

**SLCAO UP-
COMING
EVENTS**

- Sinhala-Tamil New Year, 26 April 2014

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014

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Congratulations Sri Lanka!

Sri Lanka won the **2014 Asia Cup** for the fifth time in Bangladesh a week ago. Sri Lanka has won the Asia Cup in 1986, 1997, 2004, and 2008 previously. India too has won it five times with Pakistan winning it twice.

Sri Lanka were unbeaten through the series with couple of lapses here and there. But good team effort got them through.

Lahiru Thirimanne who played well through the tournament and was adjudged the player of the tournament.

It was **Lasith Malinga** who turned the tide in the finals with 5 wickets against Pakistan and deservedly was the Man of the Finals.

ICC WORLD Twenty20: Can Sri Lanka be the bride this time?

The ICC World Twenty20 Tournament inaugurated in 2007 and was continued in 2009, 2010 & 2012. Current tournament started on March 21st, 2014. Of the four T20 world cup up to now, Sri Lanka has come up to the final in 2009 and 2012. But both times they failed to win. In 2012 when the tournament was held in Sri Lanka, they were the favorites to win. But unfortunately, their batting collapsed after restricting the mighty WI to 137.

Sri Lanka played their first match of the current tournament on the Saturday, 22nd of March 2014 against a matching opponents of South Africa. Thanks to a fine

knock by Kusal Perera (61 off 40 balls) and steady batting by Mathews followed up by all-round good bowling efforts, SL was lucky enough to secure a tight win by 5 runs.

If the seasoned front-line batsmen like Dilshan, Mahela starts firing, the road to the final may not be hard. I tend to believe that the team has got over the chocking at the finals and we may see some change this time.

The showing at the Asia Cup was very convincing. Couple of years back, the future of Sri Lankan Cricket looked bleak. It appeared that departure of seniors like

Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Dilshan may leave a big gap in the team talents.

Now, I see a quite change in the mentality and skills in the team. Hopefully, they will fight till the last ball is bowled.

The trend has been "*Always the bridesmaid, never the bride*".

May be they can be the **bride** this time instead of being the **bridesmaid!**

Good Luck!

Information, views or opinions expressed on the SLCAO newsletter originates from many different sources and contributors throughout the general community. Please note that content does not necessarily represent or reflect the views and opinions of SLCAO or the editor. Any feedback or contributions are most welcome.

Pussia versus Molly

By Kumudini Nicholas

For Sam and Lilly, their parents living in Sri Lanka were a constant source of love and support. Yet, visiting them was still a recurring dream to be realized, as various obstacles hindered materializing related plans. Finally, following Jimmy’s high school graduation, the family decided on the trip. “What about Pussia?” Jimmy questioned. “She has to stay in Canada” Sam responded.

The cattery, ‘Cats-at-Home’ became the temporary residence for Pussia. It had a variety of guests. Active cats roamed in the kitchen or played in the hallways, while those who were shy to mingle, peacefully slept on ‘stacks’. Pussia being relatively a private feline, headed directly to the ‘stacks’. However, there was a problem. The ‘spot’ on the ‘stacks’ Pussia desired was already occupied by a grey long-haired cat named Molly!



Cats by nature are territorial; therefore, when two cats have their hearts set on the same chunk of territory, fur is going to fly. Yet, the family had no choice but to leave Pussia and allow the natural progression of events to unfold. After offering ample hugs and kisses, the family departed with heavy hearts. A potential ‘cat-fight’ seemed inevitable considering Pussia’s determination to compete with Molly for the same space!

After a few weeks, the family returned from their trip and visited the cattery anticipating to pickup an agitated cat. Surprisingly, Pussia was peacefully sleeping on the ‘spot’ Molly previously occupied!

The owner had observed Pussia using silent feline communications with eyes to elevate her status, and energetically licking Molly and inducing her to move. The family was fascinated by Pussia’s peaceful but strategic behaviour that led Molly to concede. Eventually, Molly had become friends with Pussia and had played hide-and-seek with her. Pussia’s non-violent accomplishment was a warm welcome-home gift for the family. Family spent some time with Molly, and Pussia joined them to say good-bye. Without a doubt, Pussia was delighted to return to her own bed.



Chandre Dharma-wardana is a Sri Lankan-born academic and a Scientist. A former President of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, he is currently a professor of Theoretical Physics at the Université de Montréal and a Principal Research Scientist at the National Research Council, Canada. - based on information from www.wikipedia.org (This is his latest book. Chandre resides in Ottawa and often joins SLCAO and other community events. - Editor -)

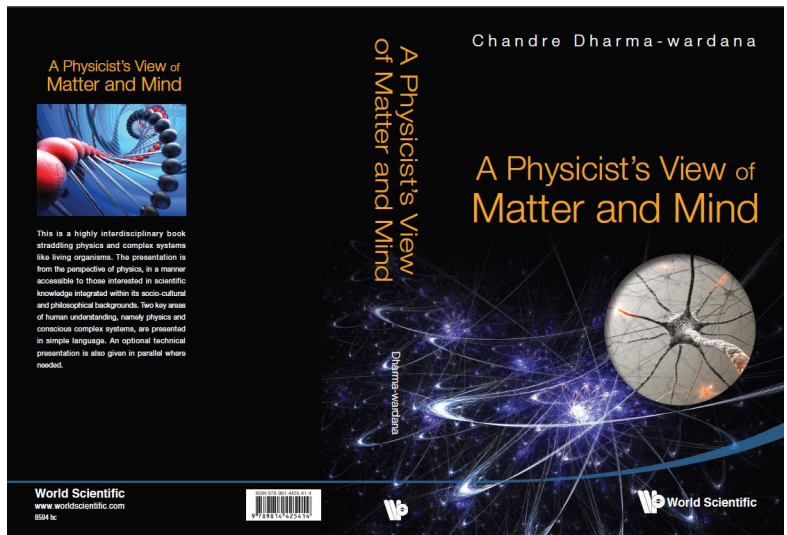
A Physicist's View of Matter and Mind

A book by: Chandre Dharma-wardana (National Research Council of Canada, Canada & University of Montreal, Canada)

(<http://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/8594>
World Scientific Publishing Company (May 6, 2013).

This is a highly interdisciplinary book straddling physics and complex systems such as living organisms. The presentation is from the perspective of physics, in a manner accessible to those interested in scientific knowledge integrated within its socio-cultural and philosophical backgrounds. Two key areas of human understanding, namely physics and conscious complex systems, are presented in simple language. An optional technical presentation is also given in parallel where it is needed. Readership: General audience with interest in physics and complex systems biology as well as science academics (<http://www.amazon.com/A-Physicists-View-Matter-Mind/dp/9814425419>).

This is a physics book that attempts to place physics in the context of a wider framework, cutting across C. P. Snow’s two cultures. That is, it discusses things that other books, with a narrower vision, neglect to treat. We explore the unity and consilience** of our knowledge about “matter”, and what we intuitively understand as “mind”, within the perspective of the ‘working physicist’ who assumes the existence of an independent external reality - Chandre Dharma-wardana, Ottawa, Canada. 15-April-2012 **Consilience is the linking together of principles from different disciplines especially when forming a comprehensive theory.



Some customers’ views and comments for this book:

- Here is a book that asks, and attempts to honestly answer, almost all the questions that one might ask when you begin your journey starting from the elementary building blocks of the world, and right up to the emergence of human consciousness...
- The book pushes an entirely rational approach, but the Buddha and the Dalai Lama get ample mention. The author has a lot of discussion of David Bohm’s ideas...
- A very intellectual, profound book that adds to our collection of books by erudite poly-math physicists. It will serve me for many years to come, as a guide and a reference textbook for preparing courses of "general interest science", or in dealing with questions on the "philosophy of science", or for widening the horizon of graduate students who have a narrow view of science... (<http://www.amazon.com/A-Physicists-View-Matter-Mind/dp/9814425419>)

The International Women’s Day in March – let’s pay tribute to a living Sri Lankan singing legend

By Martin Nicholas

The name of March comes from Latin Martius. It was named for Mars, the Roman god of war who was also regarded as a

“No winter lasts forever.
No spring skips its turn.”



guardian of agriculture.

March 8th marks the *International Women's Day* (IWD). The focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and social achievements. For the IWD

we could remember a Sri Lankan who has gained her praise and popularity from the Sri Lankan Diaspora in Ottawa and throughout the Globe. She has won eleven *Sarasaviya* Awards and eight Presidential Awards for Best Singer. Some of her songs continue to enlighten the Sri Lankan public about human freedom and injustice around them. She is **Nanda Malini** who has made a lasting impact on people. Her song “*Yadamin Banda*” speaks of bravery and self-sacrifice when fighting social injustice:

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Many have praised her songs for vividly expressing the injustice, misfortune and sadness experienced by Sri Lankan women who often keep their woes to themselves and suffer in silence. Some of her most popular songs have lyrics depicting realistic life situations, and most intricate, love, human relationships and

emotions. For example, ” *Kada Mandiye*” epitomizes this.

May we be entertained, enlightened and uplifted by this living legend for many more years!

In March, the 22nd is *World Day for Water* - a time to focus public attention on the critical water issues of our era! *UN French Language Day* (March 20th) could remind us that learning a bit of French could be an asset especially in Ottawa. Finally, the UN General Assembly has established March 20th as *International Day of Happiness*. *May you be happy!*

As we leave winter and welcome spring, may it bring you satisfaction, peace and joy!

Did the Sinhala race start before or after King Vijaya? Kasuni de Silva - Grade 9

Long ago people wrote story’s about how the Sinhala race started after king Vijaya’s arrival to Sri Lanka. Scholars, such as Mendis Rohanadheera, Dr. Suriya Gunasekera, Dr. Nath Amarakone, Messrs.' J.R.P. Sooryapperuma, Arisen Ahabudhu, Ven Sastrapathi Manave Vimalarathana there are now trying to figure out whether the Sinhala race started before King Vijaya’s arrival. They also deny that the Sinhala race do not descend from an Indian origin due to the fact that the Sinhala language has never been used or spoken anywhere in India.

The origins of the Sinhala race, is believed to trace far beyond even the King Rawana era and the Sinhala Royalty far beyond even King Pandukabhaya era. This little country, in the ancient past, was known as 'Helaya' or 'Heladiva'. There were at the time four tribes of people known as 'Yaksha', 'Raksha', 'Naga' and 'Deva' who lived on this land. Though named such, probably due to their behavioral patterns, their habits, their thinking and their way of livelihood

etc., they were only humans. Due to the existence of these four tribes Helaya, later became to be known as "Sivu-Helaya" which later turned out to be called "Sinhale". When the country was invaded by foreign traders and powers, it was known as "Ceylon".

Kumbari Murugathaka is a type of meditation that has been in our tradition even before the enlightenment of Siddharatha Gautama. After Siddharatha Gautama arrived in Sri Lanka there was a lecture he gave which was called abhidharma deshanaya . Evidences say this lecture was mainly for the yakshahothikaya. These people are known to have great minds and Lord Buddha also states that these people had great knowledge in medicine. Siddharatha Gautama gave the lecture on abidharma deshanaya in the city of Nilagiriya Gramaya. Sri Lankan is known to have 53 letters in its alphabet and can be used to make any words in any language. But other language can not do that due to the fact that they only have 26-30 letters. Now I’m wondering if Sinhala was the first language to ever be spoken in Asia?

Because the first person to ever be found in Asia was a Sri Lankan man who was known as, Balangoda manawaya.

Sri Lankan Tamils and Sri Lankan Sinhalese all believe in King Ravana. Even though in this new generations Tamils and Sinhalese are separated, back in the Siddharatha Gautama era these two could have been all one community. Tamils may speak a different language than Sinhalese but that may be because there area (for example Jaffna) is closer to the Indian border. They will always be considered as Sinhalese even if they speak a different language. It is like moving to a different country and speaking there language, even though you speak a different language there you will always be considered a Sinhalese. When you look at historical tales it has evidences on how Sri Lankan Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Tamils were all the same back in the day. We were all one community.

A sketch by Shannon Silva



TIDBITS..

This may be old news to you. But...

Yes, I am an avid viewer of NETFLIX..

I mostly watch action movies and action TV shows. I stumbled upon "Covert Affairs" just based on NETFLIX suggestions.

I started watching the pilot and few minutes in to it, a beach scene appeared and then some Sinhala dialog. They showed a



kid talking to two foreigners in Sinhala. I started watching the series and appear to have some episodes written around Sri Lanka. The show is not too bad. Little bit chick-flicky to my taste, nevertheless lot of action.

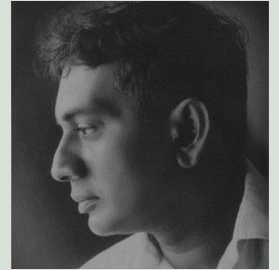
Season 1, Episode 11 appear to have been filmed mostly in Sri Lanka. According to related news, a shooting scene was filmed at the Captain's Kovil, Maradana, while a helicopter scene with

stunning stunts was captured at a high-rise building in Dehiwala.

Some of scenery looks familiar to me but I could not exactly place them as things have changed so much over there over the last so many years. *But it felt nostalgic..*

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Example quatrain (Based on Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam):

*I desire a little ruby wine and a book of verses,
Just enough to keep me alive, and half a loaf is needful;
And then, that I and thou should sit in a desolate place
Is better than the kingdom of a sultan*

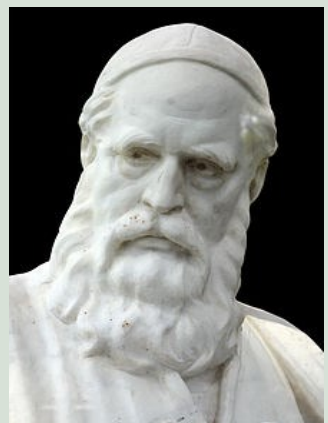
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