



Here the students with their host, the Head of UNICEF, along with Pushpi Weerakoon, who coordinated the visit.

**Velvettithurai students attend Italian Opera**

Opera was a new experience for students from Velvettithurai visiting Colombo on an exchange programme arranged by the Rotary Club of Colombo Mid-Town. In addition to the usual visits, including Parliament, as well as interactions with the business community, they were invited to the Mt Lavinia Hotel to view artists from the Teatro alla Scala Academy of Lyric Opera in Milan. The event had been organized by the Italian Embassy in collaboration with several sponsors, and the ambassador kindly offered 10 tickets, worth Rs 3,000 each, to the Reconciliation office for the students who would be visiting. They were accompanied by Prof Rajendran who had helped to arrange the visit. Before the concert the students were greeted by the Italian ambassador Fabrizio Pia Arpea, and his Deputy, Dr Luca Rubagotti, as well as the Russian ambassador.



The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Manila, Philippines and the Sri Lankan Embassy opened a photo exhibit to commemorate 50 years of diplomatic relations at the DFA Lobby in September. The exhibit was opened by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio, Deputy Minister for External Affairs Neomal Perera and Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Philippines Nawalaga Bennet Coorey. Also present during the ceremony were members of the Diplomatic Corps and Honorary Consular Corps, members of the Sri Lankan community in the Philippines and representatives from the media.



An International Conference on 'Community and Water Services' Challenges for Sustainability was held in Gannoruwa, Kandy recently. This was organized by Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage, Princess Masiko Lavoni, Minister of Presidency and Kampala City Authority Uganda, participated at the conference. Here, Minister of Water Supply and Drainage Dinesh Gunawardena presenting Minister Masiko a special souvenir as a token of appreciation for her participation. Indian MP Kumar Deepak Das and Deputy Minister of Water Supply and Drainage Nirupama Rajapaksa was also present.



Students of Willesden International College, Battaramulla held a variety show to mark the 20th anniversary of the college recently. Here some students presenting a singing item. Managing Directress of the College A S Wijethunga, Principal Aloysius Chandrasekara and Vice Principal Fareetha Samsudeen were also present.



A consignment of 10 new vehicles were distributed among Estate superintendents by Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development Minister Jagath Pushpakumara at the ministry premises under the programme to ensure scientific and sustainable development of coconut cultivation recently. Here Minister Pushpakumara handing over the keys of a vehicle to one of the estate Superintendents. Picture by Vasitha Pathabedige



World Vision Lanka National Director Suresh Bartlett and Ministry Secretary PG Amarakoon exchanging copies of the MOU in the presence of Central Province Chief Minister Sarath Ekanayake.



The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka organised a Colloquium on Legal Empowerment of Northern Province Local Government representatives and officials. The programme was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute at Independence Square, Colombo recently. Here LAC Consultant - Senior Attorney-at-Law S. Suntheralingam receiving a memento from LAC Chairman S S Wijeratne in the presence of Justice Hector S Yapa and Justice Nissanka Udalgama, in appreciation for organizing the event. Picture by W Chandradasa

