

# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

# Jaffna Textile Weavers

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March 5, 1983

The Jaffna District Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. is coming apart at the seams. Informed sources say the Society is heading for a crash due to the shady and corrupt goings-on of some people at the helm.

Mismanagement, squandering of funds, questionable transactions, use of political patronage to cover up irregularities, harassment of employees who are not 'cooperative', waste of funds on tamashas—these are pushing this society to the brink of collapse.

SATURDAY REVIEW likes to pose the following questions based on evidence in its possession:

Why hasn't the Society yet commissioned the Rs. 16 million textile finishing plant which it got down in June 1980?

Is the Society paying the People's Bank over Rs. 7,500/- a day as interest on idle machinery?

What's the secret of the 'Thulhiriya Connection'?

Why haven't key office-bearers been removed despite the recommendation of a DDC initiated inquiry?

Have applicants without the basic qualifications been appointed within the last few months?

## Heavy interest to People's Bank

Here are the facts:-

The society's textile finishing plant has yet to be commissioned, nearly three years after it was got down, while the Society pays the People's Bank over Rs. 7,500/- a day as interest on the total loan of Rs. 16 million it took to buy and set up the machinery. The interest on the original loan of Rs.9 million the Society took in January 1980 had swelled to Rs. 3 million when it applied to the Bank in September 1982 for an additional loan. The Bank granted an additional loan of Rs.4 million after the Society agreed to capitalise the interest payable on the earlier loan.

For the last two years the Society has been getting its sized warps from Thulhiriya Mills while its own sizing plant—a complete unit supposed to cater to the entire requirements of other Power Loom fac-

ories in the Jaffna District is not functioning at all. This 'Thulhiriya Connection' has made some employees suspicious. They point out that it is very strange the Society should be getting its warps done at Thulhiriya when it has its own sizing unit whose workers are forced to idle.

A boiler bought in 1979 at a cost of Rs.4½ lakhs still lies in the yard exposed to the sun and the rain.

Production, both in the Power Looms and Hand Looms Section, has almost hit rock bottom—the lowest in the last 10 years of its history.

Trade Union representations about various irregularities prompted the Jaffna DDC to hold an inquiry headed by an Additional G.A. But powerful, carefully cultivated political patrons saw to it that

Five youths ambushed 2 army vehicles round about 6 a.m. on Friday (4 March) at the Umayalpuram culvert on the main road, Kilinochchi, opened fire injuring five soldiers and made their getaway in a hijacked car.

The youths had earlier parked a hijacked lorry near the culvert and booby-trapped it. As an army truck and an armoured car neared the culvert, the youths set off an explosion and opened fire injuring Corporal H. R. Ariyatilleke (26), N. M. Perera (24), R. M. A. Somasiri (35), W. G. Goonetilleke (36) and Sisirakumara (36).

The five youths—three of them in army fatigues

# Co-op Society heads for a collapse?

key office-bearers were not removed, as recommended by the inquiry team.

Employees who refuse to play ball with some people at the top find themselves facing framed-up charges. Last year the Society spent Rs. 15,000/- on litigation against employees.

Nepotism has played a big part in some new appointments made within the last 8 months: some of the new appointees do not conform to the necessary basic qualifications. Their only qualifications were their blood ties to some of the high-ups in the Society!

Apart from the misuse

of Society vehicles, a lot of money is squandered on tamashas like foundation stone laying ceremonies: the most recent tamasha was the ceremonial opening of a small water tank! Each time a foundation stone is laid, expenses are said to run into thousands of rupees.

Once, the workers peacefully boycotted a function held to mark the laying of a foundation stone. The Factory was shut down for three days on orders from the top and 2 workers were arrested on false allegations. But the police released them a couple of days later as they found

the allegations were baseless.

The Society—which made good profits until 1980—is running at a loss now: so much so it finds it difficult to pay wages in time to the employees. Even EPF contributions, it is learnt, have not been paid for a very large number of employees.

Unless action is taken fast the Society's collapse is imminent, say knowledgeable sources. Will political patronage again prevail over the interests of the workers and the community they ask?

## Army men ambushed : 5 Injured

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The five youths—three of them in army fatigues

and armed with sub machine guns, two in sarongs toting guns—had then stopped a Datsun Car (12 Sri 3094) at the Paranthan junction, told the owner Kumar, proprietor of a firm in Kilinochchi, 'we are the real tigers, we need your car' off loaded him and another person in the car and speeded off towards Mullaitivu. The car was later found abandoned on the Mullaitivu road.

The lorry, belonging to the Anuradhapura MPCs, is reported to have been earlier hijacked at gunpoint at Murukandy. The lorry driver and the cleaner were tied up and bundled into a van which was later

found abandoned behind the Umayalpuram temple.

The injured soldiers were rushed to the Jaffna Hospital where an emergency operation was performed on N. M. Perera who had

received head injuries. Sisirakumara was discharged after treatment for slight injuries. Hospital sources say the other 4 soldiers who are warded are out of danger.

## Jaffna MPCs: Directors ask for audit probe

The Board of Directors of the Jaffna MPCs who met on the 27th of February have called for a Committee of five comprising the Government Agent, Jaffna, Co-operative Department officials and a representative of the General Public, to probe what they think the 'many inaccurac-

ies and imbalances' found in the audit report of Accounts for the financial year 1981.

The President of the Jaffna MPCs is Mr. A. M. Alalanderam M. P. for Kopay, who was shot at by three youths recently in this connection.

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S. Sivanayagam

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# Army search yields a piece of rusty iron!

The placid atmosphere of the CHRISTA SEVA ASHRAM, Chunnakam—a few yards from the Inuvil Railway Station—was rudely

disturbed in the early hours of Monday February 28 morning when within a span of ninety minutes four different contingents of soldiers carried out a rigorous search of the premises. The Christa Seva Ashram is a Service oriented, prestigious Christian organisation in Jaffna founded in 1939.

It is reported that the soldiers had camped at the Inuvil Railway Station the previous night in what was called "OPERATION AM-BUSH" and the next dawn had surrounded the walls around the Ashram, armed to the skin. The first batch of uniformed soldiers accompanied by a few policemen met Sevak SAM ALFRED, the head of the ashram at 6.30 a. m. They had conducted a quick search and had gone off; but within 30 minutes a bigger contingent appeared and told the Sevak that they wanted to search the compound. The Sevak told them that a search had already been carried out, but they insisted on going over the premises. The Sevak's room, books and belongings were given a close scrutiny.

After they went off without finding anything suspicious, an even bigger contingent appeared at 7.30 a.m. and insisted on searching the compound. The fourth contingent that came at 8 a. m., was the biggest of them all and searched the compound for an hour.

The Army Officer who spoke to the Sevak said that the search was made in connection with the shootings at a C. T. B. (Northern Region) jeep at Urumpirai, on the night of February 4th.

Ten underprivileged youth from villages in Batticaloa and Jaffna are educated and supported by the Ashram; their rooms and books were searched too. The Library owned by the Ashram, which contains radical Christian literature was also searched.

The tedious and fruitless search went on for an hour when suddenly the metal detector that the soldiers were using registered something suspicious in a remote corner of the premises. The excited soldiers then ordered the youths in the Ashram to dig the ground! After minutes of tensed waiting, the damning piece of evidence was found—a small rusty piece of iron!

Meanwhile the villagers of the area who were taking vegetables to the market in carts and bicycles were all stopped, and ordered to unpack all their belongings for inspection.

The Sevak who was bemused by the strange behaviour of these four batches of tense soldiers, could only guess that this massive "OPERATION" could have been inspired by a false tip-off.

It is significant that the Ashram, a Christian Institution begun in 1939 by PERI ANNA SELVARATNAM, has been deeply involved in serving the spiritual and material needs of the villagers of the area. In the five acres of land that the Ashram owns, potatoes and grapes are cultivated and employment given to the people of that area. Sevak Sam Alfred told 'SATURDAY REVIEW'— "We have no party affiliations, but we'll always stand by our people, whatever their needs and problems"

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Now we are told that "political changes, resignations, re-allocation of the functions of Ministers, new faces, etc., will come after August 4."

This is the date on which the new six-year term of Parliament begins.

That is, full five months from now.

This is not what the country was told earlier.

The "reconstitution" of the Government Parliamentary Group, and with it the Cabinet of Ministers, according to inspired — or insipid? — leaks in some newspapers, was originally to take place before the Presidential election, then shortly thereafter, then before the Referendum, then shortly after it, then with the swearing-in of the President on February 4, finally "In April, after the new Year, 'Sun' reliably learns" said a report on February 22.

Why this continued postponement? The only explanation I can think of is that despite the President's claim to omnipotency — "I have the power to do anything," he vaunted at the 28th annual convention of the United National Party — he finds himself impotent to act in the face of various pressures originating from within the party and outside.

**Uncertain of the future**

On top of everything, the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Upali Wijewardene has upset the "grand design" that he is believed to have had in mind.

In a sense, it is logical to form the new administration with the beginning of the new term of Parliament, which by then would contain some new faces — from UNP as well as the opposition (especially the Tamil United Liberation Front, which has said that its members would resign at the end of their current term and face elections).

Before then, by elections in 20 of the parliamentary constituencies would also have taken place.

But it would have been more logical to have formed the new administration with the inauguration of the new term of the President. Instead, it is to take place six months later!

Till then, the President will carry in his pocket the undated letters of resignation of the remaining UNP MPs (including the Ministers), some more of whom are likely to be ditched before long.

I have seen some of them in a dazed condition, much like zombies, not knowing whether they are coming or

# Political Causerie

by

Gamini Navaratne

going!

To say the least, it must be both humiliating and demoralising to those MPs who are not certain of the future.

This is a situation without precedent in any country with any pretensions to parliamentary democracy. But, then, Sri Lanka is famous for notching up "firsts" in the sphere of constitutional affairs, including having a Constitution which needs constant revision to catch up with political developments!

which Mr. Wijewardene and his five companions were travelling home from Kuala Lumpur on the night of February 13? Unlucky 13 again!

Mr. Wijewardene may have had business enemies, particularly in Malaysia. The very success of a person generates jealousies, which can lead to enmity. And Mr. Wijewardene was a very successful businessman by international standards.

About the fact that Mr.

being mentioned as a possible future President has at all times been speculation in the Press. "But in an earlier interview with the American magazine "Fortune" he was quoted asking, "What else is there for me to aspire to?"

Too true. At 43, he had not only reached the top of Sri Lanka's business world but also was head of Sri Lanka's first and biggest multinational.

He was, however, not satisfied: he wanted to make his mark in politics as well.

## Has Upali's exit upset the grand design?

As I asked on an earlier occasion, "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?"

Why this vacillation, when decisive action is vital?

Bizarre theories on Mr. Upali Wijewardene's disappearance have been current in Sri Lanka since his Lear Jet vanished without trace off Malaysia, one of these being that he is still alive somewhere and would make an appearance shortly! However, all the evidence points to the fact that he is no more.

Mr. Wijewardene's disappearance is bound to have far-flung political repercussions in Sri Lanka, just as the assassination of Prime Minister Solomon Dias Bandaranaike.

A commentary in the "New York Times" in 1975, referring to American Central Intelligence Agency operations worldwide, said it was possible the agency was involved in Mr. Bandaranaike's killing. Though a monk was hanged for it, there could have been a deep-laid plot behind it.

Was there an unseen international hand in the destruction of the plane in

Wijewardene had political rivals, particularly in Sri Lanka, there is no doubt. A person who aspires to high political office also arouses jealousies, which can turn to hatred. And Mr. Wijewardene had nothing less than the Presidency in mind!

In an interview given to his newspaper, "The Island" on November 29th, 1981, replying to the question whether his ambition was to become the Minister of Finance first and then the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Wijewardene said he wished to take on the Finance portfolio for two reasons.

"First, President Jayewardene has often said that he would like to have me as a member of the Cabinet. From that promise, when I think which Cabinet job I would like to undertake, the answer always is the post of Minister of Finance. The reason for this is my economics background and proven financial ability.

"The second reason is that after being a pure businessman, from 1978 I have been the head of a state organisation—Greater Colombo Economic Commission—and consequently I have begun to serve the people directly rather than indirectly via a commercial organisation..."

As for the President, he was modest enough to say, "This is a matter entirely in the hands of the people of this country and my name

He said in "The Island" interview, "Pursuit of profit has yielded pride of place to the service of the people. And to serve the people, well, one has to get into the political arena."

This was not to be. He had for long been nursing the Kamburupitiya constituency, from where his mother hails. In 1978, when the sitting member resigned, he sought entry to Parliament from there but was thwarted by those persons within the United National Party who saw him as a formidable threat to their political fortunes. Since then, the same set of people opposed every move of President Jayewardene, his cousin, to induct him into the Cabinet after nomination to Parliament.

It was mainly to advance his political ambitions that he

launched a newspaper company in November 1981. Through "The Island" and the "Divayina", he carried on an incessant campaign against those politicians who attacked him under cover of Parliamentary privilege. The last attack took place on December 24.

Despite the opposition within the UNP, it was clear by early February that Mr. Jayewardene was going to include him in his new administration, possibly to take over as party leader late. He had all the required qualifications: breeding, wealth, brains and personality.

**One question not openly asked**

That grand design has failed, but many questions remain unanswered. Was the destruction of the Lear Jet pure accident? Or was it a case of sabotage? If sabotage, was it the work of a Mafia in Malaysia, acting alone or in concert with a local Mafia?

The Minister of Trade, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali appears to believe in the sabotage theory, at the same time ruling out that it could have been the work of business enemies in Malaysia. His comments at the press conference had serious undertones, just like several of the reports published in some newspapers since February 14. The question no one has asked openly yet is whether it was a political assassination.

Whatever the ultimate finding in Mr. Wijewardene's untimely death, Sri Lanka has lost one of its greatest sons.

And the journalists—a great benefactor, who gave them a new dignity by ending their exploitation by some newspaper groups, besides introducing new production techniques to Sri Lanka and permitting a degree of press freedom not found in most other newspapers.

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Sri Lanka, out of step with most nonaligned nations over the Falklands' issue, will come under increasing pressure at the Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi to support Western, especially U.S., positions on a number of other issues, some diplomatic observers here believe.

At the United Nations, Sri Lanka refused to join other non-aligned nations in criticising Britain's action over the Falklands on the ground that it would not have been in the country's economic interests to have done so. Britain had been very generous with aid and was also one of the country's biggest trading partners, it was argued by spokesmen of President Jayewardene's rightwing United National Party (UNP) Government.

At New Delhi, a number of crucial world issues are on the agenda and these diplomatic observers believe the Sri Lanka delegation, led by President Jayewardene, would not do anything to displease the Reagan Administration in view of his Government's growing dependence on American aid for survival.

### The Sihanouk-led government

A good test of the Government's foreign policy, they say, would be how it would react to the ASEAN-backed move to obtain recognition for the Sihanouk-led Government as the representative of Kampuchea at the New Delhi summit. Unlike India, and some other nonaligned nations, which have recognised the Heng Samrin regime, Sri Lanka is one of the nonaligned nations that continues to recognise the West-backed Pol Pot regime (now part of the Sihanouk-led coalition) and which continues to occupy the Kampuchean seat at the UN.

In recent weeks, diplomatic observers note that Sri Lanka has been under intense pressure from Western sources and some of the ASEAN members to support moves to give the vacant Kampuchean seat in the nonaligned movement to the Sihanouk-led Government at the New Delhi summit. Asked in Parliament by the opposition why the Government did not recognise the Heng Samrin regime, which was in effective control of Kampuchea, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. A.C.S. Hameed said recently, "There are problems in the way of recognising that Government."

Mr. Hameed went on to say that since the UNP assumed office in 1977, Sri Lanka's foreign policy has been "given a new orientation. As much as the Government would emphasise the political

## New Delhi summit opens on March 7

# Non-aligned but more U.S. aligned!

front, they would emphasise the economic front under its foreign policy."

He denied that the Government was sitting on the fence on non-alignment. "Today we are happy to say that Sri Lanka enjoyed an image and dependability which she had never enjoyed. That

dene and other UNP leaders of being pro-socialist bloc, and especially pro-China. Now it is the turn of Mrs. Bandaranaike and other opposition leaders to accuse the UNP Government of being pro-West, especially pro-American.

The opposition parties base

at Trincomalee to service American ships, including warships if necessary.

.... Omission of any reference to the US base on Diego Garcia in foreign policy statements.

.... The alleged dragging of its feet by the Government in convening the conference

## by our Diplomatic Correspondent

was an image of consistency. People knew where this country stood on various issues now. An important difference in foreign policy under the UNP Government was that it followed strict non-alignment."

This was an implied criticism of the former centrist Sri Lanka Freedom Party Government led by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, which was accused by Mr. Jayewar-

their suspicions on a number of grounds. These include:-

.... The alleged statement in a Pentagon project report for 1980-81 that the strategic naval bast at Trincomalee, on the east coast, needs to be developed into an Indian Ocean base for America.

.... The abortive proposal to grant a U. S. company (Coastal Corporation) the right to establish an oil terminal

on Sri Lanka's own UN-endorsed proposal to declare the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. (The UN had suggested that this conference be held in Colombo in 1980).

.... The support of the US position on Afghanistan.

.... The attempt to join the ASEAN.

.... The lease of large extents of offshore and onshore areas to US companies for the exploration of oil. ....

Constitutional guarantees against the nationalisation of multinational companies.

.... The grant of extended facilities recently to the Voice of America.

.... Statements by American leaders, including President Reagan, expressing satisfaction with the relations with Sri Lanka under the UNP Government.

The Government, according to local press reports, is also likely to qualify for American "political aid" which is to be granted to political parties, newspapers, trade unions and other institutions in third world countries to promote democracy.

While the opposition parties ask how with this record the UNP Government could claim to be following a non-aligned foreign policy, the performance of the Sri Lanka delegation at New Delhi is expected to be closely monitored by them as well as by non-aligned nations which do not favour close ties with any super power.

The meeting of non-aligned head of state will take place from March 7 to 11. It will be preceded by official and Ministerial level meetings, starting on March 1. Mr. Jayewardene is scheduled to leave for New Delhi on March 5.

## London Shakespeare Group in Jaffna

# Who would have thought the old Bard to have had so much devilry in him!

The arrival of the London Shakespeare Group was eagerly awaited by many in Jaffna and tickets were bought with anticipation days before the performance. Shakespeare's universal fame and popularity which penetrated Jaffna during the time of the British rule in Ceylon, never really died down, and this was proved by the full house at Chundikuli Girl's College and the disappointment shown by those who were turned away by the non-availability of seats.

The stage-management was true to the Elizabethan idea of using the minimum of stage property and sets. All the props they had were a folding screen at the back of stage (which served as the back-ground to Orsino's and Olivia's houses, the masts and sails of the ship etc.), two wooden chests and a movable pile of cushions at the centre of the stage. This facilitated quick changing of scenes and avoided waste of time, though one did feel that a modern audience would have appreciated a few more props—the 'baiting' of Malvolio was in Olivia's garden, but in this production there was nothing to indicate that it was a garden.

The cast, on the whole, was a very talented group. Olivia was portrayed excellently by Stephanie Beacham. She was initially seen as the stately and frigid beauty who insisted on paying homage to 'a brother's dead love'. But her warm and feminine side comes out and her whole personality is transformed when she falls in love with Cesario

delightful to watch.

One unique feature of this production was that many of the male characters played double roles. Richard Heffer, who doubled as Orsino and Aguecheek, was a very versatile actor who portrayed two contrasting characters—the romantic and serious Orsino and the foolish knight Sir Andrew—very effectively and convincingly.

### 'Twelfth Night' reviewed by Shanthi Arulanantham

(Viola in disguise). In her black ensemble, she did look the ravishing beauty described by Orsino and the others in the play.

Viola was played effectively by Judy Geeson. The playful and pert characteristics of Cesario were brought out by her. The so-called 'empathy' which is created between audience and actor or actress by talented players, was present very strongly in some of her scenes—specially the later scenes with the Duke when her love for him is evident. But her performance was marred at times by slight inaudibility.

Delena Kidd, as Maria, was a Puckish character, nimble on her feet and

ingly. Till one looked at the souvenir, one did not realise that the same actor was portraying the handsome and dignified Orsino and the squeaky-voice and flaxen haired Sir Andrew.

The trio, Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew and Feste the clown, provided humour and light relief and their scenes were much enjoyed by the younger members of the audience. But there were times when the humour became rather farcical and overdone, as when they 'clown around' at the end of the scene where Malvolio soliloquizes after finding Maria's letter. Malvolio was quite ably played by John Warner who brought out the pom-

pous nature of Olivia's steward.

Coming back to Feste, he provided welcome wit and humour as in the scene where he proves Olivia the greater fool: 'Do you not here, fellow? Take away the lady.' But it must be said that his singing was rather a disappointment. Shakespeare, during his time, provided many types of enjoyment to his audience: court-scenes for the nobility, love themes for the women, 'blood and thunder' drama and comic scenes for the groundlings (the common folk who took the cheapest seats), and song and dance. Song and dance was a feature that gave pleasure to many sections of the people. But in this production, the rendering of lyrics such as 'O Mistress Mine' was more recitative than rich and tuneful singing. One could not but feel that the light-hearted and delightful Elizabethan songs were not done justice to.

But on the whole, it was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening—the ripples of laughter from many sections of the audience were evidence of this. We do hope that more groups will undertake such tours.

"They took the gold and left us the words" - Pablo Neruda of the Spanish conquistadors

"English to be a national language", said a leading national newspaper the other day, and, sure enough, the stamp of Presidential approval followed quickly. At a point when the Ariels of this island in the sun have vanquished the Calibans (whether temporarily or otherwise only time can tell) the news should not have been received with surprise - there were enough clues in the air, and old culture heroes were being revamped on all sides. The issue of a stamp in honour of a late lamented Governor General, bedecked in his im-

# Go National with English!

perial regalia, and fond of echoing Rupert Brooke at the most explicit of times, was a pictorial pointer more recently. One couldn't go the whole hog and become again a little bit of England without speaking in the accents of a Margaret Thatcher or

writing like the Bard of Avon. And so in the fullness of multinational time, and the artificial respiration provided by the suspension of the franchise for six years, we are now poised to lisp in the language of Mother England after a cruel separation of nearly three decades. A backward glance may be salutary.

When the sun began to sink beneath the dwindling horizons of a supposedly indestructible British Empire, the English folded up their profitable tents and crept back into their offshore European island. The language they exported, along with their culture, fell into a logical decline. The resurgence of national sovereignty and the

associations. A new generation, catalysed by indigenous urges, concentrated on decolonization, learned to view its poverty seriously, its social realities with unromantic eyes, and began to nationalise its problems. An avowed and conscious patriotism lent added meaning and potency to its urgent dreams. The use or abuse of English had little or nothing to do with this great and necessary reawakening, though it is true to say that the protagonists of the return to anti-colonial modes of thought had been activated in this pursuit and liberated from their bonds by an acquaintance with the language of the conqueror. Freedom, in both linguistic and political terms, was the

In this insidious process, the language of imperialism is being re-tooled merely to serve the frenzied interests of trans-national investment and a rapacious Western intervention in the development process. It would seem that the doors of knowledge, even wisdom, and magic carpets of economic opportunity and social adventurism are only open to those who can read, speak, and write the ex-colonial language. The populace of Sri Lanka is being exhorted, day in and day out, that not to know English is to be confined to a forlorn limbo and outer darkness of the brave new consumerist society spawned by the free trade zones of economic liberalism. The cultural sustenance of the development dream, according to the IMF book, depends on the return of English to the centre of the linguistic stage. To accord it the status of a "national language" (the implications are as yet unveiled) is surely the thin end of the wedge.

## Brown Sahibs

### back in business

To sum up. A quisling

## The Dilemma of my Nationality

Human egoism, insanity, animal instinct,  
Failings of all religions?  
I keep searching for an answer,  
Freudian psycho-analysis is out-dated.

Words of learned wisdom culled over the years  
Reduced to ashes with planned strategies;  
One human being a victim of another,  
Looted, plundered, attacked, tormented.

Reasons are ridiculous, and beyond the  
Comprehension of noble great beings;  
"You speak a different language,"  
Is the language of thuggery and barbarism.

Politicians, Historians, Sociologists  
Teachers and Preachers of faiths,  
Trade Unions, Leftists and Rightists  
Have but equal share flaming the fire.

Propounded theories of naked chauvinism,  
Disguised as emotional nationalism,  
And Lo, misguided, innocent mortals,  
Turned into victims and 'national' culprits.

And you have irreparably torn apart Mother Lanka,  
Ethnic rivals wage endless cultural wars,  
Destroying peace and co-existence  
Devastating common Lankan heritage.

As for me,

I enjoy Rekawa, Singabahu, Vajira and Chitra,  
I find equal solace in Nathaswaram and Carnatic Music and  
Those evergreen stretches of tea bushes, surrounded by  
Mountains and rivers and valleys.

I want to possess and own all that is Lankan;  
I do not want to live beyond boundary walls,  
Recalling nostalgic memories of what was mine;  
I want to own them and possess them, all and whole.

I also want to tread the humble village  
Where I was born, where I learnt my alphabets,  
Where I lived with my beloved kith and kin,  
In harmony with quarrelling childhood tots.

It hurts me to carry a passport to visit  
My own people and my own places.  
It hurts me to go through customs barriers to take  
My own things to my own people.

Oh! I want them all there and I want all here;  
Racist criminals, culprits and victims  
You divide my soul by boundary walls  
And language barriers.

With my heart bleeding with pain  
I lay still, with my dilemma,  
Unable to choose, unable to give up,  
Unable to withstand ceaseless oppression,  
Unable to subscribe to the call of division.

By VALLY.

by

H. A. I. Goonetilleke

popular demands of indigenization brought about a necessary revival of the native tongues, which 150 years of a strenuous English education had failed to eliminate from the national consciousness. More crucially, the tiny English-speaking elite which had derived its political and social power from an adventitious mastery of its master's voice found, to its obvious discomfiture, that the ruied were no longer in the mood to be administered, still less educated, in an alien tongue. The language of the "master race" was (and remains) the language of patronage, power, arrogance and discrimination.

### A Key to Knowledge

It was, therefore, in the fitness of things that a language, which, after one and a half centuries of impressive instruction in colonial times, was only spoken, written, and understood by less than ten per cent of the population, gave place to the languages of the people. English, despite emotional tub-thumping by the rejected, was neither neglected nor confined to the educational attic. It continued as a key to knowledge and a tool of learning. But, an inevitable slump in its self-conscious fortunes followed the overthrow of the party, which had traded on its mercenary values and profitable

recognition of necessity.

The return of the defeated generation of 1948 to power again, after twenty-one years in the wilderness, has witnessed a near-complete reversal of the gains of that remarkable social revolution of 1956. The new UNP regime of 1977 (now ossified in office till 1989) appears hell-bent on resurrecting and rejuvenating the remaining vestiges of a colonial past in a vulgar and specious neo-colonial guise. Collaboration with the old white master is the name of the game, and cultural debasement a deliberate tactic of political control.

and parasitic elite lorded it over their indigenous brothers and sisters, less equal only because they could not speak the former's language with the confidence and flair of a King. The wheel has come full circle, Col. Blimp rides again, and the Brown Sahibs are back in business. A Westernised comprador Sri Lankan elite is firmly in the saddle, for better or for worse, until 1989. The Orwellian year of "double-speak" in the linguistic calendar is 1984 — bespoken English appears more likely in Sri Lanka.

## JAFFNA COLLEGE

### BUNKER MEMORIAL LECTURES 1983

#### "Reflections on the Humanities in a Democratic Culture"

By  
Professor John Walter Bicknell

at  
Trimmer Hall, Jaffna

on  
Tuesday 22 March, 1983

at  
6-00 p. m.

All are cordially invited.

Jaffna College,  
Vaddukodai.

# Hinduism in Ceylon-1

Circa A. D. 1000-1250

During the Polonnaruwa period which witnessed the last and perhaps the most remarkable phase of constructional and cultural activity in the north-central plain of the island, Hinduism and Hindu institutions were in a flourishing state. Political and military events in the island and the establishment of dynastic ties with the ruling families of Kalinga and the Tamil kingdoms of South India resulted in Hindu influence in the country on a scale and intensity never before known. The Hindu culture which developed in the island during this period was largely derived from South India.

In the Tamil country, the process of the assimilation of the elements of Sanskrit culture with the indigenous Tamil tradition which has commenced many centuries earlier reached its culmination under Chola rule. The synthetic religious tradition of the Chola period was a harmonious blend of the devotional theism of the Saivite Nayanmar and Vaishnavite alvar with the philosophic and ritual tradition of the Vedas and Agamas. The temple became the focal point of religious and cultural expression and activity. It also became linked to the productive processes and the scheme of social organization.

## Proliferation of images

In monumental architecture and metal casting South Indian craftsmen attained a level of development which, in some ways, was never surpassed. Such developments led to the composition of treatises on temple architecture and iconography in Sanskrit as they were intended for use beyond the confines of the Tamil country. The proliferation of images of deities under the influence of Hindu mythology and their consecration for worship in temples, the elevation of the Tamil saints and mystics to divine status, the installation of their images in shrines for worship, the provision made for the regular recital of Tamil devotional hymns to the accompaniment of instrumental music, the regular chanting of Vedic hymns and the performance of rituals by Brahmin functionaries and the organization of religious services and temple affairs on a more or less formal basis became established as the principal characteristics of the religious tradition centring round the temple. This development which was of considerable significance to society led to the development of social attitudes and norms oriented towards the preservation of religious and cultural institutions. Elements of this religio-cultural tradition were introduced into the island in substantial measure among the Hindu communities which during this period grew in strength and numbers.



Nataraja, Polonnaruwa period

The period selected for discussion here comprises two sub-periods: the period of Chola rule which began around A.D. 993 and lasted until 1070 and that of the Sinhalese monarchy which was restored by Vijayabahu I (1055-1110) who defeated the Cholas in 1070 and established himself at Polonnaruwa as the ruler of Lanka. Rajarata, the northern part of the island, was overrun by the Cholas around the 8th year of Rajaraja I (985-1016), made a province of his empire, and named **Mummudicchulamandalam** after one of his numerous epithets.

Another Chola expedition, in the reign of Rajendra I (1016-1044) resulted in the capture of Mahinda V. (978-1028) in the south eastern principality of Rohana and a further expansion of the sphere of Chola control in the island. Polonnaruwa which had served as a military out-post in the earlier period became the principal seat of Chola administration and was renamed Jananathamangalam. The areas that came under Chola rule were divided into units called **Valanadu** and administered mostly by officials sent periodically from the Chola country. South Indian warriors who had been sent to the island in the Chola army remained there in substantial numbers to become a significant element in the Tamil settlements.

The Ayyavole and other organized group of South Indian traders who secured for themselves a substantial share of the internal and foreign trade of the island established a number of commercial out-

posts and settlements in different localities of the north-plain. The growth of the Dravidian elements in the population of towns and military outposts was accompanied by the establishment of Hindu religious and cultural institutions.

by

Dr. S. Pathmanathan

Inscriptions and architectural remains show that a number of Hindu temples were set up at Polonnaruwa, Mantai, Padaviya and other sites which served as administrative, military and commercial outposts. In Polonnaruwa which was the principal seat of Chola administration, the remains of no less than sixteen Hindu temples have so far been brought to light. Some of them were constructed during the period of Chola rule. Identification of Chola temples has been possible only in cases of architectural remains where inscriptions have been found. Siva Devales No. 2 and No. 5 at Polonnaruwa have been easily identified as Chola monuments on the basis of epigraphic evidence.

Siva Devale No. 2 at Polonnaruwa, called Vanavanmadevi-isvaram after the queen mother of Rajendra I, though of modest proportions is an elegant temple constructed with dressed slabs of granite boulders. It is the only architectural monument of stone construction at Polonnaruwa which has remained more or less in its original

form up to our own times and the fact that it has withstood the effects of the tropical sun, winds and rain testifies to the high quality of its workmanship.

The earliest inscription found in this temple is dated early in the reign of Rajendra I. A fairly long inscription dated in the reign of Adhirajendra found engraved on a wall of this temple records the arrangements made in connection with an endowment made to it. A certain Chola pallavaraiyan, a dignitary of high rank, who hailed from Mankalappadi in Virpeddu nadu endowed the temple with a lamp and five gold coins. The lamp had to be maintained from the interest on the money deposited.

A number of temple functionaries such as **Panmahesvarakkankani, kramavittar, bhattar, sivabrahmanar**, officiating priests, drummers and temple dancers are mentioned in connection with the endowment. All of such functionaries collectively accepted responsibility for the endowment. Such a procedure presupposes that the temple fun-

tionaries were closely bound together despite differences in social status and rank. The details found in this epigraph testify to the fact that the temple of Vanavanmadevi-isvaram was provided with adequate arrangements for regularly conducting rituals and religious services as well as for the management of its affairs. It may justifiably be assumed that the other important Hindu shrines established by the Cholas, about the administrative management of which details have not been preserved, were also provided with similar arrangements.

In South India some of the early Chola temples, Vijayalaya Cholesvaram, Adityesvaram and Arinjikai-isvaram were constructed as sepulchral monuments. Human skeletal remains have been found underneath the sanctum of such monuments which were generally referred to as **pallippatai** in epigraphic records. The Siva Devale No. 5 at Polonnaruwa, presumably, was a similar monument—a **pallippatai**. A few short inscriptions recovered from the debris of its remains record the names of a few Chola dignitaries who were, presumably, closely associated with the foundation and construction of this monument. Sri Moganurutaiyan, Tiruppuvanatevan, Tiyakacintamani muventavelan of Tillai, Pan-canadivanan, Sri Nallurutaiyan, Mankalappati velan and Chola pallavaraiyan are the names of chieftains recorded in the inscriptions.

Siva Devale No. 5 is most notable on account of the impressive number of bronzes and other statuary unearthed from its premises. In all, eight items of statuary in-

stone and nineteen bronzes have been found. They include the figures of Nataraja, Ganesa, Visnu, Dakshinamurti, Kali, Sapta matris—the seven divine mothers, the seven Saktis, and the Nayanmar. Some of these bronzes are of exceptionally high quality and on the basis of these and other similar finds it may be postulated that a provincial school of bronze casting which owed its origin and inspiration to Chola craftsmen flourished in the island since the eleventh century.

Siva Devale No. 6 was yet another Chola monument with in the city of Polonnaruwa as suggested by the palaeography of an engraving on a bronze bell recovered from its ruins. The name Sri Anpillai Perumal is impressed on this item in characters which could be assigned to the late tenth or early eleventh century. Unless of course one could imagine that a bell produced during the period of Chola occupation and obtained else-

(Continued on page 7)

# International Funding Agencies

## Aid or Loan? Who are the winners?

In 1978 the World Bank and its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), spent \$14 billions for the developing countries. Since these Agencies provide only a part of the total financial requirements of the projects, i. e. the foreign exchange component, this money is associated with an investment of the order of \$ 50 billions. Since its inception 22 years ago, the IDA has committed its funds to 1302 projects in 78 countries.

So, for all of us who are interested in the development of poor countries it is of utmost importance to know from where such funds are coming, what conditions are attached to them. How far are political, economic and financial independence sacrificed to secure these funds? Despite all these investments the gulf between the industrialised West and the Third World countries is an ever increasing one, so where is the catch?

### Voting rights of poor countries

Since the 1974 oil crisis affected both the industrialised countries and the third world countries how come the debt owed by the poor countries to the advanced countries in the West has increased 5 fold \$ 505 billions? Is it possible to develop the poor countries without mortgaging their future to the advanced countries? Surely we need more of the best brains to indulge in international finance consultancy work?

The World Bank is the oldest and largest of the multinational lending institutions. It has co-operative agreements with specialised UN Agencies such as FAO., WHO., UNESCO., UNDP., etc. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are sister organisations. The World Bank was founded in 1944 with the initial purpose of providing loans for the reconstruction and development of the war-damaged countries of post-war Europe. Hence its formal name THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. The Bank's activities are now wholly directed towards the financing of projects in developing countries.

### Hinduism...

(Continued from page 6)

where was installed for use in a monument established later, it may be assumed that this bell and temple amidst the remains of which it was found belong to the same period. There were probably other Hindu temples constructed by the Cholas at Polonnaruwa which could not be identified and precisely dated for want of adequate archaeological information.

The Bank is an international corporate organisation owned and controlled by its 134 member countries, each carrying voting rights according to the share of stocks held. As the poor countries do not have the capacity to hold a worthwhile share of the stock, their voting rights would be negligible. In addition to the member Governments' capital subscription, the Bank gets further funds from bonds floated in the world capital markets and from the Bank's own profits. The Bank's charter spells out the basic rules which govern its loan operations. Loans must normally be for specific projects, and based only on economic considerations, but to what extent are loan decisions taken on political as opposed to economic grounds? Loans go through a considerable cycle of decision taking, but there have been many cases where the feasibility studies were engineered when the World Bank wanted to give a loan

ment Association) to which richer countries of the Bank subscribe. The standard term of lending for IDA financed projects is 50 years, with no interest but a service charge, and far more strings. No country with a per capita income of more than \$ 730 is eligible for IDA assistance, and in 1980 no less than 80 per cent of net disbursements were countries with per capita incomes of only \$ 410. When incomes are so desperately low, it is not surprising that the terms allow repayment over 50 years without interest. Now let us take a look at the 'strings' attached to loans from the World Bank.

Typically the World Bank's association with a project begins at the time the project concept is being formulated and feasibility studies are yet to be undertaken. The Bank engages in a dialogue with its borrowing countries on a wide range of economic and development issues, including the

has an important interest in the staffing for the feasibility study design. When it acts as executive agency for the UNDP the Bank itself selects the consultants. In other cases the receiving country is allowed to select but still it has to be acceptable to the Bank. The main reason for the control is that the Bank tries to achieve a reasonable spread of consultancy work among the donor countries. Of course the Bank says that if there are qualified local consultants capable of doing all or part of the work then it would consider them. The capability is measured by previous experience and so we have a chicken and egg situation. Even though the actual selection and hiring of the consultants is subject to the Bank's concurrence on the term of reference, the qualification of consultants and the contractual arrangements between the borrower and the consultants, the ultimate legal responsibility for the project execution, including tendering

Directors who are complaining that their countries have lost one or more of these contracts.

### Variable

#### interest rates

It is unfortunate that the World Bank has now adopted a new development in international financial practice that is in no small measure to blame for the deterioration in the global economic environment—the use of variable interest rates in longer term lending. Until comparatively recently, the bulk of international lending business for periods of any substance was arranged at rates of interest that remained fixed for the life of the loan. The spread of the variable rates system was engineered by the banking community to suit its convenience. Under the old fixed rate arrangements the deflationary impact of a rise in interest rates would make its effect felt only gradually since it would increase only the cost of new borrowing. With variable rates operating for both OLD and NEW borrowing, it is a very different matter. Under this system a rise in interest rates of the order recorded in recent years is capable of injecting a powerful deflationary force into the economy almost overnight.

### What did the leap reflect?

Between 1979 and 1981 the cost to the developing countries of servicing external debt increased by \$ 23,000 millions or 55 %. This leap did not reflect a sudden vast increase in the amount of debt outstanding. It was attributable to the fact that, whereas the old fixed rate borrowings were still costing no more than about 6 %, the rates payable on variable rate paper had escalated to between 18 and 20 percent.

### Pressure from rich countries

The World Bank complained that its conversion to the new fashion means that henceforth it will be arranging the bulk of its borrowing operations on the basis of 'variable rate instruments'. To tie in with that, all future loans will also

by

**P. Varothayasingham**

London

to a particular country for largely political reasons. The International Development Association has now replaced the need to bend the feasibility studies.

The World Bank is after all a Bank, not a charity. It cannot give away money free to any country however poor the latter may be. Thus the Bank does not give away any aid in the same way as the International Red Cross or other charities to refugees. So, whatever monies that are given by the Bank to developing countries as "AID" will have to be repaid with interest sooner or later. The monies given to war-damaged European countries by the Bank for reconstruction and development were not termed as "AID". That was a "LOAN" for the Europeans. The same "monies" given to poor countries as a loan with interest charges and many strings is classified as "AID". About 60 of the poorer member countries of the Bank have access to a 'soft loan' fund called IDA (International Develop-

countries' public sector investment plan. Only when it has formed its own views on the country's investment priorities does it select specific projects in various sections for which it will consider making a loan. The projects financed by the Bank must be through a rigorous cycle of feasibility study and design, appraisal by Bank staff, negotiation with the prospective borrower, approval by the Board, supervision during execution and post-completion evaluation. The loan agreement between the Bank and the borrower spells out the general requirements regarding the use, the consultations, the procedure for tendering by the borrower, and the methods of disbursing loan funds. In reviewing cost estimates, the Bank pays special attention not only to the project's foreign exchange costs to make sure that the latter only includes the direct use of foreign resources for the procurement of foreign goods and services, but also to their indirect use by foreign contractors and fees for foreign consultation! The World Bank

and contracting, rests with the borrower and not with the World Bank.

When it comes to construction the Bank says that it particularly looks for spread of work among donor countries but has a policy of requiring international competitive bidding to select the lowest evaluated bid. This 'international' competitive bidding is restricted to the member countries of the bank. Other forms of procurement such as local tendering within the borrowing country or by direct labour have to be justified by special circumstances! One wonders whether this system of requiring international bidding restricted to member countries owes more to the interests of the supplying countries than to the interests of the projects and the borrowers. After all, the Bank is faced with a group of executive directions, Washington representing the donor countries who stand to gain by winning these large contracts. The system of international bidding gives the Bank a ready answer to satisfy those executive

(Continued on Page 8)

# Western model of development unsuited to Sri Lanka

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel hotly denied in Parliament recently that the economic policies of the UNP Government were dictated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A few days later, President Jayawardene himself said that "Sri Lanka cannot be dictated to by conditions laid down by the IMF."

My understanding of the situation is different, for no less than the Managing Director of the IMF, Mr. De Larosiere has said that "conditionality is fundamental to the operations of the institution."

And the US Treasury Secretary, Mr. Donald T. Reagan is on record saying, during the controversy over a big loan to India last year, that the conditions imposed by the IMF in lending to developing countries had become lax in recent years and should be made "more strict". The recipients of the loans, he said, "don't seem to be using the money for bootstrap operations, controlling money supply and getting inflation down. We don't think the IMF should be another International Development Agency (the soft loan affiliate of the World Bank)."

## Decline in exchange earnings

In Sri Lanka's particular case, broadly up to 1956 export earnings had sufficed to meet the import bill and even leave a margin for development. Thereafter there had been a steady deterioration in exchange earnings so that Sri Lanka was compelled to go to the IMF and obtain the first gold tranche in 1961, followed by another early the next year, making a total of Rs. 108 million.

Our dependence on the IMF in a big way began after the assumption of office of the UNP led by Mr. Dudley Senanayake in 1965. In five years, a total of Rs. 725 million was obtained by it to meet balance of payment deficits.

Each time we had resort to the IMF we had to provide "letters of intent" which were, the late Dr. N. M. Perera told parliament

while presenting the United Front Government's first budget in 1970, "a very euphemistic term for subjecting ourselves to the conditions laid down by the IMF, no doubt with the very laudable desire to put our house in order according to its own light."

He went on to read out the "letters of intent" given by the UNP Government which, he said, were "very revealing documents" and "perpetual reminders of the degree to which a hapless country can be subjected to."

The IMF's demands then included cutting the food subsidy and other social service expenditure, devaluation of the rupee, relaxation of im-

port controls, improvement of the climate for the inflow of foreign official and private credit, scrapping of bilateral trade agreements (such as those with China and other socialist bloc countries) and reduction of state intervention in economic activity (that is no more nationalisation).

Though Dr. Perera, as Minister of Finance, put up a big fight against the IMF, he himself had to sign "letters of intent" when he sought its help!

And, since 1977, it has been Mr. de Mel's turn to do it. That what he told Parliament recently was a "verbal inexactitude" is apparent from what he said at a meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington (vide "Sun" report, September 29, 1978).

On that occasion, calling for a "reappraisal" of the conditions laid down by the IMF, the Minister of Finance said that these conditions and the performance criteria applied by it had given the im-

pression that stabilisation programmes were increasingly fashioned in such a way as to give it a controlling power over the economy of the borrowing country.

As if they could not care less

"Stabilisation programmes in developing countries should not worsen income distribution, should not be contrary to the satisfaction of basic human needs should not undermine the basic features of the economic organisation desired by a member-nation. IMF conditionality, above all, must take more account of political and social reality," he said.

the goddess of economic growth on a pedestal, ignoring the basic needs of all the people.

One who denounced this hallowed goddess is the noted Pakistani economist Mr. Mahub ul Haq, who during his 12-year stay at the World Bank succeeded in pioneering a strategy that was to change the face of international development efforts while Mr. Robert McNamara was its President.

## Mr. McNamara's programme

If Mr. Haq is unimpressed by the "magic of the marketplace," President Reagan's favourite panacea for poverty,

rupt and utterly discredited. I happen to believe that it amounts to condemning poor people to absolute, intolerable poverty, because they are at best on the fringe of the market—place, more often outside of it altogether."

In his view, "Mr. Clausen's appeasement of the US has weakened the Bank's commitment to the poorest countries; put the future of its cheap loans arm in jeopardy; placed far too much emphasis on the role of private investment and market criteria for development; and raised the cost of borrowing to levels which even the richer developing countries will find hard to sustain."

## by our Economic Correspondent

port controls, improvement of the climate for the inflow of foreign official and private credit, scrapping of bilateral trade agreements (such as those with China and other socialist bloc countries) and reduction of state intervention in economic activity (that is no more nationalisation).

The Dudley Senanayake Government faithfully carried out these "correctives" but there was no substantial improvement in Sri Lanka's economic situation.

In the case of the food subsidy, as Dr. Perera said, "They prepared the ground for over a year, and then, under a miasma of false propaganda that there was a world rice shortage, cut the ration by one measure in 1966."

The rupee was devalued—directly in November 1967 and indirectly in May 1968 by the introduction of the foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate (FEECS) scheme.

## As if they could not care less

"Stabilisation programmes in developing countries should not worsen income distribution, should not be contrary to the satisfaction of basic human needs should not undermine the basic features of the economic organisation desired by a member-nation. IMF conditionality, above all, must take more account of political and social reality," he said.

The argument of Sri Lanka and other countries facing grim challenges posed by the global economic situation, which have been compounded by the highly conservative economic policies of the present US Government, has been that the IMF, as well as the World Bank should be strengthened by increasing their resources and by making their lending conditions less rigorous. These countries demand that these multinational institutions be kept free of pressures to orient their lending and other operations to suit the interests of the private sector, as desired by the US.

But both institutions have been behaving as they could not care less! What they are doing, in short, is to impose the Western model of development on Third World countries like Sri Lanka. And, as a result most of our economic problems seem to have got worse, not better, because this strategy seeks to place

it is because he has seen what it does.

"I tested those theories personally before coming to the Bank in 1970. In Pakistan, we had chalked up wonderful growth rates, around 7 per cent, and we discovered to our horror that real wages had gone down, that urban—rural divisions and grievances were sharper and that the wealth was still concentrated in the hands of about 22 families".

Fresh from that experience, Mr. Haq upset his more conservative colleagues at the Bank by urging a complete shift in Bank strategy aimed at raising the purchasing power of the abjectly poor.

"The greatest surprise of my career was that instead of asking me to go home, Mr. McNamara invited me to draft his next speech!"

That speech, made in 1973, launched the Bank on the anti-poverty programme which became Mr. McNamara's hallmark and established Mr. Haq as Director of Policy.

However, this strategy brought Mr. McNamara into conflict with the Reagan Administration and in 1981 he handed over the Presidency to Mr. Tom Clausen, who was, loved by the conservatives in the US, the Bank's largest shareholder.

Mr. Haq also left the Bank shortly afterwards, insisting that Reaganomics, "this vague and somewhat loose talk about the 'magic of the marketplace', is merely the old trickle-down theory of development warmed up. And this philosophy—that if you go all out for economic growth the benefits will somehow reach the poorest—is bank-

But if Governments that are trying to lessen the gap between the rich and poor no longer get the financial and intellectual support of the Bank, he would regard it as "a betrayal of the very reason for the Bank's existence."

A similar criticism may be made of the IMF's approach to development as well.

## President Julius Nyerere

One Third World leader who is strongly opposed to the Western model of development is Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. During a visit to India, he said that only disaster could befall their nations if they continued to "catch up with the North" instead of waging the war against poverty, ignorance and disease.

"The developing nations are nurturing continued dependence on the developed nations by buying the most elaborate machinery and the latest invention in every field regardless of their capacity to pay for it or even to maintain it. The 'modern sector' so created as a sign of development existed in a sea of poverty, ignorance and disease, while the people are asked to work harder for the same return and to borrow more from the North for production of greater exports to pay the old and the new debts." He may well have been talking of Sri Lanka.

My. Nyerere said development must first be defined as the provision of basic needs for ALL the people—food, clothing, shelter, clean water, basic knowledge and basic

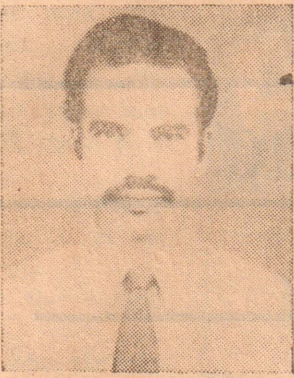
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## International Funding...

(Continued from page 7) carry variable interest rates. The Bank has justified the changeover on the grounds that it had to move with the times. One can easily see that it was under a certain amount of pressure from the industrialised countries to do so. A cursory inspection of the present global economic scene will reveal that the variable rate system has a great deal to answer for. No doubt the World Bank is actively seeking opportunities to invest in the development in oil, gas and various other resources in the Third World countries. Loans

given to developing countries are entirely concentrated on projects which increase their prospective potential or linked with reforms. The stage of lending is done broadly by the World Bank and the other by the bank's sister organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The World Bank and the IMF have joint meetings and the latest was held at Toronto, Canada attended by 50 or so bankers, financiers, government ministers and associated observers. In this annual conference the debate was couched in familiar terms. (To be continued)





Thangathurai

# What 1st accused Thangathurai told Court

The first accused, Thangathurai, told Court in the course of his statement in Tamil;

"We have already objected to a Court of Sri Lanka subjecting us to an inquiry. Despite that objection a case had been framed against us, and it has gone on for nearly four months now. For certain reasons we had to participate in the proceedings ourselves. Our counsel has already brought out categorically through the somersaults made by the Sri Lanka Policemen during his cross-examination and through his legal arguments and through our own evidence, the various acts of torture inflicted on us and their premeditated nature.

When the British Government entrusted the fate of the Tamils to a group of Sinhalese politicians the Tamil people never clamoured for freedom for themselves. The Tamils naturally never suspected that they would in course of time be made second-class citizens in this country. But some Tamil leaders very prophetically asked for bigger representation for the Tamils. This was justified by the later events, when the hill country Tamils were deprived of their franchise; what the next 25 years saw was not only the deprivation of Tamil rights everywhere but deprivation of Tamil lands as well. For over 20 years the Tamil leaders had expressed their protest in Parliament and outside very peacefully, and adopting the principles of ahimsa and satyagraha. But what happened?

In 1956 the Tamil leaders sat down to a peaceful protest on Galle Face Green. Thug violence was unleashed on them. Later when the Tamil leaders and the Tamil people sat in peaceful satyagraha in front of the kachcheries the Sri Lanka Army did not fail to react with

Five of the six accused (the 6th accused was tried in absentia) who were sentenced to life imprisonments in the Neerveli Bank Robbery Case have filed papers appealing against the conviction and sentence imposed on them by the Colombo High Court Judge Mr. C. L. T. Moonemale on Monday February 28th.

The six accused, Nadarajah Thangavelu (Thangathurai), Selvarajah Yogachandran (Kuttimani), Selvathurai Sivasubramaniam (Thevan), Navaratnarajah Sivapatham (Sivapatham Master), Sri Sabaratnam (tried in absentia) and Vythilingam Nadesathasan were all sentenced to separate terms of life imprisonment on two different counts and 15 years rigorous imprisonment each on two other counts. They were charged with conspiring to rob and robbing bank cash amounting to Rs. 8.1 million belonging to Peoples Bank Branches in the Jaffna peninsula on March 20, 1981 at Neerveli, under the Prevention of Terrorism (Special Provisions) Act No. 45 of 1979.

At the conclusion of the "voire dire" proceedings on Thursday, February 24th Senior Counsel for the defence, Mr. N. Satyendra told Court that in deference to the wishes of his clients he was not addressing Court but the accused themselves would be making statements. Mr. Satyendra with Messrs. G. Kumaralingam, S. Sachithananda and Mr. S. Rudramoorthy appeared for the accused.

uncivilised violence. In which chapter of your long history on democracy are you going to incorporate these events? Not one, not two, but there has been a continuous series of thuggery and violence inflicted on the Tamil people over a period of 35 years. How many chapters will you need to record this 35 year villainy? How many Tamils have been robbed of both their lives and their material wealth? There have been Tamil women whose chastity has been offended in the very presence of the family members. Tamil cultural wealth preserved for generations have been put to flames. What a mockery to think that these could be compensated by a few lakhs of rupees? Have all these acts of hurt and humiliation made the Tamil people lose their spirit? No. Have they gone

back on their ideals? No. These acts of humiliation have only strengthened their resolve. We never missed an opportunity to make the Sri Lanka Government conscious of our mind. Twice in two elections the Tamil people have recently reinforced their aspirations.

Isn't it ridiculous for a Government that promotes race hatred and race killings to look at us and call us 'TERRORISTS'? While on one hand celebrations were going on marking 50 years of Parliamentary Democracy, the Tamil Members of the same Parliament were subject to midnight arrest and the house of one Member of Parliament was set on fire. These are not acts that you can do in a civilized world with your heads raised high? You talk of terrorism and robbery. Has this country seen any-

thing to compare with the State Terrorism and the race hate carried on with State weaponry? It is not that the people are ignorant of what happened to the material possessions robbed from the Tamil people and then recovered? We have even heard of influential Sri Lankan Government politicians terrorising people with revolvers! If anyone wants to say that these are not acts of terrorism that will be the biggest joke of the century.

## Freedom, not division

"Allegations are made that we are asking for separation, that we are trying to divide the country. When were we undivided after all? Our traditional land captured by the European invaders has never been restored to us. We have not even mortgaged our land at any time to anyone in the name of one country. Our land has changed hands off and on under various regimes, and that is what has happened. We have yet to reach a stage when we can have our land for ourselves. What we ask for is not division but freedom. Why we ask this is not because of narrow thinking. What we

hope to achieve is not only the emancipation of the Tamil people but the greater good of the Sinhalese people themselves. Why? Because, thereafter, the so-called Tamil problem will cease to be a livelihood for opportunist Sinhalese politicians. That will provide a chance for the Sinhalese people to free themselves from the political, social and economic shackles that bind them today and realize where their true slavery lies. "There is no testament in the world that declares that a people who fight to recover their own rights or work for their self-determination are guilty of sedition or terrorism. Had you endorsed our basic human rights at the very beginning this situation would not have arisen. You had not only not recognised our rights but for the purpose of clinging on to political sets of power you had been injecting into the poor innocent Sinhalese people hate and venom over the past 35 years. That not all the Sinhalese people have fallen victims to your racist poison has been proved by the fact that many of them during the times you have brought about race riots, have time and again rescued Tamils from armed thugs and complete extermination. It has been customary for every Opposition Party in Sri Lanka that wants to come to power to obstruct any settlement of

(Continued overleaf)

## Western model of development...

(Continued from page 8)

health services. The Third World nations will then have a an objective which could be realised/in the future, if not immediately.

He said the misery of the people would get reduced at the same time as the dependence on the North got redu-

ced. Beside South-South co-operation would be increased to their mutual advantage and the Third World as whole would be consequently strengthened.

The Minister of Finance will unpack his latest bag of tricks on March 8. I am certain that several more IMF cats will leap out of it.

The way Sri Lanka has been going since 1977, there can be little doubt that by 1989 we may come to be regarded as "highly developed" according to IMF and World Bank lights, but the majority of the people may by that time be walking skeletons!

## VACANCY STOCK CLERK

A vacancy exists for a Stock Clerk at Kilinochchi Branch of an Organization which has its Head office in Colombo.

**Experience:** At least three years Clerical experience in an established firm preferably relating to maintaining stock cards.

**Qualification:** Minimum S. S. C. with credit passes in Mathematics and English. A knowledge of accounts and English Typing will be treated as additional qualifications.

**Closing date:** 11th March, 1983.

Apply Box No. 101, c/o. Saturday Review  
118, 4th Cross St. Jaffna.

(Continued from page 9)

the problems relating to the Tamils and rouse the Sinhalese people for that purpose.

"As against that, for a ruining party to permit racist violence as it has done during the past six years is more reprehensible. If the relationship between the Tamil people and the Sri Lanka Government has reached the present deplorable state, that responsibility lies squarely with the present dispensation. For the past quarter century the ruling governments have like parrots, kept on repeating the same threadbare statements "We will solve the Tamil problem". Whether we accept your solutions or not, what honest attempts have been made to solve the problems of the Tamils? While holding out the bogus promise of solving the problems of the Tamil people, you have spent all the time in trying to blunt Tamil resistance. What have the Tamil people asked you? Not economic benefits, not employment opportunities. That no such benefits could come from you is a fact well-known to them.

#### What we need is self-respect

"Even if you do come forward to grant those benefits what guarantee can you give the Tamils that they could live with self-respect in this island in the future? Whatever you give them without giving them the feeling of self-respect will be alien to them. In this island there are sanctuaries for even wild animals but up to now there is no sanctuary in any part of this island where the Tamils can live without fear. This is not something we can expect in the future either.

#### 'Truth does not need platforms'

"The Deputy Solicitor General in the course of his examination turned to Mr. Yogachandran and asked him "Do you intend using this court of Law as your platform". Of what use are platforms to us? We never asked anybody to provide us platforms. It was you who brought us to this box and heaped accusations on us. When you not only throw lies at us but try to make out that we are liars, we merely came

# 'Wild animals have their Sanctuaries, but there is no place in this island where Tamil safety is guaranteed....

out with the truth. That is all we did and that does not make us stage performers. Truth does not require platforms and spotlights. Truth has its own glory. No power on earth can suppress it for ever.

"We are not lovers of violence nor victims of mental disorders. We are honest fighters belonging to an organization that is struggling to liberate a people. To those noble souls who keep on prating "terrorism, terrorism" we have something to say. Did you not get frightened of terrorism when hundreds of Tamils were massacred in cold blood, when racist hate spread like fire in this country of yours? Did terrorism mean nothing to you when Tamil women were raped? When cultural treasures were set on fire? When hundreds and hundreds of Tamil homes were looted? Why in 1977 alone 400 Tamils lost their lives reddening the sky above with their splattered blood; Did you not see any terrorism when that happened? Is it only when a few policemen are killed in Tamil Eelam and a few millions of bank money are robbed that terrorism strike you in the face? Are your eyes meant exclusively for police victims? Did your thoughts and feelings become deadened when it concerned Tamil lives and Tamil property or are your minds unable to conceive the very idea of Tamil suffering?

#### 'We have a global vision'

You must not run away with the thought that our sole objective is to establish a Tamil Eelam. Tamil Eelam remains certainly an objective because we have learnt through bitter experience over the past several years that it is only by establishing a State of Tamil

Eelam can the Tamils live with self-respect. But our vision is broader than that. Our vision is global. Wherever there is oppression, wherever there is violation of human dignity, whether in Africa or in Latin America, we are prepared to link hands with the oppressed and the under-dog. When our vision is so global how can it fail to take into account the future good of the Sinhalese, our co-nationals in this country? May I mention this? We will not stop at raising our voices on behalf of those people. There is nothing that prevents two neighbouring nations living in co-operation. Even nations with differing policies get together for the common economic good and for the purpose of common security. Does that mean that those nations give up their distinctive characteristics or sovereignty?

Would you also consider it wrong any attempt on our part to free ourselves from the uncivilized oppression of your government? Or would you consider that this present eyewash under the guise of a trial conducted under special laws incorporated into the normal laws of your country an act of fairness on people like us who are fighting for a noble ideal, an ideal of human freedom. Or does it mean that you don't care whatever happens because the victims are Tamils only. If that is so, our sympathies with you. Believe me our freedom is an assured fact some day or other. Once that happens your law books and terrorist laws cannot touch us. Thereafter you will be the sole "beneficiaries" of the very laws that oppress us now.

"Will you urge your government to stop the injustice

even if this understanding doesn't become a reality, we will throw the full weight of our support behind you when you rise up in the future to free yourselves to shatter the social and economic fetters that shackle you now.

Through this case we have made our real position known to the world and in particular to the people of this island. This is the joyous feeling that is uppermost in our minds. It is the people's verdict that is important to us; we are confident it will definitely be in our favour. Even a hundred fabricated cases against us and all the slanders that may be poured on us, are not going to bother us one bit hereafter.

It is we who are going to win through this kind of action of yours. The consequence of your verdict won't touch us; they are something alien to us.

## Thangathurai's statement (contd.)

"We have to safeguard the collective good of this island. If at any time in the future a common organization has to emerge which could withstand the political and economic onslaught made against the third world countries particularly in the areas surrounding the Indian sub-continent, you can be sure that Tamil Eelam will rise to the occasion and lend its might in all co-operative endeavours that will raise the quality of life of the people in this part of the world."

I want to ask this question from my Sinhalese friends would you accept as correct and justified the various acts of oppression that the Tamil people have suffered until now not only in our own land but in various parts of your land as a result of the various acts of terrorism and thuggery?

against us and acknowledge our sovereignty? Will you, as a first step towards this and towards the eradication of terrorism, urge your government to recall the Sri Lanka police Force and the Armed Forces — the wholesalers of terrorism—from our soil? I leave it to you to decide whether you will show the world how broadminded you are. Though belonging to a different nation, as fellow citizens living in the same island we have participated in the inquiry hoping for your understanding. To day we have made our position quite clear. If the understanding that flows from this prompts you in the future to raise your voice on our behalf, our hearts will be filled with satisfaction. I wish to tell you sincerely here and now that

We will not flinch from embracing death or spending the rest of our lives in jail, content as we are that we have done our duty. All these are merely commonplace incidents in the history of a nation's struggle for freedom. We were fully conscious of what we were doing; hence there's no question of disappointment. We are firm believers in the saying that what one sows one reaps. That is why our minds are calm; the seeds we sowed were not seeds of poison, our arrow-heads were not dipped in venom. But my fervent prayers is that innocent Sinhalese people should not have to reap what power hungry Sinhalese politicians have sown. These tribulations are a boon bestowed by God to purify us. The final victory is ours.

While thanking our lawyers, the organizations and the people who have spoken up for us and supported us, we ask the people and all organisations to forget their differences and unite, as this is the only path freedom.

"Long Live Tamil! Long Live Tamil Eelam! May Humaneness flourish! May Poverty, Nuclear Threats and Hunger disappear!

### Promotion

High Court Judge C. L. T. Moonamale has been appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal.

## S. Anthirasupillai - An Appreciation

"Full many a gem is born to blush unseen", the poet has truthfully said, but the line that followed, "and waste its sweetness in the desert air", may not apply to the subject I feel compelled as a matter of duty to write about here. For he—S. Anthirasupillai (Sella-thurai) of Pandatharippu - did not really waste his life or sweetness, albeit in the desert air.

He was 68 years old when

he died on the 25th of January this year. He was a kind and gentle soul, soft spoken, and wise, ever ready to listen and serve, whenever he was called. He was but a village tradesman, withal a noble gentleman thus a gem to blush unseen.

Having known him almost a lifetime, I had watched his career from his striving beginning and found them an object lesson for aspiring

youngmen. He spoke little, but stood by every word he uttered. A man of simple faith ever willing to obey the commandments and the rules, he seemed to have weathered the crises that often challenge such men. Contentment and satisfaction marked his end. He had a devoted wife and a large family, and I have no doubt his children will now arise to call him blessed.

James T. Ratnam.



S. Anthirasupillai

The price of petrol, kerosene, diesel and other petroleum products were increased from March 2nd 1983. The new prices for a gallon of petrol will be Rs. 54.58 (Rs. 12/- per litre), Kerosene Rs. 23.68 per gallon (Rs.5.20 per litre), Super Diesel Rs. 35.91 per gallon (Rs.7.90 per litre), Auto Diesel Rs. 31.75 per gallon (Rs. 6.79 per litre) and Heavy Diesel Rs. 29.32 per gallon (Rs. 6.45 per litre) The price of Liquid Petroleum Gas-L.T.G.—has also been raised by Re. 1/- Petrol will now cost Rs. 9.08 more per gallon and kerosene Rs. 6.00 more.

It is also expected that the Government will soon increase bus and rail fares in order to offset this massive increase in oil prices.

The price of a 500 gram packet of Lakspray will now cost Rs. 23.50. Earlier 400-gram packets were sold at Rs. 18.35 each. The difference of Rs. 5.15 will cover the value of the extra 100-grams as well as the increased BTT levies imposed last week.

Superintendent of Police Mr. P. Udugampola who was ordered by the Supreme Court on February 8th to pay Rs. 10,000!- compensa-

# The week that was

tion to a Buddhist Priest for violation of fundamental rights has now been promoted to Class I from Class 11. This was done by a Cabinet Directive according to Cabinet Spokesman and State Minister, Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis. It has also been stated that the Government will now pay the compensation of Rs. 10,000!- and the costs of Rs. 2,100!-.

At the Thiruchendur by-election to the Tamil Nadu Assembly held on March 1st the AIADMK nominee R. Amirtharaj won the seat by a narrow majority of 1710 votes over the DMK candidate Nellai Nedumaran. The seat was originally held by the AIADMK. All other candidates including those of Congress (I), Janatha and Kamaraj Congress lost their deposits. Mr. Amirtharaj polled 32,650 as against 30,940 by the DMK Candidate.

All five suspects three Tamils and two Sinhalese, held in connection with the murder of UNP Organizer Pulendran in Vavuniya have been released. The suspects

were Thuraijarah Thevarajah, Thambirajah Benedict, Arumugam Kumarasingham, Sarath Chandrasiri and Tissa Gunasekera. This followed a report to Court by the C.I.D. that they had no evidence to proceed with the case.

Constitutional Lawyer Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam and son of the former Minister M. Tiruchelvam, Q.C., has been nominated by the TULF to represent Vad-

dukkoddai Constituency in Parliament.

Dr. Tiruchelvam who was the TULF representative on the Commission which recommended the setting up of the Development Councils, a Harvard Scholar and the Director of Marga Institute, Colombo, is expected to take his oaths when Parliament meets on March 8th.

Elaborate arrangements are being made to celebrate Thanthai S. J. V. Chelva-

nayakam' Commemoration Day on 31.3.83 in Vavuniya. Two meetings of some prominent members of the former Federal Party were held at the Y.M.H.A. and an organising committee of seven consisting of Messrs. S. Subramaniam, M. P. Rasamayagam, A. C. Gunam, David Naganathan, K. S. Thevarasa, R. Subramaniam and Doctor Rajasundaram was elected.

A blue print of the programme was also drawn for the committee to pursue

## Youths set fire to buses and shouted : 'Long live Eelam'

Two buses belonging to the C. T. B. (Northern Region) were reduced to ashes at the Thinnavelly Junction, a few yards from the Medical Faculty at 4 p.m. last Monday, February 28.

23 Sri 4614 which operates on the K.K.S.—Jaffna route was loaded with passengers, while 23 Sri 8033 which was going to the Jaffna terminus to begin the Jaffna—Kodikamam—Keerimalai Service was occupied only by the driver and conductor. Four trouser-clad youth who

whisked out pistols from their boots ordered passengers and crew to get down poured nearly a gallon of petrol on both buses before burning them. C.T.B. sources said both buses meant a loss of 6 lakhs of rupees, to the government.

The youths distributed leaflets and chanted "Long Live Eelam" before they moved away from the spot in bicycles.

Army personnel who came to the spot a few hours later assaulted passers-by, and forced

some of the youths standing there to remove some of the protest posters that were pasted on the walls around. As a result most of the shops in the area put down shutters at about 5 p.m., and the streets were deserted.

The burning of the buses took place a few hours after the announcement of life imprisonment for the six accused in the Neervely Bank Robbery case over the Radio. The same morning Army men had been harassing all passers-at Inuvil and Chunnakam.

## JAFFNA CRICKET : JOHNNIANS GIVEN A FRIGHT

**VICTOR KIRUPARAJ** writes:

Five more Inter-School Cricket Matches were completed during the past week and three ended in decisive wins while the remaining two petered out into tame draws.

Jaffna College registered her first win for the season when she inflicted a crushing 10 wicket win over Manipay Hindu in the annual 'friendly' played over the week-end.

Jaffna College taking strike first, hit up a sizeable 194 of which R. Retnaraj (50), Skipper K. Gnanasubramaniam (46) and B. J. Mohan (36) were the chief contributors. M. Jeyaseelan 4 for 52 and S. Jeyaseelan 3 for 14 were the main wicket getters for Manipay.

Manipay Hindu, in reply folded up for a measly 76—K. B. Kumar top scoring with a patient 21, M. Paramalingam (5 for 26) and K. Gnanasubramaniam (5 for 30) shared the spoils.

Forced to follow on with a deficit of 118 to avoid the innings Manipay Hindu collected 119 in their second essay.

Jaffna College had to realize two runs which they did for no loss. K. Sivathasa (4 for 29), K. Gnanasubramaniam (2 for 29), G. J. Gunathilakan (3 for 17) made short work of the Manipay Combine.

Hartley College caused a mild stir when she sent seven of St. John's second innings wickets reeling for 33 runs in the annual 'friendly' played between the two schools last week-end at Point Pedro. St John's were set the very easy task of collecting 37 runs for a win in ten minutes and twenty mandatory overs. The overconfident and the nonchalant manner in which they took up the challenge caused such a debacle. The Johnnians eventually claimed victory by 3 wickets after having acted rather clumsily in the final hour's play.

The Johnnians in their first essay amassed 225 in 215 minutes of which Muraleedaran top scored with a brisk 81. Hartley in reply were skittled out for a lowly 74. Forced to follow on, Hartley performed better to hoist 187 to avoid the innings but not defeat which stared them in their face. Poor strategy combined with atrocious

fielding, as many as ten catches being grassed, deprived Jaffna Central from asserting herself in the match against St. Patricks who after lying low at 83 for 6 wickets, came back into the game when the tail wagged long and true to take the score up to very respectable proportions to hoist a grand 223, in reply to Central's first innings total of 232.

### Sutharshanan's century

Jaffna Central batting first crawled up to 70 for 4 wickets taking a little over ninety minutes to do so. When V. Sutharshanan walked in at the fall of the fourth wicket he dispelled the monotony. He soon stepped up the rate of scoring along with K. Umasuthan. With Umasuthan's exit T. Raviraj joined Sutharshanan, and these two seemed really harsh, on the Patrician bawlers, taking the score up to a decent 189 for 5 at the end of three hours play.

Sutharshanan who always takes a delight in pleasing the crowd playing for the crowd, cut and drove and hooked the Patrician pace-

men—particularly N. Nava-neetharajah during the final few overs. He was unbeaten on 89 at the end of the day's play.

Continuing his innings on the following morning Sudarshanan reached his century and was out with his personal contribution at 102. With Sutharshanan's dismissal the remaining batsmen folded up and Central's first innings read 232.

Besides Sutharshanan, others who contributed their mite towards this total were skipper Prahalathan (30), K. Umasuthan (16) S. Mathivathanan (14) S. Raviraj (16), K. Manojkumar (13 N. O) R. Mahendra (13) and T. Pratheepan (12). The Patricians who had two hours of batting before lunch, struggled to 83 for 5. They lost their sixth wicket immediately after lunch with no further addition to the score. At this stage Jaffna Central who could have pressed home the advantage to enforce a follow on, flopped losing the grip on the game by their indifferent, atrocious fielding and poor strategy. I say poor strategy in that the skipper failed to continue with the spinners, such lapse saw the

Patricians virtually the tail enders adding a further 140 runs in the post lunch session of two hours, to the lunch break total of 83 for 5.

B. Kingsley who top scored for the Patricians with a hard hit - 52 was missed first at zero and then at 19. Skipper S. Melanius was credited with a note-worthy 44. In the remaining 50 minutes, and 20 mandatory overs, Jaffna Central batted for 50 minutes and seven mandatory overs to collect 77 runs for the loss of 2 wickets, St. Patricks who were set with the nigh impossible task of registering 87 runs in 10 mandatory overs were 18 for the loss of 1 wicket at stumps.

Union College, was held to a draw by Jaffna Hindu who collected not too impressive totals of 149 and 112 for 6. Union hit up 237 for 9 and declared their second innings at 69 for 5 wickets.

Union College, taking on Kokuvil Hindu, trounced then by an innings and 82 runs.

Union who collected 186 for 8 wickets dismissed Kokuvil for measly scores of 43 and 56 respectively.

# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

5100 Passports in 5 months from Jaffna

The Passport Issuing Section of the Jaffna Katchcheri has issued 5100 passports within the five months it was setup, according to a press release.

The press release says the Passport Section,

though handicapped by a shortage of staff, has made steady progress since its establishment in September 1982. Till February this year, it had received 7678 applications. So far it has issued 5100 passports.

The District Secretary and Government Agent, Jaffna, Mr. Devanesan, Nesiah also appeals to applicants to furnish required details and documents in time.

## Racist eye-wash to malign Health Dept. officials?

Is Kilinochchi not part of Sri Lanka? Who are the Health Ministry sources who are behind the attempt to malign certain high officials there for personal reasons by planting a "STORY" with racist overtones in the Island's Sunday Issue of February 27th (1st Edition)?

SATURDAY REVIEW asks these questions in the light of the news item under the headline—'HEALTH MINISTRY BUREAUCRATS HAVE THEIR OWN WAY' on page (1) of this paper. The news item says: "In the absence of a permanent Minister of Health certain bureaucrats are taking decisions according to their whims and fancies, charge knowledgeable sources in the Ministry. For example, last week it was suddenly decided, they claim, to hand over the MOBILE SURGICAL UNIT gifted to Sri Lanka by the International Red Cross to the Kilinochchi hospital to conduct an eye clinic...."

The reference in the news item is to the Rotarian-initiated EYE CAMP held at Kilinochchi from February 20th onwards.

### Talk by Indologist

Dr. Richard Young of the University of Pennsylvania will give a talk on SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES IN THE USA AND JAPAN on Wednesday 9th March at the Seminar Room of the University of Jaffna. The address will be under the auspices of the South Asia Studies Seminar of the Jaffna University. Dr. Young, who is an Indologist, is at present a Lecturer at the AOYAMA GAKUIN (University) in Tokyo.

Dr. P. A. Wirasinha, D.O., F.R.C.S., Eye Surgeon, Eye Hospital, Colombo and Secretary of 'EYE CARE SRI LANKA' requested the use of the Mobile Surgical Unit for this Camp from the office of the Director of Health Services. Dr. Joe Fernando, Additional D.D. (M.S.) wrote to Dr. Wirasinha on behalf of the Director of Health Services releasing this Unit for the Kilinochchi Eye Camp.

### Mahaveli areas only!

The burden of the story published in the 'Island' is that this Mobile Unit is specifically meant for field surgery in backward areas. The Kilinochchi Camp was in fact meant for backward areas like Chempianpattu, Pooneryn, and Puthukudiyiruppu in the Kilinochchi area.

The ISLAND says "that this Unit had earlier been promised to a group of doctors who were rendering yeoman service in remote Mahaveli areas by conducting free clinics on week-ends... This arbitrary act without even a word of explanation has caused much heartburn and frustration among these enthusiastic band of young Doctors. When the ISLAND contacted one of them he showed his feelings in no uncertain terms. He said, 'They would have nothing to do with the Mobile Unit hereafter even if it was offered to them permanently'."

## officials?

SATURDAY REVIEW is surprised that there are 'enthusiastic' young Doctors who think that the Hippocratic Oath that they took spoke about Mahaveli areas only!

The Kilinochchi Camp in which many eminent Eye Surgeons worked hard and selflessly was a complete success. 325 eye operations were performed out of which 300 were cataract operations. The Eye Surgeons who gave their services under trying conditions include Dr. Sivasubramaniam, Dr. Thambar, Dr. (Mrs) Raja Simon, Dr. Banda, Mr. Parker, Dr. Kugadas, Dr. Miss. Abeyawardene, Dr. Velayuthan, Dr. Arunachalam and Dr. (Mrs) Kannudurai.

What are the facts and what is the background to the mischief perpetrated through the columns of the ISLAND?

At Beliatta the previous week

The 'EYE CARE SRI LANKA' conducted an Eye Camp in Mullaitivu and Vavuniya about two and a half years ago and this was the first Eye Camp held in a Tamil area. The M.P. for Mullaitivu then made a request for an Eye Camp in the Kilinochchi area where the people are mostly poor and illiterate and which lacks medical facilities.

The Camp fixed for Kilinochchi the next year had to be abandoned because of the devastating rain that fell in that area during that time. It was found that the state of incidence of blindness conducted for the island was not comprehensive, as this had not included the Tamil areas. Hence a massive survey of about 5000 people

was conducted in the outlying areas of Kilinochchi and it was decided to give the next benefit to the EYE CAMP.

The impression created in the ISLAND story that the Mobile Unit was in some way exclusively meant for Mahaveli areas cannot be true for it was only the previous week the same unit was used in Beliatta to conduct a SURGICAL CAMP! When Dr. Wirasinha wrote to the Director of Health Services asking for the release of the Unit for the Kilinochchi Camp it was known that the Unit was free during the period asked for.

Why should anyone grudge the use of the Mobile Unit to poor illiterate peasants in Tamil areas unless they were guided by racist animosity? In fact the Chief Anaesthetist of the General Hospital Colombo, Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya, had even declined to release the services of

two anaesthetists, Dr. R. S. Ganepola and Dr. Wijesuriya for the Kilinochchi Camp even though one of them was released for the Beliatta Camp. Without an anaesthetist the Surgical Unit would have been useless. On instructions from D.H.S., an anaesthetist from Jaffna was released. This anaesthetist found the anaesthesia apparatus that was available in the Unit unfit for eye surgery. He had thereafter to go back to Jaffna and bring another anaesthesia apparatus which was available only for one day and which happened to be a Poya Day. Ultimately this Mobile Unit was used only for that one day in Kilinochchi and was returned to Colombo the next day.

SATURDAY REVIEW regrets that men who are involved in the noble medical profession should become a prey to such racist attitudes. 'SR' also regrets that the ISLAND should have lent its columns to racist venom of this sort.

## Sri Lankan Naval men accused of robbing Indian fishermen

Sri Lankan Naval Guards have been systematically looting Indian fishermen of their precious prawn catches at gun point, according to a PTI story published in the Indian Express.

The Indian Express report states:

"Sri Lankan naval guards ostensibly engaged in patrolling their sea lanes, penetrate deep into Indian waters and 'loot' Indian fishermen of their precious prawn catches at gunpoint "not less than three days

in a week", according to Rameswaram Vercottu Fishermen's Association.

The association's Secretary, Mr. P. Arulanandam, told a PTI correspondent, who visited Rameswaram recently, that these guards would carry away 300 to 400 kgs of prawn catches a day valued at more than Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000.

Mr. Arulanandam said this had been going on since the India-Sri Lanka agreement on Katchathivu some years back.