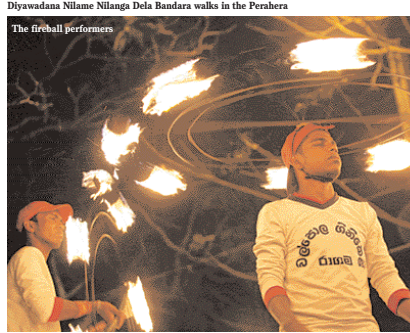


The brilliantly illuminated Sri Dalada Maligawa

# Kandy Perahera: A magnificent spectacle



Kandyan drummers in action



Diyawadana Nilanga Dela Bandara walks in the Perahera

The fireball performers

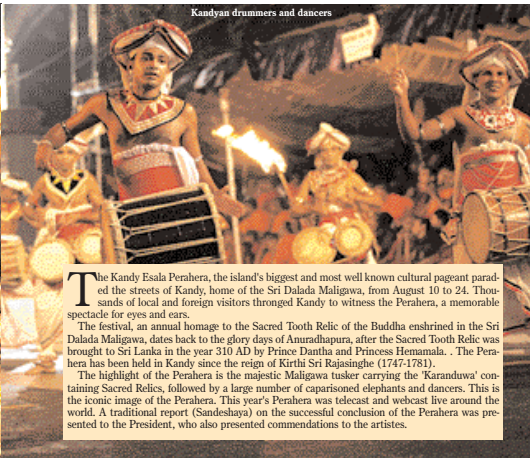


A ravan artist



Nilangas of the Devayas

Kandyan drummers and dancers



The Kandy Esala Perahera, the island's biggest and most well known cultural pageant paraded the streets of Kandy, home of the Sri Dalada Maligawa, from August 10 to 24. Thousands of local and foreign visitors thronged Kandy to witness the Perahera, a memorable spectacle for eyes and ears.

The festival, an annual homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha enshrined in the Sri Dalada Maligawa, dates back to the glory days of Anuradhapura, after the Sacred Tooth Relic was brought to Sri Lanka in the year 310 AD by Prince Dantha and Princess Hemamala. The Perahera has been held in Kandy since the reign of Kirita Sri Rajasinghe (1747-1781).

The highlight of the Perahera is the majestic Maligawa tusker carrying the 'Karanduwa' containing Sacred Relics, followed by a large number of caparisoned elephants and dancers. This is the iconic image of the Perahera. This year's Perahera was telecast and webcast live around the world. A traditional report (Sandeshaya) on the successful conclusion of the Perahera was presented to the President, who also presented commendations to the artistes.

