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NO SUPPORT FROM  
OPPOSITION TO  
CONTROL PANDEMIC

PAGE  
**4**

PAGE  
**6** DEVELOPMENT WILL  
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## AYURVEDIC HOSPITALS TO ADMIT COVID-19 PATIENTS

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development and Community Health Sisira Jayakody said a decision has been taken to convert all 118 Ayurvedic hospitals countrywide into intermediate care centres that have a capacity of over 5,000 beds to treat Covid-19

patients. Discussions have already been conducted to seek the assistance of over 1,000 doctors and nursing staff in the Ayurvedic hospital system on the Government's program to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, he told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday.

State Minister Jayakody also held a crucial discussion with State Minister of Primary Health

Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control Dr. Sudarshini Fernando on Thursday (May 6) to expedite the use of the 5,000 beds in the Ayurvedic hospital system to manage the third wave of Covid-19.

He said the Pallekkele Ayurvedic Hospital has already started to treat Covid-19 patients. In addition, the Navinna and Borella

Ayurvedic hospitals are being converted into intermediate care centres and it will be completed within the next two to three days.

State Minister Jayakody said when Covid-19 patients are treated in these Ayurvedic hospitals, there are some safety and health guidelines to be followed.

Special training has to be given to the Ayurvedic medical staff on

handling Covid-19 patients under the supervision of the Health Ministry. At present, we are making all arrangements.

He said, "We would be able to use all our Ayurvedic hospitals as Covid-19 treatment centres within this week."

He said when all these Ayurvedic hospitals along with 5,000 beds... [SEE PAGE 2](#)

RS. 3.5 BN ON  
BUILDING AND  
REPAIRING NINE TANKS

CPSTL launches  
mega storage  
process

By Shirajiv Sirimane

A mega storage enhancing process is being undertaken by the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminal Limited (CPSTL) for the first time in Sri Lanka.

The total investment of the project on building and repairing nine tanks is Rs. 3.5 billion, making it the biggest such investment on this segment in the history of the institution.

Chairman/ Managing Director Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminal... [SEE PAGE 2](#)

GMOA COMMENDS  
GOVERNMENT

MBBS  
denied for AL  
exam failed  
students

By Nadira Gunatilleke

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) yesterday thanked the Government, Health Minister Pavithra Waniarachchi and the Health Ministry for issuing the Gazette notification on April 10 preventing students who did not sit the Advanced Level examination and who did not pass the Advanced Level examination from receiving the registration from the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) as MBBS doctors, GMOA Media Spokesman Dr. Samantha Ananda said.

He told the media in Colombo yesterday that students who did not sit the Advanced Level examination or did not pass the exam cannot become... [SEE PAGE 2](#)



Health officials began rolling out the China made Sinopharm Covid 19 vaccine in several areas yesterday as the daily new infections in the country soared up to the 2,000 mark. The vaccine received WHO emergency approval and the approval of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) earlier. Sri Lanka received a consignment of 600,000 doses of the vaccine late March as a donation from the Chinese Government. Here a woman at a vaccination centre in the Jinthupitiya MOH area receives the vaccine. [Pic by Rukmal Gamage](#)

State Vesak festival  
at Nagadeepa unlikely

By Ananth Palakidnar

The State Vesak festival which was scheduled to be held in the historic Nagadeepa islet later this month is expected to be cancelled due to the spread in the Covid-19 pandemic in the North.

Government Agent (GA), Jaffna K. Mahesan has warned people in the region to be cau-

tious about the increase in the number of Covid-19 cases.

He said that from October last year, 1,688 persons were infected with Covid-19 in the Jaffna Peninsula with 21 deaths.

He also said that two villages in the Jaffna Peninsula have been isolated and 2,261 people of 1,475 families living in those... [SEE PAGE 2](#)

INDIAN, S. AFRICAN VARIANT IN SRI LANKA

China, Russia vaccine roll out begins

By Manjula Fernando

As Sri Lanka began rolling out Russia's Sputnik V and Chinese made Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccines last week local scientists said yesterday that the deadlier Indian variant and highly resistant South African variant have been detected in the country.

The Epidemiology unit began rolling out the Synopharm vaccine yesterday in Panadura after the World Health Organization (WHO) approved its emergency use in response to the global spike in cases and production failures of the Astrazeneca vaccine in India.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa also had a telephone conversation

with the WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom on Friday to seek his intervention to acquire 600,000 doses of the Astrazeneca vaccine.

The discussions also centred around granting WHO approval for the Synopharm since Sri Lanka was waiting to use the consignment of the Chinese-made vaccine received as... [SEE PAGE 2](#)

Dozens hurt  
in Jerusalem  
mosque clashes

JERUSALEM, May 8 (BBC) - At least 163 Palestinians and six Israeli police officers have been hurt in clashes in Jerusalem, Palestinian media and Israeli police said.

Most of them were injured at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades as Palestinians threw stones and bottles.

Tension has been rising over the potential eviction of Palestinians from land claimed by Jewish settlers.

The Red Crescent has opened a field hospital to treat the wounded.

The Al-Aqsa... [SEE PAGE 2](#)



MOVE TO PREVENT INDIAN VESSELS INFILTRATION

SLAF steps up reconnaissance flights over IML

By Ananth Palakidnar

Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has increased its reconnaissance flights in coordination with the Navy vessels along the International Maritime Border Line (IMBL) in the Palk Straits to prevent any form of Indian fishing vessels infiltrating into the Northern waters of the country, SLAF Spokesman Group Capt. Dushan Wijesinghe said.

He told the *Sunday Observer* that apart from the routine reconnaissance flights in the Northern waters, SLAF aircraft have been deployed extensively in recent weeks to monitor the movements of Indian fishing vessels in the region. "As we are all very much

aware of the increase of the Covid-19 pandemic with an enormous number of deaths in India, the SLAF remains extra-cautious in the Palk Straits to check on Indian vessels infiltrating into Sri Lankan waters. Once we spot the Indian vessels we inform the Naval vessels," he said.

He added that the SLAF reconnaissance flights... [SEE PAGE 2](#)



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# Nasheed taken off life support

Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed is conscious and off life support after undergoing multiple surgeries, his family has said, as police announced two arrests in connection to the explosion that critically wounded him.

The 53-year-old leader of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party and current Parliament speaker was taken

to hospital after a bomb went off as he tried to enter his car after leaving his family home in the capital, Male, on Thursday evening.

There has been no claim of responsibility, but police said yesterday two persons had been arrested in connection to the blast, which is being treated as a "terror" attack. "I'm good," Nasheed said after coming off

life support, according to a tweet by his sister, Nashida Sattar, yesterday. His brother, Ibrahim Nashid, said doctors were "very happy" with Nasheed's recovery.

"He is out of life support and breathing on his own," he said in a tweet. "He Managed to exchange a few words. Promised to come back stronger. I believe him."

On Friday, doctors said Nasheed had surgery over a 16-hour period to remove shrapnel and treat life-threatening wounds to his head, chest, and abdomen.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih described the incident as "an attack on the Maldives' democracy and economy" and assured a "swift and thorough investigation".

Nasheed, who in 2008 became the Maldives' first democratically-elected president, is an outspoken critic of hardline groups in the Sunni Muslim island archipelago, and has been instrumental in investigating corruption allegations against Opposition leaders. In 2007, a blast that was blamed on hardliners targeted foreign tourists and injured 12 people. - **Agencies**



Mohamed Nasheed

## Ayurvedic hospitals to admit... From page 1

...are used to treat Covid-19 patients, most probably the issue with regard to beds to accommodate Covid-19 patients in hospitals will be sorted out.

In addition, steps are also being taken by the Government to provide 10,000 beds to treat Covid-19 infected

patients within the next few days.

Altogether, there would be over 15,000 beds to accommodate Covid-19 patients.

At present, patients are undergoing treatment in some Ayurvedic hospitals. Therefore, arrangements have

been made to use at least a part of such hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients.

However, we also call upon Covid-19 affected patients to get admitted to these Ayurvedic hospitals if they are willing to receive such treatment, he said.

## CPSTL launches mega storage process... From page 1

Limited (CPSTL), M. Uvais Mohamed said that Sri Lanka's fuel storage facilities have now evaporated to just 22 days to pump to the nation. The global average fuel buffer stock storage per country is around 60 days and this area was never addressed before.

"Work on the terminal has now commenced on building nine more storage tanks for which around Rs. 3.5 billion has been allocated and the project now in progress will be completed in 26 months adding the storage capacity by nearly 40 percent."

CPSTL is a profit-making venture

and part of the income will be used for this investment rather than going for borrowings. "Not only the Covid-19 pandemic, even wars and prolonged political unrest in fuel producing countries can halt the supply of fuel to Sri Lanka plunging the country into a total lockdown. This is why this investment is being made."

He said that the storage was not improved to match the growing five percent average annual demand of the nation and swift action was initiated to add nine storage tanks urgently.

"Land, material and technical know-

how for this is readily available with us and we envisage that with the completion of this project in 2023, the storage facilities will increase to 40 percent." "It was also sad to note that one of the storage tanks that was damaged during the LTTE attack in the installation which could have been repaired too had not been done."

"This tank was once for sale for scrap for a few million rupees and to replace a new one would have cost around Rs. 600 million. However, we are now investing around Rs. 100 million to restore this tank and put it to use."

## State Vesak... From page 1

...areas have been provided with dry rations.

According to the GA, apart from the two centres at Kopay and Kilinochchi to treat Covid-19 patients another centre with 230 beds will be built.

On Friday, Police personnel in protective gear nabbed nearly 70 persons in Jaffna for not wearing face masks.

## SLAF steps up reconnaissance... From page 1

...leave the Ratmalana Air Base and from China Bay in Trincomalee and they cover the Northern waters from the Mannar Gulf area to the Northern airspace.

He said with the increase in the reconnaissance flights, the SLAF was successful in monitoring the Indian fishing vessels and alerting the Navy in the Northern waters.

Elaborating on the aircraft

deployed in reconnaissance flights along the IMBL, Capt. Dushan Wijesinghe said that aircraft such as Beach craft, Y-12, Mike-60 as well as Bell-212 helicopters and Russian built M-17 have been used for reconnaissance purposes.

"However, Beach craft, Y-12 and Mike-60 are deployed frequently along the IMBL in the Northern waters, he said.

Navy Spokesman Capt. In-

dika de Silva told the *Sunday Observer* that infiltration of Indian fishing vessels into Sri Lankan waters have dropped drastically in recent weeks following the increase in the air and sea patrol along the IMBL in the Palk Straits. "As a precautionary measure, the Indian fishing vessels which enter Sri Lankan waters are sent back and not permitted to land on the country's coast", Capt. Indika de Silva said.

## MBBS denied for AL exam failed students... From page 1

an MBBS doctor and practise in Sri Lanka. He thanked all those people for enacting the law after a long delay.

Dr. Ananda said that during the former Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne's tenure, students who did not sit the Advanced Level examination and those who sat in the Arts stream and students who failed all subjects received registration as MBBS doctors from the SLMC putting the lives of innocent patients in grave danger. GMOA Assistant Secretary, Dr. Navin De Soya said that now

all Sri Lankan patients are assured that they receive medical treatment only from qualified doctors.

On the other hand, all Sri Lankan students now exactly know that they cannot become MBBS doctors and get the registration from the SLMC using various tactics.

Their parents will now stop spending their hard-earned money on various unrecognised local and foreign medical faculties which offer medical education for unqualified students.

The GMOA struggled for several years to get this law enacted to assure the high quality of medical education in Sri Lanka and to ensure the safety of patients.

During the former Health Minister's tenure, the SLMC was fully controlled by him to achieve his personal objectives. His henchmen were appointed to the SLMC to carry out his personal agenda. GMOA members were prevented from legally entering the SLMC by not holding the due elections, he added.

## Dozens hurt in Jerusalem mosque clashes... From page 1

mosque complex in Jerusalem's Old City is one of Islam's most revered locations, but its location is also the holiest site in Judaism, known as the Temple Mount.

The site is a frequent flashpoint for violence, which unfolded again on Friday night after thousands had gathered there to observe the last Friday of

the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Israeli Police said they had used force to "Restore order" due to the "Rioting of thousands of worshippers" after evening prayers.

An Aqsa official called for calm over the mosque's loudspeakers. "Police must immediately stop firing stun grenades at worshippers, and the

youth must calm down and be quiet!", a news agency quoted them as saying.

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said 88 of the injured Palestinians were taken to hospital after they were hit with rubber-coated metal bullets. Police said some of the six officers injured needed medical treatment.

## China, Russia vaccine... From page 1

...a grant in late March

The vaccine received the approval of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) yesterday. The Russian Sputnik V vaccine roll out began on Thursday. State Minister Channa Jayasumana said 6.5 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine will be received before the end of this year.

The Allergy, Immunology and Cell Biology Unit of the Sri Jayewardenepura University's Medical Fac-

ulty which conducts genetic sequencing for the virus said that two new strains were detected among two foreign returnees at a quarantine facility in Colombo.

Director AICBU, Dr. Chandima Jeewandara told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday that his unit has found six variants of the virus among the samples collected between the end of March to April 30.

The variants found in the lab samples are the UK variant/Kent

variant (B.1.1.7), Denmark/European/Middle East variant (B.1.428), Sri Lankan variant (B.1.411), Nigerian Variant (B.1.525), Indian variant B.1.617 and the South African variant (B.1.351).

The UK variant was found in Colombo, Kurunegala, Kalutara, Kandy, Polonnaruwa and the Mannar districts while the Indian and South African variants were found in Colombo among two foreign returnees at the same quarantine centre.

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# POLICE

BY LEON BERENGER

## Log

### Drunken motorist runs over OIC

**AMPARA:** The Officer-in-Charge of the Traffic Division at the Ampara Police Station was yesterday left in a life-threatening

condition in hospital after he was run over by a speeding drunken motorist.

The cab belonging to the motorist smashed head on to the victim's motorcycle on the main Ampara-Colombo Road during the early hours yesterday morning.

The OIC was on traffic duty at the time of the incident, according to police.

The driver who was found to be heavily intoxicated was promptly arrested shortly after the incident.

### Lightning kills Woman

**ANAMADUWA:** A young mother of one died instantly after she was struck by lightning at a location in Thonigala-Anamadauwa yesterday morning.

The victim, who was the owner of a grocery shop was husking a coconut on an iron rod for a female customer when the incident took place.

The woman customer was also injured in the incident and is being treated at the local government hospital.

The authorities have repeatedly warned the public to take extra precautions to minimise damage caused by lightning that is caused by inclement weather.

### Hunt on for bank robbers

**ANURADHAPURA:** The police were yesterday looking for two persons who had attempted to rob a bank at Anuradhapura on Thursday morning.

The pair had attempted to grab Rs. 12 million from bank employees who were transferring the money into an ATM machine.

The robbery was thwarted by a bank guard who had put up resistance forcing the suspects to flee on the motorcycle on which they

had arrived.

Earlier the suspects had also flung chilli powder on the bank employees and the guards.

### Covid-19 busters rounded up

**POLICE HQ:** Another 617 persons that had ignored Covid-19 health regulations were apprehended by police and health workers yesterday.

Those rounded up were not masked while some were loitering in groups without the required one metre distance while and in once case group was caught gambling.

A total of 6, 539 persons who had violated the Covid-19 health guidelines have been apprehended since October last year.

The authorities have launched a strict crackdown on those violating Covid-19 health regulations to arrest the fast spread of the pandemic in the country.

### Confidante of drug dealer arrested

**BLOEMEDHAL:** A close confidante of a wanted drug dealer was arrested at a location in Bloemendhal Road with 4.527 kg of hash and 2. 22 kg of a narcotic substance known as ICE (methamphetamine).

Initial investigations have revealed that the suspect was a drug runner for alleged gangster *Kimbulaele Guna* who is currently living overseas.

Some Rs 400,000 in cash and a mobile phone was also recovered from the 21-year-old suspect.

## All-night pirith chanted to invoke blessings



The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation organised an all-night Pirith ceremony on Thursday (May 6) to invoke blessings on the country and the world, in view of the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases world over. Chairman SLBC Jagath Wickremasinghe, Director General Chandrapala Liyanage and the staff took part in the religious event which was organised under special health guidelines. PICTURE BY SUDATH MALAWEERA.

## Chernobyl alcohol Why were 1,500 bottles of 'Atomik' spirit seized?



Dr. Gennady Laptev (right) has worked in the Chernobyl exclusion zone since three months after the accident and co-founded the Chernobyl Spirit Company

LONDON, May 8 (BBC) - The first bottles of an "artisanal spirit" made using apples grown near the Chernobyl nuclear power plant have been seized by Ukrainian authorities. The Chernobyl Spirit Company said 1,500 bottles of Atomik alcoholic drink were confiscated on 19 March and taken to the Kyiv Prosecutor's office.

Officers took the shipment from a truck at a distillery in the Carpathians.

The spirit, its producers say, is Chernobyl's first consumer product since the 1986 nuclear disaster. They are now awaiting the outcome of an investigation by the Ukrainian security services but say they have "no idea" why the shipment, which was destined for the UK, was seized.

"It seems that they are accusing us of using forged Ukrainian excise stamps," explained Prof Jim Smith, a scientist who has spent many years studying the exclusion zone before setting up the Chernobyl Spirit Company with Ukrainian colleagues. "But this doesn't make sense since the bottles are for the UK market and are clearly labelled with valid UK excise stamps."

The social enterprise company that makes Atomik is run by scientists who work in the 4,000 square kilometre Chernobyl ex-

clusion zone - an area abandoned after the catastrophic 1986 nuclear disaster. Their studies have included growing experimental crops to find out if grain, and other food grown in the zone, could be used to make products that are safe to consume.

Part of the reason for producing the spirit was to demonstrate how land around the exclusion zone could be put back to productive use. The researchers say this could allow communities there to grow and sell produce - something that is currently illegal on "officially contaminated land".

When we tasted the first Atomik vodka martini in 2019, Prof Smith, who is based at Portsmouth University, explained that it was "no more radioactive than any other vodka".

Prof Smith and his colleagues since adjusted their recipe to make an apple-based spirit. Those apples are grown in the Narodichi district - an area immediately outside the exclusion zone, where agriculture and development is still highly restricted.

The company plans to use some of its profits to help communities in Ukraine - including in Narodichi - that are still affected by the economic impact of the nuclear disaster.

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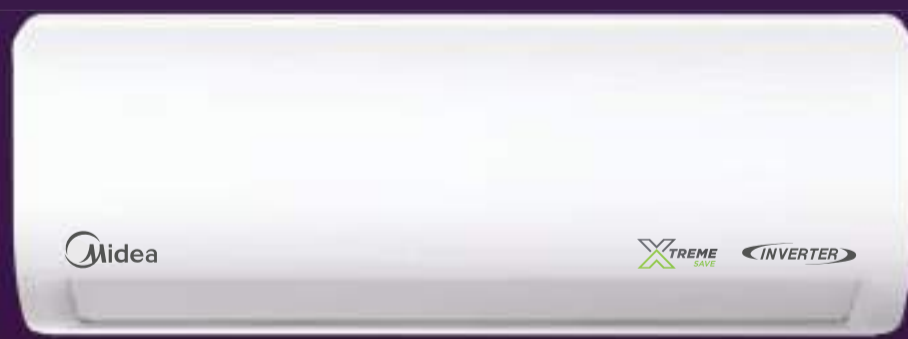
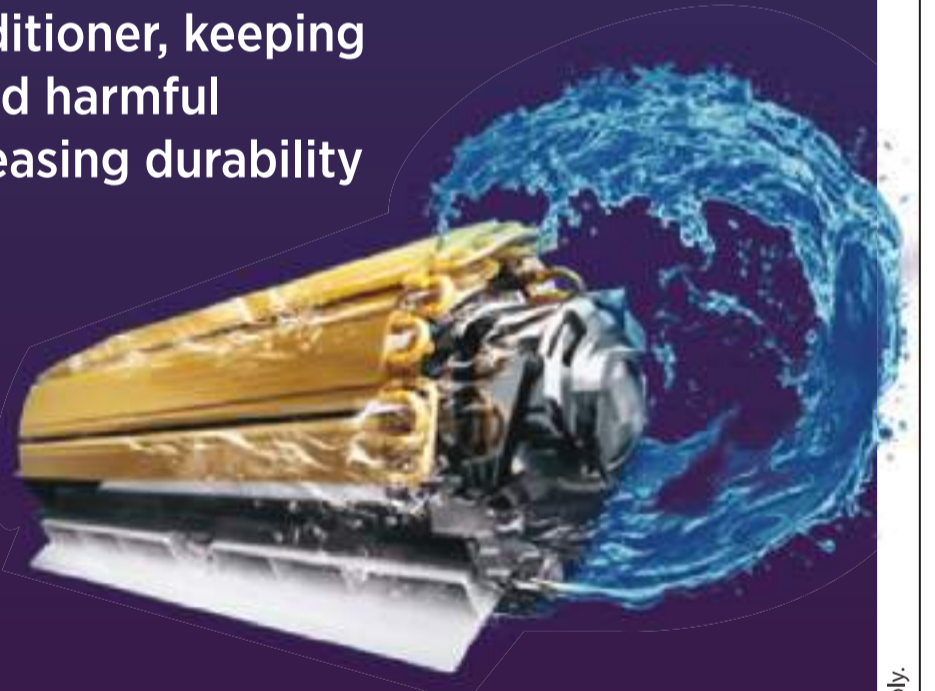
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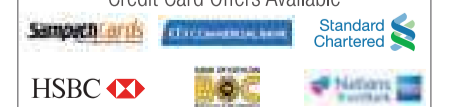
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# Premier inaugurates Ruwanpura Expressway

BY UDITHA KUMARASINGHE

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday (May 7) virtually inaugurated the construction work on the first phase of the Ruwanpura Expressway. The first phase of the proposed expressway is a stretch of 24.3 kilometres from Kahathuduwa to Ingiriya.

The event unfolded at Temple Trees, Colombo on Friday with the participation of a limited number of guests in compliance with the health guidelines.

The first phase of Ruwanpura Expressway is expected to be completed by 2024. A local company has been selected as the construction contractor of the first section of the expressway at a cost of Rs. 54.7 billion. Ruwanpura Expressway, which stretches across 73.9 kilometres from Kahathuduwa to Pelmadulla via Horana-Ingiriya-Kiriella-Kuruwita-Ratnapura, is expected to be constructed under three phases.

Phase I extends from Kahathuduwa to Ingiriya (24.3 km), Phase II from Ingiriya to Ratnapura (26.2 km), and Phase III from Ratnapura to Pelmadulla (21.4 km). The project was first envisaged by the Mahinda Chinthana manifesto in 2014. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Premier Rajapaksa said irrespective of obstacles, challenges and difficulties, the Government will always remain committed to policies and development programs it has put forward until they become realities.

He said "We started the Southern Expressway as the first Expressway in Sri Lanka in 2006 with a battle against terrorism in the country.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa launches the first phase of the Ruwanpura Expressway. Cabinet and State Ministers were also present

Today, we are embarking on the Ruwanpura Expressway at a challenging time when not only the country but the whole world is gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said, "We are launching the Seventh Expressway in Sri Lanka. I remember from the early days when highways were being built, our dear people in Sabaragamuwa asked us when a highway would be built to Ratnapura."

Premier Rajapaksa said "We had planned to start work on the Ruwanpura Expressway in 2014. We thought that the Government which came to power in 2015 would start where we stopped the development of the country. They did not want to develop the country. Therefore, everything we had started was stopped

by the previous Government."

The Prime Minister said that the previous Government had not stopped at that and took revenge. "We were taken before Courts and Commissions." He said "We took back a country where national security and economy had been affected and development had come to a standstill.

But we gladly accepted the challenge. We always wanted to give the best to this country and its people. We wanted to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said that the implementation of the project is another manifestation of the Government's commitment to realise the visions and policies of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's 'Vistas of Prosperity

and Splendour' in line with plans for sustainable development.

He said that the Government's development drive was in progress despite the threats and challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic that could not be permitted to hinder achievement of people's aspirations.

Minister Fernando said the people in districts of Colombo, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Moneragala and Hambantota would be directly benefited by the new expressway which provides them with opportunity to transport their produce including tea, apparel, minor export crops and a boom to the gem industry with ease of travelling to find markets, decreases in congestions and costs of fuel and time.

## Floral tributes for Rabindranath Tagore

The Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and other officials offered floral tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Colombo on his 160th birth anniversary on 7 May 2021. High Commissioner noted that Gurudev Tagore was an incredible amalgamation of talents.

A special edition of 'Sri Lanka Hindi Samachar', the annual Hindi journal of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), cultural arm of the High Commission, dedicated to Gurudev Tagore, was released by the High Commissioner on the occasion.

This special edition comprises articles, essays, and art works of more than 70 scholars and students of Hindi from both India and Sri Lanka.

Week-long celebrations of Tagore Jayanti were marked by an online music and dance competition and documentary screenings organized by SVCC.

Gurudev Tagore was the first Indian Nobel laureate who won the award in 1913 for literature. He composed the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh. His vision, philosophy and works continue to have a profound influence in South Asia and beyond.

Gurudev Tagore visited Sri Lanka thrice in 1922, 1928 and 1934



and had a strong association with the people of Sri Lanka.

The Visva Bharti University at Santiniketan which was established by Gurudev has attracted several Sri Lankan artists and scholars including the renowned Ananda Samarakoon.

The foundation stone of Sri Palee Campus in University of Colombo was laid by Gurudev. Acknowledging his deep connections with Sri Lanka, the state of art auditorium with a capacity of 1500 people, built with Indian grant assistance at the University of Ruhuna is named after Gurudev Tagore.



## US election officials drop Trump hush money probe

NEW YORK, May 8 (BBC) - An inquiry into whether Donald Trump violated campaign financial law during the 2016 election has been dropped.

The case stemmed from an allegation that Trump directed his former lawyer to pay Stormy Daniels, an adult film actress, to stop her speaking out about an alleged affair.

The lawyer, Michael Cohen, was later jailed on multiple charges.

The regulatory agency tasked with enforcing campaign finance law announced the case closure Thursday.

It came after the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which is split evenly between Democrats and Republicans, became deadlocked on taking action at a closed-door meeting in February. The vote came months after an internal report recommended that there was "reason to believe" Trump's campaign had knowingly violated campaign finance law. Two Republicans who voted to dismiss the case said they had concluded it would not be "the best use of agency resources" while two Democrat-aligned commissioners criticised their decision.

"To conclude that a payment, made 13 days before Election Day to hush up a suddenly newsworthy 10-year-old story, was not campaign-related, without so much as conducting an investigation, defies reality," they wrote in a letter. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites.

Cohen previously testified under oath that Trump had directed him to make the payment of USD 130,000 just days before the election.

Trump has acknowledged reimbursing the payment but denied the affair and any wrongdoing regarding campaign laws. "The hush money payment was done at the direction of and for the benefit of Donald J. Trump," Cohen said in a statement to The New York Times, responding to the case dismissal.

"Like me, Trump should have been found guilty. How the FEC committee could rule any other way is confounding."

In a statement issued through his website, Trump thanked the commission for dropping what he described as a "phony case against me...built on lies from Michael Cohen, a corrupt and convicted lawyer".



Stormy Daniels



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# Govt. will implement development programs despite difficulties

## - PM Mahinda Rajapaksa

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera told Parliament that the Opposition should not try to take political advantages of the Covid-19 pandemic prevailing in the country and instead should support the Government to fight it.

Speaking during the debate on the Covid-19 situation, the Minister reminded how the same Opposition tried to hinder the former Government led by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa during the final phase of the battle against terrorism.

Minister Amaraweera said, "Many Opposition MPs call for a lockdown of the country. However, when lockdown was imposed before, the Opposition was going around questioning that move as well. We should not politicise this matter. If any lockdown is needed, our health and defence authorities will reach that decision. If we go for a total lockdown, how can people sell their products? How will people purchase necessary items?"

He said, "Countries that have faced the worst stages of the pandemic have not gone for total lockdowns. Therefore, it is obvious that the Opposition is looking forward to take advantage of the situation. The Government will not hesitate to take crucial decisions to save the country from this pandemic, with or without the support of the Opposition. However, we strongly believe that the responsibility of an Opposition is to support the Government when it is on the correct path."

Minister Amaraweera said, "It is good to point out our shortcomings; we can accept criticism. However, it is the responsibility of the Opposition to support the Government in times of need. This pandemic affects everybody; the Opposition should realise that."

### Seventh expressway

The construction work on the country's seventh expressway was launched by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday (May 7). The inauguration ceremony of the first phase from Kahatuduwa to Ingiriya of the Ruwanpura Expressway was held with the participation of a limited number of participants as per the health regulations in place in view of the pandemic. Premier Rajapaksa participated in the ceremony via new technology from Temple Trees.

The Prime Minister said irrespective of obstacles, challenges and difficulties, the Government will always remain committed to policies and development programs it has put forward until they become realities. He said, "We started the Southern Expressway as the first Expressway in Sri Lanka in 2006 while the battle against terrorism was going on. Today, we are embarking on the Ruwanpura Expressway at a challenging time when not only the country but the whole world is gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic."

Premier Rajapaksa said, "We had planned to start work on the Ruwanpura Expressway in 2014. We thought that the Government which came to power in 2015 would start where we stopped the development of the country. They did not wish to develop the country. Therefore, everything we had started was stopped by the previous Government."

The Prime Minister said that the previous government had not stopped at that and went on to take revenge. "We were taken before Courts and Commissions. We took back a country where national security and the economy had been affected and development had come to a standstill. But we gladly accepted the challenge. We always wanted to give the best to this country and its people. We wanted to fulfill the expectations of the people."

### Vacant seat

Former Minister Navin Dissanayake said that UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe who has been in Parliament for 40 years, is the most suitable candidate for the party's National List seat. At a media briefing in Kollupitiya, Dissanayake said that he was the first to suggest that Ranil Wickremesinghe should be appointed as the UNP National List Member of Parliament. The UNP suffered a heavy defeat at the last General Election and only secured a single seat through the



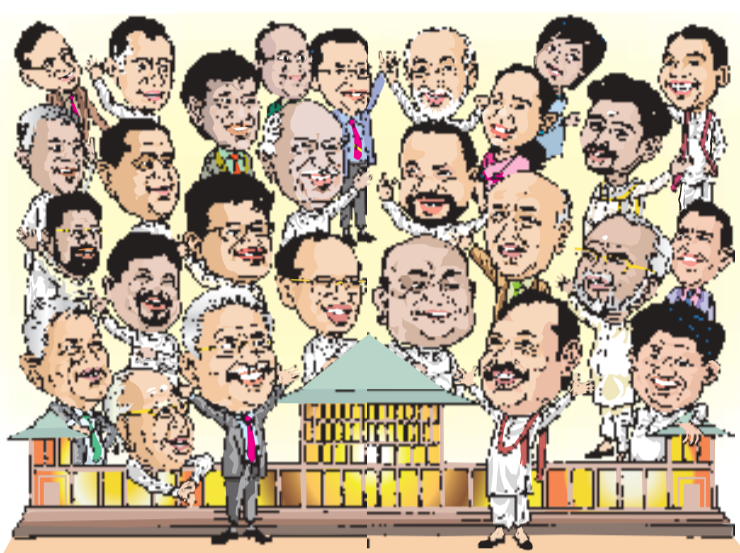
**COUNTRIES THAT HAVE FACED THE WORST STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC HAVE NOT GONE FOR TOTAL LOCKDOWNS. THEREFORE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE OPPOSITION IS LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION**  
- MAHINDA AMARAWEEERA

National List allocation. So far, the UNP has not been able to fill its vacant seat in Parliament due to differences of opinion and infighting within the party ranks.

The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) writing to the UNP has underlined that the Party has violated the people's democratic rights by not appointing a Member to its National List Seat in Parliament. It has urged the UNP to immediately fill its solitary Parliamentary seat that has been vacant since the General Election. It has pointed out that the Party's internal disputes are no excuse for keeping its National List seat vacant, adding that the people who voted for that Party are not responsible for those internal issues.

### President in Parliament

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa attended the Parliamentary session on Wednesday (May 5). Minister Johnston Fernando, State Ministers and Government Parliamentarians



### University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

received the President at the Parliamentary Complex on his arrival.

President Rajapaksa listened to the speeches delivered by the lawmakers. This is the fifth occasion the President attended parliamentary proceedings since addressing the inaugural session of the new Parliament. The adjournment debate on the current Covid-19 situation in the country was taken up in the House for the second consecutive on May 5.

The Committee on Parliamentary Business chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana which met on Tuesday (May 4) decided not to hold the debate on the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill on Wednesday (May 5) as Parliament is yet to receive the determination of the Supreme Court pertaining to the petitions filed on against the Bill. Instead, the Committee decided to take up the Adjournment Debate on the pandemic situation from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on May 5 without a lunch break.

Jathika Jana Balawegaya Leader Anura Kumara Disanayake has stressed the need for an extensive parliamentary debate on the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill. He said, "The Government and the opposition need to put forward their views before the people." He said that the Government is conducting itself to fulfil its destructive motives rather than in the best interests of the country's laws, regulations, constitution, the public and ethics. Dissanayake said, "The Government can cite this as a turning point of the economy. We can put forward other arguments over this," Dissanayake said.

### PM meets Abhayarama Chief Incumbent

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had recently met the Chief Incumbent of Abhayarama Temple, Narahenpita, Ven. Muruththettuwa Ananda Thera. The Premier and Ven. Ananda Thera had an extensive discussion which had lasted for over one and half hours. During the recent past, Ven. Ananda Thera was critical of some of the steps taken by the Government. He played a pivotal role to bring back former President Mahinda Rajapaksa to active politics after his electoral defeat in 2015. Those days the Abhayarama Temple had become the centre for political activities of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

### Heated argument

Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekera and SJB MP Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka were engaged in a heated argument in Parliament on Wednesday (May 5) with regard to the recent release of Military officer Sunil Ratnayake.

Minister Weerasekera accused Fonseka of betraying the nation by saying that the release of Ratnayake was wrong. The Minister told the Parliament "Field Marshal Fonseka has betrayed the nation through his remarks."

Fonseka said, "Military officers cannot commit murders. It is a disgrace for your uniform if you think that way." The Minister said Field Marshal Fonseka is talking after accepting dollars from the Tamil diaspora. "We don't do that kind of low (thuttu deke) acts."

Fonseka replied it was Minister Weerasekera who brought dollars



from Geneva. The Minister said, "It was Fonseka who told journalist Fredrica Jansz that Sri Lankan security forces killed those who came with white flags. It is because of these statements that the whole world has gone against us. It is we who were at the battlefield. Fonseka doesn't



**JATHIKA JANA BALAWEGAYA LEADER ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE HAS STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN EXTENSIVE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE COLOMBO PORT CITY ECONOMIC COMMISSION BILL**

know that I was one of the few who were at the front in the battlefield and was honoured. Besides Sunil Ratnayake was also at the forefront and fought hard for the country."

### UNP chairman visits friends

UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardana had recently visited State Minister Wimalaweera Dissanayake who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Colombo. Since the days Abeywardana represented Parliament, State Minister Dissanayake was one his close friends.

The duo had extensively discussed their past memories and current pandemic and political situation in the country for over an hour. Later UNP Chairman Abeywardana participated in a media briefing in Colombo.

He told the media if the Government took appropriate measures during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year to prevent the spread of coronavirus, it would have not spread to this extent. He said there is a huge delay in importing the second dose of the Covid vaccine as the Government has not entered into agreements on time and allocated sufficient money.

Abeywardana said this situation two and a half months ago. He said when the coronavirus was started to spread, UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe requested to increase the PCR tests and the ICU beds in hospitals. However, the Government didn't take it seriously and the country now faces a serious situation.

Abeywardana had also visited one of his long standing friends MP Harin Fernando who is receiving treatment at a private hospital in Colombo. While the two were having a chat, UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe had phoned Abeywardana. Then Abeywardana had given his phone to Harin Fernando by allowing UNP Leader Wickremesinghe to talk to him. Vajira Abeywardana and Harin Fernando during their lengthy discussion had laid key emphasis on the spread of coronavirus and the Port City project.

### Ranjan denies rumours

Former SJB Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake has denied rumours that he attempted to commit suicide in jail.

There was media speculation that Ramanayake attempted to commit suicide while serving a jail sentence. However, in a message posted on Facebook, Ramanayake had denied the rumours. The Supreme Court sentenced former MP Ramanayake to four years rigorous imprisonment for contempt of court. He has been imprisoned at the Angunukolapelessa prison since his conviction.

### Objection

Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera on Wednesday (May 5) called on the Speaker not to allow SJB MP Rishad Bathiudeen, who is detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) to attend Parliament until the investigations relating to his arrest are completed. He said that any MP who is detained under the PTA should not be allowed to attend Parliament until the investigations are over.

Minister Weerasekera said any statement made by MP Bathiudeen following his attendance in Parliament may hinder the investigations. It may even allow other persons who should be investigated later on, to evade arrest or flee the country. The Minister made this statement as the Opposition raised concerns on not allowing MP Bathiudeen to attend Parliament.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa called on the Speaker to permit MP Bathiudeen to attend Parliament. Chief Opposition Whip MP Lakshman Kiriella told the House that there is no clear reason presented as to why Bathiudeen was not present in Parliament on May 4 and 5.

Kiriella said, "Within the past 24 hours, I heard three rumoured reasons as to why MP Bathiudeen was not brought to Parliament. One said that MP Bathiudeen



**WE TOOK BACK A COUNTRY WHERE NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE ECONOMY HAD BEEN AFFECTED AND DEVELOPMENT HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL. BUT WE GLADLY ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE**  
- PRIME MINISTER

had close contact with a Covid-19 patient. According to the family of MP Bathiudeen, the signature of the Speaker allowing the MP to attend Parliament was not available. We do not know which is true. We call on the Speaker to ensure the privileges of Parliamentarians."

### Harassment

He said SJB will not be able to support the Government in arresting the Covid-19 pandemic if Opposition MPs are harassed. TNA Parliamentarian M.A. Sumanthiran said that such a move, as suggested by Minister Weerasekera, has never happened in the history of Parliament. Sumanthiran said that it would be very easy to hunt down political opponents if this proposal is accepted, as any MP could be taken into custody under the PTA and investigations carried out for three months which will automatically cancel their seat in Parliament. He also observed that there could possibly be no legal restrictions in facilitating MP Bathiudeen from attending Parliament sessions.



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## SUNDAY OBSERVER

### A paradigm shift

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa hit the right note recently when he said that vaccines are the only way out of the current Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, it is the only way to achieve “herd immunity” – the stage where much of the population has been vaccinated and is resistant to the virus. Having no host to cling on to, the virus fades away. This is indeed how vaccines have almost eradicated certain viral diseases from the face of the earth.

Sri Lanka's vaccination efforts suffered a temporary setback as India, currently experiencing an unprecedented virus surge, has stopped exports of the locally manufactured AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine on which we pinned our hopes.

Fortunately, our health planners had the foresight not to put all eggs into one basket.

Thus we will soon have access to a range of vaccines including Russia's Sputnik V (vaccination with which is already underway in some suburbs of Colombo for those aged 30-60), Pfizer, China's Sinopharm (pending the approval of the World Health Organization) and of course, AstraZeneca itself, either from India or another manufacturing country such as the UK.

We should also get more vaccines from the global Covax facility. Other vaccines may be purchased should the need arise. If all goes well, health authorities expect to vaccinate at least 65 percent of the population by year end.

This may not be the ideal threshold for herd immunity, but it will take us to safer territory. Once approval is given by WHO and other agencies, the inoculations can also be given to schoolchildren and pregnant women, the two categories that are currently excluded.

There is hope in this regard on the horizon, as vaccine companies have completed trials for teenage children. It has also been proved conclusively through ongoing trials that vaccines are not harmful to pregnant women.

But Sri Lanka is not the only developing country facing a vaccine crunch. Ours is an unequal world and rich countries have been hoarding vaccines for their own use.

Some rich countries have ordered vaccines that can inoculate their populations nine times over. More than one billion Covid vaccine doses have been administered around the world, but the vast majority had gone into the arms of residents of developed countries.

In other words, just 16 percent of the world's population has received nearly 50 percent of the vaccine doses so far produced.

Some countries such as Israel have vaccinated close to 60 percent of their populations while many countries in Africa are yet to administer a single shot.

But one has to admit that vaccine production is no easy task. Even the biggest vaccine producers may not be able to produce more than 500 million doses per year, as the supply chains are enormous and complex.

Yes, more vaccines are being approved (Curevac, J&J, Novavax etc), but even with the new vaccines in play it will be a long time before 16 billion doses can be produced (at the rate of two doses each for eight billion people).

Some experts say that global vaccination will end only in 2025 at current rates of production and vaccination.

Yet, there is a solution. There are many pharmaceutical factories throughout the developing world, including in Sri Lanka, which can manufacture vaccines. But the mainly Western vaccine manufacturers are zealously guarding their patents and formulas and will not transfer their technology to the Third World. Until now, the Western world collectively said ‘no’ to pleas by developing nations to open up their patents.

However, the world witnessed a seismic shift in this attitude last week, as US President Joe Biden backed the vaccine patent and intellectual property waiver proposed among others, by India and South Africa. This is a move that has far-reaching repercussions in terms of vaccine production.

Katherine Tai, the United States trade representative, announced the administration's position on Wednesday afternoon. “This is a global health crisis, and the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic call for extraordinary measures,” she said in a statement.

While the European Union itself has expressed its openness to the idea, individual countries such as Germany have opposed the US move.

Incidentally, Pfizer's vaccine partner BioNTech is based in Germany. As expected, the pharmaceutical industry responded angrily to the extraordinary decision. The industry has argued that a suspension of patent protections would undermine risk-taking and innovation.

But from the point of view of the developing world, there is hardly any doubt that President Biden made the right call.

As the WHO has stressed time and again, “no one is safe until everyone is safe”. It does not matter if the developed world has vaccinated every eligible citizen, if the developing world is unable even to vaccinate 25 percent of their collective population.

Besides, the virus gets more chances to mutate (as seen in India and Brazil) as long as vulnerable populations are not vaccinated.

One other factor that should motivate rich countries to share their technology is that they stand to lose as much as US\$ 5 trillion over the next few years if the disease persists elsewhere in the world. Humanity will be able to defeat the virus only if the entire world is vaccinated more or less simultaneously.

Now is the time for the world to come together. If the developed world does not reach out to their less developed counterparts in the South at this crucial moment, it will forever be a blot on their histories.

There is no time to waste – the time has come to pool the world's resources and defeat this contagion once and for all.

# Attackers leave a trail of hilarity behind them

by  
**Rajpal Abeynayake**



The Myanmarisation cry has now died down somewhat. That's owing to the fact that suddenly the Port City issue came to the fore after the Port City Commission Bill saw the light of day, and abruptly the critics saw the opportunity to say “Chinafication”.

So Myanmarisation gave way to Chinafication and accusations such as Chinese debt trap, and all that.

These people had better decide. Is the military with the aid of the ex-military President trying to militarise the country, and run it like a garrison State such as Myanmar with hermit like isolationist policies and brutal military muscle?

Or, is the country open to the winds of trade and commerce – not isolated at all – and inviting the Chinese to come and takeover this lucrative enterprise outpost, and make it their colony?

Because, it can't be both. If the country is being militarised, the Chinese won't risk doing business here. A Myanmar type military regime is quickly isolated. Nobody does business with isolated places. Look at Myanmar that has got such a bad rap these days.

The Myanmarisation cry became threadbare. The Opposition was creating such a ruckus about the Covid situation that it became ridiculous to say that this country is militarising.

Which militarising country would allow that kind of attack on the regime in media, particularly when most of the charges made are unfair and baseless? There was definitely the need for a new bogey.

### VIBRANT

So they resurrected an old one. Ah China! The Port City Commission Bill gave them the perfect opening, and so Myanmarisation was pushed to the back burner for the moment and Chinafication became the battle cry.

Of course when the China bogey becomes threadbare, they will pull the Myanmar cry off from the back burner and scream Myanmar, Myanmar Myanmar until they bleed their vocal chords dry.

When there is nothing bad happening here in this country and the economy is moving despite some Covid anxieties etc, they are unable to point to anything that's happening here, at the present moment - as it were, in the here and the now.

So they have to pull some other country out of the bag and say, look we are becoming a Myanmar, look we are becoming a China - ah, before long we will be like India. That's what they are saying about Covid now. We are becoming like India they say, hardly being able to conceal their excitement at the prospect. Here is the bad news for them – no we won't become anything like India; it's not on the cards.

They wager that the President is trying to run the country the way China



**With Sri Lanka, the international community does not accept Lord Naseby's position that the Sri Lankan Security Forces committed no war crimes. In any event the Darusman's report is not backed up by any hard evidence of civilian deaths amounting to 40,000**

does - but China is not run by the military. Of course China is not a democracy, but the Communist Party runs the nation and the administrative structure and the political superstructure is all civilian.

It defies logic to say that the President is Myanmarising and say in the same breath that the government is running the country taking a leaf from China's book.

China has a vibrant capitalist culture though it's run by the Communist Party. Cities such as Shanghai are more cosmopolitan than New York. Myanmar on the other hand is isolationist - and the economy there is reeling.

The country is run by a military junta, and there is no civilian administration, either democratically elected or run by the Communist Party or by any other civilian administration. Myanmar and China are chalk and salt. It's ludicrous to say we are Myanmarising and Chinafying at the same time.

There are writers and general busy-bodies contributing ecstatic pieces about the fact that Sri Lankan army officers possibly being arrested for war crimes if they travel abroad.

One Marwaan Marcan Markar writing for a local newspaper from his cushy location abroad, says dictator ex-president Pinochet was arrested for war crimes when he stepped out of Chile. He says Suharto the Indonesian strongman didn't travel abroad because he didn't want to get arrested for war crimes.

### DEMONIC

He writes that Sri Lankans are likely to be added to the list of persons who may be arrested under the Magnitsky Act. Magnitsky legislation refers to laws providing for U. S governmental sanctions against foreign individuals who have committed human rights abuses, or have been involved in significant cor-

ruption. According to Marcan Marker (MM) somehow our Generals are equally demonic as Suharto and Pinochet have been. Suharto is Indonesian. May be MM has heard of another Indonesian by the name of Darusman. That guy wrote a report meant for the UN Secretary General in which he claimed 40,000 civilians were killed in the last phase of hostilities between the LTTE and Sri Lankan government forces. He adduced no evidence. Where are the bodies?

MM seems to know nothing about this Indonesian and his report but he knows all about the other Indonesian Suharto, and how he was shivering in his boots afraid to travel abroad.

MM's inference is that the Sri Lankan Security Forces top brass too should similarly shiver in their boots and not travel abroad. Other than perhaps thinking about the wrong Indonesian in the context of war crimes, MM seems to be the type who takes the “international community” very seriously when they talk about war crimes of the Sri Lankan forces. He must know that some of the major powers in the international community didn't want to cross the South African government that imposed the Apartheid policy. “Initially, several countries within the United Nations had supported the South African defence that the apartheid problem was a matter essentially within her domestic jurisdiction.

But by 1963 even these recognised that the doctrine of domestic jurisdiction was being unduly distorted to subvert apartheid interests and provide legitimacy for them. Thus the United Kingdom, for one, changed her previous stand on the issue.”

That's a quote from an academic paper written by J. K. Feimpong in the Black Law Journal.

Seems like the unconscionable policy of apartheid didn't prick the conscience of the leading members of the

international community for some time! They continued to accept the South African government's position that apartheid was an internal concern of the South African government.

### CONDONED

With Sri Lanka, the international community does not accept Lord Naseby's position that the Sri Lankan Security Forces committed no war crimes. In any event Darusman's report is not backed up by any hard evidence of civilian deaths amounting to 40,000.

Where are the bodies, is a question worth repeating. But MM exults in his article that in the future Sri Lankan forces personnel and other civilians who led the battle effort could be arrested for war crimes when they travel abroad, because the Sri Lankan government “has failed against the international community.”

The kind of international community that at first condoned apartheid? Only to realise the error of their ways later. Pity also, that MM does not mention his friend Tony Blair along with Suharto and Pinochet. I remember talking to this writer MM when Tony Blair was in Colombo and was due to make a speech at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute by private invitation. MM exclaimed, “but Tony Blair is a war criminal.”

“International statesman; guardian of Africa; religious leader; global businessman... as he jets around the world, it's hard to see where one role begins and another ends,” writes Money Week, about Tony Blair. Ah, jets round the world. I guess certain types of war criminals don't get arrested. Psst! I will let you in on a secret. They don't get written about by certain writers either.

These MMs would rather write about Suharto and Pinochet the war criminals, and exult about how non-war criminal Sri Lankan Generals may also get arrested for war crimes abroad. As for war criminals such as Tony Blair they jet around the world, and nobody could care less, least of all Marwaan Marcan Markar. He's only worried about Sri Lankan, Indonesian and Chilean war criminals. Sri Lankan primarily, especially because he doesn't care two hoots about the fact that they are in fact not war criminals at all.





## Self-discipline can reverse disturbing trend

# Over 1,500 patients reported daily

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

The following article is based on a TV interview of Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardena and consultant physician Dr. Ananda Wijewickrema at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (formerly IDH), Angoda.

Sri Lanka is currently at a crucial phase. We have been confirmed the current outbreak and the spike in the Covid-19 daily infection curve is due to the UK variant.

We are at a high risk phase. And everyone needs to understand the seriousness of the situation.

Sri Lanka recorded the first Covid-19 patient in January 2020, it was a Chinese tourist. Later in March 2020, we found the first Sri Lankan patient.

By June the same year we managed to contain the first wave of the pandemic.

From July till October 2020, no new cases were reported. Then came the second wave with new clusters reported from the Brandix factory in Minuwangoda and the Peliyagoda fish market. That was also contained with strict regulations imposed by the Health Ministry.

### Dedication

Following the Christmas and January celebrations, again the daily count shot up to 1000.

However, due to the dedication of the frontline workers and the government, before Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2021, the daily count of new Covid-19 patients had dropped to 150.

Again, today we see a dangerous trend with over 1,500 patients being reported daily. It has been confirmed that the new strain is the highly transmissible UK variant B.1.1.7.

From late March we warned people to stay home and celebrate Avurudu with their family members only. This is contagious, when people gather the virus spreads. We lived with this for over a year now and people are aware of the risks.

Most heeded our advice but the few who did not take it seriously, contributed to this current situation.

The second wave did not completely die down, so we can assume that this is an extension of the second wave, not a third wave, but there is a new variant which is the disturbing

fact. We must realise the situation in the country is dire. The public must strictly pay attention to health advice and cooperate, if not we will end up like India. All sectors, including the hospitals as well as the country's economy will suffer as a result.

### Realise

I don't think the country is in a more serious situation than India, but we must realise that this new variant is more dangerous than the previous one. This infects more young people, more people show symptoms and develop complications. Hence number of deaths could rise too. We need to be prepared.

We knew the virus was mutating and Sri Lanka can get new and dangerous variants. It happened elsewhere including in the UK. We reiterated that the numbers of positive cases were declining but the virus is very much out there therefore people must cooperate and stick to health guidelines.

We got an official confirmation about the new UK variant in Sri Lanka last week. There is an accusation that people were not informed of a new variant in circulation. But I think this new variant is not the main reason for the current outbreak, and why we are reporting more positive cases.

The people disregarded the advice to maintain social distancing. Blatantly neglected health guidelines and celebrated Avurudu, went shopping and the flood gates were opened.

Immediately before the Avurudu, there was a major outbreak in Jaffna. We did tests and learnt that it was not a new variant, it was the less harmful variant spreading in the country. Tests confirmed that it was not related to the Indian variant also.

### Variant

Then on April 8 we got to know that the Sri Jayewardenapura University was testing on a suspected new variant but the official confirmation that it was the UK's B.1.1.7 variant came after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

The virus that was circulating in Sri Lanka was relatively harmless. More than 90 percent of the patients were asymptomatic and a very few



THE COUNTRY HAS 685 ICU BEDS AND AN ADDITIONAL 37 BEDS AT KOTHALAWALA DEFENCE HOSPITAL WILL BE ACQUIRED TO TREAT THE COVID-19 INFECTED. WE HAVE OPENED ICU UNITS AT THE IDH, MULLERIYAWA BASE HOSPITAL, ANURADHAPURA METHISIRI SEVANA AND HOSPITALS AT WELIKANDA, THELDENIYA, IRANAWILA AND KILINOCCHI EXCLUSIVELY FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS. SO THERE WILL BE 110 PLUS 37 ICU BEDS FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

developed complications leading to death. So people lost fear, stopped being cautious and concluded that contracting Covid-19 was not that serious. Some started behaving recklessly which is the closest reason for the current spike in the numbers.

We reduced the numbers with a lot of effort and we wanted to pass on the benefit to people and said to celebrate New Year in April but within the parameters. We reminded to adhere to social distancing and maintain hand hygiene while face mask law was a must.

I do not agree that the number of PCRs were reduced to artificially show low daily detections before New Year celebrations. There is a procedure on how you conduct PCR tests. One category eligible for PCRs is the first contacts of the patients, then we do random tests on ordinary

patients visiting hospital OPDs.

### Procedure

Then every single patient who comes for surgeries will be subject to PCR or Raid Antigen Tests. In addition, we will carry out random tests in public places such as economic centres, fish markets. That is the usual procedure.

The Ministry reduced the number of random tests and increased targeted testing during the past few days with the rapid rise in numbers reported. The daily average of tests is about 18,000 now, out of this about 14,000 are conducted by the government and the rest is by private institutions.

We must emphasise that self-discipline is a must to contain any pandemic. A person who had done

a PCR test must stay indoors until the results come. His family members must also self quarantine. If we strictly follow self discipline rules until end of May, we can successfully contain this latest outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

We are not sure about the virus being airborne, further tests need to be done to prove it. But a test carried out in a restaurant showed that the virus had been present in a place away from where the infected person was seated.

So initially there was a conclusion that it might be airborne since droplets of saliva will travel only about one metre. Therefore, when in an enclosed place like an air conditioned room, we advise people not to remove the face masks at all.

The UK strain is highly contagious, stays in the air for a longer period, the virus can infect more people than the other strains found in the country before.

During the first wave of the pandemic, the country was locked down entirely. During the second wave, travel restrictions were imposed in areas where patients were reported.

That will be our strategy during this outbreak also. We have not decided to go for a complete lockdown. But in the coming days we might have to restrict travel between provinces and districts. The objective is to continue to function economically viable places and rely on 'test, trace and isolate' strategy to prevent transmission.

### Exclusively

The country has 685 ICU beds and an additional 37 beds at Kothalawala Defence Hospital will be acquired to treat the Covid-19 infected. We have opened ICU units at the IDH, Mulleriyawa Base Hospital, Anuradhapura Methisiri Sevana and hospitals at Welikanda, Theldeniya, Iranawila and Kilinochchi exclusively for Covid-19 patients. So there will be 110 plus 37 ICU beds for Covid-19 patients. Currently 57 critically ill Covid-19 patients are in ICUs.

It is a proven fact that patients don't die without symptoms, there will be Covid-19 symptoms for a few days before death.

Sri Lanka received 1,264,000 vaccines from India. We vaccinated over 900,000 people including the

frontline workers at the initial rollout. We have about 300,000 vaccines left, and the administration of the second dose began recently.

At least 600,000 doses of vaccine is needed to complete the second dose for those who have already received the first dose. There is a tragic situation in India, thus the Serum Institute has not indicated a possible date the required vaccine doses would arrive here.

The World Health Organisation's COVAX program, where they provide free vaccines to developing countries, has also been badly affected as a result. There are other countries who have excess stocks of AstraZeneca since they are rolling out other vaccine brands under their domestic vaccination drives.

The State Pharmaceutical Corporation is in dialogue with these countries to acquire part of these excess stocks.

Those who received the first dose will be saved from Covid-19 complications. Only one person who had the first dose died due to complications so far. He was a chain smoker with lung issues.

The first dose will give you immunity, some countries have decided to continue with only the first dose since it gives complete immunity for about four months. The booster shot will only extend the immunity period.

England and some other countries are testing if Sputnik V and Pfizer can be given as the second dose. When we give the first dose complete immunity is received, but after the booster shot, the period of immunity will be extended.

This fact was confirmed by Prof. Neelika Malavige and her team at the Sri Jayewardenapura university. Full immunity will be there for four months after the first dose.

But unfortunately vaccination of 1.2 million of the population will not prevent the transmission of deadly Covid-19. The WHO says the people who got vaccinated will not develop Covid-19 complications 100 percent and also the death rate is reduced to almost zero. There is an opinion that the AstraZeneca is ineffective against the South African strain of the virus but this is not clinically proven. However, it provides immunity against the UK strain which is spreading in Sri Lanka now.

# Restraining impact of school closure on education

by  
Hemantha  
Kulatunga



The global Covid-19 pandemic has led to the closure of educational institutions throughout the world, including in Sri Lanka, affecting almost 100% of students. Even though throughout modern history, armed conflicts, displacements, and natural disasters have disrupted the education of millions of children and youth globally, Covid-19 has taken this crisis to an unprecedented level. The deadly virus has affected almost every country in the world. This time, as per research, education has been hit particularly hard with the closure of schools in 186 countries depriving formal education of a staggering 1.53 billion students. The impact on education is said to be as high as 87.6% of the world total.

### Education secondary to saving life

Usually, the critical needs in a crisis such as health, food, water, and sanitation are being responded instantly as the highest priority. However, the education needs are given somewhat lesser consideration at least at the initial stage of the crisis. This phenomenon is justifiable because the existence of human beings is the foremost priority for a country. However, loss of education, even temporarily, can be equally detrimental to any country and must be addressed with complete eagerness.

Sri Lanka, with a literacy rate of 91.7% is considered the best in South East Asia and also placed at a very

high level among all the other countries. Although there are weaknesses in the education system that needs to be upgraded and modernised, the country's literacy rate is high for the reason of the existing education system. The country has 10,237 Government schools with a total student base of slightly over 4 million students as per the figures of the Ministry of Education.

All schools in Sri Lanka were closed in March 2020 with the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. Since then, schools of certain Provinces except the Western Province were partially opened from time to time since December 2020. Even those schools that were opened for students had to function with strict health guidelines, taking in limited numbers of students at any given day. Therefore, all schools functioned with alternative days for students.

### New Year Covid wave

After an absence of over one year, the Ministry of Education took a bold decision to open all schools in the country on April 19. Unfortunately, just as the academic activities were set to begin, the country once again started to witness another wave with spiking caseload, perhaps more dangerous and damaging than previous occasions. The Ministry has revoked the decision and currently analysing the situation closely with the health authorities.

As continuous uncertainty looms over the educational activities, the authorities are trying hard to bridge the learning gaps as well as preventing the loss of time. The Government so far has adopted an effort to a mixture of television programs and on-line education during the past year although the success or failure is not yet clear. In fact, they have allocated one channel exclusively and several



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa greets a student during the Gama Samaga Pilisandara program.

others on a temporary basis.

In the current context, even before the emergence of the third wave, children experienced constrained access to socialisation. This can be critical to their psychological well-being and also to personal development. School closures are preventing their interactions with peers and also limit them from their access to learning. This may lead to confusion and frustration, particularly with adolescents.

### Not so perfect online education

In a recent study, UNESCO has identified online education as 'imperfect substitutes' for classroom learning. This is primarily because of the limitations on teacher-student interaction.

Also, the limitations in internet access in the rural areas are another factor that hampers online education in Sri Lanka. The total internet penetration in Sri Lanka is just over 34% although the access in remote areas is

vastly inadequate, depriving students in those remote areas of online education.

Of the 10,235 schools over 9,000 are Provincial schools that account for 3.2 million students.

The vast majority of Provincial students belong to rural schools that most often do not have internet or other necessary technological assets at their respective schools or homes to attend online education.

Therefore, online education should only be a temporary measure as it can create discrimination between the urban and rural student population.

Digital learning is unfamiliar territory for the majority of Sri Lanka students as yet. Even those who are currently using online education are not completely convinced that digital platforms are the best solution for their continuous education. Although a certain segment of urban society has transitioned to online delivery of classes to avoid the disruption, digital learning still remains uncharted territory for the majority of Sri Lankan

students.

Under the directions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who believes in the modernisation of education, the Government is extending the highest priority to countrywide internet penetration aiming at online education mixed with classroom attendance, even after the complete annihilation of Covid-19. However, the further utilisation of digital resources in mainstream education is currently being explored.

Also, even if internet access becomes available, the dissemination of education through online classes requires access to computers for the students. Given the socio-economic situation in Sri Lanka, this can be unachievable to students of low-income families in rural areas. If not managed properly, this disparity can create social and academic stress in students.

To ensure the disruption as little as possible, continuing education through alternative learning pathways must be a top priority of the authorities, particularly with the surfacing of the third wave. The seemingly more intense third wave may continue for an indefinite period according to experts.

Therefore, although online classes or television programs are not the ideal processes, as temporary measures any innovative method must be used to cover the prevailing time lapse.

### Being at home

One does not have to go through complex theories to understand the psychological impact created in students due to long-term closures of schools, universities, and other various educational institutions. This is a topic that has so far second fiddle. By staying too long at home generates stress even for a grown-up. According to various studies, a vast majority of students indicated a high level of stress and anxiety during the long

shut down of schools.

The tension projected by the interruption to a certain pattern of life has produced psychological stress in the vast majority of the student population in the country.

Main among the personal psychological issues were difficulty in concentration, fear of their own health and that of family, concerns about academic performance, adjusting to the unknown territory of online learning, and so forth. Research has revealed that many of them have reported disruption to sleep patterns, fear of social isolation, and tension from parents led to depressive thoughts.

The pandemic has grown from a mere public health crisis to an over-stretched humanitarian catastrophe. The danger is that the virus creates unpredictable continuous new waves around the world. The most dangerous behaviour of the virus is that it emerges without warning when people presume that they are safe. The education sector is one of the most affected areas in Sri Lanka due to the pandemic.

The Government is doing its utmost to manage the system with limited resources, particularly restricted financial resources. However, with the seemingly credible commitment of the educational authorities with the unparalleled Presidential interest in the subject, the citizenry can see a light at the end of the tunnel concerning school education in Sri Lanka.

A powered-up public school network in every community is what President Rajapaksa pledged and indeed is possible if all stakeholders can collectively work together to harness the opportunities presented by this crisis.

The President has an ambitious vision on education that can become a reality. Articulating such a vision is an absolute necessity to guide the country to prosperity.

# Aboriginal boy teaches Australia a lesson

DARWIN: A documentary about a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy's experience in school, *In My Blood It Runs*, has reignited a debate about Australia's failure to give indigenous children a good education and a fair start in life.

"Listen carefully," the teacher tells the class. "This one isn't a story, this is information, or non-fiction - its fact."

She's holding up *The Australia Book*, a picture book from 1952, and reads: "In Botany Bay, Cook landed for the first time in a new country. Then he sailed up the coast, mapping as he went... On an island in Cape York he raised the English flag. And he claimed for the English country the whole of this new land."

Dujan Hoosan's hand shoots up, but he doesn't get the chance to speak.

Afterwards, the children have to find a list of words in the text and mark them with a highlighter. Dujan, a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy, struggles a bit with the vocabulary, but he finds it even harder to recognise the story, because the history he has been taught by his elders is very different.

## White man

"That (lesson) was for white people, not for Aboriginals," he reflects. "This man came on the ship and he was the first white man on Australia. The Aboriginal people told them to go and find another land, because this was their land. But people didn't listen."

Film-maker Maya Newell filmed the scene for her documentary, *In My Blood It Runs* - in which she followed Dujan at school for a year - and could feel his frustration.

"You imagine what it feels like to be essentially erased from history," she says. Maya and Dujan first met "out bush" when Maya was filming a story-telling session in one of the red-earth deserts of central Australia. Sitting around a campfire at night, a rapt group of Aboriginal children listened as aunts and grandmothers told stories in the Arrernte language about how the world began and about their connection to the land.

## Healing gift

Dujan was an eager learner. He had already got to know quite a few plants with medicinal properties, and told Maya about his healing gift: when his family had aches and pains it was his job to lay hands on them, he said, using powers that had passed to him after his great-grandad died. Maya was struck by the unusually confident and articulate 10-year-old. When Dujan said she should make a film about him, she asked his family, and they agreed.

They wanted to shine a light on the difficulties Aboriginal families face in Australian schools, and they trusted Maya, who had been working with their community for more than a decade, making educational films and archiving songlines (an ancient way of passing on laws and knowledge).

Maya began to spend two or three days a week with Dujan's family - his mother, grandmother and two brothers - recording day-to-day life in the Hidden Valley Aboriginal Town Camp, on the outskirts of Alice Springs. Some days there was no milk, so the boys ate breakfast at school.



Some nights there was no electricity, so they played I-spy under the stars.

## No milk

About 20 percent of the town's 30,000 residents are Aboriginal, and most of them live in heavily-policed, run-down camps that sprang up in the 1960s, when many Aboriginal people were forced off their land.

"You grew up around drunks, smoking - then you start learning from that," says Dujan's mum, Megan. She was expelled from school at 14, so her parents sent her to stay with aunts in the safety of the countryside in Borroloola, 1,260km (780 miles) north. That's where she met Dujan's dad, James, who came back with her to Alice Springs with their first child, but left when they broke up, a few years after Dujan was born.

"Being a teenage parent is hard, and being an Aboriginal mum is exhausting," Megan says. "Every day you hear that you are not good enough - in the newspapers, on TV, on social media."

She worries about her children getting into trouble, like she did, particularly "smart and cheeky" Dujan. And as filming progresses, her fears are realised.

One day a teacher reads the class a picture book of the Dreamtime, the Aboriginal story of how the world began. It's an effort to teach Aboriginal culture, but it's not a great success. The teacher seems puzzled. "So they're actually saying there's a spirit?" she asks.

Dujan reacts with emotion: "The spirit is real, man!"

When his report card arrives he gets very upset. He has the lowest grade - E - for every subject. He thinks there must be something wrong with him. Soon afterwards, he gets angry and smashes a window; he is sent home and risks being suspended.

He also starts skipping school,

and this could have serious consequences - under strict rules brought in with the aim of improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal children, attendance is directly linked to income support and family assistance. If children are regularly absent, their parents' welfare payments can be stopped.

It also increases their risk of being taken into care. In 2008 the Australian government pledged to "close the gap" in outcomes for indigenous and non-indigenous people in terms of life expectancy, child mortality, education and employment.

Last year the government acknowledged that most of the seven targets had not been met - which Prime Minister Scott Morrison described as a "national shame".

Seventeen new targets have now been set, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. It remains the case, though, that young indigenous people are 17 times more likely to be jailed than their non-indigenous counterparts (43 times more likely in the Northern Territory) and that a young indigenous man is more likely to be in prison than university.

When Dujan doesn't come home from school one day, his mum and grandma go out looking for him until late in the night.

If the police find him first, they will report it to welfare, and he could end up in foster care - or worse, juvenile detention.

## Youth detention

"You know, your little age is the right age to go to juvenile centre," Megan warns him.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are vastly over-represented in the Australian penal system. Nationwide, they make up close to 70 percent of those aged 10-14 in youth detention, despite being only about 6 percent of the population in

that age group.

In the Northern Territory, in which Alice Springs is located, the situation is even worse: at the end of March, 31 out of 33 young people in detention (94 percent) were Aboriginal.

"Trust me, juvenile is not a good place to be," Dujan's aunt Alexis tells him. "You're only going to end up in two places: a jail cell, or a coffin."

"What's a coffin?" asks Dujan.

## Juvenile detention

Dujan's family move him to a different primary school, one that offers a bilingual curriculum. But he skips classes here too, and his late-night adventures on the streets of Alice Springs continue.

He's picked up by the police several times, and gets formal warnings that if he's found causing a nuisance again he'll be sent to juvenile detention, or taken into care.

"This is what happens to young boys in Alice Springs. This is the story of what it is to be a First Nations child in this country," Maya Newell says.

Finally, after stealing a teacher's car keys and throwing them on the school roof, Dujan is expelled.

## Indigenous languages

The Northern Territory department of education says its schools are supported to deliver the Australian curriculum framework in a "culturally responsive and engaging way" acknowledging the "rich culture and diversity" of the community. It says schools can opt to use an "indigenous languages and cultures curriculum", including tuition in any of 30 languages, and that they are encouraged to share decision-making with families, communities and industry partners. But Dujan's family never felt these good intentions were reflected in the classroom.

"White people educate our children in the way they want them to be

**"THAT (LESSON) WAS FOR WHITE PEOPLE, NOT FOR ABORIGINALS," HE REFLECTS. "THIS MAN CAME ON THE SHIP AND HE WAS THE FIRST WHITE MAN ON AUSTRALIA. THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TOLD THEM TO GO AND FIND ANOTHER LAND, BECAUSE THIS WAS THEIR LAND. BUT PEOPLE DIDN'T LISTEN."**

educated, but I need (our children) to speak the language," says Dujan's grandmother, Carol.

Within living memory it was government policy to break the link between children and their Aboriginal ancestors and culture and to assimilate them into the white population.

Dujan has grown up with stories of children being taken away to be brought up by white families. One of his great-grandmothers was taken, while another was hidden "way out bush" for safety.

William Tilmouth, chair of Children's Ground, a charity that teaches Aboriginal children through storytelling sessions like the one at which Dujan and Maya first met, is an example of this "stolen generation".

"I can remember my eldest sister telling me that when they used to see Welfare coming down the road all the mothers used to run out, grab the kids and run straight back into the house, that way Welfare couldn't get them," he says. He and all his siblings, however, were forcibly removed after his mother's death. The five oldest had whiter skin and were sent to Adelaide, where they were expected to "blend in", he says. He and two brothers were taken 1,400km from Alice Springs to be brought up in a Methodist mission, where they were banned from speaking their language.

"We never knew who our family were," he says. "It was a deliberate attempt to fragment the foundations of our lives, to the extent that we kept asking ourselves, 'Who are we?'"

Dujan is at least in no doubt about this. "I was born a little Aboriginal kid," he tells Maya. "That means that I had a memory about Aboriginals. I just felt something, a memory. History. In my blood it runs."

When William ran away from a children's home he was placed in juvenile detention, which he describes as a "conveyor belt that led ultimately to the prison system".

Only when he was 17 was he able to hitchhike back to Alice Springs, to

be reunited with his father, three years before he died.

Although the policy of assimilation is no longer explicit, William says, the draconian rules governing education and welfare mean the system is still set against indigenous children. He sees many parallels between his story and Dujan's.

But Dujan's family come up with a strategy to keep him safe - the same one that was used in his mother's case, before he was born. They send him to live in Borroloola, with his father, James Mawson.

"Children like Dujan go to detention centres. I wanted to move him away before that happened," says his mum, Megan. "We Aboriginal parents do love and care about our kids."

Despite the fact father and son have not seen each other for five years, it works out well. In Borroloola everyone pitches in, working the land and looking after cattle. Dujan likes being able to spend weekends fishing or swimming in the family's homelands - and there are no armed patrols on the street. "Borroloola is like a little town where you are related to everybody. It's better than Alice Springs, where there are many other children that lead you into bad places, and lots of police that are watching over you," he says.

He is also happier at the community's small middle school, where 95% of students are indigenous.

"What I want is a normal life of just being me," he says at the end of the film, still only 11 years old. "And what I mean by 'me' is, I want to be an Aborigine."

Dujan has since had to move out of Borroloola to finish high school. Now 14, he's doing well, but he's still not a huge fan. "It's boring to be in school, but I know there is knowledge I need to learn there," he writes via email. The film is now being made available to schools in the UK, where one of the first to show it was Sunnydown school in Surrey, for boys with high-functioning autism.

After the Black Lives Matter protests last summer, the head of English, Andrea Jensen, decided her year nine class would read *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*, the true story of three Aboriginal girls removed from their families in 1931 who walked 1,600 km (995 miles) home. In *In My Blood It Runs* touches on many of the same themes. But the students could also relate to the experience of not fitting in at school.

## Physical disabilities

"I felt the same way as Dujan did," says Elvin, 14. "Because when I was in primary school, I had to go into this special place for people with autism or physical disabilities. When I went out at break time, everyone would go away because they didn't want to play with me."

Matthew, 15, says he was made to use a different entrance. "They put me in a room all by myself and they covered the window so I couldn't see anybody else."

Dujan says: "I made the film to give other Aboriginal children hope and strength, but I think it can give all kids everywhere that too."

In 1984 a group of Australian Aboriginal people living a traditional nomadic life were encountered in the heart of the Gibson Desert in Western Australia. They had been unaware of the arrival of Europeans on the continent, let alone cars - or even clothes.

- BBC

# US jobs fall far short of expectations

WASHINGTON, May 8. (BBC) - US employers hired fewer workers than expected last month despite a huge stimulus package that saw the government send USD 1,400 cheques to most Americans.

Just 266,000 jobs were added in April and the unemployment rate edged up to 6.1%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

It said a hiring spree among leisure and hospitality businesses was offset by declining courier numbers.

In all, 9.8 million remain unemployed.

In February 2020, before lockdowns forced millions into unemployment, 5.7 million people were out of work.

In March, the Biden administration pushed through the \$1.9tn stimulus package.

The latest jobs figures were well below the expectations of economists, who had predicted that the gain would be anywhere from 900,000 to 2 million jobs.

That would have been well ahead

of the 770,000 jobs that were added in March, which was considered a sign that America's economic recovery was gaining pace.

In a speech on Friday to "put today's jobs report in perspective," President Joe Biden said the new job numbers "show we're on the right track".

He defended his bailout as a "year-long effort to rescue our country" and dismissed suggestions "we should be disappointed".

His speech came after his Democratic party ally, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, issued a statement calling the April report "disappointing" and for Congress to approve more funds for infrastructure spending.

"Today's disappointing jobs numbers will heighten investor caution and raise concerns around the resilience of the US labour market - and to what extent the pace of the Covid-19 vaccination program will boost economic activity and employment,"



said Richard Flynn, UK managing director at Charles Schwab.

"However, across economic metrics - from GDP to retail sales to job growth - boom conditions are evident," he said. "We are yet to see the full effect of this since the unemployment rate is one of the most lagging of economic indicators."

Despite the weaker-than-expected data, the numbers are a marked improvement compared to the same period a year ago, when lockdowns

put more than 20 million people out of work. "While the labour market continues to recover, today's report suggests that the jobs recovery may not be quite as rapid as many had expected," said Mike Bell, global market strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management.

"There was continued strong jobs growth in the leisure and hospitality sector but these gains were partially offset by declines in business services and transportation

and warehousing, manufacturing and retail also saw small declines in employment."

In a word: "Wow". The massive economic recovery that many were expecting in America did not materialise in this latest jobs report.

The US economy added only 266,000 jobs in April, a far cry from estimates that ranged anywhere from 900,000 jobs to possibly even 2 million.

This discouraging employment report comes as coronavirus infection rates are declining and businesses are reopening.

Unsurprisingly, many of the gains came in the leisure and hospitality sectors as bars and restaurants reopened. But it is other sectors such as retail where hiring is stagnant.

Some economists had warned of a fitful economic recovery.

One disappointing jobs report does not mean the country's economy is in trouble. But this is evidence it may take a lot longer for the US to make its economic comeback.

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# News/Obituaries

## Oxygen on Taobao:

# Chinese help Indian expats send home life-saving equipment

\* As India is engulfed by a second wave, Chinese are helping Indian expats source oxygen concentrators from factories or Taobao and send them home

\* China is the world's biggest manufacturer of oxygen concentrators, but deteriorating ties between Beijing and New Delhi means sourcing them has become complicated

The death toll began to pile up in Ritwick Ghosh's social circle back in India. First a college friend succumbed to Covid-19, then a close friend's sister, then another lost a family member. "As long as there is no name or face, it is just a statistic," he said from Shanghai. "The moment there is a name and a face, it is no longer a statistic."

Ghosh works for one of the biggest investment funds in China and has lived in the mainland for over a decade. Over the past 10 days, as the devastating second wave of the pandemic sweeps through his

homeland, he has been familiarising himself with oxygen concentrators - machines that relieve the stress from the lungs and have the potential to save lives.

"Think of it as an air purifier," Ghosh said. "Until now I did not even know what the optimum level of oxygen concentration should be in our blood."

Across India, the demand for medical oxygen continues unabated, with hospitals putting out SOS messages for supplies and people taking to social media to plead for oxygen to keep loved ones alive.

Oxygen concentrators have therefore become sought-after devices as they can be operated from home and can aid those who have saturation levels between 88 and 92. Experts say one concentrator could service three patients per month.

Other Indians living in China like Ghosh have been buying oxygen concentrators off Taobao, a popular Chinese e-commerce site, and sending them to India. Couriers carrying a 30kg package containing a 10 litre unit costs anything from 3,200 to 10,500 yuan (US\$500-1,600).

China is the world's biggest manufacturer of oxygen concentrators. But sourcing them has become complicated, given the deteriorating relations between New Delhi and Beijing following a tense 2020 that saw clashes at their Himalayan border.

Despite Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidong tweeting about Covid-19 relief supplies being sent, Indian media reports suggest these supplies were commercial procurements and not sent on humanitarian grounds. China, however, maintains it is still waiting on India to accept its offer of help.

In this context, people such as Ghosh have become go-betweens. "I am just facilitating information between people who need it in India and suppliers here," he said.

"Many Indians have already tried to order concentrators online or even spoken to Chinese suppliers directly. But since the trust factor is still low between the two countries, they approach me to speak in Mandarin. The mental effort is lower when they know someone who is sitting in China can help."

### Full capacity

Chinese factories producing oxygen concentrators are currently running at full capacity, said Hao Nan, a Suzhou-based volunteer and founder of Zhuoming Info Aid, which has been involved in humanitarian relief efforts for other countries hit by the virus, including Italy, Spain, Iran and France.

Using resources from the site Covid19india.org, he and other volunteers have been trying to get a clearer picture of what is needed in which Indian city.

Last year, soon after the worst was over in Wuhan, he and a group of Chinese volunteers compiled a document detailing their experiences in combatting the virus. "A year ago, we tried to deliver our experiences from Wuhan especially for volunteer groups across the world. But I guess it is hard for people to learn from other people."

For now, Hao is focused on procuring supplies. "Just this evening, I tried to order 100 oxygen concentrators but to no avail," he said via Zoom. "I know many of my friends in the non-profit area in China who are trying their best to help Indian friends to purchase oxygen concentrators."

There are no more than 10 factories that can produce the 10-li-

tre machine, he said. These are spread across Shenyang and parts of Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Anhui provinces.

"Getting our hands on oxygen concentrators is proving to be very difficult," said Sridhar Srinivasan, an engineering manager at a tech company in Shanghai, who like Ghosh is also catering to individual requests from India. "They are all sold out and the ones who claim to have stock, we don't know if they really have stock, or they will just take the money and not deliver." It costs around 3,000 yuan (US\$500) for a five-litre unit.

A week ago, Srinivasan and his wife started to think about how to get more seriously involved in relief work after renowned Tabla maestro Pandit Sarit Das died of Covid-19 in India. Das used to teach the Indian musical instrument at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

"Pandit Das was among the unfortunate people who were locked out from returning to China last year. His death hit very close to our hearts," said Srinivasan. "I know so many people who have had losses. Everywhere you turn, you see news that is really distressing coming out of India."

### Practical issues

On April 30, the Indian government allowed faster customs clearance on imports of critical care medical equipment including oxygen concentrators, which spurred efforts to send single units from China.

"Through a courier channel, a couple of us are piloting an initiative where we purchase oxygen concentrators via Taobao and



Ritwick Ghosh has lived in mainland China for over a decade, and is using his Mandarin language skills to act as a facilitator between Chinese suppliers and people in India.

courier them to trusted people in India who can lend it out like a library to whoever needs it," Srinivasan said. "If it succeeds, we can scale it up." The team sent out 20 units to individual recipients on Thursday.

There are practical issues with sourcing from the Chinese market though, as instructions might be entirely in Chinese and some of the products are not eligible for export.

The Indian Association, Shanghai, has also been actively involved in the effort. The 25-year-old association, which runs under the patronage of the Consulate General of India in Shanghai, has actively fundraised for previous disasters and has organised blood donation drives and cultural events featuring Bollywood stars. Members started feeling

"tremors" when friends and family back in India began to fall sick. "We raised almost 1.5 million rupees (US\$20,000) in four days in the first phase of funding," said association president Mukesh Sharma. This included donations from Chinese friends and colleagues.

The team placed an order for 35 units of 10-litre oxygen concentrators and hope to ship these to India by May 15. "The number of oxygen concentrators is increasing if we aggregate all the demands, so we are discussing the possibility of running a chartered Air India flight," Shama said.

To avoid falling prey to fly-by-night operators taking advantage of the soaring demand for oxygen concentrators, a board member of the association flew out to a factory for a quality check.

Primary school teacher Maitreyee Ray, who lives in Guangdong with her husband, a manager in a Chinese textile company, has sent one concentrator to India so far. "If it succeeds, we can scale it up." The team sent out 20 units to individual recipients on Thursday.

"As long as our people in India are not safe, we will definitely help. We are safe, we are enjoying life here, but they are suffering. My daughter is there, my father is there, and I am terrified for their safety."

Ray and her husband rode out the pandemic in China. She commented on the discipline with which Chinese people used face masks. "Even today everyone wears a mask. Even if you just go downstairs for a walk, everyone wears a mask. Even a child in a pram has a mask on."

- South China Morning Post

### 4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



### LALITH D.H. JAYANETTI

(Registered Maintenance Engineer - S.L. National Film Corporation)

Fondly remembered by his loving wife Sarojini and members of the family

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The family of the late

### Ranjit Goonetilleke, (Air-Commodore (Retd.))

expresses their sincere appreciation to all persons who attended the funeral, paid their respects, sent flowers and messages of condolence and helped in numerous ways. The family also sincerely thanks all the medical and nursing staff at Durdans Hospital and the medical and nursing staff at ICU 2 of the University Hospital KDU for their untiring efforts and the care and attention provided. The family regrets their inability to thank all persons individually.



Former ANCL General Manager Abhaya Amaradasa who retired recently after an illustrious career of 40 years was felicitated by the Board of Directors and the senior management of the company in Colombo recently. Amaradasa, a fellow of the Institute of Printing, is accredited with launching Sinhala and Tamil photo typesetting and digital page composition at Lake House in the early 90s. He also launched the Daily News and Sunday Observer online editions 25 years ago. Here ANCL Chairman W. Dayaratne, PC presents a memento to Amaradasa. Finance Director Janaka Ranatunga, Operations Director Canishka G. Witharana, Editorial Director Dharma Sri Kariyavamsam, Legal and Administration Director Rakhitha Abeygoonawardhana, Acting General Manager Sumith Kotelawala, Editors and Deputy General Managers were present. Pic: Nirosh Batepola

## Taiwan's indigenous groups lose court fight for hunting rights

Taiwan's indigenous communities have lost an eight-year legal battle over hunting rights.

Indigenous groups can only hunt on certain days, using homemade rifles, and need special permission to do so.

Campaigners argued that hunting wild game is culturally important to them.

But Taiwan's top court ruled that while some of the current rules are unconstitutional, it wouldn't overturn them, because environmental protections "are equally important".

"The constitution recognises both the protection of indigenous people's right to practice their hunting culture and the protection of the environment and ecology," Hsu Tzong-li chief justice of Taiwan's Constitutional Court said.

For Taiwan's 16 recognised indigenous groups, these hunting restrictions are seen as a symbol of wider marginalisation and discrimination. Indigenous groups make up 2.5% of Taiwan's population, and face lower wages, higher rates of unemployment and poorer health than the Han Chinese majority. Friday's ruling was the conclusion of a lengthy legal battle that was sparked by the prosecution of a hunter in 2013.

Tama Talum, 62, is a member of the Bunun tribe who was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for killing two protected species with a modified rifle.

He said he was hunting the animals as food for his mother, who

was used to eating wild game.

Activists argued that subsistence hunting is an important part of indigenous culture, and that hunting with homemade guns is dangerous. They want Taiwan's gun laws to be expanded so that indigenous people can hunt with registered firearms.

The case progressed up to the Supreme Court which, though it upheld his conviction and sentence, asked for the Constitutional Court to look at the current hunting laws.

Years of hunting previously left native species, such as muntjac deer and monkeys, at risk of extinction - but since commercial hunting was banned in 1989, the species have begun to recover. Indigenous activists say their subsistence hunting does not hinder this recovery. In Friday's ruling, the Constitutional Court's panel of 15 judges said that certain rules were unconstitutional - namely the requirement that indigenous people need to apply for advance permission to hunt and specify how many animals they expect to kill.

But the judges said they would not overturn the gun restrictions that mean hunters use homemade rifles, nor the ban on hunters killing protected species.

Talum said the ruling was "regrettable" and that he would not stop hunting. "We should be able to use good guns, why do we continue to use homemade guns that are dangerous and easy to discharge," he said. -BBC

## Covid surge throws Philippines into disarray

In the Philippines, a second surge in Covid-19 cases is putting renewed pressure on the healthcare system. The country currently has the second highest number of cases in South

East Asia behind Indonesia. And with one of the longest and hardest lockdowns in the world, a crippling recession has forced thousands on to the streets in search of food. -BBC

## OBITUARY NOTICE



### LOURDES NAMUNAKULADEVI THEVANAYAGAM (D.O.B 30th June 1959)

Research Associate (Pharmaceutical) - Bristol Myers-Squibb  
Past pupil of Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Beloved daughter of late Mr B.A. Thevanayagam & late Mrs R.P Thevanayagam  
Beloved sister of Michael Thevanayagam (UK), Florence Thevanayagam (UK), Mrs Regina Perera (UK), late Pearl Thevanayagam, Mrs Anne Hopkins (Australia) and Timothy Thevanayagam (USA) Beloved Aunt of Dr Jonarthan Thevanayagam, Mrs Lydia Holmes, Nadia Thevanayagam, Dr Andrea Perera  
Called to Rest on 28th April 2021 Viewing: 9.00 AM-10.15 AM (5th May 2021)  
Lima & Champagne Sunnyvale Mortuary, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 Funeral Service: 11.00 AM-12.00 PM (5th May 2021) St Lawrence Catholic Church, Santa Clara, CA 95051 Burial: 12.30 PM (5th May 2021) Gates of Heaven Catholic Cemetery Los Altos, CA 94024.

## Prof. Ravindra Fernando launches book on President Premadasa's assassination

"The Assassination of President Premadasa of Sri Lanka" is the latest book written by Prof. Ravindra Fernando.

The book describes how President Premadasa was assassinated by a suicide bomber, at the May Day Rally in 1993. After discussing the life and times of President Premadasa, Prof. Fernando outlines the bomb explosion and the identity of the alleged assassin.

The book gives an insight into the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the end of the battle against terrorism. Prof. Fernando explains the post-mortem examination of the assassin and the post-mortem examination of President Premadasa and other victims. He describes the extensive report he submitted to the Magistrate's Court on the assassination, at the request of the Magistrate, Champa Buddhupala.

The book covers the police investigation of the assassination. It contains photographs of the scene of the explosion, how the bodies of President Premadasa and Assistant Superintendent of Police Sarath Mahinda lay at the scene, the head of the assassin, Babu and the bicycle and the left leg of the assassin.

The book is published by Vijitha Yapa Publishers.

## Big Chinese rocket segment set to fall on earth

Debris from a Chinese rocket is expected to fall back on Earth in an uncontrolled re-entry this weekend.

The main segment from the Long March-5b vehicle was used to launch the first module of China's new space station last month.

At 18 tonnes it is one

of the largest items in decades to have an undirected dive into the atmosphere.

The US on Thursday said it was watching the path of the object but currently had no plans to shoot it down.

"We're hopeful that it will land in a place where it won't harm anyone," US

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said. "Hopefully in the ocean, or someplace like that."

Various space debris modelling experts pointed to late Saturday or early Sunday (GMT) as the likely moment of re-entry. However, such projections are always highly uncertain. -BBC

## Obituaries

**BULUMULLE - R.B.** (Formerly of SLAS). Beloved husband of Kamalalala, loving father of Selaka (USA) and Harshani, passed away peacefully on 01.05.2021. He was cremated on 02.05.2021 at Mahaiyawa Cemetery. **19/2A, Pilapitiya, Kiribathkumbura.** 033814

**WEERASINGHE - MANEL.** Rtd. PTI Mahamaya College, Kandy. Beloved wife of Ranjan, loving mother of Hasitha and Amali. **Funeral arrangements to be notified later.** 034922

# Stalin sworn in as Tamil Nadu's CM

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's chief M.K. Stalin on Friday was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Raj Bhavan in Chennai.

Stalin's DMK won 133 seats in the recently held elections for the 234-member assembly. The party contested the polls in alliance with some other regional parties and Congress.

Along with Stalin, 33 other ministers from his party also took the oath. The names include 19 former ministers and 15 new faces. There are two women among the newly sworn-in ministers.

According to a list released by the DMK on Thursday, party President M. K. Stalin will hold several key portfolios, including the crucial Home Department.

Stalin's other portfolios include welfare of specially-abled persons, public, general admin-



Pic courtesy - The Indian Express

istration, and appointment and transfer of IAS and IPS officials in the state.

The list also includes M.A Subramanian who will be the new state health minister, while Du-

raimurugan will handle the portfolio of water resources. K. N. Nehru, meanwhile, will hold Municipal Administration.

Tamil Nadu's new finance minister will be Palanivel Thiagarajan,

while E.V.L. Velu has been given the public works portfolio.

K. Ponmudi will be the in-charge of the higher education ministry and Geetha Jeevan will look after the social welfare and women empowerment ministry.

P. K. Sekar Babu and Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi will handle

Hindu religious and charitable endowments and school education, respectively.

However, Stalin's son Udhayanidhi, who became a first-time MLA after winning from the Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni constituency, has not been given any ministry.

- Source Hindustan Times

**60<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**  
Best wishes and God's Blessings to our Loving Parents / Grand Parents / Great Grand Parents  
Bonnie and Freddie Jurie

6<sup>th</sup> May 1961      6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

We thank God for the 60 years of your exemplary married life. We pray that the good Lord bless your union together, for many more years.

We tried our best to be present on this great milestone occasion. However our efforts have been unsuccessful, due to the prevailing Covid - 19 Pandemic Situation and the travel restrictions, and quarantine laws world wide.

Best wishes and God's beautiful blessings to  
Daddy and Mummy / Papa and Nana

Lorraine Jurie - Francke + Family, UK  
Harvey Jurie + Family, Italy, Canada  
Ivy Jurie - Sumitadasa + Family, USA, UK  
Arianna Jurie - Amarathunga + Family, USA  
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## Climate change could lead to debt crisis

Climate change will make it harder for countries to repay their pandemic debt, according to researchers at the University of Oxford.

During the pandemic, an estimated \$783bn has been borrowed from the private sector through sovereign bonds that mature 30, 50 or 100 years from now.

However, according to the research, 77% of countries have not disclosed the risks they face due to climate change in this period.

The researchers have warned that this lack of disclosure could lead to a severe debt crisis.

For example, Saudi Arabia's bonds will mature in 2060, at this point, lower productivity and higher mortality due to a more extreme climate could cause a 60% drop in GDP. Severe climate shocks, or even the anticipation of them, could cause government defaults (where governments are unable to repay their debt) and a credit crisis.

Based on this research, the authors have presented three solutions to this oncoming debt crisis:

Countries must work together to better assess, disclose and manage vulnerability to sovereign climate risk while developing new tools to deal with the non-linear and radically uncertain nature of sovereign climate risk.

Governments should use Covid-19 credit to mitigate climate risk, build climate resilience and grow the economy to aid future debt repayment, living up to the promise to 'build back better'.

Wealthier lender countries and their development finance institutions (DFIs) should provide financial support to the most vulnerable borrower countries. DFIs should buy back debt from heavily indebted poorer countries,



on the condition that the money is used to increase climate resilience.

Thom Wetzer, associate professor of law and finance and director of the Oxford Sustainable Law Programme, said: 'The covid, climate, and credit crises compound in ways that could create a financial catastrophe during the peak of the climate crisis. This study is a call to action.'

'Countries should transparently disclose climate risks, use the Covid-19 recovery to build climate resilience, and support the most vulnerable borrower countries.

It is imperative that we do not leave this burden to future generations - by that time it will be too late.

'Countries may struggle to pay back their rapidly rising debt because of the impact of climate risks on their economy. A failure to appreciate, disclose, and manage these risks today could cause serious problems in the future. Unlike companies, countries cannot sim-

ply cease to exist when bankrupt - their citizens will bear the cost of debt burdens for generations.'

environmentjournal.online

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Applications, marked the caption "Registration of Suppliers of Organic Fertilizer" on the top left hand corner of the envelope, should either be sent by Registered Post to the said address, or hand delivered to the same address, to receive before 30.06.2021.

## US sends warplanes to protect Afghan withdrawal

The United States has deployed extra military resources to protect American and coalition forces withdrawing from Afghanistan. Heavy bombers and fighter jets will be deployed to safeguard troops and civilian contractors. The US and Nato have had a presence in Afghanistan for almost 20 years. US President Joe Biden has set the withdrawal deadline for 11 September - the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that sparked the war.

But the withdrawal comes amid escalating violence, with Afghan security forces on high alert for reprisal attacks.

The Taliban have warned they are no longer bound by an agreement not to target international troops.

Under a deal signed last year between the militants and then-President Donald Trump, foreign forces were to have left by 1 May while the Taliban held off attacking international troops.

Six B-52 long range bombers and 12 F-18 fighters have been deployed to protect the departing contingents of 2,500 US service members and 16,000 civilian contractors, said Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Milley added that while Taliban insurgents were launching between 80 and 120 attacks every day against Afghan government targets, there had been no attacks against US and coalition forces since the withdrawal began on 1 May.

"Less than one week in, the drawdown is going according to plan," Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters.

On 11 September 2001, attacks in America killed nearly 3,000 people. Osama Bin Laden, the head of Islamist militant group al-Qaeda, was quickly identified as the man responsible. The Taliban, radical Islamists who ran Afghanistan and protected Bin Laden, refused to hand him over. So, a month after 9/11, the US launched air strikes against Afghanistan. - BBC

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## SPORTS



Praveen Jayawickrama

# Bogus godfathers, guardian angels rush in to claim Jayawickrama's soul

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

An old saying records that success has many fathers and failure is an orphan. Sri Lanka's new discovery in cricket Praveen Jayawickrama may have come along to prove how true the saying goes.

One after another there have been claims that Jayawickrama, now 22, was discovered playing in various tournaments or picked up at a clinic and how the godfathers made recommendations to the higher-ups to preserve the kid.

Now yet another diamond digger, the Sinhalese Sports Club or SSC School of Cricket,

contends that Jayawickrama is theirs with proof that the left arm spinner came through its mill along with scores of others to enter the Sri Lanka team or be on the fringes worthy to sport the Lion emblem on their shirts.

"He was just a 12-year old boy who told his parents that he wanted to improve his batting and bowling and I think he came to the right place," said DDP Alwis a senior coach at the SSC School of Cricket that saw an international player in the making.

But Alwis warned that the only factor that can hold up Jayawickrama's career or see him

off altogether was too many cooks that can dilute his progress.

"We did not ask him to do big things," recalled Alwis. "The only thing we told him to do was bowl wicket to wicket and everything else fell into place."

In competition you have to improve and he will be able to do this playing more matches and handled in the right way."

The SSC School of Cricket is one of many junior academies spread throughout the country that also offers scholarships to less privileged budding players and their most prized product before Jayawickrama was Kusal Mendis among a host of others

that also includes the latest batting find Pathum Nissanka and others, some of whom are expected to make the grade.

Jayawickrama's mentors at the SSC School of Cricket contend he is not just a single-purpose exponent but someone who can turn out to be a top notch all-rounder the likes of which have not been seen before in the Sri Lanka team.

"We used to see him as a very steady batsman and whoever is looking for an allrounder can find one in him," said Alwis.

Jayawickrama took his early steps at cricket while at Holy Cross College in Kalutara and then enrolled at the SSC School

of Cricket as a 12-year old and ended his senior school career at St. Sebastian's College in Moratuwa.

On a tour of India with the academy, Jayawickrama took 12 wickets from four matches and in that same year 2013 ended up as the player of the tournament in a junior championship that featured several leading cricket schools in the island.

It was no surprise then that Jayawickrama has come to be the most photographed and written about player on the rise, the typical well brought up kid for mothers who are looking for role models for their off-spring.

## England venues ready to bail out India at IPL?

Several Test grounds in England are ready to act as stand-in hosts for the concluding matches of this year's coronavirus-hit Indian Premier League, according to media reports published Thursday.

The ESPNcricinfo website said MCC and Surrey, in charge of London's Lord's and the Oval respectively, together with Warwickshire, based at Birmingham's Edgbaston, were among clubs who had asked the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to tell the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) that they were prepared to stage IPL matches.

Any such fixtures would probably take place in September, towards the end of the 2021 English cricket season.

The IPL, the world's richest Twenty20 cricket tournament, was suspended on Tuesday following a surge in Covid-19 cases in India, where there have been more than 20 million infections from the virus so far, with just over 222,000 deaths.

That decision came a day after two players – Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier – tested positive, forcing a match to be postponed.

Australian cricketers fled India for the Maldives Thursday, but New Zealand's top stars are stuck in Delhi until May 11, the earliest they can secure exemptions to en-

ter England where they are due to play a Test series.

There are 31 scheduled IPL fixtures still to be played and staging any of them in England would require both BCCI and ECB approval.

Such a move still appears to be a long way off, with an ECB spokesperson telling Britain's Press Association: "We speak to the BCCI regularly about tours and other matters and we'll continue doing so, but we have received no indication that they are looking for alternative hosts for the IPL at the moment."

Last year's IPL was played behind closed doors in the United Arab Emirates on health grounds.

Resuming the IPL in England, after the conclusion of India's tour, and at a time when fans are expected to be back at British sports grounds in significant numbers, may be an attractive proposition.

Returning to the UAE might not be an option if it becomes the substitute venue for the T20 World Cup in October, should India no longer be able to stage that event, as grounds there may not be able to cope with such a volume of cricket.

Travel restrictions, however, could make it difficult for IPL support staff to enter the UK even if many leading India players will already be in England because of their tour commitments.



The Lord's cricket ground in London



Laurel Hubbard

## New Zealander to become first transgender athlete at Olympics

A revision in Olympic qualification standards has set the stage for New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard, a transgender woman, to qualify for the Tokyo Games, the New Zealand Olympic Committee announced Thursday.

Hubbard would be the first transgender person to compete in the Olympics if she makes it.

The NZOC said the International Weightlifting Federation had revised its qualifications due to the impact of COVID-19, opening the door for Hubbard to head to Tokyo.

"The NZOC can confirm that revised International Federation (IF) qualification systems are very likely to see a number of New Zealand weightlifters, including Commonwealth Games transgender athlete Laurel Hub-

bard, allocated an IF quota spot for Tokyo 2020," the NZOC said in a statement.

"A previous requirement to attend six competition events has been reduced to four due to the impact of COVID-19."

The 43-year-old Hubbard had previously competed in men's weightlifting competitions before transitioning in 2013, per Reuters. She has reportedly been eligible to compete in the Olympics since 2015, when the IOC issued guidelines allowing transgender athletes to compete as a woman as long as their testosterone levels are below 10 nanomoles per liter for at least 12 months before competing.

The NZOC reportedly said it does not expect to formally nominate and select its weightlifting team until June.

Hubbard has been competing internationally for years, with a gold medal in the 2019 Pacific Games and a sixth-place finish at the 2019 World Championships in the +87 kg division. Per NBC Sports, she currently ranks 16th in the world in her weight class for Olympic qualifying, and holds the top spot in Oceania by a narrow margin.

Hubbard's career has predictably been divisive, with fans and rival nations decrying her presence in the sport. Her silver medal at the 2017 World Championships was preceded by a torrent of social media abuse, and a spot in the much more visible Olympics is basically guaranteed to fan the flames as transgender athletes become a hot-button issue in the United States and elsewhere. (yahoo sports)

## Nadal battles the bubbles

Of all the world's tennis players, Rafael Nadal has approached the pandemic with the greatest sensitivity and inner strength. Since returning from a seven-month sabbatical in September, he has repeatedly stressed the triviality of sport, while continuing to compete with his customary ferocity – a tricky double-act to pull off.

Yet the whole experience was not as straightforward as Nadal made it seem at the time. As he told Telegraph Sport on Thursday, he found it difficult to switch from his home in Mallorca to a hotel in Rome – where he played his first bubble-era tournament last autumn. His spirit, initially, was less with the day-to-day routine of tennis training than it was with the victims of Covid-19, whom he was working to support through his foundation.

"It has been a tough year, I really believe, for everyone," said Nadal, during a Zoom call from Madrid. "If you are not completely arrogant, everybody needs to be less happy under these very difficult circumstances around the world, no? Because you have a lot of people suffering, a lot of people have lost a family member, a lot of people are losing their companies, their job."

"For me, personally, it has been tough. It was difficult for me to keep going after the lockdown. The circumstances made me think about what was the right decision for my career: if I keep playing, or stop for a little more? It was not an easy decision. So I missed the US Open last year – that was tough, but it was a decision that I needed to take. And then I just played Rome and Roland Garros. Finally, I was able to have success there."

It was Nadal's triumph in Paris which has just earned him the Laureus world sportsman of the year award for 2021. Even if his own memories of that season are coloured with sadness, the facts are that he still landed a 20th major title, and thus moved level with Roger Federer at the top of the grand-slam table.

Asked if this latest trophy meant more than his previous Laureus award, which he collected in 2011, Nadal replied "Every one is special, no? I don't know if it's the most emotional for me, but this is probably the most unexpected. "For me personally, it was not an easy year. I don't think it is a good thing to stop the body dramatically like we had to do for two months. We had lockdown, then when you come back – especially with older bodies that have [clocked up] a lot of kilometres – it is difficult to do so at the highest level. But I really believe that we managed it well."

"Here we are in Madrid competing again," added Nadal. "I didn't play many tournaments [this year], only Australia before Monte Carlo. Every decision is respectful under the circumstances. And for me I make decisions thinking about my happiness, more than anything else. That's why I'm not playing that much. But I have developed the competitive spirit that I had when I had been playing."

(The telegraph)



Rafael Nadal

## India name elite squad for Test final

India have named a 20-man squad, with four players on standby, for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the series against England this summer.

Virat Kohli will lead India against New Zealand at Southampton's Ageas Bowl on June 18.

They will then face England in a five-Test series in August and September. Ravindra Jadeja returns from injury having missed the 3-1 home series win over England earlier this year.

However, fellow all-rounder Hardik Pandya and spinner Kuldeep Yadav have not been named

in the squad, while batsman KL

Rahul and wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha are included, subject to fitness.



RAVINDRA JADEJA RETURNS FROM INJURY

ALL-ROUNDER HARDIK PANDYA AND SPINNER KULDEEP YADAV HAVE NOT BEEN NAMED IN THE SQUAD

KL RAHUL AND WICKETKEEPER WRIDDHIMAN SAHA ARE INCLUDED

**India squad:** Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul (subject to fitness clearance), Wriddhiman Saha (subject to fitness clearance).

**Standby players:** Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Arzan Nagwaswalla. (bbcspot)

## India's drug cheat makes way for Sri Lanka's Gayanthika

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka middle distance runner Gayanthika Abeyratne will be elevated to receive the Bronze medal at the 2019 Asian Athletics Championship 800m women's event after the Gold medalist, Indian runner Gomathi Marimuthu's appeal against her four-year doping ban was rejected.

The president of Sri Lanka Athletics, Major Gen Palitha Fernando confirmed that Gayanthika will receive the medal in due course.

Gomathi won the 800m event but was subsequently stripped of the

Gold medal and handed a four-year ban for doping by the disciplinary tribunal of World Athletics on May 26 last year. She then appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport challenging the verdict that was upheld.

In fact, Gomathi had failed three tests prior to the 2019 Asian Championships on March 18, 2019 during the Federation Cup and twice on April 13 that same year during the selection trials in Patiala.

Gayanthika said she was elated at the prospect of taking custody of the medal that eluded her when she ended fourth in the 800m race with a

timing of 2.05.75.

"When I got this message I was really happy and this will be my second Asian championship medal. My first medal was a silver won in 2017 at the Asian championship in Bhubaneswar, India.

"This is a big boost for me at this stage. My coach Sajith Jayalal always encourages me to keep moving forward," said Gayanthika.

In 2019 at the Asian Athletic championship in Qatar the 31-year-old runner Gomathi clocked a personal best time of two 2.02.70 to become the first Indian to bag Gold in

the women's 800m event in the competition.

Wang Chunyu of China won the Silver with a timing of 2.02.96 while Magarita Mucaseva of Kazakhstan won the Bronze with a timing of 2.03.83.

Gayanthika was forced to be satisfied with fourth place after a tough competition. But the 34-year Gayanthika who hails from a village in

Sooriyawewa in the Hambantota district said nothing discouraged her from hard training to focus on future international meets.

"I couldn't run at my best at last month's athletic trials. We have two good 800m athletes in Nimali Liyanarachchi and Dilshi Kumarasinghe who established new 800m National records that erased my previous record at the trials.

"But the three of us are still among the first six ranking at the Asian level. This always makes good competition to improve our timings," said Gayanthika.



Gayanthika Abeyratne



Ayesha Maduwanthi

### Hammer thrower Maduwanthi finds a sponsor in Australia

Former Sri Lanka cricketer Upul Tharanga's restaurant The Sri Lounge has come forward to sponsor hammer throw National record holder Ayesha Maduwanthi, who is currently studying and training in Australia.

Maduwanthi, 32, was the National Champion in hammer throw for years and she renewed her own record several times over the years before obtaining a scholarship in Australia.

Maduwanthi resumed her training there and competed at the Australian Open finals just this year where Melbourne based restaurant The Sri Lounge, co-owned by Upul Tharanga came forward to sponsor her.

"Today is a great milestone in my life as an athlete. The event hammer throw was started in 2014 for the first time in Sri Lanka and from then onwards I was able to be the record holder of my country but sad to say that I was never sponsored. I'm so fortunate to be the first Sri Lankan hammer thrower who participated in an international event.

"Currently, I reside in Australia for studies and during my studies I'm privileged to have the opportunity to train with well experienced coaches past and present. Moreover, I'm proud to say that I was able to participate in each and every hammer throw event here in Australia.

"I would like to thank Upul Tharanga and the team from 'The Sri Lounge' for inspiring me and for sponsoring me to keep working hard and also would like to thank Ganaga Fernando," said Maduwanthi. (TBR)

## Thisara Perera:

# The misfit who became a raging bull

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

It was shortly before lunch on the first morning of the third and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and England at the Rose Bowl in Southampton and in walked the strapping figure of Thisara Perera.

Wickets fell at regular intervals and Thisara Perera had no clue what to do other than sky the ball twice in the air and minutes later walk back perhaps relieved to realise the occasion did not suit him on that cold grey day in June 2011 as he played in only his second of six Tests.

Ten years down the line Thisara Perera hangs up his Sri Lanka cap and shirt, a transformed breed bidding farewell to a team and following that he created thanks to his power-hitting rage that put him alongside the few players to match the brute strength of six hitters like Chris Gayle in the limited overs arena.

Until Thisara Perera came along in post Test Sri Lanka, the country did not have a brute with the bat like him who could have smashed any bowler out of the park with sheer power unlike Sanath Jayasuriya who relied more on timing with his medium build.

He played the shots that made Sri Lankans boast of a man that commanded respect and attention and his exploits to this day separate him from the rest who slammed a monster six of 123 metres against Australia in a T20 match in Perth in 2010.

Years later he brought home another record clouting 13 sixes in a score of 140 against New Zealand in an ODI in January 2019 as Sri Lanka chased down a 319 target to end up with 298.

Thisara Perera belonged to a rare tribe of sportsmen who walked into the Sri Lanka team from almost nowhere unheralded after finishing his school cricket career at St. Joseph's College from

where he graduated after crossing over from St. Anthony's College in downtown Wattala.

"He was a true servant of Sri Lanka cricket and many times did he bail out the team with match-winning performances," said Carlton Bernardus a veteran coach of St. Joseph's and Colts Cricket Club where Thisara Perera commenced his maiden professional stint.

He had the honour of playing with a school team that had Angelo Mathews, Dimuth Karunaratne and Roshen Silva who also booked slots in the Sri Lanka side.

But Thisara Perera may have done more had his keepers managed him like the professional he was as he proved it in his career-ending period when he led the Jaffna Stallions to lay their hands on the Lanka Premier League (LPL) last December that had several international players and three months later blasted six sixes in another home match playing



Thisara Perera formed a rare breed of Sri Lankans

HIS MODESTY WAS SUCH THAT VERY RARELY DID HE GET INTO THE BAD BOOKS OF ADMINISTRATORS AND COMPARED TO SOME OF HIS TEAM MATES THAT HE LEAVES BEHIND, THISARA PERERA WAS A CUT ABOVE THE REST IN PUBLIC CONDUCT THAT HIS FANS AND FOLLOWERS OF CRICKET WILL CHERISH

for Army Sports Club against the Bloomfield Cricket Club.

"I think Thisara had achieved what he would have wanted like even captaining the Sri Lanka team," said Bernardus. "But then been a bulky guy he could have had his ups and downs and I think he made the right call to move on and make way for the youngsters."

Perhaps Thisara Perera will be another of those players whose statistics and scores on paper don't reflect the true character of

a batting artiste who was truly a crowd favourite, a gladiator type of entertainer on show.

His modesty was such that very rarely did he get into the bad books of administrators and compared to some of his team mates that he leaves behind, Thisara Perera was a cut above the rest in public conduct that his fans and followers of cricket will cherish.

That is just one part of the legacy that Thisara Perera will leave behind.

## Wickramasinghe and Wellalage top the ranks at school cricket tourney

Ahan Wickramasinghe the skipper of Royal College, runners-up and Dunith Wellalage skipper of St. Joseph's College, the champions, ended as leading batsman and bowler respectively in the Under 19 inter school Division One Tier A tournament conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA).

Raveen de Silva the skipper of Nalanda College was the leading all-rounder of the tournament. He scored 338 runs with a century and two half centuries in six matches. He scored 170 runs against S. Thomas' College and claimed 13 wickets for 165 runs in six matches.

St. Joseph's College beat Royal College by 97 runs in the final at the NCC ground last week.

Eighteen school teams participated in the tournament in three groups and eight teams advanced to the quarter finals. Unbeaten Royal College Colombo advanced to the quarter final as group champion. Royal beat Trinity College Kandy, De Mazenod College Kandana, Gurukula College Kelaniya, Wesley College Colombo and D.S. Senanayake College Colombo in the first round fixtures.



Ahan Wickramasinghe



Raveen de Silva



Dunith Wellalage



Sheran Fonseka



Abhishek Anandakumar



Pawan Ratnayake

Royal beat Nalanda College in the quarter final and Mahanama College Colombo in the semi final.

St. Joseph's College beat St. Thomas' College Matara, St. Anne's College Kurunegala and St. Bene-

dict's College Kotahena in the first round fixtures. They lost to Mahanama College Colombo and St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa in the first round fixtures and beat Richmond College Galle in the quarter final and

Trinity College in the semi final.

Ahan Wickramasinghe the left hand batsman and skipper of Royal scored 474 runs in eight matches with a century and three half centuries. He made 118 against Trinity and maintained a 79.00 runs average.

Sheran Fonseka, left hand opener of St. Joseph's scored 407 runs with four half tons in eight matches while Pawan Ratnayake the skipper of Mahanama scored 400 runs with a century and two half tons from seven matches.

Dunith Wellalage the left arm leg-spinner and skipper of St. Joseph's claimed 15 wickets for 226 runs in eight matches while Abhishek Anandakumar the skipper and right arm off spinner of Trinity claimed 15 wickets for 241 runs in seven matches.

Sampath Nissanka the left arm pacesman of Mahanama claimed 14 wickets for 196 runs in seven matches while Raveen de Silva the right arm leg-spinner and skipper of Nalanda took 13 wickets for 165 runs in six matches.

Thushara Wanasinghe the left arm leg-spinner of Gurukula claimed 12 wickets for 148 runs in five matches. (YK)

## Financial slap for top English clubs

Nine of the original European Super League clubs, including the Premier League's 'big six', have been given a financial punishment by Uefa.

The nine - Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, plus AC Milan, Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid - have also committed to the European governing body and its competitions.

However, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus are set to face "appropriate action" under Uefa's disciplinary process.

The trio has refused to renounce the breakaway league.

The ESL was announced on April 18 but within 48 hours the plans had fallen apart with the English clubs withdrawing after fan protests and UK government pressure.

The nine clubs have agreed to make a combined 15m euros (£13.4m) goodwill contribution to benefit children's and grassroots football across Europe.

They will also have 5% of Uefa competition revenues withheld for one season, starting in 2023-24, and this money will be redistributed, including in the UK.

Manchester United co-chairman Joel Glazer will pay his club's portion of the goodwill contribution and the competition revenue, which will not come out of club funds.

Arsenal's owners, Kroenke Sports and Entertainment, are committed to meeting all costs incurred by the ESL while a Tottenham statement said: "Any fines will be the responsibility of the owners."

I SAID AT THE UEFA CONGRESS TWO WEEKS AGO THAT IT TAKES A STRONG ORGANISATION TO ADMIT MAKING A MISTAKE, ESPECIALLY IN THESE DAYS OF TRIAL BY SOCIAL MEDIA. THESE CLUBS HAVE DONE JUST THAT

The nine clubs face fines of 100m euros (£86.9m) each if they seek to join an unauthorised competition in the future, and a fine of half that if they breach any other terms of the declaration, Uefa said in a statement.

They will also rejoin the influential lobbying group the European Club Association.

Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin said: "I said at the Uefa congress two weeks ago that it takes a strong organisation to admit making a mistake, especially in these days of trial by social media. These clubs have done just that."

"In accepting their commitments and willingness to repair the disruption they caused, Uefa wants to put this chapter behind it and move forward in a positive spirit."

"These clubs recognised their mistakes quickly and have taken action to demonstrate their contribution and future commitment to European football."

"The same cannot be said for the clubs that remain involved in the so-called Super League and Uefa will deal with those clubs subsequently." (bbc sport)

## Football pool training commences

The fifth Residential Training Camp for the National soccer pool commenced at Beddagana on Thursday May 5, 2021.

The training program got underway in preparation for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers and Asian Cup Qualifiers round two.

All 23 players and eight officials who are taking part or are involved in the training camp bio bubble had

to undergo PCR tests. All antigen tests returned negative and they are still awaiting the official PCR results.

Two senior players M.N. Mohamed Fazal and Y. Duckson Puslas have been included in the 23 member pool

The pool undergoing training at present is made up of Perera, Prabath Ruwan Arunasiri, R.P. Danushka, Harsha Fernando, AASR



Appuhamy, R. Sebastian Peiris, UD Chamod Dulshan, BM Charitha Ratnayake, Duckson Puslas, RA Chathuranga Madushan, Marvin Hamilton, Chalana Chameera, Jude

Supun, MNM Mustaq, MNM Fazal, M. Zarwan Johar, LH Kavindu Ishan, Dillon de Silva, Ahmed Waseem Razeek, MSM Asikoor Rahaman MSM Aakib, MAM Hasmeer and SD Wijesinghe.

Stand byes: MJ Rifkhan Mohamed, M. Rizkhan Faizer, Mahendran Dinesh, UST Danushka, Mohamed Shabeer Razoonyiya and Madushan Fernando (BP)

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MAY 9, 2021

# Sri Lanka Cricket exposes the Great mismatch

Only Sanath Jayasuriya was supposed to take the field while several in the squad were average Sri Lankan players during their playing days

BY CALLISTUS DAVY

A temporary or interim committee running the affairs of Sri Lanka Cricket after the term of an elected membership ended last month, committed yet another unfathomable twist in less than a week, this time releasing a squad of players that it branded 'Greats' to play in a so-called fund raiser charity match.

The squad had just three of the Greats, Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Hashan Tillekaratne but literally only one of them, Jayasuriya, was to take the field with Tillekaratne also named as coach while Aravinda did not

**MOST OF THEM (GREATS) WERE APPROACHED BUT THEY HAD THEIR REASONS WHEN IT COMES TO PERFORMING IN A MATCH AFTER MANY YEARS AND WE HAD TO RESPECT THAT. SO WE SELECTED OTHER PLAYERS WHO WERE ALSO GREAT PLAYERS NOT NECESSARILY IN A WORLD CUP WINNING TEAM**

show any overwhelming desire to be part of the match when the announcement was made to the media last month apparently on the grounds of match fitness.

But what cricket followers were unable to stomach most was that the current caretakers of Sri Lanka Cricket had by their unguarded enthusiasm undermined both the concept of greatness and fund-raising.

Apart from the 1996 World Cup winning trio, the rest of the players tied up with greatness in the squad were nowhere near such a thoroughbred branding with some of them not even of the top-shelf variety during their playing days.

But Sri Lanka Cricket defended the selection of the Greats saying they did their best to get all World Cup play-

ers and several other past greats onto one platform and circumstances did not permit it.

"Most of them (Greats) were approached but they had their reasons when it comes to performing in a match after many years and we had to respect that. So we selected other players who were also great players not necessarily in a World Cup winning team," said SLC's Chief Executive Ashley de Silva.

Cricket followers contend it was a 'blessing' that the coronavirus intervened to thwart the match on May 4 that would have been an outright farce hot on the heels when the Interim Committee now running cricket discovered an un-named ghost cricketer in the team that it said was directed to undergo psychiatric treatment.



Sanath Jayasuriya: Still no Match for him

## Sri Lanka axes old guard and brings in new faces to ODI tour party

No place for in-form batsman Janith Liyanage

BY ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sri Lankan cricket selectors have axed the old guard and brought in new faces to the ODI set-up along with some of the experienced campaigners with a firm message to all that there will not be room for anyone to go by names and past laurels while recalling batsman Kusal Mendis who had been grappling with disciplinary issues and form.

The new-look squad's first assignment will be a three-match series against Bangladesh on May 23, 25 and 28 away.

Kusal Janith Perera has been named as the new captain replacing Dimuth Karunaratne while also out from the side is Angelo Mathews, both of whom will have to prove their fitness for future ODI appearances while the rest in the tour party have been told to deliver or depart in what is supposed to be a new policy and procedure that Sri Lanka Cricket has put in place in consultation with the Cricket Committee.

Also recalled along with Kusal Perera is Kusal Mendis, Isuru Udana and Akila Dananjaya.



Shiran Fernando



Binura Fernando

The new faces who have not featured in an ODI match are fast bowlers Shiran Fernando, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Chamika Karunaratne and Ramesh Mendis.

Despite his form in domestic cricket, batsman Janith Liyanage has not been able to secure a slot.

**Sri Lanka squad:** Kusal Janith Perera (captain), Danushka Gunathilaka, Pathum Nissanka de Silva, Kusal Mendis (vice captain), Dananjaya de Silva, Ashen Bandara, Dasun Shanaka, Niroshan Dickwella, Wanidu Hasaranga de Silva, Ramesh Mendis, Isuru Udana, Akila Dananjaya, Lakshan Sandakan, Dushmantha Chameera, Shiran Fernando, Binura Fernando, Asitha Fernando and Chamika Karunaratne.

## Brawl before bout

Former five-weight world champion Floyd Mayweather was involved in a brawl with Jake Paul during an event promoting his exhibition bout with the YouTube star's brother.

Mayweather, 44, was due to pose for photographs in Miami for his June 6 exhibition fight with Logan Paul. But when Jake Paul stole Mayweather's hat after they exchanged words, a melee involving several parties broke out.

Jake Paul later claimed one of Mayweather's staff punched him. "One of Floyd's 30 bodyguards got a clean shot on me in the eye," tweeted Jake Paul, who has had three boxing matches of his own in recent months.

"Honestly I have had three easy fights as a pro so I've been itching for some real action.

"I stole his hat because he steals people's money with boring fights."

Jake Paul had posted a video on Twitter where he claimed he was "about to steal Floyd Mayweather's hat".

Social media footage of the aftermath shows countless individuals grappling and it is not clear as to whether punches were thrown or landed.

Mayweather launched an expletive-laden tirade during and after the incident, when his publicist was seen telling him to get into a locker room. (bbsport)



Mayweather with Jake

## Call to probe vehicle misuse at SLC

A request has been made by Colts Cricket Club to the current Interim head of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Professor Arjuna de Silva to probe what they call has been the "abuse of office and misuse of resources" by former administrators who ran the affairs of the sport from February 2019 to April 2021.

In a letter dated May 5, Colts Cricket Club has conveyed to Prof De Silva that some office-bearers of the previous administration, that they have named, had even acquired separate vehicles for use by their family members among other forms of abuse.

The letter further alleges that vehicles had also been used by former SLC officials for private business purposes.

Colts Cricket Club which is a major club with voting rights has

also alleged that huge salary increments were made to executive staff in what they call "ad-hoc, arbitrary and capricious manner."

They have also charged that SLC had appointed Secretaries and Coordinators paying high salaries which served no purpose other than cause "financial loss to SLC" and the "luxury and vanity of office-bearers."

Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley de Silva said he was aware of the request calling for a probe on the misuse of vehicles saying they were open to scrutiny.

"Anyone is free to come to conclusions and give their opinions. But we can provide all the information that is needed at an inquiry to justify what has taken place or what has not happened and raised in the letter to us," said De Silva.

## Paarami pleads for father's release

Sri Lanka's only Youth Olympic medallist Paarami Maris Stella has pleaded with authorities for the release of her father who is detained in the Andaman Islands since last January.

Paarami's father, who is a fisherman, has been detained by the Indian Coastal Guard and she said her family is struggling

to live without their breadwinner.

Paarami won the Bronze medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in the 2000m steeple chase, becoming the first Sri Lankan to achieve this feat.

She is also a Gold medallist at the Asian Junior Championship held in 2018 in Japan.



File photo of Paarami with her father after winning her medal

## Quarter finalists found in Division Three tournament

Eight schools advanced to the quarter finals of the Under 19 inter schools Division Three tier 'A' tournament conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA).

Ibbagamuwa Central College beat Loyola College Negombo by two wickets and Methodist High School Moratuwa beat Ananda Sastralaya Kotte by 100 runs in the pre quarter finals.

St. Joseph's College Wattala beat St. Aloysius College Ratnapura by six runs and Rajasinghe Central College Hanwella beat Nalanda Boys College Minuwangoda eight wickets in their pre quarter finals.

Vidyaloka College Galle beat Badulla Central College by five wickets and Jaffna Central College beat Royal College, Polonna-

ruwa by seven wickets in their pre quarter finals.

St. Mary's College Matugama beat Carey College Colombo by 88 runs and CWW Kannangara Central College Matugama beat Ananda Sastralaya Matugama by two runs in their pre quarter finals.

The quarter finals have been put on hold due to the current pandemic situation in the country.

**Quarter final line-up:**

- Methodist High School Moratuwa vs CWW Kannangara Matugama
- Vidyaloka College Galle vs Ibbagamuwa Central College
- St. Joseph's College Wattala vs Jaffna Central College
- Rajasinghe Central College Hanwella vs St. Mary's College Matugama - (YK)

## Pakistan to restart T20

The Pakistan Cricket Board hopes to finish its Twenty20 league in the United Arab Emirates next month.

The Pakistan Super League was postponed in March with 20

games to go after several players and support staff in the six franchises tested positive for COVID-19. Pakistan is in the middle of a third wave which authorities say is worse than the previous ones.

## Karate girl and cricketers excel at AL exam with three As each

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Several students involved in sports have done well in their academic careers according to the results of the GCE A/L examination released last Tuesday.

It showed that contrary to how some parents think, sports and studies can go hand in hand.

Among them is Hirudini Dassanayake of Girls High School in Kandy who obtained three As in the bio science stream and ranked 12th best in the Kandy district who has shown an interest in enrolling at the medical college having excelled in chess and karate.

She represented Sri Lanka at the ninth Commonwealth Karate Championship in South Africa in 2018 and was adjudged National champion in the same year. In addition she has excelled in speech and drama in the English stream.

Four Under -19 school cricket captains also bagged three As each in the commerce stream. One of them is Sandun Mendis the 2019-2020 captain of Richmond College who was also an Under 19 National team member playing as an all-rounder.

He is the younger brother of Sri Lanka cricketer Kamindu Mendis. Maliyadeva College captain Cha-

luka Atapattu and Isipathana College captain Leshana Amarasinghe (Economics, Business Statistics and Accounting) also had three As each. Amarasinghe scored 926 runs with two centuries and five half centuries and claimed 33 victims as a wicket keeper of the side last season. He also represented the Sri Lanka Schools Under-15 side that toured Malaysia in 2016.

In addition Trinity College captain of the 2018-19 season Pubudu Bandara also obtained three As in the commerce stream. Earlier Hasitha Boyagoda the National youth player also bagged three As when he was the Trinity College captain.



Hirudini Dassanayake (Girls High School)



Chaluka Atapattu (Maliyadeva College)



Leshana Amarasinghe (Isipathana College)



Pubudu Bandara (Trinity College)



Sandun Mendis (Richmond College)



# IMPACT

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MAY 9, 2021

## Give us a chance to tell the truth – former LTTEer

By  
**Frances Bulathsinghala**



**F**orty-four-year-old Nageswarakumar Subothini of Pooneri, Jaffna, is the mother of two school going daughters.

The oldest is sitting for her Ordinary Level examination and the younger daughter is in grade 8. Both children are keen students and excel at their studies as well as sports.

The same pride the mother has about her school children is reflected in the eyes of the children; their heroine is their mother.

As their mother dons her Sri Lankan Civil Security Department (CSD) uniform every morning, the two youngsters take turns to tie her shoe laces, adjust her hair and place the cap neatly on her head.

They will then straighten her collar, arrange the sleeves and smile proudly at how smart their mother looks.

This uniform is slightly similar to the attire worn by the Sri Lankan military.

### Loyalty

One of the most valuable lessons these two children learn from her every day is to inculcate loyalty to Sri Lanka; loyalty to the unity of their motherland – the motherland of all; the Sinhalese, Tamils, Burghers and Muslims.

Although non Tamils are not frequent visitors to the interior of Pooneri where this family lives, Subothini's husband runs a small restaurant in the nearby Palavarayan Kattu town which is about five kilometres away from their home.

Sometimes, when Sinhalese visitors from the South turn up at the restaurant, they will be hosted without charge, as happened to me during my visit.

Smilingly the restaurant owner will inform the visitor that as they are guests from Colombo that the meal is complimentary.

At Subothini's house the conversation turns to the concept of patriotism and the importance of national security.

She speaks of some of her official duties as a Civil Security Department (CSD) member.

These include ensuring the social wellbeing of the people. At present she is part of a cultivation project initiated by the government aimed at

**ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE LESSONS THESE TWO CHILDREN LEARN FROM HER EVERY DAY IS TO INCULCATE LOYALTY TO SRI LANKA; LOYALTY TO THE UNITY OF THEIR MOTHERLAND – THE MOTHERLAND OF ALL; THE SINHALESE, TAMILS, BURGHERS AND MUSLIMS**



village sustainability, two kilometres away from where she lives.

Her salary as a member of the CSD is Rs.30,500 per month and helped also by the income from the restaurant, the family prioritises the education of the two children and leads a content life.

She said CSD members are asking for an increase of Rs. 7,000 as the cost of living is high.

### Approach

Hope is theirs. They work hard on their official Government assigned social projects and approach each day with a strong loyalty to the country.

Yet, 12 years ago the life Subothini currently leads with her family would have seemed an impossible fiction.

She was then courted by death each day as a member of the LTTE.

She was among the thousands of young Tamil men and women indoctrinated to terrorism who were brainwashed into believ-



ing that the Sinhalese were committing 'genocide,' and that every Sinhalese was waiting to kill Tamils.

Although she was married and her first child was born 15 years ago at the height of hostilities between the LTTE and the government military, she was unsure whether she will get through each day alive.

### Terrorism

If the calamity of terrorism was not defeated in May 2009, lives of those such as Subothini would have perished in Vellupillai Prabhakaran's mill of bloodshed and destruction.

Young Lankan Tamil men and women would have continued to believe the lies they were fed by the opportunists of terrorism.

The same lies that sections of the Tamil Diaspora are still telling a gullible world.

In one of the rarest decisions ever taken in the world in connection with the de-radicalisation of terrorism, the gift of forgiveness, normalcy and reconciliation was given to the entire LTTE terrorist fighting force which surrendered to the Sri Lankan military by 2009 May 18.

The Government, instead of prosecuting the terrorists for their countless crimes against humanity, (as Western nations do), created a world record by pardoning every single one of them.

The decision was taken swiftly within days after the annihilation of the LTTE.

Within three years, by 2012, almost all of the surrendered LTTEers were successfully de-radicalised, rehabilitated, re-educated and re-integrated back to their families and society.

### Education

Vocational training related knowledge was made available to them and many rehabilitated beneficiaries took up the completion of their school and university education.

The training in vocational skills they received at the rehabilitation camps ranged from driving to carpentry which helped some of them secure jobs.

Those such as Subothini rehabilitated beneficiaries who showed a high level of strength, commitment to peace and loyalty to Sri Lanka were recruited to do the opposite of their past acts.

**IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WANTS TO GENUINELY LEARN ABOUT WAR CRIMES AND RECONCILIATION IN SRI LANKA, THEIR BASIC FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO TALK TO THOSE WHO INDULGED IN TERRORISM; THOSE WHO FOR THREE DECADES RAVAGED THE COUNTRY BUT WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED AMNESTY BY SRI LANKA AND WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY RESPECTED THAT GESTURE BY BEING EXEMPLARY LOYAL CITIZENS**

## Trump launches blog to spread lies

Former President Donald Trump, whose accounts were suspended by Twitter and Facebook over his repeated, baseless assertions that the 2020 election was "stolen," launched a blog this week to continue spreading that bogus claim.

Titled "From the Desk of Donald J. Trump," the new, bare bones website consists of a series of statements from the former president that replicate the style of his prior posts on Twitter, settling political scores, repeating disproven allegations of fraud to explain his defeat to President Joe Biden, and capitalising words at will.

"The fraudulent presidential election of 2020 will be, from this day forth, known as the big liii!" Trump wrote on May 3.

Recounts in battleground states found no widespread voting irregularities that could have overturned the results of the election.

Trump has relished going after Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., and Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who both voted to impeach Trump on the charge of "incitement of insurrection" for his alleged role in the riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.

Calling Romney "a stone cold loser" and Cheney "a warmongering fool," Trump is using his new platform to try to maintain his control of the Republican Party. He also endorsed Rep. Elise Stefanik,

R-N.Y., as Cheney's replacement as GOP Conference Chair.

In a Wednesday op-ed published by the Washington Post, Cheney said her party was at a "turning point," and must choose between acknowledging the truth—that the election was not rigged—and fealty to Trump.

"Trump is seeking to unravel critical elements of our constitutional structure that make democracy work—confidence in the result of elections and the rule of law. No other American president

has ever done this," Cheney wrote.

The editorial board of the Wall Street Journal noted that the statement posted to Trump's

new blog seemed to have a singular purpose.

"The election wasn't stolen, yet Trump wants an endorsement of his

**CALLING ROMNEY "A STONE COLD LOSER" AND CHENEY "A WARMONGERING FOOL," TRUMP IS USING HIS NEW PLATFORM TO TRY TO MAINTAIN HIS CONTROL OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE ALSO ENDORSED REP. ELISE STEFANIK, R-N.Y., AS CHENEY'S REPLACEMENT AS GOP CONFERENCE CHAIR**

stolen claim to be a litmus test for every Republican candidate. He's the one who wants to refight his losing campaign," the editors wrote on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Facebook's oversight board upheld the company's decision to suspend Trump's account on the platform, but asked the company to review the decision in six months.

Noting that each post to Trump's new blog allowed readers to share them directly on Twitter and Facebook via separate accounts on

each platform, Twitter moved to prevent that from happening.

Trump, meanwhile, continued to go after the platforms whose decisions to suspend his accounts have limited his ability to communicate directly with his followers.

"What Facebook, Twitter, and Google have done is a total disgrace and an embarrassment to our Country," the former president wrote.

"Free Speech has been taken away from the President of the United States because the Radical Left Lunatics are afraid of the truth, but the truth will come out anyway, bigger and stronger than ever before."

The National Republican Senatorial Committee heralded Trump's new website as a turning point of its own.

"Big Tech wasn't able to silence President Donald J. Trump!" the NRSC wrote in a fundraising email on Thursday. "Thanks to overwhelming support from millions of MAGA supporters, Trump has launched his very own social media platform!"

Yet the NRSC email contained no links to "From the Desk of Donald J. Trump." Instead, a red tab that reads "Will you join trump's social media" directs readers to an NRSC fundraising page powered by the Republican fundraising platform WinRed.

– Yahoo News



## Feature



# “Organic Food is Gold”

By  
**Sarath  
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The latest trend is to use organic compost fertiliser in agriculture which is not alien to us. Artificial fertiliser was introduced to us after the green revolution which appears to be unstoppable and irreversible yet it has come to a stage of sheer necessity to put an end to it due to very valid reasons.

Artificial manure is easily available and easily treated by just spreading or spraying. Compost is a long drawn process, heavy to transport, difficult to make, but soil friendly and healthy to the human being.

Making compost at home is easy and has been practised for generations.

Our life span over the centuries have been comfortable eating healthy, living natural, by growing our food in a natural way.

Life have been pleasant and happy in the traditional village with cattle and poultry to provide fresh milk, eggs, and vegetables from the garden and rice from the fields grown in a natural way with no addition of foreign fertilizer to the soil which is poisonous.

Cattle is a part and parcel of the household providing milk and fertiliser, to the family.

Paddy seed was found in the village and shared by the head of the village with others when and where necessary.

Livelihood and the food pattern was disturbed on the arrival of the Portuguese who introduced bread in place of rice (in 1505) exposing the community to various kinds of diseases in addition to malnutrition and various kinds of complications.

Rice is nourishing, healthy with no side effects and tested over thousands of years, yet the food pattern changed due to the forcible influence of the colonial powers.

Bread with wheat flour is unhealthy and mainly used to feed horses in the USA.

Initially, the USA and the west provided Sri Lanka wheat flour almost free to discourage the common man on paddy cultivation, a target which they successfully achieved.

## Junk food and wheat flour based products and colas

Today the community is used to wheat flour based fast food and 'Cola drinks' loaded with sugar. The younger generation today prefers cola over the natural thambili and it is a curse to the nation caused by wrong food patterns introduced by foreign powers and companies.

Rice and rice based food items are forgotten or in the backyard in place of fast food not giving due place to health concerns unlike in other parts of the world where they are very particular on standards in food items.

The USA and the West is now paying the prize of junk food with an increase of obesity related non communicable diseases even among the very young due to the addition of junk food.

It is sad but true that the farmer small or large is depending on artificial fertiliser with minimum precautions and proper guidelines.

Fertiliser is used in paddy, tea, rubber, vegetables, fruits and many more crops openly and lavishly poisoning the soil, and water bodies and the entire environment with drastic effects both, short and long term. Artificial fertiliser that has been used for over five or more decades with no proper planning are concerns by some experts in the field.

As this is a detailed long drawn discussion we propose to discuss paddy

alone this week since it is our staple diet and it has even previously caused the collapse of governments.

The way artificial synthetic fertilizer was introduced to Sri Lanka is interesting and important to note and a sad story of an unfortunate saga.

Farmers prefers it due to convenience, effectiveness, and immediate/quick results irrespective of the consequences which they are not concerned about.

It arrived to Sri Lanka as a wave from other rice growing nations in the region mostly from South East Asia.

It seems now artificial fertiliser has become a necessity for a good crop.

Mostly South East Asian countries were the victims of the menace who are unable to get away from the bad habits due to political, economic and commercial considerations.

It is known and proved that the artificial chemically produced fertiliser is unhealthy, harmful to the soil, human body and kills the eco-friendly pests.

Sri Lanka and many countries are trapped and finding it difficult to get out due to political, administrative and procedural issues.

Historically we had excellent paddy research centres in areas such as Batalagoda, Pollonnaruwa, and Anuradhapura and elsewhere.

Hybrid varieties are many including the famous 'Keeri Samba'.

Death toll in the farming areas were alarmingly high due to the presence of Cadmium and many other chemicals used in bulk with no proper advice but on the directions of uneducated mudalalis in villages who the farmers are dependent on.

The reality is the yield is high on application of fertiliser generally excessively used by the farmer with erroneous assumptions that applying layers of fertiliser may be beneficial to the paddy plant and the yield.

Artificial fertiliser is a multi-billion industry controlled by a rich and powerful mafia spread worldwide

While the production of artificial fertiliser is a simple scientific process with urea, phosphate, and such ingredients, freely available, producing proper compost is a cumbersome process with dangers of adding cadmium and similar garbage.

Therefore if we were to go organic, we must have a disciplined society such as in Bhutan and Netherlands.

The other main feature to be noted is the power of artificial fertiliser which is a multibillion business, as powerful or more than the illegal drug trade. The fertiliser mafia will make all efforts to promote carbonic with all their powers and resources worldwide.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has resolved to do away with artificial chemically made fertiliser for very valid reasons and in the long term interest

of the health and life of the citizens who already pressurised with adulterated, substandard food and consumer items freely in use with no laws or regulatory powers in force.

It is a timely and a wise decision, but whether proper planning and a strategy is on line with is the concerns of the experts in the field wooing the idea with a positive mind.

This is an excellent decision that should have been taken a long time ago and should have been implemented gradually without a burden to the economy and the farmer who is at the receiving end always.

The farmer was not used to artificial fertiliser a few decades ago and the little that was imported was of high quality unlike the current consignments of lowest standards by companies monopolising the market and who have close contacts with powerful circles.

In fact the distribution of free fertiliser to the farmers should have been stopped once the country was self-sufficient.

At one stage the country was self-sufficient in rice with many side effects of over and improper use of fertiliser which is still in practice.

During the Green Revolution fertiliser was given lavishly, and all facilities were provided to grow more and more food to the point when the farmer used fertiliser with no proper guidance, on quantity, quality, and mode of application with no teaching or guidance from the agricultural field officers confined to their offices.

In Sri Lanka small land holders are more in agriculture, unlike in other major agriculture countries such as Australia, New Zealand and large countries with dairy farming. In other parts of the world farmers are the richest and Sri Lanka it is sadly the other way. In tea estates fertiliser is applied with thin density with the direct effect on soil is less harmful.

However the harmful fertiliser is washed away to streams during rain with serious environmental damages

In major agriculture countries the fertilizer is spread sparingly with less densities.

## Farmers' revolution

Sri Lanka is made, geared and planned to be a nation of agriculture with large number of rivers, springs and water falls.

Israel 73 years ago had no water and the land was unproductive and almost a desert. They desalinated sea water and today the country is a world nuclear and a major agriculture power using 95 percent agriculture technology and avoiding the use of toxic materials as fertiliser.

The UK has the Thames River when we have hundreds of rivers, tanks streams and water falls showing how fortunate we are.

Once the artificial fertiliser is completely banned, definitely the harvest yield will drop and there will be a need to import rice from Bangladesh, India or any other rice producing country.

Therefore, this proposition to ban artificial fertiliser is an excellent

proposition akin to a double edged sword and must be carefully planned and monitored.

It is difficult to reverse the process in place over 70 years with no proper alternatives set up and other hurdles.

These concerns are to be sorted out with the proper and scientific machinery to go forward in the difficult but determined war for a considerably successful yield with the application of carbonic fertiliser, obviously less yield but forward plans for a better future.

How many carbonic fertiliser companies are available in Sri Lanka to cater to the paddy cultivation and other plantations such as tea, rubber, coconut and vegetables which are necessities for the fertiliser industry?

And availability of organic world over may have been well researched by the Ministry of Agriculture thoroughly now.

We are also informed that it is heavy to carry and time-consuming to make in addition to the difficulties on finding genuine raw materials. These are matters that have to be overcome and if there is a determination definitely there is a way sooner or later to achieve the need. Carbonic fertiliser is made from extracts from the earth or by way or a part of the recycling process of the purified Municipal waste preferably without the dangerous ingredients.

Carbon expected to be soil friendly with no harmful and direct side effects such as petrochemicals which appear to be harmful.

There are few factors in Sri Lanka and it takes time to import organic in a hurry due to non-availability of genuine products.

There is bound to be practical difficulties on finding carbonic fertiliser which is not freely available today with long term processes on making new products. Ministry of Agriculture must be careful and mindful of these obstacles before launching into the difficult ventures.

Today we discuss the practical difficulties on the application and availability of carbonic fertiliser leaving rubber, tea, coconut vegetable and other crops to a later date.

The nation is awaiting on the expert knowledge dedication and research results of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Way forward and a solution for the implication of the process successfully.

Going fully organic in Sri Lanka is the best option that should have been adopted five decades ago, when we were leading towards self-sufficiency during the green revolution giving priority to local products.

All this completely changed due to the open economy is 1978.

With the possible drop of the yield we may have to import substandard rice from Bangladesh or India at the cost of foreign exchange again. It is a rest run and a gamble.

We have already over one million energetic three wheel drivers on the roads to earn a living at the expense of prime energy with no productive output to the nation on development, and the same fate should not be given to the farmer may be with a government subsidy which is a



dangerous trend again.

Are we trained and disciplined to be proactive and innovative as the Israelis who are self-made innovative and independent who do not seek assistance from the government for their livelihood and they contribute to the national consumer simultaneously.

It is the duty of the Government whoever is in power in promoting and lifting the farmer high being the cradle of the nation by various ways and means.

Conversion to organic should be carefully done with the correct choice of fertiliser and production on most scientific conditions. It is a mistaken presumption that "Meethotamulla" waste mountain could be converted to organic fertiliser by grinding and using scientific methods.

It has to be sorted out as the contents are said to be most toxic and dangerous. This applies to all other garbage storage dumps as well.

Please learn from the Netherlands to be environmental disciplined and go carbonic, it is not a comedown to learn from others!

## Dual and multiple role

The best is to apply a dual role to go both organic and artificial subject to research and artificial fertiliser together with other options with proper research work, planning and ground work with the main player being the real farmer who is always neglected and not consulted when we find the one page document in "English" on the agricultural policy for Sri Lanka, and planning for the future which is understood to not many.

It is useful and advisable to go back to the farmer to learn through his knowledge and experience with the agony they are going through. Communication with the farmer and the ordinary person on a language he/she understands is vital. Much is spent (remember to amount paid for "Govijana" Madura belongs to the famous actress) on advertisements, rent, and other infrastructure, when the real cradle that is the farmer, and the fieldworkers are neglected leaving an open forum for the "Mudalali" in the village who is the unofficial advisor to the farmer on pesticides and fertiliser.

Universities, and educational institutions must be brought into the forefront to obtain the services of the university and other learned in professional organisations such as the OPA and other bodies and associations in Sri Lanka and abroad.

The income and the standard of the farmer should be uplifted and more concern and emphasis to be given to them. The time the drafting and decisions taken from ivory towers should be over and it is necessary to come down to the ground level for us to succeed or perish.





THE NAWALAKANDA FOREST SYSTEM IS ALSO A COLLECTION OF SMALL FORESTS BETWEEN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITH LOWLAND WET ZONE FOREST FEATURES SUCH AS SINHARAJA AND KANNELIYA

# The wonders of nature

BY GAYAN MALWATTE

There is no other creation as wonderful as nature. What happens in nature is unbelievable, but in order to experience those wonderful events, everyone must truly learn to live with nature. By doing so we can notice even the most subtle changes that take place in it.

Affirming this, a group of researchers have been able to discover a rare species of plant that has been recorded only from the Hiniduma area in the Galle District of the Southern Province, in the Meegahatenna, Nawalakanda Forest System in the Walallawita Divisional Secretariat Division in the Kalutara District of the Western Province.

The plant, scientifically known as *Henckelia Wijesundarae*, was first identified by Dr. Subhani Ranasinghe, the current Deputy Director of the National Herbarium of the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, in a study conducted in 2016 in the Hiniduma area in Galle.

## Hiniduma

Given the fact that this plant had not been recorded anywhere else in the country since then, it had been identified as a plant endemic to the Hiniduma area.

However, after the discovery of this plant in Nawalakanda by Peshala Pasan Karunaratne, an environmental researcher who is engaged in the study of plant species, Bathiya Gopallawa, a former official of the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens National Herbarium and a researcher on plant species, identified the plant as *Henckelia Wijesundarae*.

Later, Himesh Dilruwan Jayasinghe, a plant expert, conducted a field inspection in Nawalakanda and



Peshala Pasan Karunaratne

confirmed that the species found in Nawalakanda was *Henckelia Wijesundarae*.

The name of the plant in Sinhala is yet to be ascertained and as it is endemic to Sri Lanka, there is no name for the species in English or any other language either.

*Henckelia Wijesundarae* has been scientifically named in honour of Prof. Cyril Wijesundera, who is currently a Researcher of the Institute of Fundamental Studies in Kandy and former Director General of the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

This plant, which belongs to the Genus *H Wijesundarae* of the genus *Henckelia* of the Gesneriaceae family in the plant kingdom, was first recorded in 2008.

## Species

Following the discovery of this plant in the Hiniduma area in 2008, the species, following researches conducted in 2008 and 2013, was identified as *Henckelia Walkerae*.

Further research conducted by Dr. Ranasinghe, in 2016 revealed that

this species is not a genus of *H. Walkerae* and renamed it as *Henckelia Wijesundarae*.

The research paper related to this finding was published in the August 2016 issue of *Willdenowia*, an international botanical journal based in Germany.

A number of 56 species of the genus *Henckelia* have been reported from India, Sri Lanka, the Himalayas, and Southeast Asia (excluding Malaysia and Thailand).

Of these, eight species are recorded from Sri Lanka and seven of them are endemic species. The plant specimens for this research were obtained from an altitude of 208 m in the forest behind the Hiniduma Nugagala Forest Hermitage.

## Plants

However, since then it has not been found anywhere else and this species was considered to be endemic to the same place and with the discovery of it in Nawalakanda in 2021, the endemic record changed.

Very few of these plants were found at the Nugagala area and very few in the Nawalakanda area where the plant was discovered in 2021.

Researchers believe that this species may have been more widespread in the past.

Evidence that this was prevalent in the Kalutara district before 1850 has been in the possession of researchers since the time of research on this plant, and with this new dis-

covery, the evidence have confirmed this.

Accordingly, it is noteworthy that this plant species was recorded in Kalutara district after about 170 years.

Researchers predict that the plant will lose habitat in clearing land for tea cultivation and human habitation, and that this will be further endangered in the future as the forest density continues to decline.

They also suggest that the plant be classified as "extremely endangered" and included in the Red List of Threatened Species.

The Nawalakanda Forest System where this plant was found is spread over the 849-D Bogodakanda Grama Niladhari Division in Walallawita, Meegahatenna area.

## Study

The Nawalakanda Forest System is also a collection of small forests between human settlements with lowland wet zone forest features such as Sinharaja and Kanneliya.

No formal scientific study has been conducted on this small forest system, which is home to a number



of extremely rare plant and animal species, and it is believed that if such a formal study could be carried out, many previously unknown species could be identified.

Therefore, formal knowledgeable experts and researchers should better conduct studies on this forest system and adopt conservation practices that take into account its

biodiversity and scientific value.

As this forest is located in a village where human activities are prevalent, the villagers should be properly informed and steps should be taken to protect this small forest so that such rare and valuable plant species can be protected and inherited into the future world.

# Servants of the Buddha turns 100

BY PROF. MANOURI P. SENANAYAKE

The centenary celebrations of the Servants of the Buddha, a society enriched with several unique features, was held on April 23, 2021, one hundred years to the day its founder Dr. Cassius Pereira, a medical doctor who later ordained as Venerable Kassapa held its first public meeting.

The venue of that historic meeting on April 23, 1921, was the very same as that of the celebrations in 2021, the church-like building next to Mettarama, known throughout the century as Maitriya Hall.

## Proceedings

The day of celebrations dawned with monsoonal rains pounding down, but when the time for the proceedings approached, the heavens belied all weather forecasts and smiled down on members, speakers, invitees, well-wishers and supporters who were ready to mark this important milestone in a fitting and appropriate manner.

Centenary celebrations are rare, but rarer still are the exceptional organisational skills and high level of sophistication that were evident as 'the event' unfolded.

A marble plaque inscribed with key historical data was unveiled followed by an awesome procession of senior bikkhus of great erudition and esteem leading the way.

Bikkhunis, the Board of Directors and finally the office-bearers were next to enter the Maitriya Hall where an anticipatory audience was assembled in accordance with the prevailing Covid-19 health regulations.



THE VENUE OF THAT HISTORIC MEETING ON APRIL 23, 1921, WAS THE VERY SAME AS THAT OF THE CELEBRATIONS IN 2021, THE CHURCH-LIKE BUILDING NEXT TO METTARAMA, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE CENTURY AS MAITRIYA HALL

The Maha Sangha that congregated from a wide array of Theravada temples, meditation centres and forest monasteries ranged from Mettaramaya and Vajiraramaya to Pāgoda and Sri Kavidaja Vipassana meditation centers to Meethirigala and Kanduboda aranyas and included the presence of a Zen bikkhu.

## Testified

This testified wide range of interest and support testified to the contribution to the Sasana, made over the past 100 years.

Special invitees included dignitaries from other religions, representatives from Buddhist organisations and long standing speakers.

Rev. Trevor Martin of St Mary's

Church, Bambalapitiya in a gesture of joining in the felicitations was warmly appreciated, as were the congratulations and encouragement offered by prominent members of the ACBC, YMBA and Kalutara Bodhi Trust.

With the venerable bikkhus and bikkunis seated within a breathtakingly beautifully lit Inner Sanctum, Ven. Olande Ananda Maha Thera initiated proceedings by administering Pansil.

The customary lighting of the oil lamp provided an opportunity to remember past patrons, presidents, treasures, secretaries and speakers.

In this galaxy a star that shone particularly bright was the late Mr. Alec Robertson whose association



with the Servants of the Buddha spanned over five decades, three of which were at its helm as President.

An excellent speech by the President, Mrs. Anoja Wijeyesekera, retraced the past 100 years and was followed by the launch of *Dhamma Gems* an annual publication sponsored this year as the Centenary Issue by Mrs. Sri Piyaesena.

## Description

A comprehensive description of the historical and doctrinal aspects of this publication was expounded by the Patron Ven. Siri Vajiraramaya Nanasiha.

Undoubtedly the Centenary Volume of *Dhamma Gems* compiled by Ven. Siri Vajiraramaya Nanasiha and Prof Manouri Senanayake is a well researched chronicle worthy of being read, re-read and preserved.

A short musical interlude by Vis-harada Kanika Edirimanna preceded the keynote address on Mindfulness by the Chief Guest, the Most Ven. Uda-Eriyagama Dhammajiva Mahathero, Chief meditation master of the Nissa-

rana Vanaya monastery Meethirigala.

Prof Kapila Gunawardene, Secretary to the Buddha Sasana Ministry, unable to attend personally as scheduled, sent his script on Challenges facing the Buddha Sasana and Role of the Ministry which was read by Dr. Kosala de Silva, a Past President.

Having reflected on the past and deliberated on the present, next came a talk on Venturing into the Future delivered by Prof. Manouri Senanayake.

The society's intentions of meeting the demands of the Buddhist world culminated with launching of a book authored by herself for the explicit purpose of enhancing the English competency of bikkhus.

Titled English through Buddhism, it was in keeping with the society's ethos of disseminating the Dhamma in English to an ever widening audience.

Therefore, the celebrations could be perceived as having heralded in the second century before drawing to a close.

Prof. Kolitha Sellahewa's timekeeping ensured the program ran to clock-



work precision, ending after a Vote of Thanks by the Secretary Mrs. Samudra de Zoysa and Chanting and blessings bestowed by the Maha Sangha.

For further inquiries regarding *Dhamma Gems* please write to: Servants of the Buddha, Maitriya Hall, Mettaramaya, Lauries Road, Colombo 4

Regarding the English programme, please email: englishand-buddhism@gmail.com



# When the US welcomed the world to Los Angeles 1932

By  
Rear Admiral  
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Like London and Paris before it, Los Angeles will host the Summer Olympic Games for a third time in 2028. The 1932 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the X Olympiad, was held from July 30 to August 14, 1932, in Los Angeles, California, United States. This article looks back at the huge success of the 1932 Games hosted in California, notwithstanding the challenges of the Great Depression and geographical isolation.

Pierre de Coubertin in his Olympic Memoirs wrote: "The time had truly come to bestow recognition upon the sporting youth of the United States for the effort they have made since Athens and for their ever-brilliant and numerous contributions to Games past." "It was for these three reasons that the members of the IOC unanimously elected Los Angeles the host city of the X Olympiad."

The sole candidate, the "City of Angels" was duly confirmed as the host city at the 21st IOC Session, held in Rome in April 1923. Six years later in Lausanne, the US ski resort of Lake Placid was named the host of the Olympic Winter Games 1932, in accordance with the rule at the time, that the Summer and Winter Games take place in the same country, as long as it could offer a location with suitable mountains.

A total of 37 nations participated at the 1932 Games. Colombia made its first appearance and the Republic of China competed for the first time after its failed appearance at the 1924 Games. The United States comfortably won with 41 gold, 32 silver, 30 bronze and a total of 103 medals. Italy came second with 12 each of gold, silver and bronze medals totaling 36 whilst France secured 10 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze and a total of 19 medals to come third.

## The Memorial Coliseum

One of the most of illustrious of all Olympic buildings, the Memorial Coliseum had a capacity of over 105,000. Renamed the Olympic Stadium, it was the venue for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and for athletics, equestrian, gymnastics and field hockey. Standing 32m high, its signature torch-shaped Olympic cauldron was installed atop the central arch of the peristyle and housed the Olympic flame. Having also been the main venue at Los Angeles 1984, the Memorial Coliseum will in 2028 become the first stadium in the world to host the opening and closing ceremonies and athletics at three separate Olympic Games.

The 15,000-seater Grand Olympic Auditorium, then the largest indoor arena in the US, was the venue for boxing, wrestling and weightlifting. New aquatics stadium closer to the Memorial Coliseum, hosted swimming, diving and water polo, while the Rose Bowl was converted into a velodrome for track cycling. Located in Baldwin Hills in southern Los Angeles, the Olympic Village comprised over 500 portable houses, a post office, cinema, hospital, bank and a range of other amenities. These were exclusively for the male athletes; their female peers were obliged to take up residence at the Chapman Park Hotel.

## The Legacy and Innovations

Los Angeles 1932 proved hugely successful and shaped the template for many features that define the Olympic Games as we know them today. They also instilled the host city with a feeling of Olympic pride, which has endured over the decades. "The story of the success of the Games of the X Olympiad is carved in the depths of a dark abyss of world depression," reads the Official Report.

"But the spirit of Olympism has illuminated that abyss, and those who came to the Games from all the far corners of the earth have taken home with them something of a new hope engendered by a finer understanding of and a more intimate friendship for their fellow man, regardless of race or creed." They are words that could easily be applied to the world today.

At a time when commercial aviation was still very much in its infancy, athlete participation was only 1,332 - 126 women and 1,206 men from 37 countries. They took part in 177 events across 14 sports. The Games lasted just 16 days, setting the template for the format that has remained in place ever since.

In another innovation, athletes climbed on to podiums for the first time to receive their medals, with gold medalists occupying the highest step in the middle, flanked by the silver and bronze medalists on their right and left respectively, on lower steps. And the athletes received their medals at the venue where they competed, with their



The Opening Ceremony of Los Angeles 1932

national flags being raised to the sound of the winners' national anthem.

Another first was the creation of a complex telecommunications system. Other enduring innovations included the introduction of timekeeping equipment accurate to the nearest hundredth of a second, and a new maximum quota of three athletes per nation per event.

At the Opening Ceremony, on July 30, 1932, the Olympic Stadium set new standards for the Games and provided a fitting backdrop. Accompanied by a 300-strong orchestra, a choir of 1,200 singers performed the US and Olympic anthems, while the fencer George Calnan took the Olympic oath on behalf of all the athletes. After Charles Curtis, the Vice President of the US, had declared the Games open, hundreds of doves were released.

The 10th Street, one of the city's most important thoroughfares and which stretches for several tens of kilometers from the ocean at Santa Monica to the eastern side of Los Angeles, was renamed Olympic Boulevard, a name it retains to this day. An Olympic mascot, Scottish Terrier Smoky, was featured for the first time. The Art competitions awarded medals for works inspired by sport-related themes in five categories: architecture, literature, music, painting and sculpture.

## The Heroes of Los Angeles 1932

The women's foil final between Great Britain's Judy Guinness and Austria's Ellen Müller-Pries saw a remarkable example of Olympic values in action. On being declared the winner, Guinness pointed out to the judges that they had missed two of her opponent's hits, a selfless act that led to her collecting silver instead of gold.



Introduction of Victory Podium at Summer Olympic Games in 1932



Mildred Didrikson, One of the Greatest Athletes of All-time



Eddie Tolan's Olympic Sprint Double

The most successful athletes at Los Angeles 1932 were American swimmer Helen Madison and Italian gymnast Romeo Neri, who won three gold medals each. Kusuo Kitamura of Japan won 1500m freestyle at 14 years and 309 days, to become the youngest Olympic champion his sport has ever seen.

Sweden's Ivar Johansson achieved the unique feat of winning middleweight gold in freestyle wrestling and then shedding 5kg to win Greco-Roman welterweight gold, making him the only Olympic wrestler to win two different weight categories at the same Games.

Colonel Baron Takeichi Nishi, participated at Los Angeles 1932, winning a gold in equestrian at the show jumping individual. This remains Japan's only Olympic medal to date in equestrian. Nishi, a graduate from the Imperial Japanese Army Academy, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in October

1924 and promoted Lieutenant in October 1927.

In 1930, Nishi encountered what would be his favorite horse, 'Uranus,' while in Italy. As the Japanese Army wouldn't pay, Nishi bought, 'Uranus' with his personal funds. After the Olympic Games 1932, he went back to the Army and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in August 1943. He was killed-in-action during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945 at 42.

## Istvan Pelle's Unique Achievements

For the first time, individual competitions were held for all the different gymnastics' apparatus, as well as tumbling, rope climbing, and club swinging. And in another break with tradition, the scoring for the team competition was separate from the scoring for individual events. According to the Official Report, "the innovation of individual competition on the horizontal bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, rings, and vaulting horse proved to be very popular with contestants and officials."

It was one such event - the "pommel horse" - that saw Istvan Pelle, the 25-year Hungarian gymnast claim one of his two gold medals, while the other came in the floor exercise. He also won two silvers. He also went on to achieve distinction in a non-sporting field, finishing his studies with a doctorate in law. After World War II he left Hungary, touring the world as a singer and violinist, before settling in Argentina, where he died aged 78.

## Eddie Tolan's Olympic Sprint Double

Born in Denver in 1908, Eddie Tolan's early sporting forays came on the football field, but a knee ligament injury curtailed his chances of making the grade. After securing a scholarship to the University of Michigan he instead took up sprinting.

In 1929, he thrust himself into the spotlight after achieving a world re-

cord of 9.50 in 100-yard dash and over the next two years he beat 100m world record twice. In an era where racial segregation remained a blight on the hopes of black men and women across every sphere, Tolan's strength of character made his accomplishments ever the more impressive.

Tolan pipped at the post in 100m, equaling the world record with a time of 10.3 sec. In the days before technology could solve such disputes, it was settled as a dead heat and the same time given to two athletes. Later, Tolan won 200m with a new Olympic record of 21.2 sec. In doing so he became the first American track athlete to win double Olympic gold medals. He died at 57 and his legacy as a torchbearer for high-achieving black sprinters lives.

## Attilio Pavesi King of the Road

The 21-year Italian cyclist Attilio Pavesi came well prepared for the 100km road race. The journalist claimed that he had with him on his handlebars "a bowl of soup and a bucket of water. In his bib that hung from his shoulders were a dozen bananas, cinnamon buns, jam, cheese sandwiches and spaghetti." For good measure, the article continued, "around his neck were two spare tires."

While that report was perhaps guilty of artistic embellishment, whatever provisions Pavesi brought with him provided a recipe for success. Born in 1910, the 11th child in a family from Italy, showed his form in Los Angeles.

"The road race, while on a surface unfamiliar to all the contestants, was ideal from the standpoint of smoothness and lack of obstructions, and unusually good time was made by all the contestants in this event," the Official Report comments. "Careful regulation of traffic through the services of hundreds of police enabled the participants to travel the distance of 100 km, without interruption or accident."

Cycling along the picturesque course, Pavesi won two golds for both individual and team road races. At the beginning of World War II, Pavesi emigrated to Argentina where he opened a bike shop and organized bike races. At his death in 2011, two months short of his 101st birthday, he was thought to be the oldest living Olympic gold medalist.

## Helene Madison's Greatest Swimming Feats

It was not until 13, that she learned to plunge into the water with finesse. The late bloomer then set about making up for lost time in the most sensational fashion. In 1929, at 15, Helene Madison broke the state and Pacific Coast records for 100-yard freestyle. Over the next three years she seemed to smash records every time she entered a swimming pool.

Her name was now common currency in the US and beyond and two

years before her Olympic debut, a Michigan newspaper described her as no less than "the greatest woman swimmer the world had ever known." She always found the mental side of competition to be grueling.

In her first race, 100m freestyle, Madison won with a time of 1:6.8, lowering the Olympic record. Four days later, she secured her second gold in 400m relay in which the US quartet clocked a world record time of 4:38.0. The following day, competing in 400m freestyle, she made it three golds with a time of 5:28.5.

That race would be remembered as one of the most exciting in Olympic history. It would also, to the surprise of everyone, be Madison's final act as a competitive swimmer. No sooner had she stepped out of the pool; Ray Daughters announced to the press that Los Angeles would be "the climax of Helene's swimming career" a mere five years after it had begun.

As it turned out, while Madison's dedication to her sport was unquestionable, her heart lay elsewhere. After a brief incursion into the movie industry, she met her future husband while training to become a nurse and in 1937 the couple gave birth to their only child. "Of course, 1932 was a thrill," she told a California newspaper in 1938. "But I have found more happiness and contentment in my marriage than in my career."

## Mildred Didrikson, Most Accomplished Athlete

Texas-born Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson has always thrown up performances at multiple disciplines. She had proved accomplished in a myriad of sports including running, swimming, diving, high-jumping, baseball and basketball.

But it was her accomplishments in track and field while competing on the amateur circuit for the Dallas-based "Golden Cyclones" team of female athletes that propelled her into the Olympic firmament. At the 1932 Amateur Athletic Union Championships, she set four world records in javelin, 80m hurdles, high jump and baseball throw, over a single afternoon.

Didrikson qualified for five Olympic events, but official Games guidelines at the time decreed that women were only allowed to compete in three. Given her ability to turn her hand to almost anything, the ruling will have come as some relief to her would-be competitors spared the prospect of coming up against this sporting polymath.

Many athletes ease themselves into form, only hitting their stride as the competition progresses. Didrikson though opted for something of a more accelerated approach. In the prestigious setting of the Los Angeles Olympic Stadium, with her very first act at the Games, she threw a javelin just over 143 feet, securing gold and a new world record in what was the first ever women's Olympic javelin event.

Next, Didrikson set her sights on further glory in the Olympics' inaugural 80m hurdles. Summoning all the strength, technique and discipline that had earned her the nickname "Babe" (after the big-hitting baseball star Babe Ruth), she doubled her gold medal haul, and set another new world record with a time of 11.7 sec. Indeed, according to the Official Report the race "shared the distinction with the men's 100m of being the closest finish of the Games."

In her third and final event, the high jump, only a highly contentious ruling deprived her of a rare hat-trick of gold medals. Both Didrikson and compatriot Jean Shiley broke the world record with jumps of 5 feet 5 inches, but the official ruled Babe's effort to be illegitimate (her head was deemed to have cleared the bar before the rest of her body), and Shiley was awarded the gold.

Her two gold medals in Los Angeles made Didrikson a household name, and there were more remarkable sporting endeavors to come. In later years she took up golf with such ferocious determination that, according to her obituary in The New York Times, she "drove as many as 1,000 golf balls a day and played until her hands were so sore, they had to be taped."

After turning professional in 1947, she went on to win every available golf title. And in 1949 she was voted the greatest female athlete of the half century by The Associated Press. Tragically, Didrikson died just seven years later, aged 45, after a three-year battle with cancer. However, her legacy continued to burn brightly and in 1976 a museum dedicated to her life and career was built in Beaumont, Texas. It was a worthy monument to one of the greatest Olympians in history.

(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)

# 42nd Observer SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year 2020



Best schoolgirl team runners-up Ratnaveli Balika Vidyalaya Gampaha get their award from SLT Mobitel Group Chairman Rohan Fernando in the presence of Media and Information Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, Ministry Secretary Jagath P Wijeweera, ANCL Chairman W Dayaratne PC and the Editor in Chief of the Sunday Observer Dinesh Weerawansa



Best school team - North Central Province - Anuradhapura Central College get their award from CMO Mobitel, Shashika Senarath and GCEO of Sri Lanka Telecom Group, Lalith Seneviratne



Best Promising and behaved Team - National Awards - Karunarathne Buddhist School, Ragama get their award from CMO Mobitel, Shashika Senarath and GCEO of Sri Lanka Telecom Group, Lalith Seneviratne



Best school team - Sabaragamuwa Province - Dudley Senanayake Central College Tholanguamuwa get their award from CMO of Sri Lanka Telecom, Prabhath Dahanayake



Best School team - Uva Province - St. Thomas' College Bandarawela get their award from CMO Mobitel, Shashika Senarath



Division one Best All Rounder - Runner up - Muditha Lakshan of D.S.Senanayake College, Colombo receiving the award from CMO of Sri Lanka Telecom, Prabhath Dahanayake



Pix: Rukmal Gamage, Thilak Perera, Chinthaka Kumarasighe



Best School Team - Western Province (Runner up) Royal College, Colombo receiving the award from GCEO of Sri Lanka Telecom Group, Lalith Seneviratne

# 42nd Observer SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year 2020



Best school team - Central Province Runner up - Dharmaraja College, Kandy receive their Award from the ANCL Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam in the presence of Acting General Manager of ANCL Sumith Kotalawela, Director Legal and Administration, Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Operations, Canishka Witharana and Director Finance, Janaka Ranatunga



Best school team - North Western Province Runner up - Maliyadeva College Kurunegala receive their Award from the ANCL Director Legal and Administration, Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana

SINCE 1978  
**42<sup>nd</sup>**

**OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL  
SCHOOL CRICKETER  
OF THE YEAR 2021**

*Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.*



Best School team - Southern Province ( Runner up) Richmond College, Galle receive their Award from the ANCL Director Operations, Canishka Witharana



Best School team - Northern Province Runner up - Jaffna Central College, Jaffna receive their Award from the ANCL Director Finance, Janaka Ranatunga



Division Three - Best All-rounder - Runners up - Shakthi Udara Jayathilake of Rajasinghe Central College, Hanwella receives his Award from Senior Deputy General Manager ANCL, Kamal Wijesuriya



Division Three - Best Batsman Runner up - Salindu Malmin of Nalanda Boys School Minuwangoda receives his Award from Deputy General Manager/ Advertising ANCL, Waruna Mallawarachi



National Award Best Bowler - Dilshan Madhusanka of Vijayaba National School, Hungama presented by ANCL Managing Editor of Government Relations Department Samantha Karunasekera



Observer SLT Mobitel Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer of the year 2020 - W.P. Nimesha Wijesundera of Marapola Madya Vidyalaya, Marapola receives her cash prize from Chanaka Liyanage Manager Channel Publicity of ANCL



Division Two - Awards Best Batsman Winner - Sandaruwan Chinthaka of Galahitiyawa Central, Ganemulla receives his Award from Chief Editor Silumina, Dharman Wickremaratne



Division Two - Awards Best Batsman - Runner up - Ashan Dilhara of St. John's College, Panadura receives his Award from Chief Editor Silumina, Dharman Wickremaratne



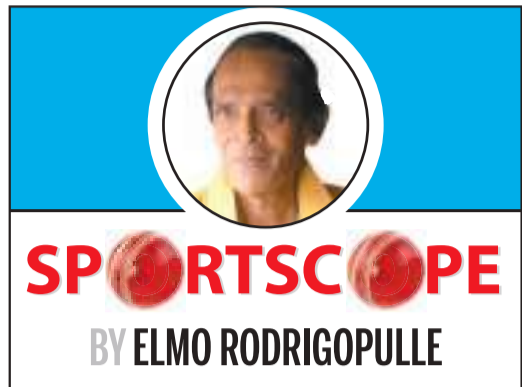
Best All-rounder Girls Runner up - M. Umasha Thimeshani - Devapathiraja College, Rathgama receives her Award from Chief Editor of Thinakaran T. Senthilvelavar

Pix: Rukmal Gamage, Thilak Perera, Chinthaka Kumarasighe

## SPORT

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MAY 9, 2021



**SPORTSCOPE**  
BY ELMO RODRIGOPULLE

## Praveen rewrites cricket history

We would like to shower our heartiest congratulations on left arm leg spinner Praveen Jayawickrema on his magnificent performance with the ball where he became the first Sri Lankan bowler to bag a double - six wickets in the first Bangladeshi innings and followed it up with five scalps in the second on debut since the country gained Test status.

The 22-year old leftie making his debut did not show any nerves like most debutants do, but bowled like a veteran and had the visiting batsmen in a flat spin as his figures of 6 for 92 and 5 for 85 prove.

In performing this magic act with the ball he bowled Sri Lanka to a 209-run win and the series and brought smiles not only to his team mates but to the coaching staff and lit up especially the face of head coach Mickey Arthur after running into defeat after defeat in recent times.

The best dual purpose leftie Sri Lanka had before gaining Test status was Daya Sahabandu. He could use the new as well as old ball with vicious effect and was called Sri Lanka's Dererik Underwood who was England's match winning best leftie at that time.

Not since the country joined the elite league have we produced a bowler who could capture five wickets or more in each innings. Now that we have a diamond, the authorities have a responsible job to perform.

They must look after this youngster and see that he is taught the varieties, especially the 'wrong un' and what is also called the 'chinaman' so that he can become a star on the world cricket stage.

Sri Lanka Cricket, to use boxing parlance has been the punching bag for more reasons than one, not only for cricket but its administration and more for the alleged corruption that has riddled the cricket body.

While the allegations for financial reasons are under investigation comes another vicious punch that has to be absorbed because apparently the Management Committee of SLC must take the final responsibility and not let it go like a batsman not offering a stroke to a wide ball.

The vicious punch is the preparation of a wicket not at all fit for this level of cricket, which is the most essential, respected game in all levels of the game.

Before going on to comment we would like to put in print the statement from the ICC Chief Match Referee Ranjan Madugalle regarding the pitch for the first Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the Pallekelle International Cricket Stadium.

Madugalle a former stylish batsman and Sri Lankan captain now excelling in the high and responsible position he holds as ICC's Chief of Elite Match Referees and held with great respect by the ICC has rated the pitch as 'below average'. His rating has received one demerit point under the ICC pitch and outfield monitoring process.

Madugalle said: "The character of the pitch hardly changed over the course of five days. There was no shift in balance between bat and ball as the game progressed.

"The wicket remained batting friendly throughout resulting in a total of 1,289 runs scored in the match for the loss of 17 wickets at an average of 75.82 runs per wicket which is very high. 'Therefore in keeping with the ICC guidelines I rate the pitch as below average', Madugalle's report forwarded to SLC.

It is an unwritten law that home curators desist from making wickets to suit their bowlers. But that law is spun out of the game and made a mockery of as the three Tests between India and England played recently in India showed.

The England - India series saw the ball turning like a top from the first ball. India had better spinners in Ashwin and Patel and they had the England batsmen in a flat spin, so much so that one Test ended in just one and a half days with England getting bashed. England cricket would never have suffered such ignominy before.

Getting back to Madugalle's comments on the Pallekelle pitch, no one will want to put up his hand and take the blame for the farce of a wicket that was prepared. If an inquiry is held it will be the curator who will have to take the blame. But there is no getting away from the fact that SLC must take responsibility. 'Was it sabotage?', cricket fans ask.

One hopes that this farce will not be enacted again, because it is bad on the country and the game. As for the writer a wicket of such shame was made so that Sri Lanka would not continue their losing streak.

Sri Lanka are just one before the last in the Test rankings and if they were to lose to Bangladesh who are last, it would be utter shame to the country's game to end up last. In last week's column headlined 'DEAD TEST ON A DEAD WICKET' we stated: 'With it ended a cricket match that no one would want to see played on a dead pitch that had no pace, movement on or off the pitch for the fast men and bounce or vicious turn for the spinners'.

Shamed by Madugalle condemning the pitch and the ICC acting sternly, it was encouraging to note that a result-oriented wicket was made for the second Test so that the talents of the batsmen and bowlers were tested. Preparing dead wickets will not do the cricketers or the game any good. One way commented that such a wicket was prepared to stall Sri Lanka's run of shameless defeats.

A wicket helpful to both sides was prepared and Sri Lanka proved the better team winning the final Test and the series by 209 runs before lunch on the final day thus saving face by stalling the run of defeats they were used to.

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# 'I worked on my game'

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Lahiru Thirimanne, at one time looked upon as the successor to Kumar Sangakkara, is finally showing the consistency which he lacked throughout his career. He has been in the runs regularly that has made him the second highest run-getter in Test cricket for the 2021 calendar year.

Following a series of half-centuries in the West Indies, Thirimanne finally got over the three-figure mark in the second Test against Bangladesh to score his third Test century (140).

In the first Bangladesh Test, Thirimanne and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne put on 114 runs in an opening stand and followed it up with a 209 runs stand in the second Test.

The 31-year old left hander Thirimanne scored back to back half centuries on the last West Indies tour but couldn't make it to the three-figure mark.

Thirimanne said he worked really hard in his game. "I did two or three technical adjustments to my batting. I realized that as a batsman you cannot keep playing the same way because all opposition teams we come up against analyze how to get us out and therefore we must make the necessary adjustments ourselves to face those challenges.

"As a batsman I wanted to go for the big score beyond the half centuries. However sometimes unfortunately I am back in the pavilion early with my mistake. I did a few adjustments and it is working well. The coaching department of the team is helping us a lot and they are getting the desired results," said Thirimanne.

Thirimanne's success with the bat is also due largely to the presence of Dimuth Karunaratne at the other end as his partner.

"Dimuth and I have been playing cricket together from under-15 level and we are of the same age. We both have a good understanding with each other in what areas to score our runs and it helps a lot when you get a pitch like this. The wickets were a bit different in the West Indies and that experience we put to good use. We have a lot of youngsters in the side and to reduce the pressure on them is our responsibility. When we score runs at the top there is less pressure out in the middle. That is our objective and I think we are doing it well now," said Thirimanne.

Sri Lanka batting coach Grant Flower highly praised about Thirimanne's performances.

"He's worked really hard in his game, he's taken no shortcuts. He has worked hard at the nets and the dividends are there to see. He is very fit, he's got a good sound mind, the mental side of things is very good and all of it has come together. Hopefully he can carry on," said Flower.

Lahiru Thirimanne, a product of Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa has played 42 Test matches and 127 ODIs. He started as a middle order batsman and finally settle as a Test opener. He plays for the Ragama Cricket Club (RCC) and in his first full season in 2009-10, he scored 709 runs in eight games. That showing won him a place in the Sri Lankan ODI squad for the tri-series played in Bangladesh in 2010.

Thirimanne guided Sri Lanka to their fifth Asia Cup title in March 2014 with a well-crafted ton in a high pressure final at Dhaka. Having finally tamed his nemesis that is inconsistency, Thirimanne topped the Asia Cup batting charts with 279 runs in five games at an enviable average of 55.80.

Interestingly, all of Thirimanne's centuries have come when he has batted in the top three.



Lahiru Thirimanne

## Gymnast Gehani second to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

BY TB RAHAMAN

Sri Lanka's artistic gymnast Gehani de Silva became the second Sri Lankan to qualify for the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, The Olympic Website states.

Gehani had the distinction to be secured of her slot as number one in the Asian Continental quota ahead of India's Pranati Nayak, the website stated.

"Pranati Nayak, thus, became the second reserve behind Milka Gehani of Sri Lanka - to secure the quota from Asia after the 9th Senior Asian Championships, scheduled to run from May 29-June 1 in Hangzhou, was called off due to Covid-19 pandemic," stated the website.

The FIG (International Gymnastics Federation) however, is likely to confirm the Olympic berth only in June.

Milka, the 18-year-old gymnast who hails from Piliyandala, trained under former national champion turned coach Ranjana Tharanga and displayed glimpses of what she would go on to become at this young age.

She first schooled at Piliyandala Somawiri Chandrasiri College and then enrolled at Piliyandala

Central before being absorbed by Methodist College in Colombo.

She then received an IOC funded scholarship to train in Japan to pursue her dream in 2019 and is still training there.

She has represented Sri Lanka in several international competitions proving that she will be the best in the business.

She was Junior National Cham-

pion from 2011 (when she was just eight year old up to 2014) and then finished sixth in the Junior Commonwealth Games in 2016. She was National Champion in 2017 and 2018.

She then finished within the top eight in the Asian Championship held in Indonesia in 2018 becoming the first Sri Lankan to achieve this feat while representing Sri Lanka in the Youth Olympic Games 2018 set-



Gehani de Silva

## Karunaratne competes in Portuguese championship

In anticipation of booking a passage for the Tokyo Olympics, Sri Lanka's leading shuttler Niluka Karunaratne is participating in the 56th Portuguese International Championship and is facing the 141st ranked Kari Gunnarsson of Iceland in a first round match.

It would be a daunting task for Karunaratne who is currently ranked 41 in the men's singles qualification list where up to 40 will qualify for Tokyo.

Karunaratne who has already gone for two Olympic Games will be going for the third time if he can make the cut. He will be competing in one more international competition after this with the hope of qualifying.

Now at 36-years-old, Karunaratne was the best shuttler in Sri Lanka for many years. Apart from going to the Olympics twice he has competed in five consecutive Commonwealth Games from 2002 to 2018.

He lost several opportunities to compete in international competition since 2015 as the WBF had suspended Sri Lanka's badminton governing body. (TBR)

## Final call to restore Kandy's playgrounds

By  
Hafiz  
Marikar



There have been several requests from veteran sportsmen and elders of Kandy to the Municipal Council, which was formed under the Municipalities Ordinance of 1865, to up-grade playgrounds and restore the former names associated with these sporting venues.

From the day these grounds were commissioned, they provided a big boost for sports. A look into these playgrounds reveal that the concept was introduced in 1938. The first was the Wewelpitiya playground also known as Rekade ground. Then came the Victoria Drive playground and the third was the Deyanawella playground.

The Getambe playground was also famous. It is a small ground and the late Minister Gamini Dissanayake re-developed it. Then came a proposal to rename this ground as the Gamini Dissanayake Playground. But being a genuine lover of sports he did not want any name change.

At present there are 24 playgrounds across the city and many of them need to be upgraded as they have reached the end of their life spans along with 45 community centres where indoor sports are played. These sporting venues have not only helped the very young, but also people of older ages, teenagers and adults.

All playgrounds under the Municipal Council are pocket size, no matches can be played. Every playground in recent times has come out with side wickets for playground staffers, who

are coaches to conduct their academics. Today name boards are bigger than the ground.

The only ground they had for matches was Bogambara and that was taken over by the Sports Ministry in the late 1990s and the loss of this ground is badly felt. When Bogambara was under the Municipality the ground charge was only a few hundred rupees but today it is in many thousands. There are several sportsmen and sportswomen who started their sports at these playgrounds, which helped them to play for the district and country.

Kandy's elderly citizens are also warning that without proper playgrounds, children are being taken away from their childhood passions and drawn towards shady activities without the right inspiration. The main question being asked is who or what is

preventing these playgrounds from being upgraded. Is it politics or money, or ignorance, they ask.

It is even reported that notorious activities take place at some of these grounds after sunset.

Kandy is home to many schools, some of them are the island's oldest schools. And out of these schools only a handful have their own playgrounds while the rest use Municipal playgrounds.

The Mayor of Kandy owes it to sports followers and the thousands of school children to take drastic action and restore these playgrounds that cannot be neglected any longer. In the past sport was considered important for the development of young people. Today one wonders what is there left for the development of young people if sport is just confined to books and papers.



# BUSINESS

business.suo@lakehouse.lk  
MAY 9, 2021



**PAGE 26** UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING EMPLOYEES

**PAGE 27** BREEDING LEADERS

**PAGE 28** CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE

**PAGE 29** SUCCESS IN BUSINESS



Chinthaka Mendis

## SEC to showcase Lanka as a destination for foreign portfolio investments

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has performed exceptionally well in the past 12 months with the All Share Price Index (ASPI) appreciating over 55% and the S&P SL 20 Index appreciating over 44%. In 2021, the Average Daily Turnover of the CSE stands at Rs 4.8 bn as against Rs. 1.8 bn in 2020.

Even though the market has

performed exceptionally well, foreign investor contribution to the total market turnover is not substantial due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic throughout the world. Efforts will be made to impress upon foreign investors and fund managers and the diaspora, of the compelling value proposition of the Sri Lankan Capital Market. The SEC believes capital flows will also

act as a catalyst for economic growth and contribute towards increased wealth creation.

As an initial step, the SEC along with the Foreign Ministry and the CSE has commenced a series of virtual meetings to educate staff of Sri Lankan Missions overseas on the growth potential and investment opportunities available in the Capital Market of

Sri Lanka. This initiative will enable the staff to promote portfolio investments to Sri Lanka among the investor community in the respective countries and assist the SEC and the CSE in organising future overseas forums.

“Portfolio investment will act as a catalyst for economic growth and is a top priority for the Government, particularly in the context...” **TO PAGE 28**

### BIZ SNIPPETS

#### Oil prices up

Oil prices moved higher after the Energy Information Administration reported a crude oil inventory draw of 8 million barrels for the week to April 30.

In fuels, the inventory moves were mixed.

The oil inventory figure compared with a weekly draw of 7.688 million barrels estimated by the American Petroleum Institute a day earlier, and with a moderate build of 100,000 barrels that the EIA reported for the previous week.

Analysts had expected the EIA to report a crude oil inventory decline of 2.19 million barrels for the period. In gasoline, the authority estimated a minor stock build of 700,000 barrels for the last week of April. This compared with another modest build of 100,000 barrels for the previous week. Production last week averaged 9.1 million bpd, which compared with 9.6 million bpd during the previous week. - *Oilprice.com*



#### Food insecurity soars - Report

Food insecurity in the world's poorest countries reached record highs in 2020, with millions staring at famine, a situation exacerbated in part by the COVID pandemic, according to a UN report.

From Haiti to Syria, some 155 million people across 55 countries who rely the most on humanitarian assistance were classified as being in “crisis” – meaning in urgent need of food – a 20 million increase since 2019, according to the report released Wednesday. The report – based on a study organised by the Global Network Against Food Crises, a partnership between the European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization, and the UN World Food Programme – attributed three main factors to the worsening situation: conflict, economic factors related to the COVID pandemic and climate change. - *Aljazeera*



### To overcome economic ills

# PROMOTING TECHNICAL EDUCATION THE WAY OUT - EXPERTS

Japan, a good example

By **Lalin Fernandopulle**



The perpetual clamour for equitable access to wealth and a good lifestyle by the less privileged will cease with a change of attitude and educational reforms that would promote and bring technical education

to the forefront, said a senior entrepreneur and an expert on labour productivity.

The daily wage earner and the casual worker is again in for turbulent times with the country imposing travel restrictions and curtailing public gatherings to restrain the spread of the pandemic.

Low income earners who constitute a large segment of the informal sector are the most affected due to movement restrictions which

impedes carrying out their occupation. The informal sector which consists of low wage earners accounts for over 55 percent of the labour force in the country of which nearly 60 percent are engaged in the non-agricultural sector, according to data.

A more detailed analysis carried out across occupational categories under the informal sector has identified The daily and casual workers providing services, sales, those in

the agriculture and manufacturing sectors are the most vulnerable segments of the informal sector. “It’s time that a drastic change in policy direction and in the mindset of people take place that would recognise and promote technical workforce which play a pivotal and an indispensable role in the economy,” a SME entrepreneur maintained during the year amidst adverse speculation and continued to provide relief to the businesses... **TO PAGE 28**

## Central Govt debt rose to 101% of GDP last year - CB

Reflecting the expanded budget deficit and resultant large financing requirements as well as the contraction of GDP, the outstanding central government debt rose to 101.0 percent of GDP at end 2020, from 86.8 percent of GDP at end 2019, the Central Bank (CB) stated in its 2020 Annual Report released last week. Nevertheless, the bank noted that the relative share of outstanding foreign debt to total central government debt declined notably to 40.0 percent at end 2020, from 47.6 cent at end 2019. The reports highlights the impeccable debt service record the government said urging the country to take a cue from... **TO PAGE 28**

## Long-term moves key to turnaround economy - Economists

Action has to be two-fold as immediate and long-term. The immediate ones are necessary to roll over the issues of debt burden and weak reserve position as the government is doing right now. The immediate measures include further borrowings either from bilateral sources or multilateral sources as well as saving the little foreign exchange that we earn, said Professor in Economics, University of Colombo, Sirimal Abeyratne as measures to boost fiscal consolidation.

However, he said the problem is that these immediate measures can help only to roll over the situation by delaying the worst situations, but, thereafter, they can become counter-productive. That’s exactly why the country needs long-term measures to turn the economy in the right direction.

According to the Central Bank, the government has commenced negotiations for contingency funding from certain regional countries and partners in the Middle East. The Central Bank completed a currency swap arrangement with the People’s Bank of China (PBOC) amounting to CNY 10 billion (equivalent to approximately US dollars 1.5 billion).

However, the according to Prof. Abeyratne the current problem is not necessarily due to the Covid pandemic issue because even without the pandemic Sri Lanka was heading towards it. The pandemic has only quickened it.

Therefore, recovery does not help the country, as it needs to move beyond recovery by creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework and building up investor confidence. This is necessary to accelerate investment, attract FDI, and sustain higher economic growth and exports.

Only with this, can the debt burden be relieved and the reserve position strengthened. It would also help... **TO PAGE 28**



Prof. Sirimal Abeyratne



Small-scale merchants including this fruit vendor in Colombo are in for tough times again with the country on the brink of another closure due to the spike in the number of Covid cases. Here a fruit seller in Pettah tries to convince a buyer. **Pic: Sudath Malaweeera**

## Edible oil imports, key to meet local demand - Study

Revisiting ban on palm oil cultivation vital

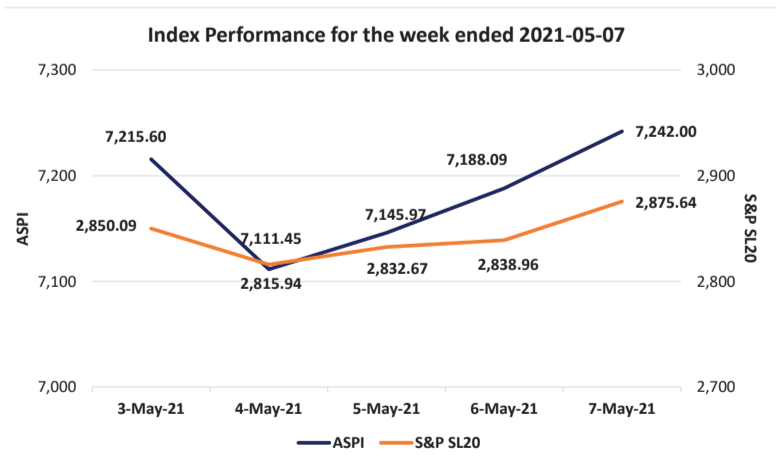
Given the current context, Sri Lanka cannot meet its edible oil demand as coconut supply is not sufficient to meet the edible oil demand, and expansion of production is difficult in the short term.

Imported edible oils are an essential ingredient in food manufacturing due to its unique properties and low cost. Therefore, facilitating import is necessary to meet the local



demand, a study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) stated. According to latest data, around 5,057 establishments employ around 332,828 work-

ers in the formal food manufacturing sector which generates an annual output of approximately Rs. 1.4 billion. Total edible oil supply during 2020 was 263, 621 MT both from local production (44, 326 MT) and imports (219,295). Around 83% of the requirement is met by imports, and industrial demand is nearly two-thirds of the total demand (Figure 3). **TO PAGE 28**



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

## “Costs of international travel to rise”

Prices for international travel are set to rise this year due to pent-up demand and fewer aeroplanes in service, a travel boss has warned.

Booking.com’s chief executive Glenn Fogel told the BBC that holiday “prices are already going up”.

Many airlines have significantly reduced the number of flights they operate due to travel restrictions.

Despite huge demand, uncertainty makes it hard for airlines to plan bringing more planes back into service, he said. “There’s so much pent-up demand,” said Mr Fogel. “Everybody wants to go travelling, but we all want to do it safely.” John Grant, an aviation analyst with global travel data provider OAG agrees that this will have a knock-on impact on air fares as travel restrictions are eased.

“That will, in the short term, create a rush of pent-up demand and revenge spending,” he said. “In turn, the airline algorithms will detect an uptick in demand and move prices up accordingly”. Airlines have reduced capacity by putting aeroplanes into storage, such as these in France. A lack of clarity about how governments will go about recognising vaccine and testing statuses from other countries is troubling the travel industry, which... **TO PAGE 28**

### EXCHANGE RATES

May 3- May 7	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
Monday	199.89	240.64	1.8248	276.45	31.043
Tuesday	199.93	241.01	1.8293	277.53	31.043
Wednesday	199.94	241.39	1.8399	278.96	31.111
Thursday	201.87	242.49	1.8452	280.61	31.346
Friday	201.89	243.87	1.8493	280.88	31.360

## Global chip shortage to hit industries

As technology has advanced, semiconductor chips have spread from computers and cars to toothbrushes and tumble dryers – they now lurk beneath the hood of a surprising number of products.

But demand for chips is continuing to outstrip supply, and car makers are no longer the only companies feeling the pinch.

Many companies – particularly those in China who have been hit by sanctions – are boosting their stockpiles of in-demand chips to try to ride out the storm, but that’s making chips even harder to get hold of for other firms. The severity of the global chip shortage has gone up a notch over the last few weeks and it’s now looking as though millions of people will be impacted. - *CNBC*



## Business

# Upskilling and reskilling employees for the next normal world



## BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

We are collectively experiencing an unprecedented time - a period that will be remembered for generations and make it to every business text book of the future.

Like a domino effect, countries are again being seriously affected by Covid-19 virus one after another - be it a rich country or otherwise - Western or Eastern. Apart from the massive stress of keeping themselves safe from this dreadful virus, employees are facing a unique challenge. The challenge of making themselves future-proof and elevating their skills to fast track the economy when the pandemic resides. Also, a huge section of the workforce is again vulnerable to reduced income, furloughs or layoffs as a result of the third wave in Sri Lanka.

The sudden shift has naturally hampered the overall productivity of most businesses. But on the other

hand, people now have more time on their hands. A lot of time is saved in commuting, socialising, and running errands which adds up to a couple of free hours every day. This is the case for the majority while a small percentage of employees in certain specific industries might be working longer hours than usual.

With the first and second wave, employees were forced to learn new skills and perform jobs they would not have otherwise done. Did the organisations quantify the business value of this and formalise this for long term. Did the chief learning officers or HR folks take steps to assess the value of upskilling and reskilling

### Remote working

Upskilling is the process of teaching employees new skills that will help them in thriving in their job and make them more efficient.

Reskilling focuses on teaching employees new and upcoming skills to do different, multi or more advanced jobs.

Most global companies did this. However, did Sri Lankan companies follow this? The significance of upskilling and reskilling employees has increased by multi-folds. Companies that do not take this time to upskill employees will soon find themselves in a vulnerable position in the 'next normal world'.

Remote working is here to stay. But will the working style in the remote world remain the same as



the traditional office? Digital competency is a fundamental skill now but how far have we gone? Is the current workforce is digitally native enough already or do we have a way to go?

The sooner we start to bridge this gap, the better will be the efficiency of the newer remote job roles. Another important pointer to remember here is that the rate of evolution in the digital world is quite high. As we enter a new level of maturity in digital transformation, the need for new and more advanced skill sets will always be there.

To sustain and thrive in business

you must be early thinkers and early adopters. The economy is taking a massive hit as the pandemic continues to rise and it is going to take quite some time for the economy to bounce back even after the horror resides. To protect your business from possible market disruptions, upskilling and reskilling employees should be the first and foremost step. After you build a workforce of agile, knowledgeable, and tech-forward employees, you are in a much better position to tackle the challenges of the business world.

Take this time to explore what skills that your workforce lacks and

define the skills gap. Although we were anticipating a huge shift towards remote working, what we have now is completely unexpected. Your top talent understands that to survive in this new world, they must equip themselves with skills of the future. Hence, there is no better way to retain your top than to encourage reskilling and upskilling. Even if the company goes through a hiring freeze, your knowledgeable and agile employees will be able to meet the business needs.

Retaining top talent through hard times is important so that, when you are back to business as

**To protect your business from possible market disruptions, upskilling and reskilling employees should be the first and foremost step. After you build a workforce of agile, knowledgeable, and tech-forward employees, you are in a much better position to tackle the challenges of the business world**

usual, you're able to scale up as quickly as possible with the best talent. How teams communicate and work together will determine the chances of survival of a business in this crisis.

### Employee motivation

It is time for the organisation to bring all the departments together such as HR, Sales and Marketing, Finance, Production and formulate a strategy to overcome the Covid 19 surge. Reskilling and Upskilling can help employees to better understand various job roles in the organisation. This will then lead to strong cross-functional teams in the workforce.

Lack of human interaction often leads to feelings of isolation and hopelessness among your people. Uncertainty about the future, personal, and financial safety are prevalent thoughts. When the organisation invests in reskilling and upskilling it can go a long way. It builds the right mindset, greater team collaboration, employee loyalty and greater employee satisfaction.

## 'Early Cash' from Sri Lanka Insurance Life

An insurance policy that gives early returns while offering comprehensive protection

Understanding the modern and vibrant lifestyle of the young generations, Sri Lanka Insurance has launched the 'Early Cash' life insurance policy which provides early returns while offering comprehensive protection for policyholders.

Sri Lanka Insurance Life 'Early Cash' is a long-term policy in which pays up to 50% of the policy value in two advance payments before the end of policy period. (50% for a 10-year plan and 40% for a 15-20 year plan).

Policyholders will also receive a bonus calculated on the total policy value even if advance payments have been obtained, making it an unparalleled insurance solution in the market.

The insurance solution can be further customised according to the specific insurance needs of policyholders with additional covers such as critical illness cover, hospitalisation cover, additional life cover, per-



manent disability benefit, accidental death cover and spouse cover for enhanced protection. In the event of unexpected demise of the policyholder during the policy period the entire sum assured with accumulated bonus will be paid to the dependents immediately, regardless of any previous advance payments made.

The insurance policy is open for anyone between 18-60 and policyholders can choose the policy period from 10, 15 and 20 years. Premium payments can be made annually, bi annually, quarterly and monthly as per the convenience of the customer.

## SLT Digital Info Services designs website for BASL



The new BASL website being launched by the President of the Court of Appeal Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere, the President BASL, Kalinga Indatissa, PC and Secretary BASL, Rajeev Amarasuriya. Head of Digital Business Operations of SLT Digital Info Services, Duminda Chandrasiri and Web Development Team Lead Danushka Gangoda, CEO of BASL, Mrs. Suranee Samarasekera, Oshan Ubhayarathna and officials of SLT and BASL look on.

SLT Digital Info Services (Pvt) Ltd (SLTDS) has extended their expertise to the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) with the launch of its upgraded website: www.basl.lk.

Revamp of the website came as a result of BASL's initiative to digitalise many of its functions. The new website aims at providing a greater accessibility for its membership and the general public both locally and globally and it comes with a range of new features such as e-Shop, Payment Gateway Integration, Member Login Area enabling members to renew membership, apply for services such as car labels and register for CPD programmes and conferences and moreover it offers access to over 50 BASL webinars as well. A new online Job Bank has also been introduced.

The site is mobile-optimised to reflect the reality that many Sri Lankans access the website primarily

through mobile devices. The website was launched at the closing ceremony of the National Law Conference 2021, recently. President of the Court of Appeal Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere, President BASL Kalinga Indatissa, PC, Secretary BASL Rajeev Amarasuriya were also present.

BASL Secretary Rajeev Amarasuriya said, "The BASL has in the past 10 months converted all its professional development activities to online platforms through which the BASL has reached out to the entire membership and that the next phase was the launch of this brand-new and state-of-the-art website". He thanked the President BASL and the other members of the management for all the support and guidance and also SLT Digital Info Services for converting the requirements of BASL into a functional and efficient website. President BASL Kalinga Indatissa, PC said, "It was an important

day for BASL in its digital transformation." Members now could benefit from the several services of BASL without having to physically visit BASL. A full-fledged interactive website was a long-felt need for BASL and he was glad that the project could be completed during his tenure of office, he said.

CEO of SLT Digital Info Services, Malraj Balapitiya said that they were extremely happy to see BASL truly following the path of digital transformation. "Keeping up with the trends and technology, BASL has digitised most of its activities and the recent series of webinars conducted on Zoom stands as proof which really shows their commitment towards the transformation.

The fully functional website is needed especially in view of the road map laid down by the management of the BASL to better connect the 85 branch associations spreading across the country."

## Everyone knows HR

Smart employees know how to manage the boss well including his or her ego.



-Managing the boss

By Janaka Kumarasinghe

## SLT-Mobitel partners STEMUP for 'Hack:bit 2020'

SLT-Mobitel partnered with STEMUP Educational Foundation to conduct Hack:bit 2020, a virtual inter-school and inter-university nationwide hackathon to inspire creativity among youth.

The grand finals of the Hack:bit 2020 took place recently with prizes to the value of Rs. 1.5 million presented to winners who represented school and university categories.

The school category winners were: First - Central College, Kuliyaipitiya; Second - President's College, Embilipitiya and Third - Ananda College, Colombo. The winners in the University category were: First - Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and teams from the University of Moratuwa in both second and third places. Hack:bit 2020 which was conducted virtually, provided students with a platform to present their innova-

tive ideas through a disruptive product. It also permitted participants to explore their potential, and to develop their ideas into a successful real-world product. SLT-Mobitel also conducted a webinar on STEMUP education for children, during the event. Chief Marketing Officer, SLT, Prabhath Dahanayake said, "It has been a privilege to have joined hands with the STEMUP Foundation to see this event through. As a national service provider that prides itself in the mission of uplifting the nation and creating a tech-driven economy, it has been rewarding to witness young talent on a platform such as Hack:bit 2020 where they are allowed to get creative, to showcase their levels of passion and skill and become even more inspired with the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics." Hack:bit 2020 participants had the privilege of working

closely with industry experts who provided know-how and insights to elevate their ideas and to help them further improve. Entries were evaluated by an expert panel of judges on key factors such as uniqueness of the idea, innovativeness, implementation, business value and sustainability. The panel of judges consisted of local technology and academic professionals with years of domain expertise between them. Director, STEMUP Educational Foundation, Prabhath Mannapperuma said, "We are excited to have witnessed the turnout for Hack:bit 2020 following the success of the event in 2018. Hack:bit 2020 provides a platform for students to feel inspired and to get them to engage more with aspects of scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) studies and this initiative gave them the chance to showcase their creative ideas."

## Royal Ceramics appoints two Directors to its Board

Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC has appointed Sanjeewa Renuka Jayaweera and Jitendra R. Gunaratne as Directors to its Board, to strengthen its management team.

Gunaratne has been an active member of John Keells Holdings with 40 years of experience, during which he successfully led the food & beverage, plantations and leisure sectors of the group.

A seasoned leader, Jayaweera has held several senior management positions prior to joining Rocell. He counts over two decades of experience in working for top



Jitendra R. Gunaratne

corporates. He brings with him years of expertise in the fields of financial accounting, management



Sanjeewa Renuka Jayaweera

accounting, hotel management, manufacturing, retail, audit and compliance.

# Breeding leaders - Reflections in retrospect - Part 1



**STRATEGIC STRIDES**  
by

**Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri**

Powered by

**PIMA**

PIM Alumni

I thought of sharing, in two parts, an interesting dialogue that took place between my colleague, Tharindu Amarasekera and myself on leadership. It was pertinent for me as I relinquished my duties as the PIM director last Friday, having completed two, three-year consecutive terms. This is part 1.

#### Overview

While critical reviews and solo interviews are much of the norm in modern business publications, the BMD facilitates a dialogue between two management thinkers from the leading MBA provider in Sri Lanka, PIM (Postgraduate Institute of Management).

While one is a PIM veteran with over 15 years of service at PIM and a knowledge creator in leadership thinking and believes in being a lifelong Learner who can be further described as an international conference speaker, sought-after corporate trainer, veteran strategy consultant, prolific author and an

acclaimed academic, the other is a fresh face to the PIM carder having honed his skills in the diverse fields of digital disruption, finance, and communication skills.

The BMD facilitated a dialogue between Director, PIM, Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri and Senior Lecturer at PIM, Tharindu Amerasekera, reflecting on the journey of PIM under the leadership of Prof. Dharmasiri and vital leadership lessons.

Tharindu: Professor, they say all good things must come to an end. As your term as Director of PIM comes to a close, what do you recollect as your experience?

Prof. Ajantha: Tharindu, my association with PIM spans over 20 years, as a student, visiting faculty, core faculty, senior lecturer, professor and now the director and the chairman of the board of management. I got the surprised challenge as an Acting Director, at a time where I had not even applied for it. I decided to be an "active" director.

Titles mean nothing unless those on whom it is bestowed act with purpose. After six months of proving my performance and my commitment, I was appointed as director of this prestigious institution which I consider to be a privilege and an honour. In fact, I was the youngest director of the largest postgraduate institute in Sri Lanka.

I had a clear shift with regards to approaching people. I said, "No more individual super star" at the helm but a "galaxy of super stars" in harmonious action. It was team orientation in focus. I told my team, "my success is our success, my failure is our failure". They responded wholeheartedly.

Tharindu: Why is it important for an academic institution to have a strategic plan? One might say that an institution is there to teach and that is its business and purpose. But you implemented what is taught at this institution?

Prof. Ajantha: Yes, Tharindu. We must practice what we preach. PIM's approach has always been strategic. Strategy formulation and implementation is the sure way forward in achieving sustained results. PIM's forward path is shaped by its current strategic plan.

It was a time of intense competition as higher education institutions; MBA providers were sprouting. While there is a plethora of reasonably high quality, MBA and other master's programs offered,



Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri (left) in conversation with Tharindu Amerasekera

PIM had to Reinvent, Reinforce and Redefine its role in the country as the Nation's School of Business, as PIM was traditionally known.

With the NIBM and NSBM in vibrant action, we needed to do something differently. We elevate ourselves as the "Nation's Management Mentor".

We collectively built a strategy for PIM. A renewed focus, where among a sea of people chasing to have a MBA, we would produce those who can be an MBA. I coined the new motto. "Do not do an MBA; be brilliant as an MBA". The significant shift from "doing" to "being" was of high strategic importance.

I collectively strived to maintain the highest standards in the MBA with the right blend of context, content, and conduct. I was inspired by an interesting and insightful thought sharing on the future of MBAs. "From Higher Aims to Higher Hands" is the title of the treatise of Dr. Rakesh Khurana of Harvard Business School.

His criticism of Harvard MBA as a "uni-polar" MBA as opposed to being a "multi-polar" MBA is worth reflecting. According to Khurana, a "uni-polar" MBA trains manager to have lucrative carriers in multinationals and large conglomerates. Instead, a "multi-polar" MBA should prepare the candidates in becoming entrepreneurs, setting up SMEs in fostering innovation and partnerships in offering best-cost solutions.

It gave me a sense of satisfaction, as the MBA we offer has the scenario of making one out of five of its recipient's entrepreneurs. In fact, we want to make this ratio doubled through the initiatives of

**According to Khurana, a "uni-polar" MBA trains manager to have lucrative carriers in multinationals and large conglomerates. Instead, a "multi-polar" MBA should prepare the candidates in becoming entrepreneurs, setting up SMEs in fostering innovation and partnerships in offering best-cost solutions**

PIM Genesis, our Business Incubation Centre.

I have been enriching my mind with contemporary thoughts on MBAs and postgraduate studies on Management, to explore new vistas in a true strategic sense. Recent comments by Elon Musk of Tesla fame, on MBAs lacking creativity also is a clarion call for regular review and continuous improvement.

Tharindu: If you could describe your strategic approach that led to significant success. I am sure you have much more to share.

Prof. Ajantha: Yes, of course. It began with the PIM's Vision, Mission and values followed by goals and objectives and Key Performance Indicators for the said period. All stakeholders are considered in the buildup of this strategic plan and we continue to monitor the environmental changes in the education sectors, local and global economies to ensure that we are aligned with the macro environmental forces.

This way we ensure the graduates we produce are those who can make a difference in the world out there and contribute more to the Sri Lankan economy.

If not, we will be just a teaching centre, but Tharindu, if we are to be the nation's management mentor, we need to proceed with a plan.

I was instrumental in collectively developing our vision which

is to become a centre for management excellence in South Asia. Our mission goes as follows: "We ignite human imagination by developing leaders with global presence and local pulse. In this endeavour, we pursue innovative teaching, cutting-edge research, enriching partnerships, inspiring sustainability and exemplary governance."

We at PIM practice three key values, viz. Passion (Enthusiasm and eagerness towards results in showing professionalism), Integrity (Acting in an ethical manner with the best interest of the institution in mind) and Mindfulness (Paying attention to purpose and actions in doing things with self-awareness). As I envisaged, our "Edifice of Excellence" consists of five pillars, viz. Teaching, Research, Partnerships, Sustainability and Governance.

My team and I enjoyed the fortune of not merely having this plan on paper but also putting into action mindful of how to maximise the benefits of this plan for our students and the wider management. I firmly believe that execution brings excellent results. It challenges us to move beyond multi-coloured, spiral bound strategy documents to dedicated action with key deliverables in mind.

Tharindu: I have personally observed you are very team-oriented with a flair of relentless positivism. Why is this vital for a leader of

an organisation? Prof. Ajantha: Tharindu, this is very much in line with my life's purpose. It goes as follows:

I choose to be a radiator and a reflector of positive energy by way of exploring and sharing growth-fostering knowledge with human-kind.

This is because I have a genuine desire to use all the gifts that I have received from nature and nurture, unleashing the creativity in me with a global reach and a local touch.

While doing so, I consistently maintain a balance between ongoing learning development, leadership growth and relationship richness.

I consider myself as a "climate creator" where my community enjoy what they do in exerting themselves towards excellence. This goes very much in line with research related to Organisational Behaviour where it was found that happy people become far more productive. I was inspired by a veteran CEO who said, I look after my people and they look after my business.

Instead of treating my people as staff, subordinates, direct reports, or followers, I consider them as empowered leaders.

That is what made it possible for me to travel overseas frequently to build study groups at over six overseas destinations. I never bothered to call PIM on an hourly basis to check what is going on. For me, that is clearly micro-management. We cannot grow without proper delegation. I am so glad to reap the rich harvest of such leader-breeding.

I recall with refreshing memories how we as a PIM community embarked on two overseas study tours. First to Kasetsart University in Thailand. Second to Gajah Mada University in Indonesia (with a stay in Singapore on the way back). These include all levels of employees from the director to the drivers, showing our solidarity. Each one was supposed to submit a write-up as to how the experience and observations helped them to do at least one new thing to improve PIM. The response was very positive.

#### Way forward

Part 2 of the article will highlight more insights into the pandemic. It will feature how the leading postgraduate entity responded to a planetary pandemic.

## CSE records 29% market turnover growth in April

Total market turnover of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) demonstrated a growth of 29.43% in April compared to the previous month. Market turnover was recorded at Rs. 53 billion while Domestic Turnover has seen a growth of 64% indicating the sustained interest among Sri Lankan investors.

Highlights of the month included the growth in the benchmark All Share Price Index (ASPI) closing at 7,208.20, S&P SL20 index closing at 2,869.25. The

average number of trades closing at 22,037 while Market Capitalisation stood at Rs. 3.2 trillion.

The primary market has also seen a growth in Capital Raising, with the Debt issuance of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Chrissworld Ltd on the Empower Board. Both issues were oversubscribed on the first day itself and raised Rs.20 Billion and Rs.56.25Million respectively. Wind-Force Ltd was listed at the CSE in April

and the company attracted a Total Foreign Investment of Rs. 531 million on the very first day of trading. YTD Foreign Purchases of equity stands at Rs. 17.1 billion as at end of April 2021. CEO of CSE, Rajeeva Bandaranaike said, "We are happy to see Investor and Issuer confidence in the capital market in equal measure. This is a positive sentiment recorded at the beginning of the second quarter of the year and a continuation of the momentum demonstrated in the first quarter."

## Inflation drops in April

Headline inflation, as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100) decreased to 3.9 per cent in April 2021 from 4.1 per cent in March 2021.

This was driven by monthly decreases of prices of items in the Food category.

Food inflation (Y-o-Y) decreased to 9.0 per cent in April 2021 from 9.6 per cent in March 2021, while Non-food inflation (Y-o-Y) remained

unchanged at 1.8 per cent in April 2021. The change in the CCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased marginally to 3.9 per cent in April 2021 from 4.0 per cent in March 2021.

Monthly change of CCPI recorded a marginal decline in April 2021. This was due to price decreases observed in items of the Food category.

Within the Food category, prices of coconut, vegetables, red onion and big onion decreased in April 2021.

Prices of items in the Non-Food category recorded an increase during the month mainly due to price increase observed in the Transport (lubricant oil) sub-category.

The core inflation (Y-o-Y), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy, decreased marginally to 3.0 per cent in April 2021 from 3.1 per cent in March 2021. Meanwhile, annual average core inflation remained unchanged at 3.0 per cent in April 2021.

## EU 'Farm to Fork' strategy supports sustainable farming

Ensuring sustainable food security is a vital element of Sri Lanka's agriculture sector and the country's economy at large. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of a robust and resilient food system that can function in all circumstances and can ensure access to a sufficient supply of affordable food for all. The pandemic is only one example. The increasing recurrence of droughts, floods or new pests are a constant reminder that our food systems must become more sustainable and resilient.

The European Union (EU) has developed a 'Farm to Fork' (FtF) Strategy to support sustainable food systems in Europe and its partner countries. This initiative maps a new sustainable, inclusive growth trajectory for the development of fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food systems. The Farm to Fork Strategy is part of the EU's ambitious Green Deal that lays out a vision for a sustainable climate-neutral and resource-efficient future by 2050.

As Sri Lanka gears up for its participation in the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit due to be held in September, the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy provides useful guidance for improved food systems considering all sustainability dimensions.

The 'Farm to Fork' strategy and the agricultural challenges and opportunities faced by Sri Lanka, were the subjects of the webinar 'Farm to Fork: How EU and Sri Lanka are moving towards a more sustainable food system?' organised by the EU Delegation in Sri Lanka and the EU-funded "Technical Assistance to the Modernisation of Agriculture" program (TAMAP).

The event brought together a panel of experts that discussed the new strategic approach towards food system sustainability, the EU's role in contributing to more resilient and sustainable food systems, and challenges and opportunities faced by Sri Lanka in moving towards sustainable farming. Launching the webinar, the



Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Frank Hess said, "Agriculture and rural development are among key priorities of the EU's partnership with Sri Lanka. For nearly a decade, the EU has been supporting the national authorities, local communities and farmers to move

towards a more inclusive, modernized and sustainable agriculture."

Dr. Olaf Heidelbach, lead speaker on behalf of the European Commission, outlining the 'Farm to Fork' strategy said, "When it comes to integrating environmental, social and economic sustainability in agriculture policy developments, there

are many similarities between the EU's and the Sri Lankan food systems."

For these reasons, the EU would like to collaborate with the Government to further enhance the global impact of the EU's 'Farm to Fork' strategy.

Ms Champa Magamage of the Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute, HORDI, Registrar of Pesticides, Dr. Sumith, Ms Disna Rathnasinghe of the Department of Agriculture, and Ms Ranmalee Gamage of GIZ Sri Lanka addressed the current issues faced by Sri Lanka's agriculture and food industry, including practical concerns and regulatory efforts related to the use of chemicals in food, food labeling and certifications, and promotion of organic agriculture practices.

The presentations and the subsequent discussion highlighted that, while many efforts have been already made, Sri Lanka is still facing several challenges in guaranteeing sustainable food security to its

people. Better access to and affordability of safe, nutritious and high-quality food, capacity in implementing solutions identified, or better consumer awareness are a few areas in which Sri Lanka could strengthen its strategy framework for sustainable food system development.

The World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in coordination with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Agriculture, will soon be launching a series of national consultations to prepare for Sri Lanka's participation to the UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021. In a recent policy brief on 'Sustainable Food Systems', WFP Sri Lanka provides policy recommendations to deliver sustainable food systems, noting that the agricultural sector needs to transform and adapt its existing policies and practices in order to move towards a sustainable food system which delivers economic, environmental and social benefits.



# Negotiation techniques and skills bring success in business

by  
**Hemantha Kulatunga**



**I**n business as in life, you don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate" is the title of a book authored by the subject wizard Dr. Lester L. Kar-rass. I came across this phrase nearly 30 years ago when I was attending a sales training session as a junior salesman. I neither recall the name of the young and vivacious trainer nor the exact contents of the delivery, but the phrase never left my memory until now because I have never ceased to believe the truth in the statement.

As defined by Wikipedia, Negotiation is a dialogue between two or more people or parties intended to reach a beneficial outcome over one or more issues where a conflict exists concerning at least one of these issues. Negotiation is an interaction and process between entities who aspire to agree on matters of mutual interest while optimizing their utilities.

In a literary sense, what you negotiate in business gets what you deserve. The entrepreneurs, senior managers, and sales professionals, throughout their respective careers, constantly engage in negotiating with others as one of their most productive professional tasks. The techniques first and the skill subsequently determines the success of a business transaction, big or small. Having said that, I have to state that everyone born into the world, at one time or another, involves themselves in negotiations at different levels right through their business or personal lives.

There are three types of negotiators we come across in business. Firstly, soft bargainers who use gentle negotiation tactics in a transaction. Usually, they attempt to avoid confrontations and maintain a friendly and cordial attitude with other negotiators and persist in agreement rather than resistance.

The hard negotiators mostly

attempt to push their way through at the discussion table using even high-handed tactics. Hard bargainers apply pressure throughout the negotiation and rely only on victory rather than mutual agreements or benefits. Hard bargainers usually treat others as adversaries and untrustworthy.

The third is the principled negotiator who seeks integrative and mutually beneficial solutions. They concentrate on the issue rather than the interests and reach agreements on independent personal views. They base their efforts on objectives more than power or self-interest and act on moral standards, traditions and professionalism.

## Important techniques

'Integrative negotiation' and 'adversarial bargaining' are two important techniques in negotiation. Integrative bargaining is known to be a civilised and assertive method of negotiating with solutions found in win-win situations. The strategy is to find mutually agreeable decisions that satisfy the needs of each of the bargaining parties. This process often involves brainstorming with all concerned parties and pooling knowledge to find the best solution.

'Adversarial bargaining' is quite contrary. Also known as distributive bargaining, the method involves tough demands, threats, or bluffs. While in certain negotiations, particularly political and legal, the negotiators play hardball and treat the other negotiating parties as competitors. This method is rarely successful in commercial negotiations.

The process, behaviour, and agenda are the three elements of negotiation. The process is the way an individual negotiates with others using various techniques and strategies to reach a solution. The behaviour is how the two or more parties interact with each other and communicate their respective points clearly to the others in the discussion. The third element, the substance is the topic and the agenda on which the individuals of the negotiating parties continue the dialogue.

Various types of negotiations take



place in business. The most frequent out of these are the negotiations that occur in the workplace. Dialogues between the superiors and employees, discussions among fellow employees on official matters, and conversations and discussions with other stakeholders constantly go on as day-to-day negotiations in business entities.

## Winning negotiation

Commercial negotiations are discussions generally done across a table engaging two or more groups to find solutions to a mutually important business subject. Usually, commercial negotiations end up in mutual agreement with conditions acceptable to all negotiating parties. The pros and cons are evaluated and deciding on an agreeable alternative best suited are found in a winning negotiation.

Negotiation techniques are referred to the style and methods deployed by negotiators during a discussion whether they are commercial or private. There are certain unwrit-

ten rules, regulations, and ethics involved in good negotiations. The conversations must be pleasant and conclusions must be amicable to be fruitful to negotiating parties.

Preparing for the negotiation, particularly in business discussions, with everything related to the subject is perhaps the foremost technique on the negotiating table. Negotiators must be able to counter any objection, argument, or comment successfully. Therefore, researching the minutest details of the subject with adequate information is imperative.

Before arriving at the bargaining table, it is imperative to analyse and decide the best alternatives to determine the loss in case the negotiation fails. Your best weapon in a hard negotiation is your ability and willingness to walk away. Therefore, good negotiators identify the best alternatives to the final agreement. This technique is common to both integrative negotiations and adversarial bargaining.

In any negotiation, business or

personal, posture and body movements play a big role. You must look confident and act confident to earn the respect of the opposing person or group. Self-assured speech patterns and positive verbatim can provide the desired edge at a serious negotiation. Showing signs of insecurity or nervousness can bring unfavourable results in a negotiation.

Being focused on the specific subject matter will convince the counterparts that you are serious and you mean business. By displaying the focus and the meticulousness, you tend to earn continuous respect of the counterparts.

## Valuable information

Being a patient listener is important in bargaining. When you actively listen to the other party carefully, you will know exactly what they expect as the outcome. It makes things easier for you to express disagreement or displeasure at once. Your exemplary listening skills not only will get hold of valuable information but also your

**The ultimate goal of a negotiation is to reach an amicable solution with the counterparts. Therefore, building rapport with the others before the negotiation starts can bring superior results**

counterparts will see you as a reasonable negotiator

The ultimate goal of a negotiation is to reach an amicable solution with the counterparts. Therefore, building rapport with the others before the negotiation starts can bring superior results. All other negotiating groups could be more collaborative if you spend a few minutes in the beginning to break the ice. After all, any transaction must reach an agreement to be successful.

In a commercial negotiation, it's always good to ask questions from time to time. The likely questions must be pre-arranged for them to be more productive. The discussions become more integrative with the right questions at the right time. A smart negotiator prepares his questions leading the answers by the counterparts. On the other hand, questions make the gray areas of the subject matter clearer.

Presenting multiple equivalent offers at the initial stage is a good negotiating strategy. Instead of making proposals one by one, you can make several offers together as a bundle. By doing that you are influencing and leading the other parties to accept part of your deal. When they accept part of the offers, it is easy for you to improve other parts of the proposals and can be done on mutual understanding. Also, even if your counterpart accepts a few out of many, you are still in a winning position.

The disposition and the personality with the understanding of negotiating techniques create a stable component of a negotiator. A good negotiator is flexible in the bargaining table by being either cooperative or hard as a professional depending on the person across the table. The ability to negotiate well is one of the most important attributes one can possess in business which can bring what you desire.

Open letter to the President

## Ban on import of chemical fertiliser

SLIAG calls for scientific approach to achieve objectives

The Sri Lanka Institute of Agriculture (SLIAG) in an open letter addressed to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, while appreciating the decision taken by the President to establish a 'Green Socio-Economic Model' in the agriculture sector, calls for urgent attention on some crucial issues that should be immediately addressed to realise the objectives of the President's decision.

### Excerpts of the letter:

Establishing a 'Green Socio-economic Model' in Sri Lanka: Focus on the agriculture sector

This letter emanates from the decision Your Excellency has made on the above subject. We also learned the decisions made to ban the use of chemical fertiliser and pesticides including herbicides in agriculture in Sri Lanka, with a view to become the first such country in the world to do away with such input in agriculture. This letter also refers to a previous letter sent by us, SLIAG to Your Excellency on April 17, 2020 titled 'Reviving Sri Lankan Agriculture in Post-Covid-19 Era'.

The SLIAG, the only institute comprising professionals in all spheres of agriculture representing all state and private sector agencies and universities contributing to agricultural development of the country. We pledge our fullest support and cooperation to any effort made by the Government to take the agriculture sector to the next level of development.

The SLIAG appreciates the decision taken by you to establish a 'Green Socio-Economic Model' in the agriculture sector of Sri Lanka. We applaud Your Excellency for efforts made to revive the agriculture sector of the country with a long term vision.

As an entity comprising agriculture professionals, we wish to draw your urgent attention on some crucial issues that should be immediately addressed to realise the objectives of the decision.

We do present our scientifically-valid views at this initial stage of an initiative with a noble objective of making the agriculture sector of the country free from chemical inputs. In fact, we do realise the need for scientific consensus, rather than opinions.

We also recognise the need of a well-planned and efficient monitoring program, given that agriculture development is multifaceted. We propose to address the issues related to farming community, national food security, and introduction and adoption of advanced technology in a com-

prehensive and a coherent manner when implementing this initiative.

Irrational or misuse of agrochemicals is a common phenomenon among practitioners in countries such as Sri Lanka. Some fertiliser imported to Sri Lanka are reported as not conforming to the standards stipulated by the country. As Your Excellency has clearly stated, we have failed to tackle these issues effectively. Irrespective of the type of fertiliser, organic or inorganic, the agricultural inputs should be applied at correct quantities, using the correct application method, and at the correct time to fulfil the nutrient requirement of the plant, which will differ based on the soil factors and cultivating season. Heavy doses and low quality of both organic and inorganic agricultural inputs will negatively affect the environment and food that we consume.

The great majority of crops that we cultivate, both annuals and perennials, are fertiliser-responsive and are high yielding. Thus, there is a highly likely chance that sudden discontinuation of synthetic agro-chemicals result in a significant yield reduction, affecting farmers' income and their livelihood, and reducing agriculture-based export earnings.

Regarding the issue of any loss of farmers' income, Your Excellency has categorically stated that the government will compensate for the yield loss. We would like to keep on record that climate change can always confound the effects rendering such compensation efforts extremely difficult. Hence, the government needs to identify an effective mechanism to evaluate and measure such losses, and also an efficient system to pay compensation for the affected growers avoiding injustice that may occur in the process.

Considering the issues related to food security, any loss of food crop production to levels less than the consumption requirement, especially the main staple rice, will lead to food imports until the expected level of establishment of the 'Green Socio-economic Model' approach. Such imports may violate the core objective of supplying healthy food to consumers, if the imported food items are not in compliance with the acceptable standards under the 'Green Socio-economic Model'. Thus, in such instances, any food items imported should be screened to assure compliance to food safety standards, or be rejected otherwise.

On the introduction and adoption of new technology, we need to identify the best practices



used in the world related to ecological approaches in agriculture. The new technologies should be introduced however, their suitability in safeguarding our environment should be assessed through simple but well-designed experiments as a top priority, prior to their introduction and adoption. This is true for both imported and locally developed technologies.

Research and Development in any field, including agriculture, is vital for sustainable development. Ad hoc use of any technology or input will do more harm than good. The SLIAG highlights this as we do not want to see any non-scientific polling or opinion-based approach creating irreversible negative impacts during this exercise. For example, if a new bio-fertiliser is to be introduced (imported or locally-developed) to a specific crop situation, the impact to our agro-ecosystems must be evaluated to safeguard the native biodiversity in our soils and other ecosystems prior to their adoption. As microbes are living organisms, they behave differently even within a country in different ecosystems. They should not out-compete or destroy our microorganisms and not become pathogenic as well. Such repercussions are the same whether we use organic or chemical inputs. Hence, the SLIAG kindly request you to give this a top priority and to direct the relevant authorities to establish scientifically valid mechanisms for such testing for adopting technology to support this initiative at the national scale.

Sufficient infrastructure facilities (including

accredited laboratories), trained manpower (including scientists, technicians, farmers, and other stakeholders), and a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism are essential to achieve the purpose of this concept. We do understand that creating motivation among the stakeholders through education, training and media as clearly explained by Your Excellency, are vital components of this exercise. Simultaneously, efforts also should be taken to change the food consumption habits and reduce food mileages in achieving the goals of this concept.

The SLIAG hails your efforts to strengthen the livelihood of the farming community, which is the need of the hour. We have seen fruitful results in increasing production with the government initiatives to ban imports and produce what we can produce in Sri Lanka. Turmeric and mung bean are excellent examples. However, we sincerely hope that the government will strike a balance in having benefits to both farmers and consumers.

We recommend this strongly as declining yields by immediate shifting from conventional systems to organic systems is a reality. Therefore, there is a likely chance that many food products would not be accessible due to less availability and less affordable due to higher prices, to a larger community in Sri Lanka. Therefore, we propose a systematic transition as the only option to achieve the overall objectives of this effort.

The SLIAG proposes the above supporting the Green Socio-Economic Model proposed by Your Excellency, with the best interest for the sustainability of agriculture development and safeguarding the much needed food security (including nutrition security and food safety) for the future. We collectively accept that a scientific approach is a need in achieving objectives of this noble effort proposed by Your Excellency.

We are confident that a well-coordinated scientific approach will result in achieving the overall objectives of this important initiative. We wish you every success in this effort and SLIAG and its professional membership would pledge all the help possible using scientific pathways to implement this program. We are also open for a detailed discussion at your convenience, on the strategic implementation plan to achieve the intended goals of this important program.

Signed

**W.A.G. Sisira Kumara, President and Dr. Lionel Nugaliyadde, General Secretary, Sri Lanka Institute of Agriculture.**

## Tecno Mobile enters local market



Global mobile phone brand Tecno Mobile has entered the Sri Lankan market with the introduction of its Spark 6 Go smart mobile phone to Sri Lankan customers.

The flagship brand of the Chinese Technology giant Transsion Holdings, Tecno Mobile is one of the fastest-growing smartphone brands globally and was listed among the world's top 10 mobile phone brands in 2020 by the International Data Corporation. Tecno Mobile will be present throughout the island through a wide agent network, presenting quality smart mobiles with state-of-the-art technology to Sri Lankan customers.

Country Manager for Tecno Mobile in Sri Lanka Ray Zhao said, "We are confident our entrance to this market will be a real game-changer due to the stylish elegance, state-of-the-art Technology of our products, combined with the superior service, all of which come at a convenient price. At the heart of our success is our eternal commitment to creating the best Technological solutions that meet all the needs of the modern customer, in line with our motto 'Expect More'. We are glad to offer the same to our Sri Lankan customers."

The first Tecno Mobile product in the local market, Spark 6 Go comes with a 6.52" HD + Drop display, 5000 mAh battery, two options for memory -32GB+2GB and 64GB+3GB, 8MP front camera, and 13MP dual rear camera (2 flashes) with smart features such as AI scene detection, and AI beautification. It is equipped with a HiOS 6.2 Tecno operation system that comes with an array of useful functions.

Business

# Improving productivity in coconut lands, vital to reduce oil imports

BY ERANDATHIE PATHIRAJA

Sri Lanka's edible oil market has received considerable attention in recent weeks due to a series of events: the banning of palm oil imports to promote the coconut industry, detection of aflatoxins in imported coconut oil, import of coconut kernel chips, issuing licence for palm oil imports, and banning of oil palm cultivation.

The edible oil industry is important for Sri Lanka. Oils and fats are a major constituent of the typical Sri Lankan diet and a raw material in manufacturing, in particular the food manufacturing industry. According to the latest available data, there are around 5,057 establishments employing 332,828 workers in the formal food manufacturing sector which generate an annual output of approximately Rs. 1.4 billion. This blog assesses the local edible oil market and its potential for import substitution.

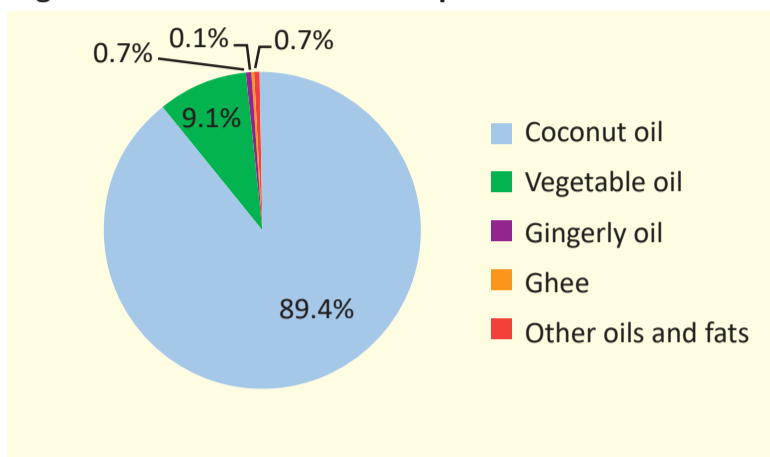
The demand for domestic edible oils comes from two segments: households and industries. Data from the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) show that an average household consumes 1.6 litres of fats and oils per month and the annual consumer demand is around 96,249 MT, with coconut oil being the main source of edible oil (Figure 1). Industrial demand in 2020 can be approximated to 167,372 MT.

### Meeting demand

This demand for edible oils in the country is met by locally produced oils and imported oils. Coconut oil and palm oil are the local edible oil sources. In 2020, total edible oil production was 44,326 MT. Coconut oil production was 19,759 MT which depends on annual coconut production. Crude palm oil and palm kernel oil production was 24, 567 according to the Coconut Development Authority (CDA).

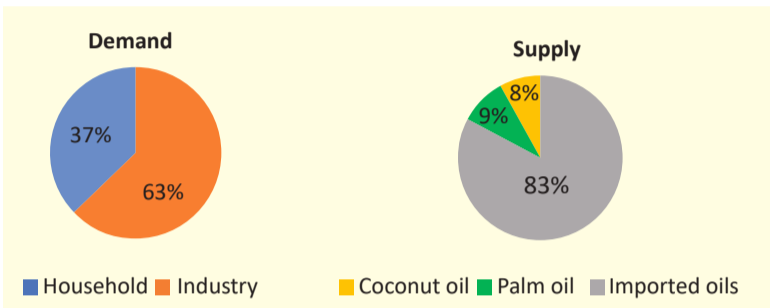
According to the CDA, the quantity of imported fats and oils in 2020 was 219,295 MT. A range of edible oils are imported to meet industrial demand and partially to meet household

Figure 1: Household oil consumption in Sri Lanka



Source: HIES, 2016

Figure 3: Demand and supply of edible oil



Source: CDA, 2020

demand (Figure 2). The foreign exchange outflow in 2020 was LKR 37,378 million for edible oils imports. Total edible oil supply during 2020 was 263,621 MT from local production (44, 326 MT) and imports (219,295). Around 83% of the requirement is met by imports, and industrial demand is nearly two-thirds of the total demand (Figure 3).

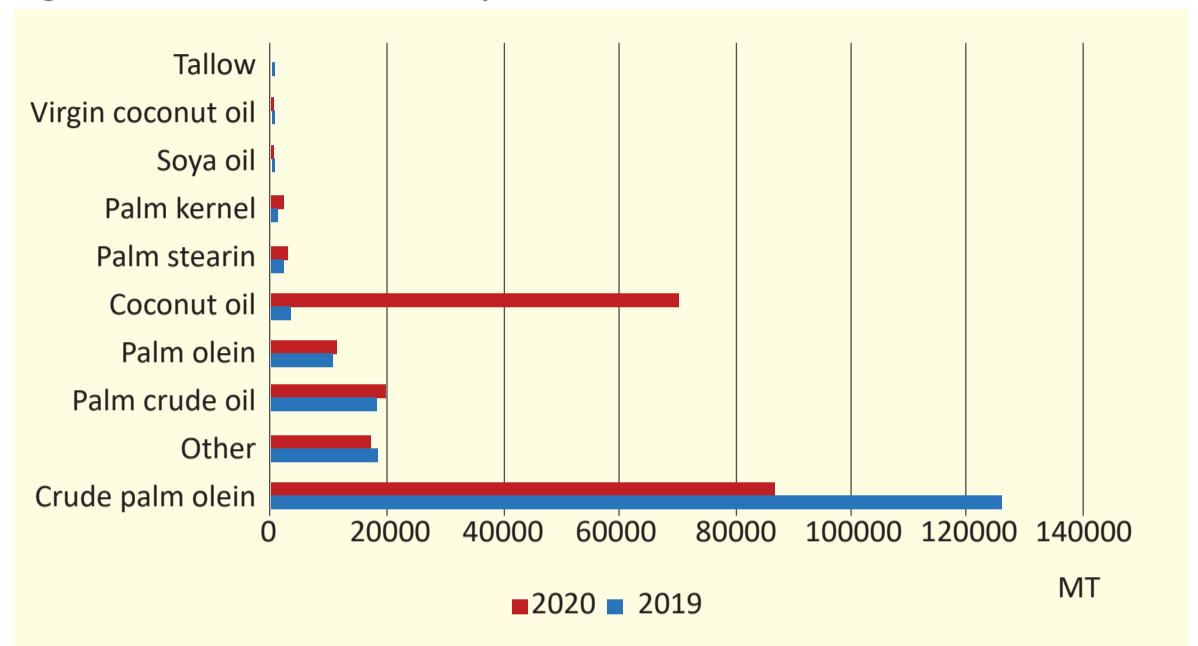
The available data shows that it is difficult to meet the edible oil demand from local supply only. The average coconut production during the past five years was around 2,792 million nuts. Nearly 65-70% of the produce is consumed as fresh coconuts (1,800 million nuts). Processing industries utilise the remaining coconuts (around 1,000 million). Around

108,108 MT of coconut oil can be produced from 1,000 million nuts at the expense of export industries, yet 155,513 MT of excess demand has to be met. Palm oil is cultivated in 12,000 Ha which is expected to produce nearly 48,000 MT. Together, coconut and palm oil can be expected to supply 156,108 MT of edible oil, which is still short of 107,513 MT of oil required to meet the consumer and industry demand.

### Way forward

Given the current context, Sri Lanka cannot meet its edible oil demand as the coconut supply is not sufficient to meet the edible oil demand, and expansion of production is difficult in the short term. Imported edible oils

Figure 2: Volume of edible oil imports



Source: CDA, 2020

are an essential ingredient in food manufacturing due to its unique properties and low cost. Therefore, facilitating import is needed to meet the local demand.

Sri Lanka spends around Rs. 37 billion on edible oil imports, and looking for alternatives is a sensible solution. Rice bran oil is a potential byproduct of paddy milling and it does not need extra land for cultivation. Sri Lanka has to invest in utilising this potential resource. Measures to achieve optimum productivity from existing coconut lands are vital to reduce oil imports.

Investments have already been made in palm oil production. It is important to reinvestigate the concerns around palm oil cultivation. Oil palm being an exotic species, the impact on the local ecosystem is yet unknown with concerns of losing rubber lands, ground water depletion and effluent disposal. Palm oil is more efficient in oil production than coconut; 1 Ha of oil palm produces nearly 4 MT of oil while coconut produces nearly 1 MT of oil. Limited availability

of lands restricts further expansion of coconut lands. Therefore, a combination of coconut and oil palm can be considered to meet the demand for edible oil and the other products.

### Low cost

The coconut industry is directly influenced by edible oil imports. Imported edible oils are cheap, reduce the demand for local coconut oil, and permit adulteration. However, the low cost is an advantage for manufacturing industries. Coconut being a multi-purpose tree is incomparable to oil palm in food security and in terms of livelihood. Promoting coconut export industries is economically attractive. Export income in 2020 from kernel products was LKR 63,293 million. Sri Lanka's coconut products enjoy export demand and a competitive advantage due to its unique taste and colour. Thus, imported raw material is unlikely to be a substitute for export industries and the potential for earning foreign exchange would be low.

The present policy of permitting coconut oil imports under low tariff

rates and kernel chips as a raw material to meet the household coconut oil demand while keeping the coconut oil millers in business can only be a short-term solution. Facilitating traditional millers to reach global Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) and lauric acid value chains will assure their competitiveness while rewarding the coconut growers with a reasonable price. Further, domestic coconut oil consumers may need to partially shift to substitute oils or imported coconut oil until coconut production is substantially increased. A comprehensive analysis to ascertain the cost benefits of using different types of edible oils for different purposes is a priority. Availability of these facts will help consumers make informed decisions, address misapprehensions, and better ensure the well-being of all Sri Lankans.

The writer is a Research Economist at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka.



## MAS Holdings sells attune Lanka to Rizing, LLC

MAS Holdings has sold its subsidiary attune Lanka (Pvt) Limited to Rizing, LLC in line with its long-term strategic objectives.

Rizing is a privately held, US-based boutique firm specialising in providing SAP solutions for Consumer Industries, Enterprise Asset Management and Human Capital Management worldwide.

"The acquisition by Rizing ensured that attune would benefit

from Rizing's global scale and expertise, and that their customers and employees continue to thrive as part of a leading solutions provider in the fashion and consumer industries," said Chairman MAS Holdings, Mahesh Amalean, adding that MAS would continue its close partnership with Rizing and attune in terms of the ongoing implementation and support for SAP products and services across MAS SBU's in Sri Lanka and

overseas. CEO of Rizing, Mike Maiolo said, "Customers from both organizations benefit from this partnership. Now two of the top SAP partners in Consumer Industries and Fashion are a united force to deliver unmatched value through combined experience, expertise and scale".

CEO of attune, Vajira de Silva said, "This merging of Rizing's and attune's industry knowledge and experience will provide our long-

term valuable clients with access to exciting new technologies and talented resources. The strength of the combined companies will allow us to grow into new markets and augment our products and services to better address the needs of existing and new clients."

Standard Chartered Bank's global M&A advisory team acted as the sole advisor to MAS Holdings on this transaction.

## JAT Holdings appoints three women to Director Board



Standing (from left): Devaka Cooray, Mrs. Priyanthi Peris, Richard Gunawardene, Anika Wilson, Hussain Akbarally, Joyce Gunawardene. Seated: Chairman Siva Selliah and Managing Director Aelian Gunawardene.

JAT Holdings, a producer of wood coatings, has appointed three women, Mrs. Priyanthi Peris, Mrs. Joyce Gunawardene and Mrs. Anika Williamson, to its Board of Directors.

Mrs. Priyanthi Pieris, an Attorney-at-Law, encompasses nearly 40 years of expertise in the field of Corporate/Securities Law.

Mrs. Joyce Gunawardene serves as an Executive Director to Brush Master (Pvt) Ltd and was appointed

to the Board of Directors of JAT Holdings in 2015. She holds a BSc in Psychology from the University of NSW, Australia. Mrs. Anika Williamson serves as an Executive Director at JAT Global (Private) Limited and was appointed to the Board of JAT last year. She has over eight years of experience in finance, import, export and banking industries. She holds a double degree in Accounting and Entrepreneurship from Curtin University, Australia.

## People's Insurance enters medical insurance market

People's Insurance PLC has diversified into the health insurance space of the country. This strategic move to establish its presence as a health insurance provider builds on the well-established public image of People's Insurance as the insurer who cares with love.

As the market is already heavily saturated with health insurance products offered by the competition, Peoples Insurance had the strategic objective of offering a product to make them stand out from the rest. Following a customer first approach, the insurer has decided to be a step above its competitors by offering a highly comprehensive medical insurance cover available in the country.

Head of Operations at People's

Insurance, Jeevani Kariyawasam said, "When People's Insurance PLC began to contemplate our entry into the health insurance sector, we knew we had to be different. As we are known as the only insurer who cares with love, our health insurance product had to reflect this strongly. Due to this, we decided to position ourselves as an insurance provider with a highly comprehensive product in the health insurance space. With affordable premiums, we have made every effort to ensure that Sri Lankans can enjoy the peace of mind that health insurance brings about."

Medical schemes will vary from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 2 million and premiums will depend on the sum insured, along with the customer's age band.



Flight Sergeant R. Devapriya receives a medical insurance cover from Director, People's Insurance and CEO and GM, People's Leasing, Shamindra Marcellin.



PBSS, an Information Technology and software solutions provider, held its 'Achievers Night' in Colombo recently to recognise and reward the best performers in 2020/2021. Around 30 employees were recognised under various categories. Eight employees with over 10 years of service and two employees with over 15 years of service were rewarded under the service category.

## NDB Wealth wishes a wealth of joy this Mother's Day

The new normal has brought mothers to the forefront of life as never before.

"Securing the future of your family is critical at this time and age and that is exactly what we focus us on through the NDB Wealth plans. Every mother aspires and dreams to safeguard the future of her family. In the face of the current challenges and uncertainties, it has become a more urgent and critical need. Take that first step towards financial growth and our team of experts will help make your dreams a reality. Our portfolio of flexible Wealth plans will serve you in planning for your future," said Manager of Investment Operations at NDB Wealth, Amali Pathirana.

"At NDB Wealth Management, we offer mothers financial independ-



ence through high yielding investment plans that are more flexible and rewarding than other conventional methods. Talk to our team of experts and discover the joy you can enjoy through financial independence," said Pathirana.



## Advertorial

# More awards for Ceylinco Life policyholders

Fortune smiled in 22-carat radiance on another 103 Ceylinco Life policyholders recently it presented gold to the value of Rs 5 million to the third batch of winners under the 14th edition of its 'Family Savari' mega promotion.

The latest jackpot winner of Rs. 1 million in gold was from Matara, while residents of Moratuwa and Piliyandala took home gold to the value of Rs 250,000 each and five residents of Baddegama, Bandarawela, Batticaloa, Kotahena, and Wellawatte won gold to the value of Rs 100,000 each.

Another 25 policyholders were



The latest winner of Rs 1 million in gold (left) and winners of Rs 250,000 and Rs 100,000 in gold.

each presented gold to the equivalent of Rs 50,000 and 70 others received gold to the equivalent of Rs 25,000 each. Three more draws are to be conducted this year, culminating

in a total of 618 Ceylinco Life policyholders winning Rs 30 million in gold. The decision to present policyholders with gold instead of the customary overseas holidays and

local excursions of the 'Family Savari' promotion was on account of the travel restrictions and safety precautions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

## AIA recognises Area Development Managers

An event was organised by AIA Insurance to recognise the Area Development Managers of its Agency Distribution channel for their immense contribution to the company, while also celebrating promotions for some of them.

The event was a celebration of the long-standing success and unwavering commitment of the 'Area Development Office' (ADO) channel and a recognition of their significant contributions. AIA's ADO channel became a part of the overall Agency channel in 2009 and has since played a key role in the company's business success.

The event and the new designations are aimed at promoting entrepreneurial spirit amongst Agency Development Managers while fostering a sense of healthy competition.

The ADO channel has grown gradually during the last decade and currently contributes to 18% of total new



business of the overall agency distribution channel. Four ADO Managers were presented with elevated designations based on their performance while the highest new designation was received by Vinol Priyasenarath from the Moratuwa ADO, who was promoted to 'Associate General Manager - Moratuwa ADO'. There were also two 'Executive Area Development Manag-

er' designations and two 'Senior Area Development Manager' designations assigned to Dileepa Ameendra from Tissamaharama ADO, Y G G B Yatigammana from Mawanella ADO, Chaminda Gunathilake from Kurunegala ADO & Chaminda Dissanayake from Panadura ADO respectively.

AIA's Deputy CEO and Chief Agency Officer commended these per-

formers for their "immeasurable contribution to the company and thanked them for setting the path ahead for future success." He further encouraged them to grow their businesses by showcasing the long-term potential of the channel while reiterating their role in delivering AIA's promise of helping Sri Lankans live healthier, longer, better lives.

## Cargills Bank Kandy branch moves to own premises

Cargills Bank has relocated its Kandy branch to its own premises on the first floor of the iconic Cargills Building in Kandy, from its previous location within the Cargills Food City premises.

The soft opening of the new Kandy Branch took place on 8th of April 2021, and the Branch was officially declared open by Mr. Senarath Bandara, Managing Director and CEO of Cargills Bank.

Senior members of the Management Teams of both Cargills Bank and Cargills Food City, along with selected customers, were present at the event, which was held in strict accordance with health guidelines. Bandara said, "We have relied on the strength of the Cargills group, Food City in particular,



to extend our reach across the island. "However, we are now ready to launch our Kandy branch as a dedicated, standalone branch to keep up with our promise to serve every Sri Lankan as the nation's most inclusive bank."

## Roshan de Silva - Chief Delivery Officer, Just In Time Group

Customer expectations in 2021 will leave very little room for negotiation, so the customer experience, needs to be completely fool proof and vested in, to fuel a great customer service that will be transforming their business needs.

As Chief Delivery Officer at Just In Time Group (JIT), Roshan De Silva, heads the vital delivery of customer service and support.

Roshan brings in vital, 15+ years of proven project management experience and acute delivery acumen, stemming from his IT service sector experience to validate the much-needed competitive edge in today's IT landscape.

He jump-started his career as a software engineer, with a deep interest in business analysis working to deliver projects across IT consulting, technology and out-



sourcing services both in Sri Lanka and to overseas clients. He has managed large teams, who were involved in delivering projects in Agile landscape including Tech Leads, Architects, Project Managers, QA Leads and BA Leads giving him a thorough understanding of technology deliverables.

A Gift of Indulgence

## The Kingsbury introduces online gift vouchers

With the introduction of e-vouchers on their Indulgence platform, The Kingsbury Colombo has stepped up to offer the choice of gifting some Kingsbury magic to your near and dear ones.

The gift voucher allows your loved ones to purchase goodies online or use it at any of The Kingsbury's restaurants. The cash vouchers are offered in values of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 2,000/-, Rs. 5,000/-, and Rs. 10,000/- and have a validity period of three months. To purchase e-vouchers, simply visit indulgence.the-kingsburyhotel.com, click the menu at the top left, and choose "Gift Vouchers".

Bringing home deluxe dining, The Kingsbury's five-star food delivery web-



site 'Indulgence' has been a trail blazer from the time it was launched a year ago. A popular choice among Colombo's discerning clientele, the food-

ordering platform offers quality, value for money and timely delivery by dedicated hotel associates.

From snacks to relaxed, luxury meals, to high tea spreadsto desserts and everything in between, The Kingsbury Indulgence is the perfect solution. Birthdays, anniversaries, and family celebrations at home are all a breeze, thanks to the effective digital platform that is easy to use and its extensive offerings that are frequently updated.

The Kingsbury Colombo received the 'Safe and Secure Tourism' Compliance Certificate from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

## LB Finance raises \$ 15 m to support SMEs

LB Finance PLC (LBF) has succeeded in raising USD 15 Mn on a 4-year tenure from FMO, the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank. TSW Capital Services, a financial advisory firm based in India was the lead arranger of the deal.

The loan marks a number of historical milestones for LBF - not only does it coincide with the Company's 50th anniversary, it also signals a new chapter in LBF's commitment to the nation. The loan would be used to create a dedicated funding line for the SME segment. Often overlooked by the formal banking channel, Sri Lanka's SME sector has long been handicapped by the lack of adequate funding. LBF's new funding line will help bridge this gap by enabling SME's to access much needed financial assistance, in turn empowering the SME sector as a whole to play a more decisive role in national progress.

Commenting on the significance of

the loan, Sumith Adhithetty, Managing Director of LB Finance PLC said; "For a private sector organization to be able to secure a long term funding of this nature at a time when Sri Lanka too is shopping for foreign funds, is a laudable achievement that testifies to LBF's credentials and proven track record for excellence in all spheres of the business. More importantly, I believe the new loan paves the way for LBF to achieve its ambitions of playing a broader and more dynamic role in promoting financial inclusion within Sri Lanka's SME sector over the next few years.

Speaking at the official signing, Huib-Jan de Ruijter, Chief Investment Officer a.i. at FMO stated: "Supporting LB Finance is supporting financial inclusion. The company is able to provide loans to micro- and SME clients who are often perceived as too risky by larger banks.



Furthermore, the loan will be specifically dedicated to agri- and youth clients, contributing to reducing inequalities within Sri Lanka.

The accompanying Capacity Development program will - amongst others - focus on best practices of Client Protection Principles."

## Seylan Bank moves up in LMD 100

Seylan Bank PLC secured the 20th place in the latest edition of the LMD 100 ranking of Sri Lanka's leading listed companies. Seylan Bank moved up three places from last year's ranking of 23rd place, after a solid performance in 2019/2020.

LMD's Top 100 rankings of 2020 has been compiled following a stringent evaluation of listed companies in Sri Lanka, based on information contained in the annual reports of the companies and the Colombo Stock Exchange Daily Report. The LMD 100 recognises entities for ranking based on profitability together with assets, shareholders' funds and market capitalisation.

Kapila Ariyaratne, Director / Chief



CEO Kapila Ariyaratne

Executive Officer, Seylan Bank said: "In this challenging economic environment, the banking sector faces a number of challenges and the ever-

quicken pace of technological change demands continuous innovation. Moving up the coveted LMD 100 rankings is a convincing reminder of our ability to perform even in difficult times. As we emerge stronger than ever in the post-pandemic new normal, our main focus will remain to be customer centric, we will continue to provide our customers a service that revolves around convenience and safety despite the uncertain times ahead."

Despite the challenging roller-coaster ride corporates have travelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bank has stayed ahead ensuring its presence among the elite with its unwavering effort and stability.

## Sampath Bank continues to promote the reading habit

Sampath Bank joined hands with Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale again. This partnership is part of the Bank's continued efforts to promote the habit of reading and nurture a new generation of readers by making books more affordable and accessible.

The Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale is being held online this year too due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Book lovers across the island can avail themselves of discounts of up to 90% as well as a host of other benefits when making their purchases.

Coming in as the event's Official Banker, Sampath Bank seeks to help readers make the best of the massive discounts on offer and purchase their favorite books through its 'Read now and pay later with Sampath Cards' initiative.

Sampath Mastercard and Visa Credit Cardholders can obtain 03, 06 and 12 months, 0% interest instalment plans on transactions of Rs. 10,000/- and above made on www.bigbadwolfbooks.lk.

Paying for their purchases with their Sampath Mastercard and Visa Credit Cards, they simply need to call 011-2-300-604 to convert the transac-



Head of Card Centre Darshin Pathinayake

tion into their desired instalment plan.

"We are delighted to extend our longstanding partnership with the Big Bad Wolf to this year's Big Bad Wolf Online Book Sale," said Darshin Pathinayake, Head of Card Centre, Sampath Bank PLC. "Going beyond delivering value to the nation through our innovative financial solutions, we seek to play a larger, more active role in society. We firmly believe that nurturing the habit of reading will help stimulate the minds of all Sri Lankans, especially our younger generation, and broaden their hori-

zons. In line with this, we will continue to support events such as this that make books more affordable and accessible."

Launched in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2009, Big Bad Wolf has come to be known as the World's Biggest Book Sale. Since then, it has gone global, touring 34 cities in 12 countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Sampath Bank is a 100% local bank that has deeply rooted itself in the lives of the people of Sri Lanka. Established in 1987, the bank has become a state-of-the-art financial institution that continues to be a market leader today thanks to its constant innovation and customer focused approach to business. It has introduced many firsts to the Sri Lankan banking sector including introducing ATMs to Sri Lanka, extended banking hours and slip-less banking to name a few. The Bank continues to steadily transform itself into a technology-driven financial services provider while upholding our traditions and values.

## BOC offers development loans Focus on SME business revival

The Bank of Ceylon's (BOC) DGM Retail Banking Range II, B. K. Gurusinghe, discusses BOC's unique position as a leading facilitator of development loans and a key contributor to national GDP therein, plus the bank's shift in focus from loan recovery to business revival.

BOC's industry-wide standing as 'Bankers to the Nation' renders further importance to development loans as vital credit facilities contributing to national economic development. An integral part of BOC's banking product mix, development loans allow the bank to continuously impact national GDP through targeting of critical sectors and reducing the import-export deficit.

The bank's national development efforts are reinforced by the strong alignment of the associated strategies with the development aims of the Government, with export, tourism, SMEs, youth and women identified as priority sector lending areas, allowing the bank keener focus in disbursing development loans accurately.

While adhering to government-stipulated regulations in granting



B. K. Gurusinghe

such loans, BOC offers the lowest interest rate and maximum repayment period based on income generated, allowing customers an extended grace period.

Of equal importance in the disbursement of such loans is BOC's acceptance of relaxed security or collateral, oftentimes based on the project value itself.

This allows BOC customers added confidence to overcome the lack of security or collateral and initiate their entrepreneurial projects. A parallel strength of the bank involves the ability to accurately forecast

income from projects, as development loans are entirely based on forecasted income, allowing customers to experience steady and consistent growth over time while individually supporting the national economy.

It is understood that development loans account for a massive 52% of national GDP, and the SME sector comprises over 90% of total entrepreneurs in the non-agriculture sector, parallelly generating 45% of employment country-wide.

These numbers singly justify BOC's keen and continuous emphasis on development lending. As a bank with a network of 600-plus branches islandwide, BOC displays a massive sense of responsibility in actively leading the country's development-focused activities while drawing on its physical infrastructure plus specialist expertise in loan schemes across areas such as SMEs, animal husbandry, agriculture, and fisheries.

This strengthens the bank's offering of highly specialised loans for specific tasks including building tanks and acquiring nets.



# SPECTRUM

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Mustafa Kassim

## Mustafa Kassim, an internationally recognised young entrepreneur

—By—  
Nirosha  
Rajapakse



The international Forbes magazine annually declares the names of 30 distinguished people below the age of 30 years around the world whose contribution has an enormous impact on their selected field of work.

Mustafa Kassim, a young Sri Lankan entrepreneur and a media giant was listed under the Media, Marketing and Advertising category for Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia Edition, class of 2020. Mustafa is the founder as well as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of 'Roar Global' which is one of the most outstanding digital media companies in South Asia.

Mustafa's 'Roar Global' is distinguished as an exception where it has been working to adopt new challenges, despite the health hazards and economic recession erupted during the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

For seven years, 'Roar Global' has been a trailblazer in the media and content landscape of South Asia. In addition to Sri Lanka, 'Roar Global' is having an office in Bangladesh while maintaining its registered presence in Singapore.

Roar Global's staff comprises 70+ geniuses and wizards in the fields of digital and media. The south Asian audience is notably benefited by Roar Global's unprecedented media solutions and contents. Three unique me-

**THE UNIQUENESS WHICH REMAINS WITHIN MUSTAFA IS HIS KNACK OF PROMOTING THE STYLE OF BEING STABLE AND ABLE EVEN UNDER EXTREMELY STIFF CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE PANDEMIC HAS THE CAPACITY OF MAKING THE ENTREPRENEURS UNSTABLE**

dia businesses which include 'Roar media' 'Roar studios' and 'Roar digital' are being operated by 'Roar Global'.

Commenting on the adverse effects of the lockdown on his business activities, Mustafa noted that 'Roar Global' had to experience a significant reduction in revenue. He said that revenue had decreased even up to 70% during the peak of the lockdown. But as it has been declared in a popular adage that "every dark cloud has a silver lining", Mustafa also noticed a considerable increase in the consumption of digital media with the pandemic getting prolonged. Moreover, he said out that there has been a significant increase in the consum-



ers of the digital mediums which he treats as a positive impact on businesses.

The unique feature, seen in the capacity of Mustafa as a young entrepreneur is his abil-

ity of comprehending and applying the fruitful consequences of this particular positive impact in his businesses to continue the required support to all his stakeholders and audience communi-

ty by means of ethical business practices and informative and positive content, most significantly during the most toughest and difficult scary times, experienced by the world at large.

'Roar Global' is invariably a milestone in Mustafa's life, with its establishment his desire of becoming an entrepreneur bore fruit. Mustafa is well armed with a degree in Economics at the California State University, Northridge which has given him not only the knowledge but also the much needed experience, required for the purpose of applying his competencies and skills with the business venture that he established.

The uniqueness which remains within Mustafa is his knack of promoting the style of being stable and able even under extremely stiff circumstances where the pandemic has the capacity of making the entrepreneurs unstable.

Albeit every business is engulfed with a vast of difficulties in their attempt of continuing with the business, Mustafa becomes an exception while setting an example for the upcoming entrepreneurs. None stands as the tower of strength for Roar Global other than Mustafa himself is.

His determination, courage, innovativeness, farsightedness, leadership skills and true sense of benevolence have brought him an abundance of popularity with enormous success.

Mustafa as an acclaimed, versatile, award winning and internationally recognised young entrepreneur emphasizes that the hard work, continued with sincerity and commitments would always bring you an ample of opportunities which can eventually lead you towards the path of success.

## Tech Startup program calls for applications

Sri Lanka's apex Government body in driving the tech-startup ecosystem, the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) is now calling for applications for its national startup initiative 'Spiralation' for the ninth year running.

The Spiralation series has so far supported more than 90 successful startups across multiple industry verticals -including health, finance, agriculture, education and logistics-and has generated more than 500 job opportunities.

The latest round, called as Spiralation 2021 Tech Startup Support Program sets the stage for tech startups to be groomed by offering comprehensive technical and business training hosted by industry experts.

Founded in 2010, Spiralation, which acts as an incubator and accelerator program, aims to promote, encourage, and support tech startups and innovation within Sri Lanka with a 1.5Mn grant for each startup in a cohort.

As a startup joins the Spiralation program, the grant will be split and presented according to its achieve-



Spiralation Cohort 2020

ment of already set targets, based on predefined milestones. Startups will get continuous support from the resource pool throughout the incubation/ acceleration period

and beyond. Spiralation also facilitates tech startups to access both local and international markets, provides opportunities to attend interna-

tional conferences, helps startups grow faster and scale their businesses.

Many tech startups that were supported by Spiralation are now

**THE SPIRALATION SERIES HAS SO FAR SUPPORTED MORE THAN 90 SUCCESSFUL STARTUPS ACROSS MULTIPLE INDUSTRY VERTICALS -INCLUDING HEALTH, FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND LOGISTICS-AND HAS GENERATED MORE THAN 500 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

successfully operating in fields such as quality education, agriculture, health and wellbeing, banking and financial services, fashion and apparel, and infrastructure.

To be eligible, applicable startups need to be listed in StartupSL Platform.

New startups (registered or looking to register) can apply and also registered companies that are less than three years (calculated as of application date) in existence are also eligible.

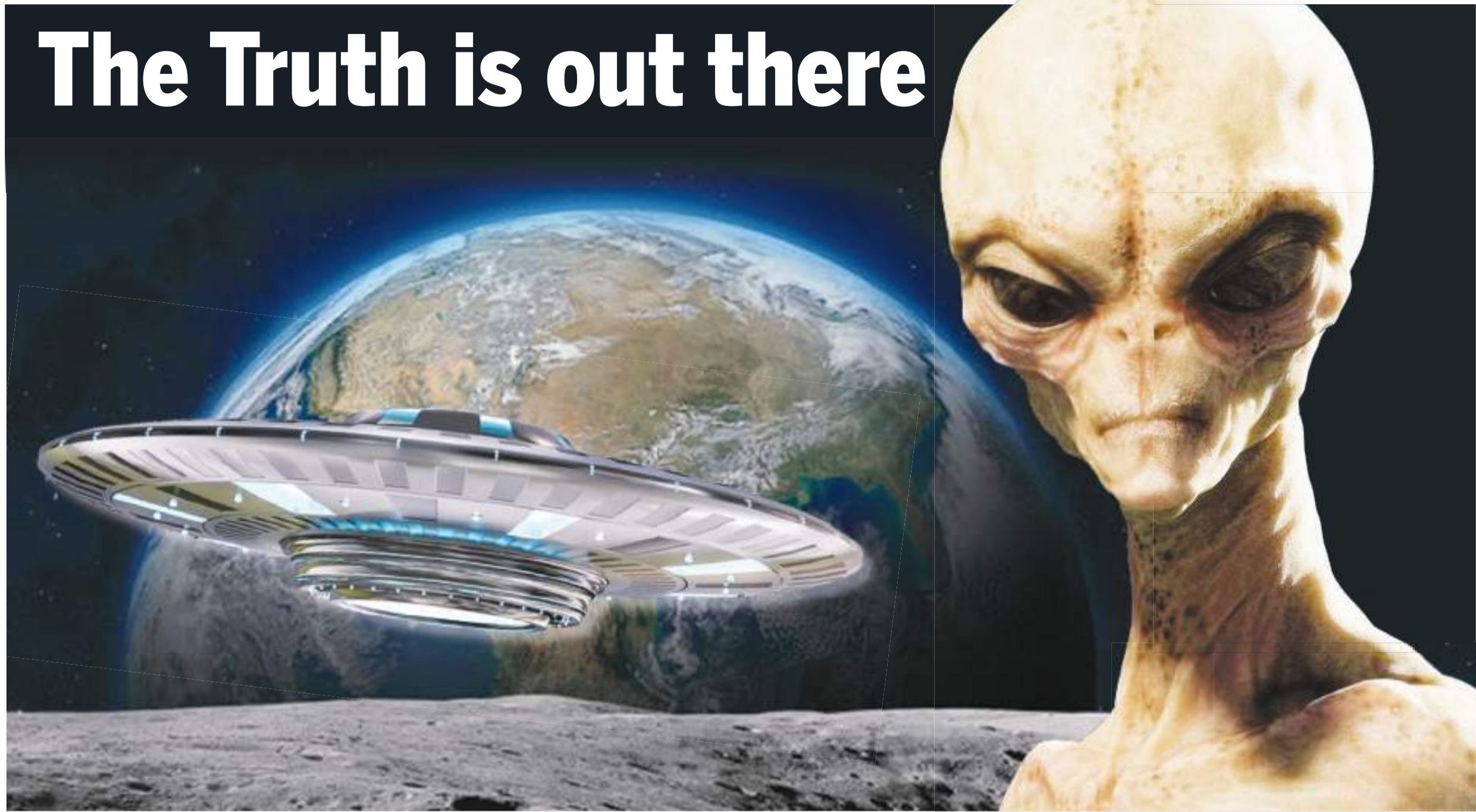
All applications should be submitted through the registration form in spiralation.com and applications submitted in any other method will not be accepted.

Applications are open till 10th May and interested applicants are invited to register via <https://spiralation.com>

As the catalyst in shaping the tech startup ecosystem of Sri Lanka, ICTA pioneers in supporting startups via Spiralation and all other startup related activities in its 'Startup Ecosystem Development' Strategic Business Unit under the Digital Economy Pillar of ICTA.

It is initiated with the view of developing new tech-based business ventures in the country, increasing startup quality, providing early-stage funding, knowledge, and everything a startup needs to run a successful business.

# The Truth is out there



BY CHAMARI SENANAYAKE

It is not a secret that the whole world has been fascinated with the idea of finding alien life since the old ages. While most cultures across the world have folktales and age-old stories about unknown beings visiting earth, we the Sri Lankans often talked about flying saucers and listened to famous songs written about 'kurumitto' aliens from Mars too. Not forgetting that there are millions of people that believe in the possibility of advanced aliens existing beyond our Solar system, there are also millions of sceptics that have always debunked these theories and refused to believe that the universe contains no other advanced beings other than humans.

## Capabilities of NASA

Ultimately, when it comes to finding the 'truth' about any living beings outside our planet, there is no other institution more capable than America's famous NASA, who has many missions at work at any given time to find such evidence. However, the whole world knows that no other country also is more capable of hiding secrets as well as lying to the world than America too. As NASA information is also protected by the US secret service, they

have been denying any knowledge on any advanced alien life or evidence until now. Despite their ongoing denials and rejections to release such evidence that they might have, the past month has been an exciting time for UFO enthusiasts across the world.

## Pentagon admits authentic

All because, the US Government has openly disclosed some files and videos relating to UFO sightings in an unprecedented manner, Most media says this was because they were



Pentagon recently confirmed this 'pyramid shaped UFO' image is real

'leaked' documents and the Defence Ministry had to admit the truth, while some says a few of these files were deliberately released to the world. Among them is the most recent, a 2019 video that captured apparent unidentified flying objects (UFOs) is an authentic video by US Navy personnel. As per several American media outlets, the U.S. the Department of Defense has recently confirmed this video and the UFOs are not necessarily alien in nature, but they are considered unidentified but given their vast amount of most advanced radars and other sensors, the US Government was not able to identify what they are.

The military's Unidentified Aerial

Phenomena Task Force is reportedly investigating the several strange air or spacecrafts captured on video - including one that appears to be a triangle shape, one shaped like an acorn and another one described as a metallic blimp that moves like a rocket as per the Pentagon. The most interesting part of these recent stories is, one of the videos is said to be showing an unidentified object was moving in a way that defied the laws of physics, which will



US Navy has recorded this fast moving 'unidentified object' released by Pentagon

make any UFO enthusiast's jaws drop. It is clear that if these objects were made by any kind of living being, they would certainly have to be a lot more advanced than the human race to create something that moves in a way that defies the laws of physics that we know of.

Sir Arthur C Clarke has repeatedly said such advanced beings, especially in his best selling Science Fictions like 2001: A Space Odyssey, 2010 and 2061 who found ways to travel across the universe faster and more efficiently than we could ever imagine, in their quest to find other advanced beings, where they made several stops on our planet earth since ancient times of human evolution.

In one of the videos, taken during a Navy Pilot training in 2004 and leaked to the New York Times in 2017, the pilots can be heard exchanging exclamations with each other stating that the object is moving in an unbelievable way against the wind, while the wind was 120 knots to the West. These videos and many others have been analysed over and over again by all famous American media outlets as well as the rest of the world and the

recent admittance by the Pentagon of them as 'authentic' has renewed all these media interests in this subject.

## Right to know the truth

In December 2020, the Trump Government enacted the Intelligence Authorization Act, which called for the release of an unclassified and all-sources report on unidentified aerial phenomenon (UAP) to the delight of UFO enthusiasts around the world. The act was included in the appropriations bill that also included financial aid checks for people living with the economic fallout from Covid-19. As the whole world is aware that the US boasts the world's most advanced military and space exploration technologies, one could wonder when the US says that they cannot explain how the crafts are able to pull such maneuvers.

It remains unclear whether the Government believes these to be sightings of foreign air craft using technologies unfamiliar to the United States, or whether they believe the craft are not of this world. As the pioneer of Space travel, Russia now remains the next closest to the US boasting such advanced technologies, and standing next is China, however, currently the US stands at the front in space travel in every sense and when they say they cannot explain the 'technologies' involved in such movements, we all have to wonder if indeed, it is not from this world.

# Automation and social alienation

By  
R.S. Karunaratne



A funny thing has happened to us on our way to the communication revolution. We have stopped talking to one another!

I was walking in a public park recently with a friend and his mobile phone rang interrupting our intimate conversation. There we were talking and walking on a beautiful sunny day and suddenly I became almost invisible and absent from the conversation. My friend had to answer several calls one after the other. Every time his phone rang, he looked at me as if I was an uninvited guest.

When I looked around, I saw that the park was also full of people talking on their mobile phones. They were passing other people, some of them may be known to them, without even looking at them. They did not say hello to anyone they met. They did not see mothers carrying their babies or ladies walking their dogs. In the past strangers used to stop on their way to pet a baby or even a puppy. The communication revolution has ruined all such simple pleasures and ways of living. Whoever thought that the untethered electronic voice would drown the raw and natural human voice?

## Numbered dial

There was a time when the telephone was used to connect you to other people living next door or far away. I still remember the old telephone we had with a numbered dial. You had to operate it manually to reach somebody. Even

when the phone rang it was a mini-event in the household. Everybody would run towards the phone in order to know who was talking at the other end.

As a result of the communication revolution, there are no land-phones in some houses. Parents, grandparents, children and even the housemaid have a mobile phone. Now it makes people sitting next to you feel absent. Recently I was travelling in a vehicle with some of my family members. We were heading towards Anuradhapura. The driver surreptitiously used his mobile phone in a hushed voice. Whenever he saw a traffic cop, he hid it. Even the others were on their mobile phones. They were either answering incoming calls or trying to reach some of their friends.

## Love letters

We were zooming down the highway without talking to one another because of a gadget designed to make communication easier and instant. Although I have a mobile phone, I hardly use it. I still prefer to use the land-phone. Maybe I am an anachronism in the modern age. But there is something I am unable to comprehend. Why is it that the more connected we get, the more disconnect we feel? I feel that every advance in communication technology is a setback to the intimacy of human interaction.

As teenagers we used to write reams and reams of love letters. We were excited to send and receive handwritten love letters. Today, young people do not take the trouble to write love letters because they find it easy to send a short message or an email. The instant messaging over the Internet has ruined the art of writing love letters.

When we were in love, we loved to



meet each other and have a long chat. Today lovers can communicate with each other without seeing or talking to each other. With voice mail you can conduct an entire conversation without ever reaching anyone. Even when I call someone, a machine answers. Have we transferred intimate human activities to machines?

We are living in an age when every conceivable contact between human beings gets automated. As a result, we are getting more and more alienated.

## Human touch

When I walk into a supermarket and select some goods, the cashier mechanically says, 'Good morning!' Then she swipes my credit card and puts everything I bought into a bag and turns to the next customer. Before the advent of supermarkets, we used to walk into a shop

and exchange a few words with the sales staff before buying anything. One day I bought a shirt and was about to pay for it when a comely sales girl asked me, "Why don't you buy something for your wife too?" There was a friendly atmosphere in the shop and we got to know each other well.

Today you cannot walk into a bank and withdraw money from a counter. You have to use the ATM (Automated Teller Machine). Even when you have to deposit some money, they will ask you to fill a form and drop the money along with it into a box. At this rate you do not need humans to serve customers, as robots can do the job better.

You can own a mobile phone, an ATM card, a voice-mail system, and an email account. You simply cannot give them up. They are useful as long as you use them for the intended purpose. It's their unintended consequences that

make me cringe.

## Feeling lonely

If you are feeling lonely with all these modern electronic gadgets, there are a few things you can do to preserve human contact. For instance, you can put yourself on technology restrictions. You should avoid instant messaging with people who are living close by. Why do you want to send a text message to the next door neighbour? You can also avoid using your mobile phone in the presence of friends. And do not let the voice mail pick up a call when you are at home.

Because of the heavy dependence on electronic gadgets, we have forgotten the importance of skin-on-skin touch which is particularly soothing because it primes oxytocin which acts as a stress hormone. When oxytocin releases, the body undergoes a host of healthy changes. Blood

pressure lowers as we slide into the relaxed mode of parasympathetic activity. With human touch even wounds heal faster. Although we avoid touching people because of the Covid-19 pandemic, in normal times we need to touch others.

A crying baby will respond to mother's touch. A naughty student will react favourably to a teacher's touch. Mostly, your pet dog or cat will expect you to touch them often. When you do not meet your friends and shake hands or hug them, your friendship will suffer.

No amount of talking over the phone, sending short messages or emails will replace the therapeutic effect of human touch.

As we cannot give up using electronic gadgets, the best course of action should be to use them when it is really necessary to do so. At other times meet people, shake hands and hug them.

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# Shelley's idealism



Shelley



Mary Shelley / Wife

*On time remaining upon my soul'*  
(page 26)

May be when I wrote 'From a distance' I was subconsciously influenced by his search for truth which both of us never found but I still keep looking for it knowing it is there in someone who means the world to me. There are many like me who at the end have given up the search for hope. Shelley who was inspired by Greek poets and philosophers along with the radicalism of his own age, turned to Plato. In his art if not in his life Shelley was able to soar into expressions and dreams that his visions held. Yet, they were continually tarnished by reality in the inextinguishable spirit.

## Reality and expectations

His greatest asset was his lyricism which made his verse come near to music and song. His approach was akin to Byron, intense, idealistic and impetuous and I like Byron in his days, drove to great controversy.

They both lived and shared lives outside their poetry.

And from the high heavens and across the spans 'The cloud' spoke to Shelley and condoned his frustration: -

*In the depths, of the purple sea,  
Over the rills, and the crags, and the hills  
Over the lakes and the plains  
Wherever he dream under the mountain or stream  
The spirit he loves remains;  
And I all the while bask in Heaven's blue smile  
Whilst he is dissolving in rain'*

Shelley's detractors never left him alone whether in life or death. He became the subject for much ridicule and his poetic reputation contrary to the expectation of his critics, stayed put lustily. The hateful passion wrought by them arousing personal virulence upon the innocent Shelley, moved many that even after his death he still raises antagonism but with complex ideologies, the poet

continue to live outside his work and attract or repel the criticism as he did when alive. No English poet suffered this dilemma not even his inseparable Byron; and no English poet was able to live through hell like this and rise unscathed. Amidst the criticism hurled at him at various points of his life by the literati and critics, Byron wrote about him 'You were all brutally mistaken about Shelley, who was, without exception, the best and least selfish man I ever knew.'

## Finding solitude in cloud

*And 'The cloud' told him :-  
'I wield the flail of the lashing hail  
And whiten the green plains under*

*And then again I dissolve it in rain  
And laugh as I pass in thunder'*

In these verses Shelly found consolation though they were a form of symbolism from which he drew inspiration. He found it easy to communicate with the cloud that hung in heaven performing its daily routine

which to Shelley appeared miracles. The cloud could go get lost and appear after dissolving in rain and the spirit in it awakened the poet's ardour when in solitude he gazed. This type of attitude irked poets of his time as relentlessly he searched the truth may be even in the cloud.

Seeped in philosophy and uncertainties of life, the deep-thinking poet found solace in simple uncomplicated virtues of life that many failed to understand. What he saw in others, they knew not, how he looked at nature appeared differently so much so that he was considered eccentric when he addressed the mountain, valley or ocean. His spirit rose above all to captivate aura and the lushness of life and perhaps beyond it. In 'the cloud', he can read what's behind it or in the tasks it performs.

*'I bind the Sun's throne with a burning zone*

*And the Moon's with a girdle of pearl*

*The volcanoes are dim and the stars reel and swim*

*When the whirlwinds my banner unfurl'*

What did the cloud mean? Or what did it tell Shelley? Perhaps while the poet is reduced to ashes and dust, the cloud would dissolve into water and fall upon his grave. In time, the water would be absorbed into another cloud while from the ashes would rise another Shelley. This process will repeat in many ways and to put it across philosophically, it is the cycle of life that Shelley tried to explain. Shelley's relations with women too were unique. While he failed in his adoration to pen his ardour, he remained extremely attractive to them because of his idealism and his inability to see what went under his nose which was unperceptive in his search for the intellectual woman.

Of the two women he married, one committed suicide, the other failed and between them he had few children, not what the most essentially romantic of the poets of his age discovered and found no intellectuality in them.

By  
Gwen Herat



So lyrical, so very passionate about nature that he went to extremes, only to be criticised for its didacticism and reckless emotionalism. But that was in his era. It is different today where poetry laden with emotion and feelings dominates lyrical lines to bring out the passion of humankind towards others. It can erupt from love or hatred but the passion that lay between is Shelley's signature. He was essentially a poet of ideas in search for the truth but never found it, much like me when I wrote my book on poetry. 'From a distance' the truth I searched I never found like in these four lines:-

*'Our hearts are endless  
And our souls infinite  
I close my eyes to open my heart*

## Pakistan envoy greets Buddhist delegation



The delegation of Buddhist monks on a goodwill visit to Pakistan from April, 19-26 2021 returned to Colombo on Monday April 26 and were received by the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Major General (R) Muhammad Saad Khattak along with other senior officers of the High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

While welcoming the bikkhus on their return, the High Commissioner, Major General (R) Muhammad Saad Khattak said that the highly successful tour was organised by the High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo and was the culmination of ongoing efforts for enhancing people-to-people contacts and Buddhist religious tourism between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The High Commissioner expressed his gratitude to the bikkhus for undertaking the tour and the Government for facilitating the same.

He also appreciated the role and efforts of the Security Forces, the National Heritage & Culture Division and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad for conducting the visit in the most befitting manner.

He underscored that the meetings of the bikkhus with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan reflected the strong bilateral relations and deep commitment of the leadership and people of Pakistan towards Sri Lanka.

On behalf of the delegation, the venerable Ven. Dr. Assaji Thero, Chief incumbent of the Gangaramaya Tem-

ple, expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and for the personal involvement of the High Commissioner of Pakistan in extending immense support in arranging the tour, which provided an invaluable opportunity to visit and experience the glorious Buddhist heritage and relics in Pakistan.

He said that the Pakistani authorities and officials gave top priority to their comfort and safety during their stay and were also keen on their views and recommendations on improving facilities for Buddhist pilgrims in the country. The accompanying coordinating official from the Sri Lankan side, Dr. Asela Wickramasinghe, said Pakistan Government's vision to develop Buddhist tourism between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to which end the visit of a group of 11 senior Buddhist bikkhus



was organised by the High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo in order to explore the Buddhist heritage in Pakistan.

He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and the High Commission for this initiative and for the wonderful and enthusiastic hospitality of Pakistani people towards Sri Lankans during their visit.

He further highlighted that they were able to witness first-hand the respect that Pakistani citizens have for other religions and their keenness on preserving Buddhist heritage in the country.

He said that as a result of the linkages built with various stakeholders during the visit, arrangements were in process for a Buddhist pilgrimage visit of Sri Lankans to Pakistan in the near future.

## A big thank you to all who followed SARAH'S BIGAMY

### SARAH'S BIGAMY

*-The Devastation Revealed-*

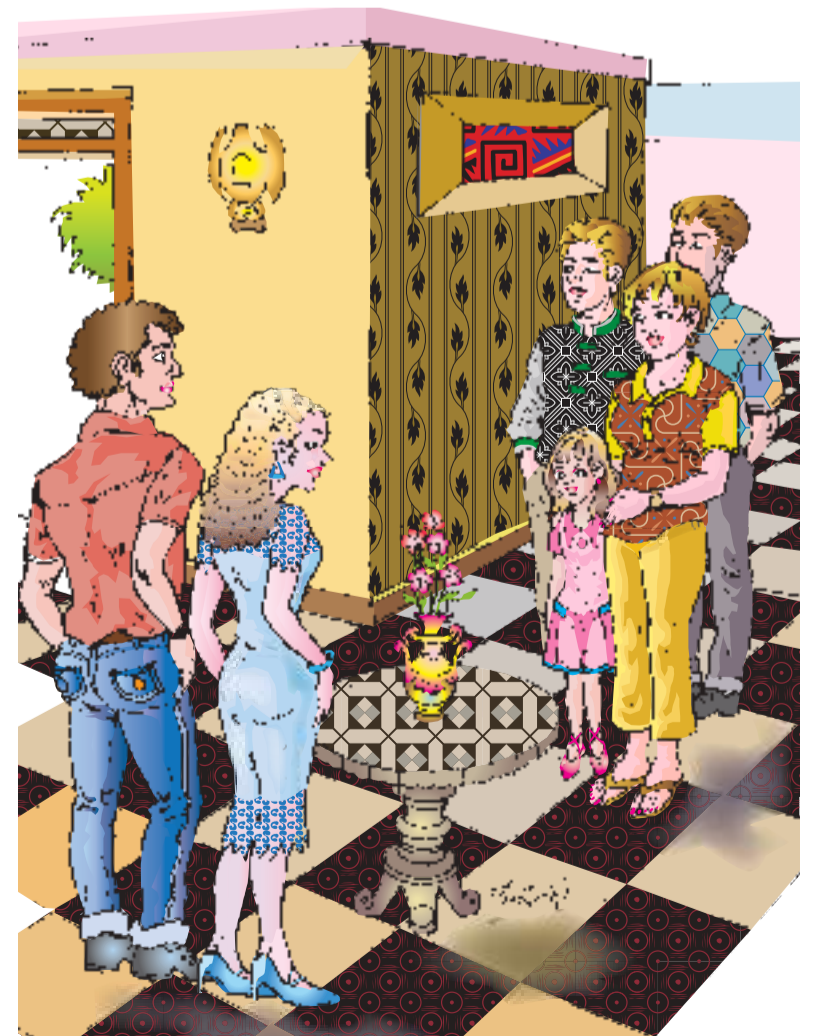
BY SANTHOSHYA JAYAMALI SENEVIRATNE



Adhering to the fact that unexpected disasters result from simple human flaws, one seemingly delicate but a strong-willed girl must face the consequences of a blunder that she's forced to commit, bearing in mind that all beings bow down to the same natural law.

However, that's my view of Sarah and the story of the bigamy that she's accused of committing. As we live in a self-created world, the world I created with all my senses when I was penning SARAH'S BIGAMY may definitely differ from the world you created when reading it. My interpretation isn't important, but yours is. I take pleasure in requesting you to send me your valued feedback to SARAH'S BIGAMY email mentioned below.

(sarahsbigamy@hotmail.com)





# MONTAGE

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MAY 9, 2021



## Reminiscence:

# Memories of the past

By  
Anuradha  
Kodagoda



**S**usiman Nirmalavasan is an aspiring visual artist, born and bred in Batticaloa and his latest exhibition 'Reminiscence' is now open for the public at the Paradise Road Gallery.

As a visual artist, Susiman is not confined to one medium to express his creativity, rather he works across a range of mediums; from oil and clay to dye on cloth and canvas. The materiality of his work functions as an aesthetic choice and is a reflection of a broader reality.

In a conversation with the writer, the artist, recalling the beginnings of his artistic journey, admitted the fact that his selection of the most suitable medium for his artworks was not a pure artistic choice, but rather his choice was entangled with the socio-political condition of society he lived in.

"In the early days I used oil paints such as acrylic paint. When I went to Jaffna for my higher studies, the A9 was closed due to terrorism. Buying groceries was a challenge. Buying colour media in this situation was unthinkable. It was then that I began to think that medium should not restrict my artistic expression. Therefore, I started creating artwork with the medium I could find in my environment," he said.

Without easy access to conventional art material, Nirmalavasan found that the organic medium such as clay, gravel, sack, coak, ash, and tea dye were far more representative of his narrative.

As a child, he began drawing and painting using charcoal,



kurumpeppy (immature coconut fruits), and *maampinchu* (tender green mangoes). These early experiments have seeped into his current work. In his recent works he has used charcoal and dyes mostly as he discovered that the two mediums are the easiest options available for him. He loves the natural effect these two mediums bring to his creativity.

### Invisible bridge

Speaking about his creative process, through his paintings, Nirmalavasan always tries to tell a story and painting is the invisible bridge between his imagination and his audience.

"I always look for opportunities to tell the stories that I love to share with others and painting is the best medium through which I can convey my stories easily and closely. Creating opportunities for the audience to participate in my artwork is a passion of mine," he said.

According to Nirmalavasan, the muse that ignites his creativity changes from time to time. However, his audience has always been his muse for creativity. Sometime ago his ultimate joy was to show his childhood paintings to his father, as his father was his muse for his childhood creativity.

However, it has changed with time and today he gets his inspiration from the audience that enjoy his artworks. "I have held many solo exhibitions and I have also participated in several group shows. The conversations that I have about my work with viewers, always inspire me for my next creation. The confidence they give me, inspires me to create the next work of art. Therefore, my audience is my muse," Nirmalavasan said.

His paintings are mostly based on contemporary themes. Together with the Third Eye Local Knowledge and Skills Activists Group, and the Artists for Nonviolent Living, he promotes

**'I HAVE HELD MANY SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND I HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL GROUP SHOWS. THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE ABOUT MY WORK WITH VIEWERS, ALWAYS INSPIRE ME FOR MY NEXT CREATION. THE CONFIDENCE THEY GIVE ME, INSPIRES ME TO CREATE THE NEXT WORK OF ART. THEREFORE, MY AUDIENCE IS MY MUSE'**

contemporary ideas through a variety of art activities and shows.

### East coast

His latest exhibition, titled 'Reminiscence,' is a reflection of these memories growing up in the east coast of Sri Lanka. As a child the artist grew up hearing only the distant tales of terrorism passed down to him from his father; soon, he himself became a victim of terrorism. The life and merriment of the village he grew up in, drained in front of his eyes as his family relocated to escape terrorism; but terrorism was inescapable.

Through this exhibition, Nirmalavasan tries to revitalise memories of his past; the plentiful mangroves and sprawling paddy fields, the days

drawing on the walls of his house, and the stories his father told him.

"The most important part of my art is reminiscing about terrorism time memories. The main purpose of my art practice is to comfort spectators and give them hope for life. The twenty-one works of art placed here are made in the order in which a word from the Bible transforms the memories of the past into works of art. But they are not Christian paintings. They are not about Christianity. It's about my memories, memories of the past. Shanth Fernando and Anjaldan are the people who helped in making this exhibition possible," he said.

Nirmalavasan hesitates to frame what it means by art. He believes that art is not necessarily conveying a message but it may carry a story, an experience, an opposition, a question or a consolation and that can be the background of an art piece. As he believes art is freedom and it liberates human beings from the chaotic realities and the complexities of the world we live in.

"Art is something very independent. However, I have certain ideologies that I believe as to what I should and should not do through my art. It is comforting and reassuring to be completely against violence. And the desire for transitional justice.

"Art keeps me alive while in the process of creating an artwork and thinking about it. I want others to have that same experience that I was going through while creating it. That is why I exhibit my art. Identifying and being identified as a visual artist has also been a passion of mine since childhood," he said.

Speaking about his inspirational genres and the artists he admires, the works of Chandragupta Thenuwara, Thamotharam Pillay Sanathanan, Vasuki, Dramatist Jaisankar, Teacher Bubsy and architect Anjaldan, are the artists he admires the most.

"I was fascinated by the way these people travelled with their own clear ideology and expressed them through art. Each of them was one of the most important contributors to my artistic development at different times. I have learned a lot from them. Although I work on a variety of visual arts, I prefer activism through art. The reason is that it can easily bring about social change," Nirmalavasan said.

**A fine memoir of a tumultuous era**

## "The Kandy Man"

REVIEW BY TISSA DEVENDRA

It took me some time to appreciate Sarath Amunugama's title of his autobiography. I had never realized how deep rooted was the identification of Kandyan Sinhalese with the kingdom they lost in 1815.

This was manifest at the triumph expressed by Sarath's father at his son's appointment as the first born and bred Kandyan Government Agent of a Kandyan District. I am also certain that Sarath was fully aware that his career proved the truth of Robert Knox's apocryphal farmer who was fit to be king once his mud was washed off.

Sarath's schooldays were at Kandy's Trinity College, the last bastion of English public school education that imbued him with English skills and social values that served him well in his career as civil servant, scholar and politician.

He flourished in the university during its 'glorious summer' of the early 1950s. While English dominated the halls of academia Sarathchandra and "Maname" gave birth to modern Sinhala and drama.

Sarath flourished in this heady atmosphere while honing the studies on Sociology which were to be his intellectual speciality. Typical of his peers from elite schools he, too, apprenticed himself to the Samasamajist leaders of that era but N M Shrewdly observed this as a passing fad.

On entering the prestigious Ceylon Civil Service he was assigned to many Districts, his final assignment being Government Agent of Matale District, where he acquires an extensive knowledge of rural society and grass roots administration.

It did not take long for his unique skills to be recognised and vault him into the closest collaboration with top administrators and Cabinet Ministers. Sarath's shrewd observations of these personages make delightful reading.

The most dramatic period of his administrative career was during the JVP Insurgency of 1971 when he had the opportunity of being close to the inner circle of the Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. He is frank in his assessment of her calm demeanour and decisive actions when the very foundations of government were tottering and many of her aides were panicking.

Today it is incredible to imagine the alchemy with which she persuaded Heads of many governments to provide arms and ammunition to our beleaguered forces.

Sarath was put in charge of the Department of Information and administered its mandate with professional competence.

It is interesting to read his warts and all assessments of Cabinet Ministers and Presidents - their idiosyncrasies and hate objects. Nor does he shy away from discussing the relevance of caste identity in national, especially Kandyan, politics.

But no book is without flaws. There are far too many factual flaws and inaccuracies which indicate that the text has not never been sifted through by a knowledgeable Editor. I urge Sarath to "do the needful", for the next edition, as we used to say in government service.

**SARATH AMUNUGAMA**  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY

**THE KANDY MAN**

Volume One (1939-1977)



Features

# James Koch stars in 'Lionsgate' worldwide movie release



**F**rederick James Koch of Sri Lankan descent stars with Academy award and Golden Globe award nominees Eric Roberts and Mickey Rourke in the 'Lionsgate' distributed film 'Night Walk' for worldwide release on June 15. The world premiere will be held at the prestigious Landmark theatre in Hollywood on June 13.

In this modern-day Romeo and Juliet story, star-crossed lovers are torn apart by cultural tensions between the East and the West. Sarah takes her American boyfriend Frank to her home in the Arab world.

After an incident during a night stroll, Frank is imprisoned by the corrupt Police for Sarah's murder. His quest for justice turns into a spiritual journey led by Muslim inmates, from the moderate



With Jacqui Fernandez in Hollywood



Derek Randle President of California Film Association



convert to terror-linked fundamentalists.

Frederick James Koch plays the compelling part of an investigative journalist who is also the best friend of

Frank played by Sean Stone, son of multi-Academy award winner Oliver Stone.

Hunted and pursued with a price on his head, Frederick James Koch's character is finally killed when he is forced off a cliff in his vehicle on Mulholland Drive leaving Frank to take on his accusers alone while in Jail.

Night Walk was shot on the streets of Hollywood, Bel Air and Beverly Hills with some exotic scenes filmed on locations in Casablanca, Marrakech and Rabat in Morocco.

The official 'Lionsgate' released trailer is currently on youtube and other social media platforms. Attention to detail by director Aziz Tazi on a story written by him much in keeping with the issues of the heart in a world of religious suspicion and persecution makes compelling viewing with a strong supporting international cast.



Olympia President of Family Films



James with Director Aziz Tazi



Interviewed on the Red Carpet (Hollywood)

## “Rabindranath Tagore’s creativity in dance”

This article is published to mark the 160th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore today

BY DR. SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

**R**abindranath Tagore's contribution to dance is entirely different from the traditional dance forms and folk-dance forms of India. The dance form was also entirely different from the dance forms of his time. He introduced his own creative dance forms to the dance world as Tagore felt that a dance form should be a living art, must be simple and must not be affected by the rhythm, but it must have a natural flow.

### Tagore's contribution to dance

The sense of rhythm reflected in Tagore's dance is very simple, graceful and gentle. According to Tagore, man's first creation of rhythm was experienced in his body itself, so the dance performed by him was only to express the grace of his body movements without any other greater purpose and only for the joy of rhythm.

Tagore's dance could be analysed in two different ways. Some regarded Tagore's dance as a style. Some others considered it Tagore's dance concept. One must have a style of a dance which means it must have a structure, formation, and firm type of execution.

The concept of dance must be influenced by various aspects. Hence Tagore's creative dance form can be considered as a concept of dance form and cannot be considered a style of dance form. But many art critics always considered Tagore's creative dance as a style of dance form. Tagore himself was not only a poet, philosopher, painter, choreographer of

**DURING HIS PERIOD, DANCE WAS NOT MUCH RECOGNISED IN THE SOCIETY. MANY ARTISTES WERE DOMINATING THE BENGALI THEATRE AND ART SCENE IN BENGAL. TAGORE RECOGNISED THAT ART WAS A VEHICLE FOR EDUCATION**

dance and drama but also a dance teacher.

His imaginative creativity could be found in all of his art works including dance, drama, music, and poetry. One must understand that during his period, dance was not much recognised in the society. Many artists were dominating the Bengali theatre and art scene in Bengal. Tagore recognised that art was a vehicle for education.

According to the available data, Tagore established 'Shantiniketan' at the end of 1901. At that time large number of students joined Shantiniketan which belonged to the middle-class families. During the time nobody was interested in learning dance as a part of general education but Tagore introduced the fine arts such as dance, drama, music, and painting as a part of education from the inception of Shantiniketan.

### Providing a dance faculty

But at the initial stage it was not possible for him to impart or provide a proper dance faculty. In the year 1878, he went abroad, and got an opportunity to witness the Western ballet. That influenced his mind and introduced certain techniques based on this basis to

his creative dance form. He encouraged the students to study and continue the dance for songs in the plays. First, he used dance in the play 'Manamoiyee' in 1880. He himself played the role as a dance teacher and choreographer. He himself composed a series of dances based on Western ballets.

He choreographed a dance for 'Aay Sahachari', again in 1899, he produced another play 'Punarbansantha' in which he used the same song for the dance. He composed some songs and danced for the songs himself.

His beautiful methodology of dance influenced the young minds. Yet there was no proper faculty to impart dance at his institution. In 1919 Guru Buddhimanta Singh was invited to teach Manipuri dance in Shantiniketan. In 1923 in a play named Vasantha, Tagore and so many others participated. Mainly they participated and danced to rhythmic movements. In 1924 a group of students from Sourasta danced at Shantiniketan which impressed Tagore.

Different gurus came to Shantiniketan to study the special dance form. Some of the ballets produced by Shantiniketan such as 'Chandalika', and 'Chitranga', were the best examples for the different combined styles of Indian dance forms. Thus was born Tagore's imaginative creativity.





# Feature



## Splendor of Ranmasu Uyana



Steps lead down to the large pond of two unite



The second pond



The mighty Tissa Wewa

—Text & Pix by—  
Mahil Wijesinghe

Walking along the bund of the Tissa Wewa in Anuradhapura, three of the eight historical icon-Ruwanweli Seya, Jethawanaramaya and Abayagiriya - come into view beyond the horizon.

Many are the sites that hold pride of place in the ancient city. The length and breadth of the land harbor remnants of the past, some that still remain hidden.

If you happen to tear your gaze away from the views across Tissa Wewa, you may discover another lying just below the bund of the tank—a lesser known glimpse into lives of Royals who trod the earth centuries ago. From Vessagiriya we proceed further North along the Kurunegala road until we come to the rocky site of Isurumuni Vihara. Just behind the Isurumuni Vihara is the Ranmasu Uyana, the Royal Park and above it is the Tissa Wewa built in the third century BC. Let us proceed to the Royal Park by climbing on to the bund of the Tissa Wewa and go a short distance North. Parks were a definite feature of city planning in ancient Sri Lanka.

Thus, we have the names of several royal parks in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura before the dawn of the Christian year. The Mahamega Park was founded by King Mutasiva in the third century BC. So were the Nandana Park and Jotivana. All these were however, donated by King Devanampiyatissa to the community of bhikkhus.

These parks were located within the boundaries of the Mahavihara. Therefore, the need to find an alternative place for a royal park was felt to be an urgent matter and the place was found just outside the boundary of the great monastery and to the South of it. The Vessagiriya inscription of Mahinda IV in the tenth century gives the name of this park as Ranmasu Uyana meaning the Gold-fish-park.

Today, the area covered by this park is about forty acres and the park itself is a fine example of garden architecture in ancient Sri Lanka. This park previously covered by the jungle was discovered by H.C.P. Bell in the year 1901 and conservation work commenced in 1940.

King Vasabha of the second century who carried out a program to beautify the capital city of Anuradhapura by creating artificial ponds with swans in them. Unfortunately we have no records in history as to who created this great royal park which is named the Gold-Fish-Park. As said above, this is the name found in the Vessagiriya inscription of Mahinda IV. It is mentioned therein that the water of the Tissa Wewa that is let out through the royal sluice must first be allowed to go into the Ranmasu Uyana, the royal park.

While it is believed that the leisure park was built as far back as third century BC by King Devanampiyatissa, the site draws significance as a setting for an age-old romance that changed the course of history. The story unfolds that Prince Saliya, son of King Dutugemunu fell in love with Asokamala, a girl far beneath his standing, who wandered unwittingly on to the leisure park.

The Prince disregarding his royal duties went on to marry Asokamala, thus jeopardising his right to the throne. If this is true, then we can safely say that the gold-fish park was founded in the third century BC immediately after King Devanampiyatissa donated the royal parks to the community of Maha Sangha. But the legend of Dutugemunu began to echo in the second century BC suppressing every other story. The rocks scattered all over the area were used by architects in designing the rock-garden. Two boulders lying in close proximity have been bridged with stone slabs and a building constructed on them.

On either side of these boulders are three bathing ponds. On the bed rock above is a bas-relief of elephants sporting in a lotus pond. They are beautifully sculptured. Small steps cut on the boulders on the Southern side of this bathing pond lead to a trough scooped

out the boulders. The holes round the trough indicate that wooden pillars were set up in them. This trough may have been the place where the gold fish were located.

### Bathing pond

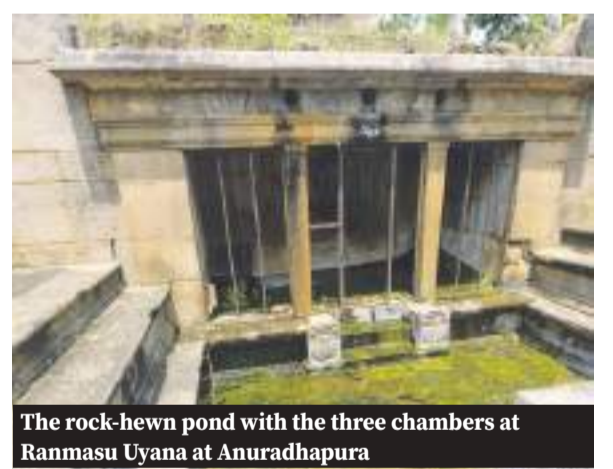
The bathing pond at the southern end of the boulders comprised two parts forming one unit. Beyond the pond on the side of the boulder is a chamber. This may be a dressing room. The baths are square in plan, each measuring 20 ft. at ground level with a projection on the south for the flight of steps leading into it.

Three openings in the stone roof above the chambers are for water to flow and fall over the doorway and fill the pond. Since the water covers the chambers from view, some surmise that this pond was solely for women. The channel system which fed these baths and emptied the water in it shows the skill of the ancient irrigation engineers. The park also has smaller ponds. In ancient time, these may have been filled with flowers, fishes and aquatic birds. The channel system starting from Tissa Wewa led water to all the ponds and baths of the royal park. The open channels flow around the natural and architectural contours exhibiting the skills of ancient irrigation engineers. The channel which brought water to the cistern to feed the baths, runs westwards to a distance of 30 feet, then turns northwards, parallel to the Tissa Wewa embankment.

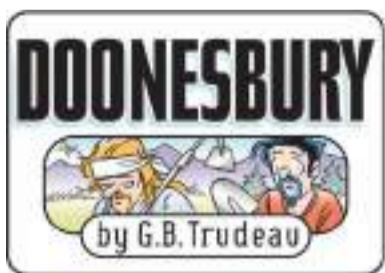
This embankment of the Tissa Wewa formed the western boundary of the park. Another significant attraction at the Ranmasu Uyana is the 'stargate'. Farther away at the base of a rock is a circular carving of curious symbols. While its unusual presence at this site has ignited fascinating beliefs that go as far as drawing extra-terrestrial links, little is known with certainty. Some conjecture that it is a map of the world with the sea and its creatures surrounding the Earth. At the foot of the 'stargate' are three stone surfaces embedded in the ground that may have served as seats for meditation. Much of this site remains a mystery to date.



Elephant, fish and a groove for spillover water carved on the rock face beside the pond



The rock-hewn pond with the three chambers at Ranmasu Uyana at Anuradhapura





MAY 9, 2021

# UCL International Foundation Year (UIFY)

Established with the vision of providing quality Higher Education for Sri Lankan students from top globally ranked Universities, Universal College Lanka (UCL) has a proven track-record with its internationally recognised Foundation programs for students after O/Ls (local or Edexcel/Cambridge) who wish to fast track to a degree program locally or internationally. Upon successful completion of the UCL International Foundation Year (UIFY) programme, students aspiring to pursue their higher education dreams right here in Sri Lanka can follow 4-year British Degree programs from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), a Top 100 UK University or study overseas in other reputed Universities in the UK, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland among other countries. Established in 1976, NCC Education is a UK-based awarding body, whose qualifications are recognised and accepted by Universities internationally. With Centres in over forty countries, four international offices and academic managers worldwide, NCC Education strives to employ the latest technologies for learning, assessment, and support. NCC Education is regulated and quality assured by Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England and Northern Ireland). NCC Education's Higher Education portfolio includes Business, IT, Engineering and Science Foundation qualifications for early school leavers.

## Dr. Dhananjay Kulkarni DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Speaking about the rationale and prospects of a Foundation Program for students, Dean - UCL, Dr. Dhananjay Kulkarni, said "Modern communication technologies have collapsed distance and time, while Globalisation has condensed the barriers and borders. World has changed its ways and means slowly but surely where the speed has been adopted in to each of our lifestyles and to every activity. Even if there's no need to hurry, "faster" has become the normative way we do things today. This impatience may be attributed to our busier lifestyles. In a world with such fast-paced lifestyles, one's success depends on how you set yourself apart, start early and equip yourself with the skills needed in the industry.

In catering to this requirement of speed, the higher education industry has designed pathway programs and similar fast-track programs. Many renowned Universities across the Globe have introduced fast-track Foundation

## GUARANTEES ENTRY TO TOP 100UK DEGREE HERE OR REPUTED UNIVERSITIES INTERNATIONALLY

programs to allow for accelerated entry into Undergraduate studies, especially from the UK Universities"

### Nayani Costa HEAD OF MARKETING - British Programmes

UCL's Head of Marketing, Ms. Nayani Costa stated that UIFY provides the opportunity for expanding the opportunities for Sri Lankan students to gain

international exposure and be qualified with a globally recognised Degree program both internationally and locally. UCL has exclusively partnered with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) UCL to offer quality education to local students. UCLan is the 8th largest



University in the UK and it had been helping over 100,000 students from all walks of life to make the most of their potential and succeed in their life ambitions. At present, UCLan has a staff and student community approaching 38,000. In terms of overall student numbers, UCLan rests comfortably within the UK's top 10 modern Universities. The University has students and researchers from over 100 countries and has successfully established part-

nerships with 125 international institutions.

### Thepul Ginige PROGRAMME COORDINATOR UIFY/ UCL an Software Engineering



### Maneesha Wijetunge PROGRAMME COORDINATOR - UIFY

Speaking about the pathway for students completing the programme, Thepul Ginige - Programme Coordinator for UCLan - Software Engineering Degree/ UIFY and Ms. Maneesha Wijetunge - Programme Coordinator for UIFY said

(Continued on page 56)

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**Hirishegan Karuneswaran,** was presented the **IEOM Industry Solutions Award** at the 11th IEOM conference, Singapore out of 600+ international nominees from more than 50 countries in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding academic for "Hiri's Kitchen and other contributions in the industrial solutions for "Hiri's Kitchen"

Ifram Ismath won the best product out of 121 projects at the "InnovBank - 2019", a symposium organised by Bank of Ceylon to commemorate their 80th Anniversary event online for his project "Trust Credit" under "MIS and Big Data Analytics Solution".



IIT eSports team achievements great success this year at the **Inter-university eSport championship.**



The first-ever **BCS Chairman's Award** was presented to IIT in recognition of having the highest number of award-winning students at **NBQSA 2020**



IIT students' bagged 7 awards for their outstanding IT and Business innovations under the tertiary category at **NBQSA 2020**

Stelan Briyan Simonz, won two awards at "SLASSCOM National Ingenuity Awards 2021", under the University category for National Winner for Best Innovative Product / Project and Western Province Winner Best Innovative Product for his project "SMART SHOES".



Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT), the pioneer in British higher education in Sri Lanka and the country's premier Business, Fashion and IT campus, won multiple awards this year for the outstanding achievement of IIT students' for their IT and Business innovations. IIT students have been continually winning awards locally and globally from its inception and IIT alumni take suit in top positions around the globe.



**Hash Code 2021**, top 3 teams were Terabyte, Team Instic and Gitbros from IIT where Terabytes secure the 1st in Sri Lanka and 21st in Global ranking and overall IIT hub ranked #81 worldwide for hashcode 2021 from 39 team and 178 participants

**SLASSCOM** selected 6 projects from IIT's Cutting Edge (IT and Business project showcase exhibition) to groom and grow young innovators.



Lakshan Abeysinghe and Tharindu Tissera wins First runner up of "Talentangle"

Timothy Devmeth and Dinali Kumarasiri were winners at the **SLASSCOM Digital IT/BPM Week Technical Challenge.**

Chamath Paliawadana was selected for the final lineup at the university RGU Innovation Startup Accelerator programme for the **project Attendr.**



IIT students proposals was selected in **Google Summer of Code 2020 (GSoc):** Azhar Ahamed, Devon Wijesinghe, Dilum De Silva, Jayasanka Weerasinghe and Rajitha Warusavithana.

The Rotaract Club of Informatics Institute of Technology (RACIIT) wins "Most Outstanding Club for the year 2019-20" The club successfully completed over 90 projects. Due to the immense service rendered towards the community RACIIT was the most outstanding Rotaract Club amongst 70 other clubs in RID 3220 Sri Lanka and Maldives



(RACIIT) wins "Most Outstanding President for the year 2019-20" - Rtr. Pasan Ganewatte.



Thivvyan Karuneswaran was selected for the innovation awardees in **Citizens International Youth Summit '20** represented Sri Lanka at a global stage.

Stelan Simonz "Smart Shoes" secure 1st Runner Up at the Re-Hack Global Competition while Koshila Dissanayake of Team Innova, was selected for the top 10 finalist from 1500+ projects at the Re-Hack Global Competition organized by Australia and India Innovation Bridge.



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### BSc HONOURS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION

This programme is designed for students who are committed to health promotion and disease prevention through healthy eating. The curriculum strongly emphasizes food access, nutrition policy, community nutrition interventions/programmes, health disparities, nutrition assessment, and healthy eating throughout the life course.

**DIRECT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Food industries, public health services, nutraceutical product industries, pharmaceutical industries, public health services, health agencies, research institutes.

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**T**his week, the NSBM Green University took another major step by launching its new "Faculty of Science" for the new intake. The new faculty expands the NSBM degree portfolio to the science discipline. This is an excellent opportunity for science stream school leavers to transform their university dream into reality with the real essence of university culture at NSBM. The Faculty of Science offers a range of industry-oriented degree programmes under a well-qualified and highly accomplished lecture panel with state-of-the-art laboratories and high-tech instrumentation and facilities.

As the initial step, the faculty offers two University Grants Commission recognized degree programmes in the discipline of bioscience to cater to the current demand in the industry locally and internationally by producing highly qualified science graduates. Both programmes are equipped with high theoretical and practical knowledge, plus laboratory skills plus to make future-ready professionals. The curricula blended mainly with Biology, Medicine, and Chemistry prepare the students to match the dynamics in the job market. The students who have followed G.C.E. Advanced Level in the biological science stream (Biology, Chemistry, Physics / Agriculture) are welcome to join the Faculty of Science of NSBM Green University to fulfill the dream of graduating with a world-recognized qualification.



### BSc Honours in Biomedical Science

The Biomedical Science degree programme aims to prepare the undergraduates to collaborate on scientific investigations of human structure and functions in health and disease at a molecular, cellular, and whole-systems level. The students will receive a comprehensive set of skills at the end of the degree, providing a wide variety of career paths. The programme is a four-year full-time course that includes a mandatory industry placement and a supervised research project. The graduates of this programme will have ample



career opportunities in different industries. A few of them are biomedical scientists, biotechnologists, healthcare scientists, medicinal chemists, and microbiologists. Apart from these direct career opportunities, these graduates can also pursue their higher studies at either local or foreign universities.



### BSc Honours in Public Health and Nutrition

This programme is designed for students who are committed to health promotion and disease prevention through healthy eating. This degree curricula strongly emphasize food access, nutrition policy, community nutrition interventions/programmes, health disparities, nutrition assessment, and healthy eating practices. This programme too is a four-year full-time course that includes a mandatory industry placement and a supervised research project.

The Public Health and Nutrition programme opens up careers mainly in the health sector, food indus-

tries, and research institutes. These professionals can involve in nutritional assessment, developing, implementing, and evaluating nutrition interventions, developing nutrition-related public health policies, and monitoring the health of individuals, communities, and populations. Apart from these direct career opportunities, the graduates can also pursue their higher studies at local or foreign universities.

As the G.C.E. A/L results are released, the registration are open now. You can contact NSBM programme office via 011 544 5000 or visit the website [www.nsbm.ac.lk](http://www.nsbm.ac.lk) for further information.

# BCI Negombo offers UGC Recognized IT & Business Degrees for students of all A/L streams



The **BCI Campus, Negombo**, recognized by the UGC as a degree awarding institute has opened admissions for undergraduate degree programmes in Business Management - BBM (Hons) and Information Technology - BSc. IT (Hons). The programmes are open for any student who has successfully completed A/Ls with a minimum of 3 S passes in any subject stream. During the six years since its inception, the Negombo based campus has been offering higher education programmes in English, IT, Business Management, and Professional Studies and recently launched 'BRIDGE', a special pre-university bridging programme recommended by the Ministry of Higher Education.



A brainchild of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, the Archbishop of Colombo, BCI takes a unique and holistic approach to education which gives students access to a diverse world of opportunity. This is complemented by a modern curriculum, a team of highly qualified professors, and experienced lecturers, with a focus on producing multifaceted individuals empowered to excel as professionals as well as responsible citizens. Enrolment of students for these higher education programmes has commenced, and students as well as parents are invited to visit BCI for further information or initiation.

Speaking of the new degree programmes Director of BCI, Rev Fr. Quintus Fernando said, "At BCI, we also know that guaranteeing the advancement of our students requires that we work closely with their parents and just like most parents we are conscious of what the future demands of our students. This is vital for the overall success of our graduates. There is also a focus on enabling a seamless transition from life as a student to life as a working adult, so that our graduates become employable and have better prospects in whatever their chosen vocation".

Whilst taking all measures to provide a holistic educational experience, BCI has also implemented several measures to ensure that their offerings are affordable and economical. Taking a step further, BCI together with Hatton National Bank (HNB) has introduced a one-of-a-kind, collateral free education loan that can be paid over a period of 8 years. These loans that are exclusively provided for BCI undergraduates, are granted under extremely low interest rates.

A visit to the campus will also give you a chance to see the university's breathtaking surroundings, comprehensive, purpose-built, facilities, and amenities which incorporate state-of-the-art technology. The campus is open to students of all ethnicities and faiths. BCI prides itself on delivering a diverse and progressive curriculum that caters to individual talents and will enable students to succeed anywhere in the world.

Providing a versatile education goes beyond the classroom and requires a team of highly skilled, professional, motivated, and dedicated administration staff, who see to the efficient operation of the campus.

BCI has opened admissions for their inaugural undergraduate intake that will commence in 2021. Students can now apply online via [www.bci.lk](http://www.bci.lk) or call the campus on 031 203 5100 and get more information. The university also extends an invitation to those interested to visit the campus premises and experience BCI for themselves.



They also ensure a safe, secure, and sanitary environment, including lush green expanses throughout the campus, which provides a more natural setting, vital for a student's psychological and physical development.



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# Advertorial

## Important facts to know before gaining Foreign Medical Education

After releasing A/L results, many parents do not have an understanding of how to enter a foreign education when their child's educational path is being misled by fraudulent agents who conduct heavy advertising campaigns to attract more students. After conducting few surveys about foreign education providers, I thought to inform all Sri Lankans about a trustworthy Institution which is located in No:181, High Level Road, Nugegoda. Russian Educational Center (REC) is the pioneer in foreign Medical Education which has been sending students to Russia, Belarus, Europe and Australia for foreign education in Medicine, Engineering, Management and other study programs.



Excellent service given to the nation over 25 years has been entrusted people's faith and currently it is the only Institution that sends hundreds of Sri Lankan students abroad for Medical Education. Students are offered world recognised degree programs through global prestigious Universities.

**A:** Tver State Medical University (Russia), Grodno State Medical University (Belarus), 1st Moscow Medical University (Russia), 2nd Moscow Medical University (Russia), Peoples Friendship University (Russia), Georgian Medical Universities, Riga Stradins Medical University (Europe).

**A:** Obviously not. Our representing universities conduct MBBS in English. But Russian language is needed when living in those countries. Due to that reason, language is taught as a subject.

**Q:** How long do you have the experience in foreign education?

**A:** Well, we have been sending students abroad for more than 25 years now.

**Q:** What is the reason behind establishing Russian Education Center (REC)?

**A:** To guide students who have received good A/L results and still cannot enter the state universities to study medicine.

**Q:** Do you agree if I mention REC as an agency that sends students abroad?

**A:** Not at all. REC is a foreign education provider and we offer totally free introductory courses of Medicine and Languages for the students who register with us. Classes are conducted every Sunday from 9.00am to 1.00pm and anyone can get more details through 0711-10 10 10. Normally agencies won't do such things.

**Q:** Is there any required result by the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) to study Medicine?

**A:** Yes. 2 credit passes and 1 simple pass (2C, 1S)

**Q:** When selecting a foreign university, does anyone should have some knowledge or any criteria to be considered?

**A:** Yes. That is for what we are for. We direct students for SLMC recognized universities and the universities are recognized after the process of deep supervision of the university.

**Q:** Can you please brief about the representing foreign medical universities?

**Q:** When selecting a foreign university, do you select the university or let the parents decide the university?

**A:** Some students are very specific about the universities that they want to apply for, because some friends or relatives of those students are studying in those universities. We cannot change their decision but we explain the situation in each and every university.

**Q:** How do you explain that?

**A:** Well, All these representing universities are recognized by SLMC. Therefore, any university is possible to get applied. But students have to think about the affordability and should choose a university which is economically friendly as they cannot stop studies half way.

**Q:** How do you secure the students?

**A:** We directly work with the universities. Any issue can be solved out through the Sri Lankan REC offices in each university that assist students 24 hours in all 365 days.

**Q:** Did Russian Educational Center renamed as REC Campus?

**A:** Thank you for directing that question. Due to the expansion of student services throughout Russia, Belarus, Latvia (EU), Georgia and Australia, we had to change the name into REC Campus to give a better experience to Sri Lankan students through 4 departments in the premises: Russia, Europe, Australia and Local Education.

**Q:** Some people suggest that Russian Language is compulsory when studying in Russia and Belarus. Is that true?

**Q:** Can those students apply for Europe who have done A/L in Sinhala medium?

**A:** Now the students can either go

to the university directly or study the first semester in Sri Lanka and then go to the university for the 2nd semester. Sri Lanka based study

program offered by Riga Official Information and Study Center in Sri Lanka gives the students the preparation to study in Europe.



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monds (QS), MSU's world rankings place it in the Top 47%, 551st among the world's best Universities, Top 100 among the world's top young Universities and Top 200 among Asia's best Universities. Also rated by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia as Tier-5 Excellent Status University.

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ness mind, the School moulds them into fully-fledged business leaders of the future. The drive behind this is the passion for excellence and perfection that surrounds the School of Business in its methods of teaching, learning, research and networking with the business community.

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# Advertorial

## Artificial Intelligence: The New Normal in Tourism

The Coronavirus outbreak has shattered world's economy. This outbreak has moved so quickly and is to be blamed for disrupted economic life. The spread is so fast that some of the present perspective may soon become outdated. WHO has declared, Coronavirus as pandemic on March 12, 2020. The existence of coronavirus, popularly known as Covid-19 has created a havoc, resulting in disruption of social and economic life considerably during the time of imposed quarantine and contagion. Travel industry has been the worst hit amid COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the nationwide lockdown and social distancing measures, nations have completely restricted travel and other transportation mediums.

As a result of which tourists and locals are forced to cancel the travel reservations and bookings. There are several nations where the economy is totally dependent on tourism. These nations are the most volatile in this time of global crisis, due to the worldwide panic of the Corona Virus across the nations the duration and scope is still unknown. Tourism industry is thinking about saving the industry workers jobs and countries' economies. Tourism industry is considered to adopt the technology and innovations it welcomed Artificial Intelligence (World AI Show, 2019) with the motive of transformation of customer experiences.

Artificial Intelligence creates an important role in today's digital world. The pandemic has forced many people to move digitally. Marketers are facing critical time attracting the customers to get connected. They are trying multiple ways. In today's digital transformed economies artificial intelligence has

been a great support to the marketing managers to understand the customer needs and wants. AI is a digital spy which tracks every digital foot prints and helps the Companies to let customer to land on the page depending upon their searches and interest. The advanced AI detects the facial expressions, enlarging and shrinking of customer's retina measuring the excitement or ignoring expression which has helped marketer to identify the customer touch points and enhance customer experience. Today Companies are spending enormous amount to understand the customer preference through AI. AI can be used to personalise the customer needs with fast responses without human interventions. Travel industry with the time has introduced AI. Some most significantly used AI in travel industry chatbots and online customer experience exSam, intelligent travel chatbot which aims at providing assistant to customer and connected with them to arrange all travel plans including booking, flights and hotel, with the reminders.

Similarly, WELC maps-travel in augmented reality, an app which assist the customer scanning the map of the place and making suggestions for hotels, interesting places to be viewed also helping in booking tickets of the place customer want to visit online with assistance in booking cab, showing directions and duration to the destination with the brief about the price.

Some interesting apps can let to travel the world without leaving their home. Google Earth VR, NASA Mars 2030, design by fusion media in collaboration with NASA, can help you to experience panoramic view of Martian surface with VR technology. Technically



Prof. Aarti Saini

Prof. Athula Gnanapala

Virtual Reality is a 3-D computer generated technology which gives you real time experience. For history lover who love to explore history and visit museums "Boulevard" Can give you an excellent VR experience and feed your knowledge craving to. The blue by WEVR can give you undersea experience.

The world famous hotel chain Hilton collaborated with IBM pilot 'Connie', the world's first robot concierge which assist its tourists with all the travel information they need. Sensing their facial expressions like humans and suggesting accordingly. It has replaced the human intervention. AI helps in maintaining the database and make suggestions where VR helps in creating a virtual world for the consumer. Today marketing practices have been more Customer oriented focusing on enhancing their experience with their services. With current pandemic scenario people have practicing social distancing avoiding stepping out of their houses. The question remains how do the Company will be trying to cope up with the digital advance Customer and experience? Artificial Intelligence certainly enhances cus-

tom experience, but cannot replace human touch. It can be added for affective complimentary dimensions for the future tourism. The travel industry will completely transform when people get back to new normal? It will be a big challenge as customers would be more cautious about their spending and also about the surely to be communicated with less social interactions. Prof. Athula Gnanapala, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, has interviewed on the implications of AI on the Tourism industry Prof. Aarti Saini of the University of Delhi.

**What is the impact of industry 4.0 in tourism?**

"Industry 4.0" is a term to describe the digital transformation. It is made possible by combining a wave of next-generation technologies. The internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence, robotics and 3D printing can turn travel and tourism sector into flexible, self-maintaining operations. The advanced digital Sensors are able to understand and store real-time data into machine learning algorithms which can successfully remotely adjust processes.

**What are the challenges to implement AI?**

AI can be truly positive force for societies and economies. When we discuss about the challenges, it may have infrastructural challenges. It requires strong foundation and access to data as data is considered to be the key driver of digitised economy. The digitised economy also needs to have skilled human capital. It also needs to be developed in safe and ethical environment. There should be multi-stakeholder collaborations and sustain-

ability in consumer trust as consumers' data is being taken up to give them experience. Affordability of technology can be a major challenge.

**What is the influence of AI and VR in Travel & Tourism Industry?**

Travel industry have transformed over the period of time. From going personally to travel agency to make customised travel plan investing hours or days to finalize the travel plan to the journey of unique experience provided by travel websites or apps, the traditional travel booking is modified to convenient and time saving task. Introduction of AI has somehow made the task easier as they are able to understand their customer better. It has offered recommendations based on customer previous searches possibly recommend the choice they made in previous searches about the destinations, category of hotels etc. Virtual reality has enabled the people to experience virtual tours (Zumoka-AR for tourism) changed the way people see the things around them. By simply facing your mobile camera to any place, the details started showing about the building name, restaurants available near that place.

**How AI is enhancing customer experience?**

Many Companies are introducing AI into their digital platforms (websites/apps/searches) to understand what the visitor wants. AI records digital footprints which starts giving suggestions on the basis of recorded footprints. The customer with less efforts are able to land on their desired search in no time, which ultimately satisfy the customer by showing what they want to see and saving their time. Many researches confirm the Customer experience is satisfactory even while communicating with the chatbots, who takes in all the details of the customer. It helps in planning the trip from flight booking, hotel booking, cab, tourist places to be visited to return flight. Transformation and redefining the way of customer experience.

**What are different AI tools available in tourism industry?**

Travel industry is going through digital transformations during recent years. Big data, AI and machine learning are at the phase of technological changes. Companies are trying to collect data through AI tools like Chatbots, apps, YouTube video watch, Google searches etc. Companies' shows the recommendation on the basis of these access which have been allowed by the customer. The customer agrees to give location, files, photos, library etc. access in order to get the rich Customer experience. Marketers have successfully found their spots on social media platforms where they can reach their Customers too.

**What would be the future of AI in tourism industry?**

The year 2020 has become the era of technological shifts in many areas. Introduction of 5G technology is expected to take the industry to next level. Internet of everything is possibly becoming omnipresent. Customers' giving permission to grant access can give the company liberty to make a customized travel itinerary based on the information provided by the Customer. Customer services are expected to become superior as digital communication is enhanced through AI chatbots ex-Utrip can provide the customised travel plan based on the information provided by the customer. AR and VR is going to transform the way people perceives the place to be.

The expansion of knowledge dissemination through the mobile camera, Google lens, Google interpreter etc. to provide detailed information. Not to ignore the latest proposal of face scanners where we can enter and travel through the airport without physically carrying the passport/visas, documents etc. which will be uploaded on the cloud and with just physical presence of the person every information can be taken through the biometric saved in the system. Also, the high-tech security system at airports through which we are under scanning system from the time we enter the airport till the time we board.

**How industry may transform post covid-19?**

The travellers will need to feel safe and confident that their health is protected. The government and travel industry will have to understand the travellers' behaviours. The use of digital identity and biometrics technology may come in the line of transformations which may ensure seamless journey.

The conditions remain with the use of these tools as this is possible only when the user feel that their information data is safe.

As per world economic forum report there will be two key areas where digital transformation through technology should be used: touch less travels airport curb side to hotel check-in. Automation would be the new norms. Health hygiene by maintaining cleaning protocols and surface touching may be given, more importance.

Digital health passport could be a big transformation Apple and Google are working on contact-tracing software, for developers to build compatible apps are nearly close to launch. The pandemic is likely to introduced two trends is seamless travels, where your face and body will be your digital passport and the other being the decentralised identity. The challenge still remains. Are we ready for this transformation?

**By:**  
Prof. Aarti Saini  
Shaheed Bhagat Singh College  
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**Prof. Athula Gnanapala**  
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# Advertorial

## How relevant is the Innovative approach in research for targeting high-impact journals?

The Research and Publication Unit of the Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL), in collaboration with the Emerald Publishing and College of Healthcare Management and Economics, Gulf Medical University, Ajman, UAE, had launched a four-month research course on 'Writing Impactful Research' on April 22, 2021.

After a successful inauguration and well-received attendance of 980 participants, the second virtual session was hosted on April 29, 2021 with a matching enthusiastic and inspired crowd including Prof. Athula Gnana-pala, Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Dr. Jayantha N. Dewasiri, Senior Lecturer, Sabaragamuwa University/Brand Ambassador, Emerald Publishing - South Asia, Miss. Sangeeta Menon, Publishing Relationship Manager, Emerald Publishing, Prof. Sudhir Rana, College of Healthcare Management and Economics, Gulf Medical University, Prof. Kashif Saeed, GIFT University, Pakistan, and Miss. Disha Lakhpanal, Regional Marketing Manager, Emerald Publishing. The topic this time was, 'How relevant is the Innovative approach in research for targeting high-impact journals'.

The Guest Speaker for this session was Dr. Vikas Arya, Assistant Professor, International University of Rabat, Rabat Business School, Morocco. Despite his young age, he has made his mark by presenting his research work at more than 45 reputed national and international conferences, including EGOS at CBS-Denmark, American Marketing Science 2020 Conference (AMS-USA) and going to present his work at American Marketing Association Winter Conference 2021 (AMA-USA). Prof.



Dr. Arya is a Guest Editor of a special issues of seven International Journals listed in Scopus and or ABDC category. Moreover, for his significant research contributions, he received the 'Best Young Researcher' Award from Global Education and Corporate Leadership Awards -2018.

The session began with a welcome address by Head - Department of Business Management Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Dr. Rasika Priyankara. Dr. Arya's session drew from his personal experiences of having published in reputed ABDC A\*, A and B - category journals as well as multiple papers with Impact Factor ratings.

One of the biggest challenges for researchers was the understanding of the nuances of publishing their papers in reputed journals. At a time when there are many resources available online and offline, what direction or advice should one should take. Also, taking accountability in the entire process of preparing a paper is an important aspect that often gets side-tracked in the quest to get published. As the Guest Speaker, his topic was geared to address what a scholar should know



Miss. Sangeeta Menon

about the journey as a researcher and how to get published.

Quoting neurologist Santiago Ramón Y Cajal, "All outstanding work, in research, result from immense zeal applied to a great IDEA," Dr. Arya added, "To get every outstanding IDEA



Prof. Vikas Arya

you have to leave your comfort zone". Thus, the session began with a hard-hitting question to the audience - are you working from your comfort zone?

The difference between a researcher and a good researcher is often how they invest their time and en-

ergy in not just developing their skills in their subject but also in their skills as a research communicator and at the end of the day, it is not just the number of publications that speak but where that research has been published. The session was an insight on how to think outside the box. For instance, how to collaborate with other research institutes and researchers to access journals you may not access to, thus, introducing yet another important topic - the importance of networking, how to select an innovative research topic, establishing your mythology and how to make a paper relatable.

The session was a reminder to all that writing a good research paper takes months of preparation and hence it is important to go slow and steady in planning when writing one. Dr. Arya demonstrated with real-life examples that the source of ideas may come from anywhere and even from mundane routine, but a researcher's mind is always questioning. Once a research gap is identified, how to dress an idea with new research is important.

Identifying research ideas from the environment also brings up an essential issue of writing articles that have relevance and impact. That is, research that contributes to the subject or field. Editors and publishers have their sights on impactful articles and but unfortunately, many submissions are rejected because they lack relevance or add nothing new to the subject. Poor submission practices include missing standard guideline of the respective journals.

Also, emphasizing the content connectivity to the international audience would help the researcher to reduce their chances for desk rejection. Whereas, the most important part of the research article is always the In-

roduction section, conceptual model based on proper theory and theoretical and managerial implications of the study.

Dr. Arya reminded the audience of taking time to prepare a strong research article. He added, "Don't focus on going 0 to 100. Focus on going 0 to 10, then 10 to 20, then 20 to 30, and so on until you get to 100". For this, he emphasized, a researcher must build sustainable habit throughout gradual progression. Nothing comes overnight, and once the goal has been achieved, repeat the cycle of research and continuity in publication. Publication is a habit and to making new habit permanent and successful, researchers need to invest their time to build their repertoire and reputation in their subject through quality publication.

At the Q & A session towards the end of the presentation, Dr. Arya was joined by program co-ordinators, Prof. Sudhir Rana, College of Healthcare Management and Economics, Gulf Medical University and Editor, South Asian Journal of Marketing (Emerald Publishing) and Miss Sangeeta Menon, Publishing Relationship Manager, Emerald - India. The trio addressed various queries posed by audience members from the perspective of research scholar, editor and publisher, respectively. The session was completed with the vote of thanks by Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Dr. Shashi Naotunna.

By: Miss. Sangeeta Menon  
Publishing Relationship Manager  
Emerald Publishing

Prof. Vikas Arya,  
International University of Rabat  
Rabat Business School  
Morocco.

## Does free provision of irrigation water is economically rational?

Water resource economists and policy makers have suggested that by 2030 one third of the world population will be based along river basins and the scarcity of the water for agriculture will have a tremendous impact on their livelihood. Overall, the world's water demand will grow from 4500 billion cubic meters to 6900 billion cubic meters by 2030 - a 40 percent rise from the current water supply. More than 5 billion people could suffer water shortage by 2050 due to climate change, increased demand and polluted supplies.

In Sri Lanka, around two million farmer families are engaged in paddy farming island-wide as their main occupation. High water-intensive paddy is grown on 34 percent of total cultivated area and consumes more than 70 percent of total water allocation for food production in the country. Irrigated agriculture, mainly paddy production used 96 percent water withdrawals in the drier areas. Around 44 percent paddy is cultivated under major irrigation schemes and another 24 percent is cultivated under minor irrigation schemes. More than 70 percent irrigated paddy land are belonging to the Dry-zone. Further, about 70 percent of paddy output drawn by small paddy farmers who own less than one hectare of land. As many as 314,000 farmers are tenant cultivators and nearly 50 percent of these tenants grow paddy on holding smaller than 0.4 ha. Monthly average consumption of rice is around 200,000 metric tons and annual additional demand is around 60,000 metric tons and that additional amount will be totally irrigation-based.

In many parts of the country, productivity is below the potential level due to insufficient irrigation water and in the Yala season (Dry season) only 30 percent of cultivable irrigated paddy land could be used for growing due to lack of water. In Sri Lanka, Dry-Zone is the main paddy zone and some part of this area will face an absolute scarcity of water by 2025. Paddy farming is an exceptionally heavy consumer of water up to 3,000 liters on average used to produce one kg of rice and sixty percent of the water pumped into paddy farms goes waste.

Besides, several research studies have suggested that climate change would further aggravate water scarcity issues in irrigation system of Sri Lanka. This climate change will lead to an increase in the Maha (wet) season irrigation water requirement for paddy by 13-23 percent by 2050 compared to that of 1961-1990. The climate change map indicates that typical farming district under Dry-Zone is more sensitive to climate



change than the rest of the country due to their heavy reliance on primary agriculture. According to the water vision 2025, IWMI indicator of water scarcity in 2025 shows absolute water scarcity in the dry zone, if the irrigation sector efficiency is not doubled by 2025. The past, present and future predictions on rainfall indicate that there will be drastic reductions in rain fall during Maha and Yala seasons and therefore, additional irrigation water must be developed for sustainable paddy and other cash crop cultivation in the dry zone. Reduction in rainfall in the Dry-Zone would significantly impact on livelihood implication of Dry-Zone paddy farming households.

Farmers in Sri Lanka generally enjoy free-of-charge irrigation facilities that are often provided by the government at zero - price mainly for water intensive paddy production. These free-of-charge water,



### FARMERS IN SRI LANKA GENERALLY ENJOY FREE-OF-CHARGE IRRIGATION FACILITIES THAT ARE OFTEN PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT ZERO - PRICE MAINLY FOR WATER INTENSIVE PADDY PRODUCTION

eventually combine with subsidised fertiliser and land for cultivating paddy. Hence, practically it is impossible to expect economically efficient way of factor usage among paddy cultivation and this zero price policy leads to uneconomic use of irrigation water, water inequality and mismanagement of water. In the country, there are more than 20 Acts and Ordinances and other forms of Enactment for water allocation, regulation, usage and management of water resource. Many of them are either outdated or far too limited to address these issues and problems



in the current context of the irrigation sector in Sri Lanka.

This study attempts to determine the actual usage of irrigation water at different water risk in the dry and wet seasons in large scale irrigation schemes in the dry-zone of Sri Lanka. Primary data were obtained from 360 paddy farm plots from Rajanganaya, Nachchaduwa and Huruluwewa irrigation schemes covering upstream and downstream farmers. The daily actual water usage at plot level was measured by the volumetric method. Under this method water is collected in a container of known volume and the time taken to fill the container is recorded.

It is evident that the present water use of the dry-zone farmers is not in an efficient manner resulting it is wasteful. Inter disparity (between the tanks) and intra disparity (Within the tank) of water usage are significantly high. According to our study, on average, in the wet (Maha) season upstream farmers of Rajanganaya have used 4.8-acre feet (5921 cubic meter) and Huruluwewa upstream farmers 4.2-acre feet (5181 cubic meter) for paddy farming. Though water usage of Rajanganaya farmers were 14% higher than that of Huruluwewa farmers in the wet season, the productivity variation were insignificant between two farmer groups. However, the downstream disparity of water usage in the dry season (Yala season) is much higher than the wet season. In the

dry season, downstream farmers of Rajanganaya have recorded 5.7 acre feet and Huruluwewa downstream farmers have managed with 3.2 acre feet due to scarcity of water in the dry season. Even though water usage of Rajanganaya farmers were 78% higher than that of the Huruluwewa farmers, the productivity of paddy in Rajanganaya farmers were only 20% higher than the Huruluwewa farmers in the dry season. In the dry season, Rajanganaya farmers and Huruluwewa farmers have used 2950 liters and 2485 liters respectively for producing one kg of paddy. It is very clear that free provision of irrigation water leads to over exploitation and irrigation scarcity leads to efficient utilization of irrigation water.

Much economic literature has treated irrigation water as an economic good and that should be allocated through a competitive market price. However, some have treated irrigation water as sociological aspect that should be largely exempted from competitive pricing and allocation. This study concluded that irrigation water should be treated as a common pool resource under the economic good category. Substantial literature has proposed market mechanism to better allocate irrigation water. Water is no longer a ubiquitous commodity; it is fast becoming a scarce resource even in the more humid regions. Hence, first of all, farmers have to pay adequately for its use, which would sufficiently motivate them to conserve it. However, the study questioned the notion that market forces can guide common pool resources.

The Sri Lankan context, market forces may be an inappropriate mechanism for irrigation management because most Sri Lankan farmers believe that it is the respon-



Prof. Aruna Shanthaarchchi

is a distinguished Professor in Economics attached to the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Currently he is the Director of Staff Development Centre, SUSL and Economic Advisor of South Asian Region in Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Prof. Aruna Shanthaarchchi has made a great contribution towards the irrigation and water resource management in Sri Lanka covering the discipline of environmental economics and natural resource management. He served as an Economist attached to the Planning and Monitoring Unit of Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka before he joined the University System.

Prof. Aruna Shanthaarchchi is an outstanding researcher, and he has published more than 70 research articles, book chapters, conference papers and abstracts, including articles indexed in Science Citation Index and Social Science Index and refereed journals.

sibility of the government to provide water to irrigable land. On the other hand, classical economists have looked at ways of common pool resource optimisation. The present study suggested that the collectivism is the most suitable way of common pool resource management rather than individualism, which is incorporated with the market mechanism. Therefore, the present study has proposed to further strengthen of the community level governance (Farmer Organization) with capacity building and empowerment to improve-self management of irrigation water.

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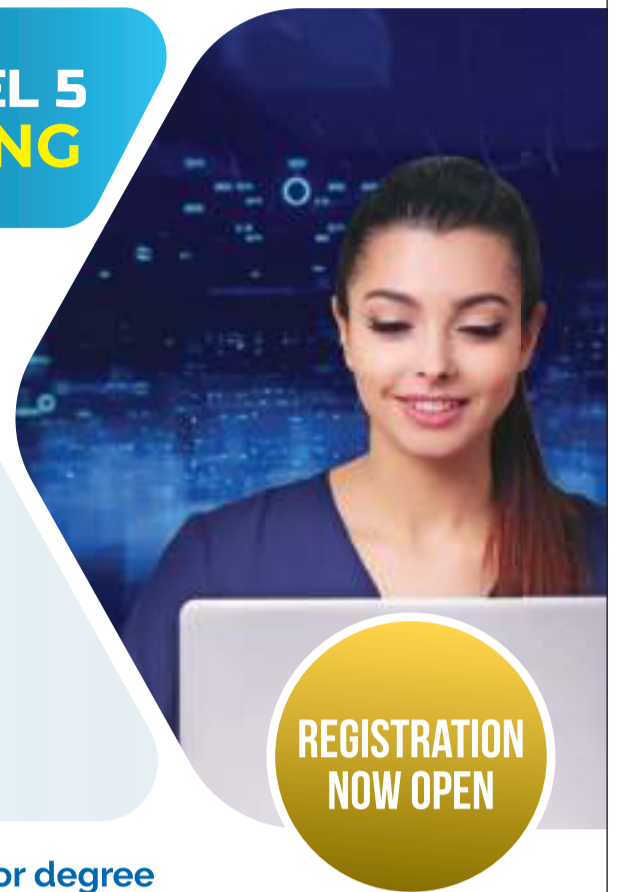
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# Advertorial

## TAKE PART AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD 2021 Represent Lanka at International Chemistry Olympiad 2021 and bring glory to country

Chemistry Olympiad Sri Lanka (COSL) Committee of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon invites students with three A passes (3As) obtained at the G.C.E (A/L) examination held in 2020 including Chemistry as a subject to apply for the selection examination of the International Chemistry Olympiad. Students with three A\* passes obtained at the Cambridge or Edexcel International Examination including Chemistry as a subject are also eligible to apply. The age of the applicants must be below 20 years of age on July 1, 2021, and should not have been enrolled at any university by this date.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic situation in the country, regular National Chemistry Olympiad competition was not held in the year 2021. Therefore, the COSL Committee has decided to select students for this year's final round based on the Ad-



vanced Level results.

Accordingly, the COSL Committee shall select 30-35 applicants for the final round of the selection examination based on their A/L results. Before the final examination,

several online training workshops shall be conducted by the University Lecturers to teach the difficult areas that will be tested at the Chemistry Olympiad competition. Four students will be selected from the final

round examination to represent Sri Lanka at the International Chemistry Olympiad which will be held remotely in Japan in July 2021. In the year 2020, Sri Lanka won three bronze medals and an honorable mention at the International Chemistry Olympiad competition.

Questions of the final selection examination are similar to the preparatory questions posted by the IChO for 2021. Applicants are advised to visit <https://www.icho2021.org/> website for more details, and to download the preparatory questions and past Chemistry Olympiad questions.

Online application forms are available at the COSL official website; <http://www.web.ichemc.edu.lk/cosl/> Contact 0112861231, 0112861653, 0114015230 for more details.

**Dr. C. N. Ratnaweera**  
Chairman/Chemistry Olympiad  
Sri Lanka

## MSc in Accounting and Finance by Bristol Institute paves way for top Financial Careers in Finance

Helping business professionals be equipped with the skills needed to work as successful decision-makers in the increasingly complex financial industry environment, the MSc in Accounting and Finance delivered by the Bristol Institute of Business Management in collaboration with the University of West of England, has been instrumental in enhancing the career prospects of many finance professionals in gaining high-level positions in the accounting and finance industries.

Having reaped the benefits of this MSc program for her own career upliftment, Ashani Gunarathne, who works at the Finance Division of Bartleet & Company (Pvt.) Ltd. recounted her experience with the program.



Ashani Gunarathne

al Guardian university league table, which was another deciding factor for me.

**Q: To whom would you recommend this program?**

**A:** The MSc is well-suited for individuals aspiring to enhance their current career prospects in the field of finance.

It is also an ideal pathway for those with ambitions to pursue top careers related to the accounting and finance industry that range from Financial Advisers and Planners, Fund Managers, Investment Analysts and Stock Brokers.

Entrepreneurs can also benefit from the program as they will attain solid knowledge of finance and its applications.

**Q: How has the MSc contributed to helping your career?**

**A:** It equipped me with specialist knowledge in Financial Accounting and helped to develop an advanced understanding of Corporate Financial Strategy and Finance Reporting, which are directly linked to areas that I am involved in at my work at the Bartleets Group of Companies.

I learnt to evaluate ideas about best practices and new Financial Management Techniques and got the chance to work on real-world case studies that provided a balance of theoretical understanding and practical experience which have been immediately applicable to my own work and has been instrumental in

enhancing the way I deliver and fulfill all of the requirements of my job.

As well as gaining a deeper theoretical and conceptual knowledge of finance, the MSc also helped to enhance my quantitative skills and the ability to evaluate Financial Management problems and make sound strategic decisions that will positively impact the Company's bottom line.

**Q: What are your comments on the faculty?**

**A:** We were taught by leading industry experts that includes PhD Holders, Researchers, and highly experienced professionals in the field, who had a unique understanding of how the financial world works in practice.

They brought the course to life through a variety of inspiring and practical teaching methods, with all sessions being delivered in a friendly, supportive and flexible atmosphere.

**Q: Can you outline the key benefit of studying with Bristol Institute of Business Management?**

**A:** I could say that overall, with Bristol's strong industry links, expert academic staff and state-of-the-art teaching methodologies, has empowered us with the ability to be well geared to pursue a high level career in finance across all types of Organizations; Public and Private Sector, within Industry and Commerce and both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

## Step into a successful future as a CA Sri Lanka qualified Chartered Accountant

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) has played an influential role in enhancing the professional landscape across the country by producing distinguished Chartered Accountants who play a key role in the dynamic corporate world.

The CA Sri Lanka Chartered Accounting qualification which is globally recognised also stakes claim to being one of the preferred accounting qualifications in Sri Lanka and is well-known for offering a futuristic curriculum as it incorporates a multitude of global and local trends, versatile skills, along with catering to both current and future local and global market needs.

CA Sri Lanka is identified as the preferred destination for accounting education in the country and as proof of this claim, the Institute enjoys a vast population of nearly 30,000 students who are studying to become professional accountants.

A key feature of the Chartered Accountants produced by CA Sri Lanka is that they enjoy guaranteed employability both locally as well as overseas, while CA Sri Lanka qualified Chartered Accountants are also among the most sought-after professionals across all industries and are known to give leadership to small and medium businesses as well as multinationals, blue-chip companies and conglomerates.

Chartered Accountants are highly valued for their versatile skills and unique thinking and are employed by top global and local brands. A key feature of the CA Sri Lanka curriculum is that it encompasses a multitude of areas, and does



not only focus on finance, thereby producing tech savvy, future-ready technically sound accountants, who are equipped with key qualities including critical thinking, professional judgment, analytical mindset, leadership ability, relationship building skills and business acumen along with financial leadership.

Another unique advantage for aspiring Chartered Accountants of CA Sri Lanka is the opportunity to simultaneously obtain membership from one of the world's most prestigious accounting bodies, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) at the successful completion of the CA Sri Lanka programme thereby earning dual membership of both CA Sri Lanka and ICAEW which also enhances their global mobility.

The CA Sri Lanka Curriculum stands apart from most other curriculums because it seeks to build business leaders and not accountants alone. The curriculum empowers students with all round managerial skills, who possess the ability to play a critical role in senior management as Chairman, Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer and Chief

Operating Officers among other high-profile designations at top companies.

In an era of a technological revolution, and with the onset of artificial intelligence and blockchain, the CA Sri Lanka curriculum offers a strong emphasis on digitisation, while also focusing on developing soft skills such as speech craft, advanced business report writing, entrepreneurial skills, business acumen and other professional competencies to produce all-round professionals.

The CA Sri Lanka qualification continues to be the preferred choice of many aspiring business leaders, as well as entrepreneurs who have successfully completed the GCE Advanced Level exam.

The CA Sri Lanka programme is offered at three ascending levels, and at each level, the student receives a qualification which guarantees employability. Students who follow the CA program have the option of exiting as a Certified Business Accountant (CBA) after completing the Business Level or exit as a Certified Corporate Accountant (CCA) after completing the Corporate Level and as an Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA) after completing the Strategic Level, which is the final level.

A CBA can engage as an accountant in the SME sector, while a CCA can serve as an accountant in a large organisation. An ACA possess the compatibility to be a CFO and even a CEO of a range of organisations including top corporates and conglomerates.

A key feature of the multiple CA Sri Lanka qualifications is the that apart from the global respect the qualifications commands, all levels of the qualification enjoy employability, thereby making it a discerning choice among aspiring accounting professionals. Another unique feature of the CA Sri Lanka programme is that it offers six areas of specialisation in Actuarial Science, Data Analytics, Finance, Taxation, Governance Risks & Controls and Entrepreneurship.

**Students with minimum of three simple passes at the GCE Advanced Level examination from any subject stream can register with CA Sri Lanka and kick start a successful career as a Chartered Accountant. For more information visit [www.casrilanka.com](http://www.casrilanka.com) or call 112 352000**

## MOTHER; THE MOST POTENT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE



By  
**Vasana  
Abeynayake**

- **MAGNANIMOUS LADY**
- **WHO CAN BE THE MOST**
- **OBLIGED IN HER DUTIES**
- **WITH QUALITIES SO**
- **ADORABLE AND**
- **TENDER WITH HER**
- **ENDLESS LOVE;**
- **HONEST WITH THE**
- **QUALITIES HUMANE AND**
- **CANNOT HELP GETTING**
- **ENCHANTED BY THE**
- **RADIANCE OF THE ETERNAL**
- **LOVE OF MOTHER!!**

No language can express the power, beauty heroism and majesty of Mother's love. Of all the gifts that life has to offer a loving mother is the greatest of them all. A good mother has been historically expected to contribute her whole life to her family. Mothers have been the glue that holds a family together because it is up to them to provide the loving care and support needed by growing children. The nurturing, a mother provides is unparalleled and a vital part of a child's care. It takes learning and practice to become a qualified mother.

It is not an easy job because mothers must learn as they go. It is helpful if they were raised in a caring home so that they can pass it on to their child. A good mother is obliged to care for her family and put them before all else. The ideal living environment that a mother can provide for her children is a warm caring home.

In our current society many problems arise for the role of a mother. Traditional beliefs are being tested because many moms are now single parents and have to catch on an even bigger role in the life of their child. Not only must they provide the care and support a child needs but they must also provide enough income for the family to live on. This is a huge role for anybody to take on.

It is extremely difficult for a mother to provide everything a child needs so it helps if the child has another male figure to look up to. That way even if a father isn't in the picture the child still has a male role model.

If a mother fails to provide her child with the essential habits and morals it needs then most likely the child will not develop into its full potential. In my opinion, the mother figure plays the most vital role in a child's life because she is the most important role model for the child. In addition, it is the mother who teaches the child through love so that they will grow up into a caring well rounded person.

Even though a day has been dedicated as MOTHERS' DAY; it's not at all sufficient to measure a Mother's contribution in our life in a specific day or two. All mothers out there feel proud of themselves and can understand that life would not have been what it is today, had they not been there. Mother's day comes in the month of May every year and reminds people of the courage of a mother that she shows up in order to

make our life a brighter one. She is so patient that she listens to all of our problems and gives the best solution to each one of them. Even if we get wrong somewhere in life, she never backs off her hands and keeps us motivating till the time she is alive.

Mother is the one who is probably endowed with all the power. No creature in this Universe can be as powerful as a mother!! She can manage and control everything in any situation. In other words, God has given her the power to take up all the affairs of the world. Being a mother is

the highest paid job in the world, since the payment is in pure love. And definitely a mother's love will never end as it's always there from the beginning to the end. Hence, how could we ever pick simply one day for mothers knowing how remarkable and priceless her capacities are?

Celebrating Mother's day for a day is not sufficient to thank every single mother in this world. No one can replace her at any cost. Everyone should shower lots of love on her for her immeasurable sacrifices.

A mother is born the moment a child is born and being a mother is perhaps the hardest and the most rewarding job a woman will ever experience. A mother's love is the one and only unconditional love on this earth. It's exceptionally selfless. European countries do have a specific day as mothers' day and it falls today according to the calendar.

But, specifically in a cultural, traditional and much humane sphere as Asia, it would be never possible to measure the sacrifices of a mother in one day for us. The bonds are much stronger in comparison to the fast moving terrains. Hence let's make this speciality as a habit.



**CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY  
FOR A DAY IS NOT SUFFICIENT  
TO THANK EVERY SINGLE  
MOTHER IN THIS WORLD.  
NO ONE CAN REPLACE HER  
AT ANY COST. EVERYONE  
SHOULD SHOWER LOTS  
OF LOVE ON HER FOR HER  
IMMESURABLE SACRIFICES**



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Registrar, The Open University of Sri Lanka

# Advertorial



## Beyond Books - Vibrant Campus life at Central Campus Colombo



## UCL international foundation... (Continued from page 41)

What do students learn in the UIFY?

The program emphasizes on developing competencies in the English Language and Communication Skills with the focus of preparing students for higher studies in specialised disciplines such as Computing and Business.

- **English Language Skills**  
The module aims to improve skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking, hence, enables the student to acquire a broad range of knowledge which can be used to confidently and effectively communicate in English.
- **Communication Skills**

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- **Subject specific Skills (Electives based on chosen stream)**  
These modules will form the basis

for the destination degree. The UIFY offers specialisation subjects in Computing and Business

While explaining the delivery model and which type of prospective students were likely to benefit, Thepul Ginige stated, "A University Foundation, as the name itself implies is a pre-University qualification which is ideally suitable for students wanting to begin and speed up their Higher Education with the O/L qualification. It is a stepping stone which provides you the basis needed to succeed in University education, especially, for students who have already identified their education and career aspirations early in consul-

tation with their parents and mentors".

### Gihan Silva CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gihan Silva CEO of UCL said, "UIFY is the only internationally recognised and accepted UK Foundation program offered in Sri Lanka which provides the widest choice of pathways to reputed Universities Internationally. Upon successful completion of the



UIFY, students may enter the 1st year of the BSc (Hons) in Software Engineering or BA (Hons) in International Business degree program of the University of Central Lancashire experiencing a truly international student experience at UCL.

Students also have the option of gaining entry to degree programs in a choice of Universities in the UK, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland among other countries which recognises and accepts the UIFY qualification awarded by NCC Education UK. We are proud to have produced the World's No. 2 Most Outstanding Student among all international stu-

dents at the last examination of NCC Education UK.

UCL adopts a student-first approach and offers quality transnational Higher Education and a Holistic Learning experience including a variety of sports and other extra-curricular activities to students to develop much needed all-round skills and enrich their student experience at UCL".

**Please contact UCL on 0774 110 000 or info@ucl.lk or visit their state-of-the-art UCL Campus conveniently located at 503, Sri Jaywardenepura Mawatha, Rajagiriya should you require further information and assistance.**



# OBSERVER EDUCATION

SECTION 2

MAY 9, 2021

## Love is in the app... or not!

There are countless dating apps out there that can kick start the search for love or companionship. Even during lockdowns caused by the pandemic.

"Technology is indeed both a blessing and a curse. It helps people spread their net far and wide to maximise the likelihood of finding 'the one'. But it also gives people the impression that there are more fishes in the sea. This prevents them from settling because what if there is something (someone) better out there?" said Dr. Goh Pei Hwa from the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University Malaysia.

In terms of relationship initiation, people enjoy a lower risk of rejection when dating online. It is safer in a sense that if you get a match, and talk to a person, you already know that they have swiped right on you too. "So, you don't have to meet a person and then try to suss out if they are into you. A match already tells you that you are speaking to someone who is at least, on the most basic level, interested in you in some way", Dr. Goh adds.

However, there is also the downside to that. "Now, imagine that you get a bunch of matches - yay! But days go by, and no one starts a conversation with you. You initiate a conversation, but then the person ignores or unmatched you. Or what about when the conversation actually gets



going, and you're feeling hopeful, but then the person decides to stop responding?

This is such a popular phenomenon that people have coined the term 'ghosting' for this disappearing act".

Dr. Goh asked 319 Malaysian young adults if they have ever ghosted someone or been ghosted. According to the responses she received, more than half of them have experienced either. Here in lies the dark side of low-risk communication. Online communication provides a haven for people to connect with others and an equally safe one for people to end relationships with minimal confrontation. Rejection stings, but it hurts more when it happens unexpectedly and without proper closure. Despite all of that,

technology has no doubt been helpful when it comes to initiating relationships. People have reported much success in finding their partners with the help of technology. Having the opportunity to meet people outside of their social circle is something exciting. It can also help people learn more about themselves and what they seek in a partner.

While it looks like many people are on or have been on dating apps, only 40 per cent of Dr. Goh's participants have used a dating app at some point in their lives. She had expected more, especially since she was asking a sample of young adults, who were mostly from the city.

The attitude towards online dating is shifting. Humans are adaptive beings. Give them an obstacle, and they will find a way to overcome it. Dating apps were busy in 2020. There is no lockdown on love. According to Dr. Goh, people could still satisfy their need to belong through dating apps, even when some of them couldn't go outside to socialise. People fell in love over text messages, voice calls, and video calls. Technology was and continues to be our saviour during these times.

Dr. Goh said that in terms of relationship maintenance, technology has done wonders for long-distance relationships no more expensive international phone calls or snail mail. Video calls are the new norm. Technology provides

us with easy access to communicate with your partner. We all know how important communication is to relationship quality.

The ease of accessibility to others that technology affords has also made infidelity easier. It doesn't take a lot of effort to seek out like-minded people, who are also interested in extramarital or extra relational affairs.

"But, is technology the cause of such relationship-harming behaviours? The way you answer this is probably similar to how you would answer the question: Do guns kill people? Guns

don't kill people. People kill people. Technology doesn't make someone a cheating, inattentive partner. It may provide more opportunity for a partner to cultivate such behaviours, but I won't say it causes it", Dr. Goh said.

A Monash degree can offer you a personal enrichment and enhanced career opportunities. Join our Virtual Open Day and Postgraduate Preview on May 22, 2021, from 12p.m. to 5p.m. (Malaysian time) to explore our degree programs. More details at [www.monash.edu.my/open-day](http://www.monash.edu.my/open-day).

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ilities and amenities that cater to all student needs.

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# Advertorial



Minister of Youth & Sports Namal Rajapaksa, and Founder President/CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe giving away the Awards



Founder President/CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe & Minister of Youth & Sports, Namal Rajapaksa



(From Left) Prof. Dushantha Nalin Jayakody, Prof. S. R. D. Rosa, Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Goonewardena and Founder President/CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe

## SLTC Hosts Rain 2021 Awards Night

Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC) recently concluded its Research and Innovation Awards Night - RaIN 2021 - to felicitate achievers who have won international and national recognition for research and innovation.

The event was held at the SLTC Padukka Campus and was attended by many dignitaries including Minister of Youth & Sports Namal Rajapaksa, as Chief Guest and Minister of Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Goonewardena, Nipuna Ranawaka, Member of Parliament graced the occasion as special guests.

The event held strictly adhering to health and safety guidelines

was attended by a limited number of students and members of faculty nonetheless it was a resounding success.

Sri Lanka Technological Campus took this opportunity to dedicate this event "Research & Innovation Awards Night - RAIN 2021" to recognise best performing researchers, staff and students, especially those who have shown exceptional performance in terms of research in the past years.

Key achievements as an institute such as being ranked as 19th in Sri Lanka in Webometrics rankings, publishing of 2 books and 5 book chapters, as well as individual per-

formances such as publishing the Highest Impact Factor paper in Engineering & Physics - 2019 were highlighted during this event

The evening featured a number of interesting performances including an act by ingenious community of Sri Lanka (Veddhass) which provided an introduction by veteran musician Nadeeka Guruge and staff members at SLTC.

SLTC is hosting almost 3000 students currently, 200 fulltime academic panel & several affiliations with Top international Universities, offering over 25 degree programs approved and recognised by Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka.



(From Left) Prof. Dushantha Nalin Jayakody, Dr. Deepika Priyadarshani, Dr. Nanda Gunawardena, Dr. Nandika Miguntanna, Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe, Prof. S. R. D. Rosa, Nipuna Ranawaka, M.P., Yohan Pandigama, Dr. Udesha Oruthota, Dr. Rajeev Mallawarachchi, Dr. Lasith Yasakethu, Dr. Eranda Perera & Ms. Dilanka De Silva



Founder President/CEO of SLTC Eng. Ranjith Rubasinghe



Minister of Youth & Sports, Namal Rajapaksa addressing the audience



Nipuna Ranawaka, Member of Parliament speaking at the occasion



Head of SLTC School of Music - Nadeeka Guruge

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### Postponement of Exams based on the health situation that prevails in the country

Final Exam of the Teachers Colleges - 2020 (2021)

It is hereby notified that the final examination of the Teachers Colleges that were scheduled to be held from 10.05.2021 to

21.05.2021 has been postponed indefinitely owing to the Covid - 19 pandemic situation on the instructions of the health authorities and the dates the exam will be held again will be notified later.

## APIIT launches a scholarship scheme for deserving undergraduates with financial needs

HOPEFULS CAN NOW APPLY FOR MERIT AND PERFORMANCE SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), the largest provider of foreign degrees in Sri Lanka, recently kicked off a new scholarship scheme for undergraduate students in need of financial aid.

The newly introduced merit scholarships and sports scholarships will be awarded to deserving school students and high-performance athletes, who will begin their first year of undergraduate studies at APIIT.

The scholarship schemes were designed to enable and support students with outstanding academic records and/or who are gifted in sports, seeking to enhance their potential through their higher education.

To qualify, the student must be a Sri Lankan citizen and possess outstanding GCE A/L results (either Local or London), have strong leadership qualities, a good extracurricular activity record, and have demonstrated their potential in a sport if applying for the sports scholarship. In addition, they must be eligible for admission as an undergraduate student to one of the undergraduate degree programs delivered at APIIT.

### Merit Scholarships

The merit scholarships available at APIIT are as follows.

One scholarship per APIIT School, covers 100% of the tuition fees for an ac-

ademically outstanding new student entering the first year of any full-time undergraduate program at APIIT. The student must maintain a 65% semester average throughout to continue receiving the scholarship.

Two scholarships per APIIT school covers 50% of the tuition fees of the entire study period. The student who receives this scholarship must also maintain a semester average of 65% throughout to continue receiving the scholarship.

Finally, APIIT offers 10 non-renewable one-time scholarships of Rs.100,000. The student must have obtained a minimum z-score of 1.5 in the GCE A/L Local curriculum or 3 'A' passes in the GCE A/L London curriculum in order to be eligible for this scholarship.

### Performance-based Sports Scholarship

Applicants for this scholarship must meet the entry requirements for the program of study they intend to enrol in and continue to obtain satisfactory grades or

GPA in order to retain the scholarship. Applicants should have exhibited outstanding achievements in their chosen sport and be currently competing or have previously competed at a national or international level.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of their achievements in the chosen sport, their academic performance and likelihood of success in the chosen program at APIIT, as well as their ambassadorial qualities in terms of representing APIIT publicly.

Scholarship decisions are made during the admission process and will be based on the information available at the time of processing. The decision of awarding scholarships will also depend on the availability of scholarship funds and the number of applicants.

**All applicants must submit a designated scholarship application form with relevant documentation to determine their eligibility. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2021. For more information, visit our website at [apiit.lk](http://apiit.lk), call us on +94 117 675 100, or email us via [info@apiit.lk](mailto:info@apiit.lk)**

## Ranks in the Advanced Level results will not be announced

- Commissioner General of Examination

Commissioner General of Examinations B. Sanath Pujitha said that the results of the Advanced Level examination was released and that facilities have been for the Principals and the Zonal Directors of Education to download the results online and that facilities have also been made for the private candidates to download the results.

Speaking at a press conference held after the results were released, Commissioner General of Examinations Sanath

Pujitha said publishing names of students who have scored the highest marks and become first, second, third etc. have been suspended from this year heading to the decision taken in year 2019 as per the recommendations of the Council of Specialist Psychiatric Consultants. Accordingly, this examination is considered only as a test of proof and not a test to select the positions such as first second and third and the district and all island ranks are selected only for the University entrance

only and the Department has come to this decision to do away with the mental stress it creates to the students entering the university and to those who do not qualify as well.

Speaking further, he said that re-correction of results may be carried out through schools after the schools are reopened and an online method will be made available in the future for the private candidates and it will be notified by a newspaper notice.



BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

### PART I EXAMINATION OF THE SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS - 2021

Prospective candidates who intend to sit for the above Examination are required to register with the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) on or before 31st May 2021 using the prescribed form "Registration of Candidates for Part I of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects' Examination".

#### Eligibility requirements:

Candidates must have fulfilled the following eligibility requirements by 31st May 2021 to register for the examination.

1. Successful completion of a Programme of Study that has been accepted as a "Declared Course" at SLIA Part I Level by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects.
2. Obtaining Student Membership of SLIA.

Completed/signed hard-copy of the Application together with the payment receipt from SLIA for the Application Processing Fee of Rs. 2,500/= shall be submitted to the Secretary, BAE on or before 31st May 2021 during SLIA office hours. Examination fees are payable later.

SLIA intends to conduct the Examination by 31st August 2021. Any person who applied for the Examination held in 2020 but did not sit same need not re-apply. Such applicants should inform their intent to sit the Examination in 2021 by a letter addressed to Secretary, BAE.

Application forms shall be downloaded from [www.slia.lk](http://www.slia.lk) (Path: Publications - Downloads-Application forms). For clarifications if any, the Manager/Asst. Manager-Board of Architectural Education (BAE) can be contacted over Telephone No. 011-2678255.

Chairman,  
Board of Architectural Education (BAE),  
Sri Lanka Institute of Architects,  
120/7, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07.  
Tel: 011-2678255, 011- 2697109,  
E - Mail: [slia\\_bae@architects.lk](mailto:slia_bae@architects.lk)  
Website: [www.slia.lk](http://www.slia.lk)

# Study at ACBT and transfer to Australia

Australian College of Business Technology (ACBT) with its long-standing academic partner, Edith Cowan University (ECU), awards undergraduate degrees in a range of disciplines such as Commerce, Computing, Engineering, Health Studies and Design & Gaming. In addition to providing an all-inclusive ideal learning environment, students also have a number of pathways to choose in order to complete ECC Foundation or Diploma courses as well as ECU degrees at ACBT Sri Lanka.

Edith Cowan University (ECU) has been rewarded with five star ratings for teaching quality, graduate satisfaction and generic skills six

years in a row in the Good Universities Guide. All ECU courses are developed in consultation with industry. Moreover, ACBT teaching staff, who have been selected by ECU, also have extensive industry experience and networking. As a result, ACBT students can expect to gain the relevant knowledge, skills and confidence required to meet the challenges of today's workplace.

ACBT Students have unlimited access to state of the art computer labs equipped with Microsoft Office applications, fast and uninterrupted internet, multimedia applications and specialist software in order to facilitate their individual courses/

modules.

ACBT Library provides ample support, services and information for students with an up-to-date collection of select text books and printed material related to the modules of study. There is also the opportunity to obtain various online scholarly material via digital databases.

Further, ACBT Campuses are conveniently located so that students can purchase their text books, reference books, course materials and stationery from prominent bookstores and stationers within close proximity to the campuses.

ACBT also has a range of special interest and recreation clubs and ac-

tivities on campus, facilitated by the ACBT Student Council. Sports clubs include Cricket, Rugby, Basketball, Football, etc. while the numerous societies organize various recreation activities such as get-togethers, charity projects, CSR projects, career development programs etc.

Entry into ECU programs at ACBT requires applicants to meet initial academic and English language proficiency criteria. Interested students can visit ACBT to have their qualification assessed for eligibility or e-mail them to counselors who would guide them in the process.

**Transfer to ECU or Other Australian Universities**

Students also have the option to transfer to ECU or other universities in Australia to continue their study programs directly from the ACBT courses.

Upon successful completion of a Diploma, students can enter into the second year of university for their Bachelor's degree, provided they meet the academic progression criteria relevant to their study programs and the respective university.

ACBT has made available a range of programs and facilities for students to both complete their degrees locally or in Australia. Students studying at ACBT for Edith Cowan University (ECU) programs are at a

greater competitive advantage because their programs are industry-relevant and quality assured by an internationally ranked university while the study environment is similar in every way to what they would experience in foreign universities. Therefore, ACBT students do not only survive in the world of work, - they thrive in it.

**For more information about ACBT or ECU Sri Lanka, please dial ACBT Hotline 0773 000900 (Colombo 03), 0772 273 333 (Kandy) or visit ACBT Campus at 442, Galle Road, Colombo 03, or 891, Peradeniya Road, Kandy, or email your details to: info@acbt.lk**

## GOT YOUR AL RESULTS? But are you under lockdown?

Amidst the rise of Covid-19 cases, new variants and increasing death numbers, the day of May 4, 2021 dawned with the release of Advanced level results. However, still most of the you who faced the examination are stuck at home, some with the joy of obtaining high grades and some with a huge Confusion about the next step in your life.

**Are you ready to give up on your dreams?**

Spectrum Institute of Science & Technology (SIST) a pioneer Higher Education provider with over 20 years of experience is ready to take the challenge to help you to fulfill your dreams of becoming a fully-fledged professional in the areas of life sciences, engineering technologies, business and IT amid the rising pandemic situation in the country.

The novel methods of teaching and learning that SIST follows by facilitating online learning platforms and one - to - one online discussion panels with both local and international faculty have allowed students to continue their studies without any disturbance. Moreover, the students get the opportunity to engage in their assignments and examinations on an online platform! These examinations are well monitored to maintain the standards and high accuracy platforms such as Turnitin is incorporated to evaluate student performances with regards to plagiarism. Thus, allowing students to stay safe at home,



this regard, the Students' Society of SIST also conducted many online workshops on healthy eating, climate change and the students also went online as they celebrated Christmas in a virtual platform!

This invitation goes out to all students who are out there to grab opportunities to obtain a globally recognised degree to join with us!

SIST eagerly awaits to commence contact lectures as soon as the health restrictions are uplifted! We assure to provide all facilities to you, including modern classrooms, well equipped laboratories and an array of fun filled student activities to make your undergraduate experience an unforgettable one!

Let's not allow a small virus to destroy your dreams of becoming a changemaker!

but also complete their education on time.

SIST not only facilitates theory education online, but also helps students to gain insights of practical concepts by sharing live records of practical demonstrations with students followed by discussions with industry and Academic Experts.

The present students of SIST are also well accustomed for the new norm of using online platforms. In



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**Contact an educational advisor at PGC to learn more. Tel: (0)11-2502012, (0)112363112, 0765-566566**

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## Advertorial

# SLIIT Students Published Globally Acclaimed Journals with 300 H-index (SJR)

BY ROCHELLE PALIPANE GUNARATNE

SLIIT Business School is the leading education entity in Sri Lanka, recognized for its excellence in higher education and its renown among the corporate community. The distinctive educational scope offered is a portal to the multifaceted business environment of the modern world.

Four exemplary students, Venuri Mallikaratchi, Dhanushka Ranawaka, Nishali Perera and Sheron Joachim supervised by Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka - belonging to the SLIIT Business School and majoring in Accounting and Finance received due recognition for their collective thesis published as two articles in two reputed, world renowned journals. Considered a rare achievement at the undergraduate level; the topics centered on the following topics; 'Do chronic illnesses and poverty go hand in hand?' and 'Chronic diseases: An added burden to income and expenses of chronically-ill people in Sri Lanka.'

The scores consisted of CiteScore equalling 5.2 (top 10%), 300 H Index (Scimago) in Q1 category and 175 H Index (Google scholar h5-index).

Professor Samantha Thelijjagoda, Dean of SLIIT Business School stated, "We are immensely proud of the students who have brought this honour to the institute and the Motherland. The ground-breaking achievement has been acknowledged not merely by one but two renowned journals, which lays claim to the superior quality of its content. Since inception, it has been the goal of SLIIT to foster innovative learning methodologies which will eventually draw the student into his or her greatest potential."

The group of friends initially banded together for group assignments in the formative years of their degree program. However, realization dawned that the synergy of ideas and work produced outstanding results. Inevitably they continued to work together as a team in their final research. "A thorough discussion we



had with our Research Supervisor gave us an insight on studying further on chronic illnesses and the impact it has on the poverty level of the Sri Lankan community as it is a largely unexplored area in the Sri Lankan context. Initially we studied over 150 high graded past publications done all over the world to get more information and insight on the area of our focus. We considered this research area to be very significant as globally, the health and quality of life of many citizens have been affected by various Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) where more than two thirds of deaths are caused by a certain type of chronic disease. Hence, the gap of this area of this particular study had not been explored in-depth, sparking an interest within us," revealed the students.

How was the data collected? We used secondary data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) using a sample of 25,640 housing units covering all the 25 Districts in the country.

Director General and the Deputy Director (Statistics) of the Department of Census and Statistics respectively, Dr. I.R. Bandara and Mr. S. M. H. N. Samarakoon supported us immensely in issuing us the HIES 2016 data set in a short duration which was pivotal in executing our research-based study successfully.

Who were your strongest supporters at SLIIT?

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous support and guidance given by our research supervisor, Dr. Ruwan

Jayathilaka who is an amazing lecturer and mentor in the SLIIT Business School. From inception we were very keen to choose Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka as our Supervisor as his reputation as an innovative thinker and internationally acclaimed luminary precedes him.

The weekly meetings and frequent conference calls even during the pandemic kept us going forward with the development of these articles as we had to make inevitable changes frequently and our supervisor never failed to equip us with his knowledge. "Work hard, dream big, and never give up," were constantly ingrained into us by him which motivated us to work tirelessly to achieve our goals.

Secondly and most importantly we'd admire the great support our parents gave us by understanding and tolerating our mood swings and being our constant strength by showering their love and blessings over us throughout this journey which surely did help us to overcome tough and challenging times we had to face as a team.

The Department of Census and Statistics should be remembered as this research couldn't have been executed if not for the data they provided in a very short period of time.

Our seniors at the SLIIT Business School were extremely supportive and assisted us by educating us on the basics of STATA- the statistical software we used to analyze the data which was a totally a new area for us to learn.

What's the extent of support you got from the faculty and staff of SLIIT?

The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor of SLIIT respectively, Prof. Lakshman Ratnayake, Prof. Lalith Gamage and Prof. Nimal Rajapakse and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research, Prof. Rahula Attalage should be remembered for giving us the opportunity to conduct our research in this scope. We also extend our gratitude to the Dean of SLIIT Business School, Prof. Samantha Thelijjagoda and all the Heads of Departments of the faculty for the guidance given.

Most importantly we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka for the immense support, motivation and knowledge shared throughout this journey. His encouragement and words of wisdom from the beginning drove us to a successful end of this journey. Without his constant guidance and support this publication would have remained as a dream.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes to the Module Leader of "Comprehensive Research Project", Prof. Nagalingam Nagendrakumar for the constant guidance, knowledge and support given throughout the period of one whole year. He surely did make the lecture very exciting and interesting. We also remember our instructor for CRP, Miss Nipuni Wijesundara for her support and guidance akin to a friend assisting us constantly to make our research a success.

We also thank all the lecturers, instructors and the entire staff of the SLIIT Business School who extended us a helping hand in numerous ways to make these publications a reality.

What were some of challenges

faced?

One of the main challenges we faced was to balance our work life since all of us were employed and on the other hand we had assignments, presentations, semester exams related to the course. Therefore, balancing everything simultaneously was challenging.

In your opinion how can you impact people with the work you have done? How do you intend to impact the world through this initiative?

The findings in our study can mainly impact the policy makers such as the government and insurance companies to develop policies and schemes to support patients suffering with various chronic diseases which may alleviate the financial burden and bring succor to the patient afflicted with NCD and their loved ones.

Moreover, our findings may impact the Sri Lankan medical bodies along with authorities in the South Asian context to realize the availability of medical facilities within their possession and take necessary actions to make medical facilities and medical drugs available for patients in order to prevent fatalities that may occur due to lack of facilities and medication required to keep the disease in control.

Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka, Senior Lecturer (HG), Head of Department of Information Management at SLIIT Business School made these observations, "High-degree research and corresponding well-drafted manuscripts are the ones that will eventually win the competition. It is imperative to emphasize more on the quality of research rather than focusing on the

quantity. Many submissions get rejected as journals belonging to Scopus, Scimago Web of Science data bases drew vigorous peer critique with the review process and the acceptance rate being considerably low.

Moreover, the top-tier journals acceptance rate is often less than 10%. Publishing a paper in such a journal is a remarkable achievement in one's academic career. PLOS ONE journal in which we published two papers, comes under top 10% Scopus rank journal, 300H index of the Scimago rank, Q1 category of Scopus and 175 H index Google scholar journals. Thus, publishing two papers in journals of high calibre based on one undergraduate study was very challenging but was not impossible."

A class above the rest, the SLIIT Business degrees are approved by the UGC under the Universities Act. The institute is also a Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and International Association of Universities (IAU) as well as a Member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The global alliances and affiliations formed through the years with prestigious universities worldwide, enables students to have a multitude of options connected to their chosen field of study - they could either complete the entire four (04) year UGC approved degree programme at SLIIT, or opt to follow the Liverpool John Moores University offshore programmes in Sri Lanka, right here at SLIIT. Students can also complete their degree at one of SLIIT's partner universities in UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

### MEDICINE ENGINEERING

(China, Malaysia & Bangladesh)

**University of Science & Technology Chittagong (Bangladesh)**

**Zhengzhou University (China)**

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## Decision to change local Exams to serve Students in a proper manner

- Secretary to the Ministry of Education Prof. Kapila Perera

The Cabinet decision has been received to change the period the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination and the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination are held so as to change the educational system that kept the school children of Sri Lanka for nearly 9 months away from from educational activities said Secretary to the Ministry of Education Prof. Kapila Perera addressing a Press Conference in Colombo recently.

According to the present educational time table, the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination is held in August and the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination is held in December. By that children have to keep away from educational activities for about

9 months after sitting the G.C.E. Ordinary Examination until they are admitted to the Advanced Level classes and for students who sit for the Advanced Level Examination and to enter the Universities if they have got through. Prof. Perera clarified that this change would be very fitting to fill this void, he said

"When the Ordinary Level examination is held in December, the results would be out in March the following year, but these students cannot be admitted to the advanced level classes as the students of those classes are still in school and they can be admitted only after the Advanced Level examinations are held in August. Likewise, the results of the students sitting the Advanced Level examination will be released

April following year. For the re-correction of results it takes another 3 to 5 months. They have to apply for the Universities only thereafter. To decide on the district it takes time.

If the G.C.E. ordinary Level examination is held in August, those students can sit in the advanced level classes in January. If the Advanced Level examination is held in December, those students will not come to school thereafter.

A method is being designed to obtain information from the Elections Commission and Department of Registration of Persons to make things easy in deciding the districts. Through re-correction, only 0.1% get the opportunity to enter the Universities. They get the opportunity to enter the University with the students

who enter the Universities after their appeals finalised. Changes are being made as mentioned in Page 21 of the "Vision for Prosperity" Policy Statement of His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. We also will be able to give our children the time saved by the students of International Schools who sit the Edexcel, Cambridge, London examinations, he said.

He also emphasized that anyone can submit proposals in any medium to the Digital Platform established to obtain proposals from all people for the proposed educational reforms of this government and the most suitable education method will be provided to our children in year 2023 which would suit our country and the world.

## CIPM Sri Lanka leader in producing qualifiers HR PROFESSIONALS RELAUNCHES KANDY CHAPTER

CIPM Sri Lanka - the Nation's leader in human resource management successfully relaunched its Kandy Chapter recently. To commemorate this special milestone, a novel awareness program was held at the Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy with over 200 individuals in attendance representing diverse institutions and sectors. Dhammika Kobbekaduwa was elected as Chairman of Kandy Chapter.

The aim of invigorating the Kandy Chapter was to educate entrepreneurs, businessmen, planters, CEOs, managers and professional in the Central province on developing technical HR expertise necessary to meet the strategic and managerial needs and challenges they face in an increasingly complex business landscape. The Chapter will also demonstrate the importance and significance of HRM courses conducted by CIPM Sri Lanka and its vision to drive organizational performance and elevate the HR profession.

Leading the sessions at the Kandy Chapter relaunch was Jayantha Amarasinghe, President of the Executive Council, together with Ken Wijaya Kumar, Vice President, Priyankara Sen-



Executive Council at the Kandy Chapter

eviratne, Secretary, Abeyratne, Treasurer, members of the Council and the management of CIPM Sri Lanka. Commenting on the event, Jayantha Amarasinghe said, "Our primary intention of relaunching the Kandy Chapter is to create the necessary awareness and background for producing

qualified HR professionals from institutional level. I appreciate and thank all those who worked hard to organise this successful event! In a move to produce qualified professionals for the country's HR management sector CIPM Sri Lanka, conducts a range of HR management courses at

different levels from Certificate, Diploma and Chartered Qualification. Today, CIPM membership comprises a large number of high profile HR professionals.

The Institute of Personnel Management Sri Lanka (IPM) was founded in 1959 with the objective of developing and promoting the profession of personnel management.

The Institute was subsequently incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1976, and its name was amended by Act No. 31 of 2018 as the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM). With a rich history of 60 years, today CIPM is a professional body and is affiliated to the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management and World Federation of People Management Associations.



Dammika Kobbekaduwa appointed as the Chairman, Kandy Chapter

INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

**TIME LIMIT FOR COMPLETION OF COURSE OF STUDIES**

The Incorporated Council of Legal Education decided to fix a time limit for the completion of the course of studies as follows :-

- Any student who is admitted to Sri Lanka Law College from Year 2021 onwards will be required to complete the course of studies within the next 10 (Ten) years from the date of admission.
- Any student who has registered with the Sri Lanka Law College prior to 2021 should also complete their course of studies within the period of next 10 (Ten) years from the date hereof.

**The Registrar**  
Incorporated Council of Legal Education,  
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No. 244, Hulfdorp Street,  
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Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family sought by B/G retired mother Galle for her pretty and fair daughter born in 1989/12, 5' tall, working in a private institution. Reply with horoscope and family details.  
 OB162863

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family sought by mother living in Australia for her daughter born in 1976, 5'2", fair, pretty, slim, BSc. and MSc. in Accounting, working in Canberra, she has been brought up with Sinhalese Buddhist cultural values. Reply with family details, horoscope and contact information. Email : tnavaratne@gmail.com  
 OB162738

Academically and professionally qualified caring, well mannered son is sought by Govi/Buddhist parents in Australia, for their 28 yrs. old daughter who has born and raised in Australia. She is a Doctor in specialty training and working in Tasmania. Same profession (Doctor) with currently living and working in Australia, New Zealand or UK preferred. Please reply with a horoscope, family details of your son. mihindoaslanaka@gmail.com  
 OB163032

Academically and professionally qualified daughter from Colombo suburbs wishes to find qualified, smart & tall partner from similar family background for marriage. She is 28 years old (1992). Very pretty, fair, 5'7" height. She possesses LLB, CIMA, MBA (J'Pura). She is currently working as a Directress in the well-established family business. Mother (Govi, Buddhist) / Father (Karawe, Catholic). Please reply to infoprop2019@gmail.com / TP - 0114897363.  
 OB162727

Academically and professionally qualified employed well-mannered caring son is sought by retired B/G professional parents for their daughter who is a MBBS Doctor; 5'8" tall, well-mannered, pretty, fair and born in 1990. She is attached to the national Teaching Hospital in Colombo South. She inherits millions worth two storey house in Colombo District and new car. Please reply with family details and a copy of horoscope to: mproposalspr@gmail.com  
 OB162901

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by Govi Buddhist mother to her daughter born in 1987 fair in complexion 5'8" in height. She is academically and professionally qualified holds a Snr. Executive post in a leading firm. Please reply with horoscope and contact: dinun28@yahoo.com  
 OB162924

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by Govi / Catholic parents for 39, 5'2" slim, pretty daughter. She is a SLAS Officer (Sri Lanka Administrative Service) currently working as a Deputy Director in a Government Organization. Caste, religion immaterial. Divorcees considered. Not willing to migrate. marriagepro81@gmail.com  
 OB162960

Academically and professionally qualified partner is sought by G/B parents for their daughter 1988 September, fair, slim, 5'7", BSc., IT and MBA qualified QA Engineer in a reputed Company in Colombo. Please reply with family details and horoscope. findprop21@gmail.com  
 OB162804

Academically and professionally qualified partner with sober habits sought by parents for their daughter born in June 1992, 5', pretty and fair employed in a reputed Company in Colombo at Managerial Level brought up with excellent character and Sinhalese Buddhist values. Reply with horoscope, contact information and family details to sisisiraw@hotmail.com  
 OB162742

Academically and professionally qualified son from a respectable family is sought by B/G/K professional parents living in Colombo suburb for their daughter 1991 born 5'4", fair, educated from a leading private Buddhist school in Colombo and completed her Bachelor's from a university in Australia and specialized in International Relations. She is currently working for a reputed non-government organization in Colombo. Please contact with the family details. Email cme mc2021@gmail.com  
 OB162834

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu Karawa parents live in Ambalangoda for their daughter 37 years old, 4'10" a Chartered Accountant and a graduate working in a government department in Colombo as the Accountant. Respond with horoscope. mproposal0721@gmail.com  
 OB163034

Academically and professionally qualified son is sought by Sinhala parents living in USA for their pretty daughter brought up according to Sinhala Buddhist values, 5'8" born in July 1990, Graduate BSc (IT) currently working as a Senior VP in worldwide bank. Please reply with full family details and contact numbers. Willing to migrate to USA. Email: peraliya1958@gmail.com  
 OB162952

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered good looking son is sought by Bodu Durawa parents for their very pretty daughter 1991 May 5'7", educated in a Colombo leading school. She has a BSc First Class in statistics and is a CIMA and CIM finalist. She holds a managerial position in a leading company in Colombo. Owns substantial assets including her own vehicle. Legally separated from a marriage which was limited to a signature. Email - yasaramelani2001@gmail.com 038-2297187.  
 OB162811

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 forte Trinity College London. Was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad presently employed in Senior Position abroad. Will inherit substantial assets. Please reply giving family details, horoscope and Telephone number. Email: tityvone@hotmail.com  
 OB161634

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son above 5'9" from a decent family background is sought by Bodu/Govi professional parents in Gampaha suburbs for their daughter born in March 1992, height 5'7 1/2", fair, pretty, smart, kind hearted B.Eng. Graduate daughter employed as an Engineer in a reputed establishment. Please reply with full family details, horoscope and contact number to a lprop92@gmail.com  
 OB162741

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son from a respectable family living in USA or Canada sought by B/G parents for their pretty, fair daughter 1983 born 5'6". She studied in USA qualified with international business degree from leading USA University. She is working as an Administrator in a company in Washington DC. Please reply with horoscope and family details to: proposalgy12@gmail.com  
 OB162705

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son from same caste and religion is sought by Sinhalese Bodu Govi respectable family for their fair and pretty daughter B.Com, Applied Accounting (BSc) and Chartered Accountancy (partly qualified). 89/08 born 5'3" in height. Currently employed at the Auditing Sector. (Prefer Doctor, Engineer). Please reply with full family details, copy of the horoscope and Telephone No. : Email : prmarrage25wan@gmail.com  
 OB162807

Academically and professionally qualified well mannered son is sought by G/B parents living in USA for their daughter, who is 35 years old, divorced with a son. She is fair, very pretty educated working in a company. Reply with full family details to: pwe908@gmail.com  
 OB162865

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son from a respectable family is sought by Bodu Govi family for their younger daughter 1994 born, 5'5", fair, pretty, educated from a leading private school in Colombo and completed her BSc from foreign university in fashion and apparel design and currently she is reading her Master of Business Administration. Please contact with family details and a copy of horoscope. Email: dheera proposal@gmail.com  
 OB163019

Academically and professionally qualified well-mannered son from a respectable family is sought by Govi Buddhist respectable parents living in Colombo and US for their lovely pretty slim well mannered daughter 24, 5 feet 1 inch tall pursuing MBA from well recognized university in Washington DC. She was born and raised in Sri Lanka till Advanced Level. Reply with family details and Horoscope. Email knanay123@gmail.com  
 OB162825

Academically and professionally qualified, caring, well mannered son from a respectable family is sought by G/B parents in UK father Consultant Doctor for their 37 year old daughter, fair, pretty, law graduate employed in London, height 5'2", born in Dec/ 1983. Dual citizen with substantial assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. email: snow2021drop@outlook.com  
 OB162779

Academically and professionally qualified, religious, good looking, caring, employed son age between 32 and 36 from a respectable family is sought by lower middle class parents for their qualified, charming only daughter. Preferably from the Kandy area. She is 31+ years of age, born in 1989, height 5'2" and has a BSc degree in IT working as an Associate Lead in a reputed multinational company in Colombo. Sinhala Buddhist from Kandy District. She inherits substantial assets. Reply with family details, horoscope of son to: m.proposal0101@gmail.com  
 OB162897

Academically and professionally qualified caring son from a respectable family is sought by Govi Buddhist respectable parents living in Colombo and US for their lovely pretty slim well mannered daughter 24, 5 feet 1 inch tall pursuing MBA from well recognized university in Washington DC. She was born and raised in Sri Lanka till Advanced Level. Reply with family details and Horoscope. Email knanay123@gmail.com  
 OB162825

Academically qualified and well-mannered bridegroom is sought by Buddhist, Sinhala parents for their daughter, 29 years of age 5'3", pretty and fair in complexion, qualified and well-employed. Divorced from an incompatible marriage. Please reply with full family details and contact No.: mp4954908@gmail.com  
 OB162886

Academically qualified B/G parents from Colombo seek an educated and professional Sinhalese son, below 43 yrs, preferably living in Australia for our daughter, born in 1983, PhD holder living in Australia, Pending Divorce. Reply with family and contact details with horoscope - marriage proposal326@gmail.com  
 OB162929

Academically & professionally qualified, well mannered, son is sought by B/Govi/Kara parents for pleasant looking daughter 1981 July, 5'4", graduated, working for a private company. She inherits substantial properties, brother & sister are graduates. Please reply with horoscope. 033-2260515. email: 2021marryupj@gmail.com  
 OB162989

Accomplished amiable learned son holding a respectable profession is sought for December 1987 born academically and professionally qualified IT Project Manager daughter, owning valuable assets by well connected Buddhist Durawa parents. Please forward copy of horoscope or date, time and place of birth together with telephone number. Email - lokuduwa1987@gmail.com  
 OB162766

Affluent Buddhist respectable parents seek a well mannered academically and professionally qualified son from a very respectable family with a similar background, between 28-32 for their 1993 born, 5'4" tall, pretty, well accomplished and cultured daughter as a Doctor in a government hospital in Sri Lanka. Caste immaterial. Reply with family details and horoscope. prekumar63@gmail.com  
 OB162776

Affluent Business Buddhist parents seek for daughter very fair slim 5'3" born 1978 Dec. educated in Colombo school and working as a Senior Manager, reputed company with six figure salary. Assets vehicle & lands. TP: 0115762030. Email: 2578prop@gmail.com  
 OB162783

An educated partner is sought by B/G parents for their daughter born in 1992, height 5'2" who is a graduate and currently employed at a leading private firm in Colombo as an Executive. Please reply with your horoscope to: chathuuhe@gmail.com Buddhist or Christians preferred.  
 OB163035

Aunt seeks a partner for Govi / Colombo practising Buddhist 47 unmarried graduate Government Officer daughter. mpropo38@gmail.com  
 OB162751

Aunt seeks for B/G attractive 32 year old niece working as an executive in a leading bank, a suitable kind partner. Divorced. Innocent party. happyevent89@yahoo.com  
 OB162932

A professionally qualified good looking son below 35 years background is sought by B/G parents, for their well brought up and beautiful daughter born in 1991, 5'3", well qualified lawyer (Attorney-at-Law, LL.M) and educated at a leading girls' school in Colombo. Please reply with family details and contact details. dilasooriya456@gmail.com  
 OB162899

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. mpropoals552@gmail.com  
 OB162731

A suitable partner is sought by B/S father living in Ambalangoda. She is slim 5'1", 1988 Dec. born and working as a Senior Executive at a leading company in Colombo. She inherits valuable assets. Only sister is married. (Government School Teacher). Email : marriagep891@gmail.com  
 OB162939

A suitable partner is sought by mother in Colombo suburb for her daughter Buddhist 5'5" born in 1974. Durawa / Govi educated in a leading girls' school in Colombo. An Accountant / Manager in a reputed company. Six figure salary. Owns a house and a car. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email: hwgproposals@gmail.com  
 OB162903

A suitable partner (Doctor/Engineer) is sought for very pretty Doctor (MBBS-SL) daughter 1991, 5'3" by business parents. Caste immaterial. sendyourdetails91@gmail.com  
 OB163003

Bodu, Govi parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable partner for their Attorney-at-Law daughter, 24 years, 5'6" second in the family, educated in a leading Colombo school. She is pretty, fair and religious. Please respond with horoscope.  
 OB163013

Buddhist B/G mother from Gampaha suburbs seek to introduce a suitable partner with a similar background to her daughter, 32 yrs., 5'2" tall, very fair and pleasant, holding BSc. and MSc. Degrees and working in a reputable company as an Assistant Manager. Educated from a highly prestigious overseas university and will inherit substantial assets including a modern two-storey-house, lands, etc. Must be professionally well qualified with a good personality of excellent character, a non-smoker and at most a social drinker only. Foreign proposals considered. Religion immaterial. Email : kumariudanjalee@outlook.com  
 OB162928

Buddhist Govi mixed respectable parents seek partner for their daughter 28 years, 5'3", pretty, slim has bachelor's and Masters degrees from State University. She is employed and inherits substantial assets. dprop4572@gmail.com  
 OB162957

Continued on page 62

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Continued from page 61



Buddhist Sinhala Govi born May 1989, 5 ft. fair slim pretty employed in a reputed bank Colombo. Reply with horoscope and family details & horoscope. Dhanu lagna, Shani Chandra 1, Kujja 7, Mula Nekatha. OB163008

B/D parents from Colombo seek academically or professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in May 1987, 5'1" fair educated at a leading Buddhist School in Colombo. She is qualified in banking and worked in an international bank. She inherits substantial assets including an upstairs modern house in Colombo 06, kindly reply with family details horoscope and contact numbers. day arantnew@gmail.com OB162781

B/G father who retired Engineer in charge of a State Corporation and house wife mother search for an educated and financially established son for their slim pretty daughter born in 1993/02. She is employed as a Software Engineer in an international company at Colombo, drawing six figure salary monthly, 5'9" in height. She inherits 6M worth property and jewellery also. She passed BSc and studying in Colombo University for her MSc (final year) her only elder brother BSc, MSc, Degree holder and duty performed as a Senior Software Consultant in an American company at Colombo. We are respectable family and permanent residents in Gampaha District, only elder brother married. Horoscope needed. 0112243149. prop2020send@gmail.com OB162806

B/G mother looks suitable partner Buddhist or R/C for youngest daughter married and legally divorced no encumbrances 39, 5'6" R/C pretty well accomplished currently in Dubai working as Business Development Executive, reply with horoscope and family details. Email: vinitias@yahoo.com or 0112916300. OB162737

B/G parents living in Colombo suburbs, seek an equally qualified well mannered son for their 1995 born 5'2" tall, pretty, slim daughter who is an Attorney-at-Law graduated from University of Colombo LLB and studied in a leading Ladies School in Colombo. She inherits substantial assets and a vehicle only brother is a student of Moratuwa University. Send us all family details with horoscope. Email: propoalm487@gmail.com OB162828

B/G parents living in Kandy seek a partner for their 33 years, 5'2", fair, slim, MBBS, Doctor daughter. She has fully passed the Australian Medical Council Exams. Email: marriagepart2020@gmail.com OB162725

B/G parents seek professionally qualified loving handsome son from Sri Lanka or overseas for 37, younger looking pretty attractive 5'4", MBBS Doctor working Colombo. Two Engineer brothers married. 011-2413685. arun ali2021@gmail.com OB162868

B/G respectable parents seek an unmarried suitable partner for their 1977/10, 5'5" daughter pretty fair Visakhian MSc IT Assistant Lecturer at a government institute. Religious unblemished character. Utthrasala Nekatha Rahu 7. proposalvj96@gmail.com OB163017

B/G respectable parents seek suitable partner for daughter employed in Australia PR holder born 1986 January height 5'7", academically & professionally qualified well brought up son upholding Sinhala Buddhist values is sought. TP. 0352222613. propo s2021@gmail.com OB162829

B/G respectable wealthy business parents from Colombo suburbs seek a son who is kind hearted, NS/TT, well established professionally qualified or businessman from a respectable family for their very pretty daughter age 26, 5'1", slim, fair, kind hearted and moral charactered. Holds a degree from a prestigious university. Inherits valuable assets. Email - propo sal121@yahoo.com OB162994

B/G retired parents looking for an academically and professionally qualified son for their 1993, very pretty, slim and fair academically qualified employed daughter studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo, willing to migrate. happilylif e2706@yahoo.com OB162870

B/G retired parents seek suitable partner for fair slim pretty very young looking unmarried daughter, working as a Director in a Government Ministry. Born in 1975 October 5'2". OB162812

B/G Sinhala Buddhist parents in Galle seek a decent handsome educated and well-mannered son for their 26 years pretty daughter of 5'6" height. She attended a leading Ladies College in Galle. Now she is a graduate in Business Administration and Management from the semi-government University and holds an administrative post in the same university. Horoscope details are necessary. E-mail: 091-2223109. lothika.gamage64@gmail.com OB163000

B/G, 39, 5'6" beautiful, very fair, UK educated Lecturer, reading for Ph.D., owns assets, divorced no encumbrances. mang alayojana1112@gmail.com OB162789

Colombo G/B 24 y., 5'4" studied at a leading girls school Colombo LLB Graduate working in a Law Firm, inherits assets in Colombo and Gampaha, professional parents seek accomplished son. rm arriage2@gmail.com OB162926

Colombo MBBS (SL) Doctor pretty slim daughter 1994 December B/G 5'8" height professional family looking for qualified NS/TT son no idea of immediate migrating. chandanil 994dec@yahoo.com OB162709

Colombo suburb G/B retired executive government service parents seek academically and professionally qualified or educated entrepreneurial son for their MBBS Doctor daughter born in Oct. 1988, 5'3" pretty with assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. Caste immaterial. Email: sd srilanka2020@gmail.com OB163022

Colombo suburb Bodu D/K born in 1989 / 10, 5'2", slim, fair, pretty daughter, inherits assets, completed MBA and professional qualifications in Banking & HR. She is presently working for a Private Bank. Elder brother a Banker and younger brother IT Engineer. Parents (Retired Bankers) looking for educated suitable son. Height preferably above 5'6". Reply with full details. T. No. F/B and a copy of horoscope. Email - desilvahsp@gmail.com OB162941

Colombo, Buddhist, Salagama, 1987 born, living in suburbs of Colombo, 5'4", Visakhian, PgDLRHRM(SL), PQHRM (SL), NDTHRD (SL), passed entrepreneurial, owns a three storey house, well connected, respectable parents seek a suitable, well mannered, sober, educated, son who is interested and willing to settle in Sri Lanka for, fair, religious, nature lover, sports enthusiast, self motivated, kind, caring, daughter, non malefic horoscope. Please email with full family details, horoscope, contact numbers in the first letter. (propoalm132@gmail.com) / 011-2887843. OB162954

Cultured classy lady at her mid late 40's looking for warm-hearted life partner, replies welcomed from decent moral gentlemen age 42 - 49 yrs, looking forward to settle in life. Please write your views to: j ananisri2049@gmail.com OB162778

Deva/Buddhist 5 feet height born in 1989 May, graduated in Peradeniya Campus as a MSc qualified. Presently employed as a Director in a recognized company in Colombo. Seeks a qualified educated partner who is employed. She has a home & property as she is the youngest in the family. OB162867

Father Hindu mother Buddhist parents only daughter age 28, Executive Officer, seek partner below 35 years. Tel. 011 6502534, email - skd asan27@gmail.com OB162925

Father seeks practicing Buddhist as partner for 44 Govi/Buddhist professional daughter (dual citizen Sri Lanka/Australia). mpropo36@gmail.com OB162750

For Buddhist Karawa 28, 5'3", slim and pleasant graduate bank executive daughter, parents seek a kind, well-employed son born in or after 1987 with a respectable family background from the same caste or Govi caste. She owns valuable assets including a residential property. Daughter's horoscope carries Manushya Gana and Pualas Nekatha with Kujja in 3rd House. Please send son's horoscope and family details. Email: may2021prop@gmail.com OB162956

Galle, Bodu Deva retired respectable parents seek an academically and professionally qualified son below 37 years for their pleasant and pretty youngest daughter 1989 born 5'4" BSc (Hons) in IT, working in a government institute. Inherits properties. Caste immaterial. Please reply with family details and horoscope. Email - mgproposal914@gmail.com OB162998

Govi Buddhist parents from Ratnapura seek educated kind respectable son for BSc. Graduate Lawyer daughter 5', 1990. 0718268435 / 0452261815. anomar anasingha64@gmail.com OB162760

Govi Buddhist respectable established affluent business partners seek a suitable son with sober habits from a decent G/B for their only daughter age 33+, well qualified and occupied interior designer, height 5'3", pretty and accomplished, educated at a leading Christian girls school in Colombo 7, inherits substantial assets. Email: nilmin i.k1961@gmail.com OB162909

Govi Buddhist retired professional parents from Colombo suburbs seek a suitable partner for their fair and attractive youngest daughter who is a MBBS qualified Doctor aged 29 years. Owns considerable assets. A non-smoker and teetotaler is preferred. OB163036

G/B family seeks academically and professionally qualified, well employed, N/S, T/T well mannered, caring, handsome and smart son 40 yrs. or below, for daughter 34+ yrs., 5'6". Supply Chain Specialist living in NZ. Differences immaterial. Reply with family details, son's fb contact to Email: a sirusuba3@gmail.com OB162729

G/B retired Executive parents seek a qualified stable partner for their daughter qualified in C.I.M. and M.B.A. employed in a leading private bank in the capacity of a Manager. She was born in 1986 fair slim and 5'4" height legally separated without children (Innocent party), write through the paper or Email marriageproposal1986@yahoo.com OB162875

Invitation to a son from business family to build up relationship that leads to marriage to my well mannered healthy very pretty slim daughter age 25, 5'4" who has business management and public policy degree obtained from reputed University in England. She did her primary education in London, at present she is working for reputed company as a sales executive in London, has dual citizenship. Son should be academically and professionally qualified well mannered person below 32 from a very good family. We are well respected business family. Contact for more details. Email: donauk123@gmail.com OB162809

Kandyan Buddhist, high caste parents seek an educated and professionally qualified partner from a similar family background for their pretty, attractive daughter 29 years & 5'3". She is presently pursuing her PhD overseas, has one more year to complete. Reply with horoscope, all details and contact number to email: proposal.d aughter91@gmail.com OB162770

Kandy Buddhist father, a retired Staff Officer, seeks academically and professionally qualified well-mannered below 36 partners, for his attractive, slim and fair 34 years old twin daughters. Both worked as Lecturers in a leading University in Sri Lanka, after graduating with BSc. (Hons) (Special) Degree. At present both are following PhD in USA in the same University while doing lectures. Please reply (in English or Sinhala) with details and contact numbers to a dgc2015@gmail.com (Caste is irrelevant). OB162930

Kandy Buddhist father, a retired Staff Officer, seeks academically and professionally qualified well-mannered below 36 partners, for his attractive, slim and fair 34 years old twin daughters. Both worked as Lecturers in a leading University in Sri Lanka, after graduating with BSc. (Hons) (Special) Degree. At present both are following PhD in USA in the same University while doing lectures. Please reply (in English or Sinhala) with details and contact numbers to a dgc2015@gmail.com (Caste is irrelevant). OB162930

Kandy Buddhist father, a retired Staff Officer, seeks academically and professionally qualified well-mannered below 36 partners, for his attractive, slim and fair 34 years old twin daughters. Both worked as Lecturers in a leading University in Sri Lanka, after graduating with BSc. (Hons) (Special) Degree. At present both are following PhD in USA in the same University while doing lectures. Please reply (in English or Sinhala) with details and contact numbers to a dgc2015@gmail.com (Caste is irrelevant). OB162930

Kandy, B/G parents seek a suitable educated partner for 29Y, 5'4", well mannered, pretty, fair university graduated qualified daughter working in the Government sector. Please reply with family details and a copy of the horoscope. Email with full details (nsk.k.1976@gmail.com). OB162993

Loving, caring, well-mannered, academically qualified, businessman/professional., NS/TT (important), family-oriented son above 5'9" is sought by respectable G/K Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs for their beautiful elder daughter, 5' 8.5" tall (looks very tall), 1984 born (young looking), curvy figure, smart, great personality, kind-hearted, intelligent, BSc Computer Science, divorced, no encumbrances. Reply with photos and horoscope Email: tt.p roposal@yahoo.com OB162814

Marawila R/C parent Teachers seek professionally qualified decent life partner for their 1989 born MBBS Doctor daughter. Doctors / Engineers are concerned. E-Mail: tml prop123@gmail.com OB162746

Negombo Roman Catholic born in 1974 height 5'3 1/2" holding a managerial post and her sister born in 1969. Their mother a pvt teacher is looking for educated Catholic suitable partners. Specially Sinhala or Burgher girls a house. Gmail: onecorrect7@gmail.com OB162861

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 well educated and fluent in English for marriage. Please email your reply to ratnem angala@gmail.com OB162968

Respectable financially stable Buddhist Govi professional parents Senior Banker and Senior Advisor in leading private sector Company in Colombo suburbs seek educated NS TT partner with moral values for only child 5'3" fair short haired slim born December 1993 educated at leading Girls' College. Holds English Special Degree from local University, MSc. from overseas University. Employed as an Executive at NGO. Inherits substantial immovable, movable assets. Caste religion immaterial. Reply with family details of son to propos emarriage755@gmail.com OB162880

Panadura 1989/4 height 5'6" fair Karawa Buddhist mother seeks professionally qualified employed son, NS/TT for daughter Software Engineer (MSc.). Reply with details and horoscope. Email: p ropdp20@gmail.com Tel: 0113686333. OB162792

Parents seek compatible life partner for daughter born in 1992. Studied in a private Christian school in Colombo 7 and graduated from a reputed university. Now works as a Manager in a reputed company and hopes to continue living in Sri Lanka. Please email: p roposal.info.92@gmail.com OB162936

Qualified academically and professionally, caring and well-mannered above 5'9" son is sought for 90 born BG pretty lawyer with similar background. Reach at mp roposal361@gmail.com with family details, horoscope and FB details. OB162813

RC parents seek a suitable partner living in USA for their daughter born in 1985 fair 5'6" tall, holds Master's Degree in Accounting, working as Accounting Supervisor. sm\_diva@yahoo.com 0112772169. OB162744

Respectable financially stable Buddhist Govi professional parents Senior Banker and Senior Advisor in leading private sector Company in Colombo suburbs seek educated NS TT partner with moral values for only child 5'3" fair short haired slim born December 1993 educated at leading Girls' College. Holds English Special Degree from local University, MSc. from overseas University. Employed as an Executive at NGO. Inherits substantial immovable, movable assets. Caste religion immaterial. Reply with family details of son to propos emarriage755@gmail.com OB162880

Respectable financially stable Buddhist Govi professional parents Senior Banker and Senior Advisor in leading private sector Company in Colombo suburbs seek educated NS TT partner with moral values for only child 5'3" fair short haired slim born December 1993 educated at leading Girls' College. Holds English Special Degree from local University, MSc. from overseas University. Employed as an Executive at NGO. Inherits substantial immovable, movable assets. Caste religion immaterial. Reply with family details of son to propos emarriage755@gmail.com OB162880

Continued on page 63

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Continued from page 62



Respectable Roman Catholic mother seeks a professionally academically qualified handsome son for their only beautiful daughter born in 1994, 5'5" tall, well-educated and a PR Holder in New Zealand. [cynthia.geraldini@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.geraldini@gmail.com) OB162747

Respectable Sinhala Catholic (Govi)/Buddhist parents from Kurunegala seek an educated suitable partner for their daughter. Born in May 1992, 5'6" in height, slim and fair in complexion. Graduated in BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance, CIMA (UK) and reading MBA from University of Colombo. Studied at Holy Family Balika. Currently working as an Accountant in private sector. She inherits valuable assets. Caste and religion is immaterial. Please reply with family details. E-mail: [proposal4717@gmail.com](mailto:proposal4717@gmail.com) OB162864

Retired professional parents (Govt Buddhist mother / Salagama Catholic father) looking for an academically or professionally qualified handsome, caring son from Sri Lanka to introduce to their younger daughter (DoB Dec. 29th 1987) to build up a relationship leading to marriage. She is 5'2" tall, slim, pretty girl BSc., M.Phil (Sri Lanka) PhD (Australia), Australian PR holder who is temporarily employed in Australia. Her elder sister is a former Lecturer, married and settled in Canada. If interested, please send details of your son and family to [sevvand26@gmail.com](mailto:sevvand26@gmail.com) OB162978

Roman Catholic Tamil parents from Colombo seek an educated God-fearing son for their daughter 28 years, height 5'4". She holds a degree in management and CIMA qualified. Presently working as an Assistant Accountant, in a reputed company. For further details contact 011-2527618. OB162824

Sinhala Bodu Govi parents seek well educated, professional qualified son for our daughter born in 1993, 5'3", living in USA with parents. She is qualified as a Doctor (PT). Individuals who are willing to settle down in USA are most preferred. If interested please reply [senani9880@gmail.com](mailto:senani9880@gmail.com) OB162918

Sinhala Buddhist, Govigama parents seek well educated professionally qualified well mannered loving and caring son for our daughter born in October 1992, height 5'5" living in Kandy. She works at University of Peradeniya as a Technical Officer and following BSc Degree programme, only younger sister doing higher studies at University of Moratuwa. Please respond with family details and a copy of horoscope. email: [ekamayake161k@gmail.com](mailto:ekamayake161k@gmail.com) OB162991

**Sinhala Govi** Buddhist father and foreign mother seek a partner for their only daughter who completed studies in advertising (Art Director) and lived in Europe since birth, now settled in Sri Lanka. Born in 1987, economically stable and from a well-reputed family, kind hearted, down to earth, very social and fair. Looking for a well-educated partner from a good family, kind hearted and economically stable son. Please send details of your son and family background. Email: [proposal0887@gmail.com](mailto:proposal0887@gmail.com) OB162890

**Sinhala, Buddhist** respectable family close to Colombo, only child daughter born in 1995/12. Height 5'4", pretty, fair, decent, raised with Buddhist and moral values. Studied at a leading girls' school in Colombo, got through A/L's in Bio-Science stream, didn't want to continue with higher studies nor wanted a career as she prefers a simple life. She's an efficient homemaker. Not willing to migrate. Father is a Government Medical Officer, mother is not working. Inherits substantial assets. Parents seek an educated, virtuous, religious son taller than 5'8", below 31 years from a decent family. Email: [m23.proposal@gmail.com](mailto:m23.proposal@gmail.com) / [0112654350](mailto:0112654350). OB162787

Sinhalese Bodu / Govi respectable parents residing in Canada, seek academically and professionally qualified well mannered son for their daughter born in 1990, 5'7" BSc and MSc qualified from Canadian universities. Presently working as a Science teacher in Canada. She is pretty, slim and brought up with Sri Lankan culture and Buddhist values. Canadian residents preferred. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact numbers to: [mprpose10@gmail.com](mailto:mprpose10@gmail.com) OB162965

S/B mother looking for a well raised and educated son for a Civil Engineer daughter 29 yrs. 5'3" in USA prefer son already in USA or Canada. Reply with horoscope and family details to: [n.w.siri60@gmail.com](mailto:n.w.siri60@gmail.com) OB162762

S/B mother seeks educated well brought up son for 32 yr. 5'1" well educated daughter working in the higher education sector in US. Prefer a son living in US/Canada. Reply with horoscope and family details to [proposal9129@gmail.com](mailto:proposal9129@gmail.com) OB162764

S/B professional parents in Colombo suburbs seek a suitable professionally qualified partner for their young looking daughter MBBS Doctor born in mid 1984 employed in Colombo as a Medical Officer studied in a leading Buddhist Girls School in Colombo. Please forward all details with copy of horoscope to: [achdes@gmail.com](mailto:achdes@gmail.com) OB161952

S/G/B strong, intelligent, good-looking lady with good values, post-graduate qualified, educated locally and overseas from a well-respected, prestigious brave refined and resilient family seeks a suitable person 42-52, above 5'9", preferably with a strong physique, of high quality and status from a similar background. Inherits considerable wealth. OB162948

**Well qualified** B/G suitable partner from respectable family sought by B/G parents for their elder daughter permanent Government employee attractive young looking 37 years, 5'4" height. OB162802

1980, B/S/G State University Senior Lecturer (PhD, MSc, BSc) inherits valuable assets. E-mail: [su.bawksm@gmail.com](mailto:su.bawksm@gmail.com) OB163026



About Bodu Govi retired parents seek an educated, fair, accomplished bride for their well educated HNDB/IABF and BBA pending holder son. He is currently attached to reputed government bank as an Executive Officer. He is drawing a six figure income with a modern car, house and 4 acres coconut land and 10 million value of other land, well mannered 37 years old, 5'7" tall medium in complexion. Looking for educated in America, Canada, Australia, Europe or Sri Lanka bride. Caste is immaterial. E-mail: [yproposal2020@gmail.com](mailto:yproposal2020@gmail.com) OB162851

Academically and professionally qualified affluent BG parents from Colombo suburb looking for a smart pretty slim fair daughter for PhD qualified handsome and well mannered son 36 yrs., 5'7" University academic/Engineer. Inherits assets. Email with horoscope and family details to [somprop2021@gmail.com](mailto:somprop2021@gmail.com) OB162810



Academically and professionally qualified B/G, 5'7", 1986 born Senior Software Engineer employed in a wellknown IT Company with sober habits is looking for a kind-hearted bride. Father (Doctor) and mother (Teacher) deceased. Elder brother lives in Australia with his wife. Having migration plans. Sri Lankans living in Australia will be preferred. Sri Lankans who are willing to migrate will also be preferred. Email: [dasun.suranjaya@gmail.com](mailto:dasun.suranjaya@gmail.com) OG162800

Academically and professionally qualified, very beautiful daughter fluent in English from a respectable family, living in Australia or willing to migrate is sought by Bodu Govi Engineer / Specialist Doctor parents in Australia for their extremely handsome and pleasant son with an unblemished character born in March / 89, 5'11", Senior IT Engineer (B.Eng. Hon) NS/TT working in Australia. Owns a modern house and other valuable assets. Please reply with family details / fb and a copy of horoscope to [wmkwa@gmail.com](mailto:wmkwa@gmail.com) OG162916

Academically qualified pretty down to earth partner sought by B/G Colombo suburbs professionally qualified parents for their son USA qualified MSc/BSc Software Engineer, employed 37, 5'9" religious brought up to Sinhalese culture. Reply with family details and horoscope. [p1083@gmail.com](mailto:p1083@gmail.com) OG163005

Academically qualified well-mannered and independent daughter is sought by Sinhala Govi Catholic parents living in USA for their Civil Engineer son born in Sept. 93 and 5'8". A partner residing/studying in USA or willing to migrate is preferred. No horoscope please. Please reply to email: [merasha644@gmail.com](mailto:merasha644@gmail.com) OG162859

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 UK based Multinational Company at a higher position & currently stationed in Bangladesh. 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. Kindly reply with family details & horoscope to [chamiraw2000@yahoo.com](mailto:chamiraw2000@yahoo.com) OG162972

Australian and Sri Lankan dual citizen son, 1988 born, 5'8" height short marriage. No children. No encumbrance. Mother looking for a fair skin daughter from Melbourne only. Difference is immaterial. First reply with contact numbers to: [mpproposalsau@gmail.com](mailto:mpproposalsau@gmail.com) OG162970

A beautiful and educated daughter from a respectable family is sought by Roman Catholic parents from Colombo suburbs for their handsome son, 34, qualified and gainfully employed in a managerial position of a leading corporate. He is financially stable to lead a comfortable marriage life. Please respond with details. Email: [mprp998@gmail.com](mailto:mprp998@gmail.com) OG162911

A caring simple open minded born 1976/6 divorced (two children) living in US almost 45 years looking for an understanding lady (33y -40y) from reputed family willing to move US for marriage. WhatsApp +1 818-458-2908. OG162816

A famous business family seeks an extremely pretty daughter under 28 years for handsome graduate son 35 years, 5'11", educated at a leading Colombo school, caste, creed immaterial. [blueforest2021@gmail.com](mailto:blueforest2021@gmail.com) OG162799

A pretty fair well-mannered graduate or undergraduate daughter sought by G/B parents from Colombo for their handsome son 27 (March) 5'4" N/S T/T working as a Mechanical Engineer in Australia, PR holder non-malefic horoscope. Reply with family details and horoscope. [adsproposal25@gmail.com](mailto:adsproposal25@gmail.com) OG162996

A qualified, well-mannered daughter sought by G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for Accountant son well employed in a bank, BSc., MBA, CIMA qualified, NS/TT, handsome, 1983, 5'5", inherits assets. Not willing to migrate. [mppsgproposals@gmail.com](mailto:mppsgproposals@gmail.com) OG162733

Buddhist parents from Colombo seek pretty well-mannered daughter for their son. 29 years, 5'8", very handsome. Inherits very large amount of assets. MSc from Moratuwa university. Holds a responsible post. Educated high ranking parents. Caste differences are immaterial. Write with horoscope to email: [gbandara70@yahoo.com](mailto:gbandara70@yahoo.com) OG162772

Buddhist parents residing in Ganemulla seeking a daughter. The proposed son is 32 years, 5'7", fair. He is academically qualified & working in Australia. Daughter who lives in Australia or other country is preferred. Please reply with Photograph to [proposalson1988@gmail.com](mailto:proposalson1988@gmail.com) OG162819

B/G decent teetotaler good looking son the age of 35 who works in a reputed company at a managing post looking for kind and attractive girl. She must be well accomplished. Owns house and vehicle. Reply ka [sunthiva@yahoo.com](mailto:sunthiva@yahoo.com) OG163028

B/G parents seeking a decent daughter for their son, he is divorced, 38, height 5'11", BA (Hons) holder, reside in UK. Please provide full details including contact numbers, copy of the horoscope in the first correspondence. Email to [jweera2020@gmail.com](mailto:jweera2020@gmail.com) OG162943

B/K retired professional parents from Mount Lavinia seek suitable bride for their never married professionally qualified 38 years old son 5'11" N/ST/T Australian citizen working as Clinical Research Associate in a Pharmaceutical Company Sydney. Reply via email preferred. [marriageprop54@yahoo.com](mailto:marriageprop54@yahoo.com) OG162913

Buddhist, Govi, respectable parents from Colombo seek a beautiful and educated daughter from a respectable family for their only son, 27 years (12/1993), 5'9", handsome, Colombo Royalist, Business Management graduate, working as an Executive in a reputed firm, inherits properties and assets exceeding a large amount, father, University Professor and mother teacher in a leading girls' school in Colombo. Please send full family details and contact number to: [proposals1612@gmail.com](mailto:proposals1612@gmail.com) OG162841

Business parents Buddhist looking educated English speaking daughter working healthcare sector for their son Australian PR holder working as a Manager in Real Estate Company, age 33, height 5'7", horoscope not essential. Please write [mitsun.andanilmi@hotmail.com](mailto:mitsun.andanilmi@hotmail.com) OG162915

B/G decent teetotaler good looking son the age of 35 who works in a reputed company at a managing post looking for kind and attractive girl. She must be well accomplished. Owns house and vehicle. Reply ka [sunthiva@yahoo.com](mailto:sunthiva@yahoo.com) OG163028

Buddhist parents from Kurunegala town seek a fair, pretty educated daughter for their 1991 born 5'8" NS/TT youngest son foreign graduated Doctor, inherits a valuable house in Kurunegala Town. 037-2232775. [smnjiao456@gmail.com](mailto:smnjiao456@gmail.com) OG163004

B/G parents seeking a decent daughter for their son, he is divorced, 38, height 5'11", BA (Hons) holder, reside in UK. Please provide full details including contact numbers, copy of the horoscope in the first correspondence. Email to [jweera2020@gmail.com](mailto:jweera2020@gmail.com) OG162943

B/K retired professional parents from Mount Lavinia seek suitable bride for their never married professionally qualified 38 years old son 5'11" N/ST/T Australian citizen working as Clinical Research Associate in a Pharmaceutical Company Sydney. Reply via email preferred. [marriageprop54@yahoo.com](mailto:marriageprop54@yahoo.com) OG162913

Buddhist, Govi, respectable parents from Colombo seek a beautiful and educated daughter from a respectable family for their only son, 27 years (12/1993), 5'9", handsome, Colombo Royalist, Business Management graduate, working as an Executive in a reputed firm, inherits properties and assets exceeding a large amount, father, University Professor and mother teacher in a leading girls' school in Colombo. Please send full family details and contact number to: [proposals1612@gmail.com](mailto:proposals1612@gmail.com) OG162841

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Continued from page 63



B/S/G parents from Colombo suburbs seeking a pleasant slim employed well-mannered daughter who is below 34 years for their youngest 36 years 5'8" fair slim very handsome caring son IT Manager in a foreign based company. Caste religion immaterial foreign nationals also considered son is fluent in both English and Spanish divorced form a 7 month incompatible marriage. No encumbrances please reply with horoscope and full family details in the first letter. Email - mpro4579@gmail.com OG162355

Colombo B/G parents seek educated fair, pretty, slim girl below 32 from respectable family for their handsome young-looking son 1983 Feb. 5'7" IT degree dual citizen UK working in London. 0112-850611. cdissanayaka2021@gmail.com OG163015

Colombo suburbs Govi Buddhist affluent parents seek educated pretty brides of similar status for their two sons. Elder son 1991, 5'8" young son 1995, 5'7" both working overseas in medical field. OG163021

Dehiwala, Pensioner Buddhist / Vishwa parents seek educated, respectable and attractive well employed or not, compatible, daughter for only son qualified in Computer and Marketing fields after completing Advanced Level (Commerce) from Ananda College, age ending 42 years height 5 ft. 3 1/2" handsome and owning Government Registered Computer Business Company commenced after serving as Business Manager in a Company in Colombo. Also owns income generating house, upstairs building and tourist bungalow in Hikkaduwa and modern vehicle. Please reply with copy of horoscope and family details. 0112723742. OG162945

Father seeks a bride for Dr son, 38 yrs., 5'7", Sri Lankan born, living in UK, Dr. a medical consultant soon. beautima pro56@yahoo.com OG163030

Gentleman invites lady for companionship in view of marriage. Confidentially treated. 011-3165339. OG162877

Govigama Buddhist parents seek for their Doctor son age 32, 5'10" tall, fair, handsome, non-smoker, teetotaler, working in United Kingdom a suitable bride, pretty, virtuous and religious, professional preferred (graduate, teacher, Accountant, IT specialist, Business Executive), willing to migrate to UK. Reply with horoscope and family details to email: mpropos1117@gmail.com OG162720

Govigama Roman Catholic family from Gampaha District seek an educated, slim, attractive daughter from a respectable family for their son 25 years, 6'2" tall handsome & fair in complexion, studied in a leading Catholic school and graduated in Australia as a Bachelor of Computer Science. He is an Australian PR holder working as an Engineer and the girl must be willing to live in Australia. Please send your details to: Jude.pro@outlook.com OG162937

Govi Buddhist well-known and respectable parents seek a pretty, educated and well-accomplished daughter for their son who is 29 years old, 5'7" tall, handsome, well-mannered and a non-smoking teetotaler. He had his education at a leading school in Colombo and is a 1st Class Honours Business Management Graduate with an MBA and currently employed at a Global Information Technology & Services company drawing a good salary. He is a photography enthusiast with a passion for wildlife, nature & aerial photography. He owns a house in Colombo. Please reply with the family details along with the horoscope to: marpropos12021@gmail.com OG162882



Invitation is for a young lady 25 years of less fair, educated, religious with a good family background willing to settle abroad for a Govi Buddhist NS/TT 28 yrs. old American citizen Occupational Therapy Assistant son. Please reply with horoscope and family details. Phone: 0913136851. Email: bomesha3@aol.com OG162987

Kandyan Radala family seeks an academically and professionally qualified daughter (same caste) for their younger son born in Aug. 1989 (32 years). He is 5'11" and working as an Assistant Manager in a government bank, foreign countries considered. Reply with family details and horoscope. marraigepproposal1989@gmail.com OG162707

Moor parents from a well connected family in Colombo seek a pious pretty bride from Thareeqah family background for their Engineer cum Accountant son 33 yrs., 5'10". Email to : fmo-homed61@gmail.com OG162794

Muslim son 29 kind-hearted smart professionally qualified employed religious house car teetotaler seeks similar status fair bride. msaj56@gmail.com OG162922

Parents seeking a kindhearted daughter from Western Australia for son (31 yrs. 5'6") living in Perth. vincy.perera@gmail.com 081 2570875. OG162872

Professional Sinhalese Buddhist parents (Doctors) from Galle are seeking a professionally qualified pretty daughter for their son who is an Engineering graduate from the University of Moratuwa. He is 27 years old, 5'10" tall and currently pursuing his postgraduate studies abroad. He has about 2 years left for the completion. Please reply with family and contact details to chandrasirimendis1961@gmail.com OG163001

Respectable B/G family from Colombo with well-mannered son NS/TT 5'8" (brought up overseas) parents seek kind caring educated daughter below 28 yrs. from B/G family with Sinhala Buddhist values, kindly email with family details & horoscope and the contact number. rftproposal@gmail.com OG162879

Respectable G/B parents from Colombo seek educated pretty daughter for 35+ younger son height 5'5" kind-hearted well mannered, holds Master's from U.S.A. working for U.S. Company remotely from Sri Lanka earning six figure salary. He also co-owns Physiotherapy Clinic Colombo. He owns and inherits other valuable assets including house. Email - mahindajj@gmail.com TP. 0112076542. OG162735

Respectable Roman Catholic parents seek an educated, kind hearted daughter, for their 1995 born Engineer son, 66" in height, living in Canada. Daughter willing to migrate. Your replies with family details to: hcsbc2020@gmail.com OG162785

Roman Catholic Sinhala Parents from Kandana seek a fair pleasant daughter from Gampaha District for our son employed in a reputed company. Responsible post ,Born in 1992, Height 5'11", please reply with recent photograph. kandana239@gmail.com OG162822

Sinhala Buddhist parents in Colombo seek a daughter for their son 1989 born, 5'8" tall, working in the USA as an Industrial Designer at a leading Medical Company. We prefer a daughter living in the USA or Canada. (Kuja 7 horoscope). If interested, please reply with family details, horoscope and contact details. pproposal89k@gmail.com OG162796

Sinhala Buddhist parents seek academically and professionally qualified pretty daughter for their handsome, smart, 31, 5'7" MBBS Doctor son working in a Government hospital. Please send full family details to mpropos121@hotmail.com OG162722

Sinhala B/G Kandyan Buddhist parents seek kind, pretty, well educated daughter from a respectable / similar family for our son BSc Electrical Engineer in a leading international company and 27 (1994 August), 5'8" TT/NS, handsome. Prefer those who are from Canada / Australia or willing to migrate. Send details to: sarath1232020@gmail.com OG162962

Sinhala Govi Buddhist Engineer 53 years height 5'5" maintaining successful own business seeks educated pretty kind lady with means (divorced / widowed). 0771233283, 033-2215554 md@slie.com OG162923

USA, 27, 5'10", College Grad Finance. Secure career. Well established GB parents seek a beautiful compatible daughter below 26 years, living in USA only in view of pandemic crisis. Owns wealth. Please forward complete details. headhunter1751@gmail.com OG162946

Vishwa, Buddhist parents from respectable business family at Kaluthara District, seek educated, pretty, well mannered daughter for their only son born in 1994. Handsome, 5'6" well mannered. He inherits valuable assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. OG162745

Western - Buddhist 1992 born 5'5" smart professional family from Western Province, Civil Engineer (IESL, MBA) working in the Government Sector. He inherits valuable properties, seeking a beautiful educated daughter from reputed business family. familyprop9@gmail.com OG162934

93 September born, residing in Colombo, employed, undergraduate, mother is looking for a partner for her only son. Email: sumanape@gmail.com Phone: 0112502062, 0703291085. OG162836

(Sinhala, Bodu, Govi) parents seek for their son Chartered Accountant holding a good position in private sector, 34 years, 5'10", owning a land and property, a partner preferably from similar background. Email - isprop21@outlook.com OG162798

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[www.homelandsskyline.lk](http://www.homelandsskyline.lk)

**Sri Lanka Insurance**



**Are you ready for the C - Suite?**

If you have set your career sight on ascending to highest levels of the corporate ladder, and has the technical expertise & the passion to steer the General Insurance arm of the local State Insurance giant, innovating to stay abreast stiff competition, We would like to hear from you

**CHIEF OFFICER - GENERAL INSURANCE**

The selected candidate will be responsible for overall General Insurance functions together with its development activities to support the core business.

**Candidate Profile**

- ◆ Degree / Masters Degree /Special Degree from a recognized University approved by the UGC or equivalent professional qualification from a recognized institute
- ◆ Be a Fellow or an Associate Member of the Chartered Insurance Institute UK
- ◆ Minimum 20 years of experience in the insurance industry out of which , 15 years should be in a senior managerial position.
- ◆ Excellent technical expertise in the overall insurance operations, which includes General Insurance underwriting and claims.
- ◆ Previous experience and exposure in business promotions, excellent customer service, business trends , product development and responding to changes in the regulatory environment . Overseas exposure will be an added advantage.
- ◆ A proven track record in leadership and achievement with strong people management and decision making skills alongside with the ability to formulate and implement business plans and report to the Board of Directors with a high level of accountability.
- ◆ Age preferably below 50 years

If you believe you possess the above qualifications and experience, send in your CV along with the names of two non-related referees within 07 days of this advertisement to the address given below, stating the post applied for on the top left corner of the envelope or e-mail to [jobs@srlankainsurance.com](mailto:jobs@srlankainsurance.com) stating the post applied for on the subject line.

**Deputy General Manager – HR & ER**

Sri Lanka Insurance,  
 No. 21, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.  
 Company Registration Number: PB 289



**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
**LIVESTOCK SOLUTIONS GROUP**

JOB REF:21/05/ 8378-I

Be a part of one of Sri Lanka's leading corporates with diversified operations in Agri Produce, Livestock Solutions, Health & Personal Care, Industrial Solutions and Crop Solutions.

As 'Chief Operating Officer - Livestock Solutions Group' you will be in charge of operations and report directly to the CEO - Livestock Solutions Group. You will be accountable for operations in all vertically integrated businesses, namely animal nutrition, poultry and veterinary care and assist the CEO as required. The organization operates a feed mill, a fully automated hatchery, breeder farms and a modern chicken processing plant. Strong business acumen combined with management and operational excellence and the ability to deliver results in high-pressure environments will be prerequisites.

**Outline of job responsibilities**

- Overlook the operations of the Breeder and Broiler Farms, Hatchery, Chicken Processing Plant and Feed Plant to ensure the delivery of the agreed outputs
- Manage procurement to ensure the uninterrupted availability of all raw and packaging material at optimum prices
- Develop sales and marketing strategies including branding, advertising and new product opportunities for all business verticals
- Build networks with customers, suppliers and agencies across the business units and with relevant government entities associated with animal production and health services
- Monitor progress of capital projects ensuring on-budget, on-time and in-full completion
- Assist in the formulation of business strategies

**Candidate profile:**

- Over 8 years' experience in a similar COO position and/or a senior managerial role
- Ideally between 40 to 50 years of age. Older candidates with the requisite expertise and experience will be considered
- Possess a university degree or higher or a recognized professional qualification. A qualification in veterinary science, agriculture, engineering, finance or operations would be an added advantage
- Prior work experience relating to the Livestock Industry is desirable
- A strong leader with excellent all-round management and communication skills including sound negotiating capabilities

Excellent career prospects await the right candidate

Applications with detailed curriculum vitae including a recent photograph and contact details of two non-related referees, should reach the following email by **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**.

KPMG Executive Search (Private) Limited,  
 32A, Sir Mohamed Macan Mawatha, Colombo 03.  
 E-mail : [esearchmd@kpmg.com](mailto:esearchmd@kpmg.com)



**BUILDING BEYOND LIMITS**

Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC., a prestigious public quoted company with foreign collaboration and Sri Lanka's premier Cement Manufacturer and Ready Mix Concrete Supplier, request applications from qualified persons for the following position.

### Technical Sales Officer - For North and East Areas

The right candidates should possess;

- Minimum of 2 years' experience in construction field
- Proficient in MS office packages, internet and e-mail is a must
- Communication skills in Sinhala, Tamil and English
- Age between 20 - 30 with a valid motor cycle driving license
- NCT Civil or equivalent qualification from a recognized institute will be an added advantage

The chosen candidate would be entitled to an attractive remuneration package.

Please e-mail your resume in PDF format with names and contact details of two non-related referees & passport size colour photograph (embedded to resume) within 14 days. Please mention the post applied in subject line of the e-mail. Only e-mail applications are entertained.

Manager - HR & Administration,  
**TOKYO CEMENT CO. (LANKA) PLC.**  
 No. 469 1/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.  
 E-mail: careers@tokyocement.lk

www.tokyocement.lk TOKYO CEMENT GROUP

# NOW HIRING

## SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

**JOB DESCRIPTION**  
 The Senior Software Engineer would play a significant role during the design and implementation of the technological solution for clients. He / She will work as a part of the engineering team developing and maintaining one or more of the customized products for our clients in an innovative and deadline driven environment.

**DESIRED CANDIDATE PROFILE**

- Candidate should have 4+ years of experience.
- OOD/OOP skills and adequate experience applying design patterns.
- Knowledge of the .NET architecture and frameworks.
- Experience in develop and maintain VB.NET and ASP.NET applications is a must.
- Knowledge in C#, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, MVC, Web API will be an added advantage.
- Self-starter with excellent appreciation of technology.
- Communicate effectively with the client & must work well in a team independently.
- Candidate should have written and verbal English communication skills.

MAIL YOUR RESUME WITHIN 14 DAYS TO  
 careers@zillione.com

**UNOPS**  
 VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post Title : Biomedical Engineer (Retainer)  
 Contract Type : Individual Contractor Agreement (ICA), Local, (LICA 9)  
 Duty Stations : Colombo, Sri Lanka  
 Closing date : 18 May 2021

**Application Details:**  
 For further information and to apply, please visit UNOPS Jobs via  
 (https://jobs.unops.org/Pages/ViewVacancy/VADetails.aspx?id=21701)

If you need any further information please contact us via  
 0112665146 / kalyanis@unops.org

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.  
 Applications are received online through the UNOPS Jobs website only.

## GILLS INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD

Island wide Applications are invited for

- ▶ AREA SALES MANAGERS
- ▶ SALES EXECUTIVES
- ▶ SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- ▶ AREA WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

Requirements:-

- Experience in Processed Meat, Sausages, Spices and Rice Sales and Marketing
- GCE Advance Level.
- Good Communication skills in English / Sinhala. (Tamil would be an added advantage).
- Very good knowledge in sales planning and reporting.
- Should be a good team player.

Email : shashika@gillslanka.com or  
 WhatsApp your CV to 077 359 6783  
 Contact: 071 452 0072

# SRI LANKA AIR FORCE OFFICER CADET VACANCIES

*We provide you the skies ... SLAF invites Patriotic Youth ...*

## Applications are called for Officer Cadet vacancies in Sri Lanka Air Force

**General Duties Pilot Branch** (Male)

**Technical Engineering Branch** (Male / Female)

**Electronics Engineering Branch** (Male)

**Operations Air Branch** (Male)

**Administrative Regiment Branch** (Male / Female)

**Logistics Branch** (Male / Female)

**Administrative Branch** (Male / Female)

**Provost Branch** (Male)

**Administrative Band Branch** (Male)

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Nationality : Must be a citizen of Sri Lanka + Unmarried
- Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 23 years as at 01<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Height : Male - 167.5cm and above + Chest : Minimum 32" (Male)  
 Female - 162.5cm and above
- Weight : Male - 17 < BMI < 26 + Colour Vision : CP2  
 Female - 17 < BMI < 25
- Visual Acuity : Left eye 6/6 and right eye 6/6 (Without Spectacles / Contact Lens)

**BASIC EDUCATIONAL & SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS**

- Minimum of six Credit (C) passes at the GCE (O/L) with compulsory Credit (C) passes for English language, Science, Mathematics and a Simple (S) pass or above for Sinhala / Tamil language in one sitting.
- Minimum of three simple (S) passes at the GCE (A/L) from Physical Science / Bio Science in one sitting for General Duties Pilot and Operations Air branches.
- Minimum of two Credit (C) passes and one Simple (S) pass at the GCE (A/L) from Physical Science (Combined Maths, Physics and Chemistry) Streams in one sitting for Technical and Electronics Engineering branches.
- Minimum of three simple (S) passes at the GCE (A/L) from any stream in one sitting for other branches.
- BSc (Aviation Studies) Degree Entrant Qualifications (Accredited by the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University). Further candidates who are applying for the degree programme are to indicate whether they have qualified and applied for University admission when indicating A/L results in the application form.

**OTHER BENEFITS**

- Meals & Accommodation
- Life Insurance
- Local & Foreign Training
- Uniforms
- Medical & Recreational Facilities
- Married Quarters
- Air & Ground Transport
- Facilities
- Holiday Homes

**SALARY**

→ Approximate gross annual salary including service and all other allowances:

- Pilot Officer - Rs. 1,055,675.64
- Flight Lieutenant - Rs. 1,220,315.64
- Wing Commander - Rs. 1,303,955.64
- Flying Officer - Rs. 1,124,195.64
- Squadron Leader - Rs. 1,284,395.64

For further details see Government Gazette number 2226 of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and <www.documents.gov.lk>

The envelope should be marked "APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION IN THE ..... BRANCH" on the top left corner. Applications should be forwarded under registered cover.

**Application Closing Date on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**  
 apply online through web  
 <www.airforce.lk> or <http://airforce.observerjobs.lk>

**Command Recruiting Officer**  
 Sri Lanka Air Force Trade Training School  
 Kotugoda.  
 For more information +94 11 24 95 900, www.airforce.lk

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the Daily News should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

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 White, Manual Gears, Alloy Wheels, Original Fog Lamp, Crystal Headlight, Central Locking with Remote Key, Power Shutters, Power Mirrors, Reverse Sensors, Original Carpets, Power Steering, Second Owner, Home use.  
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**- Auto Focus**

### Job Vacancy

We are a growing company with multi sectoral businesses in Micro Finance, Auto Mobile, Export & Import and Textile sector based in Kiribathgoda. We are looking for a dynamic and competent persons for following vacancies.

**Web / Graphic Designer**

- Degree/Diploma holder in relevant field
- Minimum 2-5 years of experience in similar capacity in a reputed organization
- Excellent communication skill both written & verbal in English
- Any other international language skills will be an added advantage
- Salary negotiable

**Marketing Officers (Male / Female)**

- Diploma/Degree in marketing management
- Excellent communication skills in English & Sinhala
- Pleasant & Energetic personality
- Any other international language skills will be an added advantage
- Ability to work long hours
- Salary negotiable

Send your CV to  
vfranjith@yahoo.com & sabana.genilee@gmail.com  
T.E. 976 166 8792

**Wiji WIJITHA WijiSOya**

To expand the distribution network of the Wijitha Group of Companies, which has been manufacturing and distributing consumer goods with a local reputation since 1963.

- Distributors
- Sales Representative
- Direct Dealers
- Sales Executive

Candidates should possess the following qualifications and abilities.

- Ability to work long hours.
- Must be team player with positive attitude
- Excellent communication and PR skills business sense will be added advantage experience.

An attractive salary and performance based incentives averaging over 60,000/- per month.

Please Email your CV to [hr@wijithagroup.com](mailto:hr@wijithagroup.com) or send,  
**Wijitha Group Of Companies (Pvt.) Ltd.**  
Attapitiya, Ussapitiya  
0777371081 | 0766916079  
"we want you in our team"

### VACANCY

We Canoe Medicare a local marketing and distribution company catering both the private and government sectors is on the lookout to fill the following vacancy.

**SECRETARY (FEMALE)**

- Excellent command of English both oral and written is essential
- A/L Qualified
- High level of computer literacy.
- Minimum 3 years experience
- Working experience in Healthcare sector will be an added advantage.

An attractive remuneration package and career development opportunity awaits the right candidate.

Interested applicants should forward their CV to [info@canoemedicare.com](mailto:info@canoemedicare.com) or post within 14 days

**Canoe Medicare (Pvt) Ltd**  
107/A, St Mary's Road, Jaela  
Tel : 011 2247059




Asiri Health is the leading private healthcare provider in Sri Lanka with six hospitals delivering highest quality of clinical care. With a proven track record of being an innovative leader and a hi-tech provider of a wide range of invaluable healthcare services, our hospitals in the group are situated in strategic locations in Colombo, the South and Kandy enabling us to provide high quality medical facilities to society.

We are looking for experienced and self-motivated individuals to join our team of professionals to work at the Asiri Group of Hospitals.

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.

### MEDICAL OFFICER – PERMANENT CADRE

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED,

- MBBS with SLMC registration
- Medical Officers with experience in Critical Care Units will be at an advantage

### NURSES – PERMANENT CADRE

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED,

- Degree/Diploma in Nursing from a recognized state/private institution
- 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](mailto:hr@asiri.lk) Web: [www.asirihealth.com](http://www.asirihealth.com)

### VACANCY

Solid Lanka Engineering (Pvt) Ltd. seeks a Storekeeper/Office-in-Charge immediately with following qualifications.

**STOREKEEPER / Office-in-Charge**


- Passed GCE A/L
- Professional qualifications in Stores / Material Management will be an added advantage
- Good working knowledge in MS Office Package
- Age limit below 25 years
- Male candidates are preferred
- Pay Special attention to candidates who live close to Puttalam area
- Salary negotiable

If you are interested, please forward your CV to [solidlanka@yahoo.com](mailto:solidlanka@yahoo.com) and [admin@solidlanka.com](mailto:admin@solidlanka.com) within 07 days from the advertisement or by post to -




**The Human Resource Manager**  
**SOLID LANKA ENGINEERING (PVT) LTD.,**  
No. 547, Old Gampola Road,  
Peradeniya.

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the Daily News should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

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# SRI LANKA AIR FORCE OFFICER VACANCIES

Applications are invited from patriotic Male / Female professionals to serve as Commissioned Officers in the Regular / Volunteer Forces of the Sri Lanka Air Force

*We Provide You the Skies - SLAF Invites Professionals ...*

Technical Engineering Branch	BASIC REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical Engineering Officer - Male (Volunteer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be a citizen of Sri Lanka</li> <li>Married or Unmarried</li> <li>Age: Not less than 18 and not more than 33 years as at 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Not More than 40 years for medical Consultants)</li> <li>Height : Male - 167.5cm and above (166.0cm and above for Medical / Dental Branches)</li> <li>Female - 162.5cm and above (160.0cm and above for Medical / Dental Branches)</li> <li>Weight : Male - 17 &lt; BMI &lt; 26 / Female - 17 &lt; BMI &lt; 25</li> <li>Colour Vision : CP2</li> <li>Chest : Minimum 32" (Male)</li> <li>Visual Acuity : Left eye 6/6 and right eye 6/6 (Without Spectacles / Contact Lens) (Medical / Dental Branches 6/18 in each eye corrected visual acuity with spectacle should be 6/6 in each eye).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronics Engineering Officer - Male (Regular)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Agriculture Branch</li> </ul>	<h3>BASIC EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to required professional Degree qualifications following basic educational requirements must be possessed.</li> <li>Minimum of six 'C' passes with English language, Science, Mathematics and a 'S' pass or above for Sinhala / Tamil language in one sitting at the GCE (O/L) Examination (additional and optional subjects are not considered). Candidates who apply for technical type professions with higher professional qualifications than required level, but with 'S' Pass for GCE O/L English language or 'C' Pass at the second sitting will be considered for calling preliminary interviews.</li> <li>Pearson / Edexcel / International Ordinary / Advance Level, GCSE, GCE and Cambridge exam qualification may be considered subjected to a confirmation obtained from the Department of Examination, Sri Lanka to effect that it is equalant to above basic educational qualifications.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Audit Branch</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Veterinary Branch</li> </ul>	<h3>SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximate gross annual salary including service and all other allowances:</li> <li>Pilot Officer - Rs. 1,055,675.64</li> <li>Flying Officer - Rs. 1,124,195.64</li> <li>Flight Lieutenant - Rs. 1,220,315.64</li> <li>Squadron Leader - Rs. 1,284,395.64</li> <li>Wing Commander - Rs. 1,303,955.64</li> <li>Meals &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>Air &amp; Ground Transport</li> <li>Medical &amp; Recreational Facilities</li> <li>Married Quarters</li> <li>Uniforms</li> <li>Life Insurance</li> <li>Local &amp; Foreign Training</li> <li>Holiday Homes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logistics Branch</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Education Branch</li> </ul>	<p>For further details see Government Gazette number 2226 of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and <a href="http://www.documents.gov.lk">www.documents.gov.lk</a></p> <p>For more information call +94 11 24 95 900 and <a href="http://www.airforce.lk">www.airforce.lk</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Legal Branch</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Band Branch</li> </ul>	<p>Application Closing Date on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021</p> <p>Apply online through web : <a href="http://www.airforce.lk">www.airforce.lk</a> or <a href="http://airforce.observer.jobs.lk">http://airforce.observer.jobs.lk</a></p>   <p>Command Recruiting Officer Sri Lanka Air Force Trade Training School Kotugoda.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Branch</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental Branch</li> </ul>	

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Internships are available for: School Leavers in English Writing, Communication, Physical, Biological, Social Sciences, IT and Management at charity North of Kandy. And Post Diploma Candidates for:

- Management
- Accountant
- Non-Fiction Writer
- Personal Aide
- Administrative Aide
- IT

Apply as required at [www.climat.lk](http://www.climat.lk) or [fctcv@gmail.com](mailto:fctcv@gmail.com) & [hr@tropicalclimate.org](mailto:hr@tropicalclimate.org)

**VACANCIES**

We are a well established Trading company in Nugegoda is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the following positions.

**Accounts Executive**

- Part/fully Qualified of AAT/ICACI/CIMA or any Accounting body
- 1 Year Working Experience
- Sound Knowledge in ERP System and Quick Book accounting package/ MS Office
- Knowledge on Tax laws and experience in handling Tax matters and VAT with Inland Revenue Dept.

**Store Executive and Store Keepers**

- Good G.C.E. (A/L) Results
- Command on MS Office - Specially MS Excel
- Excellent Oral & Written English
- Minimum 1 year Working Experience with Store Field

Please forward your complete CV with contact details of two non-related referees to reach us within 10 days of this advertisement

[senaratrading@gmail.com](mailto:senaratrading@gmail.com)



**VACANCY FOR THE POST OF PROGRAMME OFFICER (COLOMBO BASED)**

(COLOMBO PLAN GENDER AFFAIRS PROGRAMME)

The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific is an inter-governmental organization with a membership of 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced local personnel for the above post based in Colombo, which meets the required criteria:

**Position Summary:** The Programme Officer will be responsible for providing effective support and assistance to CPGAP's largest project based in Afghanistan – the Afghan Women's Shelter Fund (AWSF) project that is focused on the protection and access to justice of survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons. He/she will work with and provide support to the AWSF Project Manager, as well as the project team based in the field office, in the development and implementation of the project related outputs and activities. The main objective of this position is to provide project management support, inclusive of operational as well as financial support. He/she will be responsible for providing support to the field office and the Project Manager to ensure successful implementation and completion of AWSF project related activities and outputs.

For more details Please visit our website: [www.colombo-plan.org](http://www.colombo-plan.org)

Applications (CV and Cover letter) should be sent via email on or before 23 May 2021 to [vacancies@colombo-plan.org](mailto:vacancies@colombo-plan.org). The email title should clearly mention: Programme Officer-GAP. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.



**UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

**VACANCIES**

Applications are received up to 30.05.2021 for the recruitment of suitable persons for the undermentioned posts of this university.

**MULTI DISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC CENTRE**

**Post: Lecturer (Apprentice), Lecturer (Non Permanent), Senior Lecturer (II/I Grade)**

**SUBJECT: (i) Information Technology and Information System Management**

**Special Note:** Theoretical knowledge and practical experience in IT Project & Quality Management, Information System, Database Engineering and e-Commerce are required.

**SUBJECT: (ii) Media and Publication**

**Special Note:** Theoretical knowledge and practical experience in working with printed and electronic media, publishing and quality maintenance of books and magazines, are preferred.

**Instructions to Applicants**

Application form, required qualifications and other details may be downloaded from [www.vpa.ac.lk](http://www.vpa.ac.lk) website.

Duly perfected applications along with certified photocopies of service certificates and relevant other certificates to prove the details given in the application should be sent by registered post addressed to "Deputy Registrar / Academic Establishments, University of Visual and Performing Arts, No. 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07". Post applied for should be clearly mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

Applicants already in government and corporation and statutory boards should direct their applications through the Heads of respective institutions. If applying for more than one post, separate applications should be submitted for each post.

Applications that have not fulfilled the qualifications, incomplete applications and late applications will be rejected.

**Registrar**  
University of Visual and Performing Arts  
03.05.2021

**The Housewives' companion**

**Classifieds on**

**Daily News**



**ARE YOU A DYNAMIC INNOVATIVE GAME CHANGER?**

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC, a well-established Finance Company listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange and a subsidiary of Bank of Ceylon is looking for individuals to join the Company as;

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - MARKETING & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

Reporting to the DGM Marketing and Product Management, Business and Branch operations your responsibilities will include;

- Crafting strategies for Marketing including Digital, Advertising & Communications.
- Developing and implementing strategic marketing plans.
- Identifying opportunities to reach new market segments and expand market share.
- Recommending the nature and scope of present and future product lines by reviewing product specifications and requirements, appraising new product ideas and/or product changes.
- Managing the entire new product development process.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- A relevant Degree and/ or full professional qualifications equivalent to a Degree.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant experience in a similar capacity.

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Implementation of the Bank's IT Strategy and drive.
- Overseeing all IT /Business related projects to ensure that they are delivered and deployed cost effectively.
- Identifying, analyzing and exploring technology related security products and report and recommend for a secure IT environment and running regular checks on network and data security.
- Overseeing and determining timeframes for major IT projects including system updates, upgrades, migrations and outages, ensure stakeholder involvement, scheduling, budgeting, sourcing and monitoring of the project until completion of the same by ensuring project management methodologies and techniques.
- Presenting business proposals by evaluating existing technology structure and undertaking such approved proposals for implementation.
- Ensuring that all IT systems are implemented and maintained to required standards.
- Implementing IT related policies and procedures, including those for architecture, security, standards and service provision.
- Preserving assets by implementing disaster recovery and back-up procedures and information security and control structures.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and/ or, full professional qualification in Computer Science.
- Master's degree in Information Technology and Certification in ITIL or Project Management will be an added advantage.
- Minimum 10 years of relevant experience out of which 5 years in Senior Managerial position in information Technology with experience in Banking and Finance industry.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Submit your complete profile along with two non-related referees within the same industry to the following e-mail address [careers@mbslbank.com](mailto:careers@mbslbank.com) or by registered post to the following address. The vacancies will be filled purely on merit and any form of canvassing will result in disqualification. Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.



Assistant General Manager - HR/ Support Service  
**Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC**  
Level 17, Bank of Ceylon Merchant Tower,  
No. 28, St. Michael's Road, Colombo 03.



**DO YOU HAVE THE PASSION TO SUCCEED?**

Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC, a well-established Finance Company listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange and a subsidiary of Bank of Ceylon is looking for individuals to join the Company as;

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

To provide strategic finance support to CEO for business transformation and value creation.

**YOUR KEY RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE;**

- Formulation of funding strategies and effective mobilization and utilization of financial resources.
- Providing strategic financial management and leadership support across the business, in line with the overall corporate strategy.
- Leading the business planning and budgeting process and monitoring progress towards their achievement.
- Overseeing preparation/ submission of monthly/ annual financial statements and statutory reports, timely, accurately and in accordance with standards and regulations.
- Ensuring the provision of timely management information and analysis for decision making.
- Playing a leading role in Enterprise risk management.
- Developing the capacity of the finance team.

**REQUIRED MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Full professional qualifications in Accounting, (preferably ACA/ACCA) with a minimum of 10 years post - qualifying experience out of which 5 years should be at a senior managerial level in a financial institution.
- A graduate or postgraduate qualification would be an added advantage.

**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER - BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**REPORTING TO THE CEO, YOUR KEY RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE;**

- Managing Liability Products.
- Managing Central Credit Operations.
- Managing Treasury operations.
- Managing Capital Market Services.
- Building strong Corporate/ Investment banking services/ products.
- Building operational capacity in line with Strategic goals and meet the business targets.

**REQUIRED MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Full professional qualifications in accounting, Finance (preferably CFA/ACA/ACCA) with a minimum of 10 years post - qualifying experience out of which 5 years should be at a senior managerial level in a financial institution.
- A graduate or postgraduate qualification would be an added advantage.

**REMUNERATION**

- Attractive remuneration package will be negotiable.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Submit your complete profile along with two non-related referees to the following e-mail address [executivesearch@mbslbank.com](mailto:executivesearch@mbslbank.com) or by registered post to the following address within 14 days of this Advertisement. Any form of canvassing will result in disqualification. Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.



Chairman's Office  
**Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC**  
Level 17, Bank of Ceylon Merchant Tower,  
No. 28, St. Michael's Road, Colombo 03.



**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) (PRIVATE) LIMITED**

*'Make Happy Journeys'*

**We are looking for highly motivated individuals with right attitudes to fill the following vacancies at MATTALA RAJAPAKSA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

- Post of Staff Nurse (Male) Grade III
- Post of Staff Nurse (Female) Grade III

If you are interested and possess the relevant qualifications and experience mentioned in our Website [www.airport.lk](http://www.airport.lk)>CORPORATE>CAREERS, please send in your resume prepared according to the specimen application given in the same Website with copies of the relevant certificates to the following address on or before **May 21, 2021 only by Registered Post**.

**Please note that the applications without copies of the relevant certificates and forwarded in other modes and not in accordance with the specimen given in our Website will be rejected.**

**CHAIRMAN**  
**AIRPORT & AVIATION SERVICES (SRI LANKA) (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
**BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**KATUNAYAKE**

**SALES EXECUTIVE - FEMALE**

A leading lighting company in Colombo is looking for young dynamic individuals to join the company.

Attractive salary & other benefits are negotiable.

- 12 months minimum experience in the relevant field is required
- Computer Literacy and customer relationship skills
- Ability to find solutions & work under pressure
- Team work is a must

Candidates who are interested should forward their CV's before 15th May 2021 to the

**Manager**  
**Light Box (Pvt) Ltd.,**  
**No. 189, Nawala Road, Nugegoda. Or Mail [marketing@lightboxsl.com](mailto:marketing@lightboxsl.com)**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU -**

We, are **Koala Pvt Ltd**; a proven leader in the Sri Lankan furniture and corporate interior industry with the production facility situated in the suburbs of Colombo city.

We have the following vacancies for dynamic, motivated, disciplined and self-reliant persons under 35 years of age -

**SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVES**

- Person with an outgoing personality with tertiary qualifications from a recognized institute or a university are essential
- 3 - 5 years experience in a similar industry
- Age between 25 - 35 years
- Hard working, target oriented and ability to think out of the box are also essential
- Should be willing to work in any part of the island

An attractive remuneration package will be offered according to industry standards along with career development prospects to the right candidates.

Detailed CV with contact details together with two non related referees should be sent within 7 days of this advertisement to -

E-Mail : [projectsales2@koala.lk](mailto:projectsales2@koala.lk) / [arajasuriya@slret.lk](mailto:arajasuriya@slret.lk)

**Koala (Pvt) Ltd**  
 Associate of Coyoka (Pvt) Ltd & Member of Nawaloka Holdings  
 No 64, Greepath, Colombo 3.

Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd, is an organization engaged in providing quality reliable and trustworthy security consultation & related services to leading business establishments in Sri Lanka.

**ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE FINANCE**

We are looking for a young, energetic female with following qualifications to work at our Head Office at Park Road, Colombo 05.

- Age below 30 years
- Pleasant Personality
- Excellent command in English
- Computer literacy and knowledge in Quick Books Package

**Salary Negotiable**

Please send your CV on or before 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 to the below address or by e-mail

Director  
**Classic Venture (Pvt) Ltd**  
 No. 196, Park Road, Colombo 05.  
 Tel : 0753 632 000 / E-mail : [susil@classicventure.com](mailto:susil@classicventure.com)

**State Mortgage & Investment Bank**

**Career Opportunities at SMIB**

SMIB, as the premier housing bank to the Nation, is in the process of restructuring the bank's operation to offer a higher level of customer satisfaction and a wider variety of services. As such, we invite applications from candidates who have demonstrated dynamic leadership roles and make full commitment to achieve business goals with relevant qualifications and experience for the following posts.

**General Manager / CEO**

**Qualifications**

a). Bachelor's Degree in a recognized university specialized in Banking, Management, Commerce, Law, Business and Accountancy/Finance  
 Or  
 an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka  
 Or  
 an Attorney at Law

b). and a Master's Degree in the field of Banking, Management, Commerce, Law, Economics Membership of a Professional Banking Institute would be an added advantage.

**Experience**

a). A minimum of 15 years' experience in Executive capacity of which at least five years should be in a Senior Managerial position in a Bank or recognized Financial Institute.

b). Applicants are expected to have a good knowledge of local Banking, Housing and Agricultural Credit Schemes, working knowledge of the official language and computer literacy.

The selected candidate as the main driving force of the Bank's day-to-day business / administration activities under the guidance and directions of the Board of Directors, should possess the following exceptional leadership skills.

Problem Solving  
 Decision Making  
 Team Building and Management

**Remuneration**

**Salary Scale** - Rs.307,305-10,660x12-435,225 per month together with bank approved allowances.

**Age** - Not more than 50 years (The age limit will not, however, apply to those already employed in a state sector organization)

**Deputy General Manager - Human Resource Development and Management**

**Qualifications**

Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or Management from a UGC recognized university  
 And full Professional membership from a recognized Human Resource Institute  
 OR  
 Bachelor's Degree in Management or Law from a UGC recognized university with a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management.

**Experience**

Overall 15 years' experience in the relevant field of which minimum 05 years at senior management level and experience in the relevant field in a banking institution or similar.

**Remuneration**

Salary Scale- Rs.196,570-6895x12-279,310 per month together with bank approved allowances.

**Age** - Not more than 50 years (The age limit will not, however, apply to those already employed in a state sector organization)

**General Conditions**

**Method of Selection** - Inviting applications as per the recruitment policy and procedure of the bank. Selection by Interview.

**Other Benefits**

- Provident Fund contribution 15% by the employer and 10% by the employee. The bank contributes to the ETF
- The annual bonus of two months gross salary
- Housing loans at concessionary rates after confirmation in the service
- Benefits under the bank's medical scheme
- Encashment of unutilized medical leave

**Closing Date for Applications** - 24.05.2021

**How to Apply**

Interested qualified candidates should send their Curriculum Vitae and copies of their Educational/Professional transcripts and the names, addresses and contact numbers of two professional non-related referees via the below email address. All applications will be treated in strict confidential and any form of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification. The Bank reserves the right to decide the selection, postponement or cancellation of recruitment or any other action and/or change the selection criteria for this recruitment. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final and conclusive.

Applications should only be sent via [careers@smib.lk](mailto:careers@smib.lk)

A leading innovative firm is looking for a

**CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER**

**in Environmental Science**

- 1) Technical Expertise in Polymer Science and any research background related to Microplastics and the Plastic Industry.
- 2) Former Committee Member or any experience in EIA or IEE will be an advantage.
- 3) Expertise in Plastic Degradation will be an added benefit

Please forward your Curriculum Vitae within 7 days of this advertisement to:

[newrecruitments091@gmail.com](mailto:newrecruitments091@gmail.com)

**Get on board... WE ARE HIRING!**

**Marketing & Sales Executives**

We're looking for driven, young and innovative individuals to explore new sales verticals for a rapidly developing American brand; whilst working to develop new marketing strategies with our current clients to promote the newly re-launched brand in Sri Lanka.

- Minimum 2-3 years experience in marketing or business development.
- Excellent communication skills in English. Knowledge of Sinhala and Tamil will be an advantage.
- Strong interpersonal, negotiation, analytical and presentation skills are mandatory.
- Part or Full qualification from a reputed institute preferred, but not necessary. (Minimum G.C.E A-Level)
- Under the age of 35.
- Owning a vehicle with a valid license is a bonus.
- People who have experience in hotel house keeping & who are willing to do field sales are encouraged to apply.

Please email your CV with names and contact details of two referees to [info@pancare.lk](mailto:info@pancare.lk) within 07 days of this advertisement, if you think you're the candidate of choice.

**PanCare PRIVATE LTD** [www.pancare.lk](http://www.pancare.lk)

**HANCO CONSTRUCTIONS [PVT] LTD**

**IMMEDIATE VACANCY - KATUNAYAKE AIRPORT**

Hanco Constructions [Pvt] Ltd. [Member of Raddella Holdings] a leading constructions ICTAD Grade C1 Company looking for enthusiastic candidates for the following post.

**TECHNICAL OFFICER**

- NCT/NVQ L4/ HNDE/qualifying with minimum 3 years Experience in the civil & concrete structure.

**SAFETY OFFICER**

- NCT and diploma holder in 3 years experience in civil construction field.
- Full or partial completion of a Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety.
- Computer literacy with knowledge in MS office packages.

**STORE KEEPER/ADMIN OFFICER**

- Minimum 3 years experience in civil constructions, and be Computer literate & G.C.E [AL] Qualified, Ability to work independently with minimum supervision.

**ELECTRICIAN**

- Should have completed a recognized professional qualification in Electrical Industrialization.
- Minimum of 03 years experience in civil constructions.

**SITE SUPERVISOR**

- NCT/NVQ L4/ HNDE/ TTI or equivalent qualification with minimum 2 years experience in the civil Constructions.

Attractive Remuneration package based on relevant experience and qualifications.

If you interested please forward your complete resume with the contact details with two non-related referees within 7 days of this advertisement. Please note that only short listed candidates will be notified.

The Manager  
 HR & Admin Department  
**Hanco Constructions [Pvt] Ltd**  
 No.258, Havelock Road, Colombo 05  
 Tel: 0114697700, Fax: 0114697705/51  
[hancohr258@gmail.com](mailto:hancohr258@gmail.com) / [info@raddellaholdings.com](mailto:info@raddellaholdings.com)  
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**LAKE HOUSE**



# BCIS

## BANDARANAIKE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ REGISTRAR

Applications are invited for the Post of Chief Administrative Officer/ Registrar of the BCIS. He/ She will be responsible for management of all administrative and student affairs activities reporting to the Director of the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS)

He/she will be accountable for :-

- Organizing and administering student records.
- Overseeing the student admissions and graduation process.
- Ensuring records are updated with new grades, attendance, finances, etc.
- Provide overall administrative oversight to the Centre's academic and operational activities.
- Manage HR and quality assurance of the Centre's knowledge products/dissemination.
- Convening meetings/seminars of the Centre with stakeholders.
- Analyzing audit reports and formulating improvements.
- Compiling performance reports.

#### Qualifications & Experience :

- A Bachelor's or Master's degree in Business Administration, International Relations or any Social Sciences
- A minimum of 5 years experience at management level in an educational institute or University.
- A proven track record.

#### The following skills will be given preference :

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Outgoing relationship skills
- Inter-personal skills
- Decision-making ability
- Skills in problem-solving and communication.
- Experienced effective leadership, with excellent work ethics, academics, people skills, and high integrity.
- Willingness to innovate
- Competence in administration.
- Age band 40 to 50 years

#### Remuneration:

- A competitive remuneration plan inclusive of other fringe benefits which include transport, commensurate with the position is on offer to the selected candidate.

Please forward your CV along with contact details on or before 20th May 2021 to careers@bmich.com or by post to the below address

Director/BCIS,  
B M I C H  
Buddhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo 7.



## NAWALOKA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PVT) LTD.

A MEMBER OF NAWALOKA HOLDINGS

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are a CIDA grade CS2 Construction Company with over 70 years' experience in the Building, Road & Bridge sectors with ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Integrated Management System Certification. We are looking for a dynamic & self-motivated individuals to join the following posts.

#### MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Minimum of 10 years' experience in building projects with Chartered qualification.

#### CIVIL ENGINEERS

- BSc (Eng.) with 3 years' experience in building construction or NDT/ HNDE with 7 years' experience in building construction.

#### PLANNING ENGINEERS

- BSc (Eng.) with 3 years' experience in planning of building construction.

#### ASSISTANT PLANNING ENGINEERS

- ICBT, NDT or HNDE with 3 years' experience in planning of building construction.

#### MEP ENGINEERS

- BSc (Eng.) with 3 years' experience or NDT/ HNDE with 5 years' experience in building construction.

#### MEP ASSISTANT ENGINEERS

- NDT or HNDE with 5 years' experience in building construction.

#### MECHANICAL ASSISTANT ENGINEERS

- NDT or HNDE with 5 years' experience.

#### PILING ENGINEERS (HEAD OFFICE)

- BSc (Eng.) with 2 years' experience in piling.

#### QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- B.Sc. in Quantity Surveying with 2 years' experience or Diploma in Quantity Surveying with 5 years' experience in building construction.

#### ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- Diploma in Quantity Surveying with 3 years' experience in building construction.

#### SURVEYING ENGINEERS

- B.Sc. in Quantity Surveying with 2 years' experience or NDT/HNDE with 5 years' experience in surveying work of buildings.

#### ASSISTANT CIVIL ENGINEERS

- NDT or HNDE or equivalent with 2 years' experience in building construction.

#### TECHNICAL OFFICERS

- NCT or equivalent with 2 years' experience in building construction.

The above positions carry an attractive remuneration packages for the ideal candidate with other benefits depending on the qualifications and experience.

E-mail your curriculum vitae to [careers@nawaloka.net](mailto:careers@nawaloka.net) together with the names of two non-related referees or post to below mentioned address. Applications should reach us within 7 days of this advertisement.

Nawaloka Construction Company (Pvt) Ltd  
12th Floor, Nawaloka Specialist Center,  
No.115, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Colombo02.  
Tel:011-5186100



## SLIIT

Discover Your Future

### FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

## DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES

The Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) is a pioneer in the higher education sector of Sri Lanka and offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines ([www.sliit.lk](http://www.sliit.lk)). It is committed to providing the best student experience through a dedicated group of academic and non-academic staff. The main campus located in Malabe has excellent academic and recreational facilities.

The Faculty of Engineering at SLIIT is the academic home of more than 80 staff and a growing cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students. The faculty offers cutting-edge degree programs and encourages a strong research culture. The Department of Mechanical Engineering has over 25 academic staff, a large cohort of undergraduate students and modern laboratories in the major areas of mechanical engineering.

We are inviting applications for two positions in mechanical engineering at the grades of Professor / Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) / Senior Lecturer. A recognized undergraduate honours degree in mechanical engineering and a post-graduate degree (a doctoral degree for Senior Lecturer (Higher Grade) and above, and a 2-year research-based master's degree for Senior Lecturer) are required. Applicants should be registered or eligible for registration with the Institution of Engineers of Sri Lanka. We are particularly seeking applicants with strong track-records in mechanical design and manufacturing engineering. The appointees will contribute to research and teaching in mechanical engineering and engage in administrative and professional service duties.

SLIIT offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, a cover letter and contact details of 3 referees by email to [careers@sliit.lk](mailto:careers@sliit.lk) clearly indicating the area of expertise and the position grade. The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.



## THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR

The Council of the Open University of Sri Lanka acting in terms of Section 34(1) of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 and subsequent amendments, invites applications/nominations from suitably qualified and experienced persons to manage and lead the University as Vice-Chancellor.

Under the provisions of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, the Vice-Chancellor is a full time Officer, Principal Executive Officer, Accounting Officer and the academic head of the University. He/She is also an ex-officio member and Chairman of both the Council and the Senate.

The Vice-Chancellor shall, unless he/she vacates office earlier or is removed from office in terms of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 as amended, hold office for a term of three years or until the applicant completes his/her 65<sup>th</sup> year, whichever event occurs earlier.

The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for providing academic leadership, formulating, introducing and carrying out a streamlined management policy and general administration of the University. The applicant/nominee should maintain transparency and accountability in the management of the affairs of the University. The applicant/nominee is also responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Council, for the maintenance of discipline within the University and for its general administration.

The Vice-Chancellor should be committed to maintaining academic excellence and should possess an understanding of the needs of the students and the staff. The applicant should, therefore, be a person of high calibre with a record of outstanding achievement, excellent communication skills and an ability to address the diverse interests of the students and staff. The applicant/nominee should also exhibit an understanding of the mission of the Open University, including its obligations to the local community. (Prospective Applicants/Nominators are invited to visit the Open University Website <http://www.ou.ac.lk> for details).

The Vice-Chancellor is eligible to receive the highest academic salary scale, an entertainment allowance of 15% of the salary and other allowances applicable to the post.

The process of appointing the Vice Chancellor is prescribed in the Commission Circular No. 02/2020 dated 04 May, 2020 issued by the University Grants Commission which can be accessed at [https://www.ugc.ac.lk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2198%3Acommission-circular-no-022020-appointment-to-the-post-of-vice-chancellor&catid=176%3Acirculardispatched-in-2020-2020-and-above&Itemid=208&lang=en](https://www.ugc.ac.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2198%3Acommission-circular-no-022020-appointment-to-the-post-of-vice-chancellor&catid=176%3Acirculardispatched-in-2020-2020-and-above&Itemid=208&lang=en)

The applicants/nominees should be citizens of Sri Lanka and shall be less than 63 years of age as at the closing date of applications. The following documents should accompany the applications/nominations.

- A full curriculum vitae of the applicant/nominee including the date of birth.
- A personal statement of vision for the development of the Open University and a brief account of what the applicant/nominee proposes to achieve, if appointed to the post of Vice-Chancellor.
- Where the incumbent Vice-Chancellor is an applicant or had held the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University before, a report highlighting accomplishments during his/her first period of office, in addition to the documents mentioned in (i) & (ii) above.
- A letter of consent from the nominee in case of nomination.
- A letter from the employer indicating whether the applicant/nominee could be released in the event of his/her appointment to the post, in case of an applicant/nominee serving in the Public Service, Corporations, Statutory Bodies and Higher Educational Institutions other than the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Candidates shall be summoned for an interview by the Evaluation Committee. In an exceptional situation, if any candidate is not in a position to appear before the evaluation committee, he/she shall be allowed to appear for an interview via video conferencing.

Candidates shortlisted by the Evaluation Committee and approved by the Council shall be summoned before the Special Council meeting for a brief presentation of a minimum of ten (10) minutes duration but not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes.

Applications/Nominations should be addressed to **Ms. W L Vindya Jayasena, Secretary to the Council, Office of the Registrar, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda**, and sent under confidential registered cover or hand delivered to reach the above office **on or before 3.00 p.m. on 10/06/2021**. No applications will be accepted after the closing date. The envelope containing the application/nomination with other documents must be marked as "Office of the Vice-Chancellor" on its top left hand corner.

W L Vindya Jayasena  
Registrar and Secretary to the Council  
The Open University of Sri Lanka  
Nawala Nugegoda,  
9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

University Web page: [www.ou.ac.lk](http://www.ou.ac.lk)

**VACANCY**

**International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd**

Being a leading Multidisciplinary, CS2 Grade, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 certified construction company, ICC takes pride in stepping into the 5th decade of our success story with award winning, internationally acclaimed projects.

We are now seeking a self-motivated professional, who enjoys working in a challenging environment to join our team of professionals in the position mentioned below.

---

**ENGINEERING ASSISTANTS - MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL**  
(PLANT & MACHINERY UNITS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES)

- NDT, HNDE or NDES in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous working experience will be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

---

**FOREMAN - MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL**  
(PLANT & MACHINERY UNIT OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE)

- Qualification from CGTTI or equivalent qualification from a reputed institute.
- Previous experience in a similar capacity in Mechanical field will be an added advantage.
- Age below 30 years.

Attractive remuneration packages and career development opportunities within the organization based on performance await the right candidate.

Applicants should forward their Curriculum Vitae and contact telephone numbers with names of two non-related referees and their contact telephone numbers, within 07 days of this advertisement to the below address.

*Please indicate the post applied for on the top left hand corner of the envelope or the subject line of the e-mail.*



**40 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE**

Manager - Human Resources  
**International Construction Consortium (Pvt.) Ltd.**  
70, S. De S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kohuwala, Nugegoda.  
Tel: 0114 400 600  
E-mail: cv@icc-construct.com www.icc-construct.com

**NAWALOKA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PVT) LTD.**  
A MEMBER OF NAWALOKA HOLDINGS

We are a CIDA grade CS2 Construction Company with over 70 years' experience in the Building, Road & Bridge sectors with ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Integrated Management System Certification.  
We are looking for a dynamic & self-motivated individuals to join the following post.

**CHIEF QUANTITY SURVEYOR**

We are currently looking for a highly skilled Chief Quantity Surveyor to be based at our Head Office.

**Job Role**

- Prepare and analyse project costing for tenders such as materials, quantities, labor and time.
- Prepare tender and contract documents, including bills of quantities.
- Track the changes to the designs or construction work and adjust budget projections accordingly.
- Procure or agree the services of contractors or subcontractors who work on the construction of the projects.
- Provide post- occupancy advice, facilities management services and life cycle costing.
- Perform risk, value management and cost control during construction.
- Advice on procurement strategies.
- Identify, analyze and develop responses to commercial risk.
- Provide advice on contractual claims and disputes.
- Analyze outcomes and prepare detailed progress reports.

**Requirements**

- BSc. in Quantity Surveying from a recognized university with a charter.
- Over 10 years' post qualification experience.
- Experience in handling tenders and contracts (CIDA/FIDIC).
- Should possess skills to handle a team of quantity surveyors and coordinate with the top management.
- Excellent managerial, organizing, planning, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Be able to achieve tasks within given time frames.

The above position carry an attractive remuneration packages for the ideal candidate with other benefits depending on the qualifications and experience.

E-mail your curriculum vitae to [careers@nawaloka.net](mailto:careers@nawaloka.net) together with the names of two non-related referees or post to below mentioned address. Applications should reach us within 7 days of this advertisement.

**Nawaloka Construction Company (Pvt) Ltd**  
12th Floor, Nawaloka Specialist Center,  
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CHILLER TECHNICIAN	03	2200
HVAC TECHNICIAN	19	2000
FIRE SYSTEM TECH	02	2000
MECHANICAL /GENSET / KITCHEN	10	2000
ELECTRICAL TECH (HV)	02	2000 - 2200
ELECTRICAL TECH	24	2000
ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR (HV)	02	3000 - 3200
ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN	02	2000
PLUMBER	12	1800 - 1850
BMS OPERATOR	04	2000
BMS TECHNICIAN	04	2000 - 2200
CARPENTER	05	1650
MASON	05	1650
PAINTER	05	1650

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 (Medical Provided by Company  
 (Working Hours: 08 Hours per day; 48 hours per week; one day off per week  
 (Contract period: 2 Years with probation of six months  
 (Joining Air Ticket & Return Ticket provided by the company  
 (All other terms and conditions as per UAE Labour Law AL/2581/Adv/06/21

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# SUNDAY OBSERVER TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF BOOM BARRIER, BOLLARD & TYRE KILLER SYSTEM FOR EASTERN ENTRANCE OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/BOOM BARRIER & TYRE KILLER/EN/2021

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Security systems of Eastern Entrance of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 150 Million.

*The work consists of supply, installation, configuration and maintenance of all the works in Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of Boom Barrier, Bollard and Tyre Killer Systems for Eastern Entrance of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.*

- The Construction period is 250 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualification Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5 years during last 10 years (2010 to 2019)	LKR 100 million per year. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience of Design, Supply and Installation of similar project completed during last ten years). (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019)	At least 1 nr. of Supply and Installation project of Boom Barriers or, Automatic Bollards or Tyre Killers or Electro Mechanical construction including Hydraulically operated heavy equipment within last 10 years. Minimum value of such systems shall not be less than LKR 30 million. Evidence should be provided.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 30 million. Evidence should be provided.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 until 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** From **09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and III of Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 until 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** from **09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 25,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Five Thousands)**. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1100 hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below on or before **1000 hrs. on 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**, late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **01<sup>st</sup> September 2021** (91 Days from the date of closing of Bids).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees 1.5 Million (LKR 1,500,000)** 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 **29<sup>th</sup> September 2021** (119 Days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the Bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above 9 is:

**The Chairman,  
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),  
C/o The Director Project Management Unit,  
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,  
Akuregoda Road,  
Pelawatta,  
Battaramulla**

Tel : 0094-011-2430865  
Fax : 0094-011-4209885  
E-mail : [pmudhqc@gmail.com](mailto:pmudhqc@gmail.com)

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### CAR X-RAY SCANNER FOR EASTERN ENTRANCE OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

BID NO: DHQC/CXRAY/EN/2021

- The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply and Installation of Car X-ray scanner for Eastern Entrance of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda** as described in the document and estimated to cost **LKR 180 Million** (Excluding VAT).
- The Time for Completion for the whole of the Works shall be 250 Calendar days.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- Minimum qualification requirements to qualify for Contract award shall be,

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5years during last 10 years (2010/2011 to 2019/2020).	LKR 100 million per year. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience of Supply and Installation of projects completed during last ten years). (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014& 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019& 2020)	Experience in successful completion of one project of supply and installation of X-ray Scanner systems or Heavy-duty Electro Mechanical Machinery systems.  Project value not less than LKR 45 million, completed within last 10 years.  The Bidder should provide documentary evidence.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 60 million. Evidence should be provided.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** and inspect the tender documents free of charge at the same address from **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 until 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), C/o The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** from **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 until 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand (LKR 25,000/=)**. The method of payment will be in Cash/Bank draft in favour of **The Ministry of Defence.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **1000 hrs. on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the below address on or before **1000hrs on 03<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **01<sup>st</sup> September 2021** (91 Days from the date of closing of Bids).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees 1.8 Million (LKR 1,500,000)** 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 **29<sup>th</sup> September 2021** (119 Days after opening the Bids). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), before purchasing the Bidding Document from Defence Headquarters Complex Project.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the Bid opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above 9 is:

**The Chairman,  
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),  
C/o The Director Project Management Unit,  
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,  
Akuregoda Road,  
Pelawatta,  
Battaramulla**

Tel : 0094-011-2430865  
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**FOR SALE**

Company owned and maintained 'one owner' vehicles for sale. Written offers and inquiries regarding inspection should be directed to the **Transport Manager, Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC, No. 110, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10**, during working hours, on weekdays.

Vehicle No.	Make
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Contact: **Roshanth Perera**  
Transport Manager  
Telephone: **2687801 / 2695295-7**  
**5507000**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to notify the general public that Mr. Anura Abeywardena, of ANURA REF ENGINEERS, 144/1, Kandy Road, Yakkala (a Franchise Agent for the past 20 years) is no longer an agent with the Abans Service Department from 2020. Hence, he is not authorized to repair any items for the Abans customer base and does not have access to the original spare parts. Any repairs done by him or the said firm will not be honoured by the Company.

For more assistance, customers from Yakkala are requested to visit the Gampaha Customer Service Centre or contact 011-5555888.

**Abans Electricals PLC [Service Dept.]**  
**506B, Galle Road, Colombo 6.**

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**PROCUREMENT NOTICE - GLOBAL**

**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka 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 LKR
DHS/SUS/WW/3/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Permanent Central Venous Catheter Sets, Triple Lumen Catheter, Filter 5 micron, Haemofiltration kit and Haemofiltration Solution	11.05.2021	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/4/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Consumables	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/5/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Consumables	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/6/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Consumables	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/7/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Auto Disable Syringes, Male Condom & Copper IUD with threads	11.05.2021	20,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/8/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Hypodermic Syringes, Scalp Vein Sets & Central Venous Catheter sets	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/9/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Tap for 3.5mm c.s.t. 50mm, 110mm length & 4.5mm c.s.t. 70mm, 125mm total length	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/10/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	1.5mm & 2.0mm Implants for Micro Hand Plating	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/11/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Male Condom, length 160mm-180mm	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/12/22	23.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Scalp Vein Sets, size 27G Needle	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/13/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Micro Vascular Clamp, various sizes	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/14/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Non Consumables	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/15/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Non Consumables	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/16/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Instrument Set for Micro Cervical Desectomy	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/17/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Battery Operated Dermatome System & LCP Standard Instrument set	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/18/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Level Sensor Mounting Pad	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/19/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Electric Drill for Neuro Surgery	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/20/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Surgical Face Mask with Shield	11.05.2021	12,500/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/21/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Therapeutic Plasma Exchange Kits	11.05.2021	35,000/- + taxes
DHS/SUS/WW/22/22	25.06.2021 At 9.00 am	Cervical Wooden Spatula Ayre Type	11.05.2021	3,000/- + taxes

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the Bidding Documents available to prospective bidders on working days between 0930 hours to 1500 hours at the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Head Office, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1. These could be purchased on cash payment of a non-refundable Bidding document Fee per set as mentioned above. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bidding 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 the 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- DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**  
**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



**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**  
**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo 01 invites sealed quotations from registered and previous sources for following items and bids will be closed at the respective times on the dates given below and will be opened immediately thereafter.

**(E. mail /Fax offers as well as FOB offers are not acceptable)**

Sealed Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be personally deposited in the box available for this purpose at Internal Audit Department in the Mezzanine Floor of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Bidders or their authorised representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

**SURGICAL ANNUAL ITEMS**

TENDER NO/ BID REFERENCE	CLOSING DATE	CLOSING TIME	ITEM (Refer SPC web site)	QUANTITY
DHS/RS/RQ/36/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Radiology Consumables	316 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/37/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Drainage Catheters Various Types	21,980 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/38/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Visceral catheters Various sizes	358 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/39/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Fully Automated Disposable Biopsy Gun	980 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/40/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Radiology Consumables	313 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/41/21	25.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Radiology Consumables	2,139 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/45/21	20.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Aspirating Needles & Hypodermic Needles	110,700 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/46/21	25.05.2021	2.00 P.M.	Endoscopic Foreign Body Retrieval overtube	188 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/47/21	25.05.2021	2.00 P.M.	Scale for measurement of Central Venous Pressure	1534 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/129/20	25.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Shade A2, light curing composite resin.	1570 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/167/19	25.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Arteral and Venous Fistula Needles rotatable with clamp and back eye, size 17G, sterile.	60,000 Nos.
DHS/RS/RQ/131/20	25.05.2021	2.00 p.m.	Drainage Tubing 10mm ID	490 Nos.

**SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS**

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Quantity
DHS/RSS/RQ/55/21	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Surgical Suture, Non absorbable Monofilament Polypropylene Suture BP/ USP Standard or Equivalent Standards, Gauge size 2/0, blue, 90cm length.	10,400 Nos.
DHS/RSS/RQ/56/21	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Surgical Consumables	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/57/21	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Instrument Set for Telescopic Nailing System, for paediatric, in sterilizing tray, with 100 titanium nails of different sizes.	12 Set
DHS/RSS/RQ/58/21	02.06.2021	2.00 pm	Aortic Perfusion Cannula, straight tip, 16Fr, sterile & Wire Reinforced Venous Return Catheter, angled, size 20Fr, sterile.	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/59/21	02.06.2021	2.00 pm	Arterial Cannula, size 22G x 6cm length, sterile & Thoracic ( Chest Drainage) Catheter for post operative plural drainage 18FG, Straight 45cm	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/61/21	17.05.2021	2.00 pm	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Set	100,000 Set
DHS/RSS/RQ/115/20	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Coronary Perfusion Cannula, malleable, size 10Fr, 14cm (approx.) length, sterile.	100 Nos
DHS/RSS/RQ/116/20	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	N 95 Particulate Filtering Face Mask	85,000 Nos.
DHS/RSS/RQ/117/20	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/118/20	28.05.2021	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-Consumables	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RSS/RQ/330/18	04.06.2021	2.00 pm	Custom Made Tubing Pack for ECMO, "Levitronix Centrimag" compatible, for Paediatric, sterile.	02 Nos.

**LAB ITEMS**

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	SR/Item	Qty
DHS/RL/23CPW/21	24.05.2021	02.30 P.M.	Lab Consumables	Pls. refer RQ item list
DHS/RL/121NK/19	24.05.2021	02.30 P.M.	3/43004501-Indole reagent	600ml
DHS/RL/100NK/20	24.05.2021	02.30 P.M.	3/45360401-Captopril Disulphide WHO (Cat No: 9930238)	100mg
			5/45360601-Ciprofloxacin Ethylenediamine analog WHO (Cat No: 9930254)	25mg
			7/45360901-Griseofulvin WHO (Cat No: 9930322)	200mg
			11/45382101-Thiamazole (Methimazole) primary standards grade	50g

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at No. 75, Sir Baron Jayatillake Mawatha, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka.

Wherever necessary potential bidder/bidders should get registered in terms of the Public Contract Act No.3 of 1987 before collecting the Bid Documents and also should get the contract registered after the award.

**CHAIRMAN -PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**  
**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**  
**"MEHEWARA PIYASA", 28<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR,**  
**NO. 41, KIRULA ROAD,**  
**COLOMBO 5.**  
**SRI LANKA.**

FAX : 00 94-11- 2582492  
TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2582492  
E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk / pharma.manager@spc.lk

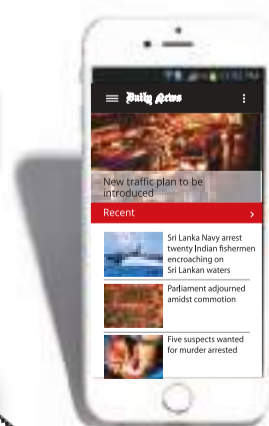
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## TENDER FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION AT ANSELL SITES FROM QUALIFIED BIDDERS

Ansell is an Australian listed multinational company providing protective solutions. Our operations in Sri Lanka - Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. (Biyagama EPZ) and Ansell Textile Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. (Seeduwa) - are two of Ansell's largest facilities in the world. The operations are Australia's largest direct investment in the manufacturing sector in Sri Lanka. Both these facilities have been instrumental in providing protection in the form of gloves and body protection overalls to frontline healthcare employees globally.

### ANSELL - BIYAGAMA

Sealed offers are invited for **7MW Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Installation at Ansell Lanka - Biyagama**

Prospective Bidders should meet the following criteria:

1. ICTAD / CIDA EM1 Certification on electrical medium voltage
2. More than 15MW installation in the country
3. Minimum two sites of over 1MW HT installation experience
4. Minimum of one Chartered Electrical Engineer should be employed full-time in the company
5. More than 7 years in the solar business
6. Panels & Accessories should be supplied through Globally Leading (Tier 1) Principal Business Partners

Proposals should cover the general requirements for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 7MW solar system both in MV and LV.

Collection of documents - Till 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021  
Site Visit and Prebid Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Offer documents can be collected during weekdays between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm till **21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021** on payment of a non-refundable document fee of Rs.25,000/- and a refundable deposit of Rs.100,000/- by cash.

Interested parties could contact Dulaj - 0768668412 or Dilip - 0768673507 for tender document collection. **Tender closing date will be on 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 at 4.00 pm.**

All offers must be submitted to the tender box kept at Ansell Lanka Security Office (Plant-A) in a sealed cover, addressed to the Senior Manager Procurement, Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Biyagama.

SENIOR MANAGER - PROCUREMENT

**Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.**

Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Biyagama, Malwana.  
0117-765 472, 0771-385 927 or 0767-491 358  
www.ansell.com

### ANSELL - SEEDUWA

Sealed offers are invited to carry out Feasibility and Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of **3MW Grid Connected Photovoltaic Rooftop Solar Power System Connected to Three Transformers (2nos of 1000kVA & 1nos of 630kVA)**

Prospective Bidders should meet the following criteria:

1. More than 5MW installation in the country
2. Experience of at least two installations of systems with over 1MW capacity
3. More than five years experience in the Solar Energy Business
4. Panels & Accessories should be supplied through Globally Leading (Tier 1) Principal Business Partners
5. Minimum of one Chartered Electrical Engineer should be employed full-time in the company

Proposals should cover the general requirements for Feasibility and Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the above mentioned system.

Collection of documents - From 10<sup>th</sup> May to 21<sup>st</sup> May  
Site Visit and Prebid Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> May

Offer documents can be collected during weekdays between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm till **21<sup>st</sup> of May** on payment of a non-refundable document fee of Rs.15,000/- and a refundable deposit of Rs.50,000/- by cash.

Interested parties could contact Tharindu - 0777499988 or Sanjaya - 0767057236 for tender document collection. **Tender closing date will be 7<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00 pm.**

All offers must be submitted to the tender box stationed at the SC department in a sealed cover addressed to the Associate Director, Supply Chain, Ansell Textiles Limited, Seeduwa.

**Ansell Textiles Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.**

No. 32, Kammalwatta, Seeduwa.  
0767-057 236, 0114-676 676

**WANTED**  
**Computer Wizard**  
To build two Websites one with an App and manage sites (Must be exceptionally talented with experience)  
Tel : 0771235575

**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

Vehicle Sales Point, Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC.  
No.04, 1st Lane, Ashoka Pedana, Anandhapura.

**Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC**

**CAR**

GK-XXXX	MAZDA MAZDA - BHP - 1300cc	2018
BI-XXXX	TVS SCOOTY PIP PUS - 90cc	2019
<b>3 WHEELERS</b>		
AA-XXXX	BAJAJ RE - 198.85cc	2014
QT-XXXX	BAJAJ RS - 173.5cc	2009
YI-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE - 395cc	2011
<b>TRACTOR</b>		
RC-XXXX	JOHN DEERE - 5203 - 2900cc	2011
<b>MOTOR LORRY</b>		
NW-XXXX	DFSK-EQ1020DR - Tant body - 3357cc	2014
<b>HARVESTER</b>		
CM-XXXX	YANMAR - AW80GV - 82 hp	2017

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.  
Jagath-0773743431, Kumara-0713327281,  
Niluka-0777558423, Dushyantha-0777689596,  
Dananjaya-0773243567, Lakmal-0773437420,  
Buddhi - 0772152443, Priyankara - 0775632154,  
Asanka-0763876614, Upul-0777689552,  
Lakshitha-0774188547, Anaz-0762687228.

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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH, NUTRITION AND INDIGENOUS MEDICINE**

**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION (SPMC) OF SRI LANKA**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS - IFB**

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - ICB**

**Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 01 No. of Brand New Blister Packing Machine and Providing Training**

**BID REF. : SPMC/PD/02/2021 CLOSING ON 11.06.2021**

01 Sealed bids for the **Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 01 No. of Brand new Blister Packing Machine with Related Training** will be received by the Chairman - Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka **up to 14.00 hrs. on 11th June 2021.**

Item	Non-refundable Bid Fee
<b>01 Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 01 No. of Brand New Blister Packing Machine and providing training</b>	Rs. 7,500.00

03 Sealed bids should be made on a complete set of bidding documents in duplicate and original in separately and sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman - Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka or to be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the ground floor in the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

04 Bid document may be obtained from the above address, commencing **10.05.2021 until 10.06.2021 between 9.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs.** during working days on submission of the followings.

- A written application to the Deputy General Manager - Planning and Procurement, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
- Upon payment of the non-refundable bid fee stated above in cash to the Accounts Department of SPMC.

05 Bids are administered by the provisions of the "Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987" and therefore, in the event bidder is to retained an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of the bidder shall register himself any such Public Contract in accordance with the section 10 of the Public Contract Act (PCA) and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the bidding or Act any stage in the duration of the bidding.

06 A pre bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 25th May 2021 at 10.00 hrs and compulsory participation should done for all Bidders to visit and inspect the locations on same day to have an awareness of Blister packing machine before submission a Bid.

07 Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at SPMC - Ratmalana. Bidders or their authorized agents are permitted to be presented when bids are opened.

08 Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at the SPMC.

09 Further information could be obtained from **Deputy General Manager Engineering, SPMC - (Tel. 0112637574)**

**Details of the "Bid Information" can be viewed from our Website. (www.spmclanka.lk)**

**Chairman, Procurement Committee** TEL.: (00) 94-11-2635353/ (00) 94-11-2637574/ (00) 94-11-2623298  
**State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation** E-MAIL : spmclanka@sltnet.lk  
**No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate,** Website : www.spmclanka.lk  
**Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS & MALARIA PROJECT (GFATM)**

**Procurement of Medical Laboratory Equipment**

The Chairperson, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of National STD/AIDS Control Programme under GFATM project now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for the Procurement of Laboratory Equipment.

Lot	Description	Quantity	Bid Security (LKR)	Bid Validity Period in Days
LOT - 01	Water Bath	9	13,500.00	90 days from Bid closing date
LOT - 02	VDRL Shaker	7	2,100.00	
LOT - 03	Centrifuge	3	7,500.00	
LOT - 04	Electronic Balance	10	10,000.00	
LOT - 05	Multichannel Pipette 20 - 300 micro liter	5	1,000.00	
LOT - 06	Light Microscope	9	22,500.00	
LOT - 07	Dark Ground Microscope	4	40,000.00	
LOT - 08	Florescent Microscope	1	30,000.00	
LOT - 09	Incubator	10	45,000.00	
LOT - 10	-70c Freezer	1	20,000.00	
LOT - 11	Autoclave	8	32,000.00	
LOT - 12	Hot Air Oven	11	16,500.00	
LOT - 13	Refrigerator	1	2,000.00	
LOT - 14	Thermo Sensors	30	1,200.00	
LOT - 15	Culture Media Preparation Machine	1	10,000.00	

1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
2. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be obtained by interested Bidders at **National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health, No 29, De Saram Place, Colombo 10** from 10<sup>th</sup> May between 9.00 am to 3.00 pm from Mondays to Fridays inclusive of both days except on public holidays on submission of a written request to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees 2000/= for all set. Payment should be made by cash.
3. All bids in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at **Administration Officer's room (A/O) of National STD/AIDS Control Programme, No.29, De Saram Places Colombo -10**, on or before the closing time of bids at **10.00 am on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**. The top of the left-hand corner of envelopes should be marked "NSACP/GFATM/FR/2021/0008".
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Procurement Officer GFATM-NSACP, Ministry of Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Medihouse Building, No. 26, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 and inspect the Bidding Documents during office hours.
5. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the opening.

**Chairperson,**  
**Regional Procurement Committee,**  
**National STD/AIDS Control Programme,**  
**No.29, De Saram Place,**  
**Colombo -10.**

Telephone: 077 4540990/011 2667163



## State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation



Under the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of  
Pharmaceuticals in Sri Lanka

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

#### TO SET UP AN ONCOLOGY DRUGS MANUFACTURING PLANT IN SRI LANKA

##### 1. Background

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) is the largest State Owned Pharmaceutical manufacturer in Sri Lanka which was established in 1987 under the Industrial Corporation Act of 1957, to manufacture essential pharmaceutical products to the Government to cater specially the domestic requirement. Establishment of an Oncology drugs Manufacturing Plant in Sri Lanka is a long felt need and it has been identified as a priority requirement for the country by SPMC. Sri Lanka spends considerable sum of foreign exchange for importation of Oncology drugs for the Health Care needs of over 20 million people in Sri Lanka.

##### 2. Objective

Considering above, SPMC is planning to establish an Oncology drugs manufacturing plant in Sri Lanka and in this regard the SPMC is in the process of collecting relevant information through Expression of Interest (EOI) from well-established reputed interested parties to set up a suitable and EU/WHO/US GMP complied Oncology drugs Manufacturing Plant.

##### 3. Requirement

Interested parties are requested to submit their past experience in establishing similar plants and also the interested party is required to submit plant design for the proposed project of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone, in line with the above and in compliance to EU/WHO/US GMP guidelines. Product development and initial operation should be conducted under the guidance and supervision of competent consultant of the interested party and agree on a transfer of Technology with an agreed duration. (In addition the interested party should prepare the layout for the plant and agree to coordinate the design preparation for the entire Zone including the following :- Tablet & Capsules Plant ( Oral Solid Dosage / General Products) , Orthopedic & Neurosurgical Implants Manufacturing Plant , Oncology Drugs and related utilities Manufacturing Plant, Cardiac Stents Manufacturing Plant , Intra Ocular Lenses Manufacturing Plant , Administration area, Central Warehouse , Pharmaceutical Research Centre and Laboratory , Blood bags Cannula, infusion sets and Catheters Manufacturing Plant , Surgical Gloves Manufacturing Plant , Disposable Syringes Manufacturing Plant , Ethylene Oxide Plant , Medical Oxygen Plant , Conference & Education Centre , Hostels , Effluent Treatment Plant and Discharge (Drainage System) , Water Purification and Storage with Distribution system , (interested parties are required to attach Google map image and Land Area Map with layout plans for internal roads , Water Supply and Drainage System , etc. as per Master Plan Concept). Please refer the Survey plan of the proposed location of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone in the website of SPMC :- [www.spmclanka.lk](http://www.spmclanka.lk)

##### 4. Submission of Detailed EOI

A detailed proposal and relevant information with regard to EOI for the establishment of Oncology drugs manufacturing plant should be forwarded to the Chairman , State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation , No. 11 , Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha , Kandawala Estate , Rathmalana, Sri Lanka , in a sealed envelope by hand or registered post , to reach SPMC at or before 10.30 a.m. on 07th June 2021, and the top left hand corner of the envelope should be marked as " EOI FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ONCOLOGY DRUGS MANUFACTURING PLANT " . (Late EOIs will not be considered. E mails will not be entertained)

##### 5. Particulars to be submitted

###### 5.1 General Information

- Company Profile
- Capability of Developing similar Facility, (mention the experience in the field of manufacturing Oncology drugs and experience in establishing Oncology drugs manufacturing plants in other countries (in addition to resident country of the interested party)
- Staff profile with details of their technical qualifications (including key management personnel with relevant qualifications and experience)
- Details of Local agent in Sri Lanka, if available.

###### 5.2 Financial Information

- Statements of Overall Business turnover for five consecutive business years along with the audited financial reports
- Statements about outstanding and contingency liabilities for last three years.

###### 5.3 Technical Information

- Proposed Layout (general arrangement) drawing for complete facility including utility (Design Layout 3D model)
- Project Implementation timeline till trial run and commercial production
- Building Management system to integrate the plant; Interested parties shall provide regular updates of any software to meet the changes
- Detailed list of Production Equipment (including Plant factor and Efficiency, Country of Origin, Make and Model, Warranty) Laboratory equipment and instruments, utility equipment with proposed make, capacity, quantity required
- Description of Packaging material proposed and the reason for the same
- Description of capacity balancing with manufacturing flow chart
- Qualification and Validation required for equipment, systems and process and time required for the same.
- Quality systems proposed with documents required as per World Health Organization (WHO) and EU GMP guidelines as required by the National Medicines Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka (NMRA)
- Manufacturing facility should conform to EU GMP, WHO GMP requirements.
- Manufacturing facility should comply with the local prevailing Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and other statutory compliances
- The final product should conform to acceptable International standards
- Description of each of the following items: -
  - Water supply including water treatment plant (Land will be provided by the SPMC)
  - Buildings
  - Production equipment, sterilization and packing
  - Quality assurance, Quality control equipment
  - Utility equipment
  - Warehousing facility and required equipment
  - Safety equipment and facility
  - Electrical equipment including lightings
  - Piping
  - Clean room requirement
  - Mechanical, HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing Design
  - Office equipment and other ancillary equipment
  - Canteen facility
  - Laundry Facility (for general cloths and clean room cloths)
  - Effluent treatment plant
  - Water storage facility
  - To establish Green Building Technology and relevant certification

6. The EOI should cover all the details of each and every item mentioned in this advertisement.

7. Interested parties to submit EOIs shall contact the following for any further clarifications latest by 31st of May 2021.

Telephone Number : +94 11 2637574 / +94 11 2635353

Fax : +94 11 2634771

E-Mail : [chairman@spmclanka.lk](mailto:chairman@spmclanka.lk)

Dr. Uthpala Indrawansa

Chairman

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation – Sri Lanka



## SLAASMB

Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing  
Standards Monitoring Board

### Request for Proposals (RFP)

#### Design, Development and Implementation of Management Information System of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board (SLAASMB)

RFP No: SLAASMB/GOSL/CON/QCBS/2021/01

- Ministry Consultant Procurement Committee (CPCM) on behalf of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board (SLAASMB) now invites proposals from interested eligible Consultancy/IT firms for **Design, Development and Implementation of Management Information System of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board**. More details on the services are provided in the **Section 5: Terms of Reference in the RFP**.
- A Consultancy/IT firm will be selected under **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method according to the procedures described in this RFP, and also in accordance with the Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants of Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL).  
Consultancy/IT firm must meet the following minimum qualification criteria for the contract award:
  - General Experience:** Bidder should have general experience in Information Technology Contracts in the role of contractor, subcontractor or management contractor at least during last Three (3) years prior to the bid submission deadline.
  - Specific Experience:** Bidder should have successfully completed at least **one (1) Software project** with a value of **at least LKR 20 million** within the last **5 years**.
  - Average Annual Turnover:** Bidder should have minimum average annual turnover of **LKR 45 million** calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.
- Interested eligible Consultancy/IT firms may obtain further information from the office of SLAASMB, **Assistant Director – Finance & Administration** on Tel: TP 011-2301210 (Ext 262) / 0773646012 Email: [procurementslaasmb@sltnet.lk](mailto:procurementslaasmb@sltnet.lk) and inspect the RFP document from SLAASMB **website: <http://slaasmb.gov.lk>**
- The RFP document in English shall be purchased by interested eligible Consultants upon online payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 5,000.00**. The procedure to purchase Request for Proposal (RFP) online are indicated on the **SLAASMB website** and in the Data Sheet of the RFP. The RFP can be download from SLAASMB **website: <http://slaasmb.gov.lk>**.
- Proposals must be delivered to the address below on or before **1500 hours on June 07, 2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Technical Proposals will be publicly opened in the presence of the consultants' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below at **1500 hours on June 07, 2021**
- The Pre - Proposal Conference will be held at **1400 hours on May 19, 2021**, via <https://meet.gov.lk/prebidslaasmb>

Chairman

Ministry Consultant Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 293, Galle Road, Colombo 03

[www.slaasmb.gov.lk](http://www.slaasmb.gov.lk)

May 9, 2021

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL EXPLOSIVES FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOSIVES FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION PROCUREMENT UNIT (CEFAP UNIT)

WELISARA, RAGAMA

- Sealed Bids will be invited from local and foreign suppliers who comply with qualifications mentioned in Section III for the bidding document for the procurement of undermentioned contract number for the Commercial Explosives, Firearms and Ammunition Procurement Unit (CEFAP Unit).  
Contract No. CEFAP/PRT/08/2021 — Electric Detonator (9 mtr) 500,000 No's
- Bids will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested local and foreign suppliers may obtain further information from the Procurement Officer of the Commercial Explosives, Firearms and Ammunition Procurement Unit, Welisara, Ragama (Tel: 0112958227) or Director, Commercial Explosives, Firearms and Ammunition Procurement Unit (Tel: 0112955514).
- Bidding document may be obtained on submission of a written request to the Director, Commercial Explosives, Firearms and Ammunition Procurement Unit, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 4,500.00 from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs on working days of the week from **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021** (Foreign suppliers may appoint suitable local agent)
- All bids must be valid for a period of **150 days** from the date of opening and must be accompanied with an unconditional bid bond. The relevant bid bond must be valid for a period of **180 days** from the date of bid opening and the bid bond should be obtained from a commercial bank which is operating in Sri Lanka.
- Bidders must provide an unconditional Performance Bond for 10% of the bid value excluding taxes once the purchase order is awarded.
- Sealed bids in duplicate may be delivered to the Chairman of the Tender Board, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters, Flagstaff Street, Colombo 01, sent by registered post to the same address or deposited in the tender box kept at the Navy Headquarters, up to **1400 hrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** and the bids will be opened immediately after closing in the presence of the bidders who choose to attend.
- Further details of this procurement are available on the SL Navy website [www.navy.lk](http://www.navy.lk)

Director,

Commercial Explosives, Firearms and Ammunition Procurement Unit,  
Government Explosives Magazine,  
Welisara, Ragama.



STATE MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION,  
SUPPLY AND REGULATION OF  
PHARMACEUTICALS

STATE PHARMACEUTICALS MANUFACTURING  
CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS - (IFB)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - (ICB)

BID REF.: SPMC/02/2021 CLOSING ON 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2021

PROCUREMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL  
RAW MATERIALS

1. Sealed bids for the supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Materials will be received by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, (SPMC) No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka up to 10.00 a.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

	ITEM	Qty. (KG)	Non refundable Tender Fee (SL Rs.)
1	Amoxicillin Trihydrate BP(Compacted)	18,000	15,000.00
2	Ascorbic Acid BP	5,000	2,000.00
3	Atorvastatin Calcium IP	1,000	7,000.00
4	Carbamazepine BP	2,000	6,000.00
5	Cetirizine Dihydrochloride BP	200	500.00
6	Cimetidine (Type A) USP	1,000	1,500.00
7	Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride USP/ NF	1,500	2,000.00
8	Clopidogrel Bisulphate USP	2,000	6,000.00
9	Cloxacillin Sodium BP	9,000	10,000.00
10	Clarithromycin USP	500	4,000.00
11	Diclofenac Sodium USP	3,000	2,500.00
12	Domperidone Maleate BP	1,000	3,000.00
13	Enalapril Maleate USP	150	1,500.00
14	Famotidine USP	1,500	4,000.00
15	Flucloxacillin Sodium BP	18,000	25,000.00
16	Fruzemide BP	1,500	3,500.00
17	Gliclazide BP	8,000	30,000.00
18	Indometacin BP	200	500.00
19	Losartan Potassium BP	6,000	16,000.00
20	Metformin Hydrochloride BP	27,000	4,000.00
21	Nicotinamide BP	600	500.00
22	Phenoxymethylpenicillin Potassium (Compacted) BP	2,000	3,000.00
23	Prednisolone BP	350	7,000.00
24	Propranolol Hydrochloride BP	300	500.00
25	Pyridoxine Hydrochloride BP	50	500.00
26	Riboflavin BP	75	500.00
27	Salbutamol Sulphate BP	100	1,000.00
28	Sulfamethoxazole BP	2,000	1,500.00
29	Spirolactone USP	300	3,000.00
30	Thiamine Hydrochloride BP	125	500.00
31	Trifluoperazine Hydrochloride BP	50	2,000.00
32	Trimethoprim BP	400	500.00
33	Verapamil Hydrochloride BP	350	1,500.00
34	Calcium Sulphate Dihydrate BP	500	500.00
35	Di Basic Calcium Phosphate (Dihydrate) USP	4,000	500.00
36	Cetyl Alcohol BP/USP/ USNF	100	500.00
37	Colloidal Silicon Dioxide USP/USNF	540	1,000.00
38	Crospovidone BP	1,000	500.00
39	DC Lactose (Lactose Anhydrous USNF/ USP)	12,000	3,000.00
40	Hydroxypropyl Cellulose-L JP	500	1,500.00
41	Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose -Pthalate	500	1,000.00
42	Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (Hypromellose) USP	2,000	1,000.00
43	Lactose Monohydrate BP /USP (200Mesh)	50,000	3,500.00
44	Magnesium Stearate BP	2,000	500.00
45	Maize Starch BP/ USNF	54,000	2,500.00
46	Microcrystalline Cellulose USNF/ BP	9,000	1,000.00
47	Microcrystalline Cellulose USNF/ PH EUR/JP (PH 200 LM)	4,500	1,000.00
48	Polyethylene glycol USP/ NF	150	500.00
49	Povidone K-30 (Polyvinyl Pyrrolidone K-30) USP/ BP	1,500	500.00
50	Pre-gelatinized Maize Starch	2,500	500.00
51	Purified Talc BP	7,500	500.00
52	Saccharin Sodium BP	150	500.00
53	Sodium Bicarbonate BP	100	500.00
54	Sodium Citrate BP	100	500.00
55	Sodium Starch Glycolate BP/USNF	5,000	1,500.00
56	Stearic Acid (D- grade) BP	500	500.00
57	Tartaric Acid BP/ USNF	150	500.00
58	Titanium Dioxide BP	500	500.00

2. Sealed bids should be made on a complete set of bidding documents in duplicate and original separately and sent by the registered post addressed to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka or deposited in the tender box kept at the ground floor at the State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

3. Bid document could be obtained from the above address from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. during working days on submission of the following.

- A written application to the Deputy General Manager — Planning and Procurement, State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation, No 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.
- Upon payment of the non-refundable Bid document fee stated above in cash to the Accounts Department of SPMC.

4. Bids are administered by the provisions of the “Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987” and therefore, in the event bidder is to retain an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, Nominee for and on behalf of bidder shall register himself any such Public Contract in accordance with the Section 10 of the Public Contract Act and produce such valid certificate of registration in the course of any transaction relating to the bid or Act at any stage in the duration of the bidding.

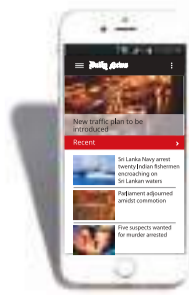
5. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at SPMC — Ratmalana. Bidders or their authorized agents are permitted to be present when bids are opened.

6. Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at the SPMC.

7. Further information could be obtained from Deputy General Manager — Planning & Procurement, SPMC. ( Tel. 2623298 )

Details of the Bid can be viewed from our Website. ([www.spmclanka.lk](http://www.spmclanka.lk))  
Foreign principals can download the Bid Document from our Website (Those who are not represented by local agents, such offers should be accompanied by a bank draft for similar value/s in US\$ as payment fee for the bid document mentioned above)  
Chairman - Procurement Committee  
State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation  
No. 11, Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.  
TEL.: (00) 94-11-263535/ (00) 94-11-2637574/(00) 94-11-2623298  
E-MAIL: [spmclanka@sltnet.lk](mailto:spmclanka@sltnet.lk)  
Website : [www.spmclanka.lk](http://www.spmclanka.lk)  
Fax: (00) 94-11-2634771,2626621

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SRI LANKA ARMY

TENDER NOTICE

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of the Sri Lanka Army, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo will receive sealed tenders for the supply of items for the 2nd Half of the year 2021 (2021.07.01 to 2021.12.31) for a fixed price rate.

Ser/ No.	Tender Number	Description	Approximate Value of Tender
01	DES/04/2021/100(284)	CEMENT	45 Million
02	DES/04/2021/100(285)	TOR STEEL & MILD STEEL	41 Million
03	DES/04/2021/100(286)	ELECTRICAL CEILING FANS	16 Million
04	DES/04/2021/100(287)	ELECTRICAL WIRES	40 Million
05	DES/04/2021/100(288)	ASBESTOS ROOFING SHEETS	15 Million
06	DES/04/2021/100(289)	ZINC ALUMINIUM ROOFING SHEETS	40 Million
07	DES/04/2021/100(290)	GI CORRUGATED SHEETS	16 Million
08	DES/04/2021/100(291)	TIMBER (Imported)	30 Million
09	DES/04/2021/100(292)	TIMBER (Local)	23 Million
10	DES/04/2021/100(293)	PLYWOOD SHEETS	51 Million
11	DES/04/2021/100(294)	GI PIPES	42 Million
12	DES/04/2021/100(295)	PVC PIPES / PVC FITTINGS	18 Million
13	DES/04/2021/100(296)	WATER TANKS	10 Million
14	DES/04/2021/100(297)	PAINT ITEMS	29 Million
15	DES/04/2021/100(298)	YARD ITEMS (River Sand)	44 Million
16	DES/04/2021/100(299)	YARD ITEMS (Metal/ Rubble)	43 Million
17	DES/04/2021/100(300)	ELECTRICAL ITEMS / SWITCHES	08 Million
18	DES/04/2021/100(301)	ALUMINIUM ITEMS (Aluminium Bar Powder Coated /Aluminium Bar Natural)	32 Million
19	DES/04/2021/100(302)	TILES (Floor Tile/ Wall Tile)	43 Million
20	DES/04/2021/100(303)	"SANITARY FITTINGS (Commode, Wash Basins) (Chromium Plated Piller Tap, Chromium Plated Bip Tap)"	32 Million
21	DES/04/2021/100(304)	STEEL ('C' Purlin, Angle Iron, MS Plate)	41 Million
22	DES/04/2021/100(305)	HARDWARE ITEMS (Wire Nails, Brass But Hinges, Paint Brush, Sand Paper)	25 Million
23	DES/04/2021/100(306)	TOOLS	07 Million

2. All the relevant tender documents can be obtained from the Directorate of Engineer Services, Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo from 10.05.2021 to 08.06.2021 between 0900 hrs & 1600 hrs on working days (From the procurement section of the Directorate of Engineer Services located on the 3rd floor of Army Headquarters Block 07) and all the tenders will be opened on 10.06.2021 at 1000 hrs at the Army Camp, Ceylinco Building, No. 167/30, Awissawella Road, Orugodawatta. In order to obtain the tender documents, it is required to prove the company registration, past experience in the supply of respective items and bank statements for the past six months to confirm financial stability. Suppliers who are registered with MOD are exempted from producing those documents and only the registration letter of the MOD is required to be produced.

3. The applicants who are interested in aforementioned Tenders and who have fulfilled the specified qualifications are required to pay a non refundable fee for each Tender application (From 10 million to 50 Million - Rs 3,500.00 and from 50 million to 100 million - Rs 12,500.00) to the office of the Director of Finance (Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardhanapura, Colombo) prior to obtaining Tender documents and submit the receipt to the Directorate of Engineer Services.

Further details could be obtained from :-

A. Directorate of Engineer Services Procurement Section	Tel No. 011 2339317
B. Quarter Master General Branch Tender Section	Tel No. 011 2431301
C. Directorate of Engineer Services	Fax No. 011 2435143

Commander of the Army  
Sri Lanka Army Headquarters,  
Sri Jayawardhanapura,  
Colombo.



BID INVITATION

The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC wishes to invite price proposals and/or price quotations from bidders who are interested to provide following requirement.

Bid Invitation No.	Item Description	Non Refundable Fee Rs.	Bid Documents Issuing Date	Closing Date and Time of bidding
LH/21/001022/AC/P083	Revamping entire Medical Air Plant as per given specifications	3,500.00	10 <sup>th</sup> May, 2021 To 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 11.00 a.m.

General Information :

- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written request (for each) to Manager Procurement, Procurement Department, No.598, Administration Building, The Lanka Hospitals PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee per set in cash to the Finance Dept., on working days from above mentioned issuing date from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
- Duly perfected bids marked "The Tender No. & Title of the Tender" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Sealed bids may either be deposited in the tender box located in Procurement Department, 04th Floor, No. 598, Administration Building, The Lanka Hospitals PLC, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 or sent by registered post to the same address.
- Bids will be opened soon after deadline in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- Incomplete & late bids will be rejected & The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids received or part thereof.
- If the Bidder acts as an Agent, Sub-Agent, Representative, or Nominee for and on behalf of any Tenderer a Copy of PCA 3 Certificate issued by the Company Registrar should be submitted along with the request letter to obtain bidding documents and should get the contract registered after each bid is awarded. (if applicable).
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 17.05.2021 (10.30 a.m. to 11.30) at the Board Room (9<sup>th</sup> Floor) of Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC.

For Further details, please contact Tel: 011-5438583, 0776016213.

The Chairman - Procurement Committee,  
The Lanka Hospitals Corporation PLC PQ (180)  
No. 578,  
Elvitigala Mawatha,  
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

**Lanka Sathosa** PRICE SETTER TO THE NATION  
 Ministry of Trade

**Registration of Transport Providers for 2021 / 2022**  
 (To obtain Light Vehicles on hire basis)

Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited hereby invited from transport providing institutions who wish to register themselves to provide below mentioned light vehicles on hire basis for the year 2021/2022.

Registration fee per Light Vehicle (Non-refundable)

Capacity	Registration Fee (Rs.)
Double Cabs	5000.00
Van	5000.00
X Trailer	5000.00

Conditions of the Vehicles should be as follows,  
 Year of manufacture after 2007, with spare wheel/Jack/ Wheel Brush consisted with other related equipments. Further, light vehicles shall be clean, efficient with good condition tires fit for passenger transportation.

Application together with a set of relevant documents can be downloaded from under mentioned website from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 for free of charge or collect from the procurement Division (3rd Floor) at Lanka Sathosa Limited head office by paying Rs.2,500/-

[www.lankasathosa.org](http://www.lankasathosa.org)

Duly completed application forms together with all the necessary documents should be hand delivered to reach below address on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
 Procurement Division  
 Lanka Sathosa Limited  
 No.27, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Contact under Mentioned Officer for clarifications;  
 Senior Manager Logistics, Lanka Sathosa Limited - 070 1560768  
 Chairman, Lanka Sathosa Limited, right to reserves final decision.

Chairman,  
 Lanka Sathosa Limited  
 Sathosa Secretariat Building,  
 No.27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### BID FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (ICTS) FOR BLOCKS 01 & 02 OF DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT AKUREGODA

CONTRACT NO: DHQC/ICT/1&2/2021

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) of the Ministry of Defence now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of Information Communication Technology System (ICTS) For Blocks 01 & 02 of Proposed Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla and as described below and estimated to cost LKR 480 Million.  
*The work consists of supply, installation, configuration and maintenance of all the works in Local Area Network Switches (LANS), Network Operating Center (NOC), CCTV IP Surveillance System (CCTV/IPSS), Door Access Control System (DACS), Network switches for IP Television System (IPTVS) and Network switches of Master Clock System (MCS) of Block 01 & Block 02 of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda, Sri Lanka.*
- The Construction period is 270 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted. Bidders shall have **Construction Industry Development Authority Grading EM1 in the Specialty of Electrical and Mechanical Services (EM1) Under sub specialist area on Telecommunication and Information Technology Systems, Security Systems and Pipe Music Systems (ELV).**
- Other minimum Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be:

Qualifications	Minimum Qualifications Requirements
(i) Average annual volume of construction work performed in any 5 years during the last 10 years (2010 to 2019)	LKR 500 million per year. (Certified audited financial reports of 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, shall be provided with the Bid)
(ii) Experience in Design, Supply and Installation within last ten years. (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019)	At least 3 nr. Information Communication Technology Systems successfully completed within last 10 years. Minimum value of one (1) Number of such system shall not be less than LKR 120 million. Information Communication Technology Systems. Evidence should be provided.
(iii) The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract	Not less than LKR 160 million. Evidence should be provided.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **The Director, Project Management Unit, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka or email to pmudhqc@gmail.com** and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address from **10.05.2021 until 06.06.2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents (except Section I and III of Volume 1A) in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **Accountant (Procurement), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03** from **10.05.2021 until 06.06.2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.** during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 40,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees Forty Thousand)**. The method of payment will be in Cash or Bank draft drawn in favour of Chief Accountant, **Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Chief Accountant's Office (Ground Floor), Ministry of Defence, No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00hrs on 17.05.2021** and a site visit will be held on **same day** after the pre bid meeting at the Project Management Unit of Defence Headquarters Complex site at Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the Bid box placed at the address below at or before **1000 hrs. 07.06.2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **03.10.2021** (119 Days after the date of opening of Bids including bid opening date).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security", of **Sri Lankan Rupees Four point Eight Million (LKR 4,800,000.00)** obtained from a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in the form of an unconditional and on demand bond and shall be valid up to **31.10.2021** (147 Days from the date of opening of Bids including bid opening date). Beneficiary of the Bid Security shall be Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
- Bidders are strongly advised to present the registration certificate under the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987 (when relevant), with the Bidding Document.
- Bidders are advised to inform in writing, to the Chief Accountant, Ministry of Defence, the Name and the NIC/Passport Number of the individual who is participating at the tender opening at least prior to three (03) working days of the bid opening.

The address referred to above 9 is:

**The Chairman,  
 Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)  
 Chief Finance Officer (I),  
 Chief Accountant's Office (Ground Floor),  
 Ministry of Defence,  
 No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,  
 Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.**

Tel: 0094-077-3766601  
 Fax: 0094-011-2390720

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Date	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Loan No. and Title of the Project	Loan 3727-SRI: Health System Enhancement Project
Contract No. and Title of the Procurement	HSEP/PMU/PRO/G34/09/2021 Procurement of Next Generation Sequencing System
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Before 1000 Hrs on 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received financing from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** towards the cost of **Health System Enhancement Project**, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- The Ministry of Health(the Purchaser) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of following Goods. A brief description of the types of goods are below:

Package No.	Brief Description of Goods	Quantity
G 34	Next Generation Sequencing System and Industrial Training to Technical staff on the use of the Equipment	1

- The **Successful Bidder** must deliver Goods to the locations mentioned in the delivery and completion schedule in the Bidding Document. Also, delivery, installation and commissioning must be completed within 60 days from signing of contract and introductory training to the technical staff on use of the equipment should be arranged before the commissioning.
- Open Competitive Bidding (OCB)** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: Single Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document. The eligibility rules and procedures of ADB will govern the bidding process.
- Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding and the qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document:
  - Successful completion as main supplier within the last 7 years of at least one Medical Equipment contract valued for LKR 40 Mn;
  - The Bidder or manufacturer shall demonstrate that it can supply the type, size and quantity of the goods required by the Purchaser in accordance with the Delivery and Completion Schedule in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply) of the Bidding Documents;
  - Minimum Average Annual Turnover** of LKR 160.00 Mn. calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last 3 years.
  - Historical Financial Performance** - Submission of audited financial statements for the last three years (2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020) to demonstrate the current soundness of the Bidder's financial position. As a minimum, the Bidder's net worth for the last year calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities should be positive.
- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge from 0900 Hrs to 1500 Hrs on working days, the bidders should contact:
 

**The Chairman - Project Procurement Committee,  
 Health System Enhancement Project,  
 No. 3/19, Kynsey Road,  
 Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.  
 Telephone Number: +94 112 697 173 Fax: +94 112 697 163  
 E-mail: pmu@hsep.lk**
- A **pre-bid meeting** shall take place at 1000 Hrs on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 at above address conducted by the Employer. All bidders are strongly advised to attend this pre-bid meeting.
- To purchase the Bidding Document in English, eligible bidders should submit a written request/- application to the address above requesting the Bidding Document for the **Procurement of Next Generation Sequencing System(G 34)**for the Health System Enhancement Project and pay a nonrefundable fee as indicated in the Table below on or before 1500 Hrs on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Description of the Procurement	Nonrefundable Fee
Next Generation Sequencing System	LKR 17,000.00

- The method of payment will be in the form of bank draft in favor of the **"Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine - A/C 7040309"** or in cash, from 0900 Hrs to 1500 Hrs on working days or pay by direct deposit to bank account number 7040309 at Bank of Ceylon.
- The Bidding Document may also be sent by air mail for overseas delivery and surface mail or courier for local delivery with an additional fee of US\$ 100 and LKR 5000.00 respectively in addition to the nonrefundable fee stated under para 8. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
- Bids shall be delivered to the address given in para 6above **on or before 1000 Hrs on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021** together with the Bid Security as specified in the bidding document. If the Bid Security is submitted in a form of a Bank Guarantee, it shall be issued using the format given in the Section 4 of Bidding forms by a Commercial Bank approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favor of **"The Project Director - Health System Enhancement Project"**. Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of bid opening. The Bid Security shall be valid for 118 days from the date of bid opening.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- The Ministry of Health or the Health System Enhancement Project will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Chairman, Project Procurement Committee,  
 No. 3/19, Kynsey Road,  
 Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

Telephone No: +94 112 697 173  
 Fax: +94 112 697 163  
 E-mail: pmu@hsep.lk

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# INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS MIHINTHALA ALOKA POOJA

## ILLUMINATION & PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR THE YEAR 2021

Tender No : LPA/04/2021

Sealed quotations are hereby invited for illumination of Mihinthala Aloka Pooja and public address system during Poson Festival 2021

- > Illumination from 15th June - 25th June 2021
- > Public Address System from 15th June - 25th June 2021

Relevant specifications can be collected on any working day from **10th May to 17th May 2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.** from **Procurement Department, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd.**

Offers should be sent to **Head of Procurement, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mw., Colombo 10**, in sealed envelopes marked **"Quotation for Illumination of Mihinthala Aloka Pooja and Public Address System - 2021"** to reach by 3.00 p.m. on 18th May 2021

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



**Head of Procurement  
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF  
CEYLON LIMITED**  
No.35, Lake House, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,  
Colombo 10.  
For Details : 2429422, 2429454, 2429451



## Zahira College

### Procurement Notice Registration of Suppliers and Service Providers

Zahira College Colombo one of the premier educational institutes in the country is calling for applications from reputed Manufacturers, Suppliers, Agents, Importers and service Providers who wish to register themselves for supplying the following categories of goods and services.

- Office Stationery
- Sports goods and Equipment
- Laboratory Equipment and Maintenance
- Hardware and Construction Materials
- IT Related Equipment
- Electronic, Electrical, Air Conditioning and Plumbing – Maintenance
- Furniture and Fittings, Office Equipment
- School Blazers, Tie, Badges, Ribbon, Bags
- Printing – Offset, Digital, Flex Banners
- Musical Instrument Eastern, Western- Maintenance
- Food and Beverages and Catering
- Event Management
- Safety Equipment

1. Applicants who wish to register for more than one category should submit separate applications for the year 2021/2022.
2. Application forms can be collected from the college office during working hours.
3. A non refundable deposit of Rs. 2000/- should be paid to the college cashier for each category applied.

All applications should be clearly marked "Registration of suppliers" on the top left hand corner of the envelope and sent under registered post to the under mentioned address within 14 days of this advertisement.

Procurement Officer  
**Zahira College**  
No: 406, Orabi Pasha Mawatha,  
Maradana,  
Colombo-10  
Email: po@zahiracollege.lk

[www.zahiracollege.lk](http://www.zahiracollege.lk)

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**Sri Lanka Police  
Special Task Force**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### (Procurements of Goods, Works and Services)

01. Commandant / Special Task Force, STF Headquarters, No: 223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, now invite for sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following procurements to the Special Task Force (STF) Sri Lanka Police.

Con. No	Procurement No	Description of Items	Qty.	Document Charges Rs.	Value of Bid Security Rs.
1.	STF/LOG/C/177/2021	Dining Chairs	620	2,000.00	70,000.00
		Veranda Chairs	130		
2.	STF/LOG/C/28/2021	Air Conduction Machine	As per List	2,000.00	50,000.00
3.	STF/LOG/C/73/2021	Photocopy Machine	15	1,000.00	50,000.00
		Digital Duplicator Machine	03		
4.	STF/LOG/C/99/2021	Land Rover Puma Jeeps Spares	As per List	3,000.00	100,000.00
5.	STF/LOG/C/108/2021	GPS Machine	15	1,000.00	30,000.00
6.	STF/LOG/C/134/2021	Vehicle Tinkering Items	As per List	1,000.00	50,000.00
7.	STF/LOG/C/137/2021	Vehicle Painting Items	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00
8.	STF/LOG/C/123/2021	Brite Strike TOC-100-LEMIL SWAT - Police Tactical observation Camera (Black)	04	2,000.00	70,000.00
		Thermal Camera System (Scan)	01		
9.	STF/LOG/C/124/2021	DOGGO TM Tactical Combat Robot	01	5,000.00	250,000.00
10.	STF/LOG/C/125/2021	Helmet Accessory Improved Version Single - Barrel Night Vision	6	4,000.00	230,000.00
		Red Dot Sight W4/AR 15	200		
		2.5 Km Military Long Distance Laser Rangefinder for Sniper Shooting	2		
11.	STF/LOG/C/126/2021	Hydraulic Door Opener	02	2,000.00	60,000.00
		Telescopic Ladder 12.5 Ft	02		
		Tactical Breaching Manual Tool pack	02		
12.	STF/LOG/C/127/2021	Grappling Hook Gun	01	3,000.00	100,000.00
13.	STF/LOG/C/128/2021	Tactical SWAT Ballistic Shield NJ Level III A with Viewport	10	4,000.00	250,000.00
		Special Operation MICH/ARCH Ballast Helmet (High Cut) Black	200		
14.	STF/LOG/C/129/2021	Safety Equipment	As per List	4,000.00	230,000.00
15.	STF/LOG/C/130/2021	Wing Inflatables - Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRR) With (OBM Yamaha 35hp)	02	3,000.00	100,000.00
16.	STF/LOG/C/131/2021	Communication Handsets with Earpiece	30	3,000.00	100,000.00
17.	STF/LOG/C/132/2021	Safety Equipment	As per List	6,000.00	350,000.00
18.	STF/LOG/C/146/2021	Large quadcopter with day and night camera Drone	02	4,000.00	220,000.00
		Small size quadcopter with day and night camera	03		
19.	STF/LOG/C/147/2021	Hardware Firewall	01	1,000.00	20,000.00
20.	STF/LOG/C/148/2021	Covert Listening Devices & Cameras	As per List	1,000.00	50,000.00
21.	STF/LOG/C/149/2021	Drone Camera	04	2,000.00	60,000.00
22.	STF/LOG/C/158/2021	Double Cab	02	5,000.00	300,000.00
23.	STF/LOG/C/164/2021	M4/M16 Vertical Support Grip W/ Rail set for M4 Hand	200	4,000.00	180,000.00
		Tactical Sling (M4/M15/M16)	200		

02. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
03. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director/Logistics, STF & inspect the bidding documents from the address given below from 0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs, on any working days except on Public & Bank Holidays from **10.05.2021 until 31.05.2021**
04. Qualified Bidders shall possess legal rights for the above procurements. The Bidder should be registered Business Firm. **The Bidder should be registered under Public Contract Act No. (03) Of 1987. (For Total Bid value of over 5 million)**, failure to produce the registration certificates with the bids will result for disqualifications. The Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest and bidder's name shall not be included in the list of debarred firms at the National Procurement Commission. A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
05. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders from the STF Procurement Unit on submission of a written application to the address mentioned below, upon payment of a non-refundable tender fee indicated above table in cash per each tender from 0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs, on any working days from **10.05.2021 up to 31.05.2021** Only a single set of bidding documents for each procurement shall be issued for an institution.
06. Bids must be inserted into the tender box placed at the under noted address at or before date of opening (01.06.2021) of the respective tenders. Alternatively, bids may be sent by registered post to reach before the closing time of bids. The respective Tender Number should be indicated at the Top of the Left Corner of the Envelop. **Any late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend personally at Conference Hall at STF Headquarters, No: 223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 at 1400 Hrs. on 01.06.2021.** The representatives who will attend on behalf of the bidder should be definitely producing an authorized letter from the organization. Otherwise they will not be allowed for sitting
07. Bids shall be valid for 91 days from the date of opening of bids.
08. Priority will be given to suppliers with Ex-Stock
09. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security at the amount indicated above and it shall be:
  - i. Issued by any Commercial Institution operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
  - ii. In the form include in Section IV of the Bidding Documents.
  - iii. **In favor of Commandant / STF.**
  - iv. **Valid up to 01.06.2021 up to 27.09.2021.**
10. If it is applicable, the Bidder should pay the indicated amount of testing charges for testing process to Accountant / STF and the book receipt issued should be attached to the bid.
11. The decision taken by the STF Procurement Committee will be the final decision and the Purchaser reserves the right to make any amendments on Financial Regulations and Treasury Circulars issued periodically.
12. For further clarifications, please contact -

**Telephone Numbers**

Director / Logistics, Special Task Force Headquarters, No.223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.  
 Direct : 011-2505933  
 General : 011-2500471 / 0112589741 Ext: 251  
 Fax : 011-2556506

**Commandant,  
Special Task Force**



# State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation



Under the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of  
Pharmaceuticals in Sri Lanka

## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

### TO SET UP AN ORTHOPEDIC AND NEUROSURGICAL IMPLANTS MANUFACTURING PLANT IN SRI LANKA

#### 1. Background

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) is the largest State Owned Pharmaceutical manufacturer in Sri Lanka which was established in 1987 under the Industrial Corporation Act of 1957, to manufacture essential pharmaceutical products to the Government to cater specially the domestic requirement. Establishment of an Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants Manufacturing Plant in Sri Lanka is a long felt need and it has been identified as a priority requirement for the country by SPMC. Sri Lanka spends considerable sum of foreign exchange for importation of Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants for the Health Care needs of over 20 million people in Sri Lanka..

#### 2. Objective

Considering above, SPMC is planning to establish an Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants manufacturing plant in Sri Lanka and in this regard the SPMC is in the process of collecting relevant information through Expression of Interest (EOI) from well-established reputed interested parties to set up a suitable and EU/WHO/US GMP complied Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants Manufacturing Plant..

#### 3. Requirement

Interested parties are requested to submit their past experience in establishing similar plants and also the interested party is required to submit plant design for the proposed project of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone, in line with the above and in compliance to EU/WHO/US GMP guidelines. Product development and initial operation should be conducted under the guidance and supervision of competent consultant of the interested party and agree on a transfer of Technology with an agreed duration. ( In addition the interested party should prepare the layout for the plant and agree to coordinate the design preparation for the entire Zone including the following :- Tablet & Capsules Plant ( Oral Solid Dosage / General Products ) , Orthopedic & Neurosurgical Implants Manufacturing Plant , Oncology Drugs and related utilities Manufacturing Plant , Cardiac Stents Manufacturing Plant , Intra Ocular Lenses Manufacturing Plant , Administration area , Central Warehouse , Pharmaceutical Research Centre and Laboratory , Blood bags Cannula, infusion sets and Catheters Manufacturing Plant , Surgical Gloves Manufacturing Plant, Disposable Syringes Manufacturing Plant , Ethylene Oxide Plant , Medical Oxygen Plant , Conference & Education Centre , Hostels , Effluent Treatment Plant and Discharge ( Drainage System ) , Water Purification and storage with Distribution system , (interested parties are required to attach Google map image and Land Area Map with layout plans for internal roads , Water supply and Drainage System , etc. as per Master Plan Concept). Please refer the Survey plan of the proposed location of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone in the website of SPMC :- [www.spmclanka.lk](http://www.spmclanka.lk)

#### 4. Submission of Detailed EOI

A detailed proposal and relevant information with regard to EOI for the establishment of Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants manufacturing plant should be forwarded to the Chairman , State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation , No. 11 , Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha , Kandawala Estate , Rathmalana, Sri Lanka , in a sealed envelope by hand or registered post , to reach SPMC at or before 10.30 a.m. on 07th June 2021 , and the top left hand corner of the envelope should be marked as " EOI FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ORTHOPEDIC AND NEUROSURGICAL IMPLANTS MANUFACTURING PLANT ". (Late EOIs will not be considered.

E mails will not be entertained)

#### 5. Particulars to be submitted

##### 5.1 General Information

- Company Profile
- Capability of Developing similar Facility, (mention the experience in the field of manufacturing Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants and experience in establishing Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Implants manufacturing plants in other countries (in addition to resident country of the interested party)
- Staff profile with details of their technical qualifications (including key management personnel with relevant qualifications and experience)
- Details of Local agent in Sri Lanka if available..

##### 5.2 Financial Information

- Statements of Overall Business turnover for five consecutive business years along with the audited financial reports
- Statements about outstanding and contingency liabilities for last three years.

##### 5.3 Technical Information

- Proposed Layout (general arrangement) drawing for complete facility including utility (Design Layout 3D model)
- Project Implementation timeline till trial run and commercial production
- Building Management system to integrate the plant; Interested parties shall provide regular updates of any software to meet the changes
- Detailed list of Production Equipment (including Plant factor and Efficiency, Country of Origin, Make and Model, Warranty) Laboratory equipment and instruments, utility equipment with proposed make, capacity, quantity required
- Description of Packaging material proposed and the reason for the same
- Description of capacity balancing with manufacturing flow chart
- Qualification and Validation required for equipment, systems and process and time required for the same..
- Quality systems proposed with documents required as per World Health Organization (WHO) and EU GMP guidelines as required by the National Medicines Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka (NMRA)
- Manufacturing facility should conform to EU GMP, WHO GMP requirements.
- Manufacturing facility should comply with the local prevailing Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and other statutory compliances.
- The final product should conform to acceptable International standards
- Description of each of the following items :-
  - Water supply including water treatment plant (Land will be provided by the SPMC)
  - Buildings
  - Production equipment, sterilization and packing
  - Quality assurance, Quality control equipment
  - Utility equipment
  - Warehousing facility and required equipment
  - Safety equipment and facility
  - Electrical equipment including lightings
  - Piping
  - Clean room requirement
  - Mechanical, HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing Design
  - Office equipment and other ancillary equipment
  - Canteen facility
  - Laundry Facility (for general cloths and clean room cloths)
  - Effluent treatment plant
  - Water storage facility
  - To establish Green Building Technology and relevant certification

6. The EOI should cover all the details of each and every item mentioned in this advertisement.

7. Interested parties to submit EOIs shall contact the following for any further clarifications latest by 31st of May 2021.

**Telephone Number :** + 94 11 2637574 / + 94 11 2635353

**Fax :** + 94 11 2634771

**E-Mail :** [chairman@spmclanka.lk](mailto:chairman@spmclanka.lk)

**Dr. Uthpala Indrawansa**

**Chairman**

**State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation – Sri Lanka**



# State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation



Under the State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of  
Pharmaceuticals in Sri Lanka

## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

### TO SET UP AN ORAL SOLID DOSAGE FORMS (GENERAL DRUGS) MANUFACTURING PLANT IN SRI LANKA

#### 1. Background

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) is the largest State Owned Pharmaceutical manufacturer in Sri Lanka which was established in 1987 under the Industrial Corporation Act of 1957, to manufacture essential pharmaceutical products to the Government to cater specially the domestic requirement. Establishment of an Oral solid dosage forms (General Drugs) Manufacturing Plant in Sri Lanka is a long felt need and it has been identified as a priority requirement for the country by SPMC. Sri Lanka spends considerable sum of foreign exchange for importation of Oral solid dosage forms (General drugs) for the Health Care needs of over 20 million people in Sri Lanka.

#### 2. Objective

Considering above, SPMC is planning to establish an Oral solid dosage forms (General drugs) Manufacturing Plant in Sri Lanka and in this regard the SPMC is in the process of collecting relevant information through Expression of Interest (EOI) from well-established reputed interested parties to set up a suitable and EU/WHO/US GMP complied Oral solid dosage forms (General Drugs) Manufacturing Plant.

#### 3. Requirement

Interested parties are requested to submit their past experience in establishing similar plants and also the interested party is required to submit plant design for the proposed project of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone, in line with the above and in compliance to EU/WHO/US GMP guidelines. Product development and initial operation should be conducted under the guidance and supervision of competent consultant of the interested party and agree on a transfer of Technology with an agreed duration. ( In addition the interested party should prepare the layout for the plant and agree to coordinate the design preparation for the entire Zone including the following :- Tablet & Capsules Plant ( Oral Solid Dosage / General Products ) , Orthopedic & Neurosurgical Implants Manufacturing Plant , Oncology Drugs and related utilities Manufacturing Plant , Cardiac Stents Manufacturing Plant , Intra Ocular Lenses Manufacturing Plant , Administration area , Central Warehouse , Pharmaceutical Research Centre and Laboratory , Blood bags Cannula, infusion sets and Catheters Manufacturing Plant , Surgical Gloves Manufacturing Plant, Disposable Syringes Manufacturing Plant , Ethylene Oxide Plant , Medical Oxygen Plant , Conference & Education Centre , Hostels , Effluent Treatment Plant and Discharge ( Drainage System ) , Water Purification and Storage with Distribution system , (interested parties are required to attach Google map image and Land Area Map with layout plans for internal roads , Water supply and Drainage System , etc. as per Master Plan Concept) Please refer the Survey Plan of the proposed location of SPMC Lotus Pharma Zone in the website of SPMC :- [www.spmclanka.lk](http://www.spmclanka.lk)

#### 4. Submission of Detailed EOI

A detailed proposal and relevant information with regard to EOI for the establishment of Oral solid dosage forms (General drugs) should be forwarded to the Chairman , State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation , No. 11 , Sir John Kotelawala Mawatha , Kandawala Estate , Rathmalana , Sri Lanka , in a sealed envelope by hand or registered post , to reach SPMC on or before 10.30 a.m. on 07th June 2021, and the top left hand corner of the envelope should be marked as " EOI FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ORAL SOLID DOSAGE FORMS (GENERAL DRUGS) MANUFACTURING PLANT ". (Late EOIs will not be considered. E mails will not be entertained)

#### 5. Particulars to be submitted

##### 5.1 General Information

- Company Profile
- Capability of Developing similar Facility, (mention the experience in the field of manufacturing Oral solid dosage forms (General drugs) and experience in establishing Oral solid dosage forms (General drugs) manufacturing plants in other countries (in addition to resident country of the interested party)
- Staff profile with details of their technical qualifications (including key management personnel with relevant qualifications and experience)
- Details of Local agent in Sri Lanka, if available.

##### 5.2 Financial Information

- Statements of Overall Business turnover for five consecutive business years along with the audited financial reports
- Statements about outstanding and contingency liabilities for last three years.

##### 5.3 Technical Information

- Proposed Layout (general arrangement) drawing for complete facility including utility (Design Layout 3D model)
- Project Implementation timeline till trial run and commercial production
- Building Management system to integrate the plant; Interested parties shall provide regular updates of any software to meet the changes
- Detailed list of Production Equipment (including Plant factor and Efficiency, Country of Origin, Make and Model, Warranty) Laboratory equipment and instruments, utility equipment with proposed make, capacity, quantity required
- Description of Packaging material proposed and the reason for the same
- Description of capacity balancing with manufacturing flow chart
- Qualification and Validation required for equipment, systems and process and time required for the same.
- Quality systems proposed with documents required as per World Health Organization (WHO) and EU GMP guidelines as required by the National Medicines (NMRA) Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka (NMRA)
- Manufacturing facility should conform to EU GMP, WHO GMP requirements.
- Manufacturing facility should comply with the local prevailing Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and other statutory compliances
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- Description of each of the following items: -

- Water supply including water treatment plant (Land will be provided by the SPMC)
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- Production equipment, sterilization and packing
- Quality assurance, Quality control equipment
- Utility equipment
- Warehousing facility and required equipment
- Safety equipment and facility
- Electrical equipment including lightings
- Piping
- Clean room requirement
- Mechanical, HVAC, Electrical & Plumbing Design
- Office equipment and other ancillary equipment
- Canteen facility
- Laundry Facility (for general cloths and clean room cloths)
- Effluent treatment plant
- Water storage facility
- To establish Green Building Technology and relevant certification

6. The EOI should cover all the details of each and every item mentioned in this advertisement

7. Interested parties to submit EOIs shall contact the following for any further clarifications latest by 31st of May 2021.

**Telephone Number :** + 94 11 2637574 / + 94 11 2635353

**Fax :** + 94 11 2634771

**E-Mail :** [chairman@spmclanka.lk](mailto:chairman@spmclanka.lk)

**Dr. Uthpala Indrawansa**

**Chairman**


**State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation – Sri Lanka**












**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY**



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**CONSTRUCTION OF ROOF AND CATWALK SYSTEM PROPOSED AUDITORIUM AT GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY**

**General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**  
**Contract No : KDU/PRO/RP&SERVICE/ 2701/2021**

01. The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka as the Chairman of the Departmental Procurement Committee of the University invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Construction of Roof and Catwalk System Proposed Auditorium at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
02. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of written application to Director Logistics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on working days during the period from **09/05/2021** up to **10/06/2021** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 12,500.00** to Bursar KDU in cash.
03. Bidding document may be inspected free of charge at the above address, from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** on working days during the period from **10/05/2021** to **09/06/2021** (Telephone 0710219449/ 0710219384 Fax 011-2632430).
04. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the address below or shall be deposited in the bid box placed at the address below on or before the bid closing time and date. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing.
05. Tenders will be closed and opened at **10.00 a.m. on 10/06/2021** at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana.
06. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director Logistics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. (Telephone 011-2632430 / 0710219384 Fax 011-2632430, and from the 'Invitation for Bids' published at [www.kdu.ac.lk/ocls/tender-notice](http://www.kdu.ac.lk/ocls/tender-notice))

**Chairman,**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee,**  
**General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University**  
**Ratmalana,**  
**Sri Lanka.**



**TENDER FOR THE SALE OF USED VEHICLE ON AN "AS IS" BASIS**  
**Tender No. LGLL/VEH/SALE/052/LOCAL/2021**

Litro Gas Lanka Limited is calling for expression of interest to sell the below mentioned Vehicle:

#	Vehicle No	Cylinder Capacity	Country of Origin	Make	Model	Body Type	YoM	YoR	Fuel Type
1	KN-4716	3956	Japan	Toyota	Land Cruiser Prado	Jeep	2011	2011	Petrol

Tender Document can be obtained from the address mentioned below on the payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR. 1,000/= and a refundable deposit of LKR 10,000/= on any working day (Mon-Fri) from 9.00 am – 3.30 pm from **11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

Inspection of the vehicle can be done at Litro Gas Lanka Ltd, Head Office, No 267, Union Place, Colombo 02 from **11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**, on any working day (Mon-Fri) from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm.



**Vehicles can be inspected only by those who have obtained a tender. It is mandatory for all participants to comply with the national health guidelines imposed by the government to prevent from COVID-19 pandemic.**

The duly completed document should be deposited in the Tender Box at the Litro Gas Head Office on or before **3.00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Company reserves the right to withdraw a vehicle from the sale without prior notice.

For any clarification please Contact  
Procurement Department  
T.P. No - 011 2581131

The Chairman  
Tender Board  
Litro Gas Lanka Limited  
267, Union Place  
Colombo 02  
T.P. - 011 2 581131  
Fax - 011-2327698

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Visit for more detail of EOI; <https://inclusivegrowth.com.lk/expressions-of-interest-eoi/>)**



The Phase 2 of the S4IG program will support marginalized women and men who, as producers, workers, and entrepreneurs, participate in and benefit from the expanding tourism industry in Sri Lanka, implemented through our National Office in Colombo and Regional Offices in Batticaloa and Habarana. The goal of the S4IG Phase 2 is **“economic growth particularly in the tourism value chain that benefits all Sri Lankans and contributes to a prosperous and stable Sri Lanka”**.

Scope Global Pty Ltd is seeking expressions of interest/proposals from competent company or Individual/(s) to produce the following services:

- 1. Development of Private Sector Development (PSD) Strategy**  
Develop Private Sector Development (PSD) Strategy within the first six months of Phase 2 adopted from DFATS private sector engagement guidelines and strengthen the S4IG Sustainability Plan.
- 2. Development of Learning materials NVO Level 4 Pastry, Bakery and Confectionery Chef Course**  
In Phase 1 of its project, S4IG worked with the Chefs Guild of Lanka (CGL) to create a coursebook and manual based on the National Vocational Qualification Level 4 in Professional Cookery. The objective of the coursebook and manual was to help standardize the delivery of the course throughout the country.
- 3. Rapid Assessment of the Post COVID Recovery Context and Developments in Skills and Employment Planning for Tourism Development**  
The purpose of this assignment is to update and augment S4IG awareness of context, political economy, skills development and tourism development constraints and opportunities to contribute towards inclusive growth and enable Phase 2 interventions design to be relevant, contextually appropriate, and transformative. Programmes seek the following service.  
**Rapid Assessment of the Post COVID Recovery Context and Developments in Skills and Employment Planning for Tourism Development** for the Skills for Inclusive Growth program
- 4. Capacity Building Strategy to Enable and Support Replication**  
S4IG Phase 2 requires, A capacity building and incentivization strategy to enable and support replication. This assignment will require engagement with key partners and stakeholders to identify capacity and incentive constraints and identify mitigation measures or opportunities throughout the program cycle. S4IG expect the consultant/firm to prepare a strategy that can be operationalized in Phase 2. The strategy should enable S4IG to operationalize the identified capacity building interventions with a medium to long term vision for staff, stakeholders, service providers and beneficiaries.

**How to submit an EOI and Proposal:**  
To request further details including Terms of Reference (TOR), please email [eo@inclusivegrowth.com.lk](mailto:eo@inclusivegrowth.com.lk) indicating the specific material development task in the subject line. Completed proposals should also be submitted via the same email ID indicated above.

**The last date for submission of proposals will be 5.00 pm on Monday 24th May 2021.**  
Scope Global reserves the right to reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reasons thereof.

**Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) Program**  
**SECURITY NETWORK FOR JOURNALISTS**

The IREX MEND Program: The International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) is implementing the USAID-funded Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) program. The goal of MEND is to improve citizens' demand for, and access to, balanced and reliable news and information and to support Sri Lanka's efforts to strengthen media freedom and democratic governance. One of the key focuses of the MEND program is to strengthen the media sector in Sri Lanka, and one way of doing this is ensuring that journalists are able to discharge their professional obligations without hindrance.

**Program Description:**  
The safety and security of journalists is vital to safeguard a vibrant democracy. However, around the world, members of the press face increasing levels of repression, threats, violence and intimidation by various parties, including governments and organized private groups. In Sri Lanka, the safety of journalists has been a continuing issue due to their coverage of sensitive topics such as political corruption, human rights abuses, misuse of power, lack of accountability and transparency.

In the recent past, journalists who represented alternative political views and criticized the government faced intimidation, harassment, abduction and assault, were forced to leave the country, or in some cases murdered. Many of the senior journalists in Sri Lanka were forced to flee the country during this time period to safeguard themselves. FMM's Media Reform Blueprint (2017) highlighted the need for investigation into threats and suppression of journalists and institutions that had occurred in the past. While journalists operate under a cloud of fear and harassment, a new phenomenon has recently taken hold – the lack of job security and poor working conditions faced by journalists.

IREX/MEND has learned that most journalists are not paid an adequate salary, nor do they receive benefits. Furthermore, many are not given appointment letters, compensated for overtime or paid statutory dues. In the last year alone, several journalists were made redundant due to the arbitrary closure of media outlets and organizations. These factors have contributed to journalism losing its appeal as a career path for talented youth.

**Security Network for Journalists**  
In view of the prevailing conditions that exist in the sector, IREX/MEND has recognized the need to support the legal and judicial issues faced by journalists in the country. IREX/MEND envisions working through a local partner to establish a security network for journalists. The security network will assist journalists with issues they may face with regard to labor rights, freedom of expression and censorship. In addition, the network will support journalists who face threats and harassment as a result of their professional work. The Security Network will also work on awareness building and advocacy issues to strength the rights of journalists in Sri Lanka. Through this network journalists will have access to:

- A network of professional lawyers
- Financial assistance which will cover costs related to the legal fees associated with filing, supporting and settling cases
- The ability to consult with lawyers and seek advice
- Access to safety and security training to assist them in carrying out their duties responsibly. IREX will support the partner organization by sharing experts from its Securing Access to Free Expression (SAFE) Program which enable media practitioners and social communicators to work as safely as possible in closed and closing spaces.

**Seeking Partners to host the Security Network for Journalists**  
With an eye toward sustainability, IREX envisions building the capacity of a local organization to develop and manage this network as a self-sustaining local body that can respond to issues related to the safeguarding of journalists' rights.




The host organization will:

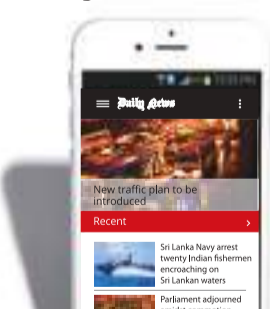
- Take on cases from journalists (around issues of labor rights, freedom of expression etc.)
- Maintaining a data base of indictments and complaints from journalists.
- Offer legal advice to journalists.
- Carry out awareness-building programs.
- Carry out advocacy work.

**How to apply?**  
Interested organizations are encouraged to submit the following documents for consideration: a. Expression of Interest (500 words Max)  
b. Brief concept note including a problem analysis, objective, anticipated results, program idea (activities), monitoring strategies and sustainability (1500 words max). c. Budget  
d. Organizational Registration

**Deadlines:** Expressions of Interest should be submitted by midnight May 20, 2021 Applications should be sent to [szubair@irex.org](mailto:szubair@irex.org) with the subject line Expression of Interest: Security Network for Journalists. No telephone calls will be entertained.


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