

OBA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025 EDITION



Zahira College Old Boys' Association



A Message From
The Principal
Mr. Trizviy Marikkar

Publishing a newsletter means a lot for a school as it will help in disseminating information to the general public and the stakeholders on the achievements of the students.

While the stakeholders are updated the progress of the college the achievers will be inspired by seeing their achievements published in a newsletter. Therefore, this effort of Old Boys' Association of our college serves those two purposes.

The college has been progressing very rapidly in terms of academic achievements, co-curricular and extracurricular activities. The Board of Governors of the college shows keen interest in providing all sorts of infrastructure facilities and equipment necessary for the development of the school. In doing so, they expect to ensure that the college goes from Good to Great. The tag line 'Good to Great' has become the main vision in nutshell of our college. In order to make a school a great one there are so much to do by each stakeholder along with the management of the college.

The staff of the college both academic and non-academic certainly have to be the main players of this journey with the blessings of Board of Governors, Old Boys' Association and the Parents Teachers' Association. In addition to that, all the constituent bodies of the BOG namely, Mosque Committee, OBA, PTA and Welfare Society are required to play a vital role along with the well-wishers in realizing her vision.

It is with much pleasure that I witness the Chairman, Board of Governors, Mr. Fouzul Hameed is giving his leadership to the Board of Governors in bringing new concepts for the betterment of the student population of the college. I, therefore, execute the Board Policies with the support of the staff to bring about great achievements with the performance of the students in both academic and other areas.

The 2024/2025 academic year marked exceptional achievements with an 88.07% G.C.E. A/L pass rate and a record 82 students entering state universities, alongside strong O/L results of 86.12% with 17 scoring 9A's, and a 100% Grade 5 Scholarship pass rate with 70 students above the cut-off.

Notably, Master Abdul Fathah Rizwan earned a Bachelor's in Computer Science from Kingston University, UK, while still in his first year of A/L studies, reflecting our culture of academic excellence

Therefore, I consider that this occasion of releasing a newsletter is important for all of us and it will definitely keep the stakeholders informed on the progress that are taking place in the college.

Similarly, this will be the official organ of sharing relevant information of the college to the stakeholders. I am certain that OBA will periodically publish this newsletter.

I wish all of you all the best !
May the Almighty Allah bless this prestigious college abundantly !



A Message From
The OBA President
Mr. Haaziq Jaleel

It is with great pride and gratitude that I pen this message for the latest edition

of the Zahira College Old Boys' Association quarterly newsletter. Each edition is a testament to the spirit, unity, and dedication of our members, and I am sincerely thankful to everyone who continues to play a role in strengthening our brotherhood

I take this opportunity to thank our old boys for your continued support, engagement, and trust. Your passion for Zahira and your active involvement in OBA activities are what drive us forward. I have always emphasized and I reiterate once again that I am here to be the voice of every member. Your ideas, concerns, and aspirations matter deeply, and I remain committed to representing each of you with fairness and integrity.

To my Executive Committee, thank you for your tireless efforts, teamwork, and commitment to our shared vision. Your support has been invaluable in making steady progress on our goals and initiatives.

A special word of appreciation goes to Mr. Muzammil, our dedicated newsletter editor. His attention to detail, creative approach, and consistent efforts have brought this publication to life, serving as a vital link that keeps our community connected and informed.

Let us move ahead together, united by our love for Zahira, and driven by a shared purpose to uplift our alma mater and each other.



A Message From
The OBA Secretary
Mr. Hussain Azad

Dear Fellow Members,
Warm greetings to all members of our esteemed Old Boys' Association!

It is with great honor and a deep sense of responsibility that I connect with you through this edition of our newsletter. Though the years may have passed, the bond we share with our alma mater and with one another remains as strong as ever.

Our Association continues to stand as a pillar of support and unity, preserving the traditions and values of our alma mater while fostering lasting connections among past students. The collective achievements of our members serve as a source of inspiration and pride.

My humble request to all the members to stay connected, participate actively, and contribute your ideas and energy toward our collective growth. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I extend our sincere appreciation for your unwavering dedication to the OBA. Let us move forward together with purpose, unity, and a shared vision for excellence.

Memorandum of Understanding (Renewal) between OBA and SEF

On 12 August 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed between the Old Boys' Association (OBA) and the Serendib Education Foundation (SEF).

The OBA was represented by President Mr. Haazik Jaleel, Secretary Mr. Hussain Azad, and Editor Mr. A.M.M. Muzammil, who is also one of the founding members of SEF. The SEF delegation comprised Secretary Mr. Shah Nawaz and Consultant Mr. Reza.

As per the MOU, SEF will support the educational advancement of talented and deserving GCE A/L students by offering scholarships and providing financial assistance for educational and mentoring projects.



OBA Picks Officials at Annual General Meeting



The historic Ghaffoor Hall, steeped in tradition and nostalgia, played host to Zahira College OBA's 104th Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 27th April 2025. The event was graced by a remarkable gathering of Old Zahirians, who reunited with immense pride and enthusiasm, reaffirming their enduring bond with their alma mater.

The meeting commenced with the customary recital of Qirath and then followed by the sequences of College Anthem, recitation of dua in memory of all the deceased members.

With due decorum, the meeting then transitioned to its formal agenda. The notice and minutes of the previous meeting were meticulously reviewed, ensuring transparency and continuity. The Annual Report for 2024 was presented, highlighting the OBA's achievements, milestones, and unwavering commitment to the college's progress. Subsequently, the Audited Financial Report, which had been circulated among members, was formally adopted—a testament to the association's accountability and prudent stewardship.

Mr. Haaziq Jaleel profusely thanked all the members for electing him as the President of the OBA and assured to continue the good work to the letter and in good spirit. With stirring conviction, he called upon every Zahirian to rise above



individual differences and unite under the shared banner of their alma mater. Our strength lies in our unity," he emphasized, urging the community to channel their collective energies toward the greater good of Mother Zahira. His appeal was not just a reminder but a rallying cry—a vision of solidarity to overcome challenges and achieve new heights together.

The Presiding Officer, Mr. Akram Moulana, conducted the proceedings with remarkable composure and consummate professionalism. Participation was notably unprecedented, and it was heartening to witness a large gathering of Old Zahirians united in a spirit of true camaraderie.

The Annual General Meeting at Zahira — the historic institution founded in 1892 — was a resounding success, blending tradition with progress. More than a formal gathering, it became a vibrant celebration of unity, leadership, and the enduring Zahira spirit that has flourished over 133 remarkable years — a true testament to legacy, camaraderie, and excellence.

The following Office – bearers were elected to the OBA Executive council for the year 2024 – 2025

Patron – Mr. Aslam Omar
Vice Patron – Mr. Jisthy Fawmy
Vice Patron – Mr. Saqqaf Muheed
President : Haaziq Jaleel
Vice Presidents: Shafraz Salley , Shiyan Shafferdeen
Hony. Gen. Secretary: Hussain Azad
Hony. Asst. Secretary: M.K.M.Ifras
Hony. Treasurer: Fariz Nilamdeen
Hony. Asst. Treasurer: M S M Rizmi
Hony Editor: A.M.M.Muzammil
Hony Sports Secretary : Farzan Sahabdeen
Hony. Social & Welfare Secretary: Azhar Salahudeen
Hony. Coordinator for Affiliated Bodies: M.F.Abdul Azeez
Executive Committee Members: Rafeek Buhary, Hazmil Hamdoon,
M.F.Marso, A.L.Anver, Fazlul Rahman, Abdul Azeez, M.M.M.Nawshad, Hilmi
Hameed, Aadil Anver, and A.A.Kabeer

Editorial

A.M.M.Muzammil

The OBA: A Pillar of Progress for Zahira

In today's interconnected world, where the internet and social media bind us closer than ever, the OBA is delighted to launch its Quarterly Newsletter—a platform to share updates, insights, and milestones that keep our members informed about the ongoing progress and achievements of our beloved School. This inaugural digital edition marks the beginning of a renewed tradition of communication and camaraderie.

Many of you will fondly recall that during the era of the late Marhoom Azeez, the OBA published the "Crescent Newsletter." After nearly three decades of silence, we are honoured to revive this tradition under the leadership of our President, Mr. Haazik Jaleel.

The OBA's legacy spans over a century, steadfastly championing the interests of the School. Among its most remarkable achievements was the historic "takeover" campaign against the government—an unprecedented movement that reclaimed Zahira College from state control.

Were it not for the foresight and resolve of the Zahira College Old Boys' Association, led at the time by the late A. C. M. Ameer (QC), Zahira might today be just another state-managed school facing an uncertain future. With unwavering determination, the OBA pursued legal redress, challenging the 1961 Supreme Court decision and taking the matter all the way to the Privy Council in the United Kingdom—where victory was finally secured.

It is thanks to those tireless, selfless efforts that we can today see the green, white, and maroon flag flying proudly above the iconic Gaffoor Hall, a symbol of our independence and spirit.

The Old Boys' Association remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing Zahira's educational journey and championing its intellectual renaissance. Presently, under the OBA's guiding framework, over 35 affiliated Old Boys' groups actively bolster the College's noble mission to reclaim its historic eminence.

It is the deepest aspiration of every Zahirian—past and present—to uphold and realize Marhoom A. M. A. Azeez's visionary dream of Zahira as a "Radiating Centre of Islamic Thought and Culture." With renewed vigour under the joint stewardship of the Board of Governors and the OBA, Zahira strides confidently toward a future brimming with promise in both scholarship and sport.

Let us unite in purpose, honouring the alma mater that shaped our character, nurtured our potential, and instilled enduring values. Our profound love for Zahira and boundless pride in bearing the name 'Zahirian' remains our resounding declaration.

OBA'S GREEN FOR ALL Initiative Restores Sinharaja Rainforest

The Zahira College Old Boys' Association (OBA) has taken a significant step toward environmental conservation with its GREEN FOR ALL project, an ambitious effort to plant 1,000 native tree species in the UNESCO-listed Sinharaja Forest. This vital rainforest restoration initiative is a collaborative partnership with Dilmah Conservation (of Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company), John Keells Holdings, and Ruk Rekaganno, combining expertise in sustainability and biodiversity protection.

On 22nd June 2025, approximately 40 OBA members embarked on an educational and hands-on journey into Sinharaja, one of Sri Lanka's last remaining tropical rainforests. Guided by conservation experts, participants learned about forest restoration techniques, native species preservation, and the critical role of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance. The experience left a lasting impact, deepening their appreciation for environmental stewardship and the urgent need to safeguard natural habitats for future generations.

This initiative reflects the OBA's dedication to sustainable development and community-driven conservation, setting an inspiring example for others to follow. With continued efforts, GREEN FOR ALL aims to create a lasting green legacy in Sinharaja. For the second consecutive year, Zahira College OBA's 'Green for All' initiative achieved remarkable success in restoring the Sinharaja Rainforest. Spearheaded by Project Chairman Shafraz Salley and Co-Chairman Yufliq Kabeer, the endeavor was made possible through the generous support of Colomboo (Main Sponsor), SAM (Co-Sponsor), and MAHK (Event Sponsor).

The Connected Leadership Program

Naushad Alavi – Chairman of the Connected Leadership Program.

The Connected Leadership Program is an exclusive initiative for OBA-affiliated bodies, designed to strengthen leadership, unity, and collaboration. The OBA will soon launch this program, which blends experiential learning, team-building activities, and motivational sessions to instill core values such as teamwork, responsibility, and vision. Its key objectives are to:

1. Enhance leadership and decision-making capabilities,
2. Promote strategic thinking, and
3. Encourage fellowship among members.

Each affiliated body is required to send four representatives, including key office bearers. Conducted by a reputed trainer, the program includes simulations and certification for participants. Complete team attendance will earn bonus points toward OBA Fellowship Day, reinforcing the spirit of Zahira and cultivating future-ready leadership.

Zahira College OBA Organizes Table Etiquette and Grooming Workshop for A/L Students

Zahira College Colombo, in collaboration with the Old Boys' Association (OBA), recently organized a Table Etiquette and Grooming Workshop for its Advanced Level students at Ghaffor Hall. The program aimed to equip students with essential life skills that extend beyond academics, fostering their personal development and future readiness.

The workshop provided expert insights into professional dining protocols, including formal table manners, while also addressing personal grooming standards and professional deportment. Emphasis was placed on the importance of first impressions, confident communication, and appropriate social conduct in both academic and professional environments.

Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, students gained valuable knowledge and hands-on experience to help them navigate formal occasions with confidence and poise.

This initiative reflects Zahira College OBA's continued commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are prepared to excel both personally and professionally.

Congratulations to all participants on their successful engagement in this program!

Project Chairman – M.K.M. Ifras, Assistant Secretary of the OBA




Zahira College
Old Boys' Association

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OBA Fellowship Day 2025

We are delighted to announce the much-anticipated OBA Fellowship Day 2025– Grand Finale, which will take place on 6th October 2025 at the College premises.

As with previous years, a dynamic lineup of sporting events has been meticulously organized, including Bowling, 8-Ball Pool, Badminton, Futsal, Beach Football, Cricket, Rugby, Triathlon, Swimming, Table Tennis, Rifle Shooting, and the ever-popular “Do You Know?” Quiz.

Organized by the Old Boys' Association (OBA) across the Youth, Masters, and Grand Masters categories, the primary goal of this annual championship is to promote camaraderie, unity, and reignite the spirit of sportsmanship among all Zahirians.

This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow Zahirians and celebrate our shared legacy through sports and fellowship. Mark your calendars and join us for a day filled with excitement, competition, and memorable moments!

Farzan
Chairman, Organizing Committee

The Zahira Western Band was honored to travel to the Rantambe Cadet Camp, the nation's premier institute for grooming disciplined future leaders and responsible citizens.



The Sports Complex is a crowning jewel of Zahira!

The long-standing need for a state-of-the-art sports complex has been deeply felt by the college community. In response, an ambitious project—envisioned and initiated under the guidance of the Board of Governors and the Old Boys' Association—is now nearing completion. This modern facility, located within the college premises, brings together provisions for both indoor and outdoor sports, visiting team dormitories, and an ultra-modern fitness centre, all under one roof. Final touches are currently underway in preparation for its much-anticipated inauguration.

One of the unique highlights of the complex is the basketball court, which features a specially installed lift designed for enhanced accessibility and convenience. Additionally, the court is equipped with sandwich roofing and GER flooring, significantly improving its functionality and comfort.

This new sports complex is poised to greatly enrich the athletic experience for our students and expand the institution's capacity to host tournaments and inter-school events at a higher standard.

Upon completion, the Sports Complex will be a jewel in the crown of Zahira, placing us on par with other elite schools, and ensuring that we are second to none in both academic and extracurricular pursuits.

The Zahira Rugby Committee generously raised Rs. One Million for this worthy cause and presented the funds to the recipient



Future Olympian M.F. Muhammad

It is with tremendous pride that we herald M.F. Muhammad, our exceptional swimmer, as he ascends to the World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships 2025 in Otopeni, Romania. Carrying the Zahira College flag onto this global aquatic stage, Muhammad stands as the inaugural Zahirian ever selected to represent Sri Lanka at this prestigious competition.

He embodies the profound virtues of dedication, faith, and relentless perseverance, bringing immense honour to our college and our island nation. His symbolic act of bearing our flag so high transcends borders, serving as a powerful testament that unwavering hard work and steadfast faith render dreams truly boundless, inspiring generations to come.

Supported by Zahira College's Principal and Board of Governors, Muhammad tirelessly trained under the guidance of Mr.M.M.M. Fawaz at the College Swimming Pool Complex. His academic institution has been providing essential resources and backing for his sporting excellence.

Looking ahead, the future looks exceptionally bright for this young athlete. As one of the youngest members of Sri Lanka's national swimming squad, Muhammad has highly promising prospects for the Olympic Games. His ultimate goal, however, remains an Olympic gold medal – an aspiration steadily becoming more attainable with each powerful stroke.

The OBA wishes him every success on his journey to the Olympics.



Pride of Zahira

It is with immense pride that we announce Tharusa Novodaya, a distinguished college player, has earned selection to represent Sri Lanka in the prestigious Under-19 Tour of the West Indies. Heartiest congratulations to Tharusha on this remarkable achievement!

