

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol. 28 — No. 28 June 16, 1984 Rs. 4.00

- JUGGLERY
- PSEUDONYMS
- CRM STATEMENT
- PRIVATISATION
- PLANTATION
- FUTURES
- MILK







Govt.

Notice

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (Chap. 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT. NO. 28 OF 1964.**

Reference No. EA/5/374

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars, see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 299/8 of 29. 05. 84

**SCHEDULE**

**Situation** : In Hegoda Village in the D.R.O.'s Division of W.B.P. (South) in Galle District.

**Name of Land** : Talgahawatta

**Plan and Lot No.** : Lot. No. 1 in P.P. 1894

**A. P. Amaratunge**  
Acquiring Officer  
Galle District

The Kachcheri,  
Galle.  
Date: 24-5-1984

**Foreign Subscription Rates**

As from December 1, 1983, postal charges to foreign countries have been increased by about 40 percent. **Tribune** is therefore compelled to revise its foreign air and surface mail subscription rates with immediate effect. Though the Sri Lanka Rupee is linked to the US dollar, its day-to-day value slides on a basket of hard currencies.

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**TRIBUNE**  
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# TRIBUNE

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE COVER we have a picture of a pair of Kandyan dance type entertainers doing an act which is hard to define. Some call it acrobatic juggling or jugglery, but we would prefer to call it a straightforward display of balancing skills. The word jugglery, has sinister connotations. According to the Oxford Dictionary a juggler is a "conjurer, trickster, imposter": to juggle is to "deceive" (persons), "misrepresent" (facts) "cheat" (persons etc.), "bring about change by trickery" and so on and so forth. Juggling is a hard word, and its equivalent in Sinhala or Tamil carry even more devastating meanings and implications. *Tribune* has rarely used the word "juggling" to characterise political actions of those in power. But today, the word has come to the forefront in the grassroots groundswell outcry of public indignation against the many acts of commission and omission of this government. Street corner talk in urban areas and rhetorical outbursts by commuters in public and private transport plying for hire all over the island are full of hard words about the high cost of living and against what are regarded as governmental extravaganzas. The various synonyms of the word "juggling" are the ones most in use. Ministerial panjandrams seem to be totally oblivious to this upsurge of bitterness that has already begun to boil over what in Shakespearean idiom can be aptly called a witches' cauldron. In their ivory tower of isolation, Ministers of this government persist in riding multi-million rupee Benz cars forgetting that one of the political planks on which the UNP in opposition had brought down the last SLFP-led Government were the Benz cars used by members of the then Cabinet. The mistakes—big and small—now being made by this Administration are daily increasing. It is a mistake, for instance, to think that the Sinhalese in this country can take on the 750-800 million people in India. Some seem to think that if India "returned" the 30,000 Ceylon Tamil refugees (which would include all terrorists) the ethnic problem would be automatically solved. This is no more than a mirage or a wishful chimera. As we have pointed out on many occasions the ethnic problem can be solved, in a unified state, only if the majority is willing to accept all the minorities be they Tamil, Muslim, Burgher, Christian, Islamic and Hindu as part and parcel of Sri Lanka on terms of genuine equality not on legal quibbles. Unity in Sri Lanka can emerge and flourish only on the basis of diversity. As long as this is not made the bedrock of a Sri Lanka consciousness and as long as it is not implemented through a proper institutional framework (may be Regional Councils) there will be unity on the basis of consensus. It is also essential that all those born in this country are regarded as brothers and sisters, as human beings—in the spirit of the teachings of the Buddha, Jesus Christ, Mohamed and the Hindu Vedas. Until this happens terrorism both northern and/or southern cannot be ended, and this isle of paradise will tend to slide into a state of permanent civil strife and maybe civil war. Furthermore, the Government also seems intent on increasing its opponents in the country. Internally, a coalition of local political parties, groups and even communities can surface overnight to oppose the UNP on issues that may seem fragile or even irrelevant to the VIPs in the government. A Government, whatever the high quality of the rhetoric indulged in by some Ministers or the correctness of some of its actions, can nullify all the good it has done by a blunder that is inherently counter-productive and suicidal in a political setting. We are now prevented by Censorship rules from referring to or commenting on many matters on the grounds of "internal or national security". Censorship can inhibit publication but it cannot stop word of mouth propaganda and comment. In fact censorship only adds fuel to a burning issue. The last role *Tribune* would aspire to play is that of Cassandra—foretelling of an inevitable dismal fate for Sri Lanka. What we would like to do is to project the consequences of certain policy decisions. Censorship prevents us from doing this in the way we would like to.



## Mad or Stupid?

*Tribune* joins the growing countrywide protest against the proposed amendment to the Press Council Act to ban the use of pseudonyms. Elsewhere in this issue we publish the long and well-argued statement issued by the Civil Rights Movement (CRM)... It points out that the proposed amendment violates the fundamental right of the freedom of expression: that it is contrary to the provisions of Article 14 (1) (a) of the Constitution and further that under our Constitution it cannot become law unless passed by 2/3rd of the Members of Parliament and subsequently approved at a Referendum. *The Island* and the *Sun*, among the English language dailies, have pointed out that this amendment to banish pseudonyms from our newspapers, periodicals and other publications will make a mockery of the fundamental right of the freedom of expression.

**There is an old Greek adage that those whom the Gods seek to destroy, they first make mad. Sri Lanka can now contribute an amendment to this: that those who seek to destroy themselves the Gods first make stupid.** Who but the most doltish could have conceived of a law of this kind? Is it not a remedy worse than the imagined disease? It is a law that cannot be implemented except by throwing a total blanket over the right of free expression as it has grown up among free people in democratic countries. Or is the law intended to identify persons to be intimidated or assaulted and thereafter silenced?

*The Island* in an editorial on June 8, 1984 said: 'If anybody had been under the illusion that the move to prohibit the use of pseudonyms in newspapers was an isolated peccadillo or individual phobia of somebody in power that illusion has now been dispelled with the proposal receiving the imprimatur of the Cabinet... It will shortly come up before Parliament and given the composition of the present Parliament, it will in the course of time become the law of the land. Yet another blow would have been struck at the Freedom of the Press and the Freedom of Expression by an Administration which, paradoxically enough, was in the vanguard of the campaign against the Press Council, which will be used as the instrument for the taming of the press. What is the justification for this fresh inroad into the Freedom of the Press? The Minister of Justice who has presented the proposal to the Cabinet has claimed that in recent times there had been irresponsible statements published in newspapers under pseudonyms and that therefore this amendment to the Press Council law was necessary. No one would be naive enough or gullible enough to swallow this ministerial rationalisation... If irresponsible or libellous statements are made in newspapers there is recourse

both through the Press Council Law as well as the ordinary Law of Libel for an aggrieved party to seek legal remedy... In this context, to say that draconian measures are needed to insulate public figures from what are described as irresponsible statements is a pretence unworthy of the Government.

"The amendment makes it mandatory for a newspaper accepting any article or report for publication to find out the name of the writer. This practice already exists among newspapers. No newspaper will publish anything which has not been signed or whose authenticity has not been verified. Even a person who tips off a journalist on the telephone is required to reveal his identity and his *bona fides* are checked and cross-checked before the information that is thus given is used. Therefore to require a newspaper to establish the identity of a writer or reporter before whatever that person has written is published, is a gratuitous bid to police the press when no such need exists. "What then is the justification for using a pseudonym or not revealing the identity of a writer, it can well be asked. Quite apart from the fact that the use of pseudonyms in newspapers is a cherished journalistic practice which has not been challenged anywhere else in the world, the answer is that there are circumstances where a writer cannot reveal his identity without exposing himself to physical danger or official reprisals. Take the case of a newspaper reader who is a Government servant. He is aware of some act of fraud in his department or elsewhere in the Government sector or he feels strongly about an issue of public interest. He writes a letter to the editor but under a pseudonym for his position as a Government servant will be jeopardised if his identity is revealed. The proposed legislation will remove that immunity.

"Some of those who have reported the Cabinet decision have referred to it as a move to end 'seeking shelter behind pseudonyms'. This is a shabby deception. It is not a case of journalists seeking shelter but protecting themselves as well as their contacts for, as we have said before, threatening journalists, or worse, will be child's play to anybody so inclined in a country where not even Supreme Court Judges have been immune from rowdy hordes. This in fact will be the ultimate effect of the new legislation and its concealed aim. It will tie the hands of independent journalism by exposing those who engage in honest writing to the threat of reprisals. The effect will in fact extend beyond professional journalists. Readers who write to the newspapers too will be caught up. Those who dare to speak out will be exposed to a hundred threats and blandishments, arm-twisting and even physical violence. And it is not too much of an Orwellian nightmare to say that the day will not be far off when journalists will be called upon to reveal their sources of information as well because this will be the logical extension of the present legislation. *The Island* urges the Government



not to go ahead with this draft legislation if it does not wish to expose itself to the charge of trying to twist the arms of the media and ensure an insipid and colourless media."

On Sunday, June 10, *The Island* published an interview with Minister Anandatissa de Alwis: "Minister of State, Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis, told the *The Island* that if the proposed law banning pseudonyms from newspapers was in force during the time when he was a young journalist, the popular 'Broken Hearts' column which he and Mr. Pieter Keuneman, former Minister of Housing and Construction had contributed to the *Ceylon Daily News* could not have been published. Recalling the popularity of that column with nostalgia he said, "Both of us, Pieter and I, enthusiastically devoted all our youthful energy to produce it. The column could have lost its public appeal if the authors' names were published'. With a tinge of sadness in his voice, Dr. de Alwis said, 'Broken Hearts' columns had become an essential ingredient in newspapers and admitted that it would look 'quite absurd' if the names and addresses of men and women asking those personal questions were revealed.

"Asked whether a one paragraph report of the day's weather should carry the writer's name, the Minister said, 'According to the conditions of the proposed suppose you must have it.' In answer to the question, 'Will that not look very absurd?', he replied, 'Yes, I think so.' Dr. de Alwis also explained that newspaper editorials must carry the writer's name. Those who write popular columns under various pen-names should also reveal their identity. Even though some of the 'mystery' surrounding these newspaper articles will then disappear, 'the names have to be printed because it will be a legal requirement.' He admitted that as a result of the proposed legislation some popular columns may even disappear completely, liked by many including himself.

"Asked to comment about the proposed law he said, 'I better not.' What about the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) and Independent Television Network (ITN)? Will they come under the proposed amendments to the Press Council Act? Dr. de Alwis replied that it will have to be so. He would ask the two television networks to have the name of reporters in their news telecasts. However, he saw some 'serious' difficulties in announcing the name of the reporter who covered each item broadcast over the radio. When asked 'Will not the reading of names in this manner look most absurd on radio?' the Minister replied, 'I think so. But the law must be obeyed and even if it is absurd it will have to be done' . . . ."

*It would be useful to remind the powers that be in the country that the July 1983 episode had given a bad image to the government and the country all over the*

*world. The burning and looting in Colombo was bad enough but the killing of 52 prisoners in jail is a blot that cannot be wiped out for a long long time. And not content the Government has now proposed a pseudonym law which would make Sri Lanka the laughing stock of the democratic world.*

*We will have more to say on this matter in the coming weeks.*

X X X

CRM STATEMENT

## THE PROPOSED ANTI-PSEUDONYM LAW

According to the newspapers the Minister of Justice Mr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne is proposing to the Government an amendment to the Press Council Law under which any proprietor, printer, publisher or editor of any newspaper publishing anonymous or pseudonymous articles or reports shall be guilty of an offence, liable to be punished with a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding two thousand rupees or both. Such an amendment violates the fundamental right of freedom of speech, expression and publication enshrined in Article 14(1) (a) of our Constitution and under its provisions cannot become law unless passed by 2/3rd of the Members of Parliament and subsequently approved by the people at a referendum.

Under the Newspapers Ordinance no person shall print or publish any newspaper in this country without making a written declaration to the Registrar of Newspapers in a prescribed form specifying the title of the newspaper, where it is to be printed and also the true name and place of abode of all persons intended to be the printer, the publisher and the proprietor. Any changes are also required to be registered. This provision has been made to enable criminal or civil proceedings to be instituted by any party aggrieved against the printer or publisher of a newspaper, which also includes the Editor, in respect of any violation of the rights of others or any infringement of the law. What then is the necessity for the proposed amendments?

**Cornerstone of democracy.** Freedom of speech and of the press are the foundation of all democratic societies for without free political discussion, no public education, so essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government, is possible. As has been said in a well known American case, *Thornhill vs The State of Alabama (1940) 310 v 388 84 Law 1098*: "The safeguarding of freedom of speech and the press to the ends that men may speak as they think on matters vital to them and that falsehoods may be exposed through the process of education and discussion is essential to free government". A free and untrammelled press is an essential instrument for free speech and



expression. In this connection we can do no better than quote from the submissions made under the signatures of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and a distinguished team of lawyers headed by Mr. H. W. Jayewardene Q.C. to the Constitutional Court objecting to the enactment of the Press Council Bill by the previous government, a Bill which was also opposed by the CRM:

1. "The freedom of the Press is the essence of liberty and this is the source of all other liberties. If this freedom is suppressed, restrained or controlled, then the foundation for autocracy is laid. Freedom of expression and freedom of speech is the basis of freedom of thought. Speech is the institution by which man gives expression to his right to think freely. If therefore the freedom of speech is affected it would equally affect the freedom of thought. In such a context an examination of the structure of the Press would show that it is an institution created by a developed society to convey the thoughts of the people. It also provides the material for other people to think and form their own opinion. This is of fundamental importance. 2. It is submitted that there are two priorities involved in the concept of freedom of speech, namely (a) the source from which the communication issues and (b) perhaps the more important one, the recipient of the communication. The freedom to express one's thoughts is confined to a few compared to the wider circle to which the freedom of expression is extended in so far as the recipient is concerned, namely the community. 3. "It is in the freedom of the recipient that public opinion has its birth. The Press provides the data by which such opinions find their fullest expression. Therefore it is man's right as the recipient of information to look to as many sources of information as he likes; and it is equally the duty of the Press which provides the information to seek it from as many sources as possible. If however, the sources of information become concentrated in one, or restricted to a few bodies, then the formation of ideas is limited. It is in such circumstances only proper that the source of information available to the public should be enlarged rather than restricted; therefore, there can be no justification for interference with the freedom of the Press."

If, having the above principles in mind, we examine the proposed amendment, we find that it imposes unwarranted restrictions on the freedom of the Press. We shall examine this matter further under three heads: news reports, letters to the press by citizens and articles.

**Inhibiting effect.** News reports have their source in reporters who go out, gather news and then prepare reports for publication. Let us take the instance of a reporter gathering news which is of public importance but is discreditable to an important Minister of Government, or to a powerful official, or to the management of a public corporation which has influential connections or to someone in the Police,

Army or Customs or Immigration or Emigration Department. He could be inhibited from reporting the true facts if his name is to be published in the newspaper as the person who collected the news, because he could have a reasonable fear of reprisal. His freedom to report the true news would thereby be affected by the proposed amendment. The editor of the newspaper, if he is a man of principle, may authorise the inclusion of this news item in the newspaper without exposing the reporter to any risk of reprisal and thus decide to impart to the public important information which it is in their interest to know. But if he is a timid person, he may himself fear that the consequences of publication may be personally had for him and he may not publish the news at all.

This situation can become all the more important in the case of investigative journalism, such as found in the articles by INSIGHT teams in the *Observer* (UK) or in the *Sun* (Sri Lanka). Such investigations are often directed towards the exposure of various alleged misdeeds and rackets—crime, such as drug-peddling or extortion, financial and business rackets, corruption and inefficiency in government departments or state corporations etc. To require that the names of the journalists entrusted by the editor with such investigations be given in the reports and analysis that are finally published is to expose those individuals to retaliation from the powerful pressure groups who have been exposed or embarrassed by thugs of the criminal underworld or by the goons of politicians of various persuasions. This may result in attacks even on the homes and families of such journalists or in forms of more subtle victimisation by the government. If the expose is of the police, journalists and their families may feel under threat from the police in the localities where they live. The present proposal will this inhibit investigative journalism.

**Citizens' letters.** The situation in the case of letters written by members of the public to the press is similar. A person may send a letter to the press criticising something related to social, cultural, educational or political aspects of life in this country. But he may not desire to expose himself to any reprisals as a result of his name being made known to the person, group or movement he is criticising. Therefore, he may want the letter published under a pseudonym and it is so published. There may be contradictions of this or observations from other citizens also published in the press. The citizens then have an opportunity to come to a conclusion in their judgement as to the truth of the matter. These matters are all important not only for them to exercise their votes properly at various elections but also for them to exercise influence over the persons elected by them.

**Articles.** The same arguments apply to articles published in the newspaper, individual articles or regular columns. A writer of an article in the news-



papers may not want his name published for the foregoing reasons though his article contains matter which the public should know. Apart from this, writers have down the centuries written articles, stories, reviews to the newspapers under pseudonyms or pen names so that persons reading the articles may concentrate on what the article says and arrive at their conclusions without being prejudiced one way or other by looking at the name of the author. What is important to the public is what is said, not who said it. It is also the practice of all newspapers to use depersonalised titles such as "Political correspondent", "Lobby correspondent", "business correspondent", "Special correspondent", "Sports commentator" etc. Even though different journalists may write such columns from week to week, yet continuity is maintained by this method. What conceivable harm can there be in this practice? Sri Lankan journalism has been considerably enriched by columnists such as Sooty Banda, Flybynight, Atticus, Alice, Tatler, Jay Quill, Janus, Candida etc., and in the national language press by Ukussa etc. The reading public also had the benefit of other professionals who wrote learnedly on subjects within their competence, but did so under pseudonym Lex, Ficus, Agricola, Adonis, Dinar. We wonder how many of these journalists and other professional commentators would have chosen to write their trenchant sarcastic pieces or informed and incisive essays if they had to sign their names to every column.

**Letters of Junius.** Pseudonymous political and social comment has indeed a long history. A significant case in point is the letters of Junius, published in the "Public Advertiser" in London between January 1769 and January 1772. The principal aim of these letters was to discredit the government in power at that time and to draw attention to what was considered the undesirable political influence of George III. Junius was extremely careful to preserve his anonymity. He once wrote to his publisher: "I must be more cautious than ever, I am sure I should not survive a discovery three days". His success is attested to by the fact that the authorship of these letters is still a matter of dispute.

That the fears we have expressed regarding the inhibiting effects of the proposed new laws on free expression of opinion in the press are not idle is also borne out by the submissions of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene to the Constitutional Court to which we have referred earlier. To quote: "Freedom of speech requires courage. If a person who gives information is timid or is reluctant to give facts then the formation of public opinion is restricted. The placing of any restrictions on the communication of data and opinion as hitherto communicated to the public is a matter which merits the closest attention of any tribunal." In this context it is unarguable that the proposals referred to are an infringement of the right of free expressions.

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We have not speculated on the motives behind these proposals. However, we consider it apposite to quote once again from Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's submissions to the Constitutional Court: "It is submitted that in a system of government based on universal suffrage both the issuer and recipient of information express themselves through the ballot. In such a system there is always a tendency on the part of those in power who wish to maintain their position of power, to control the publication of data and opinion, because it might ultimately affect their tenure. Therefore, it is not uncommon to see those in power hedging themselves in with restrictions on the publication of data which would be the basis for the formation of public opinion".

**Constitutional guarantee.** The preamble of the Constitution states that the mandate given by the people to their elected representatives at the elections held in 1977 was to draft and operate a Constitution which inter alia will assure to the people FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS and the INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY as their intangible heritage. Article 3 of the Constitution declares that sovereignty lies in the People and is inalienable and proceeds to clarify what is meant by Sovereignty by saying that Sovereignty includes powers of government, fundamental rights and the franchise. Article 4 of the Constitution sets out the respective organs of state to which the powers of government namely the legislation power, the executive power and the judicial power have been delegated by the sovereign people. So far as fundamental rights are concerned, the people have reserved these rights to themselves. Article 4 (d) of the Constitution says that the fundamental rights which are by the Constitution declared and recognized *shall be respected, secured and advanced* by all the organs of the government (*i.e.*, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary) and *shall not be abridged, restricted or denied save in the manner and to the extent provided in the Constitution.* The chapter on fundamental rights enumerates in Articles 10 to 14 (1) (a) to 14 (1) (i) all these fundamental rights. Article 15 sets out the various restrictions that can be imposed by law. In respect of the freedom of speech and expression including publication enshrined in Article 14 (1) (a) of the Constitution, the only restrictions that can be imposed by law are set out in subsections (2) and (7) of Article 15. Parliament cannot by its laws impose any other restrictions.

The particular amendment which it is reported the Minister of Justice is sponsoring contains an important restriction on the fundamental right reserved by the people to themselves, which restriction does not come within the ambit of the restrictions set out in Article 15 (1) and (2). The amendment violates the provisions of Article 3 which may be read with Article (4). Such an amendment has therefore to be referred to the people at a referendum for their approval before it can



become law. Under Article 82 (5), no Bill for the amendment of the Constitution shall become law unless passed by a 2/3rd majority of the members of parliament. But under Article 83 (a) of the Constitution, a Bill which is inconsistent with Article 3 of the Constitution shall become law only if the number of votes cast in favour of the Bill amounts to not less than 2/3 of the members and is also approved by the people at a referendum. It is clear that this amendment to the Press Council Law is inconsistent with Article 3 of the Constitution under which the people have reserved to themselves this fundamental right.



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE

## Jana Sugathiya

*The eight Annual General Meeting of the Jana Sugathiya was held on the 29th April, in Mount Lavinia. The outgoing President, Mrs Johana Bandaranayake, briefly dealt with the activities of the Society during 1983. The new President, Mr A. E. T. Ellawella, in his message to the members of the Society and the general public of Sri Lanka said—Dear Friend, In 1977, soon after the General Election and the change of Government, a group of civic minded Sri Lankans, totally disinterested in party politics or political power, saw the need for a permanent body or organisation of non-partisan persons, experienced and mentally equipped, capable of offering constructive criticisms and suggestions on matters of national importance to the government in power. They were prompted to think on these lines because they believed the right to exercise freedom of speech had been stifled and resulted in the party in power losing the common touch or the capacity to feel the pulse of the Nation. So under the new liberal set-up a "Society for the betterment of the people" calling itself Jana Sugathiya was set up in 1977 with Prof. P. P. G. L. Siriwardene as its first President. Over a period of time the membership rose to 166 persons but gradually the organisation began to lose direction due to various causes.*

Today more so than ever before we see the need for an active 'Think Tank'. We think it appropriate to quote from Prof. Christie Weeramantry's Convocation address at the University of Colombo in December 1983: "Political figures command a far greater proportion of media space and time than common sense would dictate. In the result a large group of persons with worthwhile opinions are shut out from public dialogue. This is the gap which in many other countries is filled by the intellectuals and we need our intellectuals to come out in assertion of their right to public communication and the media must recognize this right far more than has been the case hitherto."

In another place he also added: "If information is to run to the community in streams as pure as we can keep them, the academic community must be one of the principal channels along which it flows. Academics will no doubt have their own individual opinion superimposed upon their facts, but a high academic ethic is loyalty to truth. The facts must be presented to the public not merely in the sense of raw facts but in a considered thoughtful evaluation and analysis of these facts."

In actual fact Jana Sugathiya reflects these same ideals and we see the urgent need to infuse new life into it with a far bigger membership than we ever had. Therefore we are inviting you to join JANA SUGATHIYA in order to build up a strong body whose unbiased opinion will be worthy of consideration by ANY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN POWER. The opinions expressed by this organisation will be as from JANA SUGATHIYA and not from any INDIVIDUAL or from a power hungry person with the idea of promoting his own welfare and image. These opinions must be backed by intensive research and accurate data. We therefore need your active support to make JANA SUGATHIYA a truly NATIONAL FORUM. Jana Sugathiya is not meant to be a secret organisation of rabble rousers or a militant group of revolutionaries nor we are looking for ways and means of upsetting a government elected through the democratic process. On the contrary we are seeking to discharge a moral obligation by supporting a democratically elected government with whatever intellectual and mental resources we have at our command. It is futile for us to spend our time in arm-chair criticism or in engaging in volatile verbal insults without being able to back up our findings with accurate data. Let it not be said of us that we were so apathetic that we did not care to voice our opinions or that we had no opinion to voice.

Jana Sugathiya needs the support of responsible people with either practical experience or professional expertise in any field of work, preferably with both, to strengthen the image of the organisation at this stage. We may be ignored by the government or our findings may be treated as irrelevant but let us not be guilty of leaving undone the things that ought to be done. You will no doubt agree that we have a moral obligation which we should discharge as honourable citizens of this country at this critical moment of our history. This then is a clarion call to all those patriotic sons and daughters of Sri Lanka who though they do not want power or politics yet have the welfare of the country at heart.

There is an urgent need therefore to revive and strengthen the Jana Sugathiya membership, by enlisting the support of prospective members, both in Sri Lanka and from Sri Lankans living abroad; and in order to co-ordinate the activities of the Society consequent



on the envisioned increase in membership, a Secretariat should be established and that funds for setting up and running such Secretariat may be solicited from Sri Lankan residents and expatriates.

*A resolution to this effect was approved by the membership. For the present, until such time as the Society has its own Secretariat, inquiries as regards the activities of the Society, enrolment forms, etc. may be directed to No. 14, Carlwil Place, Colombo 3.*

x x x

## Why Did You Come This Way ?

Why did you come to haunt me  
In this far off place —  
Where the scene beyond my window  
Takes the pall of death.  
Where the skies weep,  
And the winds wail,  
Where my bones freeze,  
And my thoughts quail,  
Why did you come this way?

Why did you bring your sunshine  
And your silvered nights —  
Stirring dormant memories  
Of other times.  
Where the waves sang,  
And the palms swayed,  
When the sands laughed,  
In the sun's flame,  
Why did you come this way?

Why did you have to tell me  
Of my Motherland —  
Where in my distant childhood  
I romped and ran.  
Where my heart lives,  
And my mind dwells,  
In the purple hills,  
And the temple bells.  
Why did you come this way?

Why did you come to-haunt me  
In this far off place —  
Did you know my soul was yearning  
For my brown-skinned race.  
Yes, I know now,  
It's been too long,  
To my heart's rest,  
I'm coming home.  
I'm glad you came this way i

Lorraine.

x x x

## Survival

With silken threads  
and morning dew  
The Spiders weave  
their magic web . . . .  
Then paint the whole  
With honeyed glue,  
and wait for  
unsuspecting flies  
and inquisitive spies.  
They drag the drugged unconscious  
victims then  
Into their dark and shadowy den . . . .  
Once more the web  
is gleaming in the sun;  
The cleansing has been  
delicately done . . . .  
And nimble spiders  
motionless await  
in lonely splendour  
and in state,  
The arrival  
of inquisitive flying beasts  
Whose fair bodies  
will provide the dainty feasts.

JEGATHEESWARI NAGENDRAN

x x x



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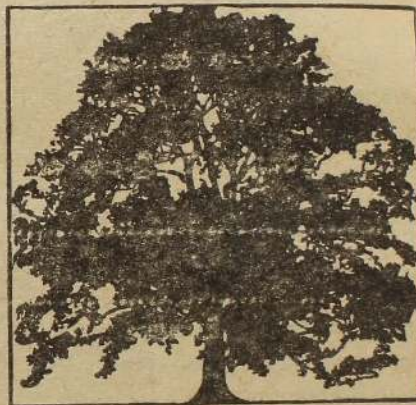
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May 7 - 20

**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA  
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-  
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

*DN*—Daily News; *DM*—Daily Mirror; *DO*—Daily Observer; *ST*—Sunday Times; *SO*—Sunday Observer; *DMN*—Dinamina; *LD*—Lankadipa; *VK*—Virakesari; *ATH*—Aththa; *SM*—Silumina; *SLDP*—Sri Lankadipa; *JD*—Janadina; *S*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RV*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Elenadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *IDPR*—information Dept. Press Release.

**MONDAY, MAY 7:** The Treasury has approved the payment of Rs. 11 million in unpaid EPF dues of the Land Reform Commission from the proceeds of land sales. India would like Japan to act on a link between the Nonaligned and western countries, Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone said yesterday after talks with his Indian counterpart Indira Gandhi—*DN*. A young Muslim woman got a rude shock on her fifth visit to the Passport Office in Galle Buck Road when she was asked, among other things, to get her long dead father's Voter's list—*DM*. Two Sri Lankan crewmen on board the Ceylon Shipping Corporation vessel "Lanka Ajith" were taken into custody by customs authorities in England after the detection of heroin worth Rs. 37 million detected on the vessel when it docked at Felixstowe port from Colombo on Friday night—*DO*. Heavy rains in the catchment area of Castlereigh last week, have raised the water level to two feet above spill level and the water is being retained with flashboards, officials said yesterday. Experts Committees are to be named at Wednesday's all party conference to make a detailed study of substantive issues. Stateless people of Indian origin, plus their natural increase, number 94,000 according to latest statistics available with the government. Northern terrorists received a paralysing blow on Friday when security forces stormed one of their strong-holds and recovered hand grenades, ammunition, detonators and uniforms—*SU*. A Sri Lankan businessman was arrested by Customs officials at the Colombo International Airport on Saturday night while he was attempting to smuggle 2 kilos of heroin whose estimated value is around Rs. 5 lakhs. The United States Aid Agency which is assisting the Sri Lanka Government in the construction of the 35 million rupee National Health Training Institute at Kalutara has intervened in the selection of a tenderer for the construction of the buildings and has succeeded in getting the award of the tender rejected—*S*.

**TUESDAY, MAY 8:** The three-member cabinet sub-committee appointed by government recently to find ways and means of hurrying up the issue of passports has recommended that the department be given a new

start and be headed by an officer with a fresh approach and good public relations. India is prepared to match the military strength of Pakistan and the weaponry available to it from other countries, Indian Defence Minister R. Venkataraman told All India Radio today—*DN*. The Paddy Marketing Board with its experience in the local procurement and sale of paddy/rice will be the key state organisation to enter into the export market when the country produces a surplus quantity of its staple food—*DM*. A new trade agreement is to be signed between Pakistan and Sri Lanka soon. A delegation from Sri Lanka is expected to visit Islamabad shortly to sign the agreement—*DO*. Government is to close down three bus depots of the Northern Regional Transport Board transferring their responsibilities to the Jaffna depot, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed announced yesterday. A consortium redeveloping an old oil storage depot in Sri Lanka has denied Colombo and Indian newspaper reports that it was operating as a front for American interests, its Singapore-based partner said yesterday. Six irrigation officers in Tissamaharama were interdicted yesterday on charges of irregularities, including the alleged issue of explosives without authorisation—*SU*. India has urged Sri Lanka to withdraw troops from its northern city of Jaffna and seek a political rather than a military solution for its separatist Tamil minority, Indian External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao told Parliament on May 7. The General Manager of Ceylon Shipping Corporation Dr. Anil Vitharane yesterday categorically denied that M.V. Lanka Ajitha was a CSC owned vessel; on Friday British customs allegedly found 5 kilos of Heroin hidden aboard the ship—*S*. Vacation notices are being sent to displaced government employees who have not reported for work on or before 30th April 1984; but these letters will not affect teachers in any way—*DP*.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9:** Prime Minister Premadasa who, as Minister of Highways, is responsible for the country's road system, does not favour the liberalised import of cars on a reduced duty structure. Three gunboats believed to be Israeli have approached the North Lebanese coast but sailed back out to sea after Syrian coastal batteries opened fire at them, eye-witnesses and radio reports said—*DN*. The Minister of Health Dr. Ranjith Atapattu has recommended to the Government to grant the right of private practice to Assistant Medical Practitioners the same terms and conditions as applicable to medical officers—*DM*. Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathimudali yesterday read the much awaited telex from India, a reply to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition Anura Bandaranaike, querying the position of the Sri Lankan Government to the request made by the Indian Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao for the withdrawal of troops from Jaffna—*DO*. The Government Parliamentary group yesterday decided to entrust the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence with the task of advising the government on methods of crime prevention. The highlight of the all party conference



which reconvenes at the BMICH this evening, is expected to be the new initiatives relating to the devolution of power under the existing concept of the Development Councils; which will be explained by President J. R. Jayewardene—*SU*. Secretaries to Ministries, Heads of Departments and Chairmen of Corporations have been informed by the Treasury's Budget Division that commencing January 1985 the free postal service enjoyed by them will be taken away. The Round Table Conference which resumes today after six week recess will concentrate on two specific areas, according to informed sources; the two areas are the form the devolution of powers will take and the question of employment—*/S*.

**THURSDAY, MAY 10:** IGP Rudra Rajasingham has ordered prosecutions against seditious May Day speech-makers and identifiable persons exhorting violence during the demonstrations. A banned organisation of Pakistani students yesterday repeated its charge that authorities were torturing detained students, two days after the allegation was denied by President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq—*DN*. Authorities in Switzerland have turned down 1,399 asylum applications by Sri Lankan Tamils who have been living in Berne as refugees and have granted only one such request—*DM*. The ills of the private Omnibus transport system and the defects of the Paranthan Chemicals Corporation were dealt with in the long debate in the House yesterday—*DO*. The Tamil United Liberation Front and the All Ceylon Tamil Congress yesterday opted out of the committee stages of the all party conference, stating they would not be in a position to serve on the committees. The Buddha Maha Sammelanaya on Tuesday asked TULF Leader Appapillai Amirthalingam to call on Tamil youth to cease terrorist activities and help build friendly relations with their Sinhala brethren. A temporary unit to clear a backlog of some 65,000 passports within 30 working days is to be set up, Cabinet spokesman and Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis announced yesterday—*SU*. UNP nominee for the recently held Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council elections is alleged to have been nabbed by the Bribery Commissioner's Department on a charge of accepting a bribe. The Cabinet yesterday allowed the private sector to import cooking gas in competition with the Colombo Gas Company. The curfew in the Jaffna Municipal area was lifted with effect from yesterday—*/S*. Minister of Justice Dr. Nissanka Wijeratne is considering the reduction of the age limit of majors from 21 to 18 years—*DP*.

**FRIDAY, MAY 11:** A series of measures intended to defuse tensions in the Jaffna peninsula and ensure that life there returns to normal as quickly as possible was announced by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday. Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's controversial chief economic adviser, announced his resignation yesterday—*DN*. The University Grants Commission will recommend to the

Government that the present bank loan scheme be scrapped and the old bursary scheme for university students be reintroduced—*DO*. This week's tea market the first sale in May closed with a quantity of over 6.04 million kgs according to the Eastern Brokers Tea Market Report; the report added that this was the second sale of over 6 million kgs for this year—*DM*. Government will spend 202 billion rupees in the next five years on public investment—with special emphasis on quick-yielding, production export oriented projects, and projects that would provide the basic needs for Sri Lankans, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel announced yesterday. The Ministry of Home Affairs has directed all Grama Sevakas to exercise their powers to assist police in crime detection and prevention. Train services to Jaffna have been resumed, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced yesterday—*SU*. The leader of the TULF Mr. A. Amirthalingam in a statement made to the Round Table Conference on Wednesday has said that the conference in its present form is an exercise in futility. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday expressed confidence that Sri Lanka would be able to obtain all the foreign assistance necessary for the continuation of its development programme. Matugama MP Anil Moonesinghe in Parliament yesterday urged the Government to reinstate all those who are considered to have vacated their posts in July 1980; particularly in the light of the coming Vesak festival the Government should treat them with magnanimity, he said—*/S*. Illicit felling of Palmyrah palms has been banned under the Forest Conservation law in the Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Amparai and Puttalam districts—*DP*.

**SATURDAY, MAY 12:** The northern terrorists on Thursday kidnapped an American water supply expert and his wife from their Gurunagar home and delivered a ransom note to the Jaffna Kachcheri threatening to kill them unless Rs. 50 million in gold was delivered to the Tamil Nadu government. A Pakistani spokesman was quoted as suggesting today a confidential dialogue with India to resolve their controversy over arms purchases—*DN*. The first farm established near Sigiriya by the State Timber Corporation on an experimental basis has brought in a net profit of over two lakhs of rupees from the first harvest—*DM*. The lack of competent staff hinders the monitoring of accounts of all government-owned business undertakings by the Treasury. Prime Minister R. Premadasa said yesterday that the idea behind the terrorist movement in Sri Lanka was not to save their race but to destroy the sovereignty of the people and of the country as a whole. Estate circles were buzzing yesterday morning as news of unprecedented wage payments to workers on tea estates reached Colombo. Colombo Mayor Sirisena Cooray has said that an extensive programme of work on the drainage system in the city was being carried out at a cost of Rs. 30.4 million—*SU*. The Minister of National Security Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has advised all countries of North America, Western Europe



including Scandinavia, Australia and New Zealand to withdraw their citizens working or staying in Jaffna Peninsula temporarily. The TULF is to organise a civil disobedience campaign to protest against the killings of Tamils by the army. Sri Lanka may be compelled to import necessary raw materials to sustain existing industries if its mineral resources continued to be exploited indiscriminately, Mr. Dulip de S. Jayewardene, Deputy Director of the State Mining and Development Corporation warned yesterday. The People's Bank has appointed former Chief Justice Victor Tennekoon to conduct an inquiry into the publication of the *Economic Review* of October 1983—/S. Foreigners who were residing in Jaffna have moved out to Colombo for security reasons—DP.

**SUNDAY, MAY 13:** The Sri Lanka government was working in close co-operation with the governments of India and the United States of America, regarding the kidnapping of the American couple, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali said yesterday. A massive search by the police and the combined forces was on in the Jaffna peninsula yesterday for the kidnapped American Engineer, Stanley Allen and his young wife Mary. The couple were kidnapped by armed terrorists from their Gurunagar home at 8.15 p.m. on Thursday—SO. Young stateless persons in Sri Lanka are getting a raw deal; these youngsters are finding it extremely difficult to go abroad since both the Indian as well as Sri Lankan authorities refuse to claim responsibility for them; many face the prospect of being unable to go abroad even for higher studies. Sri Lanka has once again succeeded in persuading the world that it is in a position to host yet another international conference; now 37 countries will send more than 400 delegates to participate in the annual conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhism—ST. Terrorists who kidnapped the US couple Stanley and Elizabeth Allen had strong Marxist connections, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali revealed yesterday. Indian security forces have launched a big sea and air search for a newly-wed American couple kidnapped in Sri Lanka on Thursday and threatened with death, a police source in Madras said yesterday. Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday said that the Indian government should send back terrorists who are in South India to confirm their goodwill that was expressed when they condemned the kidnapping of the American couple—WK. The Government of India has told the Sri Lanka government that the latter's attempts to enforce a naval blockade of the Palk Strait was a violation of the 1974 Indo-Sri Lanka maritime agreement, according to a report published in the *Madras Hindu* on Friday. The Secretary-General of the TULF A. Amirthalingam and its President S. Sivasithamparam have condemned the kidnapping of the American couple—/S.

**MONDAY, MAY 14:** As the Monday noon deadline set by the kidnappers of Stanley and Mary Allen approached, the government yesterday indicated its willingness to

TRIELNE, JUNE 16, 1984

talk with those holding this young American couple hostage. India and the United States today agreed that differences in their perceptions of global problems should not be allowed to stand in the way of building greater understanding between the two countries—DN. Today is D-day and the deadline ends at 12 noon on the fate of the Allen couple abducted by a terrorist group and dramatic new developments took place yesterday with two terrorist suspects being held at Batticaloa prison pleading that the Americans be released unharmed—DM. Despite fervent appeals by religious dignitaries, Tamil leaders and senior citizens, terrorists who kidnapped the American couple Stanley and Mary Allen reiterated their ransom demand for a second time yesterday. The Education Department Employees Co-operative Savings and Thrift Society has decided to evolve a scheme under which teachers in service could be paid a pension. A programme to lessen the acute shortage of surveyors presently faced by Sri Lanka will be organised by the Institution of Survey Engineers—SU. The Press Trust of India reported that a spokesman for an organisation calling itself the Eelam Revolutionary Front (ERLF) claimed responsibility today for the kidnapping. Thousands of applicants in the Amparai District have not received their identity cards resulting in severe inconvenience and hardship; an identity card is a must for everybody for he has to produce it for various transactions. The All Party Conference unaccountably postponed by the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Jayewardene despite objections by the Tamil representatives is meeting under by-no-means hopeful auspices. Several political parties have denounced the kidnapping of the American couple and appealed to the kidnappers to release them—/S.

**TUESDAY, MAY 15:** The Government was confident of finding the kidnapped American couple, Stanley and Mary Allen tonight, when the leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front received a message in Tamil Nadu from his terrorist colleagues who were holding the couple that they will be released. Foreign governments which have allowed Eelam lobbyists to operate in their countries have now realised that these people are not an "innocent ethnic group" following the Thursday kidnapping of the American couple. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today appealed to Sri Lankan kidnappers to release an American couple only hours before their threatened execution. All Ceylon Tamil Congress General Secretary, Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam in a ACTC statement said last night that the ACTC begged on humanitarian grounds for the American couple to be released forthwith—DM.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16:** Sri Lanka Air Force has written off six high speed long range MIG 17 jets gifted by the Russian government in 1971 as "unserviceable", Air Force chief Dick Perera said on Friday. Philippines opposition leader Salvador Laurel said today President Ferdinand Marcos was planning "something evil" to



frustrate the will of the people as partial unofficial returns in Parliamentary polls showed the ruling party trailing the opposition—*DM*. The Allens were handed over to the Bishop's House at 8.15 last night by two unidentified people while two more waited outside; they were in perfect health and now they have been brought to King's Pavilion in Jaffna, said Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security at a late night Press briefing at Rupavahini—*DM*. A special Sri Lanka Air Force flight will today bring to Colombo Stanley and Mary Allen, the US couple who were released by the kidnappers last night. Terrorist suspect Rasia Raju who escaped during the Batticaloa jail break eight months ago was yesterday arrested by the Maligawatte Police. The government will ban the import of a particular brand of asbestos used for manufacturing roofing sheets on grounds of hazard to workers engaged in the trade. The estate wages committee appointed by President J. R. Jayewardene in the wake of the estate sector strike in April, meets tomorrow to consider the feasibility of increasing the daily wages of plantation workers. The Ministry of Education would require Rs. 550 million in addition to the usual allocation to implement the recommendations of the Salaries Review Committee appointed to report on salaries and promotions for education service officers and about 120,000 teachers—*SU*. Tired but jubilant Minister of National Security Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali who summoned a late night press conference at the Rupavahini said, "I believe what has happened represents a triumph of world opinion and forces of non-violence. "Only through armed struggle with the active backing of the masses can Tamils get their goal of national recognition in their own Eelam", K. Padmanabhan, leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the terrorist group, holding American Engineer Stanley Allen and his wife Mary captive has said this in an interview with the Indian Magazine *News Today*. India's lifting of its export ban on CTC (Crush, Tear and Curl) teas will not have a drastic impact on Colombo auction prices, tea trade sources said yesterday. Outlining the sequence of events, Mr. Athulathmudali went on to say that Padnaba the Secretary-General of the EPRLF who was based in Madras was taken in for "interrogation" by the Tamilnadu Police at 2 p.m. on Monday—*S*. While travelling in a boat to see the Wesak celebrations, the boat capsized and eight people were found missing while five escaped; it is suspected that the missing eight people might have got drowned in the sea—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, MAY 17:** Looking fresh and happy, Stanley and Mary Allen, escorted by U.S. Ambassador John H. Reed, walked into President's House yesterday to thank the government of Sri Lanka for its efforts to obtain their release from their terrorist kidnappers. Soviet forces have suffered heavy casualties on their assault on Afghanistan's Panjsher Valley with at least 500 dead and wounded soldiers taken to Kabul in the past seven to 10 days, western diplomats said on

Wednesday—*DN*. A young wife's voice broke down in emotion yesterday when she thanked the world for praying for their safety; Mary Allen clutching her husband's hand, reassured herself that she was safe once more, told pressmen at President's House yesterday that she was happy to be among friends—*DM*. As the kidnapped American couple, Stanley and Mary Allen arrived in Colombo yesterday, the government initiated a full post mortem on their kidnapping in a bid to obtain more details and prevent a recurrence of such acts. Kalawana MP Sarath Muttetuwegama retained his seat when the Supreme Court yesterday set aside the order made by Election Judge Justice L. H. de Alwis unseating him as the MP. Fresh evidence on how the Batticaloa jail break was carried out with terrorist suspects making dummy machine guns with S-lon pipes and daggers out of their metal plates, has been revealed during interrogations of the prison escapee who was re-arrested at Maligawatta by the Police on Tuesday night. On the recommendation of Rural Development Minister Wimala Kannangara, the Cabinet has decided to mobilise rural development societies and women's societies to fight crime—*SU*. The Allens were not told that they were being held for ransom till a few hours before their release on Tuesday night— it was only then that they heard that the demands had been for rupees fifty million in gold and the release of twenty people being held by Sri Lankan authorities. The Central Bank announced new policy measures yesterday including the issue of new securities and credit restrictions on the banking sector, aimed at reducing Sri Lanka's excessive money supply on high inflation rates—*S*.

**FR/DAY, MAY 18:** Indian police today released 25 members of a Tamil separatist group whose military wing claimed responsibility for kidnapping an American couple set free in Sri Lanka on Tuesday night, the Press Trust of India said. US Vice President George Bush yesterday urged Pakistan's military rulers to stick to their plan to hold elections for a civilian government by next March—*DN*. Police said that they have made the first arrest of suspects involved in the Allen kidnapping when they took in for questioning a University student and a Telephone Operator of the Jaffna Campus—*DM*. The three Grama Sevakas who delivered letters from the kidnappers of the American couple to the authorities have been questioned by the CID. The United Religious Organisation which was founded as the all religious conference on April 30, is to ask the government to set up an advisory board to view all films, before they are telecast over Rupavahini or ITN in a bid to cut down on the telecasting of violence and immoral acts—*SU*. Stanley Bryson Allen, the 36-year-old engineer employed by the Ohio-based Ruhling Co. International in the Jaffna water improvement project, yesterday categorically denied that he or his wife were in anyway involved with the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Representatives of the TULF, Tamil Congress and Federal Party will be absent for the first



time since the inception of the Round Table Conference at its sessions when it meets in plenary today. All India Radio announced last night that the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front had said it was never their intention to harm the American couple and that they readily acceded to the request of Mrs. Indira Gandhi to release the two kidnapped Americans. The Cabinet sub-committee appointed by President Jayewardene to work out a reasonable salary structure for the estate employees will submit a report to the Labour Commissioner before May 29—/S. The government has allocated Rs. 5,000,000 for relief for those who were affected by the floods in the Puttalam, Anamaduwa, Nattandiya, Wennappuwa areas—DP.

**SATURDAY, MAY 19:** A technical and scientific co-operation agreement as well as an economic agreement will be signed between Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China during President Jayewardena's state visit there, official sources said. The United States is expected to come under strong pressure to curb its high interest rates when ministers from 24 leading western nations launch a debate here today on the long-term economic outlook for the world—DM. A top Tamil politico has been interviewed by the Police as part of the investigations to get at the group of terrorists who abducted the Allen couple last week; on Thursday Police took in for questioning a Jaffna Campus University student and a telephone operator also attached to the University—DM. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday told delegates attending the all party conference that more emphasis should be placed on broadbasing of opportunities in education, employment and exercise of language rights than on the devolution of power. The Emergency entered its second year yesterday as President J. R. Jayewardene extended it for another month. The Labour Ministry is to investigate whether workers are ensured safety in the industrial sector. A feasibility study is to be conducted on a proposal to set up a 40 million-rupee dairy complex in Sri Lanka. The Women's Centre has strongly protested against night work for women—SU. "Were a group of terrorists planning to smuggle explosives from the Admiralty's Explosive dump in Trincomalee last week"?; this is what investigators probing the death of a suspected terrorist who was shot dead by Army personnel while the latter attempted to escape the servicemen, are now trying to ascertain. The Ministry of Trade and Shipping has entered into a Bilateral Shipping Agreement with the Republic of Cyprus; this agreement will enable over thousands of Sri Lankan seamen to secure employment on vessels registered in Cyprus—/S.

**SUNDAY, MAY 20:** Suspicion is very strong that some extreme left organisations was behind the kidnapping of the American Allen couple; Dr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State commenting on newspaper reports that the kidnapping of the US couple "was

staged" said, "anybody can make this type of allegation; the pro-Left papers are saying this probably because the suspicion is very strong that some extreme left-wing organisations was behind this." The Chief Justice Mr. Neville Samarakoon has been written to by the Parliamentary Select Committee which is inquiring into the contents of his speech at Sinnathuray's Commercial Tutor at Kollupitiya a few months ago. A Sri Lankan teacher Asokamala Delgoda who it is alleged was dismissed from her job because of racial prejudice has received the backing of the entire Asian community and others in Britain in her fight for reinstatement. The Bribery Commissioner's Department is gearing itself to fight corruption in Government Departments and state corporations—SO. Over a hundred fishing boats were taken into "temporary" custody for non-payment of loans in a joint operation by the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank in Batticaloa last week. The Central Bank will be given extensive powers to cover the activities of all commercial banks and also to supervise and regularise the banking system in the country. The Government has launched a world-wide publicity campaign on terrorism in this country and its international links—ST. Stringent measures will be adopted by Fisheries Minister Festus Perera after Cabinet approves the proposals to ban coral mining in the south. The United National Party Executive Committee scheduled to meet on June 9, will take up matters concerning the country's present relationship with its neighbours. Bribery Commissioner Neil Wijenayake has launched an island-wide anti-bribery campaign—WK. CID investigating into the abduction of the Allens last week are now faced with the problem of taking follow up action on the statements they have so far recorded from certain suspects taken into custody in this connection. The Foreign Ministry has purchased 31 kits of musical instruments and 85 pieces of musical instruments and accessories from the United Kingdom at a cost of Rs. 570,500 and then spent a further £ 2,486.01 on insurance and air-freighting it to Sri Lanka; the musical equipment has been purchased from a US \$ 300,000 allocated by the Korean Government. The TULF and the ACTC will hold a joint public meeting today in Jaffna; the meeting will be on the general political situation in the country.

Police Constable Ponnusamy Subramaniam (7126) who died on May 4 this year at the hands of terrorists had been the winner of 66 awards and certificates during his 26 years' service in the Police. Despite; despite this record he continued to remain a constable until death snatched him away—/S.

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ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

## Spinning In A Vicious Circle

"Israel could be a viable country—if you took away the defence budget and the American pocket".—*An International Banker.*

"We are turning ourselves, through our own actions, into a poor relation who requests and without being a source of pride". *An Opposition Member of the Knesset.*

"Countries at war do not usually permit themselves the luxury of a raising their citizens' living standards". *A former Governor of the Bank of Israel.*

"Economy declines. Living Standards up".  
Headline in the *Jerusalem Post.*

THROUGHOUT HISTORY great military nations have been subdued as frequently by their own economic failure as by their adversaries' superior forces. Israel today looks as if it could yet become such a nation. The world's most successful military machine has always been powered by a tiny economic engine, which is as delicate as it is dynamic. Although the Israeli economy grew phenomenally in the first two decades of the State's existence, Israel could never have mustered the economic resources it needed to defend itself against the overwhelming enemy numbers had it not been for the assistance of Jews abroad and of reparation payments from the West German Government. But after the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and the subsequent worldwide energy crisis, a dramatic shift in the balance between Israel's national ambitions and its economic achievements took place. The prestige of its armed forces increased more rapidly than ever and Israeli living standards continued to rise, but the economy stalled. While the defence budget expanded from 17 percent to nearly 30 percent of the gross national product, economic growth came almost to a standstill, energy costs soared, aid from foreign Jewry and the Germans reached a plateau and Israel began to spin faster and faster round a vicious circle of hyperinflation and mounting foreign debt.

ONLY LAST YEAR HOWEVER, did most Israelis start really to worry about the fragile economic foun-

ations on which their security and prosperity were based. Their government was even slower to see the truth. It took a financial collapse in October sending inflation briefly into the 1,000 percent stratosphere, which wiped out a third of many Israelis' savings and which is still reverberating in daily strikes and political manoeuvres—to force a definitive change of economic course. More significantly, it took the retirement of Mr. Menachem Begin as Prime Minister last summer to get the country to face something which had been impossible to acknowledge under the spell of Mr. Begin's unbending nationalism and charismatic pride—the future of Israel depends entirely on the financial favour shown it by the US. *If and when the US Government comes to recognise this fact, it would have an unprecedented opportunity to influence Israel by purely economic means, without undermining its military commitment to supply the country with whatever arms of help it needs to defend itself against the Arabs.*

*Indeed, it might not even require economic pressure from the U.S. to steer Israel away from some of Mr. Begin's unyielding foreign and military policies. The interaction between Mr. Begin's economic short-sightedness and the Third World debt crisis has made Israel newly vulnerable to any loss of confidence among commercial creditors. Thus the US might only have to refrain from ever-greater generosity in order to make the Israeli people reconsider their nation's priorities—and in particular to seize any chance of a *modus vivendi* with their Arab neighbours. Israel's new Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, is a vehement as Mr. Begin in his rejection of the occasional US requests for conciliatory gestures towards moderate Arabs. But unlike Mr. Begin, he appears to have recognized that Israel's growing economic dependence could one day entail political costs. This is why he has appointed a highly-respected new Finance Minister, Mr. Yigal Cohen-Orgad to make the Israeli economy more self-sufficient before the US "asks us to do them a favour in return", as Mr. Cohen-Orgad discretely concedes. But time, politics and basic economic reality are all against the new team's efforts. It would take a profound alteration of political priorities or a sheer economic miracle to enable Israel truly to stand on its own feet.*

THE ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS of the corner in which Israel is now trapped are simply overwhelming. On one side there is endemic inflation. This soared from the customary level of 100-150 percent, with which the country has learnt to live over the past five years, to an annual rate of nearly 1,000 percent in October. The decline to 350 percent in the two months since then is regarded as a "moderation" but possibly only a temporary one. For Israel's chronic inability to control inflation is a symptom of an even more daunting problem: the country's inherent inability to live within its own economic resources. The other



side of this continuous imbalance has been the relentless climb of foreign debt. *The magnitude of Israel's debt and dependency is at the heart of its present economic crisis and of the political pressures which it may one day face.* It now owes foreigners between \$ 21 billions and \$ 23 billions (depending on the treatment of the overseas assets of Israel banks). This amounts to some \$ 5,500 for every man, woman and child or roughly seven times Brazil's indebtedness per head or four times, relative to GNP. But the raw debt statistics give only a blurred picture of Israel's need for external support. Israelis' argue that their debts are less oppressive than other developing nations because the great bulk of the loans come from the US Government and world Jewry, rather than international banks. Over 80 percent of Israel's net debt is long or medium-term, often at low fixed interest rates.

In fact, the country's whole short-term debt can be accounted for by deposits placed in Israeli banks by foreign individuals (7.5 billions in 1982). *In the past few years Israel has transformed itself quietly but effectively into a high-interest, no-questions-asked tax haven in which foreign tourists can combine financial self-interest with an enjoyable holiday and a gesture of support for the Jewish State. Unfortunately, there is another side to the generosity and moral support which Israel enjoys from the outside world—it disguises a degree of economic dependence which goes far beyond the figures of the country's debt.*

ISRAEL RECEIVES in straight grants from the outside world even more than it borrows. Without these grants of between \$ 2.5 billions and \$ 3 billions a year, the foreign debt would long since have become unworkable. It is only because of these "unilateral transfers" roughly half of which come from the U.S. Government, that Israel can run a current account deficit which reached a record level of \$ 5.1 billions, or nearly 25 percent of GNP last year. Such deficits put anything seen in Brazil, Chile or Mexico in the shade. *The grants make the Israelis the most heavily-subsidised people on earth. [Indeed the level of "unilateral transfers" per Israeli is higher than the total income of the people in half the world's developing countries—per capital grants in Israel are about three times India's total income per head, for example. From the US perspective, the level of aid to Israel is even more disproportionate—this one tiny country now absorbs between one-quarter and one-third of the US Government's entire foreign aid (\$ 2.25 billions in grants and loans to Israel in 1982 out of \$ 8.3 billions of aid for the whole as a whole.*

At present neither the US Government nor the American public is particularly startled by such juxtaposition. Americans have an affection and loyalty towards Israel which go far beyond the famous "Jewish lobby" and encompass an overwhelming majority of non-Jewish Americans. But they have a further

reason for helping Israel. The governments, and the Reagan Administration in particular, have traditionally regarded such aid as a payment for Israel's highly efficient defence of Western interests in West Asia—a point made explicitly at length in a recent audit of aid to Israel by the US Comptroller-General. From this point of view, the US "can buy more defence for every dollar they invest in Israel than in any other way—and all without risking one American life" as one leading Labour politician points out. Thus, in the view of Mr. Cohen-Orgad and the Shamir Government, what has precipitated the current crisis is not the inherent unsustainability of Israel's defence burden but the growth of a massive civilian trade deficit, on top of the military one, over the past five years. It is only the \$ 2 billions of this civilian deficit, beyond the \$ 1.5-2 billions for defence and the \$ 1.-1.5 billions for interest payments, which the government is now determined to eliminate, since it believes that the \$ 3 billions required for military and interest payments can continue being financed through grants, without pushing the country further into debt.

THE EFFORT TO HALVE the civilian deficit to around \$ 1 billions this year and eliminate it altogether by 1987 accounts for much of the political and economic disruption to Israel today. For politically the deficits are the legacy of Mr. Begin's open-handed policies on defence, public spending, consumer subsidies and tax cuts, which allowed Israel's consumption to rise by 33 percent per head between 1973 and 1983, while the GNP grew by only six percent. Economically, the deficits had a further temporarily soothing function. They were the consequences of a bold, but ultimately ineffectual, attempt by the former Finance Minister, Mr. Yoram Aridor, to tame Israel's inflation by maintaining an overvalued shekel. Mr. Aridor's experiment collapsed last October in about of speculation against the shekel and against the shares of Israeli banks on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. The devaluation of nearly 30 percent which followed fed immediately through into prices. The crisis brought some benefits for government policy. The devaluation helped exports and slowed imports, while the collapse of the stock market wiped out a large proportion of Israelis' spending power and hence their appetite for foreign goods. Even more important, the crisis prepared the public to "take some blows" economically, as several Israelis put it.

But the toughest questions about Israel's future viability still need to be answered. Will Mr. Shamir be able to forge a political consensus for the drastic cuts in social spending which he needs, when the Opposition Labour Party is offering to cut spending on arms on Lebanon and on the West Bank settlements instead? Will banks and foreign creditors give Mr. Cohen-Orgad even the year or two which he needs to wean Israel from any further commercial borrowing? Will Washington continue to keep Israel afloat by giving the



right political signals to the banking system in the words of one top Israeli economist? Above all, will the US continue to regard Israel as a "strategic asset", irrespective of its behaviour towards its neighbours, or will it demand a political price for economic support? The political map of West Asia could change dramatically one day if the answer to any of these questions turns out to be "no".

With acknowledgements to  
*Financial Times*, London.

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BANGLADESH

## Privatisation Of Fertilisers

By S. Bashar

**DHAKA**, Will the government of Bangladesh bow down to the pressure of a particular donor agency or will it behave like a sovereign government? The question has come up recently when USAID proposed for a total privatisation of fertilizer distribution system in Bangladesh. At present, the government of Bangladesh distributes fertilizer among the farmers at a subsidized rate through its own network. The 1,115 million dollar project for fertilizer distribution during the next five years is now under active consideration of the government of Bangladesh. Prepared by the aid agency USAID, the project proposal emphasises on the need to induct private business for large-scale distribution of fertilizer. The proposed distributors will be allowed to lift fertilizer direct from the ports and factories at a discount price and sell those at any price in any place. The authors of the project feel that this will ensure competition among the distributors and will therefore help in easy availability of fertilizer at a relatively fair price.

BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BADC), a government agency, is now responsible for fertilizer distribution in the country. BADC imports fertilizer from abroad and procures from local factories. Fertilizers lifted by BADC from ports and factories are taken to godowns at Primary Distribution Points (PDPs) situated at different vantage points. The wholesale dealers procure fertilizers from BADC godowns and supply these to retail dealers for distribution among the farmers. BADC has now more than 5,000 wholesale and 62,000 retail dealers all over the country. As a matter of fact, the fertilizer distribution below PDP level is under private sector, but government has effective control over price. *The proposed project, known as Fertilizer Distribution /improvement // Project (FDI—// Project), is alleged to have been prepared unilaterally by USAID in total disregard of the existing decision of the government of Bangladesh. It has further been alleged that the*

*final report of DDI—// Project has ignored some modifications suggested by the concerned ministry and in certain cases it was made more rigid than the original project proposal*

The FDI—II Project, it may be mentioned here, was placed before the Cabinet for its considerations on 27 March 1983. The cabinet had decided to ensure a three-channel distribution system, consisting of private, public and co-operative sectors. It was also decided that before transition from the present scale of operation, proper evaluation of the present system should be done and its gains consolidated. Contrary to the cabinet decision, the FDI—II project has refused to recognise co-operative as a separate sector. The agency rather insisted that the co-operatives would have to run on the same level with the private distributors but without the subsidy element. The opposition of the concerned ministry to allow the private distributors to lift fertilizers from ports was also not heeded to. It was further stipulated in the project document that the co-operating country would have to furnish in form and substance documentary evidence, "satisfactory" to the said aid agency, that private fertilizer distributors are permitted under Bangladesh Government laws and regulations to purchase fertilizers from ports and factories. The project document also expressed the hope that the government would take the next step "to divest itself of responsibility for manufacturing and importing fertilizer" by transferring those to the private sector.

ACCORDING TO ITS CHARTER, BADC is responsible for procurement, distribution and sale of fertilizers. During 1983-84, more than one million tons of fertilizers are expected to be sold as against distribution of about 31,000 tons in 1961-62. This has been possible due to untiring efforts of BADC workers. BADC was responsible for popularising use of fertilizers among the farmers in this country. BADC has also made huge investments to build up the present system of distribution over the last 23 years. In a representation to the government, The National Fertilizer Distributors' Association (NFDA), an association of 19 proposed distributors also agreed that fertilizer use in Bangladesh witnessed a sharp increase since 1965—from a low 5 kg per hectre to 23.4 kg per hectre in 1975 and to 47 kg per hectre in 1980. According to NFDA, this was an indication that Bangladesh entered the take-off stage in the development of fertilizer use and so this was the right moment to introduce private marketing. This increase was squarely the result of BADC's efforts. NFDA consists of 19 members concerns who have no experience in fertilizer distribution. Some of these concerns are intending agents of multi-nationals, some are oil companies and some are pesticide dealers. It may be mentioned here that the maximum number of prospective private distributors are also indenters dealing in pesticide business. With privatisation of pesticides about four years ago, its price increased

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mainfold with occasional scarcity. This was a cause of serious irritant to the farmers and they were subjected to untold suffering.

ACCORDING TO AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS, fertilizer is a very vital and sensitive item on which entire agricultural production greatly depends. This is an input which has pronounced period of peak demand. After the short appropriate time of fertilizer application is over, it would be useless to apply fertilizer. This makes fertilizer an ideal commodity for hoarding and black-marketing. As there is complete price de-control for the private sector, who can sell fertilizer anywhere at any price, the private distributors, because of inherent profit motive, may create a situation for charging exorbitant price. As a result, the farmers will be compelled to pay a higher price for fertilizer procurement without which their other investment will bear scanty fruit and their survival will be at stake. The induction of private distributors will raise the subsidy element in the form of increased discount. Moreover, the local fertilizer manufacturing corporation is reported to have decided to sell fertilizers from the factories to the private distributors only at commercial rate. This will further inflate the subsidy position on account of private operators with increasing burden on government treasury.

It is surprising that the private distributors will also get discount, and at the same time will be allowed to sell anywhere at any price. This is a total departure from the prevailing system where discount agents are required to sell at a fixed price, such as, petroleum products and ration items. The FDI-II Project will also have adverse effects on BADC employees, many of whom would have to be declared surplus. According to NFDA, with the taking over to the existing fertilizer stocks by the distributors, BADC would cease to operate in the concerned area. According to agricultural experts, farming in countries like Bangladesh is 'subsistence' farming, and not 'commercial' farming like developed countries. Small and marginal farmers constitute the large segment of 12 million farm families in Bangladesh.

Fertilizer distribution, therefore, should be regarded as 'service' and not a business proposition. The interest of the farmers must be kept in mind while preparing any project proposal in the field of agriculture. Before transforming this 'service' into a commercial proposition, one must have the vision to foresee the grave consequences that may follow. According to an economist, the introduction of the new system will only help the inexperienced big investors to amass wealth through bulk lifting of fertilizers at the cost of the teeming millions with resultant increase in the level of exploitation of the farmers and serious repercussion of food production.

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ADDRESS TO ROTARIANS

## Improving The Plantations

By Pem Seneviratne

Chairman, J E D B

I have to first of all thank Rotarian Kenneth Abeyewickrema and his colleagues for inviting me to this very pleasant luncheon meeting as guest speaker to address you briefly on the subject of "Improving the Plantations". Here we have a gathering of some of the most successful businessmen whose share and interest in the development of the country are self-evident. It is indeed a rewarding experience and an unique opportunity to speak about the present position and future prospects of the plantation industries before such an assembly. The economic and social welfare of the country is largely governed by the Agricultural Sector. This was tangibly recognised by the Hon. Minister of Finance when he presented the current Budget in 1983. Agriculture as a whole accounts for 55 percent of total employment, 58 percent of export earnings and a large and ever increasing share of public revenue. Approximately 80 percent of Sri Lanka's population lives in rural areas and is engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The Tree Crop Sector covers 920,843 hectares, or 41 percent of cultivated land comprising—(1) 243,006 hectares of Tea; (2) 226,420 hectares of Rubber; and (3) 451,417 hectares of Coconut. These plantations contribute 49 percent of our foreign exchange earnings, 14 percent of the Budgetary Revenue and also account for 11 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. This gives a general idea of the importance of the Plantations to the nation's well-being. Our country will continue to depend on these three major plantation industries for her existence and development, for many years to come.



ADMITTEDLY, there has been a decline in the national output in respect of all the three main crops—Tea, Rubber and Coconut. While there may be particular causes in respect of each crop, there are, however, certain common factors. We, who are directly involved with the industry, feel that the full extent, which is claimed by records, is no longer under the respective crop cultivations. As an example, I may mention the case of tea. An aerial survey just completed in Colombo Kandy, Kurunegala, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, reveals a deficit of 29,476 hectares, or 23 percent. It will be seen that the Aerial Survey of the large and main tea areas in Badulla and Hatton areas is yet to be completed; approximately one half of the area remains to be covered.

Another important factor is the policy adopted by the former owners in the pre-nationalisation period. No sooner the threat of nationalisation loomed over the plantations, the former owners curtailed essential agricultural inputs and development work on estates came to a standstill. This bleak situation was worsened by the damage caused due to mismanagement, lack of expertise and motivation in the management bodies entrusted with the task of running the plantations immediately following the first stage of Land Reform. *I shall deal briefly with each major product separately.*

**TEA:** Tea is the most vital export crop of Sri Lanka, and the largest single foreign exchange earner, accounting for some 30 percent which now is on the ascend due to the current attractive prices. The JEDB and SLSPC alone, directly employ approximately 600,000 workers or 11 percent of the total national workforce. Tea contributes 4.7 percent to the Gross Domestic Product. The contribution to Government revenue by way of taxes, duties and cesses, which is progressively increasing, is formidable. The peak production year for tea was in 1965 when the national production amounted to 228 million kilogrammes. From 1970 a progressive decline set in and the lowest figure of 179 million was recorded in 1983 due to the unprecedented drought conditions. Further reasons for the decline are—(a) Recent erratic weather patterns; (b) 82 percent of our tea being "old seedling" which is 70 years old; (c) Accumulation of vacancies in the old tea fields; (d) Backlog of Replanting Programme.

*Our orthodox teas have earned a world reputation for their quality and leaf appearance. While our orthodox and Rotorvane methods will continue, we have to take note of the present market demand for CTC and LTP teas which are suitable for tea bags. These are to be produced mainly from our factories in the Mid-Country. The Factories require development and 13 percent of the projected development expenditure for the next five years has been allocated for this purpose.*

WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE INDUSTRY, the JEDB and SLSPC have already embarked on three rehabilitation programmes with the assistance of

International Lending Agencies. These ongoing programmes cater for—(a) Rehabilitation of 52,509 hectares; (b) Diversification of 5,007 hectares of derelict tea; (c) Development of 195 factories, and (d) Construction of 22,320 housing units. These operations are progressing in the Maskeliya, Badulla, Kotagala, Agrapatana, Galle and Matara Districts.

I must also mention that we find some estates—chiefly in the Mid-Country—are neither economic as productive units under tea, nor suitable for replanting with the same crop. In such cases, after careful evaluation and obtaining expert advice, such properties are classified for diversification into other crops such as Pepper, Cloves, Cardamoms, Coffee and Fuelwood. However, I am glad to be able to strike a happy note with regard to tea. The favourable weather conditions this year have resulted in 76,686,686 kilos up to end April, an increase at National level of 31,459,824 kilos, which is 69 percent increase over last year's production for the same period, which was 45,226,862 kilos.

**RUBBER:** Rubber brings in 11 percent of the export earnings, provides 8 percent of agricultural employment and accounts for 4 percent of the Government's Budgetary Revenue. Only 30 percent of the Rubber is with the State Organisations, while 70 percent is still under private ownership. Of the latter, some 54 percent consists of small holdings. 87 percent of the production is exported, while only 13 percent is used by local industries. It is a matter of serious concern that the peak production of 139 thousand tonnes in 1970 had receded to 125 thousand tonnes by 1982. Apart from the unseen, but substantial deficit in registered extent, there are other causes for the decline. There is a replanting backlog. The subsidy scheme was introduced in 1953, aiming at a replant of 6,000 hectares annually. Initially the scheme was successful, the target having been surpassed each year between 1954 and 1963. The level of replanting regained momentum from 1977. From 1978 to 1982, a further downward trend in national output of rubber was registered as 26,070 hectares were replanted during the period and went out of production.

The JEDB and SLSPC together propose replanting approximately 12,500 hectares, or 5 percent of national extent, annually, under the Medium Term Investment Programme. Selection of clones for planting is also a vital factor. In the past, we relied mainly on PB86, imported from Malaysia in the 1930s. While this is an excellent all rounder and a 'Safe' clone, the yield potential is not adequate in a competitive market. Our Rubber Research Institute has evolved and proved their "100" series of clones which have a far superior yield potential and are also equivalent in other properties. These will be more widely used in our future replants.

ANOTHER SETBACK in the Rubber Sector is the heavy backlog in replacement and installation of

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machinery, equipment and inadequate factory and drying capacity. Most of the machinery is over 30 years old while some of the machinery is of an even older vintage. With the emphasis being on quality production, this causes problems for our Managers but, to their credit, they have been coping admirably with the situation. Steps are being taken to rectify the position in the next five years.

According to the forecast by experts, during the years 1977-1990, global output of rubber will increase at the rate of 3.6 percent while the demand will grow at 4.8 percent. We are, therefore, reasonably assured that the supply/demand position will continue to be in favour of the producer. When the new development programme for 1985/1989 shows results, the national output will substantially increase and the projected figure for the end of the century is 220 million kgs., against the present 125 millions.

**COCONUT:** In 1983, export earnings from coconut amounted to Rs. 1,921 million, or 8 percent of the total. The average Sri Lankan family uses 90 coconuts and 6.2 bottles of coconut oil every year. However, I must stress that coconut is essentially a smallholder's crop. My Organisation manages only some 3.5 percent of the total extent, while the SLSPC does not have any coconut estates at all. The national output, according to records, was at its peak in the early seventies, with an annual figure of 2.9 million nuts, which has now dropped to about 2.3 million. In terms of unit yield, the per hectare figure has receded from 2,800 to 2,000 nuts. The question then arises—what are the causes for the decline? The cultural practices of our smallholders are poor. Failure to apply fertilisers, inadequate weeding, low density of palms, low quality of planting material severely affect production. Further, the majority of palms are over 60 years old. Adverse weather conditions in recent years have also contributed to this decline.

**THE EXTENT UNDER COCONUT CULTIVATION** which has decreased substantially had been overstated by 90,000 hectares according to 1980 FAO estimates. The FAO estimates 380,000 hectares are being under Coconut. The Government has launched a number of Subsidy Schemes to encourage improved husbandry, rehabilitation, replanting and underplanting, new planting and inter-cropping, which will no doubt have an impact on future production.

**GENERAL:** As part of the development of the Industries, we are also taking meaningful steps to improve the quality of life of our employees. Estate workers' wages have been recently increased. Tea Workers' wages were increased by 476 percent and 363 percent for men and women respectively compared with the rates which prevailed in July 1977. From April 1984, Women workers have been given an equal wage with men workers, for the first time in Sri Lanka's plantation history. Workers have also been assured of

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a six day working week, which was not the position in the past. We have also substantially increased incentive payments, which have now been extended to benefit all categories of employees. The two organisations have also launched several welfare measures, such as Modern Creches, Trained Creche Attendants, Mid-day meals to children, Milk to infants, Services of Family Health Supervisors and Ambulance Service, Recreation facilities, provision of Television Sets, etc. We have also made good progress with replanting the old barrack type lines with cottages for worker. The JEDB alone completed 2,152 of these units to end of last year.

I would like to mention the development programmes that we have planned for the future. As far as the State Sector, i.e. the JEDB/SLSPC, is concerned, we have drawn up a programme and estimates for development during the next five years 1984/1989. This programme is called "Medium Term Investment Programme" MTIP for short. Financing is expected to be from the World Bank and the ADB. This programme can broadly be divided into three heads—viz. Field Development, Factory Development and Welfare development for employees. We are sure in our minds that on completion of the MTIP the plantation industries under state management will be in a viable position and will be able to weather the vicissitudes of the world market.

While thanking you for your patient hearing, I would like to conclude this brief address by commending your organisation which has a well earned reputation over the years for service on an international, as well as national level. I trust that what I have just said has re-assured you, who are interested in the larger welfare of the nation, that the outlook for the plantation industry is bright.

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BOOSTING

## Papain Production

By Mansha Ram

PAPAYA (CARICA PAPAYA) is one of the popular fruits of the masses in India. Its pharmaceutical and industrial uses are however, little known. The milky juice or latex extracted from raw fruit contains a large amount of digestive enzyme called papain. It almost resembles the animal pepsin and is able to digest the proteins in our foods. It is now well known, that papain has many medicinal properties. It is prescribed for piles, dyspepsia, liver, spleen, digestive disorder, kidney trouble, hook-worm, round-worm and tape-worm infestations etc. It also finds use in the treatment of necrotic tissues and skin lesions. Several proprietary pharmaceutical preparations using papain are in the



market now. It is used in brewing industries for preparing chill-proof beer. It is also used in making chewing gum, tenderising the meat, extracting oil from the liver of "Tuna" fish, tanning the leather, degumming rayon silk and pre-washing of wool for making it non-itching. Cosmetics like snow, face cream and dental paste are also prepared from this product. In U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and U.K., there is great demand of papain for softening meat and meat preparations and for this purposes, its high quantities each year are being exported from Sri Lanka and African countries. Visualizing its demand in international markets, there is big scope to increase its production for the export purposes.

ALTHOUGH INDIA is quite suitable for growing papaya and producing papain, but at present it is not being produced at large scale. We are not producing papain in a planned and systematic programme and on scientific footing. Papain production can be a profitable business and has good scope for its extension in our country. The areas having warm and humid climate are better suited for growing papaya. Thus our country as whole excepting Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, parts of Punjab and Rajasthan can produce papain on commercial scale. At present most of our existing varieties are local and poor yielder. But some of the improved and exotic varieties seems to be good papain yielder due to higher fruit yield. Amongst these, Pusa Delicious, Pusa Majesty, Pusa Giant, Pusa Dwarf, Homstead and Co2 are worth mentioning. The following table shows the actual fruit yield and estimated papain production per hectare under experimental conditions. However, these varieties need to be further tested in different agroclimatic regions for their commercial papain production programmes.

THE STANDARDISED CULTURAL PRACTICES plays a vital role in papain production. Therefore, sowing and planting of papaya should be manipulated in such a way that it may start fruiting after start of monsoon. Hence the seeds should be sown in the nursery from August to September and planting done in the months of October-November. For planting papaya in the field pits of 60 x 60 x 60 cm should be dug in summer and left open for about a fortnight. It should be filled up with top soil mixed with two baskets of compost, one kg cake and one kg sterra-meal at least two months before planting. Single plant should be planted in each hole with gynodioecious lines like Pusa Delicious and Pusa Majesty while three plants should be planted with dioecious lines like Pusa Giant, Pusa Dwarf, Homstead and CO2. With the onset of Monsoon extra male plants should be removed from dioecious lines, since most of the plants express their sex at this time. Each plant should normally be top dressed with 200 grams Nitrogen (N), 200 grams phosphorus (P) and 250 grams Potash (K2O) in two split doses. First dose should be applied with the onset of Monsoon and second dose at the end of rains. Second dose of

Nitrogen in form of urea as foliar sprays instead of applying in the soil increases papain production. The spraying should be done at fortnightly interval. Irrigation with sprinkler system is more beneficial for papain production due to its obvious advantages and should be preferred in dry areas. Irrigation should be done after top dressing if there is no rain. After October, when the rain is over, irrigation should be provided once or twice in a month depending upon the climatic condition. Julching, wherever possible should be done to preserve moisture which can be easily done by weeding after each irrigation. Application of plant growth regulators like 2, 4-D (10 ppm), 2, 4, 5-T (25 ppm), N.A.A. (50 ppm) and G.A. (10 ppm) during blooming period increases the yield of papain. Urea mixed with the plant growth regulator is economical because it saves labour and time.

EXTRACTION OF PAPAIN is simple. When the fruit is bigger than apple size i.e. after 2½-3 months of fruit set, it is usually fit for papain extraction. This starts in the rainy season and continues upto March. Cool and wet period produces more papain. The most suitable time for papain extraction is morning hour and may continue upto noon as the maximum flow of latex is during this period. Any razor blade, fine stainless steel knife, bamboos splinter or a piece of glass may be used for incising the fruit. Four longitudinal skin deep incision on the surface of the fruit from the stalk end to the fruit tip are given. The depth of incision should not be more than 0.3 cm on the fruit. For this a razor blade attached to a handle with the blade projecting out to the required depth is best and handy tool for incising. The incision should be repeated on 3-4 subsequent occasions at an interval of 4-5 days. By this time the fruit would have yielded almost its entire quantity of latex. Those engaged in the extraction however, requires some care. Dried leaves and other foreign materials should not be mixed with the latex. After the rainy season, the fruit should be washed by means of any spraying machine or a stirrup pump and should be made free of dust before tapping. Women and children could be engaged in this work if it helps to minimise the cost of production. On an average half kilogram of papain can be extracted by a trained man working for 10-12 hours a day. *A non-metallic container such as aluminium or glass vessel larger in size than the medium sized fruit should be used to collect the latex. The latex that solidifies in the cuts should also be scrapped and added to the liquid latex.*

After collecting the latex it should be dried in the sun or in electric oven at 40°C if sundrying is not practicable. Delay in the drying affects the quality of papain. The latex can also be dried artificially in a home made drier in a kind of drying stove constructed by building a chamber of bricks about a metre high, a metre wide and two metres long. The sides and ends are of brick with an opening at the end of admit fuel. The top is open. About 30 cm below the top an iron sheet is



blaced. Upon this 2.5 to 5 cm of sand is spread to modify and distribute the heat arising from the fire beneath. The coagulated juice is spread upon a brown linen stretched upon the frame which are made to fit the top of the drier. Smoking spoils the latex. Therefore coconut shell or charcoal are recommended as fuel. The fuel is so regulated that drying is affected slowly with temperature preferably below 40°C. When thoroughly dried, the latex becomes crisp and flaky. It may then be ground into a powder. Before drying 0.05 per cent potassium metabisulphite may be added to the latex as a preservative. The powder is packed in air tight bottles or polythene bags. Finally the whole dried crude papain is then powdered by means of wooden mallet and passed through a 10 mesh sieve. The whole powder is packed in polythene bags. A number of such bags can be packed in a time.

THE ANNUAL YIELD OF PAPAIN PER PLANT or per hectare varies greatly according to climate, varieties and cultural practices. A single fruit yields 3 to 10 gram dry papain. Papain yield per plant has been found ranging from 200 to 450 grams. The fruit number varies from 20 to 80 and 40-50 fruits may be considered as optimum. The papain yield per hectare may be obtained about five quintals if there are 2,000 good productive plants in a hectare. The price of papain varies greatly and it ranges from Rs. 40 to 100 per kilogram. Thus a gross income of about 25,000 (considering Rs. 50 per kilo) per hectare can be obtained in the first year of the crop only from papain. In some parts, papaya cultivation is mainly done for papain production at present but the varieties used are purely local and poor yielder. The extraction of latex from the fruits renders it difficult to sell, although it does not in any way impair its taste or other qualities. This fully grown but green and scarred fruit can be however be made into a candy like confectionary called petha. Petha production is itself a lucrative industry and there is every reason to believe that papaya petha will be a great success. In resume, it could be said that by adopting latest agro-techniques and providing adequate marketing facilities, encouragements and financial assistance to growers, the papain production may be increased considerably, and our country could earn more foreign exchange. The milk juice or latex extracted from unripe papaya fruit contains papain which has many pharmaceutical and industrial uses. By adopting latest agro-techniques the papain production can be increased considerably.

*Courtesy, Yojana, December 1983.*

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## FACTORIES

# To Produce Food

*Hololulu*, Imagine a world where food will not be grown on farms anymore but will be produced in factories instead. If Dr. Clair E. Folsome, an American biologist, has his way then this is exactly what will happen and that also in the very near future. Dr. Folsome, who has already established the methodology in his laboratory, says that it is possible to produce all kinds of food—beans, rice, wheat, peas, carrots, whatever—in factories on a mass scale in about two years from now. In separate conversations with the *PT*/ Dr. Folsome and Mr. F. T. Andrews, a consulting engineer, who is collaborating with the former on this project, said that the new method of producing food will eliminate the need for ploughing, cultivating, fertilizing or irrigating. Moreover, the crops will have no roots, stems or leaves and may be grown 24 hours a day all the year round in factories which will function like a brewery or an oil refinery. *Dr. Folsome estimates that the cost of producing food in factories will be about one-tenth of what it costs to grow foods by conventional methods. Since food produced in factories will not be dependent on weather and rainfall, the risk of crop failure is practically eliminated.*

The process developed by Dr. Folsome essentially by passes many of the steps that a plant has to go through before producing food. All the nutrition and other needs of the plant for food growing are provided in a factory environment but at much faster pace. Dr. Folsome's interest in growing food in factories started with his experiments to grow food in laboratories for future space ships. Now he and Mr. Andrews look upon it as way of banishing world hunger. The basic concept of food through factories, says Dr. Folsome, is simple, but the mechanism by which the cells are cultured is very complex. In fact we do not completely understand it."

The equipment required is: A tissue solution container which holds a sterile solution of live tissue that is to be cultivated, a reactor which the cells continually clone themselves, a product container which collects the newly cloned cells and settles them so that they can be separated from solution and a nutrient solution container which holds the nutrients that the cells need in order to grow. Asked what will happen to all the farm land now under cultivation if food began to be produced in factories, Dr. Folsome said, that it would then be available for housing and for meeting other human needs. Dr. Folsome and Mr. Andrews feel that the new method will revolutionize agriculture and will have tremendous social and economic ramifications, particularly for countries like India where a majority of the population is presently engaged in agriculture.—*PT*/



## Mechanised Tapping

The introduction of a mechanised tapping knife had revolutioned the conventional tapping system being followed at present by the tappers in rubber estates. Mechanised tapping knife Mark II has been jointly developed by the Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board and Niton Giken Kogyo Co. Ltd., Japan. The new tapping tool was presented by the Minister of Primary Industries, Malaysia at "The Planters' Conference 1983" organised by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur in October last. It is reported that Mark II model of the knife in plastic and rubber casing would be made available for sale in May this year. This mechanised tool enables tapping to be carried out with less skill and fatigue. The bark of the tree excised at each tapping is uniform on this. One of its advantages is that the bark consumption could be effectively controlled. The cutting edge made of high carbon steel can be sharpened after use.

It is expected to withstand three months of continuous tapping with sharpening. The motor kept in the plastic case could be operated with a rechargeable battery. It is claimed that the battery need be recharged only after tapping 500 trees. Other features of the tapping knife are given below: (i) Because of its light weight and design it is easy to use and maintain; (ii) Tapping with this knife requires less skill as it controls tapping width and depth; (iii) The knife is promptly driven by an efficient and high-speed motor. (iv) The battery unit which could be recharged has a long life making operation cost minimal.

### Aravindan

Publicity Officer, Rubber Board,  
Kottayam.

## BOOKS, ARTS & THE MEDIA

### TIBETAN

## Buddhism

**ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM:** *Published by Vision Books, 36-C, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Rs. 75.*

The volume under review is a unique compirition of 20 articles by eminent scholars in the field of Buddhist studies with special emphasis on the latest developments and research in Buddhism and Tibetology. In

this delightful book the articles cover diverse aspects of the subjects. They include discussions and analysis of ancient Buddhist Pali texts, the origin and development of Buddhism and its ramifications into various schools and sects, the socio-economic influence of the religion on the lives of the people in Tibet, the evolution and spread of Lamaism or Tibeto Buddhism and the development of the Tibetan language (Bod-skad) from the time of Srong-Tsan Gam Po in 620 A.D. In fitness, Mr. Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, Governor of Sikkim, President of the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, compares Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha. If Lord Buddha's formula is 'If I cannot convince you, I must not convict you'; Gandhi's formula is 'I know nothing of the mystery of God. But I know something about the misery of man.'

The scholarly articles presented in this beautiful volume aim at commending Buddhism as a way of life solving human problems at a time when our civilisation and culture is undergoing traumatic changes and upheaval. In order to provide a comprehensive grasp of Buddhist faith and insight SRITOBS has brought out this volume focussing upon dhyana (meditation) or, in the broad sense enlightenment and salvation through overcoming of egodelusion. The sources represent a variety of traditions in Buddhism such as the Pali Theravada, Sanskrit, Mahayana, Chinese and Tibetan traditions. Buddhism was very late in coming to Tibet and which remained unaffected in spite of Buddhist missionaries preaching the gospel of Buddha. About 630 A.D., a Tibetan prince, Srong Tsan Gam Po, who established a well organised State in Lhasa, its capital, sent emissaries to northern India with the purpose of securing the introduction of Buddhism, due to the fact that his two wives, princesses from China and Nepal respectively, acquainted the prince with Buddhism and desired to practise it. Though Srong's introduction of Buddhism on the instigation of the princesses was not successful, a century later the true founder of Buddhism in Tibet by name Padma Sambhava from Bengal influenced the prince with its Tantric infusion of sex symbolism, took root after serious vicissitudes and reforms, became the religion of Tibet and subsequently spread to Mongolia in the 13th and 14th centuries. (The Chinese occupation of Tibet since 1951 has altered the situation there now). That Lamaism was vital in the lives of the people of the snowland of Tibet until the Communists came is evident from the fact that one fifth of the total population in occupied Tibet has commanding spiritual prestige even today.

In summing up the review of the above book I can say it serves as an introduction to Buddhism in general and Tibetan Buddhism in particular. Its basic philosophical teachings and development, sets forth complex and significant ideas in a straightforward and simple style that is easily accessible to the general reader. The book emphasises the historical back-



ground out of which Buddhism arose and the teachings of early Buddhism and the emergence of various schools.

K. S. Ramakrishna Rao



HARAPPAN

## New Finds At Rojdi

By N. S. Ramaswami

As the second phase of the excavations of one of the largest Harappan settlements ended in January this year at Rojdi, about 60 kms south of Rajkot in Gujarat, new evidence of the extensiveness of the Indus Valley Civilisation, hitherto undiscovered, has come to light. However, it would require another four or five seasons of work to complete the excavations at this important site which is near Gondal town, and project the exact results of the find. The excavations were carried out by a team led by Mr. Gregory Possehl of the University of Pennsylvania, reputed Harappan scholar, and comprising Mr. Yunus Chittalawala of the Gujarat Directorate of Archaeology and Mr. I. Mahadevan, a former IAS officer, who is an international authority on Harappan script. Mr. Possehl's book "The Cities of Indus" is an acknowledged treatise on the subject.

The archaeological potential of the site was first revealed during surface exploration in the 1950s. Extensive excavations were started in 1957 which led to the finding of evidences of a Harappan settlement. There were gold beads, cubic weights, and that tell-tale sign, painted pottery. The Harappan, or the Indus Valley Civilisation originally flourished in what is now Sind and neighbouring areas from 2500 BC to about 1000 BC... Its two principal sites, Harappa in Punjab and Mohenjodaro in Sind, both in Pakistan, were first excavated in the 1920s. Excavations carried out after India gained independence showed that the Harappan culture had also extended to the south-east, that is, Gujarat. Lothal and Rangpur are the leading sites already excavated, and now Rojdi has joined them. The outcome of the recent excavations is quite encouraging. An important finding has been that while stone houses were discovered for the first time in a Harappan settlement, not a single brick structure, the hall-mark of the civilisation, was found in the entire settlement at Rojdi. All the other excavated Harappan sites are full of brick structures. Even today brick pieces and potshreds can be seen strewn all over at Harappan.

The stone structures were built adjoining a river. It has been found that boulders were taken from the river bed to erect these structures. A copper sickle blade bearing the motif of what is called "endless knot",

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has been retrieved. This device has been found in Mohenjodaro and is very common to the ancient civilisations of Babylon, Sumeria and Egypt. No seals or sealings have been discovered, but a large quantity over a thousand—of potshreds bearing Indus scrip characters have been located. Most of these bear geometric designs. Graves are rare in Harappan settlements. But at Rojdi, a grave of an infant was found within the settlement. The settlement was enclosed by large stone fortifications on three sides and the river on the fourth. There are two mounds within the stone walls. At a corner of one of these mounds, there is evidence of a post-Harappan settlement, probably to be dated between the third century BC and the third century AD. The pottery found here bears evidence of this.

The excavators also found large beads made of carnelian, and small ones made of faience. There were some copper bangles too. Giving evidence that spinning was in vogue then, a spindle whirl was discovered. This also suggests that the textile industry of Gujarat, one of the largest in the country today, dates back to pre-historic days. Bones found at the site indicated that the ancient settlers of Rojdi had made use of domesticated cattle, sheep and pigs. Rojdi, from archaeological evidence collected so far, seems to have had some special features. It is certainly representative of the Saurashtra phase of the Harappan culture, but it has some characteristic of its own. The most important is the widespread use of stone as building material, and the total absence of bricks, ubiquitous in other Harappan sites. The presence of a grave is also a new feature.

The Rojdi excavations also carry further what might be called the Harappan saga. Initially archaeologists believed that this culture was confined to the Indus valley, but it is very vast area from the Indus to Uttar Pradesh and from the Himalayas to Maharashtra... Its principal sites in India are Kalibangan, Lothal and Rangpur. Rojdi bids fair to join them. Apart from offering general significance to the study of Harappan culture, Rojdi adds new chapter to the pre-historic study of Saurashtra. This region in proving to be the most important Harappan territory after the Indus Valley. The finds made in December 1983 and January 1984 will be studied and evaluated by archaeologists. In their work several modern techniques have been used, the most significant among these being the magnetometer to ascertain whether structures existed below the earth or not... In another technique, soil samples were analysed through fine filters to examine the nature of cereals and seeds.—PT/





## Reviving The Dead

By R. C. Thavarajah

THE CAPTAIN does not have even the remotest connection with Eschatology. However, it may be of some relevance to the many untimely and unfortunate deaths in a certain part of this "peaceful" Island paradise of ours. No, I am mostly concerned with a news item in one of the dailies that Latin is to be reintroduced as a subject in our schools. A highly commendable and praiseworthy idea. One need not make an in-depth study of etymology, philology or even semantics to accept the irrefutable fact that many of the English words derived their origin from Latin terms. Of paramount importance is the fact that Latin prose composition has long been regarded in England as an integral part of classical scholarship.

According to a statement issued by the Council of the Classical Association, the Latin language has been the main vehicle of Western culture. The statement further declares that "to a first hand knowledge of the creeds, codes, laws, literature, philosophy and science of Western Europe, considered in their historical development, it remains an indispensable key. At the present time, when great social changes are impending, it is more than necessary that men and women should have a clear understanding of the path by which they have already come. This is impossible without Latin. Latin culture is not an obstacle to modern knowledge but a necessary element in it. Our civilisation will lose in breadth and depth, in stability and richness if it is severed from its Latin roots."

ALL THIS is most interestingly illuminating. Let us examine the situation in our country. Here, as well as in other Asian countries, the student is confronted with a difficulty. In attempting to learn an additional alien language such as Latin, one realises how complex the language is and the need for tremendous effort towards the acquisition of its knowledge with clarity. What is most lamentable is that even those who have had the good fortune of acquiring a basic or elementary knowledge of Latin grammar construction have either forgotten what they learnt or are unable to re-activate the study of it. This is due to the ill-considered jettisoning of the subject from the curriculum and the shifting of emphasis to Science subjects.

The so-called "Arts" subjects apparently did not have any "commercial" value. The final death blow was delivered when English too was abandoned. The most convenient and effective shiboleth of "Sinhala Only" gave some the sweet fruits of victory at the hustings. In the backdrop of such uninspiring environment it is no small wonder that the work of successfully reviving the "dead" language can be a Herculean task.

How can you, at this stage, expect a sensational "renaissance"? It is not easy to make the young learn a language without giving cogent reasons for doing so. What is more, they have to read the Latin books which are in English.

Latin is spoken only in restricted situations and circumstances such as Roman Catholic services and also as the medium of communication by some erudite and esoteric communities. It is certainly not the same sort of Latin studied in classical Latin literature. Latin is not spoken in Latin America nor the so-called "Latin Quarter" in the Continent. It is not even used by the residents of Rome in their day-to-day life.

The past is somewhat different. Queen Elizabeth I, at the age of sixteen, might have been able to talk Latin with her tutors readily and well. The civilisation of Europe may have been built on the ruins of Rome. Emperor Justinian I, who greatly stimulated legal studies and who codified the Roman Law gave his Institutes (a handbook for the use of Law Students) in 533 BC. We still reckon time by Julius Caesar's Calendar and take our holidays in the month that is named after Emperor Augustus.

*To be Continued*

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SIGHT AND SOUND

## O.C.I.C. Awards 1984

As foreshadowed in this column, Lester James Peiris' "Kali Yugaya", the second in the film series—the trilogy of Martin Wickremasinghe's celebrated novel "Gamperaliya" carried away most of the awards at the O.C.I.C. Film Festival this year. This column was again on the mark in its comments on Swarna Mallawarachchi brilliant performance in the female steller role in "Dadayama" when this film was reviewed in the *Tribune* columns and did forecast, the best actress's award for her for the films released locally in 1983. This annual event stood out, not so much by the awards alone, as much as what was said on the occasion on the thrust of the nascent TV media into the future of cinema, a full report of which appears in the *Catholic Messenger* of 29th April 1984, with a very relevant and appropriate editorial comment. Since the *Messenger* has a limited circulation among Roman Catholic readership only, this column borrows by courtesy of what was written in this weekly for *Tribune* readers, as there was so much food for thought on this burning topic of the day—whether cinema will survive TV or not.

Dr. Anura Goonesekera, the Director General of Rupavahini Corporation, who delivered the keynote address, "surfaced the unique communitarian dimension of cinema. He described cinema as a medium

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which can hardly be matched by TV or any other medium, for it "catches the magic of communal participation, which can never be captured in the living room by a TV audience." Rev. Father Benedict Joseph, the Director of OCIC in his address of welcome, appealed for the awakening of youth of the country to their proper cinematic responsibilities. He expatiated that "The future of a healthy film industry depends on the attitudes young people bring to this medium, both as viewers and creators." He continued that "since the film industry has now become a crucial national endeavour, the State should set up facilities to train our youth in all branches of film techniques and film art. If our young people were to be disillusioned in the state of the film art in Sri Lanka today, the future of the country's cinema is gloomy indeed."

The chief guest speaker at the OCIC Festival this year was Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, the Minister of Land, Land Development and Mahaweli Development. The Bishop of Kandy, Vianney Fernando, of the Social Communication Commission was also present

JAMES N. BENEDICT

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MEDIA MONITOR

## Helicopter Crash

The reporting by the morning newspapers of 28.5.84. Of the crash in Batticaloa lagoon of a Sri Lanka Air Force helicopter reveals some significant difference between different sections of the Press in treating this kind of story. There were, in the first place, notable differences in emphasis and display between English-language newspapers on the one hand and Sinhala and Tamil newspapers on the other. None of the English-language newspapers led with the story. The *Island* and the *Daily Mirror* both gave it double-column headlines only; the *Daily News* and the *Sun* had four-column headlines, but in the middle of the page. In contrast, all the morning Sinhala and Tamil papers of the mainstream Press carried the story as their front-page lead.

However, the Sinhala and Tamil papers, with one exception, headlined the story in a factual manner. The exception was the *Dinamina*, which stood apart from the rest of the Sinhala Press in its mode of treatment of the item. It headed the story with two glaring red straps, each one inch and a quarter in depth, across six columns, with white lettering against the red, asking: "Did the Air Force helicopter explode or was it exploded?" The *Dinamina's* headline would have had the effect of planting this question in the minds of readers, although on factual evidence had turned up to show there was an explosion at all. In the body of the story, too, the *Dinamina* spoke of "pipireema"

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(explosion), where other Sinhala newspapers used the term "kada vateema" (crash). It may not be unconnected that in that evening's TV news bulletin Rupavahini displayed, behind the announcer reading the item, an inset saying there had been no explosion before the crash.

The foisting of a particular interpretation of the incident on readers' minds, without any factual basis, and the underlining of this interpretation by special display, raise serious questions of Journalistic ethics—especially when it is a state-owned newspaper that is in question. We hardly need to emphasise that to speak of explosions when no explosion has been proved to have taken place can have explosive consequences in the troubled times we are living in.

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June 1, 1984.



SPOTLIGHT

- RUGGER
- CRICKET
- OLYMPICS

Rugby football is holding sway at the moment in the local world of sport with the inter-school and the club tournaments in full swing. At the time of writing, Isipathana in the school tourney and Police and the CH & FC in the club tourney have focussed much attention. Isipathana with their attacking brand of play scored the victory of the season by beating the mighty Trinitians in Colombo. Although the margin of victory is nothing to crow about, the Isipathanians really played well to beat their renowned opponents. In the midst of the schools tourney there is news of a new rugby tourney for schools to be contested for the Prime Minister's trophy. The Prime Minister, a sportsman of no mean repute is all out to promote sports in the country. It was only recently that he took an interest in the destinies of football in Sri Lanka. And with his guidance the game seems on the top if the performance of our local lads against Southend, a leading soccer outfit from England is an indication



to go by. Playing under the colours of the Football Board President's XI, a full strength Sri Lanka team held the visitors to a 1-all draw. This is a creditable achievement considering the fact that the game was allowed to go into ruin. *Now the Prime Minister has instructed the Schools section of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union to pick the top eight teams from among the rugby playing schools after the schools tourney for a knockout tourney for the Prime Minister's trophy.* This tourney will in all probability be played under floodlights at the Sugathadasa Stadium. Be it football, cricket, rugby or boxing, especially when it comes to schools being involved there are unprecedented crowds and tremendous interest. In addition to the schools tourney for the R. Premadasa Trophy there will also be a knockout championship for clubs also for a trophy presented by the Prime Minister. These two tournaments will be organised by the Sports Committee of the Sugathadasa Stadium. These tournaments are scheduled to be held in September.

IN THE MEANTIME, the Disciplinary Committee of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union (Schools section) has come down hard on rough play and crowd behaviour at schools matches. The Committee has also shown their displeasure at the standard of referring this season. The Committee had reason to warn Ananda College to ensure strict crowd behaviour in all their future engagements played at their home grounds. This was a sequel to an assault on the Royal College linesman by a section of the crowd during the Royal-Ananda game at Havelock Park where the game had to be called off with Royal leading 10-nil. No players were involved in the fracas. However, the Committee felt that it was the responsibility of the host team (in this case Ananda) to have provided security and crowd control. Two witnesses who gave evidence pointed out that an Under 17 player from the Ananda team had been instrumental in the lead up to the incident and the school authorities have decided to suspend him indefinitely. At this same meeting the case of the two Josephian players was also taken up. A two week suspension was clamped on Michael Perera for unwarranted play in their match against Wesley, while Frank Boppearatchi was severely warned for assaulting a Trinity player. The Committee held that the assault was made under extreme provocation. Chandana Deepthi was reprimanded for shoulder tackling a player in their game against Ananda. It is also heartening to note that the Committee is making every effort to see to the improvement of referring. All referees have not taken up to the mark and this has resulted in the dropping of the standard of the game and also leading to spectators becoming restive. Another ugly note is that some of the schools prefer to play boys who are overage. Numerous complaints have been made to the Schools Section and a new regulation is to be brought in to stop this. In future all teams will have to state the name, age and date of birth of players in the card for scrutiny before

each game and returned to the respective teams. The Schools Section must be congratulated for taking these steps. It sure augurs well for the game.

ALLROUNDER also regrets to announce the tragic passing away of one of Sri Lanka's most talented rugger player—Hubert Rayen. Rayen was on his way home after watching his club in action when he, it is alleged, run into the cement lining along Galle Road. He was thrown off and it is said an oncoming bus ran over him. Rayen sported Peterite colours and turned out for the Havelocks. Rayen was a must in Sri Lanka teams of the recent past.

THE CRICKET SCENE in Sri Lanka is hotting up with the tour of England by Sri Lanka around the corner. The Cricket Board has picked a pool of 35 cricketers to go into training from which the final squad will be picked. In this squad we are surprised to see the omission of Ishak Shabdeen. Shabdeen an all-rounder of more than ordinary promise was in the Sri Lanka squad that toured Sharjah for the Asia Cup and it is surprising to note that he has been omitted. Maybe it is an oversight on the part of the Board Selectors. It is also heartening to note that the Cricket Board with the blessings of the Minister of Sport has made several important amendments to the Constitution. Outstanding among the amendments made is the extension of the term of the President of the Board by another five years. The President of the Board is the Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake. Dissanayake certainly deserves his tenure at the "wicket" so to say, for the tremendous amount of work he has done to uplift the Board in every way possible. It was Dissanayake, although he is shy to accept the credit, who did most of Sri Lanka's entry into the portals of the International Cricket Conference. Cricket is what it is today due to Dissanayake. He gave it a new image and above all made the Board viable. The term of the Secretary has also been extended. Cricketers and cricket fans are waiting with bated breath the announcement of the captain to lead Sri Lanka in England...It is time that the Cricket Board selectors made the announcement. Sri Lanka's tour of England is an important one and it is the duty of the Cricket Board selectors to see that the best and nothing but the best is picked for the tour. They must remember that we have an important Test match to be played at Lord's. We cannot afford to come out second best. However, the Selectors know better and we leave it to them to do their duty.

THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC GAMES is still at the crossroads with Moscow determined to keep out. They have been joined by all their communist allies. Moves are afoot to get the Soviets to change their minds and come to Los Angeles. But all indications are that they will stick by their decision. Their absence will no doubt take away a lot of glamour from the

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Games. Sportsmen will be missed especially from East Germany and Cuba. In the meantime, the International Olympic Committee has offered the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka solidarity courses in five sports worth 140 thousand US dollars for four years. The NCC had requested for 33 courses covering eight sports. But at this initial stage, the ICC has allocated for five sports—hockey, cycling, wrestling, swimming and volleyball. Hockey has got the largest allocation with 45 thousand US dollars followed by cycling and volleyball each with 15 thousand US dollars.

*Cricket again* and the West Indies batsmen and bowlers are revelling in English conditions and are making mincemeat of their opponents—the Country teams. The England Selectors in an endeavour to stem the Windies avalanche has appointed left hander David Gover to lead them in one day internationals against the Windies. Gover takes over from Bob Willis. Gover has still to be named captain for the Tests. This will depend on his form and the way he handles the team in the one-dayers. Gover said after his appointment: "I was worried that three weeks off with blood poisoning might ruin my chances of playing, let alone getting the captaincy. But I am delighted to be given a chance. It is up to me to do well enough to keep the job. If I don't do well enough, I face the sack, in the same way as people do in other employment". Clive Lloyd the West Indies captain said of Gover's appointment: "I advocated last year that it should be David and the captaincy."

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**RACKETS: (1) Futures (2) Milk**

IS IT NOT A FACT that after referring in this column last week to the earlier *Tribune* exposures about the scandals that stemmed from the smart alec gambling known as "trading" in Commodity Futures (*vide vo.* 26, No. 52, Vol. 27, Nos. 1 and 2), we had stated that we had received a copy of a document entitled **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE "ASSOCIATION FOR INVESTORS PROTECTION IN SHARES AND COMMODITY FUTURES"**? That this Association had as its purpose and objectives the following: "1. To protect the interests of Investors in shares and Commodity Futures; (2) To make necessary representations on any matters of interest to investors in any Stock Exchange or Commodity Futures Exchange; (3) To organise and develop amongst the public an interest in proper and ethical practices in the Shares and Commodity Futures Business; (4) To make any investigations, initiate inquiries or initiate legal action to protect the interests of investors in shares or Commodity Futures and (5) To do any such thing necessary or incidental to these purposes"? That the membership of the Association was open only to "Investors in Shares or Commodity Futures" and also to "any person who has been investing in or is interested in these markets as investor"? That "agents, salesmen, brokers and dealers are prohibited from admission"? That the Regulations further stated that "The Committee of the Association shall peruse each application and where it is of the opinion that the applicant would further the purposes of the Association and not hinder their development, admit the applicant to membership"? That it also had a proviso, "If the Committee discovers any statement in the application to be false, at any date, it may cancel membership or disregard the application"? *That the interesting question is what this Association proposes to do to develop amongst the public an interest in proper and ethical practices in the Shares and Commodity Futures Exchange? That an even more crucial question is whether this Association will immediately make "investigations, initiate inquiries or initiate legal action to protect the interests of investors in shares or commodity futures"?* That *Tribune* has received complaints from a large number of persons of downright cheating in this business? That we hope that the Association will initiate action not only to bring relief to those who have been diddled of lakhs of hard liquid cash (even if some of it was black) but also to bring the criminals to book? That all who have parted with money to these shady promoters of Share and Commodity Futures should join this Association (which presently has its address C/o Anson Traders at 161, Prince Street, Pettah) and call for immediate action?

IS IT NOT AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT that even the *Weekend* has at last woken up to the dangers of permitting multinational milk producing companies

to "monopolise the whole of the local milk market"? That this is something *Tribune* has been writing about for a long time now? That the *Weekend* in its characteristic style has not named names, but those who know what is what cannot fail to identify the culprit? That the attempt was being made said the *Weekend*, by the said multinational "Companies" to oust their local competitors from the market by persuading the government to increase the import tariff and Business Turnover Tax on certain qualities of bulk milk "import"? That the *Weekend* had gone on to say that an investigation had revealed: "that the modus operandi of the multinational companies was to lobby for support with the Government for the increase in tariffs of bulk milk under the guise of protecting the local dairy farmer. The proposed increased tariffs on the import of bulk full cream milk is before the Presidential Tariff Commission. *Weekend* learns that it was finalised and would go before the Government for approval soon. In lobbying for tariff protection, interested parties, *Weekend* learnt, had told Government that it should be careful of imported milk foods which 'were literally being dumped' in Third World countries and has said that Government should encourage local production of milk. *Weekend* however, found that the same companies were also lobbying for the reduction in tariff on skimmed milk and butter oil. Certain organisations are already importing both skimmed milk and butter oil and reconstituting it as full cream milk." That the *Weekend* went on to conclude, "A senior management officer of one of these transnational admitted to importing these two milk constituents reconstituting them as milk and selling them. The full implications of this milk war has been brought to the notice of the Trade Minister, who is expected to take it up with Government and veto any move to increase the import tariffs. A senior government official told *Weekend* that should the multinationals win their war, the prices of full cream milk packeted and marketed by state-managed company may go up steeply"? That in this connection the *Daily Mirror* of June 5 had a headline on its front page: NESTLE TOLD: PRODUCE PERAKUM? That the report read: "PERAKUM condensed milk which was produced by the National Milk Board at its Polonnaruwa factory will be available once again at a cheaper price to consumers. The government has decided that 'Perakum' condensed milk should be produced and sold at a cheaper rate than 'Milkmaid' brand condensed milk now being produced by the multinational firm Nestle in collaboration with the Milk Board. International Dairy Products Ltd. which is the joint stock company producing the condensed milk with the National Milk Board and Nestle of Switzerland holding shares. Nestle holds 60 percent equity capital of the company and phased out the production of 'Perakum' immediately it took over the Polonnaruwa factory to start production of their own 'Milkmaid' condensed milk. . ."? *That this column will have more about Perakum next week?*



# CAVES

# SALES NEWS

## STATIONERY SELECTIONS

A pick from a wide range of Stationery

Filing Packets to Fit all					
Standard Filing Cabinets	...	Rs. 105/-	Rich Gum (7oz)	...	Rs. 38/50
(Set of 25)			No. 10 Max Stapler	...	Rs. 36/00
Name Card Holder. (128 Cards)	...	Rs. 140/-	Tipp - Ex	...	Rs. 52/50
1/2 X 72 yd Celletape	...	Rs. 30/-	Paper Clip (Large)	...	Rs. 4/50
1 X 72 yd Celletape	...	Rs. 60/-	Gumed Tap. 1 X 500 ft	...	Rs. 30/00
Flat Files	...	Rs. 3/50	4 Hole Puncher	...	Rs. 700/-
Imported Box File	...	Rs. 175/-	Miki Paper Cutter	...	Rs. 1500/-
			Single Hole Puncher	...	Rs. 45/00
Orex Ball Pens	...	Rs. 3/50	Heavy Duty Puncher	...	Rs. 1600/-
Folders	...	Rs. 1/50	Crocodile File	...	Rs. 95/-
Lion No. 24/6, Stapler	...	Rs. 45/-	2 Q. Cash Book	...	Rs. 54/-
Imported Stamp Pad	...	Rs. 72/50	Uchida Checkwriter	...	Rs. 1300/-
Paper Clip. (Small)	...	Rs. 4/25			
Puncher No. 50 SUN	...	Rs. 56/25			
Venus Pencil	...	Rs. 8/00			
Share Transfer Register	...	Rs. 182/-			
Lion Erasers	...	Rs. 10/25			
Letter Opener	...	Rs. 45/00			
Local Box File	...	Rs. 60/00			
Pkt. Imported Carbon	...	Rs. 65/00			
C. Computer File	...	Rs. 120/-			
1. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 10/00			
2. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 20/00			
3. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 30/00			
4. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 40/00			
5. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 50/00			
6. Q. C. R. Book	...	Rs. 60/00			

While we have listed only some of the items available with us we are in a position to supply you with almost all standard stationery items.

## H. W. CAVE & CO. LTD.,

P. O. BOX 25.

Gaffoor Building,

Colombo 1. Phone. 22675/22676





# Animal Industry Consultancy and Services (Pte) Limited.

41 1/1, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. Telephone: 598542

The above company maintains a multi-disciplinary team of consultants experts, and specialists, in the field of animal production, animal health, and associated activities, including trade and marketing of livestock and livestock product.

## UNDERTAKINGS ARE

1. Formulation of financially analysed projects in livestock, and production for investment by private sector entrepreneurs.
2. Providing Management Personnel and Advisory Services on a "Retainer Basis".
3. A VETERINARY CLINIC (including Surgical facility) at 89, Second Cross Street, Jaffna.

Please contact:-

**The Managing Director  
AICS (Pte) Ltd.,  
41 1/1, Gregory's Road,  
Colombo 7.  
Telephone 598542.**

