



NEWS

Lanka's returning female migrant workers don't plan for long-term sustainability: study

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ECONOMYNEXT –A majority of Sri Lanka's female migrant workers aim to return the moment their immediate financial targets are met, with little or no plans for long-term economic sustainability, a study by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) has found.

Most female workers who travel abroad do so in search of income that would help finance their debt burdens and other financial difficulties back home and expect to return as soon as those financial targets are met, the IPS said in a statement authored by Research Assistant Manisha Weeraddana.

“In fact, these migrant workers rarely see the need for such reintegration as they do not understand the economic and labour market realities until they try to reassimilate into their lives back home,” IPS said.

With the recent launch of the National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment (2023-2027), it is timely to draw up a picture of Sri Lankan returnee female migrant workers and the socio-economic nuances that determine the ultimate decision-making of these women to migrate and/or reintegrate, the institute said.

Among the key concerns highlighted in the statement is a lack of job opportunities as well as forced migration. The IPS study collected data from 511 return migrant workers randomly selected from Kandy, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Vavuniya.

“Here there is no specific work nearby. Sometimes, there is work in vegetable fields ... we get around LKR 1000-1200. But it is very hard to find work,” one worker by the name of Asoka had told the researchers, pointing to what IPS called a major issue faced by return female migrant workers in the sample.

“A good part of those who stated lack of job opportunities as a major impediment faced during economic reintegration are considering re-migration or settling down to opening small boutiques with whatever they have managed to save up from their time abroad. Thus, in a way, the decision between successful reintegration and remigration mostly deals with the lack of job opportunities in rural areas,” the statement said.

A lack of support systems and running on borrowed time are other concerning factors.

“Can’t leave my daughter and go in search of jobs... Earlier his (husband’s) mother was there ...” says Asoka.

IPS said Sri Lankan women who migrate for work seem to act on borrowed time which allows them to migrate, earn, send home their incomes, and return home when “time runs out” or in other words, when the support system back home can no longer accommodate the household duties left vacant by a woman.

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Five persons shot dead at Beliatta

Published 2 hours ago on 2024/01/22

[File pic]

Five persons have been killed in a shooting incident that took place near the Beliatta interchange of the Southern Expressway at around 8.40am today (22).

It is reported that the leader of the 'Ape Jana Bala Pakshaya' (Our Power of People Party) Saman Perera was among the victims. He was traveling in a white Defender vehicle when the shooting took place.

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President emphasizes need of immediate reforms in global financial structure

Published 3 hours ago on 2024/01/22

President Ranil Wickremesinghe addressing the **3rd South Summit of the Group of 77 and China** on Sunday (21) in Kampala, Uganda, highlighted the numerous challenges the world faces, such as conflicts, pandemic repercussions, climate disasters and financial market uncertainties. The President also emphasized the disproportionate impact on vulnerable G77 economies.

He stressed the urgency of reforming the global financial structure because the contemporary international debt resolution structure is more suited for a world where the Paris Club and London Club dominated global debt resolution. Currently the global debt and particularly debt in the developing world is dominated by international bond markets, and non-Paris Club

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Published 7 hours ago on 2024/01/22

Lakshman Kiriella

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by Shamindra Ferdinando

Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella, MP, yesterday (21) said that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) was having discussions with two dozen SLPP MPs who had indicated their willingness to close ranks with the main opposition party ahead of the forthcoming presidential election.

The Kandy District lawmaker said that the SLPP parliamentary group was in a dilemma as an influential section of it openly backed incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe's

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