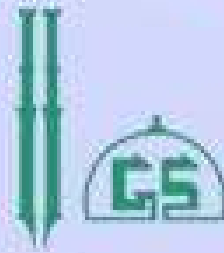


Qul
Rabbi Zidni Ilmna




THE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION SOCIETY 2021/22 PRESENTS

Young Journalists

MUSLIMS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF SRI LANKA

E-Magazine
Edition # **2**



*"O you who believe,
stand firm for justice
even against your own
selves"*

SURAN AN-NISA 4:135





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Principal's Address

Dear Students,

It gives me great pleasure in penning a few words for the 2nd edition of our E-Magazine. The theme of this magazine is 'Muslims who Contributed to the Development of our Nation'. I find this is a very apt topic in today's context. We are all citizens of Sri Lanka and as we all know, Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural country. When we turn the pages of history and look back, our forefathers have played major roles in the development and growth of our beautiful motherland; this is beautifully represented in this magazine. Through this magazine, I hope that all of our students will be inspired and motivated to make their own individual contributions to our country. I hope and pray all of us will play a role in a more united and peaceful Sri Lanka.

I am amazed by the talents our students have displayed during these pandemic years. The idea of amalgamating all formats of media into an e-magazine is truly creative. The resilience that you, students, display constantly amazes me. Many congratulations to the Media and Communication Society, both past and present.

I take this opportunity to thank all the students who took time out to submit their precious submissions.

Your Principal,
Ms. Amina Zuhair


Editors' Letter



Ready to go back in time?

Remember those who contributed towards the unity of the country and stood during the most difficult times of the country's independence movement?

Among them were the Muslim leaders who played a significant role in the Ceylon National Congress between the years 1919 to 1947. From founding institutions to enhance the education and medical sector to associating with various other leaders in promoting peace, these leaders have contributed immensely to our motherland.




The e-magazine is our first ever project as the Media and Communication Society (2021/2022). Things happened swiftly, because we were assigned to work on




this project right after we were appointed as the associates of the Media and Communication Society. When we were informed about this project, we took this as our opportunity to learn new skills and showcase our team work. Brainstorming, thoughts streamed us all into a world full of magnificent ideas. We had to pivot our thoughts on the development of our country by our leaders which is a topic that most of us don't think about.

As a team, we faced many challenges such as difficulties in adaptability, technical issues, time management and so much more. Yet, our team rose up against these challenges, worked all day and night compiling and designing the magazine.



Our objective is to highlight to you how our country was developed by the contributions of our great, courageous and intellectual Muslim leaders. We hope to enthral our audience along their little journey through our e-magazine.



Despite the changes in today's schooling system, the Media and Communication Society was successful in conducting the competition relating to this theme to enrich the knowledge of our students and allow them to express themselves in any way their hearts desired. To trigger the creative side of our young journalists, video entries were accepted as well.

The competition was held online, allowing both Primary and Secondary Schools to submit a range of entries, showcasing their journalism skills. Take a glance with us at some of the amazing entries which stood out from the rest.



"Keep reading, it's one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have"

- Lloyd Alexander.

Pleasant reading to our audience!

-NAZAHAH KHALAF AND FARAH RAFIC
(EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR)

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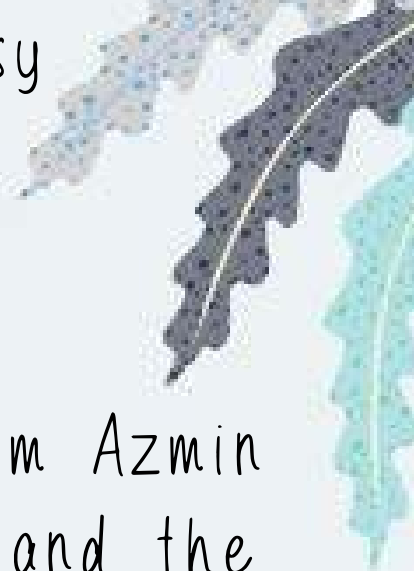
Acknowledgements



We, the members of the Media and Communication Society (2021/2022) would like to express our utmost appreciation to the school and the teachers who constantly guided us throughout the process of creating the e-magazine.


To our Principal, Madam Amina Zuhair; thank you for giving us this golden opportunity of releasing the e-magazine for the second consecutive year. Having received this unique theme about the development of our nation, without doubt it has enhanced our knowledge and opened a pathway to showcase our patriotism towards our motherland.





To Madam Gnei Sharmaleen Girsy (Vice Principal Senior), Madam Nasika Thoutteek (Vice Principal Academic), Madam Sarah Hussain (Vice Principal Technical), Madam Azmin Ziyard (Vice Principal Primary) and the sectional heads and deputy sectional heads; thank you for assisting and giving us this responsibility of making it possible to publish the e-magazine.

To Miss Saranya Ariharan (Coordinator of the co-curricular activities); thank you for approving our content and assisting us throughout the compilation process.



To Miss Maleeha Zubair and the Shariah Committee; we thank you for putting your immense effort in making sure the content of our e-magazine is according to

the Shariah guidelines.

To the teacher in charge of the Media and Communication Society, Miss Mass Shiara Usuf and Society Teacher Miss Fazna Imtiaz ; thank you for being our pillars of support who pushed us in endeavoring our goals in the preparation of the magazine.

To Miss Praveena Dulpandan Aniff, Miss Khadijah Iman Hitath and Miss Mona Zaneeter; thank you for taking your time in editing and proofreading the content of the magazine and adding to its worthiness.

To our supporting student advisors (2020/2021); we are extremely glad for your endless advice and reassurance which surely proved to enlighten us during this wonderful experience.

Lastly, to all those who participated dedicatedly and designed the magazine remarkably with their personal creative skills, we would like to extend our unfeigned gratitude to you. Your entries certainly made this magazine complete.





Sri Lankan Pride

Sri Lanka is an island like no other
Race, caste, religion does not matter,
In helping to build the land up high,
Lots of efforts did many try.

A home for many patriots,
Never did they think of that!
Known not to many people, untold
A legend left for us to behold.

Many religions did unite,
Untold history for us to take pride
Some gave in silent honour,
Let us not forget them for ever and ever.
In uplifting our mother land's soul,
Muslims too played an important role.

Aaminah Aneeq
404

A. M. A. AZEEZ

A. M. A. Azeez, a reputed Sri Lankan Muslims intellectual, was born in Vannarponni, Jaffna on October 4, 1911.

He joined as the first Muslim civil servant and worked in various positions in different parts of the country for 13 years. In 1948, he became the principal and developed Zahira College.

Azeez thought that modern education is the only tool for the progress and upward social habilitation of the Muslim community from its backwardness. He formed the Ceylon Muslim fund in 1945 that helped thousands of needy Muslim students to continue their education.

He gave strong leadership to the Muslim community in Sri Lanka for more than three decades from the early 1940s and he will be remembered forever.

He passed away on November 26th, 1973 at age of 62. He was very much respected by both Muslims and Tamils and also by the Sinhalese for his service to the communities and the nation.

Lifra Rizam
301

The Life of T. B. Jayah

Maimuna Razoon
8N1

Contributions of T. B. Jayah

Azka Rshad
10N1

Muslims who contributed to the development of Sri Lanka

Muslims have been living in serenity and unanimity in this picturesque island for over a century. They have been collaborating and fortifying for the solidarity and honour of Sri Lanka since the pre-colonial times. The European colonial rule had been put to an end in 1948, when different communities, including the Muslims unanimously fought against the British. Many still remember the service rendered by the following Muslim leaders;

Dr. T. B. Jayah:

Tuan Burhanudeen Jayah was a Sri Lankan educationalist, politician, diplomat and a leader of the Muslim community. He was a school teacher at first and then retired as a principal of Zahira College 27 years later. He had studied at St. Thomas' College and the University of London. Moreover, he became a part of the United National Party in 1946.



Sir Razik Fareed:

Fareed was a Ceylonese proprietor, politician, diplomat and a philanthropist. He was the former Cabinet Minister of Trade, Senator, Member of Parliament and State Council. He had also served as Ceylon's High Commissioner in Pakistan. Furthermore, he studied at Royal College and was part of the United National Party in 1965.

Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel:

Deshamanaya Dr. Mohamed Cassim Mohamed Kaleel was a Ceylonese physician, philanthropist and politician. He studied at St. Thomas' College and was a part of the United National Party in 1950. He had also written books such as the 'Political Winds of Change: Legislative Speeches of Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel'.



Dr. Badi-ud-din Mahmud:

Deshamanaya Al-Haj Badi-ud-din Mahmud was a Sri Lankan politician. He served for 10 years as the Minister of Education and 2 years as the Minister of Health and Housing. He was a part of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party in 1972 and had studied at Zahira and Wesley College.

Lainab Idrees
11C3



Prominent Muslim figures of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Muslim community is spread across the country. Traders from the Middle East arrived in Sri Lanka in the 7th century AD. Islam began to flourish in Sri Lanka from the past to present. Many Muslims have made many contributions to the development of our motherland.

Sir Razik Fareed is one of those who increased the education standards among the Muslim community; he established the Muslim Ladies' College in his own land. He started the Teacher Training College in Althikama.



Deshabandu Jezima Ismail is a Sri Lankan educator and a social activist who has also served as an advocate for human rights. She has worked in several international organizations on human rights.

Mr. A. M. A. Azeez was an educator and a social worker. Azeez helped landless Muslims in the Eastern province become prosperous, making it the granary of Ceylon.

M.R. Latiff is a Sri Lankan senior police officer; he is specialized in counter terrorism. His tenure, as a commandant of the special task force, saw a major anti-drug campaign.



Madam Fareeda Wahab is one of the inspiring women who has worked for our country. She has worked in the Education Ministry and as a principal of many schools.

Our Madam Rashida Mohideen was a leading lady in the sphere of educational services of Sri Lanka.

So, these are some of the Muslims who contributed to the development of Sri Lanka.

Hana Akram
6N3



THE PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH) HAS SAID:

"All of you are shepherds, and each of you will be asked concerning his flock."

(SAHIH BUKHARI)

Madam Jezima Ismail

Madam Jezima Ismail was born in 1935 in the village of Sainthamaruthu, a village which is about two and half miles away from Kalmunai, Ampara district. Her father was an irrigation engineer, her mother was a homemaker and her grandfather served as a trustee of a mosque.

Jezima came from a conservative family and her father encouraged her to pursue education. She received her primary and secondary education at St Bridget's Convent, Colombo. Her mother's side of the family was heavily involved in local politics and during election times, her mother worked as a polling agent.

She graduated from University of Peradeniya and University of Ceylon at the age of 20 in 1955.

After graduating from University of Ceylon in

1955, she started to work in several diverse fields like education, human rights and broadcasting. She joined the staff of Devi Balika Maha Vidyalaya under Principal Dr. Wimala de Silva's guidance. Later, she went to Canada and obtained her master's degree in education from McGill University and completed her postgraduate diploma at University of Sydney, Australia.

In 1980, she became the first woman to be appointed as the head of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and has worked as a broadcaster for the SLBC. Madam Jezima Ismail was appointed as one of the members of the committee by the Sri Lankan president back then, Mahinda Rajapakse, to study and respond to the reports related to the Mullivaikkal Hospital bombings in 2009. She is also the founder of Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference (SLMWC) and has served

as the former Vice Chancellor of Eastern University. She too served as the chairperson of People's Action for Free and Fair Elections. Madam Jezima has notably addressed some of the nation's most critical issues including development of youth, women's rights, peace and democracy. In 1989, she was awarded the title of Deshabandu by the Sri Lankan government, which is the third highest national honour in Sri Lanka. Madam Jezima Ismail is considered as one of the most inspirational and greatest modern women in the Islamic community for her immense services towards the society.

"Historians have traditionally been attracted by wars and rebellions whereas the peaceful co-existence of groups of people over long periods tends to be overlooked" - Madam Jezima Ismail

Nuha Aslam
M2

To the Muslim Heroes of Sri Lanka

Long before in our country
Invaders came up to the dozen.

There was no hope at all
For the citizens, their hope frozen.

Light arisen in some heart

They stood up, all strong
Fought their way to freedom.

For we all know the invaders were wrong
They came with hearts as hard as stone,
And killed people who want their country.
Our heroes work to make our country know
So we must thank them for war.

The Sri Lankan Muslim leaders
Too, brought hope to our citizens.

More of them had to arise
After all, our country had a prize.

A prize not of gold or lead,
It's of which country comes first
For fighting that had to be need,

And our citizens had much of that and less
of fear.

They were the ones with hope smeared,
The heroes the invaders feared.
Assassination only stopped Nizam Muthallif
But only that would stop a few more.
Gathering people together they'd cry,
"Attack for our country, our county"
Near the grass they would lie
For they knew a day would come
A day of gladness, we would have a flag.
A flag only of our own
Freedom our people would know,
And their harvest they would show
War is over, our happiness at last.
All the memory is long past
Long later our glass will be raised
As the Muslim leaders will be praised.

Aisha Naeem
7C1



A few Inspirational Muslim Leaders

Aliyah Eshak
6C4

*Facets of the Life of some
Muslim Leaders*

Aliya Amhar
6N1



Back in time

One fine day in class, Miss said,

"Well class, you look very bored and dead!"

"Never mind!" she said. "I'll soon cheer you up. Of course, I'd do".

"Before long you'll be saying 'Hip hooray woo hoo!"

"Where are we going, Miss?" we asked.

With faces so flat,

One would mistake us for cowpats.

"Back in time!" she cried.

"To meet the heroes who served our country in their day."

And with many a moan and groan,

Did she shove in the time machine our lazy bones?

She spun a few dials,

Tapped a few keys.

Off like a bullet we went- whee!

Finally we screeched to a halt.



"Off now! One at a time!" said she.

"First we're going to meet Mr. Bad-ud-Din,

And whatever you do,

DO NOT," she said,

"Wander 'round that dark corner,

Or you will be dead.

Understand?"

"Yes Miss," together we all cried

And followed her till the machine was out of sight.

We soon saw a man standing,

We went up and he said,

"I'm Mr. Bad-ud-Din and I once addressed a

gathering,

And told them that,

Just like them, like every other Sinhala and Tamil

in sight,

I too wanted peace, and for them I would fight."



"Up next," yelled Miss,
"We're going to meet Mr. T. B. Jayah."
Then we rounded a corner and there was the
man himself,
Looking smart in his short black cap.
"I'm Burhanuddin Jayah," said he.
"And in my time as a member of the State
Council,
I advanced Muslim education,
And established many schools around the country."

Aaminah Rushdhy
7C4

Outstanding Muslim heroes of Sri Lanka

Heroes are people who contribute to the development of nations and the world. A hero is also known as someone who does something for the safety of others. These heroes sacrifice themselves for the freedom of a country. Heroes help make our lives better. Many heroes did different heroic things which changed our lives.

Some heroes helped us by fighting in wars to achieve freedom. Some heroes contributed to the development of the education system by setting up great schools to produce productive citizens. These individuals are known as 'heroes' as they are courageous, brave, strong and they make sacrifices to achieve great milestones which impact many lives.

There are many Muslims who contributed to the development of Sri Lanka such as Madam Rasheedha Mohideen, Dr. Tuan Burhanuddin Jayah, Ms. Ayesha Raut, M.C. Siddi Lebbe and Sir Razik Fareed.

Muhammed Cassim Siddi Lebbe was born on the Eleventh of June 1838 and died on the Fifth of February 1898. Siddi Lebbe was a writer and a lawyer by profession. He was also known as the 'Father of Muslim Education'. Siddi Lebbe founded many Muslim schools. He printed books and gave it for free whilst working hard towards the improvement of education.

Madam Rasheedha Mohideen was the founder of Ilma International Girls' School. Her dream was to build a school for Muslim girls. She did not give up on her dream instead made her dream come true by

opening her own school in Talakotuwa Gardens in Colombo 05.

T.B. Jayah was a national hero. He was excellent in his studies. He was a teacher and the principal of Zahira College for twenty-seven years. T.B. Jayah was a very inspiring person for many as even amidst the Japanese bombing, he took part in an event which was organized by his student. He was the first Muslim cabinet minister.

These wonderful heroes contributed a lot to Sri Lanka. We should also contribute to our country to make it an amazing nation to live in. Let us all be heroes of our country and make Sri Lanka an amazing place to live in.

Ayana Sheriff
8N4



Ameera Arshad
3N3



THE PROPHET MUHAMMED (PBUH) HAS SAID,

Whoever is kind, Allah will be kind to him; therefore be kind to man on the earth. He who is in heaven will show mercy on you.

(ABU DAWUD AT TIRMIDHI)

T. B. Jayah

Muslims in Sri Lanka have been living in peace and harmony in this beautiful country for more than one thousand years. Muslims of Sri Lanka supported in the process of Sri Lanka gaining independence from the British in 1948. Many still remember the leading role played by Muslim leaders such as Dr. T. B. Jaya, Sir Razik Fareed and Dr. Badi-ud-din Mahmud. In this essay I shall write about Dr. T. B. Jayah.

Tuan Branudeen Jayah was born on January 1st, 1890, in Galagedera. His father was Cassim Jayah, a Police Sergeant and his mother was Nona Jaya. He was an old boy of St. Thomas' College and excelled in his education. T. B. Jaya was the sole representative of Muslims among the brilliant young men of other communities who obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from London University in 1911. For the next thirty-five years, he was in the profession of teaching that was dearest to his


heart. The schools in which he taught were Ananda College, Prince of Wales, Moratuwa and Dharmaraja College, Kandy.

In 1921, at the age of thirty-one, he assumed duties as the Principal of Zahira College, Maradana. He transformed it from a tottering elementary school with six teachers, fifty-nine boys to a premier educational institution with over three thousand five hundred students and around one hundred and fifty teachers. He also introduced sports such as Rugby, Football and Boxing before handing over duties to A. M. A. Azeez.

Jaya in his time was an Educationist, State Councilor, Member of Parliament, Minister of State and Ambassador to Pakistan. When Ceylon gained independence in 1948, he was appointed as Cabinet Minister of the D. S. Senanayake Government, and the first Muslim to hold such a position.

Like every human being has his end, Tuan Branudeen Jaya too passed away on May 31st, 1960, while working to set up a Pilgrims' Rest in Mecca for Ceylonese pilgrims performing Hajj. He was buried at Jennathul Baqi the final resting place of many Companions and members of the family of Prophet Muhammed (Sal).


Inzyrah. Rauf
M1



History of Muslims in Sri Lanka

Islam began developing in Sri Lanka with the arrival of Arab traders in the 7th century A.D. Arab merchants and their native brides were the first to embrace the Islamic faith. Arab traders had acquired control of much of the Indian Ocean commerce including Sri Lanka's, by the 8th century A.D. Many of them settled in great numbers on the island, encouraging the spread of Islam.

When the Portuguese arrived in the 16th century, many of the descendants of these Arab traders - now identified as the Sri Lankan Moors - were the major spice merchants, with networks reaching all the way to the Middle East.



The Sri Lankan Moor settlements, warehouses and business networks had been attacked, persecuted and destroyed by Portuguese colonists. Many defeated Moors sought refuge in Sri Lanka's interior to avoid punishment. Due to the extreme revolts against the Moors, the population of Sri Lankan Moors dramatically decreased during Portuguese colonial rule. In the central highlands and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese king, King Senarat of Kandy gave protection to some Muslims.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Dutch and British rulers brought over Japanese and Malaysian Muslims, who contributed to Sri Lanka's growing Muslim population. Their descendants, now known as Sri Lankan Malays adopted several Sri Lankan Moor Islamic traditions while transferring their own cultural Islamic practices



to other Muslim groups on the island. The entry of Muslims from India to Sri Lanka throughout the 19th and 20th centuries further aided the spread of Islam.

Pakistani and South Indian Muslims in particular, have imported the Shafi'i and Hanafi schools to Sri Lanka. The majority of Muslims on the island follow Sunni Islam's traditional customs. In current times, the Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs Department is in charge of Muslims in Sri Lanka. It was founded in the 1980s to avoid the Muslim community from becoming isolated from the rest of the country.

Jameelah Waznie
7C1



Great souls who contributed to our
Motherland

Shahadha Murshid
702

Insight into the Life of
Dr. Badiud-Din Mahmud

Ashar Lahrana
401

Our Great Muslim Leaders of Sri Lanka.

Siddie Lebbe

1st Muslim lawyer in Sri Lanka. In 1882, he introduced Zahira College in Maradana. He published the 1st Muslim journal "Muslim Nesam". He distributed preschool books freely.

Arasi Marikar Wapchie Marikar

He was the builder of the general post office in Colombo, the Colombo Museum, the Colombo customs, the old town hall in Pettah and the Galle face hotel.

Muhammad Cassim Abdul Rahman (1829-1899)

He served as a counselor and also appointed as unofficial municipal magistrate.

Sir Razik Fareed (1893-1934)

He was the former cabinet minister of trade also served as Ceylon's high commissioner to Pakistan.

A. M. A. Azeez

1st moor civil servant, former GA of eastern province and late Zahria College principal.

Dr. A. C. M. Sulaiman

Founder of the Grandpass maternity and nursing home in 1942.

Vidya Jyothi Professor Resvi Sheriff

Head of the department of clinical medicine at the faculty of medicine, university in Colombo.

Mohammed Junaid Mohamed Lafir (1930-1981)

He was a former world champion snooker player from Sri Lanka.

T. B. Jayah

1st cabinet minister of labor and social service in the independent Ceylon. He was considered one of Sri Lanka's national heroes.

Rushdi Jabir

Motivational speaker who has motivated the highest number of military staff in Sri Lanka.

Madam Rasheeda Mohideen

Founder principal of Ilma International Girls' School for Muslim girls' education.

Rukayya Inqan
5N2

Past Muslim Leaders to be Revered

Muslims in Sri Lanka have been living in peace and harmony in this beautiful country for more than thousands of years. They have been cooperating and supporting the majority Sinhalese communities throughout the history.

The Muslim community in Sri Lanka have been contributing to the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka not only in the recent times of war but since pre-colonial times. Muslims of Sri Lanka well supported the process of Sri Lanka gaining independence from the British in 1948 and helped for almost four and a half centuries to establish independence from the European colonial rule in our country.

The leading role played by Muslim leaders such as Dr. T. B. Jayah, Sir Raazik Fareed, Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel, Siddhi Lebbe and Dr. Badi-Ud-Din

Mahmud in the constitutional reforms of this country and their enthusiastic support for the demand of the dominion status of independence. They never obstructed the political progress of the country.

T. B. Jayah emerged as a leader of the Muslim community to the country. He entered politics and became a prominent figure in pre-independence politics of Sri Lanka. He was elected to the legislative council, state council and parliament. He was also a founding member of the united national party.

Sir Razik Fareed was a Sri Lankan proprietor, politician, diplomat, and philanthropist. He was a former cabinet minister of trade and senator member of the parliament and state council. Although we celebrate 72 years of independence, we still have a long walk to progress as a nation. So let us get together as one nation towards the prosperity and progress of our mother land.

Umaira



Muslim Heroes of our Land

Aysha Jemzeed
5C1

A Chat with Professor Rezvi Sheriff

Aneeqa Kazack
7C3



The Nation's Heroes

In 1948, independence did we gain,
Freedom from the colonisers,
Freedom from every pain.

The nation's heroes strove for liberty,
Sacrificed their lives,
And strove for prosperity.

Muslims contributed equally,
Along with the Buddhists, Tamils and Catholics,
Who fought for our rights fearlessly.

Dr. T. B. Jayah, Sir Razik Fareed,
Dr. Badiudin Mahmud, Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel,
Our streets now scream your names with immense
pride.



For you are our protectors,
From the mighty European rulers,
For you are the nation's freedom fighters.

We now live in peace and live with might,
Our beautiful country you did unite,
We salute you for this pride!

Sara Rummy
4C2

Contributions by Muslim Leaders to Develop Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Muslims have been living in peace and harmony with other communities for more than a thousand years. They have been co-operating and supporting others throughout Sri Lankan history since the pre-independence and pre-colonial times. Muslim people in Sri Lanka have been contributing towards the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka.

Muslims have greatly contributed to Sri Lanka in many fields. It is the duty and responsibility of the Muslim community. In pre-colonial times Muslims in Sri Lanka introduced Sri Lankan spices, diamonds and gems to the Arab world and they acted as mediators between the local people of Sri Lanka and Arab traders of the Middle East. Muslims have greatly contributed to the safety

and security of the country since ancient times. Muslims have contributed economically since they landed on the island and, contributed educationally and culturally too.

Among Islamic scholars and pioneers, Muhammed Caseem Siddi Lebbe was a Ceylonese lawyer, educationalist, scholar, philosopher, writer, publisher, and a social reformer too. We have known him since Sri Lankan independence too. Dr. Badiudin Mahmood served as minister of education for two terms and the schools in Sri Lanka were nationalized during his term. He contributed to the development of the Sri Lankan education system.

The first Muslim judge in Sri Lanka was Justice Akbar and he was one of the main contributors towards establishing universities. He devoted most of his life to Sri Lankan law.

Next great personality is T.B Jayah. He was one of the leaders who fought for the independence of Sri Lanka and was the founder of Zahira College, Colombo and many branches in other parts of the Island.

Another great personality is the Ilma founder principal Madam Rasheeda Mohideen. We are here today with a good education and good discipline because of her strength. Her mission was to build strong women for the entire world.

Next great personality is Deshabandu Jezima Ismail who is a Sri Lankan educator, broadcaster, and a social activist too. She is one of the greatest women who has contributed to the development of education in Sri Lanka. So, these great personalities contributed

towards the development of Sri Lanka and there are many contributions made by our present Muslim leaders too. Most of them are conducting development projects to help in improving Sri Lanka's economy as well as other areas of development. As the children of the Muslim community, our ambition should be to get a good education and repay our motherland Sri Lanka.

Izma Arsath
5C1

Al-Haj Naleem

Today I would like to write a few sentences about Marhoom Al-Haj Naleem who contributed his wealth for the education of Sri Lankan Muslims. He was born on 4th of April 1933 at Beruwala. Al-Haj Naleem has one of the greatest personalities of the Sri Lankan Muslim community and indeed, we could call him as an activist for Muslim education in Sri Lanka.

He made his contributions to Muslim education through his own money and wealth. He dedicated more than 90% of his own earnings for education. Muslims of Sri Lanka may have physically lost this kind-hearted and benevolent personality of our community, but they will never ever forget the countless contributions and services timely made by Al-Haj Naleem. I am proud to be a great grand-daughter of Marhoom Al-Haj Naleem.

Aysha Ali
3C1



Facts on Sri Lanka

Deshamanya Marhoom Al Haj Mohammad Abdul Bakeer Markar was the first Muslim to hold the post of speaker in the parliament in Sri Lanka.

There are over 1820 masjids found in Sri Lanka's cities, towns and villages.

Sri Lanka used to be called Ceylon which is the transliteration of Ceilao.

Before Sri Lanka gained independence, the country was known as the dominion of Ceylon which was given by the Portuguese Empire.

Sri Lanka is nicknamed as "The Pearl of the Indian Ocean" and "teardrop of India".

Sri Lanka is the first country in the world to have a female prime minister.



The Sri Lankan national flag is one of the oldest in the world.

Sri Lanka has the highest literacy rate in South Asia.

It is home to the world's oldest human-planted tree.

A bridge of limestone shoals between India and Sri Lanka is known as the Adam's Bridge and is visible on NASA satellite images. According to scientists, it was formed a million years ago.

Ayurveda is one of the world's oldest holistic wellness systems, for the past 5000 years, based on restoring balance between mind, body and spirit passed down from generation to generation in Sri Lanka.



*"And whenever you
give your word, say
the truth."*

SURAH AL-AN'AAM 6:152

COLONEL TUAN NIZAM MUTHALIFF

Born in Sri Lanka on July 21th 1966, Tuan Nizam Muthaliff studied at D.S. Senanayake College, Colombo. At school, he excelled in both studies and sports alike.

Major Muthaliff was married to Lieutenant Colonel Kumudini Muthaliff Amarasinghe, commanding officer of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps and has a daughter, Sarah, and son, Maalik.




Colonel Tuan Nizam Muthaliff RWP, MI (July 12, 1966 – May 31, 2005) (O/60727) was the former commanding officer of the 1st Battalion Military Intelligence Corps.(MIC)

At the end of his studies, his desire to protect the unity of his motherland made him join the Sri Lanka Army as a cadet officer in June 1986. He first underwent training in the Military Academy of Diyatalawa

and subsequently received a Cadet Officers' Training at the Pakistan Military Academy.

Following this training, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 4th Gemunu Watch of the Sri Lanka Army. His commitment and dedication to the service were rewarded when he was promoted as a lieutenant on June 2, 1989. While gaining experience in the Sri Lanka Army, he was constantly attached to the Military Intelligence Unit for the Joint Operation Command. He was promoted to the rank of captain on July 2, 1992, and afterwards as a major on July 2, 1995. During that time he had worked as a general staff officer (GSO) III (intelligence) at army headquarters, officer commanding in the MLC training section, group commander Intelligence Security Group in Jaffna for about three



and a half years, group commander at the Directorate of Military Intelligence in Colombo for about three years since 1997 and general staff officer (GSO) I (intelligence), Vavuniya from 2000 to 2001. He became the commanding officer of Sri Lanka's first Military Intelligence Unit in November 2004. At the time of death, he was also director of the Colombo Cell.

In addition, he has followed several courses overseas with distinction such as the Intelligence Staff Course Bangladesh, Counter Intelligence Course Bangladesh, Junior Command Course India, South Asian Peace Keeping Course Hawaii, USA and International Intelligence course USA.

Major Muthaliff was shot dead at Polhengoda, Colombo when he was on his way to the Kotelawala Defense Academy on May 31, 2005 at the age of 38 (this happened after betrayal incident of Millennium City). In recognition of his service to the army, he was posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel on 1 May 2005 and then he was promoted as a colonel on 31 May 2005.



Sabeeha Jiffry
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Dr. A. C. S. Hameed's service to our nation



Abdul Cader Shahul Hameed or A .C .S .Hameed was born to a reputed family in Kurugoda , Akurana on April 10, 1928. He was Elected as the second member of the

parliament from Akurana.

In 1977, he was appointed as the first foreign minister by President J. R. Jayawardene's government. Dr. Hameed was a member of the United Nations Advisory board on Disarmament studies. As a foreign Minister, he had the Opportunity of meeting many world leaders to solve problems. He admired other religions with great respect and dignity.

Dr. Hameed helped with work related to Buddhist and Hindu temples as well as mosques in Harispattuwa without any religious barriers. He also contributed to building a Buddhist Seema Malekeya at W-ratenne , Hallouwa , which is the only place used to ordain novice monks in the Central province.

Dr. Hameed held the portfolio of foreign Affairs Minister for 12 years and thereafter, served in different portfolios, as Justice Minister and Higher education Minister, under the R . Premadasa administration. He served as foreign Minister till 1989, becoming the longest serving foreign Minister in Sri Lanka.



Dr. Hameed developed Akurana by paving roads, and supplying the village with electricity and water connections. He provided jobs to many unemployed people. He found job opportunities for Sri Lankans in foreign countries. He arranged foreign scholarships for students. He also took part in peace talks with the LTTE.

Dr. Hameed traveled to foreign countries requesting for foreign employment and education for Sri Lankans. He had the opportunity to build close relationships with the United Nations and also began to work closely with other member countries of the non-aligned movement during a turbulent period in Sri Lanka's history.

DR A. C. S. Hameed my grand uncle

Siddie Lebbe and T. B. Jayah

M.C Siddie Lebbe was born in 1838. He comes from a generation of Arabs. He was the first Muslim to be appointed as a lawyer. He was also spoken of as the leader of Muslims in the Sri Lankan magazine, 'Ceylon Almanac'.

Siddie Lebbe was not satisfied to only be a lawyer. He loved to engage in social service. He felt sorry to see the state of the Muslims and their education and their lack of religious obligations. This promoted him to publish a magazine called "Muslim Nation". In it he wrote about the importance of education and how it developed the society.



All these efforts led him to establishing the school, 'Zahira College' in Colombo.

He did not limit his services only to building schools. He also printed textbooks and made syllabuses for schools, thereby developing the society and the country. In honour of his services, the Sri Lankan government released a stamp. T.B Jayah also known as Tuan Badurdeen Jayah was born in 1890. He was one of the famous learned men in Sri Lanka. While teaching at Ananda College, he put in a lot of effort to develop the Muslim community.


The experience he got from the school as a teacher was beneficial to help him develop the community.

In 1921 he became the principal of Zahira Colleges in Gampola, Aluthgama, Matale and Puttlam. He was the Minister of Labour in the government of D.S Senanayaka. His efforts were successful in building a good community.

As we can see, these two people helped develop Sri Lanka immensely. They are honoured for their hard work and efforts till this day. Other than these men, there are many other role models who contributed in the development of Sri Lanka.

Imarah Rahmathullah

5 N1



“And obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not dispute and (thus) lose courage and (then) your strength would depart; and be patient. Indeed Allah is with the patient.”

Surah Antal 8 : 46