

**SUNDAY OBSERVER** Print media partner



Veet *Miss Sri Lanka*  
for *Miss World 2011*

# The pageant is a challenge

by Omar Rajarathnam

The countdown has already begun and you have the opportunity to vote for your favourite beauty to win this year's Miss Sri Lanka crown for Miss World. The beauty pageant held on

March 30 at the Thotupola resort in Piliyandala turned into an adventure parade as the finalists ran their way to find clues, cycled through lanes to saw logs and rowed on the Bolgoda

lake to collect the coveted treasure lying in Thotupala waiting to be grabbed. Three more contestants shared with us their experiences and why they entered the pageant.

## Anne Piyumali

The Pole Vault athlete from the Sri Lanka Air Force is out to prove that beauty pageants are for girls from all walks of life. The fitness buff was part of the Miss Perfect pageant 2011 and is now spreading her charm in this pageant. My colleagues have been extremely supportive, says a grateful Anne. "The pageant is a challenge to me, this is completely different from my profession but the same discipline applies. I am glad I had the opportunity to break away from the norm" says Anne.

"Personality is so important in today's world that I keep improving it as every mini-pageant takes place. I learn many new things and I like to share my experiences with any woman who wants to venture into modelling or athletics. We must strive to follow our passion and keep away from being confined to stereotypes" says the girl who has her head above her shoulders.

"I would have not made it if not for my mother, she is my inspiration and tower of strength. She is the one who filled in my application form and I am glad she did so. Parental support is vital to survive in this industry. I enjoy being part of the pageant because it teaches me new skills almost every day" said Anne with a thirst for knowledge.



## Aloka Weerasinghe

The TV presenter cum model says that the pageant is one of the best experiences of her life. "The participants come from different backgrounds and some of them have taken part in pageant before. I am learning from them. I have modelled before but I think this pageant is a whole new ball game. The pageant is designed in a way that tests all our attributes and that is a great thing" said Aloka.

"Patience is the most significant characteristic I have developed after being part of the pageant. Things don't always go according to plan

so it is important that we remain calm and that is a whole new experience for me. All the contestants have one dream, to win the crown and this includes me, but the experience I have gained will be of help in the future, it has helped me change my outlook about certain things" she said.

"I like to work with children, especially orphans. They need our love and compassion and I want to be available for them. My parents and siblings have supported me all along so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their effort to ensure my success" said Aloka.

## Piumi Perera

The Open University Student is not new to winning titles. She was adjudged the Model of the Future in year 2009 and won the title for Miss Personality at the Best Female Model of the year pageant in 2010. "I have worked very hard to come this far in this industry and I want to be recognised as someone who works hard too. Personality is what completes a person and this pageant is the best platform to harness it because you have to always be on the ball" says Piumi.

"I am unbending in wanting to give my best in this pageant too. The other contestants have very high standards so it increases my competitiveness. This pageant brought out many of my hidden talents. The training we receive is phenomenal and I am sure at the end of it, we all will walk away having gathered many experiences that will last a lifetime" she said.

"I cant thank my Mother, Father and my three sisters enough for all the support they have given. They have sacrificed so much that I feel I have a responsibility to make them feel proud. I genuinely feel I have gained a lot out of the pageant already want to thank Vasana Danthararayana and Brian Kerkoven for all help given so far" said Piumi.

Pix: Thilak Perera



## Contestants



Shimalka Bodaragama



Nimasha de Silva



Chamupa Godage



Charitha Waidyasiri



Anne Piyumali



Sashika Herath



Piumi Perera



Nishuka Jayawardena



Uddima Oshadi



Aloka Weerasinghe



Thushen Vimalaratne



Pushpika de Silva

The weekly count begins next week...

## Voting Coupon



Name of Contestant : .....

Name of Sender : .....

Address : .....

Telephone No : .....

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