



President Mahinda Rajapaksa was accorded a warm reception by Sri Lankan expatriates in Dubai recently, where Ajantha Premaratne and Edward Jayathunga, Presidents of “Sansadaya” and the “Helabhima” presented two memoranda on behalf of over 500 expatriates. They pledged unstinted support and also called upon the President to set up private universities in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to UAE, Sarath Wijesinghe is also in the picture.



The Sri Lanka - Thailand Society held its 15th Annual General Meeting recently. Here the Patron of the Society and chief guest Poldej Werachat, Ambassador of Thailand lights the oil lamp. Treasurer Sumana Liyanage, President Nirmalie Gunathilleke and Secretary Upali S. Jayasekera look on.

Pic: Vipula Amerasinghe



A set of plastic chairs was donated to the Abrar Quran Madarasa Maradana, Beruwalla by the Western Provincial Councillor, M.M.M. Amjad out of his decentralised budget. Here Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries and M.M.M. Amjad, Member of W.P.C. presents a chair to Al-Haj M.I.M. Asad.

Pic: B.M. Mukthar, Beruwalla Spl. Cor.



The debating team of Dharmaraja College, Kandy won ten debating competitions consecutively and was ranked first among the schools islandwide this year. Hasaja Kanchana Samaranyake was adjudged the Best Debater and the Best Captain. First row (from left): H.K. Samaranyake (Captain), M.P.P.N. Weeraratne (Teacher-in-charge), S.M. Keerthiratne (Principal), R. Divaratne, (Asst. teacher) and M.G. Mayadunne (Vice-Captain). (Back row): C.P. Madusanka, M.P. Navodawewa, D.N. Shalwin, S. Bandara, K.M. Seneviratne and T.S. Dharmasena.



A volunteer donates blood at a campaign organised by the Puttalam Human Development Association at the Ibnu Bathutha Mahal recently.

Pic: Puttalam Thinakaran Cor. M.U.M. Sanoon



JASTECA held its 27th Annual General Meeting and the “Members Night” recently at Waters Edge, with the Ambassador for Japan and Patron of JASTECA, Nobuhito Hobo as the chief guest. Those on the Executive Committee. Seated from left: Nihal Seneviratne, C.L. De Alwis, G. Kulatilake, President Ranjit Jayewardene, Patron Nobuhito Hobo, Dayasiri Warnakulasooriya, Mahinda Saranapala and Ramya Ranaweera. Standing: Gamini Marambe, Premalal Fernando, Themiya Udalgama, Athula Edirisinghe, Chandana Amaratunga, Nimal Perera, Mangala Samarajeewa, Ananda Fernando, Sunimal Weerasooriya, Sunil Ratnayake and Anura Mapalagama.



Sainthamaruthu Brave Leaders Sports Club beat Sainthamaruthu New Star Sports Club by eight wickets in their third 30 overs Limited Over cricket match at the Karaitivu Kanagaratnam Stadium recently. Here the captain of the Brave Leaders SC A.L. Nayeem receives the Champions trophy from Divisional Secretary, Sainthamaruthu A.L.M. Saleem.

Pic: M.I.M. Azhar, Maligaikadu Gr. Cor.



The UNESCO organised the Inter-Religious and Cultural Conference with the participation of 600 representatives from 25 countries, at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel recently. It was organised by the chief incumbent of Thailand, Ven. Dr. Bodhagama Chandima Nayaka Thera. UNESCO Chairman Dr. (Ms). Katalin Bogayay, Babu Sharma Kurukkal, Ven. Prof. Master ChinKung, Ven. Galagama Dhamma Ransi Thera, Al-Haj Dr. Hasan Mowlana and Rev. Fr. Christy Fernando are also in the picture.



The Secretary to the Ministry of National Heritage, Kanthi Wijetunga presents her latest book, *Mahameraka Piyasathan* to the President of the Sinhala Writers’ Organisation Dr. Leel Gunasekera at the Public Library auditorium recently. Prof. Sudantha Ranasinghe looks on.

Pic: Nanda Ekanayake, Kotte Central Gr. Cor.



A religious pooja was conducted at the People’s Bank, Modera branch to celebrate *Deepavali*. Here the priest Sivashri Balamurugan kurukkal presents the offerings to the Regional Manager, People’s Bank, Colombo North, H.A. Leelaratne. Assistant Regional Manager P.D.A. Dharmasiri, Deputy General Manager, Jayantha Niunhelle Branch Manager Neil Kodikara and staffers are also in the picture.

Pic: A. Maduraveeran, Colombo North Gr. Cor.



The Kalutara District Journalists’ Society held its annual get-together under the patronage of the President Daya Wijeratna at the Kalutara Sanasa Bank main hall recently. Here a section of the gathering.

Pic: G.M.M. Iqbal, Beruwalla Gr. Cor.



The tree-planting campaign to mark the third stage of the Divi Neguma Development project was held islandwide recently. The ceremony at the Maharagama Divisional Secretariat was held at Waraketiya road, Godagama under the patronage of Water Supply and Drainage Minister Dinesh Gunawardene. Here Provincial Minister Upali Kodikara presents an orange sapling to a villager.

Pic: Wehelle Piyathilake, Maharagama Spl. Cor.



The 143rd birthday commemoration of Mahathma Gandhi and the International Non-Violence Day program was held in Colombo recently, organised by the Savumia Youth Foundation (SYF). Here S.P. Anthonymuthu, Chairman of SYF addresses the gathering. The second Secretary for Education and Sports of the Indian High Commission Dinesh Udenia, former Deputy Minister P.P. Devaraj and dignitaries look on.



The prize-distribution of the essay competition organised by the *Thina Magud*, a Tamil monthly journal was held at the Colombo Tamil Sangam, Wellawatte recently. Here Prof. C. Chandrasekaran presents a cash voucher to a winner. President Navodya Youth Foundation A.K. Krishna and Secretary C. Chandran were also present.

Pic: A. Maduraveeran, Colombo North Gr. Cor.



A seminar on ‘Wattala Urban Development Program’ conducted by World Vision Sri Lanka was held in Kiribathgoda recently. Here the chief guest Divisional Secretary, Gampaha, J.J. Ratnasiri is being welcomed by the Zonal Director, World Vision Sri Lanka, Ajith Perera. Manjula Tillakasekera, Manager, Wattala Development Program and other officials look on.

Pic: A. Maduraveeran, Colombo North Gr. Cor.



The Samadhi Foundation has launched a project to provide building materials such as cement for construction and refurbishment of houses of the low income groups and estate employees in the Matara district. Here the beneficiaries of Kiyanduwa GS Division in the Akuressa electorate with MP for Matara district and Chairman of the Samadhi Community Development Foundation, Buddhika Pathirana.

EVENTS

Krishnamurti talk

A recorded public talk on ‘Unconditioning the brain cells’ delivered by the late Indian sage J. Krishnamurti will be replayed at Anula Nursery School, High Level Road, Colombo 6 today at 9.45 a.m. It is organised by the Krishnamurti Centre, Sri Lanka Inc.

Thai Society at Bodhi pooja

The Sri Lanka-Thailand Society will perform a Bodhi pooja and pirith-chanting to invoke blessings on His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on his 85th birthday at the Gangaramaya, Colombo 2 commencing 5.30 p.m. on Monday, December 3, under the patronage of the Ambassador of Thailand Poldej Worachart and Mrs. Kanyarat Worachart.

Old Peterites’ dinner dance

The annual dinner/dance will be held at the “Raja Bojun”, Galle Road, Colombo 3 on November 24 from 7.30 pm. The event is coordinated by Jayantha (0777310434) and Harindra (0777-345967).

Toastmasters’ meet

Mount Toastmasters Club will hold its 100th meeting at the Old Thoman’s Swimming Club, Mount Lavinia on November 20. The fellowship and meeting will start at 6 p.m.

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Leaves for Japan

Deputy General Manager (Marketing), Independent Television Network, Upali Ranjith left for Japan to attend the Broadcasting Executives’ Seminar 2012 which is being held in Tokyo. The seminar is organised by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

