

March 2012

## Contents

Matale Rebellion	2
History of Cricket	3
National Flag	3
Pearl of Indian Ocean	4
GongaleGoda Banda	4
Freedom	4
Guru Sitha	5
Unawatuna	5
Dam	7
Sigiriya	8
Island of Paradise	8
Sigiriya	9
Ruwanweli Saeya	10
Yapahuwa	10
Independence day	11
My Dream	11
Lighting lamps	12
Temple	12
Ruwanweli Saeya	12



## Samadhi Kids at the 64<sup>th</sup> Sri Lankan Independence Day Celebrations - Memories of a Parent

*"We don't have sufficient time to practice this year – So, we are not going to have an item by Samadhi children at the Sri Lankan Independence Day celebrations on Feb 4, 2012"*

That was the sentiment soon after the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Samadhi Board held in mid January 2012. The board had rushed the first meeting with the participation of our children at the Independence Day celebrations a top priority. Per tradition, and per bylaws, the meeting was open to all members and a roomful of attendees put their heads together and looked at many possibilities. Still there was no escaping the grim reality: there were just three weeks to decide on an item, find instructors, find practice facilities, train the children, prepare costumes, etc...etc. The board and the parents decided that it was best not to take part.

A few days went by .....

Everyone was sad to forego a valuable opportunity for their children to participate at the Sri Lankan Independence Day celebrations in front a distinguished gathering of fellow expatriates. As the anxieties grew, Samadhi President Nirosh decided to trust the commitment of the parents and the abilities of their children against all odds. With the help of our beloved Guruthumee Chintha and Samadhi Treasurer Kishani, and after consulting with the Board the President narrowed down on an item, and gave the green light to proceed.

continued on pg 6 ...



උස් තැන් දැක හැකිලෙන්නේ  
මිටි තැන් දැක පුළුපන්නේ  
නිවටුන් බව සිතමින්නේ  
මගේ පුතා ලොකු වෙන්නේ

එස්. මහින්ද හිමි.

## Matale Rebellion

Since 1815, the British had control over the whole island. Sri Lanka back then was known as Ceylon. Many people did not like British rule. The British taxed Sri Lankans for almost everything. Guns, dogs, cats, shops, etc. Labor was forced on plantations just so that the United Kingdom comes up with a better economy.

Gongalegoda Banda was consulted by head monk of a temple in Dambulla. The monk asked Gongalegoda Banda to help the people of Dambulla. Since many people were concerned about the British, Gongalegoda Banda asked people whose side they were on, either Buddhist or British. When he had his army of supporters, his brother became a fake king to lead strikes against British buildings in Kandy. It

was a dangerous gamble, but they wanted to gain control of Kandy. Veera Puran Appu was made sword bearer to Gongalegoda Banda. As a general, Puran Appu lead successful attacks on tax buildings in Kandy, destroying many tax records.

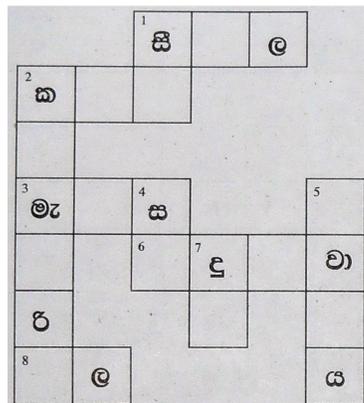
The rebellion came to a stop though. On August 8 Puran Appu was taken prisoner. British troops seized and executed him. This then caused Gongalegoda Banda and his older brother to hiding. Governor Torrington issued a warrant to look for Gongalegoda Banda and offered £ 150 for information on Gongalegoda Banda's hiding. Eventually, Gongalegoda Banda was captured and took prisoner by Malay soldiers. He

was brought from Matale to Kandy. The Supreme Court found he was guilty of all charges. He was given a death sentence by hanging. But later the court decided that he should really get 100 lashes and deported to Malacca (Malaysia). At that time, deporting was a greater punishment than execution.

On December 1, 1849, Gongalegoda Banda died. People were inspired by his actions. Now Gongalegoda Banda and Puran Appu are celebrated heroes of Sri Lanka for trying a bold move to receive freedom from British.

Sri Lanka is the strong sight.  
Oh Sri Lanka has the most might.  
Sustaining life for many,  
Sri Lanka is definitely worth more than a penny.  
Sri Lanka is so glorious,  
it will always be victorious

Jeffrey Bandara (11)



### හරහට

1. උණුසුම් නැති
2. දුලා නැති වළට ..... පණසිතයා
3. කෝටු හෝ ලණු වලින් හදයි
6. රෝග වාහක සතෙකි
8. ලංකාවේ වනෝද්‍යානයකි

### පහළට

1. අම්මාගේ තාත්තා
2. එළිය විහිදුවන කෘමියෙකි
4. ඇගේ පිටතින්ම ඇත්තේ
5. ගෙඩි හට නොගන්නා කාලය
7. ගින්නක් නැතිව මේවා නගින්නේ නෑ

## History of Cricket in Sri Lanka

Cricket was first introduced to Ceylon (Sri Lanka now) by the Englishmen. First recorded cricket match was played in the country as far back as 1832. The Colombo Cricket Club was formed soon afterwards. Cricket is the most popular sport in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan cricket team is the national cricket team of Sri Lanka. In 1975 this team played international cricket for the first time and in 1981 the Sri Lanka cricket team was given Test status and this made Sri Lanka the 8<sup>th</sup> playing test country.

The greatest moment for Sri Lankan Cricket was when they won the 1996 world cup by defeating Australia in the final. Arjuna Ranatunge was the captain of the Sri Lankan team that won the cup. Sanath Jayasuriya was awarded the man of the series. The game style of Sri Lanka cricket was marked by highly aggressive batting during the 1<sup>st</sup> fifteen overs. The strategy of the Sri Lankan batsmen became the hallmark of one day cricket.

Cricket is the world's second most popular spectator sport. This is the fastest growing sport in various universities in United

States. Since, cricket is getting so popular it may also be included in the Olympics soon. I believe Sri Lankan children who live in US should get more involved in learning and playing cricket. Cricket is a team sport; every player should work in harmony with each other to win the match. Most of all Cricket is FUN!

Shalinka Gunatilaka (8)



ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කොඩිය



The lion in the flag represents the Sinhala race. The sword of the lion represents the sovereignty of the country.

The noble eight fold path of Buddhism is signified by the lion's tail. Curly hair on the lions head indicates religious observance, wisdom, and meditation.

The beard denotes purity of words. The handle on the sword highlights the elements of water, fire, air, and earth. The nose indicates intelligence.

The two front paws purport to purity handling wealth. The vertical stripe of orange represent the minority Tamil race and the vertical green stripe represents minority Muslim race. The bo-leaves at the four corners of the flag represent Buddhism and it's influence on the nation. They also stand for the four virtues- Kindness, Friendliness, Happiness, and Equanimity.

Sarah Ratnayake (7)



Isuru Herath (10)

ගොඹාලේගොඩ බෝඩා

- ඔහු ඉපදුණේ 1809 වර්ෂ 13 වෙනිදාය.
- ඔහු ජීවත්වුණේ නුවර ගොඹාලේගොඩ ගමේ.
- ඔහු චන්ද්‍රගිරි බදු පනතා විරුද්ධව සටන් කළ විරිච්චයාය.
- 1848 දී ඔහුව ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයන් විසින් රටේ රජ බවට පත්කළා.
- 1848 සැප්තැම්බර් 21 වෙනිදා ඔහුව චන්ද්‍රගිරි ආණ්ඩුව විසින් දැන්වීමකට ගන්නා ලදී.
- ඔහු 1849 දෙසැම්බර් 1 වෙනිදා මැලේසියාවේදී මියගියේය.

නම: අරෝෂ් ද සිල්වා  
වයස: අවුරුදු 7 යි

Arosh De Silva (7)

## Pearl of the Indian Ocean

The Teardrop of the Indian Ocean,  
Does that name fit?  
For a country like Sri Lanka,  
Not even a bit!  
Mother Lanka used to cry silent tears.  
Not seen by any for numerous years.  
The Sri Lankans could feel it,  
The sadness she felt.  
With war inside of her,  
With many problems she dealt.  
But now we have freedom,  
And can live as one.  
With peace and prosperity,  
A new life has begun.  
Now Sri Lanka has a brand new name.  
A name that suits Sri Lanka's new "game".  
The precious Mother Lanka,  
Our home land,  
With flowers and plants,  
And golden sand.  
Every single person has a kind and loving heart,  
With a friendly smile does every conversation start.  
Proud should we be,  
Of this country so free.  
Proud that this country  
Belongs to you and me.  
I know we all have a similar notion,  
About our home, The Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

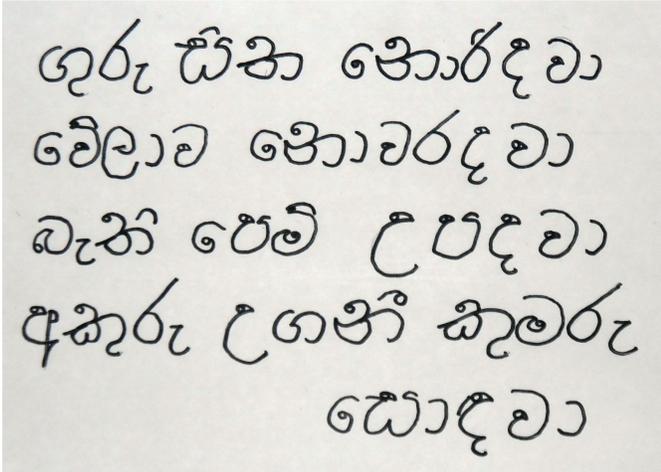
Ruvinka Abeysekera (13)

**Send your article/artwork**  
editor@samadhinj.org

articles  
Sinhala or English related to Sri Lanka  
Preferred 300-400, Max 700 words  
(special requests can be accommodated)  
Fiction or non-Fiction in Ms Word format

artwork  
on A4 size JPG format

Feel free to submit more than one article  
Write child's name, age and parent's email on back side



meaning :  
 Without hurting teacher's feelings  
 Without being late  
 Thinking respecting and loving  
 Prince is learning nicely

So I :  
 Do not say mean things to my teacher. Am polite to my teacher. Say "Have a good weekend" at the end of the week.  
 Wake up on time. Get ready on time so I do not miss the bus. Think good things about my teacher. Pay attention to what my teacher is saying.

Kasuni Wickramasinghe (7)

## Unawatuna

Unawatuna beach is very fun  
 it is wide enough to run there,  
 The shallow waters are very fun  
 to splash in the waves, swim and float!  
 Cooling down under the shadows  
 of the very tall coconut trees,  
 You'll hear the waves  
 crash at the beach,  
 Go look for those corals underwater!  
 The wonderful warm  
 breeze there, will give you a snooze!  
 The beautiful, broken or not,  
 seashells are the best, to look for  
 at the beach!  
 The boats are really fun when you  
 can look underwater and see the corals!  
 Do you want to go there? Do you want  
 a breeze? Do you want a boat ride?  
 Then you have to go to Unawatuna  
 beach in the Southern Province, Sri Lanka!

Kinolee Kumarasinghe (8)

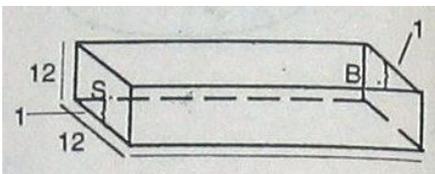
## Chess Problem

White to move and mate in 2 moves



## ගණිත ගැටළුව

12x12x30 ප්‍රමාණයේ කාමරයක S ස්විචයක්ද B බල්බයක්ද ඇත. S ඇත්තේ පොළොවේ සිට 1ක් ඉහළින්. B ඇත්තේ සිවිලිමේ සිට 1ක් පහළින්. B හා S කාමරය පළල පැත්තේ හරි මැද පිහිටා ඇත. S සිට B දක්වා වයරක් ඇදිය යුතුව ඇත. ඒ සඳහා අවශ්‍ය වන වයරයේ අවම දිග කුමක්ද? සියලුම ඒකක අඩි වලින්. වයරය අදින්නේ බිත්තිය දිගේය. කාමරයේ දොර ජනෙල් නැත.



ඉභිය - 42 ට වඩා අඩුය

## How Samadhi kids ... from pg 1

A three week crash program was put into high gear: As issue after issue came up, more and more parents and board members volunteered to tackle them. A last minute request for participation to the SL mission in New York received approval thanks to Maj Gen Shavendra Silva. Reservations were made for the Unitarian hall and another one in the area for nightly practices. Nilu and Ranmali volunteered as coordinators and received much help from Anoja, Dharshi, Thushari and Candida to conduct the practices. Another group volunteered to bring the necessary items all the way from Sri Lanka, while Shyama, Kishani and a set of mothers started designing the costumes. Amila volunteered to be the makeup artist. Asanthi and Thushara created the flag sets and the two uber-techs, Rajeeva and Nirosh, took care of all the sound engineering tasks. True to the Samadhi tradition of creativity, Chintha choreographed a flowing set of original routines to accommodate all the 26 kids while showcasing their many diverse talents, and Nirosh made subtle creative modifications to the Sri Lanka's World Cup song to suite the theme of Independence.

Then came the big day...

*"The Next event is by the children of the Samadhi Buddhist Foundation of New Jersey"*

With this announcement 26 kids gracefully entered stage. The first 'oohs and aahs' from the crowd were for the number of the participants – a tribute to the Samadhi tradition of giving every kid an opportunity. It continued as they delivered a breathtaking performance, and erupted in to a thunderous applause as they made a perfect exit after a near flawless performance.

Quite a few mothers were wiping tears off their eyes. Everyone agreed that our event added color to the entire function. Within a few hours the results of three weeks of hard work was on [www.defence.lk](http://www.defence.lk) for the whole world to see.

The kids who volunteered to take part in this small miracle were: Rashmika Molligoda, Hirendra Molligoda, Devmika Molligoda, Ruwinka Abeysekera, Eran Abeysekera, Yelani Warusawithana, Thevuni Athalage, Kelsey Dharmakeerthi, Disnie Thambugala, Siluni Karunaratne, Rasali Kodikara, Mariam Farook, Sara Ratnayake, Amindu Abeydeera, Gavesh Rajapaksha, Shalinka Gunatilaka, Samadhi Ranaweera, Tara Ranaweera, Tiffani Seneviratne, Senali Bombuwala, Seana Weerakoon, Sanuli Abeydeera, Dulana Gunasena, Biyon Gunasena, Binithi Gamage and Lasinki Wijegunawardana.

Senaka Senaviratne and Chandana Goonettileke



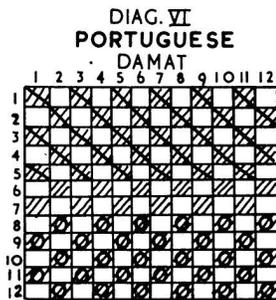
# ගමේ කෝපි කඩේ ...

Why do you want to play Dam (දාම) ?

Dam /Draughts is a fun game, but not only that, it develops your sequential thinking skills. This would help you solve other problems in the long run. Dam is also easier than chess, hence taking less time.

Dam(දාම) is a game very much like American checkers. It came to Sri Lanka from the Dutch. The International Draughts from the Netherlands is played on a 10x10 board, while Sri Lankan and Canadian (Quebec) Draughts is played on a 12x12 board.

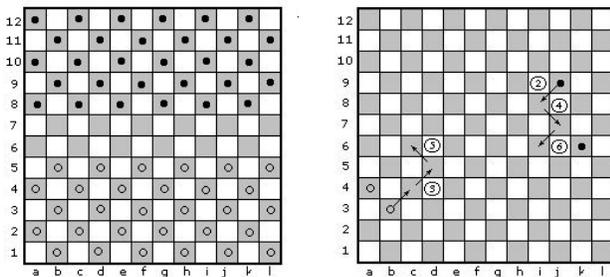
Only difference between Sri Lanka and Quebec version is that in Sri Lankan draughts, board is placed in such a way that black square is in players right most corner



In Dam, you move your pieces (men) forwards and cut forwards/backwards. Dam is played on the black squares of a board with 30 pieces each side.

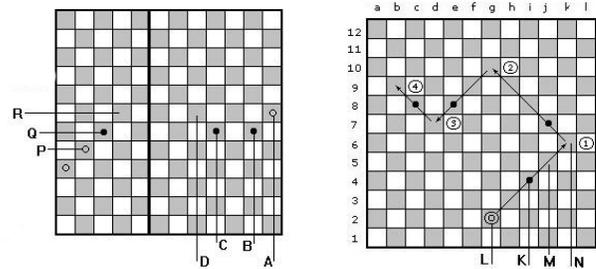
If you cannot find a person to play with, you can play on the computer (WinSri), online, or on mobile devices.

This is the Dam board at the start of the game. Dam is played with 30 men each on the black squares. The pieces move diagonally one square at a time.



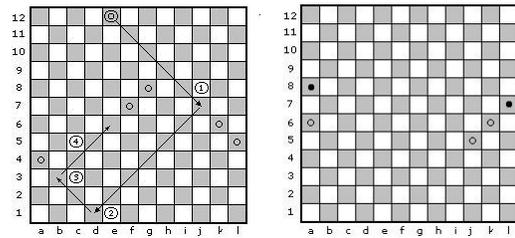
A capture occurs when a piece can jump over an opponent's piece to the square behind it. For example, the piece on P can jump over piece Q to square R to capture piece Q. For another example, piece A can jump over pieces B and C to get to D to capture both pieces in one move. Unlike chess capture is mandatory. (if you have a piece to capture, you must capture it)

When a piece ends its move on the back rank of the opponent, it becomes a king or Dama(දාමා). A king can move backward and forwards any number of squares diagonally.



A king captures the same way as a normal piece, but the king can jump over any number of squares on the same diagonal to get to the piece.

In the diagram, "Dama"(දාමා) L can jump over K to either M or N. If it goes to N, it can jump over the pieces on that diagonal, too. A game ends when either all the opponent's pieces are captured or the opponent is stuck and cannot move.



Unlike chess there is no stalemate. There are draw situations.

There is a Sinhala song by Sanath Nandasiri that mentions about the game. ගමේ කෝපි කඩේ දෙන්න දෙපැත්තේ දාම අදින්නේ .....

Kavindya Wickramasinghe (11)

## සීගිරිය - Eighth Wonder

Volcanos are scary, but they do wonders. Sigiriya is one such wonder. It is a hardened magma plug from a volcano that existed millions of years ago. This rock is about 600 feet tall and in the Central part of Sri Lanka.

This rock was turned into a fortress and a palace by a King named Kashyapa in 477 AD. According to Mahavamsa, where Sri Lanka's history is recorded, prince Kashyapa killed his father, King Datusena. His brother, prince Moggallana was the next in line to the throne, but he went to India fearing that Kashyapa will kill him too. During King Datusena's rule, capital was in city of Anuradhapura, but King Kashyapa moved the capital to Sigiriya fearing retaliation from his brother. Eighteen years later prince Moggallana came with an Army and defeated King Kashyapa. The new king moved the capital back to the old city and turned Sigiriya into a Buddhist Monastery.

Sigiriya is written සීගිරිය in Sinhala. Sigiriya means Lion's Mouth in Sinhala. This rock got this name because the entrance to this rock is shaped like a Lion's mouth. This is also called Lion Rock Fortress.

Sigiriya is also famous for the paintings on the rock surface. Sigiriya has the oldest known graffiti in the planet. The mirror wall preserves hundreds of graffiti. There are remains of paintings in some of the caves at the bottom of the rock. Top of the rock was covered with many buildings and a pool; today we only see the ruins of these.

Sigiriya is visited by many local and foreign visitors daily. Although I have read and seen articles about this wonder, I never had the opportunity to go see this nice and cool place. Next time I go to Sri Lanka I plan to visit this place with my parents.

Dulana Gunasena (11)



## The Island of Paradise

My country, Sri Lanka, lies in the Indian Ocean  
A very small yet important island  
It is a neighbor to India in the Asian Continent  
It bears the nickname "Pearl of Indian Ocean"

Sri Lanka is an exotic place  
famous for gorgeous wild life  
The places inside rainforests  
are pretty and divine.  
Waterfalls and mountain ranges  
in the hill country with spring like weather  
Golden, sandy beaches with cozy breezes  
with summer like weather throughout the year

This island has a variety of food  
that is very tasty  
They range from foods like rice  
to **pittu** and **roti**  
Sri Lanka is well known for spices  
that were originally bought from traders  
Curry in this island range from many vast things  
from chicken to mutton to even fruit curries  
There are also side dishes that include chutneys  
Hoppers known as **Appa** are delicacies  
There is **parippu**, **haalmasso** and other things too  
In Sri Lankan cuisines with many other foods

Sri Lanka is quite cozy for food fanatics and  
sightseers  
and the location is quite good for the ports and  
the traders  
There are calming temples and historical sites  
with skyscrapers and comfy hotels  
You should visit Sri Lanka someday or another  
There is much to try in this island full of wonder.

Sahan Kumarasinghe (11)

Answer to chess puzzle : 1. Qxc7+ Kxc7 2. Be5#  
Answer to math puzzle - 40 (contact editor for solution)  
Answer to crossword :

සීතල-කනයා-මැස්ස-මදුරුවා-යාල  
සියා-කලාමැදිරියා-සම-අචාරය-දුම

softcopy from www.samadhinj.org

# Sigiriya

Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress located in the Matale district near Dambulla and is part of the cultural triangle of Sri Lanka. The Sigiriya rock is a hardened volcanic plug from an extinct and long-eroded volcano. It stands high above the surrounding plain, visible for miles in all directions.

Sigiriya was first a Buddhist monastery dating back to the third century B.C. Prince Kasyapa having killed his father King Dhatusena took the throne, while the crown prince, his half-brother Mugalan escaped to India. He changed the capital to Sigiriya because the security it provided by the high elevation. King Kasyapa ruled Sri Lanka from AD 477 – 495. This was the time the Roman Empire was ruled by the emperor Julius Nepos and China was governed by the Wei dynasty.

Sigiriya is famous for its frescos of female figures. A fresco is a painting done rapidly in watercolor on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling; so that the colors penetrate the plaster and become fixed as it dries. The sacred nature of fresco painting was also prevalent in the Asian and Eastern European civilizations. Archaeologists have found frescoes in China, at Liao-yang (100 BC) and Tun-Huang (AD 500-800), as well as Ajanta, India (AD 500-700).

The whole face of the Sigiriya rock appears to have been a gigantic picture gallery; some historians consider it to be the largest picture in the world at the time. The paintings would have covered most of the western face of the rock, covering an area 140 meters long and 40 meters high.

The true identities of the ladies in these frescos still have not been confirmed. There are various ideas about their identity. Some believe that they are the wives of the king while some think that they are women taking part in religious observances. These pictures have a close resemblance to some of the paintings seen in the Ajanta caves in India.

Sigiriya is also famous for its Mirror wall. The mirror wall was so well polished that the king could see himself whilst he walked alongside it. Made out of a kind of porcelain, the wall is now partially covered with verses scribbled by visitors to the rock. Well preserved, the mirror wall has verses dating from the 8th century. People of all types wrote on the wall, on varying subjects, and experiences of all sorts. Many of these writings on the Mirror Wall belongs to the time period between the 7th and the 11th Centuries AD.

The Palace of Sigiriya is mounted on top of the rock with a total extent more than 3.7 acres. It lies about 590 ft. above the surrounding plain and 1180 ft. above sea level. It is the earliest surviving palace in Sri Lanka. The layout and floor plan being still visible gives information about how Sri Lankan palaces were built.

One of the Sigiriya's most dramatic features is its great lion stair case. There was a sculpted lion's head above the legs and paws flanking the entrance, but the head had broken down many years ago.

Rivindu Wijedoru (11)



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## Ruwanweli Saeya

The Ruwanwelisaya is a stupa in Sri Lanka, considered a marvel for it's architectural qualities and sacred to many Buddhists all over the world. It was built by King Duttu-Gemunu, who became the lord of all Sri Lanka after a war in which the Chola King Elara, was

defeated. It is also known as Mahathupa, Swarnamali Chaitya, Suvarnamali Mahaceti (in Pali) and Rathnamali Dagaba. The stupa is also one of the Solosmasthanas (the 16 places of veneration) and the Athamasthanas (the 8 places of veneration

in the sacred city of Anuradhapura.) The stupa is one of the world's tallest monuments, standing at 300 feet and with a circumference of 950 feet. (Drawing on Last page)

Senali Manuelge (9)

## Yapahuwa

Yapahuwa is located a little way off Krunegala-Anuradhapura road in the Wayamba province of Sri Lanka.

Yapahuwa served as the capitol of Sri Lanka in the latter part of the 13th Century and built on a huge 90 meter high rock boulder in the style of the Sigiriya rock fortress.

Yapahuwa was a palace and military stronghold against foreign invaders.

The palace and the fortress were built by the King Buwanekabahu in the year 1273. Many traces of ancient battle defenses can still be seen while an ornamental stairway is the biggest showpiece. On the

top of the rock are remains of the stupa, a Bodhi tree enclosure and a cave used by the Buddhist monks, indicating that this site was used as a Buddhist monastery, like many boulders and the rocks in the area. There are several caves at the base of the rock. In one of them there is a shrine with Buddha images.

In 1272, King Buwanekabahu transferred the capitol to Yapahuwa from Polonnaruwa, bringing the sacred Tooth Relics with him. During the brief period in which Yapahuwa was the capitol of Sri Lanka, it had close connections with China. Today

Yapahuwa is one of the best tourist destinations in Sri Lanka.

Kenneth Bandara (7)

# Independence Day Celebration in NY

Every year we celebrate Sri Lankan Independence Day on February 4th. This year we went to New York to celebrate Sri Lankan Independence Day. It was in a theater in Staten Island. There were a lot of Sri Lankan people wearing beautiful

sarees and suits. Everybody sang the Sri Lankan National Anthem to start the celebrations. Then we listened to a speech of president of Sri Lanka. I, my sister, and my friends sang a song called "when I get older" while other people were dancing. We wore

special cloths and the shirt had a Sri Lankan flag on it. We watched other dancing and singing too. I felt very happy and proud to be a Sri Lankan. It was a great day filled with excitement and happiness!

Samadhi Ranaweera (5)



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මාලිගාව ඇතුළට ගියා. ඊළඟට මම දැක්කා යස රජුරුවෝ. යස සහ සුභ එක වගේ. මම දන්නෙ නැහැ අද රජකම් කරන්නේ සුභද යසද කියලා. මම ආපහු ගුලට ගියා. රැයක නගරයක් මැදින් මතු වුණා. පාරවල් වල කවුරුවත් නෑ. හැමෝම නිදි. ඇතින් මිනිසෙකු එනවා දැක්කා. මම ඔහු පසුපස ගියා. ඔහු ගෙයක් ළඟ නැවතුනා. ආච්චි කෙනෙක් අඩනවා ඇහුණා. මට සිංහල පොතේ ගජබාහු රජු මතක් වුණා. වතුර තිබෙන වෙලා ඇහැරුණා. වතුර බිලා නිදාගත්තා. කාශ්‍යප රජු සිගිරිය හදනවා දැක්කා. මම සිංහ කටෙන් ඇතුළට ගියා. ඇත ජේනවා. තව එබුනා. කකුල ලිස්සලා වැටුණා. අම්මෝ ..... ඇහැරුණා. මම ඔරලෝසුව බැලුවා. වෙලාව හතයි. අද ඉස්කෝලේ යන්න ඕනෙ. (Translation help from Mom)

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refer : silumina.lk , පුත්කළස , දොස් නිදොස්



Amanda Goonetilleke



Senali Manuelge (9)

## තෙලිතුව



Jasmine Seneviratne (7)



Ruwanweliseya in the sacred  
city of Anuradhapura

Biyon Gunasena (6)