2021**

I hereby notify that the relevant information for this recruitment has been published on the Gazette on 23.09.2016.

**Comissioner General of Buddhist Affairs,**
**Department of Buddhist Affairs,**
**135, "Dahampaya", Sreemath Anagarika**
**Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07.**

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM

## SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SLTDA)

### *BID NOTICE - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)*

1. The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority invites sealed bids from the eligible & qualified bidders for procurements described below;

| No. | Subject & Contract Number | Non Refundable Fee (Rs.) | Bid Security Requirements (Rs.) | Pre Bid Meeting Date of Time | Closing Date and Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Providing Security Services to the National Holiday Resort of SLTDA. Contract No: SLTDA/RM/NC/NCB/Security-NHR/2020/11 | 5,000 | 168,000 | 19th April 2021 at Chairman's Boardroom SLTDA 10.00 a.m. | 03rd May 2021 at 2.00 p.m. |

2. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have Business Registration in relevant field as per the above qualification criteria.
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Director (Procurement) Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Contact No.0112426800 (Ext: 305,277), Electronic mail address: amilam@srilanka.travel of Assistant Director (Procurement) and inspect the bidding documents at the SLTDA Web site (https://sltda.gov.lk/tender) .
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be downloaded from the SLTDA Website (https://sltda.gov.lk/tender) by interested bidders from **11th April 2021 to 3rd May 2021.**
5. The payment of **non-refundable** fee should be deposited in the Bank **A/C No. 7119413 Bank of Ceylon, Corporate Branch, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority** (Note: Please Fill the Depositors Details and Purpose of Deposit in the Deposit Slip as "Non Refundable Tender Fee" and it is mandatory to submit the aforesaid original slip with the Bid. The payment shall be made in cash & other payments are not allowed.
6. Sealed Bids with the duplicate may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Procurement Division (4th Floor), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No. 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03** on or before the date of Bid closing. It should be written the name and contract number of the procurement at the top left-hand corner of the Envelope.
7. All Bids will be opened at the Lobby area (Ground floor), SLTDA soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. **Late bids will be returned unopened.**
8. All bids shall be accompanied with a certificate of registration of the bidder issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in Sri Lanka according to the Public Contracts Act No.03 of 1987 of the Government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notifications (PCA3 form).
9. The Bid Security should be issued from an approved Commercial Bank operating under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, valid up to **28 days beyond the date of Bid Validity** as specified in the Bidding Document.
10. Bids shall be valid as per the date specified in the Bidding Document.
11. An employee or a firm and/or an individual that has a close family relationship with an employee of the Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and any other institution under the control of the Ministry shall not be eligible for award.
12. The Departmental Procurement Committee's decision will be the final decision. Further, SLTDA has the right to accept or reject any Bid without adducing any reasons and SLTDA will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the prospective bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Chairman**
**Departmental Procurement Committee**
**Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority**

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## AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS

### FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SPECIALIST INTERIORS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

**CONTRACT NO: DHQC/ SPEC INTERIOR 3/2021**

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids, published on 21.03.2021 in Sunday Observer in respect of the above mentioned Contract.
2. Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
   - The **Bid opening/closing time** has been extended up to 1000 hrs on **27th April 2021**
   - **Bids shall be valid up to 27th July 2021**
   - **Bid Security shall be valid up to 24th August 2021**
3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address until **26th April 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during a working day.

**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road,**
**Pelawatta, Battaramulla,**
**Sri Lanka.**

**Tel: 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax: 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com**

## AMENDMENT TO INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MICROWAVE RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR STRATEGIC DEFENCE COMMUNICATION NETWORK (SDCN) PROJECT

**IFB No : MOD/SDCN/01/2021**

1. This refers to the Invitation for Bids published in Sunday Observer on 14 March 2021 in respect of the above contract.
2. Following amendments are made to the above referred Invitation for Bids.
   - The Bid opening / closing time has been extended up to 1100 hrs on 11.05.2021.
   - Bids shall be valid up to 6th September 2021.
   - Bid Security shall be valid up to 4th October 2021.
3. All other terms and conditions of the previous Invitation for Bids remain unchanged.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Director, Project Management Unit, Strategic Defence Communication Networks Project, Headquarters, Centre for Defence Research and Development, Mahenawatta, Moragahahena Road, Pitipana, Homagama. (Tel. (+94) 112421357/ Fax : (+94) 112437923/Email : dg@crd.lk from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on working days until 10.05.2021.

**The Chairman,**
**Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee**
**Ministry of Defence,**
**No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,**
**Colombo 03,**
**Sri Lanka.**

**Tel : 0094-011-2390719**
**Fax : 0094-011-2390720**
**E-mail : procurement@defence.lk**

## OXFAM

## TENDER NOTICE

### RENOVATION OF COMMUNITY SPICE CENTRES IN KEGALLE DISTRICT

**Reference No - OAU.TD 2021-22/ 001/CMB-LK**

Oxfam Australia, an International Non-Governmental Organization, is calling for bids from qualified contractors (ICTAD category C8 / C9) for following renovations in Kegalle District under **"RIES" project** (2021-2024), contributes to **Resilient and Gender inclusive Enterprise System in Sri Lanka** by nurturing viable groups of women-led social enterprises while working in value chain actors of spice sector in Kegalle and capable of uplifting and empowering the lives of poor women and their families.

Oxfam Australia invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the above renovations at Heenatikanda, Mawanella and Asmadala, Aranayake. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

The potential bidders must be registered as legal entity in Sri Lanka under Companies' Registration Act OR Sole Proprietorship and must be registered with Institute of Construction Training & Development (ICTAD) / CIDA) for grade C9 or above in the field of Building Construction.

Bids document can be downloaded from below link;
**https://oxfam.box.com/v/SpiceCentrerenovationKegalle**

Completed Bids with all other required documentation should be put in to a sealed envelope, addressed to Procurement Committee, Oxfam Australia, #15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05 with "Bids for "Renovations of Community Spice Centers- Kegalle" and Tender No written in the left hand corner of the envelope and should put in the tender boxes at; **Oxfam Australia, #15, Manthri Place Colombo 05** and **Oxfam Australia, (Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Building), 163/1,Kalugalla Mawatha, Kegalle** on or before **16.00 hrs** on **Sunday, 25th April 2021.**

Late bids will not be accepted.

Bids must be valid up to 90 days from bid opening closing date

Procurement Department,
OXFAM Australia,
15, Manthri Place, Colombo 05
For inquiries, clarifications of questions: 2585855/6 Ext 502 or Ext 503

## State Ministry of National Security & Disaster Management

## Disaster Management Centre

## Procurement Notice

The Director General of the Disaster Management Centre has decided to invite quotations from Suppliers for the Year 2021 for the Supply of Emergency Response Equipment for the use of the Disaster Management Centre when required. As such, the relevant Suppliers could at their discretion submit sealed quotations for goods and equipment mentioned below.

| Procurement No. | Procurement | Item | Quantities to be Purcahsed |
|---|---|---|---|
| DMC/FIN/2021 (Procu : 05-1) | Purchase of Emergency Response Equipment (Category I) | 1. Boat Engine (OBM) 25 HP<br>2. Generator 2.5 KVA<br>3. Rescue Tube<br>4. Mega Phone H/H<br>5. Gum Boot<br>6. Throw Bag<br>7. Search Light 10W - 15W | 40<br>20<br>100<br>55<br>1140<br>1000<br>300 |
| DMC/FIN/2021 (Procu : 05-11) | Purchase of Emergency Response Equipment (Category II) | 1. Fire Broom (Fire Beater)<br>2. Concrete Cutter (Power Cutter)<br>3. Chain Saw<br>4. Tent (8 Man)<br>5. Mamoty With Handle<br>6. Axe With Handle<br>7. Manna Kethi<br>8. Rescue Rope (200m) | 1500<br>20<br>35<br>30<br>300<br>300<br>200<br>17 |
| DMC/FIN/2021 (Procu : 05-7) | Purchase of Search and Rescue Training Equipment | 1. Water Pack (Camel Pack)<br>2. Hand Gloves<br>3. Wire Cutter<br>4. Head Mount Torch<br>5. Toggle Rope (200m)<br>6. GPS Garmin Montana 600T Camo<br>7. Rappelling Rope<br>8. Full Body Harness<br>9. Ascension (Right)<br>10. Footape<br>11. Standard Locking D Carabineer<br>12. Figure 8 Climbing<br>13. Advanced Light Rappel Gloves<br>14. Kong Robot Descender<br>15. Spinal Boards<br>16. Pulley Carrucola Bloccante Ultraleggera<br>17. Air Pillow (With compressor) 3 Sizes | 60<br>60<br>60<br>60<br>04<br>02<br>02<br>02<br>01<br>02<br>03<br>02<br>03<br>02<br>02<br>01<br>03 |

Procurement documents could be obtained on any working day of the week from 19 April 2021 up to 19 May 2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Finance Division on the 3rd Floor of the Disaster Management Centre located at Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07 after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00.

Procurement Forms should be submitted separately for the 03 Procurement Categories mentioned above and quotations could be submitted at your discretion for one item in the relevant Category or for all items. A Bid Security to the value of 1% of the total value of the quotations should be submitted and it is important that the Government Procurement Guidelines are adhered to when submitting same.

Further, the name of the category and the Procurement No. should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelopes containing the Bids and sealed (sticker or a rubber stamp or by way of sealing wax relevant to the Institution) and sent by Registered Post addressed to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Procurement Unit, Finance Division, Disaster Management Centre, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Finance Division on the 3rd Floor to be received at or before 10.30 a.m. on 20 May 2021. All Bids received thereafter will be rejected.

Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time for accepting Bids and the Bidder or an authorized representative with written approval could participate on this occasion. Further, you are kindly informed that the Procurement Board retains the right to change the quantities required at the time of issuing Procurement Orders.

**Chairman, Department Procurement Committee,**
**Disaster Management Centre,**
**Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07.**

**Tel. Nos. 011-3668096 / 0112-136270**

## 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. | 07th 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. | 07th 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. | 07th 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. | 07th 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. | 07th 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) | 07th 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**

MINISTRY OF POWER

## LANKA COAL COMPANY (PRIVATE) LIMITED

## REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS TO SUPPLY OF COAL FOR LAKVIJAYA POWER PLANT (900MW) UNDER SPOT AND TERM TENDERS

The Chairman, Special Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SSCAPC) of Ministry of Power on behalf of Lanka Coal Company (Private) Limited (LCC) invites sealed **APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF COAL SUPPLIERS**, who wish to register with LCC to supply coal for 900 MW Lakvijaya Power Plant in Puttalam, Sri Lanka. The annual coal requirement is 2,250,000 ± 10% Metric Tons.

- Registration fee (Non Refundable) is USD 5000 for a period of three years
- An Application for registration of coal suppliers can be obtained free of charge on submission of a written request from the principle in between **09.30 AM** to **03.30 PM** (Sri Lanka Time) on working days from :

  **Manager - Procurement**
  **Lanka Coal Company (Private) Limited**
  **51/3, (Suranimala Mawatha) Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwala**
  **Dehiwala, Sri Lanka.**

- Sealed applications / documents shall be delivered to **Chairman/Managing Director** at the address given above, on any working day. There is no deadline for submission of applications. Applications will be opened on every Monday at **2.00 PM** (Sri Lanka Time)
- Already registered suppliers with Lanka Coal Company are requested to submit a new application for re-registration two months prior to the date of expiry.

For further details, please contact Manager-Procurement, LCC on 011 - 2824681 or 011 – 282 4682, Fax: 011 2824689, email: **sujantha.PM@lankacoal.lk**.

**Chairman**
**Special Standing Cabinet Appointed**
**Procurement Committee,**
**Ministry of Power.**

**LANKA COAL COMPANY (PVT.) LTD**
**51/3, Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwala**
**Dehiwala, Sri Lanka**

**Ceylon Electricity Board (CRB)**

LANKACOAL COMPANY(PVT)LTD

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## DESIGN, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SKYLIGHT FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AKUREGODA

**CONTRACT No: DHQC/SKYLIGHT 4/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **the Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Skylight for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Construction period is 140 Days.**
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include,
   - Average annual turnover value of the company in last three years shall be at least LKR 19 million.
   - Experience in successful completion of at least one similar project on design, fabrication, supply and installation of skylight of value not less than LKR 7 million within last five years.
   - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 8 million.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address **during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs between 12th April 2021 until 11th May 2021during working day**. (Tel: 0094-011-2439381/0094-011-2390719, Fax: 0094-011-2390720, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com)
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees 4,100/-**. The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.**
7. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 27th April 2021** and a site visit will be held at 1030hrs on same day at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below on or before **1000hrs on 12th May 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid up to **28th July 2021** (77 Days from the date of closing of Bids)
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security, of **Rupees One Hundred Thirty Thousand Only (Rs. 130,000/-)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to **25th August 2021** (105 days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
11. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
12. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla. The name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening

    The address (es) referred to above is (are):
    **The Chairman,**
    **Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
    **Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
    **Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,**
    **Battaramulla.**

    **Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
    **Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
    **E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

## Invitation for Bids (IFB)

### Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

### Ministry of Defence

### Kotelawala Defence University

## Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Training and Maintenance of Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) for University Hospital

### General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

**Contract Identification No: MOD/KDU/02/2020**

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee **Ministry of Defence on behalf of Vice Chancellor,** General Sri John Kotelawala Defence University, Rathmalana, Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply, Delivery, Installation,Commissioning, Training and Maintenance of Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)for the University Hospital - General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.**

   a. Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted 01 No. Power Supply (UPS)

2. Bidding process will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
3. Bids will be invited from suppliers who possess at least 10 years' experience in the supply and maintenance of **Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)** at least 10 years period of business registration. Foreign Bidders shall quote through duly appointed (accredited) Local Agent (Sri Lanka).
   - Bidder shall have at least **LKR 440 million** or equivalent value of average annual turnover, within last three years (Audited Financial Statement of last 3 years to be forwarded).
   - Aforesaid Local Agent shall have at least 05 years Business Registration.
   - All the Brands shall have minimum of 05 years' service history in Sri Lanka.
   - Manufacturer/ Supplier shall have successfully completed at least 03 contracts of similar nature, during the last 05 years. Each of these 03 contracts shall consist of above scope and their contract sum shall not be less than **LKR 220 million** or equivalent value for each supply.
   - Bidder shall provide 02 years comprehensive warranty and 10 years system warranty from manufacturer and 10 years of guarantee for availability of spare parts, consumables, software and accessories from manufacturer.
   - There shall be a local office or locally registered agent in Sri Lanka for any query of the installed system within warranty period
   - Bidder, who does not manufacture or produce the goods, shall submit Manufacturer Authorization using the form included in Section IV of the bidding Document.
4. Bidder shall consider the requirements under the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 and few important extractions of the act are as follows:

   (1) "Any person who acts as an agent or sub-agent, representative or nominee on behalf of any bidder, shall register himself and such public contract in accordance with Section 10 and shall furnish to the Registrar the particulars required to be furnished under Section 6."

   (2) "Where any person is an agent, sub-agent, representative or nominee for or on behalf of a bidder, he shall first produce a certificate of his appointment as agent, sub-agent, representative or nominee to the Registrar before he registers himself and the public contract under this section"

   (3) Bidders are **strongly** advised to submit the Registration Certificate under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 (When relevant), along with the submission of the Bid.
5. Contract completion period is 90 calendar days from the date of signing the contract. (Except for training and maintenance)
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from

   **Chief Financial Officer I**
   **Ministry of Defence,**
   **No. 15/5,**
   **Baladaksha Mawatha,**
   **Colombo 03,**
   **Sri Lanka (Telephone 011-2439381 Fax 011-2390720)**

   Bidding Document may be inspected free of charge at the above address from 08 March 2021 until 29 April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days (Telephone 011-2439381, Fax 011-2390720 and Email : procurement@defence.lk)
7. Bidders and their local agents shall not be blacklisted.
8. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **Chief Financial Officer I,** Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka from 08 March 2021 until 29 April 2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 Hrs. during working days upon payment of a non - refundable fee of LKR 36,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Thirty Six Thousand). The method of payment will be by cash.
9. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below on or before 30 April 2021 hrs at 1430 hrs.

   **The Procurement Branch,**
   **Ministry of Defence,**
   **Ground Floor,**
   **No. 15/5,**
   **Baladaksha Mawatha,**
   **Colombo 03.**

   Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who wish to attend.
10. Bids shall be valid from 30 April 2021 to 28 July 2021. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million Three Hundred Thousand (LKR 3,300,000.00) obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the from of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid from 30 April 2021 to 26 August 2021. Beneficiary of the bids Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
11. Contact Details:

    **Chief Financial Officer I**
    **Telephone: 011-2439381**
    **Fax No : 011-2390720 and Email : procurement@defence.lk**

    **Procurement Officer,**
    **General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital,**
    **Werahera, Boralesgamuwa, Sri Lanka.**

    **Telephone: 0094-11-2044555 / Ext 4373**
    **Facsimile: 0094-11-2044592**
    **Email: procurement_uh@kdu.ac.lk**
12. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the

    **Chief Financial Officer I ,**
    **Ministry of Defence,**
    **No. 15/5,**
    **Baladaksha Mawatha,**
    **Colombo 03,**
    **Sri Lanka.**

    the name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least three (03) working days prior to bid opening. Further Bidders are advised to inform in writing to the

    **Chief Financial Officer I ,**
    **Ministry of Defence,**
    **No. 15/5,**
    **Baladaksha Mawatha,**
    **Colombo 03,**
    **Sri Lanka.**

    **Email : procurement@defence.lk**

    the name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating in any official matter for the relevant procurement.
13. A pre bid meeting was held at 1000 hrs on 17 March 2021 at the Director Medical Service Conference Hall, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital, Werahera.

**Chairman**
**Ministry Procurement Committee,**
**Ministry of Defence,**
**No. 15/5,**
**Baladaksha Mawatha,**
**Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.**

06 April 2021

# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chairman, Department of Procurement Committee on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following works.

| Item No. | Contract File No. | Name of the Contract | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Bid Bond Amount (Rs.) | Non-Refundable Tender Fees (Rs.) | Registration of CIDA (Minimum requirement) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | VV/20/1/2020/44 | Partitioniry Renovation of Block 08-office Premises of Department of Physics at CRC,OUSL | 7.8 Million | 78,000.00 | 3,000.00 | C7 or above |
| 2 | VV/20/1/2020/37 | Landscape Work for the car park of the Faculty of Health Sciences,OUSL | 0.42 Million | 4200.00 | 750.00 | SP5 or above C9 or above |
| 3 | VV/20/1/2019/35 | Structural Metal Works for Extention of Roof in Faculty of Education,OUSL | 0.68 Million | 6800.00 | 1000.00 | C9 or above |
| 4 | VV/20/1/2020/10 | Single Storied Building For Vehicle Washing Area,OUSL | 2.15 Million | 21,500.00 | 2,000.00 | C8 or above |

01 The Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure. To be eligible for submission of bids, the bidder shall not have been blacklisted and meet the requirement of CIDA registration as mentioned above.

02 Interested bidders may obtain further information from Works Engineer, Maintenance Division, the Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda. (Tel: 011-2881247). The required documents can be obtained from the senior Assistant Registrar/Capital Works and Planning of the Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala Nugegoda from 12, April 2021 to 05, May 2021 between 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. in working days on submission of a receipt from the University Shroff for the payment of non-refundable tender fee as mentioned above. Further

03 Bidding documents prepared in English Language and duly filled bidding documents in duplicate, marked "Original" "Duplicate" in two separate sealed envelopes, putting in one sealed envelope, marked the name of the contract on the top left hand corner of the envelope, should either be sent by Registered Post to the address given below, or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Capital Works Division of the OUSL, to be received before 1400hrs on 06, May 2021. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened at 1400 hrs on 06, May 2021 at the Board room of the Registrar in the presence of the bidders' or their representatives.

04 You are kindly requested to produce a bank guarantee (Registered Commercial Bank under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) issued in favour of the Vice Chancellor, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda, or receipt of payment in cash to the Shroff for the relevant payment mentioned in the above as refundable fees to cover a period of 91 days or as specified in the bidding document.

05 Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Registrar / Capital works and Planning (Telephone No. 0112881286)

**Note - 15,04,2021 is a special university holiday and university is closed on this date.**

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
The Open University of Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 21, Nawala, Nugegoda
Sri Lanka

11, April 2021

# Calling Quotations for Corrugated Cartons & Dividers

**A reputed BOI company situated in Katunayake export processing zone, requires suppliers to supply the undermentioned items.**

| Description | Combination | Length (cm) | Width (cm) | Height (cm) | No. Ply | Measurements | Tolerance | Colour | Quantity/Week (Nos) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carton | 140\112\140\112\140 | 35.6 | 27.6 | 12.6 | 5 | External | +/-3mm | Brown | 2000 |
| Carton | 140\112\140\112\140 | 35.6 | 27.6 | 16.6 | 5 | External | +/-3mm | Brown | 1500 |
| Divider | 112\112\112 | 23.5 | 16 | - | 3 | - | - | Brown | 10000 |
| Divider | 112\112\112 | 35 | 26.7 | - | 3 | - | - | Brown | 20000 |

**Send your Quotations along with following:**

1. Lead Time (order placing to delivery)
2. Delivery – to be delivered to the company in Katunayake
3. Payment Terms
4. Compliance to System & Product standards of your organisation (ISO 9001, REACH, RoHS etc)
5. Company profile

**Forward your offers with necessary documents before 30th April 2021 to below**
**O - 10010, C/O, S.Observer, Lake House, Colombo 10.**

# INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Skylight for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

**Contract Number : DHQC/SKYLIGHT 3/2020**

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **the Design, Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Skylight for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Construction period is 140 Days.**
2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include,
   - Average annual turnover value of the company in last three years shall be at least LKR 19 million.
   - Experience in successful completion of at least one similar project on design, fabrication, supply and installation of skylight of value not less than LKR 7 million within last five years.
   - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 8 million.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address **between 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** from **12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021 during working day**. (Tel: 0094-011-2439381/0094-011-2390719, Fax: 0094-011-2390720, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com)
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda road, Pelawatta, Battaramull**a from 1**2th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees 4,100/-**. The method of payment will be by Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **Director – Project Management Unit Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.**
7. A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs on 27th April 2021** and a site visit will be held at **1030 hrs** on same day at the Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
8. Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before **1000 hrs on 12th May 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid up to **28th July 2021** (77 Days from the date of closing of Bids)
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security, of **Rupees One Hundred Thirty Thousand Only (Rs. 130,000/-)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to **25th August 2021** (105 days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
11. Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
12. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,**
**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
**Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,**
**Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

# INVITATION FOR BIDS

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY FIRE RATED STEEL DOORS FOR BLOCK 01 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

**Contract No.: DHQC/FIRE RAT STEEL DOOR 1/2021**

1. **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the **Ministry of Defence** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors for Block 01 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and approximately estimated to cost **LKR 16.9 Million** (excluding VAT).

   ***The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 133 Days from the Start Date.***

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

   To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.**

3. **Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
   - Average annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 26 million.
   - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty fire rated steel doors including at least one project of value not less than 5 million completed within last five (05) years.
   - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 12 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs** to **1500hrs during working days**.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900hrs** to **1500hrs during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Five Thousand One Hundred (LKR 5,100.00).** The method of payment will be by cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, **Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**.

7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1400hrs** on **27th April 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below at or before**1000hrs** on **12th May 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. Bids shall be valid up to **28th July 2021***(77 Days after the date of Bid opening)*.

10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand (LKR 169,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **25th August 2021***(105 days after the date of Bid opening).*

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC / Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,**
**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
**Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,**
**Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

## Camso Loadstar (Pvt) Ltd

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MOLD STORAGE BUILDING AT MIDIGAMA TIRE DIVISION (MTD) OF CAMSO LOADSTAR (PVT) LTD

**Company Background**

Camso is the world leading specialist in the design, manufacturing, and distribution of off-road tires, wheels, rubber tracks, undercarriage systems, to serve the material handling, construction, agriculture, powersports, and defense industries.

We use the full power of our experience, engineering expertise, innovation skills, support and best-in-class manufacturing capabilities to deliver high performance products of unrivaled quality and value.

We are present in 27 countries around the world, with more than 7500 dedicated employees. We operate advanced R&D centers, as well as manufacturing plants in the U.S.A., Canada, Europe and Asia. Camso is partner with all the major original equipment manufacturers.

We operate as Camso Loadstar, a part of a Michelin Group in Sri Lanka over 5500 employees.

We are pleased to invite you to provide detailed information as requested below to consider your interest on bidding for the subjected project.

**Project Background**

The purpose of this project is to design & construct a building which would be utilized as a mold storage facility in track Manufacturing Division at MTD of Camso Loadstar (Pvt) Ltd.

**Expected special capabilities of contractors**

a) Preference will be given for suppliers who registered with CIDA in Building Construction (Specially Steel Buildings) with grading C4 or above.

b) Possess at least 5 years of experience projects in similar nature and value.

Interested companies are required to respond for the paper advertisement by sending an email to **project.purchases.lk@camso.co** before 5:00 p.m. 26th April 2021. Soft copy of the tendering document will be shared with responded companies from 19th April 2021 onwards.

A contract may be awarded to the supplier having submitted a competitive bid, i.e a, lowest-priced technically compliant of the proposed offers and not limited to the minimum evaluation criteria as mentioned below:

- Technical responsiveness/Full compliance to specifications
- Qualifications and experience of proposed staff/personnel
- Financial capability of the supplier
- Full acceptance of Conditions of Contract
- Earliest Delivery / Shortest Lead Time.

Camso will arrange an online pre-bid meeting for the prospective Bidders on **28th April 2021 at 11:00 am**. More details will be provided along with the RFQ document.

The bidding documents under sealed cover marked **"QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MOLD STORAGE BUILDING AT MIDIGAMA TIRE DIVISION (MTD)"** on the top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post or be deposited in the Tender box kept at following address on or before **12:00 noon on 11th May 2021.**

CAMSO reserves the exclusive right to change or amend and/or cancel or withdraw *partially or in total* the requirement at any time during the RFQ Process. CAMSO also reserves (i) the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final tender document and (ii) the right to accept or reject any tender document or proposal, at its sole discretion, without providing any reason thereof.

If you have any additional questions about this RFQ, please contact Global Procurement, Sri Lanka Operations by e-mail: **project.purchases.lk@camso.co**

**Global Procurement, Sri Lanka Operations,**
**Camso Loadstar (Pvt) Ltd,**
**No 218 , Regent Courts, Minuwangoda Road, Ekala, J a Ela , Sri Lanka.**

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

### Invitation for Pre-Qualification of Information Systems

***Design, Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of a Court Automation Solution for the Judicial System of Sri Lanka***

**MOJ/AC/26/21/2021**

1. The Chairman, Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee on behalf ***Ministry of Justice, Sri Lanka*** intends to prequalify Applicants for Design, Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of a Court Automation System covering below key functionalities but not limited to:
   - e-Filing System
   - Court Management System
   - Court Recording and Transcription System
2. Applicant should be capable of Design, Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of a Court Automation System in the selected 100 Court houses within stipulated project timeline. A detailed scope is indicated in the Section V, Scope of Purchaser's Requirement of the Pre-Qualification document.
3. Pre-Qualification and the Bidding Process will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the GOSL Procurement Guidelines: Information Systems and the request for proposal (RFP)will be conducted through 'Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding procedure'.
4. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information and collect the Pre-Qualification document during office hours ***(from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs)*** from:

   Mr. D. Thushara F. Suraweera
   Additional Secretary (Reforms)
   Ministry of Justice
   Kaluthota Building,
   No- 19, Sangharaja Mawatha,
   Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
   Email: addlsecreforms@moj.gov.lk| Contact: 0112-446218

   Further, the Pre-Qualification document will be made available on the Ministry of Justice website - www.moj.gov.lk only for the reference purpose.
5. Responses should be delivered to below mentioned address at or before ***1500 hrs, on 10th May 2021.*** Envelope containing the Pre-Qualification documents to be marked on the top left-hand corner ***"Pre-Qualification: Design, Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of a Court Automation System"*** and responses should be sent in two (02) hard copies (original & a copy) and one (01) soft copy in pdf format, to the following address:

**Accountant (Procurement)**
**Ministry of Justice**
**3rd Floor, Superior Courts Complex**
**Colombo 12, Sri Lanka**
**Contact: 0112438178**

**Chairman**
**Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee**
**Court Automation Project - Ministry of Justice**

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (ICTS) FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

**CONTRACT NO: DHQC/DHQC/ICT/04/2021**

## CHANGE OF BID CLOSING DATE

1. The Closing/opening date of the above Invitation For Bids (IFB) is to be changed as follows:
   a) Bid document issuing – 15th March 2021 to 27th April 2021.
   b) Closing/Opening of Bids - **28th April 2021, 10.00 hrs.**
2. Bid shall be valid up to **24/08/2021** (119 Days after the date of opening/closing of Bids, including bid open date).
3. Bid Security shall be valid up to **21/09/2021** (147 Days after the date of opening/closing of Bids, including bid open date).
4. All other details remain unchanged.

**The Chairman,**
**Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)**
**Ministry of Defence,**
**No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,**
**Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.**

**Tel: 0094-077-3766601**
**Fax: 0094-011-2390720**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Mr. Rohan Geevaka Pallegama**
N.I.C. 781773557V
14A, Marcus Fernando Mawatha, Colombo 07.

This is to notify the general public that the person named here is no longer an employee with EAP Film & Theatres Limited and hence not authorized to represent, transact any business on behalf of the company. Any liabilities incurred by him will not be honored by the company.

**EAP FILM & THEATRES LIMITED**
No. 05, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.

**BEN HOLDINGS (PVT) LIMITED**
No. 42, Dr. N M Perera Mawatha, ( Cotta Road), Colombo 08.

Team D Adv

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### Ministry of Defence

### Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

### Supply of Reinforcement Tor Steel (383.5 tonne) for Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

**Contract (Bid) Number : DHQC/PROC/2021/YARD/17**

1) **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the **Ministry of Defence** invites competitive sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Reinforcement Tor Steel (383.5 tonne) for Construction of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda.**

2) Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla,** to inspect and purchase the Bidding Documents at the above address from **0900hrs to 1500hrson any working day between12th April 2021** and 03rd May 2021. Tel: 0094-011-4209885, Fax: 0094-011-4209885, E-mail: pmudhqc@gmail.com.

3) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure under Standard Bidding Document of NPA/Goods/SBD 01 and Government Procurement Guidelines.

4) To be eligible for Contract award;
   (i) Bidder shall have been registered as a business entity in Sri Lanka for at least five (5) years. Bidder shall offer Reinforcement Steel that has been successfully used in Sri Lanka for at least three (3) years.
   (ii) Bidder shall have a track record for at least three (3) years of producing proposed brand of reinforcement steel exclusively from billets imported from reliable sources and where metallurgical history of same is retained by them for three (3) years.
   (iii) Bidder shall demonstrate the above qualifications through submitted documentation.

   **Bidders who do not comply with this mandatory qualification criterion shall be considered as non-responsive.**

5) A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address : **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Only (LKR 13,500.00).** The method of payment shall be by cash.

6) A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs. on 28th April 2021** at Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

7) Duly completed Bids shall be delivered to: **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** at or before **1000 hrs. on 03rd May 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at **Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

8) All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Security of **Sri Lankan Rupees Five Hundred and Forty Thousand Only. (LKR 540,000.00)** obtained from a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid Security shall be in the form of unconditional and on demand guarantee acceptable to Purchaser, which shall be valid up to **30th August 2021** (119 days after the Bid opening).

9) Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

10) Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

**The Chairman,**
**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
**Akuregoda Road,**
**Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

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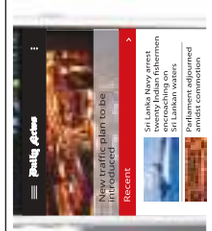

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Ministry of Trade

## BID INVITATION

### Supply of Thermal Papers to Lanka Sathosa Limited

Chairman Lanka Sathosa Limited invites sealed Bids from Local Suppliers, Local Agents, Importers of their Accredited Agents, Manufactures, who wish to supply Thermal Paper to Lanka Sathosa Limited, Outlet Network for a period of 06 months.

Specifications – As indicated in the bidding Document

Requirement -

| Item Description | Quantity |
|---|---|
| Price Marking Thermal Paper Rolls | 4,000 |
| Price Making Ink | 1,200 |
| Sticker Rolls for the weighing Sale | 72,000 |
| POS Machine Paper Rolls | 270,000 |

Interested Bidders shall obtain Bidding Documents by submitting authorization letter from Procurement Division (3rd floor), Lanka Sathosa Limited head office at No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 , **from 12th April 2021 to 04th May 2021 by paying Rs.5,000 /= (nonrefundable).**

Pre Bid meeting will be held on **20th April 2021, 11.00 a.m.**

Bids should be sent by Registered post or deposited in the tender box placed at the Procurement Division (3rd floor) Lanka Sathosa ltd, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 , **on or before 4th May 2021, 01.00 p.m.** The top left hand corner of the envelope containing the sealed Bid, should be marked as **"Supply of Thermal Papers to LSL"**

All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security amounting to a value of 2% (refundable) of the estimated value.**

Bids will be closed **on 04th May 2021, 01.00 p.m.** and open immediately after closing, in the presence of Bidders. Successful Bidder is required to pay a **sum of Rs.5,000/- and 8% VAT (non-refundable)** as a Registration Fee (except for Registered Suppliers) and performance security amounting to a value of **10% (refundable)** of the estimated value.

**Contact under Mentioned officer for clarifications;**

Manager Procurement, LSL – 070 3611524

**Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited** reserves the right to decide on awarding of the Tender/Contract

**Lanka Sathosa Limited**
**Sathosa Secretariat Building,**
**No.27, Colombo 02.**

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4 desk top computers, cannon basic printer, internet, phone lines - 02.

**AREA OF 3500 SQ FEET** will be given on lease or buyer can relocate. The factory is in operation in Kotahena.

Please contact :
**0773047057 or 0773451181.**

# The Open University of Sri Lanka

## Invitation for bids

### Rent / Lease a Building for the Centre for IT Education Services of The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) invite sealed bids up to **1400 hrs on 27, April 2021** from those who wish to rent/lease a building that meets the following requirements:

- Within a 2 km radius of the Open University of Sri Lanka Nawala, Nugegoda.
- More than 4,000 sq.ft floor area
- Vehicle parking facility for more than 9 vehicles at any time
- Separate meter for water and electricity (Three phase) connections.
- Adequate washroom facilities.

Preference will be given to buildings which have following facilities:

- Suitable space to set-up a computer lab with 50 computers
- Partitioned office space for staff, a large meeting room and lobby or waiting area.
- Air conditioning and network cabling.
- Priority will be given for buildings facing a main road.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their bids with necessary details such as **floor plan of the building, copy of the deed, floor area, number of rooms, access routes, expected monthly rent/lease and any other facilities available with pertinent details of the property**. Incomplete bids will be rejected.

Sealed bids marked **" Rent / Lease a Building for the Centre for IT Education Services of The Open University of Sri Lanka"** on the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to **"The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Capital Works & Planning Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda"** should be deposited either in the Tender Box kept in the Capital Works and Planning Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka or sent by registered post to reach to above address on or before 1400 hrs on 27, April 2021 Late Bids will not be accepted.

Bids will be opened at **1400 hrs on 27, April 2021** at the Board Room of the Registrar's office of OUSL. Bidders or authorized representative of the Bidder will be allowed to be present at the time of the opening of bids.

Further details could be obtained from the Mr. Sujeewa Jayawardhana/ Manager of Centre for IT Education Services (Tel: 011-2881081) or Assistant Registrar/Capital Works & Planning (Tel: 011-2881410) of the Open University of Sri Lanka during working days.

The Chairman
Department Procurement Committee
Capital Works & Planning Division
The Open University of Sri Lanka
P.O.Box21, Nawala
Nugegoda.

11, April 2021

# PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL

## MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE, STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health will receive sealed bids for supply of following items to the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Health.

| Bid Number | Closing Date & Time | Item Description | Date of Issuing of Bid Documents | Non-refundable Bid Fee per set-(LKR) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DHS/M/SS/ WW/7/21 | 25.05.2021 at 11.00 am | 01. **Hearing Aid, Cochlear type Implant (Two Microphones) with accessories (limited for named patients)**<br>02. **Voice Prosthesis, Provox System type or similar, consists of scalpel, guide wire and a voice prosthesis, biflanged, valve seat diameter 22.5Fr, 12mm length, with cleaning brush, sterile** | 20.04.2021 | 60,000/- + taxes |

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours & 1500 hours from above dates at the Head Office, No.75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a **non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above.** Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the tender is awarded.

All Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bids will be closed at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on the dates and time mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bidding Documents are being sent to Sri Lanka missions abroad and foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

**CHAIRMAN – MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**
**STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
**C/O STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**
**75, SIR BARON JAYATILLAKE MAWATHA**
**COLOMBO 1**
**SRI LANKA.**

**TEL/FAX : 00 94-11- 2582492**
**E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk**

LANKA Sathosa
ලංකා සතොස லங்கா சதொச

PRICE SETTER TO THE NATION

Ministry of Trade

## BID INVITATION

### Supply of Shopping Bags to Lanka Sathosa Limited

Chairman Lanka Sathosa Limited (LSL) invites sealed Bids from Local Manufactures, who wish to supply Shopping Bags / Grocery Bags to Lanka Sathosa Limited for a period of 06 months.

Specifications : As Indicated in the Bidding Document

Requirement :

| No | Item Description | Dimension | Maximum allowable Weight | Quantity | Gauge | Material | Printed / Unprinted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Shopping Bag (Large) | (13" + 6" x 21") | 10kg | 28,000,000 | Above or Equal 33 Micron (132GSM) | LDPE | Unprinted |
| 2 | Shopping Bag (Medium) | (10" + 5" x 18") | 05kg | 47,000,000 | Above or Equal 33 Micron (132GSM) | LDPE | Unprinted |
| 3 | Grocery Bag (Small) | (9" x 12") | 02kg | 36,000,000 | Above or Equal 28 Micron (120GSM) | LDPE | Unprinted |

Interested Bidders shall obtain Bidding Documents by submitting authorization letter from the Procurement Division (3rd floor), Lanka Sathosa Limited head office at No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 , **from 12th April 2021 to 05th May 2021 by paying Rs. 5,000/= (nonrefundable)**

Pre Bid meeting will be held on **21st April 2021, 11.00 a.m.**

Bids should be sent by Registered post or deposited in the tender box placed at the Procurement Division (3rd floor) Lanka Sathosa ltd, No 27, CWE Secretariat Building Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 , **on or before 5th May 2021, 01.00 p.m.** The top left hand corner of the envelope containing the sealed Bid, should be marked as **"Supply of Shopping Bags to LSL"**

All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security amounting to a value of 2% (refundable) of the estimated value.**

Bids will be closed **on 5th May 2021, 01.00 p.m.** and open immediately after closing, in the presence of Bidders. **Successful Bidder** is required to pay a **sum of Rs.5,000/- and 8% VAT (nonrefundable)** as a Registration Fee (except for Registered Suppliers) and performance security amounting to a value of **10% (refundable)** of the estimated value.

Contact under Mentioned officer for clarifications;
Manager Procurement, LSL – 070 3611524

**Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited** reserves the right to decide on awarding of the Tender/Contract.

**Lanka Sathosa Limited**
**Sathosa Secretariat Building,**
**No.27, Colombo 02.**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Mr. Panagodage Krishantha Chamara Perera**

N.I.C. 821951356V

26/15, 1/1, Dabrera Mw, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

This is to notify the general public that the person named here is no longer an employee with EAP Film & Theatres Limited and hence not authorized to represent, transact any business on behalf of the company. Any liabilities incurred by him will not be honored by the company.

**EAP FILM & THEATRES LIMITED**
No. 05, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.

**BEN HOLDINGS (PVT) LIMITED**
No. 42, Dr. N M Perera Mawatha, ( Cotta Road),
Colombo 08.

Team D Adv

# NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

## Vehicle Emission Testing

LAUGFS ECO SRI | drivegreen

**The general public and motorists are hereby informed that all island wide Vehicle Emission Testing Centers will be closed from 13th April 2021 (Tuesday) to 15th April 2021 (Thursday) in lieu of Sinhala & Tamil New Year. All centers will resume operations on 16th April 2021 (Friday). We apologize for any inconvenience caused.**

**LAUGFS Eco Sri Ltd**
**011 7 770 770**

**Cleanco Lanka (Pvt) Ltd**
**011 7 444 444**

# TENDER NOTICE

**Tenders are hereby invited for the Sale of Scrap items for the year 2021**

- ❖ Scrap Iron
- ❖ Stainless Steel
- ❖ Aluminium
- ❖ Cardboard
- ❖ Empty DFA bags
- ❖ Polythene
- ❖ Empty steel/ Plastic barrels
- ❖ Other items from factory

**(List of items available with the administration dept at Horana.)**

Tenders will close at 3.00 p.m. on 28th April 2021. All buyers should have EPL (Environmental Protection License) and Inspection of goods can be done during weekdays between 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. at the Horana Site. Tender forms could be obtained on a refundable deposit of Rs. 50,000/= and the decision of the Company in this regard will be final. If more details are required, please contact **Manager, Work Place Services, Horana site.**

UNILEVER SRI LANKA LIMITED
No. 258, M. Vincent Perera Mawatha, Colombo 14.
Tel. 011 4 700 800 - Ext. 5617, 077 9570 950

# INVITATION FOR BIDS

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

### SUPPLY AND LAYING OF CARPETS FOR BLOCK 04 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

**Contract No.: DHQC/CARPET 4/2020**

1. **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the **Ministry of Defence** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Laying of Carpets for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and approximately estimated to cost **LKR 23 Million** (excluding VAT).

   ***The Works consists of supply and laying of heavy duty, commercial use, suitable for local climatic conditions (humidity and temperature), anti-static modular carpet tiles and related trade components and accessories for Block 04 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 105 Days from the Start Date.***

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

3. To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be the manufacturer or authorized supplier or an authorized installer of the proposed brand of modular carpets capable to receive manufacturer's back to back warranty. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
   - Average annual turnover in the last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 35 million.
   - Experience in successful completion of at least one project of supplying and laying of carpets of value not less than LKR 10 million completed within last five (05) years.
   - The minimum amount of liquid assets net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 20 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs** to**1500hrs during working days**.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents (Except Volume 1) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021 from 0900 hrs** to **1500 hrs during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Six Thousand Five Hundred Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 6,500.00).** The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project**, **Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**.

7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1200 hrs** on **27th April 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs** on **12th May 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. Bids shall be valid up to **28th July 2021** *(77 Days after the date of Bid opening)*.

10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR 230,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **25th August 2021** (105 days after the date of Bid opening).

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder was already being selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,**
**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
**Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,**
**Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

# INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

## Ministry of Defence

## Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

### FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY FIRE RATED STEEL DOORS FOR BLOCK 03 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

**Contract No : DHQC/FIRE RAT STEEL DOOR 3/2021**

1. **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC)** on behalf of the **Ministry of Defence** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Fabrication, Supply and Installation of Heavy Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors for Block 03 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described below and approximately estimated to cost **LKR 27.2 Million** (excluding VAT).

   ***The Works consist of fabrication, supply and installation of Heavy-Duty Fire Rated Steel Doors including Door Sashes, Frames, Door Hardware and Accessories with powder coated hot dipped galvanized steel frames and sashes. The Intended Completion Date of the Works shall be 140 Days from the Start Date***

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

   To be eligible for the Contract award, **the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have a valid business registration in Sri Lanka for at least five (05) years. The bidder shall be either the Manufacturer of the offered work or the authorized agent of the manufacturer of the offered work or a licensed installer of the manufacturer of the offered work. The manufacturer shall be accredited and registered under ISO 9001. If the bidder is not the manufacturer of the offered work, then he shall be mandatorily required being an organization possessing ISO 9001 Certification.**

3. **Documentary evidence to support Bidder's experience and track record shall be provided with the Bid.**

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
   - Average annual turnover value in last five (05) years shall be at least LKR 41 million.
   - Experience in fabrication, supply and/or installation of heavy- duty fire rated steel doors including at least one project of value not less than 7 million completed within last five (05) years.
   - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than LKR 17 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the same address **from 12th April 2021** until **11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** during working days.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla from 12th April 2021 until 11th May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during working days** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Seven Thousand Four Hundred (LKR 7,400.00).** The method of payment will be by cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

7. Pre bid meeting will be held at **1400 hrs on 27th April 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.

8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below or shall be deposited in the Tender box placed at the address below at or before **1000 hrs on 12th May 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. Bids shall be valid up to **11th August 2021** *(91 Days after the date of Bid opening)*.

10. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of **Sri Lankan Rupees Two Hundred Seventy Thousand (LKR 270,000.00)** obtained from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in the form of an unconditional and on demand guarantee and shall be valid up to **08th September 2021** *(119 days after the date of Bid opening)*.

11. If any bidder wishes to submit bids for several packages of the same block or any other blocks of this project, the bidder shall establish the qualification/ eligibility criteria required under each contract separately, if not the bidder will not be qualified for the award of more than one bid.

12. In addition to Item 11 of above, if any bidder has already been selected/is working as a contractor in any of the packages of the block/s of this project, the bidder shall establish his financial and technical requirements under specification/ eligibility criteria exclusively for this bidding package. If not, the bidder will not be qualified for the award of this bid.

13. Bidders shall present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 before purchasing the bidding documents.

14. Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to The Director – Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla the name and the NIC/ Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address (es) referred to above is (are):

**The Chairman,**
**Project Procurement Committee (PPC),**
**Defence Headquarters Complex Project,**
**Akuregoda Road,**
**Pelawatta, Battaramulla.**

**Tel : 0094-011-4209885**
**Fax : 0094-011-4209885**
**E-mail : pmudhqc@gmail.com**

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