



MALAY NEWS LETTER

TERANG



SURAT KHABAR MELAYU SRI LANKA

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Malays Are Not Descendants of Migrants from CHINA

Oleh : M. Farook Thaliph

We have been misled by earliest historians and anthropologists to believe and accept that Malays were migrants from Yunnan in South China to the Malay world. Based on this theory several other writers and historians have written many articles and books that the Malays originated in South China from where they drifted in waves of migration from about 2500 BC to the Malay world at a time when the islands were clustered together that one could hop in from one island to another without difficulty. All these writers held fast to the notion that at the outset the Austronesian - speaking Proto - Malays of Mongoloid stock migrated to Java or the Malay peninsula and that centuries later they were followed by a more purely Mongoloid metal using people of Deutero - Malays. The two strains mingled and merged and this synthesis produced the Malay ethnic race of Mongoloid stock. This theory is now proved to be an utter fabrication and speculation.

In November 1998 when I

was in Kuala Lumpur to participate and present a paper at the International Symposium on Malayo - Polynesians in the Commonwealth, I met my old friend Prof. Datuk Dr Wan Hashim Wan Teh, who is the Vice Chancellor of University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Director of its Institute on Malay World and civilization. He provided me with the necessary information and the contributions published in the New Straits Times, Utusan Malaysia and the Star of 6th September 1994 with a request to write this article for the information of the Malays in Sri Lanka. According to these articles Prof. Wan Hashim and his deputy Director, Prof. Nik Hassan Suhaimi claim they have shattered the myth of Malays being descendants of migrants from Yunnan in South China. They describe the theory on the origin of the Malays as purely speculative and should be dismissed. They said at a press conference that proof of archaeo-

logical discoveries indicate that there were already inhabitants in the Malay World as early as 35,000 years ago. There is also no proof that the people of Yunnan migrated to the Malay world during prehistoric times as speculated and imagined by Western writers. Both of them believe that between 11,000 and 35,000 years ago, the inhabitants of the Malay world being of the same stock were indigenous people who practiced the same culture. This is because at that period of time the Malay world was one big landmass where the inhabitants could roam about freely.

These two researchers joined a group of 60 Malay Studies Experts and Social Scientist from the Universities in Malaysia in August 1994 during visits to Kunming and other historical places in Yunnan to try to search for evidence that would prove or disprove the theory. Prof. Wan Hashim said that the result of their visit showed that there was no evi

Contd. Page No...02

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Aalul Mahfil Union

(Persatuan Itu Kurnia - Unity is a Blessing)

Aalul Mahfil Union founded in 1932 and it's affiliate Aalul Mahfil Janaza Fund held its 65th Annual General Meeting on 9th May, 1999 at the "Padang" (Colombo Malay Cricket Club)

The following office bearers were elected for the ensuing year:

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MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

Parents from a respectable Malay family in Colombo seeks suitable partner for their daughter 42 Years, fair, slim and young looking, 5' 2" in height, religious and kind - hearted working as an Accounts Executive in a leading Shipping Company. Please reply C/o The Editor.

MP / 04 99

Father seeks suitable partner for their daughter 25 years old working as a receptionist in leading well - established mercantile firm. Please reply C/o The Editor.

MP / 05 / 99

Brother seeks suitable partner for his 37 years old sister with means working in a private firm, fair, slim and medium height. Please reply C/o The Editor

MP/ 06 / 99

CHINA (Page No. 01)

dence that the 26 original minority communities of the Yunnan region were of the same race as the Malays. He said the language of the Yunnan natives was not similar to that of the Malays while the physical characteristics were also dissimilar. The physical characteristics of the Yunnan people are more similar to the Mongoloids who were found in the Asian Continent including Japan & Korea. They might also belong to the " Marginal Group " who were between these two big races.

Prof. Nik Hassan, who had spent 20 years looking for proof to counter the Western Theory, said evidence in Yunnan showed that the Malays were not from the Yunnan province, but were the original inhabitants of the Malay world. There was no evidence to show any connection culturally or otherwise between the 26 ethnic minority groups in Yunnan and the inhabitants of the Malay world or Malayo - Polynesian world. That the Malays were the original inhabitants of the Malay world is substantially confirmed and proved beyond doubt by the precious discovery of the fossil of the pre-historic " Java Man "

* Visible Women *

Saudara M. A. Sourjah

Adversing to my article "The Purport of Terang" in the last issue focus was made on Lillian Rajaratnam's article "SHARIA not Barbaric or Uncivilized". I find yet another article by her under above title (DN/24.7), which also, deserves our attention. She rightly points out to two non-Muslims P.B. Dolawatte and E.A.V. Naganthan respectively, the futility of their campaign against the Hijab and the Muslim form of dress of women in Islam, as a direct 'violation of the fundamental rights of women'. In her defence, she postulates an answer to her obvious question whether wearing Designer Jeans and T-Shirts so that women can display their wares, as it were, is not immoral and a direct violation of the fundamental rights of women? She further effectively argues that, if nuns of the Christian and Buddhist faiths could respectively wear clothes with due deference to their codes of ethics, what is the apparent objection to women in Islamic faith wearing theirs in keeping with the code of ethics of their faith? She cites those Hindus who hang themselves on hooks to expiate for their sins. It is their belief, and their business too, says she.

It is a travesty of the paradigm of Islam to tamper with or campaign against another's belief of faith. "To you, your religion to me mine" quotes she (Quran S. 109:6)

Incidentally, Lillian confides that she is a convert to Islam. Let us then more than welcome her to our universal faith of Islam and be proud of her following the right attitude and the infallible guidance of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet's Sunnah.

In - as - far - as our Melayu Saudaris are concerned, even if they do not go to the extent of wearing the Hijab, they should at least fall back on their Baju Kuroong and Slendang. The Slendang should be a must for every girl from the time her breast shows sign of development.

(See "Slendang" appearing elsewhere in this issue.)

"Melayu adat sadat banyak utamah
itu hormat nga mari ikutlah."

"TERANG"

QUARTERLY MALAY NEWSLETTER

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BAHASA JIWA BANGSA

(LANGUAGE IS THE SOUL OF THE NATION)

As you may be aware the Sri Lankan Malays can only speak their language due to historical reasons. Even this ability to speak is gradually being lost by the younger generation. If we continue in this "tidak apa" manner, very soon we will lose our language. Kalau Hilang Bahasa, Nanti Hilang Bangsa.

The Institute of Language and Literature of Malaysia (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka) has kindly consented to assist us in preserving and developing the Malay language. They will be sending a fact-finding mission shortly to ascertain our needs and meet the target groups. They will follow this up by sending teachers to train our teachers. It is their intention to provide scholarships to outstanding students to study in Malaysia.

Here is a golden opportunity for all those Malays who are interested in preserving our language - and through it our ethnic identity - to meet the Malaysian fact finding mission.

Please contact.

MR. THAJUDEEN GIRSY
President - Mabile Malay Association.
Or The Malay Association in your area.

M A L A Y S

BREAK NEW GROUND ON THE ORIGIN OF THEIR SPECIES.
THEY ARE NOT DESCENDANTS OF MIGRANTS FROM CHINA

(By. M. A. Sourjah)

The 'old theory' that Malays were the descendants of the migrants from China is a shattered myth - 'purely speculative and should be dismissed' as misleading and unacceptable. The 'new theory' that Malays were the original and endemic inhabitants of the Malay World or Melayo Polynesia World has been substantially confirmed and proved beyond doubt by the precious discovery of the fossil of the prehistoric "Java Man"

Encik Farook Thalip, former editor of 'Terang' has thrown more epoch making light in his article 'Malays are not descendants of migrants from China' (Sunday Observer 1.8), to help disprove the 'old theory' that Malays were descendents of the migrants from Yunnan in South China to the Malay World? He confides that he too was in the dark and became all the wiser on the subject, consequent on his participation at the Antarbangsa Symposium on Melayo - Polynesian Commonwealth held at Kuala Lumpur, in November 1998 and is happy to convey the 'new theory' to the history hungry Sri Lanka Malays. He is grateful to his old friend Prof. Datuk Dr. Wan Hashim Wan Teh Vice Chancellor of the University of Kebangsaan Malaysia and Director of its Institute on Malay World and Civilization and his Deputy Director, Prof. Nik Hasan Suhaimi for providing him with the requisite publicized information. The 'old theory' on the origin of the Malays is described as 'purely speculative and should be dismissed' as misleading and untenable.

been published in the New Straits Times, Utusan Malaysia and the Star of September 1994, is based on 'archaeological discoveries indicating that there were already inhabitants of the Malay World as early as 35,000 years ago. This is because at that period the Malay World was one big land mass where the inhabitants could roam about freely. The inhabitants of the Malay World being of the same stock were indigenous people who practiced the same culture.

The above mentioned two researchers of eminence and the group of 60 Malay Studies Experts and Social Scientists from the Universities of Malaysia on their historical visits to Kuming and other historical places in Yunnan in August 1994, has unearthed substantial material to disprove any evidence of any connection on the basis of physical characteristics, culture or otherwise between the 26 ethnic minority groups in Yunnan and the inhabitants of the Malay World or Melayo Polynesian World. Their disparate claim that the Malays were the original and endemic inhabitants of the Malay World

is substantially confirmed by the precious discovery of the fossil of the prehistoric "Java Man"

In order to supplementary strengthen the foregoing criteria of material evidence, would it not be advantageous to draw on Dr. A.C. Haddon's book on the fascinating subject of "Wanderings of the Peoples in Asia"(1) and Races of man and their distribution ? (2) A more recent and elaborate account, somewhat abstruse to the non-anthropological reader has been given by L.H. Dudley Buxton (3), also refers. Haddon distinguishes three main divisions of mankind:

Ulotrichi (woolly-haired : corresponding roughly to the black or Negro race)

Cymotrichi (wavy-haired : corresponding roughly to the brown and white races)

Leiotrichi (straight-haired : corresponding roughly to the yellow races)

The Ulotrichi in Asia include certain very primitive pygmy races the Andamanese, the Semang of Malaya and Sumatra, and the Aetas of the

Break New Ground

Philippines - as well as the larger Papuans of New Guinea.

The Cymotrichi include long - headed (dolichocephalic), medium - headed (mesaticephalic), and the broad - headed (brachycephalic) groups, further subdivided by skin colour.

Dolichocephalic Cymotrichi, with dark brown to nearly black skins, include the Veddas of Ceylon, the jungle tribes (Pre - Dravidian) of Peninsular India, Malaya, Sumatra and Celebes, and also the Dravidians of India.

Dolichocephali Cymotrichi, of intermediate shades, include the Indo Afghans, who populate most of the south - western Asia and northern India the Indonesians of the East Indies, the Arabs and Jews.

Mesaticephalic Cymotrichi includes the indigenous Ainu of Japan.

Brachycephalic Cymotrichi includes the Armenians.

The Leiotrichi include practically all the inhabitants of northern and eastern Asia - the

straight - haired, yellowish or yellowish - brown - skinned races in certain cases only with eyes set obliquely, popularly and loosely called Mongols. The peoples of northern Siberia form one group, the Tungus and Manchus another, the Chinese proper a third, and the Turki peoples a fourth, the Ugrians of western Siberia a fifth, the Tibeto - Chinese (including Malays) a sixth. (Extracted from ASIA by L. Dudley Stamp - Pg. 54 1957 Edition)

In the context of the above anthropological criteria to go by, it will be interesting to ascertain from the eminent Researchers, referred to above, the quantum of collateral relationship that emanates to further support the 'new theory' that the Malays were the original and endemic inhabitants of the Malay World or Melayo Polynesian World.

End Notes :

1. The Wanderings of Peoples (Cambridge Press, 1911)
2. Milner n.d. (c.1911), rewritten and published by the Cambridge Press, 1924.
3. The Peoples of Asia (Kegan Paul, 1925)

M A B O L E M A L A Y A S S O C I A T I O N

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the MMA was held on 29th March 1999 at the Ragama Basilica Maha Vidyalaya hall. Many events and party games were organised at which the members and guests participated. A sumptuous buriyani buffet was enjoyed by all at a highly subsidised rate. An american auction raised funds for their activities.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for the fiscal year 1999 / 2000 :

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Sdr M.Z.M. Hilmi

Sdr Arifien Dane

(Socail & Cultural Aff.)

Sdr Rahuman Sariffodeen

Sdr A.J.T. Mohara

The Social & Cultural Affairs section had organized a weekend outing on June 19 & 20 at the JEDB circuit bungalow in Hantane.

The Woman's Affairs section has planned a project to donate a T.V. antenna and booster, door and window curtains, etc. to the Lady Fareed Home for Elders at Makola

Religious knowledge discussions are held each month on poya day at the residence of Sdr T.M.S. Saldin. All members are urged to attend.

INNI SIAPA...

Tuan Jurangan Saheed

Oleh : Nizam Samath (Kandy)

The son of Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Saheed residing at No. 30A, Subodhrama Road, Dehiwela. He had his education at Mahinda College, Galle and is presently employed at the Vidyarthna University College, Horana, as a Lecturer. He obtained his B.A (Hons) in Sinhala with English and the first Malay honors graduate in Sri Lanka who has specialized in Sinhala with English. He

achieved a Credit Pass for Buddhist at the O/L Exam and a "B" Pass for Buddhism Civilization at the A/L Exam. He had been in the staff of Zahira and Wesley Colleges from 1980 to 1990, where he was master in charge of the Buddhist Society and the Sinhala Literary Society at Wesley College from 1987 to 1989. He has also got through the "Principal Service" Gr. II Exam.

He is presently reading for his Ph. D on Malay Language in Sri Lanka and its continued usage. Having published a text for Sinhala Language on "Jathaka Stories" for the A/L Exam, has written a novel

in Sinhala and a collection of poems and short stories, which he intends to publish in due course. For the first degree he did a socio Anthropological research on the Palm Readers of the Colombo City.

Having a thorough distinction to serve the community by displaying our heritage through some sort of Academical activities towards the other nationalities he hopes to have a questionnaire program for the malays in relation to his Academical Research Survey out soon.

LETS LEARN ISLAM

OLEH : MAAS L. USOOF

Ibn Abbas (RA) relates that the Prophet (Sal) said, "People are great losers in respect of two bounties. i.e : health and affluence, as a result of which they do not worship Allah as much as they ought to do" (Bukhari)

We see both the healthy and the wealthy praying and doing acts of worship. The question to be asked is whether that is the extent to which they should be praying and indulging in the worship of Allah or ought it to be much more? The hadiths refers to the latter of the two propositions. When people are healthy, they spend more time in various other activities and devote just a little

time for the worship of Allah. Similarly, when one is rich he has a whole host of other activities to engage himself in such that he finds little time for the worship of Allah. If one is observant, one can notice that such people even when they are at prayer or in the act of doing some worship to Allah, is always in a haste or is worried about time or irritated if there is delay in the worships and generally, restless. They forget that time belongs to Allah, their wealth belongs to Allah and their health is given to them by Allah. It would not take Allah a micro second to deprive an ungrateful man of all he has by way of health and wealth that Allah has bestowed on him.

BAHASA MELAYU

On the decline. Is it heading for disaster ?

Regret to say that the use of our Bahasa Melayu has declined to such an extent that I am afraid we are heading for disaster in loosing our Bahasa, Jati Diri (Identity) and lastly our Bangsa. As it is, most of our children cannot speak Malay while others could understand a little but cannot speak Malay at all. The parents argue that the fault lies in schools not teaching Malay. This argument cannot hold good because the parents themselves who could converse well in Malay, were also taught in other languages, not Malay. I would attribute the blame for this situation entirely on the parents. If they would speak in

from their infancy, this problem would not have arisen.

Further, unlike for religious teaching, there is no need to engage someone to teach our mother tongue to our own children. It is the duty of the parents to teach the mother tongue to the children. If they failed to do so, it could be said that they are selfish, lethargic, irresponsible or have no love for our mother tongue.

I have very carefully chosen certain things and beings and prepared a list thereof to enhance your knowledge of Malay. Most of them are known to you by words from other languages and some of them are either touched, seen, used,

heard of or spoken of by you very often. Being a Malay, the words I have given in this list in Malay are easy to be remembered. I would earnestly request you to read this list at least once in a way and use these Malay terms often while conversing with friends and relations who visit you or meet you wherever it may. If our womenfolk would also label their bottles of spices with Malay terms, there is every possibility of the children learning the Malay terms for various spices that we use daily for the preparation of our food and gradually picking up the mother tongue - our precious heritage. Terimah Kasih.

M. Farook Thaliph

WHAT IS USUALLY FOUND IN A HOUSE.

Dapur	-	Hearth	Teko	-	Teapot	Theekar	-	Mat
Appi	-	Fire	Samsa	-	Spoon	Kattil	-	Bed
Bara	-	Ember	Garpu	-	Fork	Banthal	-	Pillow
Arang	-	Charcoal	Piso	-	Knife	Kenap	-	Teapoy
Smoke	-	Assap	Gellas	-	Tumble	Bangku	-	Bench
Abu	-	Ash	Peeris	-	Saucer	Kendera	-	Chair
Kuwali	-	Cooking pan	Piring	-	Plate	Meja	-	Table
Chobek	-	Washing pan	Chankair	-	Cup	Chorong	-	Funnel
Piriyok	-	Cooking pot	Mankok	-	Jug	Kullut	-	Broom
Sendok	-	Ladle	Kendi	-	Jar	Sapu sapu	-	Ekel Broom
Buyung	-	Water pot	Dulang	-	Tray	Sarong banthal	-	Pillow case
Alu	-	Pestle	Kachip	-	Aerecanut cutter	Batu geeling	-	Grinding stone
Lumpang	-	Mortar	Gunting	-	Pair of scissors	Sompurong	-	Blow pipe
Kukuran	-	Coconut scraper	Sisir	-	Comb	Tumba seeri	-	Betel Tray
Tampa	-	Winnower	Kacha	-	Mirror	Tumba looda	-	Spittoon
Tapis	-	Strainer / filter	Keepas	-	Fan	Anak batu geeling	-	Grinding pestle
Cheret	-	Kettle	Papis	-	Door mat / Rug			

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (Sayur-Sayur dan Buash-Buah)

Petola	-	Snakegourd	Ketimun	-	Cucumber	Nannas	-	Pineapple
Peria	-	Bittergourd	Sengkuang	-	Turnip	Buah agur	-	Grapes
Terong	-	Brinjal	Dileema	-	Pomegranade	Kelapa	-	Coconut
Kelor	-	Drumstick	Manga	-	Mango	Kubis	-	Cabbage
Lobak	-	Carrot	Majah	-	Beli Fruit	Labu Mera	-	Pumpkin
Labu air	-	Water Pumpkin	Belanga	-	Wood apple	Buah Tomato	-	Tomato
Kingkong	-	Water Convovulus	Papaya	-	Papaw	Ubi Keledak	-	Sweet Potato
Gundola	-	Spinach	Semanka	-	Water Melon	Babal (Polos)	-	Young jak fruit
Turi	-	Katuru Murunga	Belimbing	-	Star Fruit	Bawang Perrai	-	Leeks
Kurinja	-	Angunukola	Kentang	-	Potato	Lankair / Bistool	-	Wetakolu
Sukkun	-	Bread fruit	Ubi Kayu	-	Manioc / Cassava			

MISCELLANEOUS

Piece	-	Potong / Pechahan
Side	-	Subla
Size	-	Perangkat
Honey	-	Madu
Honeymoon	-	Bulan Madu
Kite	-	Layang-layang
Sun	-	Matahari / Surya
Rainbow	-	Pelangi
Souvenir	-	Tanda Mata
Eclipse	-	Gerhana
Divorce	-	Cherai
Lobster	-	Udang Karang
Air field	-	Padang terbang

JUST A REMINDER

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You seem to be happy that I reminded you.

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A call to all sister Associations

Please forward write-ups about the activities of your Association to be published in this Newsletter for the information of other Malays in Sri Lanka and abroad.

- Editor -

Nusantara..... Pg. 08. played by the smart young lads and attractive lasses who paraded the stage giving the viewers and idea of how they would look in one of these outfits. "Hats Off" to Mr. Ruffin Saldin, the choreographer for his great effort and that of the members of the M.M.A. and their families for blending together in unity to put up this great show with success. There is a lesson to be learnt that unitedly they had the strength to put up such a great show. Could not all Malay in the Island bind together to actively participate in the Socio-economic and cultural activities and to continue positively towards the unity progress and prosperity of the "Malay Community".

Well done - Mabole Malays. You lead where it matters. Others will follow.

AN APPRECIATION

Kala - Vibushana T.A.I. Saldin

*"Lo' Some we have loved, the loveliest and the best
That from his vintage rolling time hath prest
Have drunk their cup a round or two before
And one by one crept silently to rest."*

I wish to pay tribute to T.A.I. Saldin, a Veteran of Second World War, a dedicated ex-serviceman, a talented dancer and an experienced dancing instructor of repute in Oriental dancing, who passed away peacefully on Monday, 6th September, 1999 at UTTU WANKANDE, the stronghold of our local Robin Hood, SARDIEL of bygone era.

A legend of our time, T.A.I. Saldin joined the C.I.I. Volunteers in 1930 and served during the entire period of the Second World War when he was mobilised for active service. He also served in Malaysia and Singapore with the Ceylon Royal Pioneer Corps and held the rank of C.Q.M.S. He was a life member of the C.I.I. Association and made useful contributions as a Member of the Executive Committee of the C.I.I.A. (later S.I.I.I.A.) during various periods. He was also a past member of the General Council of SLESA and being a conscientious ex-serviceman, he made it a point to be present at all Annual General Meetings of the General Council of SLESA, whenever he was eligible to attend them.

His natural talent was dancing, which he loved and relished and at any social functions he would display his dancing prowess to keep the audience happy and in turn he too will be pleased with himself for making others happy with his spectacular performances. He was a member of the SEAC Entertainers, a Cultural Troupe, which was formed to entertain the

Troops deployed in various parts of the country at that time during the war. He also organised concerts and musical evenings in Malaysia and Singapore when he was serving in these two countries. Many Malay Organizations and other Institutions obtained his services to train their younger members in Oriental dancing and he was always there to help them with their requests.

In recognition of his services to the Community and to the Country in particular, former President J.R. Jayawardena conferred the much coveted award - Kala - Vibushana on Veteran T.A.I. Saldin.

He passed away at the ripe old age of 91 years and to my knowledge, he never suffered from any serious illness until a few days before his death when he complained of a chest pain and difficulty in breathing. He was medically examined and advised immediate hospitalisation but he declined saying that if he had to die he would rather prefer to go home and die than in hospital. Like a gallant soldier he virtually died with his boots on.

Apart from his very dear and loved ones, he leaves behind a host of his fans and admirers. His grand-daughter, Farah Dole and her brother, who are now settled down in Melbourne will surely miss him and so will one of his best pupil whom he had trained, Yolande Koch nee Ahlip, who is now following in her Guru's footsteps in Sydney.

Inna-Lilani Wa Inna Illaihi Rajioon.

CAPT. T.A. DOLE
Australia

NUSANTARA

"Nusantara" a cultural pageant was staged by the Mabile Malay Association at the BMICH on 12th September, 1999 under the patronage of HE Mr. Mohamed Saleh, Ambassador of Indonesia and HE Mr. Samsudin Bin Abdullah High Commissioner of Malaysia. The Chief Guest was the Hon. Laksman Jayakody, Minister of Religious and Cultural Affairs.

In staging this show the Mabile Malay Association aimed at creating an awareness of some of the dress codes, social customs, language and

culture of the Malays.

The programme commenced with the welcome song followed by scenes depicting flashback of the landing of the Malay King Chandrababu, arrival of the Royal Exiles and their retinue, and the Malay Rifle Regiment. An early morning scene of the Kampong showed the Malays going about their early morning chores. The highlight of the day was the traditional Malay marriage ceremony, the most celebrated occasion in the community, with kampong folks

joining in the fun and festivity. Dances featured were "Silat" (Malay martial - art Dance), "Sirimpi" (Court Dance) and "Ronggeng" (Group Dance) somewhat typical of our local bailsa dance. Two Indonesian artistes who were present on the invitation of the M.M.A. performed as "Guest Artistes".

Emphasising on the fashion side, the show provided the audience with a variety of traditional dresses worn by the young and old of yester-years. These were dis

Contd. Pg. 07.

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