



New Year traditions showcased in Malaysia



Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner in Malaysia, Major General Udaya Perera

The Sinhala and Hindu New Year was celebrated in the city of Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur on April 10, giving a homely atmosphere to Sri Lankans in Malaysia.

It was the first time, the Sinhala and Hindu New Year was celebrated in a grand scale in Malaysia.

"It was not only the New Year for Sinhalese, but also for Sri Lankan Tamils in Malaysia. After ending a 30-year-old scourge - LTTE terrorism. Sinhalese and Tamils, who have a long history of living together, have strengthened their old bonds. The

Sinhala and Hindu New Year has strengthened this historical bond more".

Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner in Malaysia, Major General Udaya Perera told the *Sunday Observer*. He said that the event also was organised to boost the morale of Sri Lankan migrant workers to have a better coordination with the High Commission.

"We also want to showcase Sri Lankan traditions and culture among the Malaysian community", he said. Maj. Gen. Perera said the event was

also organized to create a pleasant and friendly atmosphere for all Sri Lankans to enjoy traditional New Year games in a typical Sri Lankan Sinhala and Hindu New Year ambience.

"We also want to get the support of the diaspora for the reconciliation and development process of Sri Lanka", he said.

Over 2,500 Sri Lankans including the Tamil community living in Malaysia, took part in several events including balloon blowing, weaving coconut leaves, hit the clay pot blind-

folded, sack race, musical chairs for kids and matches, fancy dress parade and Avurudu Kumari competition.

Prizes worth Rs. 1.8 million were given to the winners. Over 1,700 Sri Lankan workers in Malaysia participated in the ceremony.

The celebration was organised by the High Commission of Malaysia in Sri Lanka together with the Buddhist Maha Vihara in Brickfields, Lanka Expatriate Association, Sri Jayanthi Association in Senthul and Sri Lanka Workers Welfare Society.

- Shanika