

SAARC youth cultural tamasha



Gini Sisila (fire dance) a low country dance forwarded by Sri Lankan delegates.



Cherang Zhen Nhetang dance performed by Butan delegates. It is a patriotic song.



This dance is an 'Invoeary' piece that depicts the trinity the Greater Lord Bhama the Preserver of Lord Vishnu the Diskoyu Lord Shiva it also tells the importance of praying Lord Ganesh who is the removal of all obstacles called 'Vigna Vinashaka'. A religious dance by Indian delegates.

In view of the SAARC summit recently held in Sri Lanka a SAARC youth camp was organised by Youth Affairs Ministry, the National Youth Services Council and the Foreign Ministry and held from July 28 to August 1 at the National Youth Centre, Maharagama. 60 youth (girls and boys) from seven SAARC countries participated at the camp. This was seemed to be a mixture of all religions, languages, nationalities and traditions. The final day of the camp was the most joyful occasion. The cultural tamasha of the seven SAARC countries India, Butan, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was a magnificent attire which was appreciated by all the delegates. The traditional cultural items of all the seven countries performed by the youth delegates was a rare occasion that could be witnessed by a person. The Aryan's cultures, civilisations and the traditions of the East specially in the South Asian countries were flashed in one stage was a colourful tamasha.

Pix and text by Wehelle Piyathillake, Maharagama special correspondent



A street (fair) dance performed by a delegate from Nepal



A traditional Maldivian dance blended with modern music and also cultural Maldivian drums included for the fine combinations to the dance.

Italian choral extravaganza at St. Joseph's College

The all Italian Choral Concert Sogni Romani - Roman Dreams - will be held at 6.30 p.m. on August 22 at the re-modelled Bonjean Hall of St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10. It comes 40 years after Rev. Fr. Claver Perera staged perhaps the first ever Italian Concert - Serata Italiana with his young singers of St. Mary's Choral Group. The 66 members through it Cecilia's Choir of St. Joseph's College, will present the concert, the organisers said. Veteran trainer, Francis d'Almeida said the choral concert comes as the culmination of the long years of training, several concerts, annual large scale carol services and clinching gold in the inter-school annual choir competition conducted by Rotarians in Colombo. The choir has been invited to sing in London in October.

He said the choir consisting of 40 boy sopranos and altos, blend exquisitely with the 26 mature basses and tenors to create the tapestry of choral balance needed to present a selection of Italian songs with impeccable finesse. The wide repertoire includes Italian choruses, operatic arias, mountain songs and modern compositions.

A selection of evergreen Neopolitan songs will add flavour to the program. The student singers between 12 and 18 are even comparable to the award winning world class adult singers. Technical skills in singing in different styles, expression of diverse moods, through diverse tempos are aspects these young singers have been striving to attain through a regimen of tough training, he said.

Almeida said the youngsters with fleeting attention span transform themselves to fix their focus for hours to learn the right pronunciation of Italian and Latin words, the lines of different parts needed to create the harmony to showcase the ultimate product - the concert.

Excellent boy sopranos solos, rich baritone and tenor presentations, sensitive acappella renditions and awesome choral singing with equally elegant instrumental accompaniment will be the highlight of the program.

The selection includes Va Pensiero, Gloria Te, Anvil Chorus, La Virgine, Funiculi Funicula Voi Che Sapete, Santa Lucia, O Sole Mio, La Donna Mobile, La Montagnara, Con Te partiu, Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle, as well as Mozart's Sanctus and Benedictus from the Requiem, his Ave

Paintings by Nadine Mediwake and Dianthi Wijeratne



Nadine has been painting from childhood to present day, with a break of several years to bring up her family.

Born and brought up in England, Nadine after marriage came to settle in her husband's home town of Kandy, later moved to Colombo.

Inspired by her adopted homeland, she paints in oils and watercolours, portraying the colours of the tropics.

Nadine a versatile artist works simultaneously in portrait, landscape and still life. She previously exhibited her work in 2002.

Dianthi exhibits a wide variety of interesting subject matter, executed in pencil, oil, watercolour and pastels.

An exhibition of their work can be seen at the Lionel Wendt on



Khemadasa's 'Agni' in Kandy

Sri Lanka's foremost musician Maestro Dr. Premasiri Khemadasa's 'Agni Opera', the unique blend of East and West music, libretto written by well-known poet Eric Illayapparachi, will be staged at Dharmaraja College Auditorium, Kandy on August 23 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to mark the 95th anniversary of the 1st Kandy Dharmaraja Scout Group which was formed in 1913.

This charity show is organised by the Old Rajans Scout Association in aid of Lake View Park International Scout Centre Development Fund. 'Agni' is woven around the simple theme of introduction of fire to the human world, played by nearly twenty players including Indika Upamali, Krishan Wickremasinghe, Subudini Lakmal and Sumudu Pathiraja, both Western-Eastern and Folk would be a rare occasion for all lovers of music and drama and specially the admirers of Master Khemadasa in the Hill Capital.

The proceeds of the show will go to the Lake View Park International Scout Centre which was opened in 1978 and located on a summit of a promontory within the 54 acre land belonging to Dharmaraja College.

The Centre which is to be given a new look with modern amenities will be able to accommodate the delegates from various countries who will be the invitees at the anniversary celebrations.