

# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

S O U V E N I R



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ST for a cause

## Anniversary gift we need: Right to Information Law

Media groups around the world demanded the introduction of a Right to Information Law in Sri Lanka to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sunday Times. A Right to Information Law has been drafted back in 2004, and revised in 2010, but never been passed into law, activists say. More than one hundred democratic countries around the world including all those in South Asia have this law that provides access to public information for the ordinary citizen, but this law is not available to Sri Lankan citizens. Media groups in Sri Lanka said they would continue to lobby for this law and called upon civil society groups to lend their support to this campaign as it was the ordinary citizens more than the media that would benefit from such a ...

# the SUNDAY TIMES

www.sundaytimes.lk

Sunday June 3, 2012



# Silver bells, it's jubilee time for the Sunday Times

The Sunday Times was launched at a time when only three Sunday newspapers were in the market, one of them owned by the state, another private and a third on its last legs due to financial difficulties.

Sri Lanka's highest circulating independent English language weekly newspaper celebrates its 25th anniversary on June 7, a spokesman for the newspaper said this week. The Sunday Times, published by Wijeya Newspapers Ltd., will mark the occasion "in an austere manner", the spokesperson said adding that it was meant to reflect the mood in the country following the sharp price increases in recent times. However, the spokesperson said that a bumper 52-page souvenir would be published to coincide with the memorable occasion so that faithful supporters of the newspaper could read articles relating to the inner workings of this publication. The souvenir contains contributions by senior editors, journalists, sub-editors, regular columnists and has interviews, photographs and graphics that detail the 25-year span from 1987 to date. What the souvenir will not contain, however, are formal congratulatory messages from politicians who usually praise the newspaper when in the opposition and do everything possible to suppress media freedom when in high office, the spokesperson added. The Sunday Times was launched at a time when only three Sunday newspapers were in the market, one of them owned by the state, another private and a third on its last legs due to financial difficulties part-

ly created by a government that was depriving it of advertising revenue from state agencies. The entry of the Sunday Times filled a vacuum and the newspaper quickly won a substantial share of the marketplace, which continues. Several hands go into the making of a newspaper. It is not only the journalists who work in the editorial, but the layout artists who design the award winning newspaper, advertising canvassers who bring in the revenue, the printing department which ensures quality printing, the dispatch, subscription and circulation personnel who ensure the newspaper is carried to the corners of this country and seas. As you will read in this issue, the Sunday Times has not only been providing 'news and views' on a daily basis over the past quarter century, but also engaged in several campaigns to support deserving causes. The many readers of the paper have come forward in supporting times in supporting other causes with their contribution added. (Details inside)

## WE FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW



## Despite internet, bright future for newspapers in Asia

The future of the print media or newspapers as we know them now is safe, said a WAN-IFRA official on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Sunday Times published in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The official said that internet penetration and the lack of the reading habit among the young had resulted in a sharp fall in the readership figures of newspapers in North America and parts of Europe, but the same was not true of Asia where newspapers had a bright future. "The newspaper is 400 years old. I cannot say how long it will survive, but I