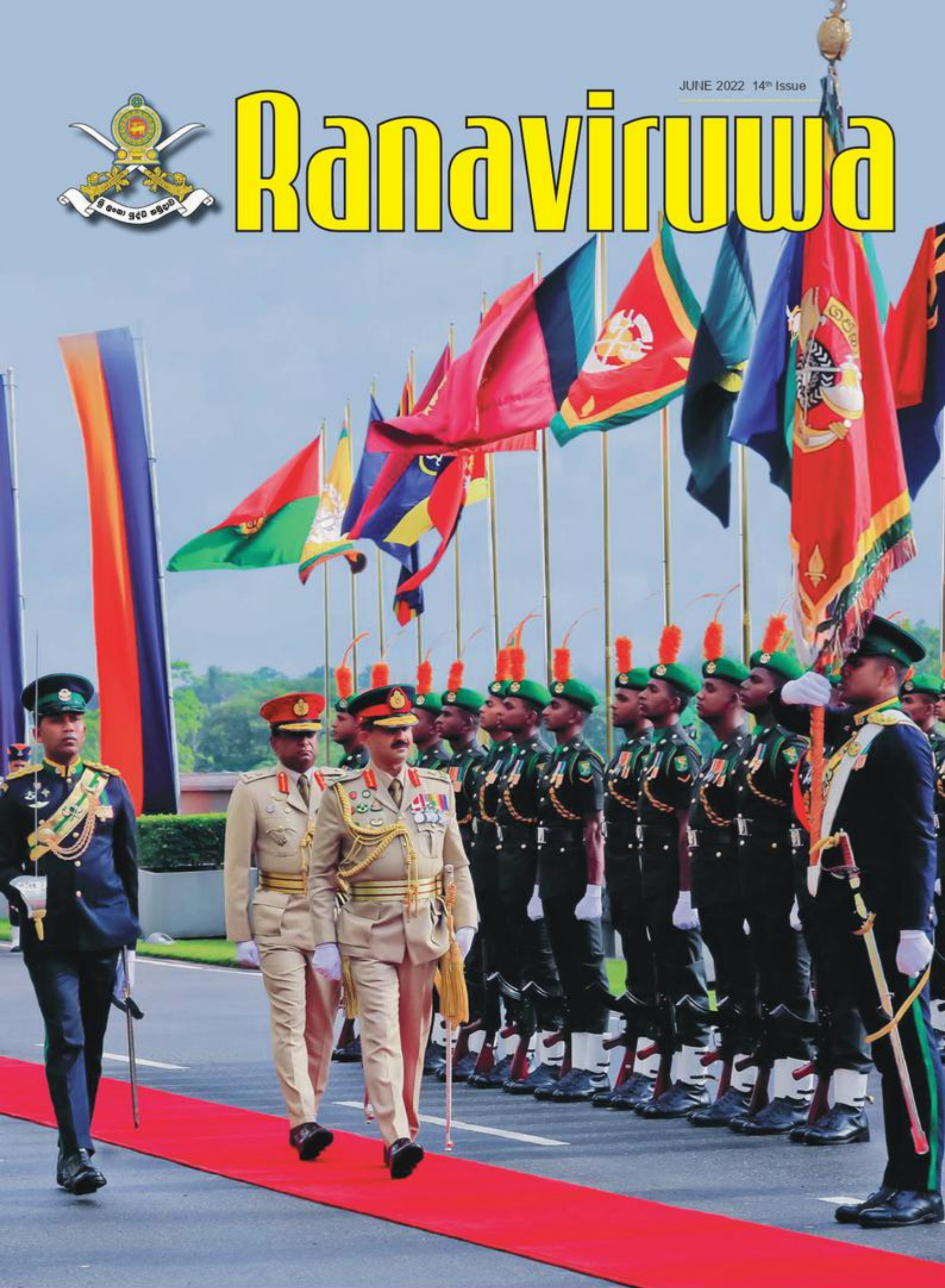




JUNE 2022 14<sup>th</sup> Issue

# Ranaviruwa





# ***New Commander Called on His Excellency the President, Honourable Prime Minister and Secretary to the Defence***

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu the 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army called on His Excellency the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Honourable Prime Minister and Secretary to the Defence soon after assuming the duties.



*With His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at President's House*



*Sharing views with Honourable Ranil Wickramasinghe Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Office*



*With General G D H K Gunaratne (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary, Ministry of Defence at Ministry of Defence*



*With General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff at the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff*



## Coffee Book 'Storm of Warriors' Presented to the President

Both Gajaba Regiment (GR) veterans General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil with Chief of Defence Staff and Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu new Commander of the Army, presented the maiden copy of the 'Storm of Warriors' to His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at President's House on 2 June 2022.



The Storm of Warriors documented the legacy of the Regiment's span of history, evolution since its founding, its infrastructure growth, and battlefield achievements of unmatched nature, bravery and gallantry and unparalleled contribution of its War Heroes to liberation of the motherland.

The 'coffee book' project was initiated by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil as Colonel of the Regiment and compiled by a team of Gajaba Regiment Council members in a move to document the operational commitments of the Gajaba Regiment in the past with a set of pictorial accounts.

## 'Sambuddha Raja Mandapaya' Vested in the Public



General G D H K Gunaratne (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary, Ministry of Defence participated as a Chief Guest in a series of inaugural openings at the historic Sri Sunethra Devi Maha Pirivena complex at Pepiliyana at the invitation of Venerable Dr Medagoda Abayatissa Nayake Thero, Senior Lecturer at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Incumbent, Sunethra Devi Pirivena. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army and senior Officers participated in the event.



The newly-constructed 'Sambuddha Raja Mandapaya', the pillared shrine of the Lord Buddha was vested in the Sasana by the Chief Guest, unveiling a plaque as members of the Maha Sangha chanted 'Seth Pirith'. After then new Sunday school building was also symbolically declared open.





Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu assumed duties as the 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army on 1 June 2022 during a formal ceremony at the Army Headquarters.

## *New Commander of the Army Assumed the Office*

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage, as an Officer Cadet, joined the Regular Force of the Sri Lanka Army on 27 October 1986 in the Regular Intake - 26 and followed basic military training at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy at Diyatalawa and subsequently at Pakistan Military Academy. Upon successful completion of Officer Cadet training, he was commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant and was posted to the Gajaba Regiment.

During his 35 years of illustrious military career, he has held a number of significant command, staff and instructional appointments. He was also the Commanding Officer of 8 Gajaba Regiment and performed a commendable role contributing to the eradication of terrorism from the region in the Eastern theatre of operations. His service was commendable during the operations to rescue the terrorist held areas in Mannar.

He has also followed many overseas courses in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hawaii and Indonesia. He has also held the positions of Brigade Commander of 225 and 553 Infantry Brigades, Sector Commander at Operations Command Colombo, Brigade Commander of 215, 542, 224, 221 and 623 Infantry Brigades, Director (Doctrine & Training) and





“The vision of the new Commander of the Army is based on the fullest performance of the duties entrusted to the Sri Lanka Army ensuring the public security facing the National Challenges. Also the Sri Lanka Army is now ready to perform under motto “Country before Life” as a disciplined Army with their collective effort. The vast experiences of the New Commander of the Army will guide the troops to the accurate direction.”



Director (Operations & Systems) at the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS), Commandant of Combat Training School (Ampara), Director General of Psychological Operations, General Officer Commanding of 21 Infantry Division, Commander Security Forces (West), Commander Security Forces (Central), Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka National Guard, Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and the Chairman of Sri Lanka Army Wushu Committee.



## *New Commander of the Army Made Obeisance to Dalada Maligawa*



Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu new Commander of the Army soon after assuming the office as the Commander of the Army made obeisance to the sacred Sri Dalada Maligawa (Temple of Tooth) in Kandy on 11 June 2022 and received blessings. Mrs Janaki Liyanage President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit and family members also joined the religious event.

The Commander of the Army met Maha Sanga of Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapter and Mr Nilanga Dela Bandara the chieftain (Diyawadana Nilame) of the temple.





## Commander Received Blessings of Sri Maha Bodhi, Ruwanweli Seya and Sacred Places



The 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu new Commander of the Army visited the sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhiya, Ruwanweli Maha Seya and the Mirisawetiya Dagoba in Anuradhapura sacred city on 11 June 2022.

During the visit, he made customary offerings to the Maha Sangha, including the Chief Incumbent for 'Atamasthana' and Chief Sanga Nayaka of the North and Central Venerable Pallegama Siriniwasabhidana Nayake Thero, Chief Incumbent of Ruwanweli Mahaseya Venerable Pallegama Sirisumana Rathanapala Hemarathna Nayake Thero and Chief Incumbent of Mirisawetiya Venerable Eethalawetunuwewe Gnanathilake Thero. The Maha Sangha invoked the blessings on the new Commander of the Army.

Mrs Janaki Liyanage, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit, family members, senior Officers including Major General M G W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc Military Secretary attended those religious programmes.





## *New Commander of the Army Paid Courtesies to Navy and Air Force Commanders*



The 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu made a courtesy call on Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenna, Commander of the Navy at his office on 6 June 2022.



The 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu made a courtesy call on Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana Commander of the Air Force at his office on 6 June 2022.



The 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu after assuming his Office made a courtesy visit to the Police Headquarters on 10 June 2022. Officers, lady Officers and Police Special Task Force offered a Guard Turnout for the new Commander of the Army at the entrance.





## *Red Carpet Welcome to the New Commander at his Mother Regiment*

Newly appointed Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu accepted the office of the Colonel of the Regiment, Gajaba Regiment (GR) in a formal felicitation ceremony on 18 June 2022 amid military ceremonials, greetings and best wishes of veterans of the Gajaba Regiment, at 'Home of Keterians' in Saliyapura on 18 June 2022.

The Commander recalled treasured memories of the GR's Founding Father, late Major General Wijaya Wimalaratne placing a floral wreath during the event. Then he saluted the statue of the architect of the Gajaba Regiment and paid tribute to his memory in a solemn moment. The special Guard of Honour with 560 troops representing 20 Battalions was offered to the newly appointed Commander of the Army thereafter.

His visit to the GR Headquarters as the 24<sup>th</sup> Army Chief was made more memorable when the GR Centre Commandant invited him to leave a symbol of eternal memory in the complex by planting an ironwood sapling. Next, he appeared for the group photographs with Officers and interacted with a group of Senior Officers of the Cadet Officers' Intake No. 26 who were present at the occasion including Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff and Former Commander Security Forces (Wanni), C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) and Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commandant Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force.





## Commander's Maiden Troop Address Set Out His Future Plans



“My vision is to maintain a high level of professional standards in the organisation and assure the safeguarding of the Sri Lankan Constitution, people, and democracy while defending the country from internal or external threats”

- Commander of the Army

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu addressed a representative group of all ranks at the Army Headquarters after he took over as the 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army on 16 June 2022. During his troop address, he explained his vision and future plans for the betterment of the Sri Lanka Army. He also explained further the importance of safeguarding the Nation identifying the national requirements.

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army addressed all Staff Officers, Commanders of Security Force Headquarters, Commanders of Forward Maintenance Areas, General Officer Commanding, Brigade Commanders, Commandants of Training Schools, Commanding Officers of Units on the Commander's Vision after assuming the duties on 15 June 2022.

During the address, Commander of the Army explained the vision on the action plan, strategic aspects and National Security and Nation Building while paying special attention to food security and Agriculture and Food Security Projects.

The new Commander further emphasised that fulfilling the administration and quartering requirement of all soldiers is also included in the prime responsibility. He also stated that Sri Lanka Army should always be prepared to face any challenge or emergency and dedicated to the nation-building, disaster management roles, and now the cultivation of food crops. As an organisation that has won the hearts, minds and respect of the people in the country, it is required to maintain a high level of professional standards in the organisation and assist sister services as well as the Police when necessary.

As the most organised establishment in the country, Sri Lanka Army is bonded to provide its service to save the victimised public in any circumstances whenever the country is in a hazardous event including natural disasters and special crises as the responsibility of the nation is shouldered on them.





## Green Agriculture Steering Committee of the Army on Food Security Established



The Sri Lanka Army launched another gigantic project establishing its Green Agriculture Steering Committee (GASC) on 16 June 2022 in order to supplement and promote the island's food security programme by cultivating more than 1500 acres of barren or abandoned state lands across the country.

Also, the agricultural project is scheduled to be initiated covering all island under the supervision of Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army and Major General C D Weerasooriya RWP PSP ndu Deputy Chief of Staff.

The management of the Green Agriculture Steering Committee of the Army is comprised of Major General S U M N Manage WWV RWP RSP psc Director General General Staff, Major General R A D P Ranawaka RWP RSP USP ndc Quarter Master General, Major General W B S M Abeysekara RWP USP Director General Financial Management, Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Army Logistics Commander, Major General M K Jayawardena RWP USP ndu Chief Field Engineer, and Director Operations, Director Media, Director Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Director Agriculture & Livestock, Director Research Concept & Doctrine. The entire project is supervised by Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff.

At the inaugural session, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army briefed the new committee on the scope of the national endeavour and how the Army could join hands with the agricultural sector to reach national goals and multiply food production process through immediate



cultivation of unattended lands to avert any shortage of food varieties in future.

As the first phase, island-wide Army troops would prepare ground soil in those state lands by weeding, tilling and preparing beds for cultivation of selected seed varieties in consultation with agricultural experts, agrarian officers and knowledgeable officers in the Army Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock which is already maintaining 16 Army-managed farms and 6 Battalions across the country.

In addition, all Security Force Headquarters and field formations around the country are currently screening possibilities of adding their weight to the task at regional level and exploring the ability of using unattended state lands and paddy fields for the same purpose as Protectors of the Nation.





## ***Sincere service to the country in the difficult hour***

Today, it is harder to find a fuel station where a queue doesn't exist. The stress sometimes erupts in clashes among the people in the queue. Arrogant civilians sometimes create issues at the fuel stations. Under such circumstances, the soldiers deployed in the fuel stations are shouldering a heavy responsibility. The soldiers were deployed to the fuel stations at the request of the owners of the fuel stations. Assisting the government to maintain the law and order is also one of their responsibilities of the Armed Forces. However, the proper distribution of fuel has been ensured with this extra security provided by the soldiers. The positive comments that they earned signify the success of the humanitarian assistance that the Sri Lanka Army has rendered over the generations to safeguard the people at their difficult hours.





## Glimpses of Courtesy Meetings



Rear Admiral Anura Ekanayake, Director General of Sri Lanka Coast Guard (DG-SLCG) paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army, on 23 June 2022 at the Commander's office at the Army Headquarters.

During this discussion, the DG-SLCG extended compliments and best wishes on the appointment of the Commander of the Army and briefed him on the role and tasks of the Coastal Guards as well as planned future projects.

Dr Gamini Goonetilleke, one of the most renowned Senior Consultant Surgeons in Sri Lanka, who has made a name for himself in the annals of medical surgery, presented the maiden copy of his book, 'Extra Mile-A Surgeon's Experiences' which narrates his career spanning more than 40 years as a surgeon in good olden days to Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army on 21 June 2022.

During this cordial meeting, the surgeon cum author explained the background and settings that inspired him to profile his memorable experiences in the field of medicine with the objective of sharing his experiences with the medical professionals, providing them with insights of different practices under different circumstances, and sometimes without facilities or equipment necessary for conduct of his professional obligations that began from Polonnaruwa District Hospital.

The Commander of the Army thanking him for the gesture spoke high of his commitment to



the duties for decades as a reputed surgeon among both medical community and the general public as he was instrumental in saving thousands of lives of innocent patients while serving in many remote areas in the country.



A three-member group of the Gajaba Veterans' Association called on their newly-appointed Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army on 22 June 2022 at the Army Headquarters with a view to briefing him on the role of the Association and consulting him on how the future activities should be planned.

Lieutenant Colonel Deepal Subasinghe (Rtd), President Gajaba Veterans' Association, Lieutenant Colonel C J S Weerakoon (Rtd) Secretary, Gajaba Veterans' Association and Major C de Silva (Rtd), Treasurer Gajaba Veterans' Association were present at the courtesy meet.



## ***New Chief of Staff Assumed Duties***

Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu took office as the new Chief of Staff (CoS) of the Army, effective from 8 June 2022. He is one of the most senior veterans in the organisation and also the Colonel of the Regiment, Sri Lanka Light Infantry.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of the Army placed his signature in an official document at his new office in the Army Headquarters during a brief ceremony amid religious blessings. He has held many appointments including Quarter Master General of Sri Lanka Army and Commander Security Forces (Jaffna).



## ***Regimental Centre SLLI Welcomed the New Chief of Staff***



Regimental Centre Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), in a fitting reception, extended a warm welcome to their Colonel of the Regiment Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu when he formally made his maiden visit to the Regimental Headquarters on 11 June 2022 upon his recent acceptance of the Army's second highest office, Chief of Staff.

Brigadier T C K Peiris RWP RSP Centre Commandant, Sri Lanka Light Infantry warmly welcomed new Chief of Staff offering him Guard Turnout and Guard of Honour following the unique regimental traditions of the Sri Lanka Army.

After, Chief of Staff appeared in a group photograph with the Officers at the Regimental Office Complex and offered a floral tribute to the deceased soldiers who made the supreme sacrifices on behalf the motherland.

In line with the same event, he declared open the new elevator installed providing the access to Auditorium and Cafeteria. A gathering of Regimental council members, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



## *New Deputy Chief of Staff assumed the duties*

Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu, the newly-appointed Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS), assumed duties on 16 June 2022 at his office in Army Headquarters following a religious ceremony.

He served as the Commandant of Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force before he was appointed to the office of the DCOS. Several senior Officers, Officers and the Staff of the DCOS office attended the occasion.



## *New Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force Commandant Assumed His Office*



Major General D G S Senarath Yapa assumed duties as the 49<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) amidst military formalities, at the SLAVF Headquarters at Kosgama on 16 June 2022.

He was warmly welcomed offering a Guard Turnout and a Guard of Honour by the troops of Gajaba Regiment. The Commandant at his inaugural troops address extended his gratitude to all ranks for warm reception and further underscored that he is looking forward to serving the Volunteer Force while elevating its standards. He also remembered with honour, the services of the past Commandants, fallen War Heroes and those wounded in action while appreciating their contribution along with serving members.





## ***Army Seva Vanitha Unit's New President Took over Duties amid Blessings and Greetings***

The 16<sup>th</sup> President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) Mrs Janaki Liyanage assumed office on 3 June 2022 at the office of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit in the Army Headquarters at Sri Jayawardenapura amid religious blessings, warm greetings and best wishes.

Mrs Shiromala Kodithuwakku warmly welcomed Mrs Janaki Liyanage President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit and Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army. New President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit assumed the duties following the Buddhist traditions amidst 'Seth Pirith' chanting of the Maha Sangha. After, she appeared for a group photograph with senior members of all Regimental Seva Vanitha Branches.

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Seva Vanitha Unit has rendered a service beyond the welfare of the Ranaviru Families over history. As a mother, a sister, and a partner, military spouses have been the strength of every stage of success. It is no doubt that their service will be further strengthened under the new leadership of the Seva Vanitha Unit.

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## A 'Bodhi Pooja' Conducted at Bellanwila Temple by ASVU



Mrs Janaki Liyanage, President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit, upon assumption of her new office at the Army Headquarters, attended a special 'Bodhi Pooja' Pinkama at the Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya on 4 June 2022.

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army also joined the 'Bodhi Pooja' and performed observances. The religious event was conducted by Venerable Dr Bellanwila Dhammaratana Thero, Chief Incumbent of Bellanwila Temple and Chief Sangha Nayake of Singapore, Incumbent at Paramitha International Meditation Centre, Kadugannawa and Attidiya Maligawatte Temple and several other monks.

Seva Vanitha members, Officers and Other Ranks were among those who attended the occasion.



## Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



A new house constructed on behalf of late Staff Sergeant Deshapriya R G S K of 2 (V) Sri Lanka Signal Corps, who recently died of a heart attack was handed over to his wife on 6 June 2022.

2 (V) Sri Lanka Signal Corps troops contributed their technical expertise and manpower for construction and the new house was gifted to the widow of Staff Sergeant, Mrs Deshapriya, by Mrs Sajeewani Peiris Chairperson Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch.

Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks of Sri Lanka Signal Corps, members of Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch, beneficiaries and villagers took part in the brief ceremony.





***S/CR 553286 Corporal  
Nilantha Kumara H A PWV RSP  
Commando Regiment***

## ***Act of Heroism Exhibited at Nilaveli***



Mr H A Anila Kumara and Mrs WA Karuna were blessed with a son on 20 November 1980. They named the child "Hettiarachchilage Nilantha Kumara". Nobody Knows that the destiny of Nilantha Kumara was already written by birth. He was able to win the love and care of the family as he was the youngest of the family.

Young Nilantha was admitted to Giribawa Central College. He excelled not only in studies but also in extra-curricular activities including sports such as volleyball, and cricket. His certificates proved his multi-talented personality. He was able to uplift the fame of his school with this talent. With



the completion of primary education, he joined Ihalagama Piriwena for higher studies under the guidance of experienced monks. His school life came to an end with his appearance to the GCE (O/L) examination.

Soon after the examination, Nilantha came to his father's friend seeking a job to support his family. He had strong motivation to find a good walk of life that could help him to run his family without being a burden to the family. In the meantime, he had an idea to join the Sri Lanka Army as he was driven by a strong bond with the country. He asked permission from his family to join the Sri Lanka Army so; they allowed him to join the Sri Lanka Army.

With the blessings of the parents, he appeared for the interview which was held at the Ganemulla Commando Regiment Headquarters on 21 July 1999, and joined the Sri Lanka Army as a recruit, and completed the preliminary military training at Commando Regiment at Kudaoya. Soon after the completion of the training, he returned home and spent his vacation with the family.

With the termination of the vacation, he returned to the camp with many hopes and firm determination as he knew that he had to undertake a laborious task. Meanwhile, he successfully initiated the Commando Selection Course No. 49, on 31 January 2001 and successfully completed it on 09 March 2001. His difference could be observed when he returned home after finishing the training.

Soon after he returned to the camp and entered the Commando Advance Course No. 30 and was among the few warriors who had successfully completed the course on 17 October 2001. He was lucky enough to wear the maroon beret taking the oath of regular commando under Direct Enlisted Course No 18. He started his initial duty at Nelumwewa, Weli Oya under the A Group.

Kalmadu was the second duty area of Commando Nilantha and while he was on duty he successfully completed the Airmobile Course on 18 October 2003 and rejoined on 08 November 2003. He was with all the commando qualities including discipline, and will, and therefore, he was named as "Gora" among his comrades.

At the meantime, Gora was fallen in love with a girl from the next village and she was "Vadiga Arachchilage Malkanthi". Soon the couple entered wedlock amidst the blessings



of the parents of the families. At the time he had completed his 5th year of service in the military.

He completed the Non-Commissioned Leadership Training Course which was held from 31 May 2004 to 9 July 2004. This period was unforgettable in the life of the warrior, as he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal with new responsibilities.

This made him qualified as a member of the Long Range Petrol Team of the Commando Regiment. The required training was initiated on 26 April 2006 and terminated on 26 October 2006. After the training, Gora was included into the Z group of Commando Regiment.

At the time, Mrs Malkanthi, beloved wife of Gora was dreaming of the most beautiful day of her life. She was blessed with a child soon after her marriage and the news made Gora happier and the couple named their child as "Kalpani Chamodya Parami".

At the time, the Humanitarian operation was launched and following the order issued by the Pillamulla Army Camp, Gora and his team were engaged in reconnaissance patrols. Narakamulla, Thoppigala, Sampur, Mawilaru, Verugal aru areas were dominated by the enemies and at that time the Gora's team was deployed in countering them.

The incredible support that the Gora's team extended was praiseworthy for the Sri Lanka Air Force. At the Narakamulla area, Gora and his team had bravely gone before the enemy



***“I and my daughter miss my husband, But I feel that he is with us. I do not repent of his decision he had taken on that day”***

***—— Wife ——***



and destroyed them giving the right targets for the friendly forces. When he was reaching “Thoppigala”, Gora said to his team that this time they would not return without leaving the Commando and Sri Lankan Flag at Thoppigala. Lance Corporal Nilantha Kumara had earned Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP), Purna Bhumi Padakkama and North and East Operation Medals as a result of his bravery exhibited in Thoppigala, Sampur, Narakamulla, Thopur, Mavilaru areas.

At the time, Sri Lanka Army has escaped the Eastern area and Wilpattu from the enemy and limited the enemy to a small area in Wanni. Meanwhile, the enemies had a plan to mislead the attention of the Sri Lanka Forces. With the aim of changing the direction of the Sri Lanka Army troops, the enemies conducted a number of activities, and killing the innocent civilians living in Uva, Southern and Eastern areas was their plan.

Under these circumstances, maintaining the law and order was a laborious task. Finding these small enemy groups was utter difficult and therefore, Lance Corporal Nilantha and his team were once deployed for the task.

After a difficult journey, the group reached the enemy camp in Nilaveli. The team

observed the enemy and identified that the camp was having a large number of enemies but the only weapon that they use was MPMG weapon. However, destroying the enemy camp was the most important motive of the team. As they were planning, the enemy started to fire at the team with Gora using the MPMG weapon. The team of Gora also led the counter-attack taking the ground advantage into them. The enemy counter fire also seemed no stop but escalating. Due to the enemy fire, the branches of the nearby trees fell down. The team of Gora realised that they cannot move ahead in this situation. So, Gora decided to get close to the enemy fire spots secretly.

At the time, the enemy was firing at the Gora's team like rain. Gora had one intention that was to save his team and make the mission success. Suddenly the heroic Gora took the MPMG and fired at the enemy surprising all of the team members. Before the sharp fire of the Gora, the enemy fire became suddenly stopped. The hero who opened the path to his fellow members had to face the terrible fire of the enemy. Gora fell on the ground with the pride that he led his team and his mission success.

The heroic warrior was awarded the Parama

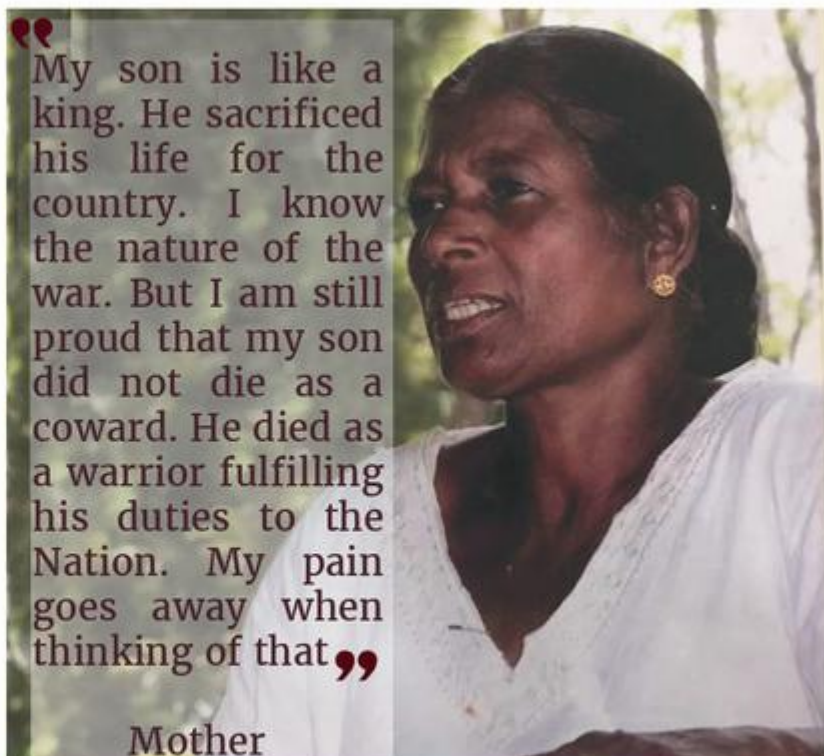


Veera Vibhushanaya on 15 July 2013 by then President His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa for the heroic act of safeguarding his team members by destroying the enemy and his weapon amidst the rain of bullets fired at him at the battle of Nilaveli.

The beloved wife of this warrior Wadigaarachchilage Malkanthi gave a birth to their child on 12 December 2006 and she is the only child of the couple and presently she is studying at grade 8 at Galahitiyawa Hemamali College.



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## *Divisional Administrative Area (DAA) Demonstration by DSCSC and Lsc Students*



Under the fullest supervision of Major General K A W S Rathnayaka ndu Commander Forward Maintenance Area (East), a demonstration for the officers following the Defence Services Command and Staff College Course No. 16 and Logistic Command Course No. 08 of Army School of Logistics were held on 7 June 2022.

78 Officers of Defence Services Command and Staff College Course No.16 and 31 Officers from Logistic Command Course No. 08 including foreign and local Officers witnessed the Divisional Administrative Area (DAA) Demonstration conducted at the Army Logistic Command units and Forward Maintenance Area (East).



Major General I H M N N Herath RSP USP psc Commandant of Defence Services Command and Staff College and Brigadier E M M Fernando Hdmc AATO Lsc Commandant Army School of Logistics and Chief Instructors, students of the course witnessed the demonstration.



## Security Forces Headquarters (Jaffna) Organised a Cricket Match



The Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) organised the annual 'S Nagarathnam Memorial Championship Trophy' eleven 'A' side softball cricket match at Thyiddy Star Sports Grounds on 4 June 2022 under the supervision of Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) with the intention to promote the goodwill between civilians and Sri Lanka Army. The cricket match between Thyiddy Star Sports Cricket Team and Palmyra Club Cricket Team generated much enthusiasm among cricket lovers in the area who flocked the grounds to witness the finals. After a very close tussle, Thyiddy Star Sports Cricket Team emerged as champions having scored 85 runs for 1 wicket in 9 overs against their rival's.

Mr Sriya Sri, Divisional Secretary of Thelippalai Divisional Secretariat, Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), General Officers Commanding of 51 and 52 Infantry Divisions, Mrs S Nagarathnam, Grama Niladhari of Myliddy and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## Jaffna Troops Contributed to 'Clean and Green' Campaign on World Environment Day



On the directions and guidance of Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu the Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), few programmes to revive ecosystem have been implemented coinciding with the World Environment Day in Jaffna Peninsula on 5 June 2022.

Accordingly, troops of the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) and local civilians together organised a clean-up operation along the coastal belt of Myliddy Beach aiming to encourage the people to keep these beautiful beaches free from polythene and other plastic related pollutants.

Further, a tree planting programme to restore the ecosystem and distribution of coconut saplings to people in the peninsula also took place to mark the World Environment Day.



## ***17 SLNG Warmed a New House for a Family in Kuchchaveli***

Major General G R R P Jayawardena RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (East) vested a newly-constructed house for a needy family at Kuchchaveli, Nilaveli in Trincomalee during his maiden field visit to the 17 Sri Lanka National Guard camp on 7 June 2022.

The dream of the family came into a reality with the generosity extended by Mr Jayasanka Perera and Mrs Madusha Perera, in Australia. 17 Sri Lanka National Guard troops built the house using their technical and engineering skills within a few months.

The brief house warming ceremony was attended by Major General W B W M R S P Aluvihare RWP RSP General Officer Commanding, 22 Infantry Division, Colonel S A U A Solangarachchi RSP psc Commander 221 Infantry Brigade, P G L Hemakumara Commanding Officer, 17 Sri Lanka Light Infantry, family members of beneficiaries, troops and several villagers were associated with the inauguration.



## ***Security Force Headquarters (East) Organised a Dansala on the Poson Full Moon Poya Day***



Under the directions of Major General G R R P Jarawardena RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (East), the troops of Security Force Headquarters (East) organised a Manioc and Jack Dansala at Welikanda town on 14 June 2022 in line with the Poson full moon poya day.

The dansala was opened from 1000 hrs to 14,00 hrs for the civilians. The Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks of Security Force Headquarters (East) participated in the event.

## ***Dansal in line with Poson Full Moon Poya Day***



A jack dansala was organised under the instructions of Commanding Officer of 6 Field Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery in line with the Poson Full Moon Poya Day, by the troops of 6 Field Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery. The devotees on pilgrimage in Panagoda and Habarakada were benefited from the charity work.



## Badge Awarding Ceremony of Long Range Patrol Course No. 16

Two Officers and thirty-nine Other Ranks of Commando Regiment embraced with prestigious Long Range Patrol (LRP) insignia on 27 May 2022 at Long Range Patrol Nest Commando Regiment, Vavuniya during the Badge Awarding Ceremony of the Long Range Patrol Course No. 16. Major General A K G K U Gnanaratne ndc psc Commander, 1 Corps and Colonel of the Regiment, Commando Regiment (CR) graced the Long Range Patrol Badge Awarding ceremony as the Chief Guest.

The ceremony coloured with awarding of LRP badges and awarding LRP knife to the newly graduated Officers and Other Ranks.

Award for the "Best LRP" student of the course was won by Captain T B T N Rupasena CR, "Best 8 Men Team" of the course was awarded to A101 Team, "Best Navigator of the Course" was awarded to Lance Corporal Pushpakumara B J and "Best Shooter Award" was awarded to Lance Corporal Perera K N D. The Chief Guest addressed the gathering and extended his best wishes to all newly qualified LRP members. Further, special mementos were awarded to Major General KA Samarasiri RWP RSP USP and Brigadier D N J Fernando RSP USP in appreciation of their invaluable service rendered to the 3 Commando Regiment as Commanding Officers in "LRP NEST".



## 1 Corps Joined 'Vesak' Commemoration



Troops of 1 Corps organised a series of religious activities at 1 Corps Headquarters premises in Kilinochchi to celebrate the Vesak Full Moon Poya Day on 15 May, under the guidance of Major General A K G K U Gnanaratne ndc psc Commander, 1 Corps, Sri Lanka Army. It also included a donation of relief item for needy people in the area and a Bodhi Pooja was conducted at the 1 Corps Headquarters premises to bless the nation and all troops of 1 Corps, Sri Lanka Army by Venerable Ingiriye Dharmalankara Thero, the Chief Incumbent of Lumbini Temple Kilinochchi.

Later, Brigadier Admin and Quartering, inaugurated the evening programme by lighting a colourful Vesak lantern at Iranamadu Junction, crafted by troops of the 11 Engineer Services Regiment. Also hundreds of Vesak lanterns were displayed along the 1 Corps Headquarters premises and adjacent area.



## Humanitarian Aid for the Mullaitivu People



A community welfare programme to distribute the dry ration packs to the needy families in 682 Infantry Brigade areas was held under the guidance of Major General W A S S Wannisinghe RSP USP on 11 June 2022.

During the same project, another 41 Children of needy families were provided extra meal packs for 6 months by inviting them to the M/ Mathalan Roman Catholic School in Mullaitivu and dry ration parcels for 175 needy civilians in the area. The financial generosity for the charity work was provided by Sri Siddhartha Foundation in Thalagala, Tan Ngak & Kee Meng Leng Foundation Limited in Singapore, Fitness Place in Matale and Mr Pragalitha Pushpakumara, the owner of JSBCLLC Co. Ltd in Dubai and Saasanarakshaka Bala Mandalaya of Kalutara.



## School Shoes Donated for Students in Mullaitivu



Following the concept of Major General W A S S Wannisinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) school shoes were distributed for the students of under privileged families of M/ Udayarkattu Maha Vidyalaya on 7 May 2022. The charity programme was organised, under the mediation of General Officer Commanding 68 Infantry Division and Commander 681 Infantry Brigade, by 6 Gemunu Watch and 9 Sri Lanka National Guard. Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) attended the event as the Chief Guest and General Officer Commanding 68 Infantry Division and Commander 681 Infantry Brigade, Officers, Other Ranks, school children and teachers participated in the event.



## Gifts Were Extended for the Winners of the National Vesak Festival 2022



The National Vesak Festival was held at ancient Kuragala Rajamaha Viharaya from 15 to 21 May 2022. Marking this special day, a Vesak lanterns competition was held at ancient Kuragala Rajamaha Viharaya with the participation of the Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force.

Apart from the Army, four wings from the Sri Lanka Air Force and five commands from the Sri Lanka Navy also participated in the Vesak lanterns competition and among those lanterns, the Civil Engineering Wing of the Air Force and the Western Naval Command of the Navy have won the first places respectively.

Accordingly, the winners were awarded gifts under the patronage of Major General D M K D B Pussella RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (West) and the Chairman of Army Buddhist Association with the participation of several senior Officers at the Security Forces Headquarters (West) on 30 May 2022.

## Security Forces Headquarters (West) Organised a Series of Programme



Security Forces Headquarters (West), Volunteer Force Headquarters and Sri Lanka Army National Guard Headquarters organised a 'Seela Samadhi' Programme at the Bodhirajaramaya Army Temple to coincide with the Poson Poya day 2022.

The instructions and guidance for organising this 'Seela Samadhi' programme were given by Major General D M K D B Pussella RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (West) and the Chairman of Army Buddhist Association. Further, about 130 Army personnel of Army Cantonment, Panagoda and Volunteer Force Headquarters were present at the event.



## ***Sri Lanka Army Distributed Essential Food Items among Needy Families***



On the guidance and direction of Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Central), troops coordinated a distribution programme of dry ration packs and essential food items for low- income families residing in Craig Estate Punagala in Bandarawela area on 26 May 2022.

100 families were gifted dry rations worth of Rs 5000.00 inclusive of samba rice, onions, dhal, salt, spices, salmon, sugar and soya meat. The donors from Canada extended financial donations for the welfare programme. The distribution event was graced by the Commander Security Forces (Central) and Senior Officers, Other Ranks, Superintendent, Craig Tea Estate, troops and residents joined in the programme.



## ***Army Troops Distributed Ration Packs among Deserving Families in Badulla***



On the directions and coordination of Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Central), dry ration packs with essential items worth of Rs 2.25 million were distributed among 14,00 families during a formal ceremony held at Kahattewela Sri Subodharamaya temple in Bandarawela on 20 May 2022. The charity event was funded by Talagala Sri Siddhartha Foundation and Tan Ngak & Kee Meng Lang Foundation Limited (Singapore). The simple charity event was presented by religions leaders, Senior Army Officers, residents and troops.



## Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch



The 12<sup>th</sup> Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch, Mrs Omila Jayawardane assumed the office on 23 May 2022 at the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Office at the Regimental Headquarters, Ambepussa, amid religious blessings, warm greetings, best wishes and 'Seth Pirith' chantings. After taking over the duties, the new Chairperson shared her thoughts on the possibilities of enhancing the welfare of the soldiers of the Regiment.

Senior Officers, members of the Seva Vanitha Branch, and Staff Officers of the Regimental Headquarters were also present at the occasion.

## Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch



Mrs Ruvini Lamahewa assumed duties as the new Chairperson of the Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch at a simple ceremony, held at the Gemunu Watch Regimental Centre at Kuruwita on 13 May 2022. Several Senior Officers were also present at the event.

## Mechanized Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch



On account of the Posen Poya Day, (14 June 2022) the Mechanized Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch held a free eatery (Dansela) of Manioc at the Dambuluhalmillawewa Model School playground under the patronage of Major General C D Weerasooriya RWP RSP Colonel Commandant, Mechanized Infantry Regiment and Mrs Dhanusha Weerasuriya Chairperson, Mechanized Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch.



## ***Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch***



An art competition was held at the Military Intelligence Corps Headquarters, Karadeniya on the theme of "How I see the Sinhala and Tamil New Year" under the supervision of Mrs Manori Salley Chairperson, Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch on 30 April 2022. The children of the personnel serving in the Military Intelligence Corps Regimental Headquarters were participated in under three age categories on unit levels. The winners received financial incentives worth of Rs 2500.00. Also the winners of the first round including 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places were awarded Rs 7000.00, Rs. 5000.00, Rs 3000.00. The monthly alms-giving project for elders at Warusawithana Elders' Home at Ambalangoda took place on 28 May 2022 with Mrs Manori Sallay, Chairperson, Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch and members in memory of deceased war Heroes. Accordingly, ladies provided all three meals for the day to 11 inmates inclusive of 2 males and 9 females at this Elders' Home in Polwatte, Ambalangoda.

## ***Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Seva Vanita Branch***



Mrs. Thushari Wanigasekara as the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Seva Vanita Branch recently started her duties at the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Regimental Centre at an auspicious moment. Many members of the Seva Vanita branch participated in this event

## ***The Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch***



The Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch organised a blood donation programme at Colombo Army Hospital on 7 June 2022. Over 300 Officers and Other Ranks working at the Colombo Army Hospital volunteered to give blood for the benefit of Army patients and patients at the Colombo National Hospital. Dr. Namalee Thilakarathna Vice-Chairperson of Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch and a few senior Seva Vanitha members participated in the event. Similarly, Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch gifted T-shirts to all those who volunteered to donate blood.



## Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch

The Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch organised a mobile Eye Clinic for the Officers, Other Ranks and civil staff at Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Workshop, Kosgama on 23 March 2022. The eye glasses were distributed under the patronage of Helpage Sri Lanka Institute and school items were also distributed to the children of civil staff. The charity event was held under the patronage of Major General



S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc and Mrs Nandni Samarakoon Chairperson, Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch.

## Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch in collaboration with the Regimental Centre Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps organised a 'Bodhi Puja' at Sri Bodhirajaramaya in Panagoda in order to invoke blessings on students, ready to sit the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Exam on 21 May 2022. The children of the Sri Lanka Army members serving in the Regimental Headquarters in Army Cantonment, Panagoda also participated in the religious event. Mrs Eranga Hewawasam Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch, Centre Commandant, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch



Dry Ration packs distribution programme was held at the Leela Witharana Elders' Home at Warapalana, Yakkala on account of the Posa Full Moon Poya day, under the conceptual layout of Mrs Shanthi Abeysekera Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch on 14 June 2022. Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock and Director General Financial Management Major General W B S M Abeysekera RSP USP participated in the event. Other requirements of the Elders' Home were also inquired by the Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch.



## **9 SLSC Troops Welcomed Chief Signal Officer and Colonel Commandant**



Major General P A J Peiris ndu Chief Signal Officer and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Signal Corps visited 9 Regiment, Sri Lanka Signal Corps, on 29 May 2022. Chief Signal Officer, in conformity with military traditions, was warmly welcomed by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel B M M B Herath RSP USP and accorded a Guard Turnout on his arrival at the main entrance. In line with formalities, he participated in planting a sapling, conducting a troop address, tea party taking a group photograph. At the end of the event, the Commanding Officer and all ranks presented a memento in appreciating his exemplary service rendered during his military career.

## **Lunch for the Teachers and Students in 64 AOR**



On the instructions of the 64 Infantry Division Commander, lunch parcels were distributed among 236 children and 30 teachers who were appearing for the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) examination in the division jurisdiction. 64 Infantry Division ,641, 642, 643 Infantry Brigades, 8 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, 23 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment and 17 (V) Gajaba Regiment assisted this great work.

## **Troops Provided Refreshments to 'Paada Yathra' Participants at Thondamanaru and Umayalapuram**



A special lunch was distributed to the devotees who were on annual foot march (Paada Yathra) of Hindu devotees wending their way to Kataragama on 06 June 2022 under the supervision of Commanding Officer, Second in Command of 20 Sri Lanka Light Infantry under the instructions of 662 Infantry Brigade following the instructions of 66 Infantry Division. Accordingly, 57 devotees were benefited from the programme. Brigadier W M L S Dayawansa Commander, 662 Infantry Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel H P D A Wijesekara Civil Coordinating Officer, 66 Infantry Division, Lieutenant Colonel H M U D Herath Civil Coordinating Officer, 662 Infantry Brigade, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



## ***Houses for Deserving Families from the Sri Lanka Army***



Completed houses for deserving families residing in Rangalwatta, Theldeniya, Kandy District were vested the beneficiaries amid the simple ceremony on 24 May 2022. The project came into reality under the instructions of Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Central) with the participation of the troops deployed in the area. The financial contribution for the generous task was extended by businessman, Mr Sri Mohana Shankar. Commanders of 111 and 112 Infantry Brigades, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## ***Inter Unit Football Tournament at Security Forces (Wanni )***



Following the conceptual layout of Commander, Security Forces (Wanni), the Inter Unit Football Tournament was held on 02 February 2022 under the supervision of Major General U D Wijesekara RWP RSP USP rcds psc General Officer Commanding, 54 Infantry Division at the playground of the 54 Infantry Division. 10 Gemunu Watch team won the championship qualifying for the semi-finals.

## ***School Items Distributed Among Students of Deserving Families***



A programme of distributing school items and stationeries among the students of deserving families in the 54 Infantry Division Area of Responsible was took place on 10 March 2022 under the mediation of Major General U D Wijesekara RWP RSP USP rcds psc General Officer Commanding, 54 Infantry Division. The school items were distributed among the students of 02 selected schools in the area. The event was taken place at 10 Gemunu Watch premises. The financial generosity was extended by Dialogue Axiata and the other philanthropists in the area.



## Army Soldier Performs 'Samaritan' Role

The Army soldier, Lance Corporal N A Witharana of 3 (V) Gemunu Watch of the 613 Infantry Brigade, 61 Infantry Division Under Command to Security Forces (West) recently showing his good samaritan qualities was considerate enough to trace the owner of a wallet belonging to a school teacher and handed it over to the owner. The wallet with Rs 183,000.00



in cash and a cash cheque to the value of Rs 41,300 was found lying on the ground at the Matara Camp Welfare Shop after it dropped off by accident when the soldier spotted it. The Commanding Officer, 3 (V) Gemunu Watch commended the soldier for his honesty and genuineness.

## 'Leadership and Career Development' Course for NCOs at Ampara Successfully Concluded



Best student of Leadership and Career Development' Course No. 43



Best student of Method of Instructions Course No. 56

The closing ceremony of the 'Leadership and Career Development' Course No. 43, conducted for Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) got underway at Combat Training School in Ampara on 25 May 2022. 101 students participated in the course and S/ 654996 Corporal Gamage B A – 1 Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps won the first place. The troop address was conducted by Brigadier J M R N K Jayamanna RWP, Centre Commandant of Combat School, Ampara. Also the troop address of "Method of Instructions Course No. 56" which was conducted with the participation of 266 students was also held on 24 May 2022 under the patronage of Centre Commandant of Combat School, Ampara. S/521054 Corporal Bandara T M W -11 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment became the best student of the course.

## Dry Ration Distribution Programme at Sri Naga Viharaya, Jaffna



A programme of distributing dry rations for 1500 underprivileged families took place under the mediation of Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) on 19 May 2022 at Sri Naga Viharaya, Bishop House, Keerimale Kovil, and Masjid in Jaffna. The financial generosity for the community welfare task was extended by Sri Siddharatha Foundation, Thalagala, Horana, and Singapore Institution. The charity work was supervised by General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division, and the manpower was extended by 16 Gemunu Watch.





# Flashback After **13 Years** From Elimination of Terrorism



By Captain Nisal Rukshan SLSR  
Directorate of Media  
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*"The Soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is bearing arms for one's country."*

General George S Patton

Heroes are everywhere in the world. But, of course, all have specifications over their performances with commitments. But this is not an attempt to write about all heroes described by A-Z. Instead, it's about the War Heroes who sacrificed their lives for the motherland.

Thirteen years ago, this motherland also suffered from ruthless terrorism. It took thousands of innocent human lives as a cost and casualties of thousands and millions worth of properties. However, on a sunny day of our Sri Lankan history (19 May 2009), the evil terrorism was eradicated by the troops and the bloodshed was



stopped. Heroic War Heroes of the Army (23,962), Navy (1160), Air Force (443), together with 2598 Policemen and 456 Civil Security Department personnel, altogether a total of 28,619 were made the supreme sacrifice in the battle against the terrorism during these humanitarian acts.

That was not an easy task for them. Army troops fought in adverse weather conditions with their military tactics. Ultimately all commitments and the contributions of the soldiers were succeeded earning the victory. Even today, we can have flashbacks of heroic landmarks of their journey.

Now it is almost 13 Years after the humanitarian operation. The 5 R concept (Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Reintegration, Resettlement and Reconciliation) is most streamlined in all communities to uplift the living standards of all Sri Lankans.

Today, Sri Lanka Army, as the most significant disciplined human resource in the country, is working under the theme of '**Protectors of the Nation**', for the various concepts other than protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of the motherland.

As brave sons and daughters of the motherland Army recently successfully faced the battle of COVID-19 in different assignments under the leadership of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the time and as the Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID -19 Outbreak.

**Quarantine Centres** The Army joined hands in constructing Quarantine Centres (QCs) at the preliminary pandemic stage, and the widespread that service was extended to the constructions around the country, building and facilitating those QCs with free meals, medicine, WiFi, and mindfulness programmes. In addition, the troops' special attention and caring gave priority to the differently-abled inmates and infants.

**Intermediate Care Centres (ICC):** In strengthening



the efforts of the government health sector, to provide adequate treatments to COVID-19 patients, the Army constructed, renovated and established intermediate care centres island-wide on a small scale and a large scale, like centres in Iranawila

and Brandix Seeduwa. Medical experts of the Sri Lanka Army, together with the Ministry of Health, medical experts, doctors and other medical staff, served at the ICCs on behalf of brothers and sisters of the country in the name of humanity.

**Vaccination Drive:** To reduce the spread of the Corona virus and reduce the death rate, the Sri Lanka Army troops started the vaccination process. Subsequently, it was enhanced with mobile vaccination drives, which were effectively workout for elders and differently-abled communities.



The Army and the environment also have a mutual relationship which was strengthened by the Army's concept 'Thuru Mithuru Nawa Ratak' green drive with the directions of the Army Chief. The troops conducted tree planting programmes and shramadana campaigns around the country. Especially the removing the X-press Pearl Ship waste from the coastal belts by the Armed Forces of the Sri Lanka Army is also commendable.

The wings of the Army are widespread and much strengthened with the diversifications of its human resources and technology. The Army introduced many timely and practical innovations, such as vehicles for United Nations peacekeeping forces and disinfection equipment. These innovations helped to save the public money in the country. Sri Lanka Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Sri Lanka Signal Corps and Sri Lanka Engineers played a vital role in these ventures.

**Disaster Relief Operations** is also one more hard commitment performed by the Army troops. Apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, floods, landslides, and bushfires challenge the people's day-to-day lives, worsening the situation everyday. Nevertheless, the Sri Lanka Army, as a guardian angel guard the Nation, taking the lead in search and rescue operations, bush fire extinguishing operations with all other supporting elements.

**Blood Donation Campaigns** are the best places where Army shows its generosity to all Nations as a humanistic Army. Troops are always the leaders in donating blood anywhere in the country. It's for the betterment of any community. This wasn't limited to anywhere day or night, even North or East in the country.



**Dry ration and other items donating campaigns** can also be recognised as the Army's contribution to the Nation in different scenarios. Pandemics or different situations hurt all Sri Lankans in many ways and means. But the helping hand of the Sri Lanka Army is there at any time to heal the people in every possible means, providing dry rations to the doorstep. This extends to delivering drinking water by the troops to needy families in drought-affected areas.



**Assisting Senior Citizens** is one more charity conducted by the troops during COVID-19 pandemic. Senior citizens of the country can be considered the Nation's roots. Hence, without forgetting the contribution the troops of the Sri Lanka Army, carefully assisted the senior citizens in their paydays, monthly during the pandemic. It includes transport facilities from their doorsteps to relevant banks or post offices. Vehicles of the Sri Lanka Army and the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) were utilised.

**Housing projects** for the needy is one more humanistic project conducted under the concept of Army Chief. They are always aligned with the view of, 'Nothing Impossible.' Even with loaded other commitments, they did not stop completing the housing projects without delay for the needy families around the island, including Northern and Eastern areas.



**Nation-building programmes** can be highlighted as projects that save the government money and human resources with the Army's commitment, effectiveness, and efficiency. The Army Engineer, Corps of Engineer Services, and others at the front line of nation-building continued their work. Following the directions of the President, under the concept of 'Vitas of Prosperity and Splendour',

they played a vital role by carrying out Road constructions for needy villagers (Lankagama), renovations of playground and building constructions at schools, tank renovations for farming etc.

**Contribution to Agriculture-** Livestock and Organic fertiliser production is one more milestone of the Sri Lanka Army. When carrying out duties, Sri Lanka Army, by nature, acts with foresight. Hence, even under any situation, the Army continues the cultivation of paddy, vegetables, wheat, coconut, chilly and turmeric. Also, dairy products like fresh milk, pasteurised milk, curd, layer chickens, eggs and fruits like mango, papaya and banana. Meantime, Army promoted the organic fertiliser among the farmers.



Recently, Army had to ensure the Nation's security with arising of violent activities in the country. Therefore, during the curfew period, Army troops gave their cooperation to the Sri Lanka Police to maintain the law and order of the land. In addition, the rider teams of the Sri Lanka Army conducted patrolling around the country, ensuring the public security and safety.

These are the roles and tasks performed by the Protectors of the Nation after eradicating LTTE terrorism from the motherland. For all of these commitments, Commander of the Army to junior most soldier have committed their blood, sweat, and time. Under the direction of Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage RWP RSP ndu present Commander of the Army, Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff, Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu Deputy Chief of Staff, Commandant Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Commanders of the Security Force Headquarters, Colonel Commandants and Colonels of the Regiments, Division Commanders, Brigade Commanders, Commanding Officers, all Officers and Other Ranks are the stake-holders of all the said outcomes.

As the most prominent human resource in the country, the Army is always ready to face any challenges with its battle preparedness. With Discipline, training and professionalism of the troops, the Sri Lanka Army will make a better future for the Nation by proving the whole meaning of the phrase, "Protectors of the Nation", which they marked after 13 years of humanitarian operations.



## ***"Creators Military Items and Textile" Declared Open for the Customers***



The newly designed outlet of "Creators Military Items and Textile" which is located at the Creators Welfare Building in front of the Army Cantonment, Panagoda was declared open on 10 June 2022 for the public by Brigadier K M S Kumara Colonel Commandant, Corps of Engineer Services. Colonel N W P S M Perera Colonel Engineer Services, Directorate of Engineer Services, Colonel M D S Perera USP Commandant, Central Engineers Workshop, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## ***10 (V) CES Handed over 8000 kg of Organic Fertiliser to Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited***



10 (V) troops of the Corps of Engineer Services (CES) handed over 8000 kg of Army-processed organic fertiliser to the Company Warehouse of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited (Lak Pohora) on 6 June 2022 at Sooriyawewa. Major R P A Rohana Commanding Officer of 10 (V) Corps of Engineer Services symbolically handed over 8 tonnage of organic fertiliser which was processed by dedicated troops of 10 (V) Corps of Engineer Services to the agent of Ceylon Fertilizer Company Limited (Lak Pohora).

The programme was implemented under the conceptual layout of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army with the intention to build a healthy Nation.

## ***Kanagarayankulam Civilians Given More Relief Dry Rations***



At the request of the Army, Directress of 'Pathmahansa' Public Service Project, Mr Loku Balasooriya, Coordinator of Old Boys Association of Royal College - Colombo and Alumni Association of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura jointly provided dry ration packets and stationeries to the students of the deserving families living in the general area of Kanagarayankulam on 10 June 2022.

The charity event took place under the guidance of Major General L D S S Liyanage RSP USP psc Hdmc General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division under the supervision of Brigadier G P P Kulathilaka Commander, 561 Infantry Brigade. Officers and Other Ranks participated in the charity event.





# SRI LANKA SIGNAL CORPS

The Signal Corps is responsible for the Army's entire systems of communication. It is an indispensable entity for any Army. Therefore, the Signal Corps plans and executes all aspects of communication on a mission and will be critical to the Army's continued success. It is therefore to maintain the Army's voice, data and information systems, make tactical decisions and engage Signal troops at all levels of command.

The Sri Lanka Signal Corps which carries the prestigious motto "Swift and Sure" is a combat support Corps of the Sri Lanka Army and its history dates back to the era of the First World War. Signal Corps has a proud history of supporting to the Army's other units during the humanitarian operation. This Corps is responsible for providing military communications, information technology and electronic warfare support.

The Signal Corps was established on 19 October 1943 as a part of the Ceylon Defence Force. This was again reformed in 1950. Prior to the formation of the Ceylon Signal Corps, communication tasks were carried out by a Signal Company, which was formed as a part of the Field Engineers Regiment. Later, in 2010; the Sri Lanka Army established a Directorate of Information Technology under the Signal Corps by enlisting well qualified many signal officers to the Army. Currently, the Signal



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Corps consists of a Signals Brigade and other eleven units located island-wide.

The history of the Signal Corps unfolds with the outbreak of hostilities of World War II, the entire Signal Company was mobilised and sent to Trincomalee keeping very small detachment in Colombo to provide a wireless link. After years, the Signal Company was expanded rapidly to meet the growing communication demands. With the increasing demands of the Army, the need for more elaborate communication systems became very obvious. Therefore, in 1958 the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment C.S.C. was formed and late Lieutenant Colonel D V Brohier was appointed as the first Commanding Officer. The Regiment consisted of two squadrons as operational squadron and communications and HQ Squadron. The Regiment was located in the Army Cantonment at Panagoda.

In the early stages, radio communication took precedence over line communication and the old wartime sets were replaced by the C II and



specialised communication vehicles such as the Thames Martin Harper fitted for radio, were used extensively. In keeping with this trend, more flexible radio communication systems using radio sets with greater technical efficiency such as the SSB Transceivers were used.

The endless support and commitment provided by the Signalers has been essential to the whole Army today. Their dedication on behalf of the motherland came into reality again with the outbreak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka. The Army troops in collaboration with other sister services and health professionals have been engaged in a remarkably challenging task of netting, screening, transporting, quarantining individuals etc during the pandemic. In order to control the spread of COVID-19 within the island, Sri Lanka Army directly involved in the immunisation vaccination process with the direction of the Head of the National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID 19 Outbreak (NOCPCO), Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva.

Therefore, with the close supervision of the Chief Signal Officer of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals Major General Asoka Peiris, the troops of 11 Sri Lanka Signals



Corps provided the technical and human resources for this national requirement by supporting to computerise the vaccination details of the civilians in the country. This whole process was headed and maintained with the immense support provided by Sri Lanka Signal Corps troops.

In addition to that, troops of 11 Sri Lanka Signal Corps contributed to the E-Channeling vaccination process which helped to vaccinate large sections of the population in a short period of time. Thus this limitless dedication to this whole national project has been able to bring glory to the Sri Lanka Signals Corps and the entire Army.

## *First 'Cast Master' Course at Nayaru Successfully Concluded*



The 'Cast Master' Course, started on 4 May 2022 at Special Forces Combat Diving School, Nayaru ended successfully on 9 May 2022 as the first Maritime and Aquatic Operations Course of this type, conducted by the Special Forces in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Air Force. The aim of this course was to provide knowledge of landing at precise locations after dropping into boats in the waters and train Special Force soldiers for swimming and diving. The only diving training school of the Army is now established in Nayaru, Mullaitivu. 1 Officer and 15 Other Ranks of Special Forces followed the Course.





## *National Inter State Senior Athletics Championship 2022 in India*



Athletes Lance Corporal Amasha De Silva of Sri Lanka Signal Corps was in action at the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships 2022, which was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai from 10 June to 14 June 2022. She represented the Sri Lankan women's 4 x 100 m relay team. The team managed to produce a timing of 45.35s, securing the 2<sup>nd</sup> position while the Indian team cruised to a comfortable Gold with a timing of 43.95s.

## *Army Players Championed Canoeing and Kayaking*



The National Canoeing and Kayaking Competition - 2022 was organised by the Sri Lanka Canoeing and Kayaking National Association at Diyawanna waters from 3 to 5 June 2022 and participants of the Sri Lanka Army carried away the overall championship in the tournament.

Sri Lanka Army players (male) won 10 Gold medals, 8 Silver Medals and 4 Bronze Medals in the tournament to claim the Championship. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Army woman players grabbing 8 Gold Medals, 2 Silver Medals and 1 Bronze medal, won the Championship in the national tournament.



## Army Woman Hockey Player Shined in Indonesia



The Sri Lanka Army woman soldier, Private Perera L S D of 7 Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) during Asian Hockey Tournament, held in Indonesia from 6 to 14 June 2022 representing the Sri Lankan team, emerged as the winner in the first round on 7 June 2022 beating her rival team.

The Sri Lanka Hockey team accordingly scored 5-0 and emerged victorious and carried away the 'Best Player' title in the tournament. The tournament was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Army Cricketers Became Champions in T-20 Inter Club Series



The Army Cricketers grabbed the Championship in the Inter Club 1st Class Major T-20 Cricket Series, led by Sri Lanka Cricket, played at P Sara Oval ground on 17 June 2022. The Sri Lanka Army Cricketers vied against counterparts in Colts Sports Club and emerged champions after absence of 6 years.

The Army Cricketer Warrant Officer 1 Sekkuge Prasanna was adjudged as the Man of the Match in the series while the Army's Corporal Ashan Randika emerged as the Man of the Series.

## Army Swimmers Claimed Men's Open Best Swimmer Title



The 46<sup>th</sup> National Age Group Swimming Championship 2022 got underway from 8 to 11 June 2022 at Sugathadasa Stadium Swimming Pool where both male and female Army swimmers shone well securing many Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

Second Lieutenant H D A Peiris of Gajaba Regiment set a National Record in 50m Backstroke clocking 26.24 seconds.

Similarly, Men's Open Best Swimmer title was won by Private Karunanayaka R G A of 2 (V) Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers grabbing 5 Gold Medal and 2 Silver Medals.



## Sri Lanka Signal Corps Became Second Runners-Up at Inter Regiment Netball Championship – 2022



Inter Regiment Netball Team Championship – 2022 was held at the Panagoda Army Indoor Stadium from 22 June 2022 to 30 June 2022 with the participation of seven teams. Players of the Sri Lanka Signal Corps won the second runners- up in the tournament. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army attended the event as the Chief Guest, and Major General H M L D Herath RSP USP psc Chief Signal Officer of the Sri Lanka Army and the Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Signal Corps witnessed the finals.

## South Asian Cross Country Championships – 2022



South Asian Cross Country Championship and 56<sup>th</sup> National Cross Country Championship were organised by the Nagaland Athletics Association under the Athletics Federation of India on 26 March 2022. S/287005 Sergeant Nidarshani W M N participated in the Women's Cross Country Team Event and able to win the 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Sri Lanka Cross Country athletic team was able to secure the 8<sup>th</sup> place in the overall Championship.



## *Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) Initiated a Special Reserve Platoon Course*



The Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) for the first time initiated a 'Special Reserve Platoon Course' at Pampeimadu, Battalion Training School from 02 May 2022 to 7 June 2022 under the direction of Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander, Security Force Headquarters (Wanni). The course was followed by 5 platoons representing each infantry division under command to the Security Force Headquarters (Wanni).

The curriculum of the course included lectures and practical sessions on the handling of GPS, Self Defense Methods, Unarmed Combat, VIP Protection, Introduction of Explosives and Demolition, Handling of Weapons, Firing, and Rules of Engagements, Special Operation Procedures and Internal Security. The course was designed to develop the fighting power of the infantry, enhancing a physical component and combat power by increasing the manpower, equipment, training and operational readiness. The closing remarks of the course was held on 07 June 2022 at Pampeimadu, Battalion Training School with the participation of Commander, Security Force Headquarters (Wanni).

## *Army Parachutists Dominated the Air with 11 Canopies*



The Sri Lanka Army's parachutists, on 5 May 2022, added one more milestone to its history by forming 11 canopies in the skies for the first time during a skydivers training session, held at Sri Lanka Air Force Camp, Uhana in Ampara.

This team of 11 skydivers composed of Brigadier V M N Hettiarachchi RWP RSP Commander, Commando Brigade, Colonel S P Wickramasekara RWP RSP USP psc Major A A N Adikari RWP USP psc, Major Y M N T Kulathunga RWP RSP USP psc, Major W P Sandaruwan RWP USP psc, Warrant Officer II Senarathne I P D N P, Staff Sergeant Saman Kumara I G A, Staff Sargent Gunawardane R D D and Sergeant Kelum S R N, Sergeant Banda L R N and Corporal Bandara B A P J P exhibited this historical feature in the skies.



# Healthy Diet for the Happy Life

Healthy diet is the most important fact of our everyday life as it is the most important thing for the survival after water. The modern lifestyle made the kitchen busy and the cooking complex and unhealthy meals with extra fat and sugar. Nutrients are required to maintain a better lifestyle free from all the diseases significantly non communicable diseases. The healthy dieting always keeps your body healthy and mind stable increasing the life expectation. These little tips will guide you for the better dieting to achieve and maintain good health and reduce the risk of major chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, and some cancers.



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



## 1. Add more Fruits

Fruits are one of the finest ways of getting vitamins, minerals and lot of nutrients for a healthy life. As a part of an overall healthy diet, eating foods such as fruits that are lower in calories instead of some other higher-calorie food may be useful in helping to lower calorie intake. Eating a diet rich fruits as a part of an overall healthy diet may reduce risk of heart disease, including heart attack and stroke. Also eating a diet rich with some fruits as a part of an overall healthy diet may protect against certain types of cancers. Adding fruit can help increase intake of fiber and potassium which are important nutrients for good health.





## 2. Add more Veggies

The amount of vegetables you need to eat depends on your age, height, weight, and level of physical activity. As a part of an overall healthy diet, eating foods such as vegetables that are lower in calories may be useful in helping to lower calorie intake. Eating a diet rich with vegetables as a part of an overall healthy diet may reduce risk of heart disease, including heart attack and stroke. Eating a diet rich in some vegetables as part of an overall healthy diet may protect against certain types of cancers. Adding vegetables can help increase intake of fiber and potassium, and important nutrients what you miss often.



## 3. Add more Grains

Any food made from wheat, rice, oats, cornmeal, barley, or another cereal grain is a grain product. Rice, bread, pasta, breakfast cereals, and grits are some examples of grain products. Foods such as rice, popcorn, rice, and oatmeal are also included in the grains. Consuming grains as part of a healthy diet may reduce the risk of heart disease. Also, grain foods that contain fiber, as part of an overall healthy diet, can support healthy digestion. Eating whole grains, as part of an overall healthy diet, may help with weight management and helps prevent neural tube defects when consumed as a part of an overall healthy diet before and during pregnancy.



## 4. Add Protein Foods

Foods that are made from seafood; meat, poultry, and eggs; beans, peas, and lentils; nuts, seeds, and soy beans, peas, and lentils are the sources of protein foods. However, there are two ways of getting protein into your diet in either from red meat or vegetables. These proteins function as building blocks for bones, muscles, cartilage, skin, and blood. They are also building blocks for enzymes, hormones, and vitamins. Proteins are one of three nutrients that provide calories (the others are fat and carbohydrates).

Nutrients provided by various protein foods can differ. Varying your protein food choices can provide your body with a range of nutrients designed to keep your body functioning well. B vitamins help build tissue and aid in forming red blood cells. Iron can prevent anemia. Magnesium helps build bones and supports muscle function. Zinc can support your immune systems.



## 5. Add Dairy Products

Dairy products are rich with Calcium and vitamin D which are important nutrients at any age. Intake of dairy products that contain these nutrients help to improve bone health especially in children and adolescents, when bone mass is being built. Also it promotes bone health and prevents the onset of osteoporosis in adults, most of whom do not get enough of these nutrients.

Health is considered as the highest wealth by the Lord Buddha highlighting the importance of balanced diet. Therefore, it is most important to consider what you take in. Add these wise tips to your daily life and maintain a good diet making your life free from the chronicle diseases.

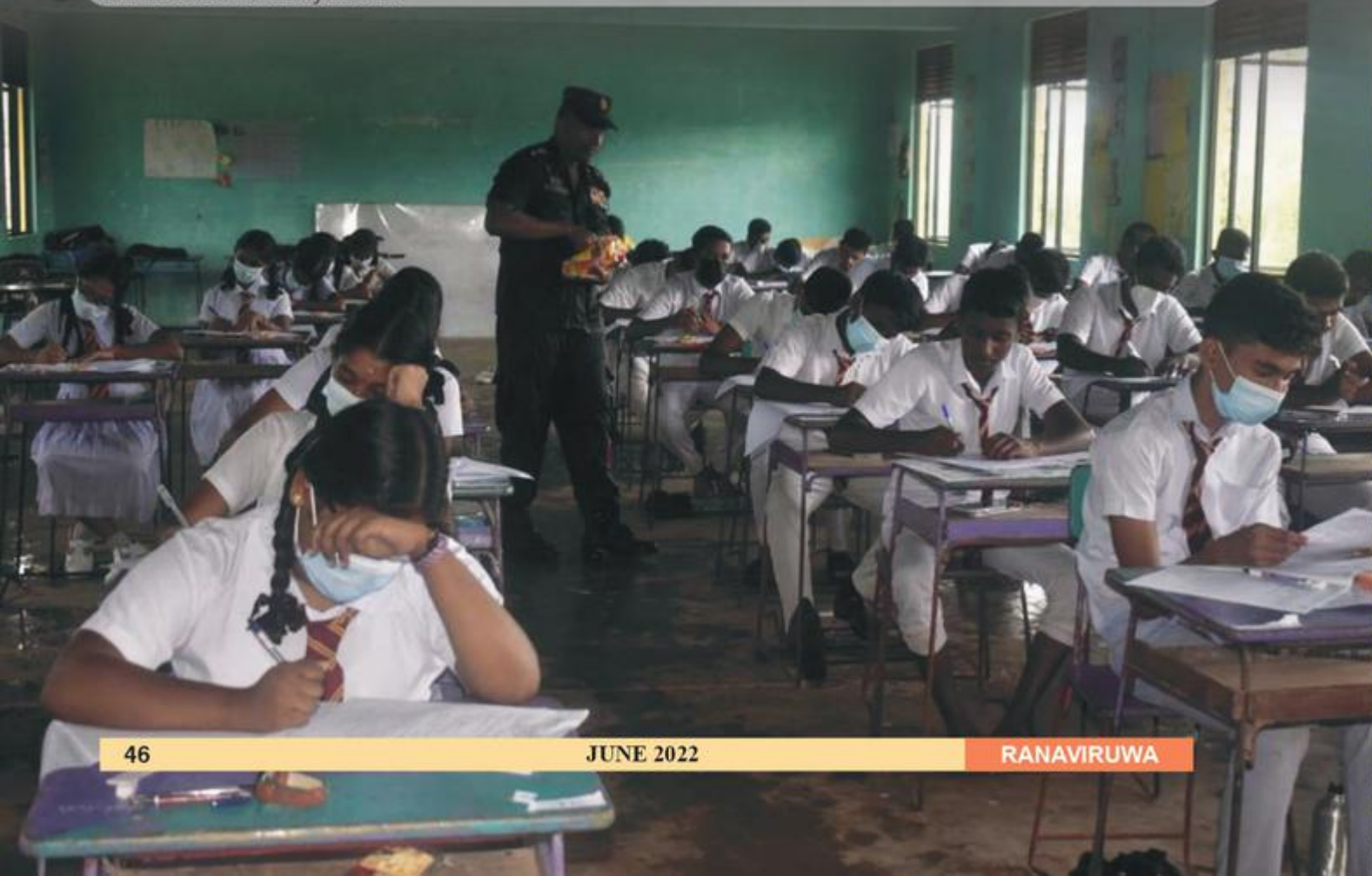




## Act of Humanity of the Rough Hands

Civilians regular life was affected by the adverse flooding caused in the past few weeks in many areas of the Island. The General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) candidates who appeared for their examination faced the most difficult hour when adverse rain began to battle with their future sinking their hopes in flood.

Extending the generosity, Sri Lanka Army immediately attended to fulfill the requirements of the flood victims by providing transparent and arranging examination facilities even providing food to make the future of the country secure.





“Disasters are unexpected but they are not achieving what they really want until the Sri Lanka Army guards the citizens against all the evil giving the generous assistance of the Sri Lanka Army as the righteous defenders of the Nation.”

”





## *More Relief Packs Donated to Deserving Families in Southern Province*



A programme of distributing dry rations to 600 poverty stricken families in the Hambanthota District was held on 08 June 2022 by the troops of 12 Infantry Division. The financial generosity for the task was extended by the Sri Siddhartha Foundation in Thalagala in collaboration with the Saasanarakshaka Bala Mandalaya in Kalutara. The event was taken place under the patronage of Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division, and Commander 122 Infantry Brigade, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

## *55 Infantry Division Troops Train Students and Youths in Jaffna for Badminton*



In order to popularise the game of badminton among the youth in the Jaffna peninsula, troops of 55 Infantry Division conducted a badminton training programme on 11 June 2022 at the 55 Infantry Division's auditorium.

35 schools and Sports Clubs in Point Pedro, Nagarkovil, Maradankerni, Aiyyakachchi, Pallai and Kaddaikadu areas took part in the event. The event was held under the guidance of Major General M K U P Gunaratne RSP ndu psc IG General Officer Commanding, 55 Infantry Division with the intention to groom national-level sportsmen and sportswomen in the Jaffna peninsula. General Officer Commanding of the 55 Infantry Division, Divisional Secretary of Maradankerni were present on the occasion of the training. At the end of the programme, certificates were awarded to all attendees.



## *A New House Vested in the Deserving Family at Kahatagollawa*

A new house erected on behalf of Mr H A Suresh Kumara, residing at No. 36, Kahatagollawa was vested in the beneficiary on 10 June 2022. Troops of 14 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry extended their manpower to fulfil the requirement of the civilian residing at 621 Infantry Brigade Area of Responsbile. Former Commander, 621 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officer 14 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



## ***Blood Donation Campaign at Abhinawarama Temple, Akuregoda***



A Blood Donation Campaign was held at Abhinawarama Temple, Akuregoda under the supervision of 10 Sri Lanka National Guard following the instructions of Brigader K M V Kodithuwakku Commander, 144 Infantry Brigade on 03 June 2022. 120 Army and civil personnel voluntarily donated their blood at the centre and the collected blood was donated to the Blood Collection Centre at Narahenpita.

## ***A New House for the Needy Family in Uyilankulam***



A new house was erected on behalf of Mrs Akilan Darshika resided at Thunukkayi, in Uyilankulam in the 651 Infantry Brigade Area of Responsible and vested in the beneficiary under the patronage of Major General K A Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 65 Infantry Division on 26 May 2022. The house was erected by the 17 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry and the financial generosity was extended by Welbeing Organisation and Sri Lankan Engineers in Australia at the request of Brigadier K M N Bandara RSP Commander, 651 Infantry Brigade. Also, school items and sweet meats were distributed among the students in the area and the packets of lunch were distributed to the residents in the area. Commander, 651 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officer, 17 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the charity event.

## ***A Donation for the Kataragama Pilgrims at Thondamannaru Sri Selva Sandi Murugan Kovil Premises***



The annual pilgrimage to Kataragama was initiated on 04 June 2022 from Thondamannaru Sri Selva Sandi Murugan Kovil Premises, in Jaffna and refreshments were provided to the pilgrims at the 52 Infantry Division area following the instructions of Major General M M U Herath RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 52 Infantry Division on 06 June 2022. The troops of the 52 Infantry Division assisted the task.





## An artist par excellence in Sinhala Cinema who once served in 'Ceylon Army'

# Amarasiri Kalansooriya



By Lieutenant  
Duninda Senarath  
SLAGSC  
Directorate of Media  
Army Headquarters

Veteran Cine Artist Amarasiri Kalansooriya is an actor who had contributed his talents in acting for a number of Sinhala movies such as "Hanthane Kathawa, Yasa Isuru, Ahas Maliga, Ahas Gawwa, Pooja, Apeksha, Podi Wije etc.". Moreover, this professional actor had illustrated his extraordinary talents by performing an unforgettable character for the very first Tele Drama of the Sri Lankan Tele Drama History known as 'Dimuthu Muthu'. However, we shouldn't forget that this artist par excellence an Ex-Serviceman who had once served in the Ceylon Army. Therefore, this exclusive feature article was written for the readers of 'Ranawiruwa' Magazine based on the facts that we gathered after having an exclusive interview with him.

**Question:** - Heard that you were an Ex -Serviceman in the Sri Lanka Army, can you say something about it?

**Answer:** - Yes, that was my first job and I joined the Army in 1958 (During that era, it was called "Ceylon Army" before the constitution of 1972) as a soldier when I was 18 years old. I was recruited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (Volunteer). However, at the time of the interview for the enlistment, I was dubious that whether I would

be selected, because I am short in height than the required height of the enlistment to the Army at the time. Fortunately, I was a good sportsman as well as a good Boxer and Cadet in the Cadet Platoon of my School. Though I was short in height, the Officers who were at the interview board considered my extra activities as well as my qualifications in sports. Therefore, I was lucky enough to be selected to the Army at that time. However, after the recruitments, all of us were sent to the Army





*A photograph taken when Amarasiri Kalansuriya was a Corporal in the Army.*

Camp in Diyatalawa for the basic training. After a tough training period, I was selected as the Best Marksman (Best Shooter) of the Batch. Also, during my career in Ceylon Army, I did my job to the level best and therefore I got the opportunity to serve in many places of the country inclusive of Jaffna Peninsula. Also, I had the opportunity to serve under the senior Officers such as then Colonel Denzil Kobbekaduwa and then Brigadier Paanabokke. After having lots of experience in the military life, I was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Also after completing six years of active service in the Army, I resigned, because I got an opportunity to enter into the Sinhala Cinema with the movie "Hanthane Kathawa". Also I must say that all my achievements of the Sinhala Cinema inclusive of film awards were made possible due to the training and guidance which I obtained from the Ceylon Army. Army is a place where a person can get developed in his career and personality.

Question: - It is observed that during a certain era, you were among the most popular actors of Sinhala Cinema and then you vanished. But after many more years, you suddenly popped out with the movie 'Diya Yata Gindara' which was directed by Veteran Film Director Udayakantha Warnasooriya. Why is the long delay for you to get into the field again?

Answer: - To be frank, "I must say that I am not the one and only person who had to face this situation. The veteran cinematographers inclusive Dharmasena Pathiraja, Dr Lester James Peiris and one of the most influential persons in the field such as Dr Gamini Fonseka, also faced the same circumstances. Also, comparing to the other actors in the globe, the Sri Lankan Artists are certainly not in a position to do their job in a professional manner because if they do it, it's certain that they have to face financial problems due to lack of films or tele dramas for them to work full time. Therefore, most of the actors and actresses had to

“ I did my job to the level best and therefore I got the opportunity to serve in many places of the country inclusive of Jaffna Peninsula. Also, I had the opportunity to serve under the senior Officers such as then Colonel Denzil Kobbekaduwa, Then Brigadier Paanabokke. After having lots of experience in the military life, I was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. After completing six years of active service in the Army, I resigned, because I got an opportunity to enter in to the Sinhala Cinema with the movie "Hanthane Kathawa". Also I must say that all my achievements of the Sinhala Cinema inclusive of film awards were made possible due to the training and guidance which I obtained from the Ceylon Army. ”

do another job or to engage in another business as a side income while continuing their acting career. So at the time when I was completely thrown off from the movie industry, the Veteran Film Director Udayakantha Warnasooriya showed me a film script and offered me a good character in it. As I received the film script to my hands, I realised that it was a good plot and I could do the justice for the character which reserved for me in it. So I gave the green light to him and I was delighted to act in the movie with other actors and actresses inclusive of Tony Ranasinghe, Sanath Gunathilaka, and Achala Alas.





Question: - Can you tell us about the early days of your film career?

Answer: - To say frankly, at the time I started my film career, I didn't act for the passion of it. Also, I am a person who had gone through lots of difficulties and hard times and suffered a lot during the early stages of my life. So I grabbed every opportunity that I got. Instead of acting, I was a person who always engaged in a big life struggle to cover my daily expenses inclusive of food and lodging. There were times even I didn't have a single square meal some days. So I had to dig out some of the cassava's (Mannioc) in my garden and ate after boiling it. However, during this hard time of my life, Mr Dharmasena Pathiraja, who was a good friend and also a schoolmate of mine, came to meet me one day and told me that he was about to direct a film and there were few characters in it which may suit me and asked me to come for a screen test if I was interested. The screen test was scheduled at the Jubilee Post in Colombo at that time. Accordingly, I went for the screen test of the movie and those who had come for the screen test got selected inclusive of myself, Vijaya Kumaranathunga, as well as Swarna Mallawarachchi, who became very talented and extra ordinary artists after their film debut. So that was the very first moment that I met Vijaya Kumaranathunga in my life. The name of the Movie was 'Hanthane Kathawa'.

Question: - How was the relationship between you and

Vijaya Kumaranathunga ?

Answer: - As I told you earlier, I met him for the first time in my life at the time of the screen test of the movie 'Hanthane Kathawa'. However, I can still remember that nearly 500 applicants were there for the screen test and finally, Vijaya Kumaratunga, Swarna Mallawarachchi, Shobani Amarasinghe and myself were selected for the characters in the movie. Also, from the very first day, Vijaya became very friendly with me and that friendship was a life-long friendship between him and me till the unexpected and sudden assassination by two gunmen in 1988. So that's how all of us were entered into the field of Sinhala Cinema. At the early stages of our film debut, we didn't have that much of money as the payments for our characters. Therefore, myself and Vijaya decided to run a small business to earn a part time income. So our plan was to buy bailed items such as denim trousers, T Shirts and Shirts from the bazaar at Colombo Fort and sell them at a profitable price in the areas such as Kandy and Katugasthota. As Vijaya Kumaratunga was so attractive and young those days, most of the teenagers and especially young girls easily became our customers. However, I gave Vijaya five rupees a day (That was a fair amount of money comparing to that time) for helping me for the business. So when I gave him 5 Rupees per day, sometimes Vijaya asked another coin of one rupee from me for him to have a bottle of Gin from the bar. There were some

days that both of us had a simple meal such as some Paratas with wadei and plain tea and slept on the benches of the Fort railway station after being so exhausted by being in to several places in Colombo Fort while looking for bailed items to purchase.

Question: - As an artist par excellence, how do you compare and what do you think about the film industry in Sri Lanka now?

Answer: - I would say that I am very much worried about the present situation of the Film Industry in Sri Lanka and its completely in a mess. Also I must say that when Mr D B Nihalsinghe was the Chairman of the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka when the Sinhala Cinema was in its climax. The movies which were produced in that era were in excellent condition.

Also the film patrons which were almost 7 million in the year 1982, were unfortunately decreased up to 4 million in 1989. What I observed is that the Cinema Hall owners too are responsible for the present crisis of the movie industry up to a certain percentage.

Also instead of some of the movie theaters in Colombo, all other movie halls which are existing in remote areas are not in good condition and the patrons do not have a suitable environment to enjoy a film with the members of their families. Some of the cunning film directors those who are having contacts with politicians were able to get loans in billions for movie productions



through the National Film Corporation and most of them used that money in a fraudulent manner. Instead of making films, some of them have built their personal houses by using these loans. So if these things are happening in this manner, do you think that the film industry of this country would still remain?

Also, the people those who are wealthy and have enough money don't come and watch Sinhala movies in a Cinema hall in Sri Lanka. During our era too, the Sinhala movies were watched and cheered by those who aren't rich and innocent people.

Even we too are in a certain position as actors today because of them. We should admit that when everything is going to be decided on the amount of money, making of films also becomes a sort of a business. That's the reason most of these film producers and movie directors

are on a policy of earning of more money without thinking about the quality of the film. So what I think is this situation has to be changed now. However, I'm glad to see that some of the veteran film directors inclusive of Chandran Ratnam, Udayakantha Warnasooriya, Jackson Anthony, and Jayantha Chandrasiri, Sanjaya Nirmal are seriously considering the quality of the film which they are going to produce rather than the financial outcome of the product. So I think it's a fortunate of the entire Sinhala Cinema that this kind of good film makers do still exist in Sri Lanka.

Question: - It is observed that most of the actors and actresses of the modern generation in Sri Lanka seem to be involved in the Mega type Tele Dramas which have an Indian influence, also we can see some of the most veteran artists are among them, so what do you feel about this?

Answer: - Actually, I don't want to criticise and I do not want to mention the names of the above mentioned artists. Also it's a question for me that, why these veteran artists also get involved themselves with this kind of Mega Tele Dramas which possess an Indian influence.

Also, by involving in this type of Mega Tele Dramas which do not have any quality at all, gradually they will blunt their skills.

However, thinking about this in a different angle, well, I don't think that anyone can blame them because as there aren't any quality films being produced in the country for them to work and as there is no other alternative for them, as professional artists, they have to be on their own and they also have to take the very first opportunity to cover their day-to-day expenses.

## Awarding Ceremony of Insignias Held Successfully at Army Training School, Maduruoya

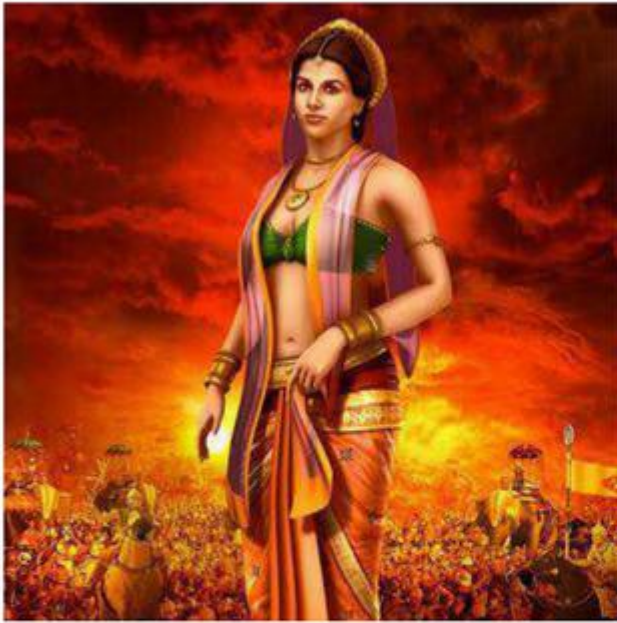


The awarding of insignias to students who followed the Special Infantry Operation Team (SIOT) Course No. 76 was held on 19 June 2022 at the Army Training School (ATS), Maduruoya and Commandant, Army Training School graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The Special Infantry Operation Team (SIOT) Course began on 27 April 2022 and conducted over a period of 91 days with the participation of 6 Officers and 189 Other Ranks of the 58 Infantry Division. The Course was conducted under seven phases including Engineering, First Aid, Signal, Air Marshaling, Marksmanship, Artillery and Tactics Phases.







# Encounter with Arjuna (My fate decided)

## Chapter Four



By  
Captain J G M R P Kumarihami SLAGSC  
Joint Service Language Training Institute  
Mawathura

Although I addressed so harshly to Krishna, my heart ached when he left the room. My robes smelled of his sandalwood scent. Why did this man acted so violently? It was not his nature. Was he that much unhappy about me choosing Karna over Arjuna? What is so great about this Arjuna? After all he and his guru defeated my father once, in the past. I remember Krishna mentioning the story one day. I didn't know much about this incident as I have paid no attention to this so called Arjuna before. However, his guru refused to teach Karna. That fact affected me very much as I have longed for Karna.

This stream of thoughts made me determined to search some more about Arjuna. However, it is not suitable to ask these things from my father or my brothers. Therefore, I called Charu and asked her to bring me some ola leaf books from the royal library.

When I was going through the ola leaves, I found almost all the details regarding Arjuna. Though I had some knowledge regarding his lineage thanks to Karna, this is the first time I paid attention to Arjuna and his clan. He belonged to the Pandava clan and

his mother and father were Queen Kunthi and Indra Deva, the lord of all heavens. Krishna was right about him possessing the most powerful Gandiva bow given by his father, Lord Indra. And according to the ola leaves, he has four brothers called "Yudhishthira, Bheema, Nakula and Sahadeva". Yudhishthira is the son of Kunti and the Dharma, the god of justice. Bheema is the son of Kunti and Vayu, the god of wind. Nakula and Sahadeva are the twins born to Madri, Arjuna's stepmother and Ashwini twins, the devine horsemen.

That's how the legend displayed in the ola leaves. All the Pandava relationships seemed to be tangled, I thought. "Hard to define" I thought.

"Why did Krishna chose this family as my in laws?" I thought with surprise. What is the great mission he mentioned? I felt like suffocating while looking at the ola leaves. I turned to Charu.

"Charu, I feel a bit suffocating. Shall we go for a walk outside the palace?"

"Yeah sure, your highness, shall I call some guards or do you want to go alone?"

"Better to go alone this time I think."

Charu and I shared a mischievous smile and in a minute we were out of the palace.

Without having any concern about time, we walked along the road leading to the river. It was almost mid day when we met some strangers near the river.

"Your highness, do you actually intend to marry Prince Arjuna?"

"I still have no idea girl, the thing which I cannot understand is Krishna's behaviour. He was never rude towards me. I wonder why he was so eager about my union with Arjuna."

"I think the same. He cares for you after all. More than anyone."

"Yes. I feel sorry for him. I did speak harshly to him earlier. However, he should not have behaved in that way."

We walked along the road further more.

"Look your highness, there are some strange men near the river. Shall we go back?"

"No Charu. Let's continue. They do not know who we are anyhow."

When we walked further I heard someone from the strange men party mentioning my name. I decided to stay hidden and listen. Therefore, we hid behind a bush and their conversation went on like this.

"I envy you brother. Draupadi is very beautiful and witty I hear. That will be an excellent match for you."

"Krishna said so. However, we haven't met each other yet."

"Hah..hah.. Are you that much eager to see her? That



desire will be fulfilled at the Swayamwar. Have some patience."

What is this Swayamvar thing? No one mentioned such a thing before? Will Karna also be there? What a delightful thing to know. I thought.

"Yes I'm waiting to see her. Is she courageous and virtuous like our mother? I wonder."

"Yes I too wonder. Who will be able to become our Gandivdhari Arjuna's wife."

At this point I understood it's Arjuna and his two brothers, whom I was listening to. I got a sudden urge to go and meet the man Krishna chose for me. Without giving an ear to Charu's pleading I went on. With my unexpected appearance they all looked surprised. When I looked at Arjuna I understood that it's him who shot an arrow at Karna in my dream. It was the most powerful Gandiv bow which he was carrying. Will that happen at the Swayamwar? Even the thought made me shudder. No one wants their husband choosing moment to be a blood bath. However, will I be able to stop him from harming Karna? I would agree to almost anything if I could do that. I approached Arjuna and his brothers with this thought.

"Who are you, may I ask? Did you listen to our conversation secretly?" Sahadeva asked. He looked annoyed.

"Yes, I'm very sorry to do so. However I couldn't restraint myself from listening since you guys were talking about me."

"Panchali?" Arjuna exclaimed.

"Draupadi? You?" the twins muttered.

"Yes. I'm. Welcome to Panchala kingdom. It's a pleasure to see you guys here."

"You are walking alone in these woods? Without having guards?" Arjuna asked.

"Yes I came for a walk with my maid. It's very relaxing here."

"I see. Do you know who we are?"

"I know. Krishna told me too. You are Gandivdhari Arjuna, the one who is expecting my hand at the Swayamwar. And these two guys are your twin brothers, Nakula and Sahadeva. Am I right?"

"Yes you are. Not only the Panchala princess is very beautiful and witty, she is bold and brave enough I guess." Arjuna complimented.

"Oh thank you very much for your compliment. However, may I ask what made you visit here so suddenly? Actually, the Swayamwar thing is not confirmed I hear."

"Is that so? Did Krishna deceive us then? He said it's already confirmed."

"Did he? I see. So where are your other two brothers? Are they home?"

"No actually we are not staying home. We left our kingdom. And we are hiding from our own cousins. It's a long story." Sahadeva spoke on behalf of Arjuna.

"Yes. You may have heard there's a clash between our cousins, the Kuru clan and us, the Pandava clan for the throne of Hasthinapur. Actually, the throne belongs to our elder brother, Yudhishthira. However, the Kuru guys built a house of lac and invited us to a feast there. Their plan was to fire the house and murder us. However, we escaped through a tunnel. And now we are hiding here from our very own cousins." Arjuna went on

"Our uncle Shakuni and that evil man Karna is also helping our cousins." Sahadeva added again.

"Is that so? I thought Karna is a noble man." I said. I couldn't hide my expression of amazement.

"Who says? He is the worst. He even cheated the guru when learning. He is not a man to be trusted. If he is a noble man, will he ever choose the side of Duryodana, the evil's side?" Arjuna uttered sarcastically.

Those were completely new tidings to me. I haven't heard about Karna choosing the side of Duryodana. However, he may have done that to take revenge from them, who didn't give him a fair chance to learn, I thought.

"Karna will also come to your Swayamwar I hear." Arjuna said after a moment.

Did he read my mind? I looked at Arjuna carefully.

"Is that so? How do you know that?" I asked. "Will he actually come?"

"Krishna told me. They will decide about the suitor through a game of archer. Winning your hand through a fair fight. That's what I hope to do."

"I see. I hope to see the same thing. Do fight fairly and please don't harm anyone upon my honour. I request you."

"Of course I will. Don't be afraid Panchali. We will not betray our gurus and the traditions we have learnt. Now you should return to the palace. It's getting late for you." Arjuna said with a look of concern.

"Yes I will take my leave then. See you guys at the Swayamwar. Take care of yourselves."

"You too Panchali. Stay safe." said Arjuna once again.

I bid farewell to them and came back to Charu. She was watching me with a look of terror. I comforted her and we started our journey back to the palace. Nevertheless, the desire to see Karna at the Swayamwar did not leave my mind. Will he actually be there and fight for my hand? I wished he could win my hand with all my heart. Why didn't Krishna tell me a single word about that? Does he detest Karna that much?



## Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Major General W M G C S B Wijeyesundera RSP USP ndu**

assumed duties as the Commander, Security Force (Jaffna)

on 12 June 2022



**Major General A C Lamaheewa WWV RWP RSP**

assumed duties as the Colonel of the Regiment, Gemunu Watch

on 13 May 2022



**Major General G R P Jayawardena RWP RSP ndu**

assumed duties as the Colonel of the Regiment, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment

on 23 June 2022



**Major General M K Jayawardena RSP USP ndu**

assumed duties as the Chief Field Engineer, Chief Field Engineer Office

on 11 June 2022



**Major General H M L D Herath RSP USP psc**

assumed duties as the Colonel of the Regiment, Sri Lanka Signal Corps

on 06 June 2022  
also assumed the duties as Chief Signal Officer  
on 03 June 2022



**Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG**

assumed duties as the Commandant, Defence Services Command and Staff College

on 20 June 2022



**Major General M G W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc**

assumed duties as the Military Secretary, Sri Lanka Army Headquarters

on 03 June 2022



**Major General K A A Udaya Kumara RSP USP USAWC psc**

assumed duties as the General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division

on 07 June 2022



**Brigadier R M J B Ratnayake RSP**

assumed duties as the Centre Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock

on 31 May 2022



**Brigadier W T W G Ihalage RWP RSP psc**

assumed duties as the General Officer Commanding, 58 Infantry Division

on 03 June 2022



**Brigadier A C A de Zoysa USP Hdmc Lsc**

assumed duties as the Commander, Forward Maintenance Area, (North)

on 09 June 2022



**Brigadier A P Wickramasekara USP psc**

assumed duties as the Brigadier General Staff, Security Forces Headquarters (Wanni)

on 01 June 2022





**Brigadier J M S G B  
Jayamaha RWP RSP USP**

assumed duties as the  
Commandant,  
Marksmanship and  
Sniper Training School  
on 01 June 2022



**Brigadier K K S Perakum  
RWP RSP**

assumed duties as the  
Director,  
Directorate of Assets and  
Management  
on 13 June 2022



**Brigadier K A U  
Kodituwakku RSP USP psc  
IG**

assumed duties as the  
Director,  
Directorate of Personnel  
Administration  
on 03 June 2022



**Colonel A A D P Kulathilaka  
USP psc**

assumed duties as the  
Commander,  
593 Infantry Brigade  
on 26 May 2022



**Colonel T N K Perera**  
assumed duties as  
the Commander,  
583 Infantry Brigade  
on 01 June 2022



**Colonel S Wijesiriwardane  
RWP RSP**

assumed duties as the  
Colonel General Staff,  
22 Infantry Division  
on 28 May 2022



**Colonel A K Peiris RSP**

assumed duties as the  
Colonel General Staff,  
68 Infantry Division  
on 10 June 2022



**Colonel H K J U Jayaratna**  
assumed duties as  
the Senior Security  
Coordinating Officer,  
Sri Lanka Army  
Headquarters

on 20 June 2022



**Colonel N Mahawithana  
KSP**

assumed duties as the  
Colonel (Coordinating)  
Officer  
Sri Lanka Army Seva  
Vanitha Unit  
on 16 June 2022



**Colonel H A Keerthinatha  
RSP KSP psc**

assumed duties as the  
Commandant,  
Sri Lanka National Guard  
on 13 June 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel K K D R  
Chaminda**

assumed duties  
as the Civil  
Coordinating Officer,  
55 Infantry Division  
on 04 May 2022



**Major R M L U A Ratnayake**  
assumed duties as the  
Commanding Officer,  
Regimental  
Headquarters Battalion,  
Gajaba Regiment

on 12 May 2022



## Battalion Training Successfully Concluded at Vidaththapaleyi



The battalion training course which was initiated on 25 April 2022 at the Battalion Training School of 52 Infantry Division Headquarters, Vidaththapaleyi with the intention to improve the collective strength and firepower of the Officers and Other Ranks of 12 Gemunu Watch successfully concluded on 12 June 2022 at the Battalion Training School of 52 Infantry Division. Major General R A S L Ranasinghe RWP RSP USP Commanding Officer, Battalion Training School participated in the event as the Chief Guest and awarded the certificate.



### RANAVIRUWA

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## *New Accommodation Facility for Other Ranks Serving at Defence Headquarters Declared Open*



A long-awaited and much-needed accommodation complex for Other Ranks of the Army working at the Defence Headquarters complex at Sri Jayawardenepura, built in Talangama North area was formally vested in the troops on 8 June 2022 during a brief ceremony, attended by the top brass in the defence management.

The well-equipped 4 storied facility, erected with the engineering and technical skills of the Corps of Engineer Services and Sri Lanka Engineers and with the manpower of other regiments and Navy and Air Force was inaugurated by General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary Defence as the Chief Guest after unveiling a plaque to that effect at the invitation of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander of the Army. This complex consists of a welfare canteen, Seva Vanitha shop, medical inspection room and other essential facilities. The funds for the construction were allocated from the Defence Headquarters budget in consultation with the Treasury.





Memories of the Battleground

## *The Far-Sighted Mission*

The War Heroes saved a country for the future. Saved the public from the disaster. There is no other who had sacrificed their lifeblood for the wellbeing of others than the War Heroes. Their incredible endeavours are hidden in every step and every breath you take...

