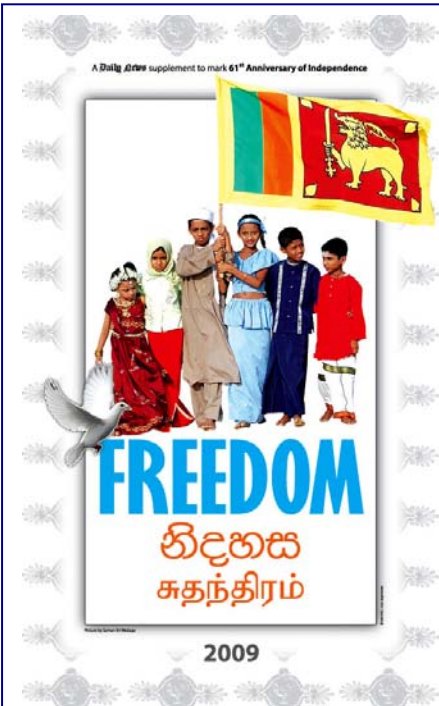




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Political freedom is the absence of interference with the sovereignty of an individual by the use of coercion or aggression. The members of a free society would have full dominion over their public and private lives. The opposite of a free society would be a totalitarian state, which highly restricts political freedom in order to regulate almost every aspect of behavior. In this sense 'freedom' refers solely to the relation of humans to other humans, and the only infringement on it is coercion by humans

The concept of political freedom is very closely allied with the concepts of civil liberties and **individual rights**, which in most democratic societies is the profession characterized by various freedoms which are afforded the legal protection of the state.

Various groups along the political spectrum naturally differ on what they believe constitutes "true" political freedom.

Left wing political philosophy generally couples the notion of freedom with that of positive liberty, or the see page 2

King Abdullah Receives Sri Lankan Delegates



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, receives Sri Lankan delegate, Rismi Reyah, Chairman and Managing Director of the Traveler Globe, left, and Mohammed Muzaffar, director Foreign Relations of the Makola Muslim Children's Orphanage at the Yamamah Palace in Riyadh recently during a banquet at the National Heritage and Culture Festival in Janadriyah

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, received the two Sri Lankan delegates, who came for the National Heritage and Culture Festival in Janadriya on his invitation.

Sri Lankan delegates, prominent social worker Rismi Reyah, chairman and managing director of the Traveller Globe and Mohammed Muzaffar, director foreign relations of the Makola Muslim Children's Orphanage met the monarch at the Yamamah Palace in the Saudi capital.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa had attended the Janadriyah function in January 2002 on behalf of the Sri Lanka-Palestinian Friendship Society when Ibrahim Sahib Ansar was in Riyadh as the island's Ambassador.

Addressing the foreign dignitaries who came to attend the National Heritage and Culture Festival in Janadriya at a banquet, King Abdullah asked the guests to carry a message of goodwill from Saudi Arabia to their respective countries. The King thanked the guests and told them to convey the greetings of the people of Saudi Arabia to their fellow countrymen.

"I welcome you all with the greetings of Islam to Saudi Arabia," King Abdullah said. The King received a commemorative gift from the delegates on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Janadriya Festival. ctd on page 3



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National Day Celebrations Pics In Eastern Province



Homes of Colombo ctd p3

Dr Schokman lived in this house called "Valerest" opposite the Havelock Park. Stewart Orr of the Municipal Council lived in this house previously and it was called 'Dilkusha'.

In its front yard was a beautiful circular sunken garden. In later years the house was converted into a restaurant.

Adjoining the northern bund of the canal was the Government Senior School, which later transferred to Maharagama. During World War II it housed the Royal Primary School when the entire Royal College complex was used as a military hospital. Today the buildings are the home to Lumbini Maha Vidyalaya. Opposite the school was a row of small shops and houses including a bicycle repair service, which was popular with students and adults alike, as many adults cycled to work in the city and would stop by to pump up their tyres.

In one of these houses lived Mr M. E. Piyasena, affectionately known by the boys as "Vathey", teacher at the Royal Primary School and a great organizer in the Boy Scout movement. Lawrence Tudawe of the building firm Tudawe Brothers lived in the freestanding house next door. A few houses further on lived S. B. Lekamge, a lawyer, whose wife was a teacher at the Royal Primary School. In the adjoining lane was the home of Dr C. O. Perera, then Superintendent of the Mental Hospital.

To be continued



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enabling of an individual to realize his or her own potential. Freedom, in this sense, may include freedom from poverty, starvation, treatable disease, and oppression, as well as freedom from force and coercion, from whomever they may issue.

Some people treat freedom as if it were almost synonymous with democracy, while other people see conflicts or even opposition between the two concepts.

Environmentalists often argue that political freedoms should include some constraint on use of ecosystems. They maintain there is no such thing, for instance, as "freedom to pollute" or "freedom to deforest" given that such activities create negative externalities. The popularity of SUVs, golf, and urban sprawl has been used as evidence that some ideas of freedom and ecological conservation can clash. This leads at times to serious confrontations and clashes of values reflected in advertising campaigns that suffer the views of animal rights activists, for example.

There have been numerous philosophical debates over the nature of freedom, the claimed differences between various types of freedom, and the extent to which freedom is desirable.

In jurisprudence, freedom is the right to determine one's own actions autonomously; generally it is granted in those fields in which the subject has no obligations to fulfill or laws to obey, according to the interpretation that the hypothetical natural unlimited freedom is limited by the law for some matters.

Social Justice, sometimes called **Civil Justice**, refers to the concept of a society in which justice is achieved in every aspect of it, rather than merely the administration of law.

It is generally thought of as a world which affords individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of the benefits of society.

(Different proponents of social justice have developed different interpretations of what constitutes *fair treatment* and an *impartial share*.) It can also refer to the distribution of advantages and disadvantages within a society.

Social justice is also a concept that some use to describe the movement towards a socially just world. In this context, social justice is based on the concepts of human rights and equality

RIYADH SLES SPORTS MEET 2009



Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Sri Lankan Embassy, and his wife are being received by the school prefects.



Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Sri Lankan Embassy, Sri Lankan Airlines Manager Indunil Wijekone and Principal M.E.M.Farook, right, take the salute during the march past

Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Sri Lankan Embassy was the Chief Guest, while SriLankan Airlines Manager for Central Province, Indunil Wijekone was the Guest-Of-Honor, at the annual track and field event attended by a large gathering including parents and students and prominent members of the community.

The Overall Champion Challenge Trophy went to Walawe House at the meet where more than 50 events were worked out. Champions from each age group were given trophies.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Khan pointed out that the competitions on the playing field give the participants an opportunity to learn from defeat as well as in victory. "Those who did not get awards should try to win them at a subsequent occasion and those who are victorious should not be content with their wins but they should be motivated to improve their skills and talents for the coming events." He also told the students that school days come to a man once in lifetime- it is a place where you cultivate good and unlearn bad habits. Therefore, he asked them to make use of the school as a platform to develop the best for their future career.

The diplomat said that the Sri Lankan International School in Riyadh, was the first Sri Lankan School to be established abroad. It serves as an example not only to other Sri Lankan Schools in the Kingdom but also to other foreign schools spread out in several parts of the globe. He said the community is thankful to the people who formed this institution with the initiative of former Ambassador Aboobucker Lebbe Muhammad Hashim, who founded this school with the assistance of a few dedicated community members who were interested in the future of Sri Lankan children who were then resident in the capital.

Imran Haroon Acting Chairman of the Board of Management of the School requested the parents to rally round the school to develop the institution. "It is sad to note that a few parents only turn up for the school meetings," he said, adding that lack of parental cooperation could retard the progress of the school.

Enumerating the problems faced by the school, Haroon said the school finds it difficult to take visas from the government to recruit teachers from Sri Lanka. p3

Homes of Colombo



Oasis was bounded by Felsing Town, a conglomeration of houses owned by the Felsing family, on the northern side. Oasis closed down in the nineteen fifties and its former site is now obliterated with houses, and shops. Adjoining its southern border was 'Yamuna', the home of H Sri Nissanka, Q. C. It was at this house that the historic Yamuna Conference was held by the late Prime Minister, Mr S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the first meeting of his parliamentary supporters following his resignation from the U. N. P. in 1951. It was this meeting that led to the founding of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

The house and its garden stands exactly as it was fifty years ago, one of the few that has withstood pressures from the soaring land values in Colombo. Across the road was the Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills, the largest industrial enterprise in Colombo South at the time. It was established by Darley Butler and Co and at one time was owned by Goculdas, the Maharajah of Gwalior. The Mills employed thousands of workers most of whom lived in tenement housing around the Havelock Town, Thimbrigasyaya, Pamankade and Wellawatte areas. Its towering smokestack was a landmark in Colombo South. Its siren, which sounded at regular intervals, could be heard for miles around, and served as a signal to the end of a work shift and as a wake up call for workers due for the following shift. The siren sounded exactly on time, so much so that people set their clocks and watches to synchronize with it. The Mills, which were associated with the social history of the area was also significant in the political development of modern Sri Lanka. The origins of the trade union movement in Sri Lanka could be traced to the work force of the Mills. The Mills and its massive complex of buildings, today stands in crumbling ruins ready for demolition.

The Wellawatte Canal or "Layards Folly" also referred to as the "Moda Ela" in Sinhala, into which the industrial wastes of the Mills freely flowed, passed under an old iron bridge on Havelock Road, replaced in 1938 by the bridge which stands today. It was constructed during the tenure of office of the Mayor of Colombo Dr V. R. Schokman in 1938.

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Japan, Saudi Arabia Fund Moragahakanda Project



The Government of Sri Lanka has allocated Rs. 3,750 million for the work of the Moragahakanda- Kaluganga Reservoir Project, which is the largest and the final agri-reservoir project in Sri Lanka under the Mahaweli Development Scheme.

Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services Minister Maithripala Sirisena yesterday said Japan and Saudi Arabia have come up to fund the project.

Minister Sirisena said so after ceremonially opening a new project office at Moragahakanda, which was built at a cost of Rs. 67 million, Mahaweli Authority sources said.

He said the Government had imparted Rs. 3,750 million to step up the project in 2009 with the funds pledged by the Japanese and Saudi Arabian governments.

The total cost of Moragahakanda- Kaluganga Reservoir Project is estimated to be US dollars 617 million (Rs. 65,000 million), the sources said.

The project was launched by President Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2007.

The Government has spent Rs. 500 million for the construction of the project in 2007 and Rs. 1,500 million in 2008.

Minister Sirisena inspected the first phase of the project, which is nearing completion with Kongahawela-Moragahakanda highway being built at a cost of Rs. 900 million, and a bridge across Amban Ganga being constructed at a cost of Rs 325 million.

King Abdullah Receives SL Delegates from page 1

The festival is designed to portray the variety of cultural aspects of the Kingdom's different regions. A wide range of activities, including sword dances, heritage and history exhibitions, culinary specialties and stunts are organized to educate and entertain visitors.

The Sri Lankan delegates also attended a luncheon hosted by Culture and Information Minister Abdul Aziz Khoja in honor of the foreign guests after Friday prayers. The Minister told the participants that the Kingdom's purpose in inviting guests to the annual cultural festival was to let the world know about the Kingdom's rich culture and heritage. The minister said that interaction would lead to understanding between Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Thanking the monarch for the opportunity given to participate in the mega cultural event in the Middle East, Sri Lankan delegate Mohammed Rizmi Reyhal said that the show presented the correct image of Saudi Arabia. "What we hear in the media is not what we see here," Reyhal said, describing Saudi Arabia as a country with a rich heritage of which every Saudi citizen could be proud.

Reyhal said that the event gave a platform for the foreign participants to interact with the local intellectuals, academicians, artistes, poets and playwrights.

Muzaffer said the opportunity gave the foreign participants a better picture of the Kingdom in terms of culture, heritage, and unique Arabian hospitality.

Riyadh SLES Sports Meet 2009 from page 2

He told the parents to wake up to the problems of the school and cooperate with the administration to improve the condition of the school. "There is a great responsibility toward our children who will be the future generation of our community."

He also stressed that the Sri Lankan International School in Riyadh has earned a good reputation for its outstanding performance in its curricular and extra-curricular activities because of the persistent efforts of both the tutorial staff and its management.

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