

WISDOM 2009
“The Ultimate Quiz Challenge”

Saturday 19th September 2009
at
Galle Face Hotel

Quiz Master – Ruwan Senanayake
Sri Lanka Representative International Quizzing Association

ROUND 1: CURRENT AFFAIRS

1	Recently, Scotland faced international outrage over its decision to free the only person convicted of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 above the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing all 270 people on board. This person, a Libyan national, was released on compassionate grounds as he is dying of cancer. Who is he?	Abdelbaset Ali al-Meghrahi
2	On 23 rd August this year Stafania Fernandez of Venezuela was crowned Miss Universe 2009, by Diana Mendoza, last year's winner. This is the first time in the history of the pageant that same country won the crown in consecutive years. Which country was the venue for this year's Miss Universe pageant?	Bahamas
3	The former President of South Korea, known for his "Sunshine Policy" of pursuing engagement with North Korea died recently.. Can you name him?	Kim Dae-Jung
4	(visual) This 64 year old former lawyer and diplomat was elected unopposed by the Indian parliament as its first woman Speaker, after a sweeping victory for the Congress in the recent general elections. Who is she?	Meira Kumar
5	The former President of Zambia, was recently cleared of corruption charges after a long court case. It was the first time that a former African head of state had faced a credible trial in his own country for such offences. Who is this former President of Zambia?	Frederick Chiluba
6	Recently, Britain removed the elected government and assembly of one of its overseas territories in West Indies, and reimposed direct rule from London, after an official inquiry found signs of "systematic corruption". What is this territory?	Turks and Caicos Islands
7	The Canada based Company which makes the Blackberry mobile phone, is recently named the world's fastest-growing company, according to business magazine Fortune's 100 fastest growing businesses. What is this company?	Research in Motion (RIM),
8	Keeping unaccounted money hidden in Swiss banks has been a controversial, but routine practice internationally. But the veil of secrecy was partially lifted when a big Swiss bank recently agreed to provide names of 4450 clients who are US citizens suspected of hiding assets in their accounts to the Inland Revenue Service. What is the name of this Swiss bank?.	UBS (or UBS AG)
9	(visual) What you see is a picture of Maharani of Jaipur, who died on July 29 th , aged 90. She was once named as one of the 10 most beautiful women in the world by prestigious Vogue magazine. In 1962, She ran for Parliament and won her constituency(Rajasthan) in the Lok Sabha with the world's largest landslide, winning 192,909 votes out of 246,516 cast. Can you name her?	Gayathri Devi / Rajmatha of Jaipur

10	.Sri Lanka Customs Department,established in 1809, recently celebrated its bicentenary. To mark the bicentennial, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka issued a frosted proof silver commemorative coin. What is the denomination of this coin?	Rs.200
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ROUND 2: SPORTS

1	.At the recently concluded Athletic World Championships in Berlin, 22- year old Usain Bolt of Jamaica set a new world record in the 100 meters sprint. What was his record timing in the 100m?	9.58 seconds.
2	In August this year, a Zimbabwean batsman equaled the highest individual one day international cricket score by hammering 194 runs off 156 balls against Bangladesh. By doing so he equaled the previous record set by Pakistan's Saeed Anvar in 1997. Name this Zimbabwean batsman?	Charles Coventry
3	Founded in 1881 in Liege, Belgium, this is the world's oldest international sports federation. Can you name it?	The International Federation of Gymnastics
4	(visual) This batsman holds the world record for the most consecutive Test innings (119) without scoring a duck or getting out for no score. He achieved this feat between 1982and 1990. Can you name him?	David Gower(England)
5	With a population of more than 2.5 million people, the 2010 Winter Olympic venue will be the largest metropolitan area ever to host a Winter Olympic Games. What is this low- altitude seaport city with a relatively mild oceanic climate?	Vancouver
6	(visual) Born in Bulgaria of Turkish descent, he was nicknamed” Pocket Hercules”, due to his small stature(4ft 10inches in height). He won Golds in men's weightlifting in three consecutive Olympics. In 1988, Turkey paid Bulgaria \$1 million to allow him to compete for Turkey in Seoul Olympics. Who is this Champion weightlifter?	Naim Suleymanoglu/Naim Suleimanov
7	In the recently concluded US Open Women's Tennis Singles final at Flushing Meadows, New York, Kim Clijsters completed her incredible return to Grand Slam with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Dane Caroline Woznaicki to become the first mother since 1980 to win a Grand Slam final. Who was the last woman (mother)to achieve this feat way back in 1980 at Wimbledon, by defeating Chris Evert?	Evonne Goolagong Cawley
8	(visual) It was called the “ Rumble in the Jungle”, a contest held in Kinshasa, Zaire in 1974 for the world heavyweight boxing title between which two boxing greats?Give both names.	Mohammad Ali and George Forman

9	The 1994 Formula One season was a tragic one, resulting in deaths of both Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger. Both these drivers died at the same Grand Prix race. Name this unfortunate Grand Prix race.	San Marino Grand Prix
10	The 2009 Tour de France was won by Alberto Contador. It was the 96th edition of one of cycling's Grand Tours. The race which started on July 4 th covered six countries, and finished on July 26 th on the Champs -Elysees in Paris. In which country or principality did this years' Tour de France commence with a 15km individual time trial?	Monaco(Monaco , France , Spain , Andorra , Switzerland and Italy .)

ROUND 3: SCIENCE , SPACE AND ASTRONOMY

1	Last month, Bio Diversity Protection Unit of Sri Lanka Customs foiled an attempt to export a consignment of unauthorized 1500kg of endemic plant <i>Aponogeton crispus</i> , a species restricted to export under the Forest Ordinance of Sri Lanka. What is the common or more popular name of this aquatic plant?	Kekatiya
2	Discovered in 1996 by Professor Sigurd Hoffman and his team of scientists at the Centre for Heavy iron Research in Germany the element 112 in the Periodic table recently has been given the symbol Cp, in honour of a certain 15 th Century astronomer, by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry(IUPAC). What is the name given to this new element?	Copernicium
3	Name the U.S. Scientist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine in 1952 for his discovery of streptomycin?	Selman A Waksman
4	An air brake is a conveyance braking system applied by means of compressed air. Modern trains rely upon a fail-safe air brake system that is based upon a design patented on March 5 th 1872 by which American inventor?	George Westinghouse
5	Christmas day 2008,marked the 100 th death anniversary of this remarkable Ceylonese pioneer planetary observer. Operating from his observatory in Trincomalee, he made remarkable maps of planets mars and Jupiter at the beginning of the 20 th century to be regarded as one of the finest amateur planetary observers of his time. In 1973, The International Astronomical Union named one of the largest craters on planet mars in his honour. Who was this great	Percy B Molesworth

	Ceylonese planetary observer?	
6	(visual) What you see in the picture is a hypothetical “ tunnel” connecting two different points in space time in such a way that a trip through this tunnel could take much less time than a journey between the same starting and ending points in normal space. The ends of this tunnel, in theory, could be within the same universe(intra-universe) or exist in different universes(inter-universe). What is the popular term in astronomy, coined by physicist John Wheeler, in identifying these tunnels?	Wormholes (aka. Einstein-Rosen Bridge)
7	The Healthcare and Nutrition Ministry recently announced that in its efforts to combat dengue, a bacteria produced both in Sri Lanka and Cuba would be used as a subsidiary strategy to destroy the dengue mosquito larvae. By what name is this bacteria identified?	BTI (Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis)
8	Recently The Indian Space Research Organization announced the termination of its \$78 million inaugural moon mission after scientists lost communication with the orbiting spacecraft. What is the name given to this unmanned spacecraft launched last October in what was billed as a two-year mission of exploration?	Chandrayaan 1
9	Name the fundamental law or principle of science that explains the rising of a balloon filled with helium up in the air.	Archimedes Principle
10	.The element with the so-called “magical” atomic number of 50 also has the largest number of stable isotopes in the Periodic Table. Can you name this element?	Tin(Sn)

ROUND 4 : HISTORY, ARTS, LITERATURE , ENTERTAINMENT

1	According to legend of Ramayana, Prince Rama wages war against the forces of the Lankan king Ravana to bring back his Princess Seetha. Seetha was kidnapped by Ravana in retaliation to the inhumane treatment of his sister by Rama’s brother Lakshmana. Name this sister of Ravana, whose ears and nose were cut-off by Lakshmana	Suparnika
2	This year marks the 200 th death anniversary of this GREAT Austrian composer. He was one of the most important, prolific and prominent composers of the classical period. He is often called the "Father of the Symphony " and "Father of the String Quartet" because of his important contributions to these genres. He was also instrumental in the development of the piano trio and in the evolution of sonata form. Who was he?	Haydn (full name Franz Joseph Haydn)
3	(Visual) In Greek and Roman mythology, what name is given to	Gorgons

	the female monsters Euryale, Medusa and Stheno who has snakes for hair and their glances turned mortals to stones?	
4	(Video Clip) . What you Will see and hear is a video clip of Michael Jackson performing, and the next question is related to this video.(Play video). <i>I'm starting with the Man in the mirror. I am Asking Him to change His Ways. And No message Could have Been any Clearer. If you wanna Make the world a Better Place. Take a Look At yourself, and Then Make A Change.</i> .Man in the Mirror is a great self-message song written by Michael and Siedah Garret. What is the Album which features this song?	Bad
5	Queen Anula was one of the most notorious and interesting characters in Sri Lankan history. She kept on poisoning and killing her consorts or husbands on her way to power. Name the person who put an end to this bizarre chapter in Sri Lankan history by killing Queen Anula to become the king of Sri Lanka?	King Kutakanna Tissa
6	Award-winning filmmaker, actor, and scriptwriter, Tissa Abeysekera passed away in April this year. He was also a political activist, a critic and an academic. For which famous novel did he win the 1996 Gratiaen Prize for the best piece of Creative writing in English by a resident Sri Lankan?	'Bringing Tony Home'.
7	In the colonial scramble for Africa in the 1880s only two nations or states remained under native rule. One was Ethiopia. Which is the other?	Liberia
8	(visual) At the 2009 Oscar Awards, The film Slumdog Millionaire won 8 Awards including the Best Picture Award. This movie is based on a debut novel titled Q &A by an Indian author who is also a diplomat. Who is he?	Vikas Swarup
9	At the recently concluded 2009 State Literary Awards festival, Sunethra Rajakarunanayake won the Award for Best Sinhala novel written in 2008. What was her novel?	'Podu Purushaya'
10	(video clip) What you just saw was a video clip from the movie “ Last King of Scotland”. The actor who performed the role of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin won the best actor Academy Award in 2007 for his exceptional acting . Name this actor who won the Best Actor Academy Award for his performance as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.	Forrest Whitaker

ROUND 5 : GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1	Along with that of Saudi Arabia and Moldova, this is the only national flag in the world to have different emblems on the obverse (front) and reverse (back). The front of the flag has the country's state coat of arms on it, and the back has the country's Treasury Seal. What is this country?	Paraguay
2	Amazon.com is the world's largest online bookshop with over 69 million active customer accounts. With a catalogue of over 40 million items on sale, it is also the largest online shop in the world. Who founded Amazon.com in 1994?	Jeff Bezos.
3	What country is home to the largest population of camels in the wild, numbering over 200,000?	Australia
4	OTEC is a method for generating electricity which uses the temperature difference that exists between deep and shallow waters to run a heat engine. As with any heat engine, the greatest efficiency and power is produced with the largest temperature difference. What does the acronym OTEC stand for?	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
5	(visual) The man known as the father of the Green Revolution in agriculture, died last week at the age of 95. He was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in agricultural innovation and the development of high yield crops helping the world food production more than double between 1960 and 1990 with Asia, Africa and Latin America in particular benefiting. Who was he?	Norman Borlaug
6	Mahaveli is the longest river in Sri Lanka, with a length of 335.km. It comprises of several tributaries or branches. What is the largest tributary of river Mahaveli?	Amban Ganga
7	Greenland is the world's largest island. Formerly a province of Denmark, it gained the status of an autonomous Danish dependent territory with limited self-government as well as its own parliament in 1979. What is the capital /chief city of Greenland?	Nuuk(Godthab)
8	The Independence Memorial Hall of Sri Lanka stands on the site of the temporary Assembly Hall, where the first Parliament was inaugurated by the Duke of Gloucester on 4 th February 1949. This monument was designed by the then architect of the Public Works Department , who was the chief architect of the government for	Tom Neville Wynne -Jones

	almost twenty years, from 1935-1953. Who was he?	
9	This bird lives in Southern and Eastern Africa. It can weigh up to 18 kg and is considered the heaviest flying bird in the world. What is the name of this bird?	Kori bustard 9 (<i>Ardeotis kori</i>)
10	Arrangements are being made by the Census and Statistics Department to conduct Sri Lanka's first nationwide census in 2011, covering all 25 administrative districts for the first time in 30 years following the end of a decades long war. The first systematic countrywide population census to be organized along modern principals was held under the direction of W.J MacCarthy, Registrar General in the British colonial regime in Ceylon. Which year was this?	1871

TIE BREAKERS/EXTRA QUESTIONS

ROUND 1

1. This country was suspended from the 53-member Commonwealth of Nations on 1st September 2009, after failing to meet a Commonwealth set deadline for setting the national elections by 2010. What is this country?

Fiji

2. The Chief Minister of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, who is also an influential member of the Congress party, was killed in a Helicopter crash recently. Can you name him?

Rajasekhara Reddy

3. Recently this Sri Lankan from Anuradhapura, created a Guinness World Record by breaking 12 concrete slabs with his head. Each of these concrete slabs was three inches in height, one foot in breadth and four feet long. He broke the previous record set by Narre Laeret of Norway who broke seven concrete slabs with his head. Who is this Lankan?

Wasantha Zoysa

TIE BREAKER ROUND 2

1. America's Justice Department recently charged this man in what is said was the biggest -ever case of identity theft in the United States. He allegedly stole information on 130m credit and debit cards from the computers of several retailers, including 7-Eleven. Known online as "soufnazi" he once worked with the Secret service, helping track down computer hackers. Who is he?

Albert Gonzalez

2. Which country recently became the first member formally to leave the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a trade block formed in 1991 by former Soviet republics to cushion the economic blow of the Soviet Union's collapse.

Georgia

3. The Preparatory Commission for the International Renewable Energy Agency recently designated a certain Middle Eastern city to be the headquarters of the organization? Which city?

Masdar City, Abu Dhabi

