



JANUARY 2022 • 9TH ISSUE

Ranaviruwa

*Heaven of Merit with the
Effort of Heroes*

Bearing pain, keeping our
Leaving grief, blue saving
Keeping promise, not forgetting
See that Kuragala standing

Heredity
Majority
Priority
Sovereignty



Annual 'Jaya Pirith' at BMICH Compound Invoked the Blessings on the Nation



More than 1,000 Buddhist monks, drawn from all corners of the country, including Maha Nayaka and Anunayaka Thero at the invitation of the Ministry of Defence gathered at the BMICH premises and commenced overnight chanting of the 'Jaya Piritha,' one of the most powerful canons of Buddhist chanting, believed to be able to dispel bad omens and destructive forces and invoke blessings to bring prosperity and well-being to the country on 26 January 2022.

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic and Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka participated in as the Chief Guest of this annual event, accompanied by the First Lady, Mrs Ioma Rajapaksa, General Kamal Gunaratne (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, Chairperson Ministry of Defence Seva Vanitha Unit, Presidents of Army, Navy and Air Force Seva Vanitha Units.

This mammoth annual chanting saw its birth as a concept of HE the President in the year 2008 when he was serving as the Secretary Defence under the government of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the incumbent Hon Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at a time humanitarian operation against LTTE terrorism were entering a decisive phase.




HE the President Enshrined Offerings to the Restored Kuragala Pagoda

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, instrumental in conservation of the archaeological site at Kuragala Monastery in Kalthota and the driving force behind the realisation of the project which dates back to prehistoric times of Balangoda Homo Sapiens, made an unannounced visit to the sacred site on 16 January 2022 for enshrinement of offerings, images and artifacts restored in Kuragala Pagoda (Esi Disi Maha Seya), together with the First Lady, Mrs Ioma Rajapaksa.

Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero, Incumbent for both Kuragala Temple and Nelligala International Buddhist Centre, together with Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Parliamentarian Akila Ellawala, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army

Seva Vanitha Unit participated in the event. Kuragala monastery, the Buddhist religious site of archaeological value that speaks a legacy running into the prehistoric times, revived as a result of the dedicated incumbency of Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero and tireless and committed contribution made by devout Buddhists, Army troops and Civil Defence Service personnel. The initiative was began under the project, 'Yali Pibidena Kuragala' (Revival of Kuragala) when HE the President was serving the office of the Secretary Defence before the year 2015, together with active patronage, lent by the former President and present Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.





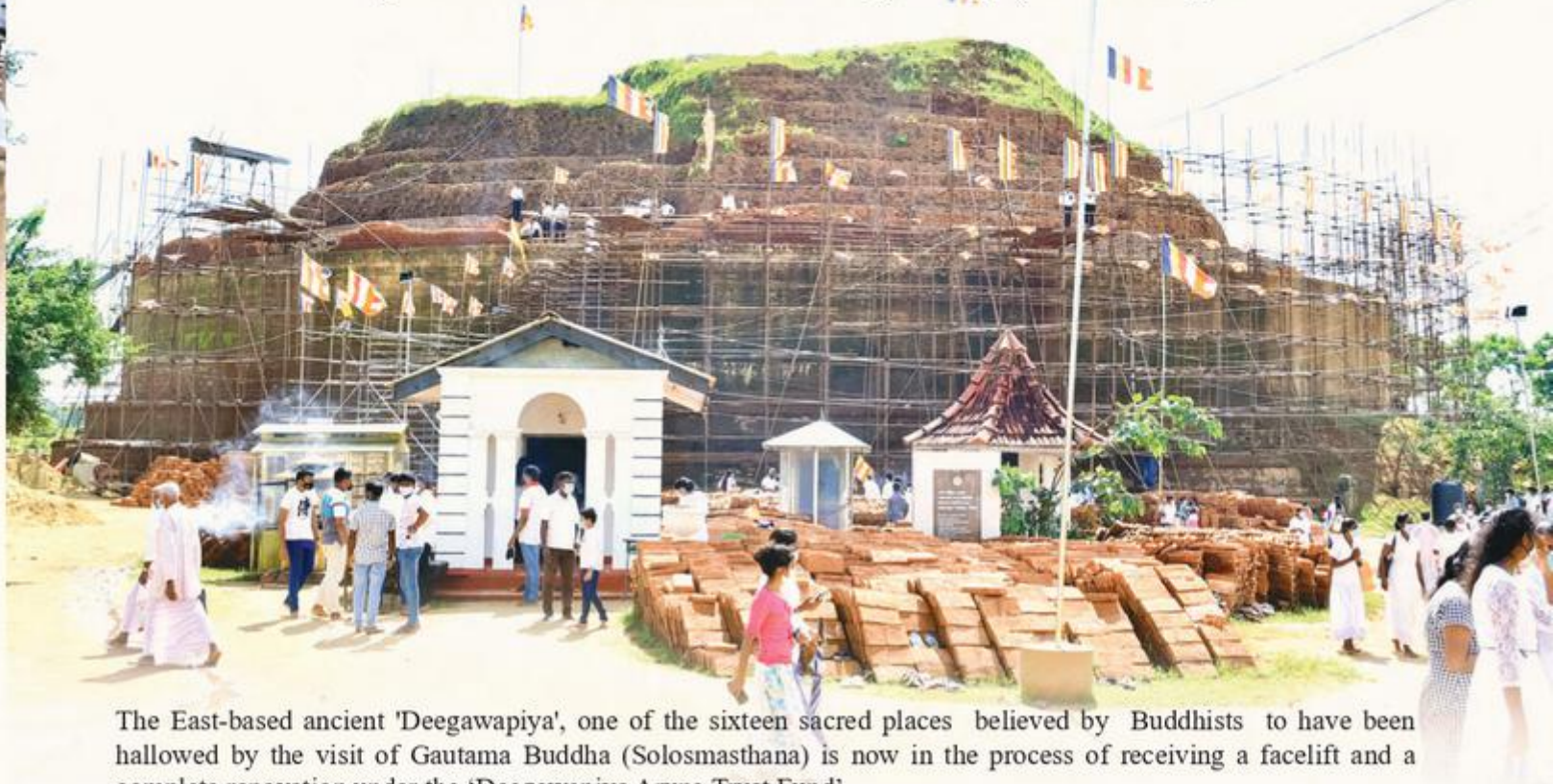
Revival of Kuragala Marked by Army Commander with Enshrinement of Offerings

The artifacts restoration of the archaeologically-unique Balangoda Pooragala Raja Maha Viharaya, more popularly known as Kuragala Cave Temple, which remained dilapidated, neglected for a long time in Kaltota, Balangoda, rekindling its past glory and historical legacy, revived under the guidance of incumbency of Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero, Incumbent for both Kuragala Temple and Nelligala International Buddhist Centre with the tireless and committed contribution of devout Buddhists, Army troops and Civil Defence Service personnel on 16 December 2022 with enshrinement of offerings, treasures, images and artifacts after restoration of its ancient Pagoda (Esi Disi Maha Seya) to its pristine glory during a colour-rich ceremony.

The revival of the Kuragala monastic temple, the Buddhist religious site of archaeological value that speaks a legacy running into the prehistoric times of Balangoda Homo Sapiens, was made possible due to manpower, technical and engineering expertise provided by the Army consequent upon an invitation made by Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero, Incumbent for both Kuragala monastery temple and Nelligala International Buddhist Centre to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army about eight months back. As hundreds of traditional drummers began rending the air, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest of the occasion, together with his spouse atop the first layer of the ancient Dageba respectfully deposited a replica of a Pagoda, ornamental valuables, offerings and treasures as led by the Chief Incumbent. Air Force helicopters showered floral petals and added more colour and dignity to the event. A gathering of devotees including the Venerable Theros of three Chapters, Ministers and Public Officers were also associated with the enshrinement ceremony.



Recently Excavated Relics and Artifacts Placed in Special Chamber at 'Deegawapiya' Temple



The East-based ancient 'Deegawapiya', one of the sixteen sacred places believed by Buddhists to have been hallowed by the visit of Gautama Buddha (Solosmasthanana) is now in the process of receiving a facelift and a complete renovation under the 'Deegawapiya Aruna Trust Fund'.

The new Relic Chamber installed in the premises of the Archaeological Heritage was declared open on Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day (17 January 2022) during a ceremony by General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc Mphil Secretary to the Ministry of Defence. Recently-unearthed sacred relics at the Deegawapiya Stupa site were deposited in the Ampara District Secretariat for safe-keeping and daily veneration conducted in a cultural pageant before those relics were placed in the newly-built "Relic Chamber" inside the Deegawapiya temple premises in accordance with religious rites and rituals amidst chanting of Ven Maha Sangha.

Secretary, Buddhasasana, Religious, and Cultural Affairs Ministry Prof Kapila Gunawardena, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and former Government Agent (GA) Ampara, D M L Bandaranayaka District Secretary for Ampara, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy, Commander of the Air Force, Director General of Civil Security Department, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson the President Army Seva Vanitha Unit and a list of invitees joined the ceremony of placing those sacred relic caskets in the new chamber.



DSC Marked its 15th Anniversary with Religious Programmes



An all-night 'Pirith' chanting ceremony, held on 19 January 2022 at the Defence Services College (DSC), Colombo 02 on account of its 15th anniversary invoked blessings on the country, students, teachers, staff and all.

General Kamal Gunaratne (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc Mphil Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugethenna, Commander of the Navy at the invitation of the DSC Principal attended the inauguration of the chanting.



US-Based Expatriate Gifted ICU Beds to the Army Hospital

In order to transfer merits to late Brigadier Sudath Udayasena, an old Anandian, a US-based member of the Old Boys' Association of the Colombo Ananda College donated four ICU beds to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army for the use at the Colombo Army Hospital.

The Sri Lankan expatriate, Mr Kheminda Jayawardhana met Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and symbolically delivered those beds, worth

about US\$ 2000. This donation was coordinated by Major General WAS S Wanasinghe RSP USPndu, Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) on behalf of his college mate, late Brigadier Sudath Udayasena.



Commander at MSTS Underlines the Need to Groom Soldiers as Well-Disciplined Shooters



The Inter Regiment Combat Shooting Competition-2021, organised by the Army's state-of-the-art Marksmanship and Sniper Training School (MSTS) at Diyatalawa, more popularly known as the 'Home of Snipers' held an eventful awarding ceremony on 29 January 2022.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army graced the event as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Brigadier W T W T Ihalage RWP RSP psc Commandant, MSTS and Chairman, Army Small Arms Association (ASAA).

The Competition had been organised under three categories as Open, Service Regiments and Novices, to be in line with the Sri Lanka Army Way Forward Strategy 2020 - 2025' and competed by 340 plus competitors of all Regiments. The Championship in the open category was won by Gajaba Regiment shooters, pushing Gemunu Watch and Commando Regiment shooters to the 2nd and 3rd places respectively. 34 teams in the Open, Service Regiments and Novices categories including one women's team vied in the tournament.

The Championship in service regiments was meanwhile won by the shooters in the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps pushing Sri Lanka Corps Military Police shooters to 2nd place. In the Novices category, the Championship was won by Gemunu Watch shooters and runners up slots were respectively secured by Gajaba Regiment and Commando Regiment shooters. Aftermath Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army awarded the trophies, medals, and certificates to the winners and achievers in the Competition. Senior Officers including Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Commandant Sri Lanka Volunteer Force, attended together with other dignitaries.

MSTS at Diyatalawa Added a New Simulator Wing for Training

The Indian Army-gifted Small Arms Training Simulators to the Marksmanship Sniper Training School (MSTS) in Diyatalawa was inaugurated by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army attending the occasion as the Chief Guest on 29 January 2022.

Showing his sound understanding and sentiments of goodwill and co-operation towards the Sri Lanka Army, General Manoj Mukund Narawane PVSM AVSM SM VSM ADC Chief of the Army Staff of India gifted those India-made training simulators, prompting the MSTS to allocate a separate premises in the school compound for this purpose during his recent visit to Sri Lanka. Aftermath, the Chief Guest of the event, unveiled the plaque and inaugurated the simulator room where trainees will be able to conduct those firing exercises with ease. Sharing his views, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army highlighted the importance of sustained training sessions utilising those new simulators. The day's itinerary was marked by the Chief Guest planting a sapling in the compound as a symbol before his departure.



Commander Virtually Opened a New House for a Needy Family

Members of "Lieutenant Colonel W D Udaya Priyantha De Silva Memorial Friends' Circle" with technical skills of Corps of Engineer Services erected a new house for a deserving family in Ambalangoda and warmed it on 31 December 2021 during a simple ceremony, filled with religious rites and rituals.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army virtually inaugurated the new house erected at Ambalangoda fulfilling the unrest requirement of the family with 5 children through zoom technology.

During the virtual opening, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army recalled the memories of his one-time Officer Commanding of the Gajaba Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel W D Udaya Priyantha De Silva who laid his life in Nedunkerni on 16 May 1997 during the 'Jaya Sikuru' Operation just after shared lunch.

The new house, worth about Rs 7 million was completed as per the guidelines given by the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army with financial support of the "Lieutenant Colonel W D Udaya Priyantha De Silva Memorial Friends' Circle", headed by Mr Piyal Lamaheva.

14 Gemunu Watch extended the manpower to complete the task under the directions of D B S Bothota RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 61 Infantry Division. Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff also participated in the ceremony.



OCDS-Conceptualised Symposium for Middle-Grade Officers of the Armed Forces Inaugurated



A full-day symposium for Middle-Grade Officers of the Armed Forces, conceptualised by the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS) under the theme "Military Leadership in the Contemporary World: Evolving from a Warrior to a Friend in Need" began its sessions on 13 January 2022 at the BMICH with a brief inaugural ceremony.

This "Armed Forces' Middle-Grade Officers' Leadership Symposium" (AFMOLS-2021), designed to develop and exhibit character with a combination of leadership traits and values and attributes that enable an Officer to see what to do, and influence others to follow in order to be competent in the knowledge and skills while effectively accomplishing the entrusted mission as a leader, was attended by 300 plus middle-grade Officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

At the invitation of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the Green Agriculture Operation Centre (GAOC), the Secretary to Ministry of Defence, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc Mphil graced the inauguration as the Chief Guest.

Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the Green Agriculture Operation Centre (GAOC) delivered the welcome note, in which he highlighted the importance of formulating policies and conducting joint training to ensure that the Armed Forces are rightly equipped with optimal operational capabilities. Many distinguished guests, senior Officers, and retired military personnel including General Daya Rathnayake (Rtd), Secretary to Ministry of Industries and former Commander of the Army together with distinguished scholars contributed the sessions.

Courtesy Meeting



The recently re-elected President of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka, Mr Suresh Subramaniam on 21 January 2022 paid a courtesy call on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and Chairman of the National Sports Selection Committee, for the first time after his re-election to this prestigious office.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army extended best wishes on his re-election to the most demanding office in the field of Olympic games and discussed further improvement to the field of athletics and for potential Olympians and new aspirants who eagerly await participation in future Olympic games. During this meeting, Mr Suresh Subramaniam thanked the Commander of the Army for the support given to Olympic Committee and Army sportsmen's contribution to the national and international sports.

New Year Commencement Marked at the Auspicious Time



Two grand functions organised marking the commencement of the duties in the New Year 2022 under the patronage of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff and Army Headquarters. Gift parcels were delivered to the civil staff at the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff by the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army adding a colour to the event.





Good Will Visit of the Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff

The Chief of Naval Staff of the Bangladesh Navy, Admiral M. Shaheen Iqbal on a goodwill visit, paid courtesies to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the Green Agriculture Operation Centre (GAOC) on 19 January 2022 at Army Headquarters.

He was offered a red-carpet welcome, amidst fluttering Sri Lanka Army flags following the military formalities.

During the cordial meeting Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army shared views on current maritime issues, general matters of concern to both organisations and global dimensions related to naval industry.

Further he expressed his deep appreciation for the support extended to Sri Lankan armed forces as a true neighbour in the region.



29th Anniversary of the Military Intelligence Corps



The 29th Anniversary Celebration of Military Intelligence Corps (MIC) and remembrance of its fallen War Heroes got underway on 21 January 2022 at the Military Intelligence Corps Headquarters in Karadeniya, Ambalangoda.

The solemn and dignified ceremony was headed by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the invitation of Major General T S Sallay RWP RSP USP ndc psc Colonel Commandant Military Intelligence Corps and the Chief Guest was warmly welcomed with a Guard Turnout at the entrance.

The Chief Guest virtually addressed more than 300 Officers and Other Ranks representing all the Battalions of MIC.

Afterwards, Chief Guest joined an inspection tour across the HQ premises where new construction works were underway. He also shared his thoughts with Engineer troops at the work and joined the 'Monument Parade' at the MIC War Heroes' monument in the compound and appreciated the memorable service rendered by Heroes for the Nation.



Senior Officers, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President Army Seva Vanitha Unit, Mrs Manori Sallay President, MIC Seva Vanitha, members of the ASVU, Officers and Other Ranks attended the series of events.

Much-Awaited 22 GR's Welfare Facility Realised

'The Twenty-two Bungalow', exclusively erected as a holiday bungalow for the benefit of the Officers and Other Ranks declared open by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Colonel of the Gajaba Regiment on 22 January 2022.

This modern, yet environment-friendly two-storied holiday bungalow came into reality with the efforts of the 22 Gajaba Regiment troops using their engineering, technical and manpower skills under the supervision of

Lieutenant Colonel B K S Jayasundara Commanding Officer, 22 Gajaba Regiment.

This new holiday bungalow included with all best facilities and open to Officers and Other Ranks of the Regiment. The project coincides with the welfare modules of the 'Army Way Forward Strategy 2020 - 2025' and completed with active support of the GR Centre Commandant.





Army Commander Visited Kilinochchi Bringing the Good Hopes for the New Year 2022

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army visited Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and North on 29 December 2021 in order to make the customary address to the troops on account of the year's end festive season and shared few thoughts for the New Year.



Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army exchanged the views with the Officers and the Other Ranks and appreciated the meticulous efforts of community relief roles played by the troops for the welfare of those deserving section of the region including infrastructure development projects, housing projects, scholarships, financial donations renovation/reconstruction of religious places, sports facilities, public services.

Also, he appreciated the dedication of all Ranks to emerge the Sri Lanka Army as the professional Army protecting the National Security and the role played by the Officers and the Other Ranks significantly to save drug addicts. Major General D G S Senerathiyapa RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Jaffna), Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc Commander 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army, Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu), Commander Northern Naval Area, Commanding Officer Palali Army Camp, Senior Officers and Officers were associated with the Commander's itinerary in Mullaitivu.

First Group of Women Soldiers, Bound for Lebanon's UNFIL Presented Salute to Army Chief at SLLI Regimental HQ

The Passing out Parade of the 13th Force Protection Company (FPC), bound for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNFIL), together with women soldiers of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) presented the customary salute to the head of the organisation, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 30 January 2022 during a formal arrangement, held at the Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regimental Headquarters (RHQ -SLLI) at Panagoda.

Lebanon-bound Sri Lanka's Force Protection Unit (SLFPU) contingent is comprised of 10 Officers and 115 Other Ranks of Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), Sri Lanka Engineers (SLE), Sri Lanka Signal Corps (SLSC), Mechanized Infantry Regiment (MIR), Commando Regiment (CR), Special Forces (SF), Corps of Engineer Services (CES), Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (SLASC), Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps (SLAMC), Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME), Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps (SLAOC), Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police (SLCMP), Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) and Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC).

Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff, Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu, Deputy Chief of Staff, Principal Staff Officers, Directors, SLLI Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks and a representative gathering of invitees joined the occasion.



Memories of a Courtesy Meetings

HE the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Mr Hideaki Mizukoshi on the eve of the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Japan paid a courtesy call on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the Green Agriculture Operations Centre at the Army Headquarters in Sri Jayawardenepura on 26 January 2022.

During cordial interactions the both parties shared the mutual understanding and values over the past seventy years and spoke highly of significance and common aspirations.

Commander of the Army gratefully recalled Japan's medical support to the Armed Forces by way of gifting ambulances, medical stocks and other relief packs during difficult times as a true friend of the country.



The newly-appointed Counsellor (Defence) to the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Canberra, Australia, Captain (G) S P Kathriarachchi of the Sri Lanka Navy paid a courtesy call on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 28 January 2022 at the Army Headquarters in Sri Jayawardenepura.

As the first serving military officer in the history to have held the appointment of Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York and as the first Sri Lankan to serve the United Nations High-Level Advisory Panel on Peacekeeping Missions of the then UN Secretary General, briefed new counsellor for Canberra on the nature of duties he would have to perform during his tenure. Towards the end of the brief interaction, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army extended best wishes and compliments to the new counsellor for Canberra and assured him the best of cooperation.



The outgoing Defence Adviser at the British High Commission in Sri Lanka, Colonel David Alfred Ashman, together with his incoming counterpart, Colonel P J Clayton paid a courtesy call on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the Army Headquarters on 09 December 2021.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army appreciated the outgoing Defence Adviser's cooperation and understanding in relation to bilateral assignments. At the same time, incoming counterpart, Colonel P J Clayton was introduced and assured the same support in future. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army culminated the cordial meet, awarding a special memento to the outgoing Officer of the High Commission wishing him good luck with his future endeavours.



Army Commander Observed the Ongoing Development Projects at Diyatalawa



General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who was in Diyatalawa to attend the award ceremony of the Inter Regiment Combat Firing Meet-2021 inspected a couple of ongoing development and beautification projects in the garrison complex on 29 January 2022.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army arrived the 1 Gemunu Watch Training School premises where recruit training sessions were conducted and closely inquired into facilities and requirements of the trainees. Also, he observed the construction and renovation projects in the 7 Sri Lanka Signal Corps (SLSC) camp and 17 Corps of Engineer Services (CES) camp before he visited the renovation work of the proposed Officers' accommodation complex near Diyatalawa railway station. He closely watched ongoing projects and gave necessary directions to Commanding Officers in charge of those sites and enquired the assurances of the eco-friendly concerns without hindering any of the picturesque landscape views and natural surroundings. The visits were joined by Major General M K S Silva RWP RWP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central), Commanding Officers of 7 SLSC and 17 CES, and several Senior Officers.



Commander of the Army Condoled with Brig Panduka Perera's Family

Brigadier K P A Perera RSP Commander, 563 Infantry Brigade of the Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) passed away on 31 December 2021 while receiving treatment for post-recovery medical complications of the COVID-19 virus at the Infectious Disease Hospital at Mulleriyawa.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army paid his respect to the senior infantryman by laying a floral wreath and saluting the remains. Further the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army interacted with the bereaved family during his stay expressing deep sorrow on Brigadier Panduka Perera's untimely death and assured them all possible assistance for their future well-being.



ASVU President Awarded Incentives to CSD Students

The annual distribution of school accessories to boost the education of sons and daughters of Civil Security Department (CSD) personnel, of both serving and dead while on duty took place at Battaramulla 'Suhurupaya' complex on 20 January 2022.

Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) at the invitation of both Major General Ranjan Lamaheewage (Rtd), Director General, CSD and Mrs Upendra Lamaheewage, Chairperson, CSD Seva Vanitha Unit graced the awarding ceremony as the Chief Guest. Laptops were awarded to the students who have received admission to universities.

The ceremony, rich with colourful entertaining features, attended by Chairpersons of Sri Lanka Navy and Air Force Seva Vanitha Units.



Viru Kekulu' Kids at Diyatalawa Hold Art Competition and Exhibition

An art competition and exhibition at the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) managed 'Viru Kekulu' pre-school in Diyatalawa was held on 19 December 2021. The drawings of the children of 08 pre schools located in Diyatalawa area (Albaddiya Pre School, Janananda Pre School, Samoopa Pre School, Tharaka Pre School, Sri Vijaya Pre School, Dhammananda Pre School, Navodya Pre School and Sri Sumangala Pre School) participated in the competition.

Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Central), ASVU's senior members and the official in charge of the pre-school Mrs Saritha Lankathilake took the lead in organising the event on behalf of the tutorial staff, children and their parents under the supervision of the Chairperson of the Unit. Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit graced the event as the Chief Guest.



Series of Programmes in line with the MIC Anniversary



The Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Unit (MIC-SVU), coincident with the 29th Anniversary commemoration of the MIC and its memorial ceremony in memory of fallen War Heroes, had its own parallel Seva Vanitha programme on 21 January 2022 at the School of Military Intelligence inside the MIC Regimental HQ premises at Karandeniya, Ambalangoda. In line with the occasion an awareness programme on the MIC-SVU was organised by Mrs Manori Salley Chairperson, MIC-SVU inviting Mrs Sujeeva Nelson, the President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) as the Chief Guest of the event.

After an introduction, a documentary on the brief history of the MIC as well as the projects that have been completed and an assortment of the MIC Seva Vanitha Unit-produced mementos, oil varieties and cinnamon-based products that were saleable on display. Members of the MIC SVU participated in the event.



Stock of PPE Gifted to Army Chief Delivered to Army Hospital for Distribution



A consignment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) personally gifted to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army by Mr Senaka Senevirathne in United States of America was scheduled to deliver in all districts. The stock of the PPE, inclusive of masks, face shields, surgical kits, gowns, gloves, packed in 812 boxes symbolically handed over to Brigadier A M C Aththanayake USP Director at the Colombo Army Hospital by Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) on 03 January 2022 at the hospital premises. Brigadier P A C Fernaando USP and Officers participated in the event.

Celebrating the Dawn of the New Year 2022



Charm ceremony with a tea party was organised to mark the beginning of the New Year 2022 at the Army Seva Vanitha Unit on 03 January 2022.

Brigadier T S Balasooruya (Coordinating) Army Seva Vanitha Unit together with Officers, Other Ranks and Staff participated in the event. Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President Army Seva Vanitha Unit graced the event as the Chief Guest. During the charm event the Chief Guest delivered gift parcels to Other Ranks and Staff of the Unit.

Christmas Treat for Mulleriyawa Patients



The Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) held its annual Christmas treat for patients in the ASVU-managed Ward 5 of the National Institute of Mental Health ward on 25 December 2021 under the guidance of Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President Army Seva Vanitha Unit.

The annual Christmas treat of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit was this time conducted under the fullest supervision of Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President Army Seva Vanitha Unit under the guidance of Mrs Nethma Padma Kumara Director Mulleriyawa Transit House. The mid-day meals were provided for the indoor patients of the Mulleriyawa Transit House during the event.

Brigadier T S Balasuriya (Coordinating), Army Seva Vanitha Unit together with Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

ASVU-Organised Three-day Workshop Evaluated Welfare Measures



The Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) organised a three-day (15-17 December 2021) long workshop for Lady Officers, teachers and woman soldiers of the 'Viru Kekulu' pre-schools at the ASVU pre-school in Panagoda Army Cantonment under the supervision of the Chairperson of the SL Army Seva Vanitha Unit.

Brigadier T S Balasuriya the Chief Coordinating Officer of Army Seva Vanitha Unit, attended the inaugural occasion, representing the Chairperson of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit. The in it instructors of Jayasekara Management Institute (JMC) participated in and the lectures and trainings were obtained from various institutes.

ASVU Refurbished Pre-School Residential Quarters Opened



Completely renovated and refurbished residential quarters of woman soldiers, serving in the 'Viru Kekulu' pre-school at Panagoda Army Cantonment in Panagoda were vested in the staff on 13 December 2021 during a simple ceremony.

The project was launched under the supervision of the President of Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU), Mrs Sujeewa Nelson with the support of 1 Corps of Engineer Services Regiment troops and ASVU sponsorship as a solution to their accommodation issues.

Staff Officer 1 of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit, together with the staff at 'Viru Kekulu' and the Beauty Care Saloon in the Army Cantonment, Panagoda participated in the event.

Sri Lanka Armored Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

A programme of distributing school items, tab computers, medical equipment to encourage the higher studies of the students who excelled the Ordinary Level and Advanced Level in the year 2019 took place at Rockhouse on 04 January 2022.

Mrs Harshanee Bothota the Chairperson of Sri Lanka Armored Corps Seva Vanitha Branch Major General B D S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc Colonel of the Sri Lanka Armored Corps graced the event as Chief Guests.



Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch



Mrs Mihiri Herath assumed office as the 14th Chairperson of the Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch (SLE-SVU) during a simple ceremony, held at the Headquarters Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers on 29 December 2021.

On her arrival at the Corps Headquarters, the new chairperson was warmly welcomed by the senior members of the SLE-SVU. The programme was held strictly in compliance with COVID-19 health guidelines.

The Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

The Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLSC-SVU) in another welfare gesture donated a wheelchair and a pair of crutches to a differently abled War Hero S/281553 Corporal Weerapriya K H D of the 7 Sri Lanka Signal Corps who is handicapped by a terrorist attack.

The donation was made under the close supervision of Mrs Sajeewani Peiris Chairperson, the Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch. Members of the Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch participated in the event. Mr Amila Yapa and Mr Zuhury Hussain extended the financial donation for the charity.



Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch

The Army Seva Vanitha Branch (ASVU), presided by Mrs Sujeeva Nelson in cooperation with the Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Unit (SLLI-SVU) as one more welfare project constructed a new house to a physically-handicapped War Hero and warmed it on 12 January 2022 during a simple ceremony.



The sponsorship for the new house was provided by Mrs C Gunathilake and Mrs Shiromala Kodithuwakku the President SLLI-SVU after the pathetic situation of the disabled War Hero - Warrant Officer 1 SLLI, resident in Udugama, Galle bought in to the concern.

The house-warming ceremony was held at Udugama with the participation of Mrs Shiromala Kodithuwakku the Chairperson, SLLI-SVU and Commandant of Sri Lanka Light Infantry School. Several Officers and Seva Vanitha members were presented the occasion.

Gemunu Watch Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch

As per the concept of Mrs Geetha Athukorala the Chairperson of Gemunu Watch Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch, school items including exercise books were distributed among 61 students of underprivileged civil servants in respect of the year 2022 on 30 December 2021 at the District Secretariat, Galle. Senior Officers and parents of the beneficiaries participated in the event.



Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Members of Military Intelligence Seva Vanitha Branch together with Mrs Monori Salley the President of Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch organised monthly alms giving programme to Warusawithana Elders Home at No. 3/2 Thalagaswita Road, Polwatta, Ambalangoda on 05 December 2022. All the three meals of the day provided to the inmates of the Elders' home. Members of the Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch participated in the charity event.

Corps of Engineer Service Seva Vanitha Branch

Upon the instructions of the President, Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch, a shramadana campaign was launched at the Regency deaf and blind school at Anurashapura with the participation of 9 (V) Sri Lanka Corps of Engineers. Gift parcels and mid-day meals were distributed among the inmates in line with the event.



Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Christmas Carols Messalina was organised at the Sri Lanka Army Hospital, Narahenpita on 23 December 2021. The event took place under the patronage of the Medical Specialist, Dr Mrs Nilmini Fernando the President of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch together with the Colonel of the Regiment.

The facilities were arranged to entertain this joyful event for the indoor residents at the hospital. Short drama and an eye catching dance was staged during the event and the gifts were delivered to patients participated in the event of entertaining. The event took place with the participation of the members of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch.

Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch

The Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Unit (SLEME-SVU) to coincide with the SLEME's 72nd Anniversary gave away school accessories value of Rs 2.2 million to 2739 school children of the soldiers and civil staff on 09 December 2021 at the SLEME Regimental HQ. The event took place with the intention to boost the education of the children following the deep rooted welfare tradition of the Branch. During the event 05 students who gained the university admission were also received the scholarships until their university education terminates.



The event was graced by the Colonel Commandant, the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The Chairperson, SLEME-SVU with senior members of the Seva Vanitha Unit, Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks and Civil Staff attended the occasion.

Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch



The annual book donation programme for 176 school children of serving civil employees of Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police (SLCMP), patronised by the Seva Vanitha Branch of the Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police got underway at the Regimental Centre on 27 December 2021.

During the event 10 students were gifted school bags, exercise books and Buddha statues. The event was launched under the patronage of Inoka Ilangakoon Chairperson, SLCMP Seva Vanitha Unit, together with the participation of a few senior Seva Vanitha members.

Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

The juice bar installed at the Four Wings Beauty Saloon at Habarakada was declared open on 06 January 2022 by the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch. The construction was taken place under the instructions of the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch with the fullest supervision and contribution of 2 (V) Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps.



The Warrior Revived

Periyathampane Battle

Abesinghe Mudiyanse Anura was born to Mrs Wickramasinghe Premawathie and Abesinghe Munasinghe lived at Kamburugamuwa village in Thalaramba, Gorakawatta in Matara District at the Medawalakada Rural Hospital on 30 October 1968. The newborn baby had a sister called Ranjani.

As reached to the age of learning, the young Anura entered to Sri Indrasara Maha Vidyalaya at Kamburugamuwa. He became one of the leading students soon after the entrance due to his outstanding sports skills. He was a skilled player in hand balling. However, there was nobody to identify the sports skills of the young lad. Soon after he left the school, he joined the Sri Lanka Army and bore the family burden while engaging in the every community work in the village as a growing youth.

He joined Sri Lanka Army as a recruit on 25 December 1996 and completed his preliminary military training from Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps under the Course No 20. Aftermath, he was attached to 08 Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment on 06 July 1997 and promoted to the Rank of Lance Corporal owing to his discipline and promoted the Rank of Corporal after 4 years due to his exceptional talents.



S/362939 Sgt Anura AM

PWV RSP

Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment





Sergeant Anura however did not want a withdrawal and he marched forward with his team to reach the water reservoir. Bullets came from the side of enemy unexpectedly taking his life off. He fell in the ground. Standing again himself being an example, Anura encouraged the team to move forward with the firm persistence highlighting that without completing the mission he shall not terminate the task entrusted.

Corporal Anura Kumara was able to win the hearts of the friendly mates and seniors and Officers and was a key figure in extracurricular activities as well as the duty. Aftermath he selected for the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in the Hiti in 2003. Also due to the exceptional gallantry exhibited in the battlefield he was awarded Ranashura Padakkama, East Humanitarian Medal, North Humanitarian Medal, Poornabhomi Medal, North East Battle Medal, 50 the Independence Swarna Jayanthi Medal and Minustah Medal of UN Peacekeeping Missions. He also joined the re-established 7 Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment.

This was the time where LTTE had began to launch its brutal illicit activities breaking the promise they kept before world leaders depriving the right to water by closing the Mahavilaru Dam in 2006 paying the way to the 4 Elam War. At the time three small groups consist of 3 members were deployed as a step to strengthen the security at the area of Periyathamapane by the Commanding Officer D Group of 7 Battalion SLSR under command to 572 Infantry Brigade of 57 Infantry Division in 2007. Anura was also among the team of the operation. He was sent from the security circle to gather information of enemy in the area.

The team was able to inspect the area carefully escaping from the booby traps, land mines and the attacks made by the LTTE and gathered adequate information to plan an operation. Next morning at 0500 hrs, the team consisted of Anura left the camp to launch the operation as planned. They all reached to the enemy place removing all the traps carefully. The unexpected clash occurred with enemy during their journey risking their lives.

Sergeant Anura however did not want a withdrawal and he marched forward with his team to reach the water reservoir. Bullets came from the side of enemy unexpectedly taking his life off. He fell in the ground. Standing again himself being an example, Anura encouraged the team to move forward with the firm persistence highlighting that without completing the mission he shall not terminate the task entrusted.



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

31 Expecting Mothers Received Nutrient Packages



To coincide with the 31st Anniversary, the 7 Gajaba Regiment (GR) Headquartered in Jaffna under command to the 522 Infantry Brigade, gifted nutrient packages to 31 expecting mothers selected from Kodikamum area under the patronage of Major General D G S Senerathiyapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) on 22 December 2021. The charity event took place under the fullest supervision and guidance of Lieutenant Colonel W S I Fernando RWP Commanding Officer 7 Gajaba Regiment. The sponsorship for the valuable packages were extended by the Officers and the Other Ranks of the 7 Gajaba Regiment (GR) Headquarters. Senior Officers including General Officer Commanding 52 Infantry Division, Brigade Commander, 522 Infantry Brigade participated in the event.

Two - Day Workshop to Educate the Jaffna Commanding Officers



All the 31 Commanding Officers serving under the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) participated in a specially-designed Commanding Officers' Training workshop on 'Command Responsibilities', organised by Staff Officers at the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) during 30-31 December 2021, adhering to COVID-19 health guidelines. The workshop was organised on the instructions of the Major General D G S Senerathiyapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) in order to impart knowledge and share practical experiences among all Commanding Officers covering most vital topics such as Command Responsibilities and Responsibilities of Commanders, Social Media and its Impact on Military Operations, Commanding Officers', Responsibility towards Training, Art of Working with People, Officers', Career Progression, Operational Process, 'Sri Lanka Army Way Forward Strategy 2020 - 2025', Action Plan of Battalions and Case Studies on Command Responsibilities. General Officer Commanding of 51, 52 and 55 Infantry Divisions, Commander Forward Maintenance Area (North), Brigade Commanders and other Senior Officers also witnessed the workshop virtually.

Unit Visit of Commander SF (Wanni)



Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP the Commander Security Forces (Wanni) visited 21, 54, 56, 65 Infantry Divisions on 28, 29, 30, 31 December 2021. Sharing the views with the Officers and Other Ranks, he inspected the administration, welfare of the under-command formations.



New House for Deserved Family in Welikanda

The foundation stone-laying ceremony of the proposed house to be constructed by the Army for one more low-income family in Kandakadu, Welikanda took place on 11 January 2022 with the financial donorship of Mr Nihal Udugamsooriya in Australia to uplift the living conditions of the family.

The new house to be erected with the technical support and manpower of 9 Sri Lanka National Guard under the instructions of Major General K A N N Koswatta RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding 23 Infantry Division and Colonel R W K Hewage RWP RSP 233 Brigade. Colonel N U J S Gunawardana, Chief Civil Coordinating Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W M T D Wanigasekara USP psc IG Commanding Officer, 9 Sri Lanka National Guard, and members of the house participated in the event.



Army Taking the Lead to Protect the Environment



Planting 300 Mee saplings near 1 Corps premises next to the Iranmadu Reservoir took place under the patronage of Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP psc Commander, 1 Corps on 15 December 2021. Officers including Admin and Quartering were present and after the plantation the Commander, 1 Corps inspected the green house erected at the premises.



New Computer Lab Declared Open at Valaipadu School



A new computer lab was inaugurated and declared open for the students of Kilinochchi/ Valaipadu Roman Catholic Tamil Mix School on 20 December 2021 by Brigadier General Staff, Brigadier J P C Peiris RWP RSP. The project in worth of One Million rupees, was financially supported by the Commercial Bank PLC. The opening ceremony was graced by Brigadier K H N P Hannadige RWP RSP psc Commander 663 Infantry Brigade with the participation of staff and students of the Valaipadu Roman Catholic Tamil Mix School adhering COVID - 19 health guidelines. Further, opening ceremony was coordinated by the Physiological Operations and Information Warfare Cell of 1 Corps.

66 Division Harvested the Green House Cultivation



The 66 Infantry Division HQ of the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) launched a 'Green House' cultivation project inside the camp premises in line with the Green Agriculture Concept of the Government. Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander, Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) distributed the plants after the symbolical harvesting at the green house on 03 January 2022 at the invitation of Major General B K J M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG General Officer Commanding, 66 Infantry Division.

At the same time, 66 Division troops introduced a new organic liquid fertiliser and insect repellents for cultivation under the guidance of the General Officer Commanding, 66 Infantry Division. Farmers based in the area have also been benefited due to this greenhouse concept.

Troops of 661 Brigade Gifted School Accessories

Troops of 661 Brigade launched one more civil-military cooperation project with sponsorship of Hatton National Bank on 04 January 2022 at Paramankeerai Tamil Mixed School premises. Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander, Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) graced the event as the Chief Guest upon the invitation of Major General B K J M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG General Officer Commanding, 66 Infantry Division.

100 students from families in the area were benefited from the project. GSO Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu), Civil Coordinating Officer, 66 Infantry Division, Commanding Officers of 5 (V) Mechanized Infantry Regiment, 22 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment participated in the event.



SF (West) Commander Visited Under Command Formations

Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (West) visited Undercommand 142 Infantry Brigade on 04 January 2022. The visiting Commander Security Forces (West) was warmly welcomed by Major General A K G U Gnaanratne General Officer Commanding, 14 Infantry Brigade together with Colonel H V A Somaweera RWP RSP USP 142 Infantry Brigade. Commander, Security Forces (West) shared his views with the Officers and the Other Ranks enquiring the administrative requirements of the under command formations.



Another House Gifted to a Low Income Family

Troops of the 14 Battalion the Gamunu Watch under the close supervision of 613 Infantry Brigade and the guidance of the 61 Infantry Division under the Security Forces (West) constructed a new home for a needy family in Wathawana, Imadoowa in collaboration with the MTV/MBC, 'Sirasa' Media network through its 'Sirasa Niwasa' project on the directions given

by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army after the project sponsors sought the Army assistance in this regard.

Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding of 61 Infantry Division graced the auspicious inaugural house-warming as the Chief Guest on behalf of the Commander, Security Forces (West), together with Mrs Needra Weerasinghe Group Director of Electronic Media at the Capital Maharaja Organisation, representing the "Sirasa Niwasa" programme following the auspicious time joining oil-lamp lighting rituals. The key was handed over to Mr Jaliya Nissanka and the family members afterwards.



The event was attended by the Project Officer of SFHQ (West) Brigadier T C L Ganepola RWP RSP psc, Commander 613 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier K A U Kodithuwakku RWP RSP USP IG psc, Commanding Officer 14 (v) Gamunu Watch, Senior Officers of 61 Infantry Division and 613 Infantry Brigade, Director PR of Sirasa Media Network Mr. Priyantha Wijesinghe, Chanel Head of Sirasa FM Mr. Sajith Rathnayake, "Sirasa" officials, relatives of the family and well-wishers. In recent times, the sponsors have collaborated with the Armed Forces to provide such new homes for needy families.

Donation Programme Conducted for Needy Pregnant Women



With the direction of the Commander Security Forces (Central) Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Officers and Other Rankers of the Civil Coordinating Section of the Security Forces Central Conducted donation programme considering nutrition factor of pregnant women of low-income families in Diyatalawa area. Initiate and coordinated the supply of free nutrients and all accessories needed after delivery to 25 needy women in the area on 9 January 2022 during a simple arrangement, held at the Diyatalawa 'Viru Kekulu' pre-school.

The community project supported by 'Anchor' Fontera Company Ltd with supply of milk powder packets and also by Ven Buddhiyama Dhammasena Thero, Incumbent, Beliatta Sri Sudharmashrama Temple with all necessary baby accessories, such as soap, powder, mosquito nets, pampers, shampoo, combs, etc. A group of senior officers at the Security Forces (Central) supported the charity event.

Cricket Tournament at SFHQ (Central)



As per the concept of the Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central) a cricket tournament was held representing all the under-command Battalions of Security Forces (Central) on 11 and 12 December 2021 at Muthukumar grounds.

Cricket teams from SFHQ (Central), 7 SLSC, 8 MIC, 7 SLCMP, 17 ESR, 8 SLASC and 2 (v) SLEME participated in this tournament as contestants and teams of 7 SLSC and SFHQ (Central) selected for the final tournament. A competitive tournament was held between two teams. 7 SLSC group won the competition by obtaining 120 runs with four wickets. S/ 703771 Corporal Rajapakshe RC of SFHQ (Central) was awarded the Best Competitor in the tournament.

By culminating the event, medals and certificates were awarded for the winners by the Commander, SFHQ (Central) and the event was taken place with the participation of many senior Officers including Commanding Officers, Officers and Other Ranks.

Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Marked its 1st Anniversary

The service rendered by the newly established Sri Lanka Corps of Agriculture and Livestock identifying the national requirement to build a chemical free harmonious agriculture is exemplary for the others engaged in the field. The harvest reaped recently ensigns a better future.

Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock which extended a commendable service to the Nation to uplift the agricultural standards celebrated its first Anniversary on 04 January 2022.

Major General W B S M Abesekara RSP USP Director General, Financial Management and Colonel Commandant Corps of Agriculture and Livestock graced the event. Several events initiated on 03 November 2021 following the religious observances.

The Colonel of the Regiment who attended the event as the Chief Guest and was warmly welcomed following the military formalities by the troops of the Regiment. The Colonel of the Regiment adorned the new cross belt insignias during the Anniversary day.

The active and commendable service rendered by the troops to the Nation by the newly established Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock following the concept of HE the President was appreciated by the Colonel of the Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock.



Workshop on Carbonic Fertiliser Production

A workshop on the liquid fertiliser production was taken place on Keveli Selva Pakyam farm on 06 January 2022 targeting the farmers in the area under command to the 682 Infantry Brigade. 36 farmers participated in the workshop.

The event was organised under the supervision of the Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) and General Officer Commanding 68 Infantry Division.



Junior Leadership and Progressive Development Course No. 42 Initiated

With the intention to uplift the professionalism of the Non-Commissioned Officers and the welfare of the Officers Junior Leadership and Progressive Development Course No. 42 was initiated at the Combat Training School, Ampara with the coordination of Directorate of Command and Training under the instructions of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 18 January 2022. 121 Other Ranks were participated in the course representing all Regiments and Brigadier J M R N K Jayamanna RWP Commandant of the Combat Training School, Ampara delivered the troop address at the event.



Blood Donation of 15 (V) Gajaba Regiment

In line with the Anniversary of 15 (V) Gajaba Regiment a blood donation campaign was conducted with the assistance of the Medical Staff of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital on 6 January 2022 in order to fulfil the blood shortage at the hospital. 84 donors including Major W R Prasanna Unit Commanding Officer, Officers and Other Ranks under command to the 52 Infantry Division, civil staff participated in the campaign.



Memory of Fallen IPKF War Heroes Commemorated in line with the India's Republic Day

The memory of fallen IPKF War Heroes who laid their lives in Sri Lanka while fighting against LTTE terrorists, hand in hand with Sri Lankan Armed Forces was refreshed at the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) monument in Palaly, Jaffna on 26 January 2022 to coincide with the commemoration of the 73rd Republic Day of India.

The acting Consul General of India in Jaffna, Mr Ram Mahesh, together with the Commander Security Forces (Jaffna), Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu in a solemn ceremony placed floral wreaths at the monument commemorating the immeasurable service of those fallen heroes of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) who sacrificed their lives for the wellbeing of a friendly nation.

Officials of the Consulate General of India in Jaffna and few Senior Officers were associated with the brief ceremony.



Series of Education Programmes

Series of lectures are organised by the Directorate of Psychological Operations targeting the drivers, chefs, stewards, laboures III and sanitary labourers in Security Forces levels. Keeping one step forward a lecture themed under the “Prestigious Way” was held in the first week of January 2022 covering 1 Corps, 64 Infantry Division, 14 Infantry Division.



ARMY

PARATROOPERS

THE ELITE

INFANTRY



*By Lieutenant M Katugampola
SLAGSC
Directorate of Media*

A paratrooper is a military parachutist trained to parachute into an operation, and usually functioning as a part of an airborne force. Airborne forces or Airborne warfare are ground combat units carried by aircraft and airdropped into battle zones, typically by parachuting or air assault. Military parachutists and parachutes were first used in a large scale during World War II for troop distribution and transportation. These Special combat arms which are designed for combat operations in the enemy's rear are often used in surprise attacks to seize strategic missions.

The armed forces of many countries have airborne troops as their force multipliers. This personnel are trained in parachute jumping from aircraft and in special operational tactics. Airborne troops are capable of capturing and holding important grounds in the enemy's interior, disrupting state and military administration, and destroying means of indirect firebases, and other important objectives. They consist of fearless men who come from the sky to protect innocent non-combatants who are trapped in a war-torn area.

The legacy of Sri Lanka airborne troops dates back to 1970. 3 Officers and 24 Other Ranks of Commando Regiment were proud products and succeeded as Paratroopers from Parachute Training School, Agra in India during the year 1979. Being the pioneers of parachuting in Sri Lanka, Major S D Peiris from the Commando Regiment came to be the first Sri Lankan combat paratrooper.

The Commando paratroopers who were groomed in India successfully performed the first-ever parachute jump demonstration in Sri Lanka during the inauguration ceremony of Kotalawala Defence University in Ratmalana in 1980. Afterwards, these paratroopers were given refresher training in India, and Rigger and Jump Master Training Courses in Pakistan to reinforce their mastery.



Unwrapping a new chapter in Sri Lankan parachuting history, Major N G Chandrasena of the Commando Regiment evolved the First Sri Lankan Skydiver. He was eligible to obtain and qualify for the skydiving course in the United States of America and initiated skydiving ground training for the Commandos in Sri Lanka.

Subsequently, several Officers and Other Ranks of the Commando Regiment were obtained to undergo the first Skydiving Course and the first Pathfinder Course in India to enrich the airborne capabilities of the Sri Lanka Army.

The establishment of the Parachute Training Wing at the Ganemulla Commando Camp was inaugurated during the time and the 1st Basic Parachute Course commenced on 29th January 1990 for several selected Commandos.

Then, a new Rigging Bay Building was constructed at Ganemulla camp to facilitate further necessary training under the direction of the then Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe during 1991. Expanding the parachute training in Sri Lanka, the Commando Regiment Parachute Training Wing, provided vacancies for the Special Forces Officers and Other Ranks, for the basic parachute course No 2. Squadron Leader BN Rathnakumara from the Air Force received the opportunity to proceed with the Basic Parachute Course and came to be the first Sri Lanka Air Force Paratrooper.

During the 44th Independence Day parade, the Sri Lankan Army Skydivers performed their first-ever Skydiving displays at Keththarama Stadium. A skydiving team consisting of 7 commandos and 3 Special Forces troops led by Major S Soriyabanda participated in the display and performed Canopy Relative Works for the first time in Sri Lanka Parachuting history. Not only did they train the Army troops but also trained the first naval paratrooper (Lieutenant U I Serasinghe). He was trained under Basic Parachute Course No. 4 during 1992. After some years, the Commando Regiment Parachute training Wing was eligible to conduct the first local Skydiving Course in 1997 and Captain N L Sirimanna became the first skydiver who received the training in Sri Lanka.

Our Sri Lankan Army paratroopers were smart enough to earn several awards for mother Lanka for the first time by taking part in the World Defence Services Parachute Competition held in Slovakia in August 2000. Thereafter, Sri Lankan Team was able to participate in almost all the World Defence Services Parachute Competitions. Marking another milestone, the Commando Regiment Parachute Training Wing commenced the first Rigger Course in 2004 and the first Jumpmaster Course in 2007. Adding another new chapter to the Army, the Sri Lanka Army Parachute

Wing conducted airborne training for soldiers from friendly foreign forces which are from Maldives Special Forces.

Not only did the Army paratroopers consist of only male troops but also several military female representatives participated in the para courses. Accordingly, an Officer and 2 Other Ranks from Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps brought the reputation by becoming the first women paratroopers in Sri Lankan history. At present, the Sri Lanka Army consists of a Parachute Drop Zone in the Commando Regiment Training School which was declared open by the senior most paratrooper presently serving in the Army, the then Colonel of the Commando Regiment, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

Presently the Commando Regiment Parachute Training Wing conducts Basic Parachute Course, Free-fall Parachute Course, Jumpmaster Course, Rigger and Parachute Maintenance Course, Combat Airborne and Pathfinder Course and another parachute related training including workshops for the members of tri-services and Special Task Force personnel. Up to now, Commando Regiment Parachute Training Wing has trained 769 Officers and 3437 Other Ranks and 4 officers and 65 Other Ranks representing foreign Countries.

In recognition of their talents, the Sri Lankan paratroopers are getting invited to participate in foreign displays such as the Chinese Friendship Army Parade and the Pakistan National Day celebrations. In addition to that, Sri Lanka Army paratroopers have been appointed as a panel of judges in different international competitions. The Sri Lanka Army parachute team is the only parachute team that conducts Wingsuit para jumps and Base Jumps that can be considered as the most dangerous sports in the world. As this is the most advanced combat airborne training in Sri Lanka at the moment, the trainee vacancies are offered to Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Air Force special operations personnel too.

The legacy of the Sri Lankan airborne tribe is dominated by the Sri Lanka Army with the implementation of the Army's Way Forward Strategy conceptualised by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army. With his direct guidance and supervision, the airborne training is taken to the elevated level, to enhance the combat capabilities of the airborne training. By elevating the Parachute Training into another step, the Army paratroopers conduct tactical parachute water jumps with the assistance provided by the Sri Lanka Air Force and Sri Lanka Navy. Further, they conduct night freefall jumps and night equipment jumps with the enhancement of the skilful training.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall



The humans are the only living species which by nature acquire similar features, structures, but divided by social, economic, political, racial, geographical, national and many other societal categorisations.

For an instant in ancient history, the unity between those from diverse communities ensured victory, significantly in armed conflicts, as occurred during the Trojan War, in where the unity between the Achaeans ensured victory, when they focused on rescuing Helena from Trojans.

The independence movement in 1948, Sri Lanka gained momentum and was victorious due to the fact that all native communities in the island; the Sinhalese, Tamils and the Moor communities came together to defeat the colonial rulers. The victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009, was not achieved merely through the efforts of the Sinhalese soldiers alone. The contribution of the Sri Lankan Moor community towards the war-victory is notable. Their fluency over the Tamil language was much facilitated to gather intelligent information that is essentially required for the military operations. These contributions enforced the feeling of strong affinity



Brigadier A H L G Amarapala
RWP RSP ndc psc
Director Psychological Operations
Army Headquarters

between each races throughout the war-period until the end of the armed conflict in 2009.

During the post-war, Sri Lanka saw several accelerated development projects which were initiated by the government including infrastructure, rural and urban development focusing on the areas where the conflict was occurred significantly in the North and East. At socio-political levels, the country has attempted to promote democratic ethics in those areas. However, the Easter Sunday Attacks made a significant harm for the growing solidarity among each races. The bombs were a sharp reminder of the atrocities that the Sri Lankan community witnessed and experienced over thirty years which greatly damaged the fragile thread of peace and co-existence which had been patiently woven between the diverse communities in Sri Lanka.

Since then, the sense of proximity shared by each race was undoubtedly marked a gradual declination. Local and international extremist groups backed racist groups in the country. Various extremist religious organisations emerged and extended their divisive, xenophobic, religionist and pessimistic ideologies.

These ideologies created an unfathomable and impenetrable gloom and fear on the potency of the religious “other” that can harm the respective religious community. In such a situation the Easter Sunday Attacks was undoubtedly cracked the harmony which was the metaphorical camel’s back.

During the period subsequent to the World War II, National Security consisted of chiefly on military security. However, in the modern times, National Security consists of various novel paradigms such as economic security, socio-cultural security, technological security, environmental security, human security, health security, military etc. Reconciliatory peace requires building the bridges between communities and is not merely related to development of infrastructure. It is also a lesson that reconciliatory peace must be culturally acceptable and continuously encouraged.



The path to reconciliation, whether long-lasting or temporary, can be as adventurous as safely maneuvering a plane through a thunderstorm. Eliminating the divisions of a society in the aftermath of sustained violence, creating trust and understanding between members of conflicting communities, healing the wounds, can be a difficult challenge; especially ensuring that there would not be a repetition of another conflict; such as that ensued with the LTTE or the Easter Sunday Attacks.

It can be argued that the ‘fear’ is the main



psychological human element that is triggered in any conflict related phenomenon and most specifically the fear of the ‘other’ through generalising individuals belonging to one community; religious parties can always erase the individuality. Subsequently, the same powers have created ethnic, religious and ideological labels, through vary elements such as fear, unease, suspicion and hate. Language, rhetoric and propaganda are aptly used in creating the fear psychosis; Religious extremism are words, labels, language which facilitate this categorisation, classification of individuals into certain groups, aiding the rhetoric disseminated by social media, print media, international media, increasing the rift between communities in irreparable ways.

Barry Buzan in describing factors which can impact the National Security identifies the power of rhetoric in building or destroying the National Security.

The powerful rhetoric that we perceive in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday Attacks in which the actions of few in one community defaced the dignity of the entire population of the same community. The modern technology facilitates, the expression of hatred of one person in a minimal time through social media, and that particular idea of one person can be multiplied in one tenth of a minute and disseminated further with a greater speed and magnitude creating senseless hatred among communities.

Sri Lanka is situated in Asia, a region that has the most contiguous topography but also is

the most divided in terms of language, culture, religion, civilizational beginnings and systems of government. Sri Lankan situation is not different to the rest of the Asia. It can be stated that this very diversity which should be promoted and used as a strength in building the peace and strengthening the National Security of the Island.

It can be stated that economic, social and psychological tools are required to bring about national reconciliation in which all the communities could participate. It is also of extreme importance that each religion observed and each language used by the Sri Lankan communities, and their respective cultures are given equal importance.

Places such as the temple premises of the Kandy Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Tooth Relic, sacred Kataragama, Sri Pada which is also known as Adam's Peak, St. Anthony's Festival in Kachchativu, St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade,

the Modara Kali Kovil are few spaces in Sri Lanka which could harbour diverse religious and racial communities in the country together. These traditional diversity anchoring abodes and festivals need to be given prominence but a few factors which indicate the huge potential that the unity in diversity provides.

According to Tutu (2003), examination of the painful past, acknowledging and understanding it, and transcending it together, is the best way to guarantee that it does not – and cannot – happen again.

It is the necessity of the hour not to be led by powerful rhetoric which is harmful to ethnic harmony but seek ways in nurturing the amicabilities which are remnant within individuals.

The National Security of Sri Lanka should not yet threaten again by breaching disunities created through powerful rhetoric instilling xenophobia among ethnic groups.

Lewke Artillery Gun Established at Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment



A duplicate of historic Lewke Artillery Gun was installed at the Officers' Mess of Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment at Panagoda. The gun is comprised of the features of real Lewke Artillery Gun with the width, designs and carvings. The historical instalment was taken place under the instructions of Major General Sampath Kotuwegoda ndc IG Colonel Commandant of the Artillery Regiment.

Army Gifted Free School Shoes for Students

School shoes were distributed among 50 Students at Uduppil Girls Collage with the intention to support their education on 13 January 2022 under the patronage of Brigadier G G S Wickramasena RWP RSP USP Hmdc General Officer Commander 52 Infantry Division with the supervision of Brigadier H M Salvathura RWP RSP Commander 521 Infantry Brigade in line with the Tamil New Year.

The financial assistance for the community welfare programme was extended by Officers,

Other Ranks of 521 Infantry Brigade and businessmen at the Achchuweli area. Secretary, Ministry to the Educational Cultural and Youth Affairs, North Province, General Staff Officer Jaffna Security Force, Commander 521 Infantry Brigade and Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



4 (V) Ordinance Corps Celebrated 15th Anniversary

In line with the 15th Anniversary of 4 (V) Ordinance Corps which falls on 09 January 2022, a series of programmes including religious events took place under the instructions and supervision of Lieutenant Colonel W M S M B Wamigasekara AATO unit Commanding Officer. Bodhi pooja event, offering a Guard Turnout to the Commanding Officer, Opening newly constructed Armory, guard point, Sergeants' Mess and providing lunch for all were some of the highlighted events of the programme.

In line with the same, a blood donation campaign was also took place on 11 January 2022 with the participation of all Ranks.



Coconut Sapling Distribution at Mannankadal Division



A programme of distributing coconut saplings for the selected families in the Mannankadal Grama Niladhari Division under command to 14 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment took place under the supervision of Brigadier D P J C Jayawardana USP on 16 January 2022.

Coconut, cashew, and jack saplings were distributed and the Civil Coordinating Officer 641 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officer, 14 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, public Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Pride 72nd Anniversary of Corps of Engineer Services Celebrated



Corps of Engineers Services celebrated their 72nd Anniversary on 10 January 2022 in a pride manner giving the priority for the religious and traditional programmes. Brigadier K M S Kumara Director Engineer Services and Colonel Commandant headed the Anniversary events and Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

59 Division Celebrated its 14th Anniversary



Coinciding with the 14th Anniversary of the 59 Infantry Division under the Security Force HQ (Mullaitivu) (SFHQ-MLT), 19 Gemunu Watch (GW) and 5 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) troops organised an obstacle crossing competition at the 2 Special Forces HQ on 6 December 2021. Major General G D Suriyabandara USP, General Officer Commanding, General Officer Commanding 59 Infantry Division, Commanding Officers, and Officers participated in the event. The championship was won by the 19 Gemunu Watch Battalion and the 2nd place went to the 5 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment.

Cricket Tournament at 3 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment

With the intention to improve the sport skills of the Officers and Other Ranks serving in the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) a cricket tournament was held at the 3 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment on 20 December 2021 under the fullest supervision of the Commander, 681 Infantry Brigade. Major General K R K T Bandara RSP USP General Officer Commanding, 68 Infantry Division graced the sporty event boosting the spirit of the participants.





Raise a Confident and Strong Child

The family is the smallest unit of the society which is created with the marriage where two individuals entered into. With the birth of children the responsibilities are increased with the number of duties that each party has to perform to assure the wellbeing of the union. The right attitudes of the parents, the cooperativeness and understanding are the foundation for a good marriage. The family may also face the threat of the split with the mal-practice of the given factors. Sharing and shouldering responsibilities of husband and wife is the founding factor for the benefit of the family.

There are several factors that are important to consider when raising a child as parents.

1. Love and Protection
2. Proper Nourishment
3. Good Health
4. Developing Good Attitudes in the Children
5. Provide Good Education
6. Identify the Talents and Skills of the Kids
7. Prevention of the Children from Mistakes
8. Granting the Religious Heritage

1. Love and Protection

All living beings require love and protection. Therefore Love and Care should be provided

adequately to the child. Giving love, kindness to the child at the right time when expected, establishes a better future for the child.

2. Good Health

The most nutritious food for the child is the mother's milk. Therefore mother of the child must provide her milk for the child. The major reasons are when she breastfeeds, the desire to experience a sense of bonding or closeness with her newborn is increased. Resultantly the child turns to a socially valuable personality with the balanced physical and mental health. Therefore parents must attempt to give the child the enough breastfeeding the child needs among their busy schedules. If you are a working mother, obtain instructions from Midwife on this matter. Health Condition is important and with the growth of the child, the health requirements are gradually developed.

3. Developing with Good Attitudes

Parents attempt to show the right path for their children. But the foundation for the good attitudes is primarily descending from the parents. Before punishing the children, it is better to guide them elaborating good ways to have good attitudes.

4. Provide Good Education

The first school of a child is his home. The parents play the first role of the teacher. Thus the parents must assist the children to build their own learning method. For a child home plays different roles such

as school, hospital, playground, and theatre even a religious place. Therefore it is a primary duty of the parents to arrange a better environment for learning from home.

5. Identify the Talents and Skills of the Kids

Every child is a master in something. Therefore as the parents you shall aware of the talents and weaknesses of your child if you prefer your child to be socially independent and educated person. Parents do not require a PhD to identify the hidden talents of their kids. The small activities exhibit their intellectuality and creativity. As the parents they must show the right path to develop the skills and abilities since childhood.

6. Prevention of the Children from Mistakes

Every person is caught for the fault in many occasions in their lifetime. There are no person

free from errors. But the children are required the proper guidance. So the parents should prevent the child from all the evils being the guiding star for them. That cannot be done by punishments, but a caring word or explanation may ease many burdens and win the trust of their children.

7. Granting the Religious Heritage

Every child born in this world has the right to follow their own religion. The parents therefore have the right to pass the religious inheritance to the child. This fact is completed with Birth Certificate but practically teaching the child how valuable their proper heritage will prevent many radical movements.



*By Lt Colonel B G S Samathi NCC
Directorate of Psychological
Operations - Army Headquarters*

Legendary Footballer of the Army Football Team, Marked his Retirement with a Hat Trick in the Match

A well experienced football player of the Sri Lanka Army Football team, (Defenders FC) Warrant Officer 1, M N M Issadeen has marked his retirement with a hat trick in the match against New Youngs FC which was held on 10 December 2021 in the Race Course International Stadium.

Issadeen M N M Warrant Officer-1 started his career in football in 1993 with the Army Football team as a recruit and was able to represent Sri Lanka Army as a regular member of the Army Football team nearly 22 years. During this particular time period, he has scored more than 350 goals and became the all time leading goal scorer for Sri Lanka Army Football team by winning 9 golden boot awards in top leagues. Also, with his performances, he gradually promoted up to the rank of Warrant Officer 1.

Moreover, he became a remarkable player in Sri Lankan Football and a key player of the National Football Team from 1993 to 2017. He was able to win the 'Most Valuable Player' Award in 2006 in Neru Cup - India and became a remarkable player in Sri Lankan Football.

The farewell ceremony for the legendary player was held at the Race Course Stadium on 10 January 2022, with the guidance of Major General D P Upali Gunasekera Chairman of the Army Football Committee.



*By
Lieutenant Duminda Senarath,
SLAGSC
Directorate of Media
Army Headquarters*

Multi-Ethnic Recruit Training Started at Wasavilan



The preliminary recruit training of the newly recruited Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim youths covering all areas of the Island to create professional soldiers who are compatible with the best physical, mental and moral to encounter the diverse combat challenges of the 'Army under the Army Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025' began at Wasavilan on 13 December 2021. Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division delivered the initial troops address of the Recruit Training Course and Commanders of 511, 512, 515 Infantry Brigades, Chief Instructor of the Battalion Training School. Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

1 SLRC Troops in 11 Infantry Division Built a Computer Lab for School in Theldeniya



Fulfilling a long standing requirement of the Rambukwella Junior School in Teldeniya, 1 Sri Lanka Rifle Corps vested the Computer Laboratory which was erected with the manpower and technical expertise of the troops of 1 Sri Lanka Rifle Corps and the support of residents in the area together with the financial assistance, provided by Agility Logistics (pvt) Ltd on 18 December 2021. Major General P K S Sanjeewa RWP RSP USP General Officer Commanding, 11 Infantry Division and Brigadier T M R B Ratnayake RWP RSP Commander, 111 Infantry Brigade graced the charity event as Chief Guests.

The same donor, Agility Logistics (Pvt) Ltd provided a set of new modern computers to the new building at the same occasion.

District Ranaviru Organisation Officers' Meeting

With the intention to assure the prestigious survival in the civil society of the deceased soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country's territorial interiority and sovereignty and for the wellbeing of retired Officers and their relatives, a programme was launched to gather them on district levels. The programme was initiated under the coordination of Directorate of Veteran Affairs following the concept of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.



The meeting took place in order to fulfill of future targets of the Ranaviru Organisations at 61 Infantry Headquarters on 28 December 2021 with the supervision of Officers of Kalutara, Galle, Matara District under command to Security Force (West) and Hambanthota district under command to Security Forces (Central), the presidents, treasures and district Coordinating Officers and Senior Administrative Officers also participated in the meeting.

Troops Address at the Battalion Training School, Ambakaman



Educative troops address on the Human Rights and Humanitarian Law was conducted by Brigadoer T M K R Silva at the Security Forces (Mullaitivu) for 07 Officers and 336 Other Ranks of 9 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment who were following a Battalion Training Course at the Battalion Training School, Ambakaman. The event was administrated by the 57 Infantry Division.

War Memorial was Declared Open at Kantale

War Memorial which was erected in commemoration of the fallen War Heroes of Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps at Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps 1 Detachment premises at Ella, Kantale was declared open by Lieutenant Colonel C S Demuni, Commanding Officer 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps on 19 December 2021. The construction was fulfilled by the troops of Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps under the guidance of Colonel of the Regiment and supervision of Major G W E L Senadheera Commanding Officer, Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps 1 Detachment.



Programme of Gifring School Essentials at Valeyipadu Roman Catholic Tamil Mixed School



School essentials and equipment were gifted to 100 students at Kil/Valeyipadu Roman Catholic Tamil Mixed School in Kilinochchi by 2 Sri Lanka National Guard with the intention to boost the academic excellence of the students in the year 2022. Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG General Officer Commanding 66 Infantry Division and Mr Damith Pallewatta General Manger, Hatton National Bank graced the event as the Chief Guests. The financial assistance for the charity task was extended by Hatton National Bank and the event was fully supervised by Commander 663 Infantry Brigade.

Caring the Lives of People



Dry Ration parcels with the intention to provide a life support were gifted among 32 low income families living in the Bharatheepuram Village at the 9 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment area under command to 573 Infantry Brigade on 31 December 2021. Major General G R R P Jayawardana RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding, 57 Infantry Division and Colonel S W R Prasanna RWP RSP USP Commander 573 Infantry Brigade and Reverent Jesudasan, Head Priest of St Theresa Church graced the event.

51 Infantry Division Gifted Essentials to the Students

The 51 Infantry Division Headquarters in Jaffna under the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) with sponsorship, provided by several philanthropists, distributed school essentials to selected students in Selvapuram, Yogapuram and Kopay areas on 25 December 2021.

This charity event took place upon the instructions of Major General M G W W W M B C Wickramasinghe RWP RSP General Officer Commanding 51 Infantry Division and Mallika Hemachanra Jewelers and Colonel Shirantha Millagala extended the financial assistance for the charity work.





Protectors of the Nation Extending Helping Hand towards Humanity

The sun is shining above and sending its blissful rays through the shelter of Palmyra fields in the Jaffna peninsula. There were no burning marks or no broken shoots on the Palmyra trees as there were before May 2009. However, few old trees are still remaining among the thousands of newly grown Palmyra trees, as to show the difference between then and today. The wind blows through the fields whispering the story of change to the new trees; fear to smile, from hate to love and joy of the freedom. It sings the story of one country - one nation through the reconciliation of brothers and sisters in the North and the South, irrespective of their caste, race, or religion.

The roar of war is no more. Day by day, our motherland is moving towards prosperity as one country and one Nation with unity. As a rising Nation with reconciliation, 16 detained ex-combatants had been released by HE the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa under presidential pardon on Poson full moon Poya day (24 June 2021).

As the most disciplined and humanitarian Army in the world, Sri Lanka Army extended its hands towards those rehabilitated LTTE carders to erase the dark shadows of traumatic memories of the past and to re-start a new life with a hope under the leadership of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

The maiden story was started in August 2021 with the Army Commander's visit to Jaffna Peninsula. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army offered cash donations of Rs 100,000.00 during the visit promoting self-employment and continue their lives as lawful citizens of the motherland. It signifies the brotherhood, friendship and compassion of the Sri Lanka Army

towards them. Mr Vamadevan Thyagendran, a well-known social activist and a philanthropist, devotedly contributed to this project through the coordination of Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna).

Distributing the donations to them, the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army said, "You all are now ordinary citizens of this country bound by the law. So forget all of the unpleasant memories of the past. No one is there to discriminate you as ex-combatants. We all are humans; brothers and sisters of mother Sri Lanka. Especially I would like to tell you, something. Suppose you need any support from the Army to continue day to day life or in any hardship. In that case, our strong hands will around you to stand in the mid of any circumstance".

Following stories began in November 2021 with those heart touching and eye wetting words of the army chief to those ex - LTTE combatants.

An ex-LTTE combatant in Chunnakam living in a temporary shelter with his sister (parents have passed away) has spent a poverty stricken life and has faced many difficulties in life. Recalling the Army Commander's words and his fatherly care towards them during the donation programme, he requested assistance to have a permanent shelter for them. Considering the said request prompt action was taken and under the direction of the Commander of the Army, the Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) instructed General Officer Commanding 51 Infantry Division, to commence with the humanitarian operation.

The foundation stone for the dreamy house of the



needy was laid by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 3 November 2021 amid religious blessings blooming a gentle smile across the poverty-stricken faces.

The construction work of the house was coordinated by Brigadier General Staff, Security Forces (Jaffna). Technologically skilled and qualified workforce is provided by the most disciplined and largest human resource unit of the island; the Sri Lanka Army. Mainly the construction work of this house was carrying out by the troops of 10 Sri Lanka Artillery upon the financial contribution extended by Mr Vamadewa Thyagendran, a well-known philanthropist and a social activist in Jaffna.

"We, being an Army with humanistic values, will be with you at all the times. You will get a duly completed house soon. The Army will assure it", Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army said to the beneficiary.

The following story is different from the above. But it proves that how humanistic the Sri Lanka Army is, towards enhancing the reconciliation between people with different races.

Mrs Mahindarasa Amirthamalar is a widow with two children living in Uduvil, Jaffna. Her husband has passed away about 5 years ago due to a cancer. With his demise, especially without a proper shelter she became so helpless and had faced number of difficulties with her children.

Few months ago, troops of 9 Sri Lanka Light Infantry under-command to 51 Infantry Division of Security Forces (Jaffna) shouldered this charity, building a house for them, utilizing their technical skills and untiring workforce. The troops were directed by the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army with Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) together with the close supervision of the General Officer Commanding 51 Infantry Division, the respective Brigade Commanders and the Commanding Officers, to complete the construction into a fully pledged house. The Church of American Ceylon Mission in Jaffna contributed financial sponsorship for the house.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army handed over the keys of the newly built house to the family members during a simple ceremony held on 3 November 2021 amid religious blessings. It was a moment that eyes of the beneficiaries filled with tears showing their overflowing happiness.

The Army did not forget to handover certain household equipment to the family members during the same occasion.

Meantime, thousands of houses has already been completed island-wide by the hands and the power of the sweat of the 'Protectors of the Nation' for the sake of humanity, under the leadership of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and under the supervision of the 1 Corp Commander, Security Forces Commanders, Colonel of the Regiments, General Officer Commandings, Brigade Commanders and Commanding Officers of the respective Battalions.

This is the reason why the people praise the Sri Lanka Army as an Army with humanitarian values. There are thousands of similar examples to prove their humanistic role in serving the Nation.

Other than the primary task of protecting the Sovereignty and the Territorial Integrity of the motherland, troops are contributing in activities, including vaccination, tree planting, beach cleaning, nation building activities, nature-friendly farming, carbonic fertiliser producing and disaster response activities etc.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army said during his recent visit to Jaffna, "Yes, we are everywhere. We can do wonders with our skilled troops, and I do not have any doubt of it. That is why I always say this special motto, 'Nothing Impossible'".



*By Captain Nisal Rukshan SLSR
Directorate of Media
Army Headquarters*

New House Gifted to Deserving Family in Kataragama



A house erected for Mr Jayashantha Premakumara resided at fisheries village, Wedihitikanda, Kataragama under the supervision of Brigadier P K W M J S B W Pallekumbura RWP RSP psc Commander, 122 Brigade following the instructions of Major General R A D P Ranawaka RWP RSP USP 12 Infantry Division was warmed to the beneficiary. General Officer Commanding 12 Infantry Division, Commander 122 Infantry Brigade were presented at the house warming event. The manpower for the construction was extended by 23 Gajaba troops.

Army Donations for the New Year

Large stock of school accessories were donated to 53 needy students at Vinayagapuram Government Tamil Mixed School located in the 652 Brigade area in Akkarayankulam on 20 December 2021. The event coordinated by 10 Sri Lanka Light Infantry and funded by Mr Eranga Jayakody and Mrs Munza Mushtaq. Each pack contained a

school bag, shoes with socks, water bottle, lunch box, books, pens, etc. bearing the value of Rs. 4,500.00. The project cost of Rs 238,500.00 were extended by those two philanthropists. The event was organised by 10 Sri Lanka Light Infantry under the supervision of Brigadier W A U S Wanasekara RWP USP 652 Infantry Brigade with the guidance of Major General K A Samarasiri RSP USP psc 65 Infantry Division.



With the intention of providing the assistance for the underprivileged residents living in the 15 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment area of responsible, a medical clinic was held at Nawaiyakulam Tamil Mixed School on 19 December 2021. Spectacles worth of Rs 40000.00 and artificial legs worth Rs 50000.00 for 10 handicapped and nutrition parcels worth Rs 625000.00 for 25 pregnant mothers were distributed during the programme.

The financial assistance for the programme was extended by "82 We", Vision Care, Centre for Handicapped. The charity programme was organised by Major R M B A Rajapaksha and Unit Officers 15 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment under the supervision of Major General U U K L S Perera RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division.



Visually-Impaired Two War Heroes Gifted with Sophisticated OrCam Read Devices



With the objective to facilitate the visually-disabled War Heroes with the best advanced technological aids, the Directorate of Rehabilitation coordinated the supply of two OrCam Read devices with smart cameras to Brigadier K A A D S K Dharamsena RWP and Lieutenant Colonel Y M D S K Yapa RWP USP - two most senior Army Officers who sustained injuries during the peak of the humanitarian operation and lost their visions.

The devices are the product of Israel. It enables the user to receive an audio interpretation of any English language document to when the device is fixed to the eye glasses. It reads the documents of the person who wears it after taking the photocopy of the English document. The institute is expecting that the device will change the life of who wears it. A simple ceremony held at the Directorate of Rehabilitation auditorium on 29 December 2021 headed by Brigadier I H M T H Senarathne USP Director Rehabilitation, Brigadier G D A G Senadheera USP Deputy Director Rehabilitation, Brigadier S P K Kurugama USP Deputy Commandant of Ranaviru Resource Centre and Staff participated in the event.

Do not Seek My Name There Mother..

*Do not seek my name there Mother
I am not there I did not die
Do not place the flowers mother
I am not gone I did not die
I am the newborn infants' cry
I am the sprout of farmers try
I am the goldern round of ray
I am the silver line of bay
I am the plea of father's pray
I am the glee of everyone's day
Do not seek my name there Mother
I am not perished I did not die*

*By Captain Lakmali Kudaligama
SLAGSC
Directorate of Psychological Operations*



Tabula Rasa

*Oh my sweet little bud,
the heart is weeping for you,
the soul is weeping for you.
I attempted to form a few lines
on the sheet of blank.
I made attempts in all the times.
I wept every second.
I screamed.
Only remained tears.
I saw few lines which have been
already formed.
Still, the heart is weeping,
even for a single touch on the blank slate
of my sweet little bud.*



*Composed by
Lieutenant GDN Abeyratna SLAGSC
Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force HQ*



*By Lieutenant Duminda Senarath
SLAGSC Directorate of Media
Army Headquarters*

The reason behind the failure of the 'World's Largest Artillery Gun'

Though the human kind had to suffer at the time of the World War II, it was a well known fact that lots of devices had been invented as a result of the war. Accordingly, World War II began in Europe, when the German Army invaded Poland on the 1 September 1939 on the instructions of the Adolf Hitler. As the Nazi Leader Adolf Hitler was so keen and had an eager to invade France and he demanded of a new weapon which can easily achieve the war victories.

Accordingly the 'Schwerer Gustav' (Heavy Gustav), also known as Rails super gun, was designed as the world's largest artillery gun which was ever made by the German Arms Manufacturer known as 'Alfried Krupp' in 1934 following the instructions given to him by Adolf Hitler and the most Senior Officers in the German Army. Before the World War II had started, Hitler required a weapon to

invade France, which could destroyed the lines penetrating the several layers of concrete and steel. Simultaneously, the 'Schwerer Gustav' giant gun was built to the weight of 1,350 tons and also had an overall length of 47.3 meters with 155 feet and 2 inches. It could fire a shell of seven ton, to a range of 30 miles. As it was so gigantic, it was mounted on a railway chassis running on specially constructed railway tracks and had to be disassembled and assembled to set up. Also at the time Hitler personally went to the ground to see the testing of the gun in 1940. The father of the gun Krupp demonstrated the gun by firing it with a shell that weight of 7.1 tons at a high elevation while penetrating a target which made of seven meters of concrete and one meter of armor plate .



The gun was mainly developed by Nuazi Germany in the early 1930's. At the time heavy 'Schwerer Gustav' 800 millimeter caliber Master Cannon was exclusively designed as a sage Artillery weapon to penetrate and decimate the super thick range force and concrete fortifications of the French defensive facilities which was known as the National Line. However, the heavy Gustav Railway Gun stretched 155 feet in length, including it's 106 foot long barrel. It was the most promising and the largest projects in Military History. Also 10,000 pound shells were shot from the 155 feet long gun which weighs 1350 tons. The gun helped in the destruction of the city

in 1942 as a part of Sevastopol siege. Moreover this particular weapon was ordered in 1934 and it required to be transported by using railway tracks due to its enormous tons of massive mass.

The disadvantages of this gigantic gun was that it could fire only 14 rounds per day and took hours to calibrate for a single shot. Also it took nearly 96 hours (Nearly four days) to get assembled in the field. In addition, a huge number of men were required for its transportation, making the whole operation of the weapon an utter failure. Accordingly at the siege of Sevastopol, 4000 soldiers were needed to put the Gustav in firing position and another team which consisted of 500 carders. As it was too heavy and due to

the reason that the gun cannot be moved as a one piece, the Troops of the German Army had to break the gun into several pieces before transportation in 25 freight cars to the place of deployment. It was a task which needs approximately three days of time and had to require 250 soldiers to assemble the gun again. Moreover, the laying over the railway tracks for it's transportation is another gigantic task which involved several weeks of work with the labor assistance of another 2500 to 4000 men. In addition, there was another problem with the aiming of the gun because the gun barrel could only aim vertically and it didn't support the horizontal aiming. Also, the gun was guarded by two Flak

Battalions as the great Gustav had no meaning of protecting itself from the possible aerial assaults and the size of this massive gun made it an easy target for the fighter flights and the bomber planes which was flying overhead of the Nazi's at that time. So from the beginning, the development of this gun faced lots of issues and practical problems. Soon after it's production, the German Army discovered that the weapon does not operate up to the expectations of Adolf Hitler. Though it was the most powerful and the gigantic gun ever created and designed in that era (1937) the gun was used one time in a real battle which occurred in 1942. Also, 400 pounds of Gunpowder Charge was needed to fire each shell of the gun and it was a logistic nightmare as the gun had to be rebuilt after shooting every 20 Shells. However, the massive gun became a high priority target for allied troops

Near the end of the World War II and with the fear of capturing the gun by the Soviet Red Army, the largest caliber and the heaviest mobile piece of artillery ever made in the world,-the great 'Gustav' was destroyed by the German Troops in 1945.



Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Brigadier
G K I Vithanachchi** ato
assumed duties as the
Director,
Directorate of Ordnance
on 20 January 2022



**Brigadier
W B J K Wimalaratne** RWP
RSP
assumed duties as the
Centre Commandant,
Gemunu Watch
on 24 December 2021



**Brigadier
W R W M S R M B Weerakoon**
assumed duties as the
Brigadier (V) Coordinating,
Security Force Headquarters
(East)
on 12 January 2022



**Colonel
D P Welagedara** RSP USP
psc IG
assumed duties as the
Colonel (Coordinating),
Security Force Headquarters
(East)
on 18 December 2021



**Colonel
K P P Karunanayaka**
assumed duties as the
Colonel General Staff,
56 Infantry Division
on 16 December 2021



**Colonel
K P L Amunupura** RWP
RSP USP
assumed duties as the
Colonel General Staff,
11 Infantry Division
on 15 January 2022



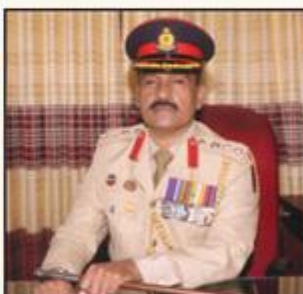
**Colonel
W K S P M R A B Dodamwela**
psc
assumed duties as the
Colonel Coordinating
Security Forces (Wanni)
on 20 December 2021



**Colonel
D D G A Jayawardhana** USP psc
assumed duties as the
Colonel Coordinating,
56 Infantry Division
on 14 December 2021



**Colonel
K T H Haripriya** RSP
assumed duties as the Colonel
(Training)
Sri Lanka Army Volunteer
Force
on 23 December 2021



**Colonel
N H J M Nawarathne**
assumed duties as the
Deputy Centre Commandant,
Sri Lanka National Guard
on 17 December 2021



**Colonel
W A D U Wanigasooriya**
assumed duties as the Chief
Civil Coordinating Officer,
Security Forces (Jaffna)
on 12 December 2021



**Colonel
W P J K Dissanayake**
assumed duties as the
Chief Coordinating Officer,
Security Forces (Mullaitivu)
on 17 December 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel
WHMI U Bandara USP Lsc**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer
Sri Lanka Army Catering
Battalion
on 11 November 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel
C S Demuni**
assumed duties as the
General Staff I
(Quartermaster)
Security Force (Wanni)
on 07 January 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel
WP Hemajith RSP**
assumed duties as the
General Staff I
Psychological Operations,
Security Forces (West)
on 18 January 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel
DMMB Dissanayake RWP
RSP USP**
assumed duties as the
General Staff Officer I (Ops),
56 Infantry Division
on 10 December 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel
AGSA Kumara**
assumed duties as the
Civil Coordinating Officer,
Security Force Headquarters
(West)
on 21 December 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel
PWSB Abeythilaka**
assumed duties as the
Civil Coordinating Officer,
Security Force Headquarters
(Jaffna)
on 18 December 2021



**Lieutenant Colonel
LWB Ridimahaliyadda USP IG**
assumed duties as the
General Staff Officer I (Ops)
Security Force Headquarters
(West)
on 14 December 2021



**Major
KAS Gunawardena RWP RSP
USP**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
23 Gajaba Regiment
on 10 January 2022



**Major
RMPathiraja RSP USP**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
18 Gamunu Watch
on 28 December 2021



**Major
H MSSB Karunarathne RWP
RSP USP**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
7 (V) Gajaba Regiment
on 01 January 2022



**Major
IMG N Jayatilleke**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
9 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry
on 28 December 2021



**Major
BMI Balasooriya**
assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
2 Sri Lanka National Guard
on 15 November 2021

Promoting the Green Agriculture



A programme themed under “Exemplary Garden from Chemical Free Manure” was launched with the participation of 12 students on 13 January 2022 at the Wdamarachchi Zonal Division premises under the supervision of Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) with the intention to popularise the chemical free cultivation in the area. General Officer Commanding 55 Infantry Division, Brigadier General Staff Officer 551, 552, and 553, Brigade Commanders, public Offices were also participated in the event.

RANAVIRUWA

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Commander Made a Surprise Visit to Panagoda on a Holiday



An unannounced casual visit of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army and Head of the Green Agriculture Operation Centre (GAOC) to Panagoda Army Cantonment on 14 January 2022 during lunch hour took all Officers and Other Ranks on duty at the location by surprise where the Army Chief made a bee-line to several kitchen premises where lunch is cooked and dining halls for women soldiers.

The visiting Army Chief was joined by Major General P A J Peiris ndu Chief Signal Officer and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Signal Corps and a few casually-dressed senior Officers upon the arrival of the Commander at the Cantonment.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army closely observed utensils being used to prepare meals and exchanged views with the chefs and Other Ranks inquiring into the quality of food varieties and the content of calories, etc. He also made a point to talk to a section of Army female soldiers partaking of their meals during lunch time at the Mess with a view of receiving information at ground level.

Subsequently, he collected first-hand information by visiting the Mess of Other Ranks of the Regimental Centres of Sri Lanka Artillery, Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers, Sri Lanka Signal Corps, Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Sri Lanka Army Service Corps and the Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps.



War Memoir

The Beginning of the New Hope

With the sunrise the world began to rejoice. But the sunrise had not reached to the cracked land with the armed conflicts over three decades. Day passed unknowingly when in duty of observation. They had one dream to bring the peace to the everyone. It was their mere dream. Finally they did it!.

The pleasure of the heart a is immeasurable when rethink the bygone past.