



Ranaviruwa



74th
**National
Independence Day
Celebrations**

*Leading the way Forward for an
Affluent Tomorrow...*



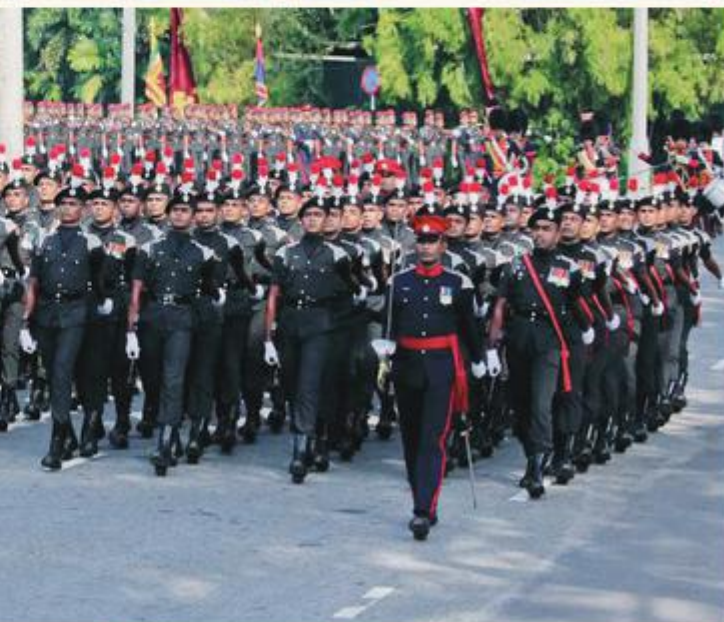
74th
National
Independence Day
Celebrations

Dignified Day of Freedom

"The pride procession of victorious War Heroes at the Independence Day celebrations brought tears of happiness"

74th National Independence Day celebrations of the motherland was held at Independence Square on 04 February 2022 under the theme "Abhiyoga Jayagath Asirimath Heta Dinak Sawubhagymath Mawubimak" (An affluent tomorrow and prosperous motherland with challenges overcome).

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka headed the event together with the first lady Madam Ioma Rajapaksa, Hon Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his spouse Mrs Shiranthi Rajapaksa along with host of distinguished religious, diplomatic, ministerial, secretaries to the ministries, security heads including Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army. State and civil dignitaries also graced the event of grandeur.



The majestic parade comprised of Tri-Service Officers, Other Ranks, Police, Special Task Force, Civil Security Department personnel, National Cadet Corps members and physically-disabled War Heroes including both retired and serving was commanded by Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu following the military traditions.

The military section of the parade was included with hardware columns of Army, Navy and Air Force vehicles including the vehicles famed for amphibious operations. The debut of the new Unicorb was also made during the event. Series of other new vehicles inclusive of Uni Buffel Mark II, Uni Avalon Vehicle and Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle (MRAP) 'Unicorb' manufactured by the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) were also exhibited as showpiece for the occasion. The troops of the newly formed Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock-the founder of the national drive towards the green agriculture, won everyone's attention.

HE the President Made Floral Offerings to Sacred Relic Casket atop Navam Perahera Tusker

The final Navam Perahera of the Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple was held on Navam Full Moon Poya Day (16 February 2022).

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka graced the event as the Chief Guest and placed the sacred relic casket on the tusker.

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, together with Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, President Army Seva Vanitha Unit paid their respect to the sacred relic casket laying flowers and other offerings.



The perahara was organised by Dr Kirinde Assaji Thero under the patronage of Ven Galaboda Gnanissara Nayake Thero Chief Incumbent, Gangarama Temple for the 43rd consecutive year.



Courtesy Meetings at Army Headquarters



Major General (Rtd) Umar Farooq Burki, Hilal-i-Imtiaz – the newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, 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 18 February 2022 at the Army Headquarters.

Pakistan's new High Commissioner in Sri Lanka ensured friendly and sound relations between both nations. Also they shared thoughts on future training programmes during the meeting. Extending warm greetings to the newly appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army assured the best

cooperation. The cordial meeting was culminated after the exchange of mementos.

Mr Tom Manadue, Assistant Secretary Global Interests Branch in the International Policy Division of the Department of Defence Australia, 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 17 February 2022 at the Army Headquarters at Sri Jayawardenepura, together with Excellency David Holly, Australian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Captain Ian Cain, Defence Adviser at the Australian High Commission.



Matters of bilateral relevance, regional interest, security, defence cooperation, COVID-19 prevention and ever-growing bonds of understanding with all South Asian countries, were reviewed briefly during this cordial meet. The representatives also agreed to foster the goodwill between both nations and asserted the importance of the regional peace in future.



Commodore Anthony Victor Kujoh, Defence Advisor at High Commission of Nigeria in Sri Lanka extended courtesies to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 2 February 2022 during his visit to the Army Headquarters at Sri Jayawardenepura.

During cordial interactions in the Commander's office, both of them shared views on existing bilateral agreements on power and energy, maritime security as well as the technical and cultural agreements. Commodore Kujoh highly appreciated the dedicated roles of the Sri Lankan armed forces over sustained control of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka.

Commodore Didik Kurniawan, Indonesian Embassy's Defence Attaché in New Delhi 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 2 February 2022 during his visit to the Army Headquarters at Sri Jayawardenepura.

The meeting recalled the friendly diplomatic relations, religious and cultural similarities that have been shared between both countries since the year 1952.



Colonel Can Gokkaya, the Military Attaché in the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Sri Lanka 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 2 February 2022 at the Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardenepura.

Both of them exchanged views on matters of bilateral importance, security interests, prevailing bonds of trade and commerce between both countries and other matters of mutual relevance during the cordial interactive meeting.

SL- Indo Dialogues for Military Cooperation Successfully Concluded

Bilaterally central cordial interactions were successfully occurred between the Indian Army and the Sri Lanka Army during the three-day (10-12 February 2022) long 9th Army to Army Staff Talks (AASST) sessions held at the Indian Army's oldest and outstanding Southern Command Headquarters in Pune. The good message of successful outcome was formally conveyed to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 21 February 2022 by the Sri Lankan delegation.



The Sri Lankan Army to Army Staff Talks delegation, Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc Commander, 1 Corps Headquarters, Major General G D S Senerathiyapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), Major General K T A D S Kolombathantri RWP RSP USP psc IG Military Secretary, Brigadier D K S K Dolage USP psc Director Training and Brigadier G L S W S Liyanage USP psc Commander Signal Brigade tabled the string of conclusions and the productive outcomes of the Army to Army Staff Talks (AASST) sessions including the importance of sustained, sound and strong bilateral links with members of the Indian Army during the meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

Viru Abhimana

Housing Loan Scheme

Launched



Taking one more leap forward with the 'Sri Lanka Army Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025' (SLAWFS) of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, "Viru Abhimana" special concessionary Housing Loan Scheme was launched on 15 February 2022 in partnership with the state-owned People's Bank to ensure each soldier in the Army owns a decent house before reaching the age of retirement.



General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army together with the resource provider Mr Sujeewa Rajapaksa Chairman People's Bank signed the significant agreement at the Army Headquarters during a simple ceremony, attended by a Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks, bringing the dream of having an own home of Army personnel to fruition.

An Army applicant can receive a maximum loan of Rs. 15 million at 9 % interest rate per annum and 75% of the loan amount can be obtained afterwards against the land value, on which the house is to be built and the estimated value of the proposed new construction. In the event of purchasing of an already-built home, the applicant can get 75% of the estimated value. Similarly, the applicant is eligible to receive 60% of the value in cash when purchasing an apartment unit in a housing complex.

Also, the loan recipient can settle the loan even after retirement from the service until 70 years of age. 5 approved architectural models are prepared by the Army Corps of Engineer Services (CES) to erect the selected house with the support of work teams, after the loan is approved.

Major General W B S M Abeysekara RSP USP Director, Financial Management at the Directorate of Financial Management, in close collaboration with the Directorate of Welfare, Directorate of Personnel Administration, People's Bank and other relevant sections ensured the launch of the new project in close consultation with the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who firmly believes that each soldier must be able to pursue the career with dignity while on service and after retirement since they all are devoted to exceptional tasks for the best interests of the Nation.



GR Regimental Centre Provided Fully Furnished New Home to a Wounded War Hero



Under the house construction project for deserving families of fallen and seriously wounded War Heroes across the country, one more new home, erected at 'Ranaviru Gama' in Pangolla near Ibbagamuwa jointly through the funds of Directorate of Veterans Affairs and the Gajaba Regimental Headquarters, was vested in the family of an amputated War Hero on 13 February 2022 by Colonel of the Gajaba Regiment General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 13 February 2022.

The new house, valued about Rs 1.5 million was vested to the beneficiary who was seriously wounded in action in 1990 in Trincomalee, and lost his right leg above the knee. The beneficiary is also a father of two girls and a boy. Seeing the differently-abled Keterian after severe injuries or medically boarded out but without a proper home that matches with special needs, Gajaba Regiment (GR) Regimental Centre decided to erect this new house for him and family.

7 (V) Gajaba Regiment troops with Regimental funds constructed the house using their technical and engineering skills under the guidance of Colonel M W S Millagala RWP RSP USP psc Centre Commandant, Gajaba Regiment and fullest supervision of the Commanding Officer, 7 (V) Gajaba Regiment and the GR Regimental HQ took steps to fully furnish the new house at its cost.

Legacy of Airborne Operations Immortalised in Airborne Museum at Uva Kudaoya CRTS

The legacy of paratroopers of Sri Lankan armed forces, majority from the Commando Regiment and Special Forces of the Army was made immortal and received proper documentation of their history when the Commando Regiment (CR) on 19 February 2022 inaugurated the country's first Airmobile Museum at the Commando Regiment Training School (CRTS) premises at Uva-Kudaoya

on the side-lines of the day's Passing out Parade of 157 newly-trained Commandos.

The new Airborne Museum displays all equipment used in the early stages of the Sri Lanka Army Airborne Training and Operations as well as all objects of historic value along with documented evidence and proof. The Museum was declared open 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 A K G K U Gnanaratne ndc psc Colonel of the Regiment as the senior most of the Regiment since the commencement of Army Airborne Training on 29 January 1990. All the equipment used for the Airborne Training and Operations during the early stages are opened for the display.



Army Commander Surprised 'Abhimansala-1' War Heroes with his Surprise Visit

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army visited the state-of-the art exclusive care centre of exceptional nature, the 'Abhimansala-1', more popularly called the 'wellness centre' of 'Brave Hearts' at Anuradhapura where more than 50 dependent War Heroes are receiving life-time rehabilitation and recuperation on 10 February 2022 along with his spouse, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit as an unscheduled visit to the location on his way back from the Gajaba Regiment Regimental HQ at Saliyapura.



Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and his spouse, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit made a beeline to indoor and outdoor areas where those differently abled War Heroes were relaxing, playing indoor games, undergoing hydrotherapy and native treatment and all other recuperation practices which are not usually accessible to them if they were to remain confined to their own homes.



Showing his tender and fatherly care, he abruptly sat with them for a few minutes, spoke to them playing carrom and chess while inquiring into their needs and well-being of their family members, as a gesture that came as a complete surprise to those disabled heroes who sacrificed their everything for better tomorrow. Afterwards, he distributed special gift parcels to each of them, arranged by the Army Seva Vanitha Unit as an appreciative symbol.

SLEME Troops Produced Innovative Unicob- MRAPV

Mechanically and technically qualified troops of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) Regiment who manufactured a state-of-the-art Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle (MRAPV), 'Unicob' that corresponds to the guidelines, set out in the Army 'Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025' brought their new product of international standards to the Army Headquarters on 31 January 2022, making its debut in the presence of, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army before it is exhibited in the Independence Day parade.

The new six cylinder Diesel Unicob-MRAP Vehicle that stands a monumental tribute to creative and manufacturing prowess of SLEME workforce, has been produced by using discarded engines, scrap and chassis which were earlier used by the Army, and the manufacture of this Unicob-MRAP Vehicle would inevitably enhance armoured capabilities of the Sri Lanka



Armoured Corps under the light armoured vehicle category.

The project was uninterruptedly encouraged, supported, and guided by Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Army Logistic Commander, together with guidelines given by Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 61 Infantry Division, Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Brigadier D P Hathurusinghe USP Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Brigadier P A M Peiris RSP USP Commander, Armoured Brigade.

The locally-manufactured Unicob-MRAP Vehicle consists of many features, including capacity for 9 combat soldiers, with 12.7 Machine Gun, High Mobility on/off road with 4 x 4 all wheeled drive, all direction surveillance system with vehicle-mounted cameras, field to command real-time monitoring capabilities with camera system and GPS tracking, long distance communication capability, less maintenance costs with locally available spares, less production cost, compared to imported Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), air conditioned cabin, etc. The whole cost of its production stands at Rs 10 million, relatively a very low cost, compared to importation.

The SLEME troops who have made a significant contribution by manufacturing armoured vehicles, Unibuffels (the improvised version of Unicorn) in recent years for the Army's overseas UN missions, have already despatched more than 65 such vehicles to Mali where Army troops are deployed, thus saving foreign exchange for the country.

Maiden Copy of SLEME's 'Skill to Battle' Compendium Presented to Army Commander

The maiden copy of 'Skill to Battle', the latest (2020-2021) compendium of Corps of Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) that documented the SLEME's varieties of unmatched new vehicles, unique innovations, creative electrical, mechanical, electronic, optical and bio-medical equipment, etc was presented to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 21 February 2022 by Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) and Army Logistic Commander at the Army Headquarters.



The pictorial with documented literature, related to one year's progress of the SLEME explains how the SLEME made unparalleled and impressive contribution to the operational fitness of the mammoth organisation and how its under command wings and units function in order to produce best results for the operational fleet of the Army.

Commander Evaluated Galkanda Temple Pagoda Construction Works

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army visited the temple, evaluating the progress of the construction of the new Stupa (Pagoda) at ancient Muthur, Pachchanur Galkanda Kottiyarama Raja Maha Vihara premises in Morawewa at the invitation of Ven. Balalle Ratanasara Thero, Incumbent, Muthur, Pachchanur Galkanda Kottiyarama Raja Maha Vihara on 25 February 2022.

Troops of the 6 Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and 15 Sri Lanka Light Infantry have been performing the major share of its constructions with the support of personnel from Sri Lanka Navy and Civil Security Department.

Professor Kapila Gunawardene, Secretary to Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and Temple Development Association also joined the Army Chief in evaluating the construction process.



Commander Inaugurated 'Pichchawane Maha Pushpa Udyanaya' in Anuradhapura

Gathering of more than 20,000 devotees, together with members of the Maha Sangha, Hon Minister S M Chandrasena, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army with the members of the indigenous community, Gajaba Regiment Headquarters troops and children joined hands together to plant varieties of Pichcha saplings in a land patch of 21 acres, belonging to the Maningamuwa temple branch of the Gampaha Bawun Pellassa Temple on 26 February 2022.

The concept of this 'Pichchawane Maha Pushpa Udyanaya' (Garden of Jasmine Flowers), mooted by Ven Walpola Gothama Thero, Chief Incumbent at Gampaha Bawun Pellassa Temple who is a very erudite preacher cum a famed meditation practitioner with sponsoring partnership provided by 'Neth' FM radio, was meant to uninterruptedly provide monks with Pichcha flowers for worship of the most sacred Ruwanweli Maha Seya at Anuradhapura on a daily basis. Amidst religious observances, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army joining the inauguration of planting of those 5000 Pichcha saplings planted the first few, together with members of the Maha Sangha, Hon

Minister S M Chandrasena, Chairman, Neth FM Radio, Uruwarige Wannila Aththo (Head of the indigenous community), troops of Gajaba Regiment and devotees who had flocked there. Strict health guidelines were observed during the inaugural ceremony. Hon Minister, extolling the project, stated that this was the first such 'Udyanaya' (garden) that was established in the ancient city of Anuradhapura. As per Commander's instructions, troops of Gajaba Regiment will take care of those plants until they are fully grown after arranging technical needs and watering facilities with sponsorship provided by Neth FM Radio.



'Seth Pirith' Chanting Invoked Blessings on 65th Anniversary of SL - China Diplomatic Relations



The Ambassador of China in Sri Lanka, His Excellency Qi Zhenhong, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Embassy officials and representatives of Sri Lanka-China Buddhist Friendship Association together a gathering of invitees on 26 February 2022 joined a Buddhist religious programme to chant 'Seth Pirith' concurrently at the historic Abhayagiriya Temple at Anuradhapura. The event has been organised by Sri Lanka Vidyalaya, Maradana with the collaboration of historical Buddhist temples in China to mark the 65th Anniversary of Sri Lanka-China Diplomatic relations.

The Minister of Regional Cooperation Hon Tharaka Balasuriya joined this programme at Abhayagiriya Temple in Anuradhapura representing the government of Sri Lanka while His Excellency Dr Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka's Ambassador in China joined virtually at the same time from Ling Guan Temple in Beijing, a historical temple, where the Buddha's Tooth Relic is kept in China.



The 'Shakya Puthra Seevali Maha Seya' (Pagoda) 'Adhivasi Jana Uruma Maha Seya', built in response to a request made by the Vishwa Keerthi Vanaspathi Uruwarigewannila Eththo, the chieftain of the indigenous community in Dambana by the Chief Incumbent at Nelligala International Buddhist Centre and the newly-restored Kuragala temple, Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero, was vested to the community on 16 February 2022 at Gurukumbura during a 'Daham Sabhawa' ceremony.

Most Ven Warakagoda Gnanaratanabhidana Maha Nayake Thero of Asgiriya Chapter, together with Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army declared open the sacred 'Adhivasi Jana Uruma Maha Seya' gracing the event as the Chief Guests at the invitation of Ven Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero and the donors, Mrs Disna Wanigasekara and Mr Chandrasena Wickramarathna, Proprietors of Master Guide Publications (Pvt) Ltd, Colombo cutting the floral ribbon following the auspicious hours.



New 'Adhivasi Jana Uruma Maha Seya' for Indigenous Community Unveiled

At the same occasion, a girl who has authored a book on the evolution of Sri Lanka's indigenous community citing their past and present, awarded a copy to the day's Chief Guest, Chief of Defence

Staff and Commander of the Army. Members of the Adivasi community and devotees attended the ceremony. The visitors also interacted with the Chief Guest and shared a few thoughts.





157 More 'Maroon Berets' of Commando Regiment Illustrated Unparalleled Skills

The latest batch of well-trained 157 Commandos specialised in amphibious landings, parachuting or abseiling and exceptionally distinctive in taking unconventional high-value targets as one more elite special operations unit of the Sri Lanka Army was adorned with their prestigious insignia and 'maroon berets' at Uva-Kudaoya Commando Regiment Training School (CRTS) premises on 19 February 2022 during their ceremonial passing-out parade (PoP), graced by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest.

13 Officers and 144 Soldiers of 48 D and E 2022 batches of the Commando Regiment graduated after their sustained and exceptional training that spanned over 18 months under the tutelage of many veterans and instructors showcasing their exciting and unique capabilities and operational techniques that would address any unprecedented threat or challenge. The ceremony proceedings got underway in the presence of Senior Officers, parents and well-wishers.

Caring parents and next of kins of passing out Commandos were invited to pin the prestigious Commando insignia on those brave sons, as

Commandos in order to prove 'Nothing Impossible'.

The apex of the day's spectacle was marked with the award of uniquely-suited 'Maroon Berets' to the graduates –which symbolises the particular identity, authority and full-fledged professionalism, by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army gracing the event as the Chief Guest. Major General A K G K U Gnanaratne ndc psc Colonel of the Regiment, Commando Regiment and Major General A K Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding 65 Infantry Division also participated in the event. 'Maroon Berets' signify that the soldier wearing it belongs to an elite strategic force, designed to perform special operations at strategic level, to protect the constitutional order of Sri Lanka both in wartime and peacetime while carrying out air, land or water-based specialised operations in which most of them are highly and unfailingly classified.

The next moment marked the presentation of appreciative trophies and certificates to graduates who did exceptionally well and excelled during the 18-month-long Commando training course by the Chief Guest.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Commando Regiment invited Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army to open the newly-constructed Indoor Sports Stadium complex and the Power Gymnasium in the compound which was named as 'Major General P P Fernando Memorial Indoor Stadium'. This Indoor Sports Stadium stands as a tribute to his memory who sacrificed his life during the Elephant Pass debacle while serving as the Deputy General Officer Commanding of the then 54 Infantry Division Headquarters. Also the modern equipped Power Gymnasium was erected in memory of late Major G S Jayanath – the first PWV holder of the Commando Regiment.

The new Airborne Museum displays all equipment used in the early stages of the Sri Lanka Army Airborne Training and Operations as well as all objects of historic value along with documented evidence and proof. During the dazzling spectacle of the day, CRTS reached new heights afterwards as the stage was set for the spectators to witness the daring skills of those Commandos, exhibited in simulated demonstrations.



"It is not an easy task to be a Commando. It needs sustained courage and enthusiasm under the "Nothing Impossible" motto of the Commandos as all of you have by now embraced in your hearts and as protectors of the nation. We should always do better things for the sake of the motherland under this bold theme. I myself being a former Colonel of the Regiment, Commando Regiment and the General Officer Commanding for 58 Infantry Division during Wanni Humanitarian Operations experienced the uniqueness of the Commandos and how much they were dedicated to the cause. Remember you are just at the start of a new journey after comprehensive training by further enhancing your skills, despite challenges,"

- Commander of the Army, Sri Lanka



'Ecological Floating Islands' Introduced to Wetlands around Army HQ Entrance

The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army initiated a beautification project, "Thuru Mithuru-Nawa Ratak" that transformed the areas adjoining the road patch between the Central Environmental Authority junction and the main entrance to the Army and the Defence Ministry Headquarters to ecologically-friendly wetlands, walkpaths, children's parks and cultivable paddy fields received another stimulant on 22 February 2022 when 200 Ecological Floating Islands that float on the surface can purify the sewage, reduce the smell of sewage and provide a suitable habitat for aquatic animals and waterfowls as an effective nature-based water pollution solution.

The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army participated in the opening ceremony as

the Chief Guest of the event at the invitation of Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Commander Headquarters Logistic Command.

Troops of the 12 Gajaba Regiment and 2 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment of the 144 Brigade under command to the 14 Infantry Division of the Security Force Headquarters (West) completed the project under the close supervision of Colonel K M V Kodituwakku Commander 144 Brigade. Engineer Ms Ranoshi Siripala, the Ecologist, Ms Isurie Dharmasoma (Environmental Scientist), B D C Kumara (Senior Engineer), Hirantha De Silva (Engineering Assistant), Sampath Dahanayake (Supervisor) together with the Officers and Other Ranks joined the occasion.



Army Commander Reviewed the Cook House at SLNG Regimental HQ

General Shavendra Silva WWVRWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army reviewed meal preparation procedures in the Sri Lanka National Guard cook house to ensure the quality and nutritional standards of food provided to soldiers, on 12 February 2022 during an unannounced visit to the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) Regimental Headquarters in Wehera.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army closely observed how vegetables, spices and other ingredients are prepared for set menus. He further tested some of those cooked curries for quality and standards eagerly inspecting at varieties of spices, cooking utensils and hygienic standards of those cook houses before he moved into the storage room of dry rations while sharing his thoughts with the staff. Further Chief of Defence

Staff and Commander of the Army emphasized that all Army soldiers on duty round the clock for the best interests of the Nation should be provided a best meal with necessary nutrients of quality and correct portions, having cooked those using best hygienic methods.



Army Commander Made an Unannounced Visit to SLAC



The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army during a visit to the Eastern Province made an unannounced visit to the 6 Sri Lanka Armoured Corps (SLAC) camp (D Squadron) near Kinniya roadblock on 25 February 2022.

During the brief visit, the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army had a close look at the cooking area, accommodation, sanitary requirements and other facilities of all ranks of the camp and discussed needs of the formation and other concerns.



Major General P H L Chandrasiri WWV RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (East), Major General W B W M R S P Aluwihare RWP RSP General Officer Commanding, 22 Infantry Division, Major General L P K C Wijethunge RWP RSP USP Overall Security Coordinator and Colonel J K R P Jayasinghe RWP RSP USP Commander, 223 Infantry Brigade joined the visit.

Commander Offered Condolences to Colonel Lanka Fernando's Family



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 remains of late Colonel W W L P Fernando IG at his residence in Molagoda, Kegalle on 12 February 2022 laying a floral wreath and saluting the remains.



The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, during his stay, shared deep sorrow on Colonel Lanka Fernando's unexpected demise with Mrs Lanka Fernando, the spouse of late senior Officer. Further he assured all possible assistance for well-being of the family members in future.

Promoted Senior Officers Received Rank Insignia from the Army Commander

Seven Senior Brigadiers of the Army, promoted to the rank of Major General in parallel with the historic 74th National Independence Day were called at the office of Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at Sri Jayawardenepura in order to receive their rank insignia and the Commander's best wishes on 3 February 2022.



Accordingly Major General S W M Fernando WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Secretary National Defence College, Major General K A A Udaya Kumara RSP USP USAWC psc Sri Lanka Engineers, Director General Personnel Administration, Major General L P K C Wijethunga RWP RSP USP of Gajaba Regiment, Overall Security Coordinator, Army Headquarters, Major General G G A S Wickramasena RWP RSP USO psc Hdmc of Sri Lanka Light Infantry, General Officer Commanding 52 Infantry Division, Major General D P Hathurusingha USP of Sri Lanka Electrical and

Mechanical Engineers, Director General Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Major General M W T C Meththananda USP of Sri Lanka Army General Service Cops and Major General W W H R R V M N D K B Niyangoda RWP RSP USP ndu psc of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps Commandant Sri Lanka Military Academy received the rank insignia from their guiding star. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army extended the best wishes to all seven of them after pinning their new Major General insignia and handing over the symbolic sword of authority to each of them.



A group of 6 Senior Colonels who were elevated to the rank of Brigadiers of the Army on account of the National Independence Day had the rare privilege of receiving their new insignia from General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

Brigadier W S V Fernando USP IG of Sri Lanka Artillery, Commander, 542 Infantry Brigade Commander, Brigadier K W Jayaweera USP psc of

Mechanized Infantry Regiment, Military Assistant to Secretary Defence, Brigadier M W D N Mediwaka RSP USP of Gajaba Regiment, Commander 221 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier N H Malsinghe RWP RSP psc of Gemunu Watch, Military Assistant to the Commander of the Army and Brigadier S A Hettige RSP psc of Gemunu Watch, Commander, 522 Infantry Brigade of the Intake PMA 4 and Sri Lanka Military Academy Intake 37 were among the group promoted.

SLNG Colonel of the Regiment Made His First Visit to SLNG Headquarters



Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel of the Regiment Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) made his first visit to the Sri Lanka National Guard Headquarters in Wehera, Kurunegala on 6 February 2022 after assuming duties as the Chief of Staff.

During his visit, he laid a floral wreath at the SLNG War Heroes monument and saluted their memory. Later a Guard of Honour was accorded to him



following the military formality.

Afterwards, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army addressed SLNG troops and called upon all to work towards the betterment of the Regiment in future. Colonel N U J S Gunawardene, Centre Commandant of Sri Lanka National Guard together with Senior Officers and Other Ranks participated in the ceremony, adhering to the health guidelines.

ASVU to Launch Batik Industry for Army Families



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to commence a batik training programme for family members of fallen and wounded War Heroes, including civil staff and others interested in the industry was made on 15 February 2022. This project was initiated by Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) in collaboration with the reputed Buddhi Batiks Pvt Ltd. The signatories to the MOU, Mrs Darshi Keerthisena, Chief Executive Officer of the Buddhi Batiks and Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) are expecting to support to improve the living standards of Army families and War Heroes through this project as it is a domestic industry which can earn foreign



exchange. The agreement and documents related to the implementation of the programme were handed over by Mrs Darshi Keerthisena Chief Executive Officer of the Buddhi Batiks to Mrs Sujeewa Nelson at the ASVU office in the Army Headquarters. Subsequently, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson and Mrs Darshi Keerthisena visited Manning Town married quarters complex where the training programme for Batik industry has been planned to conduct.

A social service activist Mrs Kelum Anandagoda volunteered to offer a scholarship to a deserving student in Army families. Several Senior Officers also joined the visit, including Brigadier Coordinator of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit.

ASVU President Visited Welfare Projects at Manning Town Residential Complex



Mrs Sujeewa Nelson the President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit made a field visit to Manning Town residential complex in Narahenpita on 31 January 2021 to inspect on-going construction work, renovations and other concerns, related to the expansion of the Seva Vanitha-managed cafeteria in the premises. Afterwards she observed the site and shared a few thoughts with Officers and Other Ranks of the Corps of Engineer Services, engaged in the project. The President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit also requested those troops to prioritise the beautification of the garden in front of the cafeteria in an attractive manner.

The welfare bakery, cafeteria and the grocery shop situated in the Manning Town Narahenpita are providing subsidised essentials as welfare services for troops and residents in this complex. She also inspected the new Beauty Care Salon for females which is under construction and the Tailor Shop.



ASVU Provided Refreshments to Participants in Independence Day Rehearsals

The Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) at the Army Headquarters is concerned about the welfare aspects of the Tri-Forces troops. Extending the generous assistance, the Army Seva Vanitha Unit launched a project to distribute refreshment sachets among all participating in the rehearsals of the 74th National Independence Day celebrations including students and artistes since the first day of the rehearsals on 29 January 2022. The distribution among all participants was continued during rehearsals until the final day of the parade.

This distribution was initiated on a suggestion made by Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit in close collaboration with both Sunquick Lanka Private Ltd and Pure Dale Company Ltd.



They will Come from Air and Mobilise Swiftly to Make a Dazzling Future for the Nation

Relatively the word 'Air Mobile' gives a wider meaning when it connected to military operations, correlating to different activities in battles, though it generally means the ability to mobilise in the air by means of aircraft, helicopters etc.

The concept of airmobile was initiated by the US military as a sling load mission during the Korean War on 13 September 1951. Since then, the airmobile concept has been implemented by all militaries in the world as a versatile, credible and a powerful military tool. The first recorded airmobile operation was conducted by 45 Commandos and Royal Marines in the Operation Musketeer on 5 November 1956 during the Suez Crisis. US military first airmobile unit called 1st Cavalry Division proved the power



of airmobile operations during the Vietnam War for the first time at the Ia Drang Valley in 1965 and achieved its highest results at Khe Sanh in 1968. At present, the airmobile forces in other countries are proficient in air assaults which require many numbers of troops and air assets popularly known as Air Assault Battalions and Brigades. During 11 years of battlefield application in the Vietnam War, the airmobile concept was tested and refined current airmobile tactics.

In Sri Lankan context, the

'Airmobile operations' maiden arrival was held with the raise of Airmobile Brigade of the Sri Lanka Army on 1 May 1994 in Vavuniya under the leadership of Brigadier H N Halangoda RWP RSP USP USACGSC. Due to his commitments and contributions towards this establishment, he was renowned as founding father of the Sri Lanka Airmobile Brigade.

The aim of the establishment of Air Mobile Brigade was to conduct of special operations with the capability of rapid deployment by means of





Role of the Airmobile Brigade

The role of the Airmobile Brigade is to harness the full potential for a rapid deployment into swift action using helicopters in controlled, well-coordinated and decentralised operations to bridge the gap between Infantry and Special Operation Force (SOF) as an intermediary, characterized by a ready, reliable and a fully geared force, enforced with flexibility, innovation, audacity, and aggressiveness to face any spectrum of operations.

Eventhough all military establishments are vested with a primary task, depending on the uniqueness they are also called to perform Secondary tasks to maintain the professionalism and the long-lasting military traditions.

Through the past 27 years of the Air Mobile Brigade, 23 Brigade Commanders, including General Kamal Gunaratne WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil (Rtd), the present Secretary of Ministry of Defence, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army led the men towards military professionalism by following the superiors of the proud history.

Apart from the aforementioned general outline of the Air Mobile Brigade, the unique Air Mobile Warriors are updating their skills, knowledge and strategies in line with the modern world.

Further, through threat analysis, strength analysis, weakness analysis and

air mobility. It was specially designed by deviating from the ordinary infantry task and formed to pose deterrence by means of air mobility to confront the isolated terrorist bases which were behind the LTTE forward Defence lines. The support of the Sri Lanka Air Force was obtained, due to the unavailability of own air fleet to fulfill the requirement of mobility from air. Also the 1st Air Mobile training programme was held at the Air Force Base Vavuniya.

The Battalions of 4 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR), 7 Gemunu Watch (GW), 1 Gajaba Regiment (GR) and 4 GR joined the history as the first Battalions followed the Air Mobile Training in Sri Lanka.

The troops of Airmobile Brigade are renowned for its proven bravery in the battlefield with the selfless sacrifices of the airmobile troops that have made in becoming a victorious Army by defeating the relentless terrorism. The battles of 'Operation Eagle' in 1990, 'Operation Balawegaya' in 1991, 'Operation Riviresa' in 1995, 'Operation Jayasikuru' in 1997, 'Operation Kinihira' in 2000, 'Operation Agnikheela' in 2001 and

finally the 'Humanitarian Operation' from 2006 to 2009 are some classic examples for the commitment of the Air Mobile Brigade. At the end of the year 1996, 3 Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), 1 SLSR, 5 GW, 6 GR and 1 Vijayabhahu Infantry Regiment (VIR) also became members of the Airmobile Brigade at different stages and had actively participated in all major operations conducted by the Sri Lanka Army for the freedom of our motherland.

After the Humanitarian Operation in 2009, various Battalions were attached and certain were detached from the Airmobile Brigade. With the end of the Humanitarian Operation the Air Mobile Brigade changing the former objective, direction was diverted towards the nation building and disaster management tasks under the direction of the 53 Infantry Division (RSF).

At present, the Airmobile Brigade consists of 5 Battalions, namely 24 SLLI, 12 SLSR, 5 GW, 3 GR and 1 VIR are deployed at Veilankulam, with 12 SLSR having relocated from its previous deployment at Embilipitiya.

opportunity analysis in forecasting the future of the whole establishment, the Sri Lanka Army has recognised the constant need of adapting to the changes of different conditions and circumstances in the world. Hence, widely understanding the need of change, the organisation recently launched the 'Sri Lanka Army Way Forward Strategy (SLAWFS) 2020-2025' policy under the direction and supervision of Chief of Defence Staff, Commander of the Army.

With launching of SLAWFS, the Air Mobile Brigade also changed their facet of operating by modernising through 'Towards a Dazzling Future Air Mobile Brigade 2021-2026 (TDFAMB)' with the blessings of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, and the supervision of the Air Mobile Brigade Commander. The purpose of the TDFAMB 2021 - 2026 is to present a set of strategies to transform the Airmobile Brigade into a fully-fledged force, readily available to bridge the gap between the Infantry and Special Operation Force, groomed with specialised techniques of war fighting and resilient capabilities, to conduct any spectrum of operations.

DFAMB 2021 - 2026 focuses on developing the skills and capacities and upgrading the weapons and equipment of the Airmobile Brigade while ensuring its sustainability under the guidance of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army.

The 'Enduring Core Values' introduced to Air Mobile Brigade with the launch of TDFAMB 2021 - 2026 were



briefed by Major General S U M N Manage WWV RWP RSP psc (present Director General General Staff) General Officer Commanding of 53 Division (Reserve Strike Force) to His Excellency the President during his visit to the Army Headquarters. The core values included Patriotism, Discipline, Loyalty, Integrity, Honour, Knowledge, Courage, Valour, Unity and Commitment.

Practicing the aforementioned core values, presently the troops of the Air Mobile Brigade have lifted their performance into high gear, giving a new facet diversifying into different fields. With all these well-equipped modifications, specially with the expansion of their skills in disaster relief assistance, the Air Mobile Brigade is ready to serve the motherland aptly.

In the events of land slides, floods, rescue operations and bush fires, their contribution helps the nation immensely with the conceptual leadership of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

The Air Mobile Brigade envisages expanding their scope utilising their skills maintaining a close

coordination with Sri Lanka Army Drone Regiment and Sri Lanka Air Force to eradicate illegal drug menace, illicit liquor production, curbing Cannabis cultivation, illegal felling of trees, illegal sand mining etc. securing the Island in all means.

Step by step, day by day, the Air Mobile Brigade is reaching to a dazzling future with new doctrines like Sri Lanka Army Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025 and the Dazzling Future Air Mobile Brigade 2021 - 2026.

"Timely and necessary changes will make a better tomorrow. Air Mobile Brigade of Sri Lanka Army also needs to serve the Nation with their fullest contribution together with skills, technology and competency", stated by the Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander at the inauguration of 'the Dazzling Future Air Mobile Brigade 2021 - 2026' at the Army Headquarters.



By
Captain Nisal Rukshan SLSR
Directorate of Media
Army Headquarters



S/317077 Cpl Abeysinghe
AMMG PWP
Sri Lanka Light Infantry



Brave Hero Who Reinforced the *Thunukkai* Front Line

Ambagahapitiya is a beautiful village located in the Siyambalanduwa Divisional Secretariat in the Monaragala District of the Uva Province.

A M Balappuhamy and R M Punchinona went to the village temple and prayed for the child birth. On 30 January 1982, a male baby boy was born to them making their wishes reality. The young baby boy was named Abeysinghe Mudiyansele Madushanka Priyanath Abeysinghe.

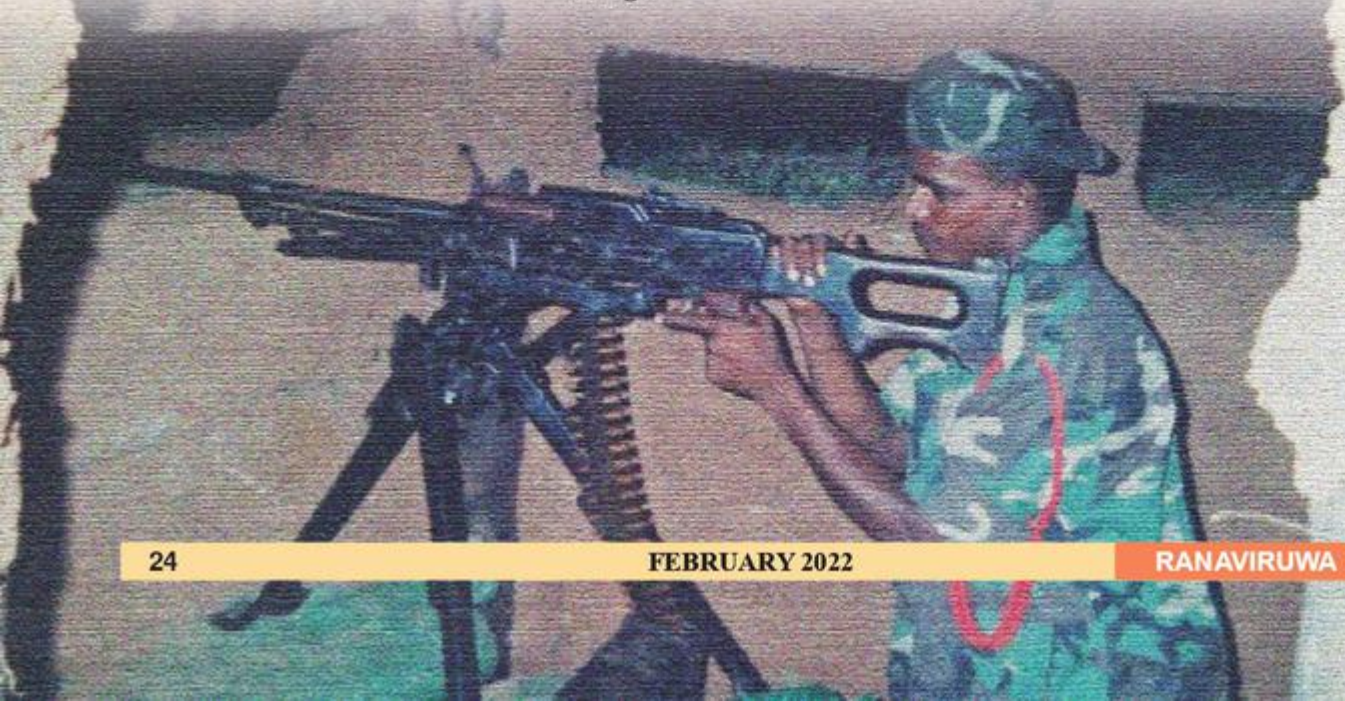
Madhusanka had one older sister. She is Anoma. Asanka and Duminda were his two brothers. The youngest boy in Madushanka's family is Eranga. Madhusanka entered to a school near the village.

It was the Buddhama Maha Vidyalaya located in the Monaragala Educational Division which provided the primary education for the village children.

He lost his father when he was just 7 years old on 08 September 1988 as a result of insurgency prevailed at the time.

The poor mother had to shoulder the family burden at the most difficult time.

As poverty gradually reached the Madusanka's family, his mother determined to find a job to run her family leaving the responsibility of the all children to the eldest family member – Anoma. Madusanka's mother was lucky enough to find a job at Government Hospital,





with Father

Siyambalanduwa and she raised her five children with the little income she received from that job.

Madhusanka, as a growing young man under the Chief Incumbent of the Buddha Raja Maha Viharaya Ven. Panayame Rathanasara was an outstanding character. He was a leader of the every event such as Debate Competitions, Perahera and Poya Day

celebrations. He engaged in small walk of lives to earn something to recover the family burden. Sometimes he was seen working in the paddy land or as a mason as a courageous child. Soon after the termination of schooling, he determined to undertake the family burden to his shoulder. Although he was engaged in various types of walk of lives on temporary basis in the countryside, Madhusanka was driven with the bold feeling to join the Sri Lanka Army. However with the intention to save the country from brutal terrorism he joined Sri Lanka Army on 07 December 2002.

He met Chief Incumbent of the village temple and said "Rev, I am going to join the Army. I came to tell you".

After hearing the patriotic words fallen from the mouth of young lad, the Chief Incumbent tied a pirith string to Madushanka's right hand and blessed him, saying, "Child you have made a good decision to save the country." Young Madhushanka, joined the Sri

Lanka Army Regular Force as a recruit having fullest desire to save the Nation. He was sent to the Army Combat Training School, Konduwatuwana, Ampara to pursue his preliminary training.

He then successfully completed the Recruit Course No. 38 earning a good name among the Officers and instructors of the Training School for his great courage, determination and discipline.

With the successful completion of his recruit training, Madushanka joined the Sri Lanka Light Infantry, which is known as the oldest Regiment in Sri Lanka. Thereafter, he joined the 8 Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry.

Madhusanka Abeysinghe, became a popular soldier of the Battalion and rendered an immense service to his Unit.

The special qualities and sportsmanship that he displayed in his service were strong enough to win the hearts of the other



Madusanka with Family

members. Madhusanka was slowly gaining the military knowledge as a growing leader.

Resultantly, he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal on 31 December 2005 at the Achchuveli Army Camp in the Jaffna Peninsula, fulfilling hopes bloomed in his mind.

Lance Corporal Abeysinghe has been awarded a number of medals in recognition of his service as a hero in the Sri Lanka Army, including Purna Bhumi Padakkama, North and East Operation Medal as a result of his active contribution to the number of Operations.

Lance Corporal Abeysinghe, who completed special infantry training in the Sri Lanka Army, was able to show exceptional skills on the battlefield, setting a great example for his counterparts.

Due to his exceptional skills and talents, he was privileged to represent the Special Forces Infantry Squadron of the 8 Battalion Sri Lanka Light Infantry.

Lance Corporal Abeysinghe played a key role as heroic soldier who was at the forefront line at the Mahavilaru Humanitarian Operation. His sections were always marked the victories achieved.

The heroism exhibited by Lance Corporal Abeysinghe at liberation of Kattaparichchan, Thopur, Periyathampana area, including the captured camp which was known at the time as Vietnam Base, Palampidi Town, Vilathikulam camp and Thunukkai areas is still reminded by his fellow



Madusanka when in Service (Left)

members with great pride.

On 25 July 2008, Lance Corporal Abeysinghe woke up in the early hours in the morning with the intention of fulfilling the entrusted tasks as usual. Liberating the Thunukkai area—a stronghold of separatist terrorists, was not an easy task.

The 8 Infantry Battalion, which had the capability to overcome the difficult challenge at the battleground with the number of victories achieved on the battlefield, was appointed to undertake the task.

The fearsome battle to save the Thunukkai area began. Day and night fell as fast having no notice for anyone engaged in the operation.

The main intention of the team was to destroy the enemy line located 400 meters ahead. Terrorists had set up a series of ditches taking the strong cover from bunkers with a large earth wall in front of an open ground about 1500 meters wide, blocking all accessible roads to strengthen the security of their territory.

Advancing through the defensive line as small groups, Madushanka and his group managed to reach the enemy bunkers and led a surprise attack towards the enemy destroying 07 bunkers.

Lance Corporal Abeysinghe and the team advanced further and was able to see another hidden enemy bunker line. Despite the risk

“My son did not wanted the further studies. He terminated his schooling with the intention to join the Army. He joined the Army at the fierce of War. But I still feel proud when others talk of his heroism.”

- Mother

to his life, he wielded his RPG weapon and launched a massive attack on the enemy bunker line.

Lance Corporal Abeysinghe, who was quick and diligent in his nature victoriously launched a chain of attacks on the enemy and took the battlefield under control.

Terrorist had identified, Corporal Abeysinghe as a threat to their existence. Therefore, they were looking forward an opportunity to escape from him.

At the time Lance Corporal Abeysinghe once again was seriously injured during the attack. Although wounded and blood flowed into ground the War hero did not gave up his battle.

He suddenly with the firmed determination to eliminate the terrorism crawled into the enemy bunkers and throw the grenade inside. The bunker exploded with the War Hero.



Madusanka's Mother

With the event he sacrificed his life as a hero who saved the Nation from brutal terrorism.

Later Lance Corporal Abeysinghe was honoured with 'Parama Veera Vibhushana' by His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for his individual acts of gallantry and conspicuous bravery of the most exceptional order in the face of the enemy performed voluntarily whilst on active service and with no regard to the risk of his own life and security with the objective of safeguarding thereby the lives of his comrades facilitating the operational aim during the humanitarian operation. The medal was awarded to his mother at the Third Victory Parade held at Galle Face on 19 May 2012.

At present the heroic mother of Lance Corporal Abeysinghe, Mrs Punchinona is retired from

the hospital and spends time with her children and grandchildren.

His older sister, Mrs A M Anoma Priyadarshani is married and now a mother of two children. Mr A M Asanka Priyankara is a father of three children. Mr AM Duminda Sudarshana is also a father of two.

"My son did not wanted the further studies. He terminated his schooling with the intention to join the Army. He joined the Army at the fierce of War. But I still feel proud when others talk of his heroism". His

mother said recalling old memories.

The younger brother, A M Madushanka Eranga Niroshana following the footsteps of his brother joined Sri Lanka Navy and he is currently a father of one child.

Mrs Punchinona said it was a privilege to be the mother of such a heroic child when she was reminded her son who had bravely fought with the enemy to liberate Sri Lanka from the terrorism to inherit a free and independent Nation for future generations.

A patriotic son descending from the generation of heroes bade farewell to the Nation but his sacrifices shall forever remain in our hearts.



Extracted from
"Uththamachara" Published by
Army Headquarters

SRIMED IN SOUTH SUDAN UN MISSION RECEIVES HONOURS



Sri Lanka Army has been recognised as a professional and disciplined organisation and has been highly acclaimed by the United Nations peacekeeping missions. In this context, the service of the Sri Lanka Army has been further requested to provide its service to maintain peace and security.

The Republic of South Sudan is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa which has a twelve million population. The ethnic conflict in South Sudan turned into a horrible civil war. The brutal terrorism affected the civil communities causing immense harm. With the raising of inter-communal clashes among the civilians, the United Nations Security Council Resolution brought an amicable settlement to the crisis. The United Nations Missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) is the newest United Nations peacekeeping mission for recently independent South Sudan.

In this scenario, in December 2013 an invitation was received to Sri Lanka from the United Nations Security Council to deploy a contingent in South Sudan. The request was accepted by the then Commander of the Sri Lanka Army General R M D Rathnayake and the then Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development and the present President of Democratic and Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka HE Gotabaya Rajapaksa. At the time, the present Commander of the Army was the Sri Lankan Ambassador and the Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Headquarters, made several visits to Sri Lanka to make arrangements to construct the level II hospital in Bor on the request of South Sudan. Having earned a good name for defeating brutal terrorism in Sri Lanka, the government of South Sudan declared to employ Sri Lankan Armed Forces for the UN Peace Support Operations.

After completion of a ten-day United Nations Pre-Deployment, short course, the troops consisting

of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps, Engineer Services Regiment and Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers left for South Sudan on 04 April 2014 with a team of 12 Officers and 50 Other Ranks commanded by the Commanding Officer of the Level II hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Dr S N Semage, presently the Deputy Director of Directorate of Army Preventive Medicine and Mental Health Services. This well planned medical project was originated under the United Nations mission guidelines.

The SRIMED Level II hospital in Bor South Sudan is well equipped with secondary care medical facilities consisting of operation theatres, labour rooms, Intensive Care Units, Emergency Departments, Out-patient Department, Dental Surgery, Pharmacy, Medical Store, Radiology Unit, Medical Laboratory, ECG room, Sterilising Department, Biomedical Engineering Section, Medical waste disposal section, Freezer mortuary, Isolation ward and other wards, aeromedical evacuation facility with ambulatory resuscitation and ventilation capabilities etc. This new SRIMED Level II hospital in Bor South Sudan was declared open on 25 July 2014 by the Director, Mission Support, UNMISS Ms Stephany Scheer as the Chief Guest and the UNMISS Force Commander Lieutenant General Johanness Tesfamariam, Head of the Mission and Force Commander of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei as the Guest of honour on the occasion.

The Sri Lankan Army troops established this hospital amidst several challenges to cope with the urgent medical requirements. Less availability of infrastructure facilities, broken logistic supply chain, the inability of transportation of cargo, short period to establish a hospital with a limited staff were some of the significant challenges. However, the troops were able to succeed in establishing a professional hospital comprising of medical specialists, medical officers, dentists

and administrative officers to ensure medical services with utmost dedication and commitment. The hospital is entirely maintained by the team of Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps personnel, providing ultra-modern facilities and medical equipment. The Sri Lanka Army installed and provided necessary medical facilities as second-line health care to all UN personnel serving there.

The Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps serving the United Nations Mission in South Sudan Level II hospital received the United Nations peacekeeping medals in 2020 for its high standard medical services, the commitment and professionalism of the staff.

The UN peacekeeping Force Commander Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Thinaikar presented the medals to the Sri Lankan medical staff who are serving in UNMISS Level II hospital. Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Thinaikar and the Head of the United Nations South Sudan Operation Office Ms Deborah Gwen Schein appreciated the dedicated and invaluable service and the commitment of the staff of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps. Moreover, the government of South Sudan has recommended this SRIMED Level II hospital as one of the well-planned and fastest medical projects manned by the Sri Lanka Army. Continuing the service further at the United Nations Missions

in the South Sudan, the eighth batch of professional medical staff and the crew is scheduled to leave for South Sudan in the coming month of July.

The Sri Lanka Army; the Defenders of the Nation is ready to extend its prestigious services on the international floor as a highly professional Army in the world under the exceptional leadership of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lanka Army General Shavendra Silva.



By
Lieutenant
M Katugampola SLAGSC
Directorate of Media

Army School of Logistics Connected with the New IP Communication System

Being one of the highest learning seats of the Sri Lanka Army, the Army School of Logistics has conducted 7 Logistics Staff Courses and produced more than 177 Logistics Staff qualified Officers to the Sri Lanka Army, 04 Officers to the Sri Lanka Navy and 03 Officers to the Sri Lanka Air Force from its inception.

Moreover, Army School of Logistics has produced nearly 13 foreign student Officers from the countries such as Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal and Zambia in past courses. In addition, it has also successfully commenced several other courses inclusive of JOLC, Commissioning of QM Course and Senior Non Commissioned Officers Course.

Army School of Logistics, (ASL) is stepping towards the success and also has been able to come up from its isolation in the field of communication and networking as a result of the vision and the guidance of the Commandant of ASL. On the invention of the Commandant,

the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Signal Corps and the Chief Signal Officer Major General P A J Peries ndu officially launched and handed over the new Internet Protocol (IP) Communication System and connected the EI with the Army Telephone Network on 07 January 2022 at the ASL premises.

The IP Communication System which was originated and produced by Japan in the year 2021 has 200 extension lines and can be upgraded to approximately 1500 lines. In addition to that, it has a number of sophisticated facilities such as speed dialing, capability in the trunk, station hunting, flexible deployment, ability of transparent TDM, IP or Digital voice support and mobility access.

The programme consisted of official handing over of the new IP Communication System with Technical Presentation



and link up EI with Sri Lanka Army Communication network as main occurrence. Under the direct supervision of the Signal Brigade Commander Brigadier G L S W Liyanage, the dream of Army School of Logistics could be materialised by connecting with the basic network system of the Sri Lanka Army.



By Lieutenant
Duminda Senarath SLAGSC
Directorate of Media.

Novel 'Kite Flying' in Jaffna Colours on 'Thai Pongal' Day



An event of kite flying was organised at the Kankesanthurai coastal area on Thai Pongal day (14 January 2022) with the intention to promote the civil military relationship in the region. More than 200 kites produced to the festival with the assistance of the youth members of Jaffna, Ilawaleyi Youth Societies.

Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, Governor of the Northern Province extended his thankfulness for the meticulous coordination rendered by the Sri Lanka Army to host the event in such an attractive manner with the participation of kids and civilians in line with the Hindu Religious day. The event organised under the directions of Major General D G S Senarathayapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) with the coordination of Major General M G W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding 51 Infantry Division along with the participation of Divisional Secretary - Tellippalai, Government Officials, Senior Military Officers and thousands of civilians.



Dry Ration Distribution for Tamil Lady Soldiers



Dry rations were gifted to 108 Tamil soldiers who are in service at Security Forces (Jaffna) Farm by Major General D G S Senarathayapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) in line with the Thai Pongal Day which was felled on 09 January 2022.

Leadership Workshop at SF (Wanni)



A workshop was conducted to educate the Sergeant Majors serving in Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) on 18 and 19 February 2022 regarding leadership qualities.

The educative move was initiated with the directions of Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) and the participation of 110 Warrant Officers. The lectures were conducted by Sergeant Major G G M S Jayaweera USP Sri Lanka Army Headquarters, Sergeant Major D B S Hemachandra (Rtd) Sri Lanka Military Academy Diyatalawa, Sergeant Major K R A Senevirathne (Rtd) on Responsibility and Management Skills of WO II, Discipline and Funeral Procedures. The leadership lecture was conducted by Major General L D S S Liyanage RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division. The certificates and souvenirs for the participants were awarded by General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division.

House Raised for a Courageous War Hero



A new house erected for Mrs Mohanraj Maheswari Asikulam, Vavuniya was vested to the beneficiary by Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) on 14 January 2022.

Senior Officers including Brigadier A M S Premawansa RWP RSP USP Commander 562 Brigade and Other Ranks participated in the event. The financial support for the construction was extended by Mr Mahendraraja Mayuraratan and Mrs Mayurathan. This was the 301 Social Welfare event launched by the Civil Coordinating Office, 56 Infantry Division.

Shelter for a Deserving Family in Polonnaruwa



The foundation stone was laid following the auspicious hours by Colonel N U J S Gunawardna Chief Civil Coordinating Officer, Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) with the participation of Senior Officers including, Lieutenant Colonel H C S Harischandra RWP USP psc IG Commanding Officer 7th Sri Lanka Artillery and Other Ranks.

The financial support for constructions was extended by Mr Nihal Udugama Sooriyage in Australia. The project was or launched under the directions of General Officer Commanding, 23 Infantry Division and the coordination of Brigadier R W P Hewage RWP RSP Commander 233 Infantry Brigade. The house was erected on behalf of Mr P d Wasantha. Technical expertise and manpower was extended by 7th Sri Lanka Artillery.

Commander of 1 Corps Visited an Under Command Formation



Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndc Commander of 1 Corps engaged in a camp visit to 4th Special Forces on 19 January 2022. The Commanding Officer 4th Special Forces warmly welcomed the visiting Commander of 1 Corps. He further addressed the troops during his visit. In line to the same event, the certificates for those who successfully completed the Higher Diploma No 23 was also awarded by Commander of 1 Corps.



Another Phase of "Dhamma Solace for the Soldier Heart" Successfully Concluded

A Buddhist religious observance including observing Sill and Bhodi Pooja took place at Sri Sambhodhi Vihara, Kokilayi with the participation of Officers, Other Ranks and Civil Staff members serving in Units and Infantry Brigades under command to 59 Infantry Division on 17 January 2022.

The religious event was launched following the concept of Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu), Major General G D Sooriyabandara USP General Officer Commanding 59 Infantry Division.

In line with the same event 30 plastic chairs were handed over to Sri Sambhodhi Vihara, Kokilayi by the Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu).

Major General A L Illangakkon Commander Forward Maintenance Area (Mullaitivu) Brigadier W W W P W B R Palamakumbura RWP RSP General Staff Officer and Brigadier U S N K Perera RSP USP Commander 591 Infantry Brigade, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Commander of the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) Visted Battalion Training School



Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) paid a visit to Ambakaman and Puthukudiyiruppu Battalion Training Schools at the invitation of General Officer Commanders of 57 and 68 Infantry Divisions on 11 and 18 January 2022. During the visit he addressed troops and joined the simple tea party.

Major General G R R P Jayawardena RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding of 57 Infantry Division and Major General K R K K T Bandara RSP USP General Officer Commanding of 68 Infantry Division together with the Commanding Offices, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Commander SF (West) Made a Formal Visit to the Army Cantonment Panagoda



Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (West) paid a visit to Army Cantonment, Panagoda on 25 January 2022 to supervise the progression of the observations notified by the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army during his visit to Army Cantonment, Panagoda on 14 January 2022.

During the visit, the Commander Security Forces (West) mainly focused on messing facilities of the Other Ranks of the Regimental Centres, Battalions, Army Physical Training School, Sports Village, School of Army Band Performing Arts, and Army Base Hospital which are located at the Army Cantonment Panagoda.

Consequently, the Commander Security Forces (West) exchanged his views with the Centre Commandant, Commanding Officers, chefs and Other Ranks, inquiring the quality of food, variety and calorie content etc. During the visit he took time off to inspect the cleanliness of the surroundings of the cantonment.



SF (West) Troops Participated in a Noble Task



As per the request made by the Director of Haputale base hospital, Security Forces Headquarters (West) organised a shramadana campaign to clean the hospital premises following the instructions of Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (West) on 03 February 2022 with the participation of the troops of Security Forces (West).

Another shramadana campaign was also launched focusing the Y junction, Diyatalawa town – Haputale to prevent the damage caused by the plastics in line with the 74th Independence Day.



Commander SF (Central) Visited a Green Agriculture Farm



Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central) engaged in a visit to observe the issues of the farmers of "Kandakara Gemunu Farmers" Society in Boralanda, Pitipola Elmarawa who were cultivating Yala season on 02 February 2022.

During the visit he promised to issue the quality carbonic fertiliser for the farmers after the discussion held between them.

Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch

Nestomalt Pvt Ltd took step to provide the refreshment for nearly 7000 Tri-Forces troops, Civil Police and other participants of the rehearsals of 74th National Independence Day celebrations on 04 February 2022

Mrs Chama Wanasinghe, the President of Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch coordinated the charity event and many members of Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch participated in it.



Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch with the objective of finding an alternative for existing hearths began the manufacturing of cookers that could use coconut charcoal on experimental basis.

The inaugural ceremony was held on 14 February 2022 at 4 (V) Sri Lanka Engineers Headquarter premises at Ratmalana.

Mrs Mihiri Herath Chairperson, SLE-SVU, few senior members of Sri Lanka Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch, Senior Officers and Other Ranks participated in the occasion.

Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch

The Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) Seva Vanitha Branch chaired by the chairperson, Mrs Darshani Liyanage was held on 30 January 2022 with the participation of many members. The distribution of scholarships to the students of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment family members that had been granted by the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) at Army Headquarters was also took place during the same occasion.

The Annual General Meeting reviewed past and on-going projects whilst forecasting the future plans. The members of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch also made

a visit to the 'Abhimansala 3' at Pangolla. Deputy Commandant of the SLSR and Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battalion SLSR were among the participants of the day's arrangements.



Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch



The 'Gallant' drinking water bottle production project of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), established at Ingiriya was inaugurated by Major General T J Kodithuwakku, Colonel of the Regiment, SLLI and Deputy Chief of Staff during a simple ceremony held on 12 January 2022 and handed over ceremonially to the Shiromala Kodithuwakku the President, Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch.

Soon after the inauguration, scholarships were granted to the students of Sri Lanka Light Infantry families who marked academic excellence in Grade 5 scholarships in 2001 with the participation of the President, Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch. In line with the same event, the school items were donated for the students of the Civil Staff members who are working in the 'Gallant' Bakery to support the education of their children by President Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch and members. Senior Officers and several Other Ranks attended the occasion.

Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch



The Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch, headed by Mrs Geetha Athukorala has stepped forward to extend medical assistance, worth of Rs 5000.00 monthly for a period of one year to two ailing daughters of a Gemunu Watch soldier for their medical treatment. The President, and members of the Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Unit visited the soldier's house along with some essential school stationeries on 04 January 2022. Further, they handed over a dry ration parcel, worth about Rs 20,000.00 for their use.

A programme of distributing school items was held for 247 students of 79 Ranaviru and Civil Staff families under the conceptual guidance of Mrs Geetha Athukorala, Chairperson in the Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch.

During the first phase of the above programme, 56 students of Civil Staff received the books and school equipment for the year 2022 at District Secretariat Office, Galle.



Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

The Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch conducted a programme to offer a hearty lunch to the residents of Warusavithana Elders' Home at Thalgasgoda, Ambalangoda on 29 January 2022. During this programme, 18 adults were provided with meals, adhering to health guidelines. Mrs Manori Sallay, Chairperson, MIC-SVU gave necessary directions to conduct the event.



Sri Lanka Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch

The first lecture of a series of workshops organised under the theme "Identify the Higher Education Opportunities" was held for the students who follow biology for their Advance Level on 27 January 2022 at the Regimental Conference Hall. This had been conducted virtually under the supervision of Deepika Prashanthini Chandrsena, the President Sri Lanka Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch. The lecture was conducted by Mrs Nuwanthi Katuwawalahe spouse of Major A M A S Alugolla Commanding Officer, 11 Sri Lanka Corps of Engineer Services.



Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch

The Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch recently conducted a few special programmes, including a Bodhi Pooja, donation of school accessories and uniforms under the patronage of Mrs Nandani Samarakoon, President Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch on 4 February 2022.

A Bodhi Pooja was conducted at Sri Daladaramaya, Saliyapura with the participation of Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Colonel Commandant Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME), Mrs Nandani Samarakoon Chairperson, Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch and members of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch.



Similarly, the donation of school accessories and uniforms to 334 children of serving SLEME troops and Civil Staff was held at the 5 SLEME Regimental Headquarters in Jayapura on 5 February 2022. Also an electric wheelchair to a needy kid of a soldier's family, worth about Rs 280,000.00 was also donated on the same day by the Colonel Commandant, SLEME as a part of its welfare role.

Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



The Annual General Meeting of Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch was held on 08 February 2022. Mrs Eranga Hewawasam Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch graced the event as the Chief Guest. The new office was declared open lighting the traditional oil lamp by the Chief Guest of the event. Newly appointed members of the Sri Lanka Army General Services Corps Seva Vanitha Branch assumed duties of their new positions. Mid-day meal, scholarships and crutch for differently abled family member of a War Hero were also granted during the segments of the charming event.

Sri Lanka Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch



Local Paddy Harvesting Festival was held at the Aralaganwila Agricultural Training School under the theme 'Prosperity for the Motherland' on 19 February 2022 under the patronage of Mrs Shanthi Abeysekara President, Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch. Swayanjata paddy seeds were donated at the same event by President Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch to Commanding Officer 3 Corps of Agriculture and Livestock. The objective of this project is to encourage all members to provide a nutritious meal with medicinal properties.

Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch



An event of granting the scholarships and bank passbooks for the students who excelled at the Grade 5 scholarship in 2001 was organised by Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch at the Conference Hall, Heraliyawatta. The event was held on 30 January 2022 with the participation of Mrs Janaki Liyanage the President of Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch. Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch members and beneficiaries attended the occasion.

New Army Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop Declared Open at Ranaviru Sewana

A new Army Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop under the 'Ranaviru Sevana-Ragama' administrated by Directorate of Rehabilitation solely established for the differently abled War Heroes and their relatives who are suffering from the physical disability caused due to the war injury, was declared open on 02 February 2022. The service of the newly established Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop can be obtained by the military personnel of Tri Forces, Police and Civil Security Department.

The workshop is scheduled to be held at field workshop with the assistance of Bhagawan Mahaweer Prosthetics and Orthotics Institute, Jayipoor over 35 days at 'Ranaviru Sevana- Ragama with the initiative of the Sri Lanka Ministry of Defence and Indian High Commission.

Hon Chamal Rajapaksa, State Minister Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management, Indian High Commissioner, Major General J M C B Ekanayaka RWP RSP psc (Rtd) Director of Veteran Affairs Authority, Major General Nandana Senadheera WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc (Rtd) Chairperson together with the Tri Forces, Police and members of Civil Security Department participated in the event.



Method of Instructions Course No. 54 Concluded



Another Course organised to improve the instructing skills of Corporals, Lance Corporals and Privates to uplift the military career was successfully concluded on 31 January 2022 at Combat Training School, Ampara. 234 Other Ranks from Regular and Volunteer Forces participated in the course. The troop address was conducted by Brigadier Roshan Jayamanna RWP Commandant, Combat Training School.

Educative Event at 1 Corps Headquarters



An educative programme on the services rendered by the Directorate of Benevolent Fund was held on 08 February 2022 for the Officers and Other Ranks who are serving at 53 Infantry Division, Commando Regiment Headquarters and Special Forces Headquarters.

03 Officers and 98 Other Ranks were physically attended while 85 Other Ranks virtually participated in the event.



The **Battleship** which fought till its last **Shell**

At the beginning of World War II, the most powerful and the very first full-scale warship in Europe was none other than the Battleship 'KMS Bismarck' which was built by the German war veterans during that Era.

Soon after its commission in 1940, it posed a lethal threat to both the British Navy and allied shipping. It was the most formidable warship in Europe.

Three years before the commencement of World War II the very first pieces of the ship were laid down for its construction.

However, Nazi Authorities

were understood that the ship was seaworthy and there was no harm of sailing the ship. Therefore it was officially launched at a grand ceremony in remembrance of the Prussian Chancellor who unified Germany, Otto Von Bismarck.

This most powerful ship was built up to a 824 feet in length similar to the capacity of three football fields and it was more powerful than any other battleships that the British Royal Navy Had. Moreover nearly 2000 personnel inclusive of German Sailors and naval Officers lived and worked on the ship. It had thick



By
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armor plate and 15 inches wide massive artillery guns installed in it.

Moreover, the Naval Authorities of the British and American knew that the Bismarck was a formidable threat to their supply lines in the Atlantic Ocean.

Also, the German Authorities painted a giant Swastika on the deck of the ship before its maiden voyage. Meanwhile the legendary Flagship of Great Britain, which was also known as the HMS Hood was sunk in a heavy exchange of artillery shells during a battle with the great Bismarck.

It caused the British to spend each and every shell which they had to chase down the new enemy gradually culminating in an epic battle between the lonely Bismarck and the entire fleet of the British Atlantic Navy.

The submarines which patrolled in the Atlantic Ocean, was named by the Nazi's as U-Boats that were the primary weapon of the German Navy.

The main task of these U-Boats were destroying the enemy ships of British Royal Navy and the allies which were bringing the supplies inclusive of oil, shells, weapons, Food and medicines for the troops with the intention of starve Britain in to surrender. The main target of the Bismarck was to launch sudden attacks on the ships and flee away into the large ocean.

Because at that time, the Germans did not want to open a direct combat with the warships of British Royal Navy. The reason behind this was that the Germans understood that the KMS Bismarck was the most powerful battleship in Europe though the Great Britain still had the largest Navy.

The U-Boats which patrolled the North Atlantic Ocean, launched a dozen torpedoes

when they spotted an enemy ship with supplies.

Accordingly on the 18 May 1941 the Battleship Bismarck was accompanied by another small cruiser named 'Prince Eugen' and dispatched for a secret mission called 'Operation Rheinübung'. Both the ships were headed towards Iceland after they got refueled from the German occupied Norway.

When the both ships were on the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, they were spotted by the spy boats of the British Royal Navy. Soon after, the British Royal Navy was alarmed that the 'Great Bismarck' was with another ship in the sea waters of Iceland. Britain responded immediately.

As a result, the largest ship in the British Fleet which was known as HMS Hood along with another battleship belongs to the British Navy appeared. HMS Prince of Wales were soon dispatched to deal with the KMS Bismarck.

However, at that time the most serious challenger to the 'Bismarck' was the HMS Hood of the British

Royal Navy. HMS Hood was completed in 1920 and it also had the similar Artillery Guns with calibre of 15 Inch.

Accordingly 1500 sailors along with the British Naval Officers worked in the Heavy Artillery Vessel and it could reach the maximum speed of 30 Knots per hour. However, compared to the Battleship Bismarck, HMS Hood was showing her age because she was 20 years older than Bismarck.

There was another disadvantage for the British Navy that there were many important differences between the rival ships such as the HMS Hood was not a Battleship technically but it was a Battlecruiser. Also on the Decks of the 'Hood' there was only less protective armor established due to gaining of maximum speed.

Also the Battleship Bismarck had another advantage of having more advanced weaponry inclusive of much more powerful Artillery Guns with an advanced calibre compared to the HMS Hood.

The HMS Prince of Wales, which came along with the HMS Hood for her assistance,



was modern, but had the disadvantage of being a much smaller Battleship.

KMS Bismarck was commanded by the Admiral Gunther Lütjens of German Navy. On their way to the Atlantic Ocean, between Iceland and Greenland, they faced the unexpected strike with the interception of the HMS Hood and Prince of Wales.

The two British ships first opened fire approximately 13 nautical miles away from the Bismarck. During the heavy exchange of Artillery Fire in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean a few shells which fired from both British ships managed to hit Bismarck.

Also Bismarck and the HMS Hood traded thundering blows from their heavy artillery guns for several hours. Simultaneously, a few rounds of artillery shells which fired from the HMS Prince of Wales was hit on the fuel tanks of the Bismarck and caused a massive leak of oil from the Ship.

However while being able to approach another 9 nautical miles towards two British Ships, the Germans started firing heavy artillery aiming the HMS Hood.

In the second round of artillery fire from the Bismarck, was able to pierce the armored deck which caused a massive explosion on the detonating stores of the ammunition beneath.

However this caused a massive impact on HMS Hood after it was cracked in half and started sinking after

a great explosion.

This explosion also launched a massive column of fire up to 600 feet up in the air. At the time HMS Hood buckled and broke into the sailors and the Officers of the Prince of Wales which came for the assistance of HMS Hood felt the huge concussion.

Apart from the 1,421 members of the crew of HMS Hood were pulled out of the water. Also the 'Prince of Wales', was able to escape the battle after fleeing away while suffering with minor damages.

However, this incident eventually culminated in an epic battle between the entire power of the British Atlantic Navy and the lonely Bismarck. Accordingly, the British came to know about the disaster of their signature ship of their pride.

They were so eager to throw all the available battleships and other sources for the pursuit and sink the Battleship Bismarck while the entire crew of Bismarck were celebrating their victory over HMS Hood.

Meanwhile numerous cruisers and destroyers were soon dispatched for the search of the German Ship. It was initially unable to spot any trace of the ship as the Radio transmissions of the ship was powerful.

But at one point, after noticing the oil patches left on the surface of the Sea, the Bismarck which was about 700 miles away from the French coast was spotted on the 27 May 1941 by a flying

boat belonging to the British Royal Navy.

Soon after the location of the Bismarck was discovered, it was subjected to a target for number of air assaults by the British Biplanes (Fixed wing aircraft with two main wings stacked one above the other) and some of the torpedo hit and landed.

But unfortunately one of the torpedoes which hit the Bismarck, caused a jam on its rudder and eventually the ship was stuck in the Ocean. Also it was unable to move or steer due to the heavy impact on its rudder. The Ship Bismarck was surrounded and subjected to massive artillery fire from British Warships inclusive of Battleships King George and Rodney. The artillery shells fired 12 miles away from the Battleship King George and the incident hit the Bismarck.

The heavy artillery guns of the Bismarck were unable to return fire due to the impact. After the British and allies Battleships were understood that the Bismarck couldn't fire their heavy guns any more.

The Battleship Bismarck was subject to another few rounds of artillery shells fired from the Battleships 'King George' and 'Rodney'.

As a result of this, Bismarck started to sink and only 118 sailors of the sinking German ship was survived as they were later picked up by the British Ships.

The wreck of the German Battleship 'KMS Bismarck' was later discovered in 1989.

Workshop to Improve the Leadership Qualities



A two day training workshop was conducted for newly appointed school prefects on Leadership Qualities under the supervision of Commander 143 Infantry Brigade with the guidance of Second in Command, 16 Gajaba Battalion on 28 and 29 February 2022 at the Primary School, Nattandiya, Mattakotuwa, Chilaw.

The workshop was consisted of a series of activities that covered different aspects of leadership, team spirit, values, ethics in the society. The group and leisure activities were included in the workshop to

develop team spirit among the peers.

Two day training workshop was successfully concluded with an amazing campfire held on the last day of the programme. The task was successfully reached its end under the guidance and direction of the Commander of the Security Forces (West) and General Officer Commanding 14 Infantry Division.

Educational Session on Military Tactics



An educational programme was launched with the intention to educate the Non-Commissioned Officers in the 65 Infantry Division Headquarters on 24 January 2022 following the instructions of the Commander of the Security Forces (Wanni) and supervision of the General Officer Commanding 65 Infantry Division. The course covered the subject areas including map-reading, basic military training, internal defence duties, pursuit, ambush, leadership, weapon training, practical and

theoretical aspects in International Humanitarian Law, and Human Rights.

The programme was attended by 45 Non-Commissioned Officers representing each division deployed in Wanni area. The duration of the course was 06 days. The inaugural troop address of the programme was delivered by Major General K A Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc Commander, 65 Infantry Division.

Basketball Tournament to Strengthen the Goodwill among the Troops



Following the guidance of Commander C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (Wanni), a Basketball Tournament was held on 14, 15, and 17 December 2021 at the basketball court at Security Forces Headquarters (Wanni) with the intention of promoting the goodwill among the members serving in the Security Forces (Wanni) area.

The 21 Infantry Division and the 54 Infantry Division Basketball Teams were qualified for the finals and the 54 Infantry Division secured

the victory of the tournament. The awarding ceremony was grandly held and Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The 54 Infantry Division won the championship and the 21 Infantry Division nominated as the runner-up. The best shooter was S/7T100346 Dilshan H A S and Best Player award was won by S/516145 WO II Atthanayake A M P K.

Military Tactics Refresher Course No. 02 Commenced at Battalion Training School, Mulankavil



On the instructions of Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) and Major General K A Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc Commander, 65 Infantry Division, Military Tactics Refresher Course No 02 was commenced with the intention to educate the Non-Commissioned Officers deployed in 21, 54, 56, 62 and 65 Infantry Divisions at Battalion Training School, Mulankavil on January 2022. The second phase was held from 07 to 12 January 2022 with the participation of 90 Non-Commissioned Officers.

The course covered the subject areas including map-reading, basic military training, internal defence duties, pursuit, ambush, leadership, weapon training, practical and theoretical aspects in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

The final session of the course was held on 13 February 2022 with the participation of Brigadier K M W Bandara RSP Commander 651 Brigade.

Programme on Agriculture at 21 Infantry Division



An awareness workshop on green agriculture which was organised by the 21 Infantry Division was held on 02 February 2022 at the 21 Infantry Division Headquarters premises. The programme was attended by 225 participants who are involved in agricultural projects conducted by the Anuradhapura Divisional Secretariat. 145 civilians representing the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Agrarian Services Department, 80 Army Officers and Other Ranks together with members of the Civil Security Department participated in the event.

The event was included with the lectures on "Green Agriculture Projects" and "How to Produce Organic Fertiliser?" along with the practical training session by subject matter experts of the Department of Agriculture.

Major General W R M M Ratnayake RWP RSP USP ndu General Officer Commanding, 21 Infantry Division and Mr J M J K Jayasundara District Secretary, Anuradhapura graced the occasion as the Chief Guests to the educative event.

The Thambapanni Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya Vested for the Public

Full facilitated Thambapanni Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya, which was built under the patronage of Mahavilachchiya Ven Vimala Thero fulfilling a long-standing requirement of Vijayarama Sinhala Village, located in the Area of Responsible of 8 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment, was declared open on 30 January 2022.

This charity project which was carried out under the direction of General Officer Commanding 54 Infantry Division, was closely supervised by Commander 542 Infantry Brigade. The manpower was extended by the troops of the division and financial support was provided by Sisu Sevana organisation of Mr Kosala Pattinige. In parallel to this programme, 160 bags of 05 kg rice were distributed among 160 selected low income families residing in Sinhala Wijayarama, Kondachchi Nayakkuli and Kondachchi villages. Many government Officials, security and reputed personnel, including the Chief Incumbent of the Gnanathikabhidhana Mirisawetiya Vihara attended the event.





Healthy Ways To Take Control Of **Your PTSD Anxiety**

If you're someone struggling with PTSD Anxiety this article is for you.

With often intense and frequent symptoms, this condition could make anyone rely on unhealthy coping mechanisms like drug abuse or alcoholism.

Luckily for you, there are also many healthy ways to help these intense anxiety episodes much more tolerable. Let's take a look;

Deep Breathing

It sounds way too simple, but the truth is, many of us don't know how to breathe properly.

Natural breathing involves your diaphragm, a large muscle in your abdomen. When you breathe in, your stomach should expand. When you breathe out, your stomach should fall.

People often just use their chest and shoulders instead that causes short and shallow breaths, which can increase stress and anxiety.

Fortunately, it is quite possible to re-learn how to breathe deeply from your diaphragm and help protect yourself from

stress. Practice deep breathing or diaphragmatic breathing with helpful guides on Youtube/Google.

Progressive Muscle Relaxation

This technique focuses on alternative tensing and relaxing of different muscle groups in our body.

It models a pendulum, where our body is used to reach both extremes, of ultimate tension and relaxation. You would first tense your muscles throughout the body, and then relax them.

With frequent practice, your body could learn to relax tensed muscles, all on its own. Since tensed muscles are a common symptom of stress and anxiety, this could be highly beneficial.

Mindfulness

As a Buddhist country, we have all heard of mindfulness for ages. But it's not only for the religious anymore. It's a scientifically proven method to relieve stress and anxiety and can be the missing block to unlocking your calm in life.

From anxiety to depression, mindfulness or being present in the moment can bring so many things into perspective and help you take control of things you can change right here, and now.

Social Support

Humans are social creatures, so it goes without saying that we do need other people in our lives no matter what the situation is. Having someone you can open up to without being judged

or treated differently, can be very helpful in overcoming the negative effects of PTSD.

While support is crucial, additional steps and techniques for managing the condition could also help, which is why a support group led by a mental health professional is always a better option.

Expressive-Writing

Using journaling to express your thoughts and feelings could help relieve a lot of the stress and emotion pent up inside you. Doing this as a reflective practice at the end of each day, can really help you understand what's going on in your mind as well. It's also related to lowered levels of tension and anger along with improved coping capacity in PTSD patients.

Behavioural Activation

PTSD anxiety and depression can stop you from doing certain

things you used to enjoy like meeting friends and family, engaging in a sport etc. But this step makes you stick to a schedule and include activities you tend to miss in your day-to-day life. It's designed to increase positively rewarding activities in your day, especially when you're feeling down or anxious. It teaches that your behaviour can affect your mood too, which will help manage intense emotions later.

Self-Soothing

No matter what technique or steps we use, it all becomes useless if we're not practicing proper self-care. Simply put, self-soothing is being kind to yourself. PTSD is a difficult thing to live with and it's important that you're kind to yourself and do not engage in self-blaming. Telling yourself that it is ok to feel every intense emotion you're feeling could help calm you down and manage anxiety.

It's also important to know what will make you feel better after an episode, it could be something as simple as having some ice cream, spending time with your kids, or listening to a song. Remember that each of these small steps is what will help you overcome it in the long run.

Try to use each of these steps at least once in your day, and you'll see a difference in how you're feeling soon enough. Nothing is impossible and it only takes faith in yourself and taking small steps in the right direction.



*By Mrs Shanika Fernando
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Gold Medalist at the International Kickboxing Championships Facilitated

Ganesh Indrakadevi, a student of Karipaddamurippu Government Tamil Mixed School who won a gold medal at the International Kickboxing Championships in Lahore, Pakistan was welcomed with a line of motorcade on 01 February 2022 at the school premises.

The event took place at Karipaddamurippu Government Tamil Mixed School with the participation of Major General G D Sooriyabandara USP General Officer Commanding 59 Infantry Division, Brigadier General Staff Officer Brigadier W M W B R Palamkumbura RWP RSP Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu).

The event was organised by 23 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment following the directions of Colonel G D S M Alwis RWP RSP 642 Infantry Brigade.



Joint Workshop at Regimental Headquarters of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment



Following a concept of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Director of Rehabilitation and Welfare conducted a workshop for War Heroes who have retired due to injuries sustained in non-operational active service and medical conditions in the Kegalle District at the Regimental Headquarters, Sri Lanka Sinha on 26 January 2022.

The event was conducted with the participation of Directorate of Personnel Administration,



Directorate of Pay and Records, Directorate of Medical Services, Directorate of Welfare, Directorate of Veteran Affairs, Directorate of Legal Services, Directorate of Benevolent Fund, Directorate of Ranaviru Sevana Medical Staff and Prosthetics and Orthotics representatives. Brigadier I H M T H Senaratne USP Director of Rehabilitation Brigadier G D A G Senadheera USP Deputy Director of Rehabilitation and Officers of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment were also present the occasion.

Assisting the Education of Jaffna Students

Under the supervision of Major General M G W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndc psc General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division school items and stationeries were gifted to 50 school children on 09 January 2022.

The financial assistance for the charity event was extended by Officers including Lieutenant Colonel NU Liyanarachchi IG and Other Ranks of 10 Artillery Regiment, in line with the 25th Anniversary of the 10 Artillery Regiment.



Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu, Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) graced the event as the Chief Guest together with the Divisional Secretary of the area, Brigadier General Staff Officer and public Officers.

Series of Programmes in line with 74th National Independence Day



The 20 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment launched a tree planting campaign to coincide with the 74th Independence Day. Commander, 662 Infantry



Brigade also distributed wheelchairs to two disabled children from two deprived families in the area at the invitation of the Commander of the Unit.

Distributing Programme at Sri Dharmarama Viharaya, Mangalagama



A programme to distribute baby items parcels each worth of Rs 10,000.00 among 60 pregnant mothers of selected low-income families living in the Gemunupura Grama Niladhari Division in the area under command to 11 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment was held on 02 February 2022 at the Sri Dharmarama Viharaya, Mangalagama.

Commander Security Forces (East), General Officer Commanding 12 Infantry Division and Commanding Officer of 11 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment were present at the occasion. The financial donation was extended by lecturer Ms Dulanji Chamalka.

Newly Erected House Donated to a Deserving Family

A newly erected house with the supervision and direction of Brigadier A M S Premawansa RWP RSP USP Commander 562 Infantry Brigade was vested to Mrs Mohanraj Manohari resided in 244 Asikulam Grama Niladhari Division on 14 January 2022. The financial assistance for the house was extended by Mr Mahendraraja Mayurathan, Director Safety Credit and Safety Gun care. Troops of the 17 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment provided manpower for the construction.



Donation of a Wheelchair to Mukulugaswewa Hospital

Major General K P S A Fernando RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding 53 Infantry Division donated a wheelchair to the Medical Staff of the Primary Hospital, Devahoowa in Makulugaswewa Grama Niladhari Division on 07 January 2022. The event was coordinated by the Civil Coordinating Officer of 53 Infantry Division.

SLAVF Deputy Commandant Visited 5 (V) Gajaba Regiment



Major General J D C G Jayasinghe KSP KSV Deputy Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force Headquarters visited 5 (V) Gajaba Regiment on 16 January 2022.

12th Anniversary of 11 Infantry Division



The 12th Anniversary of the 11 Infantry Division Headquarters was celebrated on 15 February 2022. Series of programmes including religious activities were taken place simultaneously under the patronage of Major General P S K Sanjeeva RWP RSP General Officer Commanding 11 Infantry

Division. The event which was inaugurated with a milky food pooja to the Sri Dalanda Maligawa (Temple of Tooth Relic) Kandy was included with Guard Turnout, lunch and musical show. All ranks of the division rallied together for the anniversary celebrations.

Aid for Early Childhood Development Centre



On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (1 SLAGSC), Lieutenant Colonel C S Demuni, Commanding Officer visited the Detachment located in Kantale on 1 January 2022. School equipment, sanitary ware, ceiling fans for the pre-school and lunch were provided to 32 children studying at the Samanala Early Childhood Development Centre which was erected with the manpower of the 1 SLAGSC. The event was sponsored by the Sentinel Lions Club, Colombo.

New House from the Army for a Courageous Family

A new house was donated to Mrs Deepika Sanjeevani resided at 214G, Munnimuruppu Grama Niladhari Division Vavuniya. The charity event was funded by the People's Bank Buddhist Association under the coordination and supervision of Brigadier A M S Premawansa RWP RSP USP Commander, 562 Infantry Brigade. Troops of 17 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment provided manpower for the construction of the house.



Generous Aid from Sri Lanka Army for the Education

Under the direction of Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu), a charity programme of donating sport items and vouchers to schools located in the 682 Infantry Brigade area under command to Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) was held at 682 Infantry Brigade Conference Hall on 08 February 2022. The event took place with the patronage of Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander of the Security Forces (Mullaitivu). He was accompanied by Major General K R K K T Bandara RSP USP General Officer Commanding 68 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier H C L Galappatti RSP USP Commander, 681 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier N D P Gunasinghe, Mr P Thamilmaran, Director of Education (Mullaitivu) and Mr R G Prajalitha Pushpakumara, Head of JSBCLLC Dubai and Fitness Place Institute, Matale.



The sponsorship of the sport items was provided by the Head of JSBCLLC Dubai and Fitness Place Institute. Sindu Multi Selection Institute in Pudukuduirippu also presented gift vouchers worth Rs 3000.00 each to all the teachers attended the event.

Reviewing the present course curriculum of the Signal School, a Diploma in Information Technology equivalent to NVQ Level 5 was introduced by the Signal School in collaboration with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in line with the "Sri Lanka Army Way forward Strategy 2020 - 2025".

The inaugural ceremony of the first Diploma in Information Technology Course launched with the approval of the Army Training Command and the Directorate of Training on 07 February 2022 at the Signal Training School.

The event which was hosted with the participation of Major General P Peiris ndu Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Signal Corps and Chief Signal Officer of the Sri Lanka Army was graced by Mr Udeni Wickramasinghe, Chairperson of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission as the Chief Guest of the event.

This Diploma was introduced to develop ICT skills of the Officers and Other Ranks to effectively employ them as ICT professionals to meet the

Diploma in IT Commenced at Signal School



future challenges of the SL Army. The six-month course provides extensive knowledge on technical as well as employment matters.

Eye Clinic at 57 Infantry Division

Under the guidance of the General Officer Commanding 57 Infantry Division, an Eye Clinic was conducted with the supervision of Brigadier K P C M H Gamlath RSP USP Commander 571 Infantry Brigade on 22 January 2022. The event was coordinated by Indika Thilakawewa, Executive Officer, Mohan Samarasingha Junior Executive Officer of Commercial Bank and My Vision Anuradhapura. Accordingly, 165 civilians living in the area under command to the 7 Sri Lanka Light Infantry and 9 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment were benefited.



Leadership Workshop at Battalion Training School

A team building and leadership training programme was conducted on 23 January 2022 at the 59 Infantry Battalion Training School with the objective of enhancing the personal capabilities of the Officers and Other Ranks of 5 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment.



Strength for the Education

A programme to distribute gift parcels among 94 children studying in Karipaddamuruppu and Thanduwan Government Tamil Schools was held on 20 January 2022 with the patronage of Colonel P S M Alwis RWP RSP Commander 642 Infantry Brigade.





Noble Gift

I have only one more day remaining. Tomorrow will be the day for the departure. Thereafter I will be fulfilling my paramount ambition. However, I'm still unable to understand this feeling of emptiness in my heart. Have I neglected any kind of duty that I should have performed? What is it that is bothering my mind like this?

"My Lord....May I come in?"

While awakening from the stream of thoughts, I looked at the one who called. "Maithree....come and take a seat."

He sat beside me, looking earnestly at my face.

"Varuna has already

announced your arrival. I hope you know." He said. "Yes I'm aware...the time has finally come it seems..." I smiled at him. "Yes it has... Are you ready?"

"Not yet"

He looked surprised. "What? You know now is the time, then why?"

"I feel like something is bothering my mind. It seems like I haven't fully performed my duty yet." I answered.

"What is it?"

"I have no idea..." I replied and came out of the room to the balcony.

The surrounding was too peaceful and relaxing, exactly the opposite of

what I was feeling inside. The fragrance of Madara entered my nostrils while enchanting my body and mind. It brought back the memories of her. The same enchanting fragrance was always there with her. I could still remember the calm and quiet look that I saw on her beautiful face yesterday. What was she actually writing? Why did she hesitate to show that to me? I could still remember the conversation that took place.

"My Lord, you are here..." She looked at me while putting away the quill and the paper. I sat on the couch next to her and asked for the paper in her hand.

"No you cannot look at it

yet...I will show you later." She said. I asked for the reason.

"I will give it to you later." She repeated smiling at me. "I want to see it now" I said trying to sound mischievous. "No way, later"

"Shall I go back then?" I asked with an unhappy face.

"Alright." She took the paper and the quill back without paying any attention to me.

I could not understand her actions. She has never done that before. Was she hurt? or was she deliberately trying to detach herself from me? She has always been loyal and affectionate. I could still remember how she was trying to do every possible thing for my happiness. She reads, plays the sitar, makes me laugh, accompanies me wherever I want. At times she would dance for me, although she could find thousands of dancers to perform the task without exerting herself. What is this sudden change? Nevertheless, she knows about our fate. I took a deep breath.

"My Lord, they have come to bid farewell."

I went back to the room. Maithree and the others knelt down and put their hands together. All of them were there except her, I noticed suddenly. Nevertheless, I smiled at them and asked them to take leave of me.

"Your Majesty, pardon us, the time has arrived for you to achieve your great ambition. Therefore we invite you to fulfill your wish. Please show us the right path to gain the eternal freedom."

"All of you please rise" I said kindly.

"Your Majesty, we hope you have already looked for the things that you should consider before going." Varuna asked with a melancholy tone. He was the youngest and the most naïve of them all.

"Yes I have. I will inform tomorrow. There is no need to feel unhappy. I will be coming back to see you all. You know that don't you?" I replied while caressing his hair.

He shook his head. Tears fell from his tiny eyes.

"Look here you bad boy, there's no need to weep. I consoled him. "Not only me" he looked down.

"Who else then?" I asked earnestly. "Her Highness..."

His tears were unstoppable. I wiped them away.

"While I'm away be obedient to Lord Maithree." I advised him and turned to the others. "I appoint Lord Maithree to be the leader after my departure. He will take care of you all. Follow his orders and continue doing meritorious acts." I said tenderly.

"We shall obey your orders your majesty. Please do take care of yourself until you reach your destination. Our blessings will always be with you," they all chanted politely and went out.

"Maithree, I think I should meet Devi" I came out and headed directly to the lotus palace. I heard the melancholy tune of her sitar before I entered her room.

"Devi, why didn't you come?" I asked immediately. "I was expecting you." She put the sitar away and sat down near my feet.

"I felt like I couldn't send you away this early." Her tears renewed.

"What? You know we will be seeing each other very soon. After all, it is our destiny." I took her hand.

"I know. However, there will be no happy ending for the story of our lives." She took a deep breath.

I stood up and started walking back and forth. She was still there with her eyes closed. "Do you regret your choice?" I felt my voice sinking.

"Santhusitha...stop right there..." She came to me immediately and took my hand.

"If I'm regretting my choice, I would not ask for your life back that day." She reminded me of one of our previous births.

"I know. No need to remind yourself of that painful experience." I touched her hair gently. "Let me repay your affection and loyalty back. I will repay you in a way like no other husband could ever think of." I promised.

"This is my farewell gift for you." She gave me a piece of paper. There was a picture of a swan, beautifully drawn.

I looked at her confidently. The eternal freedom from all the worldly sufferings will be the only noble gift that I could give her. I smiled gently as I bade farewell to her.



By Captain JGMRPJ Kumarihami
SLAGSC
Army War College - Buttala

Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Major General
M E P Weerasinghe USP ato**
assumed the duties
as the Commander
Forward Maintenance Area
(North/East)
on 21 January 2022



**Major General
S N Samarawickrama KSP**
assumed the duties as the
Deputy Commandant
Sri Lanka Army
Volunteer Force
on 21 February 2022



**Brigadier
J A R S K Jayasekara USP psc**
assumed the duties as
the Director
Sri Lanka Electrical and
Mechanical Engineering
on 23 February 2022



**Brigadier
C S Dissanayeke ato**
assumed the duties as
the Brigadier (Admin/
Quart) of Security Force
Headquarters (Mullaitivu)
on 24 January 2022



**Brigadier
K L S S Liyanagama
RWP RSP**
assumed the duties as the
Director
Directorate of Movement
on 17 December 2021



**Brigadier
S C Ekanayake RSP**
assumed the duties as the
Director
Directorate of
Rehabilitation
on 07 February 2022



**Brigadier
D R N Hettiarachchi RWP
RSP USP**
assumed the duties as
the Director
Directorate of Real Estate
and Quartering
on 07 February 2022



**Brigadier
E A D K Edirisinghe**
assumed the duties as the
Centre Commandant
Corps of Engineer Services
on 15 February 2022



**Brigadier
L G B Kariyawasam RWP RSP
USP**
assumed the duties as the
Commander
612 Infantry Brigade
on 17 February 2022



**Colonel
N A S N Nanumarachchi**
assumed the duties as the
Brigadier (Admin/Quart)
Security Forces (Central)
on 20 January 2022



**Colonel
N D P Gunatunga**
assumed the duties as the
Commander
681 Infantry Brigade
on 03 February 2022



**Colonel
B M S K K Dharmawardena
RWP RSP USP**
assumed the duties as
the Centre Commandant,
Commando Regimental
Centre
on 25 January 2022



**Colonel
MR Razick RSP**
assumed the duties as the
Commander 513 Infantry
Brigade
on 17 February 2022



**Colonel
JMA Jayasekera RSP USP**
assumed the duties as
the Colonel Movement
Directorate of Movement
on 22 November 2021



**Colonel
KAD CR Kannangara RSP**
assumed the duties as the
Commandant
Sri Lanka Army Physical
Training School
on 10 February 2022



**Colonel
AKCS de Silva RSP**
assumed the duties as
the Commanding Officer
Combat Training School,
Amapra
on 17 February 2022



**Colonel
WKSP MRAB Dodamwela
psc**
assumed the duties as
the Colonel (GS)
Security Force
Headquarters (East)
on 03 February 2022



**Colonel
JS Munasinghe**
assumed the duties as the
Colonel Provost Marshal
Directorate of Provost
Marshal
on 31 January 2022



**Colonel
EMIEkanayaka**
assumed the duties as the
Colonel (Admin/Quart)
52 Infantry Division
on 21 February 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel
IJ Wickramasinghe RWP RSP
USP**
assumed the duties as the
General Staff Officer I
Directorate of Movement
on 23 January 2022



**Major
GDK Nishanka RWP RSP**
assumed the duties as the
Commanding Officer
20 (V) Vijayabahu Infantry
Regiment
on 08 February 2022



**Major
PAT Niroshan**
assumed the duties as the
Commanding Officer 14
(V) Vijayabahu Infantry
Regiment
on 14 February 2022



**Major
KPC Fernando psc Lsc**
assumed the duties as the
Commanding Officer 5
Sri Lanka Electrical and
Mechanical Engineering
Regiment
on 08 February 2022



**Major
KWK Hemantha**
assumed the duties as the
Commanding Officer
16 (V) Gemunu Watch
on 20 January 2022

Blood Donation Campaign at 1 VIR



A blood donation campaign was launched by 1 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment together with the coordination of Government Hospital, Trincomalee to fulfil the blood shortage existed during the COVID-19 pandemic situation on 18 February 2022.

The event was organised under the directions of

Commanding Officer of 1 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment. Officers of the Battalion contributed the event voluntarily. The Officers from Sri Lanka Navy-Valagamba, Police Officers, Special Force Officers and Other Ranks in the area extended the further assistance to make the event a reality.

RANAVIRUWA

COMPUTER FONTS, COVER DESIGN AND PAGE LAYOUT

S/ 752158 WO11 Senarathna GC - 3 CES
S/ 753797 Cpl Kumarasinghe MGAM - 11 CES
S/ 754676 L/Cpl Lakthilina WR - 11 CES

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Financial Grants to 48 More War Heroes

Award of financial grants under the 7th Phase of the Sri Lanka Army's House Construction Project for family members of fallen War Heroes, wounded War Heroes, retired and on service Army personnel got underway on 14 February 2022 at the Army Headquarters. 48 more Army beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of construction of their own houses or completion of partly-built houses were benefited under the programme.



General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who personally took an enormous interest in this welfare measure, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and gave away those financial grants to build 11 new houses and 37 partly-built homes during the brief ceremony, attended by several senior officers and beneficiaries.

Out of the recipients, 9 houses were meant for family members of fallen War Heroes and 12 more homes for War Heroes wounded in action. Similarly, 03 houses were vested for retired War Heroes while 24 houses were vested for serving Army personnel.

The project, initiated as a joint welfare gesture of the Directorate of Veterans Affairs, Directorate of Rehabilitation and respective Regiment of the beneficiary gave away Rs 1.5 m to complete erection of a new house and Rs 750,000 for completion of a partly built house under this scheme.

Few Senior Officers including Chief of Staff, Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu and Brigadier S C Ekanayake RSP Director, Directorate of Rehabilitation participated in the distribution ceremony that was held adhering to health guidelines.



Memories of the Battleground

The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army recently visited the Abimansala, Anuradapuraya and engaged in a round table chit chat reminding the old good days playing the carrom with the handicapped War Heroes ensuring the bond he shared with them as a caring leader.

Unshaken Bonds

Wiping off threat of rough enemy fear
Rejoiced world wiping engulfed fear
Sharing all thick and thin as a brother
Memories flash reminding old care

Raising as a sea tidal coming ahead
Victory gained marching as team ahead
Vigorous champs reminding mission ahead
Can you see the genuine smile ahead

- Captain Laknali Kudaligama -