



SRI LANKA MALAY ASSOCIATION

# WAJAH SELONG

واجه سلونج

*The above original calligraphy of Wajah Selong  
is based on Jawi text by Baba Onus Saldin in 1893*

JANUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020  
VOLUME 11 | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

*"By means of water, we give life to everything"  
(Qur'an, 21:30)*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SLMA AND CMCC



The Annual General Meeting of the SLMA and CMCC was held in July 2020 at the Padang in Colombo. Sdr. Soekarno Ousmand was re-elected President of the Sri Lanka Malay Association while Sdr. Rizwan Badoordeen was elected as President of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC).

Sdri. Mareena Azoor was elected as the Hony General Secretary and Sdri. Diana Rahaman was elected as the Hony Treasurer at the AGM.

SLMA Immediate Past President Sdr. Taslim Rahaman delivered the keynote address at the Annual Planning Meeting held in September 2020 where all committees of the SLMA and CMCC unveiled their plans for the year ahead.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL BOOKS

An annual programme organized by the Social Services Committee of the SLMA, the distribution of school books to children from underprivileged backgrounds was conducted at the Padang premises. Gift vouchers from the Sarasavi Book Store and a set of uniform material were distributed to a total of 90 students. Additionally cash vouchers were presented to 20 underprivileged Muslim students of Meepilimanna in the Nuwara Eliya district.

SIM cards for Zoom study sessions for 5 deserving students residing in the Meepilimanna area in the Nuwara Eliya district were also presented.



## ZAKATH AND IFTHAR

The Religious Affairs Committee of the Sri Lanka Malay Association presented zakath to 80 families residing in Colombo and its suburbs.

Total of 281 Ifthar recipients in Colombo, Kantale, Mullaitivu, Oddamaadi and Kirinda and the Golden Home for Elders in Ratmalana were provided cash and food packs. The ifthar programme was sponsored by the Islamic Union of Hong Kong (IUHK) this year as well.



## HAJ QURBAN DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of Haj qurban to needy Muslim families took place in August 2020. An annual project of the Religious Affairs Committee, Haj qurban packs were distributed to households in Kantale, Mullaitivu and Ottamavadi.



## KIDU SUNDAY

The first ever 'KIDU SUNDAY' was successfully completed in September 2020 with 126 kidu rice packs distributed.

Organized by the Religious Affairs Committee, the Kidu Sunday attracted the attention of families and friends who enjoyed a weekend of togetherness over plates of delicious food.

\*\*\* Another annual feature in the SLMA calendar, the remembrance of fallen Malay war heroes was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country.





## WATER FOR LIFE

Two Water For Life Projects spearheaded by the Social Services Committee which commenced in 2020 were completed in February 2021.

A total of seven projects have been completed by the SLMA thus far. This was mainly thanks to generous donations from SLMA members and well-wishers.

A tube well, a tower for the water tank, water motor and pipes connected to the tank, and taps installed at the base of the tower were constructed through the project in the village of Kammantaluwa belonging to the Anamaduwa Electorate in the Puttalam district.

These facilities are benefitting a total of 25 families in the Kammantaluwa village who now have access to clean drinking water.



Under the Water for Life Project a large well that could store almost 50,000 liters of water per day was constructed in the Madawakkulam village which is also located in the Anamaduwa Electorate in the Puttalam district. A water motor to pump water from the well to the tank was also installed.

These facilities are serving approximately 500 families in the Madawakkulam village.

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*The support given to our village is a great source of strength. Everyone in the village has clean drinking water now. Jazakallahu khayran to all the kind donors who helped to give water to our families.*

*- N. Raisdeen  
Kammantaluwa Village*

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## FOUNDER'S DAY

On Friday 22 January 2021, the Sri Lanka Malay Association (SLMA) conducted the Founder's Day, an event held annually in January to commemorate the inauguration of the SLMA, established on the 22 January 1922. Therefore, the Founder's Day held this year at the Padang in Colombo marked 99 years since the establishment of the SLMA in Sri Lanka. A special feature of the event organized by the Research, Documentation Studies and Communication Committee was to recognize SLMA members who have rendered a yeoman service towards fostering the growth of the institution. The Founder's Day held this year was presided by the President of the SLMA, Sdr. Soekarno Ousmand, President of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) Sdr. Rizwan Badoordeen, and members of both institutions in adherence to health guidelines.

SLMA and CMCC members including CMCC Immediate Past President Sdr. Ibnusha Ally, Sdr. Yaseem Samath (SLMA), Sdr. Rinaldin Rahaman (SLMA), Sdr. Shehan Omerdeen (CMCC - Hockey), Sdr. Anver Faleel (CMCC - Sepak Takraw) and Sdr. Mashood Ahmat (CMCC) received awards of recognition for years of selfless service to both institutions. Former Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police - Crimes, Organized Crimes and Narcotics Range, and Commandant of the Special Task Force - Sri Lanka Police, Deshabandu M.R. Latiff delivered the keynote address at the Founder's Day 2021.



## RAFFLE TICKET DRAW

The Cultural and Literary Affairs Committee conducted a raffle ticket draw to raise funds to upgrade the collection of Malay costumes and accessories at the SLMA which are used for cultural events.



## HARI RAYA

The children at the Islamic Boys home for the Needy and Orphan Children in Ratmalana had an evening of fun and entertainment to celebrate Hari Raya. The annual Hari Raya celebration at the Islamic Boys Home is organized by the SLMA Women's Affairs Committee. The boys competed in games organized by the committee and won amazing prizes. Not just the winners but each and every boy received gifts for their participation. They also had a fun time dancing and enjoying a variety of delicious refreshments.

SLMA donated bath towels, and re-useable face masks to the Islamic Boys Home in Ratmalana. Monitors Excise books, an Oxford Dictionary and an Encyclopedia were presented to enhance their knowledge.



## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We live in a new normal where a pandemic which we can't see is dictating how we should live our lives. It has imposed restrictions on our movements and interactions. Yet, one thing is evident - the human heart is strong. When you read this edition of the Wajah Selong, there is one simple word that jumps right off the pages.

### "GIVING"

The act of giving either in the form of distributing food packs, school books, or building wells may sound easy once completed. But the act of giving requires a resolute frame of mind to get the job done no matter the cost, the time, the effort or obstacles. It is an act of selflessness that asks for nothing in return except a smile on the faces of men, women and children or a sense of relief in people who need a helping hand. Life in the new normal has opened eyes, hearts and minds to the hardships of others. It beckons us to reach out and give with all our hearts. Making us ask; "if not me then who?" "If not now then when?"

Sdri. Mahina Bongso  
Chairperson - Research, Documentation Studies  
and Communications Committee, SLMA







## *The* **PADANG TURNS 60**



The 'Padang', home of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC) in Colombo, celebrated its 60th anniversary since moving from Rifle Green. The celebrations kicked-off with a Sepak Takraw match between the Sri Lanka Army SC and CMCC at the Padang which was won by Army SC. Colonel Rizan Hamidon of the Sri Lanka Army attended the event as Chief Guest.

The 148-year-old CMCC lost its original home the 'Rifle Green' down Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha in 1939 to make way for military preparations during World War 2. The old parade ground of the Malay soldiers, the 'Rifle Green' grounds in Colombo 2, was a gift by the then Military Command to the Malay cricketers of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment in 1872. The Rifle Green was first relinquished in 1939 and restored after the World War in 1953, only to be relinquished again in 1954 for the construction of the Slave Island Police Station. A new ground was provided by the State in 1959, down Kew Road in Colombo 2, which is today known as the "Padang." The Pavilion was declared open on 3rd September 1960.

The oldest cricket club in Sri Lanka, CMCC is a controlling club of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). The CMCC was part of the formation of the Ceylon Cricket Association (CCA) in 1923 (the first centralized cricket administration in the country) and subsequently the formation of Ceylon Cricket Board (CCB) in 1948 and the Board of Control for Cricket in 1965, with the merging of the two bodies the CCA and CCB.

The Padang, essentially a cricket ground with five practice nets, has served many sports in the country. Schools, the Armed Forces, State institutions and Mercantile establishments make use of the facility for various sporting tournaments and practices. The lush green grounds of the Padang has also been an epicenter for Malay culture and heritage, hosting many fairs, carnivals and festivals that have drawn crowds of Malays and non-Malays alike.

### ● **Wajah Selong Editorial** ●

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