

From the Desk of the Editor

- The month of Poson is one of great significance for Sri Lankans. It's the season for a pilgrimage to Mihintale (*Missaka Pabbata*), and Anuradhapura, a world heritage site. When spanning the history of this blessed island, there is no other person who has contributed more for the building of this nation than Arahant Mahinda. In gratitude for this unparalleled unique contribution, Arahant Mahinda has been given the revered title *Anubudu, the second Buddha* by the Buddhists of Sri Lanka. The contributions of Anubudu Arahant Mahinda are discussed in the series '*Builders of our Nation*.'
- This issue of BOSAT also carries the address of Venerable Paññākaro of world fame at the UN headquarters in New York. He was invited by the UN Secretary General to grace 2570/2026 Vesak Celebrations. Indisputably, it will inspire anyone to be more compassionate to the world.
- Commemoration of the Vesak Day by the UN is a direct result of a resolution passed in Sri Lanka. This was at the International Buddhist Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2542/1998 from 9th to 12th November. 185 representatives from 24 countries participated at this conference and was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- The resolution, which was the First of 17 resolutions, reads as follows: Quote

“Vesak Full Moon Day in the month of May to be declared a holiday of the UN

The Day of Vesak, which marks the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of the Buddha, falls on a Full Moon Day of the

month of May. As a mark of respect for this spiritual leader of humanity whose teachings provide guidance and inspiration to nearly a quarter of the world's population, this Conference urges States with a predominantly Buddhist population to take the necessary steps towards having Vesak Full Moon Day in the month of May declared a holiday of the United Nations, and in this connection requests the Government of Sri Lanka to initiate consultations with other interested States to achieve this objective.” Unquote

Late Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar P.C., Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs, ably steered this resolution at the UN for the Vesak Day to gain due recognition by the UN.

- The *Budu-ge*, image house, of Siri Vajiraramaya temple, dating back to the first decade of the 20th century, has etched a place in the history of temple mural paintings of Sri Lanka. You could know more about it from the interesting contribution on the mural paintings seen on the walls of the budu-ge of Siri Vajiraramaya temple.
- Buddhism speaks of three types of eyes or visions. They are the physical eye – මසැස; the eye of wisdom – මනැස; and the divine eye – දිවැස (දිව්‍ය චක්ඛු). Physical eyes are what you get at birth. In this digital age, eyes are being over-worked. Caring for and protecting them is no one else's responsibility but yours. Read and follow the advice of a Consultant Community Ophthalmologist, who has written on 'Protecting YOUR vision in a digital age'.
- The Youth of Today are the nation builders of Tomorrow. Our history, our cultural heritage, our unique Sinhala language are our, nay your, inheritance. Know it well when stepping into the society at large. Be proud of that inheritance and cherish it in one's heart.

- The greenery and the scenic beauty of this country is part of that inheritance. If ever you climb the historic Sri Pada Peak observe the sun rise from its top. It is a memorable sight not second to the European Alps. However, the Alps has no history of its own unlike the Sri Pada peak. In the series, *A bit of our Heritage*, the importance of Sri Pada has been recounted to enhance your knowledge base.
- As a policy, the BOSAT will always carry a contribution in Sinhala. Do not skip it. Besides its useful contents it will help in improving your Sinhala. In this issue the contribution is from late Venerable Narada Maha Thera. It will be a useful guide for a happy life.
- The wise words of *Ven. Vidāgama Maitriya Thera* will never fail a person. The verses from *Lovāḍa Sangarāva*, a classic of the 15th century with translations into English, are serialised because of their value. Many knew them by rote. We should be thinking of a *Lovāḍa Sangarāva Contest*, similar to the Light of Asia contest organized annually by the Colombo YMBA.
- Be with us and we welcome your suggestions for improving BOSAT!!!

- **The BOSAT monthly periodical will be released at least two days prior to a Full Moon Day. Download it to your mobile or any other electronic device. It will be a useful Damma Periodical to read on the Poya day.**