



# Insight

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## Humanity



Life forms, of varying types of all the existing species on earth from the beginning of time, have always had characteristics peculiar and exclusive to their own kind. Man, in his search for knowledge and development, has made many an attempt to study these patterns of character and behavior with a view to seeking insights into these species in order to exploit the benefits and value that would contribute to a better world and good living for all beings. At the end of the day, it is the pursuit of happiness of humanity that matters after all, and, with this objective in mind man pursues his research and development in studying the behavior and characteristics of all living species towards seeking a brave new world for himself and, also, for many of the other creatures too.

The basic motivating force that all humans base their lives upon is desire. Desire is governed, initially, by a need for survival and then moves on to various other forms of requirements that have their roots on many varying factors of upbringing, growth, and environment. Desire may be broken down into three main sub-sets, viz; survival, physical, and material.

The desire to survive is a basic natural phenomenon that is in-built within any species and the human being will resort to any means in order to preserve itself at any cost. This is classified as the basic instinct of

## Ambassador Meets Riyadh Governor



His Excellency, A A M Marleen, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Governor of Riyadh Region on October 27, 2008 at the Governorate in Riyadh. Mr. Marleen handed over a letter sent by the Hon Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, to His Royal Highness, confirming the invitation acceptance dates for the Governor to visit Sri Lanka as the guest of the President.

His Royal Highness also accepted an invitation by the Ambassador to be the Chief Guest at the Sri Lanka National Day celebrations planned for Feb 4, 2009 at the Al Tuwaik Palace, within the Diplomatic Quarters in Riyadh.

Mr. Marleen also requested His Royal Highness to explore the possibility of granting amnesty for Sri Lankan workers held at the detention centers for overstaying their visas or working illegally in the Kingdom. His Royal Highness has requested the Embassy to submit a list of workers names, who are being held under this category, for consideration.

## HE Calls On Minister Of Justice

Sri Lankan Ambassador, HE AAM Marleen, called on the Hon Prof Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Ibrahim Al Sheikh, Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on Oct 26, 2008 at the Ministry premises.

Ambassador Marleen availed the opportunity to discuss several matters relating to legal issues affecting criminal cases involving Sri Lankan expatriate workers in Saudi Arabia. He requested the Minister to facilitate the process for Sri Lankans to be able to apply for and receive copies of court judgments in time to enable them to make suitable appeals. The Minister agreed to have such reports issued free of charge..

The Ambassador also requested the Minister to enable Embassy officials to attend court hearings. The Minister informed the Ambassador to submit the names of the Embassy officials who wish to attend such hearings for prior approval to be given for them to be present at the hearings.

## Meeting with Labor Minister

HE, the Ambassador, AAM Marleen, called on the Hon Dr. Ghazi AbdulRahman Al Gosaiby, Minister of Labor of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Oct 13, 2008, at the Labor Ministry.

Ambassador Marleen requested for the enforcement of the minimum wage of SR 650 for domestic workers and also the enforcement of action against errant employers who mistreat and abuse their employees. The Minister also explained that steps to establish recruiting companies by merging present recruiting offices is underway.



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## Oriental Bazaar



Extreme Right: Commercial Secretary SL Embassy, Yasantha De Silva

RIYADH- The Oriental Ladies Group (OLG) bazaar held at the Indian embassy premises drew an unprecedented crowd from the Asian community in Riyadh.

Formed in 1978, OLG is a group comprising 10 countries including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka .The membership comprises wives of OLG diplomats who meet monthly to appreciate each others' culture and exchange experiences on culture, history and home science of the respective countries.

"The bazaar is OLG's major fundraising project and the proceeds go towards supporting deserving charities in their home countries," Priti Shahare, head of OLG said. She added that it was an eagerly awaited annual event of the Riyadh social calendar and it was well attended by the diplomatic and expatriate communities as well as by Saudis.

The bazaar was formally inaugurated by Madame Zenab Al Jufry, the Indonesian Patron accompanied by other Patrons of OLG.

There was a variety of options to choose: from exquisite cottons from Bangladesh, rich and colorful handicraft from India, typical garments from Indonesia, fine wool work from Kazakhstan, Sequin Shawls from Pakistan, Batik Work and Tea from Sri Lanka and beautiful Shell Necklaces from the Maldives.

Sumptuous Tandoori items from the sub-continent, piquant Vegetarian Soup, Dimsums, Noodles, Cakes, Cookies and Dosas were available at the food stalls of the participating countries. The visitors also enjoyed the visual feast of preparation of these mouth watering dishes. Also available were pickles, jams, spices and ready to cook foods. The "art gallery" was an additional feature that added an interesting dimension to the bazaar.

More than 80 prizes including gift coupons for prominent stores, DVD players, round trip air tickets to India and a laptop computer were given to the winners of the raffle draw.

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**Seylan Bank** – ctd from page 3

Ajita also conveyed the message of Seylan Bank Chairman, Deshamanya Dr. Lalith Kotelawala, that, his vision was to be the most Caring and Trusted Bank in Sri Lanka who have contributed tirelessly over the years to play a meaningful role in the lives of their stakeholders, employees and customers.

Last month, Deshamanya Dr Lalith Kotelawala officially unveiled the new Ceylinco FastCash website.

The website is located at [www.ceylincofastcash.com](http://www.ceylincofastcash.com)

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survival that we are all born with. Such a desire automatically gives us the instincts of hunger and thirst where we eat and drink in order to satisfy our inner appetites. The need for shelter, protection, safety, and good health are also valid requirements in fulfilling one's desire for survival.

Physical desire is the desire of the flesh of living species, and, it is pretty obvious, that its primary objective has been for the survival and preservation of life through procreation. This fact can still be affirmed further by the reality that species only procreate with their own and never with another.

Material desire is the accumulation of wealth, attainment of power, and enjoyment of an envious high status in society which are, all, mutually dependant on one another. It arises within the human breast, based on the basic need of pride, a very common human emotion that is very difficult to subdue amongst many.

The physical, economic and social dominance of the male of the species over the female is also another natural trait that is inherited across all of humanity.

The basic difference between humans and other living species has been defined as the sense of reasoning and choice, made voluntarily, based on intellect, learning, and experience. In many instances, non- humans too may make distinct choices of acts based on learning and experience. Yet, these will still be guided more by its instinctual behavior rather than common sense reasoning based choice.

The human mind is blessed with the facility of reasoning, based on common sense, knowledge, experience; and choice which thus makes them accountable for their actions more than the non-human species. An important factor to remember is that these elements of common sense, knowledge, experience, and choice will certainly differ from person to person based on his or her environment, background, upbringing, learning methodology, social structure, culture, religion, and other such binding factors on ones mind.

Conflict has been a significant player in the lives of all living species from the beginning of time until now and will probably be so until the end of all time.

Thus it is very clear that all conflicts, usually, begin with the need for fulfillment of a particular desire by one or all parties involved. Into such a scenario comes the rules, standards and procedures set up by the various religions, creeds, philosophies, and cults that people usually belong to by birth or even by choice.

## Seylan Bank CEO visits Riyadh



Ajita Pasqual, Chief Executive Officer Seylan Bank, sixth right and Mueen Naina Marikar, Chief Manager Ceylinco Remittance Center, sixth left, are seen at the Sri Lankan Embassy after a presentation made to Sri Lankan Expatriate Society in Riyadh

RIYADH- Seylan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Sri Lanka, has offered an attractive package of financial opportunities to Non-Resident Foreign Currency (NRFC) Account holders living and working overseas.

Ajita Pasqual, Chief Executive Officer of the bank said that any NRFC account holder who maintains a minimum balance of USD 500 or equivalent for a period 6 calendar months will qualify for the following:-

- A complimentary Tikiri account to any child living in Sri Lanka nominated by the account holder (below 15 years of age) with a deposit of Sri Lankan Rs 500/-
- A life insurance cover, free of charge, depending on the account balance maintained as detailed below.

Mini Deposit for 6 Months	Natural Death Cover	Accidental Death Cover
USD 500 -2,500	LKR 100,000	LKR 200,000
USD 2,501 - 7,500	LKR 200,000	LKR 400,000
USD 7,501 upwards	LKR 500,000	LKR 1,000,000

For payments under the insurance cover, the bank would consider the minimum balance maintained in the account for 6 months prior to date of claim.

Pasqual was in the Kingdom with Mueen Naina Marikar, Chief Manager of Ceylinco Remittance Center to meet clients and groups of Sri Lankan workers to create an awareness about their products and services.

Speaking further, Pasqual said, a Rupee loan facility of 200% of the account balance for income generating purpose will be given, once the account holder returns to Sri Lanka.

### NRFC Thilina Sayura

For the first time in Sri Lanka, Seylan Bank presents a scheme for NRFC and RFC account holders, ctd on page 3

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- Credit to other bank account credit to any other bank in Sri Lanka within 24-72 hours.
- Remit through TeleMoney in your NRFC / USD account in Sri Lanka.

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## Seylan Bank... ctd

that rewards them in times of joy and stand by them in times of sorrow. These rewards are not selected by a lottery - they are available for all eligible account holders. This scheme is not only for their benefit, it is also for the benefit of their immediate family.

### Thilina Sayura Rewards

**Housing:-** After purchasing or building a house from personal funds or from a loan obtained from Seylan Bank, you will be entitled to a reward of a sum between Rs. 10,000 & Rs. 25,000 as a reward. This benefit is only for the account holder.

**Marriage:** When you contract a marriage you will receive an half-sovereign gold coin.

For any international achievement in sports, drama, music or art by you or any member of your immediate family a reward of Rs.50,000 will be paid

**Educational:** Achievements and test scores at the year 5 Scholarship exam, OLor AL exams places him/her within the top 10 highest scoring scholars of the district, he/she will receive:-

- Year 5 scholarship - **Rs 25,000**
- GCE O'Level - **Rs 50,000**
- GCE A'Level - **Rs 50,000**

**Emergency travel to Sri Lanka:-** If you are stranded overseas with no means of returning to Sri Lanka, you will receive the actual cost of the one way air ticket to return home to Sri Lanka, not exceeding **Rs.75,000** (providing no violation of the laws or abrogation of the employment contract has taken place).

**Surgery:** If you or a member of your immediate family has to undergo surgery in Sri Lanka or abroad, your expenditure will be reimbursed with an amount equivalent to the minimum balance (In Sri Lankan Rupees) that has been maintained in your account, for the six months immediately preceding your application, up to a maximum of **Rs. 100,000**.

**Bereavement:** On the death of the account holder or a member of the immediate family, a sum of **Rs 25,000** will be paid.

Members of your family constitute:

- If married :- Your spouse and any children under 18 years.

- If Single :- Your parents and any unmarried siblings under 18 years

To apply for the account fill in the preliminary Thilina Sayura application form and email to the address below or fax it to +9411421597 ctd on p4

## Former Ambassador Hashim Passes Away



Former Sri Lankan Ambassador in the Kingdom, Aboobucker Lebbe Hashim, 84, passed away peacefully at a private nursing home in Colombo on Saturday Nov 29, 2008.

Hashim, who was the island's envoy in Riyadh from 1987 to 1991, founded the Sri Lankan International School in Riyadh, which was the country's first overseas school in the world. The school which has more than 800 students, was started with five children and a few teachers.

At the time of his death, Hashim was the President of the All-Ceylon Muslim League, the premier Islamic organization in the island. A lawyer by profession, Hashim had led several delegations before the Donoughmore and the Soulboury Commissions highlighting the Muslim interests in the country while the Sri Lankan Constitution was in the making.

Hailing from an affluent family, well known for the island's tea business, Hashim married Mubarak, the oldest daughter of Sri Lanka's top rubber merchant, E. L. Ebrahim, who was famously known in Sri Lanka, as the "Rubber King."

As a business magnate, Hashim headed the Ambanpitiya Tea Group in Kegalle, some 100 kms from the capital of Colombo. He was a well-known philanthropist in his hometown Mawanella, 125 kms from Colombo.

Hashim is survived by his wife, three sons, Omar Khayyam, Kabeer (parliamentarian), Hamzah and daughter Anisa. His funeral took place at the Kirindideniya Jumma Mosque in Mawanella on Nov 30, 2008.

**OBITUARY:** SMM Faiz, husband of Fazloon (nee Sufi Ismail), father of Fawzan and Fadhil, passed away in Riyadh in October. Faiz was employed by the Mawarid Group and previously worked with the Hollandi Bank and GAC Company.

## Galle: Jewel of the South



Galle, pronounced as "Gaul", is a town situated on the southwestern tip of Sri Lanka, 119 km from Colombo. Galle was known as *Gimhathiththa* (although Ibn Batuta in the 14th Century refers to it as *Qali*), before the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century, when it was the main port on the island. Galle reached the height of its development in the 18th century, before the arrival of the British, who developed the harbor at Colombo.

Galle Fort is a world heritage site and the largest remaining fortress in Asia built by European occupiers.

It is the main town in the most southerly part of the island, with a population of around 100,000, and is connected by rail to Colombo and Matara.

Rumassala Kanda is a large mound-like hill, which forms the eastern protective barrier to the Galle harbour. Local tradition associates this hill with some events of the Ramayana.

According to James Emerson Tennent, Galle was the ancient seaport of Tarshish, from which King Solomon drew ivory, peacocks and other valuables. Certainly, cinnamon was exported from Sri Lanka as early as 1400 BC and the root of the word itself is Hebrew, so Galle may have been the main entrepot for the spice trade.

Galle had been a prominent seaport long before western rule in the country. Persians, Arabs, Greeks, Romans, Malays and Indians were doing business through Galle port. The "modern" history of Galle starts in 1505, when the first Portuguese ship, under Lourenço de Almeida was driven there by a storm. However, the people of the city refused to let the Portuguese enter it, so the Portuguese took it by force.

In 1640, the Portuguese had to surrender to the Dutch East India Company. The Dutch built the present Fort in the year 1663. They built a fortified wall, using solid granite, and built three bastions, known as "sun", "moon" and "star". After the British took over the country from the Dutch in the year 1796, they preserved the Fort unchanged, and used it as the administrative center of Galle. **Page 3**