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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

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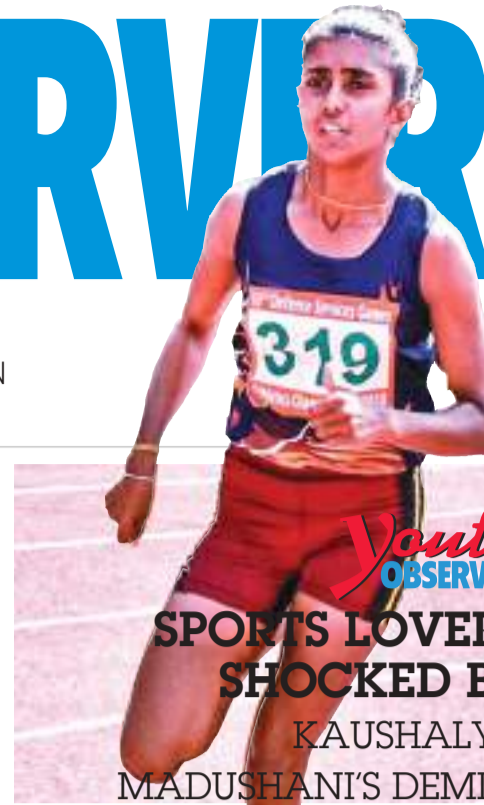


**SUPPORT OF ALL PARTIES NEEDED TO FORM INTERIM GOVERNMENT**

- DR. RAMESH PATHIRANA

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BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE BEEN CHILDREN...



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## OVERCOMING SHORTAGE OF FOREX, A CHALLENGE

# EMERGENCY IMPOSED TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLITICAL STABILITY

**- INFORMATION DEPT**

The Government clarified yesterday that the State of Emergency was declared by the President on Friday midnight, May 6 to ensure political stability which is vital to overcome the socio-economic crisis in the country thereby ensuring public safety and the uninterrupted supply of essential services.

Excerpts of the media release issued yesterday by Information Director General Mohan Samaranyake:

"Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crisis and political instability after Independence due to manifold reasons short and long term. The common perception is that several reforms in the

sectors of political, economic and social fabric should be carried out in-depth to escape from this grave situation.

"Priority among them is to manage the shortage of foreign exchange within the shortest possible time and restore the supply of goods and services.

"The Maha Sangha led by the

Chief Prelates, Priests of other religious denominations, Economists, the business community, and professionals including lawyers and doctors have stressed the need for reforms that should be

carried out to win over the prevailing crises.

"A series of reform proposals was introduced by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in its statement published on April 23. The

most urgent challenge before the country is to manage the economic and debt crises within the shortest time.

"The Bar Association reiterated that the topmost **SEE PAGE 2**

## Blaming each other will not solve issues

- Namal Rajapaksa

Former Youth and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa said that economic decisions cannot be taken by politicians and that the incumbent Government and the Finance Ministers had always acted on the advice given by certain officials.

In an interview with the BBC, former Minister Rajapaksa was questioned about the huge tax relief given by the Government as soon as it came to power and whether it was the right decision given the country did not have enough revenue.

"No. I think it was not the right decision. But it was taken with the right intention at that time by the President to make sure that local businesses reinvest that money back into the **SEE PAGE 2**



The dealmaker with the devil: Protesters stormed UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe's private residence at 5th Lane, Kollupitiya yesterday accusing him of scuttling the Opposition's campaign against the Government. A group of UNP supporters also arrived there later, chanting slogans and calling the former Prime Minister Mr. Clean. **Pic: Rukmal Gamage**

## RESIGNATION OF PM

# No decision as yet

- Dr. Godahewa

Mass Media Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa on being asked whether the resignation of the Prime Minister was discussed at the Friday's special Cabinet meeting denied that a final decision was reached on that matter at the meeting.

"We will have to patiently wait and see. However, the outcome will depend on what the Prime Minister is going to do," the Minister told the Sunday Observer yesterday.

Asked whether any decision was taken by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to step

down, Dr. Godahewa said that he can't comment on it as it is only the Prime Minister who would know about it.

He said basically the special Cabinet meeting was held on Friday to discuss the situation in the country, particularly, Friday's Hartal and other protests which are affecting economic activities and also the hardships faced by the people.

"As a result of the ongoing protests, it has not been possible to distribute fuel country-wide and it has seriously affected consumers. **SEE PAGE 2**

## PROTECTING CHILDREN IN PROTESTS

# UNICEF calls for shared responsibility

"All actors must guarantee the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, including for children," a media release from UNICEF yesterday stated, adding

that it was concerned with reports of violence during protests involving children.

The media reported several children being caught up in tear gas at-

tacks by the police near Parliament on Friday night.

"According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children and adolescents have the right to partici-

pate and express their opinions on issues that affect them. The State, local communities and families have a shared responsibility to protect children **SEE PAGE 2**

## Gas shortage to be overcome in 30 days - Litro chief

S.M. Wijayaratne, Kurunegala corr.

Although the usual amount of gas is imported to Sri Lanka after overcoming the shortage of dollars, it would take nearly 30 days to completely overcome the gas shortage in the country, Chairman of Litro Gas Com-



pany, Vijitha Herath said. He said at present nearly four million gas cylinders are being used by consumers but only 80,000 cylinders are issued daily from the Muthurajawela gas storage complex to the market, he told the Sunday Observer.

Due to this nearly 30 days would be **SEE PAGE 2**

## Dollar crisis hits new power connections

S.M. Wijayaratne, Kurunegala corr.

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) is facing a severe cash crunch since the state entity is spending a bigger portion of its revenue to buy electricity from the private sector, Chairman of the Public Utilities Com-

mission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) Janaka Rathnayake said.

The monthly income of the CEB stands at around Rs. 22 billion but the CEB has to pay about Rs.18 billion monthly for the electricity that it purchases from the private sector due to the fuel crisis and the fall in hydro power generation. **SEE PAGE 2**

## SUPPORT PROGRAM

# IMF to begin virtual mission with Lanka tomorrow

The IMF team will engage with the economic team of the Sri Lankan authorities from May 9-23 via a virtual

mission and continue discussions on the authorities' request for an IMF-supported program, IMF Mission Chief for Sri Lanka, Masahiro Nozaki told the Sunday

Observer yesterday.

"We remain committed to assisting Sri Lanka, in line with the IMF's policies. Because Sri Lanka's debt is **SEE PAGE 2**



Masahiro Nozaki

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# Bangladesh donates medical supplies to Sri Lanka

The Bangladesh Government donated urgent medical supplies to Sri Lanka's hospitals, which have run out of essential drugs due to the prevailing forex crisis.

The medical supplies donated are valued at BDT 200 million which is equivalent to US\$ 2.32 million.

A simple ceremony was held at the State Guest House Padma in Dhaka on May 5 to mark the occasion. High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Dhaka Professor Sudharshan Seneviratne received the donation in the presence of Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Dr A. K. Abdul Momen, Health Minister Zahid Maleque and the President of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI) Nazmul Hassan, MP.

Also present at the ceremony



were the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Director General of Health Prof. Abul Bashar and Director Gen-

eral of Drugs Major General M. D. Mahbubur Rahman.

The goodwill gesture is significant of the long standing bilateral

relations, as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year.

## SJB ready for national program

Main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) in a statement stated it will agree to be part of a national program to solve the current crisis based on the proposals submitted by Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL).

SJB says that it believes the proposal put forward by the BASL to abolish the executive presidency as the fundamental requirement in resolving the current economic and political crisis in the country.

"We have decided to be part of a national program to solve the current crisis based on implementing the Bar Association proposal to abolish the executive presidency" SJB MP Harin Fernando told NewsWire.

The Proposals of the BASL includes establishing an Interim Government of National Unity consisting of 15 Cabinet Ministers.

"The Prime Minister is to be a Member of Parliament who is able to establish a consensus among all political parties recognised by the Speaker in Parliament on the national economy and to enact necessary reforms.

If there is no Member of Parliament who meets this criteria due to the exigencies of the situation a vacancy created by the resignation of a National List MP may be used to facilitate the entry into Parliament of an individual who meets this criteria.

## Indian police officer arrested for allegedly raping girl

A police officer in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has been arrested for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl who went to police to report she had been gang raped.

A criminal case has been registered against him and he has been suspended, a senior police official said.

The girl alleged that she had been gang raped by four men last month. The report has led to outrage in India with many people expressing anger on social media.

State authorities have ordered a high-level probe into the incident and have asked for a report within 24 hours. The National Human Rights Commission has also sought a report from senior police officials within four weeks.

In his complaint to the police, the girl's father alleged that four men had taken his daughter to the neighbouring state of Madhya Pradesh where they sexually assaulted her for four days. The men then brought her back to her village in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) before they fled.

The next day, the officer in charge of the local police station raped the girl when she went to the police station with her aunt to lodge a complaint, NDTV news channel reported.

Lalitpur district police chief Nikhil Pathak told reporters that the girl, who was brought to his office by the Childline charity, told him what had happened. "When I was informed, I made sure a case was filed," he said. - BBC

## Emergency imposed... From page 1

...need of the hour is to have a strong and stable Government which is able to begin the proposed reforms and continue them forward.

"Discussions have already been opened with the multilateral institutions led by the IMF and friendly countries to obtain financial assistance, and restructure outstanding debt, and the outcome of such discussions are positive. Political stability and peace in society are two major conditions that are demanded in building confidence and strength to make such programs a success.

"The agitations being held throughout the country including the capital for the past several days have posed a grave threat to the security of public life. Essential services including the distribution of fuel have been interrupted. Public transport including the railway service has been crippled.

"The daily functions of hospitals have been disrupted thereby causing inconveniences to patients. The operation of manufacturing industries including the apparel sector is faulted intermittently. School students have missed their classes. Workers attached to state and private sector factories and institutions find it difficult to report for duty. These protests have deepened the economic crisis.

"Therefore, to ensure public safety, continue the supply of essential goods and services uninterrupted, and ensure smooth public transport; according to the powers vested in the President under the Public Security Ordinance, Emergency Regulations have been declared.

"The State of Emergency was imposed as a short-term measure to ease the crisis, and it will be lifted immediately after normalcy returns to the island," the statement added.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) in a release issued yesterday, expressed deep concern over the promulgation of the Emergency Regulations and called on the Government to explain to the public the reasons for this proclamation. It stated the Commission hopes the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people will not be affected during the period of the Emergency.

Chairperson of the HRCSL, former Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Rohini Marasinghe has invited the Secretary to the President, Defence Secretary and the IGP for a meeting on Monday, May 9.

## Govt to recruit 4,645 teacher trainees

BY S.M. WIJAYARATNE,  
KURUNEGALA CORRESPONDENT

The Education Ministry has recruited 4,645 teacher trainees (diploma holders) who had passed out from the National Colleges of Education to solve the existing acute shortage of school teachers in remote Government schools countrywide, Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera said.

These teacher trainees had passed out from the National Colleges of Education countrywide after completing their three-

year long residential teacher training courses by following the National Teaching Diploma Training Courses of the academic year 2017-2019.

Accordingly, they all were offered with teaching appointments on the May 4, and from this group around 1,000 diploma holders were appointed to National Schools and around 3,645 diploma holders were appointed to provincial council schools countrywide, he said.

Prof. Perera said that these new teachers were placed in the Sri Lanka Teachers' Service under the Grade 3-1(a) salary scale.

## Gas shortage... From page 1

...needed to completely meet consumer demand for gas by filling all the empty gas cylinders in the country. However, new approaches and strategies are now being

explored to expedite the supply of gas efficiently to the people by overcoming the present impact of the dollar crisis faced by the country.

## CRICKET DURING HARTAL



An all island hartal was held on Friday to protest against the Government and call for speedy action to address economic woes. Most shops in main cities including Fort and Pettah in Colombo remained closed. Public transport and train services were also disrupted due to many workers except for those engaged in emergency services, taking part in the one day Hartal. Here, a group of men play cricket at the main private bus stand at Pettah which remained deserted. Pic: Sudath Malaweera

## IMF to begin... From page 1

...assessed as unsustainable, approval of IMF financing, including through a Rapid Financing Instrument, would need adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored," he said.

The IMF's Mission Chief said last week an IMF-supported program should be designed to resolve Sri Lanka's acute balance of payments problems and put the economy back on a sustainable growth path as early as possible.

However, in a recent statement the IMF noted that Sri Lanka's public debt is unsustainable and that under such a scenario it has to take steps to restore debt sustainability prior to lending.

The IMF team for Sri Lanka held initial technical discussions on an IMF-supported program with the local delegation.

The discussions covered recent economic and financial developments in Sri Lanka, the need for implementing a credible and coherent strategy to restore macroeconomic stability, and the importance of stronger social safety nets to mitigate the adverse impact of the economic crisis on the poor and vulnerable.

The IMF team welcomed the authorities' plan to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors.

According to Finance Minister Ali Sabry the Foreign reserves of Sri Lanka is less than US\$50 million.

He said Sri Lanka should have gone to the global lender much earlier and floated the Rupee earlier to avoid adverse repercussions.

Sabry also said that it would take at least six months for the country to enter into a program with the IMF.

Sri Lanka is in discussion with several countries to secure bridging finance.

First Capital Research in an economic outlook report forecast growth to be between 0.5 percent to minus 1.6 percent in 2022.

## Dollar crisis... From page 1

The prices of coal and diesel have risen by 130 percent. Following the depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee recently, the maintenance charges of the CEB too have shot up, the PUCSL Chairman told the *Sunday Observer*.

Commenting on the reasons for the higher electricity tariff that consumers will have to pay, he said

nearly 90 percent of the cost of generating power by the CEB is imported fuel such as diesel and coal.

A senior DGM of the CEB said that the CEB has been compelled to suspend installing new connections as it has run short of equipment. The dollar crisis has pushed the CEB to discontinue certain imports.

## UNICEF calls... From page 1

...and safeguard their rights," the UN agency which stands for children's rights stated.

Calling to cease all acts of violence against children, the release added, "Every adult must act with a sense of responsibility and avoid exposing children to

any form of violence, including during protests. We call on law enforcement agencies to avoid the use of force and ensure that fundamental guarantees for the protection of children remain applicable everywhere, at all times."

## Blaming each... From page 1

...economy," he said. "So, the intention was that, but unfortunately it did not go the way he thought it would."

The former Minister said he had expected the decision to be reversed in the second Budget presented by the Government. "I thought they would reverse the decision in the second Budget but unfortunately that did not happen," he said.

Asked as to why the Government didn't heed the advice of economists who recommended going to the IMF and to float the rupee, Rajapaksa said that also goes back to the officials who make decisions. "Because economic decisions cannot be taken by politicians," he said.

"The Government or the Finance Minister and the Secretary particu-

larly acted upon advice given to him by certain officials and that was admitted by the incumbent Finance Minister, in Parliament, that certain officials gave wrong advice," he said.

On what he would tell the people suffering the brunt of the economic crisis, he said, "We need to work it out. There is no point blaming each other, right? I mean as politicians we are good at blaming each other. But will that actually solve the issues? Will that give them three meals?"

"Responsibility is there and accountability also must be there, but at the same time we also must look at the way forward," the SLPP MP said. "But at present, I don't see any politician in Parliament including the Opposition talking about the way forward," he said.

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**2022 State Vesak Festival**

Venerate the historic sacred precincts of the Kurugala Raja Maha Viharaya from Vesak Full Moon Poya Day, when the newly renovated Viharaya will be consecrated for the benefit of devotees from around the world.

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# Six held with shark parts in Negombo



Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) nabbed illegally harvested parts of sharks with six fishermen and a multi-day fishing vessel at the Negombo Fishery Harbor.

The suspects were nabbed for the possession of illegally harvested prohibited shark fins and dried sharks fish, the SLCG said.

The suspects were taken into custody while conducting an on-board inspection in a multi-day fishing trawler and nabbed 100 shark fins (approx. 8 kilograms) and 170 kilograms of dried shark flesh on their return from fishing.

Retaining, transshipping, or landing the 'parts of any shark species' is an offense according to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources act 1996 No. 02 order No. 3(i), they added.

Suspects along with apprehended illegal items were handed over to the Negombo Fisheries Inspector for onward legal proceedings, the SLCG also said. - **Defence.lk**

# Turtle hatchlings released

The Coast Guard Turtle Conservation Projects (CGTCP) have released 1603 turtle hatchlings that was hatched from 1903 eggs conserved in various parts of the island.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) continuing its services said the hatchlings were safely released into the sea and the CGTCP make every effort to conserve turtle eggs in or around their natural habitats to ensure safety, the SLCG sources said.

SLCG also conserves them in protected areas when natural nests are threatened.

During this year the SLCG, has released 6905 turtle hatchlings into the sea while conserving 9541 turtle eggs in hatcheries. - **Defence.lk**



A bale of baby seas turtles, watched by a group of tourists enter the sea for the first time after being released by Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel

# Remembering the pioneer of Ceylon Tea - James Taylor

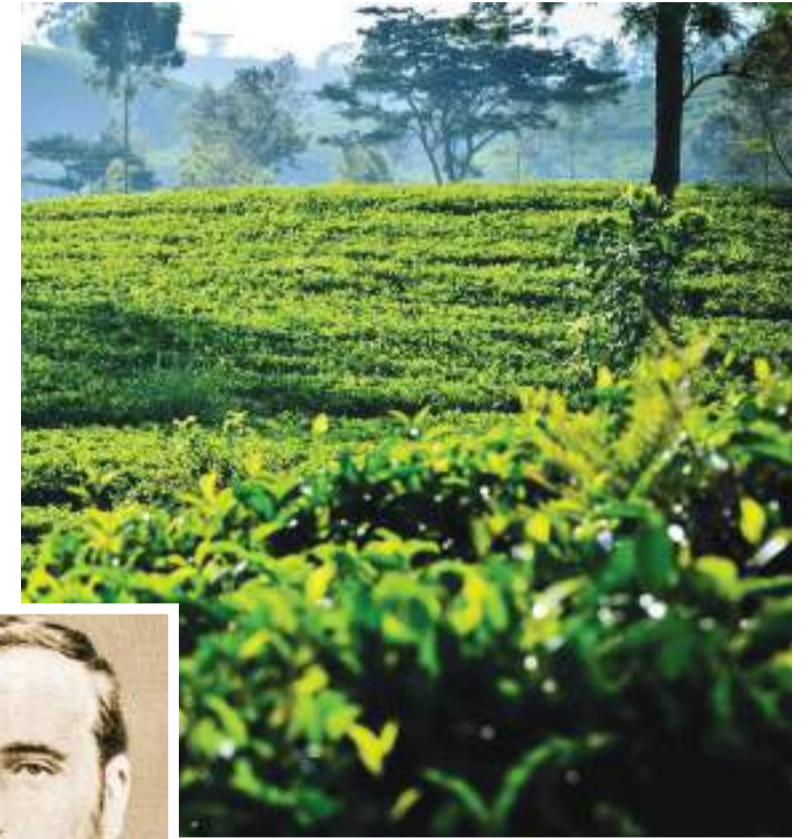
BY LALIN I DE SILVA

It is well known that the tea industry was the foundation of which the modern economy of Sri Lanka was developed. Even today one and a half centuries since the beginning of this industry in Sri Lanka, tea exports generate foreign exchange earnings.

In pious memory of James Taylor of Looecondra Estate, the pioneer of the Cinchona Enterprises in this island who died on May 2, 1892 aged 57 years. According to the record of burials available at Mahaiyawa Cemetery, Kandy, a stone was erected by his sister and many friends in Ceylon.

The vision of James Taylor regarding the enormous potential of tea as a plantation crop, the difficult conditions under which he worked, the manner in which he perfected the art of manufacture and the dedication of his entire life to the plantation tea industry to the extent of staying a bachelor all his life are legendary among tea planters of Sri Lanka.

According to an appreciation appearing in the Ceylon Observer on May 4, 1892, it stated that James Taylor rallied even on a Sunday, waking up early and giving orders about the work as usual and made every enquiry as to how the work went on, how much tea of each grade was packed and ready and all things that were connected which had become second nature to him.



James Taylor

From this obituary one could observe that his only interest was seeing to the progress and well being of the workers and the tea bushes until

his demise. He went about with his task on the estate till he breathed his last. That is why he often boasted "My work lasts forever."

I hope this message will give those associated with the tea industry an insight of James Taylor's dedication to his assignment and will remind us that it is up to all of us to improve and consolidate the tea industry established over 150 years ago, as an industrial beacon



to be reckoned with among, tea producing countries.

It is therefore, not only a duty but an obligation on our part, as the beneficiaries of Taylor to remember this great pioneer at least with his 130th death anniversary.

We pray that he may be rewarded suitably, in his place of rest.

## STARTUP 2021 CONCLUDES SEASON 1

Powered by Dialog ENTERPRISE

We are happy to announce that **Derana STARTUP 2021**: an international reality experience with the objective of empowering youth entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka - concluded successfully.

The nation's crucial need of a job-creating youth generation believing in their dreams and strength, has heightened in the present context.

As this year's season concludes, we would like to thank all the mentors for their dedication and generosity in sharing their business acumen and knowledge with the young participants. We would also like to thank our project and strategic partners for their support in making this timely program a success.

The winners of Derana **STARTUP** Season 1 have displayed great capability and we are eager to see them build their presence in both local and international markets. Thus, we invite you, the patriots, to support them on their journey here onwards.

With the second phase of Derana **STARTUP** just around the corner, expect a new generation of entrepreneurial dreams come to life!



### PROJECT PARTNERS



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS





# FIND YOUR PASSION, KNOW YOUR PURPOSE, BE PRINCIPLED & ETHICAL IN WHATEVER YOU DO!



Ms. Melanie Kanaka on 05<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Session 03

Chancellor, Professor Lakshman Ratnayake, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lalith Gamage, Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor Professor Nimal Rajapakse. Heads of Departments, Deans and Heads of Departments, academic and non-academic staff of SLIIT, graduates. Parents, distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen.

Vice-Chancellor, thank you very much for that very generous introduction. Today, I stand here deeply humbled and immensely honoured to be invited to be the chief guest and share this day, the 2022 Convocation of your esteemed institute with you. As Deputy President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and a Board Director of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants in the US, it gives me great joy to be amongst such esteemed company. Particularity as CIMA and SLIIT have developed close ties over the years. CIMA has representation on the SLIIT, accounting and finance, specialisation liaison committee and has provided relevant inputs for the advancement of your curriculums. Both organisations have, developed synergies which have undoubtedly helped our students in various career options and programmes of study. I can only endorse such relationships and know the synergies that could stem from such valued partnerships.

To the graduates today, I extend my warmest and sincerest congratulations to each of you for your outstanding accomplishments. And why I called it an outstanding accomplishment is because you have got a degree in one of the most historic and disruptive periods in the world's history. You have achieved this, through a global pandemic. Each of you, as I watched you take the degrees conferred on, each of you brought back past reflections of my own graduation, so many years ago, from the University of Sri Jaywardenapura, where I obtained first degree. What a moment of joy that was for me. And today, what a moment of joy, this is for you all. For you, and all your loved ones, your parents, your siblings, your family, your spouses and friends and also your talented faculty that has guided, groomed and supported you throughout this academic journey.

May I ask the graduating class to kindly rise up to your feet, place your hands together to acknowledge and recognise all those who have supported you and I will join you in doing so. Thank you all and you may now please be seated. I am sure you would wonder why I made you do this again for the second time today. It is for you and all of us to remember the importance of appreciation and gratitude.

Today is a remarkable day, a memorable day for all of you. It marks the end of one chapter of your life, the journey of your academic studies, which you embarked on three or four years ago. But today is also the day when you begin a new chapter, the commencement of your career journey. What you got today on graduation day is only a passport to enter the world of your career. What you do with that passport is what you will make of your career. As you embark on that journey, do not lose sight of a few thoughts I will leave with you today.

Let me begin my first reflection with a story. Every morning, in the wilds of Africa, a gazelle wakes up knowing that it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up knowing that it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. In the wilds of Africa, it does not matter whether you are a gazelle or a lion because when the sun comes up, you better be running. Today, the picture of the awakening dawn is relevant not only in the wilds of Africa, but right here in our midst. In our institutions, in our organisations, in our societies and even in our economies.

So, in today's world of volatility, uncertainty, chaos and ambiguity, that greets you in your waking hours, you'd better be running, which means improving yourself continuously and retooling yourself. Today, the pace of change is faster than it has ever been before. Therefore, professionals like you and I need to be abreast and on top of the curve of our chosen professions.

My second reflection, I am reminded of what the late Nelson Mandela said. Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they're dedicated to and are passionate about what they do. Equally well stated in one of the books in the Bible, "Whatsoever, thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."



There is a common thread of passion in these reflections and passion is critical in all that we do. Keeping the passion alive can conquer many dreams. Challenging ourselves is not easy. We need to rise above and beyond our own limitations. It is by extending ourselves that we take on the power of our will. To achieve this is even more difficult. Very often in life, we face disappointments, failures and setbacks. I am sure all of us can relate to this in our relevant individual journeys. When the rug is pulled from under our feet, we are derailed and feel victimised. The world is not fair or so it seems to us. This sounds familiar, does it not?

I too, have faced many disappointments in my career journey; even in this journey of volunteerism with CIMA. In such situations, 3 reactions stand out — Patience, perseverance and a positive attitude.

Being positive in the mind is fundamental because that positive attitude transforms into action, making us eventually succeed and thereby, each of us begins to unleash our own potentials.



## Address by Chief Guest Ms. Melanie Kanaka

- GLOBAL DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANTS at the



My third reflection is on professional integrity, strong ethical values, transparency, good governance, uncompromising trust and foundations which I am sure all of you will have experienced in your own schools when you went to start your studies and even in this esteemed institution. As professionals, we need to set the tone and state the pace of our own behaviours. I cannot stress enough the importance of professional integrity, ethical value and transparency, which should be the bedrock of our behaviours. Never let your actions break the trust of those around you.

My fourth reflection, never fear failure but be terrified of regret. Begin to believe in yourself. Today you have walked a three or four-year journey and accomplished a degree. So you can do it. Just believe in yourself.

If this would help, let me share a few markers with you, citing from as far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1832, he lost his job; in 1833 failed his business; in 1835, lost his significant partner; in 1836, he suffered a nervous breakdown; in 1858, was defeated in his run for Illinois speaker; in 1843, defeated in the run for Congress; in 1856, defeated for US senate; in 1858, defeated for the nomination of Vice President; in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America and went on to become one of the most famous Presidents in American history.

And now graduates, I have a question for you. Are you still afraid, to fail? I will leave it for you to answer. It was also the late Nelson Mandela who said, "do not judge me by my successes. Judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again." What a wonderful statement, Judge me, not but by my

achievements, or by what I have succeeded in; but judge me by the number of times I failed and yet got back on my feet.

So my dear young graduates, it doesn't matter how far you might rise, because at some point you might stumble and when you fall, remember that there is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.

So in summary, find your passion, know your purpose, be principled and ethical in whatever you do. Have unwavering commitment. Dream big, believe in yourself and never fear failure. Clichéd as it may sound, I quote an extract from the autobiography of the late Dr. Abdul Kalam, a former Prime Minister of India, "we are born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to that fire and fill the world with a glow of its goodness."

So I wish you all good health, successes in your personal and professional endeavours and God's blessings as you journey in a volatile, uncertain complex and ambiguous world, with the knowledge that success is not final, and failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts. I once again wish this graduating class of the 2022 convocation, the very best. I thank you all for your patient listening and wish you an enjoyable evening and a happy celebration. Thank you very much.



## Feature

# Opposition has no strength to set up Government

- Rohitha Abeygunawardena

Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya on Friday decided to step down from his position one day after being re-elected to the position. As reported by the media, he has already sent his resignation letter to the President.

The newly elected Deputy Speaker Siyambalapatiya said that he made this decision after considering the repeated requests from the public. Siyambalapatiya was elected uncontested to the post of Deputy Speaker on August 20, 2020 and he decided to step down from his position on April 30, with his Party - the SLFP defecting from the Government.

He was re-elected to the post at a crucial vote with 148 votes in favour with the support of Government Parliamentarians on Thursday, May 5. The SJB backed candidate - Imthiaz Baker Markar garnered only 65 votes.

A tense situation arose in the House on Thursday when the Speaker announced that the MPs had to indicate the name of the preferred candidate and place their signature at the bottom of the voting form during the vote to select the Deputy Speaker.

Chief Opposition Whip MP Lakshman Kiriella argued that by requesting the MPs to sign their voting form it would not protect their anonymity and secrecy in voting. However, the Speaker insisted that the Standing Orders cannot be changed.

Amid an uproar in the House, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said that the Speaker has the authority to suspend the Standing Orders and allow the MPs to vote safeguarding their anonymity. "There are many Government MPs who need to vote in our favour. Hence, if they have to sign their vote, that would create a problem," he said.

Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said that this was the same manner that the vote was conducted in 2015 and added that the Opposition is unaware of the parliamentary voting mechanism and neither are they aware of what is happening in Parliament.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa told Parliament on Thursday that the political game in Parliament was clear based on the results of the election of the Deputy Speaker. He made these remarks soon after the appointment of Ranjith Siyambalapatiya of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) as the Deputy Speaker, defeating Imthiaz Baker Markar, representing the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). Premadasa said that although SJB had decided to support Siyambalapatiya's candidature, the decision had to be changed after learning that the SLPP would also vote for him.

He said, "Various people are trying to mislead the whole country. It was revealed to the whole country today. We changed our decision with the SLPP support for Siyambalapatiya. He became a henchman of the Government. At this time, it is clear to the people, clear to those involved in the struggle as to who is misleading them. What is happening in Parliament is a political game. We are clearly against the President. We are against the Government."

## Lost opportunity

SLFP General Secretary MP Dayasiri Jayasekera said they lost an opportunity to show that the Government does not have a majority in Parliament, due to the divisions within the SJB. He said "If the SJB did not change their stance over the election of Deputy Speaker, we could have shown the world that the Government has lost the majority in Parliament."

At a press conference in Colombo, Jayasekera said that the Independent Parliamentarians Group had decided to propose Ranjith Siyambalapatiya as their nominee for the Deputy Speaker's post and the main Opposition Party, the SJB had informed them that they would support Siyambalapatiya's candidature. Jayasekera said however the SJB's position over the election of Ranjith Siyambalapatiya as Deputy Speaker had later changed and they had decided to field a nominee from the SJB too. He said that the ruling party made use of this situation to prove that they have a majority in Parliament in a subtle manner.



## Wimal lashes out at Sajith

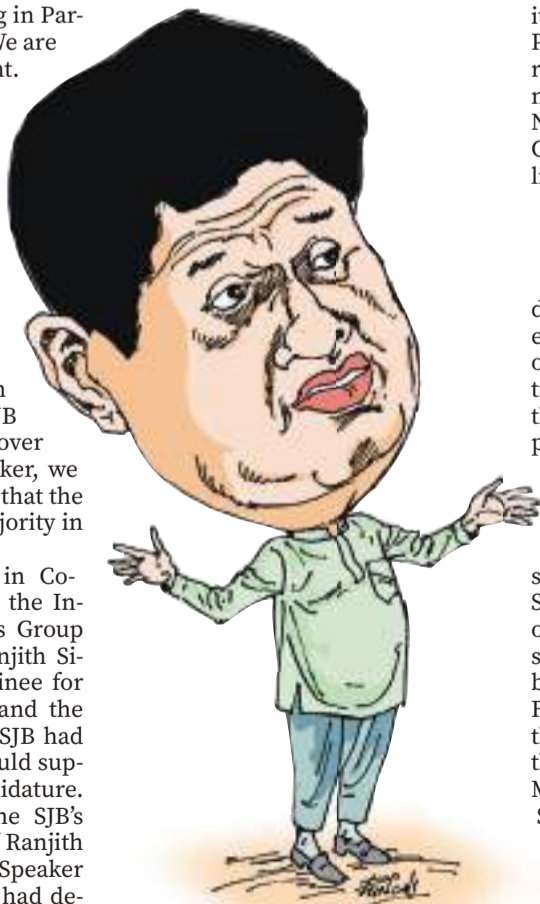
National Freedom Front Leader MP Wimal Weerawansa said Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa is aiming at creating divisions within the Opposition. He said, "If he is a real Opposition Leader, he should reach consensus on major issues. An Opposition Leader should maintain unity among Parties in the Opposition." Weerawansa said that Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has been given a contract to create rifts among the parties in the Opposition. He said, "We are a part of the Opposition. If a candidate is fielded from the Opposition, the Opposition Leader should extend his fullest support for his victory."

At a press conference in Colombo on Thursday over the election of Ranjith Siyambalapatiya as the Deputy Speaker, former Minister Weerawansa said that the SLPP wants to show the world that the SLPP breakaway group is still with the Government though they are sitting in the Opposition.

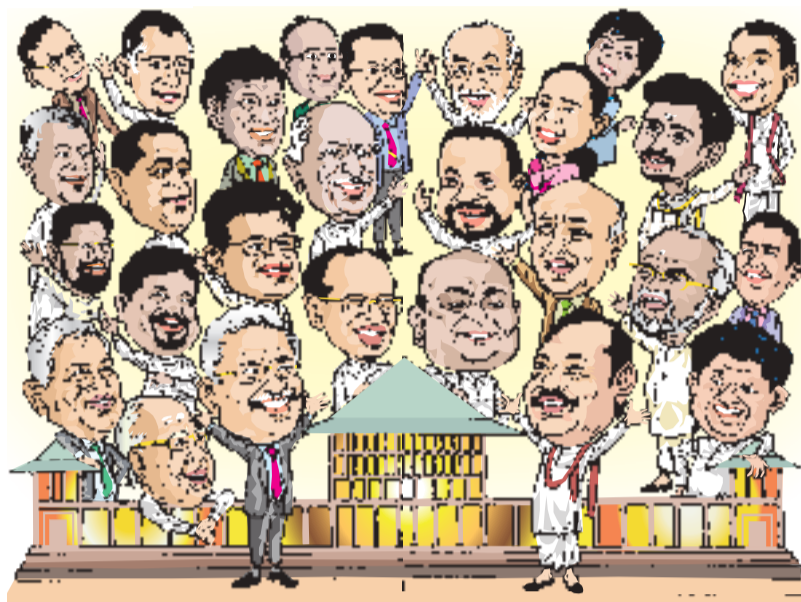
Weerawansa said, "The Opposition Leader wants to show that we are for the Government though we are sitting with the Opposition MPs." He said that Opposition Leader Premadasa does not have a plan to at least bring Parties in the Opposition together. He said the Opposition Leader is dancing according to the whims and fancies of the Rajapaksa family.

## "This Govt alone not responsible for failures"

SLPP Parliamentarian Rohitha Abeygunawardena told Parli-



## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PARLIAMENT IS A POLITICAL GAME - OPPOSITION LEADER



## University of Politics

By Prof. Backbencher

## WE HAVE ALL FAILED TO FIND ANY SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS

- STATE MINISTER GUNAPALA RATNASEKERA

ment on Thursday that not a single member in the Opposition has the strength or the backbone to take over the Government and find a solution to the people's problems. He said that Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Sajith Premadasa were in one camp on January 8, 2015. He said that even today they are together and queried why they can't take over the Government and resolve the issues.

Abeygunawardena said, "They can't and they don't have the backbone to do so. No one has the strength to do so. They are engaged in a gamble." He thanked Finance Minister Ali Sabry, PC for revealing the correct and the stark reality of the economy of the country while being in the Government side. He said that although there were ups and downs in the economy of the country during the past 74 years, some attempt to pass the responsibility for the failures of the corresponding period to the past two-and-a-half-years, which is not correct.

## SJB cannot set up a Govt

The Independent Parliamentarians who sat with the Opposition said in Parliament on Thursday that the SJB cannot set up a Government with 67 seats. They demanded that they must know whether the SJB would take over the Government or whether they had a plan and mechanism to overcome the issues in the country if they voted for the No Confidence Motions (NCMs). They warned the SJB not to mislead the people and said that although the SJB think they had peoples' support, it is a myth. They said so when SJB Parliamentarian Harshana Rajakuruna demanded to summon sittings next week as well and take up the No Confidence Motions against the Government side as there is no political stability in the country.

## Youth demand change

SJB Parliamentarian Nalin Bandara Jayamaha said that the Government does not have the support of even 69,000 people in the country today. The people are awaiting the Government's departure from power. The youth in the country are on roads demanding a change. Hence, the date when the NCM is taken should be revealed.

SJB MP Chaminda Wijesiri said that the election of the Deputy Speaker was done with the consent of the Speaker but it had flaws. He said that all should get together to build up the country. SJB MP Harin Fernando said that the people are on the road engaged in protests. He said that therefore, the No Confidence Motions should not be delayed. SJB MP Thushara Indunil said that they saw the birds of the same feather flock together.

## Uproar in Parliament

Parliament had to be adjourned for ten minutes on Friday afternoon when the Opposition MPs created uproar in Parliament when the Po-



lice fired tear gas and water cannons at the protesters at the Parliament entry point. At the time SJB Parliamentarian Heshu Withanage was at the presiding chair and the Opposition MPs were demanding that the Speaker be brought in immediately.

The Opposition MPs demanded that at a time of crisis the Speaker should be in his seat and not in his office. SJB MP Harin Fernando demanded that the Speaker immediately return to the Chair and if not he threatened to surround the Speaker's office and hold the Speaker hostage until a date was given for the debate on the No Confidence Motions.

Later when Parliament was convened after the recess, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that the Party Leader's Meeting had been scheduled for next Monday, May 9 and a decision would be taken if Parliament could be convened the



same week or on May 17. Thereafter, he adjourned Parliament. Deputy Minister Tharaka Balasuriya said that the Opposition had assaulted a senior MP and requested the presiding MP to take a decision as the situation was getting out of hand.

Sergeant-at-Arms Narendra Fernando and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Kushan Jayaran he fell on the ground when Samagi Jana Balawegaya MPs tried to grab the Mace during a tense situation in the Chamber on Friday.

SJB Parliamentarians Harin Fernando, Manusha Nanayakkara, Gayantha Karunatilake, Hector Appuhamy, Kavinda Jayawardena, Mujibur Rahman and others demanded that the Speaker be called to the chair while Harin Fernando and Manusha Nanayakkara were seen approaching the Mace. However, when the Sergeant-at-Arms and his deputy tried to protect the Mace from being grabbed, they were attacked. With that the Sergeant-at-Arms fell down but he put in great effort to hold onto the Mace.

## Hartal

A massive 24-hour hartal campaign launched on Friday, May 6 brought the country to a standstill as workers across a number of sectors including transport, health, education and banking went on strike and private businesses and Government offices shut down demanding the Government's resignation.

Workers took part in protests around the country, joining ordinary citizens in their demand for the Government's resignation. Workers at Free Trade Zones also were seen protesting, demanding solutions to Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis yet. Protest marches were held in Colombo Fort, and at the Borella junction, in addition to demonstrations around the city organised by unions representing various government bodies.

Hundreds of trade unions took part in the hartal campaign in what has now become the country's biggest general strike in decades. In addition, underwear and lingerie are placed by protesters on a temporary metal barrier made to block protesters at the main entrance to the Parliament during the protest demanding the 225 MPs to resign on Friday.

## Bad precedent

Former Prime Minister UNP MP Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament on Friday the TNA MPs involvement in organising protests and urging the protesters to surround MPs residences sets a bad precedent. He queried as to what would happen in future if the people protested against them and surrounded their houses as well. He made these queries in response to a statement made by TNA MP S. Rasamanikkam on Thursday stating that MP Wickremesinghe had a secret pact with the Rajapaksas. He said that he had no connection with Rajapaksas, though Rasamanikkam once accepted the Padirippu Organiser position from Mahinda Rajapaksa.

He said that he was not in deal politics but some of those in the SLFP who were in that trade were once welcome to the UNP and now they were in the SJB.

Leader of the House Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Friday requested Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to take action to increase the security of former Prime Minister and UNP National List MP Ranil Wickremesinghe. He made this request following MP Wickremesinghe's statement where he said that there were plans by a group of protesters to surround his house with the intervention of TNA MP Rasamanikkam on Saturday, May 7.

## Resignation not accepted

Co-operative Services and Consumer Protection State Minister Gunapala Ratnasekera handed over his resignation letter to the President. He said that despite Parliament convening, not an iota of a decision was taken to resolve the crisis or provide solutions. He said Parliament has failed to find even a political solution for this country.

## SJB CANNOT SET UP A GOVT WITH 67 SEATS - INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARIANS



He questioned the purpose of Parliament convening if it cannot even take decisions to resolve the country's burning issues. However, he said that the President had refused to accept his resignation, but said that under the circumstances, it was not possible to work productively in his post.

He said, "During the past three days Parliament was convened in a situation where the country is in chaos, but sadly nothing was done and no decision was taken in Parliament to resolve this crisis. We have all failed to find any solution to this crisis but since the demands of the public have not been met, they have reached a situation where they reject the entire 225 MPs."

## Sarath Fonseka to make complaint

SJB Parliamentarian Sarath Fonseka said that he would officially complain to the SJB Leader and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa over the conduct of SJB Parliamentarian Harin Fernando at the party's May Day rally last Sunday.

Responding to journalists, Fonseka said that the verbal clash between MP Fernando and himself was over the speakers' list at the SJB May Day Rally. Field Marshal Fonseka expressed his disappointment for not giving him a prominent place in the list.

He said, "MP Fernando was entrusted with the organising work of the rally, but there were several lapses in it. We could see that the images of certain individuals had been promoted, and I objected to that. MP Fernando misbehaved even using foul language at that point. He should have known to behave better at a public place. He could have replied in decent language as I did. I condemn his behaviour."



# All one needs to know about chewing gum

BY SHALUKA MANCHANAYAKE AND GAYAN NARANDENIYA

Chewing gum has become extremely popular among young and old in all parts of the world. Often, young children chew them even at school while those who are working chew them at work, in the belief that it can stave off boredom.

Simply put, one of the best ways for most of us to get rid of boredom during a lecture or assembly at present is to chew gum. However, how many among those that chew gum would know how it was created?

There is ample evidence that gum made from natural ingredients has been used by many people around the world for centuries.

Almost all of the chewing gum prepared in this way consisted of gum derived from plants, sweet grasses, leaves and grains. For instance, the Greeks used the gum of a plant named 'Mastic', which is commonly found in Turkey and Greece to produce chewing gum and they believed that it also cleanses the teeth.

## Red Indians

Meanwhile, chewing gum was introduced to the British who came to the United States (US) to establish colonies among the Red Indians that lived there.

They pointed out that to quench their thirst, it is advisable to apply a waxy resin under the bark of the spruce tree. Thus, in the early 19th century, the gum from the spruce tree in the Eastern states of the US rapidly sold, making it the first commercial chewing gum product in the US. However, by the 1850s, sweetened paraffin wax had taken the place of spruce gum.

When spruce gum was used in North America, chewing gum in Central America was a type of glue



derived from the tree 'Manilkara Zapota', commonly known as Sapodilla Sapota, Chikoo, Chico, Naseberry or Nispero.

Milk-like gum obtained from the said tree which is often found in Mexico, Guatemala, and the Yucatan Peninsula, became popular not only in Central America but in many parts of the world in the 1860s. It has also made a significant contribution to the production of chewing gum currently in use.

## Western Finland

Archaeologists at the University of Derby have unearthed a 5,000-year-old piece of chewing gum during excavations in West-

**ALTHOUGH CHEWING GUM IS VERY LOW IN NUTRITION, RESEARCHERS POINT OUT THAT THE USE OF CHEWING GUM HAS SOME BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON THE BODY. SINCE THE SYSTEMATIC MOVEMENT OF THE JAW USUALLY STIMULATES THE MEMORY-RELATED PARTS OF THE BRAIN, REGULAR CHEWING GUM HELPS TO IMPROVE MEMORY**

ern Finland. Neolithic, it is made from birch bark glue, also known as birch tar, and is believed to have been used as a remedy for gum infections as well as for repairing broken pottery.

Chewing gum was first manufactured as a commercial product in 1848. That was by John Bacon Curtis. He made chewing gum using spruce gum, which was popu-

lar in the US at the time, and added paraffin to make it more flavourful and softer.

Later, on July, 27, 1869, Amos Tyler obtained a patent for the production of chewing gum, but he did not pursue commercial production. In December of the same year, William Finley obtained a patent for the manufacture of chewing gum, using charcoal and chalk as the basic raw material.

Thomas Adams is credited with starting the mass production of chewing gum. By 1870 he had built a large factory in New York City and began producing chewing gum with a variety of flavours. He had also had plans to set up vending machines at places where the people were gathering in large numbers.

## Wrigley Chewing Gum

Founded in 1891 by William Wrigley Jr., Wrigley Chewing Gum is still the world's largest chewing gum company, accounting for 35 percent of world chewing gum production. It is estimated that their net annual income from chewing gum sales is close to US \$ 1 billion.

Although chewing gum is very low in nutrition, Researchers point out that the use of chewing gum has some beneficial effects on the body. Since the systematic movement of the jaw usually stimulates the memory-related parts of the brain, regular chewing gum helps to improve memory.

Chewing gum is also great for maintaining mental concentration. According to research, chewing gum also helps in facilitating the digestive process in the body, by increasing the production of oral saliva.

Chewing gum can also be used to lose weight by lowering the appetite. The contribution of chewing gum to oral hygiene is also high as the increased production of oral saliva controls tooth decay as well as gum infections.



# History of the telephone

BY GAYAN NARANDENIYA

Over the past decade, the demand for public telephones has been declining fast due to the use of mobile phones among almost everyone, regardless of age. Therefore, it is safe to say that the use of pay telephones and telephone booths, which are operated with coins, is gradually coming to an end.

In the decade following Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone in 1876, pay phones became so popular that even those who could not afford to buy a phone could make affordable phone calls. This article is about the birth and spread of pay phones and telephone booths in an era of them seeing a gradual demise.

Although not so common in Sri Lanka, pay phones and telephone booths are still common in the United States and Europe, especially in the United Kingdom (UK).

## Developed countries

However, many developed countries are currently working to remove pay phones from their booths and replace them with modern communications equipment, such as Wi-Fi towers with touch screens.

Public phones were first seen in telephone company offices in the early 1880s, allowing the consumer to make calls after paying the phone operator. Named 'Fernsprech Kiosk', the world's first telephone booth was set up in Potsdamer Platz Square in Berlin on 12 January, 1881. To use it, one had to get a piece of printed paper called 'Telefonbillet' and after showing it to the phone operator, the customer was given a limited time of a few minutes to make a call.

In 1889, William Gray, an American living in Connecticut, introduced the world of coin-operated pay phones. Considered to be the first pay phone to be used without a phone operator, it was installed in a bank in Hartford, and unlike the pay phones we see today, coins had to be put in this when the phone call was over.

Gray worked to create an easy-to-use

phone for anyone without a lengthy explanation to the owner or operator of the phone, following an unfortunate incident.

## Ailing wife

In 1888 he needed to get a doctor to examine his ailing wife, and since he did not have a personal phone, he went to the factory on the street corner, but as he was not a subscriber to the telephone company, the factory owner did not allow him to use the phone. The need was so strong that Gray had to beg to be allowed to use it, and the factory owner finally gave him a chance to make a phone call.

In 1891, Gray founded the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company, which undertook to install pay phones in poles and small booths along the road.

It was during this time that cells were designed to protect pay phones from the weather, which soon became popular in the United States. Gray, who continued to work on improving his invention, had reportedly acquired more than 20 patents for paid phone-related inventions. Statistics show that there are currently over 2 million paid phones in the United States.

## Very popular

In addition, Gray's company and Western Electric Company Limited had taken the lead in introducing prepaid pay phones instead of paying cash after making the call. Introduced as 'The 1911 Model 50A', the coin operated pay phone became very popular, and just within two years, a total of 25,000 of the said model were installed in New York City alone.

Pay phones were then introduced to the UK at the beginning of the 20th century, and the red telephone booths still found in London were introduced to that country in 1921. The 'K2' model was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1924 as the 'K1' model was relatively small in size. It goes without saying that the 'K2' model provided the basis for all subsequent red phone booths designed in the UK.



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## SUNDAY OBSERVER Towards a system change

As protests by students, youth and other groups continue at Galle Face, Parliament, Temple Trees and other cities in the island, one fact is becoming clear. The solution to the present political crisis, if not the economic one, has to emerge from the existing Constitution itself. A new Constitution cannot be drafted and implemented overnight and even then, it needs Parliamentary approval and a referendum too could be needed. All this will take time.

But there is no doubt whatsoever that urgent solutions are needed for both the political and economic crises. With foreign reserves at rock bottom and more shortages of essentials looming as a result, the people demand urgent solutions to their woes.

However, looking at the proceedings in Parliament, one does not get the impression that MPs on both sides of the aisle are all that keen to address the predicament of the people. Instead, they have been casting aspersions against each other at the expense of the masses who are fed up with these antics.

Finance and Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, made an honest and extensive assessment of the present economic situation in Parliament the other day and admitted that certain mistakes have been made in fiscal and economic arenas under this Government. Yet, most Opposition and even some MPs associated with the Government tore into his speech and belittled the suggestions made by him. This is not what the people expect from Parliament at this stage.

As mentioned in these spaces previously, the people's representatives must get together and evolve solutions to the present crisis. The Opposition including the Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) and the National People's Power (NPP) must not be belligerent at this crucial juncture – so far they have rejected several overtures by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to be part of an all-Party Interim Government (IG), which can be formed almost immediately without going through the massive expense of a General Election. Such an effort will be an impetus to resolve the current crises, at least until we shore up enough funds to hold an election several months from now.

If Parliament collectively does not rise up to this occasion, the funds spent on Parliamentary proceedings and the upkeep of the 225 MPs would be in vain. This incidentally is one factor that has prompted public calls for all 225 MPs to go home. Many religious leaders and other eminent persons in society have advocated this solution and Parliament must heed their call.

There is also a debate on whether the present President and the Government has lost its legitimacy and the people's mandate. Just as the Yahapalana Government did not lose its mandate per se with the SLPP May Day rally of 2017 or even the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) victory at the 2018 Local Government Elections, the present anti-Government sentiment and countrywide demonstrations do not invalidate the massive mandate of 6.9 million votes received by President Rajapaksa in November 2019 and the subsequent victory of the SLPP at the General Election in August 2020 amidst the Covid pandemic.

In this context, the President is not obliged to step down and any such decision cannot be forced on him either, though Parliament itself has the option of Impeachment. But on his part, he has expressed regret for certain actions implemented during his administration, such as the ban on chemical fertiliser and other agrochemicals and pledged to take immediate corrective steps. He also said that the Government should have sought the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) much earlier. The Government has also admitted that the Value Added Tax (VAT) tax cut of 2019 was also wrong. These are good signs that the Government is aware of the grave mistakes it has made and is willing to take remedial action even at this late stage. This is indeed how it should be.

In the meantime, many professionals have proposed an alternative arrangement which does not necessarily entail the resignation of the President, the Prime Minister and the Government or even the establishment of an IG. They propose that all 29 present National List MPs should resign immediately, to be replaced by 29 eminent professionals in economics and other areas of expertise who can form a sort of an advisory council in Parliament to bring the country back on to the correct track in the short term. Then once the economic and political situation stabilises, a General Election can be held but with enough safeguards to ensure that only educated, professional and decent candidates can enter the fray in the first place. This will also obviate the need for a National List, which is actually meant for professionals and other eminent persons but which has often been used by all political parties to send their defeated candidates to the House through the backdoor.

The main demand of the Nation at this moment is a "system change". This probably means a total change in the country's governance system and even the economic climate. For example, there is a broad agreement in Parliament that Presidential powers should be curtailed and Parliament should have more powers. There is also the distinct possibility that some changes in the economic sphere could be foisted upon us by external organisations such as the IMF. In any case, all such measures, whether home-grown or externally suggested, must be extensively deliberated upon in Parliament, the media and elsewhere in society so that the country and the people will benefit in the end. A better country for all should be the ultimate aim of such a "system change" exercise.

# Real remedies ignored?

by  
**Rajpal Abeynayake**

**T**ransformative change is being contemplated, with Constitutional amendments to be made aiming to deliver economic moksha. All well and good, but the issues that have led to this crisis are simple but stunning in clarity.

We ran up debt as a country. We tried to settle the debt without contemplating an early default despite the fact that we had no dollars to buy essentials for the people.

We had a massive balance of payments issue – importing far more than we exported. These were patterns that became entrenched, and each successive Government ran up more debt than its predecessor, and we have the statistics to prove it.

However the 'political solutions' that are envisaged do not address any of these issues. Instead, we are talking about sweeping changes and Constitutional tinkering.

No doubt some of that may be necessary because there ought to be political clarity so to say, in order to engineer specific changes.

But specifics have to be addressed lest those who would be in charge eventually or those in charge now, forget what caused the problems in the first place.

As a country we are bracing for lender-prescribed remedial measures after the grueling negotiations with the IMF are concluded.

These would address certain specifics within specifics, such as taking the fat off the public service i.e. reducing the public service cadre, as has been speculated. But apart from the fact that these are measures that would help balance the budget they would not help address macro-economic imperatives policy-wise.

Considering all this, why is there no consensus emerging on the fundamentals that any succeeding administrations in the next few years would be enjoined to consider? Would a balanced budget amendment help? That may be too drastic. A "balanced budget amendment is a Constitutional rule requiring that a State cannot spend more than its income".

It requires projected receipts and expenditures of Government would be equal – so that there would be no bridging of deficits by borrowing. It is surprising, the number of countries that have introduced balanced budget amendments.

### Envisage

Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland, among others, have introduced balanced budget provisions legislatively.

"Every U.S. state other than Vermont has some form of balanced budget provision that applies to its operating budget." Just imagine that, particularly keeping in mind the fact that budgets of quite a lot of those States are larger than ours in dollar



terms.

We already have a Fiscal Responsibility law which was enacted in 2003. But this is what is said in IMF literature about this piece of legislation: "Sri Lanka's FMRA remains too recent to provide a full assessment, but the narrow coverage of the targets, and the rapid postponement of the scheduled reduction in fiscal deficits, diminishes the credibility of the law."

We have just kept postponing the need to abide by the "law." So much for such measures. But also there are escape clauses in most such legislation enacted in various parts of the world. These concern natural disasters and so on and it is clear that the pandemic would have been counted as an exceptional circumstance.

But should it have been? Many countries are where there today – the economic doldrums – at least partially due to a too drastic response to the pandemic, such as the medical community recommended lockdowns which impeded economic activity, and curtailed taxation drastically.

So it is seen that legislation of course is not the only answer, and that if there is legislation it ought to be enacted in such a way that there is no easy contravention of those legal provisions.

But what does that do to a Government that wants to run a deficit for economically sound reasons during a period in which there is no immediate threat to the economy?

Rigid rules do not allow for such exemptions. However there is reckless spending due to considerations of political economy. This simply means that there are politicians who offer tax-cuts for instance because it would help them with the chances of re-election.

So deficit spending becomes the norm.

In such cases though it's impossible to legislate what promises politicians make, it could be possible to legislate issues dealing with deficit spending, with sufficient sanctions for backup. Some of these sanctions are personal sanctions meaning that legislators who breach such laws would be found personally liable.

### Budgetary

However there is always the catch. If there are debt-ceilings for instance that are too rigidly prescribed by law, it could lead to a lack of investment for starters, impeding growth and condemning the

## THE MOVE EXEMPLIFIES THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION WE FACE. BUT ANY GOVERNMENT THAT SUCCEEDS COULD FACE THE EXACT SAME ISSUES CONCERNING NATIONAL DEBT, AND HAVE NO LAWS GUIDING THEM ON HOW TO AVOID PERILOUS ECONOMIC MELTDOWNS

economy to unproductive stasis.

Is there a way to enforce fiscal discipline therefore without legislative recourse? Some countries have mooted and others have implemented the idea of independent fiscal councils.

These bodies essentially envisage outsourcing the job of taking decisions on fiscal policy. But in reality such a body – a fiscal council – cannot exist.

Non-elected bodies cannot take all the decisions on fiscal management for obvious reasons. People elect Governments because they expect a general economic policy direction from the elected representatives. An appointed fiscal council will interfere with achieving those expectations.

However, such a body could always present its own budgetary proposals with detailed explanations of the dangers that are bound to accompany reckless decision-making that deviates substantially from their independently evaluated recommendations.

### Quagmire

Such fiscal council proposals can by law be presented in Parliament i.e. it would be mandatory for Legislators to consider the policy formulations of the independent FCs before finalising policy measures that impact on the economy.

This would certainly act as a disciplinary measure, and would serve as a deterrent to reckless decision making on the part of legislators.

While the country is focused on the big picture – the repeal of the 20th Amendment and the introduction of the 21st and so on – nobody has thought of the essential legal measures that may avoid further instances of policy confusion and so on that causes unnecessary crises.

The legal aspects of sovereign bond issues for instance cannot be underestimated. Already lawyers are lined up by interested parties in the expectations of a sovereign bond default of sorts as part of our current negotiations with the IMF.

But lawyerly submissions do not take into account the struggles of the people. The people are directly impacted by the loans and the fact that the repaying them may turn out to be a life and death matter for them, almost literally.

If there is no money in the kitty after loan repayment, people may not get to eat.

Amidst such critical issues debt write-offs may be contemplated too, but that issue is too broad in scope to be addressed in this article which is about another issue.

It seems the political jockeying that's taking place is either about personal political calculations for those involved – or about matters that have been flagged as political hot buttons such as the 20th Amendment and the Presidency and so on.

There is no harm looking at those issues, but it shouldn't be at the cost of addressing more pressing concerns about how any Government should not fall headfirst into something of the order of the current quagmire. We have a situation in which the President is calling for an interim Government of all political persuasions – no President would take such a decision lightly.

The move exemplifies the gravity of the situation we face. But any Government that succeeds could face the exact same issues concerning national debt, and have no laws guiding them on how to avoid perilous economic meltdowns.

It's incumbent upon those who are seeing ways out of the current impasse to address these areas of policy head-on before they think of anything else. Else we may be, to put it mildly, missing the woods for the trees.













## London Irish in 42-42 draw with Wasps

London Irish came from 25 points down to earn a record-breaking fifth Premiership draw (42-42) of the season with a last-gasp penalty try against Wasps.

Trailing 39-14 after 67 minutes, Tom Pearson, Henry Arundell and Ollie-Hassell Collins scored before a penalty try was given for a maul infringement.

Wasps had the ball on the hooter when leading but could not find touch. The result all-but ends the visitors' play-off hopes, with both sides still battling for a Champions Cup place.

It keeps Lee Blackett's side ninth, eight points behind fourth-placed Northampton with two games left, and a point adrift of London Irish with a game in hand.

Wasps went ahead in the 14th minute with their first venture into the hosts' 22, Gabriel Oghre seeming to get the ball down from a rolling maul.

Pearson's skilful offload led to Kyle Rowe running in to level for the Exiles, who went 14-7 up when Benhard van Rensburg's chip found Hassell-Collins, who in turn fed Tom Parton to dart over. A see-saw first half ended in favour of the Coventry-based club, Dan Robson the orchestrator as he whipped a pass for Francois Hougaard to slide in for a try before finding the blindside run of Charlie Atkinson for a further score.

And when Malakai Fekitoa drew his man and found Hougaard to jog in for his second, and Josh Bassett cleverly delayed his pass before passing to Zach Kibirige for an easy finish, it looked like Wasps were strolling to a bonus-point win in West London. However, Pearson led

the Irish driving maul over for a try and the introduction of 19-year-old Arundell, in front of watching England head coach Eddie Jones, changed the game.

First, the full-back pulled off an excellent kick and chase, getting the better of a collision with Charlie Atkinson to run through and score, before showing composure to find Hassell-Collins, who went over to put the hosts within four points.

When Jacob Umaga converted a penalty in the final minute to put Wasps 42-35 up, and the hosts failed to win the ball from the restart, it looked like the comeback would fall short. (BBC Sport)



Henry Arundell



## Murray slams jailbird Becker

Andy Murray insists he has no sympathy for jailed tennis legend Boris Becker, claiming he should receive no "special treatment" for breaking the law.

Becker was last week sentenced to 2½-years in jail for hiding £2.5 million worth of assets and loans to avoid paying debts after he was declared bankrupt. And speaking for the first time since Becker was convicted, Murray was adamant that his thoughts were with the victims of the German's crimes - and not the fallen former Wimbledon winner.

"He broke the law, and if you do that, I don't think you should get special treatment because of who you are or what you've achieved" Murray said. "I feel sorry that he's in that situation, but I also feel sorry for the people that he's affected with his decisions."

Becker has since been moved to HMP Wandsworth - a crumbling Victorian prison which will feel very different to the luxurious surroundings in which he has spent the majority of his adult life.

But Novak Djokovic, who won six of his major titles under Becker as coach, had a more sympathetic stance to his close friend. Asked to describe his emotions when the sentence was handed down, the world No1 replied: "I was just heartbroken. I just pray for him. I hope things will be well in terms of his mental health, because that's going to be the most challenging part."

The Serb described the 54-year-old as "a long-time friend, a coach

for three or four years, someone I consider close in my life and [who] has contributed a lot to my success in my career.

"As his friend, I'm super sad for him," Djokovic added. "It's not much that you can say. "I just

hope he will go through this period that he has to be in jail and that when he comes out he's able to live his life as - I don't know if we'll use the word 'normal', because life is definitely changing for anybody going to prison, especially for that long of a time."

The professional collaboration between the two men lasted three seasons, from 2014 to 2016. Over that period, Djokovic managed to spend 122 weeks at the top of the world rankings and transform his reputation from a shaky closer-out of tournaments into a cold-eyed winner. "We had the time of our life," said Becker when the partnership ended. (The Telegraph)

**St. Mary's College, Negombo Old Boys Association**  
(Since 1911)

**NOTICE OF 111<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2022**

**Date :** Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.  
**Time :** 7.30 pm onwards.  
(Registration From 7.00pm)  
**Venue :** OBA House, King George's Drive, Kamachode, Negombo.

The AGM will be followed by fellowship and Dinner. All members are kindly invited to attend.  
More details will be posted online on the OBA website from the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

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2021/2022

Rear Admiral Rohan Amarasinghe  
General Secretary  
OBA St. Mary's College  
0773721162

## Sri Lanka's Best from the Past Talented Iqbal Jumar chose hockey over cricket

BY DENNIS DE ROSYARO

Iqbal Jumar was born to be a sportsman with exceptional and inherent talent. He could have reached great heights in any ball-game but chose hockey as his preference.

A distinguished Kingswoodian, he shone in many sports, winning colours in hockey and soccer, while being a regular member of the 1st XI cricket team.

While still a schoolboy, he represented Kandy District HA at the National Hockey Championships. In 1959, the sports loving Carson Cumberbach & Company was happy to offer employment to Iqbal where he worked for 15 years.

Along with internationals Chandra Schaffer, V Jeyaratnam, LP Rayen and K Sampanthan, Jumar helped Carsons to many championships in 'A' division tournaments conducted by the Mercantile HA.

In the premier club tournaments, he represented the Burgher RC and Malay CC, and played in many a victorious team. In 1970, he was a vital member of the Malay CC team that toured South India, the first club side to do so.

His contribution to the Mercantile HA was remarkable, representing the association at the Senior National Championships from 1961 to 1974, captaining the winning team in 1968.

He was Chairman of the Selection Committee from 2004 to 2009, Manager Senior Nationals from 2001 to 2005 and 2008, and vice president from 2008/09.



Iqbal Jumar

He captained the Over 45 side on Mercantile HA's tour of Ipoh and Penang in 2000 and was hockey manager in 2009.

For Ceylon/Sri Lanka, Jumar was the automatic choice for 14 years in the vital position of right extreme, being the fastest mover on the field. It was a joy to see him sprinting down the line at full speed and with complete control of the ball, executing strategic moves resulting in many goals by him and teammates.

His international career speaks for itself: Three Asian Games playing against Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Spain, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and West Germany.

He remembers with nostalgia, scoring the winning goals against Singapore and Indonesia and beating Japan during the 'Nehru Tournament' in India. As if these achievements were not enough to a boy who did not take to rugby at school, he went on to be a class player. Joining the CR & FC in the early sixties, Kavan Rambukwela spotted his inherent talent, taught and groomed him in the basics of the game.

He represented the club 'A' team from 1965 to 1968 as a three quarter back and ended up as a full back.

In the All India Tournament, representing the CR & FC versus the Army in the semi-finals, Juamr deftly converted a 50-yard penalty to seal victory for his club and repeated it in the final

against the Havelock SC with a fantastic conversion that gave the CR & FC the coveted All-India Cup. On the strength of these magnificent performances, Jumar was selected for the Ceylon XV against the Combined Services.

Jumar played with me for BRC, Malays, Mercantile HA and Ceylon, and we still share lasting memories and friendship.

### Career highlights

**IQBAL JUMAR (born 1940)**

**Position:** Right Extreme  
**Clubs:** BRC, CR & FC, Malays CC, Colombo HA, Mercantile HA  
1961 vs Indian Wanderers  
1964 vs Great Britain  
1965 vs Indonesia (2 Tests)  
1966 Asian Games, Bangkok  
1966 Tour of South and North India  
1967 Tour of North India (Vice Captain)  
1968 vs Malaysia  
1968 vs Singapore (2 tests)  
1968 Tour of Lahore, Pakistan (pre Olympic International Festival)  
1968 Tour of South and North India  
1970 Asian Games, Bangkok  
1970 vs Mysore HA  
1971 Tour of South and North India and vs Malaysia in Delhi (Nehru tournament)  
1972 Tour of North India (Captain) and vs West Germany in Delhi (Nehru tournament)  
1973 vs Mysore HA  
1973 Tour of South and North India (vice captain)  
1974 Asian Games, Teheran (vice captain)  
1974 vs Tamil Nadu (captain)  
**NEXT:** Stanley Fernando

## Greg Norman says Mickelson's comments made players leave Saudi series

In an interview with ESPN, Greg Norman unearthed new details about his Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf Invitational series, as well as the damaging effects of Phil Mickelson's controversial comments.

The two-time major champion and CEO of LIV Golf Investments said his 14-event upstart league was ready to go back in February, the same week Alan Shipnuck published Mickelson's "scary motherf---ers" quote in a story for the Fire Pit Collective.

"Quite honestly, we were ready to launch on the Tuesday or Wednesday of Genesis," Norman told ESPN. "We had enough players in our strength of field, or minimal viable product, ready to come on board. And when all of that happened, everybody got the jitters, and the PGA Tour threatened people



Greg Norman

with lifetime bans and stuff like that." "There's no question (Mickelson's comments hurt)," Norman said. "It hurt a lot of aspects. It hurt the PGA Tour. It hurt us. It hurt the game of golf. It hurt Phil. So yeah, across all fronts. It wasn't just specifically to us. But it definitely created negative momentum against us."

Norman told ESPN at least 15 of the world's top 50 players had committed to LIV Golf a week after SL.com's Bob Harig reported that 15 of the world's

top 100 players had registered for the first event at Centurion Golf Club in London, June 9-11.

"To this day, we still have players under contract and signed," Norman said of the players committed to the eight-event series. "The ones who wanted to get out because of the pressure of the PGA Tour gave back their money and got out. Guys had money in their pockets."

More than 200 players registered for the first event, according to Norman, including two previous world No. 1s. Mickelson's agent confirmed his client was one of lot to register, saying last week that Mickelson had also registered for the PGA Championship - where he's the defending champion - and the U.S. Open. (USA Today)

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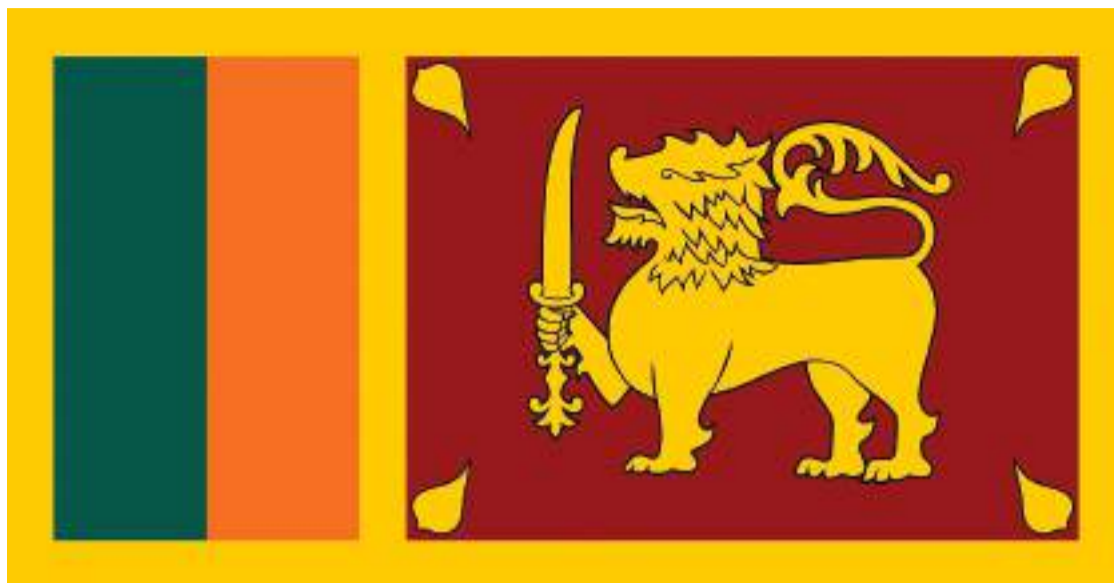






# IMPACT

MAY 8, 2022



## Lithuanians will be surprised of their legacy in Sri Lanka

– Lithuanian envoy

By  
**Panchamee Hewavissenti**



Endowed with a glorious green cover and breathtaking landscapes, Lithuania is in Eastern Europe. A country spanning over 65,200 square kilometres is similar to the size of Sri Lanka. This idyllic country, which is fondly known by the visitors as a 'land full of surprises', is an abode to about two million people. Lithuania and Sri Lanka boast of a century-old historic relationship dating back to 1800s. The arrival of a Lithuanian ecclesiastic named Ladislaus Michael Zaleski to Sri Lanka and his stay in the central hills and the setting up of Sri Lanka's first-ever papal seminary is a remarkable testimony of Lithuanian influence and trace in Sri Lanka.

At a time when Sri Lanka is in a dire need of forex, tourism is one of the surefire means to resolve the ongoing crisis. The Lithuanian Ambassador to India and Sri Lanka Julius Pranevicius hopeful that Lithuanian tourists would find Sri Lanka to be one of the irresistible destinations in South East Asia. "Since Lithuanians have a legacy in Sri Lanka, this country is one of the important destinations for our people to visit and feel proud of our ancestors", said the Ambassador.

Extending a friendly hand to Sri Lanka's tourism industry during times of hardship and affliction, Lithuanian Embassy has plans to promote Sri Lanka as a preferred tourism destination in South Asia for Lithuanian tourists.

The Ambassador is confident that Sri Lanka can explore international market possibilities with the help of Lithuania. "Lithuania is a proud member state of the European Union. Hence, the international market possibilities are enormous for us", he said.

Excerpts of the interview, the *Sunday Observer* had with the Ambassador of Lithuania.

**Q:** Regardless of the fact that you are the Ambassador of Lithuania to our country, which places in Sri Lanka have attracted you as a tourist?

**A:** I have been to Sri Lanka only about four times. Since the Embassy of Lithuania is in New Delhi, India I am mostly required to be in India than in Sri Lanka. Lithuania has a consulate in Sri Lanka. I have visited Sri Lanka only as the Ambassador of Lithuania and not as a tourist. I am hoping to extensively travel in this beautiful island one day as a tourist.

I am attracted to the natural beauty of this country. There are wonderful beaches and mountains. As a traveller, I am enthralled by nature. I enjoy hiking too. Sri Lanka has many places to hike.

I can see many similarities be-

tween my country, Lithuania and Sri Lanka. The sizes of the two countries are similar. Both countries are splendidly green. In my country, there are beautiful rivers and lakes and extended forests with rich biodiversity. Fresh air, natural food, and serenity are common aspects shared by the two countries. I grew up in a less cluttered, calm, serene, and green environment. Hence, I always like to travel to such destinations.

I would like to engage in trekking in the forests, hiking, and canoeing in the lakes when I visit Sri Lanka next time. I do not like to spend my holidays in a lethargic manner but want

to be active and travel to places with natural beauty. Sri Lanka is one of the best destinations in South East Asia to experience the beauty of nature.

**Q:** Do you recommend Sri Lanka to Lithuanian tourists?

**A:** Yes of course! It is easy to attract tourists from all corners of the world to Sri Lanka because the country has a scenic beauty. The natural beauty of Sri Lanka is sure to hold any tourist in her thrall. It is ideal for a relaxed holiday on the beach. Sri Lanka has many places of archaeological and ecological importance. Sri Lankans are re-

nowned for their exemplary hospitality.

Sri Lanka's tourism industry faced a downturn after the Easter Sunday attack. When it was slowly recovering, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the industry once again. However, with the ebbing of the pandemic, the tourism industry in the world began to bloom. Prior to erupting the crisis in the country, the tourism industry saw a satisfactory headway.

**Q:** Since Lithuanians have a legacy in Sri Lanka, don't you think it would be an added advantage for Sri Lanka to promote tourism for Lithuanians?

**A:** Yes, it is. The Ampitiya Seminary in Kandy was founded by a Lithuanian Archbishop named Ladislaus Michael Zaleski. I learnt that this is the alma mater for many high-profile Catholic priests in Sri Lanka such as the present Cardinal of Sri Lanka, Malcolm Ranjith, and many more venerated and acclaimed Catholic ecclesiastics such as Rev. Oswald Gomis and Rev. Rayappu Joseph.

Messenger Zaleski, being a fervent lover of nature, had preferred the landscape in Ampitiya, which is a calm area with a picturesque, natural outlook. I think Zaleski would have been inspired by the natural beauty of Lithuania which is his land of birth.

During my visit I came to know that Zaleski had been held in high esteem by the poor in the surroundings of Ampitiya. He had often visited the poor in the area and especially, the children had been very fond of him.

Apart from its theological significance, the Ampitiya seminary is visually striking and without disturbing the students there, the place can be promoted as a tourism destination for Lithuanians.

There is an ancient painting in St. Mary's chapel in the premises of the Ampitiya seminary. The surprising fact is that there is a similar painting in Lithuania.

I want Lithuanians to come to Sri Lanka and visit the Ampitiya seminary and experience the breathtaking environment there which had once attracted one of our ancestors. Similarly, the Ampitiya seminary will be a pleasant surprise to modern Lithuanians.

Zaleski, one of the ecclesiastic ancestors of Lithuanian people, not only made a journey to Sri Lanka, but also travelled extensively across the island, witnessing the natural beauty that the country is bestowed with. Hence, Lithuanians can follow suit their progenitor Zaleski in exploring and loving this amazing island nation.

**Q:** How has the bilateral relationship between the two countries been and how Lithuania can help Sri Lanka recover from the crisis?



**"I AM ATTRACTED TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THIS COUNTRY. THERE ARE WONDERFUL BEACHES AND MOUNTAINS. AS A TRAVELLER, I AM ENTHRALLED BY NATURE. I ENJOY HIKING TOO. SRI LANKA HAS MANY PLACES TO HIKE"**

**A:** During my visits to Sri Lanka a couple of years ago, I could observe the interest of Sri Lankan business community in establishing economic ties with Lithuania, and the Lithuanian business community too had shown the same interest. The two countries had many mutually beneficial ventures which enhanced trade and commerce engagements.

Lithuania is a member state of the European Union. Hence, the international market possibilities are enormous for us now. We can invite Sri Lanka to discover Lithuania as a gateway to entering the European market once the situation in the country improves.

**Q:** Lithuania is not a popular destination among Sri Lankan tourists. Could you shed some light on the tourist attractions of your country?

**A:** Lithuania is popular among international tourists as a land full of surprises. Lithuania has a lot to offer the travellers. It is one of the most graceful countries in Europe. Like Sri Lanka, Lithuania is also held in high esteem by tourists for its hospitality.

The old town of Vilnius which is also the capital of Lithuania is one of the most captivating and largest surviving medieval old towns in Europe. Due to its exceptional illustration as a medieval historic site, it has become a favourite destination for movie-makers.

Many historic buildings stand magnificently in the city representing classical, Gothic and Renaissance styles

of architecture. This historic centre in Vilnius has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. The city is also the cultural and higher education centres of Lithuania. Many theatres and museums can also be found. There is an art gallery in the former town hall belonging to 18th century. Many tourists refer to Vilnius as a postcard-perfect city.

Encompassed with the historic grandeur, the present-day capital of Lithuania is an important industrial hub. Since we have environmentally friendly modes of transportation such as bicycles, pollution is minimal in the city in comparison to other metropolitan cities in the world. So, it is a healthy place to visit.

We experience four seasons and the most delightful season is the winter as the country gets shrouded with snow. I like to go back to Lithuania during Christmas to experience the 'white Christmas'.

During spring, flowers blossom and the country becomes a colourful destination. Wild foods and fruits are abundantly available during spring. The country's infrastructure makes easy access as well as convenient stay in the country.

Lithuanian foods are tourist-friendly. Tourists have a plethora of foods to choose as per their preference. Lithuanians prepare nutritious, tasty, simple, and filling food that anyone can enjoy. There are modern, traditional, and fusion foods.

**Q:** How has the economy of Lithuania transformed over the past decade? And how did the Covid-19 pandemic affect the economy?

**A:** The economy of Lithuania underwent significant transformations during the past decades. Innovation, technology, and life science became the lifeblood of Lithuania's economy. Our country's capital Vilnius has become one of the fastest-growing innovation hubs in Europe. The life science sector has gained momentum. In 2019, the World Economic Forum announced Lithuania as the best place for Research and Development in Central and Eastern Europe.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic affected Lithuania, the economy did not collapse. Our life science sector could bailout the Covid-19 hit economy.



Pic: Saliya Rupasinghe

Features

# Re-visiting the camel boy racket of 1989

BY LEON BERENGER

The cover page on the in-flight magazine on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) bound scheduled flight from Colombo contained a colourful and interesting picture that promoted camel races for the summer season.

A close scrutiny of the picture revealed that the jockeys riding the camels were little terrified children with Sri Lankan features or perhaps from another country in the South Asian region.

As investigators from the police and elsewhere were later to find out there existed a sordid human trafficking racket in Sri Lanka where boys under the age of 12 were sent to the UAE as child jockeys for camel races in the harsh desert environment.

The chief suspect behind the

**BUT IT WAS NOT THE END OF THE CAMEL RACES IN THE UAE, THE OPERATORS STARTED TO BRING IN CHILDREN FROM IMPOVERISHED HOMES IN BANGLADESH AND NEPAL SINCE THE SPORT HAD TO GO ON FOR THE EXCITEMENT OF THE WEALTHY IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD**

racket was identified as an Indian astrologer. He was subsequently arrested along with his spouse and the police uncovered hard evidence such as doctored travel documents and birth certificates.

Earlier officials of the Department of Child Care and Probation complained that the police had opted to maintain a lukewarm attitude in investigations for reasons, perhaps known only to them.

Not only that the then Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services Donald Abeysinghe was quoted by

the now defunct *Sun* newspaper that initially exposed the racket as saying that he had no comment.

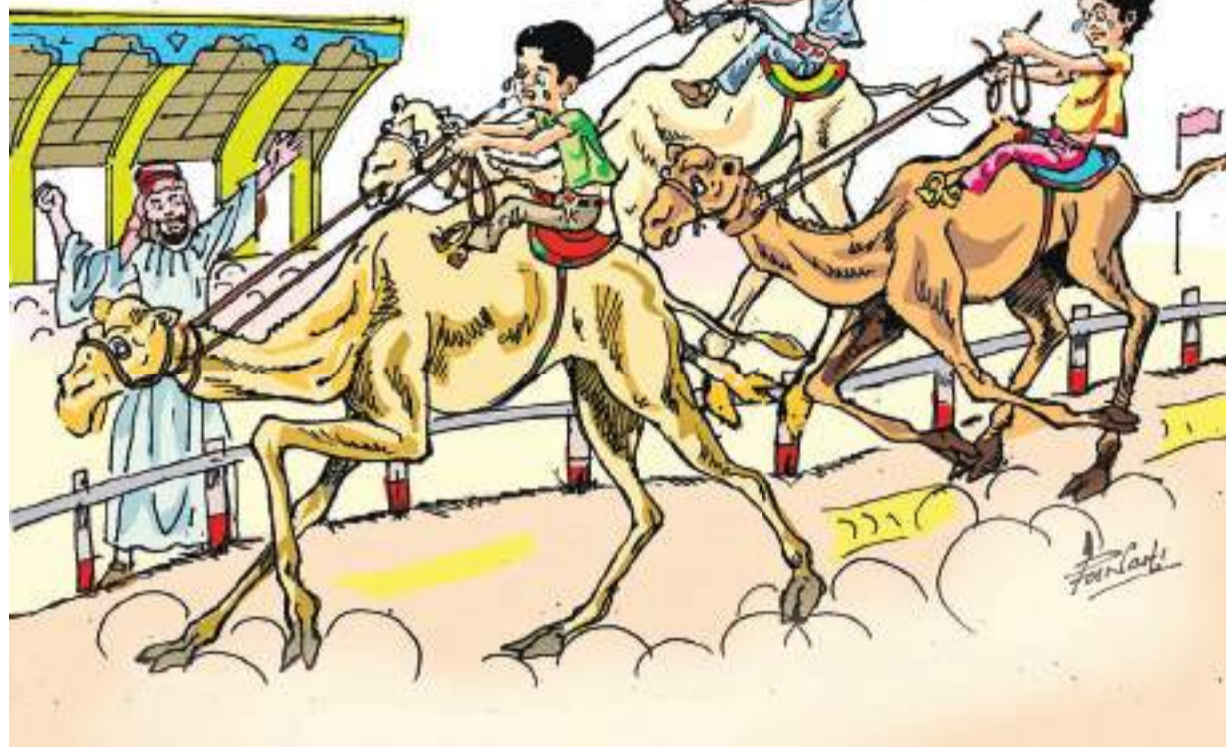
**Corrupt officials**

The recruiting of the boy jockeys was carried out through a tight syndicate that involved a mixed bag of licensed foreign employment agencies along with their counterparts in the UAE, middlemen who worked for a fee and corrupt Government officials.

Their agents would visit poverty stricken homes in far flung poor villages in the country and persuade elders to part with the siblings in exchange for a lucrative fee.

The parents and guardians were told that the boys would be used to ride the camels at perehras and other pagants and that the danger was zero since the animals would be moving at a trot accompanied by a trained handler.

This was enough to convince the unsuspecting parents and guardians. The child or children would later be escorted out of the



country by an agent posing off as a guardian with doctored travel and other documents.

On arrival into the UAE, the boys are taken to an estate known as Jebel Ali that is the home of camel and horse stables owned by wealthy Arabs both in the UAE and elsewhere in the Gulf region. It would be the beginning of a nightmare for the camel jockeys.

Food was rationed at all times. It contained minimum protein since the boys had to remain in feather weight, a priority requirement for child jockeys since it provides the animal with a lesser burden during the race.

The children are strapped on to the back of the camel and instructed by the adult handler to hold on tight to the reins or risk falling and hurting themselves.

Not only that once the race is in

progress, the terrified child jockeys begin to scream and this prompts the animal to gallop even faster which all a part of a pre-planned strategy by the handlers and owners.

As it would later be known, several children are known to have fallen during the race and some had even suffered broken limbs and serious fractures.

The exposure of the camel boy racket led to huge protests by child rights activists and the public here and overseas and a chorus of protests were made to the authorities in the UAE to bring an end to this inhuman practice.

The Sri Lankan authorities for their part tightened the rules for children leaving escorted or otherwise and a close check was maintained at the Bandaraika International Airport (BIA).

Subsequently the matter was raised in Parliament and a Cabinet directive outlawing the recruitment of minors as

jockeys or whatever saw the end of the sordid racket.

Some 42 boys were later brought down to the country at State expense while this writer was also provided with an opportunity to raise the issue at an international forum held in Chiang Mai Thailand in 1989.

But it was not the end of the camel races in the UAE. The operators started to bring in children from impoverished homes in Bangladesh and Nepal since the sport had to go on for the excitement of the wealthy in that part of the world.

**Replaced by tiny robots**

Today the child jockeys have been replaced by tiny robots as the modern day UAE has opted to fall in line with international laws and obligations while at the same time to maintain a clean face emirate.



**ECONOMIC CRISIS**

# Many good Samaritans, but beware of vultures

BY LUXMAN SIRIWARDENA

Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis due to once-in-a-century global pandemic is now well recognised. Due to the depletion of foreign exchange reserves, the Government was compelled to drastically control the import of daily essentials. Results of these short-term measures are now obvious with the shortage of many daily essentials and exchange rate adjustment increasing the prices in several hundred folds.

Given the situation, the Government leadership has been compelled to seek short- and medium-term assistance from all likely sources, countries as well as international and regional institutions. At the beginning of the Gotabaya administration, attempts were made to avoid seeking assistance from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), as 17 such previous programs failed to complete while the effectiveness of those programs have been questionable.

Therefore, the advice to the Government has been to introduce steep cuts in imports as a short-term measure and to introduce far-reaching economic reforms including the restructuring of State-owned enterprises (SOE). If the economic reform measures were implemented, it was estimated that US\$ 8 - 10 billion could have been generated while at the same time attracting much-needed foreign direct investment.

**Friendly sources**

The key issue being addressed in this article is the Government seeking the assistance of other friendly sources, especially India, World Bank, and ADB to meet the import requirements of daily essentials including fuel, medicine, gas and food items. Now we see that good Samaritans are offering credit line conditions which are yet to be made public. Also, the Government has approached traditional donors such as Japan, while China has reiterated its willingness to provide similar facilities to reduce the pain on the people.

There is no doubt that everyone in the country including the political leadership will be pleased to utilise such offers. Of course, in such a situation, genuine businesses, that have been battered since pandemic-relat-



ed lockdowns too will be delighted to see the appearance of such good Samaritans.

Undoubtedly, foreign and local rent seekers and commission agents also see such emergency procurements as an opportunity to make deals and push through foreign-funded projects and programs hitherto unwelcomed by the Government. When Sri Lanka is compelled to seek credit facilities from our friends, in those countries too business interest is lining up for profitable opportunities. Of course, we all should be aware that there are no free lunches.

Every credit line or swap arrangement from most, if not all, friendly sources are tied to procurement primarily from the so-called donor country. As the crisis deepens, there are many shortages resulting in longer queues and almost all the procurements are processed on an emergency basis. Proper and transparent procurement processes can be easily avoided as it appears that leaders of both sides of Parliament and media are rarely raising concerns regarding the processes and procedures.

It is also reported that some of

our friendly countries that have been approached for foreign exchange facilities while showing their readiness to help ailing Sri Lanka, is pressurising the Government at the highest levels to renew their interest on some of the loan-funded (further foreign debt creating) projects with little or no economic benefit even in the long-term. Some of these projects will add to the continued bleeding of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

**Critical roles**

Unfortunately, lobbying for such projects is not solely from the foreign donors but even local vulturous deal makers too are playing critical roles in this regard. In summary, while the ailing Sri Lankan economy is in the intensive care unit, these vultures are in their habitual game of sucking the blood and eating the flesh.

Of course, some of these project funding is justified based on their relatively long-term repayment. This, however, means that the country will be further entangled in debt-traps beyond the lifetime of these vulturous rent-seekers.

# India's poor bear the brunt of blistering temperatures

As a blistering heatwave sweeps through India, the country's poor are once again the most vulnerable. The BBC's Ayushi Shah reports from Mumbai city.

Sulachna Yevale, a vegetable vendor, desperately sprinkles water over her produce - some lemons and spinach that she bought from a wholesale market - to keep it from drying.



**Nothing seems to help**

The extreme heat has caused some of the produce to spoil, making them useless for selling.

Even though she has been selling vegetables at the same spot for decades, Ms Yevale says this is the first time she has lost so much of her produce - worth 70 rupees (around \$1; £0.80) - a significant amount for someone whose daily income is 800 rupees.

As her profits plummet, she worries about her future. She depends on the stall to provide for a family that includes her widowed daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

"I feel helpless," she says, teary-eyed.

A brutal heatwave has upended lives of millions of people in India who are struggling to cope with the soaring temperatures - the highest in over 100 years.

**Maximum temperatures**

After record-breaking weeks, the country's weather department expects temperatures in north-west India to get slightly better, as maximum temperatures are expected to drop by 3-4C this week. But the respite is expected to be short-lived, with maximum temperatures shooting back up by 2-3C few days after that.

Caught in the middle are India's poor - people like Ms Yevale who disproportionately bear the cost of such extreme weather events. With a limited income and little resources to adapt to the heat, they are now struggling to survive.

Prameela Walikar, a fisherwoman, wipes the sweat off her face and says that she can barely afford to keep her catch fresh in the stifling heat.

"Most of what I earn is just

spent on ice trying to preserve these fish," she says. "I have never had so much spoiled fish in all these decades of selling. Now I am sometimes losing produce worth 2,000 rupees a day."

Even ice prices have risen - a twofold blow that she is struggling to adapt to.

"The government needs to provide equipment and ice to help the fishing community adapt to rising temperatures and the longer summers," she says.

**Outdoors**

The woes of the two women reflect those of millions employed in the country's vast unorganised sector, who have no choice but to work outdoors in the heat to make ends meet.

But as heatwaves become more frequent, expert say work such as construction and agriculture will become dangerous during the hottest hours of the day.

This is not just a matter of public health and safety, but also a grave economic issue for a country that is highly dependent on heat-exposed labour. India is already losing \$101bn annually due to heat - the most in the world - a report by Nature Communications has found.

The lost labour hours due to increasing heat and humidity could put approximately 2.5-4.5% of GDP at risk by 2030, up to \$250bn, according to a 2020 McKinsey report. The number of daylight hours - during which outdoor work is unsafe - will also increase approximately 15% by 2030, compared to a decade earlier, the report says.

Pandurang Girhe, 76, drags

his hand cart uphill on a bridge during the hottest hours of the day.

**Little choice**

The cart weighs 60kg and feels even heavier in the scorching heat. It is a hard climb for a meagre 200 rupees, but despite his aching knees, he has little choice.

The heatwave that has struck India this year has been particularly severe, but experts say it is not an isolated incident - they say it is a harbinger of the type of events that might become more common in the future as temperatures rise.

But poor street vendors like Girhe do not understand what heatwave means or what may have caused it. All they know is that their daily lives and their earnings are being affected, and that they must continue to work - heatwave or not - to feed their families.

"It is especially hot this year. But if I don't work, how will I fill my stomach?" Mr Girhe shrugs.

Experts say that poor infrastructure in cities has made life harder for people. Free and clean drinking water is limited and there aren't enough shelters for him to escape the heat, even for a while.

Shruti Narayan, regional director of South and West Asia of C40 Cities, says cities need to urgently take action by developing data-driven climate action plans.

"This includes clear, tangible actions on mitigation and adaptation, as well as building resilience to events we are already experiencing such as heat plans." - BBC

# Celebrating our feathered friends

**WEEKEND REFLECTIONS**



By Pramod de Silva

Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) - and the non-profit organisation, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

World Migratory Bird Day was initiated in 2006 by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Originally, the idea of designating a day for migratory birds arose in the United States in 1993, when the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology initiated celebrations of the 'International Migratory Bird Day' (IMBD), which encourages bird festivals and education programs across the world.

World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated on the second Saturday of May in Canada and the US (May 14 in 2022), and the second Saturday of October in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean (October 8 in 2022). However,

If you thought that live dinosaurs exist only in the Jurassic Park movie, think again. Look no further than outside your window to catch a glimpse of the modern relatives of dinosaurs. Yes, that bird fluttering about outside your window hails from those giant beasts. Birds have had 65 million years to get their act together.

Today, there is a huge profusion of birds - around 18,000 species in fact, all around the world. Many birds such as the Dodo have gone extinct while many birds face the threat of extinction.

Birds have another unique feature - they fly very long distances - mostly in formation but sometimes also alone - to get to warmer climates such as Sri Lanka when the going gets tough in colder climes. A male bar-tailed godwit, recently set a new record for nonstop avian migration when it flew 7,500 miles over the Pacific Ocean without taking a single stop. The only other animals that can emulate such a feat are marine mammals such as whales and of course, humans themselves. This process is called migration and the birds that do it year upon year are called migratory birds.

## Magnificent birds

These magnificent birds are indeed worthy of celebration. In fact,

there are two days of the year on which bird lovers and ornithologists (those who study birds) can admire these feathered friends. One of them falls on May 14. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. WMBD is organised by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties - the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Migratory



every day is Bird Day, and you can celebrate birds and host events any day of the year.

## Light pollution

This year's campaign highlights the impact of light pollution on migratory birds with the theme "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night." There are simple steps that everyone can take to reduce light pollution and help birds. Light pollution attracts and disorients nocturnally migrating birds, making them more likely to land in areas where they are more vulnerable to collisions and other dangers. At least 500 million birds die every year from colliding with buildings around the world.

Artificial light also impacts birds in the breeding and winter seasons, disrupting feeding and other vital behaviour. Because artificial light affects birds in so many ways, it is impossible to know just how many birds are impacted by light pollution every year around the globe.

Artificial light is increasing globally by at least two percent per year and it is known to adversely affect many bird species. Light pollution is a significant threat to migratory

birds, causing disorientation when they fly at night, leading to collisions with buildings, perturbing their internal clocks, or interfering with their ability to undertake long-distance migrations.

Solutions to light pollution are readily available. For instance, more and more cities in the world are taking measures to dim building lights during migration phases in spring and autumn. Best practice guidelines are also being developed under the Convention on Migratory Species to address this growing issue and ensure that action is taken globally to help birds migrate safely.

There are many other steps that can be taken to help birds, both migratory and local. Ensure that any glass windows or lighting will not pose a danger to birds. Make sure that there are plenty of plants and trees for them to hang around. One can install a bird feeding station stuffed with bird food in the garden or even in the balcony if living in a high rise apartment.

A bird bath in the garden is another good idea. The very sight of birds frolicking about in the bath can diminish stress and reduce hypertension. However, regular cleaning of

both feeding stations and bird baths is advisable to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. Eliminating pesticide use in the garden will also be beneficial to birds.

## Cacophony

If you have a pet cat, be aware that it can be deadly for any birds that frequent your garden. If you hear the cacophony of birds when your cat is out and about in the garden, just go and have a look. With good care, one can even save birds that are caught and wounded by cats.

If you are not a bird lover per se, now is the perfect time to start a new hobby. You will need a printed or online field guide to birds, a good pair of binoculars, a digital camera with a zoom lens, a mobile phone or separate digital voice recorder to record bird song and a notebook.

In Sri Lanka, look out for these popular migratory birds - Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Barn Swallow, Indian Pitta, Indian Paradise Fly-catcher and Common Redshank. Plus, there are plenty of endemic birds which you can feast your eyes on. You will enjoy flying success with this hobby and passion.

# 'King of the fruit world'

BY SHALUKA MANCHANAYAKE AND GAYAN NARANDENIYA

Durian, a native fruit of Southeast Asia, is considered by some to be the most fragrant fruit. However, it is

said to have a very unpleasant odour to some. For this reason, some people eat durian with gusto, while others reject it even without looking at it. These are some of the facts about Durian, which are unheard to many.

Due to its large size compared to other fruits, durian is popular

among Southeast Asians as the 'king of the fruit world'. According to the Chinese, durian and mangosteens are the king and queen of the fruit world. That's because they have completely different features. A durian fruit, covered with a thorny bark, is usually about a foot in size. It

is more special than other fruits due to its size and unique aroma.

Durian fruit varies in shape from oblong to round and it is not necessary for a durian fruit to be well ripened for consumption. Accordingly, durian can be used in a variety of ways depending on the time of ripening, and many of the fragrant aromas emitted are also used to flavour Southeast Asian food. Durian seeds are also used for cooking purposes.

## 300 varieties

Currently, there are about 30 species of durian in the world, nine of which are edible. But over the centuries, about 300 varieties of durian have been developed, thanks to high-quality grafting. They produce high quality durian in almost every variety and each variety has a differ-

**COUNTRIES SUCH AS THAILAND, JAPAN, AND HONG KONG HAVE BANNED THE USE OF DURIAN ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE OF ITS ODOR. SINGAPORE HAS EXTENDED THE BAN, NOT ONLY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUT ALSO IN TAXIS. THERE ARE RESTAURANTS THAT HAVE BANNED THE USE OF DURIAN IN FOOD PREPARATION BECAUSE OF ITS PERSISTENT ODOUR FOR SEVERAL DAYS**



ent taste and aroma.

Although durian is a fruit endemic to Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia, Thailand is currently the world's leading exporter of durian. Nearly 200 varieties of durian are grown commercially, the most prominent being the durio zibethinus.

Although unpleasant to some, durian is a healthy fruit. Due to its simple sugar content, even those who suffer from diabetes can consume it. Also, it is not so heavy food so it is easy to digest.

Durian can be eaten as a remedy for weight loss in young children. Durian is also used as a remedy for constipation due to its fibrous nature. In addition, durian contributes to the production of red blood cells in the body.

## Healthy hair

Durian is useful in relieving sudden heart attacks and lowering high blood pressure. Regular consumption of durian can help you to have radiant skin as well as healthy hair. Although durian contains many nutrients that are important for the

body, durian is not good for people suffering from asthma and phlegm-related conditions.

Countries such as Thailand, Japan, and Hong Kong have banned the use of durian on public transportation because of its odour. Singapore has extended the ban, not only on public transport but also in taxis. There are restaurants that have banned the use of Durian in food preparation because of its persistent odour for several days.

This is how Alfred Russell Wallace, a British naturalist, described durian in 1856.

"Silky white five chambers are filled with creamy pulp, and each chamber contains three seeds. Of these, only the pulp-like part can be eaten. Its consistency and flavour are indescribable. Roughly it looks like almond flavoured custard. But sometimes it comes down to incompatible flavours like cream cheese, sherry wine or onion sauce. The sticky softness, unlike any other fruit, enhances the ripeness of this fruit. As more and more Durians are eaten, the need to stop eating them gradually diminishes."



# Encourage people to grow herbal remedies – Ayurvedic doctor



By  
**Namida B.  
Chandrasekara**

Health is one of the basic needs of animals and humans. People from all walks of life have developed their own health systems and medical traditions. Among them are Indian Ayurveda, Hela Wedakama, Chinese Medicine, Korean Medicine, and Unani Medicine, which are specific to Asia.

Today, these medical traditions are intertwined with each other. The Ayurvedic system of medicine originated in India and spread to other countries, combining with the indigenous medicine of each country. Dr. Nadeeja Maduwanthi, who works at the Ayurveda Hospital in Kirimetiya, shared her views on the Ayurveda medical system developed in accordance with *Hela Veda* (indigenous Sinhala medicine), which is associated with the Indian medical culture.

**Q: How did the advent of Ayurveda medicine come about?**

A: There was a traditionally developed indigenous Sinhala medicine in the past. Over time, the knowledge of indigenous Sinhala medicine for many generations was lost. After that, Indian Ayurveda medicine adapted and used in *Hela Veda*, which was becoming obsolete. There is a tendency between the Tamil and Muslim communities to practise Indigenous medicine, both Siddha and Unani. There is a tendency in today's society about these medical methods.

In the past, there was a local food pattern among our people. There was a daily routine and seasonal behaviour in line with Ayurveda. Many home remedies are used for minor ailments. The ancients knew how to avoid diseases. They knew more or less about certain defects in their bodies, and they knew how to balance those moments with their own diets and avoid

diseases. At that time, the knowledge of the basic principles of medicine in man was amazing.

**Q: About the present condition of Ayurveda medicine?**

A: With the development of society and the advent of Western medicine, hereditary knowledge was underestimated. From generation to generation, Ayurveda medicine began to decline. The properties of the same substance are changed and compared with the ability of digestion to eat it. Volume, body condition, and time (morning, evening, noon, and the patient's age) are all taken into account here. This is in accordance with the basic tenets of Ayurveda.

Knowledge of these basic principles should be studied in depth as a doctor. There should be some understanding in society. Basically, it's about the three doshas (*Thridosha*), shad rasaya, Panchamaha Buutha, and 20gunas such as cold and hot. The doctor has a responsibility to talk to the patients who come to him or her and inform them about the knowledge. That is what needs to be done in a timely manner. Ayurveda medicine is not a symptomatic treatment. It is a medical system that is scientifically proven to work on the correct theories that come with deep vision.

Many gastrointestinal diseases, including gastritis and piles, are prevalent in society today. These include not eating on time, a stressful lifestyle, eating short meals, getting used to fast food, tolerance without defecation, and drinking less water. We lost our "Diya batha, heel batha" from our society. It was a shame to tell others that we were using those foods.

Ayurveda doctors could not explain the value of those foods, and they missed that opportunity. The use of Rathakalka and *Ura Beheth* in young children has sparked debate. These drugs are despised in various medical treatments. But the good stuff is the best. Mothers were advised not to give their babies any water for up to six months, possibly because germs could enter the body.



Dr. M.A. Nadeeja Maduwanthi

We must remember that small children cannot ask for water. Much research has been done on *Rathakalka*. Its good results have been clinically confirmed. But mothers with small children are afraid of giving the *Ratha Kalka*. Out of love for their children, adults reject giving *Ratha Kalka* to their babies. Their minds change to the extent that they are given nothing externally except Western medicine.

*Ratha Kalka* is an immunosuppressive drug that can cure small children from a number of ailments (skin diseases, phlegmatic diseases, digestion problems (*Leukoplakia*) (*Ullogam*), but the drug alone could not. Pharmaceutical manufacturers have not designed this to be a single-dose preparation for a child. When taken by hand and put on a spoon and mixed with breast milk, it may become contaminated. This is what we need to think about anew.

**Q: Importance of Ayurveda medicine?**

A: What will happen if we change our attitude towards how people expect us to give antipruritic and antibiotic drugs? In order for our body to develop immunity so that it cannot be invaded by external micro-organisms, it can use home remedies as soon as it becomes immune to prevent the disease from getting worse.

Here we have to mention our *Pas-*

*pangu* and the ginger and coriander boiled drink. The same *pasangu* (a medicine made from five herbs) does not fit into every immune system. Depending on the condition of the immune system, fever, sore throat, headache, and phlegm may or may not be present at all. It is advisable to remove some of the material and add the required material. Simple knowledge about this should be present in society.

There is an opinion in society today that there is no such thing as a painkiller in Ayurveda medicine. There are many ways to get rid of minor aches and pains, like having paracetamol in Western medicine. These include herbal paste plaster, sweetening, oil applications, sudation and poultice. This is a good answer for those who have taken pills and capsules as their food. These are effective in the first and second stages of an illness.

It is possible to cure poisonous animal bites, migraines, hemorrhoids, and joint pain. Many Ayurvedic medicines contain diuretics, medicines prescribed to maintain the normal functioning of the kidneys, diluents for kidney stones, and internal medicines for diseases such as urinary stones and urinary tract infections.

Ayurveda has a successful treatment system, especially for arthritis. Depending on the patient's condition, the disease can be eliminated by weakening the course of the disease and treating it. Why wait for patients to be referred to rehabilitation camps or surgeries without responding to Western treatment at the end of their illness, giving symptomatic treatments once the disease has stabilised in the body? There are many things that can be done for externally associated diseases. Medical oils and medical ointments are just some of them.

Pain is a manifestation of a disease that the body gives us. It is important to keep in mind that primarily eliminating it does not cure the disease, but rather gives us the opportunity to implant it in the body.

Physicians in Ayurveda medicine need to understand that they have a responsibility beyond treating the patient. That is, the patient should be told



what the cause of the disease is, that the disease does not recur by removing the pathogen, and that the disease disappears by weakening and eliminating the onset of the disease. This is why the journey of Buddhist followers is successful since they are going by knowing the Abhidhamma.

Due to the shortage and increase in the prices of Western medicines today, the Ayurveda doctor is self-sufficient in medicine. This opportunity can be considered the best opportunity to socialise the potential and value of Ayurveda medicine. This is not something that a single person can do. The entire administrative structure should come together. This is something that doctors, farmers, and the entire population of the country should do together.

**Q: What can be done to revive the Ayurveda medical system?**

A: This should be implemented through long-term, short-term, and medium-term plans. As for long-term plans, activities such as creating herb gardens, basic theories of Ayurveda, and knowledge of hand remedies can be given some space in the school curriculum. Encourage people to grow herbal remedies instead of ornamental flowers in the backyard as a medium-term plan. We should motivate people to go to the hospital to gain an understanding of the location of the Ayurveda Hospital in the area and about its services. It is also possible to reintroduce local foods in place of fast foods. As a short-term plan, we need to give a chance to those accustomed

to long-term Western medicine to experience the healing effects of external therapies in a more practical way. Herbs can be planted in urban places and public places. People need to learn to use hand remedies for their minor ailments every day.

**Q: Should patients exercise restraint in their diet?**

A: One of the most frequently asked questions by patients is whether or not they should exercise restraint in their diet. That is what is suitable to get and what is not suitable to do or get when doing Ayurveda medicine. Only the right foods are involved. It should be understood that this applies not only to drugs but also to disease. The patient should be made aware that the disease is exacerbated if he eats only unhealthy foods. It also causes the disease to increase or decrease in severity, regardless of which medication is taken. It should be noted that drugs do not cause poisoning or degeneration.

Let us re-establish the extinct Ayurveda system of medicine and provide relief to people suffering from various ailments. Let's get rid of the myth among people. In the past, men did not have access to Western medicine. They lived for many years practising indigenous medicine. Our indigenous doctors had the ability to cure any ailment with indigenous drugs. Why Western medicine for a man who lived a healthy life in the past? If local, indigenous drugs were revived without shouting about the shortage of Western drugs, we too would be a nation without debt to the world.

## Seminar on women's rights



An awareness seminar to protect women and child abuse and violence against women and ensure gender-based rights was held at the Batticaloa District Secretariat on Wednesday. Batticaloa Additional Government Agent Sudharsini Srikanth presided. Here female members of the Batticaloa Municipal Council who participated in the seminar.

Pic: Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Spl. Cor.

## Office-bearers of Kalmunai Undergrads Assn.



The Annual General Meeting of the Kalmunai Undergraduates' Association (KUA) for 2022 was held at the Az-Zuhara Vidyalaya hall in Kalmunai recently. Kalmunai Undergraduates' Association (KUA) President Mursid Mubarak presided.

Pic: I.L.M. Rizan, Addalaichenai Central Cor.

## MoU between B'caloa Mayor and reps from South Korea



Bilateral talks and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Mayor of the Batticaloa Municipal Council, Thyagaraja Saravanapavan and Deputy Mayor, Kanthasamy Sathiyaseelan with representatives of the employment sector from South Korea took place at the Municipal Council on Tuesday. They discussed Korean language learning and sea water-related skill enhancement training and employment for youth in Batticaloa.

Pic: Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Spl. Cor.

## Hathees quiz winners awarded



Winners of the Hathees Quiz competition were awarded certificates and cash prizes recently. The Addalaichenai Al-Ifatha Cultural Forum conducted the Hathees Majlis, an Islamic program, during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Pic: I.L.M. Rizan, Addalaichenai Central Cor.

# Golden Jubilee of priesthood

Rev Fr. S. Damian (OMI) celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest. His long journey started from the little Parish of Great St. James, Ilvalai

He was born on July 23, 1944 to Magdalene and Soosai, in a family of six, three males and three females. His formative education was at St. Henry's College, Ilvalai which was under the Oblates Fathers' Management under the Bishop of Jaffna.

In May 1965, he made his novitiate at the Sacred Heart Novitiate "Mont Eden", Kalutara, and professed his First Vows on May 31, 1966. From there, he proceeded to the Oblate Scholasticate, Ampitiya studying philosophy (1966 - 1968) then Theology (1968 - 1972) at the National Seminary. He took his Final Vows at the Scholasticate on June 13, 1969. He was ordained a priest by the then Auxiliary Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. L. R. Anthony at St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna on April 26, 1972.

He began his priestly missionary as Assistant Parish Priest at Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu on June 1, 1972. It was only four years back before his arrival that the Oblates there took over Kanchipuram. He returned to Sri Lanka and was a frontline Preacher in the Oblate Preaching Band at Amalutpavam, Coloumbuthurai, Jaffna.

In 1982, he went to Canada to pursue higher studies in counselling and clinical psychology and earned his Master's degree from the University of Ottawa and the University of St. Paul's, Ottawa. On his return in 1985, in March the same year, he was appointed as the Director of the newly formed Pre-Philosophate at Amalutpavam, Coloumbuthurai, and was in that position till 1992.

During the same period, he taught psychology and spirituality at St. Xavier's Major Seminary. That year, he was inducted into the Teaching Staff of the University of Jaffna in the Department of Psychology and Psychiatry as a Lecturer and continued working in that Department till 2005.

In 1987, apart from his assigned ministries; his understanding of the Scriptures inwardly demanded that his singular focus should be healing - working among the communities. He was involved in trauma counselling and relief work for those directly affected by the battle against terrorism.



Rev. Fr. S. Damian OMI



Diyaluma



The Boburu Ella



Dunhinda

## Waterfalls after heavy rains

Many waterfalls in the island look beautiful due to the heavy rain in the Uva province. The Bambarakanda waterfall is the tallest waterfall in the island. The Ravana Ella, Ella Divisional Secretariat, Dunhinda, a spectacular waterfall in the Badulla Soranotota Divisional Secretariat, and Bomburu Ella in the Welimada Uva Paranagama Divisional Secretariat are now full of water.

Pic: Asok Kumar, Haliela Spl. Cor.



Bambarakanda



The Rawana Falls



SPORTS

# One leg marathon runner sets world record



A woman who took up running after she lost her left leg to cancer has passed the Guinness World Record for most consecutive marathons.

Jacky Hunt-Broersma, 46, has run 26.2-miles every day since mid-January, normally taking around five hours.

On Saturday, she completed her 104th consecutive marathon in as many days - an achievement she expects to be certified by Guinness World Records.

A spokesperson said certifying the record would take around three months.

Waking up on Sunday - a day off at long last - was a bizarre experience for Jacky.

"Part of me was really happy to be done," she tells the BBC from her home in Arizona. "And the other part kept thinking I need to go running."

Her body is also recovering from the record-chasing effort, despite having stopped. "I feel tighter than I have the whole 104 marathons," she admits.

But Jacky - who was born and raised in South Africa, and has also lived in England and the Netherlands - is grateful. Because running has given her the confidence she was afraid she would never regain.

In 2002, doctors in the Netherlands diagnosed her with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer.

Within two weeks, they amputated her left leg to save her life. She was only 26 years old.

"It was a rollercoaster," she recalls. "Everything happened so fast."

For the first couple of years, Jacky struggled with the change in her life. She was angry that she had got cancer and embarrassed to be different. She wore long trousers in public so people would not notice the prosthetic.

Almost on a whim, she took up

running in 2016.

She had cheered her husband on at long-distance running events but had never considered doing it herself, thinking it was only "for crazy people".

Buying a special prosthetic for long-distance runners, she signed up for her very first 10K (6.2 mile) run.

On the eve of the race, she switched her registration to the half-marathon category - and she has not looked back since, exploring longer distances and different terrains.

"I'm an all or nothing person, so I just threw myself in," she explains. "I love pushing boundaries and seeing how far I can push."

At the beginning of the year, Jacky gave herself a new goal: the record for most consecutive marathons.

The female Guinness record stood at 95 - set two years ago by Alysia Amos Clark, a non-amputee runner from Vermont - who did it as a pandemic coping strategy.

The male Guinness record is held by Enzo Caporaso of Italy with 59 - although Spanish ultra-runner Ricardo Abad reportedly ran 607 consecutive marathons, finishing in 2012.

So Jacky - a mother of two who works as an endurance coach - started running with the record in mind, making sure she always ran at least the length of a marathon. (BBC Sport)



Jacky Hunt-Broersma

### NATIONAL-AWARD

- Best Batsman
- Best Bowler
- Best Fielder
- Best wicket Keeper
- Best All Rounder
- Schoolboy Cricketer of the year 2022
- Schoolgirl Cricketer of the year 2022
- Best School Team (All island)

### TEAMS AWARDS

TROPHY | CASH AWARDS | CERTIFICATE | FOR ALL

- Best School Team - National Awards ( All island -Runners up)
- Best School Team - Western province- Winner
- Best School Team - Western province ( Runners up )
- Best school team - Southern Province winner
- Best school team - Southern Province ( Runners up)
- Best school team - Northern Province Winner
- Best school team - Northern Province-Runners up
- Best school team - Central province Winner
- Best school team - Central province ( Runners up)
- Best school team - North Western province-Winner
- Best school team - North western province Runners up)
- Best school team - Sabaragamuwa province -Winner
- Best school team - North Central province - Winner
- Best School team - Uva province - Winner
- Best School team - Eastern Province -Winner
- Best Promising Team -Winner
- Best Behaved Team - Winner

## OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2022 AWARDS

Since 1978, The Observer SLT-Mobitel School Cricketer Awards have recognized talent and inspired Cricketing greatness. As the award takes the pitch for the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, once again reinvents the boundaries by recognizing talented schoolboy and girl cricketers in Sri Lanka.

The competition jointly organized by the Sunday Observer and SLT- Mobitel is the hallmark of school cricketing achievement and has played a pivotal role in taking young cricketers to national and international platforms. Our eminent panel of Judges consists of high ranking officials from the SLSCA, SLC and ACUSL while the Most Popular category of awards are determined by votes from our readers. Winners receive trophies, certificates and cash awards.

### DIVISION 1 AWARDS

- Best Batsman-WINNER
- Best Batsman RUNNER UP
- Best Bowler -WINNER
- Best Bowler- RUNNER- UP
- Best Fielder -WINNER
- Best Wicket Keeper -WINNER
- Best All Rounder- WINNER
- Best All Rounder -RUNNER UP

### GIRLS' AWARDS

- Best Batswoman-WINNER
- Best Batswoman-RUNNER UP
- Best Bowler-winner
- Best Bowler- RUNNER UP
- Best All-rounder Winner
- Best All-rounder- RUNNER UP

### DIVISION 2 AWARDS

- Best Batsman - WINNER
- Best Batsman - RUNNER UP
- Best Bowler - WINNER
- Best Bowler-RUNNER UP
- Best Fielder - WINNER
- Best Wicket Keeper- WINNER
- Best All Rounder- WINNER
- Best All Rounder - RUNNER UP

### SELECTED BY COUPONS

- Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2022
- Most Popular schoolboy Cricketer 2022 (Runner up) Award
- Most popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2022
- Most popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2022 (Runner up) Award

### DIVISION 3 AWARDS

- Best Batsman - WINNER
- Best Batsman - RUNNER UP
- Best Bowler - WINNER
- Best Bowler-RUNNER UP
- Best Fielder - WINNER
- Best Wicket Keeper- WINNER
- Best All Rounder- WINNER
- Best All Rounder - RUNNER UP

### BEST SCHOOL GIRL TEAM OF THE YEAR 2022

### BEST SCHOOL GIRLS' TEAM (RUNNERS UP)

### BEST UP & COMING GIRLS' TEAM OF THE YEAR 2022

SINCE 1978

# 44<sup>th</sup>

## OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2022

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.



## SPORT

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MAY 8, 2022



Maradona scores his Hand of God goal against England in the 1986 World Cup

## Maradona's 'Hand of God' shirt fetches world record £7.1m



Diego Maradona's 1986 World Cup 'Hand of God' shirt was on display at Sotheby's in London, before it is offered at auction



Diego Maradona

The shirt Diego Maradona wore when he scored the 'Hand of God' goal and much vaunted 'goal of the century' for Argentina against England at the 1986 World Cup has sold for a record £7.1m.

It is the highest price ever paid for a piece of sports memorabilia.

Former England midfielder Steve Hodge put it up for auction 36 years after he swapped it with Maradona following the famous quarter-final in Mexico.

After Maradona died in November 2020, Hodge said the shirt was not for sale.

In December that year Hodge said he had "people knocking on my door non-stop" and that reports he was looking to sell the shirt were false.

"I find it disrespectful and totally wrong," he added at the time. "It's not for sale. I am not trying to sell it."

Auction house Sotheby sold the shirt for more than its estimated price, which was between £4m and £6m.

"This is arguably the most coveted football shirt to ever come to auction and so it is fitting that it now holds the auction record for any object of its kind," said Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of street-wear and modern collectables.

The previous highest fee paid for a shirt worn during a sports match was held by New York Yankees legend Babe Ruth's baseball jersey, which sold for \$5.6m (£4.4m) in 2019.

In the same year the original Olympic manifesto, penned in 1892, sold for \$8.8m (about £7m) to become

the most expensive piece of sports memorabilia.

Ex-Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa, Leeds and Tottenham midfielder Hodge, 59, who appeared in two World Cups for England and won 24 caps, had owned the iconic blue Argentina away shirt since swapping it with Maradona in the tunnel at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City after the game, which Argentina won 2-1.

There has been some confusion about the shirt since Sotheby's in London put it up for auction in April, with Maradona's family claiming it was not the shirt he had on when he scored the infamous 'Hand of God' goal.

During the past 36 years, the shirt, manufactured by Le Coq Sportif, has been publicly displayed as the one worn by the Argentine great. It was most recently housed at the National Football Museum in Manchester.

Sotheby said in its listing online that the shirt was matched to images of Maradona wearing it for both goals.

The two he scored against England are among the most famous goals by Maradona, who is widely regarded as one of football's greatest-ever players.

His punching of the ball beyond goalkeeper Peter Shilton to score the controversial opening goal in the second half came minutes before he netted what was years later voted the goal of the century in a poll by football's world governing body Fifa.

Maradona went on to inspire his country to win the trophy, beating West Germany 3-2 in the final.

(BBC sport)



From left: Chalitha Pushpika (winner), Pradeep Kumara (assistant national coach of SLG), Vinoth Kumar (1st runner-up) and Uchitha Ranasinghe (2nd runner-up)

## Sri Lanka golfers gear up for Asian Games

Chalitha Pushpika returned the best score of 284 at the April golf ranking tournament worked off over four days at the Royal Colombo Golf Course (RCGC) last week.

Sri Lanka Golf (SLG) conducts these ranking tournaments among selected golfers to peak in readiness for the Asian Games to be held in China in September.

Pushpika came ahead out of a pack of 31 golfers who teed off and there was a keen tussle to showcase their skills.

According to an official, amateurs and professional golfers are being put through this elaborate training and mental strengthening schedule to peak at the correct time.

## SCORES:

Chalitha Pushpika:

69, 72, 72, 71=284

Vinoth Kumar:

70, 73, 73, 72=288,

Uchitha Ranasinghe:

75, 71, 70, 72=288,

Chanaka Perera:

69, 71, 79, 76=295,

HLP Hemantha:

73, 77, 73, 79=302,

Roshana Prasad:

78, 70, 75, 79=302

Reshan Algama:

75, 78, 75, 75=303

Januka Dilshan:

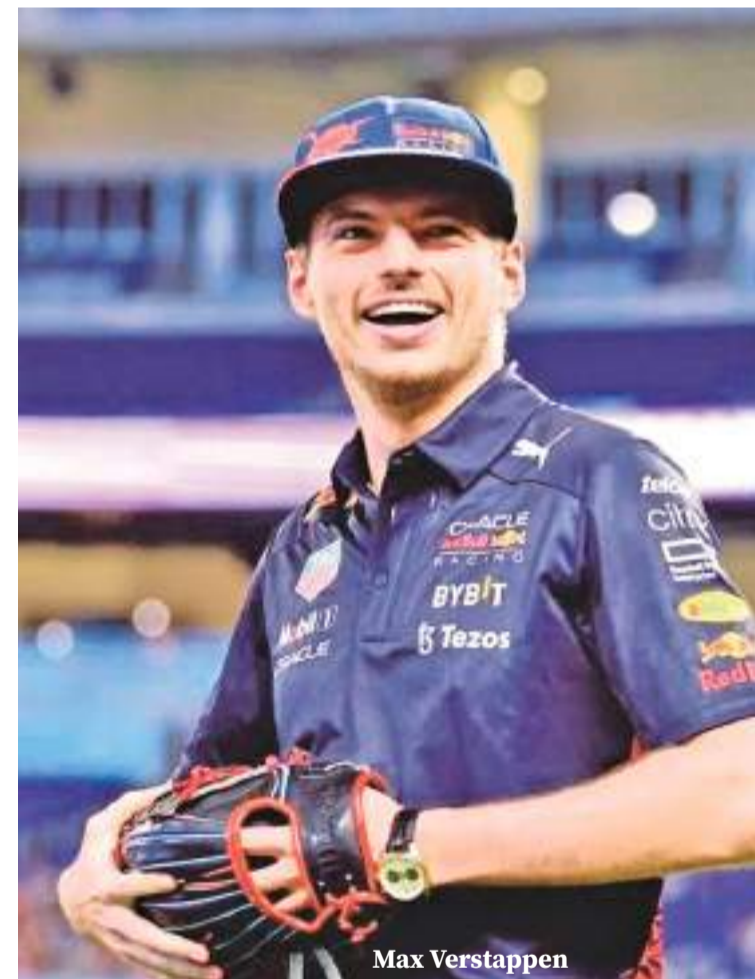
80, 77, 78, 75=310

RMS Rupasingha:

78, 74, 81, 80=313

Sampath Kelum:

82, 81, 80, 74=317



Max Verstappen

## Verstappen ignores hype ahead of Miami Grand Prix

MIAMI: World champion Max Verstappen took time to relax with a game of baseball while seeking to ignore all the hype and razzmatazz this weekend when he bids to trim Charles Leclerc's lead with a third win of the season at the inaugural Miami Grand Prix.

Fresh from his victory at the Emilia Romagna GP where Verstappen led Sergio Perez home in a resounding Red Bull one-two, the 24-year-old Dutchman arrived in Florida trailing leader Leclerc of Ferrari by 27 points.

Both drivers know there is a long way to go in the title race after four races and will be aware that their long-awaited Formula One duel has captured the imagination ahead of today's much-anticipated contest.

Round five of the new era battle between a younger generation of racers takes place at the self-styled Miami International Autodrome, a fast street track built at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. The stadium is, by rich irony, home to the NFL's Miami

Dolphins whose name serves to remind F1's bruised drivers of the pain generated by their new ground effect cars this season as they bump up and down at high speeds on the straights.

"It is an exciting new challenge and a step into the unknown," said Toto Wolff, team boss of champions Mercedes whose cars have suffered extreme proposing this year.

"The track looks demanding, with a real mix of low and high-speed corners and it's set to be a spectacular showcase for the sport to a growing US fan-base. We're set for a fantastic event."

The race will be the first of two in America this year, adding to the successful United States Grand Prix held in Austin, Texas, and pre-event hype has drawn suggestions that it will be F1's answer to the Super Bowl, complete with A-list celebrities and vast crowded hospitality areas.

A third American race in Las Vegas is scheduled to join the calendar next year. (Agencies)

## England cricket drops to lowest ranking

England have dropped to sixth in the world Test rankings and now hold their lowest points total for 27 years.

England, who have won only one of their past 17 Tests and are winless in nine, have dropped a place below Pakistan.

Their points rating of 88, a calculation of their points scored divided by matches played across a time period, is their lowest since 1995.

Australia are top of the annually updated rankings followed by India, New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan.

England, who named all-rounder Ben Stokes as their new captain after Joe Root's resignation, play New Zealand in their next Test series in June. The rescheduled fifth Test against India follows in July before three Tests against South Africa in August and September.

Speaking about the team's form on Tuesday, Stokes said: "If we're completely realistic, winning one game in 17 is nowhere near good enough. "What we can do is say, 'There's only one way to go from here, which is up'.

"I can't expect it to just click and all of a sudden we're number one in a year's time.

"That would be fantastic, but I'm very excited about the role I've got to play in hopefully making the England Test team great again, it's a big goal of mine and I'm really looking forward to it."

(BBC Sport)



Ben Stokes



# BUSINESS

business.suo@lakehouse.lk

MAY 8, 2022



**PAGE 26** CHALLENGE THE CHALLENGE

**PAGE 27** DIRE NEED FOR A RARE BREED

**PAGE 29** PERFORMANCE OF SALES PERSONS

**PAGE 30** REVIVING THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

## External, fiscal fronts vulnerabilities to dampen 2022 growth prospects - CB

Economy to grow modestly in near term



The economy is expected to grow modestly in the near term as the economy is to be reset with a debt restructuring program and long overdue structural reforms alongside an economic adjustment program supported by the IMF which is expected to facilitate the economy to gather momentum in the long term, according to the

2021 Annual Report of the Central Bank. The build-up of macro-economic instability of the economy, stemming from heightened vulnerabilities on the external and fiscal fronts, rising social unrest and political instability and elevated commodity prices globally and domestically are expected to dampen 2022 growth prospects sig-

nificantly and have lingering effects in the immediate future leading to a slowdown in growth, the report stated.

It noted economic activity is likely to slow down amid the announcement of a suspension of external debt servicing by the government for an interim period and commitment to a debt

restructuring program. However, it notes commissioning of prudential macro economic policies aimed at stabilising the economy coupled with an IMF engagement, improved monetary and fiscal policy coordination and envisaged SOE reforms is expected to restore the pace of growth over the medium term. **SEE PAGE 28**

## No local currency liquidity risk in banking sector - CB

There is no local currency liquidity risk in the banking sector which is under the close supervision of the regulator, Central Bank (CB) Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe told journalists last week.

He said the banking sector faces a forex liquidity issue which would be solved with the passage of time.

There is no issue with asset liability management and the capital adequacy ratio in the banking sector, Dr. Nandalal said responding to queries on banking sector stability.



## Unofficial import channels to be banned - CB

Program with IMF within three months

Central Bank Governor Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe said the Finance Ministry will publish a gazette shortly to ban open account imports that spurs demand for unofficial channels such as Hawala and Undial systems and promote transactions through the formal banking sector under the Import Export Control Act.

The regulator hopes that after the ban comes into effect the demand for informal channels will wane and

transactions would be done through the formal channels.

The country lost a large amount of foreign exchange due to the black market transactions that flourished for over a year.

It is estimated that around 25 percent of the close to two billion dollars of the country are on open account while around 12 percent are on documents against payment/documents against acceptance (DA/DP). **SEE PAGE 28**



## Key economic sectors register growth in 2021

The economy rebounded last year from the pandemic induced contraction in 2020 notching a growth of 3.7 percent compared to the contraction of 3.6 percent in the preceding year, the Central Bank Annual Report 2021 stated.

All sectors of the economy registered growth during the year (agriculture, forestry and fishing by 2.0 percent, industry 5.3 percent and services 3.0 percent).

All subcategories in the services sector registered growth with IT programming, consultancy and related activities and the telecommunication sectors recording sizeable growth of 21.7 percent and 16.2 percent highlighting the increased usage of telecommunications services during the pandemic and growth in the BPO (IT/BPO) sector. **SEE PAGE 28**



## Y-on-Y food price up almost 50%

Advocata's Bath Curry Indicator (BCI), which tracks the monthly changes in the retail price of food, recorded an increase of 14% from March 2022 to April 2022. This is a year-on-year increase of 49% for this basket of food.

This is driven primarily by prices of dhal and samba rice being the highest recorded by the BCI. A kilo of Dhal in April 2021 was Rs 178, a year later it costs Rs 466. A kilo of samba in April 2021 was close to Rs 130, a year later this costs Rs 210. With food prices increasing at this rate, a family of four to spend on the BCI basket of food would have to pay approximately Rs 560 more for a week.

The Colombo consumer price index recorded a similar rate of 47% year on year increase in food inflation. Comparing supermarket food prices from March 2021 to 2022 there has been an increase of close to 40%. This drastic increase in food prices in 2022 is a result of



The Government launched the project to build flyovers at Kohuwela, Getambe, an overpass close to the Slave Island Railway Station to Justice Akbar Mawatha, Uttarananda Mawatha, and another connecting two overhead bridges, last year. Here work in progress at the overpass near the Slave Island railway station. **Pic: Hirantha Gunathilaka**

## EU provides emergency relief to crisis-hit families

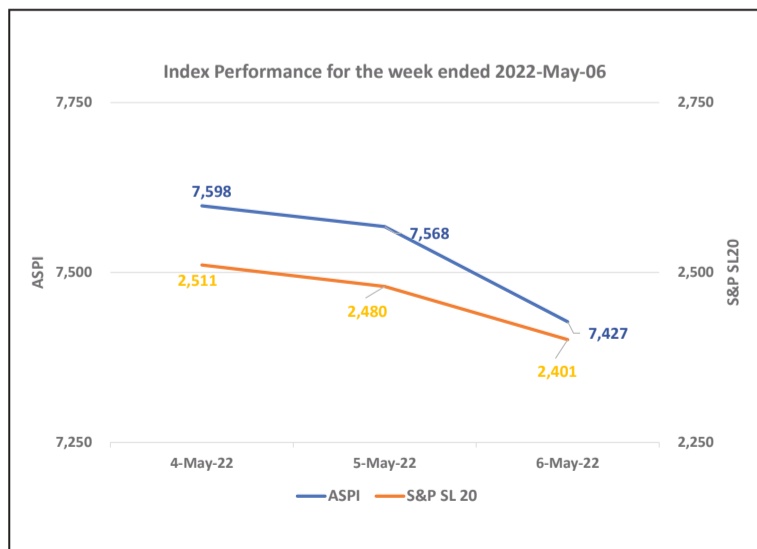
The European Union (EU) is providing €200,000 (over Rs. 74 million) in humanitarian funding for essential assistance to 80,000 poor families across Sri Lanka.

The political and economic crisis has resulted in shortages of essential commodities, including of medicines,

and has reduced the ability of thousands of families to cater for their basic needs. Many children have also seen their education disrupted due to power cuts and lack of stationery items.

The EU funding will support affected families with multi-purpose

cash grants that will help with first aid, medical supplies and school packs for children. Priority will be given to the most in need such as pregnant women, children, people with disabilities, women-headed households, and people who have become vulnerable due to this crisis. **SEE PAGE 28**



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

	US Dollar \$	Euro €	Japanese yen ¥	Pound sterling £	Chinese Yuan ¥
May 2 - May 7					
Monday	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tuesday	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wednesday	362.99	385.45	2.8119	455.34	55.260
Thursday	369.99	399.61	2.8929	472.72	56.393
Friday	374.99	400.96	2.8906	468.62	56.197

### BIZ SNIPPETS

#### Fed raises rates



**WASHINGTON** — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised its benchmark interest rate by half a percentage point, the most aggressive step yet in its fight against a 40-year high in inflation.

"Inflation is much too high and we understand the hardship it is causing. We're moving expeditiously to bring it back down," Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said during a news conference, which he opened with an unusual direct address to "the American people." He noted the burden of inflation on lower-income people, saying, "we're strongly committed to restoring price stability."

That will likely mean, according to the chairman's comments, multiple 50-basis point rate hikes ahead, though likely nothing more aggressive than that. - **CNBC**

#### Metal scarcity threatens EV boom



In the next few years, millions of people will buy electric vehicles (EVs). All those cars and trucks will run on batteries containing metals such as cobalt, lithium and nickel.

But shortages of metals could potentially hobble the EV boom.

"Not a lot of people realise, we simply do not have enough of these critical materials at the moment mined around the world," says Megan O'Connor, chief executive and co-founder of battery materials mining and recycling firm, Nth Cycle.

Her company has designed a means of extracting nickel and other metals from minced-up old batteries - so that these materials can be used again.

It's called electro-extraction and it works by using an electrical current to separate metals out from crushed up battery waste known as "black mass". - **BC**

#### Oil prices top \$111 per barrel



The Biden Administration will purchase 60 million barrels of crude in Q3 in an effort to replace volumes in the US strategic petroleum for the first time in nearly 20 years, CNN reports, after authorising a record release over six months.

Citing an unnamed Energy Department official, CNN said what is referred to as a "long-term buyback plan" for oil would be announced later on Thursday.

Delivery of those first 60 million barrels, according to CNN, would be paid for with revenue received from sales of emergency oil, while the time frame is not specific beyond "future years".

Oil jumped to \$111.5 per barrel for Brent—the highest price since late March—and over \$108 for WTI on news of the buyback plan, along with results of an OPEC+ meeting earlier today in which the cartel refrained from increasing output quotes beyond 423,000 bpd for June. - **CNBC**

## Business

# Challenge the challenge



## BIZ TALK with Kishu Gomes

Times are extremely challenging with no support coming from any party. It's a bitter soup with no apparent solution in the foreseeable future. We have a choice to make; do we depend on others or ourselves. Only way out is to get the best out of us and weather the storm with full courage and determination.

While we all expect some relief sooner than later, the way to survive is building our own capacity and increasing our own value to create more value delivery for others. You have to be fully responsible for your own actions and consequences. It's a

choice, a mindset and an expression of integrity that makes you an accountable individual. To be so you need to challenge yourself for inner stimulation.

Most employees in business organisations are answerable to someone else. From the head of the organisation in the organisation chart to the bottom, nearly every manager and employee must look to a leader to set the expectations and dictate deadlines, review the progress and measure results. Whoever gives this direction is called the boss.

The boss decides how employees should perform their jobs. How well an employee meets requirements set by the boss determines whether that employee succeeds or fails, receives rewards or penalties, and earns praise or criticism.

### Internal boss

However, the judgment of an external boss isn't enough to make a job personally fulfilling and rewarding. That's something an employee decides for him or herself.

Everyone who works must also answer to an inner boss, a personal, internal power that provides guidance on whether a job is worth doing



and whether it is done well. Accepting personal accountability for your work means your inner boss sets demanding goals.

After all there is no one else who understands your own capacity better than anyone else. Employees of business organisations who want to increase their effectiveness at work

while exercising more control over their own day-to-day activities should develop a sense for their own inner goal setting and performing against those for self satisfaction. More optimistic employees would go beyond the employer set goals to fully tap into the inner capacity for greater output and faster growth.

You might argue; what if the employer sets unrealistic or near impossible targets? Yes, I hear you. It's a huge de-motivating factor which wouldn't help either party. Yet, don't give up hope. Try hard to see if you can convert the impossible into possible with your creativity, innovation and mind power.

**Everyone who works must also answer to an inner boss, a personal, internal power that provides guidance on whether a job is worth doing and whether it is done well. Accepting personal accountability for your work means your inner boss sets demanding goals**

Find different ways of doing the same thing for better results. Look for creative and innovative strategy and smarter execution, not always incremental effort to deliver extra. Employees need a self challenge for optimum stimulation. Own goal with self-stimulus is the best winning combination which will naturally get the best out of you.

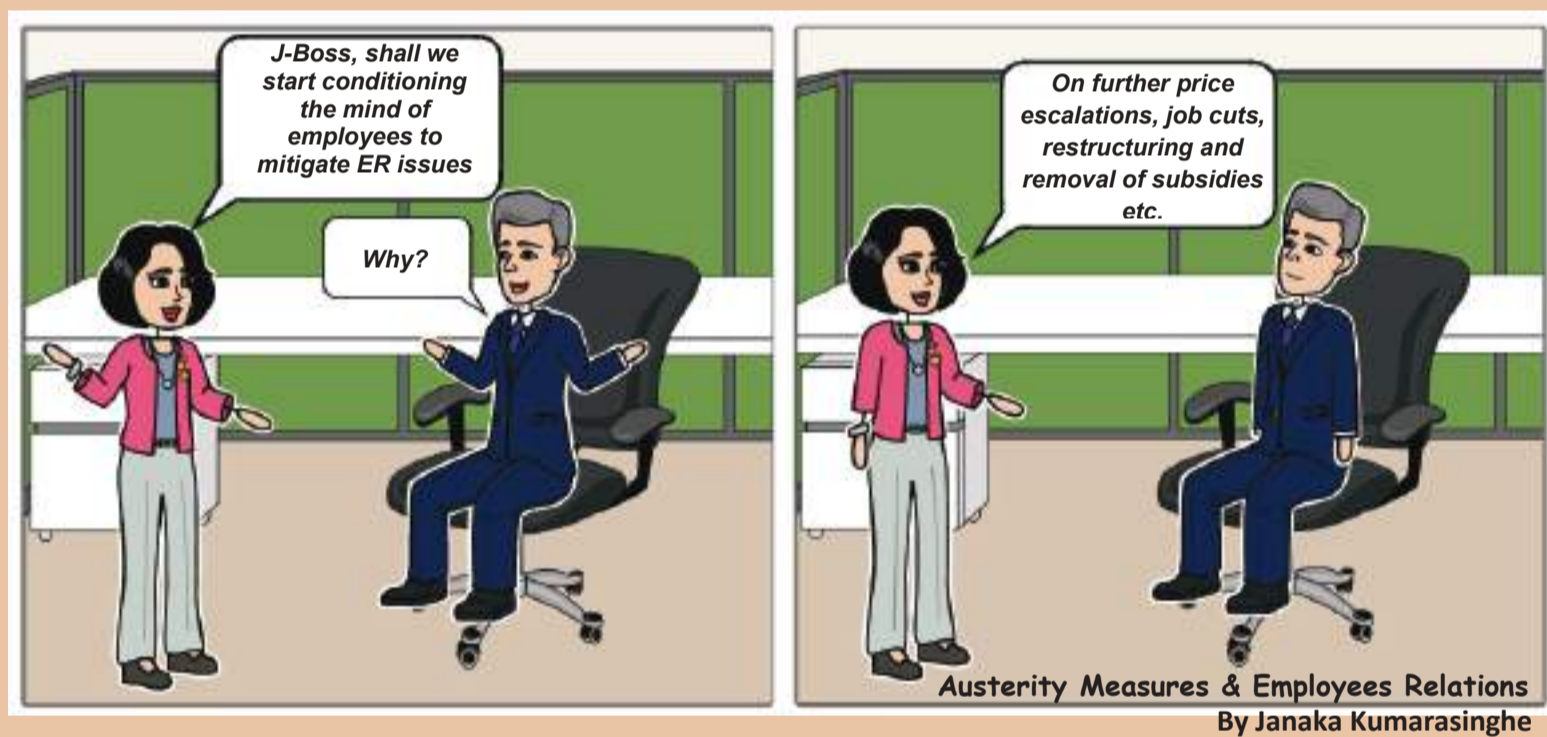
### Conscious decision

If you are dissatisfied with your current circumstances, workplace or your boss, admit that no one can fix them except you.

While you have all the right to blame the external factors and rightly so, It doesn't do any good to blame the economy, your boss, your spouse or your family. Change can only occur when you make a conscious decision to make it happen.

## Everyone knows HR

Byte-sized learning nugget - 'With austerity measures, there could be employee relations challenges such as strikes and organisations should start addressing them to mitigate them'.



By Janaka Kumarasinghe

## DFCC Bank bags merit awards

DFCC Bank recently bagged two new accolades at the LankaPay Technovation awards 2022 for 2020-2021.

The Bank was awarded the 'Best Common ATM Enabler of the Year under category B' and 'Bank of the Year for Financial Inclusivity under category C' due to its efforts at driving inclusive financing, and the significant growth in CEFTS, SLIPS and common ATM switch transactions and due to its high performance within the financial services sector.

The accolades highlight the Bank's many inclusivity-focused initiatives, and the positive impact the Bank has



had on all stakeholders in using innovative digitisation-based practices to further its reach and effectiveness. The Bank's efforts in ensuring the continuous provision of services having implemented all Covid-19 related

best practices and health and safety protocols, alongside its targeted communications to expand the reach of the DFCC MySpace ATMs contributed to the growth in use of common ATM switch.

The fourth edition of LankaPay Technovation Awards - Sri Lanka's pioneering payment technology innovation awards took place at the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo recently.

DFCC Bank CEO Thimal Perera said, "DFCC Bank is proud to have won not one, but two awards at the recent LankaPay Technovation awards. Our comprehensive customer value creation efforts over the past two years are at the very heart of these accolades, which also showcase the success of our efforts to digitise to ensure the greatest levels of customer service and thereby, customer satisfaction.

## McLarens Group Wins accolades at NBEA Awards 2021, ICS and National Logistics Awards

McLarens Group of Companies scooped several accolades at several awards ceremonies where their excellence received recognition over the past month.

"These awards are a representation of the untiring efforts of our staff and encapsulates the growth mindset we have instilled within our group. Staying true to our values and understanding our culture, capability and strengths with the years old experiences that are embodied in us, our teams were energised and resilient to rise together amid the tough economic conditions in the last two years and support the organisation and the country," said Group Managing Director Ms Shehara De Silva.

During the recently held National Business Excellence Awards 2021 at



the BMICH in Colombo, McLarens Holdings Limited emerged victorious in the Diversified Group of Companies Sector while three other McLarens Group companies scooped awards.

GAC Shipping was adjudged runner-up in the Shipping and Shipping Related Services category at the pres-

tigious awards ceremony which was organised by the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

McOcean Logistics and McShaw Automotive Limited won merit awards in the Logistics and Transport Sector and Trading sector.

National Business Excellence Awards is regarded as one of the most

significant awards ceremonies in the country which recognises best performing business enterprises which have demonstrated excellence in business, while contributing to the economic progress of the country.

At the National Logistics Awards, organised by the Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association at the Shangri-La Hotel Colombo on March 23, McOcean Logistics Ltd won the Bronze Award in the Ocean Carriers NVOCC category. At the same ceremony Spectra Logistics, another glowing gem under the McLarens wing, won gold in the Customs House Brokerage Sector and Warehousing and Distribution Medium Category.

It was the third back-to-back major honour won by Spectra Logistics.

## BOC launches Pita Pita Rata Thegi

Incentivising Sri Lankan expatriates to remit their hard-earned foreign currency earnings securely back to their families and loved ones, BOC is announcing third season of its Pita Pita Rata Thegi promotion in offering the expatriates to win back-to-back valuable gifts in daily, weekly and monthly draws including a grand prize of a luxury villa worth Rs. 30 million.

The third edition of BOC's Pita Pita Rata Thegi promotion presents Sri Lankan expatriates with multiple opportunities to win valuable gifts. On a daily basis, 365 lucky winners will be awarded gift vouchers to the value of Rs. 10,000 from leading supermarkets while 48 lucky remitters stand to win gift vouchers to the value of Rs. 100,000 for home appliances each week. In the monthly draw, 75 lucky participants stand a chance to win gold coins and finally, a luxury villa worth Rs. 30 million is on the cards in the grand draw.

In supporting Sri Lankan expatriates to achieve their life-goals with their hard-earned foreign currency earnings, the Bank is also engaged in initiatives to enhance financial literacy of Sri Lankan expats while encouraging them to save and manage their earnings efficiently.

The BOC's Smart Remit facility is a popular digital money transfer service among Sri Lankan expats since its inception in 2013. Over the years, this facility has enabled Sri Lankans living abroad to reduce the transactional costs with its range of



facilities and benefits as BOC continues to update and upgrade with latest technological developments. Last year, BOC upgraded its Smart Remit facility enabling Sri Lankan expats to conduct real time remittance transfers more securely.

Following the decision of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to convert NRFC, RFC, and NRRNFC as Personal Foreign Currency (PFC) Accounts allowing banks to offer enhanced benefits to account holders, BOC moved swiftly to offer wide-range of additional benefits under PFC to its loyal customers.

With the new initiative Sri Lankan migrant workers and their close family members are eligible to open a PFC Account with BOC that can be maintained as a current, saving or fixed-deposit account.

As another novel initiative to maximise benefits to its PFC account holders, BOC has also moved to extend the cover of three insurance schemes for them.

## New Chief Technology Officer at Axiata Digital Labs

Axiata Digital Labs (ADL), a provider of innovative software services, has chosen Namal Jayathilake as its new Chief Technology Officer.

Jayathilake holds an MBA (PIM) from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, PG Dip in telecommunication, and his B.Sc. Eng. (Hons) in Electronics and Telecommunication from the University of Moratuwa.

He has been with the Axiata Group for over 18 years, in various capacities, and joined ADL in January 2019, as VP of the Emerging Technology business unit.

In his new role, Namal will provide leadership to the entire Engineering Organisation at ADL.

He will primarily focus on engineering delivery and rigour, people growth and development, R&D, and business sustainability.

Namal has deep experience in core telecom functions, Digital Transformation, Software development and delivery, and product R&D and delivery. His extensive experience in working with global industry



Namal Jayathilake

leaders makes him uniquely suited to lead the recently reorganised engineering group and oversee all engineering practices at ADL to optimise synergy.







## Business

# Putting stakeholders back on feet, key to revive tourism industry - SLAITO chief

**I**t is essential to initially get all these stakeholders of the tourism industry back on their feet as they face major obstacles in rescheduling loans, moratoriums, accumulated leasing facilities leading to seizing of vehicles, said Chairman, Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, Thilak Weerasinghe in an interview last week.

**Excerpts:**  
**Q: How do you see the tourism industry today and what measures do we need to take to make it a USD 10 billion revenue earning industry?**

**A:** The Easter Sunday attacks were a major blow to the tourism industry which was heading to be one of the best foreign exchange earners for the country having notched 2.3 million tourist arrivals in 2018. Its negative effects

were gradually dying down and the industry showed signs of recovery by December 2019.

However, unfortunately the outbreak of the pandemic in April 2019 put paid to any chances of a recovery and tourism being the most affected industry worldwide came to a complete standstill until December 2021.

All stakeholders of the industry including accommodation, transport, ancillary services, value adders and professionals faced severe difficulties which resulted in most of them being forced to stop operations as it was impossible for them to survive.

In this scenario, making tourism a USD 10b industry is an uphill task. Leaving apart achieving it, the thought of it is unrealistic. It is essential to initially get all these stakeholders back on their feet as they face major obstacles in rescheduling loans, moratoriums,



Chairman, SLAITO, Thilak Weerasinghe

accumulated leasing facilities leading to seizing of vehicles.

Attractive incentives should be offered to convince them to remain in

the industry which will be vital to achieve this target since the entire industry is in disarray and is not ready to entertain visitors.

**Q: What are the key challenges faced by SLAITO driving tourism promotion and other stakeholders to boost the industry and how do you propose to overcome them?**

**A:** The key challenges faced by the industry which comprises services viz accommodation, transport, other services and professional services are unable to sustain operations as the infrastructure is not in place for revival.

Thus the initial challenge will be to assist all the players to get back on their feet and continue with their services. Financial assistance by way of rescheduling loans, offering moratoriums with incentives such as payment

**Thus the initial challenge will be to assist all the players to get back on their feet and continue with their services. Financial assistance by way of rescheduling loans, offering moratoriums with incentives such as payment holidays, writing off of all statutory payments and services by the state authorities are essential**

holidays, writing off of all statutory payments and services by the state authorities are essential.

It is important to consider offering these facilities not only for the tourism industry but also other industries such as agriculture as their performances have a rolling over effect on tourism.

We have seen airlines withdrawing services or reducing capacities and frequencies when the ground situation is not conducive. Immediate steps will have to be taken by the authorities to arrest the situation and help attract 15,000 passengers a day for the survival of the industry. If not achieving the

desired objectives will be far from reality.

The fuel and gas shortage and power cuts leading to street demonstrations not only hinders attracting visitors from key markets such as UK, USA, Europe - it also tarnishes the image of the country and discourages visitors.

SLAITO has been voicing concerns at various forums about the need to find quick solutions to the issues. We are confident that with the support of the authorities the industry would revive, laying the foundation for global tourism promotion.

## Sysco Labs redefines hybrid workplace

Strengthens employee engagement

With the growing shift towards hybrid and remote work, Sysco Labs Sri Lanka, the captive innovation centre for Sysco Corporation, a company involved in foodservice, has successfully redefined the nature of work, driving a high level of engagement and a stronger sense of purpose.

Sysco Labs, at the forefront of rapidly changing technologies and innovation, understands the pre-Covid day-to-day rituals that created cohesive and robust relationships, have changed, with associates now transitioning between coming into office and or choosing to work remotely.

Aligned to the new normal, and in line with the company's purpose of 'connecting the world to share food and care for one another', the company having considered lifestyle changes of remote work is now focused on using myriad approaches to blend the needs, opportunities and preferences of individuals and teams at work to enhance employee engagement and experience.

While looking after its most important resource: its people; Sysco Labs is focusing on a hybrid work culture, creating, and hosting engagement events and related activities with capacity for limited physical audiences while ensuring people do not miss out but are able to join in virtually as well. Importantly, these activities and events are bringing people together, building and sustaining a strong company culture.

Director, People Operations at Sysco Labs, Rehan Anthonis said, "In a hybrid work world, with core drivers of engagement radically shifted, as an organisation we have had to rethink our approach. At Sysco Labs, we strongly believe that key moments in the employee lifecycle present opportunities to create a sense of belonging. As expectations change, we have



Rehan Anthonis

embraced new paradigms, addressed nuances and reinforced our culture delivering employee engagement and a high level of wellbeing."

Recognising that people are social beings with camaraderie helping to forge bonds leading to a happy, inspired and creative workforce, Sysco Labs have for the past few months initiated a series of innovative employee engagement activities.

Among the events held so far this year are Sysco Labs Happy Hours - informal fun work gatherings to encourage employee comradery, The Connect - an internal weekly knowl-

edge sharing exercise, Purpose Led - Leader Sessions, Diversity and inclusion sessions, PerfUp - an external event focussed on developing the local performance engineering practice etc.

Also making a significant contribution towards building company-wide engagement is the Sysco Labs Ministry of Fun which was conceived early in the company's history. Now, the in-house committee decides the style and temperament of the events the rest of the employees enjoy every year. They organize both competitive and non-competitive events, from inter-tribe games and tournaments to annual events like New Year celebrations.

"Nothing is achieved singularly, teamwork is paramount and the best step towards that is to be able to socialise, have fun and build trust among one another. All our activities are designed to enhance this aspect," he said.

Sysco Labs believes that a sense of belonging has now become the biggest driver of engagement. When people understand how their jobs contribute to the company's success and the greater good, they are likely to experience work as meaningful.

## Pulling the plug on energy wastage

Abans' electricity-saving lineup of appliances



Abans has succeeded in rolling out numerous products coveted for their energy efficiency. Their products that fuse cutting-edge technology with eco-friendly solutions are specifically designed to conserve energy. Its current lineup of energy-efficient products includes everything the general public would possibly need to curb the ongoing energy crisis.

For example, its leading brand LG's green product strategy strongly reinforces products with energy-efficient and environmental-friendly features. The Dominant South Korean electronics brand incorporates innovative technologies that meet rigorous performance criteria to reduce energy use.

LG Door in Door InstaView Refrigerators, featuring the Inverter Linear Compressor, save up to 42 per cent of electricity. LG's DoorCooling+ keeps contents cool and fresh, while LinearCooling reduces temperature fluctuations, further conserving energy. Featuring an innovative glass panel that lights up when knocked on twice, the InstaView Door-in-Door enables one to see inside the refrigerator without having to open the door and prevents the escape of cold air up to 41 per

cent. Moreover, this function comes with a special compartment where commonly used beverages and snacks can be stored.

The LG Dual Inverter Air Conditioner with ThinQ is a smart air conditioner with Ocean Black Protection that also happens to save more energy than conventional compressors. The LG Dual Inverter Compressor translates to faster cooling that lasts longer and is quieter. The Super Convertible 5-in-1 Cooling Control allows the reduction of cooling capacity from 100 to 80, 60 or 40 per cent and increases to 110 per cent for faster cooling. LG Dual Inverter Anti-Virus Air Conditioners, featuring the R32 refrigerant composed of organic compounds, combined with the Inverter Compressor, cool up to 40 percent faster, with higher efficiency and save up to 70 percent of energy, a company spokesman said.

The Inverter Direct Drive in LG Washer Dryers saves energy up to 39 per cent by choosing the optimum washing motion for clothes, based on the weight and softness of the fabric. Turbo Wash 360° washes clothes thoroughly in just 39 minutes, so water and electricity con-

sumption are kept to a minimum. The Twin Washer model helps save even more time, energy and water by doing two loads simultaneously, so the cost is almost halved. The LG Front Loader Washers by Abans guarantees up to 39 per cent of energy savings while also conserving water.

Inverter Direct Drive technology in LG Dishwashers offers unparalleled energy savings. LG Microwaves have created a new wave in energy efficiency, saving up to 11 per cent of electricity. LG's range of ovens affords healthier and more versatile cooking while saving 50 per cent of time and 30 per cent of energy. With its thin panel and light-emitting diodes, the LG UHD TV is highly energy efficient compared to conventional TVs. The Philips Induction Cooker and Tefal Easy Cook and Clean Frying Pan are not just energy-efficient, but save gas in the shortest cook time. Electricity consumers no longer have to compromise comfort to save energy. Consumers can literally eliminate their electricity bills and even earn an extra income through excess units by opting for Abans Solar products and services.

## Professional associations present plan to overcome crisis

A group of professional organisations, headed by the Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE) have presented a 10-point plan to overcome the economic crisis.

The group headed COYLE, comprised the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Yarlpanam, United Trade and Industry Association, Dehiwala, the Matara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nugegoda Entrepreneurs and Professionals Alliance, Minuwangoda Trade Association, Lanka Business Ring, Nawalapitiya Traders Association, Entrepreneurs Lanka, Mahanuwara Sinhala Welanda Peramuna, Kiribathgoda Sinhala Merchant Association, Galle District Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Event Management Association, Sri Lanka, Lanka Confectionery Manufacturers Association, Kurunegala Sinhala Welanda Peramuna, All Ceylon Bakery Owners Association, Association of Container Transporters, Association of Clearing and Forwarding Agents, and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, have put forward a 10-point action plan to overcome the crisis.

The plan was presented at an event recently. The first point which was put forward was the need for immediate political and administrative stability. This would mean the reduction of the powers vested in the executive president and appointing professionals with relevant expertise and experience to the cabinet and other key positions.

The second point is addressing the immediate financial and essential goods crisis faced by the people while also supporting those engaged in activities that bring in foreign currency to the country.

The third point is adopting a 'Sri Lanka First' negotiation strategy for long-term debt restructuring by engaging with the sovereign bondholders as well as reaching out to international organisations such as the IMF and friendly countries.

The fourth point is the reduction of government expenditure and making government-owned entities efficient and self-sufficient. This would mean focusing on performance and output.

The fifth point is to bring about good governance by reforming the political structure.

The sixth point is to enhance industrialisation through an accelerated drive towards export-led real GDP growth. This would mean bringing about certain fiscal reforms while also bringing in a structure that encourages foreign direct investments (FDIs). The seventh point is the redefinition of policies to empower traditional and disruptive industries. This means the promotion of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and utilising them in industries such as agriculture.

The eighth point is a proposed global campaign for promoting FDIs via Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). This campaign would promote Sri Lanka via targeted exhibitions and forums across the globe and capitalise on the potential return on investment.

## Vision Care turns 30

Vision Care, an eye wear solutions provider, celebrated its 30th anniversary by hosting a staff convention that recognised and felicitated their longstanding employees and star performers recently.

Since inception in February 1992, Vision Care has been providing scientifically-driven, world-class products and services through a large team of well-trained, highly-experienced optometrists using ultra-modern equipment. Today, Vision Care offers a wide range of internationally-acclaimed brands of spectacles, contact lenses, sunglasses, other optical/ophthalmic products and hearing aids at prices to suit every budget and lifestyle.

Vision Care considers originality, technology, accessibility, sustainability and people as the main pillars of the company. These pillars have played a key role in cementing Vision Care's position as Sri Lanka's largest eye care solutions provider.

Throughout the years the company has introduced some of the most innovative and technologically enhanced facilities that bring solutions to vision-related issues. Their latest cutting-edge technology introduction is Sports Vision by Vision Care, the only specialised vision centre in Sri Lanka that has the ability to enhance a sports person's visual skills by using cutting-edge technology which is used by international athletes across the world.

Vision Care has continuously invested in employees by establishing an ethical and caring environment. Respecting diversity and promoting inclusion are essential attributes for the sustainability of the company. Currently, 43% of management and operational positions are held by women with plans to raise that to at least 50% by 2022. Vision Care Academy was set up in 2008 to provide in-house training to its employees. It has evolved into a fully-facilitated training institute that offers a world-class educational experience in optometry.

General Manager of Vision Care, Harsha Maduranga said, "The 30th anniversary is indeed a momentous occasion for any company. We are proud and thankful to every member of our team for without their passion, commitment and hard work our journey towards success would not have been possible. "Vision Care has successfully remained at the forefront of the technological revolution of the eye care industry in Sri Lanka having introduced various new technologies over the years. We have an expanding network of branches across Sri Lanka that helps us to take our eye care services to a large segment of the population," he said. Over the years, Vision Care has demonstrated its commitment to giving back to society by uplifting local communities. One of their most noteworthy projects was



MD Janaka Fonseka

Nethralokana Sathkara which distributed free pairs of spectacles among deserving Sri Lankans, in all parts of the country.

Vision Care plans to expand its branch network to selected cities across the island while continuing to set the benchmark for eye care in Sri Lanka by bringing down the best eye and hearing care technologies.

The company hopes to create greater awareness among the public about the advantages of proper eye care by using all available resources including mobile units. To celebrate the 30th anniversary, Vision Care has also arranged a number of activities in several locations islandwide with societal and environmental well-being in focus.

## Business

# National Single Window: paving the way for paperless trade

BY MITHARA FONSEKA AND KAVISHKA INDRARATNA

In 2016, Sri Lanka ratified its Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) with the WTO and in 2017 a Secretariat was set up for the National Trade Facilitation Committee to drive much needed trade reforms in the country.

Today, the rate of Sri Lanka's implementation commitments under TFA stands at 34.9% with a timeframe ranging from 2017-2030. Reforms include the Trade Information Portal, streamlining customs processes and revamping the systems for post-clearance audit.

However, progress of one of the key reforms, the National Single Window (NSW), has been stalled. Deviating from the initial time frame of completing the Single Window in December 2022, the target date has been delayed to 2030. The NSW, a globally recognised trading portal, acts as a one-stop shop for exporters and importers where Customs documents, permits, registrations and other information can be submitted online at the same time.

The definition of a Single Window, as provided by the UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 33, is as follows: "A Single Window is defined as a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardised information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once".

Putting such reform on the backburner will only delay Sri Lanka's transition to a system of streamlined, paperless trade processes and therefore acts as an impediment to local and foreign investment.

## Why should Sri Lanka implement a NSW?

Sri Lanka has been underperforming in global trade rankings, where we sometimes rank in the bottom 50 countries. According to the Ease of Doing Business in 2020, in the trading across borders pillar, Sri Lanka ranks 96 out of 190 economies.

While several of Sri Lanka's indicators perform better than the South Asian average, there is significant room for improvement. When compared with OECD standards, Sri Lanka takes 72 hours for border compliance

regarding imports and 48 hours for export documentary compliance whereas the OECD average stands at 8.5 and 2.3 hours.

Lengthy Customs procedures and multiple inspections impede efficiency. Meanwhile, we ranked 94 out of 160 countries under World's Bank 2018 Logistics Performance Index and 103 out of 136 for the World Economic Forum's 2016 Enabling Trade Index. Notably, one of the indicators from the Enabling Trade Index, the Customs Services Index, which considers factors such as clearance of shipments via electronic data interchange and the separation of physical release of goods from fiscal control, we rank 116 out of 117 countries.

A lack of transparency, inter-agency coordination and lengthy cumbersome processes contribute to Sri Lanka's poor trade environment. An average trade transaction can involve over 30 different agencies and upto 200 data elements, a lot of which have to be repeated. There is thus an evident need to streamline trade processes through digitisation, creating a business friendly environment that supports small businesses as well as foreign investors.

## Background

In 1989, the Government of Singapore introduced the world's first NSW, known as Tradenet. It took two years for the model to become operational and has now become one of the most advanced models in the world.

Since then, many countries have adopted similar models and NSW has become a critical tool in facilitating efficient and paperless trade.

The annual survey conducted by the United Nations on trade facilitation identified that almost 74% of countries surveyed in the Asia Pacific region have to some extent engaged in creating a NSW (this includes countries which are only in the pilot stage). While a NSW is universally known for promoting the transition from paper-based to electronic customs processing, each window developed by a country is unique and varies according to the context of the country.

For example, in Chile and Malaysia, the NSW enables traders to submit their export and import declarations, manifests and their trade-related documents to customs authorities electronically. In Korea and Hong Kong, private sector participants including banks, Customs brokers, insurance



**NSW has supported businesses through the removal of unnecessary costs, time and red tape, factors which act as key deterrents to small businesses and foreign enterprises**

companies and freight forwarders are also connected through the portal.

Single entry, single submission, standardised documents and data, sharing of information (information dissemination), centralised risk management, coordination of agencies and stakeholders, analytical capability and electronic payment facilities are some of the key functions included in a Single Window.

In Sri Lanka, the World Bank did several studies on the NSW, identifying different operational models, best practices and a final blueprint document was given to the government and Sri Lanka Customs (SLC) in July 2019.

However, since then, there has been no news of progress. While many countries including Sri Lanka are keen to emulate Singapore's pioneering model, a lack of clear targets and timelines deteriorate the chances of implementing such a system.

## Mutual benefits

Businesses in countries without an integrated trade system find it difficult to compete in the international arena given the time and money spent

to simply get clearance. Streamlining the entire process from start to finish in a manner that's comprehensive and transparent, sans bureaucracy has a number of positive effects for traders.

It was estimated that Singapore's TradeNet saved its traders around US\$1 billion per year. Korea's uTradeHub helped its business community to save approximately US\$ 818.9 million. These were savings from the use of e-documents, automated administrative work and information storage and retrieval with the use of ICT. A Single Window automatically simplifies the compliance requirements traders face.

In Mozambique traders benefited from faster clearance times, where through the NSW, the time was reduced from 3 days to a few hours. Meanwhile, Thailand's NSW transformed the customs clearance turnaround time (measured as per declaration) to 95% in five minutes.

Using a single portal has enabled traders to avoid visiting multiple agencies and simply submit an application at their convenience from any location. NSW has supported businesses through the removal of unnecessary costs, time and red tape, factors which act as key deterrents to small businesses and foreign enterprises.

The NSW system has similarly provided noteworthy cost-savings for government entities involved in trade. Singapore Customs has claimed that

for every US\$1 earned in customs revenue, it only spends 1 cent, implying a profit margin of 9,900%. In Hong Kong, trade facilitation measures have provided them with HK\$1.3 billion in annual savings.

The NSW has also reduced revenue leakages which may arise through transit.

For example, Mozambique is a transit country to Swaziland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi. By expanding their NSW to include value added services such as GPS tracking of consignments in transit, automatic detection of breaches in consignment and deviation from assigned transit corridors the NSW prevents revenue leakages and the opportunity for corruption, maximising revenue collection. The NSW has further led to productivity and efficiency improvements.

A Single Window has enabled authorities to handle a larger volume of applications with much more ease. Mozambique, which used to face infrastructural weaknesses, through the implementation of its single window, is able to handle roughly 1,500 custom declarations per day.

Shifting to paperless customs processes would reduce costs for inventory and assist in improved resource allocation as personnel would not be required for trivial and mundane tasks such as preparation and cross checking of numerous documents.

In totality, a fully digitised system provides government agencies with the means to do away with inefficiencies that hold back the speed of document processing, approval, communication and inspection stages. Further contributing to efficiency, NSW has also facilitated the dissemination of data through multiple agencies ranging from border control authorities, freight forwarders, customs brokers, shipping agents, banks and so on. As a result, there is improved inter-agency coordination and increased transparency.

Apart from a substantial increase in government revenue, the NSW will contribute to an improved business environment in Sri Lanka. The domino effects include an upward movement in the country's global rankings, incentives for FDI and local business as well as a global recognition.

## Driving forces

While the NSW on the surface seems like an IT-based innovation, it is rather a platform for inter-agency and private sector collaboration. As the NSW is a system which requires involvement from government, the private sector and the transport community, it is crucial to ensure inter-agency collaboration.

Ensuring public-private sector participation, introducing mandates and a steering committee to oversee implementation is crucial in developing such a system.

The system as a whole is one that constantly evolves with no end stage. It requires continuous maintenance, support, and enhancement.

This should be supplemented by the appropriate legislation, disclosure and publishing, backed by training and airtight data security policies. Thus governance of the NSW needs to be executed appropriately so that new technologies, techniques and new modes of trade can be leveraged.

In best performing nations, a Single Window is not considered a single system but rather "a combination of trade-related platforms that serve various trade communities and modalities". This has enabled leading countries such as Singapore and Hong Kong to facilitate seamless trade by building an environment of interoperable trade systems.

**Kavishka Indraratna is a Research Analyst at the Advocata Institute, while Mithara Fonseka is a Researcher at the same Institute.**

## Dialog Fibre to power Capital Heights

Dialog Enterprise, the corporate solutions arm of Dialog Axiata PLC, recently entered into an agreement with Capital Heights, Colombo's newest, premium apartment complex to connect the entire project to its ultra-fast, fibre optic network, offering residents low latencies, guaranteed speeds, and seamless connectivity.

Dialog Fibre offers dedicated 100 Mbps bandwidth, a 24x7 Network/Service Operation Centre with the lowest latency backed by a team of professionals. It offers fully managed end-to-end solutions, monitored through a network management system, along with a host of cutting-edge cloud services.



Group Chief Officer, Dialog Enterprise, Dialog Axiata PLC, Navin Pieris exchanges the agreement with COO and Executive Director, Blue Star Realities, Mohsen Dehghan following the signing of the partnership agreement. Looking on are (from left): Director, Sales & Marketing, Blue Star Realities, Rajitha Jayasuriya, Managing Director, Access Projects, Dilshan Ferdinando, Senior Sector Manager, Leisure and Multi-tenant Projects, Dialog Axiata, Shanaka Wijesinghe, Partner Manager, Leisure and Multi-tenant Projects, Dialog Axiata, Nilushi Fonseka, MEP Project Engineer, Blue Star Realities, Sanjeeva Thirimadhura.

## Andaradeniya notches all-time high price

At the tea auction on April 26 an invoice of PEK1 Grade under Andaradeniya Super garden mark secured an all time Colombo Tea Auction Record price of Rs. 2,800 per kg in the low grown category.

Andaradeniya tea factory consistently produce the best Low grown region teas at the Colombo Tea Auctions. The management, staff and all members of this estate ensures a high standard of manufacturing process and regularly monitor quality at the different stages of production under the guidance of Managing Director of Andaradeniya Estates (Pvt) Ltd., Dr. W. Jinadasa.

This tea was purchased by Sunshine Teas, a leading buyer of all regional teas and was sold through the catalogue of Lanka Commodity Brokers.



## DFCC Bank, USAID to support MSMEs



US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Julie Chung (sixth from left) presents the agreement to Director and CEO, DFCC Bank, Thimal Perera (seventh from left). DFCC and USAID officials look on.

DFCC Bank has entered into a partnership with USAID CATALYZE Private Sector Development Activity (PSD) PSD, implemented by The Palladium Group, to finance MSMEs, with a focus on women-led enterprises.

The partnership was officially entered into with the signing of an MoU between the two organisations, recently. The partnership will target certain high-growth sectors includ-

ing tourism, ICT, commercial care, apparel, food processing and others.

Director and CEO at DFCC Bank, Thimal Perera said, "We're very pleased to announce this partnership, as it will truly enable us to provide and create opportunities for growth and development for Sri Lankan businesses of all sizes."

The partnership between DFCC Bank and USAID Sri Lanka will focus around three primary objectives,

linked together by the core theme of inclusion and promotion for women.

The three primary objectives of this partnership are to create improved capacity and competitiveness among MSMEs, to increase accessibility and availability of financing for these businesses, and to increase economic resilience to help overcome the impacts of covid-19 on Sri Lanka's economy.

## Ceylinco Life's Green Club collects 754 kilos of e-waste

Ceylinco Life's 'E-waste Collection Day' efforts for 2021 culminated in the prevention of 745 kilograms of electronic waste being dumped in landfills; the equivalent of stopping 7,200 lbs. of carbon from entering the atmosphere or saving 235 trees.

This took the cumulative figure for e-waste diverted from landfill by the Company over the past two years alone to 1.7 metric tons.

The E-waste Collection Day is an

initiative spearheaded by the company's Green Club.

Members of the Club collected abandoned and malfunctioning electronic equipment from the Company's employees at all levels who report to the Head Office. Uncollected, this potentially toxic electronic waste may have been disposed of haphazardly and been harmful to the planet.

Among the discarded devices collected from Ceylinco Life offices and

homes of employees were items of electronic equipment such as printers, personal computers and parts, laptops, networking equipment, scanners, mobile phones, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, UPS units, video cameras, pocket and desk calculators, telephones, video games, electronic components and multiple types of batteries including lead, nickel and cadmium batteries, telecommunication and server batteries.

## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



### High Commission of India, Colombo

Invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" from eligible participants for engagement as Consultant for the construction of 10,000 housing units in plantation areas of Sri Lanka under the Indian Housing Project.

EOI documents can be collected from the Development Cooperation Wing, High Commission of India, 36-38 Galle Road, Colombo-3 (Sri Lanka) on any working day between 10.00 AM and 4.00 PM from 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 onwards (Contact: 0777906494 / 0764861875 or 011-2472684 Extn.631/635). These documents are also available for download on the Mission's website [www.hcicolombo.gov.in](http://www.hcicolombo.gov.in).

The last date for submission of EOI with all prescribed documents is 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.

## WANTED COMMERCIAL LAND / FACTORY PREMISES

Our client is a private sector company looking for Industrial land (3 acres) or factory premises (50,000 - 60,000 sq. ft) within 30km from Colombo for outright purchase / long-term lease.

Key Requirements:

- Minimum 3 acres of flat land (buildable land).
- 40 ft container access road.
- 3 phase electricity.
- Pipe-borne water.
- Located in an industrial area.
- Factory premises: 50000 - 60000 sq. ft (outright purchase or rent/lease) preferably in an industrial zone.

Interested parties with clear title deeds may submit their bids quoting MSL Ref. No. 7710 on the top left corner of the envelope to Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08 on or before 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

Email: [mslrinfo@msl.lk](mailto:mslrinfo@msl.lk)

Inquiries: +94112015965 (Between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays).

**MSL Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.**

No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08.  
mslr@slt.net.lk

## EL TORO ROOFING PRODUCTS LIMITED

REGISTRATION OF  
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SUPPLIERS  
FOR THE YEAR 2022/23

Applications are invited from reputed  
BTL Advertising Agencies for the year 2022/23

1. Application forms could be obtained from "Brand Executive, EL TORO Roofing Products Limited, No. 752, Baseline Road, Colombo 9" by paying a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 500/= by way of cash during office hours (8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.) from Monday to Friday from 09<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Cheques or money orders will not be acceptable.
2. Application forms should be sent to us with the copies of the following documents.
  - a. Partnership Agreement
  - b. Business Registration form
  - c. Form 48
  - d. NIC copies of Directors
  - e. Annual Audited Financial reports.
  - f. Any recommendation letters received by any organizations where previous work has been done for.
3. The company reserves the right to accept or reject any application for registration without aligning reasons.
4. The duly completed applications marked "Registration of BTL Advertising Agency for the Year 2022" on the left-hand corner of the envelope shall be sent only under Registered Cover to reach the address, Finance Manager, EL TORO Roofing Products Limited, No 752, Baseline Road, Colombo - 9, on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.



**El Toro Roofing Products Limited,**  
No 752, Baseline Road, Colombo 9.



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing  
Strategic Cities Development Programme  
French Agency for Development funded  
Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project - Package 05(B)  
Development and Landscaping of Kumbichchankulam Tank Area & Pola road and  
Construction of Ruwanwelisaya Vehicle Park  
IFB No: SCDP/AFD/WK/07(B)

Deadline for submission of Bid : 01<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 14.00 hrs

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from the French Agency for Development (AFD) Credit Number. CLK 1009/AIUDP towards the cost of project for Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the above Contract.
2. The Chairman Project Procurement Committee (PPC) on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of the followings as described below.

- Development & Landscaping of Kumbichchankulam Tank Area and Pola road
- Construction of Ruwanwelisaya Vehicle Park

NCB NO	Contract Title	Non-Document Refundable Bid fee per set of Bidding	Construction period	Engineer's Estimate (excluding VAT)
SCDP/AFD/WK/07(B)	Development and Landscaping of Kumbichchankulam Tank Area & Pola road and Construction of Ruwanwelisaya Vehicle Park	LKR.35,000.00	9 months	LKR 480 Mn

The scope of the Work consists of

- **Development & landscaping of Kumbichchankulam Tank area and Pola road** – Road development, road side paving and seating with tree planting along the Pola road and Landscaping Work including hollow block paved walkways, parking areas, mini public gathering area, drinking water points, seating, tree planting and outdoor lighting system proposed done under Kubichchankulam tank area development.
- **Construction of Ruwanwelisaya Vehicle Park** - Landscaping Work including gravel roads and hollow block paved parking areas, construction of Ticket counter, Police post, Flower shop, 02Nr sweet shops and Development of pedestrian entry to Ruwanwelisaya. with Electrical Works, Plumbing Works and necessary services.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Procurement Guidelines for Agency for French Development (AFD) financed Contracts in Foreign Countries (February 2017 edition) and is opened for all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.

4. To qualify for the award of the Contract, the bidder shall not have been blacklisted at the time of bidding and must meet the following qualification criteria

CIDA Grade & Field of Specialisation	Average Annual Construction Turnover for the last 5 years	Liquid Assets	Specific Construction Experience of similar Nature within last 5 years	Amount of Bid Security
C2 or C1 only Under Building Works	> LKR720Mn	> LKR 160Mn	Satisfactory completion of at least one contract (LKR 336 Mn) within one year during last 5 years.	LKR.4.8Mn

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement/Contract Management Specialist, Strategic Cities Development Programme, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla, Telephone No 0112887320/Fax No:-0112868188 Email:-[procureaiudp21@gmail.com](mailto:procureaiudp21@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the **Project Director, Strategic Cities Development Programme, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022** from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR.35,000.00. The method of payment is given below.

Account Name: Strategic Cities Development Project - Anuradhapura  
Account Number: 7040466  
Bank & Branch : BOC , Battaramulla.

7. A pre-bid meeting will be held on **18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11.00 hrs** at Project Implementation Unit (PIU), AIUDP - SCDP office, No 06/393 Wewa Road, Harischandra Mawatha, Stage 1, Anuradhapura. A site visit will be conducted at **10.00hrs** by the Employer before the Pre-Bid meeting

8. It is mandatory for bidders to register under Public Contracts Act No.03, 1987 of Sri Lanka.

9. Bids shall be valid up to **26<sup>th</sup> October 2022** accompanied by a Bid Security of **LKR 4,800,000.00** as per the given format. The Bid Security shall be valid up to **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**.

10. Bids shall be delivered in **duplicate** to the address below on or before **01<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 1400 hrs**. Late bids will be rejected.

11. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of **01<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 1400 hrs** in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman  
Project Procurement Committee (PPC)  
Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla,

## AGRICULTURE LANDS WANTED FOR LONG TERM LEASE

A private company looking a 10 - 50 acres coconut lands located in Kurunegala District with water & Electricity facilities for long term Agriculture projects.

**Green Agro Farm Pvt. Ltd**  
Kundasale, Kandy  
0772000503/0707222227/0779329704



## STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, 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 **Administration Department in the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at "Mehewara Piyasa" 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, No. 41, Kirula Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka.**

Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

#### LABORATORY ITEMS

Tender No.	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Qty
DHS/RL/125WAC/20	26.05.2022	02.30 P.M.	D-Dimer kit with cutoff for Venous Thrombo Embolism (VTE) with control	50 Kits
DHS/RL/128WAC/21	26.05.2022	02.30 P.M.	Microscope cover slip square, borosilicate glass, thickness 0.13-0.17mm. Not clouded, not infested with fungus, for use on all microscopic standard lense, moisture and dust resistant, size 22 x 22mm	1,875,000 Nos

#### PHARMA ITEMS

Tender No/ Bid Reference	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item	Qty
DHS/RP/57/2022	26.05.2022	2.30 PM	Sodium valproate Tablet 200mg	20,000,000 Tabs.

#### SURGICAL ANNUAL ITEMS

Tender No/ Bid Reference	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item (Refer SPC Web Site)	Qty
DHS/RS/RQ/25/22	20.05.2022	2.00 P.M	SR NO: 21704003,21704605, 21701210,21701007 ENT Surgery Instruments	37
DHS/RS/RQ/201/21	20.05.2022	2.00 P.M	SR NO: 22300108-Baby Hanging Scales	63

#### SURGICAL SPECIAL ITEMS

Tender No/ Bid Reference	Closing Date	Closing Time	Item (Refer SPC Web Site)	Qty
DHS/RSS/RQ/212/2021	27.05.2022	2.00 pm	Surgical Non-consumables	Refer SPC Web Site

Bids should be prepared as per particulars given in the Bidding Documents available at the Head Office of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation at "Mehewara Piyasa" 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, No. 41, Kirula Road, Colombo 5, 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", 16<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR,**  
**NO. 41, KIRULA ROAD,**  
**COLOMBO 5.**  
**SRI LANKA.**

TELEPHONE : 00 94-11- 2335008  
FAX : 00 94-11- 2582495  
E-MAIL : [dgmsurgical@spc.lk](mailto:dgmsurgical@spc.lk)

**ACTG. CHAIRMAN - STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION**  
On behalf of  
**CHAIRMAN - DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**  
**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA**  
**"MEHEWARA PIYASA", 16<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR,**  
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# SPECTRUM

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## Because we all have been children...

BY PRAMOD DE SILVA

During an interview with a famous American film star, the interviewer asked him whether he knew about children. His answer was simple, instant and straightforward: "I have been a child". Indeed, it is not just possible to become an adult instantly without passing that rite of passage called childhood. Thus we all know what it is like to be a child. This is the phase of life that most of us will recall with glee later on in adult life, perhaps even at the very end of one's life.

Just what is childhood? It is generally believed to be the period from age 4-5 to 16 (No one really remembers anything about the years of infancy up to around 3 years). There is no doubt that it is the best time of one's life, a time that never really comes again. It is the period in which we learn about life, go to school, make the first friends (some of whom will stand by you for life), study various subjects and above all, play and have fun. In the formative years of childhood, we also pick up a language or two.

### The Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNICEF notes that children are neither the possessions of parents nor of the State, nor are they mere people-in-the-making; they have equal status as members of the human family. Children and young people have the same general human rights as adults and also specific rights that recognise their special needs. Children are neither the property of their parents nor are they helpless objects of charity. They are human beings and are the subject of their own rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights that must be realised for children to develop to their full potential. The Convention offers a vision of the child as an individual and as a member of a family and community, with rights and responsibilities appropriate to his or her age and stage of development.

By recognising children's rights in this way, the Convention firmly sets the focus on the whole child. The Convention recognises the fundamental human dignity of all children and the

**THINGS HAVE CHANGED DRASTICALLY OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, WITH CHILDHOOD BECOMING AN UNRECOGNISABLE BLUR FOR MOST CHILDREN. THE 24/7 RAT RACE TO MAKE MONEY HAS CONSUMED EVERY FACET OF LIFE AND CHILDHOOD ITSELF HAS BECOME A VICTIM. TODAY, MOST CHILDREN DO NOT EVEN COME HOME AFTER SCHOOL - THEY ATTEND A FEW TUITION CLASSES AT VARIOUS PLACES AND COME HOME EXHAUSTED AROUND 9 P.M. - STILL IN SCHOOL UNIFORM - AND READY TO HIT THE BED SOMETIMES EVEN WITHOUT DINNER. IF TAKEN AT ALL, DINNER IS A LIFELESS AFFAIR - WITH EVERYONE GAZING AT THE TV SCREEN OR ENGROSSED IN THE FACEBOOK FEED ON THEIR SMARTPHONES**

urgency of ensuring their well-being and development. It makes clear the idea that a basic quality of life should be the right of all children, rather than a privilege enjoyed by a few. Children are especially vulnerable - more so than adults - to poor living conditions such as poverty, inadequate health care, nutrition, safe water, housing and environmental pollution.

The effects of disease, malnutrition and poverty threaten the future of children and therefore, the future of the societies in which they live. Globalisation, climate change, digitalisation, mass migration, shifting employment patterns and a shrinking social welfare net in many countries all have strong impacts on children. The impact of these changes can be particularly devastating in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies. Today's children do indeed face many more challenges than children did even a generation ago.

As I recall, when I was a child in the 1970s, there were no distractions such as TV to divert attention away from studies and play, though in my case I preferred the latter. Tuition was just becoming a 'thing' during this time, although most parents did not send their children to tuition classes. Once we returned home from school around 2-3 p.m., the rest of the day was free for studies and play with the children in the neighbourhood, with lunch and dinner thrown in at the desired times. We usually used to sleep around 9 or 10 p.m., though this could get extended to 11 p.m. or so on Fridays and Saturdays. We loved weekends and Government holidays as they gave us an opportunity to visit nearby friends and relatives and have fun all day long.

There was no pressure from the parents to 'cram' for any exam (school or Government), though I did have a sort of a time table to manage my time between studies and playing. The parents too had ample time to discuss studies with their children back then. Dinner was a family affair, with plenty of banter and laughter at the table. The same applied to breakfast and lunch on weekends and holidays.

Things have changed drastically over the past few decades, with childhood becoming an unrecognizable blur for most children. The 24/7 rat race to make money has consumed every facet of life and childhood itself has become a victim. Today, most children do not even come home after school - they attend a few tuition classes at various places and come home exhausted around 9 p.m. - still in school uniform - and ready to hit the bed sometimes even without dinner. If taken at all, dinner is a lifeless



**PARENTS LITERALLY DRIVE THEIR CHILDREN AROUND THE BEND AS THEY FORCE THEM TO ATTEND TUITION CLASSES AND CRAM NON-STOP FOR EXAMS. THIS TREND HAS INCREASED AS CHILDREN MISSED NEARLY TWO YEARS OF IN-PERSON SCHOOLING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - PARENTS ARE NOW FORCING THEIR CHILDREN TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME AND SOMEHOW PASS THE EXAMS WITH FLYING COLOURS. SOME STUDENTS HAVE EVEN TAKEN THEIR OWN LIVES, UNABLE TO BEAR THIS PAIN. DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN IS A REAL MEDICAL CONDITION - SO IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS ANY SIGNS THAT HE OR SHE IS SUFFERING MENTALLY, SEEK MEDICAL HELP WITHOUT ANY HESITATION**

affair - with everyone gazing at the TV screen or engrossed in the Facebook feed on their smartphones.

### Unnecessary pressure

This is unfortunately what passes for childhood for most children now. There is little or no time for play and fun even during weekends, as these too are spent attending tuition classes. Parents literally drive their children around the bend as they force them to attend tuition classes and cram non-stop for exams. This trend has increased as children missed nearly two years of in-person schooling due to the Covid-19 pandemic - parents are now forcing their children to make up for lost time and somehow pass the exams with flying colours.

Some students have even taken their own lives, unable to bear this pain. Depression in children is a real medical condition - so if your child

shows any signs that he or she is suffering mentally, seek medical help without any hesitation.

Today's children are also distracted by TV and smartphones. Many children are addicted to TV - and not necessarily to children's programs. Whenever they get a small break from studies, they tend to switch on the TV or a family member's smartphone (some children do have their own smartphones), where on the latter they tend to play video games. Thus during the time that they should go out and play with other children, they are usually at home looking at a smartphone screen.

This habit has other pitfalls such as online child abuse, which parents should guard against. Children must in any case be educated properly about avoiding any instances of child abuse, physical or online. It is a well-known fact that children are mostly abused

by those who know them well, so parents have to be alert on who their children associate with.

### Muscle memory

Smartphone and TV addiction affects the children's mental and physical development, for play in the physical sense of the word is essential for them. Research also suggests that prolonged exposure to the blue light of LCD screens can also affect the eyesight of children, unless they use so-called computer glasses with a blue-light filter. They also miss learning some life skills as a result of staying in - I am not sure how many children, especially in urban areas, can climb a tree now. Who knows, such a skill may come in handy later on in life, say, during a flood or an emergency. Such skills, once acquired, are hardly forgotten and stay on in so-called 'muscle memory' throughout life.

Thus parents and teachers have an onerous responsibility to let their children enjoy their childhood.

For starters, parents must strive to cut down on the number of tuition classes attended by children - sometimes they go to more than one class for the same subject. Parents should help their children to draw up a home timetable with ample time for both studies and play plus other breaks such as tea. Children also need ample time for sleep - around eight to nine hours per day. This is essential for their developing brains and bodies.

### Family life, vital

Parents must also stress that exams are not the end of the world - now there are educational and employment opportunities even for those who do not fare very well at exams. Moreover, parents can restrict access to both the TV and smartphones via parental locks on these devices, though it remains to be seen as to how effective this would be in the case of older children who tend to master such devices in double quick time. Parents who have autistic or differently abled children must take extra care in dealing with them, giving them every opportunity to enjoy their childhood and ensuring that they do not feel isolated. Many such children learn to break free from the shackles imposed by their condition and become useful citizens in adult society.

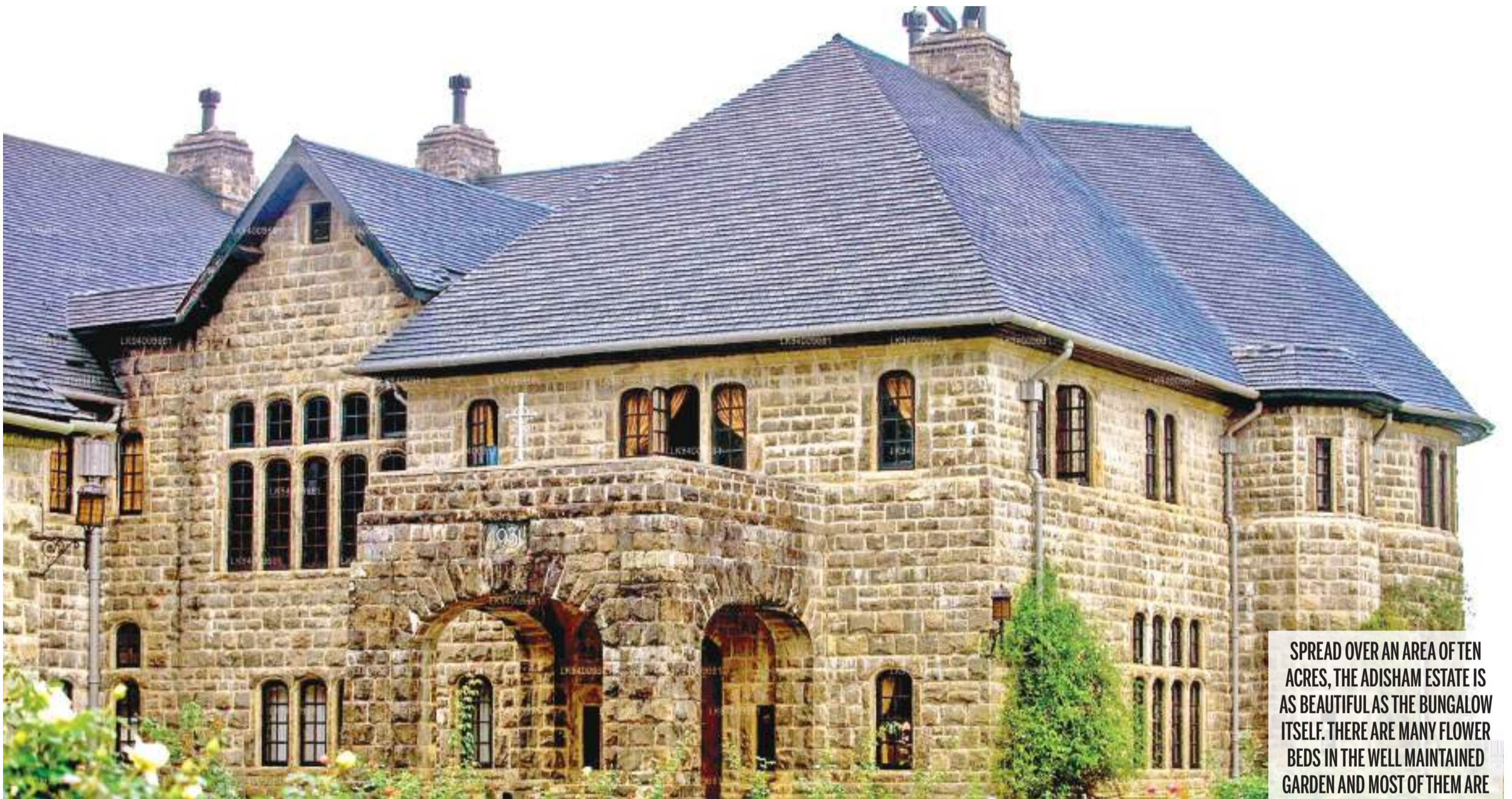
Above all, family life is vital for the healthy development of a child. Forget TV dinners - at least a few times a week, have dinner around the family table with free-flowing conversation. Parents should discuss studies and any other issues with children frankly and with an open mind. Childhood is mostly a journey of the mind and parents should help the children to make the most of it, unfettered by the complexities of modern life.





# A tale of grandeur and beauty

## Adisham Bungalow



SPREAD OVER AN AREA OF TEN ACRES, THE ADISHAM ESTATE IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE BUNGALOW ITSELF. THERE ARE MANY FLOWER BEDS IN THE WELL MAINTAINED GARDEN AND MOST OF THEM ARE ROSES IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND. THERE ARE ALSO ALBATROSS ROSES AND HONEYSUCKLE FLOWERS AROUND THE WINDOW SILLS AND DOORWAYS. DUE TO THE MILD WEATHER IN HAPUTALE, STRAWBERRIES AND APPLES IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND ARE SAID TO HAVE GROWN WELL IN THE ADISHAM ESTATE

SHALUKA MANCHANAYAKE AND  
GAYAN NARANDENIYA

When driving about four kilometres from the foggy city of Haputale, one will not miss the old-fashioned monastery run by the priests of St. Benedict's. Nestled amidst lush green hills, this Adisham Bungalow, is visited by a large number of local and foreign tourists.

According to history, it was built by Sir Thomas Lister Villiers, who was born in 1869 in Adisham. His father, Henry Montagu Villiers, a pastor of the Church of England, was of aristocratic descent, and mother, Lady Victoria Russell, was the daughter of John Russell, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Educated at a public school in England, he came to Ceylon, then a British colony, with the intention of working as a cultivator.

In Ceylon, he was able to begin his career as a trained cultivator on the Elbedda Estate in Bogawantalawa. He married Evelyn Hope Walker, the daughter of a tea planter, in 1896 and traveled to Brazil. After four years, in



1900, he returned to Ceylon and started his own tea estate.

### George Stewart Group

Thomas joined the George Stewart Group, which traded in Colombo in 1905, became its Chairman in 1928, and held that position until his retirement in 1949. He was also the unofficial European Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ceylon from 1924 to 1931.

The idea of building a house according to English architecture in a mountainous area came to Thomas's mind when he was Chairman of the George Stewart Group. For this he chose Haputale in the middle of a scenic forest among the highest peaks in the country. The Adisham Bungalow, somewhat similar to Leeds Palace in Kent, is based on Theodore's architecture in England, with sturdy granite walls, tall but narrow window panes and English-style chimneys.

The Adisham Bungalow, of which the construction began in 1929 under the guidance of a British architect, was completed two years later and was almost like an English house.

Its masonry work was entrusted to specially trained masons from South India, and the roof of the Adisham Bungalow was made of flat teak tiles made from teak wood imported from Burma. Every door, window, staircase and floor in the house is made of Burmese teak. The furniture, silverware

and carpets were all imported from England.

### Mild weather

Spread over an area of ten acres, the Adisham Estate is as beautiful as the bungalow itself. There are many flower beds in the well maintained garden and most of them are roses imported from England. There are also albatross roses and honeysuckle flowers around the window sills and doorways. Due to the mild weather in Haputale, strawberries and apples imported from England are said to have grown well in the Adisham estate.

The Adisham Bungalow, a symbol of beauty, was frequently visited by the aristocrats of colonial Ceylon. It is said that the nobles, including the Governor, attended many of the parties held there. Lady Villiers was a very hospitable and kind woman who also had a passion for painting. Many of the oil and watercolour paintings she painted still adorn the walls of Adisham Bungalow.

Thomas had two sons, both of whom died before him. As a result, he retired as Chairman of the George Stewart Group in 1949 and sold the Adisham

ham bungalow along with its furniture to the Sedawatta factory before boarding the ship back to England.

Ten years later, on December 21, 1959, he died in Kent, England. Later, in 1961, the Roman Catholic Church purchased the Adisham Bungalow and estate, which was converted into a monastery and administered by St. Sylvester's clergy.

Although the Adisham Bungalow was converted into a monastery, the priests have taken steps to preserve its beauty. Today, Adisham Bungalow operates as a convent for St. Benedict's clergy.

## Gandhi's doctrine of Satyagraha

NAGALINGAM  
KUMARAKURUPARAN

Mahatma Gandhi and his thoughts have attracted the attention of scholars for a long time. Gandhi himself was a prolific writer and he has expressed his views on many subjects. As a result a vast body of literature has come into existence.

It is debatable whether he was a political activist first and then a political philosopher.

Prior to Gandhi there were two prominent personalities who propounded their theories. The first was Lord Krishna who propounded a theoretical framework in the Bhagavad Gita and practised the principles enunciated in it.

The other was Kautilya who propounded a political theory and implemented it successfully.

Gandhi was a holistic philosopher. He presented and integrated his views philosophically. Gandhian scholar

Dr Dipty M. Das says, "Though Gandhi's metaphysics is essentially based on classical Hindu and Buddhist thoughts, the ethical stand he developed is uniquely his own. The uniqueness of the ethical standpoint consists in its scope to accommodate all other possible ethical standpoints irrespective of their origin."

### Gandhian theory

We have seen various theories rising to the realm of popularity and influencing intellectuals for a certain period of time. Thereafter they lose their relevance. Gandhian Ideas have eternal value. His thoughts are beyond temporal considerations. The contemporary world is now dominated by violence in every walk of life.

The world is sharply getting divided into two major blocs causing fear of unimaginable violence. The very existence of the world is under threat because of the antagonistic polarisation coming into existence. Violent methods are indeed undesirable and



they produce irreparable damage to the social fabric. The ongoing Ukraine - Russia conflict is a case in point.

It is time for us to revisit the Gandhian theory of non-violence for maintaining world peace. Gandhi believed that the cosmos is being governed by a set of moral laws. When it comes down from the cosmic level to the human world it becomes Dharma or morality. Gandhi argued that moral concerns have to be given all encompassing status. In other words, it is possible to achieve success without resorting to violence. Therefore, he advocated the practice of non-violence strongly. There is a view that Gandhi has based his theory of non-violence on age-old traditions of India. Throughout his life he tried to practise his theories.

### Truth

Gandhi considered truth as an eternal cosmic law. When practised, truth acquires a non-violent behaviour. Non-violence is not a negative concept. It does not signify the absence of violence. In fact it asserts the positive presence of love. Gandhi's notion of love operates at the level of

thought, word, and deed. It is a perfect coordination of thought, word and deed in the realm of truth that will make man non-violent. Therefore, the doctrine of Satyagraha is in fact truth and non-violence.

Gandhi visualised a very wide area for the practice of Satyagraha. It can range from domestic field to national and international political arena. His entire moral and political thinking rests on two principles, viz. Satya (truth) and Ahimsa (non-violence). He gave a concrete form to the two principles through Satyagraha which is a method of resisting and fighting evil in all its forms. The term Satyagraha was coined by Gandhi while living in South Africa.

### Selfishness

The main aim of Satyagraha is to establish the truth. Satyagraha is executed through Ahimsa. He was totally committed to Ahimsa and there is no room for violence in Satyagraha. Selfishness cannot go with non-violence and it can be achieved only through violence.

The eminent physicist Albert Einstein said, "The moral influence which Gandhi has exercised upon thinking people may be far more durable than would appear, likely in our present age, with its exaggerations of brute force. We are fortunate that fate has bestowed upon us such a luminous contemporary, a beacon for generations to come."

The writer is a freelance journalist and Indologist based in Hyderabad, India.

## SANGEETHA MEGAM A tribute to Tamil cine greats

If you want to hear some of the best of the Tamil Cine Hits, then May 13 is a date for you. A musical evening not to be missed - music to bring hope and inspiration during troubled times, is all set to go on the boards at the Elphinstone Theatre. The event is sponsored by Tokyo Cement, Amika Restaurants and Delmege.

Soundarie David Rodrigo presents Sangeetha Megam - A Tamil Music show with a difference, Paying tribute to some of Tamil cinema's best-known composers such as Maestro Illaiyaraajah, A.R Rahman, Harris Jeyaraj and others. The concert will feature a very talented line up of fresh new voices and some of the best of local instrumentalists.

Some soul-stirring hits from the 80's and 90's of the composers Illaiyaraaja and A.R. Rahman as well as some new hits of the other music directors of the Tamil cine industry are set to be performed. Expect some unique arrangements of music and



medleys put together to bring back memories and a live performance of Soundarie's original love melody 'Kaadhalil'.

Local music lovers will be thrilled to watch Prakash K of "Voice" fame belting out some popular hits on stage as part of the line-up of singers. Soundarie is also proud to introduce some fresh new voices including Megan Dhakshini Shatrughan, Abinash Ravichandran, Amaan Rifai and Tanuja Joseph Varghese to the stage.

Sangeetha Megam directed by Soundarie David Rodrigo will premiere at the Elphinstone Theatre Colombo on May 13 at 7pm.



## Features

# Finger millet for food and nutrient security

Commonly known as Kurakkan or Kurahan (*Kezhvaraku* in Tamil) finger millet is one of the main and oldest crops that had been traditionally grown in Sri Lanka at large. The staple grain has been able to assure food and nutrient security for Sri Lankans for many centuries while contributing to improving their health. However, with urbanisation, and societal transformation that had been taking place in the country for the past decades, consumption of food made of refined wheat flour increased while the popularity of many traditional and healthy cuisines saw a decline. Among them was a range of foods prepared with milled finger millet such as *Kurakkan Thalapa*, *Roti*, and *Pittu* which had once been staples of Sri Lankans.

During World War II, when the production of rice could not fulfill the food requirement in the country, the British imported rice as well as wheat flour. Nevertheless, during that time the consumption of foods made of wheat flour such as bread was limited to the wealthy. Villagers, however, still depended on rice as well as other wild foods such as yams, jackfruit, and millets. Millets could successfully replace rice in fighting hunger as well as fulfilling the nutrient requirements.

With the introduction of the open economy, imported food became abundant in the country. Wheat flour became readily available and there was a gradual decline in the cultivation of staple crops. Wheat flour is known as all-purpose flour and its convenience in preparing a vast array of food increased its popularity.

## Food shortage

Financial meltdown is one of the key causes of food crises in the world. Soaring food prices and shortage of food can worsen food circumstances in a country. It should be noted that sufficient warnings have been issued to the public through the media of a possible food shortage in the country.

Sri Lanka, which in the past had been a nation of food self-sufficiency, is still in a position to solve the food crisis successfully if preparations are undertaken sufficiently early. While resorting to home gardening to fulfill the individual food requirements, mass production of staples is vital. Cultivation of rice has not been feasible due to the recent fertiliser crisis in the country. It is conspicuous that the agriculture and food production sectors suffered a great loss due to the latter issue.

If Sri Lanka reverts to producing staple foods, that will help retain forex in the country as a large portion of it is spent on the import of food. Wheat is



not cultivated in Sri Lanka but the consumption of food made of wheat flour is high in the country. This too draws a large portion of forex out of the country. A transformation of the dietary patterns of people during a crisis situation is urgently required to happen. Switching the dietary habits from unhealthy wheat flour-based foods to healthy finger millet or rice-based food is wise.

In the past, the inhabitants of this nation had been responsible for the production of food for their own consumption. Dependency on food was minimal albeit, the mutual support was common during the cultivation as well as harvesting of staple crops such as rice and *Kurakkan*.

*Kurakkan* was mostly cultivated in Chenas as a staple crop in the past. There is restricted cultivation and consumption of finger millet in Sri Lanka at present. Although small-scale finger millet cultivation is still happening in the country, the largest portion of the finger millet market is held by the imported finger millet. India is the largest finger millet exporter to Sri Lanka. It is high time that Sri Lanka resumes the cultivation and consumption of finger millet to successfully address any food shortages that would manifest in near future due to the ongoing economic, political, and social turmoil.



Identifying staple crops that require minimal human intervention with a short cultivation duration is essential as a prompt solution to the forthcoming food shortage.

*Kurakkan* which is scientifically known as *Eleusine coracana* can be cultivated under adverse soil and climatic conditions. It is a rain-fed crop that also requires no fertiliser. Like

other millets, *Kurakkan* is also pest and disease-resistant. Unlike rice and other staple cereals, *Kurakkan* can survive in hardy and drought conditions and gives a high yield in a short time. Hence, *Kurakkan* can be cultivated in dry and arid areas where the cultivation of other crops is not easy. *Kurakkan* is grown in Anuradapura, Moneragala, Hambantota, Kegalle,

Ratnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Ampara, Badulla, and Jaffna districts in Sri Lanka. *Kurakkan* has an extended shelf life up to several years which does not reduce the quality of the grains. (Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka)

As per finger millet farmers in the Moneragala District, the only issue they face in the cultivation process of *Kurakkan* is that the crop is damaged by wild animals such as monkeys, elephants, and birds. As per the farmers, *Kurakkan* is a profitable crop apart from little toil in protecting the crop from animals.

## Culinary uses

*Kurakkan* is a highly nutritious and filling food. *Kurakkan Thalapa* was one of the main staples of Sri Lankans. To prepare foods with *Kurakkan* the grains have to be milled. In the past, people of this country used stone-made apparatus known as *Kurahan Gala* to hand-mill *Kurakkan*.

Using *Kurahan Gala*, a fine powder of finger millet can be manually obtained. *Kurakkan Thalapa* is prepared by cooking *Kurakkan* flour in hot water until a rough paste is formed. They are then shaped into large-sized balls and eaten with a thick curry known as *Anama*. *Wew Malu Anama* (inland fish

curry), *Kollu Anama* (Curried horse gram) *Mun Ata Anama* (curried green gram) are some of the popular nutrient-dense accompaniments to *Kurakkan Thalapa* which is a filling dish.

People in remote areas in Sri Lanka still prefer eating *Kurakkan Thalapa* as it provides energy to toil and does not make one feel hungry for extended hours.

Apart from *Kurakkan Thalapa*, *Kurakkan roti*, and *Kurakkan Pittu* are other staples of Sri Lankans. Although *Kurakkan* bread is not a traditional food in Sri Lanka, they are available in supermarkets and are a popular substitute for refined-flour bread.

*Kurakkan Helapa* is a popular sweet dish in Sri Lanka. *Kurakkan* porridge is a popular food drink among those who are obsessed with shedding extra body fat.

## Health benefits

*Kurakkan* is a highly nutritious and healthy staple. Finger millet is high in dietary fiber. As per studies, the non-starchy polysaccharides in finger millet help increase faecal bulk to relieve constipation while lowering blood lipids. *Kurakkan* has a low glycemic index and is gluten-free.

Apart from dietary fibre, finger millet contains carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, minerals, and fatty acids. This grain is rich in calcium too. Hence, the consumption of this cereal assures bone health. *Kurakkan* also contains anti-oxidants.

Epidemiological studies have shown that whole grain cereals including finger millet can protect against cardiovascular diseases such as diabetes as well as gastrointestinal cancers. Sri Lankan ethnomedical practitioners recommend *Kurakkan* to be regularly consumed for those with diabetes. The polyphenols in finger millet are found to be enzyme-inhibitory and anti-cataractogenic.

Diabetes and obesity have become serious health issues in the world at present and proper eating can help mitigate such conditions. Unlike the consumption of food made of wheat flour, foods made of *Kurakkan* do not contribute to obesity. Substituting food made of wheat flour with those made of finger millet flour can be a wise decision to maintain sustainable health.

*Dr. Naveen De Soysa is the Assistant Secretary of the Government Medical Officers' Association and the Registrar in Community Medicine at the National Institute of Health Sciences. Panchamee Hewavissenti is a culinary researcher and recipe creator*

# Demand for pet-sitting rises as pet parents return to offices

Due to the WFH setup amid the pandemic, pets have gotten used to having their humans around all the time. This has led to separation anxiety in pets when left alone, say experts. And now, with the number of Covid-19 cases going down and offices reopening across the country, pet parents are faced with the problem of leaving their pets alone at home. The solution? A kind and loving pet sitter.

What is pet-sitting? Pet-sitting is an act of taking care of another person's pet temporarily, for a given time-frame. It usually takes place at the pet owner's home, but may also happen at the provider's home. The pet sitter not just takes care of the pet, but also plays, takes them out for a walk,

gives them food on time, and some provide basic training too.

Pet parents are often worried about finding a genuinely good daycare or pet-sitter who will take care of their pooches during their absence. Take Snoopy, a Maltese Apso mix, for example. Snoopy's mom Kcmya Aggarwal, from Mumbai, usually has a work-from-home schedule but sometimes she has to step out. "And that's a difficult job with Snoopy, since he has a good deal of separation anxiety. He even follows me if I go and sit in another room. I am getting him trained, but that's a long-term process," she says. For Kcmya, it takes a lot of preparation if she plans to head out. "If I need to be away for long hours, I book a pet-sitter. Previously, I even had to take special permis-

sions so that I could carry him to my classes. It took me almost a good 2-3 months to get hold of pet-sitters who are genuinely good," she adds. In some regions, the concept of hiring pet sitters hasn't picked up yet and pet parents in such areas usually rely on family or house helps to stay with their pets.

## Pet sitting, over kennels and boardings

Pune's Ajay Patel has been running a pet sitting service for a few years now. He provides overnight services or, when needed, he takes care of pets for a few days too. "Because of the rising demand, I am always occupied. One needs to book the appointments in advance. Pet parents are occupied, and pets are having aggression issues, separation anxiety and so on, because in the pandemic they haven't learnt to socialise with other dogs or other humans apart from their family members. So, it becomes even more difficult to keep them in shelters," he says.

Visual merchandiser and pet sitter from Faridabad Pehom Mukherjee says: "The kennel experience with my pets was extremely bad and that made me start my pet sitting service. The parents either pick up and drop their babies, or I get it arranged for them. It can either be for 9-5 pm or even for multiple days."

## No uniformity in charges

In Pune, the pet sitting charges range between Rs 500 and Rs 1000. In Mumbai, while one agency charges Rs 300 for an hour, another



charges Rs 750-850 for the same time, and Rs 300 for additional hours.

"In Bengaluru, for dogs it is usually something between Rs 250-Rs 500 per hour, and for cats Rs 250 per hour depending upon the breed and specifications," says Anand Vishwanath, founder and 'pack leader' at a Bengaluru-based pet service provider, adding that queries have gone up from 2-3 a month, to almost 25 since last month.

Anand Vishwanath, founder of a Bengaluru-based pet service provider, provides certification courses for pet sitting, pet walking, pet training and grooming and so on. He says that almost 95 per cent of those taking the pet sitting courses are students or young professionals, ranging between 20-30 years of age. He says, "They are avid pet lovers and are the ones who are taking up these courses the most so

that they can spend time with fur babies."

Pune's Mahesh Ramesh Talmale, who is a teammate of Ajay Patel, has been preparing for the civil services exams and pet sitting for over two years now. He says that the demand for pet sitters has been high since the past few months and people aren't getting appointments. "I have been booked since May. There are short or even month-long assignments.

Currently, I am handling a house of six cats. So, while I can continue with my studies, I can also earn by doing what I love - being around animals," he says.

"Be it a dog or a cat, they don't need full time attention. You feed them and play with them after every couple of hours and they will be fine. We get a list of dos and don'ts from our agency and from the owners, and we follow those," adds Talmale. -*Times of India*





# Nonagama - a gift of love?

—Text & Pix by—  
Mahil Wijesinghe

The Hambantota district, with a population of over 570,000 and once, one of Sri Lanka's most impoverished regions, has undergone enormous change in the past decade. Not only is it steeped in history, culture, tradition, and legendary characters, endowed with sites of interest including an array of ancient temples, the famous hot wells and blow hole, but also its rapid development has led to the emergence of the country's second international airport, the largest port besides Colombo and a giant cricket stadium where international matches are played.

I have seen the statue of Gajaman Nona at the Nonagama junction several times during my visits to Hambantota and decided to write a piece on her when we had an opportunity to visit Matara recently.

Many visitors to Hambantota in Southern Sri Lanka won't fail to miss the statue of Gajaman Nona - dressed in ankle length skirt and long sleeved blouse - at the end of the Nonagama junction on the Tangalle-Hambantota road where the A2 trunk road meets the A18 highway.

## Versatility

Dona Isabella Koraneliya Perumal better known as - Gajaman Nona - was one of (then) Ceylon's most famous poets known particularly for her versatility to write and recite im-

**THE ARTICULATE GAJAMAN NONA WAS WELL-KNOWN AND MUCH TALKED ABOUT. SHE AND JOHN D'OYLY WERE PUPILS OF THE ERUDITE BHIKKHU VEN. KARATOTA THERA FROM WHOM D'OYLY LEARNT SINHALA. THE POETRY GAJAMAN WROTE FOR D'OYLY IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE WAS TRANSLATED BY THE ENGLISHMAN AND SENT TO HIS MOTHER IN BRITAIN**

promptu Sinhala kavi (poetry) in the late 18th to the early 19th century in Hambantota.

The village of Nonagama lies insignificant and almost forgotten except for its origins, a colourful tapestry wrapped around the 18th century Sri Lankan poetess Gajaman Nona. She was, perhaps, a pioneer of women's liberation, breaking away from tradition and becoming somewhat of a controversy in a tight-knit society dominated by men.

The Dutch and the English courted her. She was a close confidant to John D'Oyly, the Sinhala speaking, Cambridge-educated British colonial administrator who is probably the best known and most remembered European of the era. At the time, D'Oyly was the British Government Agent stationed in Matara.

Gajaman Nona, twice widowed at a young age, had lost her father who had been supporting her and her three children. But she was a woman of ravishing beauty, and it is said that she often visited D'Oyly - to whom she had written a 14-verse poem - seeking assistance from the British Agent to financially sustain herself and her family. The result was Nonagama (literally 'lady's village'), a gift of land consisting of a few villages (known in times of Sinhala royalty as

a mindagama) bestowed on Gajaman Nona by the generous young English administrator.

## Students of the same teacher

The articulate Gajaman Nona was well-known and much talked about. She and John D'Oyly were pupils of the erudite bhikkhu Ven. Karatota Thera from whom D'Oyly learnt Sinhala. The poetry Gajaman wrote for D'Oyly in the native language was translated by the Englishman and sent to his mother in Britain.

As students of the same teacher, Gajaman Nona and John D'Oyly may have shared commonalities of study that would have led to many interactions. This may have spilled beyond the accepted norms of platonic friendship. She visited him to discuss literature and assist him improving his Sinhala language skills, while proudly advertised his friendship with the local beauty.

The gifting of the land by D'Oyly to the widowed lady ignited a romantic tale between the 46-year-old Sinhala socialite and 27-year-old Englishman.

In the ultra-conservative Sinhala society of the South, such friendships

between rulers and the ruled, especially involving both genders, would have irked sensibilities and raised eyebrows.

## Truth and folklore

What happened between the poetess and the administrator was never really known, and in the mix of truth and folklore, falsity or fact, it was lost in the winds of time. The tale of poetry, and Sinhala conversation between the two certainly spawned rumours of lust and romance.

As the years rolled by, the legend of the gifting of 'Nonagama' became repeated from generation to generation, with, of course, the inevitable embellishments.

D'Oyly never went back to England. He made his home in Kandy, and now lies buried in the Garrison Cemetery where colonials made their last stop. The little plot overlooks the ancient hill capital, and a brown brick podium erected by his brother from Buxton tells the world where the former British official rests.

One wonders where Gajaman Nona lies in eternal sleep. The village is there, named after her, and the memorial too, and people remember. The story told and retold, passed to someone else who in turn would speak of Gajaman Nona and D'Oyly and the land he gifted her and the poetry they shared.

Maybe, one day someone driving along the coastal road towards Tangalle would seek out the village, stop by the statue, and reflect for a moment, on an ancient and entirely probable love story.



The statue of Gajaman Nona at the Nonagama junction, Ambalantota

## Earth's water cycle is speeding up due to climate change

Earth's water cycle is speeding up due to climate change, according to a new study, potentially resulting in more intense rainstorms and faster melting of the ice caps.

As global temperatures increase, climate scientists predict there will be an increase in the evaporation of water from the seas and oceans.

This will make the top layer of the sea saltier and add water to the atmosphere in the form of vapour.

This, in turn, will increase rainfall in other parts of the world, diluting some bodies of water to make them even less salty.

This acceleration of the water cycle could have profound impacts on modern society, driving drought and water shortages as well as more intense storms and flooding.

'The acceleration of the water cycle has implications both at the ocean and on the continent, where storms could become increasingly intense,' said Estrella Olmedo, the leading author of the study.

## Water in atmosphere

'This higher amount of water circulating in the atmosphere could also explain the increase in rainfall that is being detected in some polar areas, where the fact that it is raining instead of snowing is speeding up the melting.'

## The water cycle

The water cycle is the process by which water is continuously transferred between the surface of the Earth and the atmosphere.

The Sun's heat causes glaciers and snow to melt into liquid water.

This water goes into oceans, lakes and streams. Water from melting snow and ice also goes into the soil. There, it supplies water for plants and the groundwater that we drink.

Snow falling on a glacier during winter months usually replaces any water that melts away in the summer. Heat from the Sun causes water to evaporate from oceans, lakes and streams. Evaporation occurs when liquid water on Earth's surface turns into

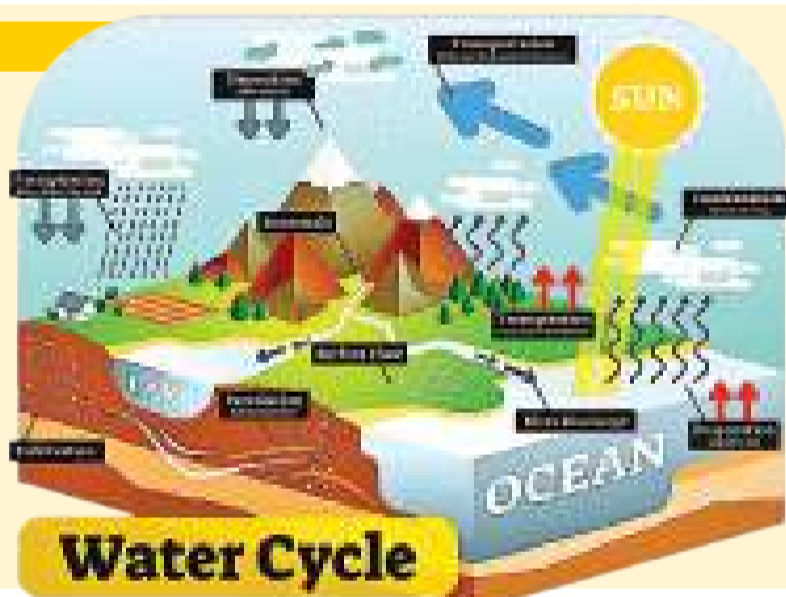
water vapour in our atmosphere.

Water from plants and trees also enters the atmosphere. This is called transpiration.

Warm water vapour rises up through Earth's atmosphere. As the water vapour rises higher and higher, the cool air of the atmosphere causes the water vapour to turn back into liquid water, creating clouds. This process is called condensation.

When a cloud becomes full of liquid water, it falls from the sky as rain or snow - also known as precipitation. Rain and snow then fill lakes and streams, and the process starts all over again.

- SOURCE: NASA



## THIS ACCELERATION OF THE WATER CYCLE COULD HAVE PROFOUND IMPACTS ON MODERN SOCIETY, DRIVING DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGES AS WELL AS MORE INTENSE STORMS AND FLOODING

Therefore, changes in these two parameters, however small they may be, can end up having important consequences on the global climate, which makes it key to monitor them closely.

The satellite data allowed the researchers to detect the effect of 'stratification' over very large regions in the ocean.

'Specifically, in the Pacific we have seen that surface salinity decreases more slowly than subsurface salinity and, in this same region, we have observed an increase in sea surface temperature.'

The study also shows that the decrease in the wind in some areas of the ocean could be contributing to the acceleration of the water cycle.

This is because wind creates waves, which helps to stir up different layers of the water column.

'Where the wind is no longer so

## Surface salinity

'We have been able to see that surface salinity is showing an inten-

strong, the surface water warms up, but does not exchange heat with the water below, allowing the surface to become more saline than the lower layers,' said Antonio Turiel, another author of the study.

'This tells us that the atmosphere and the ocean interact in a stronger way than we imagined, with important consequences for the continental and polar areas.'

The findings, published in the journal Scientific Reports, are the result of the use of algorithms and other data analysis products that the ICM-CSIC has generated from the SMOS space mission of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Unlike subsurface salinity data - which is measured in situ using ocean buoys - the satellite data allows the researchers to analyse the effect of stratification over very large regions in the ocean.

This is due to the ability of satellites to measure data continuously, regardless of environmental conditions and the accessibility of different areas of the ocean.

'Ocean models must standardise the assimilation of satellite salinity data, since the information they provide complements in situ data,' said Turiel.

'This is crucial, especially at the current time of climate crisis, where changes are occurring much faster than before.'

## Climate models

Recent climate models predict that for every degree Celsius of warming, Earth's water cycle could intensify by up to seven percent.

Practically, that means wet areas could grow seven percent wetter and dry areas seven percent drier on average.

The only way to ensure heatwaves, droughts, and storms don't intensify in the future is to limit global warming.

A recent study by the University of Melbourne in Australia and the International Energy Agency in Paris, France, found that the COP26 pledge to keep warming below 3.6°F is still achievable, but only if all commitments are implemented as proposed.

However, the more ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement - to keep warming to 2.7°F (1.5°C) or below - has only a 6-10 percent chance of being achieved, they say.

Meanwhile, the most recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change estimates that if we can keep global warming to 2 °C, extreme weather events will be 14 percent stronger than they were at the start of the Industrial Revolution.

- Daily Mail.uk



The acceleration of the water cycle could have profound impacts on modern society, driving drought and water shortages as well as greater storms and flooding







# OBSERVER EDUCATION

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SLIIT TEAM CREATES HISTORY WITH... PAGE 45



ACCA AWARDS THE PRESTIGIOUS GOLD... PAGE 46

## Study Hospitality, Leisure & Event Management at a world-ranked University

(RANKED #101-150 IN THE WORLD AND RANKED #5 IN MALAYSIA FOR HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT)

The Management & Science University (MSU), one of World and Malaysia's top Universities complements the needs of highly skilled and expert human capital by offering both bachelor's degree and diploma in the areas of specialisation of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Leisure Outdoor and Adventure Management as well as Event Management.

MSU has received much recognition from the Malaysian and international independent bodies. MSU made the top 601+ on the QS World University Rankings (WUR) 2022, which placed MSU among the



top 47% of the world's best Universities. This also places MSU among the best top 10 Universities in Malaysia. Other accolades garnered in four decades since MSU was founded include number 147th on QS Asia Rankings 2022, and Top 200 for impact on gender equality and no poverty in THE University Impact Rankings 2021.

In this fast-paced world we live in, every decision you make has a huge impact on your future - and it's important that you find the right education partner and the right education avenue at a very early age if you are to emerge as successful leaders in whichever the industry you choose. When selecting a degree program that you would like to follow it is important to consider the demand for job opportunities and the best Higher Education Institutions that provides quality education to students. With Management & Science University (MSU) enjoying a high acceptance among employers, obtaining a degree from MSU can give you the specialist knowledge and trustworthy credentials that will establish your credibility and expertise in your respective industry.

"The rapid growth of the Hospitality and Tourism and Event industry in globally has created enormous employment opportunities. Therefore,

we would like to encourage students to take up Hospitality and Tourism as a career since the industry needs skilled and confident talent to compete in this fast-evolving, global industry.

The Diploma in Hospitality & Tourism Management leading to the bachelor (Hons) degree will expose the 'know how' and 'hands on' training in both the hospitality and tourism areas of practices. As such, graduates of the program are expected to be competent in handling the common Hospitality and Tourism practice as well as become the forefront supervisors and lower-level managers able to advice on routine decision-making process. Graduates will find ample opportunity in not only availing themselves to careers in Hospitality and Tourism Industry but also in government services, academia and careers in internationally recognised hotels, event organisations and travel operators. Organizationally, graduates will be absorbed into hotels, event companies, travel agents, transport operators, corporations and companies, banks, multimedia telecommunication companies and marketing agencies.

The Diploma in Event Management leading to bachelor in Event Management (Hons) degree is yet another popular program at MSI. It is designed for individuals who wish to follow a career



in organising events in either private or government Institutions. The diploma program is a useful step for anyone looking into careers with hotels, event organisers and travel operators among others.

The course is conducted over a period of two years and offers students the unique opportunity to explore the different disciplines of events and management. Graduates of the program will learn to competently handle the common event practices and also act as supervisors and managers who provide advice on routine decision making processes of the job scope.

The Bachelor in Hospitality & Tourism Management (Hons) is an Un-

dergraduate academic program that leverages on a unique learning opportunity in the combined disciplines of hospitality, tourism and management. Students pursuing the program will be exposed both in the hospitality and tourism industry, as well as to the state-of-the-art technologies used in the fields of economics, management and marketing.

As such, graduates of the program are expected to be competent to handle not only the common hospitality and tourism practice but also to provide advice on complex strategic issues in business decision making process.

The Bachelor in Event Management (Hons), backed by its internationally recognised study programs, highly respected Faculty members, state of the art infrastructure and strong partnerships with industry, MSU provides an abundance of exciting career opportunities for its graduates through these degrees that will enable them to be well placed for their future careers.

- MSU is ranked top 601+ in QS world Ranked University & Top100 University in the world for young University Ranked under QS.
- Full-Time and part time programs

and MSU Degree offers through MSI which is locally and globally recognised

- Affordable Tuition Fee and Easy Payment Options without extra cost and bank loans.
- Distinguish faculty with industry experience.
- The curriculums for the courses are developed taking into consideration the current needs of the industries as locally and globally.
- Students will expose to the local and Malaysian leading industries through the local and international industry visit
- All programs are continuously monitored by a team of experts from Management and Science University (MSU) in Malaysia.
- MSU is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and is recognised by the University Grant Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka.

In addition to these key degree programs that students can complete in Sri Lanka, MSU Malaysia or partner Universities worldwide including, Australia, UK, Japan and Germany, MSU also offers dual MBA programs, PhD and MBBS for Academics to become Professionals in their chosen field.

The Management & Science Institute (MSI) represents MSU as a local representative and offers students with a wide range of Diploma programs which help develop knowledge and skills of students while preparing them to obtain employment or continue their higher studies.

MSI also offers Diploma and Bachelor (Hons) degree programs in other specialisations including Biomedical Science, Business Management, Human Capital Management and Retail Management. Upon completion of undergraduate studies, student can choose to pursue their study an MBA postgraduate degree leading to the PhD offered by MSU Malaysia through MSI Colombo.

Further information on the programs offered for the upcoming intake, please contact Management & Science Institute (MSI) at, No 300 Galle Road, Colombo 3, Tel 0112576644, 0112576700, Hot Line 0770777880, email enquiry@msi.edu.lk or our website www.msu.edu.lk or www.msi.edu.lk



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# Advertorial

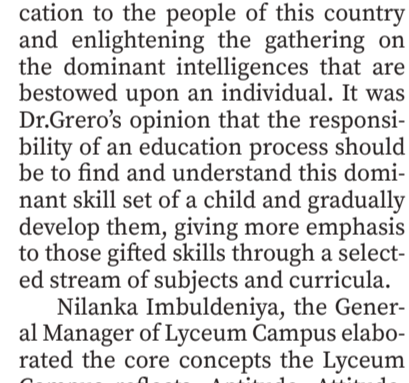


## LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF LYCEUM CAMPUS Lyceum: Beyond Boundaries

*"The one fact about the future of which we can be certain is that it will be utterly fantastic".*  
—Arthur C. Clarke.

Setting a landmark milestone in a thirty-year long legacy of providing quality education to Sri Lanka, the renowned institution network, Lyceum International Schools, announced the launch of the Lyceum Campus, a tertiary education provider partnered with Deakin University, Australia, aiming to enter a new landscape of Higher Education.

The Lyceum Campus appears on the local education radar, establishing the concept of 'Education 4.0', unfamiliar yet to the local public, but with a deep impact on modern education. Education 4.0 – or blended learning – is the revolutionary leap in the field of education in par with the 4th industrial revolution where our physical, biological and digital worlds merge to create a re-skilled, abled generation of modern intellectuals. New technological components of Education 4.0 such as Advanced Robotics, Big Data, Cybersecurity, Blockchain Technology, Cloud Computing and Machine learning are introduced and embedded in the discipline and practice of education to reshape and optimize it, since everyday life chal-



lenges push us to the edge: to think differently.

To commemorate this new venture, a Grand Launch was held at the 'Monarch Imperial' in Sri Jayawardenepura on Wednesday, March the 23 2022. This event was graced by the presence of many eminent personalities in the education sector and other fields: the Chief Guest of the event, His Excellency David Holly, the Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Guest of Honour, John Molony, Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President of the Deakin International Office, Emeritus Prof. Mohan De Silva, the President of Lyceum Campus, Prof. Colin Higgins, The Associate Dean, International & Partnerships, Faculty of Business and Law, the Board of Directors of the Lyceum Group, Dr. Mohan Lal Grero (Founder), Dr. (Mrs.) Kumari Grero, and Nikitha Grero, the council members of the Lyceum Campus, and multiple other Deakin University representatives.

The most significant moment of the event was the launch of the partnership between Lyceum Campus

and its Flagship Partner Deakin University, Australia which is an internationally recognised University with over 45 years of Higher Educational expertise and within the top 1% of Universities worldwide. Deakin University excels in multidisciplinary study options and research catering to thousands of students from all over the world. Addressing the gathering, Nikitha Grero, the Director of Lyceum Group, pointed out the fact that, since its establishment, Lyceum has operated as a not-for-profit organisation and it is how it will always be run, into the foreseeable future. In addition, he said that education has never been viewed as a business by any of the Lyceum family, but is considered as a sincere service that should be available to everybody.

### In his speech

the Chief Guest of the event, His Excellency David Holly, the Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, mentioned the 75 years of bilateral partnership of Sri Lanka and Australia and its foundations that have resulted in the trans-national education culture of the present day. He also stated that he is looking forward to the future when Lyceumers look forward to entering the Universities of Australia as job-ready graduates.

In his address, Guest of Honour, John Molony, Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President of the Deakin International Office pointed out the gravity of forming long-lasting relationships, and the University's engagement with Sri Lanka for the past 20 years, being

the largest home for Sri Lankan students in Australia.

He also pointed out that the pride of Deakin is how they care for their students and its importance in building a mature citizen.

Molony expressed his pleasure to be present at this event, and added his wishes to a mutually beneficial relationship.

Prof. Colin Higgins, The Associate Dean, International & Partnerships, Faculty of Business and Law, during his brief speech reminisced the story of the Deakin relationship with Sri Lanka. He also stated that Deakin has been the catalyst for positive change across the globe, with advancement of education for research enterprise.

Prof. Higgins expressed his pride that the students at Lyceum International Schools had the necessary global exposure that is essential for international education and respectfully praised the scholarly work of Dr. (Mrs.) Kumari Grero and her contributions to this field.

Emeritus Prof. Mohan De Silva, the President of Lyceum Campus, addressed the gathering as he praised the educational legacy of Lyceum that has led to this prestigious amalgamation of Lyceum and Deakin.

He expressed his confidence in this new journey ahead.

Dr. Mohan Lal Grero, the Founder of Lyceum International Schools, Sri Lanka and Vice President of Lyceum Campus, expressed his invaluable wisdom in his address. He stated that Lyceum is turning a new chapter in the journey of providing quality edu-

cation to the people of this country and enlightening the gathering on the dominant intelligences that are bestowed upon an individual. It was Dr. Grero's opinion that the responsibility of an education process should be to find and understand this dominant skill set of a child and gradually develop them, giving more emphasis to those gifted skills through a selected stream of subjects and curricula.

Nilanka Imbuldeniya, the General Manager of Lyceum Campus elaborated the core concepts the Lyceum Campus reflects, Aptitude, Attitude, Continuance and Universality. He also emphasised the matter of "what it truly means to be educated" and "to possess new skills". He made his Vote of Thanks to reiterate that concept: Lyceum 4.0; the new era of educating the nation in par with Education 4.0.

Lyceum Campus has taken the initiative to upgrade the teaching techniques, incorporating state-of-the-art technology and hiring the best expertise to guide the students through the learning and teaching process to showcase greater accountability and teaching with true transparency. Students will be led towards a 'student-centric environment', where they will be guided to understand ways of learning and self-study while being able to apply knowledge in a hands-on environment. Students and staff alike will experience the uniqueness that Lyceum Campus brings and adapt into innovative ways of cooperating and engaging within the process of teaching and learning.

As an initial step in what is to be a long-lasting relationship, Lyceum Campus in partnership with Deakin University shall offer the following Diploma programs leading to a Degree under the 1 + 2 model where the

students can complete the 1st year at Lyceum Campus, Sri Lanka and transfer to Deakin University, Australia to complete the 2nd and 3rd years and obtain their undergraduate degree:

1. Diploma of Business (Business Analytics) leading to Bachelor of Business Analytics
2. Diploma of Business (Management) leading to Bachelor of Business
3. Diploma of Business (Sport Management) leading to Bachelor of Business (Sports Management)
4. Diploma of Business (Commerce) leading to Bachelor of Commerce

Moving forward with the objective of being the center of excellence within the higher education sector, Lyceum Campus will focus not only on disseminating knowledge but developing the required skills and attitudes to create a holistic individual who can face the future with utmost confidence in life.

The Lyceum Campus will be committed to creating sustainable quality internationally recognised education while embracing the core values such as Accountability, Integrity, Freedom of Expression, Lifelong Learning, Social Responsibility, Inclusiveness, Innovation and Sustainability.

Higher education is increasingly seen by the government as a major contributor towards national wealth and economic development. Creating more opportunities for students to pursue higher education while being in the country is well identified to be a timely requirement. With plans underway to commence the first intake in September this year, interested students are welcome to enroll in their course of choice from April 2022 onwards.

Like every successful venture the Lyceum Group has had in the past, this is the beginning of a revolutionary move within the industry. The plans that the Lyceum Campus has in terms of what is to be offered within the higher education industry are bound to create much interest and excitement within the market, and it is surely something one would want to be a part of.



# Advertorial

## Moneta introduces interest-free 'Study Now, Pay Later'

**FACILITY TO EMPOWER ACADEMIC ENDEAVOURS OF SRI LANKAN YOUTH AMID ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

Secure lifestyle based financial assistance platform, Moneta, recently debuted an ingenious product to remove the financial barriers to study whereby students can pursue a professional/educational qualification and pay in 4 instalments, always interest-free.

A first in Sri Lanka, this "Study Now, Pay Later" endeavour is a partnership with the country's undisputed leader in higher education, Achievers Lanka Business School.

It is Moneta's belief that quality education is a must for a successful life and career. The new scheme is an extension of this thinking, to make higher education accessible to the middle class despite the economic downturn triggered by the pandemic. This endeavour sets out to ease the burden of providing/obtaining a good education off the shoulders of parents and prospective students.

Commenting on the product, Kanaganayagham Shayanthan Founder and CEO of Moneta said, "We are excited to be supporting the future generation of Sri Lanka to bring their academic/professional aspirations to fruition through education. This is a brilliant opportunity for anyone looking to further their education but don't have the means to make a substantial investment upfront. We hope our 'Study Now Pay Later' service, which is always interest-free, will be especially beneficial and timely under the prevailing economic climate".

Meanwhile Azad Hye, Chairman of Achievers Lanka Business School noted, "Under this scheme, prospective learners can follow globally-recognised qualification such as CIM, CIMA and ACCA that will be invaluable in today's competitive context. We are proud to be partnering with Moneta for this endeavour as our visions align; we strive to disrupt our respective sectors through creative, innovative solutions".

Sans tedious paperwork or long queues, Moneta's Ma-



**Left to Right - AmharAuffer - Manager Academic and Operations, Achievers Lanka Business School, Anushan Sathananthasarma - Head of Business, Achievers Lanka Business School, Azad Hye - Chairman, Achievers Lanka Business School, Kanaganayagham Shayanthan, Founder & CEO, Moneta, Randu Perera, Business Development Manager, Moneta, Amjad Mowlana - Manager Marketing and Sales, Achievers Lanka Business School and Ajurdeen Azarudeen - Group Accountant, Achievers Lanka Business School**

chine Learning and Artificial Intelligence-driven platform has simplified and streamlined the always interest-free 'Study Now, Pay Later' facility's processing time to an impressive 10 minutes. This futuristic approach trumps all other alternatives in terms of efficiency, speed and convenience.

"This pandemic created a lot of new opportunities for millennials. With the right education and support they can build a flourishing fu-



**Azad Hye - Chairman, Achievers Lanka Business School, Kanaganayagham Shayanthan, Founder & CEO, Moneta**

ture. We are very proud about this partnership with Achievers, one of Sri Lanka's top business schools, to create global professionals ready to take on the world", Shayanthan said.

Achievers is one of the most sought-after institutions for CIM and ACCA. It has an excellent pool of lecturers, impressive pass rates and offers virtual and physical learning modes to choose from.

Moneta has also upgraded their services portfolio to include a new service whereby customers can use their debit card as a 'credit card' when making purchases. This is an extension of the 'buy now, pay later' philosophy. This feature materialised as a result of recently forged partnerships with several leading private and public sector stakeholders.

Moneta is a service targeted towards young executives enabling them to 'live beyond limits.' The service is accessible via the mobile application that is available on Google Play & App Store. Moneta's brand philosophy lies on three pillars: Speed, Innovation and Positive Social Impact.



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# SLASSCOM's Future Careers BRIDGE Boot Camp to support youth employment in technology sector

The country's IT sector is an integral part of its economic and social development. With the accelerated pace of digitalisation, attracting and training young talent to drive the industry forward, has become primary in shaping the IT landscape of Sri Lanka.

The Future Careers BRIDGE program (www.futurecareersbridge.net/) and Boot Camp prepares youth with the requisite skills for the country's IT industry. The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) youth employment and entrepreneurship project, You Lead, supported the program's soft skills training course. Negombo Round Table supported the technology module, while the Dhov Foundation supported the Boot Camp with the English language skills module.

Targeting students who have completed their G.C.E. A/L examinations, the program assesses youth on their skills and suitability for the IT sector via a series of challenges designed by industry experts and provides students with a skill development journey of tech and essential skills.

The Boot Camp focused on communication skills, leadership skills and soft skills such as creative problem solving, interpersonal communication, self-management and accountability. Students participated in workshops, mock interviews and guest lectures on topics such as time management, mental wellbeing, personal agility and diversity and inclusion.



The modules were delivered by top industry professionals and institutions, including Gateway Language School, Winhe Software Engineering Academy and International Trainer and a Certified Transformational Coach, Fahad Farook.

This program is offered free of charge for the students and conducted virtually by the SLASSCOM Academy. The program entailed a comprehensive training that has given students the opportunity to learn how Tech, especially software development, is practiced in companies and have the chance to receive employment opportunities when they complete this program, supported with communication and essential skills for their success in their first internship.

This initiative has proved to be a game-changer supporting students with the practical skills and guidance, with a host of IT/BPM companies and industry mentors' joining the platform to hire interns as well as volunteering on all aspects of creating this program and sustaining it over the last

24 months. This follow-up Boot Camp commenced in Nov 2021 with 50 students invited to join the program and concluded with resounding success at the end of March 2022. SLASSCOM is supported by their Corporate sponsors Dialog enterprise and HCL Tech in conducting these initiatives.

Nishan Mendis - Board Director at SLASSCOM stated "SLASSCOM has been working in the last few years to create awareness in IT related trends and employment opportunities to the next generation. Multi-pronged approaches were exercised to reach out to children, teachers, parents in many parts of the country to create awareness regarding the industry."

While the awareness about the IT/BPM industry is becoming better, there is still a considerable gap of understanding about the opportunities available in the industry. We aim to leverage the Future Careers BRIDGE platform to primarily focus on creating awareness among youth about the benefits of selecting IT/BPM as a future career path and to make them

understand the lucrativeness of this industry.

This aligns with our vision of generating USD 5 billion in annual revenue, employing over 200,000 highly-skilled professionals and launching over 1,000 startups by 2025".

Bani Chandrasena, Head of the Capacity Forum at SLASSCOM added that the initiative has two fold objectives. Firstly, it is aimed at expanding the talent pool available to the industry as part of this Capacity building program.

Secondly, its focus is on connecting Sri Lankan youth to exciting job and career prospects in the knowledge services industry to provide them with the opportunity to become truly global citizens.

With the current concern about the rising incidence of youth leaving the country for overseas employment, Future Careers BRIDGE program and Bridge Boot Camp program offering youth lucrative opportunities in the IT Sector, could be a way to retain the IT Talent much needed by the nation.

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CIPM Officials with the awards



## CIPM Sri Lanka bags two prestigious awards at National Business Excellence Awards 2021

CIPM Sri Lanka - the nation's leader in human resource management, triumphed at the National Business Excellence Awards (NBEA) 2021, being the Winner of Educational Service Sector and winning the 2nd Runner Up - Medium Category. Organized by the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and held at the BMICH, Eric Lavertu, the French Ambassador to Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Representing CIPM SL at this prestigious event, Jayantha Amarasinghe, President, Ken Vijayakumar, Vice President, Priyankara

Seneviratne, Honorary Secretary, U.A.C. Obeysekere, CEO, Anushka Earskin, Head of Business School and Ruwani Seneviratne, Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager.

Initiated in 2004, the NBEA has gained much recognition and prestige among the business community and maintains the highest standards of a well-structured awards scheme recognizing excellence among businesses in Sri Lanka. Instrumental in receiving the NBEA honours was the vision of CIPM SL's President, whose continued quest for excellence

and promotion of Business Excellence Models has yielded impressive results for the organization. Emerging as the winner, CIPM SL received this honour in the field of human resources surpassing the stringent evaluation criteria application.

Respected as among the pioneering awards competitions in the country, NBEA accolades go beyond testing reporting aspects but instead recognize essential business practices and a sustainable business model. The model is based on seven vital criteria: Excellence in Strategy and Lead-

ership, Excellence in Corporate Governance, Excellence in Capacity Building, Excellence in Performance Management, Excellence in Local and Global Market Reach, Excellence in CSR and Environmental Sustainability, and Excellence in Excellence in Business and Financial Results.

The final evaluation comprised two stages, including the desktop evaluation and a final interview by the panel of judges. Notably, CIPM SL received eminent Educational Services Sector competing with other leading educational institutes in the country.

## Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russian Federation visits Kursk State Medical University

On April 8, 2022, a delegation of the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation headed/led by Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, visited Kursk State Medical University (KSMU).

KSMU has a long history of productive cooperations with the DSR of Sri Lanka. The year 1997 marked the first Sri Lankan to become a student of KSMU. Since then, there are 772 of Sri Lankans who graduated from this University among 4181 international graduates from 72 countries. Currently there are 241 citizens of Sri Lanka among 2324 total of international students at the University.

Within the framework of the visit, the Embassy delegation met with the Rector of KSMU, Honoured Doctor of Russian Federation, Doctor of Medical Science, Member of the Kursk Regional Duma of the VII convocation, Honorary Citizen of Kursk, Prof. V.A. Lazarenko. The prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation between KSMU and the Embassy of Sri Lanka to RF in increasing the number of students from Sri Lanka, bilateral academic mobility of students and teachers and KSMU branch establishment in Sri Lanka are among the agendas discussed during the meeting. Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage noticed the high quality and professional level of international student trainings and in accordance with the international standards of education. The Ambassador also appreciated the University's staff for their extra effort and special attention to help and support international students during the difficult period of the pandemic.

During the visit, Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage also met with the Governor of the Kursk Region; R.V.



Starovoit. The parties discussed the prospects of cooperation in the economic and educational spheres. She commended the high level of equipment of the University and expressed how it is favourable in its environment is created in the region comfortable for studies and living for foreign citizens. "Russia and Sri Lanka have always been great friends, and there are no circumstances that could break this friendship", stressed the Ambassador.

The program of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary's visit also included a lunch with Sri Lankan KSMU students which was organised by the Sri Lankan Students' Community of KSMU, with the participation of the Honorary Consul of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Kursk, Director of the International Medical Institute of KSMU, Associate Prof. M.T. Chahine. Sri Lankan students taking this opportunity to communicate with the Ambassador and address all their questions.

In honour of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DSR of Sri Lanka to the RF, Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage, and on the eve of the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year; 09.04.2022, a long-awaited and unforgettable celebration took place at KSMU the 'Sri Lankan Night



2022' a celebration of Sri Lankan culture. Her Excellency blessed the opening of the ceremony and took the opportunity to congratulate the creative teams of students from Sri Lanka at KSMU with a well-deserved victory at the annual festival "Student Spring of the Nightingale Region 2022", which unites more than ten thousand representatives of educational organisations of the region and various races and ethnicities.

The students from Sri Lanka united as a nation and were tirelessly preparing for the performance in order to introduce their culture and traditions to the guests and audience. Absolutely different genre were presented traditional folk dance, modern choreography and phenomenal body movements and synchronisation. All were impressed by the beauty of the performances.

The international student community of KSMU strengthens international links, as well as develops inter ethnic and intercultural cooperation. Students participated at cultural events, sports and recreational events at University level and at regional levels. These success contributed to the University traditions of being the best.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage sincerely appreciated the administration of KSMU for the warm reception and also indicated her plans for the development of a new round of mutually beneficial relations between the Universities of the two countries. Representatives of the delegation expressed interest in opening a branch of the Kursk State Medical University in Sri Lanka and organising academic mobility. She also announced her intention to open a business centre in the region, in which a Sri Lankan traditional wellness centre will be at the premises. In addition, She also shared her long-term plans to open a Sri Lanka Trade House in Kursk together with the Honorary Consul of the DSR Sri Lanka in Kursk, Associate Prof. M.T. Chahine.

We thank Dr. Lasantha Amarakoon, Chairman of REC Campus for coordinating with Sunday observer and providing this information.



FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, KULIYAPITIYA  
DCLPPM

**Diploma in Construction Labour Productivity and Performance Management (DCLPPM)**  
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TARGET GROUP	: Engineering Assistants / Construction Supervisors / Technical Officers / Construction Industry Practitioners
DURATION	: One Year (Part-Time)
COURSE FEE	: Rs. 90,000.00 (The total payment can be paid in two instalments. First Instalment: Rs. 60,000.00 (at the course registration / course commencement) + Second Instalment: Rs. 30,000 (after 3 months from the course commencement)
MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION	: English (Sinhala/Tamil will be used when required)
QUALIFICATION LEVEL	: SLQF Level 3 (Equivalent to NVQ Level 5)
COMMENCEMENT	: July / August, 2022
VENUE	: Faculty of Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliypitiya

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:-**

Passed the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) or an equivalent qualification in Physical Science / Engineering Technology / Biosystems Technology / Biological Science / Commerce / Arts stream  
**OR**  
 Passed a foundation course equivalent to SLQF level 2 in after a minimum of 12 years of schooling followed by an aptitude test  
**OR**  
 Passed a course equivalent to NVQF level 4 or accredited work experience or accredited prior learning followed by a cognitive bridging programme  
**OR**  
 Any other qualification not listed above, but may be considered for the acceptance of the Board of Study of the DCLPPM and the Senate of WUSL.

**AND**  
 Passed 'Mathematics' and 'English' in General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) with minimum 'S' grade

**APPLICATIONS:-**

Applications can also be downloaded from the University website <http://www.wyb.ac.lk/dclppm>. Rs. 500/- should be paid in favour of 88154489 (Current Account) of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon. When submitting applications, the payment receipt should be attached along with the application.

Duly filled application form with all relevant documents and the duplicate of the payment slip should be posted via registered post to Director, Diploma in Construction Labour Productivity and Performance Management, Faculty of Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliypitiya, 60200 on or before 10th June 2022.

Registrar  
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**NOTE- Short-listed applicants based on qualifications and experience in farm accounting will be called for interview and selection will be on performance at the interview. Priority will be given to those who have more experience in accounting in the livestock and plantation sector.**

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- Minimum of 10 years experience preferably in Manufacturing Sector
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**Senior Procurement Executive**

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- Degree or Professional Qualification

**Senior Finance Executive**

- 3 years experience in Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Sector
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Interested candidates may apply to the under mentioned address or email to [hr@coca-cola.lk](mailto:hr@coca-cola.lk)

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**Responsibilities:**

- Work closely with the respective CEOs / Directors in developing and implementing appropriate HR strategies that will assist in achieving organizational goals.
- Establish strategies to attract and retain varied talent pools in an ever-changing environment.
- Assess training needs by aligning to achieve organizational productivity and succession.
- Design structures that will optimize human capital whilst introducing HR analytics to support business decisions.
- Better and improve the performance evaluation process whilst benchmarking good industry practices.
- Improve existing policies and procedures to cater to ever-evolving business needs.

**Requirements:**

- A Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Business Administration or an equal professional qualification in HR.
- A minimum of five years' experience in managing a human resources division of a reputed large/medium scale organization at a senior management level.
- Hands-on experience in the banking and finance sector will be a definite advantage.
- A member of CIPM/AHRP/EFC.
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- Minimum 15 years of experience in fund mobilization, with a good understanding of regulatory framework/compliance, out of which at least minimum 5 years in the managerial grade in the financial services sector in Sri Lanka.
- Bachelor's/Master's Degree from a recognized University/Institute or Full/Part professional qualification in a related discipline though not essential but will be an added advantage.
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**SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL**  
**VACANCIES**

**Management Assistant-Information Technology -**  
Contract Basis

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who are not less than 20 years and not more than 35 years as at 15.05.2022 of age for the above vacancy.

**Required Qualifications and experience:**

1. G.C.E.(O/L) six subjects with credit passes for Sinhala Language/Tamil Language, English Language, and Mathematics.
2. Should have passed in all subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) in one sitting.
3. Should have obtained the certificate of proficiency not below than N.V.Q Level 04 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute in the field of Information Communication Technology or Equivalent.
4. Preference will be given for those who have a Degree in Information Technology, recognized by the University Grants Commission.
5. Three years Working experiences on Computer Hardware, Software, Network and Systems will be added advantages.
6. Computer literacy, good communication and interpersonal skills with a good knowledge in English language is essential.

**Job description** – Responsible for Effective Management of Computer related hardware, software network and systems related duties.

Please mention the "Post of Management Assistant-IT" on the left-hand corner of the envelope.

**Management Assistant-Finance and Administration -**  
Contract Basis

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who are not less than 18 years and not more than 35 years as at 15.05.2022 of age for the above vacancy.

**Required Qualifications and experience:**

1. G.C.E. (O/L) Examination (Should have passed all subjects in one sitting).
2. G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (Should have passed all subjects in one sitting – Commerce Stream).
3. Degree in Finance or Accounting will be considered as an added advantage.
4. Language Proficiency in English and Sinhala/Tamil.
5. Proficiency in MS Office Applications and QuickBooks Accounting Applications.
6. Previous work experience in a similar role and organization will be considered as an added advantage.
7. Preference will be given candidates who lives within 10 km of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

**Job description** – Responsible for performing duties related to financial operations. The scope of this position shall be to execute and manage the key processes and day to day duties assigned by the Head of Finance.

Applications, along with a curriculum vitae including two non-related referees, should be addressed to the Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council, to reach the SLMC on or before 15 May 2022.

Please mention the "Post of Management Assistant-Finance" on the left corner of the envelope.

E mail-admin@slmc.gov.lk

Assistant Registrar,  
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email : sanjeasp@gmail.com

**Full time Active Maid** with prior work experience needed to stay and work at a residence in Colombo - 03. Age between 25 - 40 years, Salary Rs. 55,000/=.

Anything above negotiable. Food allowance also provided.

Contact: Roshan 0770-169070

**VACANCIES FOR SECURITY EXECUTIVES & SECURITY OFFICERS**

- ▶ Minimum 04 years experience and preferably in the hospitality field.
- ▶ Good PR and communication skills.
- ▶ Retired Army Officers with unblemished service record are encouraged to apply.
- ▶ Age below 50 years.

Please Email us your CV with details of two non-related referees.

E-mail: careers@fairwaycolombo.com

Human Resources Department,  
**Fairway Colombo (Pvt) Ltd**  
07, Hospital Street,  
Colombo 01.

**011 215 315 3**

*Marriage Proposals*  
in the  
**Sunday Observer**  
Is the best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

**Valuation Inspector Vacancies**

**Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council**

Applications are invited from retired Valuation Inspecting officers to be recruited on contract basis to fill vacancies of Valuation Officers lying vacant in the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council.

For further details, contact **0112723538**

**M.M.C.K.K. Mannapperuma**  
Municipal Commissioner  
Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipal Council

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**SENIOR CLIENT SERVICE EXECUTIVE**

The Ideal Candidate Should Possess

- Fluency in both English & Sinhala
- Excellent Interpersonal Skills and a Pleasant Personality
- Excellent Capacity to work with a Team
- A Degree / Diploma in Marketing
- Minimum 2 years of professional experience in advertising (Additional Qualification)
- Below the Age of 35

Send your CV Before May 16  
[blackorangeadvertising@gmail.com](mailto:blackorangeadvertising@gmail.com)

371 High Level Road,  
Gangodavala, Nugegoda.  
Tel : 0713240823, 0112803902

**MARSYLKA®**

We are UK owned garment manufacturing plant base at Polgahawela & Kurunegala cater lingerie products for leading brands of M & S, Tesco, Next, Boux Avenue, HOF, Ann Summer & Matalan. We are looking for a dynamic individual with excellent planning, organizational and communication skills. You should be an aggressive go-getter with a proven track record of achievements.

**HEAD OF QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**Requirements**

- A sound educational background and Quality Standards professional qualification is required.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in similar capacity.
- Good communication skill in English with ability to work in computerized environment.
- Age below 45.

Please attention your curriculum vitae with contact details of two non-related referees to reach within 07 days to [careers@marsylka.lk](mailto:careers@marsylka.lk)

**Human Resources Manager**  
Marsylka Manufacturing Lanka (PVT) Ltd  
Plot No 10, EPZ Polgahawela.

**DISTRIBUTORS WANTED**

We at Pee Bee Management Services (Pvt) Ltd; require distributors to distribute a large range of disposable products inclusive of SLS certified Toilet Tissues, Facial Tissues, Paper Towels, Kitchen Paper Towels and Paper Serviettes in the following areas.

**Areas of Distribution**  
Colombo 02 / Colombo 03 / Colombo 04 / Colombo 05 / Colombo 06 / Colombo 07

**Requirements**

- A bank guarantee to a minimum value of Rs.5,000,000/-
- Stores facility up to 300sqft.
- A van with a capacity of 400cuft. with a driver and a porter for distribution of products.

Please apply to the following address by email or fax.

**Marketing Manager**  
No.35, UDA Industrial Estate, Katuwana Road, Homagama.  
Email : [jayasirigunawardena@peebeegroup.com](mailto:jayasirigunawardena@peebeegroup.com)  
Fax: 011 289 2033

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.

  
**SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL**  
**VACANCY**  
**HEAD OF INTERNSHIP UNIT**

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) seeks the services of an experienced and dynamic medical or dental professional /academic who is willing to take up the challenge of running the Internship Unit of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. The SLMC invites applications from medical or dental practitioners who possess the following:

1. Registration as a specialist with Sri Lanka Medical Council.
2. A proven track record of at least 15 years' experience.

**The appointment shall be on a full-time basis for a period of 2 years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a second term.** Professors from medical faculties on sabbatical leave are encouraged to apply. The salary and other emoluments shall be as determined by the Medical Council, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health.

The responsibilities & duties (Terms of Reference) of the post shall be made available to the selected applicant.

Applicant should submit the full curriculum vitae along with a cover letter (sent through the Head of Institutions, where relevant) to highlight his/her suitability for the post, to reach the following address on or before **06.06.2022**. Applications should be submitted only by Registered post.

The President  
**Sri Lanka Medical Council**  
31, Norris Canal Road  
Colombo 10  
04.05.2022

**OBSERVER JOBS**

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE

FOR JOBSEEKERS

[www.observerjobs.lk](http://www.observerjobs.lk)

**MANAGER - OPERATIONS**

A well established security firm located in Gampaha seeks the services of a dynamic and result oriented individual for the following position of the company.

The ideal candidate should possess the below pre-requisites,

- Should be a retired commissioned officer above captain rank in SL Army / commander in SL Navy/ Squadron Leader in SL Air Force / ASP or similar rank in SL Police
- 3 year experience in private security industry is compulsory (proof documents needed)
- Should be able to recruit persons whenever the company needs from all over the island.
- Should have reasonable grasp of administrative procedures
- Fluency in English, both written and spoken and proficiency in MS office packages
- Preference will be given to candidates living in close proximity to Gampaha.

**Very attractive remuneration package for the right candidate**

Forward your complete CV with contact details of 2 non related referees immediately to:  
[chairman@wmsecurity.lk](mailto:chairman@wmsecurity.lk) / [admin@wmsecurity.lk](mailto:admin@wmsecurity.lk)

**Further clarifications: 071 328 7896**

N&G Ads

**With a heritage spanning over a 130 years, Anverally and Sons (Pvt) Ltd is in the forefront of the tea export industry with a global presence in over 90 countries and growing. We empower individuals who are dynamic and innovative with a passion for excellence. In keeping with our continuous operational expansion the following vacancy exists.**

**TEA BUYER / TEA TRADER**

**REQUIREMENTS**

- At least 4-5 years experience in a reputed Tea Export Company.
- Fluency in the online auction system.
- Experience in handling overseas clients independently and awareness in tea packing operational procedures (factory/stores) would be an added advantage.
- Should possess good communication and negotiation skills coupled with strong motivation.
- Should be able to handle the operational activities in the tea department.
- Should have good understanding & Involvement in tea grading, blending, tasting and Tea buying at the Tea Auction.

The above position carry attractive remuneration package along with other fringe benefits for the ideal candidate depending on their experience and qualifications.

Applicants may forward their CV's with a recently taken photograph and names and contact numbers of two non-related referees on or before 31st May 2022 to:

  
**ANVERALLY TEA**  
FAMILY OF TRUSTED TEA EXPORTERS SINCE 1890

General Manager HR And Operations  
**Anverally & Sons (Pvt) Ltd**  
17, Sir Lester James Peris Mawatha, Colombo 05  
Tel: 011555594-7  
E-mail: [careers@anverally.com](mailto:careers@anverally.com)  
Web: [www.anverally.com](http://www.anverally.com)



Please mention the position you are applying for when submitting the above.













**STATE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND MARKET DIVERSIFICATION**

**SRI LANKA BUREAU OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT**

**REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS - 2022/2023**



- Applications are invited for the registration of suppliers for the year 2022/2023 in Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment established by Parliament Act No. 21 of 1985.
- Application forms could be obtained from the Procurement Division by submitting a request letter on a letterhead of the relevant institute or from the website of the Bureau (www.slbfe.lk).
- Application forms will be issued by the Procurement Division from 09.05.2022 to 30.05.2022 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days. Perfected applications will be received only up to 1.00 p.m. on 30.05.2022.
- Applicant could apply for one or more items and should apply separately.
- A non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/- (should be paid only by cash) per each item will be charged and special Bank slip for same could be obtained from the head office of the SLBFE and any branch office. Cheques will not be accepted. This sum could be paid to any Bank of Ceylon branch and it is compulsory to attach the 2 bank slips (Bureau copy and Finance Division copy) to the application form (one bank slip should be used for one application No in the schedule and if applying for several items separate bank slip for each item should be submitted along with the application).
- The qualifications required for registration and documents to be produced for registration are given below.
  - It is mandatory to submit a certified copy of the Business Registration Certificate. Further, the nature of business in it should tally with the item applied.
  - The garages which register for the repairing of vehicles should be within 15 Km radius of the Head Office/ Regional Branch Offices of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. Garage should be situated at the address given in the Business Registration Certificate. (Prior to registration, the location will be inspected by the SLBFE and Addresses of the Branch Offices could be obtained from the official website of the Bureau.)
  - Applicants applying for construction works mentioned in Item No. 37 should submit a photocopy of the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration.
  - Bureau copy and Finance Division copy of the relevant bank slip should be submitted with the application. (Bureau copy and Finance Division Copy).
- In applying for several items it is compulsory to submit relevant documents and bank slips, separately (application with incomplete documents will be rejected).
- All applications inserted in a single envelope should either be sent by registered post or hand delivered to receive before 1.00 p.m. on 30.05.2022 and the caption "Registration of Suppliers - 2022/2023" should be mentioned on the left-hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.
- In addition to these registered suppliers, the Bureau is free to select any other procurement method as per the Procurement Guidelines for the procurement of required goods and services.
- In the event of failure to response three times after submission of Bids, forwarding false information/documents and failure to supply supplies and service ordered in time and in accordance with the approved samples, the Procurement Committee has the right to remove the suppliers name from the suppliers registration list without prior notice.
- The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment reserves the right to reject any application submitted for registration as a supplier for the year 2022 without giving any reason.

**Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment,  
No. 234, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,  
Koswatta, Battaramulla.  
Webiste: www.slbfe.lk  
Telephone: 0112880550 / 0112887585**



**SCHEDULE**

**PART I  
GOODS**

- Air Conditioners and Accessories
- School Bags, Office Bags, Hand Bags, Shoes (Ladies & Gents),Gents Belts
- Curtains, Carpets, Cushion Covers and other Textile Material (for Office)
- Finger Print Marking Machines
- Fixed Line Telephones and Accessories
- Lightning Conductors
- Medicine and Medical Equipment
- Ceramic Goods, Crockery Item and Glass Ware.
- Water Dispenser and Drinking Water Bottles.
- Miscellaneous Hardware equipment.
- Mobile Phone.
- Office & Domestic Furniture (Wooden, Steel, Fiberglass, Plastic)
- Office equipment & Accessories (Photocopiers, Fax Machines, Roneo Machines, Stamp Franking Machines, Currency Counting Machines etc.)
- Office Partitioning and required materials
- Official Identity Cards & Visitors Pass
- Production of Date Stamps & Rubber Seals
- Sanitary Goods and Sportsware
- Sports Goods

- Staff Uniforms
- Stationery
- Trophies / Medals
- Audio Visual Equipment & Accessories (Multimedia Projectors, Video Cameras and accessories, Betacam, DV cam, Mini DV, cassettes, CD, DVD, still cameras and accessories, Display Units and Display Solutions)
- Handicrafts and Promotional Items (T-Shirt, Cap, Bag, Plate, Umbrella, Key Tag, Pen, tea boxes etc...)
- Retail Grocery Items (Sugar, Milk Powder, Tea Leaves, Coffee)
- Safety Equipment and Materials (Ex: - Masks, Face Covers, Gloves, Head covers Safety Garments)
- Disinfectant Liquids and other Related Sanitary Material.

**PART II  
SERVICES**

- Advertising (drawing Banners, Artwork & Set designing, Display Boards, Exhibition Stalls, Set Designing, Digital Printing)
- Aluminum Fabrications (Office Partitions, Cladding, Doors, Windows, Suspended ceiling) with Technical Services
- Catering Services
- Cleaning Services
- Security Services
- Courier Services
- Cargo Services
- Book Publishing Institutes
- Transport Services (Cars, vans, buses, lorries and double cabs etc. on hire basis)
- Consultancy Services (Building Constructions and Repairs)
- Construction (Buildings) Contract Institutes (with ICTAD Registration)
- Supply of Technician Services.
  - Masonry / Plumbing
  - Carpentry / Wood polishers
  - Welders, Lathe Machine Services, Iron Welding
  - Painting of Buildings / Minor Repairs, Electric Circuits
  - Mechanical Equipment and Related Services, Winding of Electric and Water Motors
- Construction of sewerage treatment plant & waste water disposal systems
- Cushioning of office chairs, repairs of office furniture
- Customs Clearance Services
- Supply of Dancing groups for Special Functions
- Sewerage Cleaning Services, Drainage system maintenance & Sanitary Bin Services, Gully Bowser services
- Services relevant to Electrical Work, Air Conditioning Work
- Supply of Auditing Services and Professional Consultancy services
- Landscaping / Hiring of Indoor Plants
- Satellite TV and Cable TV Facilities
- Pest Control
- Photography, Videoing, Photo Washing and Printing, Picture Framing and Laminating, Preparation of Albums, Mounting of Boxes
- Repairing services of Elevators
- Staff Training on Information Technology, Administration & Human Resources, Finance, Technology, Procurement, Auditing, Law, Languages etc...
- Telephone Systems and Public Addressing Systems
- Labour Supply Services
- Hotels & Restaurant (Registered with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Urban Development Authority)
- Insurance Companies (Staff, Migrant workers, Vehicle, Building, Office Equipment, Foreign Travel etc...)

**PART III**

**PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS, VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

- Supply of Vehicle audio and video players, Reverse Camera and fixing
- Vehicle Spare Parts
- Vehicle Air Conditioners
- Auto Electrical Circuit Supply Services
- Vehicle Term Service work (Including interior and Outdoor washing).
- Repairs of Vehicles (Including Tinkering, Painting, Electric and Mechanical Repairs, Lorry Body)
- Repairing of Three Wheelers & Motorcycles
- Term Service work of Three Wheelers & Motorcycles
- Vehicle Cushioning
- Wheel Alignment & Wheel Balancing
- Vehicle Tyres, Tubes and batteries

**PART IV**

**Purchase of Information technology Accessories, Servicing and Electrical Equipment**

- Purchase of Application Software and System software packages and Supply of related services.
- Purchase of Computers, Computer related accessories, Printers, Hardware, Passport scanners, Bar code readers for the reading of SLBFE's security stamps and its accessories, Repairing, maintenance and servicing of computers, computer related accessories, Printers, Passport scanners, Bar code readers.
- Purchase of Toners, Cartridges, Ink, Ribbons (for computer printers, Photocopiers, Fax Machines and Roneo Machines)
- Purchase of UPS, UPS batteries, UPS Systems and related Services, and Purchase of Spare Parts
- Purchase of Servers, Server Related appliances, components, consultancy services, maintenance, repairing and related services, Purchase of Computer related Software

- Purchase of Dongles & wireless Internet connections.
- Computer Networking related services, and Supply of Computer Networking related accessories, maintenance & related services in Telephone (PABX) , Data Network System, IP/ VPN system, routers, switches, Servers, Server room, Server Room raised floor preparations, Computer networking related service without & with cable.
- IT Consultancy Services
- Purchase of Software License and SSL Certificate.
- Designing Computer Software, Installation and Supplying relevant services.
- Purchase of CCTV camera System, maintenance, and related services.

**PART V**

**Supply of Electrical items & related service**

- Electrical equipment (Fans, Televisions & DVD including household and kitchen Appliances)
- Electrical Appliances and Accessories
- Elevators and Accessories
- Hiring and Purchasing of Generators with maintenance & services.
- Electrical / Mechanical / Civil consultancy services and Supply of Technical Services.

**PART VI**

**OTHER SERVICES**

- Event Management Services
- Illumination and decoration and Provision of Loudspeaker services for Special Functions
- Office Decoration Works
- Media Items and Editing
- Printing (Offset, Letterpress, Digital, Fabric Design Printing, File cover Printing, Diary and Calendar, Magazine, Newspaper, Receipt books etc.)
- CD & DVD copy writing
- Repairing of Typewriters
- Services of Language Translations (Sinhala, English, Tamil, Arabic, Korean, Japanese and Italian)
- Supply of Goods for Special Occasions (Temporary Huts, Huts, Tents, Chairs, Tables, Illuminating, Loudspeaker System, Carpets, Podiums, Flags poles )
- Television and Radio Program production, Preparation of Television advertisement, Multimedia Presentations, Video Production, Documentary Films and Tele Drama Production
- Purchase of Damaged Items (Including papers, Office disposal items & damage computer accessories)
- Airlines & Air Ticketing Agents
- Pre Fabricated Building Suppliers (Container)
- Container Suppliers
- Solar power instalation, spar parts and services.

**Specimen Application Form (Separate Applications should be submitted for each item and service)**

**REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023**

- Name of the Applicant / Organization : .....  
(Please attach a certified copy of Business Registration Certificate)
- Address of the Applicant / Institution: .....  
(In case the given addresses are changed later it should be notified to the Procurement Division by registered post)
- Nature of Supplies: .....  
Item No:..... Serial No. ....  
(Please mention the service and item No. clearly)
- Telephone, Fax No. & E-mail  
Tel No. : .....  
Fax No. : .....  
E-mail : .....
- Name, Designation and mobile phone number of the person to be contacted  
Name : .....  
Designation : .....  
Mobile No. : .....
- Names of the Bankers: .....
- Principal line and type of Business (whether company, sole proprietorship etc.) : .....
- List of state and private sector organizations to whom goods / services are provided at present  
(Please attach user list and the contact details)
- Whether agreeable to give bid Securities/Performance Bonds in the process of purchasing (if necessary).  
(Yes / No): .....
- Credit facilities if available (Duration / Amount) : .....  
(Its important the mention of the credit period of the service or goods and should be accepted to submit the bid security and the performance bond)
- VAT Registration number (If available) : .....
- Details of payment of Registration Fee - Cash receipt No.:..... (The Bureau copy and the Finance Division copy should be submitted).

I / We do hereby agree to supply goods/services to SLBFE as per the Specifications and to submit Bids in Sri Lankan Rupees. Further, I/ We do understand that failure to supply repeatedly and / or supply of goods which are not in conformity with specifications / samples, will lead to blacklisting the name from the list of registration of suppliers for 2022/2023.

Signature : .....  
Designation : .....  
Rubber Stamp: .....  
Date:





**REGISTRATION OF BUYERS FOR SCRAP DISPOSAL MATERIAL FOR THE YEAR 2022/23**

**Aitken Spence PLC**  
invites buyers to register for the following categories.

Category	Item Description
Ceramic	Used Ceramic Items / Sanitary Ware
Chemicals	Paints & Chemicals
Batteries	Vehicle Batteries / UPS Batteries
Electronics	Electronic Waste / Unusable Electronic Items / Wires / Light Fittings
Furniture	Tables / Chairs / Cupboards / Sofas / Office Furniture / Mattresses
Glass	Heat Glass / Glass Partitions / Glass Ware / Bottles / Mirrors
Linen	Bed Sheets / Curtains / Pillowcases / Tablecloths / Uniforms / Soft Furnishing
Machinery Parts	Used Machinery Parts / Unusable Equipment
Metal	Scrap Iron / Metal Drums / Metal Parts / Aluminum / Cutlery
Oil	Used Oil Removed From Machinery / Vehicles / Kitchen Oils
Vehicle Parts	Used Vehicle Spare Parts
Tools	Damaged / Unusable Metal Tools
Paper	Old News Papers / Cardboards / Magazines / Books
Plastic	Cans / Buckets / Waste Polythene / Hangers / Thread Cones
Tyres	Used Tyres / Tubes / Flaps
Wooden	Used Wooden Pallets / Plywood / Panels
Other Miscellaneous	Coconut Shells & Others

Those who wish to register as a buyer should submit an application for the interested categories to the below-mentioned email address, along with their details, including the name, address, contact number, NIC number and company registration number, on or before 23rd May 2022. Please state the category registered for as the subject of the email.

**Email : dil@aitkenspence.lk**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**



**Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**  
Ministry of Education

<b>Loan No. and Title:</b>	3698/3699-SRI:Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project
<b>Contract No. and Title:</b>	STHRD/SB-V1 : Procurement of Vehicles for student research work and materials collection for the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.
<b>Deadline for submission of Bids:</b>	07/06/2022, 13:30 hours (local time)

1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) equivalent to US\$ 145 Million towards the cost of implementing the Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project (STHRD Project) under the Ministry of Education and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Chairman, University Procurement Committee on behalf of the Deputy Project Director, Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (**"the Purchaser"**) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **STHRD/SB-V1 - Procurement of vehicles for student research work and materials collection for the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.** (**"the Goods"**). This procurement comprises of Procurement of Vehicles for student research work and materials collection for the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The completion period is 12 weeks from the date of signing of the Agreement.

3. The bidder should have the following key qualifications to participate in this bidding:
  - Successful completion as the main supplier within the last three years, of at least two contracts each valued mentioned in column 2 of the following table in nature and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6.
  - Minimum average annual turnover as of Column 3 of the following table which is calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three years.

**Key qualifications to participate in this bidding**

Sec No.	Description	Quantity	• Column 2	• Column 3
01	Leyland Buses	02	28 Million	70 Million

4. Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Procurement of Goods Single Stage - One Envelope procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

Senior Procurement Officer  
Project Implementation Unit  
Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project  
Faculty of Technology  
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka  
Belihuloya, Sri Lanka  
ZIP code: 70140  
Telephone: 045-2280081  
E-mail: sprob-sthrd@mohe.gov.lk
6. Pre-bid meeting will be held via online or at the Board Room, Faculty of Technology Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and the date and time will be notified 03 days in advance.
7. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for the **"STHRD/SB-V1 - Procurement of Vehicles for student research work and materials collection for the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka."** and pay a non-refundable fee of 5000/= (LKR Five Thousand only) by deposit to Current Account No.0083695474 maintained at Bank of Ceylon, Belihuloya. The document/s will be issued from 9th May 2022. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
8. Deliver your bid to the following address on or before 13:30 hrs of 07.06.2022 together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.

Deputy Project Director,  
Project Implementation Unit,  
STHRD Project,  
Faculty of Technology,  
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka,  
Belihuloya, Sri Lanka

- Completed bids should be forwarded in two copies as the **ORIGINAL** and the **DUPLICATE**. The original and the duplicate should be enclosed separately and marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelopes. Then both envelopes re-enclosed in one sealed envelope marked the respective contract ID on top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman  
Department Procurement Committee  
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka  
Belihuloya, Sri Lanka  
ZIP code: 70140  
Date: 08.05.2022

**JB APPAREL**  
FOCUSED SOLUTIONS

Need closed body Lorries with / without hanging facility for transportation of apparel / machinery immediately. Pls. forward quotations for below locations by post or email on or before 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

S/No.	Location
1	Colombo 14 to EPZ - Koggala
2	Colombo 14 to Bibile
3	Colombo 14 to Fort
4	Colombo 14 to Container Yard - Orugodawatte
5	Colombo 14 to Container Yard - Wattala
6	Colombo 14 to Container Yard - Welisara
7	Colombo 14 to Container Yard - Seeduwa
8	Colombo 14 to Embilipitiya
9	Colombo 14 to Welimada
10	Colombo 14 to Kandy
11	Koggala to Katunayaka
12	Colombo 14 to Piliyandala
13	Colombo 14 to Athurugiriya
14	Colombo 14 to Kaduwela
15	Colombo 14 to Demanhandiya, Negombo
16	Colombo 14 to Nugegoda
17	Colombo 14 to Panadura

Lorry sizes required are as follows:  
10 1/2 ft., 14 1/2 ft., 16 1/2 ft. & 20 ft.

**Lanka Garments Manufacturing Co. (Pvt) Ltd.**  
No. 150, St. Joseph's Street, Colombo 14.  
Email: gehanp@lgm.lk, thrishalm@lgm.lk

**WANTED**

Our client, a well- established and diversified Conglomerate is looking for long lease or for outright purchase an

**OFFICE BUILDING**  
20 - 50 Thousand Sq. Ft.  
25 - 50 Parking  
Colombo 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  
Nawala or Rajagiriya.

and for a

**WAREHOUSE**  
100 - 200 Thousand Sq. Ft  
In a minimum of 2 Acre Land  
In Colombo Suburbs.

---

Please send all details to  
info@panglobalproperty.com / gaminikuruppu@gmail.com

0722 700 900  
0777 636 990  
PAN GLOBAL PROPERTIES  
www.panglobalproperty.lk

**United Nations Development Programme**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Design, Supply and Commissioning of**  
**Two Biogas Systems in Sri Lanka**  
(RFP/TSSC/2022/28)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka wishes to call for Request for Proposals from qualified service providers for Design, Supply and Commissioning of Two Biogas Systems in Sri Lanka.

This procurement process is being conducted through Online Tendering System of UNDP and detailed instructions and link to the e tendering event can be accessed from [www.lk.undp.org](http://www.lk.undp.org) Procurement > Procurement Notice > 90728.

**Bid Submission deadline appearing on e-Tendering portal will be FINAL and prevail on the ones appearing on other websites.**

**Proposals submitted via email/Fax or by hard copies will not be accepted.**

Head of Procurement/Administration  
United Nations Development Programme  
202-204, Baudhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.  
The procurement process will be governed by the rules and regulations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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"...an Odyssey of Excellence"

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tender bids are invited from Manufacturers / suppliers & agents who wish to register for the supply of food items to the main kitchen of our company which employs about 2,000 employees, for a period of 03 months under the following categories.

1. Spices	5. Dried fish
2. Dry Food Ingredients	6. Rice
3. Egg	7. Coconut & Coconut Milk (Coconut Cream)
4. Fish	8. Coconut Oil

**It is also mandatory to deliver the above food items to our company, which is located inside the Port of Colombo.**

Whom interested in supplying food items under the above categories will be able to obtain tender forms as follows:  
The Bidding Period is as follows,  
Starting Date : 2022.05.09  
Closing Date : 2022.05.18  
Time : 08.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays  
Tender Period : 01.06.2022 to 31.08.2022

Applicable Tender Fees  
Non-Refundable : Rs. 2,500.00

The tender fee should be deposited to the following bank account.  
Account Name : **Colombo Dockyard PLC**  
Account No : 441  
Bank & Branch : **Bank of Ceylon Corporate Branch - Colombo**

**Tender Forms** - Can be obtained after submitting the relevant payment slip to the Accountant at Dockyard General Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd, No. 223, Jayantha Mallimarachchi Mawatha, Colombo 14 from 2022.05.09 to 2022.05.18 (Between 08.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays only).  
Offers should be dropped into the tender box made available at the above address indicating the reference number of SMCD/T/05/2021 on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, on or before 04.00 p.m. on 18.05.2022

**Offers received after the closing time and by post shall not be accepted.**

For further information, please contact ;  
The General Manager (Supply Chain Management)  
Colombo Dockyard PLC, Port of Colombo, Colombo 15.  
Tel : 011 242 9000 & 011 242 9059

\*\* Terms and Conditions apply

**Green Light for Online Transfer**

Lake House Branch  
Acc. No. 000000377

Inquiries :- Ramani - 077 7278 948 / 011 2 429 347 / Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 / Gayani - 011 2 429 342 / 343  
E-mail - classified@lakerhouse.lk

077 7 270 067

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