

The Daily News Line by Faraz



UK FORGES NEW GROUND WITH APPOINTMENT AT CANTERBURY

Dame Sarah Mullally, 63, the Bishop of London, has been named as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to hold the post in the history of the Church of England.

Sarah Mullally has been named as the first female leader of the Church of England as Downing Street announced the 106th archbishop of Canterbury nearly a year on from Justin Welby's resignation over the handling of a safeguarding scandal.



This is the first time an archbishop of Canterbury has been chosen since the Church of England allowed women to become bishops in 2014.

The archbishop is regarded as the spiritual leader of the Anglican church all over the world and they also have a seat in the House of Lords.

The archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, took on most of the responsibilities in the interim, and was one of the voting members of the body charged with choosing Welby's successor.

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) had to agree to the new appointment by a two-thirds majority vote. After agreement, in line with tradition, the process involves a name being given to the prime minister – in this case Keir Starmer – and then passed to the monarch.

Mullally will not legally take on the role until a confirmation of election in January, with an enthronement service taking place later, after they have paid homage to the king.

SRI LANKA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS TOPS USD 2.04 BILLION

Sri Lanka's current account surplus grew sharply during the first eight months of 2025, reaching \$2.04 billion, driven by stronger inflows from worker remittances, tourism, and services,

according to the latest data from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL). The surplus represents a 26.1% year-on-year (YoY) increase from \$1.6 billion in the same period last year, despite a widening trade deficit and rupee depreciation.



The CBSL said that while merchandise trade continued to exert pressure, improved inflows from key service sectors and the diaspora offset the shortfall.

In August 2025, Sri Lanka's trade deficit narrowed slightly to \$414 million from \$422 million a year earlier, as exports rose 4% YoY to \$1.28 billion, outpacing the 2.6% growth in imports to \$1.69 billion. However, over the first eight months, the trade deficit widened 19.6% to \$4.26 billion, reflecting a faster increase in imports (10.5%) compared to exports (6.7%).

The CBSL also noted a deterioration in the terms of trade, as import prices rose faster than export prices. The Sri Lankan rupee depreciated 3.3% year-to-date against the US dollar by end-September.

While the services sector dipped 5.4% YoY to \$291 million in August, cumulative net inflows in services rose 2.3% to \$2.66 billion for January–August 2025.

Tourism continued to show resilience. Arrivals surged 20.4% YoY in August to 198,235, though earnings for the month fell 8.2% to \$259 million. Cumulative tourism revenue reached \$2.3 billion, up 5.7% from the previous year.

Worker remittances remained a major stabilizing factor, climbing 18% YoY in August to \$681 million. Total remittances in the first eight months reached \$5.1 billion, marking a robust 19.3% increase from \$4.3 billion a year ago.

Foreign investment trends were mixed. Government securities recorded a net inflow of \$32.9 million in August, compared to a \$30 million outflow last year. However, foreign investment in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) turned negative, with a \$15.2 million outflow, reversing the \$12.7 million inflow seen a year ago.

During January–August 2025, the CSE saw \$69 million in net outflows, while investments in government securities surged 155% to \$140.2 million. Debt-related inflows rose 34% to \$714 million, though portfolio investments fell 39% to \$332.6 million.

Despite ongoing external debt servicing, gross official reserves edged up to \$6.2 billion by end-August 2025, including the People's Bank of China swap facility, reflecting cautious but steady external sector stability.

ELON MUSK BECOMES FIRST INDIVIDUAL TO HIT USD\$ 500 BILLION MILESTONE

Following the news from India yesterday that the actor Shah Rukh Khan is estimated to be worth over a billion dollars – making him the highest paid entertainer in India – is the latest news from Forbes Billionaire list that Mr Musk's worth tipped the USD 500 Billion mark yesterday before closing at USD 499 Billion.

Elon Musk has made history by becoming the first person ever to achieve a net worth of more than \$500 billion (£370.9bn), according to the Forbes billionaires index.

The Tesla boss's fortune briefly touched \$500.1bn on Wednesday afternoon in New York before slipping back to just over \$499bn later in the day.

Musk's wealth surge is attributed not only to the continued rise in Tesla's valuation but also to the growing worth of his other ventures, including the artificial intelligence start-up xAI and his rocket company SpaceX, which have both seen strong momentum in recent months.



This milestone further cements Musk's position as the world's richest person, placing him well ahead of rivals in the global tech sector. His half-trillion-dollar net worth underscores the scale of influence and dominance Musk holds across electric vehicles, space exploration, and artificial intelligence—industries shaping the future of technology and innovation.

MANCHESTER SYNAGOGUE ATTACK: MEMBER OF PUBLIC WAS KILLED IN ACCIDENTAL FIRE BY POLICE

Victim died after being shot by armed police in response to synagogue attack, police say

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One of the victims in Thursday's attack outside a synagogue in north Manchester died after being shot accidentally by an armed officer, police have said.

Chief constable Stephen Watson, of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), said that the attacker, Jihad al-Shamie, was not in possession of a firearm. He said that the death of the member of the public was the result of "a tragic and unforeseen consequence of the urgently required action taken by my officers to bring this vicious attack to an end".



A second member of the public sustained non-life threatening gunshot injuries, he added.

In a statement, he said:

The Home Office pathologist has advised that he has provisionally determined, that one of the deceased victims would appear to have suffered a wound consistent with a gunshot injury.

It is currently believed that the suspect, Jihad al-Shamie, was not in possession of a firearm and the only shots fired were from GMP's Authorised Firearms Officers as they worked to prevent the offender from entering the synagogue and causing further harm to our Jewish community.

It follows therefore, that subject to further forensic examination, this injury may sadly have been sustained as a tragic and unforeseen consequence of the urgently required action taken by my officers to bring this vicious attack to an end.

We have also been advised by medical professionals that one of the three victims currently receiving treatment in hospital, has also suffered a gunshot wound, which is mercifully not life threatening.

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Catalyst for peace? Welsh women's 100-year-old petition gets new home

The story it tells is a glorious one: how a century ago a determined band of campaigners trailed door to door persuading a third of all Welsh women to sign a petition calling for world peace and delivered it to the US.

But the idea of a new exhibition at the National Library of Wales is not just to remember an historical event but, in these troubled times, to inspire the belief that change is possible.

Mererid Hopwood, a poet and peace campaigner, said giving the petition a permanent home in the grand library overlooking the sea in Aberystwyth was a statement of faith and hope.

"It gives us an opportunity to be inspired by the past so that we imagine – and create – a future where the people of the world can coexist peacefully with one another," she said

The sentiments may sound fanciful and idealistic, but the return of the petition from the US to Wales two years ago has already inspired a wave of peace activism led by women and girls, from festivals to fasts and banner-making.

Jill Evans, a former MEP and another prominent peace activist, said: "The return of the petition had been a catalyst. It's brought so many women, so many communities together. People see so much violence and death on television every day and want to do something."

The exhibition describes how in 1923, galvanised by the horrors of the first world war, Welsh women went street by street through the cities, towns and villages of Wales collecting signatures. Almost 400,000 women signed and it is claimed that if the sheets were laid end to end they would stretch 7 miles.

In 1924 the Welsh delegation crossed the Atlantic with the petition and travelled through the US addressing audiences at public meetings, women's clubs, and churches.

Over the years the petition was forgotten, until a plaque mentioning it was uncovered at the time of the centenary of the first world war in Cardiff's Temple of Peace. The petition was located in the US and was handed back to Wales in 2023.

At the centre of the new exhibition is the oak chest in which the petition was taken to the US and sheets from it. The names and addresses of those who signed have been transcribed and digitised, meaning visitors can use terminals in the space to search for the names of ancestors and neighbours.



The oak chest now on display at the National Library of Wales with an image of the delegation behind. Photograph: The National Library of Wales

The writer Angharad Elen said she was thrilled when she found her great-grandmother's name - Mari John from Llanddewi Velfrey in south-west Wales, whose husband returned back from the first

world war with what would now be called post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Elen said: "I don't have a photograph of Mari John, only stories passed down by my mother, and so seeing her name, in her handwriting, on a petition calling for peace, had a profound effect. Signing petitions are sometimes dismissed as being merely symbolic, or pointless. But symbols matter and can make solidarity visible and give shape to resistance."

Elen and fellow artists headed Ymgyd Dros Gaza (Fast for Gaza) in late summer involving almost 600 women across Wales. She said: "Poets, singers, and artists contributed words, music, and artwork, while others auctioned their creations to raise funds. All across the country, women organised community events – from gong baths for peace to gigs, film screenings and poetry evenings. We wanted to revive, and make visible, a tradition that belongs to Wales: a legacy of women who refuse to be silent in the face of war."

Siân Harris, who has been involved in community engagement in relation to the petition, said people were fascinated by it. "It's not just about some idealistic hope that we can stop war, it's about finding ways of honing in on particular situations, deciding what is acceptable and what is totally unacceptable."

Shorts

Most Venerable Narampanawe Ananda Thera was presented with the 'Sri Sannas Pathra' by the President pertaining his appointment as the Deputy Chief Prelate of the Asgiriya Chapter.- Hirunews.lk



The All Share Price Index (ASPI) of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) posted an all-time closing high of 22,094.89 after gaining by 143.10 points (0.65%) today (3). The turnover was Rs. 9.7 billion: CSE.- Hirunews.lk

Police were granted permission to detain and question Sanath Weerasinghe, alias 'BeliatteSana', who was arrested with the boat allegedly connected to the 700kg of drugs recovered from Tangalle, until October 9, by the Tangalle Magistrate's Court: Reporter.-Hirunews.lk