· A higher interest rate • Fitch Rating "A (lka) Rating Watch On' Fast loans against your deposit(s) Guarantee facilitation against deposit Personalised service **3** 011 202 48 48 HNB FINANCE m hnbfinance.lk AUSHALYA **Fixed Deposits** HANI'S DEMISE

OVERCOMING SHORTAGE OF FOREX, A CHALLENGE

EMERGENCY IMPOSED TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLITICAL STABILITY

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 socioeconomic 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 Samaranayake:

- DR. RAMESH PATHIRANA

"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

INFORMATION DEPT

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

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 involv-

dren being caught up in tear gas at-

The media reported several chil-

ing children.

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 participate 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 Commission 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

RESIGNATION OF PM

No decision as yet

- Dr. Godahewa

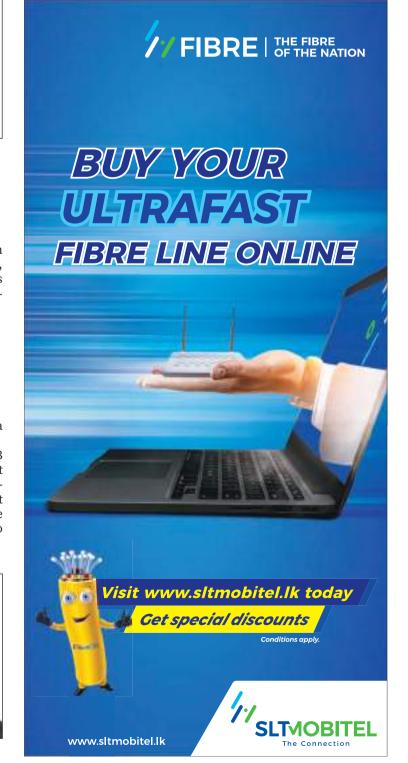
Mass Media Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa on being asked whether the resignation of the Prime Minister was discussed at the Friday's special Cabinet meeting denied that a final decision was reached on that matter at the meeting.

"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 countrywide and it has seriously affected consumers. SEE PAGE 2



News

Bangladesh donates medical supplies to Sri Lanka

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

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

The goodwill gesture is signifi-Prof. Abul Bashar and Director Gen- cant of the long standing bilateral

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

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

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

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

"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

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

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 dif-

...need of the hour is to have ficult to report for duty. These protests have deepened the economic crisis.

> "Therefore, to ensure public safety, continue the supply of essential goods and services uninterruptedly, 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.

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 coun-



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 tranport 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

Emergency declared

State of

A State of Emergency was declared with effect from The State of Emergency

has been declared as per the powers vested in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40), as amended by Act, No. 8 of 1959, Law No. 6 of 1978 and Act, No. 28 of 1988, and the provisions of Part II of the Ordinance.

The President has taken this decision due to the public emergency situation in Sri Lanka and in the interests of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

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 vulner-

authorities' plan to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their credi-According to Finance Minister

The IMF team welcomed the

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

...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

No decision... From page 1

Due to the prevailing atmosphere, factories cannot run properly and it affects our exports. All these things have a serious

impact on the economy," he said. The Minister said, therefore, the

first decision taken at Friday's special Cabinet meeting was to declare a State of Emergency for a short period of time until the situation settles down.

He said since these protestors and the Opposition keep asking the Government to resign, the Cabinet of Ministers said, 'Why not we all resign and ask the Opposition to come and take over the Government'. Most of the Cabinet Ministers had

supported that idea. "Actually if we are to do that, the easiest way is for the Prime Minister to resign.

"According to our Constitution when the Prime Minister resigns the Cabinet gets dissolved. Actually, it was the discussion that took place at Friday's Cabinet meeting," the Minister said.

There was media speculation that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has decided to resign from his post during the special Cabinet meeting on Friday.

Some political sources had claimed that the resignation of the Prime Minister is due to take place

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 particularly 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.



Venerate the historic sacred precincts

of the Kuragala 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.



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 onboard 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 spe-

cies' 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

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

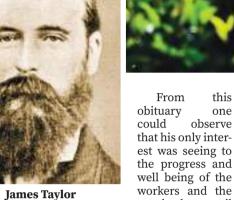
t is well known that the tea industry was the foundation of which the modern economy of Sri Lanka was developed. Even today one and a half centuries since the beginning of this industry in Sri Lanka, tea exports generate foreign exchange earnings.

'In pious memory of James Taylor of Loolecondera 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 enor-

mous 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

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



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."

tea bushes until

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.



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



Interview/ Feature

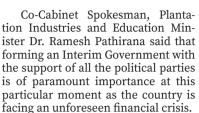
Support of all parties needed to form Interim Government - Dr. Ramesh Pathirana

Country is facing an unforeseen financial crisis

Solutions according to country's Constitution

Duty bound to Demands made by create a stable pressure groups are economic situation justifiable





The Minister in an interview with the Sunday Observer said whatever the solutions that we need to find in relation to the current economic crisis should come through the Parlia-

Those solutions whether it is economic, political or otherwise need to be found after abiding with the Constitution of the country he said.

"We are hopeful even though this problem was gradually becoming complex over a period of time starting from 1977 with the introduction of the open economic policy, it had come to a culmination during our time. So, we are duty bound and responsible to create a stable economic situation in the country. The Government is working towards that for which we need the assistance of all political parties." **Excerpts of the interview**

It has been agreed to form an Interim Government at a recent discussion held between the President and the independent group of MPs in Parliament. Has any final consensus been reached in this re-

A: There is no final decision as yet. We had a cordial discussion with other parties, actually our coalition parties who were part and parcel of the Government. Basically, they have put forward certain conditions and that is a sort of a draft for future discussions. The SLPP agreed to go ahead and discuss matters highlighted in the draft

Do you think forming an Interim Government will provide solutions to the burning issues faced by the people?

A: Whatever the solutions that we need to find in relation to the current economic crisis should come through the Parliament. If those solutions need to be found whether it is economic, political or otherwise, we have to abide by the Constitution of the country. When it comes to the Constitution, most of the things are pertaining to parliamentary activities, therefore the Members of Parlia-

We also know that there is a new

Over thousand trade unions engaged in a demonstration in Colombo recently asking that the President and the Government to step down by respecting the people's demand. Would you like to comment?

A: The demand made by the pressure groups is justifiable when the essential food items are not found on the shelves and there is also a scarcity of diesel, petrol, gas and some medicines. So, it is quite natural for the people to come on to the streets and protest against the Government. However, as I mentioned earlier, we have to find a solution to the issue within the existing Constitution. So, we are duty bound and responsible to create a stable economic situation in this country. The Government is working towards that end and therefore we need the assistance of all political parties.

Some say the economic crisis cannot be resolved without resolving the current political crisis.

FACT-FILE

▶ **1969:** Born in Galle to a reputed

political family, he was the son of the late

Dr. Richard Pathirana, former Education

and Higher Education Minister who

► Educated at Richmond College,

from the University of Peradeniya

Galle, he obtained the MBBS degree

▶ 2010: Elected to Parliament from

the Galle district under the United

People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA)

▶ **2015:** Re-elected to Parliament

from the Galle district under

► 2019: Minister of Plantation

Industries and Agricultural Exports

▶ **2020:** Re-elected to Parliament

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP)

at the General Election on August 5,

► Aug, 2020: Minister of Education,

Plantation Industries and Co-Cabinet

Source: Internet. Graphic: Mahil Wijesinghe

from the Galle District under the

securing the highest number of

Spokesman in the Cabinet of

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

preferential votes - 205,814, in the

represented the Sri Lanka

► Chief SLFP Organiser for

Akmeemana, Galle

the UPFA

Galle district

Freedom Party

Dr. Ramesh

Pathirana

we are facing an unforeseen financial Would you like to air your views?

A: First, it was the economic crisis that took place. Secondly, we saw the political crisis looming. Now it is the other way around. Political stability is a must to have economic stability as they are interlinked. The social upheaval is also a part and parcel of this whole thing. It is a mandatory requirement that we need to provide much needed political stability to provide economic relief to the people.

Even though the President has made an open invitation to all political parties to form an Interim Government, the SJB and the JVP have categorically rejected to be a part of an Interim Government. How do you look at this scenario?

A: Some of the intermediary groups are still having discussions with the SIB and the IVP. In the proposed draft document, they have suggested having a committee which will comprise the political party leaders. Even though the SJB and the JVP don't want to become active participants of the Government or part of the Cabinet, still they have a wide opening to become members of that particular committee which will decide the policy direction of the country. That is why that invitation is wide and clear and it is open now. We hope they will also come forward and join hands for a national course.

The youth and the middle class who have never participated in protests earlier have for the first time, come on to the streets alleging that the Government has failed to ensure their basic requirements. Your views?

A: Actually, we are responsible for some policy errors. Even Finance Minister Ali Sabry in his address to Parliament on Wednesday admitted that fact. There are three factors. Historically, we are a debt- ridden country starting from 1977 and our debt burden has gone up to an unbearable proportion. That is why when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa came to power in 2019, we took the policy decision not to take any more loans and not to entertain even project loans.

That is why we cancelled the proposed monorail project which came from Japan. So, we didn't take any loans. There was a debt burden which was getting more complex and heavier over a period of time. The second thing was certain erroneous policy measures taken by the Government to cut taxes which were done in good faith to ensure that the private sector engaged in more business so that their accumulated funds could be diverted to development activities to stimulate investments. It didn't hap-

The third factor is the whole world was locked by the Corona fear and all the businesses were badly affected. They didn't have the gamut of going

ahead with their normal potential. However, they were partly protected because we provided them with some sort of assistance. On the other hand, we didn't have the expected outcome of it. The whole world suffered because of the Covid-19 pan-

When we started picking up again, the Ukraine - Russian war started so that the prices of oil, gas and wheat flour were moving above the ceiling. All those situations have affected the gradual picking up of loans. In addition, certain miscalculated decisions in relation to tax income, Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russian war have affected the Sri Lankan economy.

How do you view the demand made by the Opposition and various other groups to abolish the **Executive Presidency?**

A: Actually, it is a highly debatable topic. In 1978, late President J.R. Jayewardene introduced the Executive Presidency hoping for certain progressive moves. However, over a period of time, we have been trying to

Even though a lot of political parties and politicians came to the helm stating that they will abolish the Executive Presidency, it has not happened so far. Even today it is a debatable issue. According to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, a lot of powers have been vested to the Provinces. Those Provinces are partly controlled and interlinked by the President's representative with governing those provinces.

If we are abolishing the Executive Presidency, then we will have to think of other ways and means of powers pertaining to controlling the provinces as well. Those are very difficult areas to address acutely and it is also very clear that if we want to abolish the Executive Presidency, we have to go for a referendum. Those issues cannot be resolved immediately but

there are lot of issues that we can discuss and go ahead with.

The main Opposition SJB has handed over two No Confidence Motions against the President and the Government and the Prime Minister and the Government. Is the Government confident of defeating

A: As of now we hope that we have the majority in Parliament. That would be entertained sooner than later. So, it has to be kept in the Order Paper for five days. It has not come to the Order Book as yet. Most probably during the next Parliamentary session, that No Confidence Motion would be taken up for debate.

At present a large number of people are of the view that politicians should be audited and all their unaccounted wealth should be confiscated by the State. Your comments?

A: I think openness is the best policy. As Members of Parliament and Ministers, every year, we submit our asset declaration forms to the Speaker or the President. That is a public domain. Anybody can take the details out. It is a good move and it is not a secret document as such. It is the Income Tax Department which should go and investigate and also inquire about the wealth of other individuals. If they have accumulated wealth by undue means, they should be brought to book. Unfortunately, those laws are very weak in this

It seems there is no consensus among the political parties to come to a negotiating table to resolve the current crisis. Would you like to comment?

A: That is a very unfortunate situation faced by the country. Lot of political parties is trying to get an

undue political advantage from the current crisis situation. Two main Opposition parties are not willing to support the national course at this particular moment and they don't provide any solution on how to rebuild the economy and bring in the

Historically, we have seen that there is a huge balance of payment deficit and trade deficit in the country. Our imports are about US\$ 22 billion but exports go up to only US\$ 12 billion. The tourism industry, foreign remittances, investments and other forms of money should come to bridge the US\$ 10 billion gap that

we accumulate annually.

It has not happened during the past two years. That is why we have seen this complex situation arising during the period of Covid-19 pandemic. It is very important that whatever the political stance we adopt, as the Finance Minister said all these political parties should get together and find a common solution and economic direction. If all of us can reach a consensus, we can prepare an economic blueprint which will lead the country economically during the next 10 years.

According to you, why is corruption taking place in Sri Lan-ka? Is it mainly due to poor gover-

A: It is partly due to poor governance. Partly there are no proper laws being enacted. Most of the institutions themselves, such as the Bribery Commission, are very weak and they don't go behind the big people and only small people are being caught.

It is partly the lawyers who will have to strengthen the law and ensure not only the politicians but also the other corrupt elements to be brought before the law. It is a widespread phenomenon now. Every society starting from top, middle and up to the very low level, they all are lined up to undue means of accumulating wealth. They don't pay income tax and only a very minimum number are doing so. This is a crisis in circles which covers the entirety of the society.

At present there is a demand to abolish the 20th Amendment to the Constitution and reintroduce the 19th Amendment. Could you explain?

A: There is an ongoing discussion in this regard. The Prime Minister put forward the Cabinet Paper last week based on the 19th and 20th Amendments. There are certain deficiencies in the 19th Amendment as well. Based on the 19th Amendment and also taking into consideration the good effects of the 20th Amendment, it has been proposed to go ahead and introduce the 21 Amendment to the Constitution.

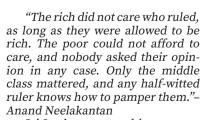
So, we are going ahead with that one. This is only forwarded to the Legal Draftsman. Once the draft is finalised, it will be put forward to the Parliament

ment have a right to decide.

President and judiciary as well. Forming an Interim Government with the support of all the political parties is of paramount importance at this particular moment because as a country

OPINION

$-\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}-$ Dr. Thilan U. **Hewage**



Sri Lankans are at this extremely important crossroads where we have to choose whether we are going to change the way we perceive the relationship between the rulers and the ruled or fall back to what we have been conditioned to accept since 1948.

Our journey through ancient kingdoms to British aristocracy came to an end in 1948 giving birth to a plutocracy where the country was governed by wealthy elite under the covers of a democratically elected Parliament.

Rejecting elitism

Currently the process seems to be working in the reverse order where rejecting elitism is popularised and getting elected through a so-called 'democratic process' is the easiest way to become wealthy.

One of the main feel-good fac-

Issues of the middle class tors of democracy is that each and

every voter is made to feel knowledgeable and empowered.

However, in reality they do not even realise to what extent they have been misled by the candidates until they start seeing the corruption and abuse of power by the elected officials of the Government. Political equality is at the heart of democracy.

No citizen or a group of citizens can be more powerful than another. But the moment citizens elect a group of people to rule their country it creates the two groups, rulers and the ruled.

Rulers and their confidants and sponsors become more powerful than the ruled, violating the fundamental condition of equality expected in a democracy. A critical analysis of those two factors would be a good starting point for anyone interested in understanding why democracy, as we have been practicing it since 1948, has not helped

Sri Lanka much over the years. It certainly is not enough to include the word in the name as we have done by calling our country 'Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka'.

Money in politics

The role of money in politics has also increased to an extent where politicians pay attention to the issues or demands of people or organisations

WHEN THE TREASURY OF A COUNTRY IS BEING DRAINED THE EFFECT WOULD BE FIRST FELT BY THE PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INCOME LADDER AND THE REST WOULD JUST GO ON WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL

who contribute the highest amounts to their campaigns.

Government policies are then shaped by the economic elites and organised groups. The rich usually make sure that whoever wins the power will accommodate their plans of increasing wealth. The politicians, on the other hand, will make sure that the wealth accumulated by the rich is shared with them through partnerships, commissions, gifts, and bribes.

Poor usually accept that they were born to poverty and therefore they have no other option but to follow the same paths as their parents and grandparents in order to sustain life. They rarely get a chance for a good education to improve their knowledge about economic and political affairs of the country.

Therefore, not only can they not afford to voice their opinion, but they are also not able to have an opinion other than the ones drilled into them by the politicians themselves.

to eighty percent in the income spectrum, is usually also segregated into lower-middle, middle, and upper-middle classes according to income levels. Middle class is the most dynamic

income class in a society where they

The middle class, the middle sixty

feel lucky to be out of poverty but not so lucky since they see a long way ahead to get to the next rung in the income ladder. This is where the rat race

Income ladder

When one is in this race one doesn't have the time or the will to think about anyone or anything else other than oneself, which might include one's family too. They can barely make ends meet but they don't have enough to free their minds to think about others or what is happening to the country in general.

Therefore, they are eternally in the struggle to earn a better living competing fiercely against the members of their own class. They do not hesitate to step on their own kind to climb up and look down upon the ones below them for their own self-satisfac-

The rich and the poor are usually not participants of this competition, though the two groups have completely different reasons for it.

The rulers who understand this phenomenon and who are not really interested in doing anything good for the country, usually do the bare minimum to make the middle class feel that their competition is fairly facilitated and refereed. That usually is enough to stay in power through elec-

It is important to notice that it is not enough just to get into the relevant income range in order to move from one class to another. It is a way

One may move up the income ladder to get out of the middle class but may not experience the satisfaction of being rich unless one changes one's perceptions and is able to see the world through 'rich' lenses.

Hidden danger

This is what Robert Kiyosaki tried to explain when he said, "rich people buy luxuries last, while middle class tend to buy luxuries first". The hidden danger in switching over to different class levels only on the technicalities of income definitions without acquiring a way of thinking associated with the new class is not being able to experience the difference.

It is dangerous, because one would never be able to get out of the competition and therefore no amount of wealth one accumulates would be

enough to feel that accomplishment. This perhaps is why we could see a difference between the countries ruled by rich and elite and those that are ruled by others who want to

achieve the status of rich and elite. There are several other countries such as Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and Philippines who have experienced what Sri Lanka is experiencing today. It took a several decades for the people of such countries to get used to self-governing structures after the colonials handed the power over to the local elites.

With the expanding middle class the resentment towards colonials turned gradually towards the ruling class and majority wanted to be ruled by their own kind. Elite rulers were replaced by fiercely competitive politicians from the middle class and the When the treasury of a country is

being drained the effect would be first felt by the people at the bottom of the income ladder and the rest would just go on with business as usual.

Feel the discomforts

The drainage would usually continue until a majority of the middle and upper-middle class people begin to feel the discomforts. That is when the majority starts to realise that it is time to think about why they are facing those difficulties and what went wrong. However, it is also the middle class that has always dug countries out of the trouble created by their own kind.

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

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



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 SLIT, graduants. 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

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

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

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

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 at the



CONVOCATION 2022

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 18th 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 16th 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 you 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 Abeygunawardene

eputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapitiya 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 Siyambalapitiya said that he made this decision after considering the repeated requests from the public. Siyambalapitiya 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 - Imithiaz Bakeer 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 Wijesekara 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 Siyambalapitiya of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) as the Deputy Speaker, defeating Imthiaz Bakeer Makar, representing the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB). Premadasa said that although SJB had decided to support Siyambalapitiya'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 Siyambalapitiya. 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 Siyambalapitiya as their nominee for the Deputy Speaker's post and the main Opposition Party, the SJB had informed them that they would support Siyambalapitiya's candidature. Jayasekera said however the SJB's position over the election of Ranjith Siyambalapitiya 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 Minister Ali Sabry, PC for revealing Ranjith Siyambalapitiya 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.

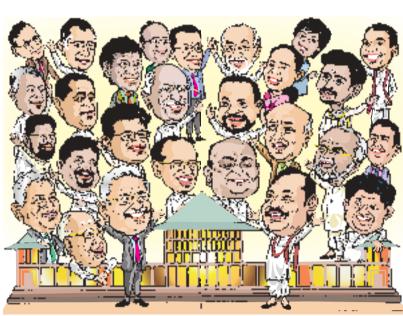
Weerawansa said, "The Opposition Leader wants to show that we are for the Government though we are sitting with the Opposition MPs.' He said that Opposition Leader Premadasa does not have a plan to at least bring Parties in the Opposition together. He said the Opposition Leader is dancing according to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

"This Govt alone not responsible for failures"

SLPP Parliamentarian Rohitha Abeygunawardena told



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 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 twoand-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 Rajakaruna 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 Hesha 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. SIB 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 endra 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 Rahuman 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 protestors to surround his house with the intervention of TNA MP Rasamanickam 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 t 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

hewing 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 cre-

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-

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**

ALTHOUGH CHEWING GUM

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 bro-

MEMORY

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

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

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

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

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

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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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.

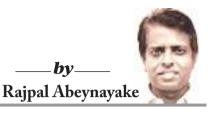
There is also a debate on whether the present President and the Government has lost its legitimacy and the people's mandate. Just as the Yahapalana Government did not lose its mandate per se with the SLPP May Day rally of 2017 or even the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) victory at the 2018 Local Government 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?



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 because 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 lend-

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 fundaments 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

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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

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 negations 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

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

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.



Costly election is not the remedy

Speedy action will turn around economy by next year - Ranil Wickremesinghe

BY MANJULA FERNANDO

NP Leader Ranil Wick-remesinghe in an interview with Sunday papers, last week highlighted that political issues must not be allowed to overshadow the most crucial economic recovery process of the country. "The world will face an alarming rate of local inflation triggered by the war in Ukraine soon, doubling our woes, but if we start our recovery process immediately, we might be better off by 2023," the UNP leader said.

Excerpts

What would have led to the present economic situation in your

A: I think Finance Minister Ali Sabry was exhaustive in his speech today (May 4) about how the crisis was created. He also talked about how the borrowings had increased between 2015 and 2019, but we increased our revenue up to about 13 percent then. The drop in revenue came as a result of lowered taxes after 2019. The crisis was aggravated by delaying the IMF process. The decision not to bring in chemical fertilisers, created a food cri-

Are you satisfied with the measures by the Government to overcome the current political insta-

A: I'm against the 20th Amendment. I think 21st Amendment is a good development. However, this is not a solution to the economic crisis facing the country today. People are agitating due to financial and other issues. Some have lost jobs and businesses have collapsed.

To meet the fuel shortage, at least four ships need to come simultaneously.

Even if the loans to buy fuel materialise, some of our problems will still be there. A huge demand for fuel needs to be met including for power generation. India has offered US \$ 500 million, but for that amount we cannot buy even 12 shiploads of fuel. We cannot buy everything from the Indian credit lines. That money can be used for food supplies, medicines, and fertiliser. They don't have everything we need. Some of our imports come from

If the current economic crisis continues, what would Sri Lanka look like in 2025? What would be the worst-case scenario?

A: If this continues, the economy will crash. Then, the recovery would become much more difficult. If we start addressing the issues now, the recovery would be faster. The worst is yet to come. The hyperinflation hasn't set in yet. If we commence the process now, we can stabilise it by 2023. Get the economy moving while restructuring economy. That's the best scenario. But the Finance Minister thought the process might take longer. If we delay, more businesses will go bankrupt, more people will lose jobs. The situation then becomes difficult to turn around

If you were in power, how would you resolve the present wave

"YOU CANNOT GO
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IT WILL COST RS.20
BILLION THIS TIME"

of protests? For example, would you use force?

A: If I were in the Government, the protests would not have taken place, because I would have ensured the economy is on track. We predicted this situation in 2020.

The UNP manifesto spells out that we needed US \$ 7 billion for 2021 and 2022 - US\$ 3 billion per year. We have to go to the IMF and also talk to the friendly countries. In 2021, I mentioned it in Parliament twice, once during the Budget debate.

There are proposals for an interim or a national government under a new Prime Minister to overcome the current political impasse. If there is an offer, will you accept the post of the Prime Minister (PM) in an interim arrangement?

A: Sri Lanka is now putting wanted ads for a PM. It might come to that level eventually. All in the Opposition says, the President and the Prime Minister must go before they think of discussing any fresh arrangement. Anura Kumara Dissanayake made it clear in his speech in Parliament today (May 4)

So until that happens or some agreement reached between the Government and the Opposition as to how it has to be handled, I can't see the Opposition coming into any form of government. We are having three positions; the President and the PM must go, the two of them must stay or within the SLPP, there is another situation where they say that the President will stay but the PM will go.

I think that issue is getting resolved now within the SLPP. But you must sit down and discuss. They need to look at the Bar Association resolution. There is another one sent in by a collective of lawyers and members of the medical and other professions which includes Geoff Alagaratnam, Faiz Musthapha and Kalinga Indatissa.

We need to sit down and deliberate on these proposals.

As a senior politician, do you think this crisis within Parliament would be resolved soon?

A: I can't tell you when it will be resolved. We suggested that we look at the economic issue separate from the political issue. As a long term solution to the Economic issue, we have suggested that Parliament establishes control over public finance. I have given some suggestions on setting up six oversight committees to have control over public finance. The two issues must run on parallel tracks.

We must discuss how to resolve the current deadlock with a time bound plan. It is best to look at the concepts behind the proposals that have been made by various stakeholders.

You said in Parliament today that this issue needs to be resolved

A: I made the suggestion in Parliament today, but it will take a long time. This is a huge problem. I think the Minister's statement has identified many of the issues: the problems facing the banks and the relief you give in a new budget. We are only talking about the monetary side of the economy. We repay loans with more loans, but when do we bring our economy around so that we have a surplus of foreign exchange in a balance of payment to start repaying the loans.

It requires a drastic change to make the economy highly competitive <u>and</u> export oriented.

The IMF has asked the Government to restructure external debts in preparations for a bail-out package but China has not responded to this call positively?

A: We have no prior experience with private lenders like London club to restructure our external debts. That is the reason why we have sought foreign expertise. But before reaching out to them, as a Parliament, we must deliberate on short, medium and long term plans to stabilise our economy.

The Finance Minister has met the Chinese ambassador. The Ambassador has agreed to help Sri Lanka with our IMF mission. Even though India, China and other countries agree to IMF discussions, these countries have different requirements. We will have to address them one by one. That is



Pic: Hirantha Gunathilaka

not easy.

Not just Sri Lanka, even other countries are facing these convulsions. It took five months for Zambia to settle similar issues. Our bilateral lending partners agreeing to sit down and discuss will not end our problem. We have to finally reach an agreement.

The Samagi Jana Balawe-gaya (SJB) has handed over two No Confidence Motions (NCM). Does the UNP support the two NCMs if there is a vote in parliament?

A: We have already said that we will extend support to this NCM against the President, which was prepared by the TNA. It has been handed over to the SJB now. We are not against the NCM. But they must have a consensus on a plan thereafter.

Some debate that the country should hold an immediate election. Others say it cannot be done due to the current situation. What is your take on that, should the Government and the President stay full term or elections must be held soon?

A: You cannot go for elections now. The economy is getting really bad. We have to stabilise the economy. The cost of the last election was Rs.10 billion. It will cost Rs.20 billion this time. A candidate will require Rs.25 million minimum for campaigning. We have 196 candidates to be elected plus 66 additional candidates who will be on the fray.

That will come to about another Rs.30-40 billion. These campaign funds for candidates come as donations from private sector. I don't think the companies can afford to fund elections.

The people are demanding all 225 Members in Parliament to be sent home. Is this a practical demand that can be fulfilled?

A: I was sent home, and I have re-

If you send all MPs home, leaving aside 29 national list MPs, the next in line on the preferential list will enter Parliament. That is the law which applies when someone resigns.

The frustration is that people feel Parliament is not engaging in this issue. Their demand is if you are not engaging in this issue, why you don't go home. We must acknowledge their frustration. But according to the law, sending all 225 is not practical.

IMF has said Sri Lanka must first restore debt sustainability and microeconomic stability to qualify for a bailout package. What should the Government do to achieve this goal?

A: We are waiting for the Government to tell us. We must formulate a policy framework for debt servicing.

We have asked the Government to come out with its strategy. There should be a safety net for Banks and the development Budget of 2022

"WE HAVE NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH PRIVATE LENDERS LIKE LONDON CLUB TO RESTRUCTURE OUR EXTERNAL DEBTS. THAT IS THE REASON WHY WE HAVE SOUGHT FOREIGN EXPERTISE. BUT BEFORE REACHING OUT TO THEM, AS A PARLIAMENT, WE MUST DELIBERATE ON SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANS TO STABILISE OUR ECONOMY"

should be replaced with a relief budget.

The Finance Ministry should not ask other ministries to do the calculations for a relief budget. If so, the ministries will return only 5 – 10 percent of the current allocations. This task has to be taken over by the Committee on Public Finance in Parliament.

They will identify the nonessential expenditures of the Ministries and suspend those to offer relief to the people affected. This is a must.

Do you think the current economic situation will develop into a geopolitical issue and if so, how should Sri Lanka manage the situation?

A: There is a 50-50 chance that this will be a geopolitical issue. The Government must know how to handle it. The Government has succeeded in annoying every country. This is a Guinness world record. I am happy that the President has given the earlier suspended LRT project back to Japan. There are many other outstanding is-

We also must take a decision on the European Union's GSP plus scheme. We have to sort it out with the Human Rights Council in Geneva. A resolution against Sri Lanka has been moved by the UK and the EU. First of all we must tell our people in Geneva to shut up.

What is your take on abolishing executive presidency?

A: I am for abolishing executive presidency. We will support the 21 Amendment. But first of all, we must settle this economic and political issue. We need another election – a referendum to do away with the executive presidency. These are all secondary matters. The focus should be to resolve the economic crisis.

We must discuss whether the President and the Prime Minister should stay. Currently there is a deadlock. The Opposition is in one stance and the Government is in a different stance.

What is your personal stance - should the President remain or step down?

A: All in the Opposition are of

the same view, that both should step down. But the Government says both should stay. How do you resolve it? Nevertheless, there is some consensus on resolving the economic issue, that is why we have asked to address it first. The Government and the President is responsible for this crisis for he introduced ad-hoc tax cuts, stopped the use of chemical fertiliser, and delayed discussions with the IMF.

The newspapers reported that you postponed the NCM until after the Finance Minister returned from IMF discussions in Washington. And the SLPP did horse trading during that time to get the support of independent SLPP members. Did you scuttle the NCM as reported?

A: If you had moved the No Confidence Motion, then, the IMF would have stopped discussion with the Finance Minister. Therefore, I suggested it. Anyway that week Parliament was not sitting and we could not have taken up the NCM. The motion was not even ready by that time. We agreed on the decision to delay it till the Finance Minister returned.

The Government cannot claim now that we disrupted the IMF discussions

Sri Lanka's inflation has taken wings. Observers say we might surpass Lebanon and Venezuela, countries with the highest inflation very soon. Some action has been taken by the Central Bank to control it, any proposals from you to reverse the trend?

A: This is just the beginning. This could be a hybrid version of their vistas of prosperity. This Government is doing things that no other government could do.

Lebanon took four years to reach this inflation rate. We took only six months. We are waiting for the Gov-

ern to spell out its plan.
What are your proposals for fast economic recovery?

A: There should be a program to have a sustainable debt level. Protect banks, give relief to the people, make up with the foreign countries and get a consortium to help us. Prepare for the next rise in inflation. This is the local inflation. We will be hit by the in-

flation triggered by the Ukraine war. America too is having record high inflation. The UK is affected too.

Our hyperinflation causes it to rise fast. Then, there will be a shortage of food due to the war. People will not be able to afford even two meals due to high prices. We have to provide for that. This is why we need to restructure our economy.

It is on those principles that I wanted Parliament to take it over. We need to have a 20-year policy framework for climate change, education and economy.

Don't you think stopping development work completely will be harmful in the long run?

A: We have enough concrete in our economy. We must now fill the stomachs. If you don't have a relief budget, people will get on to the street. There will not be any development after that.

What are the changes anticipated with the appointment of a new Prime Minister replacing Mahinda Rajapaksa?

A: I don't know. That will depend on the coalition he brings in.

What changes do we anticipate under an interim government?

A: There is no interim government to begin with. And I don't know because this Constitution doesn't have provisions for an interim government. If this Government goes out, another Government comes in. You can have a caretaker government when Parliament is dissolved. What the protestors are saying is to change the composition of the Government from this system of having a majority party only to get as many parties as possible involved in the governance and to resolve the economic issues.

If the Government wants to get the Opposition involved, then it must compromise with them. You can't have the cake and eat it at the same

In the midst of this grave crisis also, we see the MPs behaving in the House like kindergarten children. Can anything be done to change this culture of misbehaviour?

A: I have brought it to the notice of the Speaker. I regret it. A lot of members do not take part in it. This type of behaviour has given Parliament a bad

We have to change this culture. That would take some time, but we should to bring some standard for behaviour inside the House and outside Parliament

The parliamentary privileges have nothing to do with it. The House must make new rules to have an orderly debate.

What is your take on the Galle Face protest?

A: It is a symbol of public frustration. The middle class and the workers have joined the Galle Face protestors.

These are peaceful form of protests. The Government should listen to their voice and resolve it.

If not, they would resort to vio-

If not, they would resort to violence. They are frustrated by disruption to their lives due to shortage of food, fuel and lack of essential services. The Rambukkana incident (where a protestor was killed by police shooting) should have been avoided.

There is a debate on assets stolen from public coffers during previous regimes. There are allegations against your Government as well. Can such wealth be brought back to the country from overseas?

A: During our time, we appointed an anti-corruption secretariat which received about 1,000 complaints. The bona fide complaints were sent to the bribery commission and the police.

Those assets can be recovered, but we will have to go through jurisdictions of many countries. That will be costly. It will take about six to ten years to trace them and complete the

Do you have information of such stolen assets or money?

A: We don't have information, but people have made various claims. We need to dig up evidence.

Country is battling with unprecedented challenges

The following is the full speech made by Minister of Finance Ali Sabry in Parliament on Wednesday

he country is battling with unprecedented socio-economic and political challenges. The root causes of these challenges go back to several decades of economic history although more recent developments have aggravated the situation into an acute crisis.

There are critical developments that need urgent attention.

Inflation has risen to extremely high levels making the cost of living unbearable, foreign exchange reserves have depleted significantly, and the exchange rate has rapidly depreciated, all of which have contributed to the crisis.

A foreign debt repayment standstill has been announced as an interim measure. There is a shortage of essential items, including fuel, LP gas, pharmaceuticals and raw materials while power outages continue, and people are demonstrating on the streets against their economic hardships.

Fundamental macroeconomic weaknesses in the economy have been decades in the making. This includes fiscal instability, accumulated debt overhang, low productivity and persistent current account deficits.

Recent shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict have exposed these underlying weaknesses. However, we should also be humble enough to admit that this situation has occurred due to some of the misaligned and imprudent policies implemented in the recent past as well.

This is indeed a serious situation. I believe the time has come to follow a professional approach in resolving these issues rather than being swayed by ideological inclinations.

I accept the fact that the aggra-

vation of the issues was due to the delay in restoring fiscal and debt sustainability and failing to preemptively address the decline in foreign

Sri Lanka should have focused on regaining capital market access by establishing a credible path of macroeconomic stabilisation, supported by institutions such as the IMF.

But now, rather than trying to find fault, it is important to identify the reasons for this situation and concentrate on the way forward. The public protests send the message that we need to be serious in providing professional and sustainable solutions. An important part of this is being transparent and forthright regarding the challenges ahead of us and the fact that there are no painless solutions to choose from.

Often times in Sri Lanka's history, successive political actors have painted rosy pictures and made promises that lack realism and credibility. Every time there has been an attempt to establish long term solutions, these are reversed in the next election cycle with a promise of short-term benefits and relief. We see today the adverse outcome of these stop-go policies - and the public has rejected this as reflected in the protests we see today.

It is time for Sri Lanka to establish a broad political consensus on the economic path forward for the country. An economic path underpinned by fiscal and monetary discipline, a focus on enhancement of productivity, and ensuring equitable outcomes by protecting the most vulnerable sections of our society.

We must understand the root cause of the issue, i.e. the unsustainable fiscal policies adopted by many successive Governments.

We should be humble enough to accept the fact that we as a country have lived beyond our means. Without proper checks and balances, -Ali Sabry



all Governments have spent much more than what they earned, of course with the approval of this August Assembly, as the responsibility for public finances comes under the Parliament according to our Constitution.

In my view, what is happening right now is that "we reap what we

The time has come to focus on sustainable solutions. The fundamentals of the remedies are quite straightforward. Manage expenditure within the framework of a reasonable revenue stream with a sustainable debt position, rather than placing the burden of a huge debt pile on generations to come.

But, to do that, we must make changes. Changes to the way we manage the fiscal operations and the entire economy. We should undertake reforms, to remove bottlenecks that hinder our economic progress. We must be futuristic and wise to

take decisions in the name of the progress of the economy, progress of the country.

The Parliament must give priority to implement tax reforms to increase Government revenue and rationalise expenditure whilst ensuring public investment in critical areas such as education, healthcare, and social protection.

Macroeconomic policy must be tailored towards boosting national savings, channeling public and private investment towards productive sectors, whilst driving productivity and competitiveness in all aspects of the economy.

We need to take tough decisions in reforming state owned business enterprises, encourage competitive market mechanisms where possible to achieve best outcomes at lowest cost to society. We must learn to harness the immense productive potential of market forces, whilst being fully aware of market failures and

providing appropriate intervention to ensure just outcomes for society. We need to build up credible systems to improve public sector efficiency and productivity.

The decision to seek the assistance of IMF is important in this context. An IMF program will be a catalyst to undertake these muchneeded reforms and will provide a signal to the rest of the world that we are serious in addressing our economic difficulties.

But we must realise that the economic reform program we embark upon must be a program with Sri Lankan ownership. We must put forward a professional and analytically robust economic plan, where the IMF will also provide technical assistance and then endorse. Without that Sri Lankan ownership, and without broad consensus of the legislature, we would not succeed in providing permanent solutions for our longstanding economic issues.

Whilst we are facing deep economic challenges at present and our first priority is macroeconomic stabilisation, let us not lose sight of the immense potential Sri Lanka has as an Indian Ocean economy at the doorstep of the most dynamic economic growth centres in the world.

We must continue to position ourselves to take advantage of these opportunities through appropriate engagement in regional and global economic value chains.

Towards this end, we must invest in education, healthcare, clean energy, public transportation, social protection, and sustainable infrastructure.

In this process, the private sector needs to play a greater role in driving employment and growth. Sri Lanka needs to have a more globally competitive, export-oriented economy that is conducive to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) with appro-

In so doing, we should take decisions underpinned by evidencebased research. I am in the process of establishing a Research and Analysis Division in my office at the Ministry of Finance. Very soon we will have a set of advisors also in the Ministry of Finance. This will help us to promote new ideas and deliver a professional approach to economic policy making.

How did the situation escalate to the present crisis?

 The budgetary operations of Sri Lanka, over the past several decades continued to suffer several weaknesses, as reflected by most of the key fiscal variables. This includes a sharp decline in Government revenue mobilisation, high and rigid recurrent expenditure, and high concentration of capital expenditure towards certain sectors and persistent fiscal deficits that resulted in huge debt accumulation.

• The spillover effects of the above fiscal imbalances complicated the conduct of monetary and exchange rate policies as well.

• Thus, the Sri Lankan economy displayed twin deficits, having both an external current account deficit and a Government budget deficit, simultaneously.

· Continuous budget deficits have led to accumulated public debt, which is now unsustainable.

• In this process, I do not rule out the element of corruption, and this is why we need to emphasise the institutional factors such as an independent judiciary, a credible Central Bank and a strong public service.

· At present, the Sri Lankan economy is in an extremely challenging situation and this has triggered social turbulence and political instability. This may lead to catastrophic consequences if the fundamental issues are not addressed immediately.

What triggered the recent crisis in Sri Lanka? Continuded on page 12

Concomitant political, economic, and social instability is harmful



he country is in its deepest economic crisis in known contemporary history. Yet, politicians from all sides seemingly either ignore the severity of the crisis or are simply not aware of the depth of the gravity of the situation. Even the general public appeared to be unaware of the true danger.

Most of them are busy with protest campaigns and demand the resignation of the President, Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and all 225 Parliamentarians. However, the pertinent question is whether the moves suggested by anti-Government campaigners are pragmatic or realistic within a democratic framework of governance.

Public animosity towards the Government is not unjustifiable. They are carrying the brunt of the burden in the form of shortages of LP gas, fuel, medicine, and some other essential daily needs. Adding salt to the wound, the enduring power cuts not only hamper day-to-day life but also threaten their livelihood with job losses as some of the small businesses are on the verge of closure due to these issues. Therefore, giving a strong message to the Government is reasonable from every angle.

The strong opinion of economic analysts and experts, both local and foreign, is that an immediate short-term solution is a dire and desperate need to slow down the ongoing slide towards total collapse. According to them, if the decline is not controlled immediately, the country will not have time for a long-term solution.

Emergency basis

According to almost all analysts, only three parties can help Sri Lanka at this point on an emergency basis. Firstly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can provide a substantial amount of funds, and secondly, the foreign lenders can restructure the debts. Thirdly, the expatriate community can be of enormous assistance. The current export earnings are also at a creditable level, yet not adequate to make a considerable im-



pact on the current emergency as the country needs extremely urgent foreign exchange

Even with tough conditions, the IMF will not release loans without a concrete commitment to repayment of the loans they provide. Furthermore, they will not provide assistance to a politically unstable country. Political stability and social stability will be two preconditions of IMF assistance. They will most likely recommend tight monetary policy to control escalating inflation, flexible exchange rates to counter rupee depreciation, and increased taxes to improve state

Hence, the opinion of economists is that Sri Lanka must come up with a tangible macroeconomic plan acceptable to the world with short and long-term solutions and provide it to the IMF and other friendly countries. At this point, IMF direct monetary assistance and debt restructuring are the two most important short-term measures for the

The irony in Sri Lanka is that even the economists express contradictory views. It is evident that some of the opinions are based on personal political bias rather than actual analysis. Therefore, even though differences of opinions must prevail, a common ground has to be found among the economists on the economic issues without further confusing and dividing the general public.

A large portion of the current foreign exchange crisis has been exacerbated by the loss of tourism income and decreased remittances from the expatriate community. The loss of income from tourism is understandable, the decline in ex-pat remittances was due to the mismanagement of foreign currency policies by the Central Bank.

Experts say that the decision to hold the US dollar in a fixed-rate regime went on for far too long. They are also of the view that the sudden switch to the floating exchange rate has resulted in the uncontrollable devaluation of the rupee.

Apparel industry

The country's high performing export sector is also likely to face challenges in the next few months if a viable solution is not found immediately. Exporters, particularly those in the apparel industry, say that they are in need of an urgent supply of raw materials to continue. Due to the shortage of foreign exchange, they are unable to continue production.

However, they hail the decision of the Central Bank to exempt the apparel trade from restrictions imposed on payments on imports. The CBSL has earlier announced that all payments on imports must be compulsorily done only through the authorised banking system. The Government, incumbent or interim, must make sure that export industries are protected at all costs because a disruption will not only affect all-important foreign earnings but also possible job losses numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

The citizenry is inundated with burning issues. Nevertheless, no international lending institution or country will offer help until political stability is established.

Unfortunately, none of the political parties seems to understand the serious repercussions the entire country will face. Very clearly, all of them, both the Government and the Opposition, are at each other's throats grabbing power, completely disregarding the graveness.

The Government is stubbornly trying to hold onto power as they have been given a mandate by the people until the next election. On the other hand, the Opposition factions try every trick in the book, sometimes over and above the book, to oust the Government and come into power.

Independent thinkers

The interim Government was initially proposed by a group of forty Parliamentary Members belonging to eleven political parties. This was hailed by most independent thinkers and the majority of society, including activists and clergy, as the best pragmatic solution. Even the President, in principle, accepted and agreed to the proposal. Regrettably, the main Opposition, Samagi Jana Balavegaya, and the JVP led Jathika Jana Bala-

vegaya, are opposing the proposal. Hence, the establishment and the actual functioning of the interim Government are still in doubt. The opposing factions cite various reasons for their disapproval of an interim Government. The SJB leader is stating that the reason for disagreement is that they are not willing to form an interim Government with the incumbent President. The Jathika Jana Balavegya (JJB) leader is demanding a snap election, which is obviously unafford-

able at this point. The SJB does not seem to be interested in forming a new Government at this point because they understand that it is political suicide. One of the seniors was abundantly clear on this point and recently publicly stated that the public has voted them to be in the Opposition and they are not interested in taking over the Government. This clearly indicates that they are focusing on the next election rather than solving the current public issues.

On the contrary, the Jathika Jana Balavegya demands the dissolution of the Parliament and a general election must follow. Any sane person realises that the country's situation is not prudent for a general election. Also, their demand for the resignation of the President is also unrealistic because, according to the country's Constitution, he can be ousted only through an impeachment, which is an extremely time-consuming and complex pro-

Even if the President resigns voluntarily, his successor will be chosen from among the sitting Parliamentarians. It is doubtful that such a move is acceptable to the country in general.

Alternative solutions

Even the protesters throughout the country neither have a clue about what will happen if the Government suddenly steps down or if the President vacates his office, nor do they possess any alternative solutions to such an event. They simply demand the resignation of the President and the Parliamentarians, hoping someone will step in from somewhere and provide solutions to the country's burning issues.

Many of the protesters this writer spoke to have no clear idea of their immediate future plans, yet they say the President must resign immediately regardless of possible dire consequences. None of them had any idea about the repercussions if the state machinery failed to function. Most of them are not fully aware that the country needs a functioning Government and a Head of State to function. The participants who know the Constitutional requirements and legality of the Constitution ignore them for political

All political parties must individually and collectively decide whether they will allow the protests to continue and the strikes to repeat. Both these actions can further harm the already volatile situation in the

There are many examples that can be cited in the recent past where countries fell to the bottom of the pit due to concurrent political, economic and social unrest. Neither the majority of protesters nor the general public are aware of the gravity of the dire consequences. Therefore, it is high time that the clergy, intellectuals, and respectful citizens come forward and explain the current situation and force the political parties to fall in line for the sake of the country.

Philippine polls

Son of dictator poised for Presidency

Six years after losing the race for vice president, the son of Philippines' dictator Ferdinand Marcos is taking on his old rival Leni Robredo -- and this time they're both aiming for the presidency

A win for Ferdinand Marcos Jr on May 9 would return the Marcos dynasty to the Malacañang Palace, more than three decades after the family plundered the country's coffers before fleeing a mass uprising against their corrupt and brutal rule.

That a Marcos could once again take power is almost unthinkable to people still scarred by torture and the death of their relatives, but polls suggest Marcos Jr will win -- and by a considerable margin.

Known as "Bongbong" in the Philippines, Marcos Jr is running on a platform of "unity" and has promised more jobs, lower prices, and more investment in agriculture and infrastructure. His running mate for vice president is Sara Duterte Carpio, the daughter of tough-talking outgoing leader Rodrigo Duterte, and their supporters see them as continuing his policies, including his controversial "war on drugs."

Presidential frontrunner and former senator, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, graces the stage during a campaign rally in San Fernando, Pampanga, on April 30.

Robredo, who is running as an independent supported by an army of citizen campaigners dressed in pink, has promised transparency in government, to improve the education system and ensure free access to doctors.

While a grassroots movement has recently galvanized around her, analysts say Marcos Jr's push for the presidency is the culmination of a decadesold rebranding campaign to revive the Marcos family's name and image.

Marcos Jr has tied his campaign to his father's legacy, with his slogan "rise again" tapping into people's nostalgia for his father's time as a so-called golden era for the country. In a recent interview with CNN affiliate CNN Philippines, Marcos Jr praised his father, calling him a "political genius" and his mother -- the family matriarch and four-time Congresswoman -- a "supreme politician."

Supporters of the Marcos family say the period was a time of progress and prosperity, characterized by the building of major infrastructure projects like hospitals, roads and bridges. Critics say that was an illusion and those projects were driven by widespread corruption, foreign loans and ballooning debt.

The Marcos legacy still haunts the survivors of martial law atrocities. They ask how the country could be so quick to forgive the Marcos years and fear what will happen if a Marcos is once again allowed to rule.

CNN has reached out to Marcos Jr and his campaign for comment on the allegations into the family's "ill-gotten wealth," court cases and on the martial law-era atrocities but has not received a response.



The Marcos legacy

The only son of the authoritarian leader, Marcos Jr entered politics early, becoming vice governor of northern Ilocos Norte province in 1980 at the age of 23

At the time, the Philippines had been living under martial law for almost a decade, a period of time when rights groups say tens of thousands of people were imprisoned, tortured or killed for perceived or real criticism of the government.

Hundreds of their names are inscribed in gold lettering on a Wall of Remembrance in the Bantayog ng mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes) in Quezon city, near the capital Manila. As Bonifacio Ilagan walks alongside the monument, he pauses at his younger sister's name.

Rizalina P. Ilagan was abducted by a special intelligence unit of the military in the mid-1970s, her brother said. "She went missing together with nine other activists. And we never got to see her again."

Bonifacio Ilagan was 23 when he said he was detained and tortured in prison for protesting against the Mar-

Bonifacio 'Boni' Ilagan, a Filipino director and playright who was detained during the martial law era, poses for a portrait in an office for human rights activists in Quezon City, Philippines on April 27.

"The worst part of the torture was when they ordered me to pull down my trousers and my underwear and tried to insert a stick through my penis," said Ilagan, now 70, who is co-convenor of the group Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law.

"They never cared about human rights. They impressed upon us they had the power of life and death over us because it was martial law. Because they were backed by no less than President Marcos."

Marcos Jr was 29 when his family were chased into exile in Hawaii following a People Power Revolution that toppled his father's regime in 1986. Marcos Sr died in exile three years later, but his family returned in 1991 and became wealthy, influential politicians, with successive family members rep-

resenting their dynastic stronghold of Ilocos Norte.

The Marcos family lived a lavish lifestyle while in power, spending money on expensive artworks and overseas properties, even as debt spiraled and nillions suffered in poverty. Former first lady Imelda Marcos was famously known for her excess spending, which included an extensive designer shoe collection. She fled the country with a stash of jewels, including a rare 25-carat pink diamond and Cartier diamond tiara, which was seized by US customs and later valued at \$21 million. Almost 40 years after their fall, the Philippines government is still trying to claw back billions of dollars in stolen funds.

The Philippines' Presidential Commission on Good Governance (PCGG) tasked with recovering the family and their associates' ill-gotten wealth estimates about \$10 billion was stolen from the Filipino people -- it has so far recovered about \$3 billion and dozens of cases remain active.

The family has repeatedly denied using state funds for their personal use -- a claim challenged by multiple court cases

"When I was young, we were battling against the misgovernance of Ferdinand Marcos Sr," said Ilagan, now a filmmaker and playwright. "Now I am nearing the departure era, as they say, I find myself fighting against Ferdinand Marcos Ir."

The rebrand

Supporters of presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr record the presentations during a campaign sortie in San Fernando City, Pampanga, on April 29.

Marcos Jr's rise to presidential favorite follows a social media campaign to revise history, analysts say.

Fatima Gaw, co-covenor of the Philippine Media Monitoring Laboratory, says YouTube is a "breeding ground" for videos that she says deny, distort or even justify the atrocities under Marcos Sr.

"They've been using a lot of influencers or content creators on YouTube, to peddle this fabricated narrative about the Marcos era being the golden age of the Philippines, that there was

peace and order during the time," said Gaw, who is also assistant professor of communication research at the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication. TikTok is also being used to appeal to younger or first-time voters — those too young to remember the martial law period. "It's an arsenal of tools in denialism, distortionism and cherrypicking," Gaw said.

Marcos Jr has denied using disinformation and told CNN Philippines that his social media presence is organic.

The Marcos rebrand has also been made possible by the failure of the Philippines government and institutions to protect the history in the public's consciousness, Gaw said.

In 2016, President Duterte announced the reinterment of Marcos Sr in the National Heroes' Cemetery in Manila, a move approved by the Supreme Court. The surprise decision triggered protests by opponents who had launched a court challenge to have the burial stopped.

Gaw said the disinformation campaign has "primed the public now, in 2022, to feel for Marcos Jr, that he's actually the victim of a big cover up by the media."

Other analysts say Marcos Jr simply appeals to Filipinos tired of the political bickering and promises of progress and economic reform from successive administrations that many feel have failed to benefit ordinary people.

Personalities and dynasties dominate Philippines politics, with power concentrated in the hands of a few elite, influential families. Marcos Jr may be part of one of the country's most notorious dynasties, but unlike Robredo, he has managed to reposition himself as separate from the liberal elites that have long ruled the Philippines' political landscape.

"The return of the Marcos name is expected mainly because after 1986 revolution gave so much expectation to the Philippine people -- to the point of substantial changes in the way politics is practiced and governance is provided to the people," said Philippines-based political analyst Edmund Tayao.

"But after the revolution, there was a return of the same elites in politics. Expected far reaching institutional reforms did not happen." -CNN

'Dangers of miscalculation': North Korea fires another missile

North Korea fired a ballistic missile three days before the inauguration of South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol who has promised to take a hard line against Pyongyang.

South Korean military said North Korea tested what is believed to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) off its east coast at about 05:07 GMT on Saturday from Sinpo, where Pyongyang has a major shipyard.

Japan's defence ministry also said the projectile could be a ballistic missile. Japanese public broadcaster NHK, citing government sources, said it landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Japan and South Korea estimated the SLBM flew as high as 50-60km (30-40 miles) and as far as 600km (370 miles).

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered officials to prepare for all "unforeseeable situations" and secure the safety of aircraft and ships, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

"This is absolutely unacceptable," Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi told reporters.

The launch was apparently North Korea's first demonstration of an SLBM since October last year when it test-launched a new shortrange missile from the 8.24 Yongung – its only known submarine capable of firing a missile.

On Wednesday, North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the sea off its east coast, South Korea and Japan said, after Pyongyang said it will develop its nuclear forces "at the fastest possible speed".

The latest launch was likely North Korea's 15th missile firing this year, including its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile since 2017, which demonstrated the potential range to reach the entirety of the US mainland.

The United States assessed North Korea was preparing its Punggye-ri nuclear test site and could be ready to conduct a test there as early as this month.

Robert Kelly, a North Korea expert at Pusan National University, said the spate of launches was likely meant to "send a message" to Yoon's incoming administration in South Korea.

"I think the idea is to signal to the South Koreans, 'we're still here, you must take us seriously'. The North Koreans have a long history of doing this. It's a mix of signalling and bullying," Kelly told Al Jazeera.

'Increasing dangers of miscalculation'

Last month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged to speed up development of his country's nuclear arsenal. He presided over a huge military parade that displayed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), as well as what appeared to be SLBMs being carried on trucks and launch vehicles.

"Instead of accepting invitations to dialogue, the Kim regime appears to be preparing a tactical nuclear warhead test. The timing will depend most on when the underground tunnels and modified device technology are ready," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"A seventh nuclear test would be the first since September 2017 and raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula, increasing dangers of miscalculation and miscommunication between the Kim regime and the incoming Yoon administration."

Yoon takes office on Tuesday. US President Joe Biden is to visit South Korea and meet him on May

Yoon, in an interview with Voice of America released on Saturday, said a meeting with Kim is not off the table, but would need to have concrete results.

"There's no reason to avoid meeting [Kim]," Yoon said. "However, if we are not be able to show any results, or results are just for show and does not have actual results in denuclearisation... it's not going to help the relationship between the two Koreas progress."

North as a nuclear power In October, North Korea testfired a new, smaller ballistic missile from a submarine, a move analysts said could be aimed at more quickly fielding an operational missile submarine.

Experts say the unusually fast pace in testing activity underscores a brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and remove crippling sanctions

North Korea has been pushing hard to acquire the ability to fire nuclear-armed missiles from submarines, which in theory would bolster its deterrent by ensuring a survivable capability to retaliate after absorbing a nuclear attack on land. -Aljazeera



Xi Jinping warns critics of Zero-Covid policy

Hong Kong (CNN) China's top leader Xi Jinping has issued the strongest warning yet against anyone who questions the country's zero-Covid policy, as stringent, frequent lockdowns fuel public discontent and deal a devastating blow to the Chinese economy.

At a meeting chaired by Xi on Thursday, the ruling Communist Party's supreme Politburo Standing Committee vowed to "unswervingly adhere to the general policy of 'dynamic zero-Covid,' and resolutely fight against any words and acts that distort, doubt or deny our country's epidemic prevention policies."

This is the first time Xi, who according to state media made an "important speech" at the meeting, has made public remarks about China's battle against Covid since public furor erupted over the harsh lockdown in Shanghai.

harsh lockdown in Shanghai.
"Our prevention and control strategy is determined by the party's nature and mission, our policies can stand the test of history, our measures are scientific and effective," the seven-member committee said, according to government news agency Xinhua.

"We have won the battle to defend Wuhan, and we will certainly be able to win the battle to defend Shanghai," it said.



The Standing Committee also demanded cadres have a "profound, complete and comprehensive understanding" of the policies set by the party's central leadership.

"We should resolutely overcome the problems of inadequate awareness, inadequate preparation and insufficient work, and resolutely overcome contempt, indifference and self-righteousness in our thinking," it said.

To analysts who have long observed Chinese politics, the stern warning is a sign that there has been internal pushback against Xi's zero-

Covid policy from within the party.

"This language should be read
as a direct criticism of unspecified
local CCP leaders who have ques-

tioned the policies at the center, or who have been insufficiently successful in applying them," wrote David Bandurski, co-director of the China Media Project.

"And it is difficult not to hear in this phrase about 'self-righteousness' condemnation of leaders in Shanghai in particular," Bandurski added. Over the past five weeks, many Shanghai residents have taken to social media to call for help and vent their anger over severe food shortages and lack of access to medical care. Some protested from their windows, banging pots and pans and shouting in frustration, others even clashed with police and health workers in the streets -- a rare scene in a country where dissent is routinely suppressed.

The grave economic fallout has also drawn concerns from economists and business executives, especially given Shanghai's role as the country's leading financial center and a major manufacturing and shipping hub. In April, China's services sector, which accounts for more than half of the nation's GDP and over 40% of its employment, contracted at the second sharpest pace on record, while the manufacturing sector also shrunk.

And as Omicron spreads in other parts of China, more local governments are imposing swift lockdowns in response to just a handful of cases. In Beijing, where more than 500 cases have been reported since April 20, many fear for a Shanghai-style lockdown as authorities roll out increasingly restrictions.

But the latest statement from the country's top leaders has made it clear that the Chinese government is doubling down on its approach of relying on swift lockdowns, mass testing and quarantine to squash the highly transmissible Omicron variant for the foreseeable future.

Wu Qiang, a political analyst in Beijing, said since April, the question over how the government should deal with the country's worst outbreak since Wuhan has evolved into a "path struggle" within the party.

"Firstly, it is a struggle over whether it should choose 'dynamic zero-Covid' or a more flexible approach to fight Covid; and secondly, it is also a struggle over whether to make Covid control or economic growth the priority," Wu said.

And with the latest statement, it is clear that Xi has picked the former in both "struggles," according to Wu. Xi has put his personal stamp

Xi has put his personal stamp on China's zero-Covid strategy, with state media often reporting that he has "personally commanded and made arrangements" for the country's fight against the pandemic.

"In that sense, zero-Covid has become an unquestionable, unchallengeable policy that is closely tied to his political authority -- and therefore there will be no flexibility when it comes to its implementation," Wu said.-CNN

News/Obituaries

Israel set to approve 4,000 settler units in occupied West Bank

Israel is set to advance plans for the construction of 4,000 illegal settler homes in the occupied West Bank, the interior minister has said.

Interior minister Ayelet Shaked, a staunch supporter of settlements, wrote in a Tweet on Friday that a planning committee would convene next week to approve 4,000 homes, calling construction in the West Bank a "basic, required and obvious thing".

Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported that the Civil Administration, a military body, would meet Thursday to advance 1,452 units, and that another 2,536 units would be approved by defence minister Benny Gantz.

Israeli settlements are fortified, Jewish-only housing complexes built on Palestinian land in violation of international law. Between 600,000 and 750,000 Israeli settlers live in at least 250 illegal settlements in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem.

If approved, it would be the biggest advancement of settlement plans since US President Joe Biden took office. The White House is opposed to



erodes the possibility of an eventual two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

US ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides was quoted by local media on

settlement growth because it further Friday as saying the Biden administration has repeatedly made it clear to Israel during the past week that it strongly opposes any further settlement expansion activity.

The move comes ahead of a

planned visit by Biden to Israel, slated for June.

Issa Amro, a Palestinian activist and founder of the Youth Against Settlements NGO, told Al Jazeera that the approval of 4,000 new settler homes

olence towards Palestinians in the West Bank" and more "restrictions and apartheid polices" to be imposed on the Palestinians.

"It is an indicator that Israel is violating international law with impunity and without accountability, and it shows that the international community is using double standards with Israel," Amro said.

He added the move also makes Palestinians feel "more disappointed and hopeless" towards the Biden administration.

Israel approved the construction of 3,000 settler homes in October despite another US rebuke. Authorities have, however, paused some especially controversial projects in the wake of strong US opposition.

Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has continued under every Israeli government since Israel captured the territories in the 1967 Middle East

However, construction acceler-

would mean "more Israeli settler vi- ated in the last few years under former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with a significant boom during Trump's US administration, which Palestinians accused of having a strong pro-Israel bias.

> Settler attacks against Palestinians and their property are a regular occurrence in the West Bank, home to nearly three million Palestinians.

> The Palestinian leadership wants the West Bank as part of a future state and views the illegal settlements as a major obstacle to any potential deal.

> Earlier this year, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said Israel is committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories

> Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has pursued a policy of establishing and maintaining a "Jewish demographic majority", Amnesty said. Israel also exercises full control over land and resources to benefit Jewish Israelis, including those in illegal settlements. -Aljazeera

Indonesia's illegal mines

Poor risk it all for fortune

Medan, Indonesia – Lampang has been a miner at a community gold mine in Indonesia's East Kalimantan for more than 30 years. Even still, he does not like to talk openly about his work.

"Please don't tell anyone the name of my mine," Lampang, who is 53 years old and like many Indonesians only goes by one name, told Al Jazeera. "There are lots of community mines in Indonesia, but they are all illegal."

Indonesia's earth is known for its rich gold deposits, drawing fortune seekers from across the country, especially poorer areas with few employment options. But while illegal gold mining - mining for gold without a permit - may be lucrative for some, for others it can be deadly.

On April 28, a cliff collapsed at an il-

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

legal mine in Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra Province, fatally trapping 12 female workers in a two-metre deep pit.

The victims, who were aged between 30 and 55, were found after two other women who had also been looking for gold raised

Landslides around mines in Indonesia are a common occurrence, usually resulting from a combination of heavy rains and unstable land according to environmental activists, although the government does not keep official figures on the number of deaths at illegal sites each year.

Last year, six miners died at an illegal gold mine in Central Sulawesi, while 11 miners died at an unlicensed coal mine in a similar incident in South Sumatra in 2020. Chasing fortunes

"The biggest risk at a mine is indeed a landslide," said Lampang. "Fortunately, that has never happened to me, but it happens a lot when people chase their for-

tune instead of focusing on safety first." To guard against landslides, Lampang said the miners at his community mine use a blower to dry out the earth under-

Died

29th

Apri

2022



ground in an effort to make it more stable. While hard data is difficult to come by due to the secretive nature of the industry, the Ministry of the Environment and

Forestry has estimated there to be almost 9,000 illegal mines operating across Indonesia, of which about one quarter are gold mines. -Agencies

LALITH D.H. JAYANETTI (Registered Maintenance Engineer

- S.L. National Film Corporation) Fondly remembered by his loving wife Sarojini and members of the family.

No. 26, Beach Road, Wadduwa.

Born

20th

Jan

1938

OBITUARY NOTICE

ARUMUGAM VELMURUGU

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the passing of Velmurugu Arumugam, retired

licensed surveyor. Born in Arthiyadi, Point Pedro Velmurugu Arumugam, 84 peacefully passed away on April 29th, 2022 in Toronto, Ontario surrounded by

family. Born January 20, 1938 to Arumugam of Thambasitty and Visaladchipillai of Arthiyadi, he is survived by his loving wife, Sakunthala, children Malathy (Canada),

Mathavan (UK) and Vaasugi (Australia), son-in-law, Rabindranath, daughter-in-law,

Rohini, grandchildren, Ajainthi, Meshanthini and Koushic, grandson-in-law

Sayanthan, elder brother Kumarasamy (New Zealand) and elder sister

Sivakamasunthari Thiyagarajah (Germany). He was pre-deceased by his younger

son Mugunthan and his sister Umaiyambigai Puvanenthiran (Germany). A well

reputed licensed surveyor in Jaffna, Velmurugu lived life to the fullest and will be

remembered as a wonderful husband & father, loving grandfather and much loved

brother & uncle. He treasured every moment spent with his family and would do

anything for them. He was well known for his relentless and selfless social and

community service. He always had a smile on his face and made friends with

everyone he met, leaving an unforgettable impact on everyone who crossed paths

with. Velmurugu did schooling in Hartley College & Velautham Maha Vidyalayam.

Point Pedro, was in survey training during 1961-1962 in Institute of Surveying and

Mapping, Diyatalawa (ISMD) and graduated from there in 1962, subsequently

joining, Survey Department, Sri Lanka, later becoming licensed surveyor, carrying

out numerous land surveys in Jaffna peninsula until his retirement in 2016.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate his life at: Chapel Ridge Funeral Home

8911 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, ON Tuesday, May 3rd from 6pm to 9pm and

Wednesday, May 4th, 7.30am to 8.30am and service from 8.30am to 10am.

Followed by cremation at 10.30am at Highland Hills Crematorium located at

(daughter) +1 647 892 5411 (mobile) Vaasugi (daughter) +61 452 211 894 (mobile

Mathavan (son) +44 791 627 1468 (mobile)

12492 Woodbine Avenue, Gormley, ON.

Sakunthala (wife) +1 416 265 0832 (home)

Contacts:

Country is battling... From page 10

· As I indicated above, the fiscal sector was suffering from persistent weaknesses over many years.

· However, in late 2019, the Government introduced substantial tax cuts, aimed at stimulating economic activity without addressing the fundamental weaknesses I mentioned above. However, the intended results of this measure were not realised with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka, which aggra-

vated the situation in the country.

The revenue foregone due to the tax cuts introduced in late 2019, which was estimated to be more than Rs. 500 billion, has resulted in sovereign rating agencies to downgrade Sri Lanka to near default

In my view, these tax cuts should have been gradually reversed in the new environment created by the Covid-19 pandemic. What transpired instead was that the revenue loss led the Central Bank to print money and help the Government to finance the deficit.

The rating action amidst volatility in global liquidity conditions, constrained Sri Lanka from accessing international

capital markets. This prevented the Government from raising fresh capital to refinance the maturing debt.

As such, the country gradually utilised its foreign currency reserves to maintain its unblemished debt service · Meanwhile, the major hit to the

tourism industry together with the slowdown in the workers' remittance inflows, further aggravated the tight foreign currency liquidity position in the market, exerting further pressure on reserves. • The price controls, in the form of

a fixed exchange rate, regulated interest rates, unrealistic petrol, diesel and LP gas prices and other administered prices. made the situation more complex. The release of these pressure points is now reflected in high inflation. · The developments in the global

economy after the Covid-19 pandemic and the more recent Ukraine crisis added further pressures on the Sri Lankan

· By end 2019, the Central Bank reserves amounted to US\$ 7.6 billion. By end 2020, the reserves were declined to US\$ 5.7 billion as a result of gross inflows of US\$ 5.8 billion and outflows of US\$ 7.8 billion, including foreign currency debt service payments of US\$ 6.0 billion.

· The reserves declined further to US\$ 3.1 billion by end 2021 consequent

to the gross inflows of US\$ 7.9 billion and outflows of US\$ 10.4 billion, including foreign currency debt service payments of US\$ 6.8 billion and provision of foreign exchange of US\$ 1.2 billion to finance essential imports.

Given the shortage of foreign currency flows to the commercial banks, the official reserves at the Central Bank were utilised to meet foreign exchange needs related to the import of essential items, including fuel, coal, LP gas, pharmaceuticals and other essential items, starting from August 2021. • Consequently, official reserves declined to US\$ 1.9 billion by

end March 2022. However, the bulk of these reserves, including the US\$ 1.5 billion equivalent SWAP facility from People's Bank of China (PBOC), are not usable to settle US\$ denominated pay-

• Hence, as of now, the usable liquid reserves are at negligible levels, severely impacting importation of essentials, including fuel, LP gas and pharmaceuticals.

• I would not hesitate to inform this August Assembly that the Government is struggling to find enough foreign exchange to finance these essential imports. Therefore, we need urgent solutions as a country to restore supply chains on essential items, to address the grievances of the people and to move forward on a reform program and to work on bridging financing and also to implement medium to long-term growth-related policies.

· However, political stability and support from all parties including the private sector are vital factors for us to implement this much needed reform agenda.

Conclusion

 \bullet The above analysis summarises the major issues faced by the country right now, particularly in the fiscal sector.

• We have a critical and deeper issue at hand that needs careful consideration and well-thought-out solutions. • These are accumulated issues in the past over many decades

under successive Governments. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the current Parliament has been compelled to find solutions.

 So, it is our responsibility to work as a team to better understand the situation and come up with solutions with much needed reforms with the support of all the members. • There is no doubt that many of these reforms will be painful.

Hence, we must take care of the vulnerable segments in the society through appropriate robust social safety nets. • I take this opportunity to appeal to the citizens of Sri Lanka

on this matter at this critical juncture. I wish to say that we hear your voice very well. What we need to do is make corrections to the previous mistakes and put the fiscal operations and for that matter, the country's future path, in the right direction.

• It will be very challenging, but we must do it for the betterment of the present generation as well as the generations to come. • As the proverb we all are familiar with says, "A Journey of a

Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step". · What this means is that the great things commence with simple beginnings.

• So, we must begin our journey to reach the goal of creating a sustainable fiscal position and a better and stronger country in the future for our citizens, by taking these first steps, with deter-

• This is important now more than ever.

Why Victory Day is so important for Russia

It has become an annual event - the military parade in Red Square in Moscow and cities across Russia on 9 May, marking victory over Nazi Germany in 1945.

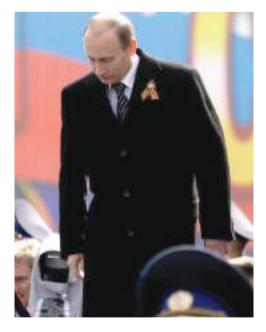
Under Vladimir Putin, Victory Day has become a show of strength of troops and military hardware, as well as a chance to remember the sacrifices of World War Two. Twenty-seven million Soviet citizens died, by far the greatest loss of any country, in what Russians call the Great Patriotic War.

This year, the event has taken on a significance of its own. Far from liberating Europe, Russia has waged months of war against its neighbour Ukraine and is devoid of any real form of military victory that it can celebrate.

Regiments that played a key role in the war will parade in front of the top brass and the president, whose address will echo across Red Square and be scrutinised for what to expect next. Russia's leader often uses this moment to send messages of in-

The Victory Day parade was occasionally marked in the Soviet era and revived by President Boris Yeltsin for the 50th anniversary in 1995, but it was Vladimir Putin in 2008 who made it an annual event featuring military hardware. Russian identity has been largely created with Victory Day in the background, with schoolbooks and history books focusing on Russia as Europe's wartime liberators.

"Even in a normal year it's a huge show of Russia strength, of Putin's control and everything he stands for," says Ammon Cheskin of Glasgow University. "And that's just amplified this year." -Agencies



Obituaries

CHANDRASEKARA - Mr. M.G. (former Finance Director, Maga Engineering), beloved husband of late Mrs Karuna Kanattage Chandrasekara, loving father of Hishara and Damith, father-in-law of Michael and Sabrina, grandfather of Siobhan, Aneira and Cameron (all in USA), loving brother of late Sriya, late Soma, Kula, Captain Kularatne (Maga Engineering), late Wipuli, Karunanayake, Karuna and Chandranayake, loving brotherin-law of late Diaz, late Tilakaratne, Piya, late Amarasinghe, Malini, late Herath, Mangalika, late Alice Nona, late Nihal, late Hema, Soma, late Sumana, Gunawathi and Premachandra. Remains lie at 'The Restpect' Jayaratne Funeral Parlour for viewing from Saturday May 7th, 8:30 am onwards. Cremation will take place at General Cemetery, Borella on Monday May 9th starting at 2 pm. Contact 0766251422.

London Irish in 42-42 draw with Wasps

changed the game.

short. (BBC Sport)

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 batting for a Champions Cup place.

It keeps Lee Blackett's side ninth, eight points behind fourthplaced 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 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 finding the blindside run of Charlie Atkinson for a further score.







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

Becker was last week sentenced to 2½-years in jail Boris Becker 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.

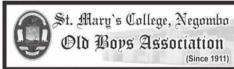
But Novak Djokovic, who won six of his major titles under Becker as coach, had a more sympathetic stance to his close friend. Asked to describe his emotions when the sentence was handed down, the world No1 replied: "I was just heartbroken. I just pray for him. I hope things will be well in terms of his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

The Serb described the 54-yearold 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)



NOTICE OF 111th ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING - 2022 Saturday the 28th May, 2022.

Time: 7.30 pm onwards. (Registration From 7.00pm)

OBA House, King George's Drive, Kamachchode, 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 18th of May 2022.

www.smcobanegombo.com

By the order of the Committee of Management 2021/2022

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 **Iqbal Jumar** 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

Along with internationals Chandra Schaffter, V Jeyaratnam, LP Rayen and K Sampanthan, Jumar helped Carsons to many championships in 'A' division tournaments conducted by the Mercan-

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.

Henry Arundell

ager 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 classy 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

He captained the Over against the Havelock SC with a fantastic 45 side on Mercantile HAs conversion that gave the CR & FC the tour of Ipoh and Penang in coveted All-India Cup. On the strength 2000 and was hockey man- 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 tourna-

1972 Tour of North India (Captain) and vs West Germany in Delhi (Nehru tour-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

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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



"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 SI.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

"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)

Gaja Sports rescues schools basketball after sponsor goes flat

BY ALLAAM OUSMAN

Gaja Sports has come to the rescue of the Sri Lanka Schools Basketball Association (SLSBA) to complete the Under-20 All Island Schools Basketball Championship which has been revived after two years.

The SLSBA were in a quandary after their long-time sponsor pulled out at the last minute citing financial constraints when the tournament began on April 19 with the participation of 76 boys and girls teams in three divisions.

"We are grateful to Gaja Sports CEO Gayath Jayasinghe for coming forward to support this tournament with live telecast and sponsorship," said Rector of St Peter's College, Bambalapitiya Fr Rohitha Rodrigo, the SLSBA president at a press conference yesterday.

ment will be held for Under-20 players to give an opportunity to players in their final year at school who missed out on competitions because of the covid-19 pandemic. We thank Gaja Sports for their generous sponsorship with live telecast of matches sure to add glamour to the sport," he

Gaja Sports will be giving 40 playing kits to the teams remaining the competition while their total sponsorship package is worth Rs 2 million. "When SLSBA made a request, I got approval from the Board of Directors (Gaja Holdings) to sponsor this event," said CEO of Gaja Sports Gayath Jayasinghe, a former Sri Lanka basketball player. "I am more keen on developing infra structure in school sports especially basketball but we are happy to le College, Mutwal.

be associated with this tournament," added Jayasinghe who is president of Masters Basketball Association of Sri Lanka and sponsored a veterans tournament last year.

The tournament has entered the final stages with the 'A' division boys and girls quarter-finals to be worked off at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium today with the finals scheduled for May 10. "We had two teams from the North Angel International School and Hindu College, Jaffna in addition to St Michael's, Batticaloa taking part in this tournament which has been conducted despite the situation in the country. We could not have zonal competitions this year with teams being directly graded into three divisions," said SLSBA secretary Rev. Bro. RJ Jeyakanthan, Principal of De La Sal-

The 'A' division comprised 20 boys and six girls teams, 24 boys and six girls teams in the 'B' division and 24 boys and 20 girls schools competed in the 'C' division.

Today's match schedule in the 'A' division is as follows:

BOYS QUARTER-FINALS

7.00 am St Peter's College, Bambalapitiya vs Gateway College, Kandy 8.30 a.m St Joseph's College, Colombo vs Ananda College, Colombo 100.00 am Royal College, Colombo vs Gateway College, Colombo 11.30 am DS Senanayake College, Co-

lombo vs St Anne's College, Kurune-

GIRLS SEMIFINALS 1.00 pm Holy Family Convent, Colombo vs St Joseph's College, Nuge-

2.30 pm Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena vs Mahamaya College, Kandy



Vice President of Gaja Sports Clifford Greig (second left) presenting the token sponsorship to SLSBA president Fr Rohitha Rodrigo (second right) in the presence of Gaja Sports CEO Gayath Jayasinghe (left) and SLSBA secretary Rev Bro. RJ Jeyakanthan

Schoolgirl prodigy Vishmi will not trade books for bats

To skip Pakistan tour to focus on GCE OL exam that coincides with tour

BY DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

In-form schoolgirl cricketer Vishmi Gunaratne will not trade her books for bats as she has decided to skip the Sri Lanka women's cricket tour of Pakistan so she could sit her GCE OL exam.

Gunaratne has been in cracking form this season while representing Ratnaweli Balika in Gampaha and scored a monumental 417 which is not an aggregate but an individual score in one of the matches against Jayasiripura Junior School in Polonnaruwa at the

While wishing Gunaratne success in her studies, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Atapattu said the team will miss the presence of the teenager.

"Vishmi has shown promise and she will miss an opportunity for more exposure at international level. But hopefully she has a lot of cricket ahead to look forward to," said Ata-

The Sri Lanka women's cricket team will embark on the tour to Pakistan to play a series of ODIs and T/20 Internationals beginning end of May.

Atapattu who is in good nick with

VISHMI HAS SHOWN PROMISE AND SHE WILL MISS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE EXPOSURE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. BUT HOPEFULLY SHE HAS A LOT OF CRICKET AHEAD TO LOOK FORWARD TO

the bat is looking for good support from her team mates as well.

Imesha Dulani and Achini Kulasooriya will be the new faces in the side. They will replace Vishmi Gunaratne and Tharika Sewwandi re-

"I have played in two IPL tournaments and the Big Bash league in Australia where the standard of cricket is very high. If more Sri Lankan cricketers get the opportunity to play in these league tournaments we will improve in our game," said Atapattu.

Sri Lanka women's squad to Paki-

Chamari Atapattu (Captain), Harshitha Madavi, Hasini Perera, Nilakshika de Silva, Anushka Sanjeevani, Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Kanchana, Sachini Nisansala, Udeshika Prabodhani, Inoka Ranaweera, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Sugandika Kumari, Achini Kulasuriya, Prasadini Weerakkody and Imesha Dulani.



Vishmi Gunaratne

Pakistan tour itinerary:

• T20I SERIES

24 May – First T20I 26 May - Second T20I **28 May** – Third T20I

ODI SERIES

1 June – First ODI 3 June - Second ODI **5 June** – Third ODI

Jaffna Central to meet Methodist High School in final

Last year's runners-up Jaffna Central and Methodist High School Moratuwa entered the final of the Under-19 Division III Tier 'A' inter-school limit-

Chamari Atapattu

ed overs cricket tournament. Unbeaten Methodist High School beat Loyola College Kochchikade by four wickets in one semi-final and Jaffna Central who also maintain a clean sheet beat St. Mary's College Matugama in the other semi-final. Both matches were played at St. John's College ground Panadura.

Rajithkumar Newton of Jaffna Central displayed his all-round talent by claiming four wickets for 32 runs and scoring 45 runs. Ananthan Kajan Thisara Jayanga 20, Nethma Himaalso contributed with an unbeaten 74 for Jaffna Central.

Naveen Madusanka of Methodist High School shone as an all-rounder by scoring 57 runs and capturing two wickets against Loyola College Kochchikade in the other semi-final.

Loyola College: 135 (40.3) (Shafni Dean 40, Kavindu Amarasinghe 33, Kavin Fernando 3/14, Nimsara Silva 2/32, Naveen Madusanka 2/30, Lakshan Chamika 2/24) Methodist High School: 136/6

(32.2) (Naveen Madusanka 57 n.o.,

ranga 3/16, Shameen Ravishka 2/27) **St. Mary's College:** 178 (50) (Himesha Madubashana 53, Yasith Sathsara 37, Hiran Lakshitha 24, Rajithkumar Newton 4/32, Nisanthan Ajay 2/35)

Jaffna Central: 183/6 (41) (Ananthan Kajan 74 n.o., Rajithkumar Newton 45, Isura Deshan 2/22)

Squads:

Jaffna Central: Sritharan Sarankan (Captain), Vinajakaselvam Kavitharsan (Vice Captain), T. Gowtham, G. Janujan, P. Ananthan Kajan, M. Sansayan, J. Vithushan, U. Tharmihan, Ranjithkumar Newton, Nisanthan Ajay, S. Sayanthan, I. Abhilash, S. Similtan, S. Kevin Derixsan, S. Anushanth, J. Jebisan.

Methodist High School: Lakshan Fernando (Captain), Dewmith Fernando, Anjana Fernando, Akila Dilruk, Sandun Fernando, Senura Fernando, Akasha Silva, Naveen Fernando, Thisara Pieris, Vishmika de Silva, Muditha Perera, Kaveesha Fernando, Sahluka Fernando, Daham Fernando, Chalana Fernando, Lasidu de Silva, Dimuthu Sahas Perera, Chamoda Madusanka, Akalanka Kumarasiri, Chamika Fernando. (YK)

Kandy SC set to wrap up league title

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy's rugby followers are looking forward to their team retaining the inter-club league rugby championship which recommences on May 14 after more than one month.

Kandy SC which holds the top position in the eight team points table will meet CH and FC at the Race Course ground in Colombo on May 7 and take on close rival Havelock SC in the last game at Havelock Park on May 21.

Kandy SC needs to win just one of the two matches to grab the title as they have secured a clear lead over Havelocks who are second in the points table.

Kandy SC has been a frontline force on the domestic club rugby scene 1992 and is unbeaten in the current season.

The club's Rugby Chairman Lasantha Wijesuriya contends that discipline and team-work had contributed largely to the success of Kandy SC this year as well.



File picture of Kandy SC fly half Tharinda Ratwatte in action against CR and FC in a first round Nippon Paint League rugby match

Matara Rahula meets Dharmapala in sixth one-dayer

BY PRIYAN DE SILVA

Rahula College Matara and Dharmapala College Pannipitiya will take the field for their sixth onetle of the Golden Lions on Tuesday at the Uyanwatta Stadium in Matara. Dharmapala is captained by Kavinda Nishan who has Thisara

day encounter that they call the Bat- Shisara as his deputy. The final eleven will be selected from Yasiru Kavinda, Uditha Sandaruwan, Ushan Galagedara, Hirupawan Sayuranga, Jeevan David, Bavindu Chamod, Sa-

chintha Chamika, Pasindu Dimuditha, Rashmitha Emantha, Hiran Induwara, Dumindu Gavishta, Pasindu Theekshana, Praveen Kumarapperuma and Lalindu Karannagoda. The team is coached by Sanjaya Dewapura with Waruna Withanakanda as the master in charge

The Rahula team is led by Binara Sanketh who has Tharindu Rajapakse as his deputy. The final eleven will be selected from Sandaneth Ranvinda, Sithum Anjana, Ovin Bopage, Dunidu Abeysinghe, Minuga Lakvindu, Pasindu Avishka, Rethika Himash, Manuja Dulneth, Dineth Thathsara, Yenula Santhu-

sha, Dilmith Laktharana, Gevindu Manamperi, Pasindu Liyanage, Tharusha Jayasekara, Sadew Gamage, Thathsara Dilshan, Akash Ambepitiya Sasinu Battage and Nadil Sand-

The team is coached by Ranil Rasanga with DPMC Waidyarathna as the master in charge.



Rahula College: Seated from left - Bhagya Ediriweera (captain), Ranil Rasanga (head coach) Manoj Manushanaka (MIC), KKR de Silva (Deputy Principal), WA Wickremasinghe (Deputy Principal), Sudath Samarawickrema (Principal), JK Lalani Kumari (Deputy Principal), Chinthana Gunawardena (POG), Yasiru Hewanadugala (assistant coach), Lakindu Chamodya (vice captain). Middle row from left- Pathum Nimsara Gamage, Pasindu Avishka, Tharindu Rajapakse, Pabasara Jayaweera, Minuga Lakvindu, Chamod Battage, Binara Sanketh, Chamuditha Dilshan, Ovin Bopage, Manuja Dulneth. Back row from left- Thathsara Dilshan, Yenula Santhusha, Sithum Anjana, Tharusha Jayasekara, Akash Ambepitiya



Dharmapala College: Front row from left: Waruna Withanakanda (MIC), Nimal Wasala (Vice Principal), Navindu Naveen (Vice Captain), Maheshika Rupasinghe (Principal), Vihanga Gunerathne (Captain), Malani Yatawara (POG), Sanjaya Dewapura (head coach). Back row from left - Yasiru Kavinda, Nadeesh Bandara, Jeevan David, Sachintha Chamika, Thisara Wickremasinghe, Kavinda Nishan, Pasindu Wijayalath, Lakshitha Purasinghe, Rashmitha Emantha, Hiran Induwara, Pasindu Theeksshana, Praveen Kumarapperuma



Atapattu laments and questions school coaching



he inter-school Under-19 First X1 cricket season is reaching an interesting stage with the big matches about to start. Although the big match season is customarily held in March every year, the age old customs went for a six with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Soon after the Battle of the Blues big match between Royal and S. Thomas' in mid-March in 2020, not only all sports but all day to day activities of the entire world were curtailed.

Most big matches last year were not played though a few matches including the Battle of the Blues were played but several months behind the schedule. Hence, the more than a century old custom of having March as the big match month took a back seat.

Ratnaweli Balika captain Vishmi Gunaratne, who made a record 417 not out against Jayasiripura KV a fortnight ago, was once again in fine form as she made an unbeaten 125 in 92 balls with 15 fours and 2 sixes.

Her superb innings helped Ratnaweli to a 66-run win over Anula Vidyalaya Nugegoda in the final to become the inter-school girls under-19 champions at Bloomfield ground last Wednesday.

The 16-year-old opener Gunaratne's magnificent century boosted her team to make 199 for 5 wickets in their 30 overs. In reply, Anula was shot out for 133 in 29.3 overs.

Devapathiraja Ratgama defeated Wadduwa Central by 54 runs in their third place play-off match.

Vishmi Gunaratne is already in the national team at the tender age of 16 years but is unfortunately skipping the forthcoming Pakistan tour as she is facing the GCE O/L

Almost all schoolboys and girls consider the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year title as an unofficial guarantee for them

to sport the Sri Lanka cap. Among the many who believe that this was so was former Sri Lanka captain and ex-national coach Marvan Atapattu who feels that the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title he won in 1990 was a like a 'certificate or a guarantee' that he would play for Sri Lanka with more commitment.

Atapattu, in a recent interview with the Sunday Observer said that he considered winning of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title to be a turning point in his career



his award from Chief Guest Marvan Atapattu. Also in the picture are Dinesh Weerawansa (Editor in Chief Sunday Observer), ANCL Chairman Bandula Padmakumara, Sports Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage and SLT, Mobitel CEO Lalith de Silva



Former Sri Lanka captain and ex-national coach Marvan Atapattu who was also Ananda College captain with the glittering Observer Schoolboy Cricketer title he won in 1990

that transformed him from school cricket to international cricket.

"At the time I had been performing well and scoring consistently for Ananda College as a schoolboy cricketer and many considered me as a future Sri Lanka prospect. Although I too had felt that way that I had a chance, there was no guarantee," he said.

Atapattu said his crowning glory as the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1991 gave him an assurance that he would play for Sri Lanka.

"In the past, all those players who had won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title before me had gone on to play for Sri Lanka with distinction. Hence, when I won the title, I too knew that I could join that select band, provided I work hard," Atapattu recalled.

"I was always considered to be a prospect to play for Sri Lanka, and a source of encouragement that gave me tremendous inspiration

was winning the schoolboy cricketer title. Hence, I worked harder, dedicated myself to achieve that goal. I finally made it to the Sri Lanka team shortly after winning the Observer Schoolbov Cricketer of the Year title," the 51-year-old ex-Sri Lanka opener said.

Only a few months after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year, young Atapattu was selected to make his Test debut against India in the one-off Test in Chandigarh on November

However, it was an inauspicious Test debut for young Atapattu. In reply to India's first innings total of 288 all out, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 82. There were five Sri Lankan batsmen who were out for 'ducks' in the first innings - Hashan Tillakaratne, Rumesh Ratnayake, Greame Labrooy, Jayananda Warnaweera and debutant Atapat-

Sri Lanka, made to follow-on, were bowled out for 198 runs in the second essay – once again with five batsmen failing to open their account- Asanka Gurusinha, Rumesh Ratnayake, Labrooy, Warnaweera and Atapattu.

Despite his failure in the first three Tests of his career, there was no stopping him when he finally found his natural form and rhythm to reach the highest level. Playing in 90 Tests for Sri Lanka, Atapattu aggregated 5,502 runs at an average of 39.02. His Test career was decorated with 16 centuries, including six double tons and 17 fifties with a career best Test innings of 249.

Atapattu feels that unwanted competition and pressure to win matches at any cost has prevented schools from producing talented players to feed the national pool.

"It is evident that most school teams go all out to win matches, rather than targeting to produce top cricketers who could play for Sri Lanka. In an inter-school match, or at any level of competition for that matter, one team has to win. But that does not necessarily mean that the standard of that particular school team has improved. What is important for a school is the number of players they produce to play for Sri Lanka," the veteran opener said.

Atapattu sees a vast gap between present day school cricket and international level, compared to his school days. "You can hardly identify a schoolboy cricketer and predict that he would play for Sri Lanka," he said.

Atapattu does not find fault with players but says that improper guidance and coaching that the players are forced to undergo and pressurized by undue competition to win matches at any cost, have killed young talent.

"It is wrong to put the blame on players but the blame must be put on the wrong guidance and coaching they have received. Old boys, principals, school masters and coaches are only interested in winning matches, rather than produc- be questionable," he concluded.

ing quality cricketers to play for Sri Lanka," he pointed out.

Atapattu, who had played the role of a dependable Test opener for 17 long years until 2007, said players switching schools and coaches trying to 'import' outstanding players from outstation schools to make champion teams have affected school cricket.

"Offering a chance to a top player or two from the outstations could be approved as an inspiration to outstation cricketers,"

The reliable former Sri Lanka opener better known for his superb technique said they had a huge respect for coaches during their era.

"I wonder whether the players have the same respect for their coaches now. Some teams say they have obtained the services of level one coaches but their ability to produce and offer proper guidance and coaching to the players could

Asia Rugby wants Sri Lanka Rugby to hold election

The suspension of the membership of Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) by Asia Rugby will only be lifted after SLR conducts its Annual General Meeting independently under the supervision of the National Olympic Committee.

The suspension of SLR by Asia Rugby came about after the government in a highly controversial move sacked the sport's local governing body over an administrative matter that was in no way detrimental to the game.

The delegation from Asia Rugby met with relevant stakeholders of rugby, mainly SLR, the National Olympic Committee, club representatives, the Rugby Referees Association and Sports Ministry officials and a consensus was reached that a fresh election was necessary.

Meanwhile, a writ application case regarding the sacking of SLR through a government Gazette, was taken up in the Court of Appeal on May 4 but was put off for Thursday May 12.

The NOC confirmed that until a decision was reached by the Court of Appeal the AGM of SLR cannot be con-

Murray-Djokovic blockbuster called off Tennis fans were gutted by the training schedule meant that no one

last-minute cancellation of Thursday's mouth-watering encounter between Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic. It was supposed to be a revival of one of the sport's great rivalries, but Murray withdrew at the 11th hour citing ill-

Murray hadn't been seen on the site at all on Wednesday – except for in the small hours of the morning. Tuesday night's three-set win over Denis Shapovalov, in which he played some of the finest tennis he has produced since the "resurfacing" of his right hip, had finished at around 12.30am.

The fact that Murray didn't practise on Wednesday might have seemed odd in other circumstances, but the combination of the late finpaid much attention. Now, however, we have learned that Murray spent the whole day in his room because of

Tournament director Feliciano Lopez said "I had a message yesterday from Andy that he was not feeling well. He had food poisoning, it sounds like he is feeling better this morning but is still not well enough to go on the

The news is certainly disappointing, because Murray and Djokovic have not played each other since 2017. With Murray finding arguably his best form since that season, and Djokovic still working his way back from a long absence from the tour, there might have even have been a small chance

As it is, Murray is expected to move on to Rome next week, where he is on the entry list for the qualifying event.

Thus far, he has insisted that he has no plans to play the French Open in a little over a fortnight's time, preferring to concentrate on his grasscourt preparations.

But he has been known to change his mind before. British No2 Dan Evans joked on Wednesday that he had sent Murray a cheeky text message saying "See you at the French", but hadn't received a reply.

Meanwhile Murray has at least improved his ranking with his two victories here – over Shapovalov and 2020 US Open champion Dominic Thiem. He will start next week just inside the world's top 70.

(The Telegraph)



UNDER-19 INTER-SCHOOL CRICKET

Maris Stella, Hindu, **Methodist and Wickramabahu** enter quarter finals

Maris Stella College Thimbirigaskatuwa, Hindu College Bambalapitiya, Methodist Central Batticaloa and Wickramabahu National School Gampola advanced to the quarter-finals in the division III inter school cricket tourna-

Maris Stella beat Lalith Athulathmudali MV Mount Lavinia by 22 runs according to the parabola method and Hindu College beat Kadawatha Central by 49 runs at Ragama in the pre-quarterfinals played on Friday (6).

Methodist Central beat Killinochchi Central by 116 runs and Wickramabahu NS beat Jinaraja Boys College Gampola by eight wickets in the other pre-quarter-finals.

Pre-quarter-finals

At Dehiwala

Maris Stella College: 188 (30) (Suwahas Yapa 50, Samod Appuhamy 47, Muditha de Costa 3/18)

Lalith Athulathmudali Vidyalaya: 162/9 (29) (Gimhan Tharuka 63, M.A.N. Dushan 44, Muditha de Costa 22, Ka-

champions sun Rodrigo 4/20, Savindu Perera 3/40)

At Ragama

Hindu College: 155/9 (Tharujan Bala 35 n.o., Nalliraja Niruban 20, Chirath Dinuka

Kadawatha Central College: 106 (33.1) (Rajendran Sagitharan 3/21, Srihariharan Vijendran 2/14, Dilojan Ramaraj 2/19)

At Killinochchi

Methodist Central: 167 (45) (Jayashilan Shanushkanth 52, Jeyasingham Nithi 41, Maheswaran Gowthamnan 25, Suthaskaran Sulaxshan 5/21, Bashkaran Pavalan 2/22)

Killinochchi Central: 51 (25.3) (Sharu Bavan 4/7, Maheswaran Gowthamnan 2/7, Yogaraja Kishon 2/9)

At Gampola

Jinaraja Boys College: 99 (34.1) (Kavindu Gimhana 27, Thulana Rashmika 3/19, Mithila Herath 2/20)

Wickramabahu NS: 100/2 (18.4) (Dinusha Jayasekara 46, Shammika Ashan 35) (YK)

MAY 8, 2022

Selection and politics: Olympic secretary stabbed

Knife brandishing assailants escape in his car after claiming they were victims of NOC policy



Maxwell de Silva

BY TB RAHAMAN

Maxwell de Silva the General Secretary of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) was stabbed and injured when a couple of unidentified assailants attacked him with a knife in the early hours of Friday and made their getaway in his car.

Two attackers had entered the premises of De Silva in the early hours of the morning and when his wife opened the front door alerted by the barking of their two dogs, the duo oushed her down and entered

Confronting De Silva inside the house the two attackers stabbed him in his hands saying they were victims of injus-

De Silva sustained injuries to four of his fingers. The attackers then gained

access to De Silva's car to get away from the scene. They had left the car at another location and switched to a trishaw to get to their destination.

Calling it a "sad day in Olympism" the NOC said the attack could be linked to selection of athletes for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England in July

"It is believed that this is a result of the Commonwealth Games selections and a party who is affected by it.

"It is also thought this is

an extension of the rivalry between De Silva supporters and the faction that faced defeat at the last contest for the executive committee positions of the NOC," the NOC said in a statement.

De Silva was rushed to the accident ward where he received treatment to his four fingers that needed surgery.

Police are now on the lookout for the attackers who were seen boarding the trishaw on a CCTV camera what was at that location.

"It won't be long before the attackers are apprehended by the Police," said Suresh Subramanium the president of the

Disappointment as **Asian Games put off**

BY SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The much looked forward to Asian Games in Hangzhou, China has been postponed by a year after all arrangements were put in place for the event to be held in Septem-

The National Olympic Committee said the Games will not be held this year due to surge in the Covid 19 pandemic in China.

The postponement was due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the Games will be held next year", said National Olympic Committee president Suresh Subramaniam.

All systems were in place for

the Sri Lankan contingent to take wing in September.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on Friday that the 19th Asian Games, originally scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25, 2022, will be postponed.

The OAC said they will not be looking for any alternate venue and the Games will be held at the same venue next year.

"We were well prepared to deliver the Games on time. However, the decision to postpone the event was taken after carefully considering the pandemic situation and the size of the Games," the OCA said.



years after the legendary Victorian era cricketer's last match and more than a century after his death - he has had 685 runs, 67 wickets and two centuries wiped from the records books.

In a ruthless move the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack has decided that 10 of Grace's matches were not at first-class level and as a result updated its records.

Grace, regarded as one of biggest 'celebrities' of Victorian England, can rest easily, however.

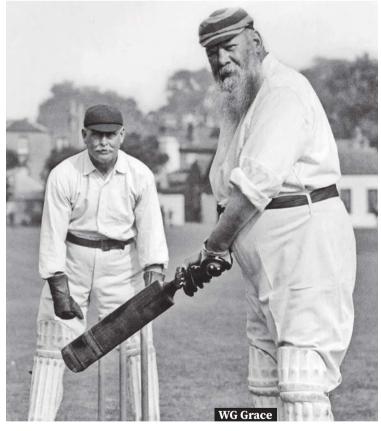
He still has the small matter of 54,211 first-class runs, 2,809 wickets and 124 centuries to his name from a career that spanned 44 seasons between 1865 and 1908.

Grace's run haul is only bettered by four men, all pre-war cricketers, while he opened the into thinking there was a discrepbatting for England beyond his ancy with his first-class record.

But the move, which brings Wisden in line with the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, does mean Grace's historic feat of becoming the first player to score 100 first-class hundreds actually happened two weeks later than first thought - bad news for any owners of memorabilia which carries the original date.

Wisden editor Lawrence Booth told the Times: "The time has come to accept that the Almanack should be more concerned with record than romance."

The situation is eerily similar to one iconic moment on Test Match Special when BBC cricket correspondent Ionathan Agnew tricked pundit and former England opener Geoffrey Boycott



Sri Lanka pick Sevens squad

tee of Sri Lanka Rugby has selected a squad of 20 players to represent the men's rugby team at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham,

The Squad: Srinath Sooriyabandara, Tharinda Ratwatte, Nigel Ratwatte, Adeesha Weeratunga, Da-

Mithun Hapugoda, Kavindu Perera, Buddhima Piyarathne, Sudaraka Dikkumbura, Reeza Raffaideen, Chathura Seneviratne, Lasindu Ishan, Iroshan Silva, Ovin Hettiarachchi, Avishka Lee, Heshan Janson, Ramesh Fernando, Sudam Sooriyaaarachchi, Diluksha Dange.

Stokes slams record 17 sixes, five in a row

Ben Stokes hit a County Championship record 17 sixes in smashing 161 on his first Durham appearance of the summer, at Worcester

All-rounder Stokes raced to his ton in 64 balls, sharing 220 for the fifth wicket with David Bedingham

The England Test captain brought up his century - the fastest in first-class cricket by a Durham player - with five successive sixes off Josh Baker.

Durham declared on 580-6 and Worcestershire were 169-6 at



Set batters Ed Barnard (55) and captain Brett D'Oliveira (41) fell just before the close to leave Durham in complete control. (BBC Sport)

Trinity's Somaratne slams 150

Sri Lanka youth cap Ranudha Somarathne stole the spot light by scoring a century for Trinity College in their under-19 cricket encounter against St. Sebastian's College that ended in a draw at Moratuwa yester-

Somarathne scored 150 off 138 deliveries with eight boundaries and 11 sixes.

SCORES:

St. Sebastian's: 198 (Kesara Madusha 82, Savindu Rodrigo 32, Senith Fernando 32, Vibhawith Ehelepola 4/75, Manula Kularatne 3/37, Dinuka Tennakoon 2/17) and 223/8 (Nilash Perera 56, Bihanga Mendis 43, Senith Fernando 30, Savindu Rodrigo 27, Sanesh Fernando 23, Theeraka Ranatunga 5/64)

Trinity: 303 (Ranuda Somarathne 150, Vibhawith Ehelepola 37, Pawan Pathiraja 34, Supun Waduge 22, Manuja Chanthuka 3/89, Sandeesh Fernando 2/46, Virosh Wijesinghe 2/54, Senith Fernando 2/55) **(YK)**

Formula One bans jewellery in cars

Lewis Hamilton has called on Formula 1's governing body the FIA to back down in its strict approach to drivers wearing jewellery in their

Race director Niels Wittich reiterated before the inaugural Miami Grand Prix it is prohibited to wear body piercings or neck chains in competition. (BBC Sport)



Musaeus girl Methnadi wins U-14 tennis title

Gehansa Methnadi of Mu-narrowly won 6/4. saeus College emerged the winner of the girls under-14 (week-2) event at the ATF tournament held at the SLTA courts yester-

She faced a strong challenge from Githmi Fernando before winning in straight sets. The first set went up to a tie breaker 7/6 (4) and the second set was

The final in the boys event will be played today (8) between Louis Knese of Germany and Rehan Gunawardane of Sri Lanka.

In the semi-finals Louis Knese beat Mayanka Perera 7/6(6), 6/0, while Rehan Gunawardane beat Jayin de Saram in a closely contested three setter 6/2, 6/7(0), 7/5.

Below the belt hitting at boxing selections



Niraj Wijewardena

BY ALLAAM OUSMAN

The Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is up in arms over attempts to manipulate the selection of boxers for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games by officials with vested interests to promote a pugilist who made his professional boxing debut in a tournament held in Dubai this year.

The boxer concerned Niraj Wijewardena was ironically the last choice in the priority list of eight male boxers made by the national boxing selection committee after the final selection trial was conducted by the BASL. The former Kingswood star failed to impress the national selectors during the first trial held in December and lost the second trial to a Navy boxer after the bout was stopped when he bled profusely after a clash of heads. De-

in the final trial, the national selectors seem unimpressed placing him last on the priority list for various reasons.

"We graded them according to their performance in all three selection trials because every boxer can have an off day. Also we took into account the medal winning potential of Sri Lanka boxers at the Commonwealth Games where we have never competed in the heavier weight classes," said a national boxing selector speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sri Lanka won a medal at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games after 68 years. Anusha Kodituwakku fighting in the 45-48kg weight class won a bronze medal creating history becoming the first Sri Lankan woman to do so. This was followed by two more bronze medals by two

spite winning the 75kg weight class male pugilists light fly weight (under sure BASL officials to select Wijewar-48kg) Thiwanka Ranasinghe and fly weight (under 52kg) Ishan Bandara. Incidentally Bandara is the number one choice of the selectors for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games after the reigning national champion from Army dominated his weight class in all three trials.

Since the National Olympic Committee (NOC) had said the quota for boxing was eight (five men and three women), the national selectors had made their choices accordingly. A list of eight boxers in the men's under 51 kg, under 54kg, under 57, under 71kg, under 63.5kg and including three more categories under 67kg, under 81kg and under 75kg was compiled in that particular or-

However, NOC officials who are in the National Sports Selection Committee (NSSC) had tried to presdena citing the fact that he has professional boxing experience. "It is a funny and silly logic to select someone just because he fought a few extra rounds as a professional over and above the sixth and seventh choices. It also undermines the national selection committee," said a veteran boxing official.

The national boxing selection committee comprises General Jagath Jayaasuirya (rtd) as chairman, Udeni Kiridena, Susantha Weerasena, Dr Arukgoda and HS Caldera. The NSSC comprises General Shavendra Silva as chairman, Arjun Fernando and Hafeez Marso while NOC president Suresh Subramaniam and NOC secretary Maxwell de Silva are

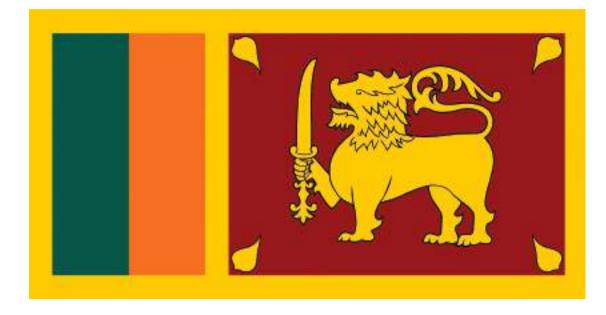
ex-officio members of this panel. At a time when the NOC had declared that they would be sponsoring athletes who have a chance of win-

ning medals at the Commonwealth Games due to paucity of funds, it comes as a surprise to note that the NOC is even willing to sponsor Wijewardena. It smacks of corruption and breaking protocols to accommodate the choice of someone who has vested interest in that particular boxer being selected for the Games. "None of the boxers selected

have a chance of winning a medal at the Commonwealth Games. The Boxing Association could have compromised by selecting this boxer," said a member of the NSSC also speaking on condition of anonymity.

However, BASL president Dian Gomes is crying foul play accusing the NOC of interference and trying to manipulate selections. "We must stop this corruption at any cost including in our sports. Let's clean up at every level," he wrote in a Facebook post.

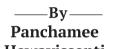
MAY 8, 2022





Lithuanians will be surprised of their legacy in Sri Lanka

- Lithuanian envoy



Hewavissenti ndowed with a glorious green cover and breathtaking landscapes, Lithuania is in Eastern Europe. A country spanning over destinations. 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 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 Iulius Pranevičiusis 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.

Regardless of the fact that you are the Ambassador of Lithuania to our country, which places in Sri Lanka have attracted you as a tour-

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 to be active and travel to places with 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

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

Pic: Saliya Rupasinghe

natural beauty. Sri Lanka is one of the best destinations in South East Asia to experience the beauty of nature.

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 hospital-

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.

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 Lithu-

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 highprofile 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 had been inspired by the natural beauty of Lithuania which is his land of birth.

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

> 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 Lithu-

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.

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 im-

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-mak-

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 touristfriendly. 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.

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 Cen-

tral 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.

Re-visiting the camel boy

racket of 1989

BY LEON BERENGER

he cover page on the-inflight 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

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 environ-

The chief suspect behind the Donald Abeysinghe was quoted by

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 the now defunct Sun newspaper that 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

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.

The modus-operandi of the syndicate was simple.

Their agents would visit poverty stricken homes in far flung poor villages in the country and persuade elders to part with the siblings in ex-

change for a lucrative fee.

The parents guardians were told that the would be bovs used to ride the camels at pereheras and other pageants and that the danger was zero

since the animals would be moving at a trot accompanied by a trained han-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

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

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 frac-

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 Bandaranaike 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 Chi-

ang 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

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 internationals laws and obligations

while at the same time to maintain a

clean face emirate.



Dept. of Child Care charges: \$\mathread{Pl for 25/1/89}

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 Monitory Fund), as 17 such previous programs failed to complete while the effectiveness of those programs have been ques-

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 muchneeded 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

Undoubtedly, foreign and local rent seekers and commission agents also see such emergency procurements as an opportunity to make deals and push through foreignfunded 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.

 $I\bar{t}$ 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

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 debttraps beyond the lifetime of these vulturous rent-seekers.

India's poor bear the brunt of blistering temperatures

s a blistering heatwave sweeps through India, —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 granddaugh-

"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 northwest 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 spoilt 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 temper-

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

"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

Shruti Narayan, regional director of South and West Asia of C40 Cities, says cities need to urgently take action by developing ata-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

Features







By Pramod de Silva

f 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 awarenessraising 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

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,





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 benefi-

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**

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

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

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

said to have a very unpleasant odour among Southeast Asians as the 'king 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 phlegmrelated 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.



Feature/News

Encourage people to grow herbal remedies - Ayurvedic doctor



Namida B. Chandrasekara

ealth is one of the basic needs of animals and humans. Peo-Lple 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 Kirimetiyana, shared her views on the Avurveda medical system developed in accordance with Hela Veda (indigenous Sinhala medicine), which is associated with the Indian medical culture.

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

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.

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, Avurveda 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 doshes (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.

Importance of Ayurveda

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 dis-

ease from getting worse. Here we have to mention our Pas-

pangu and the ginger and coriander boiled drink. The same paspangu (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, sweeting, 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 Avurveda 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 togeth-

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 herbal 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.

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 Packiyanathan, 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 Murshid 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, Thiyagaraja 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 Packiyanathan, 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.



Diyaluma







Pic: Asok Kumar, Haliela Spl. Cor.



Bambarakanda



The Rawana Falls

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, Ilavalai

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, Ilavalai 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,



Rev. Fr. S. Damian OMI

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

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 Amalautpavam, 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 PrePhisolosophate at Amalautpavam, 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

In1987, 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

Sports





Algeria's Noureddine Morceli dominated middle distances in 1990s with world records

broke the world indoor record for

1500m at Seville, Spain on February

28, setting a new mark of 3:34.16.

Only nine days later, on the same

track, he won the 1500m title at the

1991 World Indoor Championships

1991, Morceli remained undefeated

over 1500m. At several Grand Prix

meetings, he ran times around 3:31.

At the World Championships in To-

kyo, Japan, Morceli was already a

clear favourite for the 1500m and

he won the gold easily setting a new

World Championships record of

li ran a new 1000m indoor world re-

cord of 2:15.26. There seemed to be

no greater certainty for a gold medal

at the Olympic Games in Barcelona

later that year than Morceli. But

prior to the Olympic Games Mor-

celi lost unexpectedly to Gennaro di

Napoli in Rome and David Kibet in

Oslo. There were signs that he was

not in the same shape as the year be-

final he looked strong. The Olym-

pic final was run at a woefully slow

pace, with the field passing through

the 800m mark in a slower time than

in the women's final. That was not

the sort of pace to which Morceli

had become accustomed, or that he

was comfortable with, and when the

frantic sprint for home began, he

found himself unable to respond,

eventually finishing a disappointing

However, after just three days

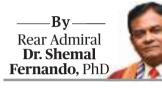
seventh clocking 3:41.70.

However, in the Olympic semi-

In the beginning of 1992, Morce-

Throughout the outdoor season

with a time of 3:41.57.



Noureddine Morceli is an Algerian middle-distance runner and a gold medalist in the 1500 metres at the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympic Games. He won three straight gold medals at that distance at the World Championships. He also set world records in the 1500m, mile and the 3000 metres in the 1990s.

Morceli was twice the gold medalist in the mile at the 1994 and 1998 Goodwill Games, the Arab champion in the 1500m in 1988, the Millrose Games champion in the mile in 1992 and 1993, the 1500m winner at the 1994 IAAF World Cup, and the overall champion in the 1994 IAAF Grand Prix series. Besides, he was Algerian national champion in the 1500m in

international competitions, middle-distance events include the 800 metres, the 1500 metres and the 3000 metres. In English-speaking countries, until the second half of the 20th century, the 880 yards and the mile were run as the equivalents of the 800 metres and the 1500 me-

An early favourite among middle-distance races was the mile, which in the first half of the 20th century was run in times exceeding four minutes. Breaking the "fourminute barrier" was considered un-

On May 6, 1954, however, the 25-

timing devices, however, the record this dominance into 1991, when he was lowered many times thereafter.

Birth and Career

Born on February 28, 1970 in Tenes, Noureddine Morceli attended Riverside Community College in Riverside, California, throughout his career, in winter, he would return there to enjoy the mild climate and

At the age of seven Morceli was inspired by his brother Abderrahmane, a world-class runner who finished fourth in the 1500 metres in the 1977 World Cup and represented Algeria at Moscow 1980 and at Los Angeles 1984Summer Olympic Games. Later, his brother would become Morceli's coach.

In the early 1980s, Morceli came to idolize Said Aouita, a Moroccan who won the gold in the 5000 metres in the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. By age 17, Morceli had taken second place in the 1500 metres in the World Junior Championships.

Morceli rose to athletic prominence after winning the silver medal in the 1500m at the 1988 World Junior Championships in Sudbury, Canada, clocking 3:46.93. A year later, he enrolled at Riverside Community College in California, renowned for its coaching and track facilities. He spent two years there, at the end of which he had run the world's fastest 1500 metres for 1990.

At the age of 20, he was ranked first in the world in the 1500 metres. In 1990, he moved up to senior class and set the sea-

> celi set a new 1500m world record of 3:28.86 in Rieti. In 1993, Morceli narrowly missed his own world record when he won the Mediterranean Games in Narbonne in 3:29.20. By that time Morceli had set himself a new aim: to break Steve Cram's eight-vear-old record over the Mile. In Monaco, he narrowly missed the 3000m world record. There was even talk that he might skip the World Championships in order to concentrate fully on the world-record hunt. However, in the end he decided to take

> > At the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, the final of 1500m started at a relatively slow pace, but Morceli was always in complete control, sprinting away in the last lap to win easily and retain his world title with a time of 3:34.24. In the following weeks, he failed twice to set a new world

record over the Mile in Berlin and Brussels. But just two days after the race in Brussels he astonished everyone by crushing the record with a time of 3:44.39.

In 1994, he set the new 3000m world record, clocking 7:25.11. He also experimented successfully with the 5000m. In Zurich, he out-sprinted the rest of the field to take the victory and also won the 5000m in Rieti, Italy. Morceli broke the 2000m world record in the following season, setting a new mark of 4:47.88.

Nine days later Morceli set the last world record of his magnificent career, when he lowered his own 1500m record to 3:27.37 in Nice. Only a few days after this he almost broke the record again when he triumphed in 3:27.52 in Monaco. He easily defended the 1500 m World Champion title in Gothenburg. Shortly after, Morceli tried to improve on his Mile record in Zurich but did not succeed.

World Records

Standing 172 cm and weighing 60 kg, he added the outdoor world record for the 1500 metres in 1992, the mile in 1993, and the 3000 metres in 1994. By the end of 1994, the Algerian track star's accomplishments had reached even greater proportions. In August, after breaking the outdoor world record for 3,000 metres (7:25.11), he could claim five middledistance world records, which also included (outdoor) the 1500 metres (3:28.86) and the mile (3:44.39) and (indoor) the 1,000 metres (2:15.26) and the 1500 metres (3:34.16).

Morceli was named Athlete of the Year by Track & Field News in 1993 and 1994 and by the International Athletic Foundation in 1994. In that two-year period, he lost only once, at 800 metres. As he set his sights on more records, most notably the 800-metre, 2000-metre, and 5000-metre events, his driving force was a deeply rooted dedication to bring glory to his country. A devout Muslim, during the sacred holy days of Ramadan he would fast from sunrise to sunset despite the rigours of

As Morceli looked forward to the 1995 season, sportswriters unabashedly proclaimed him the greatest runner in the world or even the greatest of all time. Perhaps his spirt was best exemplified by his winning performance in the 1994 Grand Prix. Racked with flu, weakened and hacking, he not only ran but left the field behind at the finish.

Morceli was soon tested by new challenger, Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj. Morceli bested El Guerrouj in the 1500 metres at the 1995 outdoor World Championships clocking 3:33.73; however, the 1500metres race at the 1996 Olympic

Games in Atlanta the following year was considered one of the most dramatic contests in athletics history.

Morceli and El Guerrouj led the field with 400 metres to go when the young Moroccan tripped on his rival's heel and fell to the ground, allowing Morceli to capture the gold medal in that event. At the Grand Prix final in Milan later that year, however, Morceli lost the 1500metres event for the first time in years to El Guerrouj. Morceli competed in subsequent events, including the 2000 Games in Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, before his eventual retire-

Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympics

At the start of the 1996 season, Morceli set a world season's best of 3:29.50. However, a new and serious opponent suddenly appeared on the scene, when Hicham El Guerrouj won in Hengelo in a time of 3:29.51.

The 1500m at 1996 Olympics was the 23rd appearance of the event and one of 12 athletics events to have been held at every Summer Olympics. All three medalists of the previous edition, Fermín Cacho of Spain, Rachid El Basir of Morocco, and Mohamed Suleiman of Qatar returned, along with seventh-place finisher Noureddine Morceli of Algeria and ninth-place finisher Graham Hood of Canada. Morceli had been favored in Barcelona, and was again a favorite in Atlanta; he had won the last three world championships and broken the world record twice.

Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco was a rising star expected to challenge Morceli; he had come in second at the 1995 World Championships and would go on to win the next four and break the world record himself. Venuste Niyongabo of Burundi would have been another contender but chose not to enter in order to focus on the 5000 metres.

Burundi, Dominica, the Maldives, the Solomon Islands, and Ukraine each made their first appearance in the event. The United States made its 22nd appearance, most among all nations, having missed only the boycotted 1980 Games.

The competition was again three rounds (used previously in 1952 and since 1964). The "fastest loser" system introduced in 1964 was used for both the first round and semifinals. The 12-man semifinals and finals introduced in 1984 and used again in 1992 were followed.

There were five heats in the first round, each with 11 or 12 runners. The top four runners in each heat, along with the next four fastest overall, advanced to the semifinals. The 24 semifinalists were divided into two semifinals, each with 12 runners. The top five men in each semifinal, plus the next two fastest overall, advanced to the 12-man final.

At the time men's 1500 metres took place at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, the standing world record was 3:27.37. established at Nice, France on July 12, 1995 by Noureddine Morceli. The Summer Olympic Games record belonged to Sebastian Coe of the Great Britain at 3:32.53 established in Los Angeles, United States on August 11,

There were 57 competitors from 37 nations. The maximum number of athletes per nation had been set at 3 since the 1930 Olympic Congress. The event took place on July 29, 31 and August 3. The event was won by Noureddine Morceli of Algeria. Fermín Cacho of Spain was unable to repeat as gold medalist, but took silver to become the fourth man to win two medals in the event.

At the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, Morceli was under enor-

mous pressure. The final was run at an average pace when his main rival, Hicham El Guerrouj, fell down on the final lap. Morceli accelerated and crossed the line first ahead of the defending Olympic champion, Fermín Cacho.

Morceli had dominated the 1500 metres for five years, holding the world record and winning the previous three world championships. But Hicham El Guerrouj, from neighboring Morocco was the rising star, who had chased Morceli in the most recent world championships. This was expected to be the match race. While Morceli had led the semi-finals in close to Olympic Games record time, the final race was much slower and entirely strategic.

Approaching the bell at the end of the third lap, Morceli had moved into the lead with El Guerrouj sprinting up to his shoulder. Morceli held him off with El Guerrouj having to concede position and move in behind Morceli squeezing in front of defending champion, master tactician Fermin Cacho who was perfectly positioned directly behind Morceli. Two strides later, El Guerrouj tripped and fell.

Morceli took off sprinting at the same moment the rest of the field had to evade El Guerroui's body on the track. Cacho was forced to leap over the fallen El Guerrouj, almost stepping on him. Next in line Abdi Bile had to jump off the track to the infield. Morceli opened up 2 metres in the process, which he widened to 5 metres down the backstretch.

Cacho and Bile held that gap onto the final straight. Bile faded while Cacho held on until he could see it was futile to catch Morceli, jogging in for silver. Stephen Kipkorir led two other Kenyan teammates around Bile to take bronze. After quickly staggering to his feet, El Guerrouj chased the field but shocked and disheartened, he was unable to catch anybody. At the end of 1996, Morceli suf-

fered his first 1500m defeat in four years at the hands of El Guerrouj in Milan. In the 1997 World Championships at Athens, Morceli was fourth in 1500m with a time of 3:37.37 and in 1999 at Seville, he qualified for his fifth straight 1500m final at a World Championships, where he dropped out at the bell while well out of medal contention. Morceli's last appearance at a major international championship was at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney where he could manage only the 24th position with a time of 4:00.78.

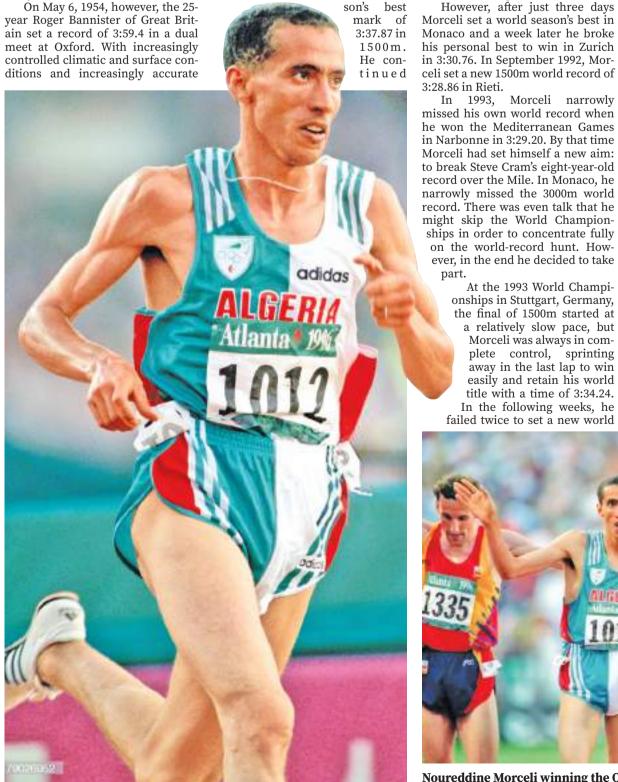
Ambassador of Sport

His Personal Best performances: 800 metres - 1:44.79; 1500 metres - 3:27.37 at Nice, France on July 12, 1995; Mile - 3:44.39 at Rieti, Italy on September 6, 1993; 3000 metres -7:25.11 at Monte Carlo, Monaco on August 2, 1994; 5000 metres - 13:03.85.

In January 2020, he was appointed Secretary of State for Elite Sport, reporting to the Minister of Youth and Sports in the new government chosen by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune after the presidential election of December 2019. Morceli has no political affiliation to any party in Algeria and was chosen as an independent member in the first Djerad government.

Currently, Morceli serves as an ambassador of the sport by assisting with the International Olympic Commission, the African Games, as well as assisting the development of young track and field athletes in Algeria.

(The author is an Associate Professor, International Scholar, winner of Presidential Awards and multiple National Accolades for Academic pursuits. He possesses a PhD, MPhil and double MSc. His email is shemal1216@gmail.com)



Noureddine Morceli at Atlanta 1996 Olympics



Noureddine Morceli winning the Olympic Gold at Atlanta 1996 Olympics

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 mara-

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

> 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

"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

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

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 pros-

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

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 halfmarathon 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,

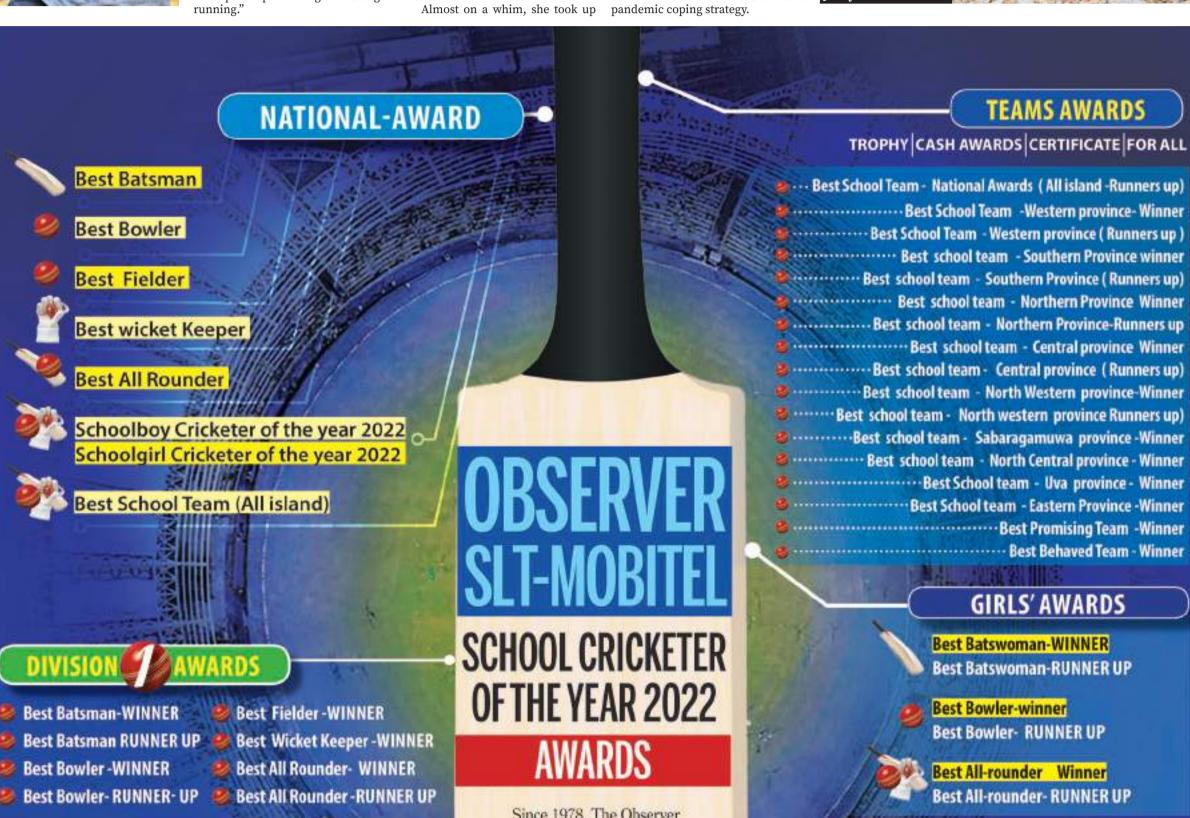
Jacky gave herself a new goal: the record for most consecutive mara-The female Guinness record

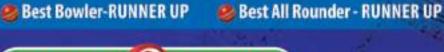
stood at 95 - set two years go by Alyssa Amos Clark, a non-amputee runner from Vermont - who did it as a

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







Best Batsman - WINNER

Best Batsman - WINNER

Best Bowler - WINNER

- Best Batsman RUNNER UP
- Best Bowler WINNER
- Best Bowler-RUNNER UP

Best All Rounder- WINNER

Best Fielder - WINNER

🥮 Best Batsman - RUNNER UP 🥮 Best Wicket Keeper-WINNER

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

Since 1978, The Observer SLT-Mobitel School Cricketer Awards have recognized talent and inspired Cricketing greatness. As the award takes the pitch for the 44th 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.

BEST SCHOOL GIRL TEAM OF THE YEAR 2022 ······ BEST SCHOOL GIRLS' TEAM (RUNNERS UP)

BEST UP & COMING GIRLS' TEAM OF THE YEAR 2022

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

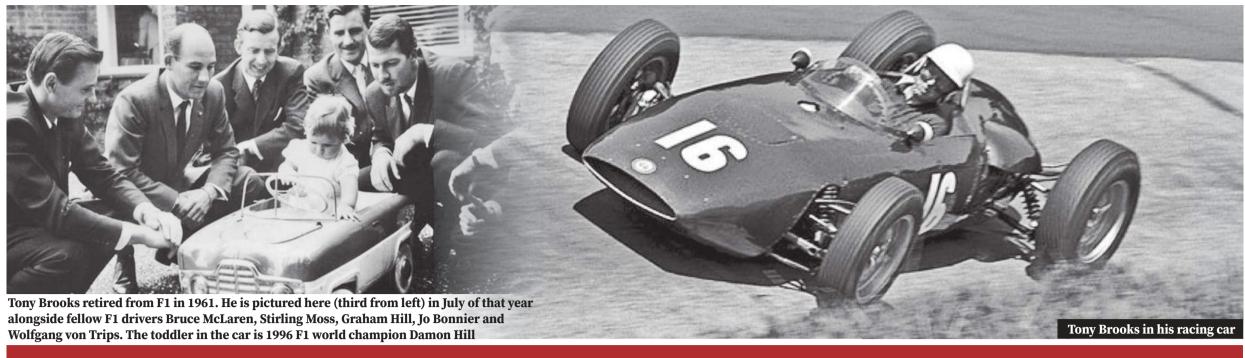


OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER

OF THE YEAR 2022

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.





Best 'unknown racing champion' no more

Tony Brooks, one of the defining Formula 1 drivers of the 1950s, has died aged 90, his daughter Giulia announced on Tuesday.

The Briton won six Grand Prix events and narrowly missed out on the world championship in 1959.

After Juan Manuel Fangio, Alberto Ascari and Stirling Moss, Brooks was the most successful driver of his era.

Brooks is regarded alongside Moss as the best British driver never to win

Moss, who died two years ago, also aged 90, said of his former team-mate and friend: "Brooks was a tremendous driver, the greatest - if he'll forgive me saying this - 'unknown' racing driver there's ever been. He was far better than several people who won the world championship."

F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali paid tribute to Brooks in a statement, saying: "I was saddened to hear the news that Tony Brooks has died.

"He was part of a special group of drivers who were pioneers and pushed the boundaries at a time of great risk.

"He will be missed and our thoughts are with his family at this

Tony Brooks the pioneer Formula One racer who never won a title despite being the best dies age 90

Brooks, who had been the last surviving F1 race winner of the 1950s, left a considerable mark on the sport - between 1956 and 1959, he won 46% of the races he finished, in an era when mechanical reliability was a significant feature in motorsport.

Brooks famously won his first ever F1 race, the Syracuse Grand Prix of 1955, in which he competed as a lastminute entry for the Connaught team while studying for his dentistry finals at Manchester University.

Receiving a call from the team while revising, Brooks went to Italy, missed the first practice day, learned the circuit on a Vespa, and then caused a sensation by leading home the Maseratis of world championship regulars Luigi Musso and Luigi Villoresi, to achieve the first international grand prix win for a British car since 1924. His success put his career as a den-

tist on the backburner, as he decided to

focus full-time on motor racing. He entered F1 in 1956 with BRM,

but he raced only twice in a car that was not a success - and Brooks was lucky to escape without serious injury from a crash when its throttle stuck open during the 1956 Brit-

ish Grand Prix. The following year marked his breakthrough. Joining the Vanwall team alongside Moss, Brooks finished second in Monaco to Fangio, who was on course for the last of his five world titles, and then won the British Grand Prix, sharing with Moss.

Brooks was suffering from injuries sustained in a heavy crash at Le Mans the month before, but still qualified third. And after Moss retired from the race while leading, a fatigued Brooks handed over his car and Moss went on to a famous win. Brooks - as befit-



Tony Brooks

ted his talent - always shone brightest on the most demanding circuits, and in 1958 underlined his skills with impressive victories on the daunting Spa-Francorchamps and Nurburgring Nordschleife circuits in the Belgian and German Grands Prix.

Having moved to Ferrari in 1959,

he should have won the world title. Wins in France and Germany, along with second in Monaco, meant he went into the final race at Sebring in Florida still in with a chance of the championship despite problems at the other races.

Brooks was a devout Catholic, and did not believe in taking unnecessary risks with his life, despite his profes-

The Silverstone and Le Mans crashes earlier in his career had changed his view as to how to approach his sport. Both had come as a result of trying to compensate with his talent for deficiencies in the car, and he resolved after Le Mans never to do that again.

"I always felt it was morally wrong to take unnecessary risks with one's life," he told the veteran F1 journalist Nigel Roebuck in the 1980s, "because I believe that life is a gift from God and that suicide is morally unacceptable.

"I suppose there are those who would say that driving racing cars at all is an unnecessary risk but I wouldn't agree with that. However, driving one which may be unsound or damaged, while not exactly suicide, is verging towards it."

The philosophy probably cost him the world title. On the first lap of the 1959 US Grand Prix, Brooks' Ferrari was hit by team-mate Wolfgang Von Trips' car.

'My natural inclination was to cary on," he said. "Believe me, that would have been the easiest thing to do, but I made myself come in to have the car checked over.

"I lost half a lap doing that, and still finished third. Stirling retired, and Jack [Brabham, the eventual champion] ran out of petrol near the end! Still, in my own mind, I think I did the right thing.

Brooks left Ferrari after that and although he continued in F1 in 1960 and '61, he was already thinking of moving on. And after an unsatisfactory year back with BRM, he retired, with little fanfare.

To those who know motor racing, Brooks was and always will be one of the greatest drivers, and a charming and self-effacing man, too.

(BBC Sport)

Mo Farah returns and loses 10,000 race

Mo Farah was surprisingly beaten by club runner Ellis Cross at the Vitality London 10,000 as he returned to competition after an 11-month absence.

The four-time Olympic champion, 39, was unable to out-kick Cross, who won by four seconds in 28 minutes 40

Before the race, Farah said it would not "make any sense" to keep racing if he could not compete at the top level.

"I have beaten somebody who is like an idol," Cross, who represents Aldershot, Farnham & District, told BBC Sport. Farah, who last raced in June 2021, was unable to secure a place at the Tokyo Olympics after fracturing his foot in the build-up to qualifying.

"Today was tough and Ellis did well to beat me," Farah, 39, told BBC Sport.

"It is really important to test your body and see where you are. It has been so long since my last race. "I love the sport and what I do. I

have had a long career. Your body has to be ready. You have to be in the right frame of mind and compete with the guys. You have to say where you are... I ain't young any more am I?'

Cross, from Polesworth in Warwickshire, said he "didn't quite follow the script" in upsetting Farah in front of a London crowd that cheered him on in the 16,000-strong event.

As a club runner, the 25-year-old had to pay a £37 entry fee to run in the event. "I can't believe it," he said. "I didn't believe it until 20 metres from the finish. I thought he would just out-kick

"I can't explain the feeling, it's overwhelming. "He is known around the world and I have beaten him over his prime distance. Nobody knows who I am but the crowds are cheering."

Great Britain's Eilish McColgan dominated the women's field and finished just two seconds behind Paula Radcliffe's 19-year-old British and European 10,000m record.

McColgan, 31, clocked 30:23, which was enough to at least set a Scottish record, bettering the mark of 30:39 set by her mum Liz in 1989. (BBC Sport)



10,307

9,566

Observer-Mobitel Most Popular School Cricketer

Wickramasinghe and Chushadi continue to lead

Royal College's Ahan Wickramasinghe continues to lead in the Sunday Observer-Mobitel Most Popular School Cricketer contest with 10,307 votes while Chushadi Kaushalya from Dharmapala leads with 7,301votes in the girls' vote count.

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2022 Readers' Coupon No. 6 Vote Count

1. Ahan Wickramasinghe (Royal) 2. Dunith Wellalage (St. Joseph's) 3. Rusanda Gamage (St. Peter's)

8,781 4. Pasan Suwahas (St. Benedict's College) 7,702 7,455 5. Vishara Fernando (Richmond) 6. Caniston Karunaratne (S. Thomas' College) 6,824 7. Raveen de Silva, (Nalanda) 5,022 4,872 8. Ramesh Madhubasana (Mahinda) 9. Pasindu Ratnayake (Thurstan) 3,699 10. Ruveen Fonseka (De Mazenod) 3,588 11. Shevon Daniel (St. Joseph's) 2,793 12. Malintha Malith (Maris Stella) 2,562 13. Dinuka Kalupahana (Mahinda College) 2,534 14. Sudesh Jayawardena (St. Joseph's) 2,408 15. Kavindu Amantha (Isipatana) 1,998 16. Iruth Gimhana (Ananda) 1,504 17. Shanujan Shanmuganathan (St. Benedict's) 1,336 18. Sadisha Wickramasinghe (Royal) 1,306 19. Savindu Perera, (Maris Stella) 1,267

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2022

most i opulai ochoolgiii oricketei 2022	
1. Chushadi Kaushalya (Dharmapala)	7,301
2. Kaushini Nuthyanga (Anula)	6,511
3. Navodya Nethmini (Wadduwa MMV)	5,678
4. Manudi Nanayakkara, (Princess of Wales)	5,103
5. Tharushi Rajakaruna (Nugawela Central)	4,012
6. Imesha Dulani (Devapathiraja Ratgama)	3,989
7. Hirushi Nimanthi (Jayasiripura KV, Bakamuna)	3.116
8. Vismi Guneratne (Ratnaweli BV, Gampaha)	2,918
9. Nimsara Dissanayake (Sri Siddhartha Central)	2,817
10. Hashini Liyanage (Anula Vidyalaya)	2,319
11. Chadali Isurika (Jayasiripura KV, Bakamuna)	2,058

Readers Coupon winners:

1. Nimesh Basitha, Henpitagedera Road, Maradagahamula 2. R.R. Bopegamage, 362/A2/1, Hamuhena, Udupila North, Delgoda

3. Nilangi Fernando, Tower3, 8A 1Union Place, Colombo



OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL Most Popular School Cricketer 2022

Vote for your favourite Schoolboy/Schoolgirl Cricketer and elevate him/her to win the

Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer 2022

Cricketers from schools competing in Division one, two and three of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2021/2022 are eligible to be voted.

Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer 2022

Schoolgirl Cricketers from schools competing in all Island school's of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association Under 19 Inter-School Tournament 2021/2022 are eligible to be voted.

Nominee Boy Divisions for Boy : Division I Division II All Island Girl (Each coupon must contain only one vote) Name of School Sender Address Mobile No.

Vote online now: vote.schoolcricketer.lk

Win prizes in the weekly coupon draw:

1st **Prize**: Rs. 2,500 2nd Prize: Rs. 1,500

3rd Prize: Rs. 1,000

The 44th Most Popular Schoolboy/girl Cricketer Contest is now on. Mail the completed coupon to the SPORTS EDITOR, SUNDAY OBSERVER, LAKE HOUSE, COLOMBO 10.

Children of Lake House, SLT-Mobitel staff are not eligible to participate in the competition. Each coupon must contain only one vote for one player and for one contest.

In all matters connected with the contest, the decision of the Sports Editor, SUNDAY OBSERVER is final.





New Zealand name strong squad for England tour

New Zealand have named an enlarged 20-player squad for the three-Test tour of England which begins on June 2.

The five players at the Indian Premier League, including captain Kane Williamson plus pace bowlers Trent Boult and Tim Southee, are included. But they are set to miss both

warm-up games so all-rounder Michael Bracewell and bowler Blair Tickner will travel. Two more uncapped players,

wicketkeeper Cam Fletcher and seamer Jacob Duffy, have also been picked.

Opener Devon Conway and allrounder Daryl Mitchell are the two other IPL players in the squad.

The Black Caps plan to cut the squad to 15 following the four-day warm-up games which start on 20 and 26 May.

The regular IPL season ends on 22 May before the play-offs and final in Ahmedabad on 29 May.

"All going to plan we will have everyone fit and available for the first Test at Lord's, and aim to announce our final squad of 15 for that series once we've completed

our warm-up games," head coach Gary Stead said.

Last year, New Zealand beat England 1-0 in a two-Test series and overcame India in Southampton to win the inaugural World Test Championship. Batter Ross Taylor and BJ

Watling are two from those successes missing from the 2022 squad, having both since retired.

Williamson, third in the Test batting rankings, has not played a Test since November because an elbow injury.

The series opener at Lord's will be England's first Test under new captain Ben Stokes and since the appointment of Rob Key as managing director of men's cricket.

Squad in full:

Kane Williamson (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Jacob Duffy, Cameron Fletcher, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Rachin Ravindra, Hamish Rutherford, Tim Southee, Blair Tickner, Neil Wagner, Will Young. (BBC Sport)

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



here, which is up'.

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 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

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 "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

Ben Stokes

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 greatestever 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

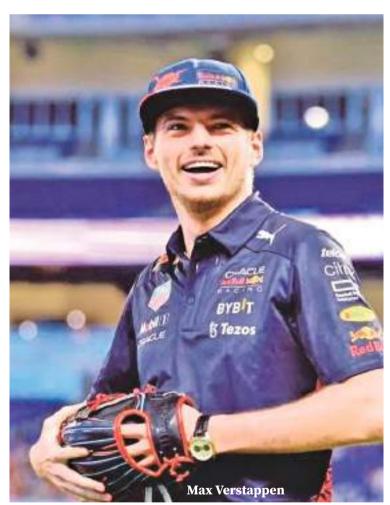
Sri Lanka Golf (SLG) conducts these ranking tournaments among selected golfers to peak in readiness for the Asian Games to be held in China in September.

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 cor-

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



Verstappen ignores hype ahead of Miami Grand Prix

MIAMI: World champion Dolphins whose name serves to 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.

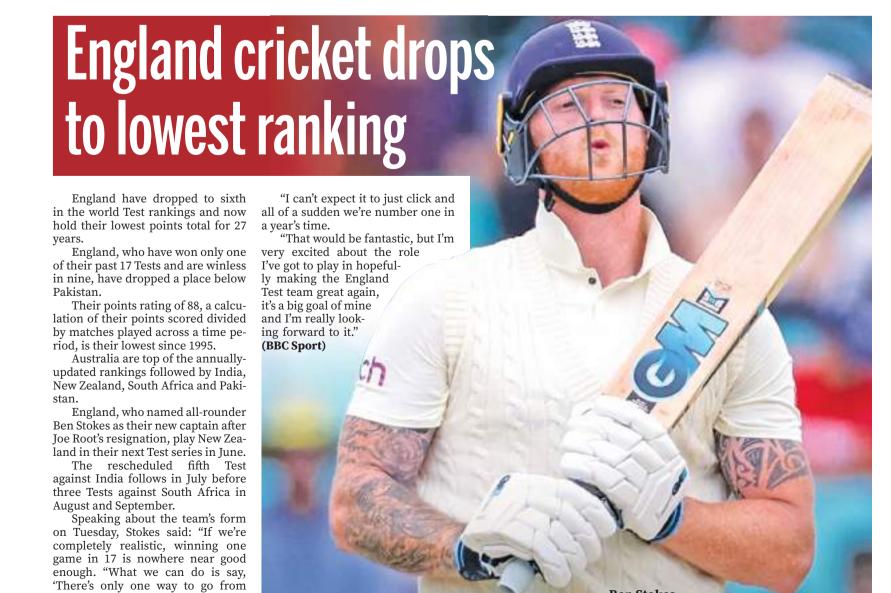
Round five of the new era battle between a younger generation of racers takes place at the selfstyled Miami International Autodrome, a fast street track built at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. The stadium is, by rich irony, home to the NFL's Miami remind F1's bruised drivers of the pain generated 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

"The track looks demanding, with a real mix of low and highspeed 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 Alist celebrities and vast crowded hospitality areas.

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





PAGE CHALLENGE THE 26 CHALLENGE



MAY 8, 2022



PAGE DIRE NEED FOR 27 A RARE BREED



PAGE PERFORMANCE OF 29 SALES PERSONS

and have lingering



PAGE REVIVING THE 30 TOURISM INDUSTRY

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



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

nificantly 2021 Annual Report of the Central Bank. The build-up of macro-ecoeffects in the immediate future nomic instability of the economy, leading to a slowdown in growth, stemming from heightened vulnerabilities on the external and fiscal

the report stated. It noted economic activity is likely to slow down amid the fronts, rising social unrest and political instability and elevated announcement of a suspension of external debt servicing by the govcommodity prices globally and domestically are expected to ernment for an interim period and commitment to a dampen 2022 growth prospects sig-

Economy to grow modestly in near term

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 debt the medium term. SEE PAGE 28

Fed raises rates

BIZ SNIPPETS



eral 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

"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 mincedup 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 "longterm 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 bar-

rel 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

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





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.

EU provides emergency relief to crisis-hit families

viding €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,

The European Union (EU) is pro- 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

> 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

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 yearon-year increase of 49% for this basket of food.

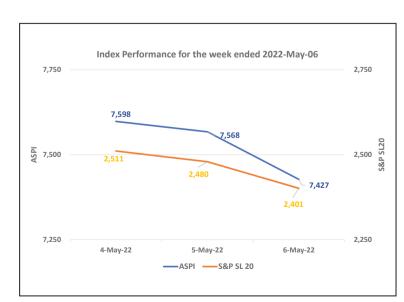
This is driven primarily by prices of dhal and samba rice being the highest recorded by the BCI. A kilo of Dhal in April 2021 was Rs 178, a year later it costs Rs 466. A kilo of samba in April 2021 was close to Rs 130, a year later this costs Rs 210. With food prices increasing at this rate, a family 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 in Colombo)

macroeconomic within the country. Although global prices have increased due to the pandemic and issues with supply chains, global prices have not increased as fast as the prices in Sri Lanka.

We are also facing shortages of foreign currency which impacts local supply chains. This impact has also been exacerbated by consistent import restrictions, both causing shortages. These shortages compounded by the fact that the value of the currency has been falling steeply have all contributed to food prices rising faster and faster in 2022. The BCI tracks the weekly

retail prices in the Colombo market of the most commonly consumed food ingredients that might be used in a typical Buth curry meal. The prices are collected from the "Weekly Indicators" that the Central Bank publishes. (Advocata is an independent policy think tank based



Courtesy: The Colombo Stock Exchange

E X	C H A	N G	E R	A T E	S
May 2 - May 7	US Dollar	Euro	Japanese yen	Pound sterling	Chinese Yuan
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

Business

Challenge the challenge



Kishu Gomes

imes 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 answer to an inner boss, a personal, have to be fully responsible for your internal power that provides guid-

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

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 own actions and consequences. It's a ance on whether a job is worth doing



However, the judgment of an 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

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'.





DFCC Bank bags merit awards

DFCC Bank recently bagged two new accolades at the LankaPay Technnovation 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

The fourth edition of LankaPay Technnovation Awards - Sri Lanka's pioneering payment technology innovation awards took place at the Shangrila 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 Technnovation 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



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-



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

Awards is regarded as one of the most tics.

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 National Business Excellence major honour won by Spectra Logis-

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 NRNNFC as Per-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 Jayewardenepura, 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 engi-

neering 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 **STRIDES** by

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Powered by



PIM Alumni

erbal diarrhea has become rampant with the current socio-economic Emotional outbursts in political circles ranging from "jumpers to pampers" are common these days. Leaders are supposed to be "emotionally intelligent" according to many research findings. Emotionally charged leaders are making nonsensical utterances that get wide media publicity leading to much talk among many social circles. Why do emotions often become a doubleedged sword? Can we look forward towards emotionally intelligent leaders at the helm? Let's explore.

"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men." These are the visionary utterances of Martin Luther King Junior. Emotional maturity is in dire need in many fronts, while emotional intelligence is a much talked topic among many fronts. In the olden days someone was regarded as intelligent if he or she can "read, write and do arithmetic."

Now we know it is surely not the case. People pass exams but fail in life. They strive for results but struggle in their relationships. The original Latin root of intelligence means "to understand". It is in fact an umbrella term that encompasses many abilities of the brain. One such key type has emerged prominently as "emotional Intelligence".

How can emotions be "intelligent"? Isn't it a contradiction of terms? This is what people were arguing Emotionally intelligent leaders for Sri Lanka

Dire need of a rare breed

against considering the seeming difficult nature to grasp. Danah Zohar, a philosopher and a physicist, states that rational intelligence is all about material capital in dealing with what "I think".

Emotional Intelligence focuses on social capital involving what "I feel". It is to do with understanding oneself as well as building better relationships. As we are aware, IQ measures rational intelligence and EQ measures emotional intelligence. Ironically, with regards to employment, IQ hires you in, but EQ fires you either up or out.

It was indeed refreshing to listen toDaniel Goleman at the SHRM conference. He was the one who popularised the link between emotional intelligence and business results. He argued that leaders have to be 70 percent more emotional intelligent than the others. Whether we see this in the Sri Lankan scenario is a big question.

Emotions explored

It reminds me what Aristotle stated a long time ago. "Anyone can become angry. -That is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way, that is not easy." He vividly stresses the importance of emotional control. We see how it is often violated on many occasions as communicated by printed, electronic and social media. What are emotions then? Let's dis-

One may become angry. That's psychological. One may become hungry. That's physiological. Both are emotions. They can be related to mental or physical aspects. I would break the word emotion as "e -motion" or "enabling motion". Emotions drive us for actions. In essence, they are feelings and their associated thoughts. "Rule your feelings, lest your feelings rule you", so said Publilius Syrus, way back in the first Century (B.C.). Essentially, emotions are intense feelings directed at someone or something.

Stephen Robins, a veteran in Organisational Behaviour presents the six key basic emotions, namely, anger, fear, sadness, happiness, disgust and surprise. You can clearly see more negatives than positives. That's why we have more misery then mercy, providing enough business to psychiatrists. I still remember Robert Holden, who goes round the globe giving motivational speeches, calls himself as a "recovering psychologist". The need here is to have a more positive, pragmatic and progressive outlook.

As such, emotions can be constructive or destructive. Joy can be constructive whilst jealousy can be destructive. Channeling emotions for success is what is required. The best example I can give is how the All Blacks, the New Zealand Rugby Team, perform the ritual of Haka, a traditional Maori tribe's war dance, before



Martin Luther King Jr. addressing the crowd at Lincoln Memorial, **Washington DC**

a game begins. It gives them a hype to go for the 'kill'.

Emotions are still being scientifically explored. Antonioi Damasio, an expert in neuroscience has this to say: "Emotions are bio-regulatory reactions that aim at promoting, directly or indirectly, the sort of psychological states that secure not just survival, but survival regulated into the range that we identify with well-being."

Emotional Intelligence

There are many myths about emotional intelligence (EI). Some say it has been invented by Americans. The truth is that it has existed with human beings since time immemorial. All great religious leaders were obviously emotionally intelligent. Take the case of Buddha, who kept on meditating while three wild women (Thanha, Rathi, Raga) were having a luring dance in front of him. Same with Jesus when self-pity was overcome in carrying the cross to Calvary. Great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and St. Mother Theresa amply demonstrated EI in many

It was Charles Darwin who first wrote about emotions, in the western perspective. He published a book titled, 'The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals' in 1872, highlighting genetically determined aspects of behaviour. The way I see it, EI was re-packaged in the West, as a management concept. "People high in EI are expected to progress more quickly through the abilities designated and to master more of them", said John Mayer of New Hampshire University and Peter Salovey of Yale University, who are regarded as the co-founders of EI in its new form.

Credit should go to Daniel Goleman for bringing the concept of EI to a wider audience. His several books on EI have shed a lot of light. "Rational intelligence and technical skills are important, but emotional intelligence is the sine qua non of leadership" opined Goleman.

In essence, EI can be viewed as a capacity. It is a capacity for recognising our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships (Goleman,

Despite many subsequent presentations and interpretations, I still prefer the five key components of EI advocated by Goleman. They are selfawareness, self-regulation, self-motivation, empathy and effective rela-

It will be worthwhile reflecting on Sri Lankan leaders with regards to these five components. Remember, as we discussed, leaders are not necessarily at the "top" but at the "tap" as well. The emphasis here is more on corporate, institutional or national

through them. This refers to the awareness of

Self-Awareness(Self + Recognition)

of the quadrant means in relation to

the Sri Lankan context. Let's go

Having started with five compo-

one's emotional state. It means the ability to recognise and understand your emotions and their effects on others. As Goleman observes a high degree of self-confidence and a realistic self-assessment can be considered as hallmarks of people having a high level of self-awareness. I think it is directly relevant to mindfulness. 'Sathiya' or 'Sihiya' in local vernacular could be the best descriptors.

Do our leaders demonstrate selfawareness? Are they conscious of what they uttered a few days ago that was widely publicised by the media, before callously denying that they actually told so? It is a common issue in political fronts but may also happen in business and other fronts.

Self-Management (Self + Regula-

This is logically the second step. It refers to the ability to control or redirect disruptive impulses, in taking charge of you. According to Goleman, trustworthiness, integrity, comfort with ambiguity, openness to change are all hallmarks of self-management.

This is also where passion comes to the surface. It refers to the propensity to pursue a purpose with persistence. The point here is that selfmotivation should be beyond the monetary gains or status grabs in being clear about what one really wants in life. Organisational commit-

such behavours. Optimism even in a nents, Goleman subsequently rearranged them as a matrix. Figure 1 failure can be one hallmark of such contains the details. The beauty of it is self-motivators. the simplicity of capturing the breadth This of course is much evident and depth of EI in a nutshell. It is worthwhile to see what each

among many prominent leaders the way they peruse their goals. Whether such goals are congruent with a collaborative approach towards national development is the question. A statesman can be clearly separated from a politician, based on the self-motiva-

tion towards serving the nation.

ment has a close connection with

Social Awareness (Others + Recognition)

This quadrant takes us to focus on others. It includes empathy which is the ability to understand the emotional makeup of other people. In essence, it involves walking with "their shoes on". Stephen Covey in his popular Seven Habits of Highly Effective People refers to this as "seek first to understand and then to be understood". In fact, he says it is one of the often neglected aspects of managerial behavior around the world. Customer care, employee-sensitivity, cross-cultural communications are some areas where empathy is a must.

Do we see leaders demonstrating empathy in our societies? Having onesided views and thereby jumping into conclusions is quite common. Disputes often arise when empathy is discarded. Social media is abundant with such sad situations involving leaders.

Relationship Management (Others + Regulation)

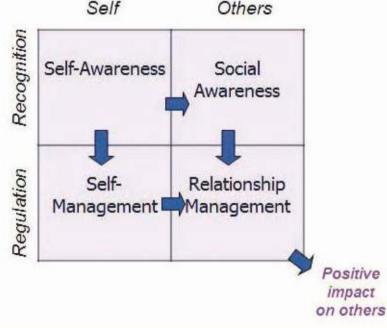
This is the culmination of all above. It refers to building lasting relationships. Being friendly, trustworthy and genuine may result in good social networks and solid teams. The acid test of EI is how good you are in successful and sustained relation-

How do we see relationships among our leaders on many fronts? Are they genuine or opportunistic in their associations and affiliations? Do leaders use their high EI for relationship building or low EI for relationship busting? They are the questions we need to answer.

Way forward

"When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures of emotion", said Dale Carnegie sometime ago. This is true for Sri Lankan voters as well. There is much more we can expect from the emotionally intelligent leaders in the Sri Lankan context. There is much we missed from the politicians who failed to deliver their promises. Rather than cursing the darkness, let's light a candle. Reflect on the key aspects of EI and relate it to your daily actions. I am sure we have a lot to refresh and reinforce in raising our emotional intelli-

Figure 1. Emotional Intelligence as a Matrix



Source: Adapted from Goleman (2008)

Ceylon Cinnamon receives GI certification

The European Union (EU) presented the Geographical Indication (GI) certification to Ceylon Cinnamon, Sri Lanka's first GI-certified product at a ceremony between the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) recently.

The GI application was made by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) and supported by the EU under the EU-Sri Lanka Trade Related Assistance Project and through technical assistance from UNIDO and the International Trade Centre (ITC). This, together with support from other private and public stakeholders, has been instrumental in achieving Sri Lanka's first GI certification

EU Ambassador Denis Chaibi said, "GI is not only about linking a product to a place; it is about recognising the skill and achievement of the people who produce it. In the case of Ceylon Cinnamon it is an endorsement of quality and an acknowledgement of the long tradition and rich history behind the production of this internationally renowned spice.

An enhanced competitive position for Ceylon Cinnamon in the EU market will increase exports for Sri Lanka, and bring higher income and more employment across the cinnamon value chain. I am happy that EU's trade assistance has supported Sri Lanka's efforts to obtain its first ever GI certification."

Sri Lanka enjoys a fruitful trading relationship with the EU. The EU is Sri Lanka's second largest export market and is a beneficiary of the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+), which provides tariff reduction on various products, and has given a big boost to the island's exporters. The European Union launched

the 'EU-Sri Lanka Trade Related Assistance' project in 2015 to increase trade and competitiveness of Sri Lankan SMEs in regional and EU markets. This eight million Euro project, implemented by ITC and UNIDO provided technical assistance to the National Quality Infrastructure, and the Food, Beverages, Spices and Con-



Luminex to go public

Luminex Limited will go for a Rs. 250 million Initial Public Offering (IPO) of 31,250,000 ordinary shares at Rs. 8 per share on May 12.

The issue amounts to a 11.52% stake of the company subsequent to the IPO.

The Rs. 250 mn raised from the IPO will be used to enhance the working capital to scale up by consolidating local operations. Navara Capital

Limited are the financial advisors and issue managers.

Luminex Limited is involved in telecom infrastructure engineering and also involved in electrical, civil and water projects as well.

The company has been in operation for over 35 years and completed over 850 projects in the past 10 years. It is a telecom OSP (Outside Plant) construction partner for Sri Lanka

Telecom and Dialog Axiata and a construction contractor for public and private entities. The company is empowered by a competent 570 inhouse workforce across eight operation centres and 29 project offices at present.

Luminex has been certified as EM1 by the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the main area of operation and it has also

obtained the ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management Certification awarded by Det Norske Veritas (DNV).

The Company has recorded an annual turnover of Rs. 2.55 bn for 2020-2021 and after-tax profit of 295 million. In the first nine months of the FY 2021-22 the company has recorded a turnover of Rs. 2.48 bn and after-tax profit of Rs. 453 million maintaining a healthy growth rate.

Inflation on steady rise

measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI, 2013=100) increased to 29.8% in April 2022 from 18.7% in March 2022.

This increase in Y-o-Y inflation was driven by the monthly increases of Food and Non-Food categories.

Subsequently, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 46.6% in April 2022 from 30.2% in March 2022, while Non-Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 22.0% in April 2022 from 13.4% in March 2022.

The monthly change of CCPI was recorded at 9.25% in April 2022 due to price increases observed in items of both Non-Food and Food categories which were 4.95% and

Accordingly, prices of

Headline inflation, as items in the Non-Food category recorded increases mainly due to price increases observed in the Transport (Petrol and Diesel), Education (Tuition fees), Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel (Housing rent, Maintenance and Reconstruction) and Restaurant and Hotels sub-categories. Within the Food category, increases were observed in prices of milk powder, rice, bread, dhal, sugar and dried fish during the month.

Annual average inflation rose to 11.3% in April 2022 from 9.1% in March 2022. The core inflation (Y-o-Y), which reflects the underlying inflation in the economy increased to 22.0% in April 2022 from 13.0% in March 2022, while annual average core inflation increased to 8.1% in April 2022 from 6.5% in March 2022.

Ukraine war

Food, energy price shocks could last for years - World Bank

WASHINGTON — The war in Ukraine has dealt a major shock to commodity markets, altering global patterns of trade, production, and consumption in ways that will keep prices at historically high levels through the end of 2024, according to the World Bank's latest Commodity Markets Outlook report.

The increase in energy prices over the past two years has been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis. Price increases for food commodities - of which Russia and Ukraine are large producers — and fertilizers, which rely on natural gas as a production input, have been the largest since 2008. "Overall, this amounts to the largest commodity shock we've experienced since the 1970s. As was the case then, the shock is being aggravated by a surge in restrictions in trade of food, fuel and fertilisers," said Indermit Gill, the World Bank's Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions. "These developments have started to raise the specter of stagflation. Policymakers should take every opportunity to increase economic growth at home and avoid actions that will bring harm to the global economy.

Energy prices are expected to rise more than 50 percent in 2022 before easing in 2023 and 2024. Non-energy prices, including agriculture and metals, are projected to increase almost 20 percent in 2022 and will also moderate in the following years. Nevertheless, commodity prices are expected to remain well above the most recent five-year average. In the event of a prolonged war, or additional sanctions on Russia, prices could be even higher and more volatile than currently projected.

Because of war-related trade and production disruptions, the price of Brent crude oil is expected to average \$100 a barrel in 2022, its highest level since 2013 and an increase of more than 40 percent compared to 2021. - World Bank

Business

Impact of crisis on condominium sector

BY ROHAN PARIKH

Sri Lanka is going through what appears to be a 'once in a generation' crisis, economically and politically. How would this impact the country's real estate market, particularly the market for residential condominiums?

First, it's important to understand that unlike, say, manufacturing or services, the impact on condominiums will be complex and mixed. This is because the situation has positive and negative implications and will impact demand and supply.

Positive implications

First, exploring the positives, real estate and residential condominiums provide investors a buffer to protect their wealth from unpredictable and rampant inflation - which has been one of the most prominent outcomes of the crisis in Sri Lanka. Inflation is at record levels already and by all indications will remain high in the immedi-

Since real estate is a long-term



asset class, nominal values of properties generally rise to match inflation, ensuring that the investor gains in real terms. Hence, real estate assets like residential condominiums represent a safe and long-term store of value, which can offset the impact of inflation and can be sold profitably, once normalcy returns.

This is in sharp contrast especially with financial asset classes such as stocks and bonds that carry high levels of risk and can be very volatile during a macro economic crisis such as the one we are experiencing. Hence, real estate can perform far better in protecting your wealth, compared with typical alternatives like cash or savings

accounts, that could lose value substantially and rapidly due to inflation.

Overall, real estate represents a tangible and solid asset that can provide security and stability to investors at a time when the value of items and the stability of companies and industries are in flux.

Negative implications

However, the current crisis can also negatively impact the real estate

There is a strong likelihood of a shortage of apartments in the medium term as new projects are cancelled or postponed due to the uncertainty regarding the cost of inputs and availability of necessary imports. Buyers could rush to purchase the existing condominiums available in the market, reducing the availability for other buyers.

Such shortages may also result in prices of condominiums increasing rapidly - which is however likely to benefit buyers who get in early. Funding such new investments could however, be challenging, given especially the rapid increase in interest rates.

Real estate developers and companies will also face significant constraints and challenges due to the inability to start new projects, as they would be uncertain of the prices of inputs. Hence, it will be difficult for developers to price apartments accurately. As projects are put on hold, employees in the sector could either face job losses or companies will have to contend with high overheads.

Need for additional caution

Low-quality developers who have invested in projects with low feasibility and who have heavy levels of borrowings are likely to be impacted far more than prudent, high-quality developers, given the above situation. Hence, buyers of residential condominiums need to take extra care to assess the feasibility of their developer, ensuring that they select only reputed developers with a strong track record.

The quality of future construction projects could also be compromised as imports will remain restricted in the medium term, leading to difficulty in procuring key components like kitchens and appliances.

There could also be a dampening impact on land prices (discounting inflationary pressure) as land purchases by developers slowdown. This can be also perceived as a positive, especially for buyers but will negatively impact sellers.

Weighing the positives and negatives, overall, real estate and residential condominiums are likely to remain an attractive investment class in Sri Lanka.

Long-term fundamentals remain relevant, especially considering that Sri Lanka has low levels of urbanisation and that vertical living clearly provides the only viable solution. Projects with sound business fundamentals, formulated by high-quality developers and which are aligned closely with market needs, will continue to be attractive investments.

The writer is the Chairperson of Iconic Developments

SLIM signs MoU with Vavuniya University

Offers scholarships for best marketing students



The exchange of the MoU

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Vavuniya at SLIM Home premises recently opening opportunities for the best performing marketing students of Vavuniya University to be a part of the vast SLIM-produced marketing fraternity.

The MoU was signed for five years with the Department of Marketing Management of the Faculty of Business Studies, with the aim of offering a gold medal and scholarship to the best marketing student pursuing the universi-

The aggressive tightening of mon-

etary policy is expected to contain

excessive inflationary pressure in the

economy thereby anchoring inflation-

ary expectations which is vital to estab-

lish a conducive environment for

rise in interest rates would discourage

lending and hamper economic growth

but would help address interest rate

anomalies and pressure on the

However, in the short run a notable

investments.

ty's Marketing Management Specialisation degree programme.

Dean, University of Vavuniya Faculty of Business Studies, Dr. Y. Nanthagopan said, "This collaboration expands the scope of the university's Marketing Management Specialisation degree programme, provides strategic value to the research by capturing the essence of marketing practices, and engages the students in extracurricular activities."

SLIM, Head of Education, Dr. Kapila Fonseka said, "The purpose of this scholarship is to give much-needed

exchange rate to a certain extent,

thereby attracting productive invest-

tightened monetary policy would be

instrumental in stabilising the external

value of the domestic currency facili-

ed to moderate in 2022 before strength-

ening in the period ahead with envis-

aged recovery in the global demand,

Earnings from exports are expect-

tating the influx of foreign exchange.

The report however notes that the

ments in the medium to long term.

guidance and support to best-performing marketing students who aspire to take an active leadership role in the corporate world. Each year, a deserving student following the Marketing Management Specialisation degree program at the Vavuniya University will be selected for the scholarship."

As the national body for marketing in the country, the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing has been at the forefront of enlightening the local marketing fraternity on best practices in research, branding, advertising, and sales since its inception in 1970.

favorable exchange rates and the poli-

cies to improve the tradable sector

while demand for imports is expected

to dampen due to tight monetary policy, difficulty in financing imports and

Global economic growth is estimat-

ed at 6.1 percent in 2021 compared to a

contraction of 3.1 percent in 2020

according to the World Economic Out-

look in the International Monetary

higher global commodity prices.

Fund released last month.

UTE marks 75th anniversary

United Tractor and Equipment (Pvt) Limited (UTE) celebrated its 75th anniversary

Commenting on the milestone reached by the company founded by his great grandfather, W.D. Fernando, Chairman of United Tractor & Equipment (Pvt) Limited, Prasan Fernando said, "As a company with a 75-year-old history, UTE represents the resilience of the nation that reaches 75 years since independence, navigating many setbacks with Sri Lanka and achieving a multitude of victories. Over the years, we have established market leadership across numerous industries we serve.

"We have forged partnerships

with many other world leading brands, and currently host an impressive portfolio of international market leaders. We continue to stand by our customers, enjoying deep seated relationships with them, living true to our mission; 'The Journey Continues...Long After the Sale."

Founded by W. D. Fernando in 1947, to handle the sales and after sales service of the Caterpillar (CAT) Tractor Company in Ceylon, UTE is an intergenerational powerhouse that continues to prioritise relationships in its corporate culture. Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, UTE is still familyowned and places relationships at the heart of its business culture.

MAS Holdings' Ocean Strainer among finalists



The hoisting of flags to mark the occasion.

MAS Holdings' Ocean Strainer was named a finalist in the Water category as a part of the 2022 World Changing Ideas Awards.

The 'Ocean Strainer' is a pilot floating trash trap installed in the Dehiwala canal in Colombo, and has expanded to eight other locations through open-source partnerships across the country since its launch in August 2020.

Research showed that rivers and canals are the sources of 80% of the plastic that reaches the ocean. Therefore, the team at MAS Holdings needed to address the marine plastic issue at the source by trapping and removing the waste before it reaches the ocean.

The result was the Ocean Strainer, a barrier made from a buoyant foam and canvas that floats across the length of the canal and traps plastic waste before reaching the ocean through the canal mouth. The waste is collected daily by an appointed resource person from the community along the canal, and project partners, Clean Ocean Force and the local Provincial Council sup-



Waste collected through the MAS Ocean Strainer port the collection and disposal of

garbage. With 100 km of the canal network in Sri Lanka, canals provided an

opportunity to develop an innovative yet simple solution that could be low cost and easily replicated across locations to create greater impact.

Now in its sixth year, the World Changing Ideas Awards showcase 39 winners, 350 finalists, and more than 600 honourable mentions — with climate, social justice, and AI and data among the most popular categories.

World Changing Ideas is one of Fast Company's major annual awards programs and is focused on social good, seeking to elevate finished products and brave concepts that make the world better.

A panel of judges from across sectors choose winners, finalists, and honourable mentions based on feasibility and the potential for

With the goals of awarding ingenuity and fostering innovation, Fast Company draws attention to ideas with great potential and helps them expand their reach to inspire more people to start working on solving the problems that affect us all.

EU provides emergency... Continued from page 25

External, fiscal fronts ... Continued from page 25

The funding is part of the EU's overall contribution to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The European Union together with its Member States is the world>s leading donor of humanitarian aid. Relief

assistance is an expression of European solidarity towards people in need around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and human-made crises.

Through its European Civil Protec-

tion and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the European Union helps over 120 million victims of conflicts and disasters every year. For more information, please visit ECHO's web-

The European Commission has signed a €3 million humanitarian contribution agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Funds from the DREF are mainly allocated to "smallscale" disasters - those that do not give rise to a formal international appeal.

Key economic sectors... Continued from page 25

However, according to the bank the economy recovered, albeit with several deeply entrenched structural problems and vulnerabilities inherited over several decades coming to the forefront, thereby resulting in unprecedented socio-political tensions in early 2022.

The economy was already in a fragile state lacking the necessary buffers to withstand shocks, when it was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and other multifaceted headwinds that emanated from the global and domestic fronts. Such vulnerability of the economy can be mainly attributed to the lack of fiscal space, which was further constrained by the changes introduced to the tax structure in late 2019.

Sri Lanka was not an exception in the world in deploying countermeasures to face the pandemic and safeguard the economy to forestall lasting economic fallout and scarring effects

However, given particular vulnerabilities in the economy, the Central Bank had to be heavily involved in shielding the economy through extraordinary responses, in the form of monetary policy easing, ample liquidity provision to the markets and the Government, and adopting several external sector and financial sector policies, in the absence of adequate policy space in the fiscal sector or an adequately prompt response from the fiscal sector.

The ultra easy macroeconomic policy package unveiled by the Central Bank and the Government helped the economic recovery in 2021 from the historical contraction recorded in 2020, while also helping cushion the impact of the pandemic on a broader segment of the stakeholders.

Both public and private sectors enjoyed the comfort of low cost funds for working capital and investment that helped them stay afloat during this difficult time, and keep industries viable, even witnessing some growth, which in turn ensured uninterrupted provision of public services, utilities and goods and services to the public as well as other essential supply chains.

However, unprecedented policy responses taken during the peak of the pandemic together with the inability to withdraw the policy measures due to expected fiscal responses not coming through adequately, caused a limited space for reversal measures and led to some unintended effects on macroeconomic stability last year, which were

further aggravated early this year. The pressures witnessed on the exchange rate amid dried up liquidity in the domestic foreign exchange market were amplified last year and early this year, warranting a measured adjustment that was allowed in the exchange rate in early March 2022, compared to the level that prevailed in the market amid concerns about the adverse impact of any large depreciation of the exchange rate on the society.

However, the outcome of the exchange rate flexibility that was thereafter allowed also in early March 2022, fell short of expectations due to the large overshooting by market forces, reflecting the significant liquidity pressures that prevailed in the domestic foreign exchange market and the delay in market correction.

Unofficial import ... Continued from page 25

On the IMF program the governor expressed optimism of a staff level agreement that would be reached between Sri Lanka and the IMF and a program to be in place to support the country's balance of payment within the next three months.

"I am confident we could reach an agreement with the IMF get on with the supported program within a round three months which thereafter would infuse some stability to the economy," Dr. Weerasinghe said.

According to the CB chief, the first round of discussions with the global lender on the sidelines of the IMF spring meetings in Washington last week had been satis-

"We are pleased with the outcome of the first discussion with the IMF senior staff in Washington where the IMF assured its support to help Sri Lanka," the Central Bank governor said.

However, the international lender said recently that Sri Lanka faces "solvency" issues because of risks stemming from unsustainable debt levels that jeopardise the nation's economy.

A summary of the report

released earlier in the month said Sri Lanka faced unsustainable debt levels and needed a "credible and coherent" strategy to restore stability.

It stressed that an approval of an IMF-supported program for Sri Lanka would need adequate assurances that debt sustainability will be restored.

"Based on staff analysis, the fiscal consolidation necessary to bring debt down to safe levels would require excessive adjustment over the coming years, pointing to a clear solvency problem," the IMF said in its Article IV consultation report, released last month in Washington.

Sri Lanka will arrive at an agreement for an Extended Fund Facility program as it did in 2009 to support the country get over the balance of payment crisis.

On the discussion with creditors the governor said the IMF will commence its program following the progress with the discussion with creditors.

The IMF team welcomed the authorities' plan to engage in a collaborative dialogue with their creditors at its meeting in Wash-

Difference between an average salesperson and a high-performing professional



he difference between a high performing salesman and an average salesman is enormous.

While the average salesperson hits the given target, most of the time, the excellent performer is not only consistent but also hits blowout figures every now and then. Good salespeople earn respect, admiration, loyalty, and more importantly, referrals from almost every customer they come across.

In my long career in sales coaching, I have repeatedly told my trainees that they can build a lifelong sales pipeline for their careers and a strong power base for their personal lives.

A good salesperson becomes a lifetime acquaintance of the customer. They have more to offer than an exciting sales pitch. By studying and understanding customers' general behaviour, and needs, the salesperson has more chances than anyone else to show empathy towards them. Hence, the customer can become a lasting friend and associate of the salesperson.

Therefore, if you pursue greatness in your selling career, follow the rules discussed here to become a top-selling professional in your team

The buyer persona is a detailed and specific description of the prospects representing your target audience. This is a crucial factor in the sales process. Before getting into the deep end, salesmen must deeply study the general behavioural patterns of the target

The salesperson must know his or her product extremely well, because selling skills win only half the battle. Understanding what you sell, the benefits it provides to the prospect in the short and long term, why the price paid for the product is justifiable, and, most importantly, where you stand in comparison to your competitors is critical.

The simple reason is that, in the selling process, you are invariably confronted by the

prospects with a barrage of questions before buying. This is called "handling objections," and it is one of the most vital steps in the sales process. Without objections, a sale does not take place. On the other hand, failing to manage objections will most likely cost you the sale. Hence, it is essential that the salesperson be exceptionally thorough in product knowledge

Smart salesmen understand the buyer personas of their target clientele. Hence, they always find the best strategies and techniques to approach the prospects effectively. These shortcuts not only save valuable time, which is one of the most critical ingredients in the process, but also increase the hit rate. Good salespeople repeatedly use these unique tactics until these maneuvers stop producing results.

Most often, salespeople work against the clock, and they have no time to waste experimenting. These unique approaches mean that they have time to pursue more customers. This does not, however, imply that the salesperson must always use the same tactic, but must vary it depending on the selling situation.

In my previous articles, I have pointed out that inadequate listening can be fatal to the positive result of a sale. Let me tell you the other side of the coin. Good performers are completely engaged, in mind and body, whenever they talk to a prospect. While in conversation with a prospect, they would not allow their minds to wander. This makes a sales discussion more meaningful and deep, which any prospect would admire.

Therefore, salespeople must realise that active listening is one of the most important tools in successful selling and yet the most difficult skills to develop.

Listening is a soft skill that has incredible value in the selling profession. Habitually, salesmen care more about what they have to say about the product they sell than they listen patiently to the prospect. Great salesmen develop listening skills for better performance.

Selling is perhaps one of the few professions that has no limit both in achievement and income. In my junior days, I was taught by my then superiors that more prospects

meant more happiness for a salesperson.

Therefore, working hard without being



complacent about past achievements is another strong characteristic of a successful salesman. Salesmen should be on standby mode 24x7x365. "More the merrier" must be the motto of salespeople.

There are several selling theories, such as the "need satisfaction," "stimulus-response," and "disequilibrium" method, that sales trainers teach their trainees. However, instead of hanging on to these laid-down models, I have always guided my sales team to avoid following a "one size fits all" mentality and instead personalise the presentation depending on the situation and the prospect's individuality. High-performing salesmen always produce a tailor-made message to address the unique pain points of the prospect.

Fun

Learning never stops. No matter how successful you are, there are others who are smarter than you, and there is always more to learn. Therefore, shadowing your peers within the team, time and again, gives you more insight into the target prospects.

Smart salespeople pair up with others who are during customer visits and learn a few tricks from them. It could also be fun and also strengthen relationships with your coworkers.

Salesmen are customarily known to have friendly and suave qualities. Hence, early in their careers, they learn small talk to build up relationships with prospects. High-performing salespeople practise networking at a simple house party or at a highly professional conference with equal ease. They make other people feel at ease, genuinely. Practicing people skills at any time can produce amazing results.

The old adage "salesmen sell ice to Eskimos" is no longer valid. However, the negative perspective that salesmen can be perceptive operators is still looming around. That is one reason why, unlike in the past, salesmen should not be overly persistent in a sales situation. More importantly, they must know when to walk away.

Smart and performing salesmen never

waste their time as well as the customers'. Therefore, it is extremely important to read the prospect's reaction and buy or reject signals. Over talking or pushing the customer beyond the boiling point may produce lasting animosity.

The salesperson's honesty towards the

The salesperson's honesty towards the customer, the product, and the company. Customers can see and feel the salesperson's decency when a sales discussion takes place. Good salespeople never exaggerate or lie

Good salespeople never exaggerate or lie about a product feature or benefit. They never promise a feature that does not exist, a price they cannot deliver, or a service that cannot be given

about a product feature or benefit. They never promise a feature that does not exist, a price they cannot deliver, or a service that cannot be given. When the salesperson is genuine, the relationship built can continue even if the sale does not happen.

High-performing salespeople are egodriven. They understand that they will not be able to win every deal they come across. Rejection is hard for every person, whether they are in sales or not. However, both good and average salespeople confront rejections throughout their careers.

Pressur

Therefore, withstanding the pressure of rejection positively and rolling with it to the next prospect is an integral part of the sales mentality. However, some salespeople leave the profession merely because they lack the courage to proceed further after losing a few sales opportunities.

The customer is the most important person in your life who pays for your living. Hence, great salesmen believe that being a problem solver for the customer is as important as helping a close acquaintance. They do not oversell products or services.

A consultative selling approach allows the salesperson to be honest with the customer, and it builds strong and lasting relationships. Customers treat a salesman as an expert on the subject and expect him to advise honestly. By being open and honest with the customer, a good salesman derives amazing results, not only through a completed sale but also through renewals, repeat sales, and referrals.

Finally, selling is using common sense at the right time. There is no specific, clear-cut method to being a good salesman. Sales success depends on many factors, such as personal traits, selling skills and other soft skills, knowledge, enthusiasm, and many more. When someone has a passion, a genuine interest in working with people, and self-determination, they become high performing professionals.

Export outlook dims amid economic challenges - *Survey*

indings from the latest biannual Export Barometer Survey indicate that exporters are losing confidence in the industry's outlook, as firms face mounting challenges posed by increasing local and global economic risks.

This survey was conducted by the

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Partnership for Accelerating Results in Trade, National Expenditure and Revenue (PARTNER) project. This is the second in the series, following the successful launch of the first survey report in November 2021.

The survey, compiled in February-

March 2022, received responses from 173 exporters of goods and services, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and women-owned and/ or led enterprises.

The Barometer survey series continues to track exporter sentiments on key issues relating to industry competitiveness, such as digitalisation, transport, logistics, and facilitation. The survey also explored current challenges caused by the foreign exchange shortage and other internal and external economic factors and strategies implemented by companies to navigate these challenges.

The findings drawn from the survey indicate a fall in confidence in exporter outlook for the first half of 2022 as a result of these challenges. The key insights of the survey are as follows:

1. Strong performance in exports continues despite the increase in underutilised capacity

A majority of exporters saw an increase in revenue during the second half of 2021, in line with the strong export performance recorded by the country during the period. However, there was an increase in underutilised capacity during the second half of 2021, compared to the first half of the year.

2. Foreign exchange shortage continues to pose significant challenges to exporters

Due to the foreign exchange shortage, exporters faced difficulties in sourcing production and service input, 72% of the firms have lost suppliers/faced delays by suppliers due to foreign exchange shortage

56% of firms are significantly affected by the forex crisis due to delayed exports. A majority of these forms were SMEs exchange shortage

Significantly

Marginally

Affected but not the ability to export

4%

with 72% of export firms having lost suppliers or faced delays in sourcing. The majority of firms, particularly SMEs, were concerned about their ability to export in the future, due to production/service delays or losses in suppliers resulting from forex shortages.

3. Firms consider cost-cutting

measures related to future hiring

A significant number of exporters are considering cost-cutting measures, such as reduction in hiring and freezing contract/part-time employment, due to the ongoing economic climate. Despite this sentiment, most firms in the second half of 2021 have retained their employees, while keeping training budgets unchanged.

4. Most export orders are B2B and digital adoption stable

Most exporters continued export orders on the Business-to-Business (B2B) model, compared to Business-to-Consumers (B2C). Similar to the previous survey's findings, firms are leveraging online channels to drive sales, although they continue to provide less than 25% of total revenue for the majority of firms. As such, there has not been a significant improvement in the utilisation of the digital landscape for exports during the last six months of 2021.

5. New export opportunities fall Only 60% of firms have found new export opportunities, compared to 75% in the previous survey. However, both SMEs and women-owned and/or led businesses have found new opportunities, and this number is higher compared to the previous survey.

6. Market-determined exchange required to facilitate competitiveness

Exporters stated that they require market access support and improvement in the regulatory process and recommended that a market-determined exchange rate be allowed to facilitate export competitiveness.

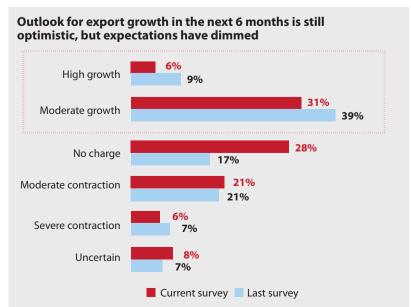
7. Confidence in export outlook dims as local and global economic risks increase

A fall in confidence in export outlook can be observed, compared to the previous survey. However, exporters continued to be more confident about the growth of their export business in the first half of 2022 than in the economic outlook. This export growth is

expected to be driven by significantly higher unit prices of export orders.

USAID's Partnership for Accelerating Results in Trade, National Expenditure and Revenue (PARTNER) project helps to minimise bottlenecks to trade, as well as strengthens Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and the capacity of small and medium enterprises, private sector associations, and chambers of commerce to promote a vibrant private sector in Sri Lanka.

This project is one component of the longstanding partnership between the American and Sri Lankan people to support self-reliance and promote a healthy, educated, and employed population.



Granbell Hotel Colombo opens

The Granbell Hotel Colombo opened its doors last week welcoming visitors to experience a fusion of Japanese and Sri Lankan hospitality

The property is owned and managed by a Japanese company, Belluna Co. Ltd, a listed company in the Tokyo Stock exchange.

The Granbell Hotel Colombo, adds to a growing portfolio of properties around the world owned and managed by Belluna. Co. Ltd. The hotel chain includes17 properties in Japan, one in Hawaii, one in the Maldives and two in Sri Lanka.

The chief guest, the Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mizukoshi Hideaki together with several invitees including, -the Presidentof Belluna Co.Ltd., Kiyoshi Yasuno were also present.

The launch of the hotel is in line with the long-standing friendship between Sri Lanka and Japan, which dates back over 70 years.

The project commenced in 2016 with a foreign direct investment of USD 60 million. The construction work was carried out by Hazama Ando Corporation of Japan and was completed in line with the highest construction standards, combining

Japanese architecture and Sri Lankan craftsmanship. Today, the hotel provides a large number of employment opportunities for the local communities, in a post pandemic era, further strengthening the economic revival of the nation. The hotel ensures high-quality Japanese service standards, and operations will be carried out with the strictest attention to detail and efficiency.

With a sustainable design concept with open air corridors, the Granbell Hotel Colombois located in proximity to the Colpetty Railway Station in the heart of Colombo and provides a host of exciting facilities and services. This includes a rooftop infinity pool and bar, gymnasium, spa, yoga, dance studio and an all-day dining restaurant.

The hotel features a mix of Sri Lankan and Japanese design, and elegant interiors that match the coastal surroundings and vistas, promising an ideal island getaway. Chief Executive Officer of Bel-

Chief Executive Officer of Belluna, Kiyoshi Yasuno said, "The Granbell Hotel Colombo not only looks to become Sri Lanka's newest city escape, but also to revitalise the overall hospitality industry of the nation."



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

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: 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 indus-

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.

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 reviv-

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

payments and services by the state reality. 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

holidays, writing off of all statutory desired objectives will be far from

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

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 dayto-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 experi-

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 Hoursinformal 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 inhouse committee decides the style and temperament of the events the rest of the employees enjoy every year. They organize both competitive and noncompetitive events, from inter-tribe games and tournaments to annual vents 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 ecofriendly 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

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

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

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 percent of time and 30 percent 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 energyefficient, 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

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 posi-

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

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 governmentowned entities efficient and self-sufficient. This would mean focusing on performance and output. The fifth point is to bring about good govern-

ance 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

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, highlyexperienced 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 sportsperson'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 worldclass 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

"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

National Single Window: paving the way for paperless trade

BY MITHARA FONSEKA AND KAVISHKA INDRARATNA

n 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 fulfil 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 Malay-

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 transpar-

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 Realties, Mohsen Dehghan following the signing of the partnership agreement. Looking on are (from left): Director, Sales & Marketing, Blue Star Realties, 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 Realties, Sanjeewa 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 wom-

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 9th 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 .

The last date for submission of EOI with all prescribed documents is 23rd 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.
- O 3 phase electricity.
- O Pipe-borne water. O Located in an industrial area.

O 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 21st May 2022.

Email: mslrinfo@msl.lk

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

Management Systems (Pvt) Ltd.

⊠ No: 08 Tickell Road, Colombo 08. ⊞ mslr@sltnet.lk



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: 01st 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
- 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

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement/Contract Management Specialist, Strategic Cities Development Programme, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla, Telephone No 0112887320/1Fax No:-0112868188 Email: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, 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage 1, Battaramulla from 10th May 2022 until 30th May 2022 from 0.0900 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 18th May 2022 at 11.00 hrs at Project Implementation Unit (PIU), AIUDP - SCDP office, No 06/393 Wewa Road, Harischandra Mawatha, Stage I, 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 26th October 2022 accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR 4.800,000.00as per the given format. The Bid Security shall be valid up to 23rd November 2022.
- 10. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before 01st June 2022at 1400 hrs. Late bids will be rejected.
- 11. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of 01st 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, 4th 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



- 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 09th May to 13th 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 23rd May, 2022.



El Toro Roofing Products Limited,

No 752, Baseline Road, Colombo 9.



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" 16th 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 Embolim (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/	Closing	Closing	Item	Qty
Bid Reference	Date	Time	(Refer SPC Web Site)	
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" 16th 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", 16TH FLOOR, NO. 41, KIRULA ROAD, COLOMBO 5.

TELEPHONE: 00 94-11-2335008 FAX : 00 94-11- 2582495 E-MAIL : dgmsurgical@spc.lk

SRI LANKA.

ACTG. CHAIRMAN - STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION On behalf of CHAIRMAN - DEPARTMENTAL PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA "MEHEWARA PIYASA", 16TH FLOOR, NO. 41, KIRULA ROAD, COLOMBO 5. SRI LANKA.



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 peoplein-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 1 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

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 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

by those who know them well, so parents have to be alert on who their children associate with.

Muscle memory

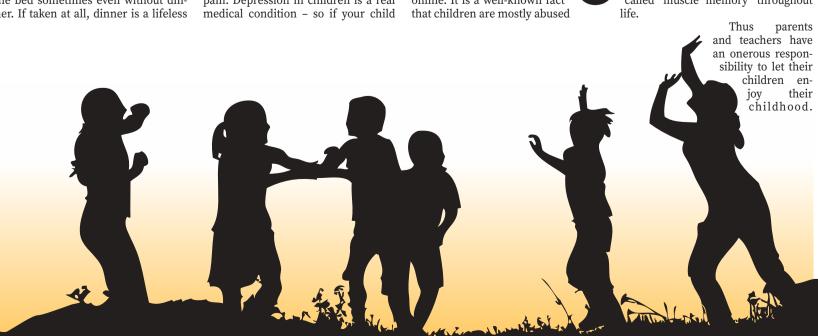
Smartphone and TV addiction affects the children's mental and physical development, for play in the physical sense of the word is essential for them. Research also suggests that prolonged exposure to the blue light of LCD screens can also affect the eyesight of children, unless they use so-called computer 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 socalled 'muscle memory' throughout

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.



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.

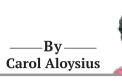




Health

Are you suffering from 'wear and tear' arthritis?

Women over 55 years most at risk of developing it



steoarthritis is on the rise both globally and in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately not many victims of this chronic and common joint condition are even aware they have it until their bones have degenerated to an advanced stage. Caught up in the hectic pace of life, many women often tend to neglect telling signs and symptoms of joint aches and pains which are a warning that all this excessive exercise on their already degenerating joints could have aggravated the onset if not existing wear and tear arthritis commonly known as Osteoarthritis (OA).

Concerned bone specialists are thus raising awareness on the disease and devoting an entire month for it in order to raise more public awareness on a subject that has been sidelined up

The Sunday Observer asked Head of Rehabilitation Services, MJF Charitable Foundation, Dr. Gopi Kitnasamy who has wide experience in this field to share some of his expertise with our

Osteoarthritis seems to be rapidly increasing among Sri Lankans judging by the number of patients currently undergoing treatment for this condition. Explain what exactly is osteoarthritis?

A: Osteoarthritis (OA) is sometimes called degenerative joint disease or 'wear and tear' arthritis. It is the most common chronic condition of the joints. It occurs when the cartilage or cushion between joints breaks down leading to pain, stiffness and swelling. In normal joints, a firm, rubbery material called cartilage covers the end of each bone. Cartilage provides a smooth, gliding surface for joint motion and acts as a cushion between the bones. In OA, the cartilage breaks down, causing pain, swelling and problems moving the joint. OA can affect any joint, but it occurs most often in knees, hips, lower back and neck, small joints of the fingers and the bases of the thumb and big toe.

Who are those most at risk

A: Although OA occurs in people of all ages, osteoarthritis is most common in people older than 50. Common risk factors include increasing age, obesity, previous joint injury, overuse of the joint, weak thigh muscles, and genes. One in two adults will develop symptoms of knee OA during their lives. One in four adults will development symptoms of hip OA by age 65. One in 12 people 60 years or older have hand OA.

What is the most common

A: Osteoarthritis of the knee. It occurs mostly in people 50 years and older, but may occur in younger people,

What causes this condition? How long does it take to develop?

A: In OA Knee, the cartilage in the knee joint gradually wears away. As the cartilage wears away, it becomes frayed and rough, and the protective space between the bones decreases. This can result in bone rubbing on bone, and produce painful bone spurs. Osteoarthritis develops slowly and the pain it causes worsens over time.

Symptoms?

A: A knee joint affected by arthritis may be painful and inflamed. Generally, the pain develops gradually over time, although sudden onset is also possible. Other symptoms include:

The joint may become stiff and swollen, making it difficult to bend



Dr. Gopi Kitnasamy

confirm the diagnosis.

Magnetic resonance imaging

(MRI) offers better images of cartilage

and other structures to detect early ab-

Is it curable? Treatable? If

A: There is no cure for arthritis,

but there are a number of treatments

that may help relieve the pain and dis-

ability it can cause. Initial treatment is

nonsurgical. Your doctor may recom-

mend a range of treatment options.

They include: Lifestyle modifications

in your daily life, which can protect your knee joint and slow the progress

of arthritis; minimising activities that

aggravate the condition, such as climb-

ing stairs. Switching from high impact

activities (like jogging or tennis) to

lower impact activities (like swimming

or cycling) will put less stress on your

knee. Losing weight can reduce stress

on the knee joint, resulting in less pain

As a Physiotherapist, how

A: Our treatment includes both Ex-

ercise and Electrotherapy like SWD,

Ultrasound, and Laser, with specific

exercises to increase range of motion

and flexibility and strengthen the mus-

cles in your leg. Your Physiotherapist

will develop an individualised exercise

program that meets your needs and

Are there any other options?

A: Use of assisted aids such as a

cane, wearing shock-absorbing shoes

or inserts, or wearing a brace or knee

sleeve can be helpful. A brace assists

stability and function and may be es-

pecially helpful if the arthritis is cen-

tered on one side of the knee. These

should be used only for a short period

as using braces and support for long

periods can weaken your muscles sup-

A: Applying heat or ice, using pain-

relieving ointments or creams, wear-

ing elastic bandages to provide sup-

port to the knee may provide some

relief from pain. Alternative therapies

to treat pain include the use of acu-

puncture and magnetic pulse therapy.

If you do try them, find a qualified

practitioner and keep your doctor in-

formed of your decision.

Other remedies?

porting the knee.

does Physiotherapy help OA pa-

and increased function.

lifestyle.

normalities typical of osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis affecting different joints

and straighten the knee.

Pain and swelling may be worse in the morning or after sitting or resting

Vigorous activity may cause pain to flare up. Loose fragments of cartilage and other tissue can interfere with the smooth motion of joints. The knee may 'lock' or "stick" during movement. It may creak, click, snap or make a grinding noise (crepitus).

Pain may cause a feeling of weakness or buckling in the knee Many people with arthritis note increased joint pain with rainy or cold weather.

Contributory or risk factors

Age: - Old age is a significant risk factor for development of knee OA, as the joints experience normal wear

Sex: Women are more likely to develop osteoarthritis, though it isn't

Genes: Various genetic traits can make a person more likely to develop OA. One possibility is a rare defect in the body's production of collagen, the protein that makes up cartilage. This abnormality can cause osteoarthritis to occur as early as age 20. Other inherited traits may result in slight defects in the way the bones fit together so that cartilage wears away faster

Weight: Being overweight puts additional pressure on hips and knees. Many years of carrying extra pounds can cause the cartilage that cushions joints to break down faster.

Injury and overuse: Repetitive movements or injuries to joints (such as a fracture, surgery or ligament tears) can lead to osteoarthritis. Some athletes, for example, repeatedly damage joints, tendons and ligaments,

which can speed cartilage breakdown. Bone/joint deformities: Some people are born with malformed joints or defective cartilage, which can increase the risk of osteoarthritis

Certain careers that require standing for long periods of time, repetitive bending, heavy lifting or other movements can also make cartilage wear away more quickly.

An imbalance or weakness of the muscles supporting a joint can also lead to altered movement and eventual cartilage breakdown in joints. Other factors include; bone and joint disorders like rheumatoid arthritis, certain metabolic disorders such as hemochromatosis, which causes the body to absorb too much iron, or acromegaly, which causes the body to make too much growth hormone.

How is it diagnosed?

A: Diagnostic methods include: Physical Examination where the doctor will examine the joints and test their range of motion (how well each joint moves through its full range). He will be looking for areas that are tender, painful or swollen as well as signs of joint damage. The doctor will examine the position and alignment of the neck and spine. A diagnosis of osteoarthritis may be suspected after a medical history and physical examination is

X-rays can show damage and other changes related to osteoarthritis to

What about medications?

A: Several types of drugs are useful in treating arthritis of the knee. Because people respond differently to medications, your doctor will work closely with you to determine the medications and dosages that are safe and effective for you.

What about surgery? When is it recommended?

A: Your doctor may recommend surgery if your pain from arthritis causes disability and is not relieved with non-surgical treatment. Rehabilitation post-surgery must be properly supervised which is very important for the full recovery and returning back to

Can eating the right food

A: A diet rich in fruits and vegetables has been shown to help reduce inflammation and pain in your joints. Antioxidants may help prevent arthritis, slow its progression, and relieve pain. Being at a healthy weight is a critical component to managing OA of the knees. The antioxidant vitamin C is necessary for cartilage development. A lack of vitamin C can lead to weakened cartilage and increase osteoarthritis symptoms. Some research shows that vitamin D can help prevent the breakdown of cartilage, and decrease the risk of joint space narrowing. The healthiest fats for people with osteoarthritis (or other inflammatory disorders) are omega-3 fatty acids. Some foods which are rich in omega-3 are salmon, herring, mackerel, sardines, anchovies, rainbow trout, Pacific oysters, omega-3-fortified eggs, flaxseed and walnuts. Some spices have anti-inflammatory effects, too. Among the most promising are ginger and turmeric.



A: Exercise is the best non drug therapy for OA.

The best exercises are strengthening exercises to maintain and improve muscle strength. Strong muscles can support and protect joints that are affected by arthritis. Two types of exercise are particularly good for most people with osteoarthritis. Walking lowers the risk of fractures (by stopping or slowing down the loss of bone mass) and tones muscles that support joints, but avoid going for long walks and walking on hills.

Aquatic (in water) exercises, particularly helpful for people just beginning to exercise as well as those who are overweight. Aquatic exercises do not involve swimming; rather they are performed while standing in about shoulder-height water. The water helps relieve the pressure of your body's weight on the affected joints (hips and knees in particular), while providing resistance for your muscles to get stronger. Regular aquatic exercise can help relieve pain and improve daily function in people with hip and knee OA.

Will water exercise help those with obesity problems since obesity is one cause for OA?

A: Overweight and obese adults may have functional limitations that result in difficulty performing traditional weight-bearing exercises and activities. Water exercise is a commonly recommended alternative due to the potential therapeutic qualities of water. Weight loss involves burning more calories than a person ingests. Understanding this one basic fact takes the magic and intimidation factor out of the weight-loss equation. Water exercise allows people to work out longer at lower intensities, thereby burning more calories than shorter duration, high-intensity exercise.

Your advice to patients?

A: Lose weight, eat right and exercise. Avoid wearing pointed and high heels. Use appropriate footwear.









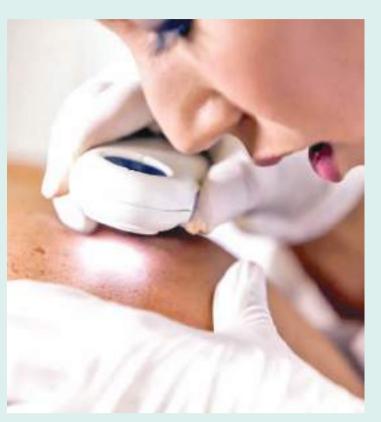




Normal and Osteoarthritis affected Knee

Medi Snips

Prevent Melanoma? These tips from a Dermatologist may help you



COMPILED BY CAROL ALOYSIUS

Following fears from the reported surge in Melanoma worldwide and in Asian countries as well, oncologists have come together to offer some useful and valuable guidelines on how to prevent this skin cancer which is mostly caused by too much sun exposure.

The Sunday Observer asked leading Consultant Dermatologist Dr Januka Galahitiyawa whose full length article also appears on the main section of this page, to share some of her expertise on the subject.

Our first question to her was if it was correct that over exposure of the skin to the sun's ultraviolet rays was a leading cause and eventually could lead to skin cancer.

In reply she said, "Studies have shown that when your skin is unprotected from the sun, ultraviolet (UV) radiation can damage your DNA. If the body is unable to repair this damage the cell can begin to divide and grow in an uncontrolled way. This growth can eventually form a

"UV radiation is made up of UVA and UVB rays which can penetrate the skin and cause permanent damage, contributing to melanoma and other skin cancers, sunburn, skin ageing and eye damage, UVA penetrates deeply into the skin (the dermis) causing genetic damage to cells, photo-ageing (wrinkling, blotchiness etc) and immune-suppression. UVB penetrates the top layer of the skin (the epidermis) causing damage to the cells. UVB is responsible for sunburn – a significant risk factor for skin cancer, especially melanoma.", she added.

Asked if we could prevent Melanoma she said," No one can prevent melanoma entirely: sometimes it happens because of a genetic mutation, which is beyond your control. However, some melanomas are related to sunlight"

Medi snips then asked if there were some tips which she could offer to prevent over exposure to the harmful Ultraviolet Rays.(

In reply, she gave us the following guidelines:

• You should never use tanning beds or artificial tanning machines: they expose your skin to very strong UV light and have been linked to skin cancer.

• Staying indoors or in the shade as much as possible between 11 am and 3 pm.

• Try not to get sunburnt at

• Covering with clothes and a wide-brimmed hat when out in the sunshine. • Applying sunscreen with a

sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 (SPF 30 for children or people with pale skin) which also has high ultraviolet A (UVA) protection.

" STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT WHEN YOUR SKIN IS UNPROTECTED FROM THE SUN, **ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION CAN** DAMAGE YOUR DNA. IF THE **BODY IS UNABLE TO REPAIR** THIS DAMAGE THE CELL CAN **BEGIN TO DIVIDE AND GROW IN** AN UNCONTROLLED WAY. THIS **GROWTH CAN EVENTUALLY** FORM A TUMOUR."

These tips are particularly relevant to children and teenagers - particularly teenagers who might be tempted to use sun tanning booths:

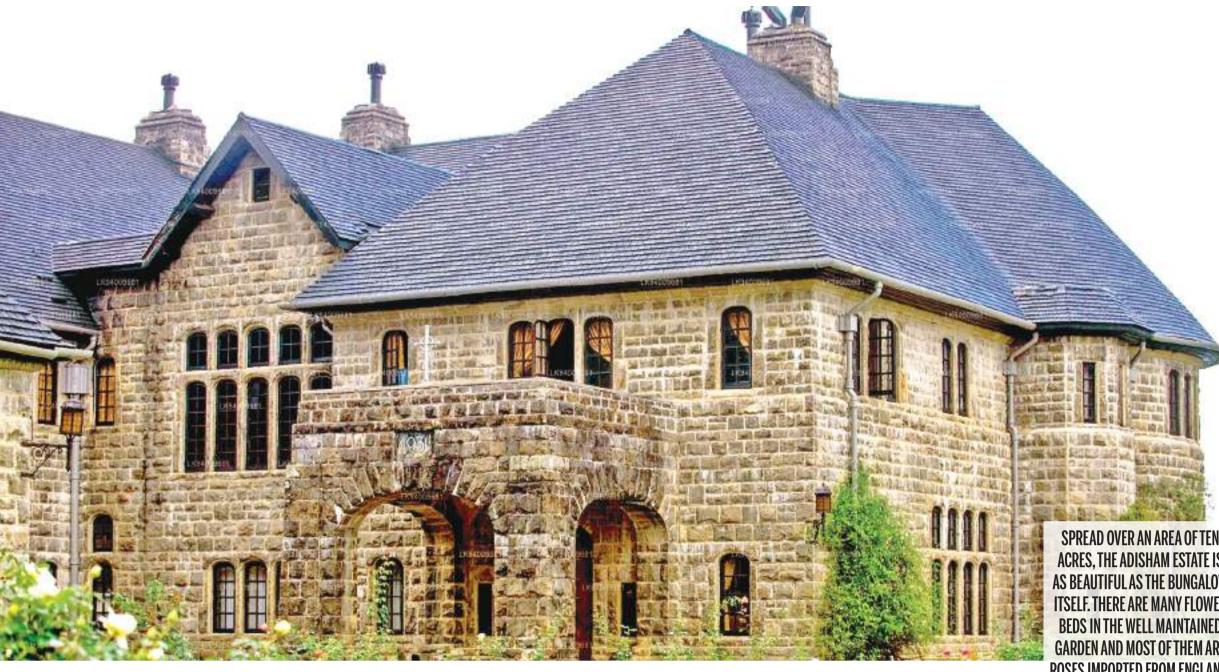
However, avoiding all sunlight is generally not a good idea and, even if you have a family history of melanoma, probably won't reduce your

If there is a suspected lesion, like a wart, mole, lump in the skin you should get immediate medical opinion from a dermatologist. Sri Lankan doctors have the expertise. Don't wait .Go to any OPD which has a skin clinic and get yourself diagnosed first to rule out any other skin infection. Today with so much advance in treatments Melanoma is among the most curable cancers and often with just the first removal of the lesions most patients are free of the disease."



A tale of grandeur and beauty

Adisham Bungalow



SHALUKA MANCHANAYAKE AND **GAYAN NARANDENIYA**

hen 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, Ladv 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 cul-

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

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

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 Stuart Group in 1949 and sold the Adis-

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

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

Gandhi's doctrine of Satyagraha

NAGALINGAM KUMARAKURUPARAN

ahatma 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 Bhagawad Gita and practised the principles enunciated in it.

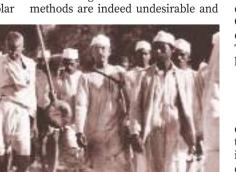
The other was Kautilya who propounded a political theory and implemented it successfully.

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



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 genera-

-The writer is a freelance journalist and Indologist based in Hyderabad, India.

SANGEETHA MEGAM A tribute to Tamil cine greats

f 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 Illaiyarajah, 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 Ilaiyaraja 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



medleys put together to bring back memories and a live performance of Soundarie's original love melody

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, Abinesh Ravichandran, Amaan Rifai and Tanuja Joseph Varghese to the stage.

Sangeetha Megam directed by Soundarie David Rodrigo will premiere at the Elphinstone Theatre Counique arrangements of music and lombo 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 Thapala, 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

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

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.



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

Identifying staple crops that re- other millets, Kurakkan is also pest quire minimal human intervention 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, Hambantoda, 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

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 stonemade 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 is a culinary researcher and recipe 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

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

Demand for pet-sitting rises as pet parents return to offices

ue 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 timeframe. 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 Kcamya 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 Kcamya, 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 permissions 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 Pekhom 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



Soil degradation issues in Sri Lanka

BY ABHAYA KENDARAGAMA

ri Lanka is a land-limited country with respect to an ever-increasing human population. According to estimates in 2007, out of total land extent of 6.56 million hectares, 65 percent was allocated for agriculture and, therefore, directly subject to degradation in considerable cases because of mismanagement of the soil resource base.

Most other land uses such as construction of houses and other buildings, roads, and highways, wastes, and sewage disposal systems also contribute to severe degradation caused by haphazard soil disturbances. Soil degradation refers to the deterioration of one or more functions in the soil leading to declining quality of the earth's bio-physical environment.

This declining capability is a result of the impact of human-induced activities on the land. The major degradation factors include soil erosion, loss of active land surface, landslides, acidification, soil sealing and crust formation and water logging. This land degradation, in most cases, ends with adverse ecological, hydrological, environmental, community or human health aftermaths.

This article aims to increase awareness of the public regarding important soil related land degradation processes occurring in an accelerated manner in the country. It will also discuss possible and potential aftermaths originating from such degradation, institutional and community responsibilities to address the emerging issues in sustainable manner and the need to implement a disaster management plan for effective mitigation.

Soil erosion

Soil erosion means loss of surface soil by the influence of moving water or wind and occurs in an accelerated manner in exploited lands.

In agricultural fields, most uplands are already degraded due to soil erosion. This physical process has been much more prevalent in the central highlands and rolling to undulating terrain than in the surrounding plains. For example, soil loss due to erosion in marginal tea lands recorded in 2020 at Dolosbage village near Gampolacity was 37.36 tons from one hectare land during one year and in vegetable lands recorded in 2018 at Udawatte village near Hanguranketha city, it was 50.6 tons from one hectare in a year.

Soil erosion processes reduce land qualities such as soil depth and crop growing potential of uplands in steep terrain, soil fertility, crop yields and quality, floral biodiversity, groundwater retention for home gardens, beauty of waterfalls and quality of surface water. Continuation of such adverse changes in these qualities will one day collectively result in a massive ecological aftermath in central highlands in the country.

On the other hand, eroded soil materials get deposited in reservoirs, thus reducing their capacity for water storage, hydropower generation and



crop irrigation in downstream areas.

materials such as nitrates and phos-

phates contribute to pollution of water

in reservoir storage. In the past few

decades, seasonal occurrence of al-

gal blooms resulting from accelerated

eutrophication processes in water in

some major tanks provides evidences

paddy lands in the country have been

well protected against soil erosion by

establishing irrigation terraces since

ancient times. In contrast, uplands ex-

posed to erosion from dry-land farm-

ing need the protection of conserva-

place during land development ac-

tivities such as construction of hous-

es and other buildings, expansion of

roads, construction of roads and high-

ways, and layering of underground

power transmission cables and water

conveying tubes particularly when

commencing earth excavation work

during rain spells. Adhering to guide-

lines already formulated for such

earth excavations help mitigate pos-

Loss of land surface

the net decrease in extent of produc-

tive land because of soil erosion or

complete earth removal in develop-

lands should have minimum of 80 per-

cent surface covered by active soil. Sit-

uations such as exposure of bed rock

and formation of gullies are some ex-

amples of the loss of active land sur-

face in the field. This land degrada-

tion is a consequence of soil erosion.

Measures have been recommended to

restore such degraded lands that the

vation of earth materials from land

parcels for development projects and

mining of earth resources such as clay,

sand and gem for industries are the

most common examples of the loss

of active land surface. For instance,

sand mining has been reported from

streams such as Mahaweli River, Ma

Oya and Deduru Oya; gem mining in

the Ratnapura and Matale districts;

and clay mining at Meetiyagoda.

In urban areas, complete exca-

public should be made aware of.

Loss of active land surface means

In agricultural fields, farming

sible adverse effects.

ment activities.

In urban areas, soil erosion takes

tion practices in a similar manner.

From a conservation point of view,

for this environmental aftermath.

Water soluble constituents in eroded



SOIL DEGRADATION RELATED AFTERMATHS MAY LEAD TO HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS. IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY, SUCH DISASTERS WERE RARE AND ACCIDENTAL BUT TODAY THEY ARE BECOMING MORE FREQUENT AND UNPREDICTABLE

Guidelines are available to ensure scientific and responsible mining of earth resources to minimise localised damages

Landslides

Landslides which refer to the mass movement of soil in central hills, are becoming more frequent. They are induced by heavy rains and can remove as much soil as 600 years of surface erosion, yet they have been only a minor factor in land conservation thinking. Under high rainfall, the occurrence of landslides is more likely to be linked to underlying geological characteristics than the presence or otherwise of vegetation and soil conservation technologies.

Landslides indiscriminately affect hillside farming and local communities. In addition to the mass movement of soil originating on sloping landscapes, major damages are caused in downstream areas. Many tons of transported sediment spread over considerable extents resulting in damage to farmland and properties such as houses and other buildings.

In addition to making people aware, institutional awareness and involvement is needed to address issues already arisen and take precautionary measures for potential events in future landslide management.

Acidification, a process in soil which makes acidic compounds increasingly available to plants and thereby reduces farming potential of the land.

In agricultural lands, the productivity of crops such as tea, potato and exotic vegetable in the upcountry can be adversely affected due to acceleration of acidification. In these uplands, frequent soil application of liming materials such as dolomite is recommended and practised by farmers to control this type of land degradation.

With continued liming practices, a considerable fraction of calcium and magnesium released from dolomite

gets lost in runoff water into streams. Diversion of such water to the dry zone through engineering structures such as the Polgolla-Ukuwela conduit and the Minipe anicut results a substantial supply of these elements to paddy lands.

Chronic kidney disease

According to Sri Lankan scientists, one of the most suspected and proposed causes of the chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology, is presence of excessive fluoride and magnesium in drinking water. This kidney disease commonly occurs in people who consume well water in the dry zone. Compared to stream water, a 2.5-fold increase of fluoride and magnesium concentration in well water was reported from Girandurukotte in 2016.

Clustered distribution of fluoride measurements in groundwater was observed in 2005. A research in 1989 at Pimburattewa village close to Aralaganwila town revealed that magnesium supply from Mahaweli water to paddy lands was 45 and 68 kilo grams per hectare, during Maha and Yala seasons. This substantial supply of magnesium in Mahaweli water may be a contributing causative factor to the kidney disease leading towards a human health disaster. Clarification research is needed in this regard.

Soil sealing and crust formation

Sealing of soils can be defined as clogging of pores in earth surface with fine soil particles. Crust formation occurs due to the development of a thin impermeable layer on the surface of the earth which results in reduced infiltration, and increased surface runoff. This crust can also reduce the germination and growth of some crops. Frequent soil incorporation of organic matter to enhance earth porosity is recommended to mitigate soil sealing

in cultivated lands; additionally, maintaining a grass cover in lands occupied by permanent crops; and further, establishment of water percolation pits to facilitate water entry into soil.

In urban areas, soil sealing also results from the insulation of earth by artificial materials such as bricks and concrete. This insulation of soil surface with impervious materials cannot be easily removed. It occurs because of various land development activities such as construction of houses and other buildings, tar or asphalt surfacing of roads and vehicle parking sites, stone, or brick construction of garden spaces and concrete linings of city drainage canals. These activities reduce water infiltration and groundwater replenishment, generate surface runoff, create surface water ponding and stagnation. These surface sealing practices increase the risk of flooding particularly in the flat terrain. Flooding has been more frequent in municipal areas in cities such as Colombo, Panadura and Ratnapura.

Establishment of power-driven drainage systems connected to low-lying areas such as ponds, lakes, streams, and the sea help mitigate this flood risk. Some of the potential measures to promote de-sealing of soil in cities include making more room for green areas in the form of parks, playing fields, public gardens, making parking lot surfaces more permeable and encouraging vertical expansion in building erection.

Water logging in soil

Water logging refers to the net increase in soil voids filled with water and is common in low-lying areas.

In agricultural fields, it causes a significant decline in productivity of upland crops. Water logging of soils can be created temporally or permanently due to rising groundwater levels or reducing surface water infiltration due to hydrological changes in the earth at landscape level. Fortunately, rice, the staple crop of the nation, is grown well under waterlogged conditions and, therefore, most of such lowlands are productively used in paddy farming

The lower Mahaweli flood prone earth between the Manampitiya railway-bridge and Mutur coast, the largest alluvial deposit in the country, has not been fully used for agriculture due to crop damage from frequent flooding. On the other hand, lower crop yields in the neighbouring Batticaloa district have been due to lack of irrigation water and the fast spread of soil salinity. For example, based on 37 years of yield data from 1979 to 2015, average rice yield in the Batticaloa district remains at 3.0 tons from one hectare land compared to 3.5 tons from one hectare in the Trincomalee district and 4.5 tons from one hectare in the Polonnaruwa district.

Having considered different situations in rice production in the three districts, the writer suggests a diversion of excess water of Mahaweli river from a suitable location above the Manampitiya railway bridge to Maduru Oya basin, and thereafter, to the adjacent small watersheds in the Batticaloa district.

This diversion will be a river basin level water transfer for flood control, crop irrigation, reclamation of saline soils and provision of potable water but will not generate hydropower. This option could minimise frequent flood related hazards in the Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee districts and enhance agricultural production and domestic water supply in the Batticaloa district. This diversion, although costly, could be considered a millennium investment project

Master plan

Soil degradation related aftermaths may lead to human and ecological disasters. In the history of the country, such disasters were rare and accidental but today they are becoming more frequent and unpredictable. The management of disasters, event by event is pointless and costly. The increasing frequency of occurrence of these events reveals a need for developing a long-term master plan for the country for implementation with assured domestic funding.

Areas prone to disasters-related soil degradation types such as soil erosion, loss of active land surface, land-slides, acidification, soil sealing and crust formation and water logging in exploited lands can be identified, mapped and demarcated.

Management strategies, implementation procedures, institutional responsibilities and mechanisms to mobilise required emergency funds can be materialised for ensuring auto functioning of a disaster management program when an emergency is created

As Sri Lanka is a land-limited country and in most cases, the national soil resource base has been mismanaged in the past, particularly in agriculture, urban development, and earth resource-based industries. As a result, soil degradation related land disasters are more frequent everywhere. Hence, development of a disaster management master plan and effective implementation of the plan will ensure a land disasters free environment in the country.

The writer is a Freelance Agriculture Scientist (Natural Resource Management) in Sri Lanka.

Mass extinction in oceans can be avoided by curbing fossil fuels

ear the end of the Permian Period, roughly 252 million years ago, a single supercontinent dominated the planet. The ocean around it was traversed by bony fish covered in armored plates and sea scorpions the size of modern humans. Segmented arthropods such as trilobites ruled the deep, along with all manner of brachiopods, which looked like clams but weren't, and ammonoids, which resembled shelled nautiluses but were more like squids and octopuses.

Today those creatures are known from the fossil record: At the end of the Permian, 90 percent of all marine life was wiped out by the largest extinction event in Earth's history. Scientists today suspect it was caused by massive releases of carbon dioxide, probably from volcanic activity in a region called the Siberian Traps. The most common cause of death, a team of researchers showed in 2018, was likely physiological stress from warming seas and oxygen loss, a byproduct of the climate change caused by greenhouse gases.

In a paper published in the journal Science, two of the scientists who made that 2018 discovery argue that, if our own greenhouse emissions continue unchecked, warming waters and oxygen loss at sea could by themselves lead to a mass extinction rivalling the planet's five worst catastrophes. They suggest it could be significant enough to erase much of the species diversification that has occurred since the end-Cretaceous extinction that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

But, the researchers contend, we can alter this trajectory. Curbing emissions rapidly could reduce extinction risks by 70 percent. Combining greenhouse gas reductions with concerted efforts to halt ocean pollution, overfishing, habitat destruction, and other

ear the end of the Permian marine stresses would give ocean life Period, roughly 252 million an even better chance of long-term survival.

"If we turn around our emissions quickly, we could still lose something like five percent of marine species," says co-author Curtis Deutsch, a climate scientist at Princeton University. "At two degrees [Celsius] of warming, you could see a 10 percent loss. There will be a change in the overall community of species that live in most places. But these are relatively small numbers. We'd be avoiding a mass extinction."

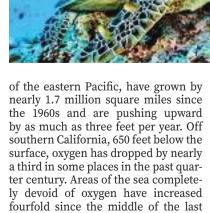
Denise Breitburg, an ocean oxygen expert at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, who did not participate in study, calls the findings "stark but important." She added that the work offers a "basis for hope" that "we can preserve much of the ocean's life."

"This paper crystalised the choices in front of us," said Malin Pinsky, an ocean scientist at Rutgers University in New Jersey, who co-authored an opinion piece that appeared alongside the study. "This feels like a once-in-humanity moment to preserve the future of life on the planet."

Low-oxygen water

The key to the new research by Deutsch and lead author Justin Penn, an associate research scholar at Princeton, is not just figuring out how warming temperatures impact oxygen in the seas—but also how marine life uses that oxygen.

In the past 15 years or so, new research has shown that natural low-oxygen zones in the ocean are expanding rapidly, but unevenly, pushing much of marine life to an ever-narrower band of oxygen-rich water near the surface. These deoxygenated regions, from the Bay of Bengal to a stretch of the Atlantic off West Africa to large regions



Unlike coastal dead zones, such as the one that regularly appears in the Gulf of Mexico, these low-oxygen zones are not a result of nutrient pollution running off the land. They're driven by rising temperatures. As surface waters warm, they absorb less dissolved oxygen from the air above. Because the warm water is lighter than the cold water below, that reduces ocean mixing, meaning less oxygen winds up in the deep.

That development is already scrambling marine life, reducing habitat for some species and concentrating prey for others. Billfish, such as marlin and sailfish, are shortening by hundreds of feet their dives for food. They, along with sharks, tunas, Pacific cod, herring, and mackerel, instead are spending more time bunched up near the surface, making it easier for fishing fleets—or birds and sea turtles—to catch them.

There are other shifts, some of them odd. Some crabs and squid struggle to see in low oxygen conditions. Many tiny zooplankton, food for larger creatures in the sea, already live at the very limits of their oxygen threshold and won't likely survive more decreases without moving to new places. Low oxygen is reducing reproduction for some fish and increasing diseases in others.

The most significant change involves respiration. The warmer it gets, the more oxygen creatures require to sustain their energy demands. But that's happening as the oxygen supply in the ocean is being reduced.

"It's really, really disturbing," said Matthew Long, an ocean scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research. "As global warming continues to progress, we're changing the basic metabolic state of the largest ecosystem on Earth."

Instructive scenario

Penn and Deutsch gathered metabolic data for dozens and dozens of ocean animal species, from shellfish to sharks, from all oceans, latitudes, and depths, to see just how much oxygen each needs to survive. They collected data on how temperatures are already changing and then used computer simulations to find out how the critical oxygen tolerance and minimum habitat each species required would likely change as temperatures continue to

"There are lots of good reasons to think we're representing a global look and capturing a wide spectrum even though we're only looking at a relatively small number of species," Deutsch says.

Some species, such as tuna, clearly would move as their habitat was constrained, while less mobile species, such as corals, would not have that option. The fossil record also helped the duo recognise just how much habitat loss is necessary to extinguish a species or a local population. They calibrated the models and their projections against the ocean changes they'd reconstructed in 2018 for the end-

Permian extinction event.

The researchers found that under the highest emissions scenario—one in which our emissions continue to soar, which many scientists say now appears unlikely—ocean warming and oxygen loss would wipe out more species by the end of the century than all other ocean stressors, such as overfishing and pollution, combined.

But the losses won't be evenly distributed. Tropical seas would lose the most species—but many of them would

survive by moving to colder regions. Creatures found largely in higher latitude seas, like the highly productive North Pacific, where much of North America gets its fish, would be much more vulnerable.

"Tropical species are more likely to survive because as warm, hypoxic conditions become globally widespread, these species are already adapted to those types of environments," Penn said. "Cold, high O2 species have nowhere to go to seek refuge." That same pattern—greater extinction risk for polar species—was also detected in the fossil record of the end-Permian extinction.

The new study is "an impressive piece of work," said Karen Wishner, a biological oceanographer at the University of Rhode Island. The researchers "really get the big picture"—but, she adds, life in the ocean is complex and there's still a lot to learn about how animals may react to changing conditions. "Individual species do have their own ways of adapting," Wishner said.

The important takeaway, Deutsch said, is that these species losses are predictable. "The change is pretty linear," he said. For every half degree Celsius of temperature rise, species extinctions rise by a few percentage points.

In other words, even if we control emissions rapidly, some losses will be unavoidable—global temperatures have already increased about 1 degree Celsius. But if we limit temperature increase to what countries agreed to under the 2015 Paris accord, no more than two degrees Celsius, losses would likely stay below 10 percent.

Out of 2.2 million ocean species, that "is still a large absolute number," Penn said. "But it's an order of magnitude less than what it could be.

- National Geographic

Features

Nonagama-agift of love?



he 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 Gagaman 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 imTHE 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

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'Ovly 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

promptu Sinhala kavi (poetry) in the a nindagama) bestowed on Gajaman Nona by the generous young English

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 interac-

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 lo-

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

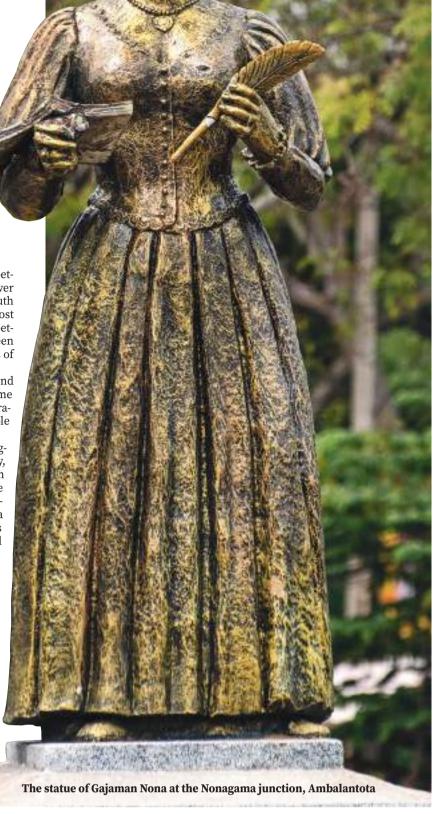
What happened between the poetess and the administrator was never really known, and in the mix of truth and folklore, falsity or fact, it was lost in the winds of time. The tale of poetry, and Sinhala conversation between the two certainly spawned rumours of lust and romance.

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

One wonders where Gajaman Nona lies in eternal sleep. The village is there, named after her, and the memoriam 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.

May be, 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



Earth's water cycle is speeding up due to climate change

arth'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 rain-

fall 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 enters the atmosphere. This is called 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

The acceleration of the water

cycle could have profound impacts

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er storms and flooding

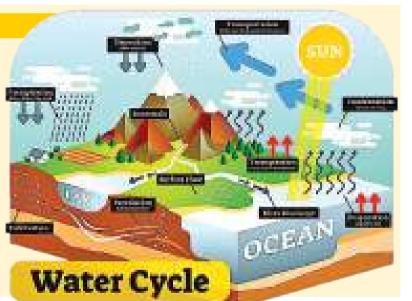
water vapour in our atmosphere. Water from plants and trees also

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 liq-

uid 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

ers at the Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC) in Barcelona analvsed ocean surface salinity data which is measured by satellites. Ocean salinity is essential for

To carry out the study, research-

understanding ocean circulation, one of the key factors in understanding global climate. This circulation depends on the

water density, which is determined by its temperature and salinity.

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.

Stratification is the division of the water column into lavers with different densities, caused by differences in temperature or salinity or both.

Surface salinity

'We have been able to see that surface salinity is showing an intensification of the water cycle that subsurface salinity does not,' said Olm-

'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

but does not exchange heat with the water below, allowing the surface to become more saline than the lower lavers,' said Antonio Turiel, another author of the study.

strong, the surface water warms up,

'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

'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 av-

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.

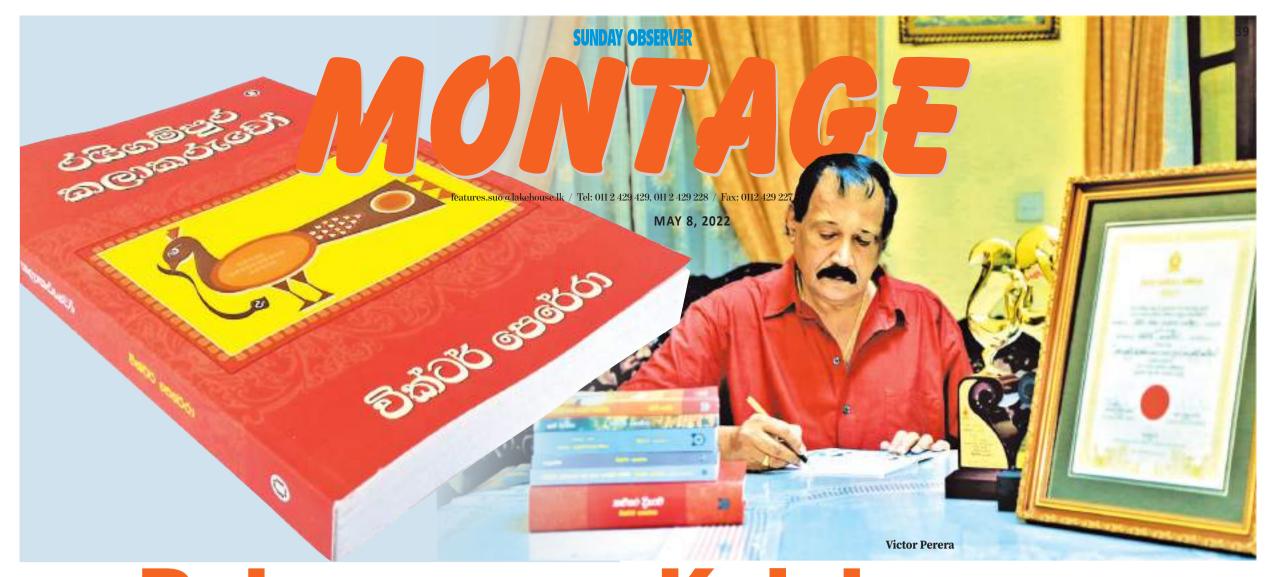
However, the more ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement - to keep warming to 2.7°F (1.5°C) or below – has only a 6-10 percent chance of being achieved, they say.

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.





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



Raigampura Kalakaruwo is the first book on artistes of Raigam Koralaya

BY RAVINDRA WIJEWARDHANE

aigampura Kalakaruwo (Artistes of Raigampura) by former Inspector General of Police Victor Perera was launched two weeks ago at Colombo Public Library.

The book, published by Sarasavi Publishers, focuses on the artistes in Raigam Koralaya and describes academically their service to the respective fields aside from presenting biographical notes on those artistes.

This is the ninth book of his which includes three novels and two State Literary Prize winning classical books titled Kalutara Disawa (District of Kalutara) and Police Ithihasaya saha Praja Police Sevaya (Police History and Community Police Service) as well. Following are excerpts from an interview that the Sunday Observer had with him:

Excerpts: How did you enter the liter-

A: After my retirement as IGP in 2008, I was appointed as the first Governor of the Northern Province from which I retired in 2009. Thereafter, I was appointed as Director General of Rehabilitation of Drug Users at the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) in Rajagiriya where I worked for two years.

In my tenure there, I was able to meet Prof. Carlo Fonseka who was then Chairman of the NDDCB.

One day, after one of my meetings I had a chance to converse with him extensively on disaster management. I had some academic knowledge on this subject since I had followed two courses in the USA (at the Luciana University of Police Academy) and Malaysia.

So, after our conversation, Prof. Carlo asked me, "Mr. Perera, why don't you write a book on this?" On my retirement from that post. I thought about it thoroughly and began to write a book which was published in 2014 as Apada and Apada Kalamanakaranaya (Disaster and Disaster Management). So that's how I entered the literary world.

How does this book, Raigampura Kalakaruwo, come about?

A: I was born and grew up in Horana. So I was able to associate with people, rural culture and geography in the Kalutara district very closely. Because of that, in 2017, I published a book titled Kalutara Disawa (District of Kalutara). This book which comprised more than 700 pages was awarded the State Literary Prize in 2018.

Thereafter, I authored another book on Kalutara titled Visiveni Siyawase Kalutara Disawe Gemi Sanskrutiya (Rural Culture of Kalutara District in 20th Century), published in 2021.

I wrote these two books to point out our true values of rural culture in Kalutara because I personally experienced how our values began to decline after the advent of the open economy in 1977.

In the meantime, I was able to meet Janak Premalal, a prominent teledrama and stage drama artiste from Horana.

As we are both from same area, I knew him and his father, Sirisena Premalal, a veteran playwright. Janak told me, "You have produced two books on culture and geography of the Kalutara district, but you can't forget the many veteran artistes in Kalutara whose resources are gradually disappearing."

When I thought about Janak's claim, I realised its importance. There are two types of artistes in Rai-

Victor Perera, former Inspector General of Police

gam Koralaya, one is solely traditional artistes who continued their art traditionally which means from father to son. Those mainly include traditional dancers and drummers who performed rituals such as Gam Madu, Devol Madu and Shantikarma.

They did not have much theoretical knowledge but possessed vast practical knowledge.

The other type were modern artistes who had inborn talent and theoretical knowledge more than the others. Those include musicians, singers, song writers, playwrights, actors, writers and painters.

While realising the value of these artistes, I also understood that most Raigam artistes, especially traditional artistes, were already dead and gone and the resources that can be used to know about them and their art were also declining.

I felt that if I did not write about them, our future generations would not find any trace about them. Therefore, I took it as my duty to compile the book. So that's how I embarked on this venture.

We know *Raigam Koralaya* has important educational institutes such as Horana Thakshila and Sr

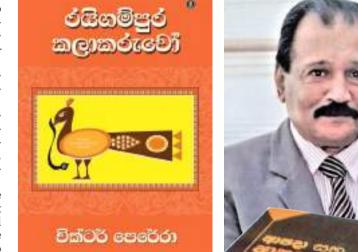
Palee. How do you see them? A: You mentioned two institutes, but there is another one Horana Vidyarathana. Though it was a Pirivena initially, now it is a school. Sri Palee College was founded by revolutionary educationist and politician Wilmot Perera in 1934. Since Perera was a student from Shantiniketan, India, he was inspired by it to establish the Sri Palee.

Its foundation stone was laid by Rabindranath Tagore.

The name Sri Palee means a place where the goddess of fine arts lives. When the Sri Palee College began to thrive, a fine art centre called Arundathi Kalayatanaya was also established near to the school. This fine art centre later became the Sri Palee Campus of Colombo University which offers fine arts and other degrees to students.

These three educational centres have been the pillars of Raigam Koralaya in terms of arts and academics.

Over the years, they have produced many artistes throughout the country. For instance, Horana Sri Palee produced artistes such as Janak Premalal and many others, while Vidyarathana produced artistes such as Sirisena Premalal, Dharmasiri Bandaranayake, Hemasiri Liyanage, Lal Kularathna,



Douglas Siriwardhane and Jayasena Jayakody.

The Horana Thakshila generated artistes such as Sarathchandra Jayakody, Karunasena Jay-Sarath Kulanga and Rohana Beddage.

Over all, we have more than 400 national level artistes from Raigam Koralaya. In poetry, we cannot forget the names of Meemana Premathilake and Upananda Batugedara, who are all from Raigama.

Veteran journalist and writer Dayasena Gunasinghe is also from this region. Maestro Premasiri Kemadasa, Mervin Perera and Premakirthi De Alvis were connected to the music from this area. Maju Sri and Sudeepa Purnajith Perera are painters from Raigam Kor<u>alaya</u>.

Q: In your book, you describe he traditional dancing lineages as

A: Yes, we have a few traditional dancing lineages in Raigam Koralaya. Sandoris (Jayantha) Fernando, Kapila Rohana Kolambage and Kirinelis Silva (Malakatuwa) are three famous traditional dancing geniuses that come

As traditional artiste lineages we have lineages such as Olaboduwa lineage, Haltota Meddawaththe Thambawita lineage and the Handapangoda dancing Neketige lineage.

In the Olaboduwa lineage, you cannot overlook such great drummers and dancers as Olaboduwa

Nekathige Nandoris or Nada gurunnanse, Thilakarathne, Wilson, Sadiris and Karunadasa.

ම්ක්ටර් ලෙරේරා

Then, in the Thambawita lineage, the names such as Thomas Appuhami and Ranjith Rathnasiri are paramount. In Netum Nekathige lineage, Netum Nekathige Sedaraman is a famous traditional dancer.

Some of these artistes have produced their performances in Western countries such as France, Germany, England, and even before Queen Elizabeth as well. Most of those performances were presented even before

What sort of research did you carry out for this book?

A: I researched for more than two years for the book. You know, I am from Raigam Koralaya, so naturally I had a lot of materials for the book. But apart from that, I interviewed many people including the artistes who are based in the book, and still alive.

And also I referred many books and news paper articles. For that, I sometimes had to go to archives and the museum library.

I CAN WRITE MY EXPERIENCES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, **BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE AN HONEST DOCUMENTATION. DURING MY** POLICE SERVICE, I HAD ASSOCIATED WITH SOME POLITICIANS VERY **CLOSELY, EVEN HEADS OF STATES.** BUT WHEN I WRITE MY MEMOIR I HAVE TO BE HONEST TO MYSELF, I CAN'T HIDE THINGS. I THINK THAT THIS IS NOT THE APPROPRIATE TIME

and journalist, was an uphill task. His eldest son, veteran journalist Sunil Madawa Premathilake, was known to me, but I couldn't gather much from him about his father.

TO LAUNCH THAT TYPE OF BOOK

However, Meemana Premathilake had written his own memoir as Mage Premaya, Kalawa Saha Jeewithaya (My Love, My Art and My Life).

Yet, when portraying a real character in a biographical note, you cannot exclusively depend on its author's memoirs and autobiographies.

There you have to pursue other people's views who associated with him. This was most difficult if the people who associated with this particular

person (in the book) are no more. Here, I should mention that some of the people I reached didn't know anything about their own father or their ancestors who are based on the book. It is a sad thing because they are the only people who could deliver those artistes' inheritance to the next generation.

But on the other hand, there is a pathetic picture behind their ignorance. Those traditional artistes were never involved in their art for monetary gains, but for the love of their art. Because of this they never earned enough money to live a comfortable life, some of them hadn't even a proper house for themselves.

Hence, their children never tried to preserve their fathers' or grandfathers' art, their instruments and facts about them. This is where I had to go to the archives and the museum li-

brary to gather more facts on them. And some resource persons were not available for me. Some refused to speak about their husbands or fathers who are in the book. If they had revealed their story to me, it would have been preserved in this book for the fu-

And the time I started my research for this book it was somewhat difficult since the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak. So I had to follow strict health measures to reach those people when I was pursuing facts.

At the end of the day, I was able to complete the book, and I think that this is the first time that Raigam artistes come together in one single vol-

In this venture, I hadn't any intention to give biographical notes to the readers, but to collect rare facts about those artistes for the sake of our future generations. I still feel that if I did not collect them, most probably those facts would disappear from us forever.

Is there any other artistes in Raigam Koralaya that you couldn't include in the book?

A: Yes, there are few. For instance, couldn't include a chapter of veteran journalist and writer Gunadasa Livanage who was from Raigam Koralaya. The main reason for it was I couldn't find his biography and facts about him from his sons.

Late veteran writer D. B. Kuruppu was another from this region of whom I couldn't include a chapter in this book. And famous Kolam dancer Handi gurunnanse was also missed out from the book.

If I am to publish the second part of this book, I will definitely include them in it. Not only them, but also others who I had to overlook because of the present issue of paper shortage.

Initially, this book was much more longer, but in printing I had to conform with recommendations of Sarasavi Publishers' management who described the ground reality of our publishing industry right now.

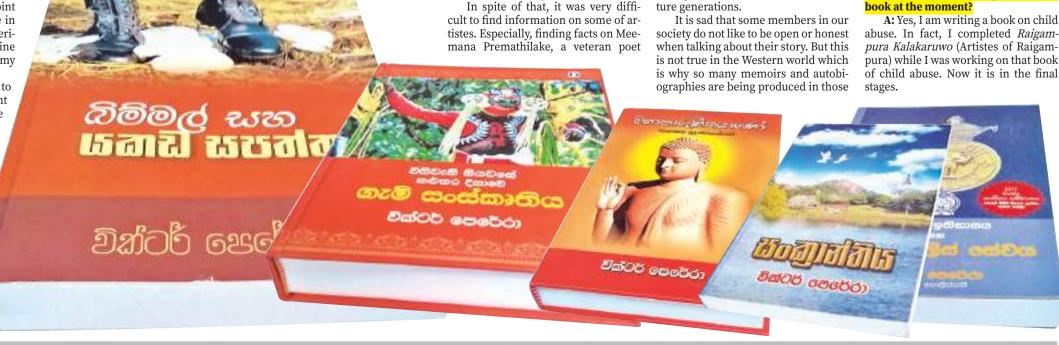
Kalutara district has two Koralas, one is Raigam Koralaya and the other is Pasdun Koralaya. I limited my research to artistes of Raigam Koralaya because of the paper issue. In spite of that, there are others who were left out of the book.

You had a long experience in the Sri Lanka Police Department. Why don't you focus on writing your own experience as a memoir or autobiography?

A: I can write my experiences in the Police Department, but it might not be an honest documentation. During my police service, I had associated with some politicians very closely, even Heads of States.

But when I write my memoir I have to be honest to myself, I can't hide things. I think that this is not the appropriate time to launch that type of

Q: Are you working on another book at the moment?



Features

The elegance of the Beijing Opera

BY INDEEWARI THATHSARANI **RATHNAPALA**

f you have ever witnessed a Chinese opera, there is no doubt that you are aware of the magnificent beauty of the opera performance along with the elaborate costumes and music which amaze and intrigue both the local and foreign audience.

Asia country of multiple cultural heritages, China is enriched with numerous types of operas in which the Beijing Opera has occupied its place as the most popular and magnificent op-

The origin of the Beijing Opera dates back to the Qin Dynasty which accounts for nearly 200 years of his-

'Four Great Anhui Drama Troupes' brought an opera to Beijing to celebrate the eightieth birthday of the Emperor Qianlong and it is considered as the origin of the Beijing Opera.

It has evolved to the present Beijing Opera with the combination of different local operas influenced by the different dialects and traditions. Even though this is famous with the name of Beijing Opera, this genre has not only spread in Beijing, but all over the world.

The four parts of an Opera

The Beijing opera performance consists of four parts such as singing, recitation, acting and fighting which are known as 'Chang', 'Nian', 'Zuo' and 'Da' in Chinese.

'Chang' means singing according to a rhythm while 'Nian' means the dialogues between the characters and monologues.

Facial expressions, motions and body posturing come under 'Zuo' and 'Da' refers to acrobatics and martial arts. These four types have blended together and made a comprehensive acting art with highly symbolic and stylised content.

As a result of this, no theatrical equipment is needed to perform as there are unique symbolic ways to perform an opera.

For example, a paddle can symbolise a boat and a whip can symbolise riding a horse. Though these motions create an exaggeration, it never fails to overwhelm the audience.

The four main roles

There are four main roles in the

Beijing Opera which are 'Sheng' (Male Role), 'Dan' (Female Role), 'Jing' (Painted Male Face) and 'Chou' (The Comedy



Role). Each role has its own vocal techniques, expressions and vocabulary of gestures which are powerfully portrayed on the stage during the performance. Apart from the role, 'Dang', the other three types of roles are played by the male characters.

Sheng Role

This role has several sub-categories such as 'Laosheng' (Old characters), 'Xiansheng' (Young characters) and 'Wusheng' (Acrobatic characters). 'Laosheng' is played by males who have gentle and polished characteristics to portray middle aged or old characters of scholars and high-ranking officials in the military.

'Xiansheng' is played by young actors who have a high pitched voice in order to indicate their young spirit. No beard is worn and clothes are elaborated to represent the young warrior or the ordinary young men in the society.

'Wusheng' actors are acrobats and their acting skills in fighting is highlighted during the performance. Most of the time, they represent young mili-

JING AND CHOU HAVE MORE COMPLEX MAKEUP WITH COMPLICATED PATTERNS. FACIAL MAKE-UP OF JING AND CHOU IS PAINTED SIMILAR TO THE MAKE-UP PATTERNS USED IN OPERA MASKS IN ORDER TO BE VISIBLE AS A MASK, EVEN THOUGH THEY NEVER WEAR ONE ON THE STAGE

tary officials who are good at fighting. This character requires a pleasant and deep voice but the actor is not trained in singing. Ma Lianlian, Zhou Xinfang and Ye Shenglan were the famous characters who played Shou during the 20th century.

Dan role

The most outstanding feature of this role is that it is played by female artists who have to appear more feminine than any woman by looks and acting skills.

This role can be divided in to four parts such as 'Qinyi' (the modest and virtuous), 'Huadan' (flirtatious), 'Wudan' (the female acrobat) and 'Laodan'



represents a gentle and soft hearted woman who is graceful in her movements with a high-pitched voice in singing.

'Huadan' is the flirtatious character with mischievous and coquettish qualities but attractive with her eye movements. Her costumes are colourful and a red handkerchief is carried in the actress's hand.

'Wudan' is the female acrobat and she requires a high degree of acrobats to perform this character successfully. 'Laodan' is the old woman who is represented as a simple, old woman with a bent back, natural voice and no makeup.

Jing role

This role is played by courageous and resourceful actors often acting for the characters such as judges, high ranking army generals, gods and supernatural beings. Seeing a Jing character for the first time, would amaze the audience because the face and forehead of this character is painted with flowers and colourful patterns.

A Jing actor wears a heavy costume and a head dress using the colours of red, white, black and blue which stand for good, treacherous, discourteous and wild characteristics respectively.

'Yuan Shiha' has earned the love and respect of opera audiences as one of most talented actors who

have played the role, Jing, on the Opera stage.

Chou role

The Chou is the comedy role of the opera stage. He is not a fool but a serious or an evil character with a slightly wicked nature. This role uses colloquial speech throughout the act in order to keep the amusement of the audi-

He has the liberty to improvise and it is a part of his technique. Chou acts for characters such as a jailer, servant, merchant or scholar. Xiao Changhua and Ma Fulu were the most famous actors who played Chou on the opera

Facial make-up

Facial make-up of the characters occupies a significant place in Beijing Opera as a symbol of the uniqueness of the characters. Audiences that are old hands of Beijing Opera can recognise all the role types and characters at a first glance as a result of their unique facial makeup and costumes.

The facial makeup of Shang and Dang are simple whereas Jing and Chou have more complex makeup with complicated patterns. Facial make-up

of Jing and Chou is painted similar to the make-up patterns used in Opera masks in order to be visible as a mask, even though they never wear one on the stage.

For example colour red is used for the characters who are loyal, courageous and brave, yellow is used for characters who are devious and white is used to portray characters who are untrustworthy while black, blue and green colour faces are used to connote neutral meanings.

However, the character Chou is always painted with a white colour patch on the face which helps the audience to differentiate him from the other characters.

Shang and Dang characters are famous for their unique ways of highlighting the eye which are known as 'Miaomei', 'Diaomei' and 'Hua Yanquan' with the meaning of painting the eyebrows, raising the eyebrows and decorating the eye area with designs.

In this way, facial makeup adds a different narrative to the characters on the opera stage to manifest their distortion, vividness and allegorical impressions.

There are around 3600 types of plays in Beijing opera which can be divided into main three categories such as, Traditional Beijing Opera, New Historical Opera and Modern Opera.

In the early years, many stories were based on various types of historical narrations, romantic stories, war incidents, mythical tales and moral stories but the trend showed a deviation into plays with the revolutionary and contemporary themes after establishing the People's Republic in China

This revolution made Beijing Opera popular not only in Beijing but all over the world including East Asia, Europe and the United States. In 2010, UNESCO declared the Beijing opera as 'An intangible Cultural Heritage of China' considering its historical and cultural value as an influential and comprehensive performing art which will never fail to amuse the audience.

dvent of Bolsheviks with Ukraine war

BY SUBHASH PALLIYAGURUGE

ar in Ukraine has been plaguing that country for three weeks up to now. Besides the humanitarian crisis, Ukrainian authors are also suffering immensely from the war as they are struggling to survive. However, some of them, at the moment, seem to see through the horrendous war crimes they witness everyday and try to explain them as they can through various media. Andrey Yuryevich Kurkov is one such writer who has devoted his time to speak about his country's plight with reporters. and writer

respected commentator

Kurkov who writes in Russian is often called a comic novelist for books like "Death and the Penguin". So far he has written 19 novels, nine books for children, and about 20 documentary, fiction and TV movie scripts. The unbelievable thing in him is that this Leningrad born 61-year-old author could write a novel about fighting between Russia and Ukraine long before the Russian invasion started on February

His 2018 novel "Grey Bees" was set in the earlier Ukraine-Russia conflict, and describes the life trapped in the war which is very similar to the current situation - in exact terms, the novel is set in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine where, in 2014, rebels loyal to Russia declared independence for the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

"Grey Bees" is translated into English by Boris Dracyok, and it is scheduled for release in the United States this April, and while engaging in describing what is happening in the country to International media, he could talk about the book and the Russian aggression in Ukraine with the New York Times.

So, this article focuses on his comments in the interview conducted by Alex Marshall.

The book, "Grey Bees", follows two old men living in the neutral zone between Ukrainian Army positions and those of the separatists, one of whom is seemingly more interested in tending his honeybees than in the conflict around them. In the interview, Kurkov talked about "Grey Bees," how the war



would change Ukrainian literature and his hopes for the future.

"Earlier we were looking for shel-

When the interview takes place, Kurkov was at home in Kyiv, though now Kyiv is also plagued by the war. Kurkov started by describing his situation in Kyiv:

Well, earlier we were looking for shelter because the neighbours started shouting that an air raid was coming, and instead of shelter, we went to the Radisson Hotel and stayed there for half an hour. Then we went to my friend who

very shabby and not nice. There were more explosions, but then there was some quiet so we returned home." "I wasn't planning to write this

has a shelter in his house. But it was

The reader's first question on the book is how could Kukov conceive a story on a war that is yet to be come. His answer is this:

"Well, I wasn't planning to write this book, but in 2014 we had an influx of refugees from Donbas in Kyiv, and I met a young businessmen from Donetsk who was driving every month to a village not far from the front line, where seven families remained: without shops, without electricity, with

"GENERALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RUSSIANS AND UKRAINIANS, RUSSIAN HISTORY AND UKRAINIAN HISTORY, RUSSIAN MENTALITY AND UKRAINIAN MENTALITY. BECAUSE PUTIN AND ALL HIS CRONIES REPEAT EVERY DAY THAT UKRAINIANS AND RUSSIANS ARE THE SAME — THAT WE ARE BROTHERS AND THEY HAVE TO LIVE TOGETHER. IT IS NOT TRUE. IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT UKRAINIANS FOR 300 YEARS WERE INDEPENDENT FROM THE RUSSIAN CZARS AND FROM ANY KIND OF IMPERIAL RULE"

nothing. So he was bringing them medicines and whatever else they asked for, and they were saying thanks by giving him jars of preserved vegetables and pickles.

"I had this idea that there were thousands of people stuck between the Russian Army and Ukrainian Army, with nowhere to go, and wanted to give voice to those people."

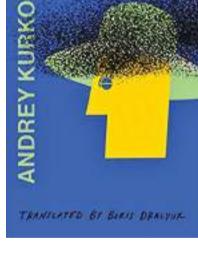
In any war, civilians are the most vulnerable. And after raging the war they do not care about the nationalistic or patriotic ideas, because the most important thing is to survive. In this book also the two main characters do not care about politics or war, they just deal with the daily life. When asking about this Kurkov said:

"People just want to survive. And people adapt to war, if it's not destroying them personally. I went there (war affected Donbas region of eastern Ukraine) three times, and I noticed that even the children could tell what rocket or mine caused an explosion, iust by its sound. War became something banal, part of life."

I didn't think it was realistic"

Marshall's next question was did he ever expect this invasion in Ukraine. The answer is as follows:

"No. until several weeks ago, I didn't think it was realistic. And then I noticed that Putin became very old, very quickly, and started talking like Stalin before his death. Putin has a dream of recreating the Soviet Union,



GREY BEES

and he considers everybody who doesn't love Russia, but understands the Russian language, as traitors. And he loves to kill traitors."

"This war created a parallel litera-

Kukov is one of most renowned and veteran writers in Ukraine. So he should know about the present Ukrainian literature.

"Before the war, there was no war literature. It was mostly sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll - and crime stories, of course. But this war created a parallel literature — literature written by war veterans, by volunteers. Those authors are probably already on the way to the frontlines.

"If Ukraine survives, it will create even more militant literature. And that doesn't mean that the literature will become better. It just means that literature will be more politicised like Soviet literature, but with a different kind of propaganda or patriotic

It sounds like that the develop-

ment worries him. He said to it: "It does, because in Russia, traditionally writers are serving the Government and its ideology. But in Ukraine, writers are serving themselves and their readers. I mean, the Government never took interest in what writers were writing. That's why we had so many books about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, and not many about Ukrainian

"Ukrainians and Russians are not same" Apart from a resource person on

the war in Ukraine, Kurkov has also been writing guest essays for newspapers and magazines, to get the word out about the situation in Ukraine. So what message does he want to give readers?

"Generally, I would like to explain the difference between Russians and Ukrainians, Russian history and Ukrainian history, Russian mentality and Ukrainian mentality. Because Putin and all his cronies repeat every day that Ukrainians and Russians are the same — that we are brothers and they have to live together. It is not true. It's a long story, but Ukrainians for 300 years were independent from the Russian czars and from any kind of imperial rule."

"I can recommend Maria Matios" Though people around the world did not take having the Ukrainian literature for granted, now they are in curious about it. So what are the books he suggests for such readers? His answer is this:

"I have my favourite writers I can recommend, like Maria Matios - she's originally from Bukovina, near the border with Romania. She is the author of one of the best novels written since independence called "Sweet Darusya." It's about two villages in Bukovina, and life there from the 1920s to the 1990s. It's about horrible things, but it's written in such a wonderful language that you fall in love with every character and you feel for them. It's an emotionally very powerful book."

If defeated, half of the country will leave to Europe

As a visionary writer, Kurkov might have something to tell about the war in Ukraine. Alex Marshall's final question in the interview was on this: "What do you hope will happen now?'

The answer was:

"Well, my only hope is that the world finds a way to stop Putin and to leave Ukraine in peace because his goal is to destroy the country and to destroy Ukrainian independence. And if it happens, then half of the country will leave to Europe — they'll be immigrants or refugees - and everything that will remain will be destroyed by the Russians who'll behave like Bolsheviks in 1919."

OBSERVER EDUCATION



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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 indus-

"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



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

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 Undergraduate 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.

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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 Dipoma 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.my or www. msi.edu.lk









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Asia's Top Universities





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 Educa-

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 reskilled, 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 President of the Deakin Interna education to reshape and optimi

se 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 person-

alities 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 Honoor, John Molony, Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice tional Office, Emeritus Prof. Mohan De Silva, the President of Lyceum Campus, Prof. Colin Higgins, The Associate Dean, International & amp; Partnerships, Faculty of Busi-

ness and Law, the Board of Directors

of the Lyceum Group, Dr. Mohan Lal

Grero (Founder), Dr. (Mrs.) Kumari

Grero, and Nikitha Grero, the coun-

cil members of the Lyceum Campus,

and multiple other Deakin University representatives. The most significant moment of the event was the launch of the part-



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

and its Flagship Partner Deakin University, Australia which is an internadents in Australia. tionally recognised University with over 45 years of Higher Educational ing a mature citizen.

the largest home for Sri Lankan stu-

He also pointed out that the pride of Deakin is how they care for their students and its importance in build-

Molony expressed his pleasure to be present at this event, and added his wishes to a mutually beneficial re-

Prof. Colin Higgins, The Associate Dean, International & Dearn; 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-ofthe-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

'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 1 st year at Lyceum Campus, Sri Lanka and transfer to Deakin University, Australia to complete the 2 nd and 3 rd years and obtain their undergraduate

1. Diploma of Business (Business Analytics) leading to Bachelor of **Business Analytics**

2. Diploma of Business (Management) leading to Bachelor of Busi-

3. Diploma of Business (Sport Management) leading to Bachelor of **Business (Sports Management)** 4. Diploma of Business (Com-

merce) leading to Bachelor of Com-

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





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".

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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.

With the right education and sup-

"This pandemic created a lot of new opportunities for millennials. port 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

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 stake-

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



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The Rationale for selecting an appropriate Research Design

plans for addressing research questions, consequently directing the research procedures. For instance, it includes the steps from broad assumptions to detailed data collection and analysis methods. The general choice has which approach should be utilized to consider a theme.

Educating this choice ought to be the philosophical presumptions the researcher brings to the examination, methodology of request (research designs), and explicit exploration strategies for information assortment, investigation, and understanding. The determination of an exploration approach is likewise founded on the idea of the examination issue or issue being tended to, the scientists' very own encounters, and the crowds for the investigation.

The rationale for three research designs: (a) qualitative, (b) quantitative, and (c) mixed methods, are discussed in this article. Qualitative research is a methodology for investigating and understanding social or human issues, and it deals with exploring a phenomenon under the inductive and theory-building approaches.

The quantitative approach is a methodology for testing target hypotheses by inspecting the relationship among deductive vari-

These variables thus can be estimated regularly on instruments, so that numbered information can be broken down utilising statistical approaches. Mixed methods research is a way to deal with a request, including gathering both quantitative and qualitative data, coordinating the two types of information, and utilising particular plans that may include philosophical presumptions and hypothetical systems. The mixed-methods approach preferably depends on a pragmatic view and a philosophical perspective.

It was emphasised that research decision often starts with reviewing the literature to explore the research gaps, and then it is possible to derive specific research questions/objectives. Research ques-

esearch designs are tions/goals mainly guide which research design to select. In addition to the research problem, researchers' interest/competency/ experience, resource availability, and audience play a significant role in choosing the right research design.

The Rationale for a Quantitative Inquiry

The speakers emphasized that the research problems/questions that need a quantitative inquiry fall into four categories: descriptive, comparative, relationship bound, and historical. Descriptive questions seek quantitative analysis of more than one variable. Usually, the questions that start with "What" fall under the descriptive

For instance, "what are the determinants of capital structure?" and "What factors affect payout decisions?" could be considered descriptively bound research questions that need a quantitative in-

The comparative category of research questions/problems compares and contrasts one or more variables among two or more groups. For instance, "what is the difference in levels of statistics anxiety between undergraduate male and female students" exemplifies the comparative nature of quantitatively bounded research to yes/no apparent answers. problems/questions.

The third type is the "relationship nature" of the research questions. It is argued that these types of questions include words such as "relate," "relationship," "association," or "trend", and "influence" in developing research questions/ problems.

For instance, when we investigate the relationship between liquidity and stock split initiation and the influence of advertising expenditure on marketing performance, the relationship nature of quantitative research designs is suitable.

The historical type of research questions/objectives is to predict the future through past information. The impact of lagged dividend payout on current dividend policy



Prof. Dewasiri N. Dewasiri

and the past investments of research and development on recent performance exemplify such historically based research questions. Further, it was emphasized that researchers should not start research questions with the words "does," "Do," "is," or "are" since they lead

The Rationale for a **Qualitative Inquiry**

It was stated that "An exploratory (qualitative) study is undertaken when not much is known about the situation at hand, no information is available on how similar problems have been solved in the past, and to get better understanding/ clarity and insights on a phenomenon" The speakers emphasized that research questions that have qualitative leanings discourse on how" and "what" questions.

In addition, the research questions which start with the "why" word are required in a qualitative inquiry that deals with human in-

RESEARCHES & INNOVATIONS

jayantha@mgt.sab.ac.lk

It was further emphasized that qualitative research designs are "evolving, open-ended, and nondirectional" and case study, phenomenology, ethnography, narrative research are the main types of them). For instance, research questions such as "why do companies pay dividends, how do gang leaders select gang members, what finance decisions lead to a sustainability-oriented culture in an organization, and what does it mean to teachers to win a teaching award"" require qualitative inquiries since they are qualitative in nature.

The Rationale for a **Mixed-Methods Inquiry**

The research questions that need a triangulated or mixed methods inquiry combine qualitative and quantitative aspects. Whether these two phases are sequential, embedded or concurrent depends on four criteria: timing, weighting, mixing, and theorizing. For instance, when determining the impact of investor sentiment on asset price movements, it is imperative to get information about both investor sentiment (qualitative, independent variable) and stock price movements (quantitative, dependent variable).

In the qualitative phase, the investor's overall attitude (belief) toward a particular stock price movement could be determined by developing an instrument through interviews. Then, in the quantitative phase, it is possible to investigate the relationship between attitude and the level of price movements through a survey. The overall research design is sequential because the quantitative phase follows the qualitative

Further, a higher weightage is given for the qualitative phase. Here, the factors such as "timing" (qualitative followed by the quantitative approach) and "weightage" supported in determining the suitable research design that is sequential exploratory in na-

Research questions needed a sequential explanatory design (The quantitative phase followed by the qualitative phase).

For instance, for addressing a research question like "what is the difference in perceived barriers to reading empirical research articles between graduate students with a low level of reading comprehension and high level of reading comprehension" a sequential explanatory design is needed; because first, we need to administer a test of reading comprehension, rank these comprehension scores, and then purposively select students who are high/level.

Then we can interview them using a purposive sampling method. Here, the first approach is quantitative (using a quantitative test to measure reading comprehension), followed by the qualitative approach to determine the perceived barriers to reading empirical research articles. Hence, it required a sequential explanatory

MARKETING PERFORMANCE, THE RELATIONSHIP NATURE OF QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGNS IS SUITABLE Researchers' Experience, **Competency, Resource Availability and**

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN WE INVESTIGATE THE RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN LIQUIDITY AND STOCK SPLIT INITIATION AND

THE INFLUENCE OF ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE ON

Rationale Researchers' preparations, interests, experiences and competencies also matter when selecting the methodology.

Audience as the

An individual prepared in specialized, logical composition and quantitative aspects acquainted with quantitative journals would doubtlessly pick the quantitative designs. Researchers who appreciate writing artistically or leading individual meetings, or mentioning very close objective facts may incline toward the qualitative techniques.

The blended strategies scientist is an individual acquainted with both quantitative and subjective examination. Resource availability also matters as some designs, mixed methods designs, require more resources.

At last, researchers compose crowds that will acknowledge their research. These crowds might be journal editors and faculty committees, conferences, meeting participants, or colleagues in the field.

The encounters of these crowds with quantitative, qualitative, or blended strategies studies can shape the choice settled on the decision of methodology selection.

Prof. Dewasiri N. Dewasiri **Professor, Department of Ac**countancy and Finance Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

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Marketing: Functional Boundaries and Beyond

Marketing is a specialised keters and even consider Mardisciplinary/functional area in keting as an act of showing off. Academia and Business Organisations. While disciplines are highly branched out to cater to the demands of the students, Marketing seems to be capturing the attention of many practitioners and career-seeking stu-

Organisations led with a proper understanding of Marketing have become immensely successful today.

Yet its importance seems limitedly noticed by many due to disciplinary boundaries. It is a must-know field for individuals and organisations, irrespective of the profit motivation, religious affiliations or political beliefs. Thus, a comprehensive idea of the crux of Marketing and its domain will undoubtedly provide a competitive edge to anyone.

Marketing is particularly important as some may not know the true essence of Marketing, not fully understood, or largely misinterpreted, thus remaining interspersed among the larger majority.

The Marketing domain has been subjected to many myopic

Surprisingly, to date, it is associated with Promotion and Selling, Advertising and Marketing Research.

The Marketing profession is also associated with aggressive campaigning, PR cover-ups, and hard-selling, as well as activities undertaken to get your products and services across to the target audience.

Marketing professionals are seen as corporate spokespeople by some. The changes in the Advertising landscape also tend to build a myopic view of the mar-

While some have taken different marketing activities in isolation, such as Advertising, and disparaged them, such misinterpretations have diluted the trust in the discipline. Despite the paradigm shift

from production-orientation to a marketing-orientation, many marketers are still imprisoned in the mindset of productionorientation, conducting their business activities with an inside-out mentality.

Thus, comprehensive knowledge of Marketing is significant for both marketers and nonmarketers as it is proven to be the main formula for business success and safeguard against myopic criticisms.

The American Marketing Association defines Marketing as an Organizational function and a set of processes for creating, communicating and delivering value to customers and for managing customer relationships in ways that benefit the Organization and its stakeholders.

The Marketing domain is guided by the concept of 'value', which starts with identifying the stated and latent needs of the customer.

In determining value, marketers need to be aware of all aspects that influence the cost and benefits of the exchange to the Customer and the Organisation.

In comparison, customer value may be diverse, ranging from use-value, which is more functional, to sign-value, which can be social and psychological. In delivering value, the Customer's 'get component' has to exceed the 'give component' by them. Thus, other than the core offer subject to exchange, there



needs to be more done to ensure that the customer obtains an augmented offer, fulfilling needs beyond customer expectations and fulfilling the profit motivation of the organisations.

Strategies on exceeding expectations or augmenting the market offers are attributed to many Marketing branches, such as services concepts in Services Marketing and Management.

Interestingly, Marketing Through Service is a crucial differentiator despite the apparent need to market a service busi-

"The relationship between the supplier and the customer, referred to as the classic dyad, is the parent relationship of Marketing, where the ultimate exchange of value takes place" (Gummesson, 2002, p. 28).

In addition, Gummeson pointed out 30 relationships an Organisation will have to look

MARKETING PROFESSIONALS ARE SEEN AS CORPORATE SPOKESPEOPLE BY SOME. THE CHANGES IN THE ADVERTISING LANDSCAPE ALSO TEND TO BUILD A MYOPIC **VIEW OF THE MARKETERS** AND EVEN CONSIDER MARKETING AS AN ACT OF SHOWING OFF

after in creating value for its Customers and the stakehold-

Any interaction with the Customer is an opportunity to create a moment of truth about the Organisation, whether the relationship is internal or external.

While any Customer comes to an Organisation with expectations in mind, exceeding customer expectations is the only way to delight the Customer.

Exceeding expectations will result in a transaction transformed into a relationship, consequently, offering several benefits for both the customer and the Organisation.

Therefore, Relationship Marketing, Customer Relationship Management and Customer Service are a few more branches in Marketing, which differentiate any Organisation.

Additionally, in the Marketing domain, along with the valbranded, reach global markets, be delivered to the required audiences through supply chain management, and rely on market research for continuous sur-

Marketing is the responsibility of all functions or employees to ensure the success of a brand - the promise.

While many customerfocused statements are entrenched into the Organisations' vision, mission statements and taglines, the employees have to be oriented towards them to inculcate passion towards the company promise rather than limiting such promises in the hands of marketers.

It should be the responsibility of all employees in an Organization. Knowingly or unknowingly, everybody within an Organisation is a marketer.

In addition to those titled marketers within Companies as full-time marketers, everyone else is a part-time marketer. This means in addition to fulltime marketers (who are fully occupied with marketing activities and hired for this) the larger majority are 'part-time marketers' (which is every other employee in the organisation).

As evident, a larger majority - part-time marketers have no or limited understanding of Marketing.

While part-time marketers may not be involved in purposeful marketing-related tasks, the relationship we maintain with each department, colleague, and all other stakeholders of an Organisation reflects our stand in Marketing.

Nonverbal communication such as personality, physical evidence, including the appear-

ue we create, your offer could be ance of the premises and people, all reflect the value set of the Organisation. Due to this responsibility of all employees to deliver value to the Customers, awareness of the essence of Marketing despite the disciplinary/functional divide is neces-

> In this view, Marketing should not be restricted to disciplinary boundaries but rather an Organisation-wide concept.

> Understanding Marketing will help in the value creation and delivery process internally and externally.

> Even though we may understand bits and pieces of Marketing in various ways, for example, working with a media partner helps in promotional campaigns, the true essence of Marketing will be hard to obtain without knowing it comprehensively.

> While in today's evolving environment, tools available for Marketing may change, the importance of Marketing and the crux remain the same.

> For example, Theodore Levitte, in the 1960s, in this seminal article on Marketing Myopia, raised concerns about the focus on selling rather than seeing the big picture of what consumers want.

> Lack of a comprehensive understanding of Marketing by full-time and part-time marketers may lead to continuing such concerns raised decades ago.

Maduka Udunuwara, PhD Senior Lecturer/ Coordinator **Hospitality and Leisure Management Program Department of Marketing Faculty of Management** and Finance, University of Colombo

SLIIT Team creates history with Sri Lanka's entry to 'Microsoft Imagine Cup World Championship 2022'

'NANA SHILPA' IS THE WINNER OF ASIA AND WILL COMPETE WITH WINNERS OF AMERICA AND EMEA REGIONS

The SLIIT Team 'Nana Shilpa' has created a landmark in history as the first-ever Sri Lankan entry to be chosen to represent Asia and advance to the grand final of the Microsoft Imagine Cup World Championship 2022.

As the Asian winner, Team 'Nana Shilpa' will compete at the highest levels of the 2022 Îmagine Cup against a team from America and another from the EMEA region.

The Team Nana Shilpa from the SLIIT Faculty of Computing was crowned the sole winner from Asia at the Imagine Cup 2022 World Final held on March 30, 2022. Team members include Chamil Diluksha, Kalpani Abeysinghe, Pamodya Maheshani and Prabath Shalitha. Nana Shilpa was supervised by Prof. Samantha Thelijjagoda, Co-Supervised by Ms. Jenny Krishara with Dr. W.M.K. Wanigasingha as external supervisor. Nana Shilpa contested against tens of thousands of students from over 160 countries.

Prof. Nimal Rajapakse, Deputy Vice-Chancellor SLIIT, said, "I am delighted to congratulate the team of 2022 SLIIT Computing graduates selected for the final round of the Imagine Cup 2022 World Championship in May 2022 in Seattle, USA. This accomplishment resonates well with the ethos of SLIIT and showcases the high quality of our graduates, degrees, learning environment and teaching staff. Together with the high standard of talent that we continue to nurture, I am sure we can build on these successes and reach the next level of excellence to serve the industry and generate wealth for Sri Lanka".

Winning in the Health category, Nana Shilpa's project unveiled the first



mobile application developed to screen and refine dyscalculia and dysgraphia learning disabilities in primary school students using the Sinhala language. Importantly, this app can be used for children affected globally heightening its potential to create a lasting impact.

An elated Prof. Samantha Thelijjagoda, Dean - SLIIT Business School and Project Supervisor said, "It is a remarkable achievement for SLIIT as this is the first time a Sri Lankan University is competing in the final of the World Championships of the Microsoft Imagine Cup. Our team was selected for the World Championships after winning the Asia World Final and they will compete against two more teams from America and EMEA regions in the grand finale at the Microsoft Headquarters in Seattle, Washington. As their supervisor, I am extremely proud. The students worked very hard

developing this app specially focused on a learning disability for primary school children not only in Sri Lanka but globally, and that is why the particular product has been highlighted on





Imagine Cup is an annual competition hosted by Microsoft Corp., USA, which brings together student developers worldwide to help resolve some of the world's toughest challenges. It

ogy' by computer science and is considered one of the top competitions and awards related to technology and software design. All Imagine Cup competitors create projects that address the Imagine Cup theme, "Imagine a world where technology helps solve the toughest problems".

This year's edition, which marked the 20th anniversary of the global tournament, tasked competitors to create and bring a project to life under one of the four categories, namely Earth, Education, Health and Lifestyle, aligned to the theme 'Imagine a world where technology helps solve the most challenging problems'.

Nana Shilpa as among the Top three in the World Championship, now stands the chance to win the grand prize of USD 100,000 and a mentoring session with Microsoft Chairman and CEO, Satya Nadella.

Chandimal na, Dean, Faculty of Computing, added,"The Microsoft Imagine Cup is recognised as the world's premier student technology competition. In its nearly two-decade history, this is the first time a Sri Lankan team has been chosen for the grand final prevailing over teams across Asia. Our SLIIT students are not only representing our Institute but ambassadors of our nation. It is a monumental achievement, and we could not be prouder. They now have an opportunity to gain unforgettable and precious experiences on the most demanding world stage. We believe these experiences will, undoubtedly, accompany them in the continuation of their personal and professional

In battling for a place at the World championship, several SLIIT Teams including Nana Shilpa, initially competed in the regional Southeast Asian (SEA) Final of the Imagine Cup 2022. Five undergraduate project teams of the SLIIT Faculty of Computing secured the top three positions in each category. Forty eight teams were selected for the World Final from the regional competitions held globally. Once again, SLIIT Teams triumphed with Nana Shilpa (Health), Alpha Squad (Earth) and The Alter (Education) supervised by Dr. Shyam Reyal, Ms. Samanthi Siriwardana and Archana Kugathasan emerging victorious in the 2022 Imagine Cup World Final. SnakePal supervised by Dr. Janaka Wijekoon and Ms. Dilani Lunugalage and DHExtreme, supervised by Dr. Anuradha Karunasena and Ms. Nadeesa Premadasa was able to get selected for the Southeast Asian Final.

Baurs Toastmasters Club incepted to develop next generational leaders

ith the view of building and instilling effective communication and leadership competencies among its employees, A. Baur & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., also known as Baurs, a leader with diversified business interests in the country, recently incepted the Baurs Toastmasters Club (BTC) and held an installation ceremony of its Executive Committee.

The event held at Hotel Kingsbury on April 29, commenced by lighting the traditional oil lamp, graced by Chief Guest, the Managing Director/CEO of Baurs Rolf Blaser and Guest of Honor District Director D.T.M. Srianthie Salgado, with the presence of the board members of Baurs and distinguished officials from District 82 Toastmasters International including D.T.M. Shyamalie Jayasekera, President of The Colombo Toastmasters Club.

Rolf Blaser, speaking at the ceremony, said "It is truly a remarkable moment to be witnessing the installation of the Baurs Toastmasters Club.



Toastmasters International

ney which will see many of our mem- bo Toastmasters Club. bers being effective communicators and leaders and most importantly to share their learning with others and contribute to the communities they

Baurs is no stranger to Toastmasters International, having engaged in various Speech craft programs across its many divisions over the years, with

serve'.

This is a stepping stone towards a jourthe guidance rendered by the Colom-

These programs have undoubtedly created an impactful experience, enabling many employees gain skills and confidence in developing their public speaking abilities and a wide array of communication etiquettes including written and impromptu speeches, body language, active listening and critical evaluation.

The learning experience was highly interactive with continuous guidance and con-

structive feedbacks from the experienced Toastmasters. The event in-

ducted the Charter Members of BTC by the Communication Chair of District 82

Director Toastmaster Vinodini Durgabakshi went onto conduct the installation of the BTC EXCO members.

The appointees elect Toastmasters to the EXCO include President Rasika Amarasinghe (Manager, Administration), VP Education Harshi Wijendra (Senior Executive, Learning & Development), VP Public Relations Madushan Alwis (Product Manager, Baurs Healthcare Division representing Roche Biotech), VP Membership Tashiya Wijeyakulasuriya (Executive Office Coordinator), Secretary Chathurini Kariyawasam (PA to Deputy MD/Director-Agriculture), Treasurer

D.T.M. Sarmaa Mahalingam and Area Dilshan Warusamana (Assistant Accountant) and Sergeant at arms Deepika Ramaraj (Administration Execu-

> This historical event marks yet another historical moment. This historical event marks yet another historical moment for the Baurs family, in a year where it celebrates 125 years of progressive growth and innovation.

> This reflects the Company's continued efforts in not just embracing an inclusive and diverse workplace but also creating a stimulating environment that spurs individual growth and personal development at



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PIM Alumni Association appoints new President and ex-Co for 2022/23 he Postgraduate Institute of Management Alumni Association (PIMA), the

The President for the

year 2022/23 Shiranthi

Theverapperuma

vibrant Professionals' Association of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), recently concluded their Annual General Meeting appointing the new President and the Executive Committee for the Year 2022/23. At the AGM, outgoing presi-

dent Denzil Perera showcased the many milestones achieved during his year. These included the biennial oration ceremony for Late Prof. Uditha Liyanage with Sri Lankan business titan Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya as Chief Orator, launch of the PIMA Portal - a digital member platform to build, nurture and develop its member network, and the launch of PIMA CONNECT the quarterly magazine featuring

member success stories, achievements and research papers. Memorandum of Understanding's (MOU) were signed with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation (SLIC) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Sri Lanka.

Further, partnerships were initiated with Elegance Workspaces and Barista Café Company to provide benefits to the PIMA membership. Brand Partnerships were signed with Sarva Integrated, Brands IMC, eLearning and Macom Strategic Solutions.A very timely and valued CSR program titled 'Husmata Husmak' was launched together with PIM batch of 2021 to support fellow citizens during the Pandemic. Donations of a Non-Invasive Ventilator to District General Hospital, Gampaha and High Flow Ventilator unit & 20 units of wall oxygen outlets were made to the Base Hospital, Wathupitiwela, under the purview of this project.

The New President for the year 2022/23Shiranthi Theverapperuma was thereafter sworn in by outgoing president Denzil Perera. Shiranthi, an old girl of St. Joseph's

Convent, Nugegoda and Visakha Vidyalaya Colombo, is a Finance Professional with over 26 years of experience in Finance & Management. She holds a bachelor's degree in Commerce (Special) from the University of Colombo

and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) UK. She also holds a Master's in Business Administration from the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Having started her career at John Keells Holdings, she thereafter joined Ceylon Oxygen Ltd. as Manager Finance and thereafter as the General Manager Finance and Control, in which capacity she currently serves. She has held the positions of Treasurer and Vice President prior to being appointed as President of PIM Alumni and is also an active member of the CIMA Toastmasters Club, currently serving as its Vice President Member-

Speaking of her plans for the year ahead, Shiranthi pledged to take forward the great work of the PIM Alumni that has provided impressive pathways for career progression for its members. She emphasised that her goal would be to work towards taking forward PI-MA's vision of transforming the PIM Alumni into a community of 'Thought Leaders' that will shape the nation's socio-economic fabric.

The newly appointed Executive Committee She further encouraged members to rec-

ognise how the impossible becomes possible when mental barriers are broken and emphasised the importance of being brilliant in basics as PIM Alumni, and how this can assist in being resilient leaders in a truly VUCA world both in the Private and Public sectors in Sri Lanka where members of the PIM Alumni contribute as top decision makers.

Shiranthi also presented the four-pillar strategy (Professional Development Events, PIM joint Events, National Level Events and Member Events) for the year 2022/2023, being mindful on continuous improvement. which would assure that all of PIM Alumni's activities this year will necessarily set a base, a stage and a platform for 2023/24 under the next presidency.

The members appointed to the Executive committee for 2022/2023 included Ramesh Dassanayake, Managing Director of Sunway Group of Companies (Vice President), Denzil Perera, Chairman of Lanka Salu Sala (Immediate Past President), Shantha Katipearachchi, Management Consultant and Corporate Trainer (Secretary), Ruvini De Silva, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Justice (Assistant Secretary), Anoj Iroshan, Group Finance Manager Print Care PLC (Treasurer), Thimira Manamendra, Head of Business Bancassurance Allianz Insurance Lanka Ltd. (Editor) and Saman Wimaladasa, Head of IT Fereneto Tyre Corporation (Assistant Editor).

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cent Day is an annual celebra-

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ternational Red Cross and Red

Crescent Movement was made

up of three independent parts.

It is guided by the Fundamen-

tal Principles and united by a

central purpose: to help with-

out discrimination those who

suffer and thus contribute to

peace in the world. This event

highlights international servic-

es such as the reunion of sepa-

rated family members through

international day that is dedi-

cated to alleviating human

suffering, upholding human

dignity, protecting life, and pre-

venting emergencies and natu-

ral disasters such as flood, epi-

demics and earthquakes. The

fundamental principles recog-

nised during World Red Cross

Day are impartiality, humanity,

independence, neutrality, vol-

untary, universality and unity. All components of Red Cross

Organisations uphold and re-

Day local heroes that have

made an invaluable impact on

life protection are recognised

in various categories such as

law enforcement, military,

fire and rescue, community

champion and humanitarian

awards. Various organisations

are recognised based on the

effort in life protection. Lo-

cal communities are inspired

to take part in voluntary ac-

tivities to protect human be-

ings and animals. Various Red

Cross movements visit people

affected by natural disasters

or armed conflicts. This

celebration is also

marked by visit-

ing detainees

to show them

that, regardless

of the reasons

of their captiv-

ity, they are still

treated with dig-

nity in line with

al norms. The

main message

delivered during

World Red Cross

Day is treat all

people with hos-

pitality, dignity

Cross Day is

also celebrated

through blood

World Red

and humanity.

internation-

During World Red Cross

spect these principles.

World Red Cross Day is an

the Red Cross.



LET'S SHOW THE WORLD WE CAN ALL BE HUMANKIND!

"AN ACT OF KINDNESS CAN BE AS



"AN ACT OF KINDNESS CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS SMILING AT A CHILD WHO IS CRYING, LISTENING TO SOMEONE ATTENTIVELY. COMPLIMENTING SOMEONE, OR SAYING 'THANKS' TO SOMEONE WITH A SMILE AND ALSO HELPING SOMEONE IN A BIG **'WAY TO COME OUT OF A LIFE'S** PREDICAMENT".

-SECRETARY GENERAL

These past months and years have been marked by multiple crises that have spared no one and have hit the most vulnerable people the hardest- from Covid-19, to the climate crisis, humanitarian emergencies and escalating conflicts. But despite this, there is so much hope and humanity to be found in the form of acts of kindness. Acts of kindness are all around us. No matter how big or small, they make a huge difference in people's lives. We believe that acts of kindness have the power to spark a ripple effect, to multiply, to spread across communities, countries and the whole

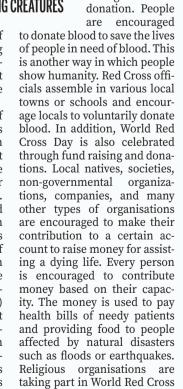
We believe in the power of kindness. On this day, people pay tribute to members and volunteers of the Organization who contribute to humanitarian work. Hence, this World Red Cross and Red Crescent

Day, all types of acts of kindness is mingled truly with a global impact. Kindness is not an ordinary virtue. It's like a superpower that anyone

can practice every day. Kindness is strength that KINDNESS IS NOT AN meaningfully im-ORDINARY VIRTUE. IT'S pacts all living creatures. The LIKE A SUPERPOWER THAT virtue, however, ANYONE CAN PRACTICE can be learnt and inculcated **EVERY DAY. KINDNESS** in the personal-IS STRENGTH THAT ity in order to live a fulfilling and **MEANINGFULLY IMPACTS** better life. Nev-**ALL LIVING CREATURES** ertheless, in daytoday-life, many

people ignore random acts of kindness. They think nothing will change in the world if today I remain unkind. We must understand that not a single

act of kindness is worthless. Likewise, today is the day of kindness and humanity as it's the World Red Cross Day which makes us remember with great pride and admiration; the late Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross movement. This World Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8, each year. This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, who was born on May 8, 1828. He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize. Dunant received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 for his contribution to humanitarian acts. During wars or epidemics, the Red Cross Society not only provides people with healthcare but also



Day by visiting sick people and

making contributions.



ACCA AWARDS THE PRESTIGIOUS GOLD STATUS TO PPIM

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the globally recognized professional finance qualification endorsed by many employers worldwide has designed a special program that assures their learning providers meet and demonstrate challenging performance targets, representing best global practices in the provision of ACCA course tuition and support. The ACCA approved learning partner status comprises of three levels of recognition, which include Platinum, Gold and Silver respectively.

ACCA's Approved Learning Partner, PPIM, was recently awarded the prestigious Gold Approved Learning Partner status by ACCA. This means that PPIM has met a range of performance targets covering the institution's overall management and more specifically, its ACCA course management and delivery, placing them as a recognized gold provider of outstanding accountancy education.

"The Gold status is granted to the tuition providers that meet ACCA's high performance standards and gains ACCA's confidence to recommend to students, after assessing the institution against challenging quality assurance measures and performance indicators, including the evaluation of student feedback, tutors, facilities, mock exams and much more and Premier Partners has met our strict criteria for this Gold training status," explained the Head of



The PPIM team with Head of South Asia at ACCA, Nilusha Ranasinghe, at the MOU signing.

South Asia at ACCA, Nilusha Ranasinghe. She further cited that, "With high caliber learning delivery being a part of our criteria from our learning providers, we look forward to strengthening our relationship with Premier Partners to train and develop the future finance professionals needed by businesses and the public sector."

Managing Director of PPIM, Ramly Saly stated, "We are immensely proud of the efforts made by both our staff and students, which has led us to receiving this great recognition and award. This is an upgrade from our previous Silver Learning Partner

status and this progress is primarily due to the high level of quality that we have maintained throughout. This recognition brings with it plenty of great benefits which we will be taking advantage of, to offer students across the country a unique learning experience that is backed by achieving a world class qualification, which will help uplift their careers".

Mr.Ziyan Mohideen, CEO of PPIM highlighted the standard of excellence which is driven by its proven panel of professional lecturers. Led by Mr.Ziyan himself, an acclaimed top-notch lecturer for ACCA in Sri Lanka, is the expert panel of lectur-

ers at PPIM among whom are, Navin Karunadasa, Salman Faris, Lahiru Karunarathna, Muhammad Nazeel, Shihan Haniff , Sharfa Riyaz, Onell Waneesha, Amaan Fazeer, Thasweer Faris, Maryam Ali, Nilakshi Beulah, Apsara Sarathchandra and Kanchana Amarasinghe with power packed credentials behind their names.

Ziyan Mohideen also declared that, PPIM possesses a winning combination geared to back any student to the pinnacle of success. "Another significant factor of our students is their attitude to education and success. Either by choice or by design, students of PPIM are of a different calibre. I can proudly state that some of the finest gems enter our portals and after passing, embark on their careers as truly sparkling diamonds. Our ACCA programmes are designed to offer professional qualifications and a UK degree from Oxford Brookes University in just two and a half years. If students pass successfully at each level - success is guaranteed in this incredibly short time span. Needless to say, many of our students have achieved this."

With the key vision of ACCA for 2022 being to develop a knowledgebased economy by building the accountancy profession in the country, ACCA looks forward to working with its Approved Learning Partners to open opportunities in the accountancy profession for new and current students across the country.

Anger Management

Description

Nothing is more disruptive to an effective learning environment than a frustrated, angry, or aggressive student. A single student whose emotions are out of control can sabotage the learning of an entire classroom of students. A variety of strategies and programs have been developed to help teachers deal with what many consider to be the Number 1 threat to classroom management - the angry student.

Learn More about Anger Management

Education World has posted a number of articles on strategies and techniques for dealing with frustrated, angry or aggressive students, including:

Author Aims to Help Children **Manage Anger**

Laura Fox's book, I Am So Angry I Could Scream: Helping Children Deal With Anger, tells the story of a long, frustrating day for a little girl who finally loses her temper. A sympathetic aunt shows her how to list what makes her angry, why those things make her angry, and how she can use her anger in positive ways. Included: A summary of My Anger Chart, which helps children identify and address issues that makes them angry.

When It Comes to Volatile Kids,

Pick Your Battles Dr. Ross W. Greene is a Psychologist who works with easily frustrated children and their parents, and the author of The Explosive Child. Greene, who recently spoke at the Maryland School Psychologists Association annual conference, advises parents and teachers that identifying the causes of a child's frustration and working with the youngster to develop coping skills can lead to fewer explosions and more compliance. Included: Strategies for working with explosive children in the

Defusing Explosive Children Children who react to transitions and frustration by screaming, becoming defiant or even hitting others can try the patience of both parents and teachers - and throw a class into turmoil. According to psychologist Ross W. Greene, the key to working with such children is helping them stay in control to keep outbursts from occurring. Included: Tips for preventing explosions in easily frustrated children.

Teaching Self Control

Martin Henley has created a curriculum for teaching students the self-control skills they need to control impulses, manage group situations, and adapt to school routines. The Teaching Self-Control curriculum includes role-plays, simulations, learning center activities and children's literature that can be used to teach those skills. Included: Twenty self-control skills all children need.

Preventing Student Aggression Aggressive students pres-

ent a significant challenge for teachers. An aggressive child can engender a climate of fear in

the classroom, creating anxiety among other students and distracting them from their schoolwork. The student who is the cause of that fear also warrants your concern. Her aggressive behaviour might signal that she is a troubled child and/or cause her to be shunned by her peers; it also might be a harbinger of problems she will display as an adolescent and adult. Find out how to prevent classroom aggression in Dr. Ken Shore's Classroom Problem Solver.

Dealing with Student Aggres-

In dealing with a student who is acting aggressively toward his classmates, you want to send a strong message that aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated in your classroom. In addition, you want to help him develop more appropriate ways of settling disputes with his peers. Be sure, however, to avoid harsh punishment or humiliation. Harshly disciplining an aggressive student might fuel his anger and make him more determined to continue the aggressive behaviour. Learn how to deal with the aggressive student in Dr. Ken Shore's Classroom Problem Solver.

Angry Outbursts, Part 1

At some point, almost every student becomes angry in school. Anger isn't a problem as long as the student expresses his/her feelings appropriately. It is a problem, however, if she expresses her anger in a way that is hurtful to her peers or disruptive to the class. A student who displays angry outbursts can throw a classroom into turmoil. She also can trigger strong feelings in you. Your challenge in working with a student whose emotional temperature often reaches the boiling point is to control your own feelings as well as those of the student. Discover how in Dr. Ken Shore's Classroom Problem Solver. **Angry Outbursts, Part 2**

An angry student might display his temper in a variety of ways. He might be unresponsive to the teacher, disengaged from the learning process, and withdrawn from his peers. Seemingly minor matters can trigger his anger, causing him to fly off the handle with little provocation and to lash out at the drop of a hat.

A younger child might express his anger through a fullblown tantrum accompanied by kicking and screaming. Those behaviours can be upsetting to classmates and disturbing to a teacher. Dr. Ken Shore explains how to deal with a student who is losing control in this Classroom Problem Solver.

Learning to Tap Away Stress, Anger

In Dr. Lynne Namka's book, Good Bye Ouchies and Grouchies, Hello Happy Feelings, Namka describes how teachers and parents can use tapping and reflection to help children release unhappy feel-

Learning and Teaching effect

I read somewhere long back that, "A school is not paradise. But school is a place where paradise can be created". It continued in the same vein with the thought, "The classroom with all its limitations, remains a location of great possibility". In the past few weeks, we have gone from Classroom to Zoom. From pedagogy to 'panicgogy'. Much has been written about the hastily made transition. In the process, however, much has also changed. Perhaps never to return to whatever we knew of teaching and learning for generations.

As we track future trends, we will address both myths, and realities, in the new emerging scenario. Suffice it to say that academic schedules have been radically disrupted, most students outside the metro-based middle class have limited computer access, Wi-Fi is kind of spotty and erratic, there is a lot of electricity outage and synchronous virtual classes are very stressful for teachers not used to working with technology. However, since there are not many options for the time being, the education bulwark so used to brick-and-mortar face-to-face interactions, is trying its best to adjust and adapt to the new normal. Many new learnings, new perspectives, new trends will emerge as we head into The Great Unknown:

1. Fewer kids will go back to school when schools re-open. Denmark eased its coronavirus lockdown on 14th April, by reopening schools and day care centres, but concerns they might become breeding grounds for a second wave of cases convinced thousands of parents to keep their children at home. There is actually a Facebook group called 'My kid is not going to be a Guinea Pig' with 40,000 members in a country as small as Denmark.

An overwhelming number of parents are asking the inevitable question, 'Why should my little child go outside first' especially since the virus is still to be brought under leash. India is going to be no different. A lot of well-heeled middle class folks may prefer to delay the return of their kids to school or college. And of course, with so many livelihoods lost, many poor parents may not be able to in any case afford sending their offsprings back to school for a long long time.

Linked question? Will this lead to home schooling? One, too early to say. Two, if the lockdowns re-occur soon, and frequently, home-schooling will become a distinct possibility with middle and upper middle families.

2. Fewer kids will go overseas to study. Every form of international education is currently affected by the crisis and will be for some time, from study abroad schemes to staff exchanges and internships to transnational collaborative programmes. Universities have been closed and/or are delivering all education online. Every international conference in higher education has been cancelled or turned into a series of webinars. As governments are starting to reopen society and restart business, universities will also gradually reopen their

Nevertheless, new modes of social distancing will continue to apply for quite some time, affecting on-campus learning in physical spaces, from the (international) classroom to libraries and on-campus student networking places. In the short term, international student mobility will decrease, including possible problems with student visas. International visiting professors could teach their courses online, continuing

to provide some 'internationalisation at home'. Once travel bans are lifted, in the medium term, student mobility will resume as it has so much become the DNA of contemporary higher education.

3. Social distancing, little or no sports. The fist-bump, the high-five, the warm handshake, the hug will be gone for a long time. The personal greeting, the smile, the intimacy, the bonhomie have all been subtracted from the class of tomorrow.

The class will go from social to asocial. Friendships, social networking, campus bonding and huddles will be on hold for a while. Invisible walls will come up, diluting in many ways the fun & euphoria of campus life.

Sports too will be in low gear for a while. Gyms, swimming pools, maybe even tracks & fields will remain shut for sometime more. And when they do open, competitive sports and tournaments will take even longer to be rein-

4. Two shift or three shift schools. The need for social distancing will mean lesser students in each class. So the need for most educational institutions to perhaps work two shifts, maybe even three, everyday. While this will put infinite more pressure on the teaching and administrative staff, it may actually be a boon in disguise for the taught. Lots of schools and colleges in India have far too many students packed into small classrooms. A sparser class may actually make for better teaching and class inter-

5. Social distance may lead to some getting 'socially distant'. As it is, equality in the classroom has always been a fiction. The inequality, sadly, will only widen in the days to come. Caste/family background, social status, economic well-being, the kind of school you attended has invariably shaped the student's confidence to speak-up in class. The underprivileged would most likely always be the meek attendees who would feel afraid to say something wrong in class, hence would prefer silence over

Such inequities do exist. The classroom, with equal seating, with uniform chairs, kind of brought an unsaid democracy to teaching. Technology which allows one student to access class from an air-conditioned, hi-speed wi-fi home, while another may be trying to find a quiet corner in an overcrowded tenement with jumpy internet will further 'socially distance' the class. Now, that is surely not what was intended from social distancing!

6. Teaching versus learning, will need figuring. Oscar Wilde once said, "Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth learning can be taught". Going forward, the role of the teacher will get redefined. The notion of a teacher or an educator as the knowledge-holder who imparts wisdom to pupils is no longer fit for the purpose

With students being able to gain access to knowledge, and even learn many a technical skill, through a few clicks on their phones, tablets and computers, we will need to redefine the role of the teacher in the classroom of tomorrow. This may mean that the role of teachers will need to move towards facilitating young people's development as contributing (and employable) members of society, rather than just lecturing.

Continued on page 48

SLASSCOM's Future Careers BRIDGE Boot Camp to support youth employment in technology sector

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 Dhow Foundation supported the Boot Camp with the English language skills mod-

Targeting students who have completed their G.C.E. A/L examinations, the program assesses vouth 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.



dustry professionals and institutions, including Gateway Language School, Winhe Software Engineering Academy and International Trainer and a Certified Transformational Coach, Fahad

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

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 new 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

industry.

This aligns with our vision of generating USD 5 billion in annual revenue, employing over 200,000 highlyskilled 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 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 awards scheme recognizing exthe occasion as the Chief Guest. Representing CIPM SL at this prestigious event, Jayantha Amaras- the NBEA honours was the vision inghe, President, Ken Vijayakumar, Vice President, Priyankara

Seneviratne, Honorary Secretary, U.A.C. Obeysekere, CEO, Anushka Earskin, Head of Business School and Ruwani Senevirathne, Quality Assurance and Compliance Man-

Initiated in 2004, the NBEA has gained much recognition and prestige among the business community and maintains the highest standards of a well-structured cellence among businesses in Sri Lanka. Instrumental in receiving of CIPM SL's President, whose continued quest for excellence

lence 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 appli-

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-

and promotion of Business Excelership, 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.



FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, KULIYAPITIYA DCLPPM

Diploma in Construction Labour Productivity and Performance Management (DCLPPM) 2022/2023

DCLPPM - Intake 02

Applications are invited for the above Diploma Course commencing from July/August 2022.

Diploma in Construction Labour Productivity and Performance Management is a comprehensive course which has been specially designed for the Engineering Assistants / construction supervisors / technical officers who directly apply supervision practices on labour operations in construction sites. The curriculum of this diploma programme was systematically developed with the direct scope of improving the performance and productivity of the workforce in construction. The programme clearly specifies the competencies, knowledge and attitudes required by the industry for improving the performance of the workforce, and it includes effective and innovative practices for the productivity improvement in the industry through proactive education and training strategies.

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, Kuliyapitiya

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

Passed a foundation course equivalent to SLQF level 2 in after a minimum of 12 years of schooling followed by an aptitude test

Passed a course equivalent to NVQF level 4 or accredited work experience or accredited prior learning followed by a cognitive bridging programme

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

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, Kuliyapitiya, 60200 on or before 10th June 2022.

Registrar Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Kuliyapitiya 04.05.2022

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 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.

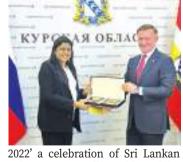
During the visit, Prof. Janita A. Liyanage also met with the Governor of the Kursk Region; R.V.



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 Ambassa-

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. Janita 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



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 eth-

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 perfor-

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. Theie success contributed to the University traditions of being the best.

At the end of the meeting, Prof.

Janita 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 traditionalwellness 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.

Advertorial

How to find quality online courses

one of the central issues emerging during the health contingency we are experiencing today. In previous articles, we have talked about both academic and cultural resources to keep ourselves busy and learning during quarantine, but in the case of online learning courses, how do we ensure their quality as educational products?

The democratisation of content has made it easier for more and better educational contents to arrive in our hands, and the volume of them has also increased. If you want to take courses that have a satisfactory standard, it is essential to be aware of the elements that comprise an excellent course and those that might weaken it. Below we share some guidelines

Online education has become to follow to evaluate the educational in the same way that would be done value of online courses.

1. INTERACTION AND RESPONSE

The first indicator of the quality of an online course is its ability to enable remote communication. In addition to teaching materials and classroom sessions, the online course should have a platform and a teacher or mentor to provide detailed feedback, whether, via email, written messages, voice or video messaging, and even live chat when required.

The response time between teachers and students is the key to leveraging technological tools. It is necessary to establish 'office hours' for attention to questions and feedback

in brick-and-mortar Educational Institutions. For example, the range of time to answer an email about any class-related questions should be hours, not days, to maintain a quick and useful pace for learning.

2. INSTITUTIONS AND TEACHING **MATERIALS**

When searching for an online course, the first step should be to check the quality and standards of the Institution or the platform that offers it. If the University or digital provider has a high level of credibility, one can be more confident that the online courses offered are of quality as well. Once the student decides which Institution or platform to choose, he or she should check that the contents are the same as those offered in a face-toface traditional course and are at the content level of a University or Professional degree curriculum.

3. THE EXCLUSIVE ADVANTAGES OF THE ONLINE MODEL

Online courses provide the flexibility that sets them apart from face-to-face lessons.

The platforms that they use enable multiple conversations at the same time on class-related topics and increase the ability to manage and share content. These resources, combined with a creative strategy that enhances the communicative aspects of the class and

includes students in the learning the work to create a sense of comprocess, result in not only a competitive educational product but one that opens up new Academic and Learning pathways.

4. ONLINE COMMUNITY

In the absence of face-to-face interactions in an online course, extra effort is needed both from teachers and students to create a learning community that facilitates communication, empathy and willingness to work in teams.

Even if a course has all the existing technological resources at hand and excellent teaching material, the educational experience will not be satisfactory if the people involved within the class do not do

munity and cooperation in and out of sessions. One suggestion to encourage the development of an online community is to spend some time to introduce yourself and talk with your classmates about your class-related interests, as well as to promote teamwork and discussion of issues outside of the lessons.

The popularity of online courses has increased considerably as a response to the growing health crisis we are facing today as a way to mitigate the psychological burden of isolation. While it is advisable to seize this opportunity to continue learning, it is also necessary to develop critical sensitivity to the educational products we choose.

Equality and diversity

times called multiculturalism, is the concept of accepting and promoting people's differences. The fundamental goal when promoting equality is to raise awareness and make sure that all individuals are treated equally and fairly. This is regardless of their age, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or race.

When you promote diversity in the classroom, you can use a range of activities and principles to help students recognise and respect people's differences, creating an all-inclusive atmosphere. The promotion of diversity and equality in education is paramount for both students and

The goal is to create an in--a safe place without prejudice - where students have the opportunity to thrive. Successfully teaching and raising awareness of diversity works to highlight individual characteristics and traits that make people unique rather than different.

Young people need to have an understanding of equality and human rights. This knowledge helps them to understand how they should be treated and how to treat others. When you promote equality and teach these topics, you create a safe environment for students to challenge, discuss, explore, and form lasting or the bullying of somebody due values, morals and opinions.

to respect diversity, they gain other stereotypes than are causknowledge and understanding that can help them to improve remake positive decisions throughout their lives. In today's challenging and diverse society, you must instill young students with positive and open-minded atti-

What key principles should schools follow?

While many schools will take a unique approach to promote equality and diversity in the classroom, some principles can act as a basis for this promotion.

As you discuss and plan your approach to encouraging and embracing equality in the classroom, you should consider the following principles:

All students are equal regardless of their religious beliefs, sexual orientation, race, gender and gender identity.

Although this is an important principle, you should teach your students that this doesn't mean everybody in the classroom is treated the same. Occasionally, it means that people require extra help so that they are provided with the same opportunities and outcomes as others.

2 Differences are respected, recognised and valued because diversity is a strength.

In your school, all differences are taken into account as you work hard to eliminate the disadvantages and barriers with which some people are faced. These differences may relate to ethnicity, gender, faith, disability or sexual orientation. You believe that diversity is strength and it should be celebrated and respected by all the school's students, teachers and visitors.

3. Positive relationships and attitudes are fostered throughout the school.

Your students, staff and visitors will benefit if you actively promote mutual respect and positive attitudes between communities and groups that differ from one another.

4. A shared sense of belonging and inclusion is encouraged in the classroom.

You want all members of your school community to share

Equality and diversity, some-school and the wider community. This will help each individual to feel respected as an individual and to respect one another. This feeling of mutual respect makes it easier for students to participate in school life fully.

5. We actively observe and promote equalities practised for

All school policies and procedures are designed to benefit all employees and potential recruits in every aspect of their work. These procedures are active throughout a member of staff's career, from recruitment and promotion, through to personal development.

6. We have the highest expectations for all our students.

You believe that all pupils can clusive classroom environment achieve good progress and attain their highest potential.

7. We work hard to raise standards for all our students

It's part of your school's ethos to improve the quality of education throughout the most vulnerable groups of students. This helps to raise the standards throughout the whole school while actively promoting inclusion and respect.

and prejudice.

In your school, all incidences of prejudice-based bullying are reported and challenged. This includes racism, homophobia, to a disability. You also actively When students are taught challenge gender-based and any ing concern.

As you work to create your lationships, tackle prejudice and own principles for your equality and diversity policy, your objec-

tives may include. Developing an ethos that val-

ues and respects all people. Actively promoting the equal-

ity of opportunity. Preparing all pupils for life in-

side a diverse society. Fostering good relations amongst both the school community and the wider communities

with which you work. Eliminating all forms of unfair discrimination, harassment and other oppressive behaviour, using the School Disciplinary

Procedures when appropriate. Delivering diversity and and promote diversity in the equality through school policies, practice, and procedures.

Using all available resources to eliminate barriers which could discourage or limit access to school activities and provision.

Taking positive action to offer support and encouragement to groups and individuals whose progress could be limited by cultural expectations and stereo-

Monitoring the implementation of equality and diversity throughout the school.

Setting targets for improvement and evaluating the impact of equality and diversity action on achieving the goals of the

Why is equality and diversity

When you provide an equitable education system within your school, you support an environment that helps all students develop core knowledge and skills. This development allows them to become more productive mem-

bers of society from an early age. By giving all students an equitable start, teachers and school staff can lead the way for better social and economic outcomes for students, regions and society as a whole. If all of your students are given all that they need to thrive, a level of mutual respect can be formed between teaching staff and students. This leads to productive classrooms, with staff feeling good about their lessons a sense of belonging in both the and students actively engaged in from any resources that use bla-

As a teacher, some of your responsibilities when promoting equality and diversity may

Making it very clear to students the level of conduct that you expect to see in their interactions and dealing appropriately and promptly with bad behav-

Finding opportunities for students to work collaboratively in diverse groups within your teaching schedule.

Paying close attention to the needs of students in diverse groups as part of your course design. As you develop your curriculum, you may wish to include an equality analysis. This will help you to make sure that proper consideration is given in erms of accessibility and inclu-

Finding respectful and creative ways to use the diversity of your students to improve the overall learning experience for

How can we promote it at

It's paramount that people **8. We challenge stereotyping** understand equality from an early age. Teaching diversity and equality to young students helps to instill moral and social traits that will support their growth throughout their younger years and into adult life.

By teaching these topics, each student has access to a safe place to challenge, discuss, explore, and form their values and

To promote equality and diversity in your school, you should consider:

Challenging negative attitudes amongst students.

Avoiding stereotypes in curricular resources and examples. Setting clear rules regarding

how people treat each other. Treating all students and staff equally and fairly.

Creating an all-inclusive environment for students and staff. Actively using resources that have multicultural themes.

Working to promote multiculturalism in lessons. Creating lessons that reflect

Making sure that all students have equal access to participa-

tion and opportunities. Using a variety of assessment methods.

Using a range of teaching methods. Ensuring that all procedures and policies are non-discrimina-

Making sure that classroom materials never discriminate against anyone and are accessible to all even if this means adapting to audio, large print, or

Classroom activities to promote equality and diversity

Do vou strive to include diversity in your various teaching methods?

Do you actively reference and use examples from different traditions, cultures and religions?

Are you doing your best to challenge society's stereotypes? Below are some classroom

ideas and activities that can be adapted to encourage equality and diversity in your school.

Provide resources that include diverse images

When you choose books, videos, activities and worksheets for your students, they should include people from a range of backgrounds or people that have disabilities. This helps to teach students that these differences are perfectly 'normal'. Shy away

tant stereotypes, as these reinforce negative connotations that are prevalent in society.

Themed weeks

During these themed weeks, you could listen to music, try different foods, play themed games, watch appropriate videos, and teach relevant facts to normalisethese themes in the minds of students. We recommend incorporating the theme into all areas of the curriculum as this helps to maintain interest and reinforce

Sample foods

Set up an American diner, Italian restaurant, or Spanish Tapas cafe in your classroom and provide sample foods and drinks for your students that are typical in these cultures. How do these foods differ from what students would normally eat? What do they dislike or like about the foods? Try to teach the students how these foods have become part of the corresponding culture and why some foods are not eaten in certain cultures/countries.

Teach languages

Teach your students a few words in Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese to raise awareness of the different languages around the world. If there are any bi-lingual students in the class, see if they can help. Discuss the benefits that speaking more than one language provides and the

world's most popular languages. Utilise appropriate current

news events Promote healthy discussions and debates by referring to contemporary issues to determine your students' views and understanding of various situations. For example, find a news story about a Paralympics success or overcoming stereotypes - What do your students think about this? Try to encourage positive discussion around a range of interesting and diverse topics.

Discuss items that come from abroad

This is a great activity that can be completed at the beginning of a lesson to introduce multicultural themes. Encourage your students to list all the things in their lives that come from abroad. As they read out their responses, note how many of them are surprised at the results. Split your students into two teams. Give one group a statement, e.g. "I'm the oldest member of staff in the office, and I've been sacked because of my age". While this team defends this statement, the other team should be encouraged to

challenge what has been said. In this piece, we've outlined the importance of teaching students about equality and diversity from an early age. We've suggested ideas ranging from challenging negative attitudes in the classroom, through to inviting diverse guest speakers to share their experiences with the school community.

We've listed a range of classroom activities designed to raise awareness of and celebrate the differences that make people unique. We've also highlighted the importance of inclusion, and how students should be taught that some people require more help than others.

The idea of promoting equality and diversity in the classroom is that it helps equip students with the attitudes and skills required to thrive throughout their lives. By instilling positive outlooks and challenging stereotypes from an early age, students can mature with an all-encompassing, unbiased view on life.

By implementing the suggestions mentioned throughout this piece, you can help make a difference in the lives of your students, their communities and society as

Learning and...

Continued from page 46

7. Teaching will go tech. But improvisation, student capacjust Zoom isn't e-learning. To enable remote learning, technology will kick in big time. The mechanics of remote instruction, however, are not necessarily inclusive or equitable. Remote instruction requires that students have access to both capable computing technology and reliable internet service (and in our country perennial electricity too).

Which is not always unfortunately guaranteed in India. Also, Zoom deployment in itself isn't going to equal learning. There will be need to do more. There are already educationists working on taking a lot of science lessons, even geography, to 3-D.

A detailed world map in 3-D, for example, for a Class 6 student would surely be so much more fun.

Also, a 3-D view of the heart. Technology will enrich teaching, but for that teachers and technologists both will have to persevere and innovate.

8. Matthew Effect will have to be anticipated and mitigated. A Matthew Effect in educational technology is frequently observed: those who are most able to benefit from the introduction of technology (e.g. children with educated parents and good teachers, who live in prosperous communities, etc.) are indeed the ones who actually

benefit the most. Just because investments in educational technology use are justified by rhetoric claiming that such use will benefit 'the poor' doesn't mean that this will actually happen. In fact, the opposite many well occur.

9. Blended learning & personalized education. There will be, going forward, a great opportunity to develop new forms of blended education (that will be in much demand). 'Pre crisis' there was already a growing demand for more flexible and blended forms of lifelong learning beyond initial education in order to address the need to upskill and reskill for the digital economy.

Mature adult learners in the future will be more and more interested in micro-credentials which allow them to acquire specific knowledge and skills. The demand will be for more work relevant courses or learning paths and learning experiences that prepare students for AI, AR, VR, ML, Blockchain, Big Data, Cloud, data analytics, voice deployment and more.

We will see a significant thrust towards experiential learning too.

We will see the emergence of top-of-the-line MasterClass formats taught by best-in-domain in every field, digitally delivered.

A lot of this will be selflearning, that too self-motivated and self-funded.

Adult learners will also spend more on 'passion' learning - hobbies or skills they always wanted to acquire but had no time for.

likely socializing, and greater work-from-home, there will be more time for such learning indulgences. 10. Learning Outcomes ver-

With lesser travel, lesser

sus Informed Citizenry. A vigorous debate has already been ignited on what online instruction means for learning outcomes, student satisfaction, instructor convenience, the cost of course delivery, and more.

This debate, however, has been narrow and has unfortunately sidestepped discussion of the equally important implications for in-class pedagogical

ity to organise and express dissent and how to build courage amongst students.

With the shift to online and blended education likely to continue beyond Covid-19 and become permanent, it will fundamentally transform the structure of the education sys-

At stake will be the monumentally important issue of the very purpose of an education system in society.

Should its role be restricted to solely enhancing 'learning outcomes' and creating a cadre of skilled professionals? Or should it have a more expansive obligation to deepen democracy by producing an informed citizenry that is aware of its rights and possesses the capability to exercise the tools of democracy for societal progress? Time will tell.

11. Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Cloud Computing will enable MOOC. MOOC - massive open online courses - empower teachers and students in remote areas to learn and furnish themselves with the latest knowledge. While a definitive objective is mass customization, different applications and projects will help this grow in

reach and impact. Tutoring applications will be modified, with their lesson structures relying upon the execution of a one of a kind user

profile. Increased data crunching will make testing an increasingly interactive marvel. AI and machine learning will be used to outline a student's qualities and shortcomings. Individual learning rates and records will be contemplated and comput-

These tests, intended to support students' confidence in zones they exceed expectations in and challenge them in regions they don't will become holistic methodologies to enables students to stay encour-

aged and motivated. Will all this happen in education? Happen soon? My guess is perhaps not all of it.

Lots has to, and will, change in the field of education, and learning, in the weeks, months and years to come.

One thing is for sure. We are never going to go back to the 'pre-crisis' era. That is now be-

We will have to let go of the syllabus as it existed before; we will have to somewhat re-learn the 'normal/expected' order of classroom teaching; we will have to re-think contact hours; we will have to re-visit the notion of everyone having to do the same thing; we will have to re-examine assignments that invite cheating; we will have to recalibrate control and authority; we will have to question assumptions about what students want; we will have to tone down suspicions about student integrity; we will have to huddle together to discuss "covering the content" and "content delivery"; and of course we will have to correct perceptions about students' access to technology and teachers' relationship with

Tomorrow will be a new dawn. What we make of it is entirely in our own hands. Change is desirable; change is inevitable.

Change in fact has been forced upon us. Whether we use the opportunity to advantage or let it pass us by will decide whether the future will shock us or we will create shock-absorbers that will in fact use the impact to cushion us in our journey to a better to-

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Application Closing Date: 22nd June 2022



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Applications are called for the following post from eligible citizens of

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Self-prepared applications including all Bio data with names of two non-related referees their addresses and telephone numbers along with copies of certificates should be forwarded by registered post, on or before 24th May, 2022 addressed to Chairman, National Livestock Development Board, No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05. Please indicate the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Those employed in Government Institutions should forward their applications through Heads of Institutions.

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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National Livestock Development Board,

No. 40, Nawala Road,

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- Hands-on experience in the banking and finance sector will be a definite advantage.
- A member of CIPM/AHRP/EFC.
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SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

VACANCIES

Management Assistant-Information Technology -

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka who are not less than 20 years and not more than 35 years as at 15.05.2022of 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.
- Should have passed in all subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination (except the Common General Paper) in one
- 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.
- Preference will be given for those who have a Degree in Information Technology, recognized by the University Grants Commission.
- Three years Working experiences on Computer Hardware, Software, Network and Systems will be added advantages.
- 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

Please mention the "Post of Management Assistant-IT" on the left-hand corner of the envelope.

Management Assistant-Finance and Administration -

Contract Basis

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 Degree in Finance or Accounting will be considered as an
- added advantage. Language Proficiency in English and Sinhala/Tamil
- Proficiency in MS Office Applications and QuickBooks
- Accounting Applications. Previous work experience in a similar role and organization will
- be considered asan added advantage. 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 nonrelated 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 envelop.

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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:



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Please mention the position you are applying for when submitting the above.

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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 Muncipal Council.

For further details, contact 0112723538

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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.
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The appointment shall be on a full-time basis for a period of 2 years, with the possibility of reappointment 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, whererelevant) 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

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Head of HR HR Department, Durdans Hospital, 3 Alfred Place, Colombo 3





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www.nahm.ac.tk

FOR INQUIRIES: Ramani - 011 2 429 347 Piyumi -0112429383 Gayani -0112429342/343



mannered caring son is sought by respectable G/B parents from Colombo suburbs for their daughter born AA Academically and in 1986 May, 5'3" professionally qualipretty, fair, slim with fied employed well a pleasing personality. Educated at a leading mannered caring son girls' school Kandy is sought by retired and graduated at a educational Buddhist parents institute in Colombo. from Gampaha for Please reply with their kind, pretty, fair family details, a copy of horoscope and con-BSc (Science), MSc tact number. E-mail: qualified daughter may79798@gmail.co born in 1991, height 5'4". She is employed as an Assistant Sec-Academically and retary (Sri Lanka Adprofessionally qualified caring son under ministrative Service) 35 yrs of age is sought in a cabinet minisby B/S parents for try. Please reply with kind, pretty daughter

About daughter 1986 born, 5'4", fair, pretty, only daughter, educated in a leading in Colombo school 7, Attorney-at-Law, qualified with LLB, BBA, mother from Colombo seeks a suitable partner. Inherits asdivorced with encumbrances. Reply:- mpropsw19@ gmail.com OB180035

horoscope and details,

caste immaterial. lank

anproposal2022@gm

OB179963

ail.com

About daughter, 26 years, absolutely very pleasant and fair, very religious well educated, smart and moral charactered, currently reading for her Masters degree in a reputed university. We are Bodu Govi family residing in Colombo suburbs. Looking for a professionally qualified well mannered, businessman or well employed respectable caring son. Please reply with all details Email - newpropos al987@gmail.com

OB180115

Academically and professionally caring, well-mannered son sought by Govi/Buddhist parents in Australia for their daughter. She is 5'3" tall well-mannered and born in 1992 Dec. She is a lawyer and also inherits substantial family assets. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: mpd268@hotmail .com OB180200



Academically and

professionally quali-

fied below 38 yrs. well

OB180006

born in 1992. Masters

and BA Degree quali-

fied in Psychology

employed in a semi-

government organiza-

tion as a Counselor.

Please reply with

family details. Email:

wijepvt@gmail.com.

Academically and pro-

fessionally qualified

employed well-man-

parents from Kurune-

gala for their pretty

tion from UK Univer-

sity. Also, reading for

MBA and she is work-

to registration years

ago. She inherits sub-

stantial assets. Kindly

Academically

Academically

1996, 5'3" pretty fair

holds a special degree

in Statistics. proposal

daughter1996@gmail

graduate

accomplished

Phone: 0112 730 670

OB180165

Academically professionally qualified son is sought by parents living in Negombo suburb for their daughter B/G, 1996, 5'3" pretty fair holds a special degree in Statistics. proposal daughter1996@gmail OB180074

Academically

professionally qualified son is sought by Sinhala Buddhist Special-Medical ist parents for their only daughter born in March 1993, 5'2" slim fair and pretty BSc graduate currently employed in a Government Ministry, New Zealand. Caste immaterial, kindly reply with family details and HC. abcps6224@ gmail.com OB180022

Academically

fied well employed

teetotaller caring son from a respectable family sought by Buddhist Colombo Karawe professional parents, for their academically and pronered caring son is fessionally qualified sought by retired G/B religious 34 year old daughter employed working in Colombo. She is 5'3" in height only daughter. She is well employed holds very fair, pretty, atqualificatractive, well manpersonality. Caste not material. Reply with full family ing as an Engineer at a reputed company details and a copy of the horoscope. Nonin Colombo. Born in Feb 91. Height 5'5". horoscope She separated from preferred. confidentia a marriage confined lproposals@yahoo.co

OB179606

Academically and reply with full family professionally qualidetails, copy of horofied well mannered scope and contact information to: kanthir partner sought by B/ athnayeka61@gmail. C Govi parents for OB180229 only child born 1980. She is medium comand professionally qualiplexioned attractive fied pretty and well accomplished down mannered daughter is to earth lover of nasought by B/S retired ture and animals and Engineer father for a wide range of other his handsome & well mannered son. 34 yrs, Widely interests. 5'6" Lawyer by protravelled. Educated fession and currently mostly abroad while preparing for an LLM. living with parents. He inherits 2 valuable Graduated and posthouses, vehicle and graduated from highother valuable assets. Flexible to migrate. ly prestigious univer-Caste is immaterial. sity abroad. Partly Please respond with qualified C.I.M.A. Lifamily details and the centitate Pianoforte horoscope. Email: mj Trinity College Lonmproposal@gmail.co OB180219 don. Was employed in Sri Lanka and abroad. and Presently holding seprofessionally qualinior position abroad. fied son is sought Will inherit substanby parents living in Negombo suburb for tial assets. Please give their daughter B/G, family details, horo-

scope and telephone

numbers. Email: tity

OB180153

vone@hotmail.com

and Academically professionally qualiwell-mannered son who is willing to migrate is sought by B/G parents from Colombo suburbs for their 30 yrs. old 5'3" daughter. She holds a MSc and is employed as an Application Developer in the UK. Currently and she is in Sri Lanka for a short visit. Kindly reply with full de-

tails and a copy of the

horoscope. E-mail: pi

umperera10@gmail.c

OB180195 Academically & professionally qualified son is sought by Bodu Durawa Govi Parents residing in Colombo suburbs for their daughter born in 1992 October, 5' MBBS (SL) Doctor (Govt. Hospital). Saturn 1st house, Kuja 6th house. Shani and mangala yoga. damm professionally qualiisathara@gmail.com

> Academically, professionally qualified carwell mannered NS/TT son is sought by G/B professional parents from Kesbewa - Colombo for their eldest daughter pretty fair 5'3" born June 1993, BSc, MPhil (Reading) employed in Government sector. Overseas proposals are also considered. Please respond with details with horoscope of the proposed son to: new hopednd@gmail.com OB180085

OB180175

Age 27, BSc degree completed in Govern- MBBS Doctor. Reply daughter with Mas- reply with full family ment University, find- with horoscope and ing a good suitable family details. salm partner by parents. OB179974

and A respectable Bud- Bodu Govi / Karawa Buddhist Govi / Ra- B/G educated parents dhist Govi/Deva parents seek a matchparents from Coing partner for their lombo suburb seek elder daughter born an educated, hand-1991, 5'3" pursome son with high suing higher studemployment, prefer-(PhD) in USA, ably from Colombo willing to settle in and suburb for their USA, SL or another daughter, May 1991, country, for the right 5'2", very fair, pretty, partner. Proposed educated at a leaddaughter will visit ing Girls School in Sri Lanka this month Colombo, Graduate (May) for a short va-Diploma and MBA. cation. Email - pabod CIMA semi qualified, works in a leading Fianipunsara@gmail.c om T.P. 0915789215. nancial institute, land and house among OB180066 other valuable assets.

Bodu Vishwa respect-

seek for a well man-

nered professionally

qualified son for their

daughter a final year

medical student Born

1995 Height 5' 3" fair

not willing to migrate.

Caste immaterial. Re-

ply with family de-

tails and horoscope.

1989,

parents living

Colombo suburbs

able

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gmail.com OB180204 Beautiful, fair, kind G/B from a well connected affluent family looking for a partner over 43. Those with children welcome to apply. Self replies expected. soulmatep ropose@gmail.com OB180058

Email: propose438@

BG parents from Colombo seek educated, partner for only daughter 1990 July, 5'2" pretty fair and well accomplished. Studied in a leading Buddhist School graduated in HR with PQHRM. Presently employed as Deputy Manager Human Resources in reputed Apparel Company with six figure salfollowing an ary, MBA in HRMI from Northampton University, owns a two storied house and a car. Elder brother Engineer married to g1959@gmail.com

OB180037

jaka respectable parents in Colombo suburbs seek a suitable partner for fair pretty decent daughter only child in the family born 1989/8 and 5 feet tall, She has obtained Bio Technology degree from a foreign University followed by Masters degree from the University of Kelaniya, currently She is reading for MBA and employed in the private sector, in a staff grade position. She owns a two storied new house with other assets. Contact with horoscope. Caste immaterial. email: mal

OB179933 Buddhist Karawa professional parents seek a partner preferably a doctor for 26 years 5'6" tall fair doctor daughter, propo sal2656@gmail.com OB179927 Buddhist Karawa/

likaf480@gmail.com

Govi wealthy parents mariprop123@gmail. with very respect-OB180181 able family background living in Co-7th lombo suburbs seek month, permanently an academically and professionally qualiresiding in Canada fied son below and permanently emyears employed in ployed there in nurs-Sri Lanka from a reing service, daughter, spectable family for their elder daughter parents seek educated 5'6" tall born in 1996 employed Sri Lankan January pretty fair son. Parents are also studied in English living in Canada. cha medium at a leading ndranicg@yahoo.com Buddhist school in Colombo, graduated in International Busi-Management, well-employed inherits substantial assets. Non-malefic

31

horo-

OB180097

OB179984 Buddhist Govi mixed parents seek educated partner for 29 years, 5'3", pretty, slim, scope. No intention of migrating. Please employed graduate details and horoscope, ters. Inherits assets contact number in including a house. m first letter. E-mail: m aprop2468@gmail.co arriagepro1996@gma OB180082 il.com

REPRINTES

DOMESTIC MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

seek a suitable partner for 1994 born, 5'4", thin, fair, MBBS qualified, kind hearted, doctor daughter. Wishes to be in Sri Lanka for few more years to continue higher studies. Reply with horoscope and family details. E-mail: kumlak2603@gmail.

daughter very fair

and pretty with sober mannered born 1987 studied Musaeus Colgraduated and living in Australia with cousin sisters and aunt. Pious Buddhist looking for a professionally qualiwell-mannered groom from Sri Lanka or Sri Lankan abroad, father retired aviation Executive mother H/ W. She owns a substantial property. Please reply with horoscope and details. janani1968@g mail.com OB179943

B/G mother seeks an educated son for our well accomplished charming daughter, born in 84 November, 5'5". Educated at a leading school in Colombo, employed at a reputed company as a General Manager drawing an attractive salary and other perks. Inherits substantial assets including a luxury house and vehicles. Please respond to; jds7sn@g mail.com OB180050

parents Galle seek professionally qualified well mannered son for their daughter ICT graduate teacher in Govt. Service. 1977.08 Kuja 4th House. klpdes1@ gmail.com OB180064 B/G respectable professional parents from

Colombo suburb seek for slim, pretty daughter born in 1991, 5'2" with Masters degree, educated in a leading girls' school and employed in a managerial position at a private firm in Colombo, a professionally/academically qualified partner with similar background. Inherits valuable assets. Please reply with family details, horoscope and contact numbers to; wije3053@gmail.com OB180012

B/G respectable professional parents academically professionally and qualified, well-mannered son below 30 years for their daughter, born in 1996, 5'2", pretty, educated at a leading Buddhist Girls school in Colombo, BSc Software Engineer works in a well-reputed company. Reply with family details and horoscope to; marriagep152@g posal96@gmail.com mail.com OB180016

B/G retired parents from Colombo subseek academically / professionally qualified kind caring son for their 1986 May born 5'6" fair daughter, Chartered Architect (B. Arch) employed in government organization. reasonable Inherits OB180041 wealth. Reply with B/G from W/P our family

> B/G teacher mother professionally qualified son with respectable family background for pretty daughter, a qualified MBBS doctor, born 1985 October, 5'4" with excellent character. Inherits substantial assets in Colombo. Please reply with horoscope to: hrhpri ncesshiranya2020@g mail.com OB180068

OB180221

B/G 1990 pretty daughter living in Australia completed medical degree and master's. Parents seek suitable kind hearted son in Queensland. Europe PR holders also welcome. letters. Reply daya rathne@gmail.com OB180044

B/S parents are seeking an educated partner for daughter, 32, attractive, 5'2" final vear medical student in the USA. Reply with details by mail or email marriagepro posal033@gmail.com

Colombo Bodu Govi respectable parents educated partner for pretty daughter 27 5' 2" studied at a leading school Masters degree works in private sector Colombo. Inherits assets. Please reply br idesrilanka22@yahoo OB180185 Colombo B/G profes-

sional parents seek an academically qualified kind loving and their daughter only child born 5/96, 5'3" pretty smart with commendable character, graduated with BSc Masters well employed with foreign exposure in the hospitality sector in a managerial capacity. Prefer those who are abroad or willing to migrate. Inherits substantial assets. Reply with horoscope and family details. mgpro OB180081

Colombo Bodu Govi retired Govt Officer parents seek for their 1991 height 5'5" pretty MBBS Doctor daughter, a virtuous employed son in the profession of Engineer. Doctor, Accountant or Commissioned Officers in Triforces. She inherits valuable land and other assets worth more than 60 million. details and Write with all the deof horoscope.

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Colombo, Bodu Govi, very respectable family, professional family parents, seek an educated son for their MBBS Doctor daughter pretty, fair, 5'6" born in 1992 with excellent character. presently working in Government hospital. She will inherit a medical center with house in Colombo, Motor vehicle, savings and many more. Please send family details with a copy of horoscope, prop

tails along with the

of horoscope.

OB180133

OB179670

vas22@gmail.com

Decent Buddhist family in Western Province seeks an academically qualified handsome partner for their 25 yrs. old 5'6" tall, fair and kindhearted daughter working as an MBBS Doctor in Australia. Medical & Engineering professionals aged below 30 are preferred. Reply to; prop osalgrm@outlook.co OB179996

Educated well-mansought by B/G respectable parents Padukka daughter 1995-Dec. 5' 4 1/2" studied at International School working in a private bank. Reply with horoscope and family details. 0112831229. OB180118

Galle Buddhist Karawa 5'3" 1991 BBA Graduate daughter employed as Financial Analyst reading for MBA mother seeks graduated suitable son matching with Kuja 8. aclkaru narathna@gmail.com

open minded son for Galle, Buddhist, Durawa 1988, height 5', graduated in Information Technology Section from NSBM Institute, presently attached to a private company, only daughter in family, bank retired mother seeks virtuous son employed either in the state or private sector with sober habits. Reply with horoscope copy and family details in first letter. pr oposalsGR2019@gm OB179983

> Continued on page 55



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Continued from page 54



Gampaha B/G parents (professor and teacher) seek academically and professionally qualified kind and decent son for their pretty and wellmannered daughter, 25, university lecturer planning to start higher studies abroad. Please respond with full details. E-mail: c pk.cr59@gmail.com OB180121

Govi Buddhist retired mother (teacher) residing in Kandy district seeks an educated well mannered, teetotaller son for the daughter, 29 yrs, qualified with BA and MA (English teaching), at present she is working as an Instructor attached to a State University in Sri Lanka, her brother is also working as an Instructor attached to a state university, just after completing his (Engineering). Send family details. Email - uddeepa11@ gmail.com OB179912

Govi/ Catholic / Buddhist parents from Colombo suburbs seek educated partner for their 1991 born pretty, fair, 5'3" Attorneyat-Law, RC daughter, educated in a leading girls' school in Colombo and holding LLB London, LLM. a leading law firm. Please reply with full details. Email: propo sals9191@gmail.com OB180222

G/B parents in SL seek a kind-hearted, troduce and build up a relationship leading to marriage for daughter 24 yrs, 5'2' USA citizen and BSc graduate. Contact: de vanmini99@gmail.co

OB180125 G/B parents seek a well mannered N/S suitable professionally qualified partner for their daughter born in 1990 pretty fair 5'5" educated at a leading school in Colombo with a BSc in Graphic Designing and currently a freelance Art Director. Reply with family details H. cope and recent photograph to anuradhiwelikala@g mail.com OB179937

G.B parents seek suitable partner for their daughter age 30 5' height MSc in H.R working in a bank da yawick7@gmail.com OB180177

Ja-Ela, born, RC, Sinhala, height 5' slim, fair, Convent educated ACMA Fi-Controller daughter in a listed company in Colombo, family seeks a suitable educated and caring partner. She inherits assets. Please reply with complete details to: dinalimarianf@g mail.com OB180073

dhist parents living in Western Province seek a professionally and socially compatible life partner for pleasant and up brought daughter, born July 1995, height 5'7", studied at a leading girls school in Colombo and graduated from the Colombo University with a Bsc (Special) and working in the academic section there. Reply with particulars to m

Kandyan Radala Bud-

Lady born in 1971, divorced good looking no encumbrances, Buddhist is looking for a gentleman for early marriage. Email hiruprop2022@gm OB180183

pug795@gmail.com

OB180090

Leading Govi Buddhist seeks a professionally qualified partner from Sri Lanka, Brisbane or Perth educated, well em-Currently works for ployed pretty daughter born in 1988, with Horoscope and family details essential. email: props 19221@gmail.com.

OB180161 educated son to in- Matale - Bodu Govi mother seeks a suitable partner for only daughter in the Lawfamily of the Supreme Court, age 28, 'Kataka' lagna. Furnish all the details in the first letter.

OB180063

Moor parents from Colombo/Galle seek educated, wellan mannered understanding groom from Colombo or suburbs around 30 years, who employed in Sri Lanka for their daugh-26 years 5'4", fair, pleasant looking smart, degree holder and working in a reputed organization in Colombo. Please reply with full details. Email: 12proposal2 021@gmail.com or contact 0112530896 Muslim - Moor par-RC Sinhala / Tamil Brother seeks a smart. ents from Colombo presently live in UAE social professional and have permanent businessman in age category 46 - 55 for residence in Colombo, seeking profesyoung looking, pretty, sionally qualified, fair, educated, well religious, caring and employed, never marwell-mannered son ried fifty - year sister, for their 23-year-old caste religion immate-

pretty, intelligent and

kind daughter. She

completed her BSc.

and presently teach-

ing Maths to UK stu-

dents (Online). Also,

she has acquired few

qualifications in reli-

gious studies. Father

works for a leading

company in UAE,

and her mother was

a former Teacher at

a leading government

school. Please send

your details to marri

ageproposalcmb@gm

Our daughter, 25

vears, Buddhist, Gov-

igama, born in Ger-

many but lives in UK,

has degree in Law &

German, kind, fair,

pretty, 5'2" tall. We

are seeking well re-

spected kind & hand-

some bridegroom, 26-

30 years, height 5'7"

and above, lives in

Sri Lanka or abroad

and is academically

qualified. Reply with

full details to: rpand

itaratne@yahoo.com

Panadura Father B/

G retired bank officer

seeks suitable son for

daughter Chemistry

Special final year stu-

dent at J'pura Cam-

pus who is 26 years 5'

tall, with good charac-

ter. Reply with fam-

ily details and horo-

Parents living in heart

of Colombo, looking

for an educated part-

ner (preferably USA

qualified), for our

daughter (dual citizen

of USA & Sri Lanka),

born in 1994, quali-

fied with bachelor's

and master's degree

from USA, at pres-

ent working in USA.

Please reply with the

horoscope and fam-

ily details to: pmarr

Professionally quali-

fied (prefer a doctor)

kind hearted son is

sought by parents B/G

based in Colombo for

their daughter 1994

born slim, fair, pretty

brought up with Bud-

dhist values, studied

at a leading school

in Colombo. She is

a doctor, currently

working in a hospital

in Colombo. Planning

to migrate to Austra-

lia. Only sister is a

Citizen in Australia.

Both her sister & her

husband are doctors

(consultants) work-

ing in Queensland

Health. Please reply

with family details

and horoscope. Email

OB179926

iageusa@gmail.com

038 223 6935

OB180182

professionally

OB180198

ail.com

OB179564

Respectable dhist parents living in America seek a suitable partner for their youngest daughter. She is 5' 4", born in 1989, holds a bachdegree and elor's works in California. Please reply with complete details to sl .bride.777@gmail.co OB180179

rial, widows' divor-

cees are also consid-

ered. Email: prop45

6srilanka@gmail.com

OB180163

Respectable Karawa Buddhist financial and medical professional parents from Colombo suburbs seek a professionally qualified kind well mannered son below 32 years from a respectable family for their daughter, 5'2" fair pretty and slim an MBBS Doctor graduated from a State Medical Faculty and educated at a leading girls' school in Colombo. Inherits wealth including a house and lands. Please reply with horoscope to: js rsin1620@gmail.com

Parents seek an educated Partner for their daughter 5' 2" born 1986 Bsc, Msc and CIMA qualified completed her postgraduate Diploma in Education at University of Colombo currently working as a graduate Teacher six figure salary at International School abroad. She owns a three storied house. Please send family details and horoscope with contact number. Email. mproposal423@gmai OB180187

partner for 1995 August born 5'4", fair pretty daughter studied life science at University Toronto Canada, currently working at a leading bank in Canada, inheriting valuable assets in Sri Lanka and Canada, respectable highly Kandy B/G parents look for a suitable son academically qualified has good family values, is handsome and intends to migrating to Canada or living abroad. Please send us full family details and horoscopes with contact nos. Email: g : lakminiwd@gmail.c swijekoon@gmail.co OB180190 m OB179909

SGB parents seek an academically / professionally qualified partner for their 28 year old fair and pretty daughter who holds an executive position with a well known financial sector company. She studied at an S/G/B parents seek international school academically / profesand graduated with BSc (Hons) from a reputed university in England. She is a professionally qualified

and family details to email: sm.proposal@ yahoo.com OB179914 Sinhala Bodu Govi 1990 May born past Pupil of Vishaka Col-Bambalapitiya MBBS Doctor attached to a Government Hospital parents seek educated well qualified groom with sober habits in same status. She inherits very valuable assets. Please note height

Accountant (ACMA-

UK) and owns a mod-

ern house in a Co-

lombo suburb. Please

reply with horoscope

should be above 5ft 8 inches age should be around 34, preferred to have doctor or engineer. Write with copy of horoscope & full family details. d onpri7@gmail.com OB180032 Sinhala Buddhist parents seek their daughter aged 26 years, mid complexion, slim, 5'8" in OB179962 height, BSc graduated from an Australian University, currently working in Colombo Retired Government

son along with his horoscope. Email - pr oposalrb@gmail.com OB180224 Sinhala Catholic respectable parents in Sri Lanka seek an educated, well mannered son for their beautiful 5'2", 1993 born daughter. She is professionally qualified and employed while pursuing graduate studies in the USA. Especially interested in sons living or studying in the Seeking a suitable USA. E-mail: perera

> Sinhala parents able

humpura family seeks suitable partner for daughter 39, Civil Engineer. Email: ni mmprop@gmail.com OB179924

below 43 years, from a respectable family for their, well mannered, pretty and only daughter, who has a UK-MSc in IT, from a Malaysian University, and presently employed as a Senior Manager, in a leading organization. She is 39+, 5'6" in height, creative and very talented and only child in the family, and has been brought up under Sinhala Buddhist cultural values. She is a Sagittarius. (sikuru and Rahu in the 7th house). Please reply with a copy of horoscope and family details to suba_58@yah oo.com OB180217

This is to seek a partner for our daughter Catholic family well settled in Austrafor Melbourne 30 years our daughter born 1981 and 5'4" tall she, is well educated and well qualified, working as a Senior for a US based com-Pharmacist. She is pany. If interested, financially very well please forward a brief description of your established. We are seeking a kind and honest partner She also has the British citizenship, married. Please re-

aughter@gmail.com Western Province Bodu Karawa parents seek for their 1996 born, height 5' 6", Sri Jayawardhanapura mar007@gmail.com

OB179994 Christian seek suitpartner for their daughter who is working in Panadura, 5'5" in height, pretty & slim, born in 1985. E-mail: nancyn iranjala@gmail.com

OB180226 Sinhala Govi Buddhist parents seek a suitable partner for their daughter 28 years, 5'3" working as an Architect in the USA. Reply with horoscope (shani mangala) and family details. Email - prop osald94@gmail.com

Southern Bodu, Wa-

Decades of Trusted Service

1994 born B/G Sin-

ally qualified well-

mannered son in the

similar caste with a

decent family back-

pretty well-mannered

daughter of 5' 2" in

height. Studied at a

leading girls' school

in Colombo and holds

MSc / BSc in IT and

currently employed

in the same field at

a leading group of

company in Colombo.

Has plans to pursue

overseas in the near

future. Kindly reply

with family details,

copy of the horoscope

and contact number

to proposal22du@gm

AA Respectable Govi

from Colombo Dis-

trict seek an educat-

ed, loving and kind-

hearted daughter for

our eldest son. He is

an Engineer by pro-

fession, 32 years of

age and 6' in height.

He studied at a lead-

ing school in Colom-

bo and completed his

BSc, MSc and MBA in

Local Private Univer-

sities. After working

at a leading company

in Sri Lanka he is now

engaged in business.

Non-smoker, teetotal-

daughter who is will-

marriage and is will-

with his business (pr

op2022proposal@gm

Sri Lanka. Father is

Printer in the USA.

Inviting for an edu-

cated, pretty, kind

daughter

hearted

SUNDAY OBSERVER

ail.com)

OG180209

Buddhist

OB180171

parents

ail.com

higher studies

decent

ground

B/G parents

profession-

for their

Colombo seek a

sionally qualified son

We are living in never ply with family details. Email: bdgm.d

hearted, OB180061 dhist values.

University B.Com external degree holder pretty daughters with permanent employment in reputed company in Colombo and educated respectable height above 5' 8" son with permanent employment. Inquire horoscopes compatible to Kuja 1, Guru 7.

OB180174 1986 Christian 5'3" Kandy District pretty well educated emdaughter, ployed mother seeks a Christian employed son. ti mesproposal2022@g OB179972 mail.com OB179987

Academically qualiprofessionally daughter sought by Buddhist Govi parents from Colombo for their son who was born in 1993 and qualified in UK. He is a CEO of a reputable company and inherits assets from his family. Please reply to mp.2022lk@gmail.co OG179955

Academically and professionally qualified daughter, preferably living in Australia or willing to migrate, sought by parents for their (5'9") 32-yearprofessionally qualified son. He is a permanent resident in Australia and employed in the finance sector in Sydney. Please reply with family details, a recent photo and a social media profile if available. prasanthiinoka71@g mail.com OG180039

Academically professionally qualikind-hearted daughter is sought by Bodu Durawa Government parents from Matara for their highly educated son who is 28 yrs (1994), 5'6", TT/NS, Kuja 7 with valuable assets. He is working as a Computer Network Engineer in a reputed foreign company based in Colombo. His only sister is reading her IT degree in a private university. Please ler. We are looking respond with famfor a family oriented ily details, horoscope copy and or social ing to not work after media link to: propo sals942022@gmail.c ing to help our son om Caste immaterial. Contact: 0412236177 0717077872. OG179919

About our son, B/G. Academically quali-TT/NS born in 1986. fied, pretty, down to earth partner sought 6' 1" in height, kind grown-up by B/G Colombo subwith Sinhala Budurbs professionally qualified parents for BscChemistry, and worktheir son MSc/BSc ing as a Chemical En- Robotics Engineer, gineer in a reputed 37, 5'9", NS/TT, resi-Energy company in dent of USA. Those the USA. One and who are willing to the only son. Owns migrate. Pls reply a two storey home in with family details the USA. Mother is & horoscope. Email an assistant teacher replies only. sandeep in the USA and was sena33@gmail.com a Science teacher in

OG179895 retired, was a Photo Affluent Govi Buddhist parents seek a charming educated bride for son 38 height 5'7". He is qualified below 32 years and MBA and graduate 5'3" or above specially from a prestigious living in the USA or foreign University already planned to and ACMA. Earns a come. Please send the six figure salary in Sri copy of the horoscope Lanka. Well-asseted. with birth city (or the Basic education at a town), photograph pre-eminent governwith the contact ment school. Please number. Information reply with family deprotected. Mother. E- tails and horoscope. mail rathnath@gmail Email: weddingp11@ OG180046 gmail.com OG179918 m

Affluent respectable Bodu-Govi parents seek an educated, pretty and kind-hearted daughter with a similar family background, for our 93 born son. Educated in leading school in Colombo and studied in UK. He is the Director of our well established family businesses. Email details to mprop932@gmail. OG180227

For 15 Words

Rs. 800/-

For each additional word Rs. 25

Affluent respectable B/G business parents seek an academically qualified, well mannered and caring daughter for their 29 year old businessman son, smart and well mannered, educated at a leading school in Colombo and completed both his bachelor's degree and MBA. Both Buddhists and Catholics are welcome. p roposal9380@gmai 0914947062. l.com OG180048

Age 59 Sinhala Buddhist divorced no encumbrances living in Australia working in Engineering Industry, Sri Lanka dual citizen seeking an educated lady. Differences immaterial. Please reply by email d.peiris@big pond.com OG179387 Amiable, handsome

5'11", GB 41, NZ university lecturer, Zealand/Aus based daughter. +6495769232 saam a.weera@gmail.com OG180014

An educated pretty slim fair daughter below 38 is sought by respectable Sinhala Buddhist mother for her youngest son 47 years 6' tall fair handkind-hearted NS/TT. Legally di-Working vorced. abroad for a reputed UK based multinational company at a senior management position. Well established. Graduated in Business Administration and holder of MBA. He owns substantial assets in Sri Lanka. Caste immaterial & Catholics will be considered. Currently he is in Sri Lanka on vacation. Please reply with family de-

tails & horoscope to c

kw318644@gmail.co

OG179791

An educated pretty slim, height above 5'5" and well mannered daughter willing to migrate to Australia after marriage is sought by Christian parents residing in Australia for their only son 32 (Aus citizen) 6.0 ft. height Lawyer by profession. We are looking for someone fluent in English and with legal or business background who can support our son. Please reply with family de-

tails. propposals190@

gmail.com OG179604

An educated, pretty, well mannered daughter is sought by B/K parents living in Colombo suburbs for their son. born in 1989, 5' 10 height, handsome, Hons Graduate from a leading UK University, currently employed in a reputed Japanese Company in Tokyo, Japan as a Sales and Marketing Consultant. His only younger sister is an MBBS Doctor working in a Government hospital in Sri Lanka. He is open to migrate to another country as well. Reply with all details to marriage.p rop223@gmail.com OG180169

An educated, well mannered daughter is sought by respectable parents from Kalutara for their Vishvakula Buddhist son, 5'7" born in 1995. He is a Software Engineer by profession, handsome and kind-heartseeks candid, intel- ed with sober habits. owns a vehicle and inherits properties. Differences are immaterial. If interested, please write to us with a copy of the horoscope to: marriag eproposal1995@gmai OG180026 1.com

Australian resident IT Program Manager, MBA, having real estate assets, 43, never married 5'10". NS/TT well built, fair & fine personality, seeks academically qualified bride below 37, willing to migrate, GB parents & siblings all profession-Caste & marital status immaterial. Reply with family details & horoscope. E-mail replies only. di lramprop@gmail.com OG179899

A bride is sought by Buddhist Sinhala parents in Canada for their son 36 years handsome employed in a high rank profession in Toronto, differences are not concerned. Only email WhatsApp. ka nthi437@yahoo.co +16475517306

Continued on page 56

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page 55



own business. (Non-

smoker, teetotaller) (1

ashi.kalu@gmail.com

Buddhist Govi par-

ents from Colombo

seek a daughter for

TT/NS son with good

well educated, born

background

OG179143

A suitable kind-hearted pleasant educated girl with Sri Lankan values, living in Canada is sought by Govi Buddhist parents for their 30 years handsome well-mannered 5'9" tall youngest well-employed son in Toronto studied in Interna-B.Com tional Business and Logistics. Please reply with family details and horoscope to: si ricsiri@outlook.com OG179951

between 1995 - 2000 willing to migrate to Australia in future or Bodu Govi parents already living in Ausliving in Colombo, tralia, son born 1995 father is an owner of July, 5'9", educated a consultation firm from Ananda College, seek an educated Colombo and comkind-hearted daughpleted higher studter below 26, with a ies in Sri Lanka and height below 5'3" for Australia (Master of our handsome, young Information Technollooking son. He is a ogy, CIMA qualified). He has a permanent Chartered Accounjob as a Software Entant by profession, gineer in a reputed born in 1992, height Australian Technolo-5'6", NS/TT, he studgy company and plans ied at a leading boys' to settle down in Ausin Colombo school tralia. Reply with and graduated from copy of horoscope. an a state university in uproposal95@gmail.c BSc. Accounting with a first-class degree. He also FCCA, CIMA Buddhist parents seek an educated daughter qualified. Reply with for their UK born son, horoscope and family February 1985, fair, details. Email to: mar handsome, riageproposaln@gmai

OG179922 1.com Bodu Govi respectable business family in Gampaha only child 6', handsome fair studied leading international school in Colombo, 1997 born completed BSc Engineering degree in leading University in Australia, then seek a very pretty kind hearted educated daughter. He inherits considerable wealth including a commercial building & leading business in Gampaha town & two residential houses, hope to study MSc Engineering abroad 033-2223682, soon. 070-1314214, vasant hapush@gmail.com OG179964

ail.com

Buddhist

(1972)

fair,

her

B/G

unmarried business-

5'6", fair, not fat nor

vorcees and widows,

or assisting a fam-

ily business but also

als will be considered

too. Son is financially

well off with houses,

estates and fixed de-

posits. Please attach

when replying to ku

nucomposte07@gmai

Colombo seek an

professionally quali-

fied, well-mannered,

fair and slim daugh-

ter for their younger

son who is 174cm

in height and born

in 1984. He is em-

ployed as an IT pro-

fessional and is re-

siding abroad. Please

respond by email to:

proposal_2022@outl

academically

OG180008

and

parents from

prefer having

own business

Book Writer and Poet (Born 1958, never married before and author of several books) Living on an only modest but secure income sufficient for 2 persons and residing close to the sea in small 3-bedroom house surrounded by a little palm garden, needs kind-hearted wife, who should above all love beautiful things and run the household, while her book-writing husband is working at his books. Any age & background consid-OG180199 ered.

Born in 1984, well established with Australian citizen, lives in New Zealand, works in hospitality industry, He's a divorcee, Aus or NZ PR holders preferred. Sought by family. nzprop84@g mail.com OG179968

Govi Sinhala parents living in Canada seek a pleasant educated daughter for our son born in 1993 Software Engineer (BSc pleted his higher from a Canadian University) presently employed in USA. He universities. He is now engaged in his is a Canadian citizen non-smoker teetotaller. Please reply with family details. Email: proposal9306@gmail. OG179945

Catholic parents seeking an academically or professionally qualified daughter for their son. He is 29 yrs. old, born and raised in Canada, 5'6" in height, holds 3 degrees (BSc Chemistry, BA Finance & MBA) from top Canadian universities and works as a Manager for one of the largest banks. Very fit and outgoing and fluent in English, French and Sinhala. Religion and caste are immaterial. Matches in Canada preferred. Please reply with details at pro posals.sf@gmail.com OG179153

OG179966 Colombo Bodu Govi respectable senior professional parents seek an educated slim professionally and academipretty daughter with cally qualified with status for similar MBA, head of Global Product Marketing their 1989/12 born (Technology Com-5'8" fair handsome pany) with a six figure plus salary. Owns new property. Replies fessionally qualified from British citizens Manager son with only. ranj585@hotm OG180000 substantial assets including a house, parents seek a bride for their working in a Multinational Company in man son, 50 years - October), Colombo, earning six figure salary. Please slim. The bride can reply with details and be 40 - 47 years and 5 feet, can be unmarcopy of horoscope. ru ried or childless - dikshie2022@gmail.co

OG180010 Colombo Catholic affluent parents seek non busy professionpretty educated virtuous bride for their only son 5'10" 1989 foreign graduate dothe horoscope, state a telephone number ing own business. bri deforson22@gmail.co

OG180173

Colombo, Buddhist, Govi, respectable parents seek a beautiful and educated daughter born after 1995 from a respectable family for their only son, 28 years (12/ 1993), 5'9", handsome, Colombo Royalist, Business Management graduate, working as an Executive in a government institution, inherits properties and assets exceeding a large amount. Father, holding a higher position in the Government service and mother, teacher.

ook.com OG179970 Canada based medical student, following MD after first degree with honours seeks graduate a partner. My son is Please send full fam-29 born in 1993 and ilv details and conhails from Buddhist tact number to propo sals9312@gmail.com Govigama family. dps ksisira50@gmail.com OG180218 OG180180

dian well established respectable family from Kandy seeks educated pretty an fair well mannered daughter brought up with Sri Lankan culture for their eldest son studied at Trinity College Kandy very good sportsman got through his Masters in Business Administration in a prestigious University in Melbourne, Australia. At present he works as Managing Director / Partner in the family business. 38 years 5'11" in height medium build fair smart well mannered person with great family values, very fluent in English, handsome an attractive personality. Inherits valuable assets. Please reply with horoscope & family details Email: scr7976@gma OG180135

er seeks an educated loving and kindhearted daughter for son, 35 years old, 5'11". He is CIMA (UK) and MBA (Australia) qualified and employed as a Senior Manager in a multinational company in the UK. Brought up with traditional family values. Divorced after an incompatible brief marriage (no encumbrances). Proposals from families in the UK are welcome. reply with Please family details and horoscope. Email: ruk

Govi Buddhist moth-

i.vasmin@gmail.com OG180093 Govi Buddhist parents in Colombo seek an educated and pretty daughter for their highly educated businessman son who is 5'10" tall and aged 39 vrs. Educated at Harvard University (USA) and carries charters from CFA and CIMA. He owns a financial investment company and has properties tangible in Sri Lanka. Also he owns an IT Engineering company based in Sweden. Looking for a partner with a flexible mindset and qualification, to settle down in Sri Lanka or abroad. Please reply with horoscope and relevant details to pro posaltup@gmail.com OG179988

G/B parents in SL seek a kind-hearted daughter for our son 28 years and soon completing his PhD in USA as a Research Scientist. He is tall and N/S, T/T. preferably from USA. Contact: proposa22@gma OG180123 il.com

G/B parents residing in Padukka seek well-mannered educated daughfor their NS/ handsome son 5'3" 1993 May studied in international school work in Civil Engineering field in Oman. Reply with horoscope and family details. 0112831229. OG180120

in Padukka seek a well-mannered educated daughter for their NS/TT handsome son 5' 6 1/2" 1991 June studied in international school working as Customer Care Officer in Kuwait. Reply with horoscope and family details. 0112831229. OG180119

G.C. Catholic parents in USA seek academically qualified pretty daughter from USA for US citizen son born in December 1980, 5'4" handsome never married. IT professional working for US Government Establishment. Owns house and property in USA. Caste religion immaterial. Email: w oodlands13173@hot mail.com OG179910

I am a Sinhala Buddhist, age 39, height businessman living in Malaysia for 12 years, owns a sole proprietorship and owns properties and businesses in Sri Lanka too. I seek an educated pretty partner specially those who are living in Australia, Canada or Switzerland. Contact me after 8.00 0112181603. OG180089

I would like to meet an Educated, professionally qualified, practical minded, unassuming lady in her mid or late twenties for a relationship hala. Buddhist. Please leading to marriage. Having been born and bred in Sri Lanka in a Sinhala Buddhist professional family environment and graduated, trained and employed in Europe, I am an Engineer 34, 5'7", with career minded, rational, travel-crazy, modest and somewhat introvertive characteristics. I'm looking for someone who would share the same thoughts and travel together. Caste, creed, immaterial for us but my parents might ask for the horoscope. If interested, email: m pro4tc@gmail.com

> OG179806 OG179975

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fax - 011 2 429 375/380

Qualified kind hearted fair pretty Roman Catholic / Christian daughter either well employed or with assets is sought by Sinhala Roman Catholic well to do parents residing in Nugegoda area for their well qualified "B.Sc (Hons) International Management and Business (2nd Class Upper Division) Plymouth University UK - Post Graduate Dip in HRM - IPM and HND (Hospitality Management and Tourism - Distinction) Dip in Information Technology (Merit)" handsome teetotaller elder son 29 years (1993 April) Height 5'8". He has a vounger brother and sister both Degree holders and well employed. Contact with details, Email: kings leyyapa@gmail.com

professionally

qualified parents in

Canada seek bride

for their son qualified

Engineer working in

Canada, born 1982 -

April 26th in Canada.

Natchatheram Rohi-

ni, Irandam Patham.

Height 5'8", divorced,

from Good Fam-

Background. Please

contact for further de-

tails: sareswathy@ho

tmail.com OG180127

Kandyan Buddhist

seeks a suitable edu-

cated partner for her

divorced lawyer son

5'10" tall 51 years, be-

low 46 years Kuja in

7th House. OG179969

Mother seeks a pro-

fessionally qualified

pretty daughter be-

living in England,

for her son who is

and divorced without

6'1" in height, good

looking qualified and

working as a Senior

Engineer in England

with further more as-

sets in Sri Lanka, Sin-

reply with a copy of

horoscope. devikape

Nugegoda G/B re-

spectable parents seek

educated daughter for

their son born 1990,

5.6ft, holding BBA,

CIM, MBA studied at

leading school in Co-

lombo and working

in a reputed company

ager with well off

salary. Email: mprop

osals164@gmail.com

a Deputy Man-

OG179941

rera38@gmail.com

38, preferably

years, married

encumbrances

mother

Govigama

and Educational

OG180117 Ratnapura Bodu Govi retired teacher father seeks a permanently employed daughter in the Govt Sector for his 1990 September born, height 5.2 College of Education teacher son. He owns a new house and a modern motor car, and earns a montly high income through successful tuition classes. manjjay aweerasjp@gmail.co OG180078 Respectable B/G par-

ents in Colombo suburb seek an educated partner willing to migrate for their son 39 yr. 5'9" dual citizen assets in Sri Lanka and UK and has an established business in the UK. Please reply with family details and horoscope to : ceylonproposaluk@ gmail.com or call 011 2536449 after 2 p.m.

OG180069 Respectable Govi Buddhist parents from Colombo seek a well-educated daughter for their only son. He is a Managing Director of a company 28 years of age studied in a leading international school and completed his BSc, MSc and MBA in UK. Please send your information to: mp. 2022lk@gmail.com OG179949

ilv

Respectable Govi parents Buddhist hailing from Business families from Colombo seek an educated, well mannered & pretty daughter for their son, 30 yrs. old, 5'7" tall, handsome, open minded with a calm personality and a non-smoking, teetotaller. Currently working at a Global IT company in Colombo. Financially stable and inherits substantial assets Also a travel photographer with a passion for wildlife & nature photography. Please reply with family details, contact number and horoscope to; ma rprop27@gmail.com OG180018

Govi/ Respectable Buddhist mother seeks an academically and professionally qualified, fluent in English, pretty, fair daughter for her son, Canadian citizen born in 1987, 5'11", graduate from a prestigious university and employed in a highly reputed Real Estate Development Company as a Development Planning Manager. Respond with family details and horoscope to; aalnu25@gmail.co Respectable RC parents from Kadawatha

OG179998 seek fair, tall, slim, well mannered, educated and employed partner for their doctor son, 1990, 5'8", handsome, smart, non smoker. Reply with family details, overseas responses also considered. Email - m aryjoesph64@gmail.c OG179931

Respected family from Colombo District seeks an educated, loving and kind hearted daughter for our youngest son. He is an Engineer by profession, 37 years of age and 5'9" in height. He studied at a leading school in Colombo and completed his degree in the United Kingdom. He works as a Project Manager in a bluechip company in Sri Lanka, non smoker and willing to migrate. Caste immaterial and please reply with family details and horoscope. wealth. Please send muri.desilva@gmail.c family and FB details. om (Tel: 0710415481 Email: mpo2222@ya 0112141053).

SB professional parents seek a young bride for professional son born May / 1971 looking 40 or less smart UK educated valuable possesses assets divorced withencumbrances. Email: piyamithra5@ gmail.com OG180031

Sinhala Christian 1990/5, propertied parents in a respectable fam-(father expired recently) mother wishes to find a suitable partner for 1987 born, 6' 2" height fair and handsome son, studied in a leading Christian school in Colombo. An MBA qualified IT graduate working as a Director in an IT company in Colombo. Sister is a lawyer. Please write with all details or T.P No. 031 22 46 878

OG180189 S/G/B parent living in USA looking for charming educated kind-hearted daughter below 27 with height above 5'3" for their younger son. He is a Senior Project Manager by profession born in 1992 height 5'6". He studied from Grade 1-12 in USA and graduated from University of VA in Biology Major. He also PMP/Icloud Architect qualified. We are currently in S/L for visit. Reply with horoscope and family details to nse kara557@gmail.com OG179585

For each additional word Rs. 25/ Maximum number of words 65 Tamil Catholic mother from Colombo seeks a well mannered religious girl for son aged 39, height 5'8", currently well employed in a leading company and also owns other Business. Contact 0112317862, 0777772701. @jklangdale.co.uk OG180028

For 15 Words

Rs. 800/-

SUNDAY OBSERVER

Marriage

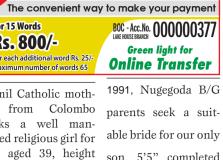
Two sons living abroad seek a respectable, loving and kindhearted Buddhist partner for their widowed father of age 62. living in Sri Lanka. Following the retirement from managerial position at a well reputed company, now he is planning to spend time in a relaxed and calm manner. Email: d.n.wickr amarachchi@gmail.c OG180202

Western country citizen, S/G 47, handsome, Buddhist values. teetotaller, divorced, no encumbrances, excellent job, looking kind, Buddhist, divorced lady, PR or citizen of Western country, 36-40, no kids, minor leg defect. Email: propo sal3827@gmail.com OG179556

Western Province GB parents looking for pretty fair slim educated daughter from well-established family with means for highly educated professional 34 years 5'10" tall handsome son in high position with very high OG180112

B/G parents seek an academically qualified slim fair kind hearted daughter for their only son B.Sc. (Hon), M.Sc (Australia) MCIM 5'7" NS/TT working in private sector (Colombo) as a Manager. Shani 7, Kuja 8. prop osalg86@gmail.com OG180113

Lecturer daughter 5' 4" excellent character very beautiful slim. Will be moving to USA for PhD this year. Parents seek son, devoid of all vices from a respectable family. Send horoscope mpr oposal12583@gmai l.com. 0113 628 098 OG180192



Proposals

your Future Dreams

Best way to fulfil

son, 5'5" completed MBA in Business Management, working at a leading hospital as a Manager. hasi ni.samaraweera41@g mail.com OG179958

1996/8 G/B parents

seek to propose an

ant daughter from

pleas-

educated.

respectable family for son 5'9" tall, educated at a leading school in Colombo, currently a final year undergraduate at the Engineering Faculty University of Moratuwa. Expecting to go abroad for MSc, parents are expecting to connect and establish good relationship with a family having a similar background. Please contact with copy of horoscope. 0332250608/ 0762358220. Email: p roposaldid@gmail.co

39 year old Govi Buddhist doctor working in England looking for a bride/soulmate. 10 in height handsome with sober habits and excellent character. Never married. From a reputable, well educated family in Colombo. Please reply to propos al010118@yahoo.com OG180052

OG179979



BRIDEGROOM

A very wealthy, respectable, Sinhala Buddhist family from a well-known ancestry from Colombo, is searching for a kind-hearted and beautiful daughter between the ages of 24 and 31 and taller than 5'1", for 35-year-old, 6'2" tall, intelligent, very handsome son with Buddhist values. He has an excellent personality, is highly educated (3 degrees from prestigious universities) and does not drink alcohol or smoke. He owns a well-established company and is a shareholder and director of another company in Colombo and hopes to continue to live in Sri Lanka. He owns a house in Colombo 3 and a large income generating commercial building and will also inherit a large amount of wealth, including very valuable income generating commercial buildings in Colombo and many other assets.

Please email relevant details, which will be treated as confidential, to: happymarprop@gmail.com

180231

C/O Sunday Observer - Lake House, Colombo 10.

SUNDAY OBSERVER TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS



STATE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION AND MARKET DIVERSIFICATION

SRI LANKA BUREAU OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS - 2022/2023



- 1. 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.
- 2. 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).
- 3. 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.
- 4. Applicant could apply for one or more items and should apply separately.
- 5. 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.
- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.4 Bureau copy and Finance Division copy of the relevant bank slip should be submitted with the application. (Bureau copy and Finance Division Copy).
- 7. In applying for several items it is compulsory to submit relevant documents and bank slips, separately (application with incomplete documents will be rejected).
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.

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**

- 1. Air Conditioners and Accessories
- School Bags, Office Bags, Hand Bags, Shoes (Ladies & Gents), Gents
- 3. Curtains, Carpets, Cushion Covers and other Textile Material (for
- Finger Print Marking Machines
- 5. Fixed Line Telephones and Accessories
- Lightning Conductors
- 7. Medicine and Medical Equipment
- 8. Ceramic Goods, Crockery Item and Glass Ware.
- Water Dispenser and Drinking Water Bottles.
- 10. Miscellaneous Hardware equipment.
- 11. Mobile Phone.
- 12. Office & Domestic Furniture (Wooden, Steel, Fiberglass, Plastic)
- 13. Office equipment & Accessories (Photocopiers, Fax Machines, Roneo Machines, Stamp Franking Machines, Currency Counting Machines
- 14. Office Partitioning and requireds materials
- 15. Official Identity Cards & Visitors Pass
- 16. Production of Date Stamps & Rubber Seals
- 17. Sanitary Goods and Sportsware 18. Sports Goods

- 19. Staff Uniforms 20. Stationery
- 21. Trophies / Medals
- 22. 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
- 23. Handicrafts and Promotional Items (T-Shirt, Cap, Bag, Plate, Umbrella, Key Tag, Pen, tea boxes etc...)
- 24. Retail Grocery Items (Sugar, Milk Powder, Tea Leaves, Coffee)
- 25. Safety Equipment and Materials (Ex: Masks, Face Covers, Gloves, Head covers Safety Garments)
- 26. Disinfectant Liquids and other Related Sanitary Material.

PART II

SERVICES

- 27. Advertising (drawing Banners, Artwork & Set designing, Display Boards, Exhibition Stalls, Set Designing, Digital Printing)
- 28. Aluminum Fabrications (Office Partitions, Cladding, Doors, Windows, Suspended ceiling) with Technical Services
- 29. Catering Services
- 30. Cleaning Services 31. Security Services
- 32. Courier Services
- 33. Cargo Services
- 34. Book Publishing Institutes
- 35. Transport Services (Cars, vans, buses, lorries and double cabs etc. on hire basis)
- 36. Consultancy Services (Building Constructions and Repairs)
- 37. Construction (Buildings) Contract Institutes (with ICTAD Registration)
- 38. Supply of Technician Services.
 - 38.1 Masonry / Plumbing 38.2 Carpentry / Wood polishers
 - 38.3 Welders, Lathe Machine Services, Iron Welding
 - 38.4 Painting of Buildings / Minor Repairs, Electric Circuits
 - 38.5 Mechanical Equipment and Related Services, Winding of Electric and Water Motors
- 39. Construction of sewerage treatment plant & waste water disposal
- 40. Cushioning of office chairs, repairs of office furniture
- Customs Clearance Services
- 42. Supply of Dancing groups for Special Functions
- 43. Sewerage Cleaning Services, Drainage system maintenance & Sanitary Bin Services, Gully Bowser services
- 44. Services relevant to Electrical Work, Air Conditioning Work
- 45. Supply of Auditing Services and Professional Consultancy services
- 46. Landscaping / Hiring of Indoor Plants 47. Satellite TV and Cable TV Facilities
- 48. Pest Control
- 49. Photography, Videoing, Photo Washing and Printing, Picture Framing and Laminating, Preparation of Albums, Mounting of Boxes
- 50. Repairing services of Elevators
- Staff Training on Information Technology, Administration & Human Resources, Finance, Technology, Procurement, Auditing, Law, Languages etc...
- 52. Telephone Systems and Public Addressing Systems
- 53. Labour Supply Services
- 54. Hotels & Restaurant (Registered with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority and Urban Development Authority) 55. Insurance Companies (Staff, Migrant workers, Vehicle, Building,
- Office Equipment, Foreign Travel etc...)

PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS, VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- 56. Supply of Vehicle audio and video players, Reverse Camera and fixing
- 57. Vehicle Spare Parts 58. Vehicle Air Conditioners
- 59. Auto Electrical Circuit Supply Services
- 60. Vehicle Term Service work (Including interior and Outdoor washing). 61. Repairs of Vehicles (Including Tinkering, Painting, Electric and
- Mechanical Repairs, Lorry Body)
- 62. Repairing of Three Wheelers & Motorcycles 63. Term Service work of Three Wheelers & Motorcycles
- 64. Vehicle Cushioning
- 65. Wheel Alignment & Wheel Balancing 66. Vehicle Tyres, Tubes and batteries

PART IV

Purchase of Information technology Accessories, Servicing and Electrical 67. Purchase of Application Software and System software packages and

- Supply of related services.
- 68. 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

- 72. Purchase of Dongles & wireless Internet connections.
- 73. 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.
- 74. IT Consultancy Services
- 75. Purchase of Software License and SSL Certificate.
- 76. Designing Computer Software, Installation and Supplying relevant
- 77. Purchase of CCTV camera System, maintenance, and related services.

Supply of Electrical items & related service

- Electrical equipment (Fans, Televisions & DVD including household and kitchen Appliances)
- 79. Electrical Appliances and Accessories
- 80. Elevators and Accessories
- 81. Hiring and Purchasing of Generators with maintenance & services.
- 82. Electrical / Mechanical / Civil consultancy services and Supply of Technical Services.

PART VI

OTHER SERVICES

- 83. Event Management Services
- 84. Illumination and decoration and Provision of Loudspeaker services for Special Functions
- 85. Office Decoration Works 86. Media Items and Editing
- 87. Printing (Offset, Letterpress, Digital, Fabric Design Printing, File cover Printing, Diary and Calendar, Magazine, Newspaper, Receipt books etc.)
- 88. CD & DVD copy writing
- 89. 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, 92. Television and Radio Program production, Preparation of Television
- advertisement, Multimedia Presentations, Video Production, Documentary Films and Tele Drama Production 93. Purchase of Damaged Items (Including papers, Office disposal items
- & damage computer accessories 94. Airlines & Air Ticketing Agents
- 95. Pre Fabricated Building Suppliers (Container)
- 96. Container Suppliers 97. Solar power instalation, spar parts and services.

Procurement Division by registered post)

Specimen Application Form (Separate Applications should be submitted for each item and service)

REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE YEAR 2022/2023

- 01. Name of the Applicant / Organization:..... (Please attach a certified copy of Business Registration Certificate) 02. Address of the Applicant / Institution: (In case the given addresses are changed later it should be notified to the
- Item No: Serial No. (Please mention the service and item No. clearly) 04. Telephone, Fax No. & E-mail Tel No. : Fax No. :

03. Nature of Supplies:

- 05. Name, Designation and mobile phone number of the person to be contacted : Designation: Mobile No.:....
- 07. Principal line and type of Business (whether company, sole proprietorship 08. List of state and private sector organizations to whom goods / services are

06. Names of the Bankers:

- provided at present (Please attach user list and the contact details)
- 09. Whether agreeable to give bid Securities/Performance Bonds in the process of purchasing (if necessary).
- 10. 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)
- 11. VAT Registration number (If available) : 12. 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:	

Industrial Development Board of Ceylon (Ministry of Industries)

Financial Assistance Scheme for the Food Processers and / or Traders and Exporters to obtain Organic Certification

Organic processing is a lucrative business with an ever increasing demand in domestic, regional and international markets. Enhancing market competitiveness of the local food producers in the international market has been identified as a key development strategy to expand the organic agriculture in the country. Organic Certification assures the organic integrity of the food product to the client and fetches a premium price.

Industrial Development Board (IDB) invites applications from local food processers and/or traders and exporters willing to follow organic practices to obtain Organic Certification under this financial assistance scheme.

FOR WHOM

Companies engaged in food processing and /or trading and exporting and willing to follow organic processing practices to obtain Organic Certification in the following product categories (either fresh, processed or value added) are eligible to apply;

 Value added and processed tea, coconut based products, spices, essential oils and extracts, aromatic & medicinal herbs, tropical fruits, vegetables and tubers, cashew, oil seeds, pulses, rice, coffee, cocoa, wild harvest products, kithul treacle, juggery, fresh milk and dairy products, fish / sea food etc.

WHAT IS OFFERED

Twenty five (25) selected food processing and /or trading and exporting industries are eligible for reimbursement of initial cost of organic certification including field inspection and lab testing of samples up to a maximum of Rs.250, 000/- (excluding consultancy fee, factory renovations /material / equipment costs & travel costs of the applicant industry) upon the submission of organic certificate.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1. Industries can apply either for "Sri Lanka Organic Certification" or for "International Organic Standards" (EU/NOP/JAS etc.) under this scheme. The organic certification should be obtained from a certification institute accredited for organic certification by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB).
- 2. The industry should have been engaged in processing and /or trading of agricultural produce for at least 02 years and successfully functioning at the time of application.
- 3. Industries whose annual turnover is less than 750 Mn or permanent employment is less than 300 can apply (Small & Medium scale industries: National Policy Framework for SME Development by the
- 4. Financial grant is offered to cover the initial cost of certification including field inspection and lab testing of samples (excluding consultancy fee, factory renovations /material / equipment costs & travel costs of the applicant industry)
- 5. The industry should not have registered in any other government institution to obtain similar assistance at the time of application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Ministry of Industry and Commerce).

Application form together with the scheme could be downloaded from the official web site of IDB: www.idb.gov.lk .Duly completed applications with all relevant documents (Hard copies) as stipulated in the scheme should be submitted to the respective IDB district offices and soft copies should be sent to tsdidb@gmail.com on or before 31st of May, 2022.

...

SELECTION CRITERIATwenty five (25) promising industries will be selected by a structured interview due to be held by a selection committee appointed by the Chairman of Industrial Development Board of Ceylon and the final decision will be made by the committee.

The selected industries have to sign an agreement with the IDB, confirming the ability of completing the process before 30th of November, 2022.

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected and only selected industries will be informed

FOR INQUIRIES

Director,

Director,
Technical Services Division, Industrial Development Board,

No. 615, Galle Road, Katubedda, Moratuwa
Tel: 011-2605278 / 011-2605326-27 Ext: 150 /197/ 167

Tel: 011-2605278 / 011-2605326-27 Ext: 150 /197/ 167

Fax. 011 – 2623846 / 2607002 ,

Email – tsdidb@gmail.com Web - www.idb.gov.lk



Chairman

Industrial Development Board

BID NOTICE

Sri Lanka Insurance

CALL FOR BIDS TO SELECT SUPPLIERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

	Name of Bid and Bid No.	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Requirement (Rs.)	Eligibility Requirements	Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	Bid Closing Date and Time	Collecting of Bidding Documents
1	SLIC/ICT/020/2022 - Renewal of Microsoft Software License for 2022 - 2023	26,600/-	2,160,000/- (for a period of 119 days)	1. Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to the government of Sri Lanka (should have BR) 2. Bidder should have been in business for more than 03 years in the field. 3. Minimum average annual turnover needs to be rs. 100 Million during the last 3 years. 4. The vendor should be a Microsoft Large Account Reseller (LAR) for Sri Lanka. 5. The vendor should have back to back agreement with Microsoft Premium Support. (Document proof should be provided)	13.05.2022 at 2.00 pm via zoom facility to parties that collected bid documents.	on or before 31.05.2022 at 1.00 p.m	09.05.2022 to 30.05.2022 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (week days)
2	SLIC/ICT/021/2022 - Real Time Remote Video Inspection Solution	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to the government of Sri Lanka (should have BR) Bidder should have been in business for more than 03 years in the field. (Document proof should be provided)	13.05.2022 at 3.00 pm via zoom facility to parties that collected bid documents.	on or before 24.05.2022 at 1.00 p.m	09.05.2022 to 23.05.2022 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (week days)
3	SLIC/ICT/024/2022 – Implementation of Digital Signature Solution	2,900/-	120,000/- (for a period of 119 days)	Bidder should be a Registered Supplier to the government of Sri Lanka (should have BR) Bidder should have been in business for more than 03 years in the field. (Document proof should be provided)	12.05.2022 at 1.00 pm via zoom facility to parties that collected bid documents.	on or before 24.05.2022 at 1.00 p.m	09,05,2022 to 23,05,2022 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (week days)

- Bidding documents will be issued from the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office on production of a request letter on a business letterhead together with the proof of eligibility at a non - refundable fee as above.
- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Department of Sri Lanka Insurance Head Office during normal working hours.
- Bidder should have not been blacklisted previously.
- Selected suppliers should provide the Guarantee/Bond as stated below.

a) A Performance Bond to the value of 5% /10% (whichever applicable) of the total contract sum, with validity over the stipulated contract period should be provided within two weeks of the confirmed order

b) If advance payment needed, a Bank Guarantee equivalent to 30% of the total contract value should be taken with validity period of over 91 days.

- Late bids will be returned unopened.
- Bidding documents can be obtained from below mentioned address.
- The final decision in this regard will be with Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd.

Contact Details - 011 231 9130 / 235 7905

Chairman - Procurement Committee

Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Ltd
08th Floor

No.21, Vauxhall Street Colombo 02.

Web: www.srilankainsurance.com Company Registration Number - PB 289





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கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Agriculture Sector Modernization Project – Ministry of Agriculture

IDA Credit No: 5873 LK

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies equivalent to US\$ 58.63 Million towards the cost of the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project (ASMP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and it intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the Contract of Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces.
- 2. The Chairman of Project Procurement Committee, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces.

Description	Contract No.	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Non- refundable Fee (Rs.)
50 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Kolikuttu Banana and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Chili intercrop cultivation in Mullaitivu District, Northern Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260929-GO-RFB	240,000.00	5,000.00
200 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Mango and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Chili intercrop cultivation in Matale District, Central Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260967-GO-RFB	960,000.00	15,000.00
50 Nos of Drip Irrigation Systems (Drip Tape) for Chili cultivation in Muththayankaddu, Northern Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 247012-GO-RFB	140,000.00	5,000.00
200 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Cavendish Banana and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Chili intercrop cultivation in Monaragala District, Uva Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260938-GO-RFB	480,000.00	7,500.00
150 Nos of Drip Irrigation System (Drip Tape) for Pomegranate cultivation in Northern & eastern Provinces	LK-MOA- PMU- 260835-GO-RFB	720,000.00	10,000.00
200 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Mango and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Chili intercrop cultivation in Monaragala District, Uva Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260958-GO-RFB	960,000.00	15,000.00
50 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Organic Banana Jaffna, Northern Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260918-GO-RFB	180,000.00	5,000.00
200 Nos of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Cavendish Banana and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Chili intercrop cultivation in Eastern Province	LK-MOA- PMU- 260845-GO-RFB	480,000.00	7,500.00
300 Nos of Drip Irrigation Systems (Drip Tape) for Chili cultivation in Ampara District	LK-MOA- PMU- 260838-GO-RFB	900,000.00	15,000.00

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure approved by the World Bank.
- 4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Procurement Department, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture,** by over the phone **0777419521**; from **9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.** on working days during the period from **09/05/2022 to 30/05/2022.**
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash to the Finance Manager of the Project.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2.00 p.m. on 30/05/2022. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2.00 pm on 30/05/2022.
- 7. Complete bids shall be forwarded in two copies as the original and the duplicate. The original and the duplicate shall be enclosed separately and marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelopes. Both envelopes enclosed in a sealed single envelope and marked the contract number "Supply, Delivery, Installation & Commissioning of Low-pressure Mini Sprinkler Irrigation Systems and Drip Tape Irrigation Systems for Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces" on top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- 8. The address referred to above is;

Chairman

Project Procurement Committee Agriculture Sector Modernization Project No.123/2, Pannipitiya Road,

Battaramulla.

Tele: 0112696086 or 0777419521 Date: 08.05.2022



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COLOMBO DOCKYARD PLC "...an Odyssey of Excellence"

TENDER NOTICE

CDPLC invites proposals from reputed and experienced firms/ companies for the scrap and removal of an obsolete Steam Crane.(for sale as scrap)

Details are as follows,

S/No	Item Description	Total Weight (Approx.)
01	Scrap and removal of obsolete Steam Crane	400 T – 500 T

The Bidding Period is as follows, Starting Date : **2022.05.09** 2022.05.18 Closing Date :

08.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays

Applicable Tender Fees

Non-Refundable : Rs. 5,000.00 : Rs. 30,000.00 Refundable

The tender fees 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/06/2022 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

කෘෂි නවීකරණ වනපෘතිය விவசாய நவீனமயமாக்கல் திட்டம் Agriculture Modernization Project





කෘෂිකර්ම අමාතාහාංශය கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு Ministry of Agriculture

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Agriculture Sector Modernization Project - Ministry of Agriculture IDA Credit No: 5873 LK

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supply and Delivery of Fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP & Ino K liquid fertilizer) for ASMP Clusters in Northern, Eastern, North Central, Central & Uva **Provinces**

- 1. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies equivalent to US\$ 58.63 Million towards the cost of the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project (ASMP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and it intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the Contract of Supply and Delivery of Fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP & Ino K liquid fertilizer) for ASMP Clusters in Northern, Eastern, North Central, Central & Uva Provinces.
- The Chairman of Project Procurement Committee, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply and Delivery of Fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP & Ino K liquid fertilizer) for ASMP Clusters in Northern, Eastern, North Central, Central & Uva Provinces.

Description	Contact No	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)	Non- refundable Fee (Rs.)
Supply and Delivery of Fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP & Ino K liquid fertilizer) for ASMP Clusters in Northern, Eastern, North Central, Central & Uva Provinces	LK-MOA- PMU-293845-GO-RFB	780,000.00	15,000.00

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure approved by the World Bank.
- 4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Procurement Department, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Ministry of Agriculture, by over the phone on 0777419521; from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on working days during the period from 10/05/2022 to 31/05/2022.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be cash to the Finance Manager of the Project.
- 6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2.00 p.m. on 31/05/2022. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2.00 pm on 31/05/2022.
- 7. Complete bids shall be forwarded in two copies as the original and the duplicate. The original and the duplicate shall be enclosed separately and marked as the 'original' and 'duplicate' respectively in sealed envelope. Both envelopes enclosed in a sealed single envelope and marked the contract number "Supply and Delivery of Fertilizers (Urea, TSP, MOP & Ino K liquid fertilizer) for ASMP Clusters in Northern, Eastern, North Central, Central & Uva Provinces" on top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- 8. The address referred to above is;

Chairman Project Procurement Committee Agriculture Sector Modernization Project No.123/2, Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla.

Tele: 0112696086 or 0777419521

Date: 08.05.2022





SUGATHADASA NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX AUTHORITY



Invitation for Bids

Serial No.	Procurement File No.	Details	Last Date for Issuing of Bid Documents	Opening Date and Time of Bids	Non- refundable Bid Document Fee	Bid Guarantee
01	QTN 353/2019	Leasing of the Canteen at the Bogambara Stadium belonging to the Sugathadasa Authority	Up to 10.00 a.m. on 27.05.2022	At 14.00 hours on 30.05.2022	Rs. 3,000.00	Rs. 50,000.00

- Bids are invited from reputed institutions in the relevant business and possessing experience in the work mentioned
- A written application prepared on a letterhead should be submitted for obtaining bid documents
- Duly completed bids prepared as per instructions provided should be sent by registered post or should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Accounts Division in the Head Office of the Sugathadasa Authority in Colombo.
- Bid forms for the subject above will be issued to interested persons during working days from 9.00 hours to 14.30 hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above in cash to the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority.
- Bid documents will be issued from 9.30 a.m. on 10.05.2022 up to 10.00 a.m. on 27.05.2022.
- A bid guarantee obtained from any commercial bank registered under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the value mentioned above valid for 119 days (up to 23.09.2022) should be submitted with the bids.
- Bids should be valid for 90 days (up to 29.08.2022)
- Further details regarding this matter could be obtained from the Purchases Division of the Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority and interested persons could inspect bid documents free of charge.

Chairman.

Procurement Committee,

Sugathadasa National Sports Complex Authority, P.O. Box 2211, Arthur de Silva Mawatha,

Telephone: 0112384385 / Ext. 120

Fax: 2445675

SLTBY SLTBY



Ministry of Plantation SRI LANKA TEA BOARD



Calling proposals for Selection of an Agency to Undertake a Short **Term PR Campaign for Ceylon Tea Globally** Procurement Ref No: PROC/PR/GL/22

The Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB), the apex body of the tea industry is incorporated by the Tea Board Law No 14 of 1975 and responsible for the development, regulation and promotion of Ceylon Tea locally and globally. The Board intends to obtain the services of a reputed advertising agency to handle a PR Campaign in Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, Iran, Germany, Japan, USA, Australia, Chile, UK, Poland, Canada, France, Italy, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Sri Lanka for a brief period of

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Tea Board now invites reputed agencies in Sri Lanka which operate under an international advertising agency network while covering the above countries to submit their bids for providing tasks Assigned below.

Tasks assigned

- 1. To evaluate the current marketing and promotional strategies of the Sri Lankan tea Industry against the other origin teas in international markets and develop a PR strategy to promote Ceylon Tea Sustainable Factors for three months period.
- To respond positively to mitigate the impact of negative publicity campaigns carried out by the competitors on TTL and Social/digital media to enhance the image of Ceylon tea.
- 3. To develop the creative materials for the campaign.
- 4. To execute the short term PR campaign in following countries.
 - Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, Iran, Germany, Japan, USA, Australia, Chile, UK, Poland, Canada, France, Italy, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Sri Lanka
- 5. To review the performance of the campaign after the completion

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) adopting one envelop system among suitably qualified (eligible) bidders.

The Intended Contract Period is 150 days (05 Months) from the date of awarding.

Eligibility Criteria are as follows.

Eligibility Criteria

- I. Should have at least 7 years' experience in advertising industry.
- II. At least 5 years' experience in FMCG Marketing and adverting including TTL, Digital/Social media, PR, and KOLs handling in international campaigns (handling Media Planning & Scheduling, Media Buying in ATL, BTL, social media/digital media in international markets, creative developments).
- III. Should have over Rs.150 mn net turn over per annum in the past 3 years (2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21).
- IV. Should have a fully-fledged Office in Colombo and a joint partnership with an International advertising agency network.
- V. Local entity should not be involved in any other Tea brand campaigns during the period.
- VI. Advertising Agencies who are engaging with Media planning, scheduling and buying work of Ceylon Tea Global Promotional Campaign are not entitled to apply for this tender.

The Bid Document can be inspected and downloaded free of charge from the www.srilankateaboard.com web of Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03, from 09.05.2022 to 29.05.2022.

Pre-bid meeting will be conducted on 20.05. 2022 at 11.00 am at the Auditorium, Sri Lanka Tea Board.

The Bid Security shall be from a Commercial Bank operating (approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) for LKR 300,000.00 drawn in favor of the Sri Lanka Tea Board, No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03, valid for 180 days from the date of closing the Bid.

The Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes which the top left hand corner marked as "Proposals for the Selection of an Agency to undertake a Short Term PR Campaign for Ceylon Tea Globally", either delivered by hand and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Administration Division of the Sri Lanka Tea Board located at the address given below or sent by registered post to reach Chairman, Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03 on or before 1:00 pm on 30.05.2022. Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be closed at 1:00 pm on 30.05.2022 and opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders' representatives at the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Tea Board 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their applications.

The Procurement Committee reserves the right to short-list suitable applicants.

Chairman, **Procurement Committee,** Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Rd, Colombo 3.

www.srilankateaboard.com SLTB Y SL

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 Cone		
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**

Loan No. and Title:	3698/3699-SRI:Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project
Contract No. and Title:	STHRD/SB-V1: Procurement of Vehicles for student research work and materials collection for the Faculty of Technology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.
Deadline for submission of Bids:	07/06/2022, 13:30 hours (local time)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should

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: sposb-sthrd@mohe.gov.lk
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 9. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Department Procurement Committee Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka Belihuloya, Sri Lanka **ZIP code: 70140** Date: 08.05.2022

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 13th 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

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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 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, Bauddhaloka 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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COLOMBO DOCKYARD PLC

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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** 2022.05.18 Closing Date : 08.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays

Tender Period : **01.06.2022 to 31.08.2022** <u>Applicable Tender Fees</u>

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

