



Insight

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Minister Bogollagama Meets Ambassadors In Middle East



Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama will meet his country's heads of missions in the GCC countries, Iran, Israel and Jordan in Dubai on January 14 and 15.

Besides Ambassadors and Deputy Heads of Mission, the two-day meeting will be attended by representatives from the Sri Lanka Tea Board, Sri Lanka Tourist Board, Ministry of Labor Welfare and Promotion, Board of Investment and Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

The inaugural address will be delivered by the Minister, while the participating Ambassadors will be given an opportunity to make a presentation to exchange ideas among the missions. The formal program will be followed by a series of lectures by SLBFE officials on the job market in the Middle East, opportunities available in the Middle East and welfare of the island's overseas workers. The Foreign Ministry has also arranged one on one meeting between Minister Bogollagama and Heads of Missions.

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Kingdomwide National Day Celebrations



The Organizing Committee comprising community members, diplomats and well-wishers pose for a souvenir picture following their first meeting held at the residence of Ambassador A.A.M.Marleen who is standing sixth left.

RIYADH – In association with the Sri Lankan community, the Sri Lankan Missions in the Kingdom have made elaborate arrangements to celebrate its country's national day Wednesday, Feb 4. Arrangements are being chalked out by an Organizing Committee headed by Ambassador Marleen.

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Riyadh will host a breakfast morning for all Sri Lankans in Riyadh following the ceremonial flag hoisting ceremony. Ambassador A.A.M Marleen will unfurl the national flag amid the beat of drums at 9 am at the Embassy premises. The community members will join the choir of the Sri Lankan International School in Riyadh to recite the National Anthem. This will be followed by the recital of Jayamangala Gaatha and observance of two-minute silence by the audience in memory of fallen heroes.

The traditional oil lamp will be lit by the Ambassador, Diplomats and prominent community members to mark the day. The envoy is slated to make his Independence Day speech at the end of the morning program. Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Chief of mission, Yasanthe De Silva Commercial Secretary and Labor Counselor Ranawake will read out the messages of President Mahinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake and Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama during the morning function. Religious dignitaries from all faiths will also pray for the progress and prosperity of the nation.

In the evening, Ambassaor Marleen and his wife Fathima will host a reception to Diplomats, Government Officials, well-wishers and prominent members of the island's community at the Tuwaiq Palace in the Diplomatic Quarter. During this function, a documentary on Sri Lanka – Faces & Places – will be screened see p4



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Toastmasters – from p3



Champion Speaker Ms Sameena Mahmoud receiving her award

The club also recognized one of the Leading Sri Lankan Entrepreneur Zawfir Ziard of Unique Choice by awarding him the prestigious Communication and Leadership award in appreciation of his support towards the growth of the organization. His Excellency, the Ambassador, received the first copy of the anniversary souvenir from the Editor in Chief, Toastmaster Sellacuddy Murugadas.

National Day from page 1

during the first hour of the function, while cultural dances will be staged to entertain the guests. The Embassy will also publish a supplement, in the Arab News, to highlight bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia and the country's development in tourism, economy and export of human resources to the Middle East.

Contact Commercial Secretary SL Embassy, **Yasantha de Silva** on 460-8251 for articles and advertisements.

Embassy Welcomes New Year 2009



The Sri Lanka Embassy in Riyadh celebrated the New Year 2009 at the Embassy premises on Jan 1 2009, where the occasion was attended by His Excellency the Ambassador, A A M Marleen, and the Embassy staff together their families.

The event began with the singing of the National Anthem, lighting of the oil lamp, taking the Oath of Allegiance, followed by two minutes silence in memory of the heroes who have laid down their life for the nation.

His Excellency, the Ambassador A A M Marleen then delivered his New Year's day speech to the audience. A delicious breakfast, comprising of Sri Lankan delicacies, was served and relished by the attendees.

The formal beginning of duties for the New Year was followed by the inspection of the Office and Mission premises by His Excellency, the Ambassador

SLFEB representatives from Sri Lanka who were present in Riyadh also graced the occasion and participated in the events.

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Among the other topics that will be taken up for discussions include, trade and investment opportunities, expansion of tea exports to the Middle East and promoting Sri Lanka as a tourist destination in the region.

Heritage: Unique Attraction For ME Travelers



Heritage Ahungalle, (formerly known as Triton), has become a popular attraction for Middle Eastern tourists who have been visiting Sri Lanka in large numbers in recent years.

It is one of the legendary Geoffrey Bawa architectural fantasies that has been turned to life...where the uninterrupted line of sky merging with the sea, gives the illusion of a continuous flow right into the azure waters that surround it. This gives way to slender white columns rising majestically from the courtyard into the elegant marbled lobby where a warm welcome awaits the visitor.

Every dimension - is magnified here - to create an aura of freedom, as if to provide release from the fetters of the outside world to meander through quiet corridors, luxurious rooms and elegant restaurants of contrasting textures, materials and earthy colors where architecture and nature blend comfortably to please the eye and the senses.

Renowned artist, Laki Senanayake's painstakingly magical tracery in charcoal, of liana reminiscent of the Sinharaja forest, climbs lazily along the staircase wall from floor to ceiling and spreads its tendrils like a fine lace curtain. Its undulating curves contrasting sharply with the angles of the carpeted black and tan stairway ~ shades of Bawa and Senanayake at their best ...

The 'Mustard', a 24-hour coffee-shop, overlooks the pool and on certain evenings a flare illuminates a lone flautist from his vantage point in a fishing boat moored on the water, adding his incredibly haunting but plaintively sweet contribution to a leisurely meal and a tranquil evening.

Edexcel Achievements by SLIS Riyadh Students



Ansub Shafique (15)



Mohammed Riza (16)



Shaqiq Packeer (16)



Akmal Sameem (16)



Amna Ashraf (16)



Hafsa Ansar (15)



Nizam Sheikh (16)



Jeff Mark Arulandoo (16)



Fathima Mifrah Hafeel (19)



Mohammed Nabil Ilyas (15)



Mohammed Tuan Shaqiq Packeer (16)



Prabuddha Danika B Ranasinghe (17)



Swetha Thangasamy (15)

Edexcel UK has featured several successful students of the Sri Lanka International School in Riyadh in their Academic Newsletter of November 2008 and extended their proud congratulations to the following:-

Ansub Shafique who obtained 7 A* in the Edexcel IGCSE exams for May/June 08 and is one of our International Top Ten students in the Commerce IGCSE.

Swetha Thangasamy who obtained 9 A grades in the Edexcel IGCSE examinations.

Shaqiq Packeer and **Mohammed Riza** who are two of our International Top Ten students in the Commerce IGCSE.

Mohamad Ziyen, Vinesh Pillai, Rifkhan Rifthim and **Noora Rukshan** who obtained A grades in all their Edexcel GCE AS subjects.

Mohamed Shifan Hameed and **Fathima Mifrah Hafeel** who obtained A grades in all four Edexcel GCE A level science subjects.

Ahmed Sameem, Ansub Shafique, Ashfaq Ahmed, Jeff Mark, Mohamad Afham, Mohamad Nabil, Mohamad Nimaz, Mohammed Riza, Shaqiq Packeer, Amna Ashraf, Swetha Thangasamy, Thanisha Thariq and **Hafsa Ansar** who are International Top Achievers in Edexcel's IGCSE examinations.

Mohamed Shifan Hameed, Fathima Mifrah Hafeel and **Prabuddha Danika Bandara Ranasinghe** who are International Top Achievers in Edexcel's GCE A level examinations.

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School Celebrates 20 Years Of Service



The Sri Lankan International School, Riyadh, the island's first overseas school, celebrated its 20th Anniversary with much pomp and ceremony, commencing with a two day Exhibition and culminating in a colorful Awards Day held on 28th December, 2008. Ambassador A.A.M. Marleen graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while the Guests of Honor were two founder members, Mohsin Ismail and Amin Yusuf.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Principal of Bangladesh International School, Mohamed Shaheed Mohammed Hussein, who was the former Provincial Director in Sri Lanka. "It was an excellent display by the students. The teachers and the students should be specially complemented for their dedication in making this a successful exhibition.

The envoy disclosed that 20 years in the life of a school was not a significant factor in itself, but the fact that the Sri Lankan School was conceived and born 20 years ago outside one's motherland and to have completed two decades of service in the field of education was indeed a great achievement that everyone could be very proud of.

The Ambassador paid a glowing tributes to every founder member and referred to the untiring services rendered by the late Barrister A.L.M. Hashim, a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who worked tirelessly not only to conceive the idea of forming a school but also gave birth to it.

airman of the Board of Management, A.K.M. Ashraf, too, paid tribute to the founder members for their yeomen services. Reaching for higher goals, he declared that the target of the school for the next five years should be to obtain accreditation from recognized Universities to commence degree programs. The school principal, M E M.Farook, briefed the guests on the progress of the school.

The school magazine, "Wisdom", for the academic year 2007/2008 was released on this occasion.

Insight wishes all its readers a very Happy & Prosperous New Year 2009 and New Hijri Year 1430

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Toastmasters Celebrate Seventh Anniversary

The Serendib Toastmasters of the Sri Lankan Community installed their new office bearers for the year 2008/2009 at a grand ceremony held at the White Palace Hotel, Riyadh, on Dec 18, 2008.

The function was graced by AAM.Marleen and Madam Fathima Marleen. The envoy commended the Club on the high level of performance by its members and thanked the members for their dedicated service to the community to develop communication skills.

The major highlight of the program was the Gavel club debate contest. The stunning performance of the Gaveliers caught the attention of the audience.

New Office bearers for the Gavel Club were also installed. The outgoing President, Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training, Division "A", Toastmaster Saravanaraj Nadaraja wished the incoming President, Toastmaster Riyaz Yoosuff, to reach excellence in taking the flag of Serendib to greater heights.



Paramajothy delivering his winning speech

The incoming Gavel Club President, Gavelier Neepan Paramajothy, emphasized the need to complete project requirements and achieve the titles before the students reach higher grades.

The Toastmaster of the Year Award, being the highest award, went to Toastmaster Chamley Jayasinghe in the Senior Category and to Gavelier Neepan Paramajothy in the Gavel Category.

The Toastmasters Area Level Contest Winner and Division Level 1st Runner-Up Ms. Sameena Mahmood and Gavel Club Contest Winner Raghavan Paramajothy presented their winning speeches.

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