

Visakha sports meet

Dias House emerge champions

KATHYA DE SILVA

The Visakha Vidyalyaya modernized playground was opened on a grand scale on Thursday with the release of balloons to the air, with the participation of Education Minister Bandula Gunawardena as the chief guest along with Mrs. Gunawardena.

Hambantota Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa, Polonnaruwa Parliamentarian Roshan Ranasinghe and Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Angelo Mathews were honoured guests.

The Visakha Sports Meet was Angelo Mathew's first participation in a public event as the Sri Lanka Cricket Captain.

The playground which was in a dilapidated state, was renovated and provided a night lighting system. An outer drainage system was also built under this project.

Sports Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage, First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa and MP Namal Rajapaksa provided financial support for this project upon the invitation of Minister Bandula Gunawardena. Dias House emerged as winners of the 2013 Visakha Sports Meet while the second place went to Pulimood House and third place went to Dawes House.

A number of young sportswomen received awards such as Best Player of the Sports Meet, Most Outstanding Player, record breakers etc.

Addressing the gathering, school Principal Sandamali Aviruppola said the school's policy of promoting education as well as extra curricular activities was evident at the sports meet seeing the talents of young sportswomen of the school.

She added that the students participated in practice sessions for the sports meet while attending classes ensuring that they did not neglect their studies.

"With the renovated playground, the students now have the opportunity to practice in their own school without having to go to other playgrounds which was inconvenient and unsafe for schoolchildren," she said.

She said the Education Minister, Sports Minister, First Lady and MP Rajapaksa with no hesitation, provided all support and funds to renovate the playground in keeping with the Mahinda Chinthanaya to develop sports.

Education Ministry Secretary Gotabhaya Jayarathne, Education Ministry Sports Director B A Abeyrathne, Sports Director General Ranjani Jayakody, Western Province Education Director P N Ilapperuma, Zonal Education Director Jayantha Nanayakkara and other Education Ministry officials, Deputy Principals, past Principals and deputy Principals, teachers, parents and students participated.

Pictures by Ranjith Asanka and Lalith C Gamage



Dias House captain Prabadhi Gamarachchi, her deputies Mino-li Batagoda and Nikini Hapuarachchi receiving the overall championship trophy from Principal Sandamali Aviruppola and Mrs Gunawardena



Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa having a discussion with Visakha Principal Sandamali Aviruppola while Mrs. Gunawardena, wife of Minister Bandula Gunawardena looks on.



Education Minister Bandula Gunawardena receiving the guard of honour



New Sri Lanka cricket captain Anjelo Mathews presenting medals for the winners of an event.



An event in progress



Visakha Western Band



Champion Dias House athletes celebrating