

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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Amir to press against any extradition move?

TULF Secretary General and Opposition Leader, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, will urge Tamilnadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, to prevail upon the Indian Government not to extradite V. Prabhakaran, Uma Maheswaran and other youths involved in the Pandy Bazaar shoot-out to Sri Lanka, SATURDAY REVIEW reliably learns.

Mr. Amirthalingam and wife leave for Madurai this afternoon at the invitation of Kamaraj Congress Secretary Mr. P. Nedumaran, to participate in the 75th birthday celebrations of his father, Mr. Palaniyappan.

After spending 3 days in Madurai, Mr. & Mrs.

Amirthalingam will proceed to Madras where the TULF leader is billed to take part in a Tamil Eelam Friendship Association sponsored Conference (19, 20 Feb) at Periyar Thidal to discuss ways of safeguarding the rights of hill-country Tamils in Sri Lanka. During his stay in Madras, Mr. Amirthalingam is expected to meet Mr. Ramachandran and Kalaingar Karunanithi.

Political observers think

Mr. Amirthalingam's Indian trip is significant in the context of Minister S. Thondaman's recent visit to Tamilnadu, President J. R. Jayawardene's impending visit to India next month and the Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference which starts in Colombo on Monday (14 Feb). A resolution calling for changes in extradition laws is to be taken up at this Conference.

(See Feature on Page 4-Ed)

Ronnie—a temporary deflation?

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel who once made a public remark that even God Vishnu cannot check inflation resigned his seat as M. P. for Devinuwara, his constituency which housed the ancient Vishnu Devale of Dondra. Mr. de Mel has now been nominated as M.P. for Bulathsinhala seat rendered vacant by the resignation of its M. P., Mr. O. S. Perera. Devinuwara is one of the electorates where the vote went against the Government at the last Referendum.

And now, Mr. de Mel is without his portfolio as well. It is temporarily in the custody of the President.

Viewpoint

The Editor of the DAILY NEWS is a sad man. "Weep no more...", he says, taking his handkerchief and mopping his tears. But without intending to be personal—this is no reference to the gentleman who occupies the chair—he surely cannot be a wise man or a brave man though; because, remember that he has been the chief steward (if not the captain) of the government's Mass Media flagship that has brought the Admiral home through the stormy waters of the Referendum and the Presidential elections, and cruised along (with neither glory nor ignominy) through thick and thin and thuggery. And having brought home the bacon (and the Admiral) ashore without betraying any sensitivity to journalistic ethics or norms, and having led a dog's life in journalism, wagged the tails whenever required, why this sudden outburst of self-pity?

To those readers who might have missed it, our reference is to the DAILY NEWS editorial anguish of today's date (Saturday February 12). "Few newsmen are likely to harbour much bitterness against the Peruvian Indians who crucified a journalist somewhere on the Andes range recently", says this Beira Lake newspaper's editorial writer, in a sudden sulky mood of depression; little realising that the journalism that had been practised by his fellow palanquin-bearers over the years, particularly in respect of human rights violations on a section of the country's own citizens, has been more muddy than the waters of the lake that the Lake House windows overlook.

Hindu Swami questioned about 'Tiger' links!

Swami Premanandhaji of Poopalakrishna Ashram, Matale was—SATURDAY REVIEW learns—questioned recently about his frequent visits to Jaffna and asked whether he had any links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam or the Tamil United Liberation Front.

Two persons, presumably CID officials, had called at his Matale Ashram, told him there were a lot of petitions against him from the South and wanted to record his statement.

SATURDAY REVIEW learns the Swamiji had completely denied the allegations. He had told the officers that as a Tamil and a Hindu he visited predominantly Hindu areas to preach Hinduism; besides there is a branch of the Ashram at Chunnakam. The Swamiji had added he had no connections with any political party or proscribed organisation. The officers had left after recording his statement.

The Swamiji will be leaving for London next month on a preaching mission.

GUES plans 3-day

march against

Terrorism Act

A massive continuous three-day 'Pathayathirai' (a passive march) involving workers, farmers, youths, women and students is being planned by the General Union of Eelam Students (GUES) to rouse public consciousness against the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act'. The Secretary of GUES, Mr. M. Davidson in issuing a call for this purpose has said that this will be part of the campaign of freeing the

Eelam Tamil People from the oppressive law of the Sri Lanka Capitalist Government and demanding the release of all Tamils who are detained by the military forces without being charged in Courts of Law.

While exhorting all progressive forces to support this campaign GUES has also made an appeal to the members of the public to respond to a fund raising campaign for this historic march.

There is a dictum in the judicial process of the country that says: "Anyone who seeks equity has to go with his hands clean". Lake House journalists had never had their hands clean since the time of the anti Tamil riots of 1958. How after twenty five years of racist dirt on their hands do they come to expect equity and moral justice in the pursuit of their profession? What kind of profession do they think they are in?

When the DAILY NEWS says: "What people sometimes forget is that newspapers are read as much for their views as for their news", that is something that we call editorial wisdom. In fact, without meaning to, the editorial writer has described the SATURDAY REVIEW perfectly. Permit us therefore to return the compliment. The DAILY NEWS is not read for its news either; nor for its views either. It is read for its advertisements, its classified lists, but above all, for its OBITUARIES! A sad thought, but nevertheless true. That is why the DAILY NEWS like the Government gazette has readers, but no admirers, no devotees, no fans....

The journalist who was crucified in Peru had at least the honour of dying upright. It is time that the Lake House journalists make a new beginning in learning to sit on their chairs with the backbone upright, write upright, so that when the time comes to die, as it happens to all mortals, someone will say: Here was a journalist who DIED UPRIGHT. Who knows, if they do that, when some government inflicts on them the practical joke of asking them to "declare their assets", they can say with justifiable pride: "We have nothing to declare except our uprightness"!

Saturday Review

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EDITOR
S. Sivanayagam

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Life in University of Jaffna, Thinnavelly, returned to normal on Tuesday morning, as black flags and slogans were taken off and students started attending lectures. The second batch of fifty students who had been fasting since last Friday evening ended their fast, as scheduled, on Monday evening at 4 o'clock.

DEATHS

MANOHARAN KUHAN-ANDAN of Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna Branch, beloved son of Mr. K. Thangavadivelu of Thunnalai, brother of Jayanayagi, Satcunam, Nirmalam and Ruthiran passed away on Monday, 31.1.83. Funeral took place on Thursday, 3.2.83. 2, 4th Cross Street, Jaffna.

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These developments follow a discussion held on Sunday morning between the President of the Students' Union, Sriskandarajah, the Vice-Chancellor Professor S. Vithiananthan and Chancellor Mr. Manickavasager who had specially travelled from Colombo on Sunday. At the meeting the Vice-Chancellor is reported to have requested the students to give up their protest and

to grant him two weeks to bring about a settlement regarding the students who are now detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The detained students are Rajaji (of the University of Jaffna), Jeyaprakash (of the Technical School, Vaddukoddai) and Mylvaganam (a school boy).

On Monday, after a long discussion with the student representatives, the President of the Student's Union Mr. Sriskandarajah, delivered a statement saying that in the near future the students would extend the agitation against the P.T.A. and Army occupation of Jaffna, to the other districts. They would select particular areas and organise fasts and sit-ins involving the general public and the students.

Members of the Student's Union told *Saturday Review* that the decision to hold these struggles with intervals was made because a continuous strike would prompt authorities to close down the Campus, thereby denying them the ability to organise further campaigns.

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When will the new Jayewardene administration get going?

The President seems to be in no hurry while backstage the manoeuvring by UNPers for power and position continues unrelentlessly.

Can the state machinery and the country continue to remain in this state of suspended animation when according to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel the economic situation is giving cause for very serious concern?

Mr. de Mel has said in a newspaper interview, after his return from talks with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, that "Sri Lanka runs the risk of a complete political and economic breakdown unless a viable balance of payments situation can be achieved."

But the Government does not appear to be displaying that sense of urgency one would expect at a time of grave crisis.

The undated letters of resignation of the UNP parliamentarians have now been in the President's "pocket" since October 28. It must be a heavy burden he is carrying!

I think it is time that he got rid of the burden by either throwing all the letters into the dustbin — that is to say carry on with the same team as now, if it appears that changes could rock the Government boat — or throwing on to the dust heap those politicians who for one reason or other,

Political Causerie

by

Gamini Navaratne

Govt. changes not likely - they could rock the govt. boat!

or for many reasons, are found by the President to be unfit to be in Parliament and so hold public office.

The only people I see profiting from the present hiatus are astrologers and kapuralas as some of those politicians who are uncertain of their future check and re-check their horoscopes and hold puja after puja!

DHARMISTA, MY FOOT!

In the current infighting, the tragedy is that there can be losers other than politicians: officials, for instance, who are forced to take sides or refuse to take sides, as illustrated by this story related to me.

A powerful Minister called in his Additional Secretary and the Senior Assistant Secretary and ordered them

to remove immediately all those persons appointed by the Deputy Minister recently.

The two officials were in a quandary because until quite recently the Minister and his deputy were thick chums; moreover, the second-in-command was also known to have considerable political clout.

Finally, the following morning the two officials drafted a letter to be sent to the Deputy Minister conveying the Minister's decision.

Before it could be sent, however, the Minister rushed in and berated them for having failed to carry out his order.

He promptly asked the Secretary to "go home" for good and transferred the Senior Assistant Secretary

to another department!

THE NEW GODS

In almost every Buddhist temple, there are shrines dedicated to Vishnu, Skanda and other deities. And most Buddhists make it a point to drop some coins in the respective tills before leaving.

Along Rosmead Place, Colombo 7, also there are no three "shrines". A person who visits any one of them and goes away without visiting the other two, sometimes for the only reason that there is no time to do so, is likely to incur the displeasure, or even enmity and wrath, of the "presiding deities" if they believe they have been slighted.

This is the predicament of many SLFPers who go down Rosmead Place these days, I am told.

Though the three "deities" do not possess any divine power, they have "pusaris" who keep them informed of who visited whom.

My advice to those SLFPers who are caught up in the power struggle within the party is to follow the Buddhist practice of worshipping at every shrine!

Where will Maithri end up?

Where will Mr. Maithripala Senanayake finally end up? Beginning his parliamentary career as a UNPer in 1947, he was still in that party when the 1952 general election came along. Some time later he defected to the SLFP and remained there until the 1981 split.

The 67-year veteran politician who might have been the leader of the SLFP and its candidate at the Presidential election—with some hope of worsting Mr. Jayewardene—lost his chance as much due to his own folly as the machinations of a group within the SLFP. Both factions walked into the trap set by the UNP with virtually open eyes.

With all hope of a reconciliation dashed on the rock of Mrs. Bandaranaike's intransigence, he now appears destined to go into the political wilderness—unless rescued by President Jayewardene.

Whether and how Mr. Jayewardene could do this is now the subject of talk within the UNP itself.

Recently, at a meeting of the South Asian Study Circle of the University of Jaffna, a prominent New Delhi Academic maintained that the secession of a nationality from the existing State is a highly difficult affair and not possible without the involvement of external powers. She has cited some pages of political history to justify her claim. If she is theoretically correct then we have to come to the following conclusion: that nothing other than compromising is possible in the case of the national question. This fails to take into account the dialectical nature of the struggle of humanity in the world.

The modern world has been shaped from 1848 by the victories in the numerous struggles waged by national liberation movements and socialist revolutions. Through these victories mankind is continuously breaking the rusty chains hampering their forward march in the annals of history.

The struggle for national independence was won by the nations of West Europe with the eruptions of the bourgeois revolution of 1848.

The Right of Self-determination: Some theoretical issues

Most of the separate countries which appeared in the political map of West Europe for the first time during this period have a homogeneous national composition. In Switzerland (one of the few exceptions) different nationalities have settled their problems on the basis of equality.

The National question of Most of the developed world has been permanently settled by the creation of the Nation State or by the voluntary union of the nation States (USSR in 1922) both by the application of the right of self-determination. In some other countries this problem has been tentatively settled

on the basis of equality in 1922 and formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1922. In some Socialist Countries the right of self-determination is not enjoyed by the small nations and as a result some of these multinational socialist countries are also facing problems.

The victory of the Socia-

by

V. I. S. Jayapalan

In East Europe capitalism developed much later followed by national liberation struggles. Earlier, attempts of the Hungarians and Czechs were defeated. The defeat of the Czechs became an important lesson in history. They went against the mainstream of national liberation movements of Europe in 1848s by aligning with the oppressive Czarist Russia.

by the adoption of regional autonomy.

Among multinational socialist countries, only in the Soviet Union, the oppressed small nations also enjoyed the unlimited right of self-determination. First they formed their own socialist republics after the victory of the 1917 Socialist Revolution. These Republics entered into the voluntary union on the

list Revolution alone is not enough of a guarantee for the smaller nations in a multinational country. And the victory of the right of self-determination or the national liberation movement alone does not afford adequate guarantee for the oppressed masses to settle socio-economic questions of the people belonging to the oppressed nations.

I can cite the changes that have taken place in the political map of Socialist Czechoslovakia. After the liberation of Czechoslovakia in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, the German minority was transferred to Germany after the end of the War. On the basis of a bilateral agreement between Czechoslovakia and Hungary a part of the Magyars who had been living in Czechoslovakia were exchanged for Slovaks living in Hungary. After two decades of the victory of Socialism, Czechoslovakia has introduced constitutional reforms to ensure more freedom for the nationalities by the adoption of federation in 1969.

In this half of the century national liberation struggles along with the Socialist Revolution shifted mainly to the underdeveloped countries. Because of the Socioeconomic and political process of underdevelopment dictated by the institutions of imperialism the struggle for national

(Continued on page 10)

Political offences & Extradition laws

According to newspaper reports it is understood that the Law Ministers of Commonwealth Nations meeting at the Bandaranaike Hall will suggest amendments to the Law of Extradition of Offenders in foreign countries. But it is not clear what type of offenders will be extradited.

This matter is of great international importance and must be dealt with that degree of caution that is necessary to avoid violation of international norms of justice that had hitherto preserved personal liberties and political freedom. This question must be approached with vision, fairness and tact. Nations, Ministers and politicians, troubled with their local and peculiar problems, should not hasten to effect such amendments, for they themselves in time to come might become victims of such legislation!

They were ahead of their times

If the contemplated offenders are ordinary offenders under the ordinary laws such as the Penal Code, etc., then extradition of such offenders is understandable and that has been the acknowledged legal practice the world over. But no Law of Extradition can be amended so as to include persons for their political activities and affiliations, who, by their expressions of thoughts or views and by their activities, had influenced the world in effecting reforms although their States had branded them as offenders, traitors, terrorists, etc.

Penal Code Offences

The world must consider persons like Jesus Christ and Socrates who were far ahead of their times. They were branded as offenders, rather as seditionists and traitors against the State. We would wish that they fled their countries and took refuge in foreign countries. Their lives, if allowed to continue, could have been more beneficial to the world.

Karl Marx and Lenin lived in fear in their places of birth on account of their theories, their convictions, and political ideologies. Karl Marx was given shelter by

Great Britain, the Great Defender of personal freedom and there he was able to develop his economic theories which today have influenced a considerable portion of the world! Today he is the idol of millions of workers all over the world and Lenin the darling of all his countrymen! If they both were scotched in their youth and exterminated we will not have the socialist society which we have today.

Minister of Madras, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, referring to Prabakaran, Uma Maheswaran and others whom the Lankan Government wanted to be extradited by the Indian Government, made the following apt remark: "If they are Terrorists what about Subhas Chandra Bose?"

This reaction by the Indian people is not only spontaneous but democratic and human. Political offenders are not like or-

14(1): "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution".

14(2) "This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecution genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

This Article makes it clear that a political offender "has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from

have denounced the Prevention of Terrorism Act and have expressed the fear that the Government would use it to destroy their Party. They fear that the recent arrest, torture and incarceration of some of their leaders is a beginning in that direction. Similar fear has been evinced by the leaders of the other Political Parties too.

The Lankan Government may have reasons to persuade the other members of the Commonwealth to agree to such amendment, but caution and the sense of justice must prevail against any such attempt.

It is widely believed by the Tamil people that the Terrorism Act is being used to crush the Liberation Movement of the Tamil People! Even foreigners, tourists and Diplomats are able to see this with their naked eyes.

Every year the Independence Day, that is February 4th, is celebrated by the Sinhala People amidst great rejoicing, pomp and glory while in the north the Independence Day is a day of mourning for the Tamil people! Tamil leaders, Sir P. Arunachalam, Sir P. Ramanathan and many others struggled for Independence of Ceylon, but the Sinhala people by virtue of their majority are oppressing the Tamil people, denying them their fundamental rights. Attempts by Tamil leaders for over a quarter of a century for a peaceful solution of the Tamil problem having failed, the Tamil United Liberation Front passed a Resolution in 1976 at Vaddukkoddai to put forward the demand for a separate Tamil Eelam State.

At three elections the Tamil people had reiterated their demand for Tamil Eelam State, i.e., at the 1977 Parliamentary Elections, the District Development Council Elections in 1981, the Presidential Election in October 22, 1982 and at the Referendum in December 1982 routing all the political parties that contested the TULF which is the acknowledged party of the Tamil people.

The Riots of 1956, 1958, 1977, 1980 and 1981 in which the Sinhala thugs and workers killed brutally hundreds of innocent Tamil people, the denial of a reasonable proportion of jobs, the neglect of Tamil areas, the denial of merit selection of Tamil students to the Universities, the failure of the Government to

(Continued on page 9)

by

S. Ponniah

Attorney at Law

In more recent times, we had men like Poet Bharati and Sri Arobindu who had firm views on Indian Independence. For this they were branded by the British Imperial Government as extremist and seditionists and they both fled to Pondichery and found shelter there and both of them contributed a good deal in creating the political awakening of the Indian people. But for Subhas Chandra Bose the Indian Independence Movement could not have gathered momentum as it did in his time. He was able to find political asylum abroad from where he organized the Indian National Army which produced youths of the stature of Bhagavat Singh which name was all inspiration to the youth movement in India. Although Mahatma Gandhi could not agree to their approach to secure Indian Independence, he openly praised them for their courageous part in the cause of Indian Freedom.

What would have happened to Dr. N. M. Perera, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and the Gunawardenas if India refused to give shelter to them! They could have been summarily disposed of by the white Government and they could not have wielded the influence that they did in moulding a liberal socialist society after their re-entry into Sri Lanka.

Although the Government of Sri Lanka branded Kuttimani, Jegan, Prabakaran, Uma Maheswaran and others as Terrorists, from the point of view of the Tamil people they are all liberators; it may be that their method of approach to secure Tamil Eelam State is not acceptable to many. The Chief

Minister of Madras, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, referring to Prabakaran, Uma Maheswaran and others whom the Lankan Government wanted to be extradited by the Indian Government, made the following apt remark: "If they are Terrorists what about Subhas Chandra Bose?"

ordinary offenders who are motivated by personal advancement, malice and vengeance. Men who fight for the liberation of their people risk everything, their wives and children, their wealth, their health and comfort and above all their personal liberties; they are men who sacrifice everything they have, their very life. They are really the heroes of their society and therefore they deserve the highest praise and reward. Let not human society tarnish or brand them as Terrorists, Seditionists or Traitors; human society should not misplace values of life lest it becomes inhuman and tyrannical!

It is for reasons of high policy that the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS lays down in Article



Karl Marx

He found shelter in Gt. Britain

prosecution". Legislators, whether national or international, should bear in mind this Article of the Universal Declaration when they set out to amend the Law of Extradition. As Freedom Fighters are men of the highest calibre and value, this Universal Declaration has, after due deliberation, laid down that such men of worth and sacrifice shall be protected from prosecution. The Legislators therefore should see that whatever they legislate should not go against the spirit and objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The fear current in Sri Lanka today is that the UNP Government, in its pursuit of power, may well embark on a voyage of discovering ways of silencing and even crushing its political opponents such as the SLFP, the JVP, the CP and even the TULF. Leaders of the SLFP

Tamil woman writer in London questioned by Scotland Yard

A London based Tamil writer-novelist **Mrs. Rajeswari Balasubramaniam** was questioned by Scotland Yard men at her flat recently.

New Statesman London has published the following account by UPALI COORAY in its issue of 28th January, 1983:

"Last Thursday afternoon, Rajeswari Balasubramaniam was about to leave her North London flat to go to the doctor when she was confronted by two men looking for 'sister Rajesh'. When Rajesh identified herself, the men explained that they were George Wild and Stuart Jones from New Scotland Yard, and that they had come for 'a friendly chat'.

"The cause of their visit was a picket which Rajesh had helped to organise the previous Saturday outside the Ceylon Tea Centre in Piccadilly Circus. The picket, which was entirely peaceful, was a protest at the detention of Mrs. Nirmala Nithyananthan, a well-known Tamil writer and dramatist, who has been held without trial at the Guru Nagar army camp in Sri Lanka since 18 November 1982. There was no female guards at the camp, and friends and relations

have been refused access to Nirmala.

"Messrs Wild and Jones told Rajesh that they wanted to find out whether she intended to organise any more pickets, because they wanted to know how many police they should allocate to the next one. When Rajesh replied that she had not thought of arranging any future pickets, she was asked further questions: who was Nirmala and why had Rajesh organised a picket for her?

"Rajesh told the men from the Yard that she, like Nirmala, was a writer and a woman, and she wanted to protest at human rights violations by the Sri Lankan government.

"However, the police wanted to know more, even though Rajesh had explained that she had a heavy dose of flu and would prefer them to leave. How did she get the time to write while looking after three children and doing a full-time job? Which groups were involved in these protests? Did she know a particular man who had recently been deported from India?

Sri Lankans living in Britain are understandably suspicious of this kind of questioning. Some are convinced that the Sri Lankan po-



The Tamil Women League of U. K. organized a "FREE NIRMALA" Campaign in U. K. and held a picketing in front of the Ceylon Tea Centre, London on January 15. Various Tamil political groups joined in the campaign with the exception of the TULF Branch in London. A delegate from the Revolutionary Marxist Party, a Sinhalese, also participated. Many English women, members of the Labour Party also helped in the campaign.

Picture below shows **Mr. S. Maharasingham**, Chairman of the Tamil Action Committee, participating in the picketing.



lice work in close collaboration with their British counterparts. A number of students who have returned from London to Sri Lanka in recent years have been arrested at Colombo airport and shown recent photographs of themselves which had obviously been taken in London without their knowledge.

When the New Statesman rang Mr. Jones at Scotland Yard, to ask him about the purpose of his visit to Rajesh, he replied, "I would think it's a matter of public order, wouldn't you?" When we pointed out that the picket outside the Ceylon Tea Centre had been wholly orderly, he agreed,

but declined to answer any more questions.

Eventually, the press bureau at Scotland Yard issued us with a statement which said that the questioning of Rajesh had been 'in the course of a general inquiry aimed at assisting the police to cover any future demonstration by her group - it was purely routine'.

news BRIEFS

Jaffna: A soldier on guard duty at the Gurunagar Army Camp M. A. Somaratne (30) was injured when his gun went off accidentally on 4th February. He was admitted to the Jaffna Hospital with five gun shot injuries and later flown down to Colombo for emergency treatment.

Madras: The first digital (electronic) wrist watches manufactured in Tamil Nadu, India, were released for

sale by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran on February 4th. These digital watches are priced from Rs. 590/- to Rs. 700/-. It was announced that the Tamil Nadu factory run in collaboration with a Japanese firm has a production capacity of two lakhs of watches per year.

Jaffna: The Tamil Eelam Liberation Front will have its Headquarters at 54/10, Swamiar Road, Columbuthurai,

Jaffna. The TELF which is now engaged on an intensive membership drive will also release its policy proclamation shortly.

Jaffna: Unconfirmed reports that the Morning Express Train that leaves K. K. S. at 6.05 a. m., daily is to be cancelled in order to give way to the Inter-City Express have evoked protests from the railway commuters in the north. Some of the commuters told 'Saturday Review' that they are daily travellers going from Jaffna to Offices at Paranthan, Kilinochchi, Mankulam and Vavuniya on government concessionary season ticket and they will be badly affected if this proposal is carried out.

Point Pedro: Ten youths from Valvettiturai who were

arrested by the Police on the public highway on suspicion that they were 'TERRORISTS' and remanded were discharged by the Point Pedro Magistrate Mr. V. P. Sutherland when it was pointed out by the Defence Counsel that there was not even a shred of evidence to connect them with the terrorist movement. The Prosecuting Police Officer did not object to the release of the suspects and the car in which they travelled was returned to the owner.

Trincomalee: A Palmyrah Products Training Centre is to be set up in the Trincomalee electorate and a lakh of rupees has been allocated for the purpose under the decentralised budget.

It is proposed to put up a permanent building for the Centre at Varodhayanagar.

Colombo: Five charred bodies of chena cultivators were discovered in the jungles of Wellawaya. Police believe that they were killed in a clash between two rival groups and their bodies burnt and thrown into the jungle. The five dead men have been identified as W. E. Gunasena, W. P. Gunadasa, S. L. Premadasa, S. Karunadasa and W. B. Piyadasa.

Jaffna: The Feast of St. Anthony will be celebrated at Kachchativu this year beginning March 9th with the hoisting of the flag. The Annual Feast in which pilgrims from Sri Lanka and India participate will take place on Sunday the 13th.

Colombo: Dr. Colvin R. de Silva the LSSP leader left for Britain on Monday for eye surgery.

What happened to the past glories of Vannarponnai?

The writer was a school boy in Jaffna during the twenties and early thirties. Those were the days when 'what Vannarponnai thought one day, Jaffna thought the next day and Ceylon the third day.' Those were the days when great scholars, teachers and religious leaders lived in Vannarponnai. **Yogar Swamy** lived there during this period—only later he moved to Columbuturai. Vannarponnai was undoubtedly the then centre for thinking, religious and cultural revival and political reawakening. Vannarponnai to the Tamils resembled Bengal to the Indians in the 19th century. Thereafter many things happened and now perhaps Vannarponnai is not what it was. Has this centre now shifted to Thirunelveli with the University there from 1974? If not, has the centre dispersed or disappeared without a successor?

The Hindu revival after **Navalar**, made Vannarponnai a hive of activity. Navalar located his school in Vannarponnai and spent most of his Jaffna life there. Hindu College was founded in the latter part of 19th century. Early this century Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya was founded—this institute may be said to be the forerunner of 'free education' for it was here for the first time many students paid no fees. The educational institutions were manned with those educated in Madras and Calcutta. They brought with them from India the political philosophy of the then Indian statesmen struggling for independence, and cultural and religious thought of the English educated Indians. Some of the teachers made great impression not only on the students but on the parents as well.

Distinguished Indian visitors

Vannarponnai became such an attraction that the well-known teacher **A.E. Tamber** though he had a home at the main street could be seen in Vannarponnai in the company of **Kalaipulavar Nayaratham** all hours outside school hours. **Handy Perinpanayagam** and the Jaffna Youth Congress too were in Vannarponnai making their presence felt.

Distinguished Indian visitors to Jaffna never failed to give a lecture at Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya Hall.—**Mahatma Gandhi**, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, **Rajaji**, **Srinivasa Sastri** to mention a few. Such lectures kept the tembo of the religious, cultural and political revival of Jaffna through Vannarponnai. As a school boy the writer had attended all or most of these lectures. There was a very impressive lecture by **Justice Akbar** in the thirties which the writer can distinctly remember. He

said Jaffna was a blessed land due to the two gifts it had then. One was **Yogar Swamy** and the other was the **Palmyrah**.

It was really a gift to have been born and brought up in Vannarponnai—this was the remark of **Justice Kulasekaram** of Singapore when one day the writer narrated his early experience. Was it not a great experience for a boy if on an evening walk he would run into **Yogar Swamy** or **M.S. Elayathamby** (Advocate and Editor of **Hindu Organ**) or **Kalai Pulavar Navaratnam** in the streets of Vannarponnai?

Decline in the forties

Along with the human environment there were already the great temples of **Vaidyeshwara Sivan Temple** and **Perumal Kovil**. To lend religious fervour there were several small temples in addition to the big ones. Religious discourses were common and **Vaidyeshwara Vidyalyaya** was important venue with the **Ramakrishna Mission** giving the lead.

To complete the picture of the role of Vannarponnai in the revival of our religious, cultural and political life, mention has to be made of the books, pamphlets and journals published in Vannarponnai. **Saiva Paripalana Press**, **Navalar Press** and several other printers/publishers released valuable material to enrich life.

By the forties, things were changing for Vannarponnai. **Yogar Swamy** had left for Columbuturai. The Indian graduate as a teacher who guided not only the destinies of the young but also the elders was being replaced by the graduate of Ceylon University College. Politicians from Colombo became the leaders of the people. All these were eroding the 'high thinking and simple living' of Vannarponnai as well as the rest of Jaffna. Values were changing. The teachers started losing their positions as shapers of our destinies. Jobs in South Ceylon attracted many.

One could see the change in attitude if an earlier experience is narrated here. The writer's father was an **F.A. (First of Arts)** of the **Calcutta University**. When he secured the **F.A. degree** he was offered a **Staff post** in the **Forest Department** at **Anuradhapura** on a **sterling salary**. This was sometime after 1890. But this offer was turned down and he became a teacher to serve the people. He worked, lived and died in Vannarponnai. Alas! what

is the attitude today.

The **Free Education** scheme was introduced with its many advantages and some disadvantages in the forties. The Government took over the schools in the sixties. These have had their long term repercussions. Jaffna failed to produce another **Handy Perinpanayagam** or another **Ambihaipakan**. Principals and teachers looked like the Government servants of the **kachcheries**—merely biding time till the next transfer. The Jaffna people were like the people of **Oxford** and **Cambridge** who merely accepted **London** as a political capital and not an intellectual capital. **Colombo** was accepted likewise. But this did not last and Jaffna

side of the University. Some independent thinking is taking place. There is considerable contact between schools and the University. There was a time prior to 1974 when politicians dominated the annual price-giving functions in the North. Now this seems to be almost a monopoly of the dons a move in the right direction. There is some influence of the dons on the school teachers and this in turn would benefit the children and parents.

Considerable work has to be done to consolidate the newly created position. The University staff should as far as possible reside within a reasonable distance of the University so that their presence

is a pity that death should have snatched him away. The writer had discussed this subject with him a few weeks before his passing away. What he and I would like to see is that the dons should be equally at ease with the general public as with students and colleagues within the University. It is then that their usefulness is passed on to the man-in-the-street. Then there would be no need for an **American Wilson** or a **Colombo Neelan** to advise the Tamil politicians in their dialogue with the Government. It should be mentioned that our leaders like **GG** or **SJV** never took advisers for their dialogues with the Government. After all advisers who little know the pragmatic side of life in the North and East could only be of limited use in any fruitful discussions.

Let us look to the future with confidence for making Thirunelveli our thinking capital. There is talent both within and outside the University. Outside the University we have many retired teachers, lawyers, medical men, financiers, business men and others who can contribute to our religious, cultural, social, economic and other developmental progress. We have done it in the past and we shall do it in the future.

PERSPECTIVES

By **Nagamuttu**

and Vannarponnai in due course lost their envious positions.

In 1974 the Government gave a **University Campus** to Jaffna and gradually men of some standing started to reside in Jaffna—mainly in Thirunelveli. Four years later the Campus attained full University Status. Some of the dons are making their presence felt both inside and out-

side the University is not dispersed. They should feel they have a life outside the University as well. Further faculties have to be added to the University to strengthen the position towards the public. 'Some living for the community' is needed beyond lectures and ceremonials.

The late **Professor Kailasapathy** was working with some of these ideals and it



Protest in Germany

Tamil exile groups in Germany took out a demonstration in Frankfurt recently protesting against the 'PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT' in Sri Lanka and demanding freedom for young Tamil activists framed up as 'TERRORISTS' and submitted to torture.

They also demanded political asylum for the Tamils and the stopping of deportations.

Judicial changes in the North

Two senior Magistrates, **Mr. V. Jegasothy**, Magistrate, Jaffna, and **Mr. T. Joganathan**, Magistrate, **Kilinochchi** have been promoted **Additional District Judges**. **Mr. Jegasothy** will continue in Jaffna as **A.D.J.** while **Mr. Joganathan** goes as **A. D. J.**, **Kalmunai**. **Mr. Jegasothy** will also be **Supernumerary D. J.** North and East.

Supernumerary Magistrate Mr. V. Nagaraja will

function as Magistrate, Jaffna, and **Mr. V. P. Suntharalingam**, Magistrate, **Point Pedro**, will take over as **District Judge, Point Pedro**. **SATURDAY REVIEW** understands that **Mr. T. K. Thilagan, D.J.**, **Point Pedro**, has asked for a transfer of station

after what he felt was humiliation within his own jurisdiction at the hands of some Army personnel. **Mr. V. Kanapathipillai** now head of the **Primary Court, Mullaitivu** will take over as **Magistrate, Point Pedro**. All changes take effect from the 14th of this month.

The centenary of the greatest political folly of Sri Lanka - 2

The first part of this article was published in the last issue of SR

From these observations, it is evident that he disagreed with the proposal because (i) had it been introduced at the time of annexation of the Colony to the British Empire, it would have been proper and (ii) a system of Government was in operation and any change should be destined to proceed from the established system in vogue. In other words he did not endorse a change of the system of Government in vogue.

On a closer examination, his own arguments can be seen to be mutually contradictory. Having accepted that this system of Government had worked "splendidly in India", he contradicts this by saying that "we must start from where we are". This is an exposure of his adamancy, arrogance or ignorance or all. Again having accepted the goodness in Dickson's proposed system by saying:

"I fully recognize the merits of his scheme and I think it would have been admirably suited to the Government of the native population (not the European population) had it been adopted at the time of the conquest of the Island" he contradicts himself by saying: "But of such great and certain advantages there is absolutely no evidence, and I think that in some respects there are no advantages which must not be overlooked".

Under the govt. of Madras

The underlying motive behind his disagreement is the implied refusal to accede to anything that benefits the natives and the overall desire to promote and protect the European vested interests and invariably the imperial bureaucratic interests and benefits.

The British took possession of Ceylon on February 16, 1796 and it was placed under the Government of Madras. The local administration was carried on by three Civilian Officers stationed at Colombo, Galle and Jaffna who took their orders from a Major-General Commanding the Forces to whom the administration was entrusted by the Government in Madras. The collection of revenue and the attendant harsh methods adopted by the men specially imported by the Government from Madras for this purpose led to a rise of the people against the harsh methods in several villages in 1797. As a result, Ceylon was separated from the Government of Madras and transferred to the Crown and made a King's Colony by itself. On October 12, 1798 Hon. Fredrick North was appointed the first Governor.

Colebrooke who visited the Island in 1831-1832 recommended certain reforms to economise the administration without injury to the revenue from the Colony. His

recommendations were implemented in 1833 by artificially bringing the whole Island with three clearly distinct Tamil, Kandyan and Low-Country areas into a uniform and unitary form of Government.

However, Colebrooke himself warned of the possible impracticabilities of this artificial unification of the three distinct areas. He said, "In a Community composed of different races, who are attached to ancient customs, and attentive to the effect of innovation, it is indispensable that changes in law should not be adopted precipitately, and without their provisions being previously known to and considered by the people".

by

A. Theva Pajan

He also included certain clauses in the constitution forbidding any form of communal discrimination. These clauses were subsequently modified from time to time whenever a change took place and issued as Royal Instructions. In its final stage, it became Section 29 of the Soulbury Constitution, which entrenched clause prohibited any form of communal discrimination.

Civil Servants from England

The observations of Sir James Longden were replied to by the Rt. Hon. Earl of Derby, the Secretary of State for Colonies. (Sessional Paper No. XVII of 1883). He favoured Longden and disallowed Dickson's proposals. He said in his despatch sent to A. H. Gordon, Governor of Ceylon who succeeded Longden:

"For this very reason it appears to me that a sweeping change of the kind suggested needs to be justified by evidence that the system proposed to be altered is either radically bad in principle or ineffective in practice, and I fail to see that either of these charges can be sustained against the present organization of Ceylon, while, if the financial results be taken into consideration it is not clear that any great economy would be effected by the change.

"These are the general objections to be taken to a scheme of this kind, but Mr. Dickson has worked out his suggestions so dearly and fully that they deserve at any rate, careful consideration, and I do

not feel satisfied that they have been sufficiently appreciated."

The Earl of Derby, the Secretary of State for Colonies said at the outset that these suggestions deserve consideration even in the context of retrenchment. However, he chooses to dismiss them. He has subtly given the reasons for his dismissal. If Dickson's proposals were implemented "the prospects of the Civil Service would be injured". He further says, "It would be difficult to carry it out for sometime to come without affecting the position of the

existing officers." The very terms of reference of this Retrenchment Committee had categorically cautioned that the recommendations should be with "due regard being had to vested interests." The Civil Service in its higher echelons was manned by men imported from England on a lucrative salary. Irrespective of whether the proposed system of Government was suitable in the context of Ceylon and irrespective of its benefits to the natives, the future of the Civil Servants, the vested interest at that, was his prime concern. If the existing seven provinces were to be reduced to three, at least four British Civil Servants would have been displaced. He did not want a system that would cause such dislocations, to be endorsed or implemented. The British were not prepared to forego their vested interests.

Soulbury was

lulled . . .

It is thus evident that British imperial bureaucracy had prevented the implementation of a scheme which was best suited to the country and very beneficial to the natives who belonged to different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. Had this been implemented the country would have preserved the national unity that is much wanted today and would have emerged as a very strong nation with a surplus economy and would have been the real pearl of the East. By the failure to implement it the country is torn by communal strife and a sick eco-

nomy.

Longden was a mediocrity, a poor administrator and was not knowledgeable. John Ferguson the powerful Editor of the "Observer" dismissed him as "too antiquated and sleepy in his ideas to promote anything beyond the bounds of red-tape official routine."

H.A.J. Hulugalle has a better comment about Longden when he says, "Dull and safe men have their uses and James Robert Longden did not let the Colonial office down."

It is thus evident that a system of administration was foisted on the natives of

the 19th Century was a nationalism of the microscopic minority of English educated elite. It began to lose its character in the early phase of the 20th century, especially after the introduction of Universal franchise in 1931. Ivor Jennings has portrayed this situation in its clear perspective. He says:

"The social diversity of the population of Ceylon requires emphasis, for it was the principal obstruction to the development of self-government. The small educated minority developed a nationalist movement which in theory ignored "race", religion and caste.....the election returns show that almost invariably the electors had voted for candidates of their own race, religion and caste."

Thus, we have today the sorry spectacle of Sinhala nationalism pitted against Tamil nationalism. The greatest political folly had been committed in 1883 when Longden refused to re-divide Ceylon into Tamil, Kandyan and Low Country Provinces and carry on the Government, paying due respect to the racial, cultural and religious distinctions and aspirations of the native people, although it was pointed out by two gentlemen of vision the Hon. Mr. E. J. Young and Mr. J. F. Dickson, though they were Europeans themselves. This triangular division of the country into three major administrative Provinces is also in keeping with the historical fact that there were three independent Kingdoms — the Kingdoms of Kotte, Kandy and Jaffna before the advent of the Europeans. This ad hoc unification of these three territories without adequate consideration for the inherent racial, cultural and religious sentiments of the respective people has resulted in a century of turmoil, frustration, and eventual national degeneration.

The continuance of the British imperial bureaucracy has resulted in the entrenchment of the Sinhala bureaucracy by virtue of mere numerical strength. This has estranged the Tamils too far to be desirable. But it does not mean that there were no Statesmen or nati-



D. S. SENANAYAKE

Ceylon with utter disregard for the racial, cultural and other differences. But the British bureaucratic attitude had not changed when the Constitution of Independent Ceylon was adopted in 1948. Soulbury was lulled into believing D.S. Senanayake whom he took to be a true Statesman and left the Constitution with Section 29, thinking that it would withstand the test of time and the erosion by ultra-national ideologies. The Republican Constitutions of 1972 and 1978 have eliminated Section 29 and the little protection that it offered is totally absent in these constitutions. In fact, certain provisions of these constitutions could not have gained a place in these Constitutions had Section 29 been incorporated. The spirit of Section 29 is totally annihilated by the constitutionalised provisions of racial and religious preferential treatment meted out in the 1972 and 1978 Republican Constitutions.

Ceylonese nationalism of

(Continued overleaf)

The Secretary to the Ministry of Educational Services has said that the 3rd anniversary celebrations of the free school text books distribution scheme was organised this year in Trincomalee in order to highlight the theme of national unity, since in the population of this district the three largest communities in the island are all substantially represented. At the celebrations which were, on January 31st, President J. R. Jayawardena is reported to have emphasised the fact that "Sri Lanka was a multi-racial and multi-religious country where people could live in peace and harmony."

It is therefore very pertinent to examine how far these ideals are reflected in the school books published by the state and distributed at this very ceremony.

Sinhala readers

& Tamil readers

The Council for Communal Harmony through the Media published last month a study, "School text books and communal relations in Sri Lanka", which contains a documented analysis of the text books used in schools down to the end of the last year from the standpoint of the outlook and attitudes regarding communal relations which they are likely to foster in the school child. The study demonstrates, in particular, that while the Tamil readers "do seek to create an understanding of and respect for the way of life and cultures of non-Tamil and non-Hindu linguistic and religious groups, and do attempt to project the sense of a common national identity," the Sinhala books are exclusively monocultural in their content—that is, the way of life they present is not only solely Sinhala but also solely Sinhala Buddhist. Not only is no att-

School books, Communalism and National Unity

empt made to promote understanding of and sympathy for the way of life and culture of other communities, but the Tamils are identified throughout the books as the traditional adversary. On the present occasion of the celebration of national independence, particular attention must be drawn here to the fact that in one of these readers, which still continues to be used in school and copies of which may have been handed out by the President on January 31st, the independence won in 1948 is described as having been gained and to be enjoyed solely by the Sinhalese!

changes in the mono-cultural character of the Sinhala readers nor any departure in them from the use of Sri Lankan history to project an image of racial hostility between Sinhalese and Tamils. In one of the books there is a lesson on Deepavali which seems at first sight to be a desirable innovation in presenting Tamil and Hindu culture to the Sinhala child; however reading of this lesson shows that this purpose is deflected by one element in it. Deepavali is there said to be a festival celebrated by "the people of India and those people living in Sri Lanka who are descen-

Palansuriya's poem, "From the North", which we described in our study as the only piece in the entire set of former Sinhala readers suggesting a commonality of experience between Sinhalese and Tamils has been dropped in the new books, and another poem by the same writer describing a Sinhala boy's sadness on leaving his village has been substituted.

If the Government takes seriously the commitment to national unity and communal harmony which it has professed, one thing it must do is to re-examine school

books distribution scheme will be counterbalanced by very serious social ill-effects if school children in their most impressionable and susceptible years are infected by communal ideologies through these same books.

We wish to reiterate the point made in our study—that "the pre-condition for a reform of school text books is a new perspective on our history, culture and national life, free of unscientific racial myths and obsessions with the invasions and wars of another age and another society, and a recognition of the common elements that link the peoples of this country in shared experiences and mutual assimilation of elements from each other's cultures."

by

Reggie Siriwardene

Most of the Sinhala Readers analysed in our study were published under the last Government but have continued to be reprinted and used in schools since 1977 as well. This year eight new Sinhala readers have been issued to replace some of those which were earlier published. The Council will be making a detailed analysis of these new books in the second part of our study which will be published in the course of the year. However, on a preliminary examination of the books, we have come to the conclusion that there are really no

ded from the Tamils of India."

At one stroke in this sentence the Sri Lankan Tamil people are presented to the Sinhala child as an alien and non-national group.

'The image of an alien and non-national group'

We wonder whether these writers in presenting Vesak in a school reader would have thought fit to describe it as a festival celebrated by those people of Sri Lanka who claim descent from the Bengalis of India! On the other hand, Sagara

text books, whether these were produced under the last Government or during its own period of office, and revise and rewrite them so that they will no lon-

ger be an instrument of promoting communal antagonisms and will serve as a positive instrument for fostering understanding between the growing generations of different communities. The undoubted economic benefits of the free school

SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS AND COMMUNAL RELATIONS IN SRI LANKA (PART I. ANALYSIS OF TEXT BOOKS), was prepared by Reggie Siriwardene, K. Indrapala, Sunil Bastian and Sepali Kottegoda. It's priced at Rs. 15/- a copy, and is available at the Council's Office, 23/A, Milagiriya Avenue, Colombo 4.

The centenary of the greatest political folly....

(Continued from page 7)
onal patriots from among the Sinhalese.

At the Annual Sessions of the Ceylon National Congress held at Galle in 1926, C. E. Victor Corea challenging the propriety of the Executive Committee in not putting on the Agenda a resolution adopted at the previous Annual Sessions held in Kandy in 1925, to bring up for discussion the terms of an Agreement reached in Jaffna, between the Tamil leaders and a delegation of the Ceylon National Congress paving the way for a reconciliation on the question of Tamil representation in the Legislature, which had created a cleavage in the Congress itself, said that he "asked that question merely in the interests of Congress because the Tamil people had an idea that

Congress leaders were not to be trusted—and that the words of the Sinhalese leaders cannot be accepted." Dishonouring an agreement or Pact entered into between the Sinhalese leaders and the Tamil leaders had commenced as far back as 1920.

Colonel T. F. Jayawardene, Member for Balangoda in the State Council said on October 24, 1935, in the course of the debate on the allocation of Funds for the construction of the Mannar Causeway: "As you know Sir, nature has not blessed the Jaffna Peninsula with such fertility of the soil as in other parts of the Island. But the energy and industry of the people of the North has turned that part of the country into smiling fields. And when they now ask us to give

them money for the further development of their country, we should not look at that request in a niggardly spirit. We should treat that request very generously. Although it is said that this scheme is going to cost 2½ million rupees we ought to accede to their request even if it may cost 4 million rupees. I say so because we are spending any amount of money on other parts of this Island; and we ought not to deny the Jaffna people their very real desire to develop their part of the country."

G. K. W. Perera the member for Matara in the State Council, said this in the course of the debate on the same issue on October 24, 1935: "In the first place, I do not remember why it was considered necessary to choose between

these three works. I think we have got into the habit—a habit which we should quickly get out of—of considering Jaffna as a thing apart, as a thing that is not distinctly related to us. That is a habit of mind that we should not cultivate."

These references are given to establish the fact that the Tamils have been systematically estranged all along. These are facts and facts are stubborn. Communal harmony cannot be fostered in a vacuum. Its growth and stability are conditioned by a certain climate necessary for it. It is up to the majority community to usher in this climate that is totally absent. It is futile to invite the Tamils to usher in this climate. They have all along been co-operating to achieve this goal. The future lies in the capa-

city and the generous willingness of the majority—the Sinhalese at that—to offer a suitable administrative set-up to ensure co-existence with self-respect and equality—a possibility and a reality.

Let us wait and see if some Statesman would emerge to provide a radicalised new condition that would make co-existence with self-respect and equality a reality. It is common knowledge that except for Finance and Defence, there is no need for a Centralized control of administration. Time is running out, and this is an instant requirement. Sri Lanka can soar above, in economic progress, only on the wings of national unity. This Centenary Year of the Commission of the greatest political folly is ideal and opportune to achieve this.

LETTERS

THE HAVEN,
HOOK GREEN,
MEOPHAM, KENT,
U. K.

4th February, 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Jaffna.

Dear Sir,

This is just to say how much I appreciate receiving the *Saturday Review*. When I subscribed for it, even before the first issue was published, it was for a "cause" — to have a paper that would establish a dialogue with all intelligent sections of the island and to counterbalance the dishonest, mischievous and slanted journalism which was compounding the intercommunal difficulties.

The features I like most are the commentary by Mr. Gamini Navaratne, and your editorial. I wish there were more independent, honest and objective journalists like Mr. Navaratne. If we had, we would not have heard of "freedom fighters" or "terrorists", as some would like to call them. They came into being because of the wickedness of politicians, and the perverseness of the mass media.

I was also very heartened to read of Dr. Fernando's courageous actions in Vavuniya. No praise is high enough for people like him who are prepared to undergo any sacrifice and humiliation in their fight for the underdog and human causes.

I am very hopeful that journalists like Mr. Navaratne and citizens like Dr. Fernando, not forgetting Messrs. Edmund Samarakody, Vasudeva Nanayakara and Bala Tampoe, would eventually lead us to a fair society.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Sathasivam Pasupathy Rajah.

Tennekumbura,
Kandy,
05.02.83.

The Editor,
Saturday Review.
Dear Sir,

May be we are late as far as your need goes, but still we would like to tell you what our feelings are about "*Saturday Review*" because we think we have a duty to express our solidarity with a group of fellow countrymen who are fighting for justice and equality.

Most of us here, who live in this part of the country, look forward to reading SR as the only newspaper which brings authentic news and views about the cause of the

Tamils in Sri Lanka. We've come to the realization that the demand for a Tamil Eelam has become a state of mind among the Tamil people and there is no other way out other than a political solution to this problem.

We like "SR" also for its most daringly outspoken and superbly written editorials, and news commentaries which simply has no counterpart in any other English journals in Sri Lanka. ("There aren't impartial observers this weekend or at other times, in this island or anywhere else under this sun. Only false messengers" a friend observed).

Those who boast that they are guardians of this island have begun to show their true colours being faithful to their true masters, at last. (800 women workers went on strike at Polytex Garments at Ja-Ela for more than a month and these so-called impartial journals tried to evade the issue and ultimately published distorted news when pressurised while their Sinhala counterparts didn't touch the topic, and a magazine which boasts that they publish other news didn't publish the name of the factory while mentioning about the strike. why?)

But, "SR" has been able to maintain a truly democratic style of journalism giving coverage to all point of view whatever the issue at stake is, nevertheless always being faithful to the masses of people. We are living in a period where we very badly need a more healthy political dialogue bringing in more modern knowledge based on truly democratic lines, which will create a questioning mind and a thirst for the truth in our people which in turn will reward us with a new generation of leaders who will be creative in their thinking and will succeed in solving the burning problems of our people.

We cherish "SR" for its role as a beacon in this context. We desperately need more journals of your calibre, to prepare the soil for a truly socialist political leadership.

It is our earnest hope that you will continue to be daring in your views, critical in your thinking, democratic in publishing alternative news and views and also bringing in increasingly modern political thinking into our midst.

We wish "SR" a healthy and a long life.

THARAKA-GODAWATTA.

Jaffna
22. 01. 83.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

There was news item in the *SATURDAY REVIEW* of 8th January regarding the rejection of Sahitya Awards. Recently at the Jaffna Municipal Council, Tamil Congress man proposed that Tamils should reject all honours. TC members, of course, have nothing to lose since it is the TULF that sponsors JP ships now. Down South "Nathaswaram" is "Nagasalam" or "Nathasalam" or "Thosaikadai Music". But the Sri Lankan Government was maganimous enough to award in 1982 an honour to a Jaffna Nathaswaran expert. Receptions are yet on and TULF politicians are not second to others in acclaiming this award from reception platforms.

Almost all faithfuls who led TULF election campaigns have received JP ships. Such awards are duly trumpeted in the Tamil dailies including photographs of the garlandings after oaths are taken. A JPship is such an honour!

In neighbouring India, long ago in 1919, a public meeting was held at Jallianwalla Bagh to denounce police atrocities and condole with bereaved families. Three thousand unarmed people were fired upon on the orders of Brigadier General Dyer and 375 were killed and that great Indian patriot Tagore renounced his knighthood as a protest. Twenty one years later the son of a Jallianwalla Bagh victim assassinated Dyer in London.

The Government has now adopted a system of honours. Local men who are for national unity, democracy and dharmista could easily qualify for anything from SRILANKABHIMANYA (gold medal) to a VEERA CHUDAMANI — not titular. And if amity talks succeed, Participants should qualify at least for a DESABANDU-class I silver.

Honours are earned the hard way. So why renounce them!

Truly,
"JAY PEE"

Fiberite Marine,
Thambasiddy,
Point Pedro,
4th February '83.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Dear Sir,

I am one of the hundreds or thousands who patronise the Jaffna Public Library to read local and foreign newspapers and periodicals. I would like to highlight one of the many shortcomings of the library. Anyone could walk into the Reading Section of the

Jaffna Public Library to find all the newspapers (Tamil, Sinhala and English) of the day at the table. Even people who require a back number of a newspaper could obtain it from the official overseeing this section. But you look for the latest issue of *Saturday Review* on the tables, racks and all over, you will never find it. With hopes you ask for it from the official at the corner, and he will simply say that it must be in circulation in the hall. Your reply will be in the negative and he will at once pull the few drawers on to his side and look for the same.

Then he or she will say that it is not there either and will either go on to say that it must be checked up with the other officer who will come on the next shift or will give a very comfortable reply that it has not come by post from the publishers.

The funniest part of it is that copies of the same latest issue of *Saturday Review* would be available in plenty at the newstands in Jaffna town which is not even a quarter of a mile away from this library.

It is rather irritating to find that all the local and foreign newspapers of the day are available except the latest copy of *Saturday Review* whose publishing office is housed only half a mile away from this library. What a shame. I had this experience not once but on several occasions.

V. Ghandhi

Political offences & Extradition Laws

(Continued from page 4)

But Arujuna said: "I want you to be with me and bless our war effort; I do not want anything else." Lord Krishna became Arjuna's charioteer and he helped the Pandavas to win the war. In Sri Lanka now it is a case of the Might vs. The Divine Grace of the Just! Seeing the Liberation Movement going strong the UNP Government hurriedly enacted the PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT in 1979 with a view to crush this movement branding the liberators as 'Terrorists'. This Act, which is heartless and inhuman, has given power to the Police and the Army to apprehend anybody on suspicion even at midnight. Some youths who were thus arrested were found as dead bodies the following morning with assault and gun shot injuries

Every nation has the right of self-determination and to the Tamil people Tamil Eelam State appears to be inevitable and logical. The Tamil people believe in constitutional methods to achieve this goal. It is the inveterate belief of the Tamil people that their legitimate, fundamental and just rights will be realised by the Grace of God.

In Mahabaratha we see Lord Krishna lying in his couch at Dwaraha. Arjuna and Duriyothana go to him for help in the war that was about to start. Duriyothana asks only for all his warriors and armaments which Lord Krishna gave.

(Continued overleaf)

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

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Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai.

LETTERS

'An Editor can own the readers without owning the Newspaper'

"Mathange",
Nelliady,
Karaveddy,
7 Feb 1983.

The Editor,
Saturday Review,
Jaffna.

Sir,
I am not anxious to have a public barney with readers for throwing brickbats at you or for damning the S. R. with faint praise. Notwithstanding marketing strategy overtones, any newspaper or weekly lives or dies not by its ability to please people but by its ability to inform them of the sacred facts. What people wanted and what would alone persuade them to buy a newspaper was news — that is information and disclosure that was hard to come by because some powerful group of people had an interest in preventing us knowing it.

S. R.'s survival and development depends largely on the financial viability—not in pushing out the sister weeklies from the newsstands. The glory of journalism is its transience and a brilliant political commentator like Mr. Mervyn de Silva, one time Editor of the Daily News, owns the readers without owning the newspaper. The Editor need not be a cautious person or "failsafer" and it would be a sad day if the editorial viewpoints lapse into elegantly polished but conspicuously cautious opinion.

Was it Kingsley Martin who defined an editorial as a civilized conversation in which you allow the other chap to

make his points but make damn sure you have the last word. I know you will be subject to pressures from all sorts of persons and groups. It would be most unflattering to SR if these pressures slackened. The question is not whether the SR has pressure applied to it but whether it yields to pressure.

So far so good, Sir — carry on regardless.

Yours Etc.

A. Markandan

News without manipulation

Main Street,
Trincomalee,
4-2-83.

Editor,
Saturday Review.
Sir,

Congratulations and Best Wishes on your straight-forward journalism. 'SR' is the only paper that gives the news as it is without any manipulation to suit politicians or high powers.

I read the letter written by Vernon Abeysekera from Australia, a former G. A. of Jaffna. I served under him

when he was G. A., and I observed him to be an impartial administrator and a gentleman of rare calibre. I wish him good health, happiness and prosperity through your valuable columns.

T. S'Sampo.

Jaffna king's painting at W. German exhibition

A painting of the last king of Jaffna Sankiliyan on horseback drawn by a Jaffna school girl Miss. Loganayagi of Nallur was recently hung up at the Arts Exhibition held in Kiel, West Germany. The painting was sent by the Mayor of Jaffna, Mr. Raja Visuvanathan, in response to the request by the Kiel Municipal Council, W. G., on the occasion of the Arts Exhibition held to commemorate the Centenary Celebrations of the Council.

A catalogue of the exhibits published by the Kiel Municipal Council contains the painting of the Jaffna King both in colour and black and white.

Self...

(Continued from page 3)
liberation and socialism are facing so many bottlenecks in these regions. This situation is further complicated by the continuously changing balance of power of the particular regions.

The struggle for national liberation is much affected when the Socialist Countries do not maintain a balance between their national interests and their international responsibilities. This is the case of the Eritrean National liberation struggle. The mistake of the USSR affecting the just struggle of the Eritrean people for national liberation has not yet been corrected.

One of the other major problems is the Maoist concept of autonomy counterposed against the right of self-determination of the nation. The Chinese Revolution was carried out by the Han nation. The struggle in the minority area for national liberation at that time was minimal or nil in China. The Maoist concept of autonomy is the decision of

the revolutionaries belonging to the Han nation of multi-national China. This concept becomes an additional hindrance to the revolution and the national liberation struggles in Burma and the Philippines. This may become a hindrance in the understanding of the national question in Sri Lanka. Some left movements advocate self-determination without the right of secession. This is nothing but regional autonomy under the label of self-determination.

In the case of national liberation one can point out the liberated areas of Eritrea, Karan, Shan and Mindanao interspersed all over the world and of the former Spanish Sahara against its annexation to Morocco.

History rejects and disproves the claims of the Delhi Academic and reaffirms the strength of Mankind to struggle victoriously against national and clan oppression in whatever form they are manifested.

The late A. V. Vatepillai-An Appreciation

Mr. K. N. Subramaniam of Puloly West, Puloly, writes:

The Thai pongal dawned taking away Mr. A. V. Vatepillai of Manal Valavu, Valvettiturai from the midst of his nearest and dearest relations and friends who had enjoyed his hospitality and versatility to a great extent during his 75 years of happy and devoted life. Although he was bedridden for about 4 years he always got up and greeted his visitors with his ever charming smile.

Others were attracted and attached to him not merely for his handsome features but also for the genuine interest and love he extended to all humanity. Everyone who came in contact with him appreciated his true worth as an honest

and sincere public servant and a social worker after his retirement in 1962 as O. A., Ratnapura Kachcheri.

He had such a brilliant school career that his father who was a teacher and Manager of the Sivan Temple sent him to Madras Christian College to pursue a higher and liberal education. On his return to Ceylon he joined as a Class II Clerical Servant and was for a long time attached to the Ministry of Justice. During his career as Secretary of several Courts he had received very high encomiums from the Judges he served.

His interest in agriculture drove him to the wilds of Mulliyian to open the Sabarmathi Farm in close proximity to the famous Mandalay Pilli-

yar Temple. Thereby he was able to satisfy his natural urge to live in idyllic surroundings to grow into that Spiritual Oneness which is the Divine Life.

In politics, he admired G. G. Ponnampalam for his political sagacity and in later years his respect for S. J. V. Chelvanayagam was so great that he became one of the Prime movers in bringing about the Tamil United Front.

It is difficult to recall another person in whom you could find so much strength—physically, emotionally and intellectually. He was blessed with many strengths and rare virtues. He was one of the best friends anyone could have. If I am privileged to have come to know him for a good num-

ber of years and was glad that he became so close to our family. Although we will miss him very much we can take consolation in the fact that he is no longer bound by the constraints of his physical body. The members of his family and devoted friends had done everything possible for him to pass away from Mortality to Immortality.

CORRECTION.

The verse with the acronym "SATURDAY REVIEW" published under "READER RESPONSES" on the page 13 in our last issue was written by MRS. VARATHA GUNARATNAM of St. Anness Church Road, Chundikuli. Due to mis-print the name was published as "MR. VARATHA GUNARATNAM". We regret the mistake.

Political offences and Extradition laws...

(Continued from page 9)

all over their bodies! At some Police Stations some of the youths were subjected to indescribable acts of torture. They were assaulted from the time of arrest till they died of such assault. Their screams and agonies could not move those stone-hearted men! Police and military rule in Jaffna is the order of the day.

During the Presidential Election in 1982, Doctor Colvin R. de Silva, a Presidential Candidate, addressing the Tamil people said: "Cast your votes to end Military Rule in Jaffna."

Recently three Catholic Father, namely, Fr. Singarayar, Fr. Sinnarasa and Rev.

Jayakularajah, a Doctor named Jayathilakarajah, and a University Lecturer, Mr. Nithyananthan and wife Nirmala, all good Tamil patriots, were arrested and charged under the Terrorist Law. These are men of profound learning and culture and violence is not native to their hearts or vocation. It is reliably learnt that they too had been subjected to torture to exact a confession to be led in evidence at a trial!

Jurists and Members of the International Commission set up under the UNO to inquire into the violation of Human Rights the World over will do well to visit Sri Lanka and see for them-

selves the extent to which Human Rights are being violated. The Prevention of Terrorism Act is itself an abominable collection of provisions legalising the violation of fundamental Human Rights!

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights lays down:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Sri Lanka's Terrorism Act Section 9 lays down:

"The Minister may order that such person be detained for a period not exceeding three months in the first instance..... and it may be extended... provided, however,

that the aggregate period shall not exceed 18 months."

Section 9 also lays down:

"The Minister's Order shall be final and shall not be called in question by any Court..."

Section 15:

"Every person who commits an offence under this Act shall be triable without a preliminary inquiry... before a Judge of the High Court sitting alone without a jury."

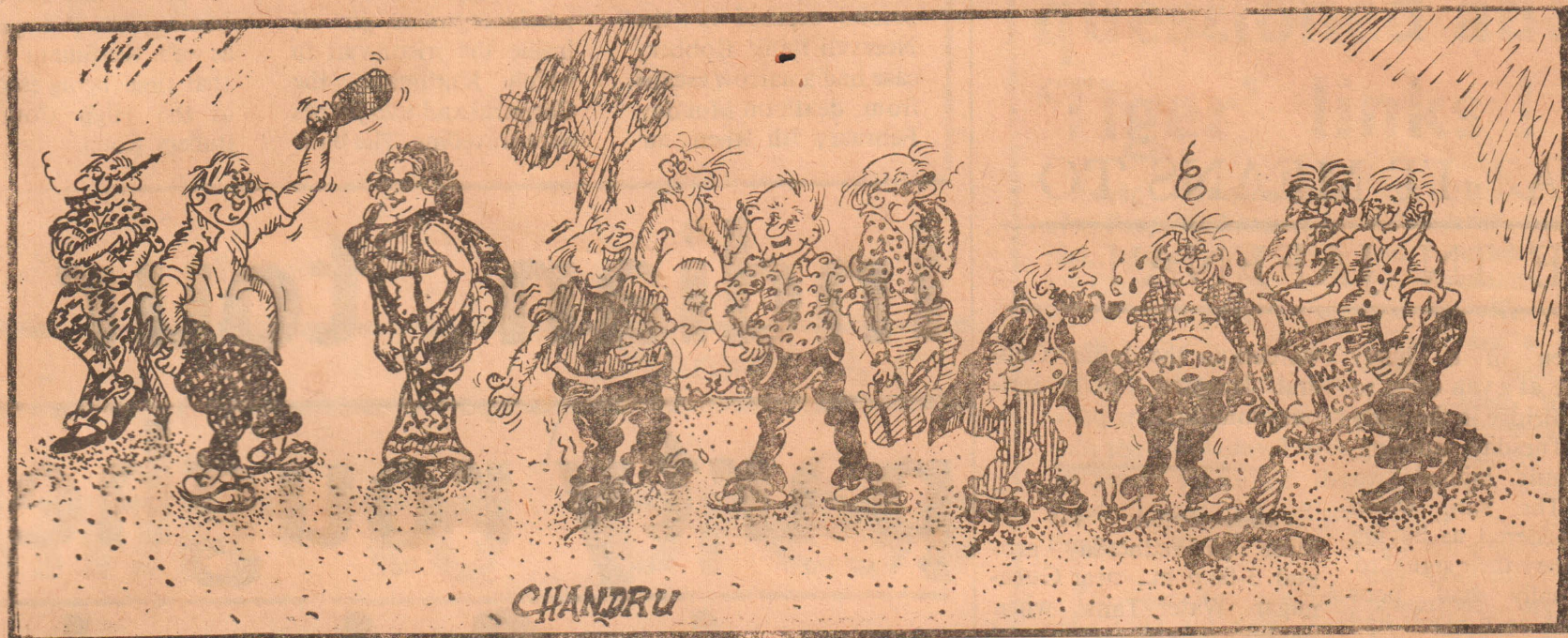
Section 16: lays down that a statement to an ASP has to be proved against the subject.

Section 17 states: that sections 25, 26 and 30 of the Evidence Ordinance "shall have no application in any proceedings under this Act."

The Evidence Ordinance lays down by Sections 25, 26 and 30 that statements made to Police Officers shall not be proved against the accused.

There are other sections in the Terrorism Act that violate Human Rights. It is also important to note that the Sri Lankan Constitution, too does not accord fundamental Human Rights to its citizens. This Constitution is considered to be immature. It is, therefore, fervently hoped that the Conference of Commonwealth Ministers will stand firm by the rights of the Political Personnel who take refuge in foreign lands.

Journalists get ready to BARE their assets!



Superintendent of Police Gampaha, Mr. P. Udu-gampola was ordered by the Supreme Court to pay Rs. 10,000/- as compensation and Rs. 2,100/- as costs in the case in which a Buddhist Monk Ven. Ratnasara Thero had sued the S.P. for preventing him from exercising his "fundamental rights" of "freedom of speech and expression", that Police seizure of leaflets published by "Pavidi Handa" (an organisation of Buddhist and Christian clergy to oppose the proposed extension of the life of the present Parliament) was a serious violation of the fundamental rights of a citizen guaranteed by the Constitution and that the Police by that action had prevented the petitioner from exercising his fundamental rights of "freedom of speech and expression".

Ven Daramitipola Ratnasara Thero is the Chief Incumbent of Sama Vihara Gampaha.

SP to pay Rs. 10,000 for Fundamental Rights violation

The bench comprised Justice D. Wimalaratne, Justice B.S.C. Ratwatte, Justice Percy Colin Thome, Justice M. M. Abdul Cader had stated to Court in his application (filed under Article 126 of the Constitution) that he started an organisation called "Pavidi Handa" for the purpose of opposing the extension of the life of Parliament by a further six year term. In

accordance with a decision taken by the organisation certain statements were prepared and sent to the clergy in various parts of the island for their signature. He placed an order for printing of 50,000 copies of those statements with the names of the signatories for the purpose of distribution. 10,000 of those leaflets were delivered to him by the printer while

the balance was in the process of being printed.

The Gampaha Police on December 8, 1982 raided the press and seized 20,000 printed copies of the leaflet and the composed matter. They also ordered to stop further printing of the leaflet. Police later took from his custody originals of the documents signed by some members of the clergy. Police also told him that it was illegal to print such a leaflet under Emergency Regulations and the Election Law and that he and two other signatories were likely to be arrested. He was also asked to report at the Police station on the following day.

Ven. Ratnasara Thero had stated that on the following day he filed the application in court fearing

that he would be arrested for the purpose of preventing his participation in the campaign connected with Referendum. He also had feared that Police would seize 5,000 copies of the leaflet he had with him and also obstruct future meetings of the organisation.

The priest had asked a declaration from court that the seizure of the leaflets by the Superintendent of Police was unlawful and also for a direction to restore to him the seized 20,000 copies of the leaflet and for compensation in a sum of Rs. 25,000.

The Inspector General of Police and the Attorney General had also been cited as respondents to the action.

CRICKET SEASON IN JAFFNA

Victor Kiruparaj reports:

The Sports scene now shifts on to KING CRICKET in the North, and the schools cricket will not only dish out some exciting, vintage fare but also draw record crowds to the respective venues of the Inter School engagements.

The Jaffna University has completed three of her engagements for the season. They drew with St. John's College in a tall scoring match. The Jaffna Campus hit up 237 in their first innings of which I. Mohanraj (100) P. A. Raviraj (51) and N. Balakumar (30) were the chief contributors. The school boys in a spirited reply hoisted 221 on the board, T. Chandrasegaram

wielding the willow with purpose and precision to collect a grand 77. The Jaffna Campus Cricketers in their second outing declared their innings at 74 for 5 wickets in reply to which the Johnians compiled 75 for 3. Among the bowlers, C. Sooriakumar (3 for 42) from the Jaffna University and V. Muralidaran (4 for 31) in the first and R. Mahinda (4 for 11) in the second impressed for the school boys.

A second innings debacle by Jaffna College who collapsed for a beggarly 39, saw the Jaffna University cricketers beat the former by an innings in a friendly played recently. The main scores were Jaffna University 156, Jaffna College 111

and 39. P. A. Raviraj (6 for 20) in the first innings and N. Balakumar (6 for 14) in the second were mainly instrumental in a well earned win for the Campus cricketers.

The Jaffna Campus cricketers scored their second win for the season when they got the better of St. Patrick's College by 47 runs in a low scoring affair virtually dominated by bowlers.

P. A. Ravirajah, Jaffna University's deputy skipper with a rich haul of 10 for 35 of which seven were claimed in the second for only 14 runs and Patrician paceman, N. Navaneetharajah's grand tally of 10 for 62 were the highlights of the match.

Seminar on University admissions

The Northern Branch of the Centre for Scholars will hold a seminar on "University Admissions", today (12 February) at St. John's College Hall. Dr. W. L. Jeyasingham and Mr. E. Sabalingam are the co-ordinators of the Northern Region branch of this organization which is a non-government one.

The seminar which will

start at 9. a. m. will feature a scrutiny of "Present Policy for admission to the Universities" by Mr. C. E. Anandarajan (Principal of St. John's College) and "Some Aspects of University Admissions" by Professor Tharmaratnam; Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, M.P. for Nallur and Mr. Aelian Fernando (Chairman of the Governing Council) will also participate.

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN JAFFNA!

Policemen in a hurry opened fire at a van close to the Araly Bridge in the early hours of Tuesday morning, and seriously injured two youths. The van, which Police considered as having failed to obey their signal to halt, actually had poor brakes and as a result had to be brought to a halt only gradually. But before the two youths could bring the van to a stop a few yards away, the Police had started firing.

S. Uthayakumar (16 years) and T. Sivasubramaniam (30 years) had taken the van from a garage in a half-repaired state to use it for an emergency. There was a death in the family and they were going towards Jaffna from Karainagar at 4 a. m. to look into preparations for the cremation.

The Police who were waiting on the bridge to detect vans with smuggled goods had misunderstood the van's slow obedience to their signal and had opened fire.

The two youths are now

warded in the Jaffna General Hospital, in a serious condition.

Pandemonium was let loose on Wednesday around 3-00 p. m., near Gurnagar Water Tank, when uniformed Army personnel who came there assaulted and injured three young men standing at the junction and then proceeded to enter the nearby houses and threatened the women.

About six soldiers in a jeep and 3 in a truck had come there fully armed and had harassed the people there though there was no known provocation.

The residents of the area told **SATURDAY REVIEW** that the soldiers have been selling diesel secretly to the people of the area, to earn a little "pocket money" to buy their personal needs. This secret "trade" has been going on there for the past four years, at the spot where the youth were assaulted.

Onion farmers taken for a M. East ride

Jaffna's onion farmers, who were regaled recently with newspaper reports of a vast, untapped Middle East market for their produce, are in for a big disappointment.

Recently some officials involved in export promotion visited Jaffna, met high government officials and had discussions with them about exporting large-sized Jaffna onions to Dubai and other Middle East countries.

Some Tamil newspapers went to town about all the petro-dollars that were going to inundate the Jaffna Peninsula, especially the onion-producing areas.

SATURDAY REVIEW learns some export promotion officials recently went

to the Middle East to survey, among other things, the export market for Jaffna's onions. Their findings?

Onions fetch an even lower price in the Middle East than they do in Sri Lanka!

Evidently export promotion experts don't know their onions, comments a local cynic.

Pulendran murder trial on Feb. 16

Trial in the Pulendran case in which three Tamils and two Sinhalese were remanded in connection with the murder of the UNP Organizer in Vavuniya, Mr. K. T. Pulendran, has been fixed for February 16.

Narrow escape for Kuttimani

Mr. Selvarajah Yogachandran (Kuttimani) the second accused in the Neerveli Bank Robbery case had a narrow escape from death on Monday February 7th when an

Army Corporal's nervous fingers caused the machine gun to go off inside the prison van in which Kuttimani, the Corporal and two jailors were travelling. The bull-

et pierced the roof of the prison van narrowly missing the two jailors as well. Kuttimani was at that time being escorted to the High Court at Bullers Road.

Indian tour party roughed up in Colombo

Some Indian tourists—survivors of the minibus crash at Kilinochchi last month—were manhandled by young hooligans at the Duty Free Shopping Complex in Colombo on Wednesday (9 Feb). "It's like being gored by a bull after falling off a palmyrah tree" was their wry comment.

The victims of the assault told **SATURDAY REVIEW** that after being

discharged from Jaffna Hospital, nine of them—including a lady—went to the Duty Free Shop at Kollupitiya on Wednesday morning to do some last-minute shopping before leaving for Tamilnadu. As they came out some Sinhala-speaking youths tried to relieve them of their purchases. When they resisted, the youths had abused them in Sinhala and roughed them up. Some of the hooligans had remarked in broken Tamil "So you're taking Colour TV to Tamilnadu?" Fortunately, the lady escaped molestation as the men in the party managed to form a protective cordon round her.

The police, according to the tourists, were standing some distance away with their backs to the scene. When they did come up to the spot later, instead of helping the victims they asked them to disperse under the pretext of clearing up the place. The tourists said some of the policemen asked for dollar notes, offering to pay Rs. 100/- in Sri Lankan currency for five US dollars.

One of the tourists, Mr. T. C. Palakrishnan, Secretary of the DMK Periya-

thallapadi branch told **SATURDAY REVIEW** this kind of demand by policemen was an almost routine experience for Indian tourists at the Duty Free Shops. On behalf of the tourists, he thanked the people of Jaffna and Kilinochchi, hospital staff, various organisations and prominent individuals who had helped and consoled them after the mini-bus tragedy which claimed three of their fellow tourists' lives. The tourists left for Tamilnadu yesterday.

Islamic Bank to be set up

An "ISLAMIC BANK" is to be established in Sri Lanka shortly with funds from a consortium of Arab Nations led by Saudi Arabia. Negotiations for this purpose have been completed between an Arab delegation and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, the Minister of Transport, Mr. M. H. Mohamed and Central Bank officials. The proposed bank will not charge interest on money lent by it but will take a part of the profits earned by enterprises financed by it.

Bang, bang! meow, meow

Last week an alert sentry on guard duty, during the early hours of the morning, at an Army Camp in the North opened fire at a moving shadow he had spotted. The shot triggered the neighbouring sentry into firing several rounds. The sound of gunfire caused a lot of excitement and hubbub in the Camp.

The shadowy intruder, who had caused all the bang-bangs but managed to escape unscathed, turned out to be a cat!

DEATHS

PARAMSOTHY, S. R. husband of late **BUVENESWARY**, father of Shivaji (Singer, Sri Lanka) and Dr. V. Paramanathan (U. K.), father-in-law of V. Paramanathan (Engineer, U.K.) and Balarathy, grandfather of Jegath, Manjula and Aravinthan, brother of Mrs. Paramanathan (Uyarapulam Anaicottai), late Thillyambalam, Senthilnathan, and Mahesan, brother-in-law of T. Duraisingam, Miss M. Thambimuttu, Mrs. A. C. Nadaraja, and Mrs. N. Ponniah expired on 8.2.1983. Cremation will take place in London on 12.2.1983. (No. 63, Baronsmede, London W5-4LS) P. Shivaji, 36, Castle Lane, Bambalapitiya.

The red flag is gone but the danger remains

Our Colombo correspondent writes:

The red flag that was opposite President's House (See "S. R." Jan. 29) has been removed by someone.

But the broken stone slab over the drain running under the pavement at the Janadipathi Mawatha—Sir Baron Jayatilaka Mawatha intersection has still not been replaced.

Perhaps, the authorities concerned have run out of cement?

One of these days some one or other passing the spot is bound to fall into the drain and break his leg.

It is a wonder that all those good people who decorated the area for the Independence Day celebrations could not spot the hole in the pavement.