READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTION

K.A. BAIZ

A steadfast politician

The sudden demise of former Parliamentarian and Puttalam Mayor K.A. Baiz shocked politicians and the public recently. He was 52 at the time of his demise.

Baiz was born and bred in Puttalam and received his primary education at Zahira College, Puttalam. After finishing his school career, Baiz started out as a young and energetic politician and went on to become Mayor of Puttalm on four different occasions. He, as a politician, toiled to bring about many changes in Puttalam and its surroundings, with special focus being drawn to infrastructure development.

Baiz is well-known for his strong bond with all three communities; he paved a path for peace in the district. He took extra interest in education development and established several educational institutions in Puttalam during his political career. One of the major milestones of his career related to education development was the establishment of the President's Science College, at which there are over 300 students currently following several Science and Engineering courses.

The institution has become an icon and valuable gift for the Tamil and Muslim communities in the district, as many students in those communities did not have the proper facilities to pursue higher studies and had to find schools in other districts. Baiz provided a solu-

tion to that issue and put an end to their hardships with the setting up of the college in 2009. Regarding this project, his primary aim was not to produce doctors and engineers, but to produce at least capable teachers for the Science and Maths streams.

Baiz's dreams came true during his lifetime: at present, this school fulfils the needs hundreds of poor and underprivileged students in the district. Another milestone of his is the Open University Study Centre that was set up in Puttalam, where at present, hundreds of thousands of students are completing degrees and postgraduate diplomas in different disciplines.

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As Mayor of Puttalam, Baiz worked hard to develop the infrastructure of the area. He set up 'Colombo Face' along the Colombo – Puttalam main road adjoining Puttalam lagoons, where, at present, many residents of the area and people from other districts relax and spend their leisure. The site has become an attractive and actively-visited place in the area.

One of Baiz's greatest works was the tree-planting programme that was launched along the sidewalks of Puttalam's roads. As a Mayor, Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister, he rendered a yeoman service to people of different communities and economic status. Baiz will always be remembered and respected for his valuable services to the country.

M. JALALDEEN ISFAN

1. What is the passage about ?

2. What was the posting of this demise person ?

3. Was he the founder of Science College ?

4. How many students are currently following courses in Science College ?

5. What did he do to enhance the higher education in Puttalam?

Yes	Initiated a study center of Open University of Sri Lanka	Steadfast Politician
nearly 300	Chairman of Puttalam	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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