

FUTURE WAVES

BRAIN TEASER 2007

MAY 6, 2007

AT THE TRANS ASIA HOTEL-KINGS COURT

COMPILER/ QUIZ MASTER

RUWAN SENANAYAKE



ROUND 1.

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| 1 | The World's five leading Gas exporting countries, led by Russia, met in April 2007, to discuss about creating an OPEC-like gas cartel during their Gas Exporting Countries Forum. Where was this meeting held? | Doha, Qatar |
| 2 | A river that rises in Karnataka and flows into the Bay of Bengal through Tamil Nadu has been the reason for a century old water dispute between the two Indian states. Can you name this river? | River Cauvery |
| 3 | (Visual) Head of Iran's national Security Council and the lead nuclear negotiator is thought to have played a prominent role in changing the hard-line attitude of the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in ending the 13-day stand-off over British naval personnel held by Iran recently. Who is this pragmatic official? | Ali Larijani |
| 4 | (visual) In April, a Russian spacecraft carried two crew and a billionaire space tourist to the International Space Station (ISS). It is reported that this Hungarian born software engineer, the world's fifth space tourist, had paid \$25 million for the trip which involved spending 10 days aboard the ISS. Who is he? | Charles Simonyi |
| 5 | Maddona, the 48-year old London based American pop star sparked a controversy when she adopted a one- year old Malawi boy from an orphanage last year. She was accused by adoption groups of using her celebrity status to bypass laws about foreigners adopting from Malawi. What is the name of this adopted boy? | David Banda |
| 6 | (Visual) Recently, all charges against this former Chairwoman of Hewlett-Packard were dropped against the boardroom-spying scandal. She resigned last year after it was revealed that external investigators employed by HP had used false pretences to gain access to the private records of board members in order to flush out a leak. Who was the HP Chairwoman who resigned over this scandal? | Patricia Dunn |
| 7 | The Kazakhstan government recently announced that it has secured a multi-million dollar loan to help save Aral Sea. Aral sea was once the world's fourth largest inland body of water and is fast disappearing due to human intervention, which led United Nations to describe it as the worst man-made environmental disaster. Aral sea is landlocked between Kazakhstan and which other Central Asian country? | Uzbekistan |

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| 8 | Those of you who have been watching the Cricket World Cup on TV last month may have seen the beautiful Sir Vivian Richard's Cricket Ground. Built in partnership with China, this cricket ground has underground passageways for the movement of players, and two five-story north and South Stands also as major attractions. In which west Indian Island is this cricket ground located? | Antigua |
| 9 | (visual) Recently an Australian pleaded guilty to a charge of helping al-Qaeda fight American troops in Afghanistan. His case was the first trial under a new system of military courts held at Guantanamo Bay. This case became a hot political issue in Australia, where the government has been criticized for not intervening on this person's behalf. Who is he? | David Hicks |
| 10. | Recently, a new mineral matching the unique chemistry of the fictitious Kryptonite, as described in the film Superman Returns-has been found in a mine in Serbia. The new mineral cannot be called Kryptonite under international nomenclature rules, because it has nothing to do with krypton a real element in the Periodic Table that takes the form of a gas. Instead it will be formerly named after the place where the Serbian mine is located. What is the proposed name for this new mineral? | Jaderite (named after Jadar, the place where the Serbian mine is located) |

ROUND 2

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| 1 | During the 2007 Cricket World Cup, Lasith Malinga became the first bowler to take four wickets in four balls in international cricket when he almost bowled Sri Lanka to a dramatic win over South Africa. But when he took the third of his four wickets he joined a group of four men who previously had achieved hat-tricks in the World Cup. Who was the first bowler to take a hat-trick in a World Cup cricket match? | Chetan Sharma (India v NZ in 1987) |
| 2 | (visual) A film shown to students of engineering and architecture around the world as an example of the potential destructive force of resonance, in which a mile –long suspension bridge in the US state of Washington became famous when its collapse was filmed in 1940. What is this bridge? | Tacoma Narrows Bridge |
| 3 | 2006 Asian Games were held in Doha. Which city will host the 2010 Asian Games? | Guangzhou China |
| 4. | On April 2, two earthquakes measuring 7.6 and 9 on the Richter scale caused tsunami waves some 10 meters high and devastated the Solomon Islands killing over 50 people, and leaving about 7000 homeless. With a population of about 550,000, this island group is a popular tourist destination, and local residents rely mainly on tourism for income. What is the capital city of Solomon island? | Honiara |
| 5 | The 14 th SAARC Summit was held in New Delhi on April 3-4, with the participation of the leaders of respective SAARC countries. Where will be the 15 th Summit Meeting of the Heads of Governments of SAARC are scheduled to be held? | Maldives |
| 6. | At the 2007 Academy or Oscar Awards, a documentary about the environment, featuring former US Vice President Al Gore, won the Award for the Best Documentary Feature. What is the name of this documentary? | An Inconvenient Truth |
| 7 | A filmmaker of Sri Lankan origin won the Best Short Film Award for his entry” Do Not Erase” at the BAFTA Awards this year. Who is he? | Asitha Amarasekera |
| 8 | He was the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for describing the essential process of gene copying in cells, research that can give an insight into illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. Who is the 2006 Chemistry Nobel Prize winning scientist? | Roger Kornberg (His father, Arthur also won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1959) |
| 9 | What is the scientific term given to the fictional force, which appears to deflect the motion of bodies over a rotating surface, such as the surface of a spinning planet? | Coriolis effect |
| 10 | Which Ceylonese, at his own expense built the Bacteriological Institute (now known as MRI, or medical research institute), which was the first bacteriological institute in the whole of Asia? | Charles Henry de Zoyza |

ROUND 3

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| 1 | (Visual) Dubbed as “Little Sweetie” by the Hong Kong Press, Asia’s richest woman, with assets worth \$ 4.2 billion, died recently. Can you name her? | Nina Wang |
| 2 | <i>Who Moved My Cheese?</i> Is an amusing and enlightening story of four characters who live in a maze and look for cheese to nourish them and make them happy. Cheese is a metaphor for what you want to have in your life-whether it is a good job, a loving relationship, money, health or spiritual peace of mind. And the maze is where your look for what you want-the organization you work in, or the family or community you live in? Who wrote this best-seller? | Dr. Spencer Johnson |
| 3 | EFTPOS is a debit card mechanism, which allows bank customers to use their debit cards to purchase goods and services online debiting of their own current/savings accounts while crediting the trader’s account overnight. EFTPOS, which was introduced to Sri lanka in 1994, have gradually become a substitute for cash and cheques. What does EFTPOS stand for? | Electronic Fund Transfer at Point of Sale |
| 4 | Skype is a peer –to-peer internet telephony network based in Luxembourg, founded in 2003 by Niklas Zennstrom and his colleague. Who is the other co-founder of Skype? | Janus Friis |
| 5 | VoIP is a technology that allows you to make calls using a broad band internet connection instead of regular phone lines. What does VoIP stand for? | Voice over Internet Protocol |
| 6 | Who is the current CEO of Microsoft? | Steve Ballmer |
| 7 | With revenue of \$ 351 million, what is ranked the number one company in U.S. in 2006? | Wal Mart Stores |
| 8 | (Visual) . “Where have All The Leaders Gone” is his latest and the third book which was just out. Who is this 82-year old former Chrysler Chairman and CEO? | Lee Iacocca |
| 9 | In April, an Indian made rocket, a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), successfully launched an Italian satellite. This event marked the launch of India’s first commercial rocket. Can you name India’s rocket launching base in South India? | Sriharikota |
| 10 | (visual) They, according to Greek mythology, are a race of creatures, part horse and part man, living in the mountains or Thessaly and Arcadia. They were often depicted drawing Dionysus’ chariot or ridden by Eros, in reference to their drunken and amorous habits? Who were they? | Centaurs |

ROUND 4

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| 1 | (Visual) This 22 year old Manchester United's winger recently has been named the Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year by the Professional Footballers' Association. He is the first player to win both awards in the same season since Andy Gray in 1977. Who is he? | Cristiano Ronaldo |
| 2 | MRI or Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technique essentially involves producing a three dimensional image of organs and other soft tissue that could not be seen by x-rays. The Nobel Prize winning scientist, who is called the father of MRI, died on March 27 th this year aged 77. Can you name him? | Paul Lauterbur |
| 3 | Bhutan, the tiny Himalayan Kingdom is situated on the southeast slope of the Himalayas. Its capital is Thimpu, and the traditional name of the country is Drukylu, or the Land of the Drokpa (dragon people). What is the monetary unit of Bhutan? | Ngultrum |
| 4 | Kibera is arguably Africa's largest slum, Containing approximately one million people. In which capital city is it located? | Nairobi (Kenya) |
| 5 | This great Ceylonese scholar was the author of works such as "Ancient irrigation works of Ceylon", "Dutch Furniture in Ceylon" and "Changing Faces of Colombo". Who was he? | Dr. R. L De Brohier (Richard Leslie Brohier) |
| 6 | Barbados was the venue of 2007 cricket World Cup Final. What symbol features prominently on the flag of Barbados? | A trident |
| 7 | In astronomy, what is the term given to the minimum distance at which a large natural satellite can orbit its primary body without being torn apart by tidal forces. If satellite and primary body are of similar composition, the theoretical limit is 2.5 times the radius of the larger body. | Roche limit |
| 8 | Also the name of a recent animated comedy film, which island is the world's leading producer of vanilla? | Madagascar |
| 9 | In 1959, The co-founder of Mattel toys invented the famous Barbie Doll, and named it after her daughter Barbara. Who was the inventor of Barbie Doll? | Ruth Handler |
| 10 | This country holds the record for the largest number of Maritime boundaries; i.e. 19 (including boundaries with disputed territorial claims). What is this country? | Indonesia |

ROUND 5

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| 1 | After the establishment of the Central Bank of Ceylon, first currency note issued by the Bank had been a Rs.10 note, with the date 20.01.1951. Whose portrait appeared on this note? | Late King George VI |
| 2 | The first city to get Municipality status in Sri Lanka was Colombo-on Nov. 25, 1865. Sri Lanka-then Ceylon- was under the British as a Crown colony and the Governor, representing the monarch of England was the head of the country's administration. Who was the British governor who was instrumental in getting the Legislative Council to pass legislation setting up the Colombo Municipal Council? | Sir Hercules Robinson |
| 3 | We all know of and sometimes experience various phobia. Which is the only phobia that is a physical disease and not a state of mind? | Hydrophobia(rabies) |
| 4 | In literature, what is the term given to a satirical piece of work or an attack on a person? | Lampoon |
| 5 | This element, discovered in 1879, has the element number 62, and was the first element to be named after an individual. The most resistant element to demagnetization, it is used in the manufacture of personal stereos, lasers, and film studio lights. What is this element? | Samarium(named after Vasilli Samarski-bykovets, Chief of Staff of the Russian Corps of Mining Engineers) |
| 6 | On 31 st August 1997, Diana, the Princess of Wales dies in a car crash in Paris. So August 31, 2007 will be the 10 th anniversary of this tragic accident. Who was the only survivor of the Paris car crash which killed Diana? | Trevor-Reese Jones |
| 7 | The aqueous humour and vitreous humour are in which part of the human body? | The eye |
| 8 | Angel falls is the highest waterfall in the world, with a height of 979 m. But in which country is Tugela Falls the second highest waterfall in the world with a height of 850m? | South Africa |
| 9 | For the first time in the history of Chess, an Asian became World No 1 ranked player in April 2007. Who is he? | Viswanathan Anand |
| 10 | Fernando Alonso emerged triumphant at the Malaysian Grand Prix held at Sepang on April 8. But who was the British driver who set a record by becoming the first driver for 43 years to reach the podium in his first two Formula One races when he took a brilliant second place ? | Lewis Hamilton |

TIE BREAKERS

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| 1 | At the 2007 Oscar Awards, the film Happy Feet won the award for the Best Animated Feature Film. Which Australian directed this film? | George Miller |
| 2 | During the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, Australia's Mathew Hayden broke the world record set by Sachin Tendulkar for the highest aggregate of runs in a Single World Cup tournament. How many runs did Mathew Hayden score during the 2007 World Cup held in West Indies? | 659 |
| 3 | What is the name of the spacecraft launched by NASA in 2004 to test two effects namely geodetic effect, and frame dragging as predicted by Einstein in his general theory of relativity? Early results from the mission indicate that the great man was right about at least one of them. | Gravity Probe – B |
| 4 | This Australian company is regarded as the world's largest explosives company. It began by supplying gold mines in the 19 th century. Recently it rejected a A\$ 10 billion (\$ 8.3 billion) buy-out from a private –equity consortium. What is this world's largest explosives company? | Orica |
| 5 | After Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, who was the third man to walk on the moon? | Charles" Pete" Conrad |
| 6 | At the seventh World Swimming Championships held in Melbourne recently, which Australian female swimmer bagged five gold medals? | Libby Lenton |
| | A deltiologist is a collector of what? | postcards |
| | Which former Brazilian Formula One champion's record did Fernando Alonso break by becoming the youngest Formula One World Champion in 2005? | Emerson Fitipaldi |
| | In economics, what is the term given to the belief that the individual is not the best judge of his or her own self interest; i.e. the belief that someone else knows better? | Paternalism |
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AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

AUDIENCE QUESTION NO. 01

It is regarded as the most common surname in the world. China alone has 87 million people with this surname. What is it?

Li

AUDIENCE QUESTION NO. 02

What was the sequel to Anita Loos' book 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes'?

Gentlemen Marry Brunettes

AUDIENCE QUESTION NO. 03

Buck and Boomer are the names for the male of which animal?

Kangaroo