

MESMERISING VESAK TOURS ON COLOMBO CITY TOUR

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Waves lashing against the age-old bastion



Snatching some quiet moments from the bustling city life



Quintessentially Galle – the Lighthouse, built by the British in 1796 on the Utrecht Bastion and the Meera Mosque built in 1904



Cricket inside the fort



Time's witnesses



The present visiting the past



At the edge of the world



The Galle Cricket Stadium



Welcome to scale the heights



Crows replacing canons



The models and the shutterbugs



The scenic town inside the fort



Lord of the Ring



The end of another day



Bicycle thief?



Smiling through time – Antiques on display

The Ageless Stones

PIX AND TEXT BY SRAVASTI GHOSH DASTIDAR



Rust – testimony of the ravages of the sea and time

LIFE is seldom at a standstill on the coral and granite ramparts of the 16th century Galle Fort. A stroll on the ramparts of other forts is rarely as fascinating as that of walking on the wall of Galle. The stones have witnessed many a story every day, since the Portuguese first built the fort, in 1588.

Under the watchful eyes of the Lighthouse, the Clock Tower, and the Flagpole, the tourists drink in the beauty of the rocky ocean and pose for mandatory photos against the backdrop of the Galle Cricket Stadium, the city of Galle, the town inside the fort and the sea; the regulars do their daily exercise or seek out a corner to play cricket or propose love. Some try to gauge the

strength of the walls that withstood the onslaught of the tsunami, which devastated the rest of Galle.

The rampart helps the locals earn their living. A few peddlers peddle hand-woven lace and embroidered dresses. The snake charmers mesmerise children with their snakes and monkeys. As the bare-chested cliff-jumpers jump from the edge, of the 16 m high rocky wall, and plunge into the rocky sea, one wonders whether these means of livelihood are on the verge of decline.

Till then, the story walls will continue to write their story along with that of the men, birds and animals who visit it.



Fluttering in pride



Standing guard – the Clock Tower, dated 1707 and cast in 1709, which rang every hour

Avurudu Ulela to mark 46th anniversary celebrations of Ratmalana Welfare Association

THIS year's Avurudu Ulela took a greater importance as it was held as a part of the 46th anniversary celebrations activity, which followed a very successful family get together and the Annual General Meeting of the Ratmalana Welfare Association.

This Avurudu Uthsawaya was graced by the Mayor as the Chief Guest and the Deputy Mayor, Ratmalana Air Force Base Commander and Mount Lavinia Division Senior Superintendent attending as Guests of Honour.

The event was widely patronised and all the customary Avurudu games were keenly contested under the relevant age groups.

RWA President Air Vice Marshal Ravi Arunthavanathan

welcomed all the dignitaries and the members and their families who had gone to a lot of trouble to prepare the children for various events.

The Mayor in his address mentioned that although he annually attended many RWA events, the association didn't trouble him with any requests for help. However, he said he would make it a point to make some form of a gesture in this regard due to the good work being done towards community development.

The RWA President thanked the executive committee and organising committee of the event and said he wished to see more people rallying towards the worthy causes espoused by the RWA towards the upliftment of community life.



Ratmalana Welfare Association President Air Vice Marshall (Rtd) Ravi Arunthavanathan, Mayor of Dehiwala Dhanasiri Amaratunga and Deputy Mayor Kesaralal Gunasekera with some of the participants



From left: Mount Lavinia SSP R. Karavitage, Mayor of Dehiwala Dhanasiri Amaratunga, Deputy Mayor Kesaralal Gunasekera, Ratmalana Welfare Association President Air Vice Marshall (Rtd) Ravi Arunthavanathan and Ratmalana Air Force Base Commander Air Commodore R. Jayasinghe lighting the oil lamp



Judges of the competition V. Senadheera, Lillian Kariyawasam and Dr. Liliangani De Silva selecting the best kiribath presentation



A section of the crowd