

# TAMIL NATION



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We wish our readers

a Happy and Peaceful 1993

and we apologise for the delay in bringing out the December issue of the Tamil Nation due to operational reasons beyond our control.

## Europe set to slam the door on Tamil refugees

### Officials plan to follow India's example and condemn Tamil asylum seekers to enforced repatriation

We are deeply distressed by a newly emerging thrust in Europe to return Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka.

Some countries notably Switzerland, Denmark and Norway, are considering a program of repatriation, and the groundwork for this project is being laid in the form of delusive statistics.

At a recent conference

held at a European embassy in Colombo, a report was circulated depicting eight out of ten Tamil asylum seekers arriving in Norway as "bogus".

How anyone could say this about the Tamil asylum seekers from Eelam (and Sri Lanka) is beyond comprehension. The tragedy these asylum seekers were subject to in their homeland are not fab-

ricates: they are real; and they are quite visible for all to see.

The Sri Lankan air force continues to randomly and indiscriminately bomb the northern Eelam, and this is no secret. Despite the learned reaction of vigilance and evasive routines adopted by the people of Eelam (and the defensive fortifications built) the loss of life and limb continues.

As recently as the 18th of October six civilians were

killed in Kokuvil by these air force bombings, and five days later a 75 year old man was killed and five women were injured in a similar attack.

#### continuously shelled

On the same day eighteen civilians trying to cross the Jaffna lagoon were shot dead by the navy. The Jaffna peninsula is continuously shelled from the army camps and naval vessels, and the ravage from this form of attack (for which there is no defence) is extensive.

In the eastern Eelam the massacres are direct. In the latest of these carnages, on the 23rd October, twelve Tamils arrested by the army in Kakkachchivattai were hacked to death. The following day ten more were massacred in Vellaveli.

Frequent and repetitious army operations in Trincomalee and Mannar have resulted in large scale displacements and suffering, that most Westerners seem unable to conceive or comprehend.

The Amnesty International team that visited Batticaloa in October has received documents confirming 4,189 disappearances and deaths since June 1990.

In the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo the Tamils live a life of fear and insecurity, and have done so for the last forty years.

Bias attacks on Tamils in Colombo is not a thing of the past as is commonly believed. As recently as in October, following a demonstration by the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, Tamils were assaulted in Colombo streets, Tamil houses were looted and a Hindu temple and a Tamil school were damaged.

#### demonstration

Prominent supporters of the Sri Lankan government were in the forefront to incite the violence and disturb the demonstration leading to Tamils being targeted.

Although such attacks are not as frequent as in the past, the anguish that this sort of attack evokes, and the uncertainty about future assaults, is nothing but emotional torment. We grant that, globally, the problem of refugees is a major one. We are quite aware of the fact that, as of 1990, the number of refugees worldwide (excluding those who have resettled) has topped Eighteen million people.

*continued on page 2 col 2*

## Assassination rocks Colombo's military and business confidence

**A single dramatic assassination and the Tigers seem to have wrested the psychological advantage that the Sri Lankan security forces held for several months, says India Today.** The scare created by the killing of yet another service chief, Clancy Fernando, vice admiral of the navy, by a suicide bomber in the heart of Colombo was so great that it almost drove the visiting New Zealand cricket team out of the country.

#### demoralised army

It also demoralised the army which, until recently, was seen as close to victory in its decade old war with the Tamil separatists

Coming hard on the heels of an ambush a few weeks ago which killed a dozen top army officers, including northern military commander Denzil Kobbekaduwa and Jaffna peninsular commander Brigadier Wijaya Wimalarante, both hailed as heroes of many an operation against the Tigers, the LTTE's latest success has warded off an imminent security forces' offensive in northern Jaffna.

Fernando too was a key figure in the war against Tamil rebels. He had increased the pressure on them by sealing the sea routes.

Fernando was blown to bits as the assassin drove his motorcycle, loaded with bombs, headlong into his vehicle.

For the LTTE the retaliatory strike caps the success of many recent hit and run attacks. In the past six

months, it has killed over 700 army jawans in ambushes alone.

The army is reeling from heavy casualties and collapsing logistics. The mainstay of the Air Force was its Y-12 and Y-8 Chinese made troop carriers which were converted for bombing operations.

#### limited fleet

One was shot down by the LTTE and the other was grounded for repairs. The Navy too has been operating with a limited fleet. One of its two landing crafts sank recently.

Moreover, the army has lost around 1,000 men this year alone, more than it did in the 1983-87 period.

*continued on page 2 col 5*

# Tamils: A Nation without a State

# TAMIL NATION

Truth and knowledge are idle gleam if they do not bring power to change the world."

Sri Aurobindo

Recognising that to change anything it is necessary to understand that which we seek to change, the TAMIL NATION is concerned not only with providing information but also with furthering an understanding of the issues that confront the Tamil national movement. Recognising that, in the end, we truly understand anything only to the extent that we have been able to change it, the TAMIL NATION is concerned with changing those material conditions of existence which continue to oppress and discriminate against the people of Tamil Eelam. The TAMIL NATION is rooted in the growing togetherness of the Tamil people and it seeks to participate in the effort to strengthen that togetherness. The TAMIL NATION seeks to focus attention on the unjust relationship between nations without a state and nations that have attained statehood. And the TAMIL NATION exists to debate and campaign for the radical changes necessary, both amongst the Tamil people and outside, if the struggle of the Tamil people for national self determination is to be won.

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Europe continued from page 1

We also accept the fact that such staggering numbers must be a burden to the countries "hosting" these refugees.

One must, however, be appreciative of the fact that, of these refugees nine million are in South East Asia (including the middle east), five million in Africa and only about seven hundred thousand are in Europe and North America combined. The East Asian countries have 500,000 and there are 118,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean. India alone carries 415,800 refugees who have come from Bangladesh, Tibet and Eelam. The greatest burden of this enormous problem is borne by the poorest of nations, who can least afford such a load. The nations that are at the forefront of this repatriation scheme have the least difficulty, and are the ones who can most afford to shoulder it. It is deplorable that they are the ones who want to shirk this responsibility the most.

The UNHCR seems to want to go along with these Western nations. Their offer to provide "passive

monitoring" of the returnees to Colombo cannot be deciphered as nothing other than collaboration.

The UNHCR is fully aware of the fate that befell the few who have so far been forcibly returned. Only this August a woman deported from Denmark was held by the police for 14 days.

There is still no information about the 13 returned from Greece and arrested by the police at the Colombo airport on December 12, 1991. A number of those returned by India to Eelam have also been detained by the Sri Lankan army in Mannar, and data about such detentions (and their fate) are scanty at best. The hostility experienced by the returnees actually places them at a higher risk than those who never left.

The actions of the UNHCR bespeaks motives that are incompatible and contradictory to the very mandate of this organisation.

Repatriation of Tamil refugees at this time is a callous and a heartless endeavour.

The acquiescence and the co-operation provided by UNHCR to these European countries considering repatriation is morally reprehensible.

## Asylum seekers hit by hard line policies

Western embassies in Colombo have endorsed a new repatriation programme for Sri Lankan Tamils refused asylum in Europe as governments prepare a new hard line policy directed at Third World asylum seekers.

At a recent consultation in the Norwegian embassy in Colombo, officials shared the results of an in depth survey which categorised eight out of ten Tamil asylum seekers arriving in Norway as "bogus".

European government official gave the green light for the programme during informal consultations in Switzerland on 23rd September and international refugee agency UNHCR has agreed to provide "passive monitoring for returnees in Colombo.

Refugee agencies fear they will face a hostile reception from security officials and question the wisdom of returning asylum seekers to a country embroiled in a vicious civil war.

A Tamil woman deported from Denmark in August was held by police for 14 days for suspected LTTE links until a Negombo magistrate threw out the case for lack of evidence. There are almost 250,000 Sri Lankan

asylum seekers in Europe and reports submitted to an October meeting of the European Consultation on Refugees and Exiles suggests another 20,000 will arrive this year. Fewer than one percent gain full refugee status in European countries. Most are refused or given Exceptional Leave to Remain meaning they can be returned to Sri Lanka when local conditions improve.

A recent UNHCR analysis divides Sri Lanka into four areas and says asylum seekers can be returned to Colombo and central areas "provided basic safeguards are observed".

Refugee workers in Europe are puzzled by the new hard line approach and characterise government attempts to send "the right political signals" to deter asylum seekers fleeing Sri Lanka as "an illusion". People whose lives are in danger will always seek safety and the pushback policy is likely to drive reluctant returnees in Europe underground.

India has closed its doors to Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers and its repatriation programme offers Europe a precedent to do the same.

Ironically most European countries already practice forced repatriation of refused asylum seekers.

Switzerland who returned over 100 Tamils to Colombo this year is expected to take the lead with the new "voluntary programme".

In the words of one analyst: "It's the wrong time and the wrong programme"

## Correction: Senator Robert Hill

Senator Robert Hill, Leader of the Opposition in the Australian Senate, has pointed out that in the article entitled "Accept Commonwealth Mediator Role to achieve a Just Peace in Tamil-Sinhalese Conflicts" which appeared on page 16 of the September issue of the *Tamil Nation*, certain words have been incorrectly attributed to him.

The incorrect paragraph was: "In Sri Lanka the permanent and undefeatable majority became equivalent to dictatorship: it was arrogant, corrupted and unresponsive.

"It took more and more for itself and cared less and less about the disenfranchised. The frustration inherent in this situation for the Tamils, the permanent minority, has led to violence."

*Tamil Nation* acknowledges the error in the report and expresses its regret to Senator Robert Hill who has at all times played a constructive and positive role in the efforts to secure a just peace to the conflict between the Tamil people and the Sinhala people in the island of Sri Lanka.

Assassination continued from page 1

To make matters worse for the army, there have been desertions, especially after Kobbekaduwa's death. An estimated 6,000 army men have deserted this year, many of them with arms.

And, unprecedented in its war with the internal enemy, the army is finding it hard to get recruits. The Government has even scaled down the qualifications for joining the army, yet the response has not amounted to more than a trickle.

The protracted war, low intensity but high cost, now has the Government worried. It costs over Rs 1.8 Crore a day to run the war.

Says Neville Kanakarathne, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in India: "Had it not been for the war, the country would have zoomed ahead economically and industrially."

Fernando's killing in Colombo has particularly shaken business circles.

The people in Colombo can no longer pretend that there was no war. Last fortnight, President Ranasinghe Premadasa was forced to promulgate an emergency regulation, asking households to register their permanent and temporary residents to move to track down LTTE cadres in the capital.

The need for a political solution to the ethnic crisis is being felt now more than ever before. But there are no easy answers, only scapegoats. *Courtesy India Today.*

நாட்டை விட்டிங்கே நாம் ஓடி வந்தோம் - இப்போ  
நாட்டை மறப்பதே ஞாயம் எனக் கொண்டோம்

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உறவே மறந்தென்ன?

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காட்டிலும் மெட்டிலும் வாட்டம் அடையுதாம்

அவன் காலும் வெறும் காலாம் - அந்தப் பாலன்  
வயிறும் வெறும் வயிறாம்!

பம்பர்கள் எறிகின்ற குண்டுச் சிதறலால்  
கைகால் உடையுதாம் மண்டை சிதறலாம்

மருந்து எதுவும் இல்லை - ரத்தம் கட்டும்  
பண்டேஜ் துணியே இல்லை!

போராட்ட நிதிக்கென்று உதவாவிட்டால் போங்கள்  
பாழ் பட்ட வயிறாரும் பசி போக்க உதவுங்கள்

கூறுகள் தர வேண்டாம் - மாதம் ஒரு  
பத்துத் தெளித்தால் என்ன?

சாப்பாட்டுத் தட்டோடு பாலகர்கள் ஏங்குகிறார்  
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பச்சைப் பாலகன்களும் தள்ளாடும் முதியோரும்  
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துடைத்து விட மாட்டீரோ?

# Sri Lanka 'heading for break up'

As talks flounder, an ex air force chief predicts the creation of Tamil Eelam by the end of the century

Colombo: Sri Lanka is headed for a disastrous break up if attempts fail to salvage the latest peace move aimed at ending a violent Tamil separatist campaign, political and military analysts said yesterday.

Peace efforts have run into serious trouble with influential politicians on both sides of the ethnic divide rejecting a compromise proposal to grant greater autonomy to minority Tamils and end 20 years of blood letting.

The fragmented opposition group, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, is divided on whether they should agree to a federal constitution in return for Tamils dropping territorial demands.

Political sources said the process of the parliamentary select committee had made some progress in narrowing the scope of the discussions but they were still polls apart on the most vital issue concerning Tamil demands.

Former air force chief of staff Harry Gunatilaka said

he was "very pessimistic" about the latest peace effort and warned that the creation of a separate Tamil state called Eelam could be a reality by the end of the century.

"If international community feels that the select committee has failed they will throw their hands in horror and help the Tamil People to fight to the finish. Eelam can be a reality by the end of the century."

## playing politics

"I hope I will be proved wrong ... I don't think we have even taken the first steps towards a solution that is a Sinhalese consensus. The two main Sinhalese parties have been playing politics with this problem," he said.

At a closed door meeting of the parliamentary select committees on Thursday, a major breakthrough was announced with the Freedom Party leader and former premier Sirima Bandaranaike accepting the creation of a federal constitution. Within hours she denied it.

Mangala Munasinghe, head of the committee appointed last year to hammer out a consensus solution, told legislators that Bandaranaike in telephone conversations with him accepted the federal state formula of a Tamil MP.

## federal state

The proposal of legislator Kanapathipillai Srinivasan envisages the creation of a federal state

## Sri Lanka offered cheap arms as Europe gets rid of excess weapons

A former Communist country has offered Sri Lanka a major arms package consisting of the latest battle tanks, helicopter gunships, armoured personnel carriers and missile boats, knowledgeable sources have said.

The sources said the offer, for surplus equipment which the former Warsaw Pact country has to get rid of under East-West arms reduction treaties, comes with a US \$100 million (Rs 4.5 billion) five year credit package.

Cheap surplus weapons from the former Communist bloc states became available after the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty was signed in November 1990 by NATO and the now defunct Warsaw Pact.

The deal limited the number of tanks, artillery pieces, attack helicopters and combat aircraft each country can have.

The sale of such surplus weapons is allowed under a treaty loophole which provides for the export of equipment limited by the treaty.

## Batticaloa MP says 33 still missing as Wijetunge demands inquiry into earlier disappearances

Batticaloa MP Pararajasingham Joseph says 33 Tamil youths are still missing after an Army operation in villages around Vellaveli on 19 October when 90 people were arrested.

Relatives say local Army officers denied those missing were in custody and Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunge has promised an inquiry.

ICRC officials say the Army now admits holding those missing.

Prime Minister DB Wijetunge on a high-profile tour of Batticaloa and Amparai has also demanded an investigation into the death of ten Tamils arrested by the Army on 10 October after their dismembered bodies were found in a quarry near Vellaveli on the same day.

Reports say an Amnesty International team who visited Batticaloa in October has received documents confirming 4,189 disappearances and deaths since June 1990 and has taken testimony from 200 people.

and in return the Tamils dropping their demand for linking as one unit the northern and eastern provinces of the island.

Another Freedom Party MP, Anil Munasinghe, told reporters that Bandaranaike was not necessarily the policy maker in their party which he claimed had accepted Srinivasan's federal plan as a good basis for a settlement. Munasinghe said he was hopeful a consensus on the conflict could be reached by the end of the year. (Courtesy *The Star*: 31 November, 1992)

## Thondaman rejects Srinivasan proposal

Mr Thondaman reiterated his insistence on the merger of the North and East as a basis for a resettlement of the ethnic conflict.

"I will remain in the Cabinet as long as I have the freedom to express my opinions on the cause I represent," he said. "From the time I joined the government I have been for the merger. The UNP government has accepted me on this basis." He rejected the formula proposed by Srinivasan as being without credibility, without substance, and without legitimacy. "Are we having a separatist war for fifteen years because there was no Srinivasan to discover a solution?" he said.

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## Attack on security posts

In two separate incidents on the 15th and 18th of October, the Tigers attacked Sri Lankan army security posts at UYILANKULAI and ILLANTHAIMODDA— in the Manuar district killing 19 Sri Lankan soldiers and then seized several sophisticated arms and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

## Army attack destroys houses

On the 20th and 21st of October the Sri Lankan armed forces shelled and bombed several areas of VADAMARADCHY. As a result of this bombing attack at the VALVETTITHURAI - UDUPIDY junction, two shops and several houses were destroyed.

## Raid injures two

A 43 year old man V Thuraisamy and another 36 year old S Gnanasundaram, both civilians from KARAVEDDY sustained very serious injuries while riding bicycle during the raid.

# FROM THE WAR FRONT

## Idaikadu, Thondamanaru, Moolai and Ponnalai shelled

In the night of the 21st October the villages IDAIKADU, THONDAMANARU, MOOLAI and PONNALAI were shelled for several hours.

## Tigers attack Elephant Pass

In the early hours of 22nd October, the Tigers launched simultaneous assaults on the southern and western side defences of the Elephant Pass army camp. The attack lasted for several hours.

Mortars and rocket propelled grenades rained on both the southern and western bunker lines.

A few hours later on the same day, Tigers ambushed a group of Sri Lankan foot soldiers at PUMODDAI in the Trivcowalee district, killing ten soldiers and one officer.

## Four killed in security post attack

On the 23rd October the Tigers attacked the Sri Lankan security post at MAHACH-CHAIKODI in Vavuniya district killing four Sri Lankan soldiers.

Eighteen severely injured soldiers were admitted to the ANURADHAPURA hospital in a very serious condition.

# Goggles

## Tenali Raman & Premadasa

Tenali Raman was the royal court jester during the reign of Krishna Deva Raya, the emperor of Vijayanagar in India, between 1509 and 1529.

One evening, Tenali found himself among several nobles, who were boasting of their heroics in the war.

General Apadsahayan: "With a mere handful of my men, I attacked a whole battalion of the enemy, and forced them to retreat".

This attack started in the night on 23rd October and went on till the early hours of 24th.

## Tigers hit Vavuniya bunkers

On the 24th October the Tigers attacked Sri Lankan army bunkers in Vavuniya with mortars,

small arms and grenades and killed three Sri Lankan soldiers.

On the same day the Tigers attacked bunkers in WELI-OYA.

One Sri Lankan soldier was killed and ten others were seriously wounded.

The wounded soldiers were rushed to the ANURA-DHAPURA hospital.

## Sri Lankan bombers strike Alaveddy, Telipallai and Vasavilan

On 26th and 27th October, ALAVEDDY, TELIPALLAI and VASAVILAN were the target of three Sri Lankan bombers.

Several houses and a well-known mechanical workshop in ALAVEDDY were destroyed.

On the night of 26th October a boat carrying passengers along the North-South route came under attack by a Sri Lankan bomber at KILALI.

## Tigers seize arms

On the morning of the 3rd November, the Tigers attacked the Sri Lankan airforce personnel and the police at ARANTHALAWAI in the AMPARA district, killing eight air force men and 15 policemen.

Several more were injured badly.

The Tigers escaped with all the arms and ammunition they could muster.

Nagama Nayakar: "I held a pass alone against 50 of the enemy's talented guys".

Kondamraju: "I cut off the tail of the leading elephant which carried the enemy commander-in-chief."

It was Tenali's turn to talk. He quipped, "What is all that beside what I did? I cut off the leg of the enemy commander-in-chief on the battlefield itself."

Kondamraju: "Why didn't you cut off his head?"

Tenali: "Because some fellow had done it already before me."

A few years ago, President Premadasa told a similar tall tale to the Sri Lankans. After the LTTE fighters bloodied the nose of the Indian army stationed in Eelam and gained international recognition, Premadasa claimed that it was he who sent the Indian army back.

Tenali Raman would have been elated to hear this story. And Premadasa is still creating stories of that type. *The Hindu (Int. Ed)* of October 3rd reported that while in Kathmandu, the Sri Lankan president had claimed on Sept. 25th: "We have come a long way in containing terrorism and we are nearing a solution. Out of some 10 militant groups in Sri Lanka, we are left with only one group -LTTE."

Then, while visiting New Delhi, the Sri Lankan president blurted that his government is committed "to devise a peaceful negotiated settlement involving all the parties concerned", while pointing out that "operations by the security forces in the North (Eelam that is) which were necessary for the protection of innocent civilians, would continue."

One would like to know, who are these "innocent civilians" who have pleaded with Premadasa to continue the "operations by the security forces in the North".

Maybe he was euphemistically referring to the quisling groups as "innocent civilians". Even if this is the case, Premadasa is capable of

telling a lie to one's face.

One can guess Premadasa's predicament by reading between the lines what *The Economist* magazine wrote in its September 5th issue: "A year ago the opposition tried to impeach him (Premadasa), claiming he was guilty of 'treason' and corruption."

He survived by parliamentary manoeuvre, although he chose not to answer the charges. The president shrugs off criticism, but the signs are that he is deeply sensitive to it...

The President needs a success, and the best success for him would be in the war against the Tamil Tigers who are fighting for a sepa-

rate state in the north-east of the island.

The army is in no mood to surrender the free hand it has been given to take the war into the Tigers' stronghold in the north. And the army according to the news reports, this big change in military high command was made because "military losses reached a monthly average of more than 100 killed", peace at the threat of a gun.

To President Premadasa, I submit the following Confucian anecdote from the 4th Century may be the crucial element in the survival of the government.

Yes, that is right. The Sri Lankan president was lucky that the military high command sided with him during the impeachment crisis he faced last year. But one day will come when he may not be able to count on his luck. So, he has begun playing a jig-saw game with the "military heads".

The powers of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), which was set up in 1984, was clipped last April and transferred to the service commanders and the police chief. But through a gazette notification dated October 11th, Premadasa had transferred the power back to a single general (Hamilton Wanasinghe) under the JOC.

by C. P. Goliard  
Historically, goliards were the medieval poets, who wandered from place to place, engaging in intellectual duels and bawdy bar room fights. The initials C.P. stands for the place from which this particular goliard comes from - Parithu Thurai/ Cotton Port.

According to the news reports, this big change in military high command was made because "military losses reached a monthly average of more than 100 killed, desertions rose rapidly and some 3,700 men left the army".

Only two months ago (in the September 15th issue of *TN*), I wrote in this column about the desk-top dreamers who head the military in Sri Lanka.

One Tamil proverb says: "Thalayaniyai maartrinaal thalaivali theeruma?" (Translation: Can a change in pillow ease a headache?) The recent change in military high command to tackle the LTTE in the battle front is just an example of Premadasa trying to change his "pillow" for attaining his version of "peace".

What he should realise is that peace "like pregnancy" obeys the "all or none" law. Either it is complete or it is zero. We cannot have "partial peace" or "coercive peace" at the threat of a gun."

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## Make public institutions and buildings war free zones

On the 29th October, Mr A C S Hameed, Minister of Higher Education, was met by a delegation of lecturers of the Jaffna University to acquaint him with the problems faced and endured by the undergraduate students of their University, due to the shortage of food, fuel, electricity, medicine, transport and communication arising from the war situation in the North.

Prof Rev A J V Chandranathan, head of the Jaffna University Teachers' Union requested the minister to make public buildings and institutions such as temples, churches, schools and Universities "war free zones".

## Drought in Amparai

Clean drinking water is in short supply in several parts of the AMPARAI district, due to severe drought. Water borne diseases like Cholera and malaria are becoming widespread. Several children and elderly people are being admitted to the hospitals in Amparai for treatment of these diseases. Diarrhoea, mainly among children, is on the increase. This is said to be the worst drought in living memory. Several cattle are dying daily and paddy lands lie uncultivated.

## Tigers build submarine

The Tigers have built and tested submarines for underwater attacks on Sri Lanka ships, which are being used to provide radar cover of the LTTE sea lanes of communication. The Tigers have done test runs in the improvised mini submarine between Thondamanar and Pt Pedro.

## Government spends Rs270 a day on defence

"The Government is spending Rs270 million a day on defence. Therefore we have to end the Eelam war by the end of 1992" said D B Wijeyatunge, Prime Minister of Defence and Finance Minister, when he presented the budget to the house in early November, 1992. If Eelam war will be ended in December 1992,

what is the logic in increasing the defence budget for the next financial year Mr Wijeyatunge?

## Thirteen opposition parties demand abrogation of Emergency Regulations

"The Emergency Regulations Act was passed because of the war situation in the North East. Under the cloak of this Act, the UNP Government is curbing the democratic actions of the opposition, the trade unions, the media and the freedom of speech of the ordinary citizens whose views are different from those of the Government" say thirteen opposition parties, including the SLFP, and want the Emergency Regulations Act abrogated.

They will begin a campaign to get this Act revoked, starting with a mass meeting at De Mel Park on the 11th of November, according to a press release from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike.

## LTTE releases Sinhala fishermen

On the 27th October, three Sinhala fishermen, apprehended by the LTTE some months ago near the Pt Pedro sea coast, were handed over by the Tigers to the ICRC who will make the necessary arrangements for the released fishermen to travel to their homes in Trincovallee.

## Sri Lankan soldiers lament "no fags, no shoes, no uniforms..."

Sri Lankan soldiers have complained that their quota of cigarettes was abruptly stopped after certain welfare officers were caught selling army tax-free cigarettes on the open market in the South. Some Sri Lankan soldiers in the North East war front also

complain that they have still not been issued with a single set of uniforms for this year and they have yet to get their quota of shoes, socks and towels.

## The Catholic Church on the present situation in Sri Lanka

A workshop was organised by the Catholic Church in Colombo which was attended by well over 200 Catholic priests, nuns and lay people. At the end of the open and frank discussions that followed, a statement was issued by the Catholic Bishops on "The present situation in Sri Lanka".

In this statement the Bishops referred to the anguished cry of the impoverished, the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, the sale of the National Assets to large scale local and foreign investors, the missing elements of freedom of the press and respect for fundamental human rights, the massive loss of precious lives in the North East war, the exploitation of religion and chauvinism for political ends and the people's loss of confidence in the political leaders.

This is a breath of fresh air in a fear stricken and conformist environment in Sri Lanka.

## SLMC awaits orders for Jihad

The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader, Mr MHM Ashraff, said that the SLMC was waiting for orders from the Jamaithul Ulama, the highest body of Muslim religious dignitaries to start a holy war (Jihad) against those responsible for the massacre of the Muslims in Polonnaruwa district on the 15th October.

Mr Ashraff's request to President Premadasa to have a special Muslim Regiment in the Sri Lankan Armed Forces did not receive much favour from the President.

Meanwhile, violence erupted on Friday the 23rd October when small gangs of mainly Muslim youths attacked Hindu temples and Tamil establishments in and around Colombo. Stones were hurled at two Hindu temples in

the Maradana area and a Tamil refugee camp in Kotahena was also attacked.

## Sri Lanka landing craft sinks off Puttalam

The Sri Lankan landing craft SLNS Kandula, used by the Sri Lankan armed forces as a ship, supplying areas such as Mannar, Mullaitivu, Elephant Pass, Poonery and the Jaffna Peninsula sank one and a half miles off Talawila in Puttalam district. When it sank it was carrying arms and ammunition worth several million rupees. The loss of this ship reduces the capacity of the Sri Lankan Navy greatly to conduct amphibian landing operations in the North. Kandula was built in 1983, acquired in October 1985 for Rs 58 million from the Singapore company and was commissioned in December 1987.

## Call to retired soldiers

Sri Lankan military officials have raised serious concerns over desertions by Sri Lankan soldiers. From August 8th to October 8th, 1992, 1,248 soldiers have reportedly deserted. Besides being a blow to morale, this exodus has promoted the Sri Lankan military to launch new recruitment drives. The first phase of this is expected to begin soon by granting an amnesty to over 4,000 soldiers who have absconded so far and by bringing back retired soldiers. The losses to the military in both equipment and persons due to these desertions have compelled the Sri Lankan Government to increase the defence bill by Rs 1.8 billion.

## Kalidas, the fifth columnist

The Sri Lankan army has recruited Kalidas, a traitor from the quisling group ENDLF, to form a special unit for Anti LTTE operations in the North East. A small unit under Kalidas is being trained in Vavuniya currently and will be expanded shortly.

Kalidas had served as the bodyguard of the sole ENDLF "member of Parliament", Srinivasan.

Srinivasan had earlier complained to the police that Kalidas had robbed him of his Pajero and Rs 500,000 in cash.

## Anti LTTE units to be formed

Many collaborators from the so called Tamil National Army (TNA) which was formed by the Indian Government in the North East who are living in special camps set up in the North Indian state of Orissa and in Tamil Nadu are planning to come back and form special anti-Tiger unit under the Sri Lankan army.

## Home Guards abandon service

One hundred and seventeen Home Guards attached to the Matale police division left the Home Guard service in October when authorities in Colombo decided to deploy them in the East. When the Home Guards failed to persuade the Police authorities not to make plans to send them to face the Tigers, they decided to hand over their weapons and return to their villages.

## Drive to recruit Muslims to the Sri Lankan army

The speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Mr M H Mohamad called on Muslim youth to join the Sri Lankan army in order to ensure full protection of Muslim villages in the North East. He said that the Sri Lankan army will shortly launch a recruitment drive in Muslim villages and called on Muslim youth to respond to this appeal and join immediately. The Sri Lankan army plans to put up notices in Muslim villages calling Muslim youth to enlist and will also visit villages to recruit them.

The Muslim recruits will be provided with halal food and wherever possible permitted to observe religious practices.

## World record for Sri Lanka

According to a snake-bite and snake-poison expert, Anzelm de Silva, from the Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka ranks first in the world in the number of people dying from snake bites.

# 14,000 petition UN human rights team about disappearances in Sri Lanka

A UN human rights team visiting Sri Lanka has received 14,000 petitions concerning missing persons, representatives of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances told Attorney General Tilak Marapane during their ten day tour in October.

Over 40,000 Sri Lankans died or disappeared during the brutal three year insurgency by the southern Sinhalese Marxist People's Liberation Front (JVP).

Analysts estimate that another 5,000 have disappeared in the north east since the June 1990 war with the Tamil Tigers. Sri Lanka's Civil Rights Movement told the UN team how the erosion of

legal safeguards under current Emergency laws encourages disappearances.

Detainees can be held virtually indefinitely in secret lo-

at the World Bank meeting on Sri Lanka in February 1991 called for "transparency and accountability" in the country's human rights

Among other submissions to the UN team was an appeal from 52 detainees on the notorious Sixth Floor of Colombo police headquarters

the evidence to prosecute many of them. NGOs say there may be another 4,000 unofficial detainees in police stations and Army bases.

Government spokesmen claim a JVP revival is under way in the south in Tangalle, Hungama and Galle has uncovered large arms caches.

Ten leading JVP detainees who tunneled out of the Peawatte camp in September are still on the loose.

Others point to an increasing number of robberies and rapes carried out by some of the 3,000 Army deserters in the south.

Attacks on journalists and newspapers continue and there was a mass protest in Nurawa Eliya on the 1st November following disturbances in mid October.

*Courtesy The Sri Lankan Monitor*

## Analysts estimate 5,000 have disappeared in the north east since the June 1990 war with the Tamil Tigers

cations without being produced in court despite the government Human Rights Task Force (HRTF) set up to monitor those in custody.

The presidential Commission on Disappearances set up in January 1991 has no retroactive powers and has held public hearings on only six cases.

Human rights NGOs are sceptical of government measures and see them as a smokes screen to allay international concern. A European Community statement

record.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in their meeting with the UN team called for a new government Commission to investigate disappearances from 1983 when thousands died in Colombo race riots.

A UN recommendation following a 1991 visit advising that BASL monitor reported disappearances from police stations has still not been implemented by the government.

held without charge in degrading conditions. All but three are Tamils.

BASL told an Amnesty International delegation also visiting Sri Lanka in October that the Supreme Court has registered 5,393 fundamental rights violations petitions from southern detainees in the aftermath of the JVP insurgency including 753 this year.

Sri Lanka still holds 4,475 JVP suspects under Emergency regulations and lacks

## Fruit processing in Tamil Eelam

Tamil Eelam Economic Development Organisation (TEEDOR) in its recent publication *Atharam* (July - August 1992 issue) has described the various ways and methods by which this organisation is striving to achieve self sufficiency in food in Tamil Eelam - an outcome of the economic blockade imposed by the Sri Lankan Government. Among other items, it describes the processing of fruit: "Abundance of fruits in Tamil Eelam is a boon to the fruit processing industry.

In the past (1970 - 1980) the fruit processing industry flourished not only as a cottage industry but as an export industry as well."

The fruit processing industry which was stagnant for a period was given a fillip by TEEDOR in 1990. This industrial process-

ing venture served as an incentive for the extension of agricultural pursuits, industrialisation and for the development of the economy of Tamil Eelam.

Two fruit processing plants have been established - one at Kopay in the Jaffna District and the other at Vaddakachchi in the Vanni District. Soft drinks which were hitherto brought from Colombo have been replaced by nutritionally rich fruit drinks prepared from mango, grape and nelli juices. Other items prepared out of such fruits are jam, sauce and cordial.

The International Food Protection Agency has recommended that all soft drinks be prepared nutrition wise and that they should all contain sufficient fruit extracts. These drinks have been prepared in keeping with international standards, under modern hygienic conditions. Fruits are purchased during seasons of glut and preserved in steam processed containers in juice form.

## Sri Lanka Army in desperate straits

It is learnt that Tamil refugees in Refugee Camps set up in areas occupied by the Sinhala Army in Vavunia and Trincomalee are being recruited to a special unit of the Sinhala army.

The news in this connection states that Tamil refugees who are repatriated from India are being kept in refugee camps in areas occupied by the Sinhala Army.

They are not allowed to resettle in their original homes.

In view of the reluctance of Sinhala youth to join the Army, the Army in desperation has already recruited some refugee Tamils promising even enhanced relief to the families of such recruits.

The report further says that those Tamil refugees recruited to the Sri Lankan Army are being trained at Anuradhapura. The Tamil refugees are put in a special "Kobbekadawa Brigade" and some of them, according to the report, are now put on duty at Vavunia.

## Navy kills seven

The Christian weekly the *Morning Star*, established in 1841 in Jaffna, carried the following story in its issue of 16th October.

Seven civilians crossing on a boat through Kilaly were shot dead by a Navy patrol boat on Wednesday night, 7th October. These included three women, and old gentleman and a small boy. Even with a single shot those in the Gun Boat would have realised innocent civilians were travelling by that boat. However,

they continued with the volley of shots, killing seven.

We read that the present German government is hell bent on bringing to justice Eric Honecker, the former ruler of East Germany, for ordering the killing of East German civilians who tried to cross over the Berlin wall. Those in power are usually blind to the forces of justice and the Sri Lanka government seems to take delight in killing civilians for the simple reason that they are Tamils.

## Wise men's health quotes

### Alcohol

Drunkenness is never anything but a substitute for happiness. It amounts to buying the dream of a thing when you haven't the money to buy the dreamed of thing materially.

### Food

Nothing would be more tiresome than eating and drinking if God had not made them a pleasure as well as a necessity. On the one hand there is a multi million pound slimming industry, while on the other, a third of the world's population goes hungry.

### Sex

Vasectomy means never having to say you're sorry

### Health

Middle age is when your age starts to show around the middle. If you have resolved to give up smoking, drinking and loving, you don't actually live longer - it just seems longer.

## India to ban MPs with big families

The Indian cabinet has approved a bill to disqualify MPs if they have more than two children while in office. The bill, which aims to make members of federal and state legislatures practice what they preach, will now be sent to parliament for approval and will be implemented one year after it is passed. Current members who have more than two children are exempt.

India's 875 million population increases by 17 million every year, equivalent to the population of Australia. At the present annual growth, it is expected to have more than one billion people next century, replacing China as the world's most populous country.

# Human skeletons turned into fertiliser

Eelandu, a popular daily from Jaffna in publication for over 30 years, reported that hundreds of human skeletons were removed from Chavalakadai by Sinhalese to be converted into fertiliser at the beginning of last month.

According to the *Eelandu* news, Chavalakadai is a Tamil village in the Amparai District. A large number of inhabitants of this village were brutally murdered by the Sinhala Army by Muslim thugs and their bodies were left partially burnt. All houses in this area were

also broke open and all household goods looted by the Sinhala armed forces and muslim thugs. It is inside these houses that partially burnt bodies of Tamils were lying for the last several months. According to information from eyewitnesses it is from these house human skeletons

were removed by Sinhalese people for conversion into fertiliser. According to the report more skeletons are expected to be found. The report further adds that the place called 4th colony in this area looks like a desert now. About 600 families that lived in this area are living for over two years now as refugees at Kalmunai. Over 600 houses, eight Hindu temples and schools remain broken and damaged in the 4th colony.

Generally, all houses in the area have been broken and looted. Re-

maining walls are continuing to be broken and trees being cut down.

The report further says that places where some people are staying are being frequented by the Sinhalese soldiers and armed thugs in civilian clothing. The harass poor Tamils there. In other places frequent cordon and search is being carried out and Tamils are being arrested of whom many "disappear". The report further adds that efforts are being made to settle Sinhalese in areas deserted by Tamils.

## Shot and thrown into the sea

Kanapathypillai Navaratnam, boatman operating cargo boats in the Kilaly seas was shot and thrown into the sea with hands bound by the Sri Lankan Navy.

The Sri Lankan Navy fired on

civilian boats transporting merchandise in the Kilaly sea on Friday, 23rd October.

One boatman, Kanapathypillai Navaratnam, who is undergoing treatment at the Jaffna hospital for serious gunshot injuries received by him told reporters that when on Friday, 23rd October, he was transporting goods in his boat at the

Kilaly Sea, suddenly Naval boats appeared firing at his boat.

He raised his hands in fear, but a shot passed through his rib bone and he fell inside his boat.

Sri Lankan Navy men who entered his boat bound his hands and threw him into the sea.

His boat was taken away by the Navy.

He also saw another boat being taken away by Navy men, but did not know what happened to the two boatmen in the other boat carrying goods.

He also said that he was rescued by some other boatmen and admitted to the Chavakachcheri hospital and later transferred to the Jaffna hospital.

## Book Review

"Thamilthai" publishers have recently released a book *External Relations Policy of India in the Context of the New International Order* written by M Thirunavukarasu.

It analyses India's position following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

India and the Soviet Union were very friendly countries.

Dismemberment of the USSR has left India high and dry in the international order.

Her soft peddling attitude when Iraq captured Kuwait, her do-nothing policy in the Gulf War and her support for the perpetrators of the coup against Gorbachev reflected her bewilderment and unpreparedness.

The author dwells on the weak internal situation arising out of political instability owing to the downfall of Rajiv's Indra Congress Party, the coming to power of V P Singh, his governments downfall, the formation of

Chandrasekar's Government and finally the present P V Narasimha Rao's Minority Government.

All these events occurred during the period when changes were taking place in the Soviet Union and coincided with its dissolution.

It was in this context that India could not shape her own External Relations Policy suitable to her needs and ends.

The author says that Mr Narasimha Rao in his desire to stabilise his over unsettled state in internal affairs has decided to appease the USA and to allow the flow of foreign capital into India.

America is viewing this change favourably and is encouraging its entrepreneurs to invest in India. It is also advocating such investments in India rather than in China on the grounds that it is better for birds of the same democratic feather to unite.

Even though democratic sentiments find favour,

America is viewing such a policy from its long term perspective.

It views China as a potential enemy and such investments in China would help in the enrichment of its industries and increase its technical know how.

Thus, as far as America is concerned, India's opening for foreign capital and investment is most welcome.

The author also points out that the Cold War was confined only to Europe and that in Asia and Africa there was direct conflict.

Such conflict both in Asia and Africa were for the maintenance of the climate of the Cold War between the Super Powers.

Now that the Cold War situation no longer persists, the New International Order has to be viewed from other perspectives.

In Europe, the war climate has given place to a peaceful one - Germany has once again been united; the other ethnic groups which were kept together by the Soviet Union are now free nations.

The situation in Asia is different.

Even though Iraq was attacked by the US and its multinational allies, the Kurdish people who are fighting to free themselves from Iraq's hegemony and become independent, have not been allowed to do so.

Their right to self determination has been denied.

How could one explain this set-up? There is no Cold War now but the Gulf War was fought in Asia.

Asia presents a flaming volcano of Conflicts, which could erupt anytime.

The book also deals with the love-hate foreign relationships of India and America

America is striving to ensure India's dependence on her and in not allowing her to develop her true potential.

This is reflected in America's attitude in opposing India's atomic building-up, purchase of space technology from Russia.

The paradox of friendly and inimical relations between the two countries is

typified in America's relenting attitude in regard to India's atomic build-up.

America's International Security Relations Expert, Reginald Bartholomew has expressed similar sentiments.

This means that America will not view too harshly India's atomic build-up.

Mr Thirunavukarasu avers that in the long run India's ambition is to have effective supremacy in affairs pertaining to the Indian Ocean.

Mr Narasimha Rao is at present concentrating on regional hegemony in South East Asia.

It is possible that America may even concede this position to India.

However, one can predict that in the larger context of South Asian Affairs, America will not give up its predominant position in the Indian Ocean to India.

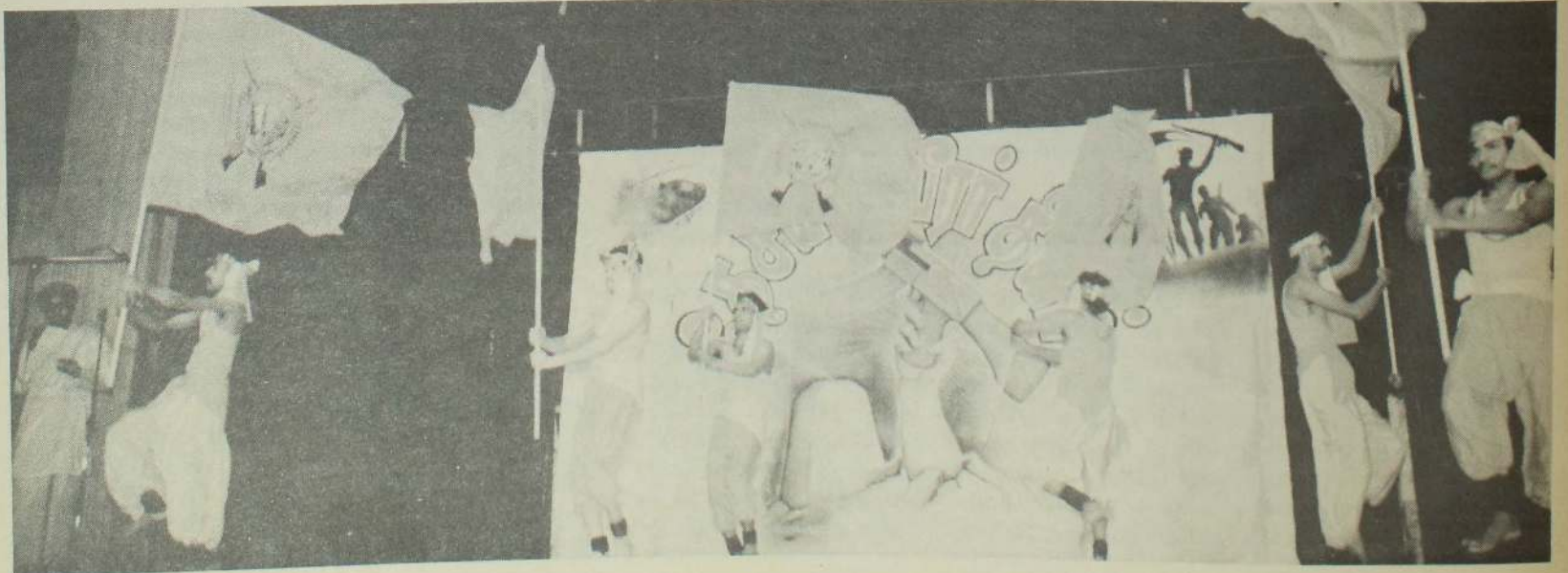
It could consent to share such control jointly with India. This book is on the whole a thought-provoking one to the Tamil.

# A people remember...

"The idea or sentiment is at first confined to a few men whom their neighbours and countrymen ridicule as lunatics or hare-brained enthusiasts. But the idea spreads and gathers adherents who catch the fire of the first missionaries and creates its own preachers and then its workers who try to carry out its teachings in circumstances of almost paralysing difficulty. The attempt to work brings them into conflict with the established power which the idea threatens and there is persecution. The idea creates its martyrs. And in martyrdom there is an incalculable spiritual magnetism which works miracles. A whole nation, a whole world catches the fire which burned in a few hearts; the soil which has drunk the blood of the martyr imbibes with it a sort of divine madness which it breathes into the heart of all its children, until there is but one overmastering idea, one imperishable resolution in the minds of all beside which all other hopes and interests fade into insignificance and until it is fulfilled, there can be no peace or rest for the land or its rulers. It is at this moment that the idea begins to create its heroes and fighters, whose numbers and courage defeat only multiplies and confirms until the idea militant has become the idea triumphant. Such is the history of the idea, so invariable in its broad lines that it is evidently the working of a natural law" - **Sri Aurobindo, 1907**

## National Heroes Day 1992

In Zurich, LTTE Central Committee member, Lawrence Thilagar opens the Maha Veerar Naal proceedings on November 14





# Maha Veerar Naal

**in Germany**

(right)



**in London**

on November 20

(below)



Lt. Col Anton J N Selvadurai asks

# What if there was no Buddhism in Sri Lanka?

I asked this question of several educated Sinhalese and Tamils and none of them were able to give me an immediate satisfactory reply. Almost all of them spluttered something and were taken by complete surprise.

They appeared somewhat embarrassed at their inability to give a quick reply in answer to what appears to be a very simple question. A few of them even sheepishly said that there would have been more Christians due to European influence etc. and only after some reflection did they realise that the religion of India before Buddhism was mainly Hinduism and that in Sri Lanka too the people would have been Hindus.

## Introduction of Buddhism

Buddhism was introduced into Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BC during the time of King Devanampiya Tissa. King Asoka of India sent his son, Mahinda Thero and his daughter, Sangamitta, to spread the faith.

Almost the whole of India, including some of the adjacent lands, came under his influence and became Buddhist.

Asoka used the principle of "Dhammavijaya" to conquer not by force of arms, but by using the "Buddha Dhamma".

## A plural society

When Buddhism was popular in South India and Sri Lanka it was a plural society at home, consisting of several dynasties. The fighting was between these dynasties mainly and there was no appreciable ethnic difference. There were Tamils, Sinhalese, Telugus, Keralas and Kanarese on both sides fighting one another depending on which side they were and who paid more.

It was quite common for Sinhala kings in Sri Lanka to get their assistance from South India, as

they had royal relatives there. The use of South Indian mercenaries was quite common and these people, together with the large number of immigrants who came by catamaran, were absorbed with the local mainstream, as they were also Buddhists and eventually added on to the growing population.

In inviting the IPKF, ex-President Jayawardene merely did what his ancient predecessors did.

So it is evident that whatever little Aryan introduction there was from the 6th century BC and thereafter had been largely diluted with those millions who came over to Sri Lanka in the humble catamaran.

It is interesting to note that as recently as the 15th Century the Hindu temple in Nallur, Jaffna, was constructed by the Sinhala King Bhuvanekabahu VI, who had Hindu leanings, as his father was a prince from Kerala.

## Waning of Buddhism

A few centuries after Asoka's death Buddhism waned in South India and the North and East of Sri Lanka, which reverted to Hinduism.

It continued to flourish, however, in the South of Sri Lanka.

The Buddhist religion, which gave an impetus to the study of Pali and Sanskrit of Buddhist literature and helped in the development of the Sinhala language and culture, now created a polarisation, with Sinhala Buddhists in the South and Hind%o Tamils in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

## Dravidianisation

Had there been no Buddhism in Sri Lanka the Dravidianisation of the comparatively few Aryan immigrants would have gone unnoticed.

It is the fact that the Sinhalese were Buddhists that they stood

out as a separate race. Even the Sinhala language in ancient times was mainly a monastic language and confined to the temple.

## Language of the courts

The language of the courts of the last four kings and Kandy was Tamil and therefore would have been the language of administration of the people until the final capitulation of Sri Lanka to the British in 1815, when even the peace treaty with the British was signed in Tamil by the king and his Adigars.

## Mahinda Preached in Tamil

Mahinda Thero converted the people to Buddhism almost overnight after meeting the kin in the forest.

How was he able to do this when he was a foreigner from Bengal?

He was also responsible for spreading the faith in South India, and it is obvious that he would have been fluent in Tamil.

Since the authentic history of the Sinhala people begins with the introduction of Buddhism, it seems probable that he preached to the Sinhala people in Tamil" which was then the main language in use.

## Monastic language

The fact that Sinhala was a monastic language is further confirmed by the fact that, on the introduction of the Sinhala

Only policy in 1956, the language struggled for expression in day-to-day administration.

Because of 450 years of colonial rule, the language could not develop for the expression of modern scientific and technological thought, and had to borrow words from English, Sanskrit and Tamil. I am happy to state that now the Sinhala language is considered to be quite a virile and eloquent medium of expression, capable of expressing the complexities of the modern thought.

## The Mahavamsa and Dutugemunu

Had there been no Buddhism, we would not have had the Mahavamsa and without it the Sinhalese would not have had the opportunity to boast about the epic battle between their young King Dutugemunu and the Tamil King Elara, who had reigned for 44 years.

According to the Mahaveamsa, written 700 years after the event, the campaign of Dutugemunu had an ideological factor and took on the character of a holy war, where Sinhala Buddhist soldiers were asked to risk their lives for the glorification of the faith which was so dear to them and a noble cause.

Dutugemunu had to do what he

had to do in his day and age and was considered a great Sinhala hero. But emulating him, spurred by the Mahavamsa, in this day and age is sheer villainy of the highest order and utterly retrogressive.

## CONCLUSION

So, it is reasonable to presume that, had not Buddhism been introduced into Sri Lanka, we would not have these problems of language and ethnic strife, because the Sinhalese language would have been relegated to specialised study, like Latin, and Tamil would have been the common medium of expression and the mother tongue of the local populace.

Sri Lanka then would have been a truly enchanting and peaceful island with none other to compare it with.

## 53rd Anniversary - London Friends of Ashram

The 53rd anniversary of the founding of the Christa Seva Ashram, Maruthanamadam, Sri Lanka was observed by London Friends of the Ashram by an informal meeting held at 62, Canadian Avenue, Catford, London, on Saturday 19 September, 1992 at which about 25 people were present. The meeting was presided over by Dr Peter Kulanayagam, and brother Joe Carroll of the Scripture gift mission delivered the key-note message. Mr Welch J Balasingam who had personally known the late Sevaks Yesusahayam and Selvaratnam, and the Rev. Sam Alfred shared with the assembly an "Ode to the Ashram" which he had specially composed for the occasion.

I

"Feed my sheep: Feed my lamb: Feed my sheep: Feed my lamb!"  
Thus spake the Lord - The servant sayeth, "Here I am!"

These exhortations dear, Selvaratnam did hear -  
Living echoes of His voice - so distinct and clear,  
As youths see visions, and old men pensively dream,  
His inward eye saw his Ashram take shape and gleam!

II

First sods and corner stones for Ashram buildings five,  
Were cut and laid on Jan, ninth, thirty nine:  
These facets of the Ashram bloomed from foundation,  
To fill the void of many a generation:  
The Super Stars were Yesusahayam and Sam,  
Shepherded through lean years and fair by Periannan.

III

As pants the deer for cooling stream when heated in the chase,  
Thirsty souls do pine for Inner Peace and to the Ashram race:  
Attempting great things for, and expecting great things from God -  
The Ashram's motto and emblem - ever trusting in the Lord.  
By the mystery of Faith, the Ashram grew in stature,  
Seeking first the Kingdom of God - and money scarce did matter!

IV

Reckoning Ashram's growth in two decades and five,  
The Reverend Middleton Weaver did then inscribe:  
"I remind you that our Master did all things well;  
Resolve to do perfect spade-work - then, you'll excel!"  
Alas, Yesusahayam's call came shocking soon,  
Plunging Sevaks Selva and Sam in baffled gloom!

V

Ashram bells tolled again - Those whom Gods love die young,  
Periannan, with work still waiting to be done,  
Looked upon fairer dawn on a celestial shore,  
Crossed the rolling stream, of death, and was heard no more.  
"Good-bye, proud world", often had I hear him sing and pine,  
I'm going home; Thou art not my friend, and I'm not thine."

VI

The rigours of Ashram stewardship fell on Sam,  
Sustained only by faith and Blood of the Lamb.  
He weathered all the storms of the ethnic conflict,  
Feeding the hungry: caring the sick: - to uplift,  
The stranger he welcomed, and the naked he clothed,  
Prisoners he visited - only a cycle he rode!!

VII

As we perpetuate the Ashram's beacon light  
By our commemorations year by year, far and wide:  
In London, Canada, Australia, or North Pole,  
May we not seek to be consoled, as to console:  
Not seek to be understood, as to understand,  
Not to be loved, as to love, - in Ashram land.

62, Canadian Avenue  
Catford,  
London SE6 3AX  
September 19, 1992

Nadodi, an Eelam Tamil refugee, writes from Madras

# New Delhi's crimes against the people of Tamil Eelam

In 1948, Sri Lanka Government passed the Citizenship Act.

With one stroke one million South Indian labour were made political orphans.

A more heinous crime against humanity is hard to contemplate and yet Nehru "the Champion of Freedom" took it lying down.

In 1968 Idi Amin of Uganda started persecuting the Indians in Uganda. The New Delhi intervened and arranged for the issue of British Citizenship to Indians in Uganda.

It is well to remember that the Indians in Uganda were mostly North Indian traders.

The above is a clear indication of the double standard New Delhi adopts in the handling of North and South Indian affairs.

The New Delhi handling of the Tamil Eelam problem will ever remain a big black blot on the history of India and expose to the world New Delhi's treachery in politics.

When Sri Lanka unleashed a reign of terror on the Tamil Eelam youth with the passing of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in 1979, Tamil militants sought refuge in India. New Delhi was not slow to grasp the opportunity to create trouble in Sri Lanka.

The Indian Government especially the Intelligence Services, quickly wormed their way into Tamil Eelam militant groups and arranged for military training across the length and breadth of India.

Sri Lanka protested but in vain. Indira Gandhi flatly denied the charges, but the world knew the truth.

Now, New Delhi is crying hoarse on international platforms, that Pakistan is training and equipping militants in Punjab and Kashmir.

But it continues to maintain deadly silence about her training of Tamil Eelam Militants.

There were some indications that India was going to take stern action against Sri Lanka. But international intrigue snatched away Indira Gandhi in the nick of time. Rajiv Gandhi stepped into Indira's shoes. Jayawardane grasped the situation, and literally called Rajiv Gandhi

sign of laying down of arms. All the political and military bigwigs from India and Sri Lanka who graced the occasion knew in their heart of hearts that this was a huge hoax to fool the public.

Twelve Tigers were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and were to be taken to Colombo. India, the mighty Emperor of the Indian Ocean, was powerless to stop this. All the twelve Tigers swallowed cyanide, and the Tigers took up arms against the Indian Peace-keeping

the elections.

V P Singh came to power. He gallantly called back the IPKF and was deeply buried in internal problems. Rajiv Gandhi politically double crossed the Eelam Tamils and heaped physical and mental sorrow on them.

In 1989 Rajiv was killed. The obscene comments and reports of the Rajiv murder and the ruthless manhunt is a direct measure of Indian treachery. Tables were turned, the guilty were praised and the innocent were cursed in foul words.

The whole exercise, planned and executed by the immoral, infamous Indian intelligence is a crime against the people of Tamil Eelam.

Padmanabha and his colleagues have paid the maximum penalty while the culprits of the Indian Intelligence Agency are safely enjoying their life. The New Delhi government and the Brahmin dominated mass media remained silent when hundreds of Eelam Tamils were tortured and killed on Indian soil by PLOT and TELO. But they are shouting from house tops about the murder of Padmanabha.

The crimes perpetrated by New Delhi on the Tamil Eelam refugees exceeds all others in ingenuity and iniquity. Nearly 125,000 Tamil Eelam refugees took refuge in India, against the fury of the Sinhalese. 30,000 were maintained in Refugee Camps at the expense of the New Delhi Government.

Nearly 100,000 Refugees lived outside the Camps at their own expense. This proved to be a valuable source of foreign exchange to the New Delhi Government.

After the murder of Rajiv Gandhi, the unfortunate refugees have been made scape goats, and are being driven from pillar to post for innumerable registrations in Police Stations were they are being humiliated, terrorised and fleeced by unscrupulous Police Officers to satisfy their sadistic instincts.

The time has come for New Delhi to rethink its policies and recognise that India's own interests lie in supporting the struggle of the people of Tamil Eelam rather than suppressing it.

## Rajiv slipped from blunder to blunder and started the comic "Thimpu Talks"

a political puppy.

Rajiv Gandhi smarted, but had no way of retort.

Rajiv slipped from blunder to blunder and started the comic "Thimpu Talks".

Like a bolt from the blue Jayawardane turned turtle and entered into Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.

It is significant that the USA congratulated the parties to the Accord before the ink was dry on the Accord papers.

It must be remembered that Eelam Tamils, who were the aggrieved party, were not invited to Sri Lanka to participate in the Accord.

The Tiger leadership, guest of the Indian Government were locked up in Ashoka Hotel, Delhi.

New Delhi agreed a massive tragic comedy when a glum faced Yogi symbolically handed over a revolver as a

Force.

There was no peace-keeping in Tamil Eelam. It was all along a Tiger-hunt. Against all norms of Indian Military tradition, the IPKF killed innocent civilians, raped women and looted public belongings and this episode will forever remain a blot on the Indian Army.

In Sri Lanka Premadasa tool over from Jayawardane, the old fox.

Jayawardane quietly vanished from the scene in the nick of time.

In Tamil Eelam, the Indian Army lost thousands of lives.

Many more thousands were injured, and crores of Indian public money was squandered on a quixotic adventure.

In New Delhi, Rajiv lost

Brahmin venom flowed freely for months until the general elections made their position safe in Tamilnadu. Twenty one Eelam Tamils took their lives rather than face the fury of Brahmin treachery. Not being satisfied with the holocaust, the Indian Government started a witch hunt based on the murder of Pathmanabha and his colleagues.

It is well to remember that Pathmanabha and his crowd were quislings in the hands of the Indian Government for staging mock elections in Tamil Eelam.

This treacherous attempt proved to be a miserable failure and to this day, the arch quisling, Varadarajaperumal, is being maintained in luxury at the expense of the Indian Government.

# Post Bag

## Unity amongst the Tamil militant groups

Sachi Sri Kantha in his book review of "Broken Palmyra" notes: "Authors also agonise about the inability of many Tamil militant groups to unite under one leadership. This is a valid point and all the peace loving Eelam Tamils also ponder about this disunity." What did the Unity at Thimbu achieve? How can one hope for a group strictly following self restraining moral principles and groups who do not follow any moral principle at all to unite? How can a group fighting to save its people unite with groups that join hands with the very enemies who kill innocent people in their thousands? EPRLF and ENDLF joined hands with the IPKF. This army's atrocities against the Tamil people is more than well

known throughout the world. I will just refer to only two incidents where this so called peace keeping army showed its brutality against the ordinary Tamil people. When they broke into the Jaffna Hospital, they shot at random killing innocent doctors, nurses, attendants and patients. This shameless force dropped bombs at the Chavakachcheri market square at 11.00 am - the peak time in the market - killing ordinary innocent Tamils.

Now PLOTE, TELO and EPDP are fighting alongside the Sri Lankan army who are carrying on, without a shadow of a doubt, a genocidal war. The government agent, Jaffna, tried his best to stop the artillery shell attacks from army camps

and naval boats which, besides causing death and destruction, is causing very dangerous psychological effect on the people, especially women and children. This type of attack was not carried out by the Sri Lankan forces in Sihala Rata during their fight against the JVP, nor is the Indian army doing this in Punjab, Kashmir or Assam, although they too did this in Eelam which later prompted Ranhan Wiyeratne to say: "We are doing what the Indians did." If Tamils, wouldn't they have pleaded with the Sri Lankan government and stopped at least this type of attack?

In any case, all these other so called militant groups all put together will not even be ten per cent of the total LTTE strength. EROS which followed certain high principles have now joined the Tamils.

In fact, the Eelam Tamils are happy that they are left with only a single party to fight for their freedom, unlike Afghanistan, Cambo-

dia, South Africa etc. The Sri Lankan forces and the Colombo press is trying to create another misconception in the Tamil minds. Sometime back, the forces dropped a leaflet saying: "Tiger Anna I am hungry, Tiger Anna because you are taking all the food that the government sends me" Later, one of the Colombo papers reported that half the food items going to the North are highjacked by the Tigers. Now, if the taking away of food items for, say, thirty five or forty thousand Tigers from a lot sent for the consumption of a thousand thousand (a million) people will it make a dent at all on the lot? But if you say the Tigers take it to stock, surely the Tigers will be always carrying a stock for maybe three months and three times thirty five or forty will only be 105 or 120 thousand. Surely the Colombo press and the Sri Lankan forces have not lost their brains completely?

S Alagatatnum,  
Kerudavil, Eelam.

## Namaskarams

We were able to unload the used clothes given by our devotees in London when we were there.

SCOT has donated £250 as freight.

We are in touch with the refugees.

We are indeed grateful to all our good friends and devotees who have helped us in many ways.

Life here is full of stress and strain.

Last week there were two aerial attacks close to our Sevashrama and, in one, two people died on the spot.

The navy is damaging civilian boats in the night who cross the waterway to come to Jaffna.

This is the only way open to us.

In fact, I also travelled by this risky route.

Yours in the Lord  
Swami Chidrupananda

## S.Thiagarajah writes from Jaffna about

# Goings on in Colombo

Mr Premadasa is reported to have stated recently that it was the UNP that came after him to accept the Presidential candidature and that the would-be aspirants were reluctant to accept same through fear.

On the face of no denial by anybody else, it could be reasonably assumed that Mr Premadasa's statement is correct. Presidential candidature was thrust on him by the UNP hierarchy because of the prevailing JVP situation at that time.

Recent indirect statements by the former President J.R. Jayewardena too seem to strengthen Premadasa's contentions. J.R. stated that it was the sending away of the IPKF which resulted in the present grave situation. He said that the IPKF was inducted to prevent bloodshed. The shedding of whose blood? He does not mind the blood being shed of the Tamils as well as that of the IPKF. A statesman always evolves ways and means of eliminating the bloodshed of all.

But J.R. wanted Sinhalese blood not to be shed. What a sadistic attitude? J.R. was quick to respond when Mr Athulathmudali was allegedly injured at Kawdana junction in Mount Lavinia whilst collecting signatures with his stalwarts there.

There are various versions of this incident. One is that he was injured and hospitalised and the other

is that he was assaulted with a stick on his legs. Whatever it was, Mr and Mrs Jayewardena were prompt to pay a visit to Mr Athulathmudali on the same day. This call reveals where his affinity lies.

### Sadism at its highest

Mr J.R. Jayewardena recently sent a Letter of Demand through his lawyers to Mr Dayan Jayetileke for writing something allegedly demamatory of him. But this letter could not be served on Mr Jayetileke. During the interim period Lt Gen Kobbekaduwa and others were killed by the Tigers. Mr Dayan Jayetileke attended the funeral of Kobbekaduwa. During the disturbances that came in the wake of the funeral he was severely manhandled and admitted to hospital. Mr Jayewardena made use of this opportunity to serve this Letter of Demand on the bed-ridden Jayetileke. Later Mr Jayewardena came out with a statement that he had given up the intention to sue Mr Jayetileke for defamation, as he had been sufficiently punished by the "people".

A man who is callous about other people's difficulties, if allowed to talk, talks big.

At an interview given to the Sunday Times of 23 August, 1992, J.R. said: "The Buddha Dharma has profoundly influenced my thinking

and lifestyle."

Does Buddha Dharma preach that to stop bloodshed of the Sinhalese one should make the IPKF shed the blood of the Tamils and themselves? What heights of sadism and hypocritical Dharma? Does Buddha Dharma preach that one should burn educational institutions and public libraries? Everyone knows that it was during his reign that our valuable Public Library, the best in Asia, was burnt. In fact, Mr Jayewardena has admitted recently at a meeting held at Hotel Oberoi that he knew a high-ranking Public Officer who set fire to the Jaffna Library, "now working as a Senior Executive at Lake House".

### Revaya

The Sinhala journalist "Revaya" has trotted out a new theory. It says the recent "Operation Earthquake" was an eyewash and has nothing to do with the plan prepared by Denzi Kobbekaduwa. His intention was to capture Jaffna and the plan was code-named "Janakirthy" and was to have been launched on 14th August, 1992, had it not been for Kobbekaduwa's killing by Tigers.

His plan was for battalions to proceed through Araly to Manipay. With the conjunction of these battalions, they were to start attack on Jaffna Town. This report gives a clue that "Revaya" was privy to Military secrets and that such top secret information was available to all and sundry.

This information also lends colour to the view how the media in the South rouses the masses and tends

to mislead them. When they discover that the war is not going the way they want, they rouse the public passions and point out that the Army has failed to attack and capture Jaffna.

It shows scant regard for high casualties that could occur. Apart from the high loss of Tamil civilians that would occur in the wake

of such an offensive, it would also cost the Sinhala youths dearly. The Sinhala youths have now learnt a lesson. The promise of easy loot is not incentive enough to attract them into military service, as was proved by the absence of youth at a Recruiting Centre at Matara recently.



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Sir Winston Churchill; April 27th, 1941.



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## Scenes from Tamil Classics S.Sriskandarajah writes about the Heroic Mother

The old woman was at home fending for herself even at that ripe age. She was so old that the veins stood out on her hollow and fleshless, shrunken shoulders.

Though used to being prepared for any consequences, yet on this particular day she was eagerly expecting her only son, who had gone to the battlefield along with other village comrades, to return home victoriously.

Time ticked away and the minutes became hours; but there was no sign of her son returning. Instead there came rumours trickling, from many corners, that her son, unable to face the frontal attack of the foe, turned his back and fled from the battlefield. This was the least she expected to hear from her son whom she had all these years believed to be valiant brave and courageous.

The unpleasant rumours casting aspersions on her family honour sent shock waves through her fragile nerves and feeble veins. Now her inherent sense of shame and honour took control of her and her noble wraths blazed out and she vowed thus in front of the village folk who had congregated in the courtyard of her house: "If what I hear is true. If from the shock of battle my son has shrunk and shown his back to his foes, I shall cut off these breasts of mine that gave him suck." The vow was terrible. So saying with sword in hand and wrath in mind, she walked

as fast as her disabled limbs could take her to the battlefield in search of her dear son, who had allegedly brought disgrace and dishonour to her family of valiant warriors. At the field of the battle which was red with the gore of the dead, she rolled and turned with her bony and rigid fingers every trunk and dead body searching eagerly for her son. At last she saw her son's mangled corpse with all its limbs severed by the army of the foe. At that moment her joy knew no bounds. The fact that her son was no more and that she had become an orphan did not occur to her. The fact that the rumours she had heard had been proved untrue gave her such immense pleasure, that her heart rejoiced far more than it did on the day she gave birth to him. Such was the hallmark of Tamil Womanhood two thousand years ago. Once again that ideal womanhood has been born in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

Those of us who had the benefit of learning Tamil Literature a few decades ago found it difficult to believe that there could have existed mothers of such valour, gallantry and bravery who treasured in their motherland more than their own possessions including their own flesh and blood. But the recent events in Tamil Eelam during the last twelve years have proved that we have to believe every word of what is contained in our Tamil Literature.

## THE DONKEY in the TIGER SKIN

This is an Indian folk tale, though I guess that it has its origins from Aesop's Fables.

There was once a washerman who owned a donkey which had grown weak due to lack of food.

One day, the washerman saw a dead tiger while wandering in the forest.

He got an idea to stitch the tiger skin on the donkey to fool the farmers so that the beast could feast on the barley fields at night.

The plan worked for a while and the donkey ate barley meal heartily while the farmers were scared to come near the "tiger".

Once the donkey heard the bray of a female member of its species and feeling happy, it returned the bray.

That braying noise alerted the farmers and they did not waste much time in killing the "tiger-lookalike".

The washerman learnt a lesson that some animals in the world should be left as they were created, rather than attempting to camouflage them to "look ferocious".

Sachi Srikantha

# Iyal, Isai, Nadagam

## Pannum Bharathamum

The West London Tamil School, operating at Greenford and Wembley, presented an evening of Pannum Bharathamum at the Acton Town Hall on Saturday, 17th October, 1992. The programme opened with the WLTS Orchestra comprising about a dozen students with an average of nine or ten. Their performance was prompt and very appealing.

The orchestra item was followed

by the main item for the day - "Pannum Bharathamum" - a Bharatha Natyam Programme set entirely to Pann Isai or music of Pann. Pann Isai belongs exclusively to the Tamils and originated from the great Saiva Saints who sang the hymns and poems with melody and rhythm long before the period of Carnatic music. It is said that each of our great Saiva Saints had various encounters with God himself and spontaneously

sang the hymns on God Shiva. It is also believed that Pann Isai was the base for the Carnatic Music which was propagated by Saints such as Saint Purandara-Dasar considered to be the architect of Carnatic Music.

When we hear of Jaffna we hear of war, electricity/power cut, and exodus of humans. Amidst all these constraints, life goes on in Jaffna. Some of the dancers have graduated in Bharatha Natyam and obtained their diplomas as recently as in 1983. Some have taught in Jaffna as recently as two years ago - in 1990 - and have come over to the UK. It is therefore a great spectacle indeed to see all these Jaffna Dance Graduates gather together on the same stage in a grand performance, to perform Abhinaya to the Pan Iru Thiru Murai. It must be emphasised that if not for the sponsorship of this performance by the WLTS and the untiring efforts of its parents, governors, the Head Teacher and all other Teachers the London audience would not have been able to enjoy this rare treat. The WLTS staged Natya Gana Brindham in March this year which was a collection of dances performed to Thiru Palli Eluchchi (songs sung at Dawn) by Saint Manickavasagar. Encouraged by the response for Natya Gana Brindham the WLTS ventured on Pannum Bharathamum which was a collection of dances performed to the twelve Thiru Mura is (twelve Holy Scriptures) a compilation of hymns sung by Appar, Suntharar, Navukarasar, Manickavasagar, Thiru Malihai Thevar, Senthanaar, Thirumoolar, Serkizhar and Arunagiri Nathar.

A garland of sacred hymns by Mathini Sriskandarajah

## Panisai Paamaalai

Lovers of the South Indian music living in and around London should be grateful to and congratulate Mathini Sriskandarajah for the excellent music she has encapsulated in her audio cassette of Tamil sacred hymns she released at London Sri Murugan temple under the auspices of Kalaimaani Pannisai Kalanithi S Muthu Kanthasamy Desigar, Thiruppananthal, Kasimadam, Thiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

an excellent source of South Indian political history, literature and culture.

We ordinaries know and practice only a few scores of the tens thousand sacred compositions leaving the rest of the gems to fall into disuse. This is an unfortunate and lamentable situation.

The audio cassette *Pannisai Paamaalai* by Marthini is of outstanding quality by reason of the fact that her rendition of the hymns is of such high professional stand-



Mathini Sriskandarajah B.A. (MUSIC)

ard. How nicely the chosen hymns have been rendered is evident from the prefatory words spoken by Kalai-Maamani Muthukandasamy Desigar which precede the singing in the cassette.

I will be failing in my duty as a commentator/reviewer if I omit to make mention of the exemplary performance of the accompanying artists, Somasundaram Desigar on the Miruthangam, Bangalore Prakash on the Gadam, Dr (Mrs) Lakshmi Jayan on the violin have done their very best to make the vocal rendition a great success. I know not how to praise Yarl T Seelan, a great Veena player in his own right, who did the recording of the hymns in his own studio.

I am confident that *Pannisai Paamaalai* which is a rare and valuable cassette will find a sure place in all the households whose inmates have an ear for soothing and pleasing music.

TPK Menon



and Smt Thushyanthi's "Kunitha Puruvamum Kovvai Chev Vayum". Almost all the dancers performed well and joint dances - "Siva Shankara Stuthi", "Punha Nadai", "Kavadi Dance", and "Thissana were very popular and were greatly enjoyed by the audience.

The Pannum Bharathamum is another dream come true for snt Dhalasundari Parenthaman an unrivalled exponent of Pann Isai. She has been decorated and conferred with prestigious titles such as "Sangeetha Rathinam", and "Pann Isai Mani". One must listen to her songs to appreciate the richness of the hymns sung by our Saints and the dedication which she injects into her songs. In the words of my twelve year old daughter to listen to the plain singing without any

musical accompaniments of Mrs Parenthaman is like eating full cream ice cream on a hot summer day, and to list to it with the musical accompaniments of Sri Muthu Sivarajah (Miruthangam), Smt Lakshmi Jayan (Violin), Smt Suthamathi Sri Satkunam (Veena), Sri Kandiah Sithampanathan (Morsing), Sri Yasaskara Sharma (Kadam), Sri K Jananayagam (Flute), Sir Bala Ganesh (Ganjira), is like adding chocolate sauce and nuts to the ice cream, and to watch the seven brilliant dancers perform to this singing and accompaniments is like adding a piece of rich cake to the said ice cream. I totally agreed with her! reviewed by Wimal Sockanathan

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# People & Events

## Deaths

*Death Notices and Obituaries in the Tamil Nation are published free of charge as a service to the Tamil diaspora - dispersed as they are across many lands and distant seas. Notices and Obituaries for publication may be sent direct to the Tamil Nation in UK at P.O. Box 373, Croydon, Surrey CR9 6AB, fax (081) 681 3657.*

**P Mylvaganam**, Husband of Mangayathkarasi, son of late Periyathambi and Nesamani of Sangarathai son-in-law of late Sinnathamby and Sivakolunth of Vaddukodai, brother of Ponnambalam, Vivekanathan, Nadaneswary, Rajeswary (all of UK), Vipulanathan (Puttalam) and late Puvaneswary and brother-in-law of Linda, Leela, Maheswaran, Mahendrarajah (UK) Sithprathevy, Ratnasabapathy, Parameswaran, Ambikaipahan, late Kamalambikai Jayasrikanthan (Canada) and Kailanathan (UK), expired in London on 4th November. (85 Bedington Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.)

**Namasivayam Sabaratnam**, Principal Emeritus of Jaffna Hindu College, beloved husband of Leelavathy, father of Sivambikai Jegadason, Dr Sivakumaran (Consultant Physician, General Hospital, Jaffna), Vamadevan (City Office, Hatton National Bank), Somanathan (Australia), Rajakumari (National Development Bank), passed away in Jaffna on 22nd November 1992. Cremation took place on 23rd November. 110 Anbalavanar Road, Jaffna.

**T Sivasithamparam**, Ex MP for Vavuniya, died of a heart attack on 9th November 1992 in Toronto. He is survived by his second wife (the first having predeceased him in 1987) and five children - Sugumaran, Srikanthan, Sivakumar, Vanetha, Vasanthuban and Kanchana Ranjan.

**H E Arulampalam** (90), Teacher, Hartley College, Pt Pedro for over 40 years, brother of late Mrs C P Thamotheram, late T P H Arulampalam (Teacher, Jaffna College) and Mrs R W M Walton of 12 Hildon Place, Colombo - died peacefully in Jaffna.

**Balachandran Kandiah** of Karainagar, son of late Dr Shanmugam Kandiah and Mrs Sellammah Kandiah and brother of Vasanthakumary, Rajeswary, Suntharalingam, Puvaneswary, Jegatheeswary, Vijayakumary and late Shanmugaratnam, and brother-in-law of R Satkunarajah, S Thayakaran and N Vinobawe, expired on 7th November 1992.

The funeral took place at Tinnevely North, Jaffna.

**Santhirasegaram Mrs Nallammah** of Columbuturai, Jaffna, beloved wife of late Mudalyar Santhirasegaram, mother of Mrs Kamaladini Mahadeva (UK), Thiyagarajah (Canada), Dr Mrs

Rajaluxmy Thevarajakone (UK), Mrs Mennambikai Thilakanathan and Mrs Maheswary Sivaloganathan (Colombo) and mother-in-law of late Mahadeva, Mrs Jayadevi Thiyagrajah, Dr Thevarajakone, Thilaganathan and Sivaloganathan, expired after a brief illness.

Cremation took place at the Hindu section, General Cemetery, Kanatte, on 5th November 1992.

No 23, 32nd Lane, Wellawatte.

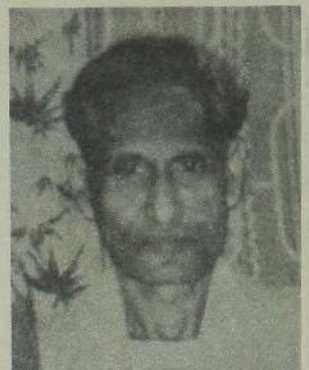
**Shermila Bastiampillai**, daughter of late Pius Bastiampillai and Rajes, sister of Krishanthan and Manj%, passed away in Canada.

3170 Golden Orchard Drive, Apt 101, Mississauga, Ontario L4Y 3G8

**Nesamany Ponniah**, wife of late N K Ponniah (Ret'd Station Master), mother of Dr Kulasegaram (Christomb% Farm), De Gnanasegaram (Canada), Vickneswary Gnanenthiran, Gnaneswary Sundaeswaran (Australia). Cremated, Kanatte, 29 November.

**M A Rasiah**, retd Headmaster, Illavalai, beloved husband of Grace Nagaratnam, father of Sathianathan (Watford), Packiarajah (Kaluwanchikudi), Bhawani Stella (Dubai), Shanker (New Malden), Nanthini Theresa (Mathagal), Logan (Watford) and Ranjini Emilda (Markham, Canada), died under tragic circumstances in Illavalai on September 18. (40 Hillingdon Road, Garston, Herts WD2 6JG.)

**Pearl Nathaniel** nee Joseph, wife of Dr W R N Nathaniel, retd Director Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila, mother of Shiranee (University of Peradeniya) and Ranjit of Light-house Mission, sister of Dr P A P Joseph, retd Surgeon, Kandy, died October 16 under tragic circumstances. (496/1 Peradeniya Road, Kandy).



**Mr. Selvaratnam** of Lawton Road, Manipay. Loving husband of Thilagawathy and brother of Mr T Kandasamy JP (Australia) and Mr P Rajaratnam (Australia), expired after a brief illness on 15.10.92.

Mr Selvaratnam was a retired Inspector of Co-Operative Societies and Administrative Secretary, Sri Lanka National Co-Operative Council, Jaffna Branch. He was also the President of Manipay "Marumalarchi Manram". Funeral took place at Manipay on 16.10.92. (sent by Haran - 12B Byegrove Road, London SW19 2AY).



**Ruby Santhiramalar Navaratnasingam**, former Vice-Principal of Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna was called to eternal rest on 9th November, 1992.

A daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J A Navaratnasingam of Asirwatham Lane, Jaffna, she leaves behind sisters Pearl, Poovathy, Kamala, Bimala and Susila, brother Gandhi, sister-in-law Ranji, brothers-in-law Samuel Supramaniam and Paramothayan, nieces Harriet, Shanthi, Brinda and Chryshantia, and nephews Godwin, Ahilan, Ajanta, Rabindra, Sajith, Arjunan and Sanjeevan.

A Requiem was held at St Alban the Martyr, Treboeth, Swansea on 14th November, 1992, at which Dr K Paramothayan paid the tribute.

He referred specifically to her long career as a graduate teacher at Vembadi during which time she obtained the post-graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

She taught for a year in England before returning to Vembadi, where she distinguished herself not only as an able administrator and keen member of office-bearer in the YWCA and SCM, but also in the fields of sports, dramatics and the Girl Guides Association of which she was District Commissioner for a time.

Having opted for early retirement in 1972, she taught for about ten years in Zambia. She had her early education at Chundikuli Girls' College, the Jaffna Convent and Jaffna College, where she was a keen and dedicated student.

An outstanding badminton player, she had not only won the much coveted University Championship as an undergraduate, but had been a runner-up in the national competitions. Ruby's three outstanding qualities were her dedication to her many duties, her organisational skills and her absolute faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour, Dr Paramothayan observed.

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**Dr P S Alageswaran**: The death occurred on 10th November at the Rochester Hospital of Dr Alageswaran, son of the late Senator Perisunderam and Mrs Sunderam and husband of Ratneswary. Alage, as he was popularly known, was born on 4th July 1928. He obtained his MBBS (Ceylon) in 1955. He came to the UK in 1974 to take up his first appointment at Joyce Green Hospital Dartford under the late revered Dr M S Perinpanayagam, FRCPsych. He went into General Practice in 1977 at Walderslade, Chatham, where he was much loved



and respected for his gentleness and approachability, so unusual for a former Royal Ceylon Air Force Squadron Leader (1959 - 1973)

Besides his wife, Alage leaves behind a son Krishnakumar and a daughter Shyamala, two brothers M P Sundaram, Solicitor in the UK and Jayantha Perisunderam, former Sri Lanka Ambassador to Indonesia, and two sisters Mrs Mangai Subramaniam and Mrs Saraswathy Toniappaa.

**N Sabaratnam**: The sudden death on 22nd November, 1992, of Mr Sabaratnam, former Principal of Jaffna Hindu College and later Editor of *Eelanadu*, at his home in Jaffna, is mourned by relatives, friends and old students throughout Sri Lanka and abroad. It has left a great void in the already depleted educational circle and is a great loss to the Tamil Community as a whole.

Mr Sabaratnam was a man of high intellectual integrity, an efficient kind-hearted Principal, and a well-respected and devoted teacher. He was an ebullient journalist and was well known as an eloquent after-dinner speaker. During his tenure as Vice-Principal and then Principal at Jaffna Hindu College from 1962-1971 he maintained a high standard of discipline among students and imparted an excellent all-round education through his great power of persuasion and exemplary character.

He was born on 05.12.13 and, having excelled in school, he obtained BA (London) and Post-Graduate Diploma in Education with distinction. He was vice-Principal in his home town college, Karainagar Hindu before joining Jaffna Hindu College. He was President of the Northern Province Teacher's Association in 1954 and worked hard for teachers' rights. He was later, in 1958, elected President of the All Ceylon Union of Teachers which he represented at the World Confederation of the teaching profession in London, Rome and New Delhi.

He was a devout Hindu and his talks on *Hindu Thoughts of the Day* on Radio Ceylon in the mornings will always be remembered for their lucidity and inspiration. He continued his yeoman service to the Tamil Community even after his retirement by holding the responsible post as Editor of

## Orator's 90th birthday

Old students of Skandavaro-daya College, their spouses and friends feted their much loved and greatly revered Principal, Mr C Subramanian, at a complimentary lunch on 15th November at Lola Jones Hall, Tooting, London SW17.

Born in 1902, Mr Subramanian still takes an active interest in the welfare of his former pupils not only in the UK but also in the USA and Canada. He has recently been to North America where he addressed several meetings exhorting Tamils not to forget their language and culture in spite of overwhelming alien influences. Everywhere he has gone he has pleaded with parents to speak Tamil at home, especially with their children.

## Root appeals to expatriates

The UK branch of Research Organisation of Tamil Eelam (Root) met on 7th November to discuss the Government embargo on food, fuel and medicines in the Tamil Homelands. A report was presented on the projects initiated so far to meet the challenge.

An appeal we made to all Expatriates, irrespective of their political affiliations and sympathies, to contribute to the development of their towns and villages now in ruins.

For more information please ring or write to:

Secretary, ROOT,  
8 Herm House,  
Clephane Road,  
London N1 2TP  
tel: 071-359 2834

*Eelanadu*. He is also the author of well-researched books in Tamil and English on the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

He is survived by his wife Leelawathy, daughters Sivambikai Jegadason (UK) and Rajakumari, and sons Somanathan (Australia), Vamadevan (Sri Lanka) and Dr Sivakumaran, an eminent physician in Jaffna, undoubtedly following his father's footsteps in serving his people during these turbulent and perilous times. (sent by Dr M Vetpillai FRCS, President HCOBA (UK))

# TAMIL NATION

Ana Pararajasingham reports from Sydney

## Australia to join Canada for action in Sri Lanka

The Joint Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade of the Australian Parliament has urged the Australian Government to join with the Canadian Government to seek action from multinational agencies of the UN and/or Commonwealth in the form of an international observer team to aid in the establishment of negotiations to monitor the situation in the Northern provinces of Sri Lanka, to supervise the distribution of humanitarian aid and to verify a complete arms embargo to Sri Lanka.

The recommendations have been spelt out in a report issued by the Joint Committee in December this year.

A human rights sub committee was established in March 1991 to consider and report on the Government's international efforts to promote and protect human rights.

The 218 page report of the Joint Committee, chaired by Senator Schacht, had made its recommendations after almost a year during which submissions were invited from groups within the Australian community which, because of their background, have an interest in the Human Rights situations in other parts of the world.

Public Hearings were conducted between December 1991 and June 1992. The Human Rights violations taking place in Sri Lanka are considered in some detail under chapter (7) of the report headed *The Region*.

The report identifies as central to the conflict the "massive injustice perpetrated and intensified over the years from independence onwards."

The Sinhala majority set about confining, disenfranchising and reducing the prospects of the Tamil people through a series of disenfranchisement, and standardisation of University policies and state sponsored colonisation of the homelands of the Tamil people.

"[The Sinhala majority] has sought to establish its hegemony over the Tamils of Sri Lanka with the intent to terrorise and intimidate them in to submission . . .

It was a course of conduct which eventually led to the rise of Tamil militancy in the mid 1970s."

Hot Springs, the Eelam  
Weekly, asks -

# Is Britain turning a blind eye to the plight of Eelam Tamils?

The latest decision of the UK Government to lift the ban on shipments of military ware and release certain types of military ware, such as planes, battle tanks and spares, but exclude bombs and explosives, to Sri Lanka is most unfortunate says *Hot Springs* in its editorial dated 15th November, 1992.

only in ordinary civilian life, but also in war. Sinhala "rebels" were called subversives - Tamil "rebels" are called "terrorists".

While aerial bombardment, shell attack and cannon fire are liberally practised in Tamil Eelam - such atrocities have been happily and conspicuously absent in the south against the JVP.

Though from the time of the First Colonial Secretary downwards, British Resident heads

halese, thanks to the British gift! But the decision of the UK government appears to suggest that it is not overly concerned about this responsibility.

Britain must take responsibility for the plight of the Tamils and help the restoration of Tamil Eelam, which it obliterated from the map of the world.

We recognise that governments do not look upon with favour rebellion but we must reiterate that the

**"We would call upon the UK to forget the politics of commerce and, instead, help Tamil Eelam to take its due place with the other nations of the world"**

"It is clear that the commercial interests of UK, require a lift on the ban and therefore the UK, require a lift on the ban and therefore the UK Government is not bothered that its non supply of ammunition and explosives alone is sufficient to ensue non escalation of the Tamil - Sinhala war, if it is indeed its concern.

Arms manufacture is said to be the most lucrative business in the world today. Britain cannot plead ignorance of the state of terrorism of the Baudha - Sinhala Government of the genocide it has been committing for decades - against Eelam Tamils.

The Sinhala government practices discrimination against Tamils not

have amply explained to their Home Government the existence of two different nations - occupying two different parts of the Island, Britain preferred not to see two countries - Tamil Eelam and Sinhala Rata - but created a union which has not stood the test of time.

The present blood bath in the island between the Tamils and Sinhalese is directly traceable to this.

One would in these circumstances expect Britain - the present day Britons - to do something to help the Tamils who are today being ruled by the Sin-

Government of UK at least as far as Eelam is concerned, must instead of trudging the beaten track of all governments be pragmatic and help the Tamils restore their ancient Tamil Eelam State.

We are constrained to say that turning a blind eye to its moral responsibilities is not the way out for the British Government.

Tamil Eelam is not an innovation. It is only an urge to be reborn. We would therefore call upon the UK to forget the politics of commerce and instead help Tamil Eelam to take its due place with the other nations of the world.