

Shattering the glass ceiling



Sirimavo Bandaranaike

It is a great achievement that women have shattered the glass ceiling by occupying men's chairs, which had so far been reserved for men, in the world's highest financial institutions. Christine Legarde is now the Head of the International Monetary Fund

Republican-nominated House of Representatives and supported by members of the Tea Party, and the Democratic-dominated Senate, to pass the Budget. The Members of the House of Representatives opposed the healthcare reforms of the Democratic



Christine Legarde

(IMF), and Janet Yellen has been nominated to assume Chairmanship of the US Federal Reserve Bank at a time of financial crisis as the government shut down on October 1 due to a conflict between the

President Obama. However, the fiscal debacle ended on October 17 to the relief of the American nation as well as both developed and, especially, the under-developed countries that are heavily connected to America's foreign aid programs and trade. The shut down cost the government 23 billion US dollars.

The financial crisis in the US and the rise of Janet Yellen to the highest post of the US Federal Reserve Bank are an eloquent testimony to the Chinese saying that "a woman's accession to power is either a sign of profound change or dramatic crisis."

In Sri Lanka, as early as 1960, Sirimavo Bandaranaike not only shattered the glass



Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga



Indira Gandhi

ceiling but also broke it in to pieces to become the first woman Prime Minister of the world. Her daughter Chandrika Bandaranaike

1994 and was re-elected in 1999 for another term.

They were followed by Indira Gandhi who became the first woman Prime Minister of India after the death of her father Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was elected the first Prime Minister of India after gaining independence from the British in 1947.

Margaret Thatcher nicknamed the "Iron Lady" was the first woman to become the Prime Minister of UK.

In the light of these events, the Australians may like to remind Prime Minister Tony Abbott that he has a full Cabinet of Ministers composed of males and only a solitary female Minister.



Janet Yellen

Kumaratunga became the first woman President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in



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Margaret Thatcher