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**US ENVOY JULIE CHUNG VISITS NORTHERN SL**

Julie Chung, the U.S. Ambassador paid a visit to Northern Sri Lanka on April 25th and met different people from various backgrounds.

During her short visit she met with youth, religious leaders, politicians and mothers whose children were forcibly disappeared.

Julie Chung who arrived in Colombo in February 2022 is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor, has served in senior positions throughout the Indo-Pacific and Western Hemisphere. After visiting Jaffna's historic Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil -she tweeted that " it was an important reminder of the religious diversity that makes Sri Lanka so special." "The US is committed to religious freedom and an inclusive and prosperous Sri Lanka," her tweet added.

She also met Jeevan Thiyagaraja, Northern province Governor and discussed economic challenges and how the US can continue to support growth and development in the northern province.

Chung also had discussions with the civil society leaders in Jaffna. She discussed political and economic challenges and reiterated US support for a democratic Sri Lanka.

Her tweet mentioned that she "met with TNA, TELO, PLOTTE, and TNPA to discuss the current crisis and its impact on their constituents. The only way to solve today's challenges is for everyone to work together and to ensure the interests of all Sri Lankans are represented in the solution."

She also said " Met with business leaders to explore ways to bring prosperity and investment to the North and then sat down with Youth Forum members at our American Space to discuss challenges facing today's youth and how they envision building the future of Sri Lanka."

After meeting with Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam, Bishop of Jaffna, she thanked him for showing her the St. Mary's Cathedral, and tweeted that " I appreciated your views on accountability, Justice and how today's economic challenges are impacting your community. A beautiful, historic church and a special place to visit."

After meeting the mothers and wives of the forcibly disappeared she tweeted that, " Everyone deserves to know what happened to their loves ones. Today I heard first hand the heartbreaking stories of people who lost family members during the civil war – a reminder of the need for both accountability and reconciliation."

Hope her stay in Sri Lanka will be fruitful to all communities.

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# RULERS FOR NATIONAL INTERESTS OR PAROCHIAL INTERESTS IN SRI LANKA

By: Thambu Kanagasabai.

Sri Lanka's past 74 years of political history since independence in 1948 is marked with rules by eighteen Prime Ministers and by seven Presidents from 1978 after the late J.R. Jayawardene introduced the powerful executive system of government which has now grown like a banyan tree with roots and branches encompassing the Rajapakshes' family and pedigrees. The Presidential powers have been growing unchecked and unhindered, assuming dictatorial tendencies spreading its tentacles over the judicial functions while controlling the legislature and executive.

It is an undeniable fact that the political victories and fortunes of south political leaders have been founded and built at the expense of minorities particularly the Tamils with an agenda of marginalization of Tamils which was later expanded to Buddhisization, Sinhalaization and Militarization.

The process of Sinhalaization and Buddhisization was initiated with the first Act of marginalization which was carried out against the upcountry Tamils [Tamils of Indian origin brought by the British to work in the Coffee and Tea plantations] immediately after the independence in 1948 when the first Prime Minister D.S. Senanayake launched the agenda of colonization of Sinhalese in the North and East of Sri Lanka which are the Tamils' traditional and historical homelands.

The voting rights and citizenship rights of the upcountry plantation workers were snatched from them with quick legislation like the Indo-Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948 thereby reducing the parliamentary strength of Tamils and creating a category of 'Stateless Persons'.

Dudley Senanayake, son of D.S. Senanayake succeeded as Prime Minister after D.S. Senanayake's death in 1952. Dudley Senanayake's early death in 1973 brought the Bandaranayakes Family into the limelight of politics.

S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake's rule marked the devastating and turning point in Sri Lanka's history which hoisted the flags of communalism, racism and majoritarianism in Sri Lanka as handy political weapons to score political victories focussing on promotion of parochial interests while forsaking national interests particularly the ethnic peace and Unity.

The stepping stone was S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake's SINHALA ONLY ACT OF 1956 which inaugurated the now entrenched culture of racism, chauvinism and inclusiveness leading to the polarization of communities thereby a wall of racial divide was built between the Sinhalese and Tamils which is now embedded since then with mistrust, suspicion and inner feelings of hostility and hatred have been allowed and encouraged to grow willy-nilly.

The 1958 communal riots marked the emergence of communal politics and policies for political gains by all political parties though pretending to be national minded. S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake owes the dubious distinction and credit for the entry of Buddhist Clergy into politics which was prohibited by the Lord Buddha for the sake of peace and to uphold PANCHA SEELA' principles which renounce violence and hatred among human beings and against one another. The Buddhist monks are ordained to preach love and peace while renouncing worldly desires and pleasures including politics.

Ironically with the assassination of S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake by a Buddhist Monk in 1958 like the mythical character of Frankenstein, a mythical monster was created like in the west with a culture of violence which permeated the peaceful citizens of Sri Lanka including killings along with the culture of political assassinations in Asia. This assassination also

politics when S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake's wife Srimavo Bandaranayake was thrust into the Premiership who continued to rule from 1972 to 1977.

Srimavo was the crucial defining turning point to change this course of political history of Sri Lanka which sealed for ever the co-existence and goodwill which existed between the Sinhalese and Tamils. The inevitable feelings of separation and segregation were rooted in Sri Lanka leading to the rise and growth of militancy among Tamil youths who sought to seek justice through any means.

An unforgivable and heartbreaking act of cultural genocide was committed by Srimavo Bandaranayake's Government when the Tamil Research Conference in Jaffna which was in progress was violently disrupted and ended by the Police in January 1974 leading to the death of seven spectators due to the high-handed acts of Police at the Jaffna esplanade grounds.

This history-creating event glorified the culture of violence by the state and prompted the Tamil militants to justify resorting to meeting the violence with violence to secure their rights to live with dignity and security for the threatened Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka by the Sinhala majoritarian Governments employing their Sinhala majority security forces.

J.R. Jayawardene's rule from 1978 to 1989 as the first executive President under a new constitution was stained with dark memories for the Tamils as he masterminded and organized the communal riots in 1977 which opened the exodus and displacement of Tamils living in the South. J.R. Jayawardene vowed 'WAR FOR WAR' or 'PEACE FOR PEACE' and another uncivilized cultural genocide was committed in 1981 when a group of ministers led by late Gamini while staying in Jaffna designed the burning of the prestigious Jaffna public library when more than 90,000 books and rare manuscripts were reduced to ashes. Undoubtedly this genocidal crime opened the choice of violent paths for the whole Tamils particularly the youths to seek justice by any Means.

President Chandrika Kumaratunge signaled conciliation and good will at first by propagating 'A Union of Regions in Sri Lanka' to solve the ethnic problem but she also succumbed to the pressure from the Sinhala extremists and Buddhist Clergy including opposition leader Ranil, the then leader of the opposition who tore the INTERIM PEACE PROPOSAL 'IPP' in Parliament opposing the devolution package.

Ranil Wickramasinghe's period as Prime Minister from 2015 to 2019 brought fresh hopes at the beginning of his rule when the UNHRC passed the 30/1 of 2015 Resolution on accountability, justice and reconciliation. Even Ranil's OSLO ACCORD of 2002 met with early death with most of its provisions unimplemented. Mahinda Rajapakse was the President from 2009 to 2014. As customary and usual he kindled hopes of a just political settlement when he among others promised the full implementation of the 13th Amendment. However, as is always, he abandoned his undertakings and adopted the chauvinistic agenda and policy to soothe the south.

Mahinda's rule marked the commissions of atrocious genocidal crimes. His launching of genocidal war in 2006 which lasted for three years was conducted and directed by his brother Defense Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse. This genocidal war brought the end of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and also the hope of a just and permanent political settlement recognizing the Tamils' right of self-Determination.

President Gotabaya Rajapakse won the election in December 2019 riding on the wave of popularity after



the defeat of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in his war after allegedly committing one of the worst genocides of this century when more than 70,000 civilians were cut down with more than 65,000 disappeared still fully unaccounted for.

He campaigned for the Sinhala-Buddhist votes and won as a President to protect the Sinhala-Buddhists and Buddhism thereby efficiently shutting out the victimized Tamils' sufferings and grievances, their voices and all of their political, economic, social and cultural Concerns.

In other words, he is a torch bearer and epitome of Sinhala Buddhists though occasionally declaring on public platforms to serve as a President for all citizens while his actions belie and speak otherwise. An opportunistic and wavering Foreign Minister G.L. Pieris has been employed to appeal and pacify the concerns and warnings of Western Governments and human rights organizations with on the spot compromising promises without any sincere commitments to implement them.

Currently a merry-go-round is in action and circling in the form of all party conferences and face to face talks with Tamil National Alliance [TNA] to temper and cool the threatening postures of UN, UNHRC and World Bank. However these attempts are like an ostrich burying its head into the sand and thinking that the whole world is in darkness.

The genocidal victims and genocidal crimes allegedly committed by Sri Lankan Governments since 1948 remain unheard and unhealed as cancerous sore wounds and the UNHRC, UN Security Council and International Community must not falter or fail in their obligations and duties to act under the provisions of UN, UNHRC and Security Council Charters to uphold accountability and justice for the genocidal victims when most of them are crying on the streets for more than three years.

It is hoped that no further delay will be made to exacerbate the simmering anger and anguish of Tamil war victims. Another feature of the Sri Lankan Governments is to hold all party conferences to tide over a nagging national problem. The said conferences are conducted with much pomp and fanfare but habitually ending as a damp squib without any follow-up and concrete action.

So far about six all party conferences have been held since 1977 and one is currently underway convened by the President to discuss the country's prevailing economic crisis. A party leader Udaya Gammanpola [PHU] correctly stated that "The all-party conference is yet another attempt to fool the public. Undoubtedly this statement is also applicable to all the all-party conferences held so far and to any future all party conferences which might be held.



By: Thambu Kanagasabai - LLM [London] Former Lecturer in Law, University of Colombo.



01



# MAY DAY

## May 1st is International Workers' Day!

Did you know that May 1st is a public holiday in several countries (India, Bangladesh, Cuba, China, and Germany to name but a few) many of which refer to it as Labour Day or International Workers' Day?

For centuries throughout the Northern Hemisphere, May Day had been a traditional day of celebrating the arrival of spring. With seeding mostly completed, farmers would often give their workers the day off and towns and villages throughout Europe would hold festive gatherings.

How May 1st came to be celebrated as International Workers' Day is a story that started with a peaceful protest that ended with bloodshed.

At the 1884 convention of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions in the United States, delegates set May 1, 1886 to demand an eight-hour workday. As the day approached, unions prepared for a general strike to force employers to bow to this demand. Hundreds of thousands of workers struck on May 1 across the United States.

In Chicago, a hotbed of trade unionism, tens of thousands of workers hit the streets, joining others already on strike or locked out. Among the latter were workers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company plant. By the time of the general strike, there were already several hundred police officers stationed outside the plant to keep the peace between picketers and replacement workers. Until May 3, despite all of the labour unrest, there was no violence.

After a rally on May 3, a group of striking workers surged toward the plant gates to harass the replacement workers coming off their shift. The police fired into the crowd and two workers were killed.

The next evening, people gathered at Haymarket Square to protest police violence and reiterate demands for an eight-hour workday. After several speeches and after most people had gone home, police descended on the rally around 10:30 pm. As police marched towards the workers, someone threw a homemade bomb in their path. It exploded, killing at least one officer immediately. Police opened fire and, while it is unknown if anyone fired back, seven policemen and at least four workers died. One police official, speaking anonymously, told the Chicago Tribune that it was most likely the police killed each other.

What followed was a huge clamp down on union activity. Eight men, most of whom were not even present when the violence broke out, were arrested and charged with murder. After a farce of a trial, all eight were found guilty. The judge sentenced seven of them to hang and the eighth to 15 years in prison, triggering protests around the world.

Read more about the Haymarket Eight [here](#).

While what happened was a temporary setback for the labour movement's fight for the eight-hour day, they didn't give up.

In 1888, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) convention decided they would call for a general strike on May 1, 1890. The AFL's president wrote to the Congress of the Second International (a coalition of socialist and labour parties from around the globe), which was meeting in Paris. In response, the Congress adopted a resolution calling for an international demonstration of workers on May 1, 1890 in solidarity with American workers.

The first International Workers' Day was a resounding success, with workers demonstrating around the globe for an eight-hour workday. On many of their minds were those workers gunned down at Haymarket for doing the same.

In Canada and the United States, Labour Day is celebrated on the first Monday of September. Both federal governments adopted the day in an attempt to prevent the more radically-focused May Day celebrations from taking hold.





# The average selling price dipped in March



There were almost 11,000 Greater Toronto Area (GTA) home sales reported in March 2022, capping off the third-best March and second-best first quarter on record. Tight market conditions continued to support a double-digit annual pace of price growth, with an average selling price of \$1.3 million. The average selling price dipped slightly Month-over-month, bucking the regular seasonal trend.

"Now is the time for governments to govern and focus on measures that are proven to increase housing supply. The GTA population will experience rapid growth in the coming years as our region's economic strength and diversity continues to attract people from around the world. In order to sustain this growth, we need adequate housing supply and choice. This needs to be the focus of policymakers rather than short-term and ineffective measures to artificially suppress demand. Evidence-based decision-making should inform government policies, and we encourage representatives at all levels of government to think big and act decisively to improve needed housing supply in a significant way," said TRREB President Kevin Crigger.

GTA REALTORS® reported 10,955 sales through TRREB's MLS® System in March 2022, representing a 30 per cent decline compared to the record result of 15,628 in March 2021. While sales were down year-over-year for all major market segments, condominium apartment transactions dipped by a much lesser annual rate. New listings were also down on a year-over-year basis, but by a much lesser annual rate than sales. This suggests that while market conditions remained very tight, home buyers did not experience the same level of competition from other buyers compared to a year earlier.

The MLS® Home Price Index Composite benchmark was up by 34.8 per cent year-over-year in March 2022. This annual rate of increase was down slightly from February. The average selling price was up by 18.5 per cent year-over-year. The annual growth rates for the MLS HPI® and average selling price differed, in part, because the mix of homes sold in March 2022 shifted in favour of condominium apartments which generally sell for a lower average price compared to other home types. "Competition between home buyers in the GTA remains very strong in most neighbourhoods and market segments. However, we did experience more balance in the first quarter of 2022 compared to last year. If this trend continues, it is possible that the pace of price growth could moderate as we move through the year," said TRREB Chief Market Analyst Jason Mercer.

## 3 home maintenance steps to remember this year

(NC) There's always more to do at the end of the year, and your home maintenance is no exception. With summer gone and fall almost over, there are a few things to do before winter hits. Here are some ways to keep your home in top shape and keep your family safe:

### 1. Prepare your garden for winter.

Many of us have recently taken up gardening. But just because there are no flowers to water anymore doesn't mean your work is done. Make sure your garden is off to a great start when spring hits by removing annuals, cutting down perennials and protecting delicate blooms, plants and shrubs from the freeze-thaw cycle by piling up leaves around them.

### 2. Check your smoke detectors.

This season is when we start using space heaters, candles and fireplaces to keep cozy. But if you're not careful, a fire can start and damage your home. Follow basic safety tips like never leaving a flame unattended and check that your smoke detectors have fresh batteries and are in good working order. Don't forget to examine your carbon monoxide detectors, too.

### 3. Test your water quality

Your municipal water supply may be safe at its source location, but contaminants can sneak into your home's water via plumbing. If you live in a rural area and draw water from a well or a surface water source, you likely do not know what is in your water. That's why testing the quality of your water on a regular basis is a key part of maintaining a safe and reliable water source at home. A simple at-home DIY test kit can let you easily and affordably test your water and receive a professional analysis. Find more information at [mywaterquality.ca](http://mywaterquality.ca)



Real Estate page compiled by Charles Devasagayam

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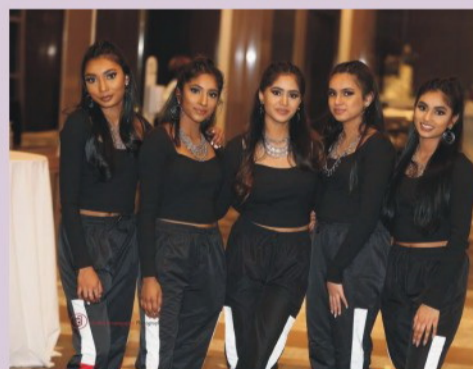


# மாதரே சிறகை விரி

**Mr. Tamil Canada presented 'International Women's Day' on March 30, 2022 at Hilton Suites, Markham.**  
It was a night to soar with Inspirational Women.

The event commenced with a dinner at 7 p.m lasted for approximately 3 hours. The entire event was organised very well. After 2 entertainment (dances) the panelists discussed various and interesting topics from different perspectives

The following participated at the panel discussion: Rajini Nathan – Culinary Instructor; Fiona Kingsley – Development Officer, SHN Angel Gladys – Dancer, Actress, Designer & Play writer Dr. Kanchana Sivalingam – Medical Director, Centre For Obesity & Packiyaluxmi Vasan -Barrister & Solicitor. The moderator was Jananie Baskaran. Congratulations to Mr. Tamil Canada and its organising committee that made efforts to make the event enjoyable. **Charles Devasagayam**







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# TORONTO SMASHERS AWARDS GALA NIGHT, APRIL 3, 2022.

Toronto Smashers Badminton Club held its Awards Gala & Dinner Night 2021 / 2021 on April 3, 2021 at Markham Convention Centre, Toronto. TSBC promotes a friendly, Supportive & progressive badminton community that facilitates & develops the playing of badminton among children & adults of all ages regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

Mahen Vaheesan, main founder member of TBSC welcomed the audience. Coaches were recognized by Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP. Club coordinators and sponsors were recognized as well. Janaki Krishanth, Aathmika Ratnam and Thiyaana Elankeeran and students from Chandrasegaram Dance & Music Academy entertained the crowd with songs and dance, respectively. Kids tournament ( Girls & Boys ) and Team Tournament winners were awarded and recognized.

The live music band was fabulous and entertained the crowd fully. It was nice to witness a full event after full 2 year lapse. The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner and dance. Wishing all the award recipients and the organizing committee the very best. **Charles Devasagayam.**





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Connecting GTA is an above average business group. The members are extremely supportive and welcoming. Their events are fun and educational. In my 20 years of business I have experienced many business groups. This one is different. I highly recommend it. *-Angela Baltkois*

## About CGTA

The Connecting GTA Networking Club was founded by Suresh Kumar, President & CEO of Kashden Consulting Group.

Suresh is passionate about delivering value in every connection that he makes. As a Specialist Business Strategist & Coach, he revels in efficiently maximizing potential and fostering professional relationships within organizations. And as the Founder and CEO of Connecting GTA, he is dedicated to help propel your business forward.

Connecting GTA began as a meeting place for businesses of diverse backgrounds to connect, collaborate and promote individual businesses in the GTA.

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# 10 th ANNIVERSARY OF PROLIFE WELLNESS CENTRE – APRIL 18, 2022.

Prolife Wellness Centre celebrated its 10 th Anniversary on April 18, 2022 at their office located at the McCowan and Sheppard. Ajay Thavam’s hard work have paid off. The Manager in her speech said he is the best Boss. Many of the customers and friends of Ajay were present. Parthi Kandavel, the School Board Trustee delivered a speech.

There were sumptuous food, tons of prizes through the wheel of fortune and a lottery Prize. Ajay also presented \$ 1000 to a Charity organization called “ Homeward Family Shelter.” I wish Ajay Thavam and all the staff at the Centre the very best. **Charles Devasagayam**





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15th ANNIVERSARY  
\* **Tamil Mirror** \*

Thank you!



*Tamil Mirror In its 15<sup>th</sup> Year,  
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