



Muslim Educational Progressive Society (MEPS) organised a felicitation ceremony for GCE O/L students who had obtained 10 As at 2007 examinations at the Muslim Ladies Study Circle auditorium recently. Here one of the students receives a cash award of rupees ten thousand and a certificate from chief guest, South Eastern University Vice Chancellor, Dr. A. G. Hussain Ismail. Faiz Musthafa PC, Jamya Naleemiyah Deputy Director, Ash Sheikh A. C. Agar Mohammed and MEPS President M. Z. Ahamed Munaswar are also in the picture.  
Pic: Ruzairk Farook



The archaeological findings of the Buddha's abode from Senkaspura, India were presented to former Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, Bernard Thilakarane by Mr. Sriwatha, former Archaeological Commissioner of India, recently. Here Mrs. Thilakarane hands over the findings to Ven. Arama Dhammathilaka Thera, Chief Incumbent of Paramitha Bodhinatha Viharaya, Gohawra. Salitha Wijewardena, Kanappa Mahendra de Silva and Upul Kanthi de Silva are also in the picture.

**Wins (Junior) place at Inventors Competition**

Year 7 student of Musaeus College, J.K.D. Salfini Jayanetti won the First (Junior) place for her invention 'Internal Flame Pan', at the Western Province Junior Inventors Competition held by the Ministry of Education and the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission.



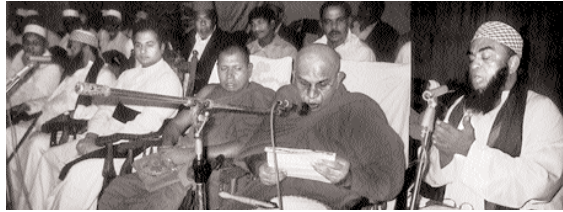
The Association of Muslim Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs held a trade fair and sale at the S. De S. Jayasinghe Hall, Dehiwala recently. Here, the Mayor of Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia, Ms. Sumetha Ranasinghe tips the ribbon to open the fair. President of the Association Ms. F.B. Jirampathy, Project Chairperson, Ms. K. Jamaldeen and other members are also in the picture.  
- Pic: Ruzairk Farook



A Christmas Carol presentation by the students of St. Lawrence College, Colombo organised by the *Thonuryatti Helek* organisation was held at the Colombo Bishop's College auditorium, in aid of 300 street children in the Colombo city recently.



The annual concert, 'Eve of Westmen' of the Western International School was held at Senaka Reception Hall, Walkiala recently. Here the pupils sing Christmas carols. The chief guest, Rev. Sr. Damitha de Silva, Chairman of the School, S. Rajitha Lowe, Ms. Princy Lowe, Principal Prasanna Fernando are also in the picture.



Moulavi Alhaj M. Niyas Mohamed, Director of Ishaanya, Arabic College, Colombo is conducting special Durr prayers to invoke the blessings of God on the security forces and for stability of peace and harmony among the various communities at the 'Bakiyathus Salihah' Jumma Mosque, Ambepitiya, Beruwala. Ven. Magulande Dhammananda Thera, Rev. Fr. Nishantha Perera, Nowel S. Jabir, M. M. M. Anjlad, M. Mazahim Mohamed and acting OIC, Beruwala police Padma Kumara were also present.  
Pic: Beruwala Spe. Cor. - B. M. Mukhtar



The birth centenary celebration of late P. Navaratnarajah, J.C. organised by the Navaratnarajah Foundation was held at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo recently. Here the special memorial issue, 'Zagal Light' is being presented by the Chairman of the Foundation, Kanagajewana PC a close relative of late Navaratnarajah, Mrs. Navarane Shanmuganathan.  
Pic: A. Maduraweeran



The Executive Committee of the Hardy Alumni Association celebrated the 50th golden jubilee celebration and the annual family get-together with an Xmas Party at the Professor Erna A. Hardy Centre, Ratmalana recently, under the guidance of President, Major General W. Bhandi Soysa. Here the President addresses the gathering while Hardian Clatus Paiva who has been stealing the annual events as Santa Claus for the past 25 years, distributes gifts to children.

**Obtains doctorate from Peradeniya University**

their contents and contribution to Literary Development'. Nagewaran obtained his BA (Special) from the University of Jaffna in 1979. Thereafter, he worked in the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and in 1988, he obtained his Master of Arts degree (M.A.). He is the son of Nainadivu Sri Nagapooshani Amman Devasthanam Trustee Arulmami Kandasamy Kanagasabapathy (Canada) and Kokkithal and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Balasingam Poomani.



Kanagasabapathy Nagewaran obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Peradeniya for his thesis on the Tamil literature on 'Indigenous Medicine in Sri Lanka and



The anniversary celebration and get-together of the Nainathivu Socio-Economic Education Development Association was held at the Senevathil Hall, Bambalapitiya, under the patronage of the Trincomalee District Judge, M. Bellenchian recently. Here the Chief Guest is being felicitated by the President of the Association, P. K. Paramalingam for his outstanding contributions in his respective field while other members look on.  
Pic: A. Maduraweeran



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Dr. Sanjiva Wijesinha's latest book 'Friends' was launched recently and the first copy was presented to his 'oldest friend', Dr. Sam Wijesinha. The book which is published by Vijitha Yapa Publications has anecdotes and the author's (who is a doctor, army officer, journalist, university lecturer and inveterate traveller) encounters with many prominent personalities in Sri Lanka.



A collection of the best photographs of wildlife photographer Chitral Jayatilaka published in the book *Moments of Truth in the Wilderness* was launched recently. Here the first copy of the book is being presented to the American Ambassador, Robert Blain by Chitral Jayatilaka and his daughter Ashvini. The book which contains pictures taken in Yala, Minneriya and Habarana is published by Vijitha Yapa publications.

**EVENTS**

**Pinkama at Attidiya junction**

A pinkama to invoke blessings on the President, Security Forces, Police, Civil Defence Force, the country and people for the New Year organised by the Attidiya South and North Civil Defence Committee, and sponsored by Ratna Lime Hardware Stores, will be held at the filling station premises at Bakery Junction, Attidiya on December 31 and January 1. It will include and All-Night Pirith ceremony on December 31 and a Sanghika Dana on January 1, forenoon.

**Prayers and religious lectures**

The program of prayers and religious lectures will be conducted today, Dec. 28 at Nawala Masjid with *Rathibathul Jalaliya* by Maulavi Hafiz Aadhil, the Principal of Al Kulliyathul Arusiyyathul Qudiriya Arabic College. It will be conducted after *Maghrib* prayers and will continue till *Isha* prayers. A religious lecture will also be followed by Moulavi Al Haj M. T. Hiltuddeen after *Isha* Prayers.

**Illustrated lecture tomorrow**

An illustrated lecture by Dr. Susantha Coomallalake on 'Global Reach: Ancient Sinhalese Travel Contrasted with 16th Century Portuguese Voyages', organised by Royal Asiatic Society will be on Monday, December 29th at 5.00 p.m. at the Mahaveli Centre, 96, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 7.

**Grand ordination ceremony at Mahamevna Temple**

A Grand Ordination Ceremony will be held at Mahamevna Meditation Centre (*Mahamevna Bhasana Asapawa*), *Muragana, Horana* today, December 28, with the participation of a large number of devotees.

Sixty children will be ordained as novice monks (*Samanera Bhikkhus*) at the event. Most Ven. Kiribathgoda Gnanananda Thera is the founder of Mahamevna, a Buddhist Monastery established with a view of re-vitalising the Gautama Buddha Sasana. The first monastery of Mahamevna was inaugurated at Palgahawela on 14, August 1959. At present, there are around 40 established branches of this monastery located all over Sri Lanka. Horana Mahamevna Bhavana Asapawa conducts many religious programmes for the public on Poya Days and other special days.

**Free seminar on 'Career Development' at SLIOP**

The Sri Lanka Institute of Printing will hold a free seminar on 'Career Development in Graphic Arts and Digital Media Industry' on Friday, January 2 and Sunday, January 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Institute at No. 118, Dr. Danister de Silva, Mawatha, Colombo 8. The seminar will explain the participants on related courses and career opportunities in the industry and the entry will be free of charge and limited to capacity. Those who wish to participate in the seminar, call 2686162 or 2679791 to reserve seats as the intake would be limited. The seminar will be conducted in Sinhala and English.

**Robin Tampoe book launch**

The launch of the book 'The last of the big ones', organised by RT Films will be held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on Monday, December 29, at 5 p.m. in Commemoration of 78th birth anniversary of Robin Tampoe. Dr. Lester James and Sumithra Peries will be the chief guests.

**'Go wild in Tissa'**

The seasonal festival 'Go wild in Tissa', organised by the Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce and Ruhunu Tourism Bureau will be held from December 27 to 29. Prasanna Gunewardena, Manager of Tourism Project of the Chamber of Commerce told the *Sunday Observer* that their objective is to formulate a tourism promotion programme for Tissamaharamba, like that of Nuwara Eliya. They plan to promote attractive places for tourists such as Yala, Rekawa, Kirinda, Walawe River and Ussangoda and little known places of archaeological significance, Akurugoda and Godawaya.

**ACWBC Pirith on Jan. 1**

An All Night Pirith ceremony of the All Ceylon Women's Buddhist Congress (ACWBC) will be held on Thursday, January 1 at 9 p.m. at the headquarters.

**JICA AA blood donation**

The JICA Alumni Association of Sri Lanka will hold a blood donation campaign in association with the National Blood Transfusion Services on Saturday, January 3 commencing 9 a.m. at the residence of the President of JICA AA, Dr. P.R. Anthonis, 161, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 7, to help patients in need of blood transfusion.

**Pirith chanting at Bambalapitiya Flats**

The Bambalapitiya Flats Buddhist Society will hold an All Night Pirith chanting in the night of January 3 and offer Sanghika Dana in the morning of the 4th at the Bambalapitiya Flats Buddhist Society Hall to invoke blessings on the country and the people for peace and prosperity in 2009.

**OFFICE BEARERS**

**Sri Lanka-Qatar Friendship Association EXCO**

President: Sarath Keerthirathne (0714313543), Senior Vice President: N.M. Shaheed (0773052266), Vice President: M.S. Faleel (0777074882), Vice President: A.M.M. Anas (0773009300), Secretary General: Bathiya Sumithrarachi, Asst. Gen. Secretary: Kanchana Pathiraja (2823614), Treasurer: M.H.M. Tahair (071416247), Asst. Treasurer: A.H.M. Nizar (2723234), Directors: Youth and Sports Affairs - M.S.M. Rishard (077394377), Economic Development and Foreign Employment: Indrajith Joseph (Yousuf), International Relationship and Technical Co-operation: Najman Zahid (077530111), Cultural and Environment: Mrs. Faleela Jurampathy Women's Affairs: Mrs. Johan Richard Hameed (077282282).