

# THE MORNING STAR

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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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## Director of J. C. T. A. Attends Electronics Conference

The Director of the Jaffna College Technical Institute, Mr. S. Rajanayagam attended early this month an Expert Group Meeting on Electronics at Islamabad on the invitation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Along with him was invited Dr. K. K. Y. W. Perera, Professor of Electronic Engineering of the University of Moratuwa.

The invitation was sent to them in their individual capacities. This is the fourth occasion on which Mr. Rajanayagam has been invited by the UN Agencies—Babkok (1951), Cairo (1957), Vienna (1969), Islamabad (1980).

The first two were UNESCO Assignments, the third a UNDP meeting on the Development of Telecommunication.

The Islamabad Conference surveyed the state of the Electronics Industry in ESCAP countries and sought to identify possibilities for inter country transfer of technology.

## August Weddings

### Uduvil Church

#### Kadrigamar—Gunaratnam

Mr. Nesakumar Kadrigamar, Worker of the JDCSI at Eralalai and son of Mrs. J.W.A. Kadrigamar and of the late Rev. J. W. A. Kadrigamar led to the altar Miss Elizabeth Thangarane, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Gunaratnam of Uduvil on Saturday, 23rd of August at 4-30 p. m.

The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop of the JDCSI solemnised the marriage, assisted by Rev. N. W. G. Sugunaratnam. Rev. S. Kadrigamar of the Methodist Church, Batticaloa, brother of the bridegroom, preached the homily.

#### Karalasingham—Ratnasingam

The marriage of Mr. Ranjan Gnanendran, son of Mrs. & Mrs. S. Karalasingham of Colombo and Isabel Shanthini, daughter of Mrs. D. R. Ratnasingam of McLeod Hospital, Inuvil and of the late Mr. D. R. Ratnasingam, former Physical Director of Union College, Tellippalai was solemnised at the Uduvil Church on Saturday, August 31st at 8-30 a. m.

Rev. N. W. G. Sugunaratnam officiated. Rev. A. C. Thambirajah preached the homily. Rev. Koilpillai of the Anglican Church at Vavuniya offered the concluding prayer and benediction.

### Tellippalai Church

#### Ariyaratnam—Selvaratnam

The Tellippalai Church was the scene of a wedding on 21-8-80 at 4-30 p. m. when Dr. Jeyakumar Ariyaratnam, son of Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Ariyaratnam of Nallur and Miss Sharmini Vasantha Selvaratnam, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W.

## IN MEMORIAM



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR precious son and brother  
**Gunaseelan Thambapillai**

who passed away on August 30th, 1967

"God took him home it was his will, but in our hearts he liveth still"

Ever remembered and loved by your parents and loved ones.

## Wanted Teachers

Qualification: G. C. E. Ad. Level or G. C. E. Ord. Level with 5 credits including English and Nursery Training.

Candidates with qualifications in Music, Dance, Drama, Handicrafts will be preferred. Should be willing to reside in the school hostel.

Salary: Rs. 471/- (all inclusive) plus board and lodging.

Apply before 4th September, 1980  
The Principal,  
Nuffield School, Kaitadi.

## Education — Pitman Examination

We are happy to announce that Uduvil Girls' College has been registered as a centre for holding London Pitman Examinations as from September, 1980.

New term for Short Hand and Typing, Book Keeping, and Commercial English commences on 15-9-1980. For information and application forms call at office.

PRINCIPAL  
Uduvil Girls' College

## IN BRIEF

○ The Labour Department has predicted that job vacancies in Middle East countries will diminish by the end of 1981.

V. Selvaratnam of Tellippalai were joined in holy matrimony by Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar, the Presbyter of the Tellippalai Church.

Rev. A. C. Thambirajah preached the homily.

### Tellippalai Church

#### Thurairatnam—Thambyah

The marriage of Jeyakumar, son of Mrs. D. A. Thurairatnam and of the late Mr. Thurairatnam, of Eralalai South and Pushparane, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. S. E. Thambyah of Mallakam was solemnised at the Tellippalai Church Wednesday, 20th of August.

Rev. D. R. Ampalavanar performed the nuptial ceremony. Rev. N. Subramaniam preached the homily.

## D. T. Niles Memorial Trust Fund



The Jaffna Christian Union on the occasion of the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the death of the Rev. (Dr.) D. T. Niles (17th of July) decided to set up a D. T. Niles Memorial Trust Fund to commemorate this great Christian son of Sri Lanka. The interest from this Fund will be used to grant one or more research scholarships in the field of religion and society to accredited scholars who desire to carry out their research work based either at the Jaffna University, the C.I.S.R.S., Jaffna (Ashram) or at Jaffna College.

The scholarships will be made available to scholars from either Sri Lanka, other Asian lands, or from any other part of the world. The Trust Committee will consist of the three Heads of Churches in Jaffna or their nominees (Anglican, Methodist and C.S.I.), the President & Secretary of the Jaffna Christian Union, and the Chairman and Secretary of the C.I.S.R.S., Jaffna. The Trust Committee will determine the details about the conditions of the awards.

We hope to raise at least one lakh of rupees towards this Fund in this country.

We are confident this appeal will find a ready response from Christians from all Churches in this country and abroad. The promotion of such research we are sure would have been after Dr. Niles' own heart.

Please send your generous contributions to one of the Joint Treasurers whose addresses are given below. Cheques must be made out to "D. T. Niles Memorial Trust Fund — Jaffna Christian Union". All gifts will be acknowledged.

1. The Rt. Rev. D. J. Ambalavanar, Bishop in Jaffna—C. S. I.
2. The Ven. Sam D. Horshington, Archdeacon of Jaffna—Church of Ceylon.
3. The Rev. Wesley Ariyaratnam, Chairman—North & East Methodist Synod.
4. The Rev. Joe Sarvananthan, Secretary, Jaffna Christian Union.
5. Mr. A. R. Kadrigamar, Chairman—C.I.S.R.S., Jaffna.
6. The Rev. Sam Alfred, Secretary—C.I.S.R.S., Jaffna.
7. The Rt. Rev. Cyril Abeynaike, Bishop Emeritus of Colombo.
8. The Hon. Justice Vincent T. Thamotheram, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.
9. The Rev. Celestine Fernando, General Secretary, Bible Society.
10. Mr. Alagan S. Kadrigamar, General Secretary, Colombo Y.M.C.A.
11. The Rev. James R. Ratnanayagam, Vicar, St. Michael's, Polwatte.

### Joint Treasurers

The Rev. Wesley Ariyaratnam, Lockwood House, Vembadi, Jaffna.  
Mr. A. R. Kadrigamar, Principal's Bungalow, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai.

## Naval Y.M.C.A.

### Ninth Annual Youth Camp

The 9th Annual Youth Camp of the Naval Y.M.C.A. was held at the Casurina Beach, Karainagar from 11-8-80 to 14-8-80. The Camp was directed by Mr. John Baptist.

The programme of the camp included (besides the routine items), Training in Arts and Crafts, and small scale vocational skills Quiz Contests, Swimming and Physical Fitness Competitions and a medical inspection of the campites.

A highlight of the camp was the demonstration given by Mr. V. Thevaratnam on making Christmas trees, cycle wheel axis cleaners, and brushes and brooms out of fibre.

Mr. W. N. Thevakadacham, the former Youth Work Director was the Chief Guest on the final day of the camp when parents

## IN MEMORIAM



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**K. T. EDWARD**

who passed away  
September 3rd, 1973

*Gone from us, but leaving memories,  
Death can never take away,  
Memories that will always linger,  
While upon this earth we stay,*

Affectionately remembered by  
his wife and children.  
"Selvastan"  
Chavakaccheri.

of campites and other visitors were also invited. Mr. Ananthan Arnold was awarded the shield for "The Best Camper for the year 1980".





## EDITORIAL

## A Sequence of Events not without Its Lessons

The Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC) Protest on June 5, with its tragic sequel, (the death of Trade Unionist Somapala,) the lightning strike at the Ratmalana Workshop, a General Strike planned by the JTUAC for July 21 (but advanced to July 18) and to cap all, a mob violence unleashed in Colombo Fort on August 8, under the guise of a Satyagraha Campaign, constitute a sordid sequence of events in Sri Lanka in recent months.

The Government retaliated first by clamping down an Emergency from midnight of August 16, then by a lock-out of all public servants who did not report for work on 18-8-80, (defying the government mandate) and finally by taking into custody the Secretary of the Sri Lanka Independent Trade Union Federation, and the Leader of the New LSSP and eleven other Trade Union Leaders.

The Emergency lasted for only one month but the lock-out of public servants (estimated at 40,000 officially and over a lakh unofficially) continues, with the government taking up the position that no public servant was dismissed by the state and that those who have vacated their posts may apply for re-appointment on forms that will be sent to them. The decision to re-appoint them and the conditions of their re-appointment will, of course, be left to the government.

"Don't come to the net behind nothing" is an English idiom which obviously takes its origin from the game of Tennis. Unless a person is adequately prepared and sharpens his skill before he takes a fateful step, nine times out of ten, life will deal for him a backlash, to his utter dismay.

In our view, the JTUAC was not that ready when it took the plunge. Trade Union Members have an allegiance to their Unions but a greater allegiance to the members of their family particularly at a time when even an increase of Rs. 300 per month would make only a marginal difference in their struggle for existence.

Besides, among the members of the Union, there will be those with special problems—those on their service-extension, those on the verge of a promotion, those with heavy bank loan commitments etc. etc. These categories of public servants will not be too ready to join a "strike".

Trade Union solidarity today, has also to be conceived in realistic terms. The government group itself constitutes a powerful Trade Union. The kind of integrity and single-minded purpose which characterised Trade Union membership in the past decades, cannot be expected in full measure from the members, in the present set-up when rivalry among Unions often pose the biggest threat to Trade Union solidarity.

One of the notable critics, for instance, of the Unions that sponsored the recent strike was Rohana Wijeweera, Leader of the *Janita Vimukti Peramuna* (JVP) who is reported to have told at a public meeting in Hyde Park that one lakh of workers had lost their jobs because of the irresponsible actions of the JTUAC which failed to take a clear decision on the matter.

From the reported 'appeals' made by five opposition parties—SLFP, LSSP, TULF, CP and MEP—to the government to take back the strikers without any pre-conditions, the only conclusion we could come to, is that the JTUAC strike of 18-8-80 was an attempt "to come to the net behind nothing."

By saying so, we do not mean that the government should now gloat over its success.

The spate of senseless vandalism on August 8 in Colombo Fort, the hub of the metropolis, by unknown vandals should be a poignant reminder to the government that, there are in this country 'a tribe' waiting to exploit any crisis-situation provided they could find one. It was the same story in August 1977. A communal spark in Jaffna was used to lit up the lights of a looters' carnival throughout the country.

All opposition parties have disowned any association with the incidents of August 8 in the heart of the city. The SLFP Leader, in an interview with *Sun* had said that her party had consistently opposed any form of violence to overthrow the government. The TULF has kept its hands clean on the matter. Who then went on a rampage on August 8, 1980 leaving a trail of destruction to public and private property?

The Citizens Committee for National Harmony (CCNH) in a statement it issued on 30-8-80, referring to the picketing and day of protest on June 5, makes the following comment:—

"The picketing and day of protest of June 5th were concerning the problems of the cost of living...the peaceful demonstrations were met with violent blows from unidentified sources. The opposition political parties have disclaimed any effort to overthrow the government by strikes."

June 5, July 18, August 8, are memorable dates this year in our national calendar. As a strong government with a five sixth majority in Parliament and a team of 90 Ministers of State, it is the duty of the government to initiate a probe into "the unidentified sources" behind the sordid scenes enacted in our country, while many of the unfortunate ones as the 'strikers' are called upon to pay a heavy penalty because they are identifiable.

## For the Record

## The District Development Councils Bill

The General Council of the TULF by 82 votes to 15 decided to support the DDC at the meeting of the Council held at Vavuniya on 16-8-80.

According to the *Tribune*, after 50 years of negative boycott politics (which had successfully isolated and alienated the Ceylon Tamil community), the leadership of the Ceylon Tamils has at last taken the right direction.

The opposition TULF group of 15 was of the view that what the General Council has now accepted was much less than what they could have got in 1957 under Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake's Regional Councils Bill.

The All-Ceylon Tamil Congress has rejected the DDC Bill on the ground that the DDC set up would be detrimental to the Tamils residing outside the Northern and Eastern provinces.

The *Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna* was of the opinion that the DDC Bill should be postponed as some clauses of the Bill have grave effects on Sinhala language, Buddhist religion and on the culture of the Sinhalese people.

A delegation led by Prof. E. R. Jayasuriya, representing the Maha Sangha and lay people, met the President the day before the Bill was introduced in Parliament and pointed out among other things that (1) The use of Tamil as language of administration not only in the North and East but also in the up country areas with a Tamil Estate population was illegal (2) Demarcation of certain administration regions for the use exclusively of the Tamil language will debar the Sinhalese from settling in those regions and compel those there now to learn the Tamil Language. (3) All Buddhist Temples and shrines in the demarcated areas will be handed over to the "tender mercies" of the Tamil District Councils. (4) Receiving aid from foreign countries for specific projects may provide a very simple and most dangerous instrument by which foreign governments and interests could interfere in the domestic affairs of this country and destroy the sovereignty and independence of this country. The delegation urged that a national referendum be held before the Bill is passed

The DDC Bill was presented in Parliament by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa on 8-8-80. Amendments to the Bill were approved on 20-8-80 to comply with the Supreme Court Judgment which related to the levying of taxes by the Development Councils.

The DDC Bill was passed in Parliament on 22-8-80 by 151 votes with the TULF voting with the government and the SLFP walking out.

[Articles pertaining to the DDC Bill will be appearing subsequently in our columns.]

## Sri Lanka and her Doctors

175 doctors passed out of the two medical faculties at Colombo and Peradeniya in July this year and were expected to report at the respective hospitals assigned to them for internship on 3-9-80.

It has now been found that about 15 doctors have already left the country without serving the internship. The actual number who have migrated will only be known on 3-9-80.

A Proficiency Test held by the British Medical Council for doctors now going to Britain is not an easy barrier to 'cross'. Still, a number of young doctors have left the country without even informing the health department that they were going.

About 150 U. N. volunteer doctors who arrive in batches are now serving in the periphery on a two year contract.

Two medical faculties have been started in Jaffna and Galle and a substantial salary increase for doctors is also being considered. To what extent these new projects and incentives will improve the situation yet remains to be seen.

The Channelled Consultation Scheme remains the only hope for Sri Lankan patients.

Before the abolition of the compulsory service period for doctors, the shortage of doctors in Sri Lanka was in the region of 675.

## IN BRIEF

○ Some Strikers employed in the State Sector who forfeited their jobs on 18-8-80 and after, by participating in the abortive general strike will be, according to some reports, considered as having been compulsorily retired from service.

Allaying the fears of the Maha Sangha on many matters they raised pertaining to the working of the District Development Councils the President is reported to have said that his "long arm stretched from one end of the country to the other."

The calibre of the President's tenure as the first elected head of the Republic of Sri Lanka will depend on his ability to use his "long arm" to detect and bring to book "the unidentified forces" in this country, which are really blocking the impact of the country's accelerated thrust.

It will be a grim irony if the 'long arm' is used to suppress Trade Unions in Sri Lanka during a year which has been specifically acclaimed internationally as the year for the defence of Trade Union Rights.

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