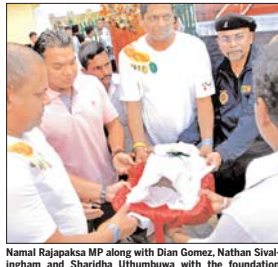




Girls celebrating freedom Pictures by Saman Sri Wedage



Namal Rajapaksa MP along with Dian Gomez, Nathan Sivalingham and Sharidha Uthumbwa with the foundation stone brought from Dondra



Children giving what they can



Mataru Maha Mankinda Pirivena Chief Incumbent Geta-manne Shammakeerthi offering pirthan to Indu Karunathilake



MAS Design Centre CEO Nathan Sivalingham, Boxer Manju Wanniarachchi, female ragbawite Chathurika Maduri, Pera Olympic athlete Indu Karunathilake, Fencer Sandeepa Padamali and Sharidha Uthumbwa

Trail - walk that captured many hearts

UVINDU ILLEPERUMA

For nearly a month they walked. Walked to convey the message of humanity to a section of people in this country who didn't experience humanity for nearly 3 decades. Trail, a walk from Dondra to Point Pedro to raise funds for a paediatric cancer ward for the people of the northern province marked its conclusion on July 27.

Thanks to the unshrinking courage of the contributors of the walk they were able to collect 140 million which is quite promising to make the efforts a success.

The attempt made by the Colours of Courage, organization which is committed to upgrade facilities which are necessary to treat cancer patients in the country was quite instrumental in the implementation of this project. MAS Holdings stood as the unshaken shadow of the effort.

Gracing the event which was held to mark the conclusion of the walk officially at Durayappah Stadium, Jaffna, Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa said, "This is the greatest gift the people of the South presented to the people of the north. In fact, this is a real depiction of the love people of the south possess for the children of north. People supported

the walk irrespective of their nationality or religion." He further added that the northern people are now enjoying the peace and prosperity. "This kind of project arouse their aspiration to live a better life. The corporate sector ought to work together with the government for the welfare of the country. The region should not be a matter. What we should try is to value the freedom we won and to turn that freedom into development gains."

Speaking to the Daily News Colours of Courage Trustee and MAS Holdings Group Director Dian Gomez said that they have raised and collected nearly Rs 140 million. "We have achieved our target. We need Rs 200 million to build the cancer hospital. We walked the last 16 km today. A lot of people from the south and Kandy have supported us in this cause. We hope to complete the hospital in 24 months," he said. This is an unforgettable experience in my life. I'm proud of myself. I walked throughout the whole 27

days. With me there were 12 people who walked the whole 670km. We did this for the betterment of the Northern people. As a whole, this is on behalf of the country. By thinking the contribution we did we can enjoy the experience for the rest of our life time," boxer Manju Wanniarachchi.

The walk from Dondra to Point Pedro of 670 km in 135 hours with 900 000 steps. Mahela Jayawardena, former Sri Lankan cricket captain who is a trustee of the Colours of Courage said, "The response from the public was massive as it is a massive initiative. We didn't think this was possible, but the response from the public enabled us to achieve what we enjoy today."

Kumar Sangakkara, Angelo Mattheus and artistes like Dr Malani Fonseka, Koshan Ranawana also took part in the event highlighting the desire to see a healthy nation and to show how they are counting on people who were battered by a three-decade war.



The Veddah community also joining in the walk



People contributing to the cause along the way



End of the Trail



Trail footprint made by coloured stones



Nothing stopping them



People from all walks of life



Schoolboys from the North cheering the walk



Linda



Samadara and Randina



Kasumi and Piyumi



Michelle



Aarika



Ranmali



Deputy Chief USA Embassy Valerita Fowler



Darshi



Anuradha



Priya



French Ambassador Christine Robinson



Arthur and daughter Anika



Marisen, Nadeesha, Asanthi and Coomerene



Shilanthi

Celebrating UK - Sri Lanka creativity

The British High Commission, British Council, UK Trade and Investment and Academy of Design (AOD) Sri Lanka shared a special fashion and design experience with invitees at Westminster

House, Colombo 7, on August 2. Our photographer Mahinda Vithanachchi captured these ladies and gentlemen enjoying glamour and designs at the event.