

SLCAO UP-COMING EVENTS

- Sinhala-Tamil New Year, April 2014

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The newsletter of Sri Lanka Canada Association of Ottawa (SLCAO)

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

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Happy New Year to all and Happy Birthday Janus the protector
By Martin Nicholas

January is named after Janus, a mythical figure regarded by the ancient Romans as their protector and guide for beginnings, endings and transitions. Julius Caesar changed the New Year from March 1st to January 1st in tribute to Janus. Janus was honoured in many festivities; not just the New Year, for example, birthday celebrations. Ancient Rome symbolized Janus with two-heads, which I consider represent, being simultaneously cognizant of the receding past and preparing for the emerging future while living in the present. A birthday is the perfect day to do just that. Unconsciously, the Janus-Heads are applied when wishing *happy birthday*. When marking milestones, especially



birthdays, we celebrate life up to now, but, get reminded of aging too. However, this forward-looking Janus-Head could be positive notwithstanding unmistakable signs of an aging body. For, life is not a one-way path, where the journey becomes progressively harder and less joyful with time, but, rather, is cyclical and dynamic.

Quotes from Celebrity Birthdays for January Chesley Sully Sullenberger (January 23rd) is the famous US Airways pilot and hero. He safely landed a passenger jet on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009. All of the 155 passengers and crew aboard the aircraft survived:

“One way of looking at this

might be that for 42 years, I've been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education and training. And on January 15 the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal.”

The Great late Martin Luther King Jr. (January 20th):
“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

Michelle Obama (January 17th):
“Choose people who lift you up.”

In Sinhala, the month of January is called “Duruthu” (දුරුතු). A historically significant event that occurred in January has been the first visit of Lord Buddha to Lanka. Based on *Mahawansa* (and folklore), it is said that Lord Buddha visited Kelaniya on this occasion.
- Editor -

Thaatha's Log Book

By Kumudini Nicholas

(In Memoriam: 2nd January 2010)



On page one you scribed:

To my daughter a beautiful baby boy was born.
 When I read the print you had already met
 The point-of-no-return and flown beyond.
 I sensed your joyful tears, and refined thoughts
 Through my heart that was forlorn,
 Leaving me to wonder why I should carry on.
 There were many events after *Putha* was born,
 You scribed them all,
 As if life stood on that platform.

From each entry I gathered,
 No other could sweeten or delight you anymore.
 Did I matter less to you from that day I implore!
Putha took my place filling your heart ever so,
 Only he could shift your pride further more.

Some years have passed since you've gone,
 Are you still watching and wanting to know more?
Putha is grown and is on a path to become that *Ephor*¹
 Do fill the pages scribing the joy
 To let all know, how you love him so.

Putha found a maiden to share his love and much more,
 He will bind his life together with hers,
 To fulfill his cause to God, and to obey law
 Do you need to pen your thoughts on this? Or,
 Would you rather ignore? Instead,
 Could you bless him from heaven with a cumshaw²?

Will I see another log, transcribing your joy?
 To make *Putha*'s special day shine like a scrimshaw³,
 Using invisible ink mixed with tears to underscore
 That your love persists; your feelings endure
 Much like the day he was born.

When I rush to welcome *Putha* with his maiden,
 With thumping heart filled with ichor
 Will you come with me to steady my wavering vigour?
 I still sense your presence where ever you roam,
 Roam with me my father,
 I need you here more than you know!

¹Magistrate ²Gift; ³Ivory Carving

KING RAVANA

By Kasuni De Silva Grade 9

Ravana was a legendary emperor in Sri Lanka. He was also one of the most powerful beings that had ever lived. This legendary emperor lived in Sri Lanka about 5000 years ago. He was a vegetarian that worshiped kashayapa Buddha. His kingdom in Sri Lanka was in Lankapura, many people believed that he represented the soul of a bodhisattava due to the fact that he had 10 faces and because of that it was believed that he had the knowledge of 10 people. He was able to do different things at the same time, that's how powerful he was. People knew him by various names Ravanna, Rabanan, Ravanan, Dasis, Ravan, and Ravula.



This was because he was a ruler for many countries. He was a well-experienced Ayurvedic physician who wrote many books on medicine & Astrology. He was also an artist. He was the composer of ravana ragas. He was also the first person to bring Angampora (Martial Arts) to our world. He also invented/created the violin bow; this shows how smart and talented he was. Since he was one of the most powerful humans in the universe there were some people who thought that he was either a ghost of an alien. He was also the inventor of many technologies, and also created the first thing to ever fly on earth, which was a dandu monara. He invented this flying machine due to the fact that he had a girlfriend named Seetha who lived in India and he needed to find a quick way to go see her. So he thought of creating a dandu monara, which will take him no more that 1- 2 hours. He was so powerful that he even lifted the Kailesh Mountain and brought it to Sri Lanka to please his mother Kaikesi who was the wife of visrava (one of the most powerful mens before Ravana was born).

There are many talented people in Sri Lanka. Even though Sri Lanka is a very small country it had and has many great and talented people living in it. The length of Sri Lanka is only 432 kilometers (268 miles) and a maximum width of 224 kilometers (139 miles). The island has an area of 65,610 square kilometers (25,332 square miles). Therefore, I think that we should be proud of the wonderful and talented people we have/had in our small country known as Sri Lanka.

Other sources such as "Ramayana" tells the tale of Rawana and Seetha in a different tone. According to "Ramayana", Rawana abducted Seetha, who is the wife of Rama. May be some history scholars among our readers could shed some light in to these "folklore" stories for us. — Editor —

Happy Thaipongal to all our Hindu readers! Few images of Hindu devotees celebrating the Thaipongal in Sri Lanka (Photographs from Daily Mirror newspaper - January 14, 2014)



Photoshop generated art by our artist Shannon Silva titled "Bo-Bo the Clown"

Award-winning entrepreneur from Hambantota meets Prince Charles



The Prince of Wales, in his capacity as the President of Youth Business International (YBI), met an award-winning young entrepreneur from Sri Lanka, Nimali Gunawardana at a reception held in London on September 9, 2013. Nimali from Ambalantota, was the winner of the international 'Start-up Entrepreneur of the Year 2013' and officially received her award on the September 12 at the Entrepreneur Awards Night.

Nimali is a beneficiary of HDCC's youth business programme (HYBP), which is the Hambantota District programme of Youth Business Sri Lanka (YBSL). She is the owner of a small-scale business -Nimali Chips and Fibre Mill in Ambalantota. At the ceremony Nimali was acknowledged as a pioneer businesswoman. In less than a year from start-up, she was able to create an environmentally friendly enterprise producing and exporting coir for mattresses and coir piths, and a business making coconut husk chips, which is a new industry in Sri Lanka's rural districts.

The coir for mattresses is supplied to a Galle-based company which exports the coir to countries situated at high altitude. When she set out, Nimali - who comes from an impoverished background - was determined to overcome traditional cultural ideas about the role of women in Sri Lanka.

However, a failed coir business venture and a lack of collateral meant that banks rejected her requests for a loan to help her set up Nimali Chips and Fibre Mill. With the help of YBSL's Hambantota Programme, Nimali's new business has grown to employ 13 people and is looking to generate an annual turnover of more than \$39,000. She is 25 years.

The amount she has achieved within an 8-month period, and her dedication and sacrifice is inspirational. She has overcome many traditional and gender barriers, and she has grasped this business opportunity with both hands and run with it.

Nimali got her start up loan and business training through the USAID-funded Promoting Entrepreneurship and Empowering Women in the Hambantota Dis-

trictproject, which was implemented by HDCC and which provided business start-up support to local women and capacity building programmes for existing business women. Through this project HYBP disbursed 60 loans for women in the Hambantota District to start their own businesses.

The role of the mentor is a unique feature of this project and Nimali's mentor is Gunawathie Hettiarachchi, Project Coordinator of Ruhunu Nadee Community based organization, Ambalantota. She has been serving as her mentor since the inception of her business.

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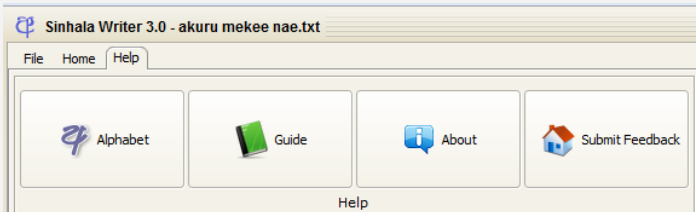
<http://www.dailynews.lk/business/award-winning-entrepreneur-hambantota-meets-prince-charles>

(contributed by Martin Nicholas)

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මෙයට අවශ්‍ය ක්‍රමලේඛන (program) බාගන්න (download) හැකිවෙයි මේ වෙබ් පිටුවෙන්: <http://sinhalawriter.ueuo.com/>

එය බාගත් පසුව ක්‍රමලේඛනය තමන්ගේ පරිඝනකයේ (computer) ස්ථාපනය (install) කරන්න. ඉතාම පහසුවෙන් ලස්සන සිංහල අකුරු ලිවීමට හැකිවෙයි. දැන් උද්‍යෝග්‍යයකට සිංදුවක් ලියල බලමු. මෙන්ම දැන් එය නෙලවා (snip) පහත පෙනෙන හැටියට. ඔබත් උත්සාහ කර බලන්න.



සිංහල ලියන්න හැමටම හැකියි. දැන් අපි සිංදුවක් ලියමු...

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ඉස්සර වාගේ නාමත් මතකයි
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si/nhala liyanna hAmatama hAkiyi.
dhAn api si/ndhuvak liyamu...
akuru mAkie nAa kola gAlavie nAa
bo/Ndha vie nAa sithuvam
issara vaagea thaamath mathakayi
hOdi pothea paadam

මෙම ක්‍රමලේඛනයේ උදව් ගයිඩය (help guide) පාවිච්චි කිරීමෙන් ඉතා ලෙහෙසියෙන් සිංහල අකුරු ලිවීමට හැකි බව පෙනේ. මේ ක්‍රමලේඛනය FMBindumatie, FMMalithi, FMSamantha ආදී ෆොන්ට් (font) දොලහකින් සමන්විතය. මේ පිලිබඳව උදව්වක් අවශ්‍ය නම් ඉ-තැපෑලේ හසුනක් (email message) එවන්න kweerasooriya@hotmail.com වෙතට.