## BY SAJEEWA JAYAKODY

iller Whale Aquatics (KWA) cemented their place as the undisputed force in Sri Lankan swimming, securing both the Men's and Women's National Championships for the sixth consecutive year.

The team added their 23rd national title at the Sri Lanka National and Junior National Swimming Championship meet, organized by the Sri Lanka Aquatic Sports Union (SLASU) which concluded at the Isipathana College Swimming Pool Complex in Colombo last Sunday.

KWA's Minagi Rupesinghe was the Women's National Champion, winning all five of her events and securing five gold medals. Her victory also included breaking three National records, earning her a total of 31 points, the highest among the women.

Rupesinghe's excellent performances reflect the strength of KWA's women's team, which has been a force to reckon with in recent years.

In the men's competition, Zahira College's MF Muhammad continued to impress, winning five gold medals in all of his events. Although he narrowly missed out on record-breaking performances, Muhammad's consistency was the key to his success.

The Junior National competitions saw impressive performances as well. Dubai-based Sri Lankan swimmer Julie Daniella Hope, representing Cyclone Aquatics, was crowned the Girls Junior National Champion as she claimed gold in all five of her events, breaking four junior national records along the way.

On the boys' side, AIM Haathim of St Peter's College took the title of Boys' Junior National Champion and won four gold medals and a silver, setting two junior national records in the process.

In addition to the individual triumphs, St Joseph's College claimed their sixth consecutive Junior National Boys Championship, reinforcing their position as a powerhouse in Sri Lankan schoolboy swimming.

Musaeus College made history by securing their first-ever Junior National Swimming Championship, a significant achievement for the school's swimming program.

Over the course of the five-day event, a total of 19 national and junior national records were broken.



Jayden de Silva of Stafford International School celebrates after setting a junior national new record in the 100m butterfly



Julie Hope



**AIM Haathim** 



Minagi Rupesinghe



MF Muhammad



Women's National Champions - Killer Whale Aquatics. From left: Nadithi Wijesinghe, Galina Basnayake, Pamudi Jayaratne, Minagi Rupasinghe, Neoma Kahandwa, Cassandra Karunakalage, Hiruki de Silva (captain)



Men's National Champions - Killer Whale Aquatics. From left: Minuga Fernando, Charan Rupesinghe, Vinul Senanayake, Lithum de Silva, Aasif Imran, Kaviraj Premanand, Adeetha Siriwardena, Disandu Niriella (captain)



National Champion MF Muhammad of Zahira College powers through the 200m breaststroke to secure the gold medal



Gavin Karunanayake from the Army swims for 100m butterfly bronze medal



Swim 15 - The victorious Junior National Champions -

St. Joseph's College receives the championship shield from SLASU General Secretary Mahinda Liyanage with Committee Member Sampath Senanayake also in the picture. Back row (from left): Mario Hirimuthugoda, Shakib Shiraz, Deethya Weerasinghe. Front row (from left): Senuja Kaluarachchi, Vihan Perera, Dinil Dissanayake, Akalanka Nisal, Sinura Wijesinghe, Rehan Jayasuriya, Joyel Dharshana, Kewan Ranepura, Sakindu Pigera



Musaeus College's Junior National Champions:
Front row (from left): Sithuli Warnakulasuriya, Keyara Ranepura,
Sandithi Ekanayake, Senuki de Silva, Rushalee Dissanayake.
Back row (from left): Sachini Widyarathna, Chanumi Siyathra,
Naduli Gamage