

**Nilma Dole**

**S**ri Lanka's 'Party of the Year 2008' was all 'Shiny Disco Balls' in the form of the Festival of the Year - Hikkaduwa Beach Festival 2008 from the 30th July till 3rd August with the likes of Jorge Jaramillo and pop-pow 'Trance Energetic' Paul Mendez who didn't stop the party till the crack of dawn.

With stunning feats from the sexy boombastic DJ Lisa from Scotland who ramped the crowd in a fantastic frenzy, DJs from all over the world, Master J from UK, DJ Godwin Pereira, Michael Parsberg from Denmark and Frederic Galliano from France strutted their stuff the right head-tripping way. Cute Iraqi-born DJ Sam from Qatar also wreaked havoc for the crowd with his rendition of music mayhem at the 'RAVE' where it was at.

When asking them if they had a problem coming down to Sri Lanka especially with our combat situation, they said that they didn't bother about it too much and wanted to unite people in the name of music, and did they do an awesome job doing just that! Soundlessly and boundlessly they awed the crowd who pulled in from all the corners of the country to witness this awesome mega carnival party which wouldn't have been complete without the British dancers who graced the stage with their rompy acts. Demo, Brooke, Georgia, Jane, Sarah and the rest shook their hips to the beats and made the audience go gaga with their hot kicking styles.

Alston Koch from our own Paradise Island including legendary maestro flute player Bikramjith Singh also took everyone's fancy with the drum festival that was held on 31st July. The day before saw many cultural acts performing historical pageants that revolved around Sri

Lankan tradition and culture. The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotions Bureau really did justice to the small tourist locale of Hikkaduwa by turning it into a 'highly happening' heaven together with major sponsors with the help of the Ruhunu Tourism Bureau.

Concurrent events that took place during the day were the sandcastle competitions, the kite flying festival, the boat racing and sailing competitions with the highlight being the Beach Rugby matches being played with one of the players being the President's youngest son, Rohiha. Even though there were many obstacles and glitches along the way in organising an event of this magnitude, the people of Hikkaduwa participating in the event and the Hikkaduwa people themselves ate Chocolate Rotti at the 'Rotti Stop' and danced their cares away.

The crowd turnout was some 5000 in all with a rotational crowd of 15,000 which was enormous and truly happening.

DJ Lisa, Edinburgh



Music maestro Ravibandu



Devil dancers parading at the opening.

# Living it up at Hikka Beach Fest!

Pictures by Sulochana Gamage



Cultural show performed



Flag bearers parading at the opening of the Hikkaduwa Beach Festival.



Entertainers at the kite festival



Boat race organised by Lanka Sportretzen



Alston Koch with DJ Lisa and UK dancers



DJs Paul Mendez, Sam and Jorge



Sandcastle competition at Hikkaduwa Beach Festival