

Asian Pop King

Alston Koch has world in spin with 'The Murali Song'

by Sisira Chandrasekera
SLBC UK Correspondent

Australian music star, Alston Koch who was born in Sri Lanka is storming the charts with a song dedicated to the world champion bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan. The 'Murali Song' is doing well down under as well as the Asian Charts. It has been featured in three continents.

Acclaimed as Asia's King of Pop in the late 70s when his hit song 'Disco Lady' stood on the top of the charts for more than eight weeks in three continents, he was also commissioned to write and perform the album for the America's Cup by the Australian syndicate 'THE KOOK-ABURRAS' who defended the cup for Australia. He performed this song on all international TVs such as BBC, CNN and MTV worldwide. As an international recording and performing artist, Alston has appeared in concerts around the world including London, Copenhagen, Dubai, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia to name a few. Many famous world music critics applauded his talent.

He originally performed with the band 'Dark Tan' in 1970s, but he started his solo career in 1980 by signing up with RCA records. Alston toured the world to promote his international releases writing songs for some of the best publishers in the UK with records and songs released in Europe, Scandinavia and Australasia.

He walked away from his career when he visited Sri Lanka in 1994 and offered his services in an honorary capacity to develop the country of his birth. He introduced the new concept in theme restaurants with Pop star dining cuisine at his 'Rock Cafe' in Sri Lanka which was an instant hit and also launched the first cable TV in the region.

The song, already acclaimed by music critics as a classic, is being launched with the support of cricket website Cricinfo, the online home of cricket, and CDs can be purchased from Sri Lanka Cricket's

official online shop www.srilankacricket-shop.com.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of the CD and DVD will be donated to the 'Foundation of Goodness', a Sri Lankan Charity run by Kushil Gunasekera, Muralidaran's manager and a few other Sri Lankan cricketers including legendary Sri Lankan pace bowler, Chaminda Vass.

To write a song about a living legend was no easy task with months spent in the planning stages by the production team and the Muralidaran Management Team. It was finally recorded in one of the best recording studios in the world in Melbourne, Australia, with award-winning conductor, arranger and producer Jarrod Gilson.

Jarrod Gilson believes it is one of the best tribute songs written and remarks that he now understands why triple Grammy award winner Alicia Keys introduced the singer Alston Koch to the World at a recent MTV awards ceremony as "a legend and a superstar" as he is a dedicated and disciplined perfectionist.

A music video has just been completed and includes footage from some of Muralidaran's greatest triumphs and live footage while the song was being recorded at Oat lands Studios in Melbourne. The music video can now be seen on <http://www.alstonkoch.com>

The song is simply titled 'Murali' and is a number one hit in South Asia. Millions follow cricket in the Indian sub-continent.

The song has three versions and one version is an authentic Australasian Dance Mix featuring some of the best Aboriginal didgeridoo players and musical instruments and ancient tribal chants from India to Afghanistan...Sri Lanka to Australia and cricket crowds from all over the world.



Alston Koch

Panoramic views of Colombo captured in a book

A book Titled 'Colombo Living High-A City in Transition' co-authored by Plnr Nirmala Herath and Plnr Devsriyani Jayasundara will be launched on March 1, at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, No. 100, Independence Square, Colombo 7 at 4.00 p.m.

This publication is an attempt to portray recent developments in the city of Colombo and it provides a vivid description of the environment in Colombo as it exists today, with highrise apartment buildings dominating the cityscape. The inclusion of a City Album takes one across the city in a few minutes. This aspect has been dealt within a background of a number of plans formulated for the development of the city, since colonial times.

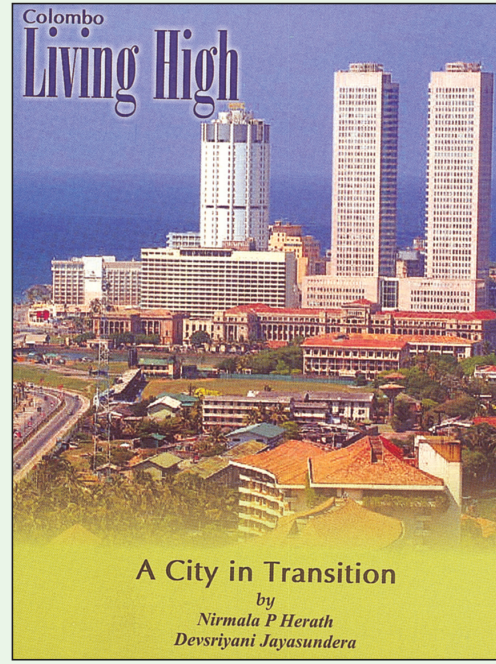
Archt./Planr. Deshabandu Surath Wickramasinghe, President of Chamber of Construction Industry, Sri Lanka writes in his 'Forward' that this book would be very useful, both to Property Developers and all Professionals involved in Urban Development as well as Students in Town Planning, Architecture and related disciplines. The Key Note Address and the Book Review will be made by eminent Planner Prof. Willie Mendis.

This ceremony will be graced by Hon. Dinesh Gunawardane (Minister of Urban Development & Sacred Areas) as the Chief

Guest and Hon. Karu Jayasuriya (Minister of Public Administration & Home Affairs), Hon. Rajitha Senarathne (Minister of Construction & Engineering Services), Mr. Omar Kamil and Mr. Prasanna Gunawardana (former Mayors) and Dr. P Ramanujam (Secretary Ministry of Urban Development) as the Guests of Honour.

The Institute of Town Planners, Sri Lanka has organized to publish "Colombo Living High-A City in Transition" through the Institute and this book could be obtained at an introductory price at the Book Launch.

The Book Launch will be followed by an entertainment programme by Visharada Nanda Malini and Visharada Chandrika Siriwardana.



'Rhythm of Russia' thrills



Rhythm of Russia - 'Rydmir Russi' a tribute to International Women's Day at the Russian Centre in Colombo on March 7, from 6.00pm onwards.

'Rhythm of Russia' is a special fun filled evening for everyone in the family to enjoy Russian and Sri Lankan food, music and lots of entertainment.

'Rydmir Russi' is a yet another event at the Russian Centre after the 'Rusky Veyecher' last year which was a great success.

For reservations, call Chandi on 2685429 or 2565440 to avoid disappointment. Reservations only till March 4, 2008.

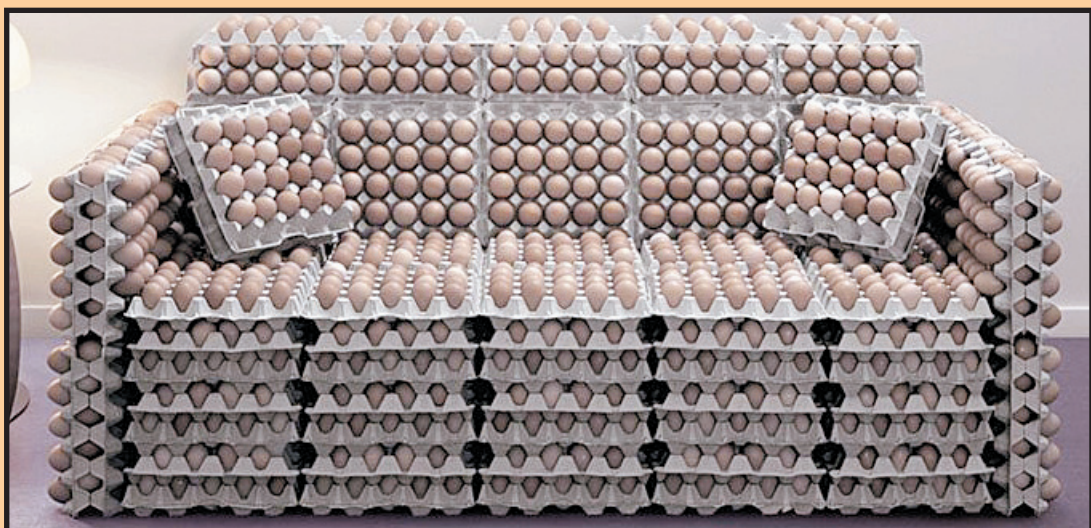
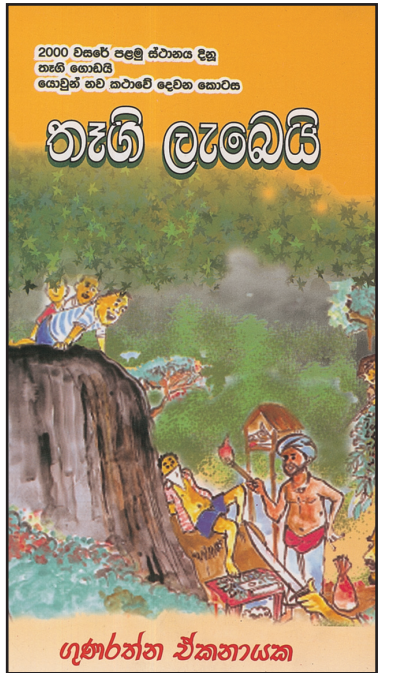
"Thegi" stories in print



Veteran novelist and stage drama producer Gunaratne Ekanayake has published two of his award winning creations 'Thegi Godai' and 'Thegi Labey', fulfilling popular requests by his fans.

The two books were recognised at the All-Island Youth Novel Competition held in the year 2000 and secured first place. 'Thegi Labey' is the continuation of the 'Thegi Godai' novel.

Gunaratne Ekanayake has around 15 novels to his credit. He is also a stage drama producer and his 'Aluth Gewal' is popular among his growing fan club.



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