

Winter Olympics 2010



Dear Children,

Did you all see the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics held in Vancouver, Canada on television? Although we do not participate being a tropical country it's very attractive to see the spectacular ceremony. All the participants dressed in their national costume paraded on snow. Snow is something they are familiar with.

The 2010 Winter Olympics, officially the XXI Olympic Winter Games or the 21st Winter Olympics, is a major international multi-sport event being held from February 12 to 28 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The Winter Olympic Games are a winter multi-

sport event held every four years. They feature winter sports held on snow or ice, such as Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, bobsledding and ice hockey. Cross-country skiing, figure skating and freestyle skiing have earned a permanent place on the Olympic program.

every Winter Olympics since 1924. Other athletic events have been added as the Games have progressed. Some of these events, such as luge, short track speed skating and freestyle skiing have earned a permanent place on the Olympic program.

Nelson Mandela

Twentieth anniversary of walk to freedom

South Africa's iconic former President Nelson Mandela returned to the prison where he walked out a free man 20 years ago, on the anniversary of his release on February 11. Mandela, 91, attended an event at Groot Drakenstein jail (formerly called Victor Verster prison) commemorating his release.

Reaching out to whites after the release, the man who would become his

country's first black President said he bore no bitterness towards them despite his decades in jail, while at the same time giving blacks hope for improvements in their poverty-stricken lives.

Like other famous personalities Nelson Mandela will go down in history as a man who transformed the 21st Century in a big way. Bye for now.



- Aunt Anji

Nelson Mandela

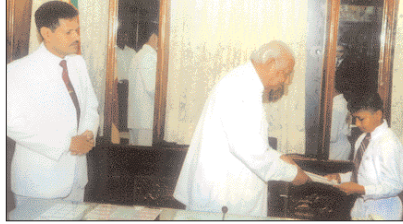
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world - Nelson Mandela

Please send your drawings, essays, poems and news about school events to Daily News Children, No.35, D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.



The 15th anniversary of the children of the Nursery School of Vavuniya Suddanada Hindu Association was celebrated in Association Hall recently. Some students performing at the event. Picture by T. Vekarasa, Vavuniya Special Corr.

Young hero



Dinesh Sandakelum Rajapaksa is awarded a HRH Prince Michael of Kent Certificate of Merit for his outstanding courage in rescuing four people from Vyanini canal by Prime Minister Ratsirisi Wickramanayaka. Nalanda College Deputy Principal Sarath Gunathilaka also in the picture.

On Sunday January 25, 2009, Dinesh Sandakelum Rajapaksa aged 8 1/2 years was on his way home from Sunday School Class beside the Vyanini Canal in the rural village of Mapakadawewa in Uva Province in Sri Lanka, when he saw a tractor overturn and the four adults and one seven year old child thrown into the canal. The canal is some 30 feet deep at this point.

Dinesh saw the four

people were clearly drowning and without hesitation he dived into the water and saved all three adults and the child.

Unfortunately he was unable to save the fourth elderly person. The adults he rescued were many times his size but through sheer determination and will power he managed to get all four persons to the safety of the bank.

Following the rescues several old boys of the Nalanda College, Colombo, which is one of Sri Lanka's leading educational establishments, offered to fully fund a special scholarship to enable Dinesh to study at the College up to year 13.

The College has one of the leading lifesaving

clubs in Colombo, and is also an active Member of the Life Saving Society of Sri Lanka, offered to immediately register Dinesh and agreed to teach him full lifesaving techniques alongside his educational studies.

Dinesh registered in early March 2009. On March 16, Dinesh was personally congratulated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa, at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo for his very courageous rescues.

Show your colours at art contest

The Cultural Affairs Department has called entries for the first round of the 2010 Children's Art Competition jointly conducted by the Department and the Cultural Affairs and National Heritage Ministry.

The competition will be in five categories - primary, post primary, junior, senior and senior secondary.

A person can send only one entry of a theme and medium of one's choice. The art work should be in a 18 x 14 inches size paper. The name, date of birth, category, address, contact number and district should be stated on the reverse of the art work

which should be certified as one's individual work and sent by post to Secretary, National Art and Sculpture Sub Committee, National Art Gallery, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 7 or hand over before March 15 this year.

Cultural Affairs Director E. M. Abhayaratne said children sending the 150 best artworks from each district will be selected for the second round after a day's workshop. Art works selected from the second round would be considered for the state Children's Art Competition and Festival.

Details: Contact 011-3188873, 011-2872031



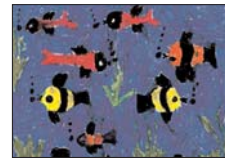
Islamic Nursery School, Bambalapitiya, Colombo held its English Day Ceremony at Sovereign Hotel, Rajagiriya recently. Seen is an item presented by students. Picture by Ruzak Farook

Our Garden



Udeepa Wijemann 2E Royal College Colombo 7

Fish Tank



Ashan Eruditha Rosa Grade 1 Maris Stella College Negombo

A Forest



Oshala Perera Grade 6 St. Bridget's Convent Colombo 7

Liberia

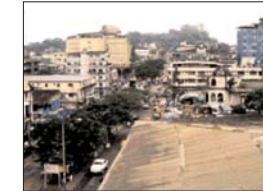
Liberia is a country on the West coast of Africa, bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. As of the 2008 Census, the nation is home to 3,476,608 people and covers 111,269 square kilometres (43,000 sq mi).

Liberia's capital is Monrovia. Liberia has a hot equatorial climate with most rainfall arriving in summer with harsh harmattan winds in the dry season. Liberia's populated Pepper Coast is composed of mostly mangrove forests while the sparsely populat-

ed inland is forested, later opening to a plateau of drier grasslands.

The history of Liberia is unique among African nations because of its relationship with the United States. It is one of the few countries in Africa and the only country in West Africa, without roots in the European Scramble for Africa. It was founded and colonized by freed American slaves with the help of a private organization called the American Colonization Society in 1821-22, on the premise American slaves would have greater freedom and equality there.

Slaves freed from slave ships also were sent there instead of being repatriated to their countries of origin. These colonists



Downtown Monrovia. Courtesy: Google

formed an elite group in Liberian society and in 1847, they founded the Republic of Liberia, establishing a government modeled on that of the United States, naming Monrovia, their capital city, after James Monroe, the fifth President of the United States and a prominent supporter of the colonization.

Today, Liberia is recovering from the lingering effects of the civil war and related economic dislocation. Courtesy: Wikipedia



Capital (and largest city)	Monrovia
Official languages	English
Demonym	Liberian
Area	Total 111,369 km2
Population	2009 estimate 3,955,000
Currency	Liberian dollar

A matter of survival

In 'Kid's Den'...

Four children, Pramodaka, Nalaka, Champika and Chintaka, go on a trip to the woods with their parents for their school holidays. In the middle of the night the children are awakened by a strange noise. On following their dog, Scooby, Chintaka is snared by the spell of the 'luring stones'.

Pramodaka departs with Ruwi, a pixie, to recall a book of spell to cast off the spell while the others remain behind with Sachi, a gnome. A storm breaks and the kids are scattered.

Meanwhile Sulo, the goblin who is always trying to make trouble for the mythical creatures, comes up with a nasty plan. She rushes off gang up the rest

of her pack and reveals an age old secret. However the group discovers that it is not only Sulo's secret that is uncovered by the storm. Something dark and deadly had been hidden in the depths of the earth waiting to be unleashed and return for revenge...

(Return of the Kids' is the sequel to 'Kid's Den')

The conversation died all round as Pradesh came up. At Jay's nod he crouched down at the foot of a mushroom nearby. Iza and Gerry exchanged a look but held their tongue. The last time the goblin had turned up he had a huge quarrel with three of the brownie leaders after the meeting. Unfortunately all three



By Uncle SACHI and Aunt RUWI

- Part 10

of them had packed up to journey far off into the alps, a pixie, who loathed but couldn't help making as it was a tradition among the brownie leaders. Thankfully none of the pixies or gnomes shared this custom. They lead a happier existence - till troublemakers like Pradesh and HE took over the reins.

Just as their thoughts were drifting towards that

direction HE walked up and took his seat.

"I got held up by some unwanted intruders," he explained. Since all the others were present, this was not the time to lay out in detail what had taken place between himself, Sachi and Ruwi at the Mythoscope. That will have to wait for later.

Jay cast a look around and was satisfied. Nearly everyone was present.

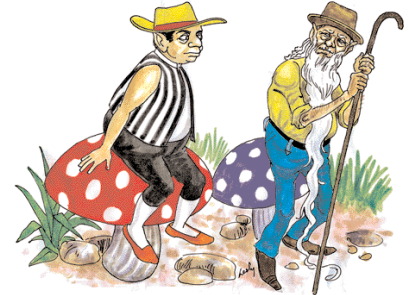
"Friends, we have to work together and with care. Hard times are ahead for us. So far you have done your duties and coordinated with your own groups but the time had come for us all to act together as one. If we pull as one only will we be able to overcome this hurdle," he said.

As soon as he stopped to

catch his breath there was a slight buzz around. Gerry and Annie exchanged horrified looks, Russell fidgeted uncomfortably in his seat. Iza looked up disbelievingly and the forest creatures were whispering among each other. Ronnie lifted his head from the sheet of paper he was scriawling on to look into his leader's determined eyes.

Even HE had the grace to look alarmed, noticing for the first time that a goblin was present. Jay cleared his throat and as if on cue the whippersnappers died down.

"It is hard to do and we all have our differences but it is not impossible. This is a matter of survival because if we do not act together, we all will be destroyed."



Priam, a gnome and probably the eldest member in the group was reminded of similar words once echoed by Banzula. That was the time when Arizack was at his side and the two were evoking all the creatures to join forces

to defend themselves against a powerful enemy. He had a dreadful feeling of what is going to happen. "Speak up, Jay. Tell us what you have in mind," he spoke as he stood up from his seat. Every eye in the room turned on the old

gnome with the white beard that was almost touching the ground. He stood on his feet, quivering from age, leaning heavily against his cane but everyone sensed the persistence behind his tone.

To be continued