

Hot Spring

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No. 03

Marriage - A Burden !

The Government of Sri Lanka has issued circular instructions to its Divisional Secretariats in the Jaffna District that refugee relief in the form of dry-rations now issued to displaced persons in Jaffna should not be given if the recipient of such relief marries a person not displaced.

University Admissions: JAFFNA STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST INJUSTICE

Students in higher grades at schools and under - grads of the University of Jaffna walked out from their class - rooms and lecture halls respectively to join in the student demonstration held at Jaffna on Thursday, October 28.

The students demonstration started from the Jaffna University grounds and passed through the important roads. The students held banners and placards and shouted their demands.

The protesting students handed over memoranda containing their grievances and demands at the end of the procession to the Resident Agent of the UNHCR at Jaffna, Head of the ICRC team at Jaffna, Addl. Government Agent, Jaffna

and the Regional Director of Education, Jaffna.

Students who have been badly affected by the cut-off marks announced for University admissions for the year 1992/93 assembled at the grounds in the Jaffna University premises on Thursday, October 28 at 9.00 a.m. They were joined by students in the higher grades of all schools in Jaffna and also by the Jaffna University students.

A meeting was held at the Jaffna University grounds. Apart from affected students and parents, Professors from the Jaffna University, representatives of the University Students' Union and the Students' Organisation of Liberation Tigers also addressed the meeting.

Reduction of Funds

Professsor S. Balakrishnan, speaking at the meeting, said that the method of admitting students to Universities posed a danger to the interests of the Tamil students and Tamil Universities. Even though vacancies are available to accomodate students at the Jaffna University and there are a number of students who have qualified for admission the method of selection of students has

resulted in qualified students not getting admssion and the University keeping open without filling all the vacancies. He also said that grants are made to Universities on the basis of the number of student in - takes and the non - admission of the full quota of students to the University would result in the reduction of grants to the Jaffna University. Professor Balasubramaniam, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. Sri Satkunarajah, Senior Leeturer in Maths, were other dons of the Jaffna University who addressed the meeting.

Supreme Court Order Flouted

Student leaders who addressed the meeting said that the Government was following a deliberate policy of keeping to the minimum the in - take of Tamil students

When war broke out in June 1990 the G. C. E. (A/L examination of that year) normally held in August each year was not held in the NorthEast. A special examination, however, was held in April, 1991. The Government which said that the two examinations would be treated as one, later went back on its word and treated the two examinations separately. The Government did this to reduce the number of Tamil student in - take. Ultimately a test case was filed by an affected student in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court held that the two examinations could not be treated as two and the Government was compelled to admit some more Tamil students to the University.

(Continued on Page 4)

Everything Separate

Regulation No:6 of 1806 in its recital clause said:

"Whereas in order to ascertain the persons actually holding the employ or entitled to the rank of Native Headmen in the CINGALESE DISTRICTS OF CHILAW, COLOMBO, CULTURA, GALLE AND MATURA, it has been necessary to call in all ancient Acts granting such employ or Rank and new Acts have been issued to all persons duly entitled thereto."

Section 6 of the said Regulation said: "That the CINGALESE NATIVE HEADMEN whether effective and in actual employ .."

Regulation No : 24 of 1820

Recital Clause:- "Whereas it is necessary to declare what persons are entitled to the rank of Native Headmen within the MALABAR DISTRICTS OF PUTLAM, MANAR, JAFFNAPATAM, TRINCOMALIE AND BATTICALOA,"

Section 3

"That any person assuming the Rank or Title of a MALABAR NATIVE HEADMAN, whether effective or titular .."

(Emphasis ours)

FUNDS FOR STREET KEROSENE LAMPS

The Jaffna Municipal Council in order to continue its services of providing street lamps to its rate-payers, started using kerosene lamps at important junctions where mercury lamps once adorned.

Since the on-going war which started in June 1990, a power - cut was imposed by the Sri Lankan Government in the North.

To provide kerosene lamps for the purpose of street lighting, the Jaffna Muni-

cipal Council requires a sum of seven lakhs of rupees. So the Jaffna Municipal Council requested the Central Government to provide the requisite allocation. Following these representations made by the Council, the Government has now allocated a sum of five lakhs of rupees for the current year. This amount will be paid to the Jaffna Municipal Council through the North-East Provincial Council.

SHELL EXPLOSION KILLS BOATMAN

Selvanayagam Ranjakumar, a boatman, was killed while sleeping in his boat at Alankerny.

The incident occurred at Alankerny about 12.30 a.m. on Monday, October 25.

Selvanayagam Ranjakumar had gone to Alankerny with his boat to transport merchandise. As he had to

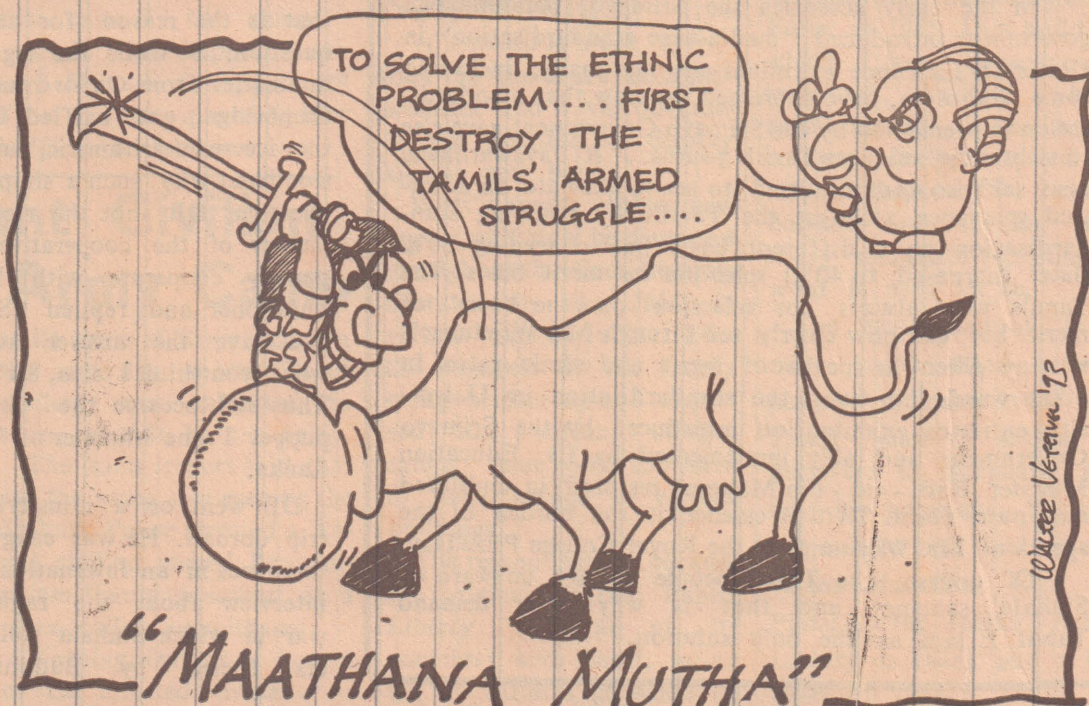
wait long for loading o goods and being late in the night, he had gone to sleep in the boat on the Alankerny coast.

About midnight a shell launched from the Elephant Pass Army camp hit the boat in which Selvanayagam Ranjakumar was sleeping. He was killed on the spot. The boat was also sunk.

Protest at Kilinochchi too

Students in school in the Kilinochchi area and students of the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Jaffna at Kilinochchi conducted a demonstration and protest meeting against University Admissions for the 1992/93.

The demonstration and meeting took place on Tuesday, October 26. Teaching staff at Agricultural Faculty, teachers of secondary schools and students spoke at the public meeting held near the grounds of the Kanthasamy temple at Kilinochchi.





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The Burden of Wijetunge's Royal College Speech

D. B. Wijetunge's speech at the Prize Day of Colombo's Royal College is yet another outward naked demonstration of the intent of the Sinhala imperialists.

He is reported to have said in his Prize Day speech that the present scheme of admission to Universities should be reviewed with a view to remove the heart-burning of the students and mete out justice to them. According to him this can be achieved by selecting students on merit and on an ethnic ratio! The present system of District quota and quota for backward areas also should go on for some more time, according to Mr. Wijetunge.

It is presumed that in the present system of 40% on merit, 55% District quota and 5% on backward area basis, merit is the criterion amongst students selected on District quota and backward areas and that Mr. Wijetunge does not contest it. If that were so what is the scheme that he is envisaging?

Now the selection is stated to be on the basis of merit (40%) District (55%) and backward area (5%). Whilst Mr. Wijetunge speaks of merit criterion, he also says that District Quota and backward area quota must continue at least for sometime. So what is the new invention Wijetunge had made to mete out justice to students and remove their heartburnings?

Clearly the only new thing he has spoken of is the application of a scheme of selection on the ethnic ratio. In other words Wijetunge wants to do away with the system of selection of 40% on merit and substitute in its place an ethnic ratio. He could thereby ensure that just a few places say around 15% or less cut of the 40% are only given to the Tamils and the balance 85% given to the Sinhalese! Rob Peter to pay Paul? Nor is it Wijetunge's fault. By students he only means the Sinhala students and it is his desire to give them better chances of University education at the expense of Tamil students. That is prodding him on to diabolical schemes.

Already the Tamil students are aggrieved over the manipulations made to keep their numbers to the minimum even within the present scheme of admission. The Government has striven every nerve to reduce the number of Tamil in-takes from the special G.C.E (A/L) examination held in April 1991 and April, 1992 and considerably succeeded in its dishonest schemes.

In the early seventies the Srimavo Bandaranaike government introduced "media-wise standardisation" in University Entrance examinations and many, including some Sinhalese, have expressed the view that standardisation implemented by the Srimavo Government gave rise to militancy amongst Tamil youths. J. R. Jayawardhene also said so and purported to act to alleviate an admitted grievance amongst the Tamils by retaining standardisation on a different basis but conceding 30% (later increased to 40%) selection on merit basis. The Tamils were always for selection on the basis of merit but can now clearly see through Mr. Wijetunge's villainy when he speaks of merit and ethnic ratio. In other words he wants the standardisation in University entrance examination introduced by the Srimavo Government and ably implemented by its Education Minister Badi - ud - din Mahmud restored in undiluted and pure form. That in essence is the burden of the speech of Mr. Wijetunge at the Royal College Prize Day.

Of course, the Tamil people are not unaware of Sinhala schemes and that is why they demand Tamil E.lam as the only solution.

With the President somersaulting to be the beloved of extremists in the field of religion and politics, we have wondered what has gone wrong with that fatherly (thaaththa) who was elected to be a temporary head till the next elections. We surmised the turn of events from some past memories.

When Mr. Premadasa was elected as the island's President, the whole island kept its fingers crossed about the choice of the Prime Minister. By all standards there were two eligible contestants groomed by - in Lalith and Gamini. But the honour fell to everyone's surprise on the least known Dingiri Banda from the hills.

Soon on the heels of that announcement a serious wave of suspicion hit the city as to how the President could have made such a choice. At first they thought it was a move to upgrade the quality of his blood by matrimonial engagements between the low - land and the hills. But that did not hold water. Within hours came the right answer that cleared the mystery for many.

Only Dingiri who was well versed in the arithmetic of the co operatives could give the right answer to the I.Q. test of the Premahe'ma examination board. Prema knew well the simple arithmetic of elimination and Hema had learnt that one ice on another does not make two but only one. Hence the question "How much is seven plus four?" On the other hand the co-operatives of DB'S time did not go from question to answer, that was not profitable. They went from the answer to the question. DB knew very well that the questioner had the answer. And that is the reason for the question. So while the legal luminaries from Oxford and Cambridge got baffled by the icecream arithmetic, and wondered why such a simple question, DB shot the right answer of the cooperatives, namely cooperate with the questioner and replied "Sir you have the answer and what you think I also, Sir". Thus DB became the first puppet Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

DB went on a ministerial trip abroad. He was caught unawares in an international interview about the raging war in which Sinhala soldiers, fueled by Buddhist

monks, were killing and heaping the bodies of civilians of the Island and looting and shipping the spoils to the South. "How come Sir, that the army is killing innocent civilians instead of the terrorists?" Poor Wije thinks an effort to answer a question, is beyond his intelligence. So he tries to say that the question is false or meaningless for him and his intelligence. Hence his reply "Killing! In Sri Lanka we Buddhists do not even dream of killing anyone." Thus for DB answer to a question lies in denying the question.

S. Ratnarajah

As long as Mr. Premadasa was the boss, he thought for Mr. D.B. Wijetunge also. When Prema lost his life poor Wije lost in him not only his head but also his faculty for the little thinking he did. Soon after he sat on the throne, he parroted his master's voice and said "We must find a political solution for peace". People from the South as well as from the North applauded but before the applause subsided DB came back to himself.

DB found all these jigsaw puzzle of political and military option or approach too complicated for him. With Prema he was one man's puppet and parroting was easier. But now with all Punchi Singhos and pandakarayas coming alive and dancing around the throne it is a dangerous thing and

he will not be able to visit that adamant Mrs. DB at Pilimalawala. A bright idea shot through his gray. I will cut the problem to half its size and hand it over to Hamilton. Hamilton hesitated but Cecil who did the job of wiping out 60000 for Prema backed him to the hilt. So DB shocked everyone, even his closest Ranil and Hameed, and sang the latest Rock n' roll for the nation "There's no ethnic problem. There's only a terrorist problem in the North. We need no politics. We need only to kill." The ignorant Buddhist monks and the rabid racists who want an ethnic cleansing of the Tamils rejoiced but many of his own people were shocked and ashamed. But who will throw away the power and comforts of being a minister or an MP?

The story is told of an avaricious king who wanted to be robed with the most precious and beautiful robes. A clever trickster told the foolish king that he was robbing the king with an invisible robe that only the wise can see. As the king paraded the streets fully naked all the people on the way, for fear of being unwise, clapped and saluted the naked king. It was only a child who in his innocence and simplicity shouted out "Oh! King You are naked!" Our DB is duped into thinking that people of his race are Deaf and Blind. But how long can the king go on naked?

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Jaffna Municipal Council (JMC) held a public exhibition of new books bought for the JMC Public Library.

Held from Friday 22nd Oct. to Saturday 23rd and later extended to Sunday 24th, this exhibition of new books attracted a large number of people. Venue was the JMC Library, Nallur.

A wide variety of books have been obtained, providing something for everyone's taste. Tamil story books, English novels, Technical books in both Tamil and English, a whole series of Medical Text Books, Children's Picture Books (Including the adventures of Asterix), the Works of Shakespeare and P. G. Wodehouse and best of all

a series of fully illustrated Cookery Books! Both serious students and the casual reader will benefit greatly from these new additions.

The officers of the JMC are to be highly commended for their efforts in obtaining these books. Bringing books from Colombo to Jaffna is now more difficult than transporting items between two countries; what with Customs formalities, shipping charges and JOC (or whatever they call it these days) approval-a procedure fraught with frustration.

"Refugee" Books

Looking through the exhibition, this reporter noticed a large number of books still packed in their crates. The books on display

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6 Tamils Arrested in 2 Places

Six Tamils have been arrested in two places at Batticaloa. Their fates are not known.

A report from Batticaloa said that on Monday, October 25, about 5.00 a.m. the Sinhala Army encamped

at Kokkatticholai rounded up the village of Munaikadu. They arrested two non-combatant civilian Tamils. The arrested persons are Palipodi Nesan of Munai-kadu and Manickapody Geetha of Kannankudah.

On the same day about 5.30 a.m. the Sinhala Army encamped at Unnichchai round up the villages of Aiyithiyamalai and Padukadu. They arrested four non-combatant married, civilian Tamils. The arrested persons are Kaththamuthu Arasaratnam of Kannankudah, Packiyarasa Mariadas of Unnichchai, Arumairajah Prasad of Pullumalai, and Sellappah Sowkiadas of Kaluwanchikudi.

The report also said that a group of Tamil gangsters working with the Sinhala Army was seen along with the Army men when they rounded up the two villages.

New Court Opened

Another Tamil Eelam District Court was opened on Saturday, October 23.

The ceremonial opening took place about 10.00 a.m. Mr. P. Nadesan hoisted the flag. Mr. Ilamparithy formerly declared open the Court. Mr. Para welcomed all present.

The new court which is sited at Jaffna will have jurisdiction over the Jaffna town and adjoining areas.

district at 6.50 a.m., two LTTE militants and one supporter were killed.

October 22 - Friday

S. L. naval speed boats patrolling the waters along Thondamanaru coast directed gun fire and shells towards residential areas about 7.45 a.m. The attack which continued for some time was directed at areas from Thondamanaru to Valvettiturai. The shells fell on trees and open spaces and exploded causing no serious damages. The Sea Tigers thereafter mounted a counter attack on the S. L. naval boats and forced them to withdraw.

Woman "Missing"

A young woman named Prema who went to the Kombaveli Sinhala Army Camp on 2nd October on summons, is reported missing.

According to the reports her relations who went to

the Army camp to find out what had happened to her have been told that none such came to the camp.

What has happened to her? Has she 'disappeared'? This is the question that baffles her relations now.

Non-Combatant Civilian Shot Dead in Army Camp

A non-combatant civilian Tamil was shot dead in the Sinhala Army Camp at Koppaveli in the Batticaloa District.

A report from Batticaloa in this connection said that on October 6, Navaratnam Vettivel of Pullumalai in the Batticaloa District, a non-combatant Tamil was shot dead by the Sinhala Army

at its camp at Koppaveli. On the same day another Tamil civilian was subjected to severe assault by the Army.

The same report said that on the same day evening the Sinhala Police arrested a Tamil civilian named Ponnampalam Shanmuganathan at a place called Sumaithangi.

Nothing further is known of the arrested civilian.

MEDIA VIEW

Let the Demand Continue

Once more an appeal has been made for the recognition of the Right to Self-determination of Eelam Tamils. A memorandum containing the said appeal has been handed over to the International Delegates participating at the Conference of Commonwealth Countries now taking place in Cyprus.

This time the Organisation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam itself has drafted the memorandum and handed it over to the delegates who had gone to attend the Conference in Cyprus. The appeal for the recognition of the right to self-determination of the Tamils has been placed before an international forum for the fourth time during the current year with the present appeal.

Prior to this, at the 49th Conference of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights held this year in the month of February, a resolution to recognise the right to self-determination of the Tamil people was passed. Again in the month of June at the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna the question regarding the recognition of the right to self-determination of the Tamil people was raised. At the Conference of the United Nations Sub-commission on the Prevention of Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minority Interests held at Geneva in the month of August too, this question was raised.

This effort to promote the recognition of this right should continue. It is essential to place before all international conferences where Sri Lanka has some connection, the demand of the Tamils for the right to self-determination. It is then and then only that the mask worn by the Sri Lankan State could be laid bare

successfully in the international arena.

The Sri Lankan Government is wearing a mask - hiding its real intent and purpose to show the world that it is a good government trying to solve the Tamil problem. But in reality the Government of Sri Lanka is engaged in the genocide of the Tamil people and violation of human rights in an appalling manner. The false mask of the Sri Lankan government should be laid bare and its true position portrayed to the international community.

Not only that the international community must be impressed that the right of self-determination of the Tamils, who constitute a separate nation, must be recognised as a first priority for the resolution of the Tamil problem but it is also necessary to reiterate that any solution to the Tamil problem must be based on the right of the Tamils to self-determination - the right of the Tamils to decide their political status themselves.

Expatriate Tamils and Tamil Organisations functioning in foreign countries must conduct programmes urging the recognition of the right to self-determination of Eelam Tamils not only at international conferences but also on all internationally important dates like the UN Day and similarly on appropriate days.

Such programmes will help a long way in making the world appreciate that the demand for the right to self-determination is a just and reasonable political aspiration of the Eelam Tamils. Perseverance pays dividends. Repeated manifestation on several days during a month demanding the recognition of the right of Eelam Tamils to self-determination will one day bear fruit.

UTHAYAN - Editorial
25 - 10 - 93

Something...

(Continued to Page 2)
took up the entire building-premises and it was obviously not possible to display all the new books.

What's more, these new books will now be dispersed throughout the four libraries operated by the JMC in various parts of Jaffna. Like the members of the family being broken up and dispersed into various refugee camps, these books too have to take refuge in various buildings.

The reason? Simply because the original Jaffna Public Library (and all of its contents) were burnt, in an act of cultural genocide by

members of Sri Lanka's Police Force in 1981. That building which was subsequently renovated, could have easily housed all the books, but was further systematically destroyed by Sri Lankan bombers and shelling and today remains a skeleton of what it used to be.

The acquisition of these new books after a long period indicates that the Tamil man is willing to persevere to safeguard not only his homeland, but also his culture and his much-valued education. Like the Phoenix, the Jaffna Public Library is rising out of the ashes of 1981.

Long Live Hot Spring!

Tears! Tears! and bitter tears!
Hot from many a boiling hearth,
That has flowed over the years.
Eelam! the cherished goal - never to fail;
That's the will, that's the faith that endears.

And, by lamp light comes the 'Hot Spring'
Four years now and for years to come,
Till the day our children sing,
That dawn sooner shall become
And Doves of peace shall take wing.

Peace! Peace! and lasting Peace!
That's the message, that's the song
Let the 'Pilgrims' progress and be at ease.
Lead kindly light and let the bells ring
Eelam is not for lease.
Live long! Long live! Hot Spring.
The quest is peace with honour,
Four decades of suffering,
Yet co-existence is the banner,
Pray counselling remains lasting.

— ARUNTHATHI

NEWS IN BRIEF

October 16 - Saturday

A major military operation begun in the forest areas bordering the Districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa. In the Trincomalee District this operation was carried out in Muthalikulam, Sakapuram and Kumpurumunai areas from morning. The Commander of the Sri Lankan army, Cecil Waidyaratne, the Regional Commander Major General Lucky Algama and the Commander of Trincomalee, Cyril Peiris stayed at Trincomalee. The Sri Lankan army encircled an LTTE camp, at Thiriyai area in the Trincomalee District and in the encounter that ensued, two LTTE militants were killed.

Two Sri Lankan soldiers lost their legs in a booby trap, laid by the LTTE in a border area in Polonnaruwa. Both were admitted to the Trincomalee hospital for treatment.

October 17 - Sunday

Shells were directed towards Kilaly and Allipalai areas from the Elephant Pass camp at midnight. Although these shells fell and exploded in the coastal areas, there were no damages reported.

October 19 - Tuesday

Sri Lankan army carried out an ambush and killed

four LTTE militants in the Trincomalee District. At the time of the said ambush, the LTTE militants were passing through Ponnankany in Muttur.

October 21 - Thursday

In a direct confrontation which took place at night between the Sri Lankan army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, two women fighters were killed in the Ponnalai area.

In an ambush carried out by the Sri Lankan army at Athiyadveddai in Batticaloa

Big Drop in Crimes - Mr. Nadesan

Mr. P Nadesan, Head of the Tamil Eelam Police Service, said that on the eve of the second year of the formation of the Tamil Eelam Police Service a big drop in crime rates has been noticed both in Jaffna and in the Vanni District.

Mr. Nadesan told a press conference on the evening of Monday, October 25, that the drop in crimes in the

Jaffna and Vanni Districts bore testimony to the people's participation in the on-going freedom struggle.

In places like Vietnam, when freedom fight was on, grave crimes were on the increase leading to unmanageable proportions. But in Tamil Eelam there is a big drop in grave crimes and other anti-social activities, he said. Mr. Nadesan stressed that the drop in crimes indicated the high degree of

the people's participation in the freedom struggle. He said that grave crimes showed a drop of 70 percent and offences against women a drop of 90 percent from the previous year.

Giving further details, Mr. Nadesan said that 4157 complaints of grave crimes were recorded in Police books in 1992. However, only 1220 cases of such crimes have been recorded in 1993.

He said that the Tamil Eelam Police rendered service to the people in the midst of difficulties.

St. John's College Principal Felicitated

St. John's College, Jaffna Old Boys' Association felicitated Mr. S. Thanabalasingham and his wife on his appointment as Principal of St. John's College at a lunch held on Saturday, October 30th in the College Hall.

Mr. K. N. Y. Maurice, Vice President of the Association, presided. Dr. A. Suresh Canagarajah, Head of the English Department of

the Jaffna University, expressed sentiments on behalf of the Old Boys. Mr. A. Panchalingam, Principal, Jaffna Hindu College, spoke on behalf of the Heads of Schools in Jaffna and Mrs. Pathiniammah Paul Thilakanayagam, Additional Government Agent, Jaffna, spoke on behalf of the general public of Jaffna. The function was well attended by Old Boys and distinguished invitees.

SINHALA ARMY ON THE RAMPAGE

The Sinhala Army rounded up the area called Nediavettai in the 13th colony in the Batticaloa District, fired indiscriminately looted the people's belongings and also arrested civilians - all married men.

News from Batticaloa in this connection said that on

Thursday October 14, 2.30 p.m. the Sinhala Army rounded up the Nediavettai area in the 13th colony and started firing indiscriminately. They also looted bicycles, furniture and other household goods.

Three non-combatant civilian Tamils - all married

men - were arrested by the Army and taken to its camp. The arrested persons have been identified as E. Thungarasa (father of 5 children) E. Thambirajah (father of 2 children) and K. Jeevanathan, a married man. There was no further news about the fate of the arrested men.

University...

(Continued from Page 1)

But again the Government, to ensure the least possible admission of Tamil students to Universities, only admitted additional Tamil students from the April, 1991 examination to Engineering faculty because the petitioner to the Supreme court happened to be an applicant to that faculty.

Malicious Intent

The Government's malicious intent stands exposed by the fact that though the Supreme Court said that its judgement would apply to all admissions for the year the Government refused to apply the Supreme Court decision to candidates of other faculties such as Business Management and Commerce despite appeals made by affected students and opinion expressed by such a luminary as Professor G. L. Peiris, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, who said that the Supreme Court decision applied to all students who sat the April, 1991 examination.

The Government which was already faced with this court case adopted a different approach at the next examination.

The Government did not hold the normal August 1991 examination also in Jaffna but held a special examination in April, 1992. Gaining experience from the previous year, the examination papers were set in a manner outside the style and practice followed in all previous years. The question papers were set deliberately hard.

The matter did not end there. The scheme of marking of answer scripts was also changed in a manner disadvantageous to the students who sat the April, 1992 examination. Thus both in setting the question paper and correction of answer scripts deliberate plans were executed to fail many candidates and to reduce the marks they would normally score.

The dirty trick indulged in by Govt. can be seen through by the analysis of marks scored by some students. Some students who sat the April, 1992 examination also sat for the August, 1992 examination. An analysis of the marks obtained by these students shows that they have attained between 30-40 marks more in the latter examination. It would be reasonably clear to anyone that no student can acquire that

much of knowledge within three months so as to enable him to acquire a 30-40 percent increase in his marks.

Discriminatory Treatment

Students pointed out that in 1985 when the performance level in the Sinhala areas showed a decline the Government reduced even the qualifying marks from 180 to 160. In 1989 when the GCE (A/L) examination could not be held in the south due to the JVP insurrection, examinations throughout the island were cancelled. When examinations are not held in the Northeast due to no fault of the students this equanimity is not extended but devious methods are adopted to reduce the intake of Tamil students.

Petition to Authorities

After the meeting the students marched in procession through the important streets of Jaffna. They handed over memoranda to the Resident Agent UNHCR, Team Leader ICRC, Addl Govt. Agent, Jaffna and the Regional Director of Education, Jaffna. Letters were addressed to President D. B. Wijetunge, the Minister of Higher Education and the Chairman, U.G.C.

The protest demonstration was held by "The University Admission 1992/93-Affected Students' Union". The text of the letter addressed to the President is as follows:-

University Admission 1992/93

We are thoroughly disappointed and frustrated by the cut-off marks announced recently for the District of Jaffna to gain admission to different courses in the Universities of Sri Lanka during the academic year 1992/93. Some of us who aspired to follow Medicine are only able to gain admission to some other course. Similarly, some of

us who aspired to do Engineering are only able to gain admission to some other course. On the other hand, students who aspired to do Bio Science or Physical Science or Arts or Commerce or Management studies and Law are not able to go to University for any higher education, and thus they will be thrown on the street.

The number of Tamil students gaining admission to University education during the academic year 1992/93 is thus very much reduced. The total number is very much less than the number of Tamil students who gained admission to University education during the past five years. This seems to be very abnormal.

The reason for this abnormality is the condition that prevailed in Jaffna during 1991/92. There were lot of hardships for the students. There was no electricity. Kerosene oil was not freely available and its price was not affordable to burn lamps at nights. There was acute shortage of food and hence proper health could not be maintained to work hard. Often schools remained closed due to aerial bombing. Schools were over crowded. Students found it difficult to travel to schools due to lack of transport facilities. Students were displaced from their homes and villages. Above all, students were nervous about aerial bombing and shelling. Our lives as students was thus miserable. Apart from this, most students felt the question papers set for Tamil students to be hard or rather peculiar. We even wonder if the correction of scripts was perhaps purposely made stricter for some unknown reason. All these would have led to our poor performance in the Examination.

We beg of you to consider our district as a war-torn area and provide us special concession by reducing the cut-off marks for admission to various courses. If an effort is made to maintain the average number of intakes that took place during the past five years for this year too, we are sure, more Tamil students will gain admission.

In 1985 the cut-off marks announced for admission were subsequently reduced island wide because of poor performance. Please be gracious to consider it as a precedent and reduce the cut-off marks for the war-torn areas as a special concession.

We understand that the University of Jaffna is in a position to admit more number of students to Medicine, Agriculture, Bio Science, Physical Science, Arts, Commerce and Management Studies, but unfortunately the stipulated cut-off marks block the admission of many students.

Finally, we appeal to you, Your Excellency, to be very sympathetic and take prompt action to admit more number of Tamil students to University education in various Faculties as a special concession during the academic year 1992/93.

And also we would like to appeal to you not to have special examinations for us henceforth. If an examination cannot be held in the North and East, please postpone the examination island wide as done once earlier in 1989 when there was trouble in the South.

New Era Publications, Luckshmi building, Dutch Rd, Kalviyankadu, Jaffna.

Which Way the Wind Blows?

President D. B. Wijetunge shocked the whole world by asserting that there was no ethnic problem in Sri Lanka but only a "terrorist" problem.

Next he must have even shocked the Sinhalese when he said at Royal College Prize Day that admission to Universities must be on ethnic ratio.

Now the news comes that at a ceremony at Kelaniya Mr. Wijetunge, unveiling the statue of the late notorious anti-Tamil Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Cyril Mathew, has paid glowing tributes to him as the defender of Sinhala-Buddhist rights and especially to Mr. Mathew's efforts in trying to colonise the Tamil territory of Trincomalee at Tiriyai and Seruvila. Perhaps he can shock nobody hereafter because everyone knows where the wind is blowing and expects a whirlwind before elections!