

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc *NEWSLETTER*

Established 1978



Incorporated 1984

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FROM THE EDITOR

Tradition of SLSQ Curry Nights commenced when SLSQ organised its first curry night over three decades ago in an era when there were not many Sri Lankan families in Brisbane. SLSQ Curry Night then provided the opportunity for all Sri Lankans living in and around Brisbane to meet one another and enjoy a traditional delicious Sri Lankan meal in style. Thanks to the efforts of all former management committees of SLSQ, this important event has continuously been held over the decades. Contrary to the past, Sri Lankan community in Brisbane has grown in substantial numbers, also there are quite a few Sri Lankan outfits now in Brisbane organising various events, as such when curry itself is not so much sought after unlike in the past, not many people would have given much hopes of organising a curry night nowadays. Well, proving everyone who thought in those lines wrong, it was really pleasing and encouraging to witness a well-supported curry night, enjoyed by all.

Additionally Brisbane Sri Lankan community saw quite a bit of religious and entertainment activities over the past couple of months including Sri Lankan movies, "Spitsfire" in action on stage with well known Sri Lankan artists, the likes of Desmond and Dalreen.

Back in Sri Lanka, Colombo harbour commissioned new South harbour by opening its South Terminal. No doubt it is certainly an important and big step forward in terms of Sri Lankan economic perspective. Hambantota harbour too celebrated berthing of 100th ship.

Happy reading!



Annual Curry Night

The annual Curry night of the Sri Lanka Society Queensland 'Winter warmers' was held on Saturday 10th August at St Joseph's Nudgee Junior College for the members of the society and their friends. It was an enjoyable evening where everyone mingled and caught up with old friends and new in a relaxed and warm atmosphere.

Music was provided by DJ R & R with a repertoire to suit everyone present which was a great mix of young and, young at heart. The Baila competition was enjoyed by all, where a winner, Second and Third places were selected. Theja Samarasinge won the competition while Ranjan Wijeratne was adjudged second. The biggest winner of all were the group of young children who executed the 'Gangam style' dance moves with great enthusiasm.

There was a delicious spread of Sri Lankan favourites catered by Thilani who had gone to great lengths to create a very tasteful presentation.

The curry night has traditionally had many different themes to it and already there are suggestions for future functions. As there were numerous requests for this event to continue yearly, the committee would like to make it even more exciting next year.

The committee would like to thank everyone present on the curry night and look forward to seeing you next year.

By Ranjika Herat





Winner of the Baila Dance Competition Theja Samarasinghe with two judges (Rasika and Asara) and SLSQ President Hermin Goonetilleke

Port of Colombo - New South Port Terminal and the Indian Factor

Port of Colombo recently commissioned its new Colombo South Port by opening one of its three terminals. South terminal was completed at an estimated cost of US \$ 500 millions. 363 meters long CMA CGM Pegasus was berthed on 05th August which can carry over 11000 TEUS (carrying capacity of 11000 20 feet containers). The vessel has a summer draft of 15.5 meters though new Colombo port can berth even bigger ships (Triple E Class ships carrying 18000 TEUS and a draft of upto 17.5 meters), due in world-wide service.

President Rajapakse was the chief guest for the opening of New South Port Terminal which marked an important milestone in the growth of shipping industry in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was a pioneer in the region in handling of container ships by converting part of Queens Elizabeth jetty into a container terminal in mid 1980s. Sri Lanka Ports Authority has made excellent progress since opening Queen

Elizabeth Container terminal. JCT or Jaya Container Terminal was completed in early 1990s with modern facilities at the time for handling large container ships. Local Shipping experts at the time foresaw the potential of Port of Colombo in terms of its geographical location in close proximity to main East / West shipping route, the ability of Port of Colombo to handle large container ships (*even though the Colombo port was built over 100 years then to cater for much smaller ships*) and the forecast growth of container business. No doubt Marine Pilots too over the years have significantly contributed by navigating even bigger ships into the harbour, particularly during South West Monsoon in rough seas and strong winds, day or night, without interruptions to container ships schedule as maintaining schedule is paramount for any container ship to avoid the domino effect.

Now with the commissioning of deep draft Colombo South port, having capability to berth the biggest container ship in the world, also with two more similar terminals yet to be completed, Colombo has the ability to maintain its current competitive edge over any other container hub port in sub continent, particularly Vallarpadam, port in Kerala off Cochin, India currently promoting with a Special Economic Zone. It is interesting to note that approximately 70% of transshipment containers, Colombo currently handles is Indian cargo.

India is slowly but steadily progressing in container transshipment business by developing container ports in both West and East coasts, the latest being converting Chennai Coal terminal to a container Terminal. India is promoting Vallarpadam not only as a container hub port but also looking into the future with a proposed Refinery, LNG terminal, Bunkering terminal, Bulk Cargo terminal, Ship Repair Complex, Petro Chemical complex and a terminal for cruise ships. It is interesting to note that Sethusamudram Canal which is currently being dredged, has completed over 50% of its project. Sethusamudram Canal is being dredged in Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka, which will reduce the voyage of a ship sailing from one Indian coast to the opposite coast by over 430 nautical miles or 36 hours. This is a huge reduction sailing time and distance. However, Sethusamudram canal has its own limitations, major one being the maximum draft allowed 10 meters, in addition to a speed restriction of 8 Knots. Once the canal is completed and operational, India may have the advantage of speedy transporting East coast containers on feeder ships to Vallarpadam, thereby with the objective of further promoting Vallarpadam as a hub port. However, the biggest drawback appears to be its ability to handle big ships with its draft restrictions, in addition the location being further away from East West shipping route, which adds more time and money for a container ship diverting to Vallarpadam.

It will be interesting to know, how India plans to gear up in future to manipulate its container cargo volume now being transshipped via Colombo, also taking into account the high growth forecast in container business in sub continent and using the entire infrastructure currently being built around India. It is important for Colombo to have a good strategy for the future in order to consolidate its current position, advantages of location and deep water harbour. Improving efficiency and productivity to give a faster turn around to ships is vital too due to ever increasing operation cost of ships; as such the ship owner is looking to save every dollar that possibly can.

By a Master Mariner



From Sri Lanka

James Packer – To Get 10 Year Tax Holiday

Australian Casino King James Packer would make a grand entry to Sri Lankan market very soon, post given him a ten-year tax concession. It was stated that nowhere else in the world were casinos allowed to function without paying taxes. Critics noted that Singapore and Philippines had imposed gaming levies ranging from 22 to 40 percent on casinos in addition to income

JKH infuses US\$ 850 m on Water Front project

Water Front Properties (Pvt) Ltd a subsidiary of John Keells Holdings signed an agreement with BOI to build a mixed development project. This is to be set up at No. 130, Glennie Street, Colombo 02. apartments and office space. This also includes a 500 room hotel as well. "The anticipated employment generation from the project would be 3,000 with a majority being skilled," he added. The project is to be completed in five years. "Over US\$ 300 million for the project would come from foreign funding from their share holders," he said.

The Minister said this water front project will help to change the Colombo city sky line and would add value to Colombo as a destination. He said the John Keells Group is also looking at a second stage at the same venue which would include more facilities.

Asked if there were any special concessions offered to Australian based gaming tycoon,

tax. However under the guise of a Mixed Development Project, Packer would carry on his Casino business for ten long years without paying any tax. Even after the grace period, the percentage set was only six percent he said. Asked if the Midnight Gazette was meant for all foreign investors, the critic replied in the negative, adding that it was specially meant for Packer under a Strategic Development Pact.

James Packer he answered in the negative. The concessions granted for this project is similar to the other projects in tourism related approved under the Special Integrated Development Projects (SDP) Act. John Keells too have all benefits under the Strategic Development Act offered to investments of over US\$ 200 million.

The total cost of the project is US\$ 650 million . "This investment has now increased by another US\$ 200 million which makes it an investment US \$ 850 million in total venture," said Investment Promotion Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardane after exchanging the agreement with John Keells at the BOI. This Integrated Resort will be a multi-faced development consisting of a luxury hotel, convention centre, entertainment facilities, international standard shopping mall, luxury condominiums, serviced

Train Services to Kilinochchi resuming after 23 years

Sri Lanka Railways would officially recommence the train service on the Northern line, up to Kilinochchi, after a lapse of 23 years, on September the 14. Currently, the trains operate only up to Omanthai, 10 km north of Vavuniya.

The Northern Line, from Vavuniya to Kankesanthurai, was destroyed during the three-decade-long war and the train service to Kilinochchi came to a halt in July 1990.

Buses operating on the Horowpathana, Kahatagasdigiliya and Galenbindunuwewa routes held a protest against the failure of the police to arrest those who were extorting money from them at the new bus stand in Anuradhapura. The protesters climbed atop the buses, carried placards and shouted slogans, crippling transport on those routes for several hours. The protesters said that three men had mercilessly assaulted and stabbed a conductor of a Horowpathana bound bus as he refused to pay extortion

The army recaptured Kilinochchi in 2009. All railway stations along the route destroyed in the three-decade war would be re-established,

According to the Sri Lanka Railways, the reconstruction of the whole Northern Line, up to Kankasanthurai would be completed by the end of 2014.

The train line is being reconstructed by the Indian Railway Construction International Ltd. (IRCON) with the assistance of the Indian government. This achievement of resumption of train service was made possible because of Indian financial aid and reconstruction efforts,

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Crews of Private bus operators protest against extortion

money at the bus stand. The bus crews, who were there at the time, had caught the assailants and handed them over to the policemen on duty. The protesters claimed that the police only detained the man who stabbed the conductor and released the other two. They expressed regret that the police had failed to arrest the other two persons who had assaulted the bus conductor or take steps to nab those extorting money from the crews. A senior police officer said that the man who stabbed the conductor had been remanded

while investigations were underway to nab the other two. The protesters called off their agitation after police gave an assurance that

Sri Lanka cricket tour of Zimbabwe postponed

Sri Lanka cricket team's tour of Zimbabwe has been postponed. Tour dates to be decided to a future mutually agreed, it was announced by the Sri Lanka Cricket yesterday.

Sri Lanka national team was scheduled to play two Test matches, three One Day Internationals and two Twenty20's from October 1 to November 5 in Zimbabwe this year.

Sri Lanka Inflation up 6.3-pct

Sri Lanka's inflation measured in the capital Colombo rose 6.3 percent in the 12-months to August up from 6.1 percent in July, though prices fell during the month, the state statistics office said. The Colombo Consumer Price Index fell 0.6 points during August to 176.2 points.

they would beef up security at the new bus stand.

As Zimbabwe Cricket Union had to organize two series hosting two Asian countries, India in July and the current series of Pakistan, they are in an cash-strapped situation and are unable to undertake the Lankan tour as the third visiting team in just three months.

"Due to some challenging issues we are facing, it has been decided that we should reschedule the Sri Lankan tour to a future mutually agreed date," the statement from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union said.

The food and non-alcoholic beverages sub-index fell 0.8 percent and the non-food items rose 0.1 percent, the state statistics office said. The prices of several imported foods have also eased amid a falling India rupee, and the state has upped import taxes. But Sri Lanka's rupee has also started to depreciate.

* Sources: Sri Lanka Media



News & Events

07.09.2013	Goodna Temple	Dhamma Serman
08.09.2013	Goodna Temple	Dana Pinkama to commemorate Ven Madihe Pannaseeha Mahanayaka Thero and Ven Soma Thero
14.09.2013	Growing Communities	Curry Night
	Contacts:	
	Chamath	3372 6061
	Wasantha	0412 095 105
14.09.2013	Silver Fawn Club	Old Schools Night
	Contacts:	
	Dennis	3353 3896
	Basil	0400 025 046
	Egerton	3889 6661
	Deanna	3216 2980
28.09.2013	Queensland Sinhala Sangamaya	Saralanga Concert
	Contacts:	
	Kanthi	0435 811 901
	Rohana	0423 786 619
05.10.2013	Queensland Old Anthonians	Dinner Dance
	Contacts	
	Mark	3343 8656

Brian	3351 6544
Annesley	3203 7328
Sunil	3420 3142

12.10.2013

SPUR Queensland

Paduru Party

Contacts:	Sarath	0402 421 530
	Anil	0416 012 099
	Senarath	0434 242 260
	Manjula	0422 566 099

19.10.2013

St Peter's College Social Club Dinner Dance

Contacts:	Warren	0402 303 541
	Glen	0413 051 192
	Herbert	0402 115 871
	Ruwan	0414 861 991



Biggest Container ship now due in world-wide sailing is m.v. **Maersk Mc Kinney Moller**, registered in Denmark. This ship was named after the Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller, Denmark's richest man who passed away in April 2012 at the age of 98 years. Port of Colombo now can berth this ship post commissioning of Colombo South Port.

Length of ship	398	metres (nearly four lengths of a football field)
Breadth	58	metres
Tonnage (DWT)	196000	Tonnes
Carrying capacity	18000	TEUS (18000 20 ft containers)
Average speed	22.3	Knots (approx 41.5 Km per hour)
Engines horse power	43000	Twin Engines
Cost	\$ 185 millions	
Built in 2013	Daewoo Shipbuilding, Korea	

For the Cricket Lovers

Sidath Wettimuny was the opening batsman for Sri Lanka from 1982 to 1987, in both Tests and One Day Internationals. Some of you may be just wondering what he is up to now! Visit below link & enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsoWEO7BIG8>

Please send community events and articles of general interest, to be included in the SLSQ newsletter to cgodakanda@gmail.com