



# Zahira College Colombo

## Group of Sixties

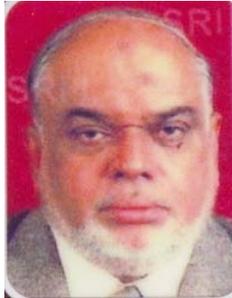
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Newsletter

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### Fund Raising Initiatives Produces Results

Fund raising initiatives led by the President and a few other Ex Co members have produced results this year. When the President took over the G60' he appealed to all prospective donors about the urgency in assisting the needy students especially on educational matters. Some of the issues were that bright students were unable to gain admission to the College due to lack of funds while those students already in College were not able to continue for the same reason. These appeals did not go unheard. Through influential friends here and abroad, the President was able to get financial support. Recently a donor from Saudi Arabia has pledged a regular sum of money annually for educational purposes. The Azeez Scholarship Fund also has generated a consistent stream of donors. With greater financial support coming in, the G60' is planning to concentrate more on educational matters.



Al Haj A.C.M. Ifthie, President, G60'

### Dr. A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship Fund

On a proposal by the founder President Al Haj M.S. Macan Markar the A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship Fund was launched in 2006. Since then the award of scholarships annually has become a regular feature. It has also contributed in certain ways towards the enhancement of standards of education at Zahira. The Fund offers scholarships to academically bright students who secure the best results at the GCE (OL) examination. Scholarships are also awarded to students selected purely on the basis of need. The scholarships consist of a payment of a minimum of Rs. 1500 per month for a period of 2 years. Since the time the Fund was initiated, over 100 scholarships were awarded averaging around 20 scholarship per year. Due credit should go to all Presidents, Chairmen of the Education Committee in the past, donors and all the Ex Co members who worked hard to achieve this result.

However, the G60' will not remain too complacent of these achievements but go further in its endeavour to assist the deserving students. As such we make this appeal in this holy month of Ramazan for donors to contribute towards this worthy cause. All contributions are Sadakath ul-Jariya and will be rewarded by the Almighty. Even Zakath contributions may be made to the Fund, which will specifically be utilized for the purpose of awarding scholarships. Cheques drawn in favour of 'G60 A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship Fund' may be sent to Mr. Shaffi Marikar, Chairman of Education Committee, 158/1, Koswatte Road, Nawala (0716353309).



Al Haj M.S. Macan Markar, Founder President, G60'

### Education in the Forefront

Leading the Education Committee of the G60' is Al Haj Shaffi Marikar, a one time staff member of UNIDO was based in Austria, now back in Sri Lanka to spend his retirement days. From the start, he has shown great enthusiasm with the goal of assisting the College in uplifting the educational standards of students. Primarily, the focus is on Advanced Level students to enable them to gain admission to the university and other higher educational institutions. The G60' also intends to support some students who have got admission to Universities purely based on financial need. Several projects, long and short term, have been initiated in this regard. For the projects to be successful, we have recognised that it is important that they are in line with the needs and goals of the College programmes by having a regular dialogue with the administrators. Another important feature of our projects is the implementation of key monitoring procedures to ensure that progress is being made. We have developed some key performance indicators to determine if the projects are moving ahead on the right track. If progress is unsatisfactory, we intend taking remedial measures to ensure compliance with our project proposals.



Al Haj Shaffi Marikar

In consideration of the inherent potential of, and the success and popularity achieved by the Marhoom Dr. AMA Azeez Scholarship Fund, it was recently resolved that the Fund be expanded for other educational purposes with the objective of improving and enhancing the overall standards of education of students, as well

(contd in page 2)

### Executive Committee – 2011/2012



Saleem Marsoof, Rauff Reffai (Secretary), A.C.M. Ifthie (President), Riza Abdeen, Nafaiz Hamdoon (Treasurer), M.S. Macan Markar, Nizam Lantra  
**L to R Standing:** M.S. Mazeer, Ifthikar Ahamed, Imran Bin Ahamed, S.M.A. Wahab, Shaffi Marikar, Akram Jaleel, Saam Tegal, Fuad Jain, Salahudeen Cader, I.A. Hameed

(contd. from page 1)

as to support needy students who may enter the university or other institution of higher learning from Zahira College. Consequently our Group also has awarded scholarships to a handful of students from College who gained admission to the local universities for undergraduate studies. We believe this scholarship will ensure bright students do not give up their higher studies due to financial difficulties. With the passage of this resolution, G60' will now be able to address and support issues related to all educational matters to elevate the academic standards at College.

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## Education Related Projects and Activities

The passing of the Marhoom Dr. A.M.A. Azeez Fund resolution has enabled us to expand our scope of all our projects. With this in mind, we are happy to announce that we have undertaken the following projects for this year 2012.

1. **Special awards** of Rs 3000/= per month for 18 months, were made to 3 bright students who came from outside to study A/L at Zahira College in the Science stream and 9 students from within the College. The students from outside were selected in response to an advertisement sponsored by the G60'. Students were selected by the College based strictly on the criteria that they must have at least 5A's in the O/L exam including an A each in Science and Maths. The objective of this project is to send at least 3 students to study medicine or engineering at the local university in 2014. Two other students who have excelled in sports will be awarded Rs 1500/= per month for 24 months.

2. Assisting the College in implementing a **A/L forum** based on an interact type of activity but based on Islamic values. Special lectures, seminars and interactive activities will be held to train the students with a view to instill discipline and good moral behavior and shape them to be future model leaders. Islamic oriented seminars, lectures and workshops will be conducted to motivate students in the correct perspective. This type of student activities will strengthen spiritual part of their lives. In the long run, it is intended to train the students to be self-disciplined characters and to be strong personalities. It is hoped that this forum would help gradually solve some of the inherent disciplinary problems in the A/L students. The objective is to mould students towards leadership and discipline and intended to improve their talents and skills in public speaking, interpersonal relationships, research, debating etc and to inculcate Islamic values in their lives. Eminent personalities, scholars and religious leaders are invited to speak at this forum on a regular basis. There is no financial cost to this project.

3. Awarded a **3 year financial scholarship** to the student at College who obtained the best A/L results at the 2011 examination, to undertake a degree course at a local university. This student, who comes from a very poor background, lives with his sick mother in a small house with the barest of necessities. His father left him long time ago and he manages his day to day affairs with support from well-wishers. Despite all this hardship, he is determined to succeed professionally. The objective of this project here is to help this student achieve that goal. He is currently awaiting admission to the University.

4. Initiated a project to **bolster the standard of maths** for weak students. In this regard, we have sponsored Mathematics strengthening classes and seminars for Grade 6 to 11 Tamil medium students who are very weak in the subject, using trained external resource persons together with senior college maths teachers. The objective is to help these students come in par with all other students in their grades. Special additional classes are

being held after school hours every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Exams were held before the commencement of the classes and the results clearly showed their weakness in maths. The duration of this project is 2 months and exams will be held at the end of this period to determine the progress of the students. A monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure the proper implementation of the project. If successful, we may support further such initiatives in the future as we believe that a good coaching in Mathematics is vital for students starting from the junior levels.

5. The College has launched a project to **help the Sinhala Medium students**. They have identified 35 bright students and 35 slow learners in Grade 6 in the Sinhala medium. The goal of this project is to get at least 20 of the bright students to obtain 9A's in their O/L exams 2017 and get all the slow learners to obtain at least 3Cs and 3Ss in 2017 so that they will qualify for the A/Ls. Since this is a long term project sustainability is of paramount importance. The G60' has agreed to support initially for a period of 6 months in meeting cost of extra classes which are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school hours. Two separate classes are held, one for the bright and the other for the weak students so that appropriate work, care and attention can be paid to each group. Senior teachers have been selected to conduct these classes. The G60' will monitor this project using our own performance indicators. Since this is a long term and costly project we have requested the College to seek assistance and support from other groups and sources as well.

Following are some other activities the G60' is currently engaged in:

- Contacted a number of Muslim Organizations and Institutions and have requested them to provide scholarships to needy students at College. One organization, namely Serendib Educational Foundation has already sent us the application forms which have been handed over to the College.
- The best three students at College who obtained 3A's in the A/L exam last year will be presented with dongles for internet connection. They already have their own laptops.
- Letters of appeal for funds from G60' members and from outside sources including from foreign countries. An appeal letter has been drafted for this purpose and this will be sent shortly to all potential contributors.
- Donation of a number of books (Religious, Science, Accounting, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, etc) to the College library. This is an ongoing activity and we are encouraging our members to donate more books in the future.

G60' understands it's commitment and responsibility to the contributors and donors. Therefore, we like to assure them that we will make every effort to ensure that all projects funded by us are essential and viable. We like to reiterate that all the projects listed above will be carefully monitored, both by the College and the Group of Sixties using key indicators, to ensure the best possible outcome and success.

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## Obituary

It is with much sorrow that the G60' announces the sudden demise of A.S.M. Suhayb, one time captain of the College Rugger Team in the early sixties and an active G60' member. His burial took place at Maharagama on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

## Science College demolish Vidyartha at Zahira Rugby Sevens 2012

Giant killers Science College came up with a fine performance to beat fancied Vidyartha College, Kandy by 33 points to 5 in the Rugby Sevens finals played at Zahira College grounds on March 18. More than 130 participants from 11 leading schools in the island plus two Malaysian teams took part in the tournament, which was organized for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by the G60'. The organizing committee was jointly headed by M.S. Mazeer and Nafaiz Hamdoon while the sponsors were Allied Trading International (Pvt) Ltd. The Chief Guest for the event was the High Commissioner of Malaysia, HE Azmi Zainudeen.



The skipper of Science College, Kanchana Perera receives the Cup Champion's Trophy from the Chief Guest. Also in the pix are M. Jiffy Haniffa (Principal, ZCC), M.S. Mazeer (Chairman, Org. Com.) and Ifthikar Ahamed. The team was also presented Rs. 50,000.



The Most Outstanding Player's award was won by Pasindu Ishan Karunaratne of Science College, who is presented with a trophy by Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof.



The skipper of Ananda College, Asenka Hemaratna receives the Plate Trophy and a cash award of Rs. 20,000 from Fouzul Hameed (Chairman, Board of Governors). Also in the pix are A.C.M. Ifthie (President, G60') and M.S.Mazeer.



The skipper of Nalanda College, J. Nalinda receives the Bowl Trophy and Rs. 10,000 from the Principal, ZCC, M. Jiffy Haniffa.



### Rugby Sevens Organizing Committee

Seated (L to R) Ifthikar Ahamed, Faisal Amit (Tournament Director) T.M.I.Hamid, Riza Abdeen, Nafaiz Hamdoon (Jt. Chairman), M.S.Mazeer (Jt. Chair-rman), A.C.M.Ifthie (President, G60'), Saqqaf Muheed, Rauf Reffai & Salahudeen Cader.

Standing (L to R) – Farook Lantra, S.M.A. Wahab, Lambreth Doole, Palitha Kulatunga, Akram Jaleel, Imran Bin Ahamed, Saam Tegal and M.G.M.S. Zurfick..

## A Car Rally – Organized by OBA & G70

Zahira's 120 year Centenary Celebrations Committee of the OBA jointly with the G70 is rolling out a 'FUN CAR RALLY for NOVICES' on 1st September 2012. The **Rally for Zahira -2012**, will be a 2 & 1/2 hour fun ride in Colombo where even first time rally participants will be welcomed and instructions given by an experienced Rally Master. The event will start and finish at College grounds with an evening of entertainment supported by selected food courts selling a variety of cuisines. Old Boys are welcome! For details on rally participation contact M.Z.M.Imtiaz, Secretary G70, Tel: 0777 896 688 ; email: zccgroup70@gmail.com

## Rugby Sevens Dinner

The dinner that followed the Rugby Sevens Tournament was well attended. The Chief Guest was Prof. M.T.A. Furkhan with Malaysian High Commissioner, HE Azmi Zainudeen as Guest of Honour. It was an evening of fun and fellowship followed by a sumptuous dinner. The pictures below tell the story.



## Zahira 120 Anniversary Events

|                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fun Car Rally                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> September |
| Invitation Schools Soccer Tournament | 1 - 16 Sept.              |
| Invitation Schools 6 a side cricket  | 8 & 9 Sept.               |
| Zahira Walk                          | 29th Sept.                |
| Invitation Schools 7 a side soccer   | 6th October               |
| Mini Rugby                           | 21st October              |
| Swimming Meet                        | Date to be confirmed      |

The Hockey Tournament and Rugby Sevens took place in the first half of the year.

## Shooting Course

Ibrahim Hamid, Vice President of G60' participated in the First ASC Shooting Course in "Team Management in Shooting", from 14th to 20th November 2011 in Tehran, Azadi Shooting Complex, the largest in the Middle East. This course was organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shooting Training Academy and approved by The Asian Shooting Confederation. Sri Lankan Ambassador in Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. M.M. Zuhair PC, Former Chairman of The Board of Governors Zahira College, hosted The Sri Lankan Delegation to a sumptuous Lunch.



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