

Community

First annual World Youth Skills Day at the UN

A conference to mark the first ever World Youth skills Day was held at the UN headquarters in New York. The event was organised by the Permanent Missions of Sri Lanka and Portugal. UNESCO, ILO and Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth also supported the efforts of the two missions in convening the event.

The outcome document of the Colombo declaration, resolution A/C.3/69/L.13/Rev.1, adopted in November 2014, declared July 15 as a day dedicated to the development of youth skills.

The day was established with Sri Lanka taking a lead role in heeding the calls of youth, who gathered from all over the world, in Colombo Sri Lanka in May 2014, to participate in the World Conference on Youth.

Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Dr. Rohan Perera, speaking to a packed room, highlighted the importance not only of focusing on the skills gap leading to unemployment, but also urged member states and stake-



holders to take a holistic view that included life skills and employable skills.

He said strengthening the skills of youth was a solution identified by youth in addressing the social and employment crisis the world is facing today. Ambassador Perera noted

the number of 15 to 24-years old had reached 1.2 billion in 2014 representing a sixth of the world's total population.

He stressed that addressing the needs of the youth is not something that we could afford to ignore any longer.

The Secretary General's envoy on youth, Ahmed Alhendawi addressed the gathering via video and Ambassador Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal made a brief statement on behalf of the 'Friends of Youth' group in the UN.

A moment to savour



Minister of Foreign Affairs Mangala Samaraweera with former parliamentarians Buddhika Pathirana and Sagala Rathnayake, after handing over the United National Party nomination list for the Matara district.

Pic: Priyan De Silva, Matara Sports Cor.

The best sea swimmers



The 78th Sea Swimming Competition organised by the Sri Lanka Water Sport Society was held on the Mount Lavinia beach recently. Here the eleven competitors of the Aquatic Club, Ingiriya who won the championship with the SSP, Panadura Division, Saman Rathnayaka.

Pic: Priyadarshani Kahawala, Ingiriya Central Gr. Cor.

Tribute to Thilanga Sumathipala



The Managing Director of the All Ceylon Newspaper Agents (Guarantee) Ltd., (ACNAGL), Sirimal Pieris presents a plaque to Deputy Skills Development and Vocational Training Minister Thilanga Sumathipala at the BMICH recently, in recognition of his nine years of service to ACNAGL. Mrs. Samadara Sumathipala was also present.

YMMA Iftar at Maligawatte



The National Council of YMMA, Maligawatte distributed Ramazan Iftar food packets to the needy in Maligawatte at the Lafir Cassim auditorium recently. Here National President, M.M. Mohamed presents the items. Secretary, Naushad Jainudeen, Asst.Secretaries, M.I.M. Mohideen, M.H.M. Azwer, Asst. Treasurer, M.T.M. Imtiaz, Iftar Project Chairman M.A.M. Nazeem, M.M. Haniffa and M. Rizan were also present.

Pic: Ruzaik Farook

Hirunika Premachandra visits dansala

A dansala organised by the Ingiriya-Pettah and Ingiriya-Maharagama Private Bus Service which operates on Route No. 125 was held at the Ingiriya town recently. Here Western Provincial Councillor Hirunika Premachandra partakes in a meal.

Pic: Priyadarshani Kahawala, Ingiriya Central Gr. Cor.



Bakeer Markar addresses pioneers

Former Media Minister Imthiaz Bakeer Markar addresses the pioneers of the United National Party Students' Union set up in the 70s, at Sirikotha recently,

NCEF founder felicitated



The founder of the Early Childhood Development Project, Ven. Badagiriye Somawansa Thera was felicitated at the National Children's Educational Foundation College (NCEF), Mulleriyawa recently. Here President Maithripala Sirisena presents a token of appreciation to the Ven Thera in recognition of his services.

Pic: A. Sumanasena, Kolonnawa Gr. Cor.

Dullas greets Matara JVP leader



UPFA Group Leader and former Minister Dullas Alahapperuma greets Matara District JVP Leader Sunil Handuneththi at the District Secretariat, Matara after handing over the nomination lists.

Pic: Priyan de Silva, Matara Sports Cor.

EVENTS

Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration

The annual Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration of Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo will be held on Thursday, July 23 at 5.15 p.m. at the Jeremias Dias Hall.

The oration on "Tackling Twin Towers: Taking Steps Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development" will be delivered by Senior Advisor, Independent Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines, Dr. Hemamala Hettige (nee Munasinghe).

Deaf School PPA AGM

The Deaf School Past Pupils' Association, Ratmalana will hold its 66th Annual General Meeting on Sunday, July 26 at 9.30 a.m. at the Stanley Hall, The School for the Deaf, Ratmalana followed by lunch.

Krishnamurti talk

A recorded public talk on, "Why does man live in conflict?" delivered by the late Indian sage, J. Krishnamurti will be replayed at the Anula Nursery School, High Level Road, Colombo 6 today (July 19) at 9.45 a.m. It is organised by the Krishnamurti Centre, Sri Lanka Inc.

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Sea Sunday Service 2015



The annual National Sea Sunday Service for the seafaring community worldwide, was held at St. Peter's Church, Fort, Colombo recently. The celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Colombo the Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabay who was assisted by Rev. Chandran Crispus, Chaplain of the Mission and Rev. Pradeep Jesudian, Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Fort. Here the Bishop of Colombo receives a flag from the Naval cadets for blessing.