

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

Vol. 6

No. 8

14th March 1987

## ARMY GETS THE GOAT

Mr. Chandra Perera, of WTN, had a miraculous escape when he was taking a shot of goat killed by sniper fire from the Jaffna Fort. He was fired at. Fortunately, the soldiers can't shoot straight.

This happened about 2-10 p.m. yesterday.

He is still alive to tell the tale. And what a tale it would be.

# WELCOME TO THE NORTH!

Be ready journalists, especially foreign correspondents, "to fly out at short notice" to the troubled areas in Sri Lanka.

You are welcome to see and report — what is actually happening.

This is the promise held out by Prof. Tilak Ratnakara, Chairman of the State Media Centre, which functions under the Ministry of State.

Our congratulations to the good old Professor. He has offered something which the Ministry of National Security, under Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, had denied to journalists, especially foreign correspondents, in the past several years.

But pardon, Professor, your slip is showing.

The promise—it is really a challenge—to the journalists has been made after certain incidents that took place in Jaffna on 7th March.

The incidents did take place as reported on page 3 of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Professor is trying, obviously on behalf of the Government, to fool the people in Sri Lanka and abroad about the real, and tragic situation in the NORTH.

In fairness to him, we are publishing in full the two Government communiques issued under his name on 11th March.

The first is a denial of some of the things that took place in Jaffna. Here it is:

"The attention of the Media Centre has been drawn to newspapers and other media reports emanating from India that (a) 30 civilians were killed in the attacks by Security Forces on Saturday 7th March; (b) the General Hospital in Jaffna has been damaged, and (c) the Kandasamy Temple was also damaged.

"The reports also alleged that there were no official version of "the killing on Saturday." This was so

because no such incidents of killing and damage to property took place on the date or dates mentioned. All the reports are a figment of the minds of terrorist propagandists picked up by correspondents not always wedded to balanced reporting of news.

The Media Centre asserts that in its release of Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th March mention was made of (a) confrontations with terrorists near Vasavilan Security Forces Camp (b) the destruction of terrorist headquarters near Meesalai Railway Station where the L.T.T.E. leader of Tennamorachchi has his base and the destruction of (2) mortar bomb factories in Nallur.

"It was also reported that in Jaffna at the Kottachchi Junction terrorist fixed (4) mortar positions but that the Security Forces did not retaliate since civilians were present.

"The next day 40 mortars were fired from Kottachchi Junction forcing the Security Forces to retaliate and destroy the mortar positions completely.

"It was also stated that the terrorists fired mortars at the Security Forces Camp FROM BEHIND THE GENERAL HOSPITAL but that no retaliatory attacks were launched for fear of destroying the Hospital.

"Thus the report that no mention of such incidents on 7th March was made by the Media Centre should by itself nail the lies of the biased reporters.

"The Media Centre asserts that (a) the citizens of Jaffna were warned through pamphlets and leaflets dropped from the air that in the event of attacks, by the terrorists retaliation would take place and therefore the people should stay away from areas where terrorists were massing and fixing mortars for attacks (b) terrorists be forced not to use heavily built up areas for positioning of mortars etc.

"If any civilian was maimed and wounded or killed in any such attack then the blame for such a misadventure rests entirely on the L.T.T.E. terrorists just as much as Sikh terrorists are rightly blamed for killing innocent men in Punjab even when the shots fired were by the Police in confrontation with the terrorists.

"In the alternative terrorists in civilian clothes killed or wounded can easily pass off as civilians because they bear no stigmata of being terrorists.

"It also redounds badly on the Correspondents supplying such information, for under normal circumstances they invariably contact the Chairman, Media Centre at least to obtain the Government version. The Chairman is on 24 hour call and his official and residence telephone numbers are known to all Correspondents.

"U.N.I. / P.T.I. and other Correspondents please note."

The second is the invitation to journalists to "come and see".

Here it is:

All local and foreign correspondents desirous of visiting operational areas anywhere in Sri Lanka whilst operations are in progress are most welcome by the Government of Sri Lanka. All possible arrangements will be made to fly them to such areas on request. The only constraint may be the availability of seats in aircraft but efforts will be made to obviate this problem too.

"The correspondents as independent eye-witnesses can then see for themselves whether innocent civilians are killed maimed, wounded, hurt or tortured by the security forces or whether civilian property is destroyed or damaged by the Security Forces.

These correspondents also can see for themselves and report on whether human rights are being violated by

the Government and its Security Forces anywhere in these operational areas.

All such correspondents desirous of taking advantage of this offer please inform Secretary, Ministry of National Security, so that their names and addresses will be recorded. Such correspondents must be ready to fly out at short notice,

Thank you, Professor. You are doing a wonderful job on behalf of the government.

We wish that there would be many more of your kind.

Then Sri Lankans would be able to live happily in a fool's paradise.

Foreign correspondents have already begun "sight - seeing" in Jaffna, following the "open door" policy announced by the State Media Centre.

In town last week were Mr. Michael Hamlin of The Times, London Ms. Juliet Rix of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Mr. Chandra Perera of Worldwide Television News (WTN) and National Broadcasting Corporation, New York.

Soon, there may not be enough, hotel accommodation in Jaffna!

Still, journalists would have to get that "visa" from the Ministry of National Security stating that "The undermentioned person is hereby given authority to visit the following districts during the period..... to..."

## Sri Lanka-Runner Up

Sri Lanka leads the Latin American countries in Human Rights violations states the latest report of the U.N. Commission in Human Rights.

Professor Peter Cooljamans had submitted the report in which the following countries are named:- Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Chile, South Africa, and Iran.

## Release All Political Prisoners In Sri Lankan Jails



## Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

No. 118, 4th Cross Street,  
P. O. Box 122  
JAFFNA

Telegrams: SATVIEW

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## Hudec To Assist

Jaffna Diocesan Human Development Centre—the Socio-Economic arm of the Catholic Church in Jaffna—has instituted a programme of assistance to the refugees and displaced through Parish Priests. Affected people of any religious denomination can contact the Parish Priest of the area for Assistance.

Rev. Fr. M.E. Pius, President of the Jaffna Diocesan Justice, Peace and Development Commission has made the necessary arrangements.

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# INDIA ACCUSED OF COERCION

GRILLED here over the past week for its violations of Human Rights the Sri Lankan government has launched a vigorous attack on its detractors, all but accused India of "coercing one side" in its mediatory effort, and sought to justify its military action in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Dr. H.W. Jayewardene, leader of the Sri Lanka delegation to the 43rd session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, told an important plenary meeting of the body here on Tuesday night that while "we are grateful for past assurances of India's support for the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka the true role of an honest broker is to expedite the process of peace by ensuring that concessions are not extracted by coercing one side."

By innuendo, he went on to suggest that India was not playing such a role, and he departed from his printed speech when he did not mention that he was only quoting a portion of an editorial in an Indian paper when he said Mr. V. Prabhakaran of the LTTE "has succeeded in destroying India's diplomatic credibility with the Sri-Lankan Government. India is no longer in a position to influence the LTTE's activities on the ground." The general impression was that was his own statement.

Dr. Jayewardene was exercising his right of reply to a mildly-worded official Indian statement on Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka made on 3rd March and to an appeal signed last week by ten leading international civil liberties and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including the International Commission of Jurists and the International Federation of Human Rights.

The Sri Lankan characterisation of the NGOs as groups with "dubious linkages and as "self-styled Human Rights watchdogs" sent shock waves through the session being held at the Palais des Nations here. Dr. Jayewardene accused them of damaging "the reputation of a country or a sovereign state" through "irresponsible" attacks and said: "They masquerade as dedicated Human Rights workers behind the decade of well-meaning world figures. These eminent persons little realise

Praful Bidwai filed this report from Geneva for the Times of India News Service.

that their names give cover to the design of people who use these bodies to pay off their private or political opposition to democratically established governments."

The Indian delegation, on its part, has refuted these allegations, and reiterated that Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka "have been very well documented" Exercising his right of reply, Dr. J.S. Teja, the Indian ambassador at the permanent mission to the U.N. here told the session that "India has been doing all it can to bring the aides to the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict "together and strongly refuted the Sri Lankan charge that India has lost the capacity to play a mediatory role because it has no "control" over the militants.

He said the question of India exercising control over the militants did not arise since they "are not Indian nationals; they are Sri Lankans." "As for India's credibility

and capacity as mediatory our impression is that Sri Lanka would like India to continue its mediatory role. That is what the President of Sri Lanka has said in public and through official channels just before he left for Maldives on 2nd March. We would prefer to go by his statements," which are "at variance" with what the Sri Lankan delegation said here on 3rd March.

The divergence between numerous recent statements by the Sri Lanka government at bilateral and multilateral levels is seen by observers here as related to a deliberate strategy of "polyphony" or speaking in many voices on the ethnic issue, while pursuing the military option in Jaffna where the military has imposed a blockade on fuel and essential commodities supplies.

In his statements here Dr. H.W. Jayewardene sought to justify his government's position on the ground that Sri Lanka remains committed to Human Rights, that avenues such as parliament, the law courts and the right to habeas corpus, remain open to dissidents, that there are no

(Continued on page 8)

## 2nd Death Anniversary



ABRAHAMPILLAI MAGI  
PUNIAPUVIRASINGHE

Born : 6-1-1913 Died : 9-3-1985

Retired District Supervisor, Milk Feeding Centre, Secretary, Lions Club, Mannar, Former Reporter of the SUN and one time served in the Editorial Board of DAILY MIRROR, beloved husband of Saraswathy of Sinnakadai North of Jaffna; Father of Dharmakumar (Canada), Selvakumar (Engineer, London), Savundra Kumar (LLB, Canada), Kurukulakumar (Chartered Accountant, London), Mrs. Suriyakumar Narendrasinghe (Canada), and Mrs. Chandrakumar Gerard (France); Brother of A. J. James (Retired Electrical Foreman), Bem C. Das Abraham (Retired Station Master), Brother-in-law of K. Nadarajah (Suthumalai), K. Rajendram, Postmaster, Batticaloa.

## Rifles Instead Of Rosary

The Ashram of the Rosarian Monks brings back nostalgic memories of one's visit there.

Tholagatty, hallowed by the untiring zeal of its saintly founder, the late Rev. Fr. B.A. Thomas and probably now nurtured by the blood of a recent martyr, Bro. Wenceslaus.

One is reminded of the silent monks with hands out-stretched in prayer in the hot noon-day sun, the luxurious vines, healthy vegetation, the prosperous dairy, the Nellie Crush, The Table wine, The Pomegranate juice and more. It was the intention of the Founder that the monastery should be self-sufficient. There was also a Bakery to cater to their needs which at the same time met the needs of the people in the vicinity.

The Tholagatty Ashram was All this and Heaven too—because it was a place of meditation on the spirituality of the Inner Life. Now the spectacle of a Rosarian monk Christ-like in the Garden of Gethsemane is no more. The place sanctified by the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is now no more. Instead one would probably see a soldier in jungle khaki nestling a gun instead of a Rosary.

One is sure that the Security High Command meant well when they entered the monastery because the Forces were hard put for a place of meditation on the "Eight-Fold Path to Nirvana" in keeping with the lofty tenets of the Dharmista Government and there could not be a better place!



# NIGHT OF THE BLOODBATH



Saturday, 7th March will go down in the current history of Jaffna as another Black Saturday.

Even as people were lazily creeping out of their beds on a cold Saturday morning, 3 planes skirted the Nallur area around 6.30 a.m. Then suddenly the planes swooped down to drop their lethal charges. The air was rent with screeching 'bombs', falling trees and burning houses. People ran helter skelter, some to the safety of their homes. As one eye-witness observed, "I was standing at the public water tap to draw water, when I told my neighbour that there was a bomber heading this way. It was ominous, I told my neighbour. Within minutes the plane swooped down to drop those notorious 'incendiaries'."

This "aerial escapade" by Sri Lanka's Air Force lasted for nearly thirty minutes to an hour during which time there was a trail of blood and destruction. Two people died and many injured. B.Ponnammah (40) wife of Mr. Balakrishnan, Nallur Kandasamy Temple Musician, who received serious injuries succumbed to her injuries at the General Hospital. The pantry portion of Thiagarajah's house at Nallur was ripped by a blast. The occupants who had a little before placed a kettle on the boil preparatory to tea-making and gone into the interior of the house, escaped injury providentially but their neighbour and child received severe injuries.

Nallur was just a prelude to a bloodbath on a larger scale, twelve hours later around 6.45. p.m. when the Jaffna Fort ramparts reverberated with the sounds of shell-fire which lasted for nearly an hour and thereafter intermittently and even in the early hours of Sunday morning. The targets for shell-fire were areas around Windsor, Rajah, Shanthi Theatres, Jumma Mosque Lane, Koddady, 3rd Cross Street, Kannathiddy, and of course "pot shots" at the Jaffna General Hospital, injuring 15 hospital workers and 2 policemen. Damage by bombing and shelling is yet to be estimated but early reports indicate that it was extensive. Three shops at K.K.S. Road were burnt down by incendiary bombs. Wards No.22,23 and 24 were damaged.

21 people, including 9 Muslims, lost their lives in this unbri- dled fury unleashed by the Security Forces on Saturday. They are a Muslim family of three-A.Ameen (26), his wife S.H.Segadoon (22) and daughter Aspin (4years old), Sameer Badurdeen Hussein (02), M.Yoosoof (22), M.Sahib (35), M.Jaffar (28), A.Sirojin (26), Moha- med Sultan (23), M.Jeyasingham (20), K.Gunaratnam (25), S.Sri- Kanth (27), S.Suppiah (34), K.Manivannan (10), S.Rasiah (53), N. Dharmarajan (18), V.Kandasamy (27), R.Radhakrishnan (19), A.Jeyam (20) P.Kumarasamy (26), and R.Mahendrarajah (26). More than hun- dred people were injured.

After all this 'blood-letting' the Government Media Centre quot- ing the Joint Operations Command gleefully proclaimed that "terrorists" hide-outs and bunkers were blasted by Security Forces.

The local telecast on Saturday night showed a documentary film on the "Nallur bombing", and the damage and the injured being taken to hospital and receiving treatment after the shelling on Saturday night.



## CRISIS IN MODERN SCIENCE:

Are science and technology in the Third World dominated by a western model inappropriate to its needs? Can we develop an alternative technology specially suited to our culture and society?

The process of development triggered off by a blind acceptance of all forms of modern western science and technology is increasingly being questioned in many developing countries.

Whether it is the construction of large dams for irrigation, nuclear power stations for energy, genetic engineering for agriculture and its concomitant dependence on increasingly toxic fertilisers and pesticides, or hazardous industrial processes—the question being asked is: Are these forms of western technology relevant to our needs? Or is there a need to develop an indigenous science and technology, suited to the specific socioeconomic and environmental conditions of Third World countries, a science which has been severely limited in its development because of the dominance of western science?

If this latter proposition is accepted, then what form should this alternative science take?

by

**Kalpana Sharma**

While one line of thinking argues for humanising the existing sciences by developing a framework within which the right choices can be made whereby the destructive aspects can be discarded, the other argument demands a religion-based alternative indigenous science, for instance, Islamic or Hindu.

These were some of the issues discussed, and questions raised, at a conference on 'Crisis in Modern Science' held in Penang, Malaysia, at the end of 1986. Delegates attending the conference included scientists, science academicians, sociologists and people involved with people's science movement from 15 mainly Third World countries. They were brought together by the Consumers' Association of Penang, a Malaysian consumer activist group, and the Third World Network.

The common thread that ran through the six days of discussions was an awareness of the harm done to Third World societies by the domination of modern western science and technology and its blind adoption by these countries.

# IN SEARCH OF AN ALTERNATIVE SCIENCE

Many speakers argued that although all aspects of modern science could not be condemned, inherent in the forms of technology that had evolved in the west was a set of values alien to the culture and traditions of developing countries.

As Dr. Susantha Goonatilake, a Sri Lankan social scientist, put it, 'Technology tends to reproduce the social relations of its origin, it is society in a pill form.'

It was suggested that it was not just the end products of science which give cause for concern, for instance the increasing use of technology for destructive purposes, but that 'there is something intrinsically wrong with the very nature of contemporary science and technology'.

Several aspects of the distortions caused by the unquestioning accept-

World countries, fallen into the trap of massive dependence on foreign aid to build large irrigation systems such as the Mahawali river project which is being funded by the World Bank.

Another aspect brought out was the increasing emphasis of contemporary science and technology in the west on military research. Dr. Eleanor M. Lecain, from the department of sociology at Boston College in the US, said that in her country most of the jobs and most of the research in the cutting edge of technology were in military research. Apart from the much talked about Star Wars programme, the US was in the midst of research on supercomputers and artificial intelligence wholly geared to military purposes.

Apart from the overt use of scientists for military research, Prof. Egbert W. Pfeiffer of the department of zoology at the University of Montana in the US narrated his own experience of how civilians had been unwittingly used for military research.

In 1970 he visited the Applied Scientific Research Institute in Bangkok where a project was headquartered. Amongst other things, the US military was trying to see if birds could be used as carriers of biological weapons. An extensive mapping of the migratory pathways of many species of birds in the Pacific land mass area was conducted, funded by the US army. This project was called the 'Migratory Animal Pathological Survey' (MAPS). Local civilian bird lovers were roped in to do this mapping without being informed about the use to which the information would be put.

Said Dr. Pfeiffer, 'I recall seeing maps showing certain birds wintering in the Philippines that nested in China. At this time, relations were very bad between the US and China and one could imagine the use of these migratory birds to produce disease in specific areas of China. It would be very difficult for scientists in countries targeted in this fashion to realise that an epidemic was deliberately caused by a foreign power.'

A further aspect illustrated was the close connection between western capitalist enterprise and development and scientific research. Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury from Bangladesh said his country had become a dumping ground for hundreds of irrational and dangerous drugs from the west. A people's movement against this resulted in Bangladesh becoming one of the first countries to implement the World Health Organisation's recommendation of a rational drug policy.

The continuing use of nuclear energy in the Third World when the west was seriously reassessing its economics and safety aspects post-Chernobyl also came up for mention. So did the continuing use of hazardous industrial technologies, which again were being modified in the west but were being used without adequate safeguards in developing countries (for example Bhopal).

Given this critique of western technology, what were the options for Third World countries, especially those whose economies were wholly dependent on western capital and markets?

There were some delegates who saw nothing intrinsically wrong with western science and technology; they felt Third World countries needed more science and more finance for scientific research. Given this, Third World scientists would be able to adapt and use western science and technology to suit local needs. They felt 'modern' science was not specifically western as it was the result of accumulated knowledge. They also asserted that using western technology did not preclude the development of indigenous sciences.

The more fundamentalist position taken by advocates of Islamic and Indian (Hindu) science, was that western technology and science should be totally rejected. Only then would indigenous sciences have a chance to flourish.

A third position as articulated by Goonatilake, recommended "transcending" the links of the dominant science. He argued that the Third World could do this by recognising the social restraints on scientists and science establishments in the Third World and then develop an

(Continued on page 5)



26TH FEBRUARY:

# A Tall White Man Directed The Operations

It was early hours of the morning on Thursday, 26th February 1987. A cold and misty morning with poor visibility, the village was still sleepy and quiet, except for a few barking of dogs.

Suddenly, the calmness was shattered and the villagers were rudely awoken by the roaring of helicopters which hovered around the village. When the people stepped out of their houses to see what was happening, to their horror and utter disbelief, they found armed commandos scattered, practically everywhere—along the roads and bye-lanes; behind trees and bushes; near bridges and public buildings and even along canals and bunds in the paddy fields. The entire area was under the firm grip of the security forces and a house to house search was conducted.

At the centre of this exercise was a tall white man, probably an Alien Advisor, directing operations. Though

he was trying to give the impression of a visitor or a journalist, with a camera hanging on his shoulder and a pouch in hand, he neither took any photographs nor took down notes. He did not speak to any civilian and the whole time, he was surrounded by the security personnel. The conduct of Army Officers in front of him could be better described as that of school

by

boys in front of the principal. Once he finished his directions, he pulled out a hundred rupee note from his purse and gave it to an Army Officer to buy vadais for the children who were gathered with their parents nearby for a meeting called by the Co-ordinating Officer.

In the midst of all this was a propaganda man armed with a Video

camera doing justice to his calling. And so the tall white man from the west left the scene in a helicopter that arrived within a few minutes of a V. H. F. message.

As mentioned earlier, the C.O. gave a pep talk to about 25, or 30 people. He expressed regrets for the inconvenience caused to the public on a

Lingam

festival day (Mahasivarathri) but qualified it by assigning the blame onto the militants. He said that the Hindus in the South are happily celebrating the festival whereas it is not possible in the North due to militant activity. He called the militant cowards for they vanish at the sight of the Army and return once the Army left. He exhorted the peo-

ple to reject the militants and to cooperate with the Army for the sake of peace. He also said that anybody could meet him in his office with regard to any problem.

Coming back to the operation proper, the house to house search resulted in the random arrest of 60 males from 15 years to 60 years. Among the arrested were eight government servants and four school boys. Many of them were put up from their sleep and taken to custody promising to release after inquiry by the C.O. But contrary to the promise, they were lined up and marched to Chilawathurai Camp, about eight miles away. On the way, they were forced to carry the belongings of Army Personnel. At the Camp they were all herded into a room about 6' x 6' with each receiving a karate shot behind the neck and a kick with the boots. At regular intervals, officers from the lower ranks would come to the cell and call a detainee out. Once out, he would be given the third degree and pushed in with a final kick with the boots.

These detainees who were arrested even before they could have their morning tea were given some water in the evening only and that also about three litres for 60. Their meal for the day was served around 11p.m. But when they went for meals in a line, the karate shots and kicks also followed them so much so that some of them refrained from going for meals subsequently.

Besides the above torture, the younger ones experienced nightmares at night. For the sex starved ghouls stripped them naked and molested them. But their attempts to force these students into immoral acts were thwarted by their cries.

Eleven of the detainees were sent to Vavuniya Camp for further investigations. The rest 49 were released on the third day, after much pleadings and cries of the parents and wives and due to the efforts of Man-nar Kachcheri Officials.

These detainees underwent all these physical sufferings, deprivations, degradations and de-humanising treatment, and their only crime was that they were born Tamils.

The Army top brass had advised the people not to run when they see the security forces. If you run, you are shot dead. If you don't run, you are tortured. Now we say that it is better to run and get shot.

## In Search Of....

(Continued from page 4)  
alternative science more in tune with Third World needs.

He felt that detaching from the existing international base of science, as China and Kampuchea had tried to do, was not a realistic option. Even if these countries had successfully isolated themselves, intellectually they remained imitative and some of these copied values became fossilised due to isolation.

'We can't start indigenous science-*ad novo*,' he said. 'This is utopian, unrealistic and undersirable. We should instead adorn some of our cultural stock to modern science. Interacting with modern science will be easier now because it faces a crisis of its own'.

However, those who recommended the development of indigenous science disagreed with this position. For instance, Darshan Shankar, of the Academy of Development Science, Karjat, felt that 'one's present must essentially flow out of one's past and not from another's. Healthy sharing across cultures is one thing, but to be dominated and be led to commit a suicide of one's own social creativity is quite another thing. "As modernisation was, to him, synonymous with westernisation, there was no question of a compromise if indigenous tradition was to grow.

Those advocating Islamic science, also argued that Islamic science and contemporary western science could

not be compared because they were two completely different sciences.

'The conventional version of Islamic science is that the Muslims took the Greek heritage, preserved it for 600 years, and then passed it on to the west, who were the rightful inheritors,' said Ziauddin Sardar, author and contributing editor of the London-based monthly magazine *Inquiry*.

But a great deal of empirical material available to show that there is a distinctive entity called Islamic science, said Sardar. The contemporary notion of Islamic science, according to him, is a system which works within Islamic values. For instance, the question of using un-Islamic means to achieve an Islamic goal cannot be contemplated. This framework would rule out research on certain aspects which are considered taboo in Islam. It would also dictate priorities in areas of research and development.

An interesting sidelight was the fact that the Islamic and Hindu scientists saw no reason to disagree because they were both in opposition to the values being perpetuated by western science. And although there was a tendency amongst them to romanticise everything traditional, most delegates accepted that there was much in traditional science in many countries which needed to be developed and which had, for too long, been condemned by those tr-

ained in western science as 'pseudo' science.

There were clearly many areas that needed more detailed discussion. For instance, while encouraging traditional science, especially that connected with religion, how does one ensure that it does not lead to a revival, or a consolidation in some cases, of obscurantism of the worst kind? Similarly, while some countries can talk of tradition, what about others, like the Philippines for instance, which feels that its indigenous systems have been completely destroyed by colonialism?

Goonatilake's vision of what is needed perhaps best sums up the spirit of the conference. He said, 'The topography of the world of knowledge before the last few centuries was of several hills of knowledge roughly corresponding to the regional civilisations of say West Asia, South Asia, East Asia and Europe. The last few centuries have seen the levelling of the other hills and from their debris the erection of a single one with its base in Europe. This, however, is not a 'world' hill, it is a very particular hill, not a universal one.

'The topography that should now emerge is again one of several hills. The search for a truly universal hill of a truly "universal" global science can only begin after this re-emergence. The project of our times is to create the new hill in our own backyard.'

- Third World Network Features.



# Where Will The Aid Go?

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

The Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel is reported to have said that several developed countries are prepared to provide funds for the development of the North and East, once a settlement is arrived at between the Government and the Freedom fighters."

Although the Finance Minister is from the Ruling Party, this is not the first time he has come out with this sort of statement. As Minister of Finance, he has to come out not only with this, but with several other truths and hard facts, as he is the Minister who has to go with the "begging bowl" to find the money to make up the budget deficit running into millions of rupees every year. It is his duty to inform the Parliament and through it the whole population of the country, the precarious financial position the country, is in.

From 1956 there had been several communal riots, floods and cyclones which had devastated this country.

The Governments in power had never failed to appeal to other countries for help. All these appeals met with an extra-ordinary response.

Every time the aid flowed in what happened to the vast sums of money and materials that came into the country? Were they spent and disposed of properly and did they reach the citizens who were really affected?

The reply is a bold 'No'!

The floods of 1957 and cyclone devastated the Eastern part of the country. What proportion of the donations and materials that come into the Island, reached the hands of those affected and how much?

Is the Minister of Finance who says that several countries in the world are prepared to finance the rehabilitation of those affected in the North and the East in a position to give an undertaking to spend all the aid, that may come into the Island, on those affected by the present ethnic conflict?

Everytime a cease-fire is agreed on between the Government and the militants, it is the Security Forces

## LETTERS

who more often fail to abide by the agreement.

So far, the International Red Cross Society has not been allowed to come into the affected areas and see for themselves what is happening in the North and the East.

Will the Hon. Minister of Finance be able to use his good offices to ensure that such an International Organisation is brought in to supervise the Cease-Fire and the disbursement of Aid in the Island for this purpose.

I raise this question because in the past no Government in power has been fair by the people of the North and East whether in the

field of Education, Appointment to Government Service or Government Corporations, Housing, Irrigation, Agriculture, Fishing or Colonisation etc.

Jaffna

K. THURAIRAJAH.

## Un-Housing Year

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

The Honourable Prime Minister has been a great builder — a builder of houses for the poor and the needy. He has earned the reputation of having built thousands of houses all over the country, in every nook and corner of the Island, providing shelter to many thousands of homeless families. He has virtually scored over all his fellow cabinet colleagues, in that he has found a place deep in the hearts of the rural masses.

Providing shelter to the needy in the North has come to nought since 1983.

1987 happens to be the International year of shelter, and our good Prime Minister has been spurred on to greater efforts in this year than in the previous years, buildings more and better houses. But there seems to be but one snag. While many thousands of houses have sprung up during the past few years bringing in its wake happiness and contentment to many thousands, many hundreds of houses in the North and East — not built by the Prime Minister but by individuals with the sweat of their brow-have

been razed to the ground overnight by the powers that are bringing undue misery and hardship to these hapless victims.

What a travesty of truth in this International year of shelter! The sheltered and the shelterless the victims of the states deliberate Military "operations" lie in juxtaposition in this international year of shelter.

What a quirk of fate to those rendered 'homeless' this International year of shelter!

Rev. S.S. KARUNAJARAJ  
Point Pedro

## It Isn't Cricket

Editor  
SATURDAY REVIEW

"A Spectator (old Rip Van Winkle) seems to have awoken from his deep slumber to enlighten us on his jaundiced - eye view of the "Neutrality and Integrity" of the Jaffna Cricket umpires. Cricket Umpires, Mr. Spectator, even of the Test Mould all over the world, have been, time and again' at the receiving end of unpalatable epithets. Now in the wake of such criticisms being levelled at Test Umpires and their tribe comes the accusing finger of "A spectator" on the neutrality and integrity of the Jaffna Cricket Umpires. It is only a Spectator with a biased mind who brings in such flimsy accusations as "Tailor made ...etc". It is my earnest belief that a horse in blinkers would prove to be a better judge than "A Spectator" who is somewhat reluctant even to reveal his identity. It isn't cricket, Mr. Spectator. Be a sport. Come out into the open before casting aspersions on the Jaffna Cricket Umpires. "A spectator" appears to be suffering from an incurable Malady. "Physician Heal Thyself."

VICTOR S. KIRUPARAJ  
Jaffna

Four months after the Harare Summit, the Nonaligned countries took concrete actions on the international scene by establishing in the second half of January the Africa Fund, an organized assistance to the victims of South Africa's racist policy for the strengthening of the front-line countries against the bastion of the apartheid.

At the end of the two-day Summit held in New Delhi, nonaligned countries heads of state or government adopted three documents: the Action Plan, the Opearang Procedure and the appeal on the international community to join the struggle against the apartheid. Presidents of Argentina, Congo, Peru, Yugoslavia and Zambia, Prime Ministers of India and Zimbabwe, and special envoys of Argentina and Nigerian Presidents approved the assistance programme, ways for collecting and distributing commodities and resources and called on all nonaligned and developing

# Africa Fund Has Become Reality

countries, both western and eastern industrialized countries, the international organizations, groups and individuals to offer their contribution to the Africa Fund.

The establishment of the Africa Fund was one of the most important decisions of the Eight Summit of

ed with against their own will, through the colonial heritage. Besides, they will be better prepared to face and bear the counter-measures South Africa already started threatening with Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Fund plans to support peaceful needs of Namibia's liberation

by

Bosko Korkodelovic

the Nonaligned countries and liberation movements held in September 1986 in Zimbabwe's capital. This move of solidarity of the nonaligned movement, the strongest moral power in the process of decolonization, shall help the countries directly facing South Africa boycott successfully this economic giant they are connect-

movements. The South-West African Peoples' Organization (SWAPO), and South Africa's Pan-African Azania Congress, and African National Congress (ANC), which expects the Fund to cover the costs of transport equipment, organization, administration, publicity and legal services.

Some sources say that the Fund's initial resources shall amount to about 500 million U. S. dollars, including not only cash, but also commodities, scholarships, technical cooperation and other forms. At the New Delhi Summit, India, which will chair the Fund, promised 40 million dollars. Nigeria 15, and Peru 5 million dollars. "Yugoslavia, which has never hesitated to offer help to Southern African liberation movements and the front-line countries within its possibilities shall take part in this action too by giving its maximum contribution", President of the Yugoslav Presidency Sinan Hasani said in New Delhi.

—TANJUG FEATURES



## Tamil Day At Chundikuli

## Lively School Theatre

Security Zone, Surveillance Zone, Fuel Embargo, Strafing, shelling and bombing — the peninsula is blessed with all these, thanks, to the Jayewardene era. One would, in the circumstances, expect creative efforts to come to a grinding halt. Not so with Jaffna! With an inner resilience that is amazing Jaffna moves forward. As Prof. Vithiananthan observed recently there is an unprecedented fervour among the writers, and artistes.

Great strides have been made in the field of Drama—particularly within the last three years. The Jaffna University has been instrumental in breaking new ground. Of late, Mounaguru and Shanmugalingam have started exploiting talents at the school level. The two plays produced by them for Chundikuli Girls' College are examples. The occasion was the Tamil Day—the theme, this year being Bharathi.

As a revolutionary, a social reformer, an innovator and a mystic, Subramaniya Bharathi enjoys a unique place in Tamil literature. He was the first Tamil poet to champion the cause of women. Denial of educational opportunities, taboos on employment, child-marriage (with the ensuing risk of unwed widowhood) and the prescription of the home as the best place for woman were some of the disabilities against which he protested.

Things have changed. But Shanmugalingam doesn't think so. The oppression of Women is the theme of his *Engal Thavap payan* The fruits of our penance).

The exploitation of the theme leads to the exposure of the Jaffna Society — its contradictions, idiosyncracies and double standards — in short, the wide gulf between precept and practice. The dowry system which relegates the institution of marriage to a pure business transaction is a case in point.

Bharathi and two other celebrated poets of the past are invited to visit Jaffna to see for themselves the tremendous progress made in the direction of Women's Liberation. At a glance Bharathi is elated to find women enjoying equality with men — as doctors, lawyers, administrators, diplomats and Prime Ministers. His satisfaction, however, is short-lived. He is shocked to find women worse off under the Dowry

system. The hollowness of the so-called educated enlightened is the last straw. Bharathi vows never to step into Jaffna — in fact, never to be borne a Tamil again.

Shanmugalingam makes use of singers and narrators. He also uses the *Kattiyakaaran* of the Folk Theatre. The *Kattiyakaaran* serves as a link between the characters of the present and those of the past. He comments on the characters and their flaws.

The inspection of the bride turned out to be a hilarious scene; the actresses playing the girl's father and the boy's mother came off with flying colours. Nishani's portrayal of Bharathi was quite good.

Shanmugalingam's adaptation of Bharathi's "*Puthiya Konangi*" is a superb piece. Francis Jenam's direction does justice to the script. The prospective mother-in-law with binoculars and the tug-o-war as a symbol are examples of the director's creativity. He should have, however, avoided the use of the *Thala-laya* speech.

I have my reservations about the 'inspection' of the bride. The boy's father mistakes the mother for the girl. Fair enough. The boy's mother and—lo and behold—even the boy make the same mistake. This is taking it too far. Humour should be suggestive and thought-provoking. It shouldn't slip from the sublime to the ridicule.

If Shan's *Engal Thavap payan* is a satire of contemporary society, Mounaguru's '*Nammai Piditha Pishasukal*' (the ghosts that possessed us) is a Morality Play. Personification is a feature of the moralities. Mounaguru's ghosts are personifications of blind devotion to everything ancient; Craze for everything foreign; Regionalism; Yearning for white-collar jobs Selfishness and Dowry-seeking.

Roused by the poosari, the ghosts possess the people and render them powerless and subservient. They suffer. They invoke Bharathi. He has no readymade remedies. His teachings are already there. Bharathi's lyrics take the form of incantations and the ghosts are driven away.

'*Nammai piditha pishasukal*' is proof enough — if proof be needed — of the fact that when playwright directs the play, it is a definite advantage.

All the resources of the *Vadamodi* form are summoned by Mounaguru. The actresses displayed a grace of rhythmic movement that is very close to professional standards.

Technique-wise '*Nammai piditha pishasukal*' is a drama of a very

high order. The tempo gradually mounts and the grand finale is the fight between the ghosts and the people (shades of *Sankaaram*, mounaguru's another play).

Special mention should be made of the formations on the stage which were a treat to watch such a variety of creations.

Kannan's musical score added lustre to the plays. The versatile Kurupaharan on mirudangam could be an asset to any troupe.

Most of the actresses betrayed an urban dialect. Linguists might as well argue that one needn't 'correct' their pronunciation. But it should be borne in mind that since the form is folk, language has to fall in line with it.

This brings me to a problem which I am reluctantly compelled to mention. This is only incidental and I would like to discuss it objectively without any malice or prejudice to the parties concerned.

Prof. K. Sivathamby hails the occasion as the birth of the wake of the School Theatre. In the inclusion of 'Drama and Theatre' as a subject in the Fine Arts Curriculum, this upsurge evidenced at Chundikuli is commendable. The *Tamil Manram* of Chundikuli deserves special congratulations.

But the question I wish to pose is this: upliftment of the down-trodden, in other words, "the masses" has been the pre-occupation of all leftists. The New Theatre that is being evolved has its roots in Folk Drama but doesn't involve the masses. The participants are from the upper middle class and the elite. The audience too are from the same social strata. Our educational set up still favours 'haves'. Need all our talents be channelled towards the perpetuation of this disparity? Should the University be a party to this lopsided development?

—S. PATHMANATHAN

## APPRECIATION



GNANAPRAGASAM  
WILFRED

The sudden death of Gnanapragasam Wilfred of Sillalai came as a rude shock to everyone — members of the family, relatives, friends and colleagues alike. Even the day before he passed away he went about his normal duties and no one expected the cruel hand of fate to strike so unexpectedly.

He was only 49 at the time of his demise. Educated at St. Henry's College, Ilavalai, he started his Public Service Career in the then Public Works Department and after a few years there, joined the Department of Education as Inspector of School Works. He had served in this capacity at Anuradhapura, Mannar and at the time of his passing away was attached to the Regional Office, Department of Education, Jaffna.

There was no social service organisation in the village which did not have him as an active member. The Parish Council of which he was an executive committee member from its inception till his demise received his talented and unstinted support in all its activities. He had an unparalleled artistic and imaginative mind which was amply supported by his dexterous hands which executed all his plans to the minutest detail. These traits were evident in the novel forms the entire decoration for the Annual Church feast took year after year and also from the modern interpretations he brought into the Christmas Cribs of the Parish Church yearly. His services were sought after by his friends and relatives whenever there was an occasion in the house which needed his expert touch. Through the School Development Society of the village Community Centre and the Rural Development Society he rendered yeoman service to the village making all his talents and skills freely available. He was also an active member of the O.B.A. of his Alma Mater.

The large crowd at his final journey and the spontaneous and moving eulogies are proof enough of the high esteem in which he was held by one and all. His passing away has left a void which cannot be filled.

We extend our sincere condolences to all in the belief that all his selfless services would have earned him the Eternal Reward.

—Arumai



# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

## WIDOWS RELATE HEART-RENDING TALES

The Acting Judge Trincomalee K. M. Selvarajah heard a tale of woe related to him by four young widows from Iruthayapuram, Mutur on the happenings in their village around 3 a.m. on the morning of 16th February.

Nicholas Rosemary (18) stated that around 3 a.m. in the morning of 16th February when her husband and she were in deep slumber, they were awakened by the noise of barking dogs and violent raps on their door.

"I opened the door and went out when suddenly from the direction of the plantain grove, two soldiers accosted me. Two others gatecrashed into my house and tied my husband's hands behind his back and took him out. I implored them not to take away my husband. They vent their spleen on the furniture and took my husband away. I saw more army personnel hovering about. Next morning, thinking that the Army personnel would have taken my husband to Mutur, I proceeded in the direction of the third milepost. Seeing crows hovering about in that direction, I edged suspiciously in that direction and to my dismay and grief, I found my husband dead with knife wounds on his body and with hands tied behind his back. I also saw three other bodies on the same spot. More people had then assembled at that spot and with their help, we were

able to carry the four corpses to the church at Iruthayapuram. Later in accordance with a Police directive, we took the corpses to Mutur Hospital" said the young, grieving girl.

Solomon Rasi (24) revealed at the inquest a similar tragic tale of men breaking into her house in the early hours of 16th February. "I cried my heart out and so did my five year-old daughter and implored the captives not to take my husband away. They silenced me by gagging me with a cloth, plucked my daughter and threw her on the floor. They later tied me to a mango tree in the compound and took my husband away. I saw other soldiers in the garden. I identified my husband's body the next day at the Third mile post."

The third widow, Benedict Viyakulam (28) gave another heart-rending tale of assault on her husband and how she was tied and her husband taken away.

The fourth widow, Punchiappu Somawathy (27) told the inquest judge that her husband was Karuppiyah Rasalingam and that around 3 a.m. on the same day when she heard shots she went out. The soldiers asked for water and after drinking the water, they took her husband away. The following morning she identified the dead body of her husband with cut wounds on the body.

The inquest judge after hearing this tearful narration of events returned a verdict of homicide.

## India Accused....

(Continued from page 2)

Tamil "refugees" from his country only illegal migrants in search of "mundane economic gains", and that there is no economic blockade of Jaffna as suggested by "design, ing individuals and NGOs".

"The government has on more than one occasion resorted transport" and "no one would suggest that we continue supplies of fuel to be seized and utilised by the terrorists to ensure their own mobility or other material used to manufacture explosives," he said.

Dr. Jayewardene's speech, widely regarded here as somewhat intemperate in its tone, has failed to answer the numerous and extensively documented charges made against Colombo by highly regarded NGOs such as the Amnesty International, the International Federation of Human Rights and the International Alert as well as by the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances set up by the U.N. Economic And Social Council.

Meanwhile, several NGOs as well as some governments are planning to move a resolution before the commission next week which will call upon Sri Lanka to cease the military action and allow independent observers to visit that country.

## Gone With The Wind

On Saturday 7th March, around 6-30 p.m. shells fired from the Fort army Camp fell in several parts of the city of Jaffna. One shell fell on the corridor in Jaffna hospital linking the O. P. D. with the paediatric section creating a big hole in the wall, and spraying shrapnel. On one side of the corridor was the children's isolation unit and on the other side the emergency unit. Miraculously no injury was caused to patients though several windows were broken and walls were pock-marked for several yards around.

One of the doctors on duty telephoned the Fort army camp and complained that the hospital had been shelled. The Major who answered the phone suggested that the hospital may have been hit by a militant shell, denied firing at the hospital and stated that they were firing because they were being fired upon by the militants, and added that if the doctors could stop the militants from firing they too would stop the fire. A consultant at the hospital stated later that several civilians hit by several shells which fell near Windsor theatre junction were admitted to the hospital. 16 of those admitted died

orist's had fired at the Fort Army Camp from behind the hospital. But the army refrained from firing back for fear of hitting the hospital.

A consultant observed grimly, "I cannot understand a human being firing such shells at civilians, leave alone the hospital. The shells fired at Windsor Theatre junction were calculated to cause maximum injury to civilian lives". He stated emphatically that the hospital authorities had told the army again and again that no missiles were fired at the Fort army camp from the vicinity of the hospital and that this had been on several occasions accepted by the army. He added that the hospital authorities had ensured that the vicinity of the hospital would not be made use of for such a purpose and he went on to say, "I do not know. We seem to be simply killing each other in this country. I am afraid that many more people are going to leave this country."

The British trained consultant went on to describe an incident where an American reporter interviewed a patient injured during the

by

A Special Correspondent

shortly before or after admission and little could be done for them. A lady succumbed after amputation. He said that out of around 50 injured patients about 10 were likely to suffer permanent handicaps. Another shell which fell on the hospital premises struck the muddy ground near the water tank and hence did not burst.

The following day, Sunday the Major from the Fort Camp telephoned between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. On his inquiring the authorities gave details of the dead and the injured. The hospital authorities also described the remnant of the shell which they had retrieved from the debris. The Major again denied having fired at the hospital and said that they had used a field gun which was not very accurate. He went on to speculate that the wind could have changed the direction of the shell causing it to fall on the hospital.

A professor in the science observed later, "If we cannot even have a rational dialogue on a simple matter like the trajectory of a shell, how are we going to have dialogues bigger issues?"

On Sunday evening the state television news bulletin stated that "terr-

army's operation in Adampan. On learning that the reporter was an American, the person who was acting as an interpreter burst forth into a barrage of angry words. The effort of the hospital staff could not stop him for half an hour. But the reporter insisted on letting him speak as she wanted to know what people here thought of her country. Then the consultant went on to say, "you know, there is a good deal of anti American and anti Israeli feeling around. It is unusual for me, but sometimes I feel as though it is coming upon myself. In spite of the vicious nature of this conflict one is moved to see the many instances where basic humanity has not broken down". He cited the case of a Sinhalese railway official who had again and again gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that the Jaffna hospital received its oxygen supplies on time. The Sinhalese official, he added, had saved many lives.

Sources from the Tellippalai hospital stated that many of those injured on the 7th March were brought to Tellippalai hospital, as the shelling of Jaffna town caused some fear in taking patients to Jaffna hospital.



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SRI LANKA

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