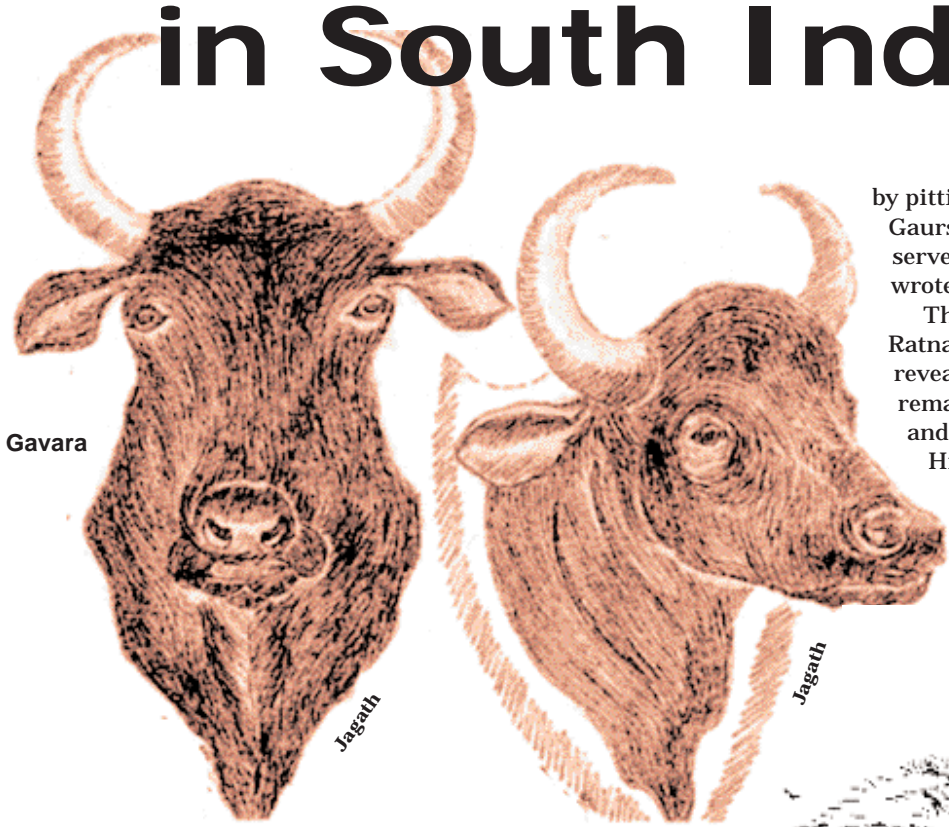


Gavara: Extinct here, but common in South India



Gavara

Jagath

by pitting them against Gaurs kept in the royal preserves for this purpose" wrote P. E. P. Deraniyagala. The gempits in the Ratnapura area have also revealed the fossilized remains of the lower jaws and teeth of a Ceylon Hippopotamus and Rhinoceros. The lower jawbone of the Hippopotamus that survives in Africa has only four incisors.

by Jagath Kodithuwakku

The Gavara is a large herbivores animal which lived in Ceylon up to the time of King Rajasinghe II. It is now extinct here but common in South India.

The Ceylon Guar, smaller than the Indian, was reported by several British writers in the island from as early as 1681. These were said to have grazed in the highland Horton plains. Leg bones and teeth of Guar have been found in the Ratnapura area in some number, but it was the discovery in 1962 of a skull with two horns that led P. E. P. Deraniyagala to identify the Sinhala Gavara as the Gaur. Sri Lankan legend has it that "the courage of the King's bodyguards was annually tested



Gavara and Lion

A chance to experience Kuchipudi

by Cyril Wimalasurendre

Renowned Kuchipudi exponent, Ms. Deepika Reddy, will perform in Kandy with the line orchestra on October 08. The venue will be Dharmaraja College auditorium.

The programme will commence at 6.30 p.m.

The event is organised by the Bharathiya Kala Kendra of the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy, in collaboration with E. W. Information Systems, Ltd.

The visit of Deepika Reddy is sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

A release from the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy states that Deepika Reddy is acclaimed as a fine exponent of Kuchipudi style of dance and has won a number of prestigious awards, including the "Kala Ratna" the highest state award. Kuchipudi is a dance form



Deepika Reddy

originated in the Kuchipudi Village in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh adds the release.

Those interested may collect their invitations from the Assistant High Commission office between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

"Lire En Fête 2008" at Alliance Francaise

"Lire En Fête 2008" (Reading Festival) organized by the French Embassy in Sri Lanka and Alliance Française de Colombo will take place on the 17th & 18th of October 2008.

In France "Lire en fête" is an event dedicated to literature and reading which is celebrated each year in October. All four Alliance Française in Sri Lanka organize a multitude of events to celebrate the literature and the readings.

Two evenings are organized in Colombo:

The French version of the play *Midnight Train* (Train de minuit) written by Senaka Abeyratne will be read on the 17th at Alliance Française de Colombo.

The following day (18th October) "Writers on Stage: an evening of readings and melodies" will take place at the Russian Cultural Centre inviting the audience for readings by two Sri Lankan writers, Carl Muller and Lishan Perera, and for an original performance of *Melodies* by two young French musicians, Charlotte Plasse, (lyric singer) and Martin Surot (pianist) making a brilliant fusion with a Sri Lankan narrator Yasmine Rajapakse.

Maestro at tickling the ivories

I met Paul Perera at a silver wedding party recently. His fingers on the piano were truly remarkable. That night he played light music for starters. As the party was "hotting" up, he was activated and the hands moved faster and the music became a louder until the crowd were well entertained. The sing-along was great, with 80% of the gents, with glasses in their hands, singing away some of the old time favourite party songs.

Paul started music as a church organist by playing for mass at St. Mathias Church, Moratuwa, and at Christ Church, Dehiwala. He also played the guitar and piano for Youth for Christ. He started his musical career in 1970 by playing for "Haze with Christine Gamalathge" and then joined the band "Reflections".

In 1974, he was introduced by Annesley Malawana to Clarence Wijewardena and he joined the "Super Golden Chimes" as the original keyboardist of the group. His very first performance was at the "Agro 74 Carnival" where the group played on a floating stage at St. Joseph's College, followed by a dance at the College Hall. He played for all the 'Original Super Golden Chimes Re-Union Concerts' held in memory of the Late Clarence, held at the BMICH, and in L.A., New York, St Francisco, Chicago and Canada.

He played for the concert held by Annesley at the BMICH to celebrate his 40 years in showbiz.

From 1976 to 1979, he played for the 'Moonstones' under the management of Caves Entertainments.

From 1980 to 2007 he was



by Yvonne F. Keerthisingha

with Sohan and the X'periments under the management of Sohan Weerasinghe, performing in Sri Lanka and overseas in countries such as the USA, France, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia Hongkong, Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh, New Delhi, Maldives, Oman, Dubai, Abu-Dhabi, Qatar and Baharain.

He started as a solo pianist,



Young Pual

five years he has been playing at the California Grill Roof Top Restaurant of the Galadari Hotel and now continues to play at the Trans Asia Lobby, too.

Taking to Paul, I found him to be rather quiet and shy; not a big talker, but he knows 'his onions'. Actually, looking at him one will never say he's a wizard at the piano but just listen to him and you will be spell-bound.

He is happily married to Arsha who is an art teacher and



Paul at a show

when Malcom, of Dream Team, gave him the opportunity to play at the Papparozzi Restaurant. They also played short stints at the Mount Lavinia Hotel and at the Continental Hotel. For the past

they have two sons. Paul says he has hardly any time for other matters as he is heavily involved in playing all the time, but of course, he finds the time to spend with his family.



Heartwarming Italian Concert

A heartwarming Italian concert, including Sri Lanka's topmost choirs and the country's renowned singers, will be staged at the Russian Cultural Center, 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07, on 10th October 2008 from 6.30 p.m.

At a time when Italian music has gained popularity among Sri Lankan lovers of western music, the "Spettacolo Culturale di Danza e Musica" makes its entry to dish out an Italian salad of operatic composition and Neapolitan songs of the bye gone era. The first half will reflect the glory of Italy and the second half the sounds and sights of Sri Lanka.

This outstanding concert, which will cater to the taste of discerning audi-

ence, is organized by the Sri Lanka Italian Friendship Society under the leadership of Shirely Perera - Vice President who is a great musician, trained in Italy.

The great music traditions of Italy and the dance traditions of Sri Lanka will come alive when the following items will be presented by excellent performers.

The event is intended to foster closer cultural and social ties between the two countries which has a history of over 2000 years.

The programme will be include:

- Al canto del cuco, La carnacchia del canda, Quell'uccellino ch'e chiuso in gabbia, Junior Choir - trained and conducted - by Peshali Yapa.

- Per pleta, bellidol mio by Bellini Nilanka Munesinghe.
- Torana a Surriento - De Curtis by Dushyanth Aluwihare.
- Non so piu, cosa son, cosa faccio - Mozart from the Marriage of Figaro - Oshini Siriwardena.
- Sleve amiche - Antonia Caldara, Nel cor piu non misento - Giovanni Paisiello by Teuta Nicolet - soprano.
- Nobil Singor Salute - from Hognuts by Meyerbeer - by Joanne Aloysius.
- O luce di quest'anima - Donizetti from Linda di Chamounix by Tahane Aluwihare.
- Quando m'en vo - Puccini from La Boheme by Dhanushi Wijeyakulasuriya.
- O sole mio - Di Capua by Eraj de

- Silva.
 - Funicuil, funicula - Luigi Denza by Jehan Fernando.
 - Danza, danza faciulla gentile - Francesco Durante - Senior Choir - Trained and conducted - by Peshali Yapa.
 - Nella fantasia-E, Marricone - Solo Peshali Yapa
 - Il bacio - Arditi by Menaka de Fonseka Sahabandu.
 - Con te patiro - F. Sartari, L. Quarantotto and F. Peterson, Senior Choir - Trained and conducted by Peshali Yapa.
- The spectacular 2nd half section of the concert will include the following dance items.
- a. Pooja Dance

- b. Guuruvanakkam
 - c. Giridevi
 - d. Mangalam
 - e. Fusion
 - f. Falk Dance
- Rev. Fr. Saravi, the world famous performing Art Director, too, will be involved in the theatre side of the production.
- This event "Spettacolo Culturale di Danza e Musica" is a "never to be missed concert" and comes with the assurance that it will be a unique and memorable "Sri Lanka - Italian evening".
- Tickets are available at the Russian Centre and are priced at Rs. 750/-. Special tickets available for students at Rs. 500/-.