



# RANAVIRUWA

NOVEMBER 2021 7<sup>th</sup> issue

**Giant Stupa Dwells  
with Pride...**





## Gigantic 'Sanda Hiru Seya' Offered to Maha Sangha Immortalising Memories of 'Ranaviru' Sacrifices

The second largest hemispherical Stupa in the country, 'Sanda Hiru Seya' which was erected as a monumental tribute to fallen and handicapped War Heroes who made a valuable sacrifice to the Nation and to commemorate the end of the 30 years war with the manpower of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and Civil Security Department was consecrated and offered to the custodianship of the 'Sasana' and the Maha Sangha in a dignified ceremony on full moon poya day (18 November 2021), graced by the hierarchy of the Maha Sangha, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Honourable Prime Minister, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Secretary, Ministry of Defence along with his spouse, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and his spouse, Navy and Air Force Commanders, Inspector General of Police, Director General, Civil Security Department, widows and children of fallen War Heroes, permanently injured War Heroes and a huge gathering of devotees.

The 282ft high huge monumental hemispherical pagoda of this magnitude with a circumference of 801ft began its erection soon after the former President Honourable Mahinda Rajapaksa unified the country in May 2009 after eliminating the 30 year long terrorism at a time the incumbent President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was serving as the Secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

Ever since its cornerstone was laid, majority of Army personnel as prime movers with members of the Navy, Air Force and Civil Security Department personnel, paying the highest reverence to the project sweated day and night to erect this mammoth pagoda with the generous support of all tri service personnel and devotees from all corners of the world.

In the most recent past, General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary, Ministry of Defence on the directions of the HE the President was instrumental in bringing the entire project to a resounding success.

The landmark inaugural ceremony that heralds a new epoch in the revival of Buddhist legacy in the country commenced after the arrival of HE the President, First Lady, Honourable Prime Minister and his spouse at the venue.

Secretary Ministry of Defence and Mrs Gunaratne, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, and Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President Army Seva Vanitha Unit Navy Commander, Air Force Commander, Inspector General of Police and the Director General Civil Security Department after a warm welcome ushered the President and the Prime Minister to unveil the plaque, related to the ceremonial inauguration of the project.



## Maiden Alms-Giving Offered Maha Sangha at Sandahiru Pagoda



A mammoth alms-giving to members of the Maha Sangha (Shathadika Sangagatha Dakshinawa) that coincides with the ceremonial unveiling of the 'Sanda Hiru Seya' Stupa and the completion of two years of Presidency got underway on 19 November 2021 at new 'Sanda Hiru Seya' Vihara compound.

His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the Chief Guest joined the religious observances and alms-giving to the monks together with First Lady Mrs Ioma Rajapaksa, Honourable Minister, Chamal Rajapaksa, Secretary Ministry of Defence and his spouse, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and his spouse with the other dignitaries.



## Blessings Invoked from Ruwanweli Stupa



A special 'Gilanpasa' cum 'Aashirvada Pooja' at the sacred Ruwanweli Maha Seya in Anuradhapura was held on 19 November 2021 evening to mark the successful completion of His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's second year of Presidency and for the prosperity of the Nation amidst the blessings of Maha Nayake Theros (supreme hierarchy) of noble Three Chapters.



## Sri Lanka's Landmark NDC for 'Wisdom, Prosperity, Resilience' Gifted to the Nation

The state-of-the-art National Defence College (NDC) which is popular in the island as the intellectual think-tank to share the wisdom of strategic decision-making on national security matters among the Tri Forces, Police and Executive Officers of the Public Service was declared open following the auspicious hours amidst the series of ceremonial formalities by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces at the invitation of Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Secretary State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management, General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil and Major General Amal Karunasekara (Rtd) RWP RSP VSV USP ndu psc Commandant, National Defence College on 11 November 2021.

This high level educational establishment which was temporally placed on "Mumtas Mahal" building which belongs to the Ministry of Defence in Colombo 03 opened the doors for new era with this modification. Secretary to the President, Principal Adviser to the President, Secretary Ministry of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Navy and Air Force Commanders, Inspector General of Police, Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Commandant of the National Defence College together with invited diplomats graced the event of magnitude. The official website of the National Defence College (NDC) was also launched on the same day.

The birth of the National Defence College (NDC) in Sri Lanka marks a milestone in the annals of security studies and fills a long-felt gap in grooming strategic



leaders for both national security and strategic decision-making processes since potential Senior Officers both in the security and public sector were compelled to seek curricula of foreign defence colleges for comprehension of country-specific security narratives in the absence of our own National Defence College, now a full-pledged degree awarding institute to be on par with international standards to suit its motto, 'Wisdom, Prosperity, Resilience'.

High Commissioners of India and Bangladesh, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Ambassador for People's Republic of China, Defence Attaches of several embassies and a group of university lecturers were also associated with the event.

# Kuragala Temple's 'Katina Cheevaraya' Brought to Army Headquarters for Veneration



The first ever 'Katina Cheevara' offering ceremony (Puja) of archaeologically unique Pooragala Raja Maha Vihara, more popularly known as Kuragala Cave Temple, in Kaltota, Balangoda was renovated and re-vested in the 'Sasana' (doctrine of Buddhism) was held on 07 November 2021. General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) together with Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit and Chairman Army Buddhist Association, Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (West) participated in the glorious religious event which took place with the participation of 200 Buddhist monks amidst the colourful procession for offerings of devotees.

The total facelift and the complete renovation of this prehistoric archaeological reserve as a Buddhist place of reconciliation and harmony, harnessing the support of non-Buddhist residents in adjacent areas, was made possible due to manpower, technical and engineering expertise provided by the Army, consequent to an invitation, made by Venerable Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero incumbent for both Kuragala monastery temple and Nelligala International Buddhist Centre to Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) about an year ago.



Prior to the commencement of the main ceremonies at Kuragala, the sacred 'Katina Cheevaraya' was brought to the Sri Jayawardenepura Army Headquarters on 04 October 2021 evening in a colourful procession for offerings and veneration.

## Commander of the Army Distributed 50 Tonnes of Organic Manure among Jaffna Farmers



Strengthening the Organic Manure Production Process of Sri Lanka Army which was launched inline with the Presidential Mandate of “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor”, 50 tonnes of Organic Manure produced by Security Forces (Jaffna) was distributed among 30 farmers on 03 November 2021.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) graced the event at the invitation of Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna). The event was taken place at Army farm, in Palaly. Senior Officers of the Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock participated in the event.

This was the first time where the organic manure was distributed among Jaffna farmers in large scale. Mega compost processing site established at the Army Farm was also declared open by the Chief Guest of the event.



## **'Poppy' Flower Pinned on the Army Commander on Remembrance Day**



On the very day the international community marks the World Poppy Day (November 11) that recollects memories of world-wide fallen War Heroes, inclusive of those perished in World Wars, the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association, met General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) on 11 November 2021 at Sri Jayawardenepura Army Headquarters.

Chairman of the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association (SLESA), symbolically pinned a Poppy flower on the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army. The word 'Poppy' has become a familiar symbol of 'Remembrance Day' with the famous poem, 'In Flanders Field'. Those 'Poppies' as legends say, blossomed across some of the battlefields of Flanders after the World War I. Their brilliant red colour since then has been regarded the appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in World Wars I and II. The income earned by selling the Poppy flowers in Sri Lanka is used for the welfare of retired and disabled war veterans.

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## **New Kitchen Complex at AHQ Opened for Cooking Operations**



The new kitchen complex of the Army Headquarters (AHQ), established in the nearby 14 Corps of Engineer Services (CES) camp was inaugurated by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) on 09 November 2021 at the invitation of Brigadier H P I Perera WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc Mphil, Commanding Officer, Army Headquarters Battalion. The newly opened kitchen is equipped with modern equipment and utensils and has the capacity for cooking meals for 5,000 personnel at a time. Also it is equipped with modern cool boxes, refrigerators, boilers, coconut scrapers, grinders, blenders, ovens, etc. The task was brought to completion by troops of the 14 Corps of Engineer Services using their manpower, rich with technical and engineering skills.

## New Obstacle Crossing Filed at Maduruoya Special Force Training School Declared Open

The obstacle crossing filed at Special Force Training School premises at Maduruoya was declared open by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 21 November 2021.

This obstacle crossing filed improves endurance, quick readiness, and instant decision-making ability of the soldiers of the Special Force while improving the ability to face new challenges.



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## Sri Lanka's Former Ambassador in Korea Donates Cancer Detection Equipment

The former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea, His Excellency, Dr A Saj. U. Mendis symbolically donated a set of Cancer Detection and Treatment Equipment for distribution among most wanted hospitals on 05 November 2021.

The equipment were gifted to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO). Accepting the equipment Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army thanked the International Interchange Development Association of the Republic of Korea for the generosity extended towards the people of Sri Lanka.



## Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bangladesh Armed Forces was held at the Shrangila Hotel on 21 November 2021. Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy, Commander of the Air Force together with the dignitaries including diplomats, President of Army Seva Vanitha Unit, Officers of the Bangladesh High Commission graced the event with their prestigious participation.

Bangladesh Armed Forces Day is celebrated in every year on 21 November in a ceremonial manner. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was fallen in this year and it was held under the patronage of the Bangladesh High Commissioner Tareq Md Ariful Islam.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Booster Dose against COVID-19 Began from Colombo Army Hospital



The national vaccination drive, spearheaded by members of the Armed Forces as recommended by the Ministry of Health, commenced one more progressive phase on 01 November 2021 by providing the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose or the booster dose to frontline health workers including Tri-Service men, Policemen, health and tourism sector personnel and other selected frontliners.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) participated in the inauguration of the project that took place at the Colombo Army Hospital.



## Commander Witnessed the New Innovations of CDRD

The Centre for Defence Research and Development (CDRD) institute which is in operation under the State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management making great strides in the search for new innovations for development of both military and civilian technologies, handed over successfully completed 15 of their projects to the Ministry of Defence, Tri-Services and the Wildlife Conservation Department during a brief ceremony at the Centre for Defence Research and Development Headquarters at Panagoda on 8 November 2021.

At the invitation of Major General K R P Rowel (Rtd) RWP VSV USP ndu psc USACGSC Director General, Centre for Defence Research and Development the Secretary Defence, General Kamal Gunaratne (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO), Chiefs of Staff of the Navy and Air Force graced the event.

Military-related innovative products, comprised of the Drone Jammer Development project, Land Acquisition and Vesting Information Management System, Food Procurement Management System, Document Management System, MoU Management System, production of Digital Mobile Radio, Tracking Device for Special Operations (prototype), Smart Target System for Jungle Lane Firing, BTR Simulator, Mortar Simulator, B-vehicle simulator and the High-Tech Soldier Project were symbolically vested to the relevant authorities.

Also a unique and exclusively-produced Electronic Prosthetic Limb that can be used by handicapped War Heroes, a Hand-held Device to repel wild elephants that can be used by the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and a special officers' database for National Cadet Corps were among other innovated products.



## Commander Arrived in Jaffna to Inaugurate National and Social Development Projects

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) at the invitation of the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) arrived in Jaffna on 03 November 2021 in order to inaugurate a string of mega projects of national and social importance and soldiers' welfare.

During his visit Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army inaugurated the new office complex and the Officers' Mess of the 7 Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) Regiment, housed in Palaly. Aftermath he unveiled plaques and warmed both new buildings together with the Commander Security Force (Jaffna) and the Commanding Officer of the 7 SLAWC amidst religious blessings. The new office complex and the Officers' Mess remained a long-felt need of the 7 SLAWC after the Battalion was moved to this new location as per directions of the Commander Security Force (Jaffna).



## 51 Division Planted 800 Coconut Saplings inside Palaly Army Farm

The 51 Infantry Division Headquarters of the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) in parallel with the national drive for island-wide cultivation of 4 million coconut saplings threw its full weight behind the project by inaugurating the planting of 800 coconut saplings in 12 acre patch of land inside the Palaly Army Farm on 03 November 2021.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) who was on visit to Jaffna symbolically planted the first sapling in the presence of Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division and several Senior Officers. 50 dry ration packs and a stock of coconut and palmyrah saplings were given away to a selected group of 50 Jaffna civilians by the Chief Guest.

## 25 Abandoned Vehicles in Jaffna Made Motorable Again

Providing greater mobility facilities for 24-hour alert troops, causing no extra costs for state coffers, the Army's Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) troops after overhaul, repair and overall refurbishment enabled a fleet of 25 abandoned vehicles in Jaffna motorable again on 3 November 2021 after replacing all necessary spare parts as per directions of the Army Headquarters.



General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) as Chief Guest of the event, symbolically distributed the refurbished fleet, inclusive of 10 buses, 5 trucks, 3 Unicorn buffels, 5 motorbikes, 1 tractor and 1 cab among selected Divisions, Brigades and Units in the Jaffna peninsula.

The project got to a start a couple of months ago after Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) inspected the 4 Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers central workshop in the Jaffna peninsula where on the spot instructions were given to the workshop troops to make those idling vehicles motorable again as soon as possible with minimum possible costs. Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) Commander, Forward Maintenance Area (North), General Officers Commanding, Brigade Commanders, Commanding Officer and Senior Officers in the 4 Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) and Jaffna peninsula attended the occasion.

## Commander Warmed a New Home Built for Uduvil Family



General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) warmed a house to a widowed family in Uduvil, Jaffna during his visit to Jaffna on 3 November 2021 amid the Hindu religious rites and rituals.

The project, sponsored by the Church of the American Ceylon Mission in Jaffna was made a reality by 9 Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) Regiment troops who volunteered with their manpower, technical and engineering expertise. During the ceremony, several gift parcels were also handed over to the beneficiary including dry ration packets and household items. Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division and other Senior Officers were associated with the inaugural warming ceremony.

## Private Company Gifted Best Quality Face Masks to Armed Forces

Representatives of Esquel Sri Lanka Limited, an exporter of Cotton, Yarn, Fabric, Shirts, Accessories, etc, awarded a stock of exclusively-manufactured cotton face masks to the General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) in appreciation of the preventive tasks, being performed by armed forces against COVID-19 epidemic on 23 November 2021.

Ms Rasika Amarakoon, acting General Manager, Ms R U A Mendis, Mr N S D Kramaru and Mr M R Junkeer representing the donor company, Esquel Sri Lanka Limited participated in the event.





## **SLTE 2021 Awarding Ceremony Invited Army Chief as Guest of Honour**

'Sri Lanka Tourism Expo (SLTE) 2021' at Beira Lake and Ocean Avenue in One Galle Face complex culminated in an impressive awarding ceremony on 21 November 2021 evening where General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO), has been invited as Guest of Honour.

Exhibition stalls of 'Laya' Chain of Hotels, owned by the Army and Sri Lanka Army Catering Battalion drew the attention of the visitors to the location as they went on showing their talents in live-cooking competitions, cocktail and mocktail competitions, dress the cake competition and cake structure competition and won several Silver and Bronze medals.

During the same ceremony, Brigadier J L T K Hewa RWP RSP Chief Executive Officer at 'Laya' Safari at Palatupana, Hambantota was awarded an appreciative memento by the University of Colombo, Alumni Association of Tourism Economics and Hospitality Management (ATEHM) in recognition of his contribution to the hospitality industry as a guiding leader in the past 6 years as well as his academic inputs to the International Tourism Leaders' Summit and Tourism Research Conference, launched by Tourism Study Programme of the Department of Economics at Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

## Ex-LTTE Combatant Got New House Following Commander's Previous Interactions

The 51 Infantry Division laid the foundation stone for construction of one more new house for a former LTTE member living in Chunnakam, Jaffna on 03 November 2021. General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The project was patronised by the famous philanthropist, Mr Thyagendran Vamadewa of Jaffna under the supervision of General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division. The 10 Sri Lanka Artillery troops provided the technical and engineering expertise for the project.

Chunnakam-based beneficiary, a rehabilitated and recently released former LTTE combatant under the Presidential pardon after his release on 24 June 2021 was compelled to live in a temporary shelter, along with his only sister since his parents were deceased. On being informed of the status quo, Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) planned house construction project.



# One More Batch of Best-Trained World-Class SF Soldiers Passed Out



The Sri Lanka Army's Special Forces (SF), arguably the best-trained top Special Operations Force and the most formidable unit a country can boast, being well-geared to perform unconventional or unorthodox covert missions concerning national security interests passed out on 21 November 2021 inducing one more elite batch of 7 highly-trained Officers and 235 Other Ranks upon completion of their intensive nine-month long Training Course No-51 during a thrilling ceremony at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) at Maduruoya.

The eventful formal passing out parade of the best of the best and its ceremonials, held strictly adopting health guidelines and assumed greater significance with the arrival of the Chief Guest General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO).

Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc Colonel of the Regiment, Security Force and Commander 1 Corps,



together with Commandant, Special Force Training School offered a warm welcome to the visiting Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

The proceedings of the ceremony set off as a helicopter hovering over brought down SF insignias and badges to be pinned on the day's undergraduates.

The Chief Guest aftermath awarded the Special Forces badges at first to a representative group of the day's passing out undergraduates. Major General H P Ranasinghe RWPRSP ndc, Commander, Security Forces (West) Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu, and Commandant, Marksmanship and Sniper Training School Brigadier W T W Ihalage RWP RSP psc in succession to follow suit and pinned the rest of those badges on those undergraduates.





## **Curtains Fell on 57<sup>th</sup> Army Inter Regiment Athletic Championship 2020-2021**

57<sup>th</sup> Army Inter Regiment Athletic Championship 2020-2021, the most-awaited inspiring event in the Army sports calendar which generates enormous enthusiasm among Army sports lovers commenced on 26 November 2021 evening at Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo, rekindling hopes for many more national and international wins in future.

Giving due recognition and inspiration to athletic skills of his troops, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) at the invitation of the Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc Chairman, Army Athletic Committee and Commander 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army graced the closing and awarding ceremony as the Chief Guest.

A few more than 700 young and well-trained Army athletes, representing all Regimental Headquarters of the Army showcased their athletic prowess in this annual event, comprised of track and field events during this 3-day long Championship that began on 22 November 2021 at Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo.

Following close tussles, athletes in the Sri Lanka Artillery clinched the championship trophy as the overall winners while 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places were won by athletes in Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Sri Lanka Army Service Corps respectively. There are new Army records, national level records, new game records and Army Athletic Meet Records among Army athletes. They are 1 Sri Lanka Record, 3 Army Athletic Records and 14 Meet Records.



## Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council on 3 Day Visit



Secretary, Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolai Patrushev visited Sri Lanka for 3 day official visit on 22 November 2021. Secretary of Ministry of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy and Commander of the Air Force welcomed the guest.

## Exclusive Dialogue with Russian Delegations at Shrangila



A bilateral discussion was held between Sri Lanka and Russia at the Hilton Hotel with the Russian delegations headed by Secretary, Security Council of the Russian Federation on 22 November 2021.



General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary Ministry of Defence, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy and Commander of the Air Force represented Sri Lanka at the discussion. The discussion was focused on the improvement of security cooperativeness with the Sri Lanka Armed Forces.



# ***The Brave Warrior reinforced the Battle Muhumale***

Nobody had ever known that the good names of Mr Neketige Danie and Nammuna Arachchige Gunawatie would ever imprinted in history. The Ruhunu Land-a famous home of future warriors gifted another warrior to the Island Nation on 16 December 1981 with the blooming hopes. The young baby boy was named Palatuwa Nekethige Suranga. Nobody had ever predicted that this young baby boy would bring a new aurora for the pearl in the Indian Ocean. Athletic Suranga initiated his education at Olcot Central College, Galle. He imprinted his name in various sports including Foot Ball, Cricket and Karate. Entering the school Cadet Team was a turning point in his life. The Scout Movement had nourished his pride dream of saving the Nation. The affairs of the School Cadet team, participating in the foot ball games, and studies made the young life of Suranga a quite busy. But his 24 hours of the day was always in alert to dedicate for the community welfare. Suranga was a key figure at



***S/ 513841 Sergeant Suranga P N  
PWV***

any school event at that time.

He joined Sri Lanka Army with the overflowing pride on 28 November 2000. He was enrolled to the Sri Lanka Army as an amateur soldier and enlisted to the Recruit Training Course No. 03 at Engineers Training School. Young Suranga who successfully completed the preliminary military training then



*Young Suranga P N Practicing Karate*

joined the 1 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment which was formed taking the name of ancient Sri Lankan King Vijayabahu I, who ruled Polonnaruwa rescuing the Island from the invaders.

Meantime he entered to the wedlock with another beautiful young lady named Miss Nadeeka. Their life was filled with happiness with the birth of their daughter Nisansala Madushani. Suranga who used to nurse between the wife's care and the daughter's love always focused on saving the country from the pathetic conditions. Although entered to the marriage he has not forgotten the duty entrusted on him. He grabbed the weapon to save the country without considering the day and night reaching the camp before the leave ends.

Meanwhile, he promoted to the Rank of Lance Corporal on 31 December 2003 as the Sri Lanka Army was able to identify the hidden talents of this hero. By 01 November 2005, he then promoted to the Rank of Corporal due to his meticulous service rendered to the Nation.

Suranga marked the incomparable heroism amidst the difficulties in army life when in the battlefield with North and East during his mission to save the nation. He received the Poornabhoomi Medal for his

**“His nerves filled with the pride of saving Nation. Nothing is impossible for the brave sone of the Nation who was born from a heroic mother. He vowed to save lives of his team from this fearsome enemy. As the archery used for the hand of Kind Vijayabahu and Giant Pussadeva and Suranga was used to the RPG weapon. Suranga realised many lives will be destroyed if the friends were not saved. He immediately took a grenade, removed the pin and jumped into the middle of the bunch of enemies doing the best sacrifices a as a soldier could do during his life”**

valorous service rendered to the Nation. Except the said he was able to win North Humanitarian Medal, East Humanitarian Medal for the heroism exhibited in various situations.

Armed warrior Palatuwa Nekethige Suranga become father of two children during this time increasing his burden on shoulder. Though he was a father to two children, it couldn't demotivate him to leave his liability towards the Nation. Now his second daughter Palatuwa Nekethige Hirushi Prabodhika is born. He dedicated his day and nights to free the Nation while encouraging his troops as a friendly Corporal among his duty.

Among this all his favourite soccer ball received good attention and care. The football followed the command of Suranga's feet as the enemies are hiding before his valor. Muhumale was a crucial point in Jaffna for both sides engaged in the war

at the time. Sri Lanka Army forces had guard the forefront which was attacked by the terrorist on 11 August 2006. Therefore, the government troops took action to withdraw the area strategically leaving the bunkers. They deployed in A9 road. This withdraw was not anything but to plan the next strong step ahead. Accordingly, they had taken actions to recapture the area deploying massive troops on 12 August 2006. The battle remained many casualties. Corporal Suranga who was in duty appeared with his team.

It was 13 August 2006 and the battle took its fearsome figure with its enemy. Corporal Suranga who was deployed in bunker 11 had fired from his RPG gun targeting the enemies threatened the camp. The pride in the heart and determination led Corporal to prevent the enemy invasion. Meantime bunch of enemies launched an attack circling the 11 and 12 bunkers where the protagonist of the story hidden in. Before the fearsome figure of the enemy, the soldiers had fought giving their utmost dedication to jeopardize the enemy. The firing gradually become escalated while destiny began to play with the life of Corporal Suranga running his bullets out.

Suranga had never remembered the beloved daughters or his beloved wife who extended their love and care towards him. Not even his wife who waits with yearning eyes. Not the mother or father who blesses but the friends who are fighting with him. He remembered the lives who were ready to

sacrifice. He remembered the Mother Lanka who is suffering from this brutal terrorism. He realised there is no way other than to exhibit the nothing beyond the endurance for the one who exhales.

His nerves filled with the pride of saving Nation. Nothing is impossible for the brave warrior of the Nation who was born from a heroic mother. He vowed to save lives of his team from this fearsome enemy. As the archery used for the hand of King Vijayabahu and Giant Pussadeva and Suranga was used to the RPG weapon. Suranga realised many lives will be destroyed if the friends were not saved. He immediately took a grenade, removed the pin and jumped into the middle of the bunch of enemies doing the best sacrifices as a soldier could do during his life.

War Hero Corporal Palatuwa Nelethige Suranga had awarded Deshaputra Awards for the sacrifice he made saving his friends and Parama Weera Vibushanaya (PWV) for his exceptional gallantry order in the face of the enemy performed voluntarily whilst on active service with no regard to the risk to his own life and security with the objective of safeguarding thereby the lives of his comrades or facilitating the operational aim of his by Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa on 19 May 2012.



Extracted form "Uththamachara" published by Sri Lanka Army Headquarters.

## Distribution of Dry Ration Parcels



A distribution of dry ration parcels inline with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary targeting the economically deprived families in the area under command to 21 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment under the supervision of Brigadier K P A Perera RSP Commander 563 Infantry Brigade following the instructions of U U K L S Perera RWP RSP USP General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division took place on 07 October 2021.

General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division, Commander 563 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officer 21 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## Laying the Foundation Stone for the Welfare Shop and Officers' Accommodation of Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force



Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commandant of Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and Colonel of the Regiment of the Sri Lanka National Guard laid the foundation stone for construction of the new welfare shop and fitness center fulfilling a long standing requirement at the Headquarters Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force following the auspicious hours on 12 October 2021.

Also he laid the foundation stone for the officers' accommodation at the Headquarters of the Volunteer Force at the auspicious time amidst the blessings of Seth Pirith on 16 November 2021.

Major General J D C G Jayasinghe Deputy Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Officers and troops participated in the event.

## The Commandant SLAVF Paid a Visit to SLNG RHQ



Upon assumption of the office as the 47<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka National Guard made his formal maiden visit to the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) Regimental Headquarters on 25 October 2021. He was warmly welcomed to the premises consolidating with the military formalities, awarding a elegant Guard Turnout. Strengthening structural and administrative advancement of the SLNG Regimental Headquarters, the Commandant initiated the construction works of the new solar power project that would indeed facilitate to generate power for the utilisation of the camp premises in future. During his maiden visit he did not forget to address the troops. Brigadier P N Godallawatta USP psc Senior Staff Officer and Brigadier S N Samarawickrama KSP training Inspector and Brigadier W M S D K Gunawardana RSP KSP Centre Commandant, Sri Lanka National Guard Regiment graced the event.

## Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch



In line with the World Children's and Elders' Day, two programmes were organised following the conceptual guidance of Chairperson, Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Unit at Sri Lanka Artillery School, Minneriya on 25 October 2021. A meaningful lecture on the "Secret of a Successful Family" was also conducted by the Director General of Department of Manpower and Employment targeting parents of the children. Colonel Roshan Kannangara, Commandant, Sri Lanka Artillery, the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch, Officers together with its members and parents, 90 children participated in the event.

## Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch



In order to encourage their educational achievements Mrs Awanthi Pilapitiya the Chairperson of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Unit staged a donation of laptops and computers to four students who have done well in the A/L examination on 21 October 2021 with the participation of the members. The event took place at the Regimental Centre of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment.

## Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Unit (SLE-SVU) came forward to sponsor the completion of the partly-built house, erected on behalf of the deceased, S/ 241167 Corporal Nandana A W D and formally vested to the family on 08 November 2021. The soldier, accidentally died during a military training at the Institute of Peace Support Operations Training Sri Lanka in Kukuleganga after a sudden heart attack. Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Unit extended the assistance at the request of his wife to complete the house. Officers including Major General A N Amarasekara USP ndu Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Engineers and Mrs Shiromi Amarasekara, Chairperson, the Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Unit and family members were associated with the warming ceremony

## Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Seva Vanitha Branch



In line with the 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering a distribution of essentials required for six months targeting the silent servicemen of the Civil Staff serving in the under command Battalions/ Workshops of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regiment was held in July and August 2021. The inauguration of the event initiated on 30 July 2021 at Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regiment. Same event was also implemented by the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Seva Vanitha Members at the Battalions/Workshops/Training Schools of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

## Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch



At the instructions of the President of Corps of Engineers Services Seva Vanitha Branch a distribution of essentials required to boost the education of the 98 children at Bharathie Children Orphanage at Mullaitivu- Mulliyaweli took place with the participation of 16 Sri Lanka Corps of Engineers.

Also, two wheelchairs were gifted to the handicapped child of Lance Corporal Karunarathne M P 5 Corps of Engineer Services Regiment and sister of Corporal Perera PAUN S of Corps of Engineer Services Regiment upon the instructions of the President Corps of Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch.

## Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Mrs Eranga Hewawasam, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Unit (SLAGSC-SVU) during a recent visit to inquire into the well-being of family members of the late COVID-19 victim, Warrant Officer I, Gamini D M who was the Regimental Sergeant Major in 3 SLAGSC, donated a wheelchair to the mother of the deceased who is partly handicapped and feeble.

The donation took place in his house at Kuliyapitiya on 29 October 2021 in the presence of late Warrant Officer's brother, Corporal Prasad H A who is also in service at the SLAGSC. A scholarship was also awarded to the victim's 14-year old daughter along with a dry ration packet to the widow of the late Warrant Officer I.

## Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch

Mrs Shanthi Abesekara, President Sri Lanka Agricultural and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch together with its members engaged in a visit to Umandawa Vihara Premises on 18 November 2021. The purpose of this visit is to absorb the knowledge of carbonic agriculture. The team was able to witness demonstration of food preparation made by organic harvest of Umandawa.

During the visit the President Sri Lanka Agricultural and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch donated the stationaries required for the Vihara. The knowledge earned from the visit will be supportive to boost the members of the chemical free agro production and related entrepreneurship to uplift the living conditions of the members of the branch.



## Canadian High Commissioner Met Jaffna Commander



During a tour to the Jaffna peninsula, HE David Mckinnon, High Commissioner of Canada in Sri Lanka together with Mr Daniel Bood, Political and Economic Counsellor of the Canadian High Commission in Colombo and Mr P Goobinath the Political Officer visited the Security Forces Headquarters (Jaffna) and met Major General Jagath Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu on 13 October 2021.

A brief discussion touched on general matters of relevance to the responsibilities and roles of the military in the post-conflict era and efforts to improve notions of reconciliations and ethnic harmony with special focus on community-related projects.

## Katina Cheevara Pooja at Sri Naga Viharaya, Jaffna



Jaffna troops extended their maximum support to the annual 'Katina Cheevara Pooja' at Sri Naga Viharaya, Jaffna held during 30 and 31 October under the guidance of the Chief Incumbent Ven Meegahajandure Siriwimala Thero. The annual event was organised by 512 Infantry Brigade under the supervision of 51 Infantry Division and instructions of Major General T J Kodithuwakku RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) 51 Infantry Division.

Religious dignitaries, Government Officials, General Officers Commanding 51 and 52 Infantry Divisions, Brigade Commanders 511 and 512 Infantry Brigades and Senior Officers were presented during the sequence of events.





## Commander SF (Wanni) Visited Under Command Formations

Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) visited 21, 54, 56 and 65 Infantry Divisions soon after assuming the duties of his new appointment on 20, 26 and 27 October 2021. During his visit he inspected the operational, admin and welfare affairs of the troops. Generals Officer Commanding of 21, 54, 56 and 65 Infantry Divisions and Commanders of the Brigades under command were also participated in the event.

## 15 CES Troops Erected New Preaching Hall at Somawathiya



The new three-storied 'Dharmashalawa', (Sermon Hall) built at the historic Somawathiya Rajamaha Vihara Temple premises in Polonnaruwa with the technical expertise of 15 Corps of Engineering Services (CES) troops of the Security Force Headquarters (East) under the 'Pibidemu Polonnaruwa Project' was declared open on 07 November 2021 during a simple ceremony, headed by Most Ven Pahamune Sri Sumangala Nayake Thero Incumbent, Somawathiya Raja Maha Viharaya and Secretary to Malwatta Chapter.

The former President Maithreepala Sirisena, the, Major General C D Werasooriya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (East) together with several other dignitaries participated the auspicious minute. Aftermath, foundation stone was laid for construction of the Sanghawasaya (residential quarters), Relic Chamber and the Museum in the same compound. The 15 Corps of Engineering Services Regiment troops have been entrusted the construction of those new wings.

## Security Force (East) Marked 72<sup>nd</sup> Army Anniversary with Coconut Tree Planting



To coincide with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Army Anniversary, the Security Force Headquarters (East) launched a coconut tree-planting campaign in the Army Farm Kandakadu on 08 October 2021 with the participation of troops. 2000 coconut saplings were planted under this programme in the farm premises under the patronage of Major General C D Werasooriya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (East). General Officer Commanding 23 Infantry Division, Commander Forward Maintenance Area (East), Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks also attended the occasions.

## 1 Corps Commander Undertook Formal Visit to 53 Division



The Commander 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army, Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc made his maiden visit to the 53 Infantry Division after assuming the duties to the 1 Corps, the highest all time ready tactical formation of the Sri Lanka Army. The 53 Infantry Division Headquarters welcomed the visiting Commander, 1 Corps offering him a drive-past Guard Turnout at the main entrance following the deep rooted military formalities in a grand manner.

During the visit, he engaged in a comprehensive briefing on the responsibilities, professional liabilities, troops trainings and further emphasised the collaborative operational readiness of the Divisional troops.

## New SF ( Mullaitivu) Commander Familiarises with His Areas



Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) engaged in a visit to the 681 and 682 Infantry Brigades under command to 68 Infantry Division on 19 November 2021. Subsequently he enquired the duties, administrative requirements and did not forget to share few thoughts with the troops. The Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) was once served as Commander, 682 Infantry Brigade sometime back and resultantly civilians including the elites in the area came to meet him on the day.

## Newly Appointed SF (Central) Commander Visited Under Command Units



Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu the Commander Security Force (Central) made his maiden visit to 11 Infantry Division, 111 Infantry Brigade and their under command Battalions. Also, he visited Water Purification Institute, Public Health Inspector Office, constructing Holiday Bungalow at Hawa Eliya, Oil Cooperation, Kotagala, Wimalasurendra Hydro Plant and Laxpana Hydroelectric Power Complex were observed during his visit.

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SF (West) Celebrated



The Security Forces (West) celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary under the patronage of Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (West) on 15 November 2021 following military formalities. The colourful event of magnitude took place after the religious observance with the participation of 14 and 61 Infantry Division troops. Security Forces (West) has been rendered an outstanding service engaging in a security National Development and Community Welfare in West, North-West, Sabaragamuwa and Southern Provinces.

## Two Day Workshop on Military in Internal Operations



Two day workshop on military in internal security operations (MISO) for Officers serving in the Security Forces (West) was held on 16 and 17 November 2021 at Regimental Headquarters of Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Panagoda. 32 Officers participated in this workshop launched under the supervision of Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (West) following the conceptual guidance of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Armed and Security Forces delegate in Colombo Brigadier (Rtd) Jacques Lemay conducted the session.

## Donation to Siri Sangabo Orphanage on World Children's Day



Fulfilling a long standing requirement at “Siri Sangabo” Children’s Orphanage, Security Forces (Central) contributed to donate the stock of required essentials including plates, cups and mugs for the benefit of the inmates in the Children’s Orphanage. Major General MK S Silva RWPRSP ndu the Commander Security Force (Central) and Officers participated in the event. The charity programme was launched under cooperation of Civil Affairs Coordinating Office. In addition the Commander Security Force (Central) mediated the renovation of the Children’s Orphanage.

## Awareness Programme



An awareness programme to educate the officers transferred to the institutions administrated by Directorate of Rehabilitation was held on 8-12 November 2021 at Ranaviru Resource Centre on the process of Rehabilitation.

9 Officers from Ranaviru Sewana, Abhimansala 1, 2, 3 Ranaviru Sampath Centre participated in and certificates were offered to the participants by Brigadier I H M T H Senarathne USP Director Rehabilitation. Brigadier P D A G Senadeera Deputy Director Rehabilitation, senior course coordinator of Ranaviru Resource Centre and Officers participated in the event.

## House Warmed to a Deserving Family



A new house was warmed to a deserving family residing in Sinnapandirichchan, Madu area on 30 October 2021 under the supervision of Colonel D N C Serasinghe RSP USP Commander 653 Infantry Brigade. The financial donorship of Rs 1 million for the project was extended by Madu Divisional Secretariat and the manpower was provided by 24 Gajaba Regiment troops. General Officer Commanding, 65 Infantry Division and Divisional Secretary of Madu area participated in the house warming ceremony.

This charity event took place upon the intervention of Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) and the instructions of Major General A K Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 65 Infantry Division.

## Troops Experiment Use of Organic Manure in Paddy Cultivation



In line with the government's national drive to produce organic fertiliser, 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC) troops launched a project to cultivate a patch of paddy fields in Ella, Kantale area on 20 November 2021 in a paddy sowing ceremony, associated with traditional practices under the instructions of Brigadier H A P P K Hewawasam Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC) under the fullest supervision of Major G W E I Senadeera, Officer Commanding of the 1 SLAGSC Detachment at Ella, Kantale with the participation of all Officers and Other Ranks.

## Army Wheelchair Tennis Players in Italy's 'World Team Cup 2021' Secured Few Wins



Three Sri Lanka Army differently able players namingly Sergeant Dharmasena D S R of Sri Lanka Artillery Sergeant Ranaweera R A L S of Gajaba Regiment and Sergeant Gamini D M from Gemunu Watch in the Sri Lanka Wheelchair Tennis Association recorded two wins against players from Belgium (World Ranking-8) and three wins against Brazil (World Ranking 7) in the recent Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup 4 October 2021, held in Sardinia, Italy.

Sri Lanka beat Belgium 2-1 after losing to France 3-0, at this year's World Team Cup (WTC) in Italy and Brazil (3-1). The Sri Lanka Wheelchair Tennis team was led by Tokyo Paralympian D S R Dharmasena. Sri Lanka marked the record among the Golf giants Great Britain, France, Japan, Argentina, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, USA, Korea Rep and Brazil are the top ten other teams.

## Army Boxer and Air Force Woman Pugilist Win Bronze Medals in Moscow



The 58<sup>th</sup> World Military Boxing Championship, held at the Patriot Exhibition and Convention Center in Moscow during 19-26 September 2021, attracting 231 boxers in total from 36 countries in ten weight categories for men and five for women, awarded a Bronze medal to Sri Lanka's leading light fly weight pugilist, Lance Corporal Sajeewa Nuwan of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps (SLAC) of the Sri Lanka Army for his performance under 49 kg weight category.

A 23-member delegation, composed of tri service and civil sector boxers, coaches, Officers and officials attended the event. The Bronze medalist, Lance Corporal Sajeewa Nuwan competed and won medals in several previous national championships, inclusive of Laton Cup 2019-(Gold), Clifford Cup 2019- (Gold), National Championship-2019-(Gold) in addition to his gains in few other international championships. The 58<sup>th</sup> World Boxing Championship was inaugurated by a speech of Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation General of the Army Nikolai Pankov, who read out the welcoming address of the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation, Hero of Russia, General of the Army Sergei Shoigu.



# Defensive

## Are you a Driver ???

Well, the roads are frequently blocked with accidents, ill-disciplined drivers, and traffic congestions. This traffic often waste time and make your schedules for the day delay. Driving is not a simple job but a responsible career that someone can do. It's not only about your hands and steering wheel but a good care of your wheel too. You shall become a defensive driver when you save time, lives and money, despite the conditions around you and the actions of others. These tiny essentials are listed out to guide your path to make you such.

### ***Have Safe Driving Speed***

Scientifically human beings were not designed to go much faster than about 40mph. Any speed beyond the limit of 15mph makes unnatural. Unfortunately,

many new drivers think the faster they drive, they have mastered the subject. But this notion is wrong. This happens when you look directly in front of the vehicle and no further. You probably don't think you're one of those people, as many unnoticed this serious problem. How far ahead should you look? The answer is, as far as you can! Many accidents could be avoided if people would have better situational awareness with a good distance.

### ***No Overthinking when on Drive***

Many drivers used to dream or recall their incidents that they faced (family or home) when they are on board. This habit often take you away from your steering wheel leaving your responsibility behind for some time unknowingly risking your life with a nearby accident. When you entered in to the driving

seat, you must make sure that you are ready and awake ! That will save not only your life but of all.

## ***The Escape Plan***

If you want to be one of the safest drivers, you must always have a best escape plan. The escape plan literally refers to the prediction of the other drivers' behaviours. Can you believe that all drivers in the road are mastered their subject? The answer is NO!. the number of accidents will prove it further. Imagine a cow runs into the roadway and everyone slams on their brakes or maybe someone has a tire punch and vehicle is moving out of control. What will you do? Therefore, having a possible plan for every possible driving emergency is the most vital thing that you must know as a driver.

## ***Maintaining Proper Following Distance***

A safe following distance is just as important factor, but this fact is mostly neglected by many drivers.



The unusual hurriedness to move the vehicle ahead often make minor to massive damages to the vehicle. Specially this happens in slow traffic congestions. The patient plays a good role here. So whatever speed you run your vehicle, you must make sure of the enough space between you and other vehicles. Then you'll



never hit anyone.

## ***Avoid Driving Distractions***

Sometimes back the vehicles were just vehicles. It didn't have many fancy items such as cup holders, or computers. These days, vehicles have, GPS systems, satellite radios, subwoofers and even flat-screen televisions! Many people often seen eating, and driving at the same time or they text and drive! Apart from that sometimes drivers get distracted by passengers in the vehicle. Modern days the driving seat is distracted during driving in various ways. So better to treat the distractions before you start the journey and it ends!

## ***Say No – Alcohol/Drugs***

There is a habit of many drivers that they drink or have small shot before they get into vehicle. The situation that a driver faces after he is drunk is different than a behaviour of an alcohol-free driver. This causes many accidents. The control of the vehicle leaves you when you are drunk, and you are totally out of this world. Therefore, it is ultra-important to make sure to yourself that you can take the vehicle a lead on the road in hustle free mentality.



Every situation is different in every phase an individual faces as it requires its own specific course of action. The driving is not just a business between the steering wheel and brakes paddle but beyond that. Equipped with these tips will greatly reduce the chances of accidents and will reward you as a safe driver. The guide-key here is self-discipline. When you violate these 5 basic rules, you are putting yourself with everyone else around at risk for sure. This defensive driving tips could literally save not only your life but pedestrians too.



**By Captain Lakmali Kudaligama SLAGSC**  
Directorate of Psychological Operations



# Champions Leads Local and Overseas Volleyball Field

Several steps were taken by the Chief of Defence Staff soon after his succession to the new post as the President of the Sri Lanka Army Sports for the development of the Athletic in various aspects. The frequently known Sri Lanka's National Game-Volleyball won a serious attention of the Chief of Defence Staff. Sri Lanka Army Volleyball Team had not recorded any improvement in National or Regional Level Tournaments considerable for 10 years. He had made few changes in the Volleyball administration. Sri Lanka Volleyball Team was able to regain their recognition within few years recording a few National Level victories upon the supervision and guidance given by the Volleyball Committee under the new leadership.

Since then, the victorious members of Sri Lanka Army have recorded number of domestic and international volleyball records at 7 occasions exhibiting their skills to the world.

## International Level Victories

- South Asian Games Beach Volleyball Tournament - 2019 (S/R 101400 L/C Weerasinghe K G C M of SLAWC represented the Sri Lanka Army)- (First Time) - Gold Medal
- South Asian Games Beach Volleyball Tournament - 2019 (S/27913 Sergeant Jayathilaka K A K I T of SLSC and S/ 57931 Sergeant Sanuja P K J T of SLAGSC represented the Sri Lanka Army)- (First Time) - Silver Medal
- Won Fair Paly Trophy at Military World Games – 2019 (First Time) 2019
- Four Volleyball players in National Team represented Sri Lanka Army at Asian Central Region qualifying round and won against the Uzbekistan 2021
- Sri Lanka Army Team was selected as the best team from both teams represented Sri Lanka at Asian Beach Volleyball Championship 2021

## National Level Victories

- National Television Volleyball Championship 2019
- National Television Volleyball Championship (men) 2019 (after 10 years)

- National Security Forces Volleyball Championship (men) 2020(after 10 years)
- National Armed Forces Beach Volleyball Championship (Women) 2020 (first time)
- National Volleyball Championship (Women) 2021 (first time)

The volleyball committee strongly believes the secret behind this landmark success is timely fulfillment of the requirements of the volleyball players to brush up their skills. The noteworthy fact behind this wining spirit is gaining the service of the Sri Lanka Army coaches saving large sum of money for the state coffers after 10 years leaving the civil coaches service.



*National Television Volleyball Championship 2019*



*National Beach Volleyball Championship 2020*



*Armed Forces Beach Volleyball Championship 2020*



*National Volleyball Championship 2021*



*National Volleyball Championship- Women 2019*



*Armed Forces Beach Volleyball Championship 2020*



*Winning the Fair Play Trophy at World Military Games 2019*



# The Youngest Soldier in WW II

War is not a pleasant experience for anyone. The wars in the history had only brought the destruction for human civilisations. It irritated long term bonds between families, sometimes separated loved ones forever. The children in war had always faced the tragic and endless suffering. The term 'Child Soldier' is another word to describe the helpless victims of tragic war. If you are having a good memory of the Sri Lankan Armed Conflict you may remember of this term. The Liberation of Tamil Tigers (LTTE) had used these innocent children as their equipment to make their greedy dream of separate region come true, forcibly sending a Child Soldier to forefront placing a deadly cyanide on their neck to suicide when they were caught.

WWII is a landmark of the human civilisation where prosper dreams of innocents were burnt into ashes. This terrible war had smashed nearly 13 kids while some were led for endless sufferings at touchier chambers. Some children had to go forefront of the battle with the weapons that are double in size of them. Such experience at the blooming age for child is curse not

only until he grows but he dies.

These pages also tell you a fabulous story of such child who participated in the WW II. This hero has walked forefront to save his motherland when he was six years old. His name is Sergey Aleshkov. Seryozha was his nick name where his loved ones used to call him. Documents on the birth of Sergey Aleshkov were not preserved, but his estimated year of birth is predicted as 1934 or 1936 in the forest village of Gryn in the Kaluga region. After the outbreak of WW II (the Great Patriotic War in the USSR), this village became a Resistance base for the deployment of partisans. In the summer of 1942, German troops unexpectedly arrived in Gryn and began to kill the partisans.

For their complicity with the partisans, the villagers were executed by the Germans. The 10-year-old older brother of Sergey, named Petya, was hanged, and his mother was shot while trying to protect her son. Thanks to a neighbor, Sergey was able to escape through a window and ran into the forest. There he wandered in the direction of Kozelsky and Soviet scouts found him. He was badly beaten by the insect attacks of the blind forest. However, his condition was not in a good level which was suitable for a child. Therefore the 142<sup>nd</sup> Guards Infantry Regiment of the 47<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Division who found the young Siyosha decided to take him to their deployment place.

Major Vorobiev was the Commanding Officer at the Regiment at the time and he decided to undertake his protection immediately. They believe that the Regiment is the safest place to keep the child as sending him back to the home was a risk at the time. The child also



enjoyed the company of the Soviet Soldiers and for soldiers the child often filled the absence of the kids of soldiers who were away from family for a long time due to war. Soon after the young Seryozha was named as the Son of the Regiment.

The little brave boy was a great inspiration for the Red Soldiers of the Soviet Union. He voluntarily assisted the Soviet soldiers who were in the forefront delivering the letters and messages and ammunition. He also sang songs for the tired soldiers. Soon after the little Sergey was given medical assistance and sewn a suitable military uniform.

When he was playing with the military toys, he saw something unusual moving. He was keen on the strange thing and he reported on what he saw to his Regiment men. Later few soldiers were sent to search on tip of Seryozha. However later the patrol team caught German Target Spotters. After this incident the place little Seryozha had in the Regiment increased. In the meantime, Major Mikhail Vorobiev, who did not have his own family, cared for the boy, and soon officially adopted him. It was 1942 where the delay and fearsome battle frequently known as Stalingrad Battle raised. The Soviet soldiers had to fight to save the red heart from the Germans. At this tragic battle nearly 2000000 of Red

Soldiers had sacrificed their lives for the wellbeing of the Nation. 142<sup>nd</sup> Guards Infantry Regiment was shifted to the Stalingrad at the time 1942. During battle he saw his father was stuck in the trench. Immediately taking the action Seryozha passed the message to the fellow soldiers and saved his father, the Commanding Officer amidst the Germans' attack. Resultantly young Seryozha earned the For Combat Merit Medal for his exceptional bravery exhibited during the war.

In the meantime, Sergey was treated under a good nurse called Nina Bedova. Being unmarried Nina Bedova extended love and care towards the little one endlessly. This incredible love towards the child

finally made Nina Bedova and Major Mikhail Vorobiev under one roof. Now little Seryozha got a family and later a sister and two brothers.

However, the little Seryozha experienced all the evils of the War. Soon the 142<sup>nd</sup> Regiment took part in the battles at Stalingrad. On November 18, 1942, Seryozha, along with soldiers of one company, fell under mortar fire. He was wounded in the leg by shrapnel and was sent to a hospital. At every time where Seryozha victimized the destiny had special favour towards this brave young man. Although heavily wounded he was able to



save his life. As a result, the youngest soldier received his first medal "For Military Merit", and Marshal Chuikov gave him a pistol, presumably a Walther P38. After treatment, Sergey returned to his regiment. In 1945, Sergey Aleshkov was awarded the medal "For victory over Germany." At the request of Marshal Vasily Chuikov, he went to study at the Tula Suvorov Military School. In 1954, he graduated from the Suvorov School and became a student at the Kharkov Law Institute.

After receiving his education, he moved back to the Chelyabinsk region and served in the district departments of the prosecutor's office before becoming a legal adviser at the Chelyabinsk Plexiglas Factory.

Later Sergey married and raised two children, a daughter, and a son, and even lived to see the birth of his grandchildren. In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in 1985, he was awarded the "Order of the

Patriotic War of the First Degree." This brave young kid now a well-built man died at a bus stop in 1990. Military childhood had left a mark on his health.

A film is produced based on the film of the little child which was later released as "Soldier Boy". The film was a production of the Victoria Fanasiutina.

Taking part, the children in the war activities is undoubtedly tragic. The war has taken the lives of innocents over many years. But Sergey was a lucky champ unlike many others. There is no heroism in the war though it makes heroes. May the World be free from Wars.



*By Major Chathuranga Vithanage*  
**SLEME**

## Life Support for the Deserved Families



A Dry Ration Distribution programme to uplift the living conditions of 50 deserved families in the area was held on 17 October 2021 at the Kangarayankulam School by the troops of 16 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and 17 (V) Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment under command to 561 Infantry Brigade. The financial generosity was extended by Mr Prasad Lokubalasooriya the founder of "Relief Vessel of Humanity" welfare organisation. The charity programme was supervised by Commander 561 Infantry Brigade. Major General U U K L S Perera RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding graced the event as the Chief Guest.

## Generous Donation



50 Dry Ration parcels were distributed among the COVID-19 victims who were recovered and living in Unnachchiya and Ayithmaleyi areas under command to 4 Gemunu Watch, Unnachchiya Batticoloa. The financial generosity was extended for the charity work by Mr Supem de Silva. The each dry ration parcel is worth of Rs 7000.00. The charity project was launched under the conceptual guidance of Major General K A N N Koswatta RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding 23 Infantry Division in line with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Army Anniversary.

## Newly Refurbished Emergency Treatment Building of Ranaviru Sewana - Ragama, Declared Open



Inline with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers, emergency treatment building of the Ranaviru Sewana, Ragama was renovated and re-opened by Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers and the Chief Field Engineer Major General A N Amarasekara USP ndu together with the President of Seva Vanitha Branch Sri Lanka Engineers (SVB-SLE) on 13 November 2021.



## The Maiden Agriculture Course at Agriculture Training School



The First Basic Agriculture Course initiated by Agriculture Training School at Aralaganvila which was implemented with the intention to achieve the highest targets of the agriculture improving the related knowledge and experiences concluded on 13 November 2021 with the participation of 50 Non-Commissioned Officers of different Regiments. Major General W B S M Abesekara RSP USP Colonel Commandant Sri Lanka Corps of Agriculture and Livestock distributed the certificates gracing the event as the Chief Guest.



# Soldier Brother



by  
*Maj Gen Keerthi Kottawatta (Rtd)*

As I remember it was the time where Operation Riviresa was in action. The operation was planned with the intention to rescue the Jaffna Peninsula from LTTE. As a young Captain, I participated in the operation as the Officer Commanding leading my men forward. The operation was planned towards Jaffna from the Palali Forward security area extended up to the Thilippale. The final intention was to rescue the civilians from the LTTE captivity. Jaffna was terrorists' focal point and often known as their pride. At the time LTTE was meticulously attempting to prevent falling Jaffna into our hands. They were extending their maximum firepower towards us bearing the intention to secure their fortress. As the land advantage was too on their hand rescue mission was not an easy task for our troops. LTTE placed illegal booby traps on our route which was a deadly threat to our walk. But the troops were heading to Jaffna among the threats.

The main duty of my team was to move ahead to Jaffna covering the Jaffna-Tellippalai main road. However traveling along the axis was utter difficult as it was among the buildings. Two platoons started their journey from left side of the main road while the other platoon from right whereas I started my journey with the remaining platoons with the reserve. Several soldiers had already left us becoming victims of the booby traps and snipers of terrorists, but brave soldiers marched forward.

Soldier Jaysiri was a regular soldier of my platoon. He joined the Sri Lanka Army soon after his Advanced Level (High schools) finished although he

passed the Ordinary Level examinations with flying colours. He was very strategic soldier who had special ability to understand anything in a shorter time. I enlisted him for logistic requirements during offensive operation. He had successfully fulfilled the duties of his new appointment.

He was calm and quite person unlike the other members of the platoon. During the interview he had mentioned me that his father was paralysed and he has a sister studying for high schools and brother for junior schools. The family income was selling sweetmeats but it was not providing an adequate income for them.

As the family income was not sufficient, he decided to join the Sri Lanka Army and assist her sister's and brother's education leaving his studies behind. He had told me, " Sir my sister and was genius to study ..I will anyhow bring them up".

At the last phase, the LTTE escalated their fire power towards us near the Jaffna University. However, before the deadly fire power our troops were able to entre the Jaffna University premises and able to confirm the power of the region.

Suddenly a terrorist attack reached towards us. I went there with the reserve troops to assist them. Although the enemy fire was controlled, few of my soldiers had already scarified their lives.

Among the dead soldiers, soldier Jayasiri was also included. The Sergeant Major who was at the time packing the soldiers belonging to send the families of dead soldiers had brought me a letter received yesterday for the name of Jayasiri. I opened the letter.

Jaysiri's sister had written the letter telling that their studies were going well and expecting him to come home on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. When realised the sincere attempt of the soldier had taken to uplift his brother and sister in the society, ears began to fall erasing the letters.

## Meeting Between District Ranaviru Organisations



It is required to establish a friendly environment for the close relatives of the deceased Officers who sacrificed the lives for the unity and territorial integrity and also retired officers after performing excellence service to the Nation. Accordingly, Ranaviru District Organisations are planned to establish on district basis collecting the members of the Ranaviru families under the each Security Forces Headquarters with the coordination of Directorate of Veteran Affairs.

Accordingly, a meeting of supervising Officers under command to Security Force Headquarters (Central) in Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Monragala Districts and Chief representatives of the Ranaviru Organisations, Administrative Officers of Senior Ranaviru Organisation of Security Force Headquarters (Central) was held under the patronage of Brigadier M Mayadunna RSP USP Director Veteran Affairs on 01 November 2021.

## Troops Serving Under Security Forces Central AOR Felicitated



Under the instructions of Commander, Security Forces Headquarters (Central), an appreciation programme was held at Security Forces Headquarters (Central) on 19 November 2021. Recently, a series of natural disasters occurred in Security Forces (Central) Area of Responsible and Officers/Other Ranks of Divisions, Brigades and Battalions gave their utmost assistance to rescue civilians who were affected in this disastrous situation. In recognition of the assistance extended by the troops in this needy situation, five Officers and eighty Other Ranks were awarded with certificate of appreciation by Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP and Commander Security Forces Headquarters (Central).

## Newly Constructed House Vested for A Needy Family



Troops of 10 Gajaba Regiment extended their financial and manpower assistance to construct a new house for a needy family in Beddegama Grama Niladari Division. After the construction process, this house was handed over to Mrs Charlette Welarathne by the Brigade Commander of 111 Infantry Brigade Brigadier T M R B Rathnayake RWP RSP on 23 October 2021. Commanding Officer of 10 Gajaba Regiment, Officers, Other Ranks and villagers participated in this occasion.

## Troops Joined 'Deepavali' Celebrations in 65 Division Areas



Members of the Army 65 Infantry Division, 651, 652 and 653 Infantry Brigades under the Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) with the intention of promoting reconciliation and goodwill between civilians and Security Forces conducted several donation projects inline with the 'Deepavali' festival on 4 November 2021 in Palinagar, Thunukkai and Madu areas. Troops of 10 Sri Lanka Light Infantry, 19 Sri Lanka Light Infantry, 24 Gajaba Regiment and 17 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry under the 65 Infantry Division gave away free meals and refreshments to the patients and staff at government hospitals and 550 dry ration packs targeting the low income Hindu families in the area on Deepavali day. The charity event is implemented under the instructions of Major General K A Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 65 Infantry Division. The programme was coordinated by the Civil Affairs Officer and staff.

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## Corps of Signals Celebrates Its 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Corps of Signals was celebrated on 19 October 2021 at the Home of Signals, Panagoda. As part of the Anniversary itinerary, fallen War Heroes of the Corps were commemorated at the Regimental War Heroes' Monument. All night pirith chanting and alms-giving were also took place in line with the event. Major General P A J Peiris ndu Chief Signals Officer of the Army and the Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals and Mrs Sajiwanee Peiris President, Signals Seva Vanitha Unit participated in the event.

Lunch was offered for all members and best unit award in respect of 2020-2021 was won by 2 (V) Sri Lanka Signals Corps and Colonel Commandant handed over the certificates in appreciation of the outstanding athletic performances.



# Centre for Army Vocational Training - Kala oya



*Centre for Army Vocational Training located at Kala oya, Saliyapura has become the heaven that nourished their vocational skills of retiring military community. The school renders a meticulous service to the retiring soldiers after rendering the dedicative service after 15 and 20 years to adjust their retirement life successfully assuring the dignified life ahead.*

Non-Commissioned Training School took its new look on 10 May 2016 under the motto "Progress through Training" widening its scope to train the retiring soldiers under its new recognition as Centre for Army Vocational Training as per the conceptual layout of the former president His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksha and former Secretary to Defence Gotabaya Rajapaksha fulfilling a long-standing requirement.

4127 Soldiers had successfully completed the vocational courses prior to their retirement from this



**Commandant**  
Brigadier  
W S K Liyanawaduge RSP



**Commanding Officer**  
Colonel  
Y M S C B Jayatilaka RSP USP

recognised institute and the institute is conducting their vocational training courses under the supervision of Directorate of Veteran Affairs under command to Army Training Command with the closest coordination with Vocational Training Authority.

The dedicative service of the vocational trainers in day and nights at the Centre for Army Vocational Training has lighten up the future careers and vocational opportunities of the retiring soldiers bringing them into the success in their field up to the national level with the new inventions in their field of master. The vision and the mission of the Centre for Army Vocational Training is to produce skillful

vocationalists who can engage in future career without any supervision. The vision of the school is to provide all theoretical and practical knowledge to engage in such future vocational career.

The objectives of this Centre for Army Vocational Training are as follows;

- Provide the requirements (NVQ IV) and above certification facilitating the apprentice to become a master in the respective field.
  - Facility improvement of the Centre for Army Vocational Training to achieve the objectives of the institution, develop the facilities of the training and provide the required facilities.
  - Proper maintenance of the measurements to produce skillful and disciplined vocational
- trainers with the due recognition to the certificate issued by the Centre for Army Training.
  - Development of the leadership, administration, and management skills.
  - Produce the skillful personnel to rebuild the Nation.
  - Provide the required technical assistance for the self-employment and self-entrepreneurship.
  - Provide the knowledge, social values, interpersonal communication civil and labour and food security and human resource management and business development.
  - Contribute a skillful soldier who serve the Nation even after the retirement and facilitate an environment to continue the same service.

### Practical Training Sessions



Carpentry Course



Plumber Course



Aluminum Repair Course



Agri Equipment Repair Course



Building and Engineering Course



Welder Course



Electrical Engineering Course



Shoemaker Course

## Training Courses Conducted by the Centre for Vocational Training

| Course                            | Training Period | NVQ Level |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Aluminium Welding Course          | 12 Months       | NVQ III   |
| Agri Equipment Maintenance Course | 12 Months       | NVQ III   |
| Electrical Engineering Course     | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |
| Welder Course                     | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |
| Shoemaker Course                  | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |
| Carpentry Course                  | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |
| Plumber Course                    | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |

## The Courses Conducted outside the Training School

| Course                           | Training Period | NVQ Level |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Baker Course                     | 6 Months        | NVQ IV    |
| Chef Course                      | 6 Monthss       | NVQ IV    |
| Water Assistants Course          | 3 Months        | NVQ IV    |
| Agriculture Course- Aralaganwila | 4 Months        | NVQ III   |
| Plantation Course                | 6 Months        | NVQ III   |
|                                  |                 |           |

As per the vision of Sri Lanka Army following steps are taken by the school to produce the skillful professional soldiers in the future in order to fulfil the requirements of National Building:

- Including another 5 Vocational Training Courses. Action has been already taken to take the permission of Vocational Training Authority to implement such training courses.
- Discussions are underway with the Vocational Training Authority to include the following training courses:

1. Computer and Mobile Phone Repair Course
2. Air Condition and Fridge Repair Course
3. Cameraman Course
4. Electronic Course
5. Hybrid Technology and Automobile Course



*By Sri Lanka Army  
Centre for Vocational  
Training, Kalaoya*

## Newly Erected Basket Ball Court Declared Open



Newly erected Basket Ball in order to improve the sport skills of the Officers and Other Ranks of 12 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment was declared open by Major U L D S Gunasignhe RWP RSP USP Unit Commanding Officer on 5 November 2021.

## Central Commander Made First Visit to 12 Division



After assumption of his new office, Major General MKS Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Central) made his first formal visit to the 12 Infantry Division Headquarters and 121 Infantry Brigade in Hambantota on 15 November 2021.

Major General R A D P Ranawaka RWP RSP USP ndc General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division and Officers participated in the visit.

## Commemoration Ceremony of Deceased War Heroes of Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps



Commemoration was took place at the War Hero memorial at 1 Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps on 14 October 2021 placing the floral wreath commemorating their supreme sacrifice for the wellbeing of the Nation. The event took place in line with its 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps. Inline with the event, dry rations were distributed among the family members. Colonel Commandant, Centre Commandant, Officers, Other Ranks and their family members attended the event.

## Afforestation Programme



Afforestation programme was launched on the illegally acquired lands at Kotiyagala Reservation in Siyambalanduwa on 04 and 06 November 2021. The Mee, Kubuk, Athdemata, Jack, Tamarind saplings were planted in the identified areas. Officers and Other Ranks were also participated in this community event that took place with the participation of 12 Forest Officers. The green project was implemented under the instructions and guidance of 121 Infantry Brigade under command to 12 Infantry Division.



# “A Captain, Confronted the Death in Bravery”



By Lieutenant Duminda Senarath,  
Directorate of Media.

Colombo Town Guard which raised under the Ceylon Defence Force (CDF) Ordinance No 08 of 1910.

As he was wealthy and talented, several British Officers felt jealousy about him. Also he was subjected to the prejudiced eyes of the several British Officers at the time he was riding his own horse which was bought by him at a very expensive rate.

However Captain Edward Henry Pedris, became a very unfortunate victim of a riot which broke out in Kandy between two groups of Sinhalese and Muslims which later spreaded to Colombo and other parts of the Island on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915.

According to the facts in the history, Captain Henry Pedris had to fire 2 shots in to the air by using his revolver to disperse the mob that had a clash in Pettah. As a result of this and also due to the gossips created by the tale bearers those who were in not good spirits with him, the British Government got this plight as a wrong impression and assuming that the Captain Henri Pedris had given the leadership to the rioters, he was soon arrested under the accusations that Captain Henry Pedris had incited people to march to the City of Colombo from Peliyagoda and also had shot at a group of Muslims with his revolver. However most of the prominent Sinhalese leaders such as D S Senanayake, D R Wijayawardena (Founder of Lake House) F R Dias Bandaranaike, H W Amarasuriya, A H Molamure, E T De Silva, Edwin Wijayarathne and Dr Cassius Pereira were arrested by British fearing open rebellion. Due to the fear that the British Government might lose

Edward Henry Pedris was born as the youngest of five children and the only son of Duenuge Disan Pedris and Mallino Fernando Pedris who lived in Galle in the southern part of Ceylon. His father was the wealthiest Mudliyar and also an owner of graphite mines, plantations, real estates and a tradesman.

Young Edward Henry Pedris had his secondary education at the Royal College and from there he developed his sports skills in Cricket. Afterwards he joined the St. Thomas College where he showed skills as an excellent Cricketer. However he returned to the Royal College again and played cricket. Though he was an active member of Colombo Society, he was a teetotaler. His father's ambition was to take his son for his business enterprises, with the outbreak of World War 1. But young Edward Henry Pedris opted to join the Colombo Town Guard as a private and he was the first Sinhalese to be enlisted to the new Regiment. However due to his excellent skills in horse riding, he was promoted as a Commissioned Officer (Captain) in the Administrative (mounted) section of the

the control of the colony, the British Governor of Ceylon at that time, Sir Robert Chalmers utilised heavy upper hand to response towards the riot. As a result of this, Marshal Law was declared on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 and given the full authority to Army and Police to shoot at any person who can be deemed as a rioter.

However after the FGCM had given the conviction against Captain Henry Pedris, his relatives filled an application for a Writ of Certiorari and prohibition in the Supreme Court of Ceylon. Also an appeal was made to the then King of the Colony, King George V of England. However, as a result of Sir Hector Van Cuylenberg's (The only representative who was in a position to intervene the case against Captain Henry Pedris) representations were not taken seriously by the military, Captain Edward Henry Pedris was stripped of his ranks and executed inside the Welikada prison on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1915 by a firing squad of Panjabi soldiers. The firing squad of Panjabi soldiers attempted to cover his eyes before the firing. Raising his bold voice he said "Do not need to cover my eyes I prefer to see your game" After Captain Henry Pedris was executed, the blood soaked chair Pedris was sitting was shown to the other Ceylonese leaders who were leading the independence movement



*Sir Robert Charmon the British Governor who influenced to impose death penalty for Henry Pedris*

**Captain Edward Henry Pedris was stripped of his ranks and executed inside the Welikada prison on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1915 by a firing squad of Panjabi soldiers. The firing squad of Panjabi soldiers attempted to cover his eyes before the firing. Raising his bold voice he said "Do not need to cover my eyes I prefer to see your game". After Captain Henry Pedris was executed, the blood soaked chair Pedris was sitting was shown to the other Ceylonese leaders who were leading the independence movement with the warning that they would be the next.**

with the warning that they would be the next. However the execution of the Captain Edward Henry Pedris by the Colonial British Government eventually marked the new era of the Independence of Sri Lanka.

Moreover, the day that the Captain Henry Pedris was executed, 7<sup>th</sup> July became a Sinhalese phrase ("Julie Hathai") which signifying a massive disaster or a major calamity.



*Captain Henry Pedris*



*The Tomb of Captain Henry Pedris located at Cemetery, Borella*



# Army Begins To Produce Organic Fertiliser

Prolonged use of chemical fertiliser has demolished the natural richness of the ground soil. This has affected the people to consume a poisonous diet which creates an ailing society. Due to this problem, the country has lost a large sum of foreign exchange with the import of chemical fertiliser. Therefore, preparing farmers to use organic fertiliser would protect the country both healthy and economically. In that case, by supporting the country's farming and cultivation, the Army commenced several organic fertiliser production projects in islandwide camp premises recently. At the moment the Army is busy producing organic fertiliser in all Security Forces Headquarters camp premises.

Under this, implementing the government's policy of encouraging the organic fertiliser production process, the Army has launched a mega project to produce 25,000 metric tons of Compost fertiliser for the forthcoming Maha

season. These main projects are being carried out by the Army troops at SFHQ levels.

The 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' National Policy Framework put forwarded by HE President Gotabaya Rajapaksa acknowledges that to produce a healthy and productive citizenry, the government must ensure the right of the people to access a non-toxic and balanced diet. To achieve this objective the government has taken measures to ensure that only organic fertiliser would be used in the agriculture sector in the country in the future. In line with this vision of the government and with the instructions, the Organic Fertiliser Production project was declared open by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army in coordination with the Army's Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock.

This project expects to increase and improve sustainable crop production, improvement of long-term soil fertility for better farmer livelihood,



alleviate rural poverty and reduce foreign exchange drain on chemical fertiliser imports improving community awareness on the advantages of organic fertiliser and the Army expects to provide technical support to local framers for the production of their organic fertiliser shortly.

Composting is the natural process of decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms under controlled conditions. Raw organic materials such as crop sediments, animal wastes, green manures, aquatic plants, industrial wastes, city wastes, food garbage etc. enhance their suitability for application to the soil as a fertilising resource. The end product of the process is compost which, is of value in agriculture.

In keeping with the President's vision to promote organic fertiliser production, the project was initiated on 16 May 2021 with the participation of women soldiers following the directions of the Commander Security Forces (East). Sri Lanka Army troops of 5 Sri Lanka Women's Corps under

the Security Forces Headquarters (East), Welikanda produced 160,000 Kilograms of organic fertiliser.

This project which was conducted directly under the supervision of the Directorate of Agriculture plans to produce 25 tons of organic fertiliser initially. The fertiliser produced by this project will be utilised for Agricultural projects within the Army and will be also made available for the farming community in Sri Lanka.

At present, the Sri Lanka Army has contributed to producing organic fertiliser in a total of 1,386,996 kilograms from islandwide camps. Under that, 500 kilos from 1 Corps Sri Lanka Army, 307750 kilos from SecurityForce Headquarters (West), 132750 kilos from Security Forces Headquarters (East), 122195 kilos from Security Forces Headquarters (Mullaitivu), 100000 kilos from Security Forces Headquarters (Jaffna), 108800 kilos from Security Forces Headquarters (Central), 166500 kilos from Security Forces Headquarters (Wanni), and 448500 kilos from Army Farms island-wide.

The project has been commenced in the view of increasing crop productivity, improving soil fertility, reducing chemical fertiliser imports, generating organic materials such as green manure, animal manure etc, minimising environmental pollution, increasing farmer income for better livelihood and alleviating poverty.

Further, the Army is expected to increase food crop production, increase farmer income, increase organic fertiliser production, minimise soil degradation, minimise environmental pollution by adopting correct waste management practices, improvement of long term soil fertility.

The Army's contribution to the Sri Lankan agriculture sector is multifaceted. In the future too, the defenders of the nation will continue their community projects for a healthy Nation and a better future in coordination with the civil communities.



*By Lieutenant  
Manohari Katugampala  
SLAGSC  
Directorate of Media*

## Assisting Flood Victims



An operation to rescue the flood victims of 5 families in Anandapuram Grama Niladhari Division located in the area under command to the 6 Sri Lanka National Guard established in 682 Infantry Brigade under command to 68 Infantry Division. Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) engaged in an inspection on 25 November 2021.

## Community Care Project for Army Day



Series of programmes were organised by the troops of 7 (V) Gajaba Regiment under command to 522 Infantry Brigade on 10 and 11 October 2021 under the instructions of General Officer Commanding 52 Infantry Division inline with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Army. Accordingly, the mid- day meals for the orphans and staff of Holly Family Orphanage at Mirusuwil and educational essentials for the students and dry rations worth of Rs 1500.00 for the selected deserved families in Theppili Gram Niladhari Division were given away.

## Strength to Education



Inline with the Battalion Day of the 8 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, 02 Lap top computers and 02 multi media machines were gifted to the Sri Bhodhiraja Children Village and St Jhon Children Orphanage with the coordination of Web School in the Tokyo, Japan on 08 November 2021. Brigadier L J L B Udowita RWP RSP, Commander 611 Infantry Brigade and Lieutenant Colonel D C S K Atukorala RSP Commanding Officer participated in the event.

# Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Major General**  
**W A S S Wanasinghe RSP**  
**USP ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander  
Security Forces (Mullativu)  
on 04 November 2021



**Major General**  
**S U M N Manage WWV RWP**  
**RSP psc**  
assumed duties as the Colonel of  
the Regiment  
of Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment  
on 05 November 2021



**Major General**  
**K P S A Fernando RWP**  
**RSP ndu**  
assumed duties as the General  
Officer Commanding  
53 Infantry Regiment  
on 28 October 2021



**Major General**  
**M G W W M C B**  
**Wickramasinghe RWP RSP**  
**ndu psc**  
assumed duties as the General  
Officer Commanding  
51 Infantry Regiment  
on 27 October 2021



**Brigadier**  
**G G A S Wickramasena RWP**  
**RSP USP psc Hdmc**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander  
52 Infantry Regiment  
on 28 October 2021



**Brigadier**  
**H D W K N Eriyagama**  
**RWP RSP**  
assumed duties as the Director of  
Directorate of Welfare  
on 01 November 2021



**Brigadier**  
**O M D Gunasinghe**  
assumed duties as the Brigadier  
(Admin/ Quatering) Security  
Forces Headquarters (Wanni)  
on 22 November 2021



**Brigadier**  
**D N J Fernando RSP USP**  
assumed duties as the General  
Staff Officer  
Security Forces Headquarters  
(Wanni)  
on 17 November 2021



**Brigadier**  
**T C M G S T Cooray RWP RSP**  
**USP psc**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander  
512 Infantry Regiment  
on 29 October 2021



**Colonel**  
**H K J U Jayaratna**  
assumed duties as the Colonel  
Coordinating Officer at  
Security Forces Headquarters  
(Jaffna)  
on 13 November 2021



**Colonel**  
**D K S S Dodangoda RSP USP**  
assumed duties as the Director of  
Army Psychological  
Health Services  
on 18 November 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel**  
**G A L Kithsiri**  
assumed duties as the General  
Staff Officer I  
of Division of Psychological  
Operations  
1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army  
on 01 November 2021

## Memories of a Unit Visit



Major General D M K D B Pussalla RWP RSP Adjutant General visited the Directorate of Rehabilitation and under command formations including Ranaviru Resource Centre, Abhimansala and Mihindu Seth Madura soon after assuming his new appointment. Brigadier I H M T H Senarathne Director Rehabilitation conducted a briefing on the duties and responsibilities. Further he did not forget to inquire the progress of the soldiers who are under indoor treatments. The Commandants of the Ranaviru Resource Centre, Abhimansala and Mihindu Seth Madura participated in the event.

### RANAVIRUWA

#### COMPUTER FONTS, COVER DESIGN AND PAGE LAYOUT

S/ 752158 WO11 Senarathna GC - 3 CES

S/ 753797 Cpl Kumarasinghe MGAM - 11 CES

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## Logisticians Received Graduation at Trincomalee



26 Officers who successfully completed the Logistics Staff Course - No 7 (LSC) at Trincomalee-based Army School of Logistics (ASL) passed out during a formal military ceremony, held on 27 November at Naval Marine Academy in Trincomalee. 02 Officers from Nepal and Bangladesh, 02 Navy Officers and 01 Air Force Officer were also included in the course.

Those graduates received their parchments and accolades from General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who graced the simple ceremony as the Chief Guest in the presence of a gathering of distinguished invitees, Senior Officers and Staff Officers of the School.





## Sandahiru Stupa....

*Gleaming in the highest sphere of  
Shining like a Diamond in lonely  
Wiping grief, hate, evil and  
Sandahiru dwells the victory and*

*sky  
sky  
cry  
pride*

*When see land free from any  
Happiness raise with love and  
Rendering comfort with no  
Heroes' hearts rejoice with*

*separation  
devotion  
separation  
satisfaction*