

Ranaviruwa



Historic Moment on a Historic Day

The memorable moment of handing over the truncheon by outgoing Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff to the incoming Commander of the Army Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu following the military formalities.





Great War Heroes Saluted on 13th Victory Day

Undying memories and gallantry of heroic War Heroes who made the supreme sacrifice while defending the motherland were revered, admired and honoured on 19 May 2022 in a solemn state ceremony held at War Heroes' Monument, Sri Jayawardenepura dignified by the presence of His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces as the Chief Guest.



General (Rtd) K D H K Gunaratne WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary Ministry of Defence, Major General (Rtd) Jagath Alwis Secretary to Ministry of Public Security, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commanders of Sri Lanka Navy and Air Force, Inspector General of Police, Director General of Civil Security Department, Chairman of Ranaviru Seva Authority and representative tri-service Officers and Civil Security Department officials participated in the event.

During this ceremony, fallen heroic War Heroes of the Army (23,962), Navy (1160), Air Force (443), 2598 Policemen and 456 Civil Security Department personnel, altogether a total of 28,619 who had made the supreme sacrifice in the fight against ruthless LTTE terrorism were respectfully called to eternal memory for their valour, gallantry, selfless dedication and invaluable sacrifices offering floral tributes.



Outgoing Army Commander Appointed as Chief of Defence Staff



His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka handed over the letter of appointment to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil appointing him as new Chief of Defence Staff, effective from 1 June 2022.

New Commander Accepted Letter of Appointment



The new Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu received the letter of appointment from His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces on 31 May 2022 at the President's House. Accordingly, he assumed duties at a formal ceremony held on 1 June 2022 at the Army Headquarters. He was serving as the Chief of Staff of the Army at the time he was appointed the Commander of the Army.



Formal Military Ceremony Bade Farewell to Outgoing Army Commander

Following the deep rooted military formalities, a Guard Turn Out and a colour-rich Guard of Honour, saluted General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil the outgoing 23rd Commander of the Sri Lanka Army at the formal farewell ceremony, held at the Army Headquarters on 31 May 2022 amidst a representative gathering of senior Officers and Other Ranks of the Army.

The outgoing Army Commander bade farewell leaving unforgettable milestone as a person who rendered a meticulous service for the wellbeing of the Sri Lanka Army. He held the position for two years and nine months and extended his profuse thanks to all those who cooperated with him during his tenure.





Immortalising the noteworthy tenure, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil the outgoing Commander of the Army unveiled his portrait around the main entrance at the Army Commander's Secretariat before the street-line salute.



Number of Officers and Other Ranks gathered besides the entrance to bade farewell to the outgoing Commander of the Army. It was the first time where an outgoing Commander was revered with such magnitude farewell ceremony in the Army Headquarters.



Incoming Commander of the Army Promoted to Next Rank

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces promoted Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu to the rank of Lieutenant General, effective from 1 June 2022.

The Ranaviruwa Magazine extends heartiest congratulations to Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu on the promotion wishing good health, courage and strength to defend the nation from all threats in the years to come.



Asidisi Shakyamuni Maha Seya Pinnacle Declared Open for Public Veneration

The golden pinnacle with its crystal gem atop at Kuragala Asidisi Shakyamuni Maha Seya (Giant Pagoda) was declared open for public veneration amidst the pirith chanting and traditional drum beatings in the presence of a gathering of Buddhist monks and General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who attended the ceremony at the invitation of Venerable Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero on 15 May 2022.

Venerable Wathurakubure Dhammaratana Thero gratefully acknowledged the initiation of the project by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and his continued support to make it a reality in less than a year with the unfailing support, extended by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and Army troops, in addition to the contribution of Civil Security Department personnel and hundreds of Buddhist groups. He also profusely thanked the troops for their dedicated roles and admitted that it took nearly 50 years for the Buddhists to have it reclaimed as it remained unattended.





As the second phase of the State Vesak Festival which was held at the ancient Kuragala cave temple complex, known as Kuragala Rajamaha Viharaya in Kalthota, the sacred relics were deposited at the 'Suganda Kutuya' in the relic chamber. This "Suganda Kutuya" was built with the generosity of the devotees, Sri Lanka Army Buddhist Association, and Neth FM and declared open by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on the same day.

Around the same time, the four storied residential quarters administrative section and the alms hall for the monks were declared open on the same day for the benefit of resident monks and the administration of the location.



Heroism of War Heroes in ‘Mihindu Seth Medura’ Admired on National War Heroes’ Day

Symbolising the importance and the prominence, being attached to the heroic War Heroes who remain incapacitated due to serious injuries sustained in the defence of the motherland, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, together with Mrs Sujeewa Nelson the President of Sri Lanka Army Seva Vanitha Unit on the ‘Victory Day’ (18 May 2022) which was also known as National War Heroes Day visited the ‘Mihindu Seth Medura’ wellness resort at Attidiya and met War Heroes who are still under recuperation and rehabilitation.

Both Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and President of Sri Lanka Army Seva Vanitha Unit shared a few thoughts and distributed gift parcels, inclusive of bed-linen, toiletries and other essentials among all of them and spoke of their brave achievements. Afterwards, they participated in brief tea party sharing good old memories with War Heroes on their victories marked at the historic victory. 40 injured War Heroes are under treatment at this wellness resort, equipped with all therapeutic equipment.

“We will do everything in our capacity to take care of you and treasure what you have done for the country. We, in the Army have always come to the forefront in defence of our people and the country all the time. It was so in the past and it will continue to be so in the future too”

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, assured the War Heroes at the Mihindu Seth Medura.

Senior Officers including Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff, Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc Adjutant General, Major General S P A I M B Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Commander, Army Logistics Command, Colonel B A P Liyanage RWP RSP USP Commandant, Mihindu Seth Medura, Senior Officers, spouses and Other Ranks participated in the brief event.



New Multi-Purpose CIMIC Park Gifted to Jaffna Civilians

In a refreshingly new and multi-dimensional move to raise bonds of existing Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) to new heights, the 51 Infantry Division Headquarters of the Security Force (Jaffna) in line with the 'Army Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025' gifted its exclusive CIMIC Park for sports, recreation and education support to the local Jaffna populace on 8 May 2022 in Kopay during a simple ceremony, headed by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest.

The construction of this state-of-the-art, CIMIC Park became a reality in an initiative, taken by Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe General Officer Commanding 51 Infantry Division with the blessings of Major General D G S Senarath Yapa Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) after receipt of financial sponsorship mainly from family members of late Mr J S Rajaratnam Vice Principal at Hartley College, Point Pedro and several other impressed philanthropists who volunteered to support the project.

This mega community project is comprised of a Calisthenics unit, meant for physical training of youngsters, rest and recreation facility, futsal indoor soccer game pitch, educational support unit with library for children, health and medical aid facility, recreational activity facility for cultural performances and transfer of knowledge to the young generation. The foundation stone was laid in October 2021. At the same location school shoes were distributed among 20 needy school students.

Generals Officer Commanding of 52 and 55 Infantry Divisions, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Gemunu Watch Regimental Centre Gifted 3 Storied Accommodation Facilities to their Troops



New state-of-the-art building comprised of 3 stories which was erected for Non Commissioned Officers serving in the Gemunu Watch (GW) Regimental Headquarters at Kuruwita, Ratnapura was vested in the troops on 4 May 2022 for their utility.

The long-felt requirement of Gemunu Watch Other Ranks was declared open by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who was there to receive the salute of the Mali-bound troops.



The building was erected on the contribution of the Regimental Funds of Gemunu Watch under the instructions of Major General P M L Chandrasiri WWV RWP RSP ndu Colonel Commandant Gemunu Watch and manpower of Corps of Engineer Services. Also, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army declared open the newly-developed hardball cricket pitch in the premises and presented an appreciative token to Bombardier Ajith Kumara who was instrumental in throwing his full weight behind the preparation of this new pitch and erection of cricket ground facilities using his technical expertise. The Chief of Staff, Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Commander, Army Logistics Command, Senior Officers and Officers participated in the arrangements.

4th Combat Convoy Company Departed for Mali

The 4th Sri Lankan Contingent of the Combat Convoy Company (CCC), departed for United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) extended a formal salute to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the Gemunu Watch Regimental Headquarters at Kuruwita, Ratnapura on 4 May 2022. The 4th Sri Lankan Contingent of the Combat Convoy Company was comprised of 243 Officers.

The 4th Sri Lankan Contingent of the Combat Convoy Company (CCC), comprised of 20 Officers and 223 Other Ranks representing 12 Regiments of the Army, departed for landlocked West African country Mali, in the second week of May (1st Group) after the return of serving Contingent of the Combat Convoy Company in Mali.

The Contingent of the Combat Convoy Company was comprised of Army Officers and Other Ranks of the Gemunu Watch (GW), the majority in the contingent as well as members of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps (SLAC), Sri Lanka Engineers (SLE), Sri Lanka Signal Corps (SLSC), Mechanized Infantry Regiment (MIR), Corps of Engineer Services (CES), Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (SLASC), Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps (SLAOC), Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME), Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police (SLCMP), Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps (SLAMC) and Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC).

Chief of Staff, Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Commandant, Defence Services Command and Staff College, Chief Signal Officer, Commander, Army Logistics Command, Senior Officers and Officers were present at the military formality.



Eight More Senior Brigadiers Promoted to Next Rank



Eight more Senior Brigadiers of the Army, promoted to the rank of Major General to coincide with the 13th War Heroes' Commemoration Day (Victory Day) and received their rank insignia from their guiding star General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 20 May 2022 at Sri Lanka Army Headquarters, Sri Jayawardenepura.

Those eight Senior Brigadiers thus promoted to their next rank include Major General M K U P Gunaratne RSP ndu psc IG of Sri Lanka Artillery, General Officer Commanding 55 Infantry Division, Major General K A W S Ratnayake ndu of Sri Lanka Signal Corps, Commander Forward Maintenance Area (East), Major General R W Ponnampuruma RSP psc of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, General Officer Commanding 68 Infantry Division, Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc of Sri Lanka Engineers, General Officer Commanding 12 Infantry Division, Major General S B Amunugama RWP RSP ndu of Gajaba Regiment, General Officer Commanding 24 Infantry Division, Major General H D K Heiyantuduwa RWP RSP of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, presently, attached to the Sri Lanka High Commission in Pakistan as Defence Attaché, Major General H M U Herath RWP RSP USP psc Hdmc of Mechanized Infantry Regiment, General Officer Commanding 52 Infantry Division and Major General W M D S K Gunawardhane RSP KSP of Gajaba Regiment, Deputy Commandant of Sri Lanka Volunteer Force Headquarters. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army extending congratulations, greeted the best wishes to all of them pinned their new Major General insignia separately and simultaneously handed over the symbolic sword of authority to each of them. Also, Ranaviruwa extends the hearties congratulations to the newly promoted Major Generals.

7 Senior Colonels Elevated to the Rank of Brigadiers



A rare gesture that coincides with the 13th War Heroes' Commemoration Day (Victory Day) pinned new insignia on 7 Senior Colonels who were elevated to the rank of Brigadier at the Commander's office on 19 May 2022. Those 7 new Brigadiers of the Intake 37 at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) were promoted to the rank of Brigadier with the approval of His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The newly-promoted group included Brigadier L G J N Ariyathilaka RWP RSP of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, Commander, 213 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier M A D S Munasinghe RWP RSP psc IG of Sri Lanka Artillery, Commander, 541 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier K M V Kodituwakku of Gemunu Watch, Commander, 144 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier T M F Kitchilan RWP RSP of Vijayabhahu Infantry Regiment, Commander, 143 Infantry Brigade, Brigadier B M S K K Dharmawardena RWP RSP USP of Commando Regiment, Centre Commandant, Commando Regiment Headquarters, Brigadier D N C Serasinghe RSP USP of Sri Lanka Engineers, Commander, 653 Infantry Brigade and Brigadier M W S Millagala RWP RSP USP psc of Gajaba Regiment, Centre Commandant, Gajaba Regiment.

Formal Culmination of State Vesak Commemoration Marked at Kuragala with Colourful Religious Performances



The formal culmination of the week-long State Vesak Festival at completely renovated ancient Kuragala cave temple complex, known as Kuragala Rajamaha Viharaya took place on 21 and 22 May 2022 in the presence of a gathering of Buddhist monks and devotees.

General Shavendra Silva WWVRWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army graced the event as the Chief Guest. The final phase which included offering Buddha Pooja in the new Relic Chamber, alms to Buddhist monks, Procession to the Pagoda, Performance of Rites and Rituals, Ashtapana Pooja, Gilanpasa, Bhakthi Gee (final devotional song) show, cultural show and 'Pirith' chanting took place on 22 May 2022.

A gathering of about 200 Buddhist monks in accordance with age-old traditions in the Maha Sangha community performed the ritual of vesting the entire temple complex in the 'Sasana'. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army also joined this segment of the religious occasion.

The oldest in the Sabaragamuwa Province, historic Kuragala, which has a proud history of over 2300 years, turned a new lease of life on Vesak Day in less than a year by holding the State Vesak Commemoration ceremony for the first time with the dedicated incumbency of Venerable Waturakumbure Dhammaratana Thero and unfailingly committed contribution of Army troops, devout Buddhists and Civil Defence Service personnel.

During the final afternoon segment, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army presented gifts to the winners of the Vesak lantern competition. The 1st place was won by Sri Lanka Artillery troops, 2nd place by Sri Lanka Engineers and the 3rd place went to Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

The Grand and Ceremonial Opening of “Cyllene Cave” of the Signals Officers' Mess



Newly-erected “Cyllene Cave,” the state-of-the-art two-storied new Officers' Mess building complex in the Sri Lanka Signals Corps vested in during a simple ceremony, headed by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest on 26th May 2022.

The complex, consists of a spacious TV room, guests' reception section, billiards room, entertainment section, pub and several other facilities, fulfilling a longstanding requirement of the Sri Lanka Signals Corps Officers for a proper facility that meets with required professional standards.



This project was launched on the directions of Major General P A J Peiris ndu Chief Signal Officer of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Signals Corps to be in line with the Commander's 'Army Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025', in which provision of all supportive facilities to Officers and Other Ranks has been highlighted for implementation. The troops of Sri Lanka Signal Corps provided the manpower to make the facility a reality.

Regional Red Cross Delegate in Colombo Paid Courtesies to Army Commander



Brigadier (Rtd) Jacques Lemay, Regional Armed and Security Forces delegate in Colombo, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) paid courtesies to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 25 May 2022 on his relinquishment of duties in Sri Lanka. During these cordial interactions, mementoes were exchanged between both as a symbol of courtesy.



Lasting Adventure Exhibited at Adappan

Kalabatuwawe Gedara Mahinda Rajapaksa was born on June 1989 to Kalabatuwawe Gedara Bhodidasa and Rajapaksa Gedara Siriyawathi at Varadanggolla Village, Hasalaka in Mahiyangane. Little Mahinda had an elder brother called K G Upali Rajapaksa at the time and soon after he was able to enjoy company of younger brother with the birth of new member to the family named K G Sisira Kumara.

Young Mahinda Rajapaksa entered to Mahiyangana Central College for the studies. During the schooling period he stayed at his grandmother's place in Udawatta village as he preferred to go to school from there than his home. He was a brilliant student for both studies and extracurricular activities including sports. Due to this enthusiasm towards studies and extracurricular, he received the appreciation from school teachers and others.

At the meantime his elder brother K G Upali Rajapaksa ordained into the monkhood as Varadanggolle Vimalananda Thero at Maha Aswedduma Sri Sambhoodhi Jayanthi Maha Viharaya in Hasalaka leaving the family responsibility of the first child on the shoulders of Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Time gradually passed by

bringing number of hardships to the Mahinda Rajapaksa family without prior notice. The sudden loss of the father hit the family as a thunderbolt leaving many challenges for the family including the grievances and sorrows. The role that young Mahinda Rajapaksa so far played as elder brother shifted to the family chief with enormous responsibilities ahead.

Due to the number of economic hardships, young Mahinda Rajapaksa decided to put an end to the school life before the mother's strong objection. With the termination of the school life, he willingly shouldered the family burden to his shoulder and worked hard to fulfill them as a dutiful son.

At the time, the country was hampered by the terrorism that was spreading every corner of the country taking number of lives of innocents. Many brave warriors had sacrificed their valuable lives in the sake of the country's sovereignty and its territorial integrity. Young and bold Mahinda was inspired by the greatest heroism exhibited by the soldiers in the battlefield. The giant Gamini Kularatne's statue standing with pride at the entrance of his village had inspired him unlike no other to join the Sri Lanka Army.

Corporal Gamini Kularatne's



**S/371780 L/Cpl Mahinda
Rajapaksha KG
PWV RWP
Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment**

statue inspired him to join the Sri Lanka Army at his blooming youth. He told himself "yes I will join Sri Lanka Army as soon I complete my 18 years and will bring the pride to my country one day". But he was very careful to keep this as a secret from his family and grandmother. He knew that when they got to know, that they will not allow him to do that. But he was genius enough to obtain his mother's blessings convincing her as soon he reached 18 years old making his lifetime dream a reality. The heroic son joined Sri Lanka Army on 04 November 2007 as a recruit.

He completed his preliminary military training from Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Training School, Thisawewa. Soon after the completion of the preliminary training he joined 12 Infantry Battalion, Sri Lanka

Sinha Regiment which was the same Regiment of his hero Corporal Gamini Kularatne. He earnestly believed that joining 12 Infantry Battalion was a mere privilege to him.

At the time 12 Infantry Battalion, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment was deployed at Vishwamadu, Kilinochchi and was engaged in the mission of eliminating the terrorism from the area achieving number of war victories against the terrorists. 572 Infantry Brigade under command to 57 Infantry Division paid immense contribution for this Humanitarian Operation. Due to the victories that achieved by the small groups, Sri Lanka Army trusted on small group operations being away from the traditional combat tactics.

All the units in the defence line were small groups and they were set to achieve their targets. Accordingly 12 Infantry Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment deployed their small groups in the identified places in Adappan area. Lance Corporal Mahinda was included in a such small group at the time and popular among his peers as a warrior.

Making 16 October 2008 a decisive day, 12 Infantry Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment received a special order from Higher Headquarters to acquire the terrorists' trenches in Vishwamadu area. The Higher Headquarters had selected Lance Corporal Mahinda's team to achieve the target.

The operation launched as planned but it was not easy as they planned. Before the escalating enemy fire Corporal Mahinda's team had to withdraw from the area strategically. This sudden unexpected withdrawal had brought a shame for Corporal Mahinda and resultantly he was determined for the forward rather a withdrawal. He even suggested his comrade to jump into the enemy trench.

The leader of Lance Corporal Mahinda's team had realised the feelings of young spirit and he explained that too much

heroism could bring sometimes the defeat and therefore strategic withdrawal is not an issue as it supports to achieve the task. But this leader was pleased with the courage of young Lance Corporal Mahinda and he whispered himself that *"If I had 10 of this kind, the whole Battalion was safe"*.

The sun rose on 22 December 2008 with the good news to Lance Corporal Mahinda. The permission was granted to launch an operation to acquire the bunker line. The team reached the bunker line with the firm determination to achieve what they had destined for. But the team had to face unexpected fire from the bunkers when they reached close to the bunkers.

Nothing is clumsy than lying on the ground before the enemy fire. Lance Corporal Mahinda realised there is no use of lying on the ground like a coward so he encouraged his peers to battle against the enemy. At the same time Lance Corporal Mahinda led a RPG attack without the acknowledgement of any other of the team suddenly taking the ground advantage into his favour surprising his team members. He then jumped into the enemy bunker within few seconds like a sharp arrow and killed 4 enemies while feeding bombs to RPG and destroyed 2 enemy bunkers successfully.

He was encouraged with the success he achieved. Leaving the empty RPG weapon he walked to the remaining bunker with the grenade shouting "Let's finish the last one". It was the hour of unexpected and a dead silence spread over the territory. Breaking the silence suddenly enemy bullet hit Lance Corporal Mahinda falling him ground and the others witnessed this hour of the misery and immediately crawled to Lance Corporal Mahinda.

Making everyone's prayers answered, the Hero rose again like a phoenix surprising his friends to complete the unfinished task. But his comrades hardly took him away from the incident. Smiling to his comrades who were preventing

him moving forward, the injured Lance Corporal Mahinda said, *"My battle is done, make my statue and place it near the Hasalaka Gamini's statue"*. They were the last words that the War Hero Lance Corporal Mahinda said to his comrades ending his heroic chapter in Adappan.

S/371780 Lance Corporal Mahinda Rajapaksa was awarded Parama Weera Vibhushanaya (PWV) for his brave acts of gallantry and conspicuous bravery of the most exceptional order in the face of the enemy performed voluntarily whilst on active service with no regard to the risk of his own life and security with the objective of safeguarding the lives of his comrades facilitating the operational aim of his force by His Excellency Maithreepala Sirisena President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The lifeless body of the warrior was buried on 25 December 2008 at 1700hrs at Thorapitiya Cemetery following the military formalities. Lance Corporal Mahinda Rajapaksha was not married when he was deceased and the family and his relatives built an entrance at Sri Sambudda Jayanthi Maha Viharaya in Hasalaka in remembrance of his incomparable gallantry

 Extracted from
"Uththamachara" Published by
Army Headquarters

****End Note**

Corporal Gamini Kularatne, popularly known as 'Hasalaka Gamini' was a brave War Hero who made the supreme sacrifice during the Elephant Pass battle. Corporal Gamini Kularatne was posthumously awarded the highest decoration a soldier could earn, the Parama Weera Vibhushana (PWV) Medal after he sacrificed his life in his attempt to stop an explosive laden LTTE armoured bulldozer which attempted to blow up the Elephant Pass camp on 14 July 1991. The young soldier braving stiff enemy fire lobbed a grenade inside the advancing vehicle and died on his effort effectively stopping its advance. The memorial to Hasalaka War Hero was later set up at Elephant Pass with the remnants of the bulldozer he helped to destroy.



How Sri Lanka Benefits from the National Defence College

The establishment of the National Defence College in Sri Lanka fulfills a long-felt need. Even though the Army consisted of several professional military training establishments to groom military Officers, the requirement for a National Defence College was a long term requirement since then. Among those military training establishments, Sri Lanka Military Academy-Diyatalawa, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Army Training School – Maduru Oya, Combat Training School – Ampara, War College – Buttala, Defence Service Command and Staff College et cetera are some of the Military establishments which groom brilliant and keen military Officers for the Nation.

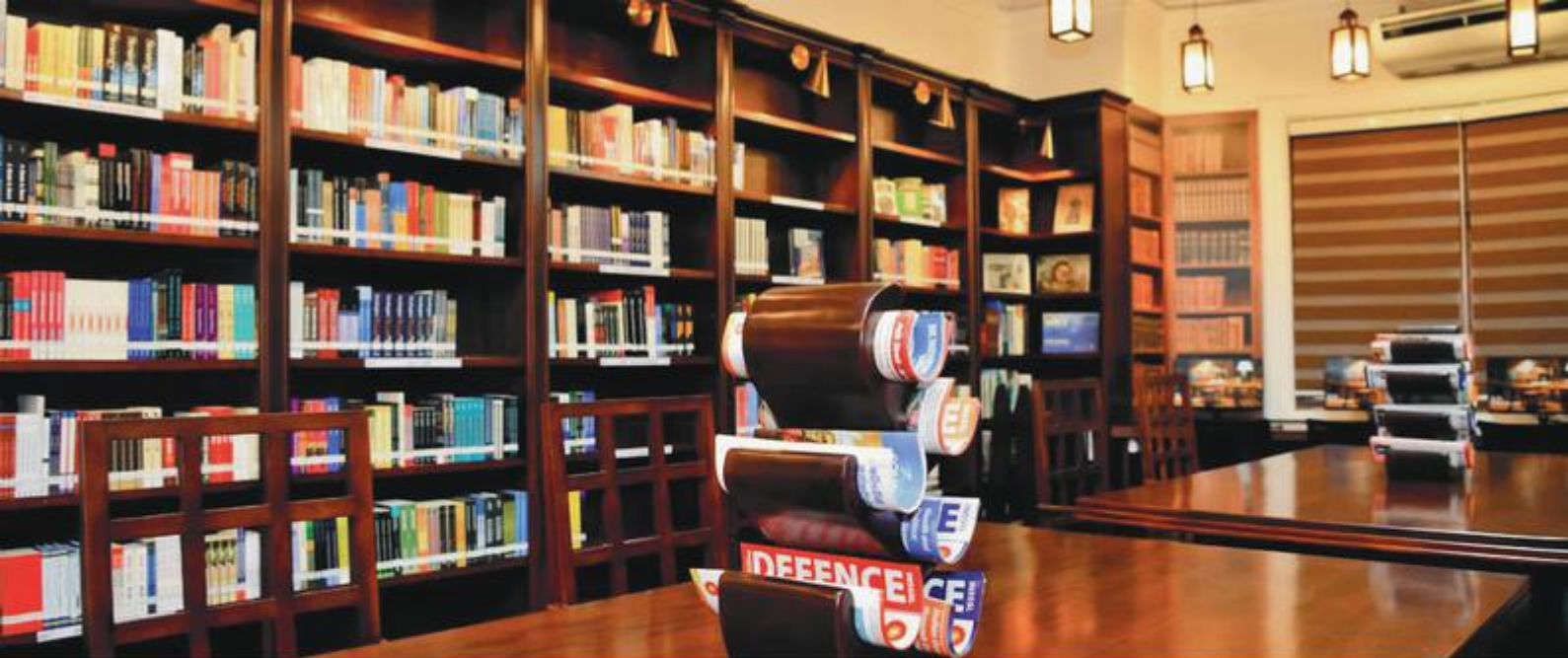
Sri Lankan military Officers benefit greatly from foreign courses every year. They receive opportunities at world-class military training establishments such as the Indian Military Academy, United States Military Academy, Bangladesh Military Academy, Royal Military Academy in the United Kingdom et cetera. But a large number of Officers are deprived of this opportunity as they enroll a very limited number of Officers. The establishment of the National Defence College therefore greatly benefits senior military Officers



By
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who will receive the same exposure in their own country. Senior military Officers who follow high-level Defence and Strategic courses at the National Defence College will get the opportunity to assume senior command positions in the Armed Forces in the future.

The National Defence College was established as the sole institute that promotes strategic thinking for the senior Officers of the tri-service, police and public service to provide holistic knowledge, developing highly qualified strategic decision-makers in the realm of National Security, Statecraft, Diplomacy and Public Policy to ensure the national development of Sri Lanka. Major General (Rtd) Amal Karunasekara was appointed as the first Commandant of the National Defence College – Colombo.



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Moreover, the curriculum for the new degree programmes was resourced by the University of Colombo, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Australian Defence Training School, Defence Schools of United States of America and Pakistan. The absence of higher-level national security and strategic educational establishment in Sri Lanka has created a significant intellectual gap in developing strategic leaders in the realm of national security, statecraft and effective decision making. Sri Lanka has opted to look out for foreign educational establishments to obtain strategic education opportunities to develop selected strategic military and senior public officials to meet the organisational demand of the respective institutions. However, the limited opportunities available for the higher-level defence and strategic courses have considerably deprived many potential senior Officers in the Armed Forces. Therefore, the National Defence College is the best place to give rise to all officials at the highest level to study National Security which creates a joint environment with civil-military cooperation.

To develop future policymakers on national security and strategic studies the National Defence College degrees will aim to create strategic thinkers in the realm of national security, statecraft, diplomacy and public policy to uphold national interest. This is a critical requirement for Sri Lanka to address the issues, which cannot be obtained by sending senior Officers to foreign National Defence Colleges. Therefore, it is a necessity to furnish the best possible higher level of politico-military strategic exposure and degree programmes in line with subjects related to International Security, Strategy, Statecraft, Research Methodology, Geopolitics and Strategy, National Security and Policy, et cetera which would influence to reach global context over different aspects.

Jaffna Troops Celebrated Vesak Poya Day with a Series of Community Projects



On eve of the Vesak Full Moon Poya day, Jaffna troops organised a series of religious events to celebrate the Vesak Poya Day meriting the birth, enlightenment and death of the Lord Buddha under the guidance of Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), on 15 Sunday 2022.

Religious programmes and special sermons were held throughout the Vesak Poya Day at Tissa Raja Maha Vihara in Kankasanthurei, and soldiers and Buddhist devotees attended the events. Reverend Saddhajeewa Thero from Mihinthaleya Kalu Diya Pokuna Thapowanaya temple delivered a special sermon during the event.



In line with Vesak Day programme, mid day meals were distributed among the travelers of A9 road by 52 Infantry Division, and Sri Nagavihara in Jaffna at night by 51 Infantry Division under the guidance and supervision of Commander Forward Maintenance Area (North). Also the "Vesak Bethi Gee" was presented by women soldiers of 7 Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps. Another charity event of providing meals took place at Thissa Raja Maha Viharaya and Sri Nagavihara in Jaffna and approximately 6000 people participated in the Vesak Day Dansel.

Sri Lanka Army Renovated Star Sports Club Playground



The playground which is located at Thaidi village in J/250 Grama Seva Division under the Thellipalei Divisional Secretariat was reconstructed under the guidance and supervision of Major General D G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) on 18 May 2022 at the request of "Star Sports Club", Kankasanthure.

The manpower and technical assistance for the project was extended by Sri Lanka Army troops and members of Star Sports Club. Approximately 200 people participated in the inauguration of this project. The main objective of this project was to bestow an opportunity to improve sports skills and maintain physical and mental robustness of the youth and produce self - disciplined people to the society. Further, Security Forces Commander donated sports items to the Star Sports Club to mark this event.

Commander Security Forces (Jaffna), Grama Niladari, Development Officer of the Thellipalei, Staff Officers and the members of the Star Sports Club and their former members were present during the event.

Financial Aid for Deserving Families from Sri Lanka Army



Financial incentives were donated to 1000 needy families at Weherathanne, Maruthodai, Kebithigollewa, Horowupathana, Sampathnuwara, Gajabapura, Ethawetunawewa and Sinhapura through the coordination of the Commander Security Forces (Wanni) and sponsorship, extended by Mr Vamadeva Thiagendran, founder and chairman of “Thiyahie” Charitable Trust. 1000 families were benefited under the programme which was held on 12 April 2022.



The main intention of the programme was to uplift the living standards of the deserving families and 1000 families received Rs. 2000.00. Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP General Officer Commanding 62 Infantry Division and Commanders of the under command Brigades participated in the occasion.

Financial Incentives from Sri Lanka Army to Uplift the Living Standard of Civilians



A programme of gifting financial aid for the deserving families in Nochchiyagama and Thanthirimale with the intention to uplift the living standards of their families was held targeting 1021 families under the supervision of Major General W R M M Rathnayaka RWP RSP USP ndu General Officer Commanding 21 Infantry Division on 11 April 2022.

Each family received Rs.2000.00. The programme was assisted by the troops of 5 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment, 2 Mechanized Infantry Regiment, and 4 Sri Lanka National Guard under the instructions and guidance of Colonel L G J N Ariyathilaka RWP RSP Commander, 213 Infantry Brigade. The financial contribution was extended by Mr Vamadeva Thiagendran, founder and chairman of “Thiyahie” Charitable Trust. Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Community Welfare Project Launched at 233 Infantry Brigade



100 dry ration packs each worth of Rs. 530,000.00 were distributed among deserving families in Batticaloa district under the supervision of Commander, 233 Infantry Brigade on 16 April 2022. The troops of 233 Infantry Brigade organised the event and generous philanthropist Mr Suresh extended the financial assistance to make the event successful at the request of Commander, 233 Infantry Brigade. Major General P M L Chandrasiri WWV RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (East), Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Programme of Distributing School Items for Students in Vakare District



The troops of 23 Infantry Division distributed school items among the Grade 06 students of Vigneshwaram School-Kadiraweli, Thirumagal Vidyalaya-Panichchankeni, Arunthani Vidyalaya-Kandaladi, Vammiraddawan Vidyalaya and Vakre Vidyalaya on 17 April 2022.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Brigadier R W K Hewage RWP RSP Commander 233 Infantry Brigade and the financial assistance was provided by Mr Suresh, the owner of the Murugan-Kurunagala. Officers, teachers, students and their parents participated in the event.

Sri Lanka Army 1 Corps Troops Gave Away Dry Rations on Vesak Day



Coinciding with the Vesak Poya day activities, troops of Sri Lanka Army 1 Corps conducted a dry ration donation in Kilinochchi on 15 May 2022 for deserving families in Shanthipuram village, Iranamadu with the generous support extended by Officers and Other Ranks who are serving in the Service Units under command to Sri Lanka Army 1 Corps.

The programme assisted 100 needy people. Dry Ration packs worth of Rs: 2500.00 each were distributed during the programme. Brigadier D A Amarasekara USP Brigadier (Admin and Quartering), Senior Staff Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



58 Infantry Division Troops Donated Relief Items to Needy Villagers



In view of uplifting living standards of 40 low income families in Puttalam District, dry ration parcels distribution programme was held on 24 April 2022 at Thabbowa and Nelumwewa Grama Niladhari divisions, under the supervision of General Officer Commanding 58 Infantry Division. This donation programme was conducted under the patronage of Mrs Deepika Gunasekara Director of Industrial Safety Equipment Company (Pvt) Ltd. and with the coordination of Colonel N Mahawithana KSP Colonel (Logistic) Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force Headquarters.

Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) Participated in Harvesting Ceremony



Harvesting Ceremony of the paddy land of 1.5 acres, with the utmost dedication of the Officers and the Other Ranks of the Security Forces (Mullaitivu), took place on 27 April 2022 with the participation of Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) at the Security Forces (Mullaitivu) farm on 27 April 2022.

Having various climate challenges in many phases of the cultivation, the perseverance of troops of the Security Forces (Mullaitivu) had made the effort successful. Accordingly, the Security Forces (Mullaitivu) has provided an immense contribution to the National Green Agriculture Drive.



Army Troops Shared the Splendour with Devotees on Vesak Poya Day



Bhakthi Gee programme was held at the units under command to 59 Infantry Division following the supervision of Major General G D Sooriyabandara USP General Officer Commanding, 59 Infantry Division on 15 May 2022. Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Mullaitivu) and Commanders of the Brigades, Commanding Officers of Units, Officers, and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Commander, Security Forces (West) Made His First Formal Visit to 14 Infantry Division



Major General D M K D B Pussella RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (West) paid his maiden visit to 14 Infantry Division on 09 May 2022 after assuming duties as the 13th Commander of the Security Forces (West). During the itinerary, the Commander, Security Forces (West) visited 141 Infantry Brigade Headquarters located at Weyangoda and addressed the troops of 14 Infantry Division. Major General G G A S Wickramasena RWP RSP USP psc Hdmc General Officer Commanding of 14 Infantry Division, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



613 Infantry Brigade Engaged in Charity Work



The troops of 613 Infantry Brigade of 61 Infantry Division under command to Security Forces (West) distributed 40 dry ration packs among deserving families in the Kamburupitiya area. The generous sponsorship for the charity event was extended by Mithudam Helping Hand Organisation and Doctor Bhagya Weerawardhana. The event was supervised by Brigadier K A U Kodithuwakku RSP USP psc IG Commander, 613 Infantry Brigade. The event was held at 613 Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

Troops Joined Bringing Sacred Ornaments to Nallathanniya



Bringing the 'Sri Paada' season to the culmination with advent of the Vesak Full Moon Poya Day, the symbolic statue of God Saman and sacred ornaments were brought to Nallathanniya on 17 May 2022 in a procession in accordance with traditions with the assistance of Sri Lanka Army troops.

The troops of 19 Sri Lanka National Guard including 3 Officers and 100 Other Ranks contributed the manpower. Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central), Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Distribution of Dry Ration Packs Among Needy Families in Haputale



200 dry ration packs were distributed among needy families in Gonamatawa, Haputhale in the Area of Responsible to Security Force Headquarters (Central) on 10 April 2022. Mr Anuk who resides in the United States of America provided the financial generosity for the distribution. Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central), Officers, Other Ranks, and villagers participated in this occasion.

Armoured Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



In parallel to the International Women's day, the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps Seva Vanitha Branch donated six sewing machines to 6 selected soldiers' families of 6 (RFT) Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and Armoured Corps Training Center on 09 March at Rock House auditorium in Modera under the patronage of Dr (Mrs) Harshani Bothota, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps Seva Vanitha Branch. The project was initiated to uplift the standard of soldiers' families with the financial support of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps Seva Vanitha Branch.

Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch



A ceremony, organised by the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch to mark International Women's Day, was held on 12 March 2022 at the Regimental Centre, Ambepussa under the auspices of Mrs Darshani Liyange Chairperson, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch. Afterwards, the veteran chef at the Citrus Hotel, Waskaduwa, Mr Manoj Amaradeepthi conducted a workshop for the Seva Vanitha members of Sinha Regiment on cookery. Also the Director and Teledrama actor, Deshamanya Mr Nalaka Hapugoda entertained the audience adding colour to the programme. Aftermath a senior counsellor, trainer, and veteran lecturer Mrs Ama Dissanayake educated the participants on 'The Role of Wife for Good Married Life' and 'How to mitigate the domestic issues' as a part of the programme. Presentation of mementos to invited lecturers took place afterwards in appreciation of their invaluable services to the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch. The event took place with the participation of the members of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch, Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (West) and Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and Commander, 572 Infantry Brigade.

Vijayabahu Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch



The Army Seva Vanitha Unit chaired by Mrs Sujeewa Nelson expanding its welfare roles further, on 24 March 2022, laid the foundation stone for construction of a new house to a retired War Hero of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment who was handicapped while fighting against LTTE terrorists before May 2009. The financial assistance and raw materials for the project in Hingurakgoda South was provided by 'Shadow Watch' Company Ltd. Troops attached to the 3 Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers provided the manpower for the construction of this new house using their technical and engineering expertise. Commanding Officer and the Other Ranks participated in the event.

Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Members of the Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch, together with Mrs Manori Sallay Chairperson, Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch offered the monthly alms to 16 residents at Warusawithana Elders' Home at Ambalangoda for the month of March.

Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch



The Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch, headed by Mrs Deepika Prashanthi Chandrasena recently donated school accessories to 8 children of six fallen members of Corps of Engineer Services War Heroes after inviting one family in a symbolic gesture to the Corps of Engineer Services Regimental Centre. The programme was organised by 9 (V) Corps of Engineer Services. Symbolically, the donations were handed over to one selected family and the other items were sent to their residences.

Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



The 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch got underway at the Colombo Army Hospital auditorium in the third week of March, 2022 under the patronage of Medical Specialist, Dr. Mrs A Nilmini Fernando, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch. New board of executives for the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch was elected on the same occasion. Also, a special workshop on beauty culture was also held during the meeting session with the sponsorship of the Cosmetics (pvt) Ltd. Many members of Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch were present at the event.

Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Members of the Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch visited 'Mawpiya Sevana' Elders Home at Galpatha, Horana and nuns resided in Subhodaramaya together with its members. The visit took place under the patronage of Mrs Chinthamani Weerathunga Chairperson, Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch on 14 March 2022. Number of members of the Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch participated in the programme in line with the Vesak Poya Day.

Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch organised a special donation programme for pregnant wives of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Officers and Other Ranks on account of the International Women's Day at the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Regimental Headquarters in Colombo 02. The event was held under the patronage of Mrs Nandani Samarakoon Chairperson, Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch. Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Regiment and Commander, Army Logistic Command, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch



6 Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police troops with sponsorship of the Seva Vanitha Branch of the Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police distributed gift packs among needy children, housed at Ladani Children's Home in Silawatta area (Mullaitivu) on Tuesday 3 May 2022. Major General A L Ilankoon Commander, Forward Maintenance Area in Mullaitivu and Commanding Officer of 6 Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police attended the occasion. The event was initiated under the guidance and sponsorship of Mrs Inoka Ilankoon. The event concluded with a delicious lunch offered to those children. A group photograph added memories to the occasion. Several Officers and Other Ranks participated in the project.

More Physical Training Instructors Groomed



The Passing out Parade (PoP) of Physical Training Instructor Course for Officers No.13, Advanced Physical Training Instructor Course No. 43, and Assistant Physical Training Course No.125 took place at Army Physical Training School at Panagoda on 20 May 2022. 9 Officers and 163 Other Ranks qualified as Physical Instructors and 35 Physical Instructors who reached National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level - 4 received certificates during this awarding ceremony.

Major General D G Hewage RSP Director General Infantry graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and joined the certificate awarding ceremony. Colonel K A D C R Kannangara RSP Commandant of Army Physical Training School, Senior Officers, Officers, and Other Ranks witnessed the Passing out Parade and the awarding ceremony.

Senior Officer Awarded 'Commandant's Book Prize' in India



Brigadier L C K Pathirana RSP IG of the Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment who followed the Higher Defence Management Course - 17 at the College of Defence Management at Sikundrabad, Hyderabad, India was selected for the best 10 nominated case studies out of 162 participants and awarded the 'Commandant's Book Prize' for his thesis compiled on the topic, "A Strategic Management Case Study on Creation of Non - Operational Infrastructure (Quarantine Centre) within 24 Hours using SWOT Process". He was also awarded the Master of Management Studies from Osmania University and the Advanced Course in Management from All India Management Association.

Commanding Officers' Workshop Held at Security Force Headquarters (Wanni)



As per the visionary leadership and concept of Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander Security Forces (Wanni) and distinguished guidance of Major General L D S S Liyanage RSP USP psc Hdmc General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division, a two-day workshop for Commanding Officers of under command Battalions and Regiments of Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) was held from 25 to 26 April 2022 at the 3D hall of Security Forces Headquarters (Wanni) with the participation of 40 Commanding Officers.



The General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division, conducted an inspiration alley note speech at the beginning of the programme. The aim of this workshop was to upgrade the professional knowledge pertaining to regimental matters, to inculcate leadership qualities developing the co-operation and coordination among Commanding Officers in Security Force Headquarters (Wanni).

The workshop comprised with unit administration, Officers' career progression and performance evaluation, training perspectives, policies govern on regimental accounts, pay and allowances, national security and intelligence, and command responsibilities on legal background. All participants were awarded with a certificate by the General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division.

Distribution of Stationery among the School Children in 652 Infantry Brigade



10 Sri Lanka Light Infantry conducted a distribution of stationery programme at Palinagar school on 20 April 2022 according to the direction of Major General K A Samarasinghe RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding of 65 Infantry Division and under the supervision of Brigadier W A U S Wanasekara RWP USP Commander, 652 Infantry Brigade. The main financial contribution for this event was provided by Mr Suren de Silva from Baththaramulla and 500 x book packs and stationery were distributed among school children of under privileged schools in Palinagar Grama Niladhari Division with the participation of Dr. C S Sivakumar and Mr R P G W Wickramasinghe.

Mid Day Meals for Differently Abled in Varod Wannu Rehabilitation Organisation



Under the instructions of Commander, 562 Infantry Brigade, mid day meals were provided for 100 differently abled personnel in Varod Wannu Rehabilitation Organisation on 12 April 2022. Brigadier A S Premawansa RWP RSP USP Commander, 562 Infantry Brigade, clergies and school teachers of the area participated in it.

Community Programme at Iniya Wallu Illam School at Thevpuram



Mid day meals were provided for special need students of Iniya Wallu Illam School at Thevpuram Grama Niladhari Division on 21 May 2022 under the patronage of Major General R W Ponnampereuma RSP psc General Officer Commanding, 68 Infantry Division. Officers and Other Ranks of the 68 Infantry Division participated in the event.

The Parapet Wall Around the Sacred Bo-Tree Erected



Following the concept of Commanding Officer 15 (V) Gajaba Regiment, the parapet wall around the sacred Bo-Tree in the camp premises was erected with the manpower of Officers and Other Ranks of the 15 (V) Gajaba Regiment and declared open on the sacred Vesak Full Moon Poya Day by Major W R Prasanna Commanding Officer, 15 (V) Gajaba Regiment. The religious observances were conducted by a reverend Thero from Naga Viharaya, Jaffna. Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Our Hands are Always Towards the Humanity as Protectors of the Nation

(Protectors of the Nation; Extend the helping hand towards humanity)

The sun is shining above sending its blissful rays through the shelter of palmyra fields in the Jaffna peninsula. There are no burning marks or no broken shoots on the palmyra trees as there



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

were before 2009 May. However, few old trees are remaining among the thousands of newly grown palmyra trees, illustrating the difference between then and now. The wind blows through the fields whispering the story of change to the new trees; fear to smile, hate to love and joy of the freedom. It sings the story of one country - one nation through the reconciliation of brothers and sisters in the North and the South, irrespective of their caste, race, or religion.

The roar of war is no more. Day by day, our motherland is moving towards prosperity as one country and one nation with unity. As a rising nation with reconciliation, 16 detained ex-combatants had been released by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President under presidential pardon.

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



The maiden story was started in August 2021 with the Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander's visit to Jaffna Peninsula. Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army offered cash donations of Rs 100,000.00 for deserving families during the visit to start a self-employment and continue their lives as lawful citizens of the motherland. It signifies the brotherhood, friendship and compassion of the Sri Lanka Army towards them. Mr Vamadewan Thyagendran, a well-known social activist and a philanthropist, devotedly contributed to this project through the coordination of Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna). Distributing the donations to them, the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army said, *"You all are now ordinary citizens of this country bound by the law. So forget all of the unpleasant memories of the past. No one is there to discriminate you as ex-combatants. We all are humans; brothers and sisters of mother Sri Lanka. Especially I would like to tell you, something. Suppose you need any support from the Army to continue day to day life or in any hardship. In that case, our strong hands will be around you to stand in the mid of any circumstance"*. Those heart touching and eye wetting words of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army to those ex - LTTE combatants assure the good life forthcoming.

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



The foundation stone for the dreamy house of the needy was laid by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army amid religious blessings and it was a moment a gentle smile bloomed across the poverty-stricken faces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

overflowing happiness.

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

Meantime, thousands of houses have already been completed island-wide by the hands and the power of the sweat of the 'Protectors of the Nation' for the sake of humanity, under the leadership of Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and under the supervision of the Commander, 1 Corps, Commanders of Security Forces, Colonels of the Regiments; Generals Officer Commanding, Brigade Commanders and Commanding Officers of the respective battalions.

This is the reason the people praise the Sri Lanka Army as an Army with humanitarian values. There

are thousands of similar examples to prove their humanistic role in serving the Nation.

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

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army said during his recent visit to Jaffna,

"Yes, we are everywhere. We can do wonders with our skilled troops, and I do not have doubt about it. That is why I always say this special motto, 'Nothing Impossible'!"

11th Anniversary Celebration of 12 Infantry Division



The 12 Infantry Division marked its 11th Anniversary in a charm way with the participation of Brigadier A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division together with Officers and Other Ranks.

An almsgiving was organised for 75 Buddhist monks at Sri Sumadharama Budu Raja Maha Wehera Piriwena at Nagarawewa after a customary Guard Turnout was accorded to the General Officer Commanding. General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division addressed the Officers and Other Ranks at utility building, stressing on the history of 12 Infantry Division and amply highlighting the yeoman contribution for the nation.

A Lecture to Make Aware of Rights and Privileges of Consumers



A lecture to make aware the Officers and Other Ranks on the Rights and Privileges of Consumers was held on 23 March 2022 at 122 Infantry Brigade Headquarter premises. The lecture was conducted by Mr M R Riswan of Consumer Services Authority, Badulla. Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Lunch Provided for the Residents in Rehabilitation Centre, Othiyamale



A programme of providing lunch for the rehabilitating inmates of Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Othiyamale Grama Niladhari Division No. 1, 2,3 under command to 17 (V) Gajaba Regiment Area of Responsible took place on 23 April 2022 with the participation of Officers and Other Ranks of the 17 (V) Gajaba Regiment.

19 SLNG Distributed Carbonic Fertiliser for Lak Pohora Pvt Ltd



250 Carbonic Fertiliser packs each weight 40 kg produced by 19 Sri Lanka National Guard under command to 11 Infantry Division were gifted to Lak Pohora Pvt Ltd representatives on 29 April 2022.

In line with the same event, 50 carbonic fertiliser packs were also distributed among the civilians in the area with the intention to motivate them for cultivation.

School Items and Dry Rations Distribution among Deserving Families



School items and dry ration distribution programme was held under the patronage of Brigadier H M U Herath RWP RSP General Officer Commanding, 52 Infantry Division on 8 April 2022. Accordingly, 44 students of Madihe Pannaseeha Vidyalaya and their parents were benefited from the programme. Also, bicycles were gifted to the students who excelled at the Grade 5 scholarship examination by Reverend Chandrakeerthi Thero of Sri Narada Buddhist Centre, Colombo 07 in line with the same event. The programme was hosted by Conference on the Protection of National Heritage.

Inspection Visit of Newly Appointed Adjutant General



Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc as the newly appointed Adjutant General, Sri Lanka Army Headquarters visited the Directorate of Provost Marshal on 10 May 2022. During the interactions, Brigadier B L R Bamunusinghe Provost Marshal made the visiting Adjutant General aware on the duties performed by the Directorate of Provost Marshal.

General Officer Commanding, 62 Infantry Division Paid a Visit to Under Command Brigades



Major General S R K Hettiarachchi RWP RSP USP ndu psc General Officer Commanding, 62 Infantry Division paid a visit to 621, 622 and 623 Infantry Brigades. During the visit, the General Officer Commanding 62 Infantry Division inspected the administration requirements of 11 Gemunu Watch, 9 and 20 Gajaba Regiments, 14 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry and 5(V) Gajaba Regiment.

A New House Gifted for Ex-LTTE Combatant



Troops of the Security Forces (Jaffna) extended their technical, engineering and manpower support to build a new house to another rehabilitated ex-LTTE member, Mr Rasawallan Thaboruban in No. J/246 Mailiddy, Jaffna and vested in the beneficiary on 11 April 2022. The vesting ceremony was held via zoom technology and General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army joined the event as the Chief Guest. Financial Contribution for this newly constructed house was provided by the philanthropist, Mr Vish Nadaraja with the coordination and direction of Brigadier M K U P Gunaratne RSP ndu psc IG General Officer Commanding 55 Infantry Division. The troops of 10th Battalion of Sri Lanka Artillery provided the much - required manpower for the construction work under the supervision of Commander 515 Infantry Brigade.

Bhakthi Gee (Devotional Song Event) for Vesak Poya Day at MSTS



Bhakthi Gee (devotional song) programme was held at the Military Snipers Training School Diyatalawa on Vesak Day with the participation of Officers and Other Ranks in line with the Vesak Poya Day. Brigadier W T W G Ihalge RWP RSP psc Centre Commandant, Military Snipers Training School, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the religious event.

Number of Community Works at 65 Infantry Division on Vesak Poya Day




Under the supervision and the guidance of Major General K A Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 65 Infantry Division, a Bhodhi pooja and alms giving events were organised in the area under command to 651, 652, and 653 Infantry Brigades. During the event, 340 lunch packets were distributed among hospital staff and the patients taking indoor treatments.

12 Infantry Division Conducted a Manioc Dansal at Gothamigama



Under the conceptual layout of General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division, a dansal was organised by the 20 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment troops under the supervision of Commanding Officer 20 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment on Vesak Poya Day for the devotees on pilgrimage to Kataragama, at Gothamigama.

MY SOLITARY TEA BATTLE



By
Major General Keerthi Kottawatta (Rtd)
RWP RSP USP

It was the 22 August 2007. I boarded on an Emirates air craft heading for Dubai. Next to my seat in the economy class was Major Sanjeewa from Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment. We were contemporaries at Sri Lanka Military Academy 19 years ago. Both of us were fortunate enough to have the rare opportunity to serve as military observers in UN mission in DR Congo. From Dubai, we were to travel in a Kenyan Airways flight to Kinshasa, the capital of DR Congo via Nairobi. This day was special to me as it was my birth day. Though I missed my family on this special day, I did not feel much sad as I was going to take up a very lucrative assignment as a military observer. I had the rare opportunity of celebrating my birth day lavishly with Scotch served by beautiful air hostesses at a height of 30,000 feet.

On the 23 August 2007 morning, our flight safely touched the runway at Kinshasa airport. Though it was called an international airport, it was similar to our Fort railway station. All the proceedings to checkout from the airport made me think how this airport got the title "International". Later we were "rescued" by the UN representative and took us to the mission Headquarters in the city. After the formalities were done, Mr Thusan Munasinghe and Mr Mohommed Muthariz, two Sri Lankan gentlemen working in the UN mission in Congo as IT consultants accompanied us to their residence. After two week long familiarisation training, I had my posting to a team site in the city while Major Sanjeewa got his posting to a team site in a periphery. So I had to share a house with Thusan and Muthariz in Kinshasa. My stay with them was so fun filled as they treated me nicely and respectfully.

Life in Kinshasa was quite comfortable compared to the other parts of the country. The city was densely populated and most of the rich people and the workers in foreign agencies lived in the capital. Despite the civil war and the unrest the country had engulfed in, Kinshasa had got everything one finds in any developed city, including super markets, night clubs, star hotels and of course all nefarious activities. Although Kinshasa had almost everything in the world, I noticed that there was no Sri Lankan tea in its super markets or any other shops. But Kenyan and Indian tea were sufficiently available.

My frequent visits to the "City Market", a super market close to our residence made me friendly with the manager of it. Over a chat, once I asked him why he does not have world famous Ceylon Tea in his shop. To my big surprise, he had never heard about Sri Lanka or Ceylon tea before. So I had to lecture him about my country and its famous tea. Further, I promised him to bring a packet of Sri Lankan tea for him next day. Fortunately, I had

brought plenty of tea packets from Sri Lanka and I gave him one. On one weekend when I was shopping in his super market, he came running up to me with his wife and hugged me appreciating the tea I gave him. His wife told me that she had never tasted such tasty tea in her life before. I politely asked her to encourage her husband to make his customers also enjoy the luxury of tasting famous Sri Lankan tea. The manager thumped up and promised me to inform his dealer to supply Sri Lankan tea to the shop.

I did the same thing with other super markets in the city too. After some time, to my elation I saw Sri Lankan tea in some of the super markets. But I found many people including UN employees were unaware or not interested about which country the tea that they drank produced. This situation led me to launch a campaign of promoting our tea in this cosmopolitan city. As a military observer, it is part of our job to meet the top government officials and politicians. In all this meetings, I made it a point to gift them a packet of Sri Lankan tea with some promotional explanation of its taste and reputation in Europe. I knew very well that most of the rich Africans like to blindly follow the Europeans just as many rich Sri Lankans do.

My next target was the officers who worked with me at Brigade I was attached to. Many of them were from neighboring African, South American, Middle East, Asian and Nordic countries. They were so interested in coffee than tea. My operation to convince them to drink tea was a bit unsuccessful. So I was compelled to use different tactics to reach my target. I quietly told them that our tea has an aphrodisiac strength. Within a week I was able to

witness the success of my operation as I saw many Officers purchasing Sri Lankan tea in super markets.

The Staff Officer who handled the administration of military observers in the Brigade was Agnus Mahamba, a lady Captain from Malawi. By nature, she was a bit hostile towards military observers and does not show any amity especially towards Asians. Sometimes her behavior antagonised us but we were helpless as she was a close crony of Brigade Commander, another black Brigadier from Ghana. So I made up my mind to "kiss the hand that cannot be cut". Once I gave her a small Sri Lankan tea packet. She sarcastically told me that she does not drink tea. I asked her to just taste it. Next morning when I came to Brigade Headquarters, beaming Agnus delightedly shouted at me and held my hand appreciating our tea. What followed was lovely history. Many evenings I spent in the cafeteria sipping Sri Lankan tea with Agnus while all my Indian and Pakistani friends were enviously looking on.

After one year stint in Congo, the day dawned for me to leave Congo. To my elation and pride, on my departure from Kinshasa airport I was able to see the success of my "Solitary Tea Battle" as I saw some Sri Lanka tea in the duty free shops.

I arrived home next day evening and had a rousing welcome from my wife and two daughters. While my daughters were sweeping clear my baggage, I asked my wife to bring me a cup of hot tea. But to my surprise, instead of tea she offered me an egg coffee with a lopsided laugh on her face due to the reason best known to her.

543 Infantry Brigade Troops with Sponsorship Provided School Shoes for Students



110 pairs of school shoes were gifted among school students of deserving families in Sirithoppu Roman Catholic School in Mannar with the intention to uplift the education and goodwill among the Army and civilians on 5 May 2022 at Cultural Hall, Mannar.

The programme was organised on the directions of Major General U D Wijesekera RWP RSP USP Rcds psc General Officer Commanding, 54 Infantry Division and UK-based 'Sweshinee' Welfare Foundation, and with the coordination of Mr Ravi Rajapaksa, an Old Boy of Dharmaraja College in Kandy. General Officer Commanding, 54 Infantry Division, Commander, 543 Infantry Brigade Divisional Secretary, Mannar, Education Zonal Director-Mannar, Principal of the School, students and parents gathered at the event.

Army Personnel Educated on 'Healthy Army - Healthy Nation' at Base Ordnance Depot-Ragama



A programme on educating the Army personnel serving at the Base Ordnance Depot (BOD) in Ragama was held under the theme of 'Healthy Army - Healthy Nation' to educate specially on the areas of healthy life, performance of effective duties and prevention from non-communicable diseases and other contagious diseases on 27 April 2022 with the participation of 100 Army members working in the establishment.

The founder of the project, Brigadier (Dr) Mayureen Wijewardana, Consultant Physician at the Colombo Army Hospital delivered a comprehensive lecture and educated Army members on the importance of food habits, and physical exercises, diseases, personal health habits, and family health. In addition, Colonel (Dr) Lakmini Ranasighe and Captain (Dr) A C K Udugama, Dietician and Nutritionist respectively focused on the importance of physical exercises and food control plus nutrition. Around the same time, several demonstrations of physical exercises were presented by physical instructors of the Army.



Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Visited 16 Infantry Battalion

Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment visited 16 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Infantry Battalion on 5 May 2022. He planted a sapling at the premises and addressed the troops. The newly built gymnasium was also declared open during his visit. Lieutenant Colonel K A S A K Kulasinghe RSP General Staff Officer, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Essential Educational Supplies Distribution Programme at Haputale



Under the guidance of Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central) essential educational supplies distribution programme was held at Bandarawela Central College on 30 April 2022. Mr Roshan Mahanama, the former Sri Lankan cricketer and ICC match referee sponsored to successfully conduct the charity endeavour. These school supplies were distributed among the children in Moraketiya Vidyalaya, Haputhale.

Moreover, in view of building up mutual understanding among students, students of Bandarawela Central College provided lunch for students of Moraketiya College. Further, to develop sportsmanship among the school children, Mr. Roshan Mahanama provided a full set of cricket equipment to Bandarawela Central College. The event was chaired by Brigadier W M S C K Wanasinghe RSP USP Brigadier General Staff of Security Force Headquarters (Central).

General Officer Commanding, 57 Infantry Division Visited 572 Infantry Brigade



Brigadier J P C Peris General Officer Commanding 57 Infantry Division visited 572 Infantry Brigade. Brigadier M P N A Muthumala USP psc warmly welcomed the visiting Commander and the General Officer Commanding shared his thoughts and administration requirement with the troops deployed in Mailwanapuram, Kallaru, Theravil, Puliyanpokkanadi and Waddakachchi areas.

Tamil Language Training Course No. 48 Initiated



Under the instructions of Major General G D Sooriyabandara USP General Officer Commanding, 59 Infantry Division, Tamil Language Training Course No. 48 initiated with the intention to educate the Other Ranks serving in the units under command to 59 Infantry Division, on 13 May 2022. Colonel H K Hapugoda USACGSC Colonel General Staff, 59 Infantry Division, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Tips to Manage Your Finance



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

Finance is a crucial topic today with the prices rocketing up. Proper management is required unlike in any other era today before the inflation. The income seems not adequate but still, the expenses are increasing more than ever before. Finance management has become significantly important in this situation than ever before. Using the little coins in your pocket wisely is important. Here are the tips to guide you on better finance management.

1. List out your Expenses

Every individual is having certain expenses that are required to be fulfilled during the month or weekends including some bills left at your doorstep. The bills that are payable are required to be listed out then you know your monthly allocation roughly

Month's Expenses	
Mortgage	950.60
Car	372.51
Electricity	129.29
Mobile phone	39.15
Insurance	101.74
Gas	97.31
Water	98.77
Broadband	19.95
Cable	40.00
Gym membership	45.00
Total	1894.35

plus credit cards

for the next month. This organises you and provide you with proper guidance to identify how your money is spent.

2. Wave off the Unnecessary Expenses

List out your expenses of the week and classify them into two most important and less important. There is some unnecessary expenditure that you are spending your money on such as clothes that had never been worn in your wardrobe. You can identify these unnecessary expenses and remove them from the list.

3. Frame your Monthly Financial Plan

Every individual has their targets that he or will achieve during the month. Write them down and

draw the financial plan for the target with the income. Never be a burden to anyone taking loans if it's not necessary. Try to stick to the monthly financial plan.

4. Start Saving

The best foundation to have strong financial strength is saving. Saving gives you the confidence that you are rich enough to attend to your requirement. That ensures your financial freedom and financial capacity. However, many misinterpreted saving as a path to be caving. But it is not. Lord Buddha has also emphasised the importance of saving and said $\frac{1}{4}$ of your income must be saved.

5. Use Alternatives

Using alternatives to fulfill a requirement is one such way to save your money. There are plenty of ways to make a thing done with the limited resources that you have. For example, you can use a single side of A4 paper instead of a new A4 and stop the wastage. Also, try to take the used instead of a brand new if it's the same syllabus for the examination.

Earning is the hardest thing in the world while spending what is earned is its opposite. If you are young or old saving what you had hardly earned is very important.



Commander (FMA) Visited 4 SLMP



Major General G W L Mahinkanda outgoing Commander (North), Forward Maintenance Area visited 4 Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police on 21 May 2021. The outgoing Commander (North), Forward Maintenance Area who arrived at the 4 Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Headquarters was warmly welcomed by Major H M K N Padmal USP Lsc Commanding Officer, 4 Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police offering a guard turnout. Sapling plantation and troop address were taken place during the itinerary.

SPORTS

We lead the sports too...

Sri Lanka Army's Staff Sergeant Yupun Abeykoon Set a New South Asian Record



Sri Lanka Army's Staff Sergeant Yupun Abeykoon set a new South Asian Record finishing the 100m open event in German Open Athletic Championship in 10.06 seconds on 26 May 2022.

Staff Sergeant Abeykoon from Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) held the previous record of 10.15 seconds in the year 2021, the Army sources said. He broke all South Asian records in 100m as well as the South Asian records while claiming victory against all Asian records.

Army Boxer in Paris Won First Place in 57 Kg



The Army boxer, Lance Corporal Prasanna P A R of 24 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment (VIR), bringing credit and admiration to the country won the first place (57 weight class) in the 'LES Centuries International Boxing Tournament - 2022', held in Paris from 12 to 15 May 2022. He represented Sri Lanka as a member of the Army Boxing Association and was the only boxer who participated in an international boxing tournament.

IMSSU Tournament Held at Panaluwa Field Firing Range



National Shooting Tournament of the International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union (IMSSU) was held at Panaluwa Field Firing Range on 7 March 2022. The IMSSU tournament was held with the participation of tri-service teams, Police and civil sector teams.

Army Cross Country Runners Shined in India



The Sri Lanka Army team participated in Asian Cross-Country Running Championship, held at Nagaland, India. Sri Lanka Army team was comprised of three competitors and two women competitors.

Accordingly, Sergeant Pushpakumara R M S of 5 Sri Lanka Artillery, Bombardier Sammugeshwaran K of 12 Sri Lanka Artillery and Corporal Wijekumara P M S of 19 Gemunu Watch represented the Sri Lanka Army men's team and Private Nidarshani A M N of 11 Sri Lanka Signals Corps and Private Herath H M C S of 2 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps represented the Army Women's team during the event.

Sri Lanka Army Team Won the Silver Medal at International Pakistan Army Team Spirit



The Sri Lanka Army team, competing in the 5th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATs) Competition 2022 in Pakistan's Army National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kharian won the Silver medal after a close tussle. The PATs competition was held from 3 to 13 March 2022 with the participation of 16 international teams including teams from Nepal, Turkey, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Kenya and Saudi Arabia.

The Sri Lanka Army team was included three Officers and eight Other Ranks from the Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, Gajaba Regiment, Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment and Mechanized Infantry Regiment.

Army Cyclist Marked the First Place at First Stage



Lance Corporal Sandaruwan Pinto of the Army Cycling Club won the first place beating Air Force cyclist at the 23rd 'Tour de Air Force' Sri Lanka Cycle Race held at Puttalam on 4 March 2022 completing the race with 3.07.31 minutes. The event was held as a part of the 71st Anniversary celebrations of the Air Force.

Troops of 14 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Donated Nutrients and Essentials to Pregnant Women



Troops of 14 Infantry Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) under 641 Infantry Brigade, with the financial sponsorship of Mrs S Sri Lankani Pereira and Ms Archana Madavi Ilangakoon, distributed essential accessories and nutrients to ten (10) pregnant women on 18 May 2022. Those gifts packs included nutritious food varieties and other essentials each valuing Rs. 6500.00.

Commander 641 Infantry Brigade, and Commanding Officer 14 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and troops joined the distribution of gift packs to the ladies.

A Beverage Dansal on Vesak Poya Day



In line with the Vesak Full Moon Poya Day, a beverage dansal was held on 15 May 2022 by 23 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment in front of the unit.

A Project on Carbonic Fertiliser at 57 Infantry Division



Carbonic Fertiliser Production programme was initiated under the supervision of Brigadier M P N A Muthumala USP psc Commander, 572 Infantry Division under directions the of General Officer Commanding, 57 Infantry Division. The project was initially implemented at 14 Sri Lanka National Guard, Dharmapuram and Mullaitivu areas. The project will further be continued under the supervision of Commander, 572 Infantry Division.

9 Sri Lanka National Guard Troops Gave Community Support to a School



Troops of the 9 Sri Lanka National Guard under command to the 681 Infantry Brigade of the 68 Infantry Division under the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) in response to a request of Udayarkattu National School in Mullaitivu assisted the renovation and fixing of the name board of the M/ Udayarkattu Maha Vidyalay, Mullaitivu.

The community project assisted by 3 parents and a group of 6 Army personnel was completed and formally handed over to the Principal by the Commanding Officer, 9 Sri Lanka National Guard.

55 Infantry Division Built a Children's Park in Kaddeikadu



With the intention to provide equal opportunities to children of underprivileged families in Kaddeikadu and Kevil in the Jaffna peninsula, 55 Infantry Division troops of the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna), with financial support provided by the civilians, built a Children's Park and Reading area for rest and recreation.

The successfully completed project under the theme 'Safe and Sound Future for Children' was opened and vested in the children during a simple ceremony held on 26 April 2022 before the presence of Philanthropists, Mr Piyadasa Gamage and Mr Thushara Amarasinghe. Major General B G S Senarath Yapa RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) graced the event as the Chief Guest. The new Children's Park consists of 6 play items and a library that can be used by parents accompanying children to the park. The 'Sri Lanka Army with a Heart', while promoting goodwill and reconciliation between civilians and members of the Security Forces, has already launched a multitude of community projects for the benefit of children and needy people in the peninsula. Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks, a group of children and their parents participated in the opening ceremony.

662 Infantry Brigade Distributed Gift Packs among Pre-Schools in Akkarayankulam



Singer Sri Lanka Private Limited, at the request of the Army, offered its sponsorship for distribution of gift packs with toys among kids in 8 pre-schools, functioning in the general areas of Mukkampan and Akkarayankulam, on 27 April 2022.

A request made by General Officer Commanding, 66 Infantry Division to the sponsor enabled the troops to deliver those gifts to the kids of low-income families. The pack contained toys and other most essential items for learning. Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG General Officer Commanding, 66 Infantry Division attended the distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest.

The community welfare project was organised by Brigade Headquarters and implemented by 20 Sri Lanka Light Infantry and 20 (V) Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment troops of the 662 Infantry Brigade for distribution of those gift packs. Senior Officers, Commanding Officers of under command battalions, teachers and parents also participated in the distribution ceremony.

Senior Leadership Training and Career Development Course No. 38 Successfully Concluded



Under the instructions of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Combat Training School initiated the Senior Leadership Training and Career Development Course for Warrant Officers and Senior Non-commissioned Officers with the intention to improve the knowledge and collective leadership skills improving the knowledge of Sri Lanka Army Acts and Standing Orders to lead them for an efficient service. Accordingly the Senior Leadership Training and Career Development Course No. 38 which was successfully initiated was concluded on 01 April 2022. 90 students from regular and volunteer Regiments participated in the course. The closing ceremony of the event, was conducted by Brigadier J M R N K Jayamanna RWP Commandant Combat Training School. At the event S/752311 Karunadasa A A S R K WO II of 3 Sri Lanka Corps of Engineer Services received the certificate for the best student and the merit of the course by Commandant.

New Battalions Formed to Uplift the National Agricultural Drive



The Corps of Agriculture and Livestock, which was established on the conceptual layout of Commander of the Army is currently rendering a significant service to uplift the National Green Agriculture in the country launching large and small scale agricultural projects. Accordingly, 5 and 6 Corps of Agriculture and Livestock were established enhancing the services rendered further. 5 Corps of Agriculture and Livestock is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A S B Hapuwinna USP psc and covers the Kilinochchi area and 6 Corps of Agriculture and Livestock is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A S B Hapuwinna and covers the Northern Area. The newly established 5 and 6 Corps of Agriculture and Livestock have already contributed for the agriculture drive cultivating large scale of the area in North and Kilinochchi under the instructions and guidance of Major General W B S M Abesekara RSP USP Colonel Commandant of Corps of Agriculture and Livestock.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Sri Lanka Army Music and Performing Arts Course Successfully Concluded



The certificate awarding ceremony of the candidates who had successfully completed the Basic Music Band Course No. 22 and Music Band Leaders' Course No. 23 was held under the patronage of Brigadier R B Benjamin RSP USP Director Sri Lanka Army Music and Performing Arts. 36 Other Ranks completed the Basic Music Band Course No. 22 and 10 Other Ranks completed Music Band Leaders' Course No. 23.



The 35th Anniversary of 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry



The 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry which was established under the guidance of Lieutenant Colonel U A Gunawardana psc at Monkey Bridge Army Camp on 5 May 1987 celebrated its 35th Anniversary on 5 May 2022.

The 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry has immensely contributed to eliminate the brutal terrorism from the country which lasted over three decades. 23 Officers and 357 Other Ranks of 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry sacrificed their lives for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation and 51 Officers and 1363 Officers handicapped. The Battalion is under command to 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army and presently deployed at Norachchola, Ampara under command to 532 Infantry Brigade of 53 Infantry Division.



In line with the Battalion Anniversary, series of religious events took place in remembrance of the War Heroes who sacrificed their lives and limbs for the betterment of the nation under the patronage of Lieutenant Colonel W R C Weerapura the present Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry. He was warmly welcomed to the anniversary ceremonies amidst the Guard Turn out.

Further, providing mid-day meals for the students of Dutugamnu Primary School in Ampara, distributing school items for students and planting 250 banana saplings were also included in the Anniversary celebrations. Lunch for all ranks was also provided and the evening was coloured by the eye catching inter unit sports tournament.

Commander, Security Forces (West) Made a Formal Visit to 14 Infantry Division



Major General D M K D B Pussalla RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (West) made a formal visit to 144 Infantry Brigade and 2 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry Unit under command to 14 Infantry Division on 27 May 2022. During the visit he inquired the administration requirements of Officers and Other Ranks and addressed the troops. Major General G G A S Wickramasena RWP RSP USP psc Hdmc General Officer Commanding, 14 Infantry Division and Commander 144 Infantry Brigade joined the visit.



Security Forces (West) Troops Contributed Their Assistance to Another Charity Work



As per the directions and instruction of Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (West) and the close supervision of Commander, 141 Infantry Brigade, a dilapidated COVID - 19 Patients ward belongs to the Divulapitiya District Hospital in Divulapitiya Divisional Secretariat was renovated as a normal ward and handed over to the hospital staff on 20 April 2022.

The troops of 6 Field Regiment Sri Lanka Artillery and troops of 1 Corps of Engineer Services Regiment provided their assistance and technical skills for the community work. The funds and resources were provided by the MAS Active Nirmana Pvt Ltd to succeed this noble task.

Brigadier S P G Gamage RWP RSP USP Commander, 141 Infantry Brigade graced the programme as the Chief Guest, together with Mrs Lokuge Director of Human Resources and Sustainable Business of MAS Active Nirmana Pvt Ltd. Few staff Officers of 141 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officer of 6 Field Regiment Sri Lanka Artillery, officials of MAS Active Nirmana Pvt Ltd and a few from the staff of the Divulapitiya District Hospital presented at the occasion.



Chapter Three

I sat down in the couch as Krishna took the opposite seat.

“What is this thing man? What was it again? A marriage proposal from Prince Arjuna” I mocked Krishna while frowning. “Do you even have any idea about my opinion? My perspective of marriage? and you should have told me before telling father. Are you even my friend? Can you call yourself a friend anymore?”

So Called Marriage Proposal (My Secret Mission)



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

Krishna looked at me silently and then he answered.

“ I thought you would protest. That’s your nature after all.”

“Oh did you know? Then why did you bring this up?”

“ Why? What is wrong with the man? He will look after you well, even though you treat him harshly. That’s his nature after all. Also he is the owner of the most powerful bow, Gandiva. What more can I expect when I search a suitor for my Sakhi? ”

“Go away man, you and your fake flirty words. I don’t want to hear anymore. I do not want to marry him.”

“Why so? Alright. There are four brothers in Pandava family. All are handsome in appearance and noble in character. Sakhi, you have four choices you see.” Krishna said immediately while smiling. He seems like he is not satisfied with my reaction.

“Oh man don’t you understand? I don’t want to marry anyone. I have chosen my man already.” I nagged.

“Already chosen? Who is he?” Krishna looked surprised and nervous.

“ Do you want to know?”

"Yes of course. I want to know. Who is he?"

"Karna"

"Karna? Sakhi don't tease me." His voice trembled and I almost feel satisfied.

"No I'm not. He is Karna."

At this point, Krishna rose up from the seat quickly and turned his back to me. I saw he was clenching his fingers. Then he was breathing hard. After a moment, he looked at me.

"How did you know about Karna? Do you have any idea who he is?"

"Of course I do. He may not be of royal birth. But he is very handsome, proud and a skilled warrior too. He can protect me if that's what you are worrying about...and how I knew about him... Well I saw a portrait of him one day."

Krishna's eyes froze with anger as I speak.

"How did you get this ridiculous idea of marrying him? You didn't even tell me a single word about him so far."

"Do I have to tell you everything? You are my friend right. Not my father."

Krishna looked furious and he came to me immediately. He grabbed my hand hard. He was so close to me and I almost felt his sandalwood like smell.

"Yes, you have to. Don't you know that? If so you better remember that I have every right over your marriage and it is I who decide who marries whom."

His grabbing was so tight and my hand was hurting. I struggled to get away.

"Let go of my hand, you are hurting me man. It is my marriage. Why are you acting this way?"

As my voice sounded trembling, he released my hand and looked frustrated.

"Forgive me, I did not intend to hurt you Sakhi. I'm sorry. But you should know that Karna.."

"Stop it. That's enough. Get away from here with your proposal. I don't want to see you again. I did not expect such a violence from a friend. Go away. I don't need you."

I shouted at Krishna. He looked he was regretting of his behaviour. Before leaving the room he put his hand on my head and slowly stroked my hair.

"You will soon understand that you have a great mission here. So, forget about Karna and get ready to marry Arjuna. He suits you better. Also, do make this sacred land, Bharatha a "Mahabharatha" with your marriage. I will not see you again since you detest me that much. But if you ever need my help, call my name. I will come for you whatever it is."

The War – The Greatest Game of the Kings !

*I heard that
Somebody says
The War is the greatest thing!
The greatest game of the Kings!*

*From World War I,
to World War II
From the Gulf War
to Mariupol
They chanted
The War is the greatest thing!*

*From then and now
We chant aloud !
War is the greatest thing!
Justify it!
Wrapping with the heroic vocabulary
and still chant
The War is the greatest thing!*

*Lifeless bodies scattered on the ground
Villages burnt into ashes
Children's laments are heard
Mothers seek their sons*

*Still we chant
The War is the greatest thing!*

*The deadliest the War
The miserable the War
The darkest the War
The ugliest the War*

*The Kingdoms rise
The kingdoms fall
Our dearest souls are gone
But the war has forgotten to leave !*



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

Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Major General D M K D B
Pussella RWP RSP**

assumed duties as the
Commander,
Security Forces (West)

on 04 May 2022



**Major General D B S N
Bothota RWP RSP USP psc**

assumed duties as the
Adjutant General,
Sri Lanka Army
Headquarters

on 05 May 2022



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

assumed duties as the
Commander,
Security Forces (East)

on 06 May 2022



**Major General W R M M
Rathnayake RWP RSP USP
ndu**

assumed duties as
the General Officer
Commanding,
61 Infantry Division

on 05 May 2022



**Brigadier K A W S Ratnayake
ndu**

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

on 29 April 2022



**Brigadier J P C Peiris RWP
RSP**

assumed duties as
the General Officer
Commanding,
57 Infantry Division

on 05 May 2022



**Brigadier H D W K N
Eriyagama RWP RSP**

assumed duties as the
General Officer
Commanding,
21 Infantry Division

on 07 May 2022



**Brigadier W S K
Liyanawaduge RSP**

assumed duties as the
Brigadier General Staff,
1 Corps, Sri Lanka Army

on 05 May 2022



**Brigadier R P A R P Rajapaksa
RSP**

assumed duties as the
Director,
Directorate of Welfare

on 11 May 2022



**Brigadier A M S Premawansa
RWP RSP USP**

assumed duties as the
Commandant,
Centre for Vocational
Training

on 05 May 2022



**Colonel H M G E Herath RSP
USP psc**

*assumed duties as the
Commander,
622 Infantry Brigade*

on 30 April 2022



**Colonel J M A Jayasekera RSP
USP**

*assumed duties as the
Commander,
562 Infantry Brigade*

on 05 May 2022



**Colonel R R M P N B
Bambaradeniya RWP RSP
USP psc**

*assumed duties as the
Colonel General Staff,
21 Infantry Division*

on 05 May 2022



**Colonel H A Hapugoda
USACGSC**

*assumed duties as the
Colonel General Staff
59 Infantry Division*

on 10 May 2022



Colonel H K L S Silva
*assumed duties as
the Colonel (Admin/
Quartering),
Security Force
Headquarters (Mullaitivu)*

on 17 May 2022



Colonel M S D Perera USP

*assumed duties as the
Commandant,
Engineer Services
Workshop (Central)*

on 09 May 2022



**Colonel M P S R Amarasekara
USP**

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
Sri Lanka Army Base
Hospital (Kandy)*

on 16 March 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel W D D R
Weerapura RWP RSP USP**

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
4 Sri Lanka Light Infantry*

on 21 April 2022



**Lieutenant Colonel A M C K
Gunathilake**

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
11 Sri Lanka Signal Corps*

on 25 April 2022



Major H M J S Bandara RSP

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
23 Vijayabahu Infantry
Regiment*



Major E A D P Edirisinghe Lsc

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
17 Engineer Services
Regiment*

on 011 May 2022



Major S S A Narayanage

*assumed duties as the
Commanding Officer,
7 Sri Lanka Light Infantry*

on 18 April 2022

Army Soldier Shined in India Earning First Place



S/416597 Warrant Officer II Laksiri E RSP USP who is serving as an Instructor of Battalion Support Weapon Wing at Sri Lanka Light Infantry Training Centre participated in the Motar Weapons Course conducted by India Light Infantry Training Centre from 5 January 2022 to 15 March 2022 in India. He won the first place defeating the other foreign students earning pride for the motherland.

RANAVIRUWA

COMPUTER FONTS, COVER DESIGN AND PAGE LAYOUT

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

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Another Combat Convoy Company Left off to Mali



The IV Combat Convoy Company (CCC), comprised of 20 Officers and 223 Other Ranks were designated to serve in the United Nations (UN) Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) with the return of III Combat Convoy Company (CCC).

Under the I and II phases, 17 Officers and 183 Other Ranks were reported to Mali on 23 and 25 May 2022. General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army visited Bandaranaike International Airport to bid farewell to the team comprised of 100 outgoing members.

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army extended best wishes to all of them in the first group for Mali, sharing a few thoughts with Colonel Chandana Jayamaha, Commanding Officer in the Mali-bound CCC (Phase IV). The III Combat Convoy Company comprised of 3 Officers and 40 Other Ranks.

Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff and Senior Officers attended the event.

“You, members of 12 Regiments of the Army have to keep in mind that this UN mission is an endorsement of the acceptance of your professional capabilities. It also showcases the recognition, bestowed upon our country by the UN as a troop contributing country. It is your responsibility and prime duty to safeguard the dignity of our motherland and act with strict discipline and decorum without allowing anyone to interfere with your duties,”

Commander of the Army

Director Operations and Director Overseas Operations, few senior officers, Officers and Other Ranks were at the airport to bid goodbye to them.

The Dignified Departure of a Legend



The Commander of the Army bade farewell to his office leaving unforgettable memories in the Sri Lanka Army bringing the scattered branches and directorates into a one roof. He was a fine example and redefined the vigorous motto "Nothing Impossible" earning the pride and prestige unconditionally to the Sri Lanka Army.

The glorious triumph of heartfelt farewell jingles extended by Officers and Soldiers who gathered was a token of appreciation offered for the outgoing Commander of the Army. Ranaviruwa English Magazine cordially extends the heartfelt gratefulness for his commendable service rendered for the Sri Lanka Army.

