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Dr. Mathu H. Lijayaratne

EXCLUSIVE BOOK SALE

Dr Mathu H. Lijayaratne's collection of books contain articles he has written on numerous topics. They have been commended by overseas University academics and his third book particularly by the Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat. They are ideal for personal collections and libraries.

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Contains five short stories, including a tragic account of a girl swept away from her lover and parents by the gigantic waves of the 2004 tsunami but surviving miraculously to fulfil her life-long ambition to complete her University education and lead a productive and successful life. Also contains a series of poems comparing the four seasons of the year with the stages of human life.
- 2. Hello Dolly**
Contains 12 short stories, the main story Hello Dolly taking pride of place. It is a metaphysical dynamite and argues with a subdued humour for the souls of humans and animals in relation to the creation by men of the first cloned sheep called Dolly. Also, the book contains, amongst others, stories about global warming, health is wealth, child trafficking on the pretext of adoptions, and why and how perseverance always succeeds in life.
- 3. A Collection of Essays on Sri Lanka**
Gives an account of recent political and socio-economic issues and events, and world affairs. Besides, it discusses about the history, touching on topics such as paddy cultivation: the nation's lifeblood, one country one nation: the key to peace and prosperity, the triumphal march of its President Mahinda Rajapaksa after suppression of the 30-year terrorist movement, Karma and its nature, and Sri Lanka: the glittering pearl of the Orient.
- 4. Crushing Blooming Flowers**
Includes a discussion on child abuse, truths and myths about world population, financial crises of US and Eurozone, and Sri Lanka: the showpiece of Asia.

The books are priced at \$12.50 each plus postage (shipping charges), and the whole collection for only \$40.00 plus postage. Books can be obtained by contacting the author directly. Email : mathu27@yahoo.com
* The books are not available with book sellers.



The Black-crowned night heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)



The black-crowned night heron, Nycticorax nycticorax, is a medium-sized waterbird that can be found almost throughout the world away from Australasia and the coldest areas. Young birds and adults look different from each other. Adults (one is shown here) are pale grey and white, with a black crown, black back and red eyes, as well as a silvery bill. Juveniles or young birds are brown, flecked and mottled with white and grey and with half of their bill yellowy-coloured. Night herons stand still at the water's edge and surprise their prey. They mainly hunt at night or in the early morning, but will also hunt during the daytime. They eat small fish, crustaceans, frogs and aquatic insects. During the day, night herons rest in specific trees and bushes overlooking water. In the evening, the herons disperse out into other wetlands and come back in the morning. In the north of the night heron's range, it is migratory, but it is resident in other places. It breeds in wetlands and nests in colonies. The nests are platforms of sticks that are put either in a group of trees, or on the ground in a concealed location. The scientific name means 'night raven', referring to this bird's nocturnal habits and its harsh, crow-like call. They usually can be seen resting in trees at Thalangama Tank in the early morning, or, alternatively, wild juvenile and adult birds can be seen in trees overhanging the wetlands at Dehiwala Zoo.

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