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Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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Ekta Chowdhry, Miss India 2009, arrives for a visit to the Bahamas National Art Gallery in Nassau, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. Contestants from 85 countries will compete for the coveted crown of Miss Universe 2009 on August 23. [AP]



Yalini Rajakulasingam at a Dance Festival in Chennai in July 2009; Yalini has won numerous praises for her artistic abilities since her Bharatanatyam debut performance at Toronto Centre for the Arts in July 2006. Tamil Nadu weekly Kumudham has commended Yalini Rajakulasingam in its Aug 5th, 2009 issue.

Tamil Parties gain in Sri Lanka elections

Voters in Jaffna, the cultural capital of Tamils largely abstained from voting in the first "post war" elections in Sri Lanka., held on August 8th. Their participation was a historic low in a country where voting is well above fifty percent normally.

Tamil party ITAK had openly said it did not feel this was the right time for elections, with more than a quarter of a million Tamils still detained in nearby government camps and much of the north depopulated.

Jaffna Municipal council elections

registered less than 20% turnout and the ruling UPFA coalition won 10,602 votes obtaining 10 seats with 2 additional bonus seats, and Ilangkai Thamizh Arasuk Kadchi (ITAK) took 8 seats after polling 8008 votes. In the Vavuniyaa Urban Council elections, ITAK secured 5 seats with Democratic Peoples Liberation Front (DPLF) obtaining 3 seats, UPFA 2 seats, and Sri Lanka Muslim Congress 1 seat.

Of the other parties contesting the Jaffna MC elections,

Ananthasangaree led Tamil United Liberation Front polled 1,007 votes obtaining one seat, and Muslim Independent polled 1,175 votes obtaining one seat. UNP polled 83 votes and Independents led by Manickasothy polled 47 votes.

1,358 votes were rejected in the Jaffna polls.

A report by BBC says there has not been much chance to scrutinize the conduct of the elections or the campaigns.

Just as it did from the war zone,

Sri Lanka government once again kept independent journalists out of the north, and even election monitors said information was hard to come by, according to BBC.

Sri Lanka government hoped to make major victories in both municipal elections in the North and the results will be seen as will be seen as an "upset" BBC further said.

Poll results indicate Tamils' desire for self-rule, The Christian Science Monitor reported.

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NEW COMERS WANT MORE RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT NEW LIVES IN CANADA - RBC RESEARCH

Despite having access to multiple sources of information, many newcomers to Canada feel that they lack relevant and trustworthy information to help with decisions on their new lives in Canada, according to RBC research conducted recently in China and India with individuals poised to immigrate to Canada.

"The people we spoke with in India and China indicated that they were often faced with conflicting and out of date information when researching their new lives in Canada and that this made them feel anxious," said Andrea Metrick, head, Client Strategy and Multicultural Markets at RBC Royal Bank.

To help alleviate these concerns, RBC Royal Bank today released a new guidebook "Understanding banking in Canada" to provide practical financial information for new

immigrants at key stages of their move to Canada. The new guidebook helps newcomers make important financial decisions upon arrival, as they get settled and when they start planning for the future.

"We undertook this research before new immigrants arrive in the country to understand what more we could do to help make their move to Canada easier," Metrick added. "As part of our RBC Welcome to Canada banking package, the new guidebook will help newcomers better organize their financial priorities and is designed to complement the financial advice that a newcomer receives from their RBC advisor."

The RBC Welcome to Canada banking package includes a suite of banking products and services, coupled with financial advice, fee-waivers, discounts and interest rate bonuses, tailored to meet the



needs of newcomers who have been in Canada for less than three years.

Information on moving to Canada, including financial advice and solutions can be found at RBC's comprehensive web site for new Canadians at www.rbc.com/canada, accessible to consumers around the world. Details on the

RBC Welcome to Canada banking package, the new "Understanding banking in Canada" guidebook, and branch locator that identifies representatives who speak a variety of languages, can be found at www.rbc.com/advicepackage. Telephone banking service is available in 150+ languages when calling 1-800 ROYAL 1-1 or dedi-



cated service is available in Mandarin and Cantonese at 1-888 ROYAL 9-8.

These are some of the findings of qualitative research conducted by Environics Research Group on behalf of RBC Royal Bank in March, 2009. Eight groups were consulted - two each in Shanghai and Beijing in China, and Delhi and Ludhiana in India. The cities were chosen based on immigration trends and RBC's presence in China and India, the top two source countries of immigration to Canada in recent years. All group participants were those who had applied for immigration to Canada. There were 7 to 8 respondents participating in each group and each group was 2 hours in length.

CANADIANS PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO EXPENSES AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN: RBC POLL

Looking at brown bag lunches and part-time jobs as ways to save

Six-in-ten Canadians kept a closer eye on their monthly expenditures in the past six months, according to the fourth annual RBC Account Habits Poll.

"Canadians are reacting to the economic downturn by looking for ways to minimize expenses and maximize their earnings," said Ashif Ratanshi, head, Branch Investments, Deposits and Direct Investing, RBC. "Looking at all your expenses - everything from how much you spend on coffee to finding out whether you qualify for free banking - and making changes where it makes sense, can really have an impact. Today, for example, almost half of RBC customers in Canada receive a rebate on their banking or bank for free."

According to the survey, 56 per cent say they have stopped buying non-essential items and 44 per cent are eating out less or bringing their lunch to work in an effort to save more. One-in-six young Canadians (aged 18-34), have taken a part-time job to maximize their cash flow.

Canadians are also looking for better value. According to the survey, 96 per cent of respondents said that quality and better value for money was important (66 per cent very important) to them. While 65 per cent rated lower cost/fees as being very important, 52 per cent wanted a company with a solid reputation. Fifty-nine per cent valued a predictable fee that did not change month to month and 32 per cent thought receiving something above and beyond the product or service was very important.



"People want quality products and services at an affordable price, and to feel they are being rewarded for their business," said Chris Barber, director, Personal Banking. "With that in mind, for the first time, RBC is offering our account holders the opportunity to receive RBC Reward points when they open selected bank accounts. We also offer accounts with predictable fees and an opportunity to earn free banking services through our Multi Product Rebate feature."

If a new or existing client opens or upgrades to the RBC Signature No Limit Banking, RBC VIP Banking or RBC No Limit Banking for Students account from May 1 to August 31, they can earn up to 15,000 RBC Rewards points, depending on the account they open. For more information on how to qualify for the rewards, please visit www.rbcroyalbank.com/expectmore.

These are some of the findings of poll conducted by Ipsos Reid from April 23 to 27, 2009. This online survey of 1,024 Canadians was conducted via the Ipsos I-Say Online Panel, Ipsos Reid's national online panel. The results of this poll are based on a sample where quota sampling and weighting are employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data. Quota samples with weighting from the Ipsos online panel provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls, however, an unweighted probability sample of this size, with a 100 per cent response rate, would have an estimated margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had the entire adult population of Canada been polled.

Ontario ban on cell phones, handheld electronics for drivers takes effect in October

Keep your eyes on the road and your hands behind the wheel is the message Ontario wants to get across to motorists.

The province has announced that Ontario's ban on the use of cell phones, blackberrys and other handheld electronic devices by drivers will take effect this October.

Transportation Minister Jim Bradley says motorists can expect an education period when the ban first comes into effect, which means police will show some leniency.

If you're caught using any hand-

held device behind the wheel you could face a fine of up to \$500.

Ontario is the fourth province to enact the ban following Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Manitoba has adopted a similar law.


Drivers are also banned from using portable video games and DVD players but they're allowed to use their cell phones for 911 calls.

Global positioning systems (GPS) are allowed as long as they're properly fastened to the dashboard.

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

Welcoming the new school year

By Krishni Loganathan, BA
(Hons) Political Science, History

It's almost September and that means its back to school for many students, of all ages, headed back to the classroom after a summer off. It is now time to get back to the gruelling routine of homework, assignments and tests.

As many are not entirely looking forward to another year of school, some are taking advantage of a new school year by starting fresh and having a clean slate to work with. New goals are set out for the term and strived to be achieved throughout the school year.

As the new school year draws closer parents of children beginning school for the first time have an important decision to make. To choose a child's first school is a very important decision to make as it is the stepping stone to the educational ladder. By choosing an institution that does not motivate the child or provide the child with extra curricular activities may

lead to a less success rate for the child overall.

Many parents choose their homes close to excellent schools in order to provide their children with an opportunity for a better education, although it is up to the child to take advantage of this educational system and learning opportunities.

It is difficult at first for children to adjust to new neighbourhoods and schools once they first move in, but as time goes on their ability to make new friends and adapt to their new environments become easier. Becoming involved in afterschool activities or sports teams is a great way to make the shift to a new school effortless as classmates with the same interests have an easier time becoming friends.

Parents of young children are not the only ones that have difficult decisions to make about their child's education. Parents of teenagers that are now moving on to high school also have an important decision to make. The high school that their child goes to may

be the last form of schooling before their child embarks in a post-secondary school or even straight into the working world. After high school new decisions must be made on their path of adulthood, whether it is what university to attend or what career to follow.

Parents whom once answered every question that their child posed and made every decision that had to be made, now move to the sidelines to watch as their child now begins to live in the real world where mistakes happen and support is not around 24/7.

The reality which is not sugar coated and is not given second chances is what these young adults move towards. It is now up to the parents to observe the training that they provided and step back to let their children make their own decisions. Mistakes are bound to happen, but it is now up to the child to grow from them.

Not everyone is however given a chance to choose which school they want their child to go

to or even the opportunity for an education system all together. The educational system in the developing world lacks the same structure as many people take for granted here. Poverty plays a vital role in the limitations of education and the opportunities for growth. "Poverty, like conflict, today continues to deprive young people of the opportunity and right to be educated," says UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyo Akasaka.

It is up to those enrolled in the educational system to take advantage of their opportunity and create awareness for those that lack this same chance.

To those that are embarking on a new chapter of their life, and those that are continuing to an old one, congratulations to you all for succeeding thus far.

It takes dedication, hard work and commitment to achieve all that you have, and on behalf of the Monsoon Journal family we wish you all success in your future endeavours!

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Sri Lanka separates two baby jumbos from their mothers



An orphaned elephant baby is bottle fed by a tourist aided by a mahout, or elephant keeper, at an elephant "orphanage" in Pinnawala, Sri Lanka, July 28, 2009. Questions are being raised if this is in fact an "elephant farm" where elephants are kept in captivity for tourism and Buddhist temple purposes.

Animal rights activists have filed a petition in Sri Lanka's Supreme Court to reverse the removal of two baby elephants from an elephant "orphanage" recently.

Environmentalists say that the elephants were taken from their mother while they were still suckling. The government says there is a shortage of elephants for religious processions.

The Sathwa Mithrayo rights group spokeswoman Sagarika Karaunanayake argues that the government's constitutional requirement to safeguard and develop Buddhism in the island should not be at the expense of rare wild animals.

Sri Lankan cabinet minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa earlier explained the reasons for handing them over to the temple.

He said the temple, which is the headquarters for some prominent Buddhist monastic chapters, was the centre of a social, cultural and religious renaissance in Sri Lanka. "There is a severe shortage of tamed elephants which take part in religious processions," Mr Yapa is quoted by the government's information department as saying.

"The ministry of sports and public recreation decided to gift two baby elephants from Pinnawala elephant orphanage for the purpose."

Selvarasa Pathmanathan 'illegally abducted'

The Tigers' new leader, Selvarasa Pathmanathan, is no longer at large.

A statement by LTTE says they believe he was not arrested, as the Sri Lankan government says, but illegally abducted from a hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

They suspect that this was carried out by Sri Lanka's military

intelligence, supported by parts of the Malaysian establishment.

And they call on Malaysia to give further details, saying that if there are none available, there should be an inquiry.

Malaysia's prime minister has said he can't confirm or deny reports of an arrest on its soil.

Global Tamil Forum launched

Global Tamil Forum (GTF), consisting of several Tamil organizations around the globe has been formed to speak with one voice on the plight of Tamils, according to a news release about the inaugural.

A press release on the inauguration further states:

The GTF will evolve as an independent, international organization which adheres to the principles of democracy and non-violence and derives its strength from existing grassroots organizations of the Tamil Diaspora. Working in solidarity with the Tamils in Eelam and other communities in Sri Lanka, the GTF will strive to restore Tamil People's right to self-deter-

mination and democratic self rule in their traditional homeland in the island of Sri Lanka.

The immediate goal of GTF will be to address the plight of the Tamils interned in the camps and have their resettlement in their homes and villages expedited by generating international pressure upon the Government of Sri Lanka. The GTF will also explore avenues to bring the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice.

Tamil organizations from all five continents are represented in the GTF and have joined hands to further this mission. On the web: <http://globaltamilforum.org>

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The Armenian community centre to receive \$2 million in Joint Federal-provincial Funding

The Armenian Community Centre of Toronto will benefit from a joint federal and provincial investment of \$2,000,000, which will go towards the rehabilitation of the centre, under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program in Ontario (RIInC Ontario) and Recreation Ontario (Ontario REC) announced by Bob Dechert, MP Mississauga Erindale and David Caplan, MPP for Don Valley East.

"Our government is proud to support recreational infrastructure," said Dechert. "Investments in these types of projects stimulate the economy, enhance local facilities and services and foster vibrant, dynamic communities. This is truly wonderful news for the Armenian Community Centre of Toronto," said Dechert.

"The McGuinty government is pleased to support the Armenian Community Centre as it helps build a more inclusive and welcoming province for us all," Caplan said. "For over 30 years the Centre has served the Armenian community in the GTA - totalling over 30,000 people- and I'm pleased that this funding will help renew, expand and upgrade the facilities here at the Centre."



Bob Dechert, MP Mississauga Erindale, David Caplan, MPP for Don Valley East, Ara Kerjikian President of the Armenian Community Centre, Gerry Phillips MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt and Toronto Councillor Shelley Carroll

"The Armenian Community Centre of Toronto is used by many residents of the GTA. It has been scheduled for major renovation. This funding will expedite that renovation and create much needed jobs now," said the President of the Armenian Community Centre, Mr. Ara Kerjikian.

Gerry Phillips MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt joined MP Dechert, MPP Caplan, Centre President and other members of the Armenian Community Centre this evening to celebrate the

funding announcement.

"The Armenian Community Centre has been a very active facility providing great services to the community. This funding will help the Centre continue to play this important role," said Phillips.

"The McGuinty Government continues to work in partnership with our communities and the federal government to renew and improve our recreational space in Toronto," said Brad Duguid, MPP Scarborough Centre. "The funding to this community centre will realize short term economic bene-

fits and in the long run, provide an up to date facility that will continue to provide top notch services."

This is part of 758 projects announced on June 26th by Minister of State (Science and Technology) Gary Goodyear, on behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Leona Dombrowsky, on behalf of George Smitherman, Ontario Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, worth a total joint federal and provincial investment of more than \$380 Million.



These programs were designed to provide a timely, targeted stimulus to the economy through investments that will spur construction activity related to existing recreational infrastructure. Beyond economic stimulus and job creation, renewing, rehabilitating and modernizing our recreational infrastructure has the additional benefit of encouraging higher levels of participation in physical activity and community building. Projects were selected on the basis of merit and construction readiness.

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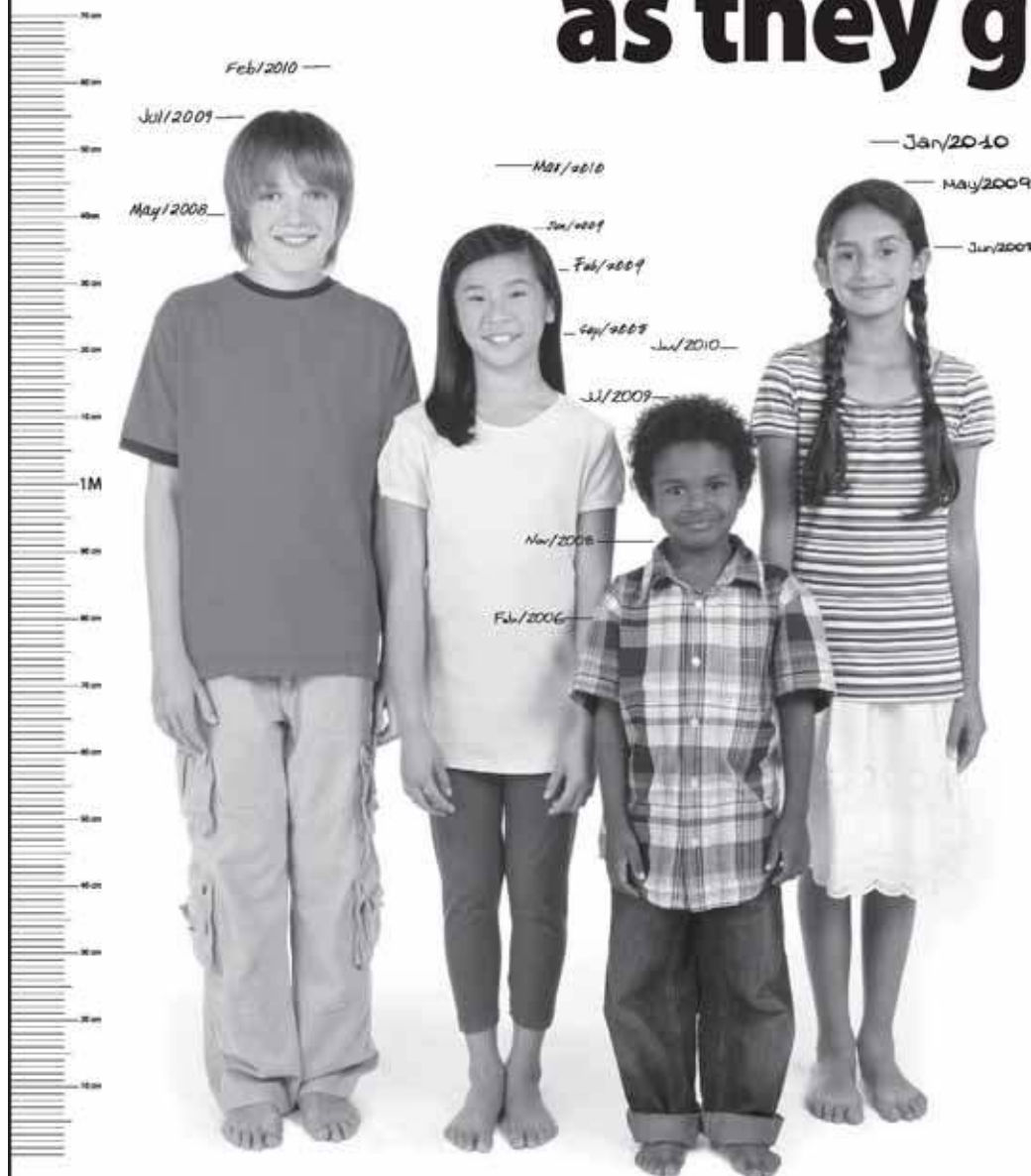
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The latest physician to join Rouge Valley Health System's (RVHS) medical group will lead the infectious diseases team, and continue with the hospital's commitment to preventing and effectively treating infectious diseases, including the H1N1 virus.

Dr. Abdelbaset Belhaj is the new infectious diseases consultant and medical director of the infection prevention and control team. Beginning in August, the physician, who is also a medical microbiologist, will see patients at both hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) in east Toronto, and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) in west Durham region.

"The infection control team at Rouge Valley is thrilled at the addition of Dr. Belhaj. With his background as a medical microbiologist and expertise in infectious diseases, he will be a real asset to both our program and patients," says Tricia Root, director of infection prevention and control at

New physician to lead infectious diseases team

Medical microbiologist and infectious diseases consultant joins Rouge Valley

Rouge Valley. "As an infectious diseases specialist, I also believe that he will be a great help to our other physicians."

Dr. Belhaj's role at RVHS is unique because of his background as a medical microbiologist, and because of his dedicated role as an infectious diseases specialist. In addition to his role as medical director, Dr. Belhaj will be consulted on in-patient issues, and will begin seeing out-patients in his infectious diseases clinic at RVC in September.

"Dr. Belhaj will play an important role here at RVHS, and he will prove to be a benefit to both our medical team and to our patients. Delivering quality patient care remains our priority, and the addition of Dr. Belhaj will allow us to further that commitment," agrees Sonia Peczeniuk, vice president, medical affairs and clinical support.

Dr. Belhaj is eager to begin his new role at RVHS, and is excited about playing an integral role with the hospital's infection prevention and control program. "I am



pleased to be taking on this leadership role at Rouge Valley, and I look forward to being a part of the excellent team of physicians here," says Dr. Belhaj. The married father of two young children recently relocated to Pickering with his family.

One of Dr. Belhaj's biggest roles will be helping to rollout the hospital's pandemic plan. RVHS has taken a proactive, measured approach in dealing with infectious diseases -- such as the

H1N1 virus -- at both of its hospital campuses. Dr. Belhaj will help the hospital to continue its efforts to successfully treat patients, and to educate both staff and patients on this virus. He will also be providing physician leadership on antibiotic stewardship.

Dr. Belhaj joins infectious diseases specialists Dr. Ian Kitai, Dr. Ashley Roberts and Dr. Michael Silverman, a group already known for infectious diseases leadership and expertise. Dr. Kitai and Dr. Roberts, who are also paediatricians, will continue to provide infectious diseases support and consultations to paediatric patients. Dr. Belhaj and Dr. Silverman will focus on providing infectious diseases consultations to adult patients.

Dr. Belhaj is originally from Libya and fluent in Arabic. After attending medical school at Al Fateh University in Libya, and further studies at Khoms Teaching Hospital and Almergeb University -- also in Libya -- Dr. Belhaj came

to Canada in 2004. From 2004 to 2009, Dr. Belhaj was part of McMaster University's medical microbiology program, rotating between the McMaster University Medical Centre; Hamilton General Hospital; St. Joseph's Healthcare and Henderson General Hospital, all in Hamilton.

During his time in Hamilton, Dr. Belhaj immersed himself in the city's various community-based organizations dedicated to infection prevention and control. He was previously a member of Hamilton's Infection Control Committee, the Central South Infection Control Network Steering Committee, and the Antibiotic Subcommittee of the Hamilton Health Science Centre. As a member of these organizations, Dr. Belhaj helped to provide guidance to local hospitals and long-term care facilities on infection prevention and control issues, and helped to provide guidelines for the treatment of infections.

Physician earns top teaching award

Paediatrician earns University of Toronto's Lionel Weinstein Teaching Award Rouge Valley Health System

Dr. Yehuda Nofech-Mozes loves his work as both a physician and an educator. As a paediatrician who divides his time between Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) and the Hospital for Sick Children, he gets to treat many of the youngest patients at both hospitals. As the director of paediatric medical education at RVHS, he helps to guide the first paediatrics experience that many medical students ever have.

The University of Toronto has recognized his commitment to quality patient care and education, and has bestowed Dr. Nofech-Mozes with the Lionel Weinstein Clerkship Teaching Award.

The award is presented to a member of the university's department of paediatrics who has shown excellence in teaching; has received the most nominations by students; has received the highest peer and student evaluations; and has shown innovation in his or her teaching and course development.

Dr. Nofech-Mozes oversees the education program at RVHS, which pairs a team of Rouge Valley paediatricians with University of Toronto medical students completing their six-week core paediatrics rotation and electives. Dr. Nofech-Mozes says that receiving the award, which was presented to him in June, would not be possible without the dedicated group of paediatricians who train and mentor the students, making the program such a success.

"I am very humbled by this honour. To me, this award is proof of the valuable one-on-one experi-

ence our students receive from our dedicated teaching team. This reward really belongs to all of them," says Dr. Nofech-Mozes. "Because we are a community hospital, I believe we work even harder to provide a meaningful experience to our students," he adds.

Dr. Karen Chang, site medicine leader of paediatrics at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC), agrees. "We are very pleased that one of our physicians has been given this honour. We are also very proud of the work that our physicians are doing, by providing such a meaningful teaching and learning experience for these students."

"We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and outstanding teacher committed to undergraduate students at the University of Toronto. Congratulations to Dr. Nofech-Mozes on this achievement," says Dr. Stacey Bernstein, director of undergraduate medical education in paediatrics at the University of Toronto.

For the six weeks that the students spend working under the supervision of paediatricians, they are either on-call seeing patients at the hospital, or they are at the paediatricians clinics. Half of their time is spent exploring general paediatrics and neonatology. The other half is spent learning at paediatric specialty programs available at RVHS. These include the Galaxy 12 Clinics in gastroenterology, nephrology, neonatal follow up, diabetes, scoliosis, paediatric consulting and adolescent medicine - all part of the RVHS paediatric program. Students also spend time

with RVHS sub-specialists in their offices to experience cardiology, respiratory, endocrinology, neurology and infectious diseases. Galaxy 12, a child and teen clinic based at Rouge Valley Centenary (RVC) is visited by more than 2,300 patients each year. Together, this gives students an extensive view of many aspects of paediatrics. Physicians at the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) site have also been very supportive of the education program.

The program was rated highly in student satisfaction by third-year U of T medical students surveyed at the end of their placement. The program's success is not only attributed to its committed physicians, but also its ability to put student feedback into action-often leading to changes and improvements. Creating a firm schedule that students must work around has also proven successful. All of this combined has made for an interesting and challenging program, which has highly impacted students.

"Dr. Mozes is a truly gifted teacher with an incredible zeal to teach. Each clinical encounter is filled with moment after moment of enthusiastic teaching opportunities. He not only taught me the medical aspects of paediatrics, but taught me the importance of a compassionate approach to patient care. I was more than just an observer as he involved me in the care of his patients. Dr. Mozes is an inspiration to me and represents the excellence that all physicians should strive for," says one student



in their nomination of the physician.

This year, U of T has introduced the Paediatric Longitudinal Experience (PedLE) which RVHS is part of. This program provides first-year U of T medical students with an opportunity to gain early exposure to paediatrics by shadowing paediatricians in a clinical environment. Both Dr. Nofech-Mozes and Dr. Ashley Roberts, paediatrician and infectious diseases specialist, are volunteering their time to this program, helping to expand and further develop Rouge Valley's education efforts.

RVHS thanks the following physicians for their active participation in this program, their full commitment to excellence and quality patient care, and their mentorship of future physicians:

Dr. Ian Kitai, paediatrician, and infectious diseases specialist

Dr. Dennis Gurwitz, paediatric respirologist

Dr. Roland Beaulieu, paediatric cardiologist

Dr. Pamela Cooper, paediatric neurologist

Dr. Rahul Saxena, paediatrician and specialist in adolescent medicine

Dr. Margaret Gan-Gaisano, paediatrician and paediatric endocrinologist

Dr. Carol Durno, paediatric gastroenterologist

Dr. Latifah Yeung, paediatric gastroenterologist

Dr. Mia Hahn, orthopaedic surgeon

Dr. Sultana Alkon-Mintsopoulos, paediatrician

Dr. Hubert Wong, paediatrician and paediatric nephrologist

Dr. Ashley Roberts, paediatrician and infectious diseases specialist

Dr. Leo Levin, paediatrician

Dr. Koshy Muthalaly, paediatrician

Dr. Peter Ramshaw, psychiatrist

Dr. Karen Chang, paediatrician and neonatologist

Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) - The best at what we do

RVHS is an excellent acute care community hospital with many programs, including 24/7/365 emergency, cardiac care and mental health. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two community hospital campuses: Rouge Valley Centenary in east Toronto; and Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering in west Durham. Together, a team of physicians (224 general practitioners and 325 specialists), 1,000 nurses and many other professionals care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. Working in consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, health care organizations, the Central East Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Rouge Valley continues to improve its programs and cater to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby.

Ontario Child Benefit increase announced by Minister

By: Salvita Gomes Makhani

It was a beautiful morning on Thursday, July 9th.

"The set up done by Balmoral Marketing in the back yard of Cecil Community Centre was remarkable," commented Hon. Minister of Children and Youth Services, Deb Mathews at the start of her speech at an event announcing an increase in Ontario Child Benefit.

Ted Brown, the Board Chair of Cecil Community Centre who welcomed all the media and guests, introduced the Minister after his opening remarks. Ted Brown, a Manager-Community Account Services with Alterna Savings is a volunteer as Board Chair with Cecil Community Centre. He said that this centre has been in operation for the last 30 years serving the community which is run by the City, but operated the Board.

The Minister explained in detail why Ontario Govt. had to find the extra money to boost the Ontario Child Benefit. She further stated, since the introduction of Ontario Child Benefit in 2007, the benefit has been increased up to \$1,100 per year effective July

2009; it's an increase by almost double. This will help the low-income families to help with cost of raising their children.

"We're giving families more support during these challenging economic times. This can mean extra healthy groceries every month or the opportunity for kids to take part in summer or after-school activities that weren't an option before"- quoted Deb Mathews, Minister of Children and Youth Services.

Parents do not need to apply for the Ontario Child Benefit, however to be eligible, they must file their income taxes, register for the Canada Child Tax Benefit, have a child under age of 18 and live in Ontario.

Minister answered all questions and concerns raised by the media and requested the ethnic media to spread the word about the celebration of this great news to every one through their source of media; print, radio and tv and website.

Minster did not end the program with just answering the media, but gracefully joined the children at the centre to sing along nursery rhymes.

Photos by: Salvita Gomes Makhani

The children singing along with the minister



Ontario is giving people the ability to register online to find a family doctor

"Since 2003 we have made progress getting 800,000 more patients access to a doctor who didn't previously have one. We're committed to ensuring that as many people as possible get access to the medical expertise of a physician. Together with the government, we're going to continue to help more Ontarians find a family doctor," Said Dr. Suzanne Strasberg, President of the Ontario Medical Association

The online service - being offered through Health Care Connect - is the next step in the McGuinty government's plan to increase access to family health care. The most recent data shows that approximately 800,000 more Ontarians have a family doctor now than in 2003.

The Health Care Connect

online registration tool provides:

" Round-the clock access to on-line registration - saving time for busy Ontarians

" Options to register more than one patient - you can register your family and dependants

" Registration that will connect patients to a Care Connector - a nurse who will help patients without a family health care provider to find one

" Security features to protect the privacy of your personal health information

" A link to the Health Care Options website, a medical services directory with a built in mapping system, for patients to find their local health care options

Quick facts:

" 51 percent of Ontarians who have registered with Health Care



Connect have been connected to a family health care provider, 81 percent with greater health care needs have been connected.

" The Primary Care Access Survey 2008 shows 300,000 patients have been attached since 2006, building on the 500,000 attached between 2003-2006.

" Health Care Connect will continue to register patients via the toll-free number: 1-800-445-1822.

"The addition of online registration for Health Care Connect is another step taken by the McGuinty government to increase access to care and help Ontarians find health care options closer to home.", said David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

Cultural Loss Leads to Poorer Health for Ethnic Minorities

By Rose Hoban

Some of the longest-lasting consequences of colonialization have been the long-term health effects on indigenous people in the places where settlers moved. Indigenous and aboriginal people tend to be less healthy - and live shorter lives - than the descendants of those who settled in their lands. For example, in Canada, indigenous - or First Nation - people live on average seven fewer years than Europeans. Aboriginal Australians live on average 17 fewer years than white Australians.

Canadian researcher Malcolm King says part of the reason for shorter lives has to do with higher rates of health problems.

"In simple terms, things such as type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases of a variety of types, and lung diseases and so on, are all found at higher than the comparison rates within the country, in many of these

countries with indigenous populations," King says.

King is head of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and conducts research at the University of Alberta. In a review in the British journal The Lancet King explored the underlying causes of the health gap.

He says factors such as loss of culture, land and language play a part in poor health outcomes.

"This has a negative effect on health through a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the importance of identity, of having an identity, particularly to mental health," he says.

King cites the history of Canada, where many young indigenous children were taken from their families to live at residential schools and be educated in the European system. King says as a result, these young people never developed a cultural identity.


"They fail to develop the types of bonding that would be normal and that they would have had, had the residential schools not happened," he says.

King says that measures to resolve some of these problems might fall outside of the realm of traditional health interventions - for example, housing. King and his co-author propose that health researchers get involved in projects such as housing, economic development and educational projects in order to study their health effects.

"Hopefully, the health benefits of these complex social, economic interactions... by learning what it is about economic development or housing that actually helps to improve health, we can then design more programs and ultimately make better use of the knowledge that we have," King says.

Governments have a responsibility to work with indigenous peoples to help them solve issues in their community, King says. And he says the solutions should not be created in a paternalistic way, but as a collaborative effort.

[VOA News]



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Thomson Reuters has published some questions and answers on key conditions of the recently sanctioned IMF facility for Sri Lanka and whether the government will be able to meet them:

Can Sri Lanka fulfill agreed econ reforms with IMF

By Shihar Anee

WHAT IS THE HARDEST CONDITION FOR SRI LANKA TO MEET?

Maintaining a 7 percent budget deficit in 2009. Latest Ministry of Finance data showed the deficit has already hit 4 percent in the first four months of this year and economists expected the full-year figure to reach at least 9 percent.

They say the government will be forced to revise its populist policies to more economically rational ones if it wants to receive the entire \$2.6 billion loan.

The 5 percent fiscal deficit target in 2011 will also be a difficult task for President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who faces a parlia-

What is the hardest IMF condition for Sri Lanka to meet?

mentary and presidential election before then.

Analysts say the Rajapaksa administration, which has already promised to cut military expenditure after the war, could introduce new indirect taxes to increase revenue.

But that might be unpopular with the electorate. So Rajapaksa could take advantage of his current high popularity and call for elections early and, assuming he wins, implement the less popular policies afterwards.

WHAT WILL IMF DO IF SRI LANKA FAILS TO MEET THE CONDITIONS?

Initially, the IMF is likely to be flexible, taking into consideration Sri Lanka's post-war situation. However, continued failures to meet conditions will compel the lender to stop disbursement of the loans, which would be negative for domestic markets. The IMF discontinued a previous loan programme due to Sri Lanka's failure in adhering to its conditions in 2001.

WHAT IMPACTS WILL THE CONDITIONS HAVE ON THE

ECONOMY?

Inflation is expected to pick up. The government has agreed with the IMF to halt subsidies to loss-making state enterprises Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC). That is likely to lead to higher inflation via increased energy prices, raising pressure for policy rates to rise.

WILL THE EXCHANGE RATE POLICY BE AN ISSUE?

No. One of the conditions state that the central bank must allow flexibility in the foreign exchange rate and limit intervention to smooth volatility in the market. But the IMF has also said the flexibility should help maintain exporters' competitiveness, suggesting it is in line with the current central bank policy of intervening only when the rupee is depreciating.

Central bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal told Reuters that the rupee is trading at a reasonable rate and it will continue to maintain a stable exchange rate.

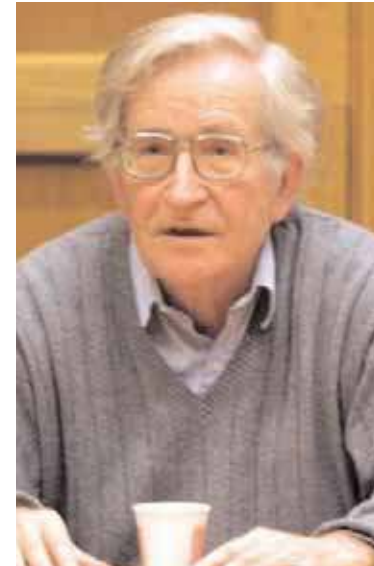
Traders also expect the rupee remain steady.

Chomsky: Sri Lanka, a Rwanda-like major atrocity the West didn't care

Prof Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus of linguistics at MIT, said during a United Nations forum on Responsibility to Protect (R2P) on July 23, that what happened in Sri Lanka was a major Rwanda-like atrocity, in a different scale, where the West didn't care. "There was plenty of early warning. This [conflict] has been going on for years and decades. Plenty of things could have been done [to prevent it]. But there was not enough interest." Chomsky was responding to a question that referred to Jan Egeland, former head of UN's Humanitarian Affairs' earlier statement that R2P was a failure in Sri Lanka, where Inner City Press (ICP) noted that nearly 20,000 Tamil civilians were killed.

On ICP Matthew Lee's reference to the UN's doctrine of R2P which was signed by 191 states in 2005 and question if there was a consensus in UN about this doctrine, Chomsky described the power interests at play at the UN, and how Western Governments' policies of structural adjustments in other countries are tearing those societies apart.

Lee also noted that Robert Evans, former head of the International Crisis Group (ICG) had earlier said that UN had responded to Sri Lanka in the R2P



sense.

Chomsky took issue with the optimistic characterization by Evan's of the activities of the UN with regards to R2P.

R2P is generally noted as Kofi Annan's greatest achievement in "humanitarian intervention," to bring governments and leaders massacring their own people to account.

Noam Chomsky, is known as one of the fathers of modern linguistics, a libertarian socialist intellectual, and is also described as a "hero of Homeric proportions," belonging solidly in the pantheon of US's finest minds.

[TamilNet]

Greenspan Says 2.5% Growth Possible in Third Quarter for United States

Former US Federal reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is quoted saying in a news update by US business news portal Bloomberg on August 2nd that, the most severe recession in at least five decades in US may be ending and growth may resume at a rate faster than most economists foresee.

Improvement in the US economy bodes well for the Canadian economy too.

The report by Steve Matthews on Bloomberg further said:

"We may very well have 2.5 percent in the current quarter," Greenspan said in an interview on ABC's "This Week" program on Aug 2. "The reason is there has been such an extraordinarily high rate of inventory liquidation that the production levels are well under consumption."

The U.S. economy contracted at a better-than-forecast 1 percent annual pace in the second quarter, the Commerce Department reported July 31. Stabilization of housing markets

and consumer spending, a lessening of financial turmoil and increased government spending all suggest the longest recession since the 1930s may be close to ending.

"I'm short-term optimistic, but with many caveats," the former Fed chairman said. Housing markets have "stabilized temporarily" though it is "possible" the economy might relapse if there is a further slide in home prices of more than about 5 percent.

"I don't think it's going to happen, but I do think it is possible that we could get a second wave down," he said. "But the important issue is that if we don't, and I think the probability is that we won't, that we are close to stabilization."

Economic growth will average 1 percent in the current quarter, according to a Bloomberg News survey of economists in July.

"I'm pretty sure we've already seen the bottom," Greenspan said. "In fact, if you look at the weekly production figures for var-



Former US federal reserve Chairman Mr. Alan Greenspan

ious different industries, it's clear that we've turned, perhaps in the middle of last month, the middle of July."

He predicted "the unemployment rate is going to continue to rise, but more slowly than it's been. We'll continue to have job loss, but that's slowing as well."

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Sleep on it...

We are all well aware that proper nutrition and fitness contribute to a healthy lifestyle. What is often forgotten and sometimes neglected is sleep. Lack of sleep does more than make us cranky and lethargic. It can lead to poor concentration, higher stress and decreased productivity. Our bodies cannot survive without food and water. Likewise, our bodies suffer if not refueled by the right amount of sleep. Adults require between seven and eight hours of sleep a night. Individual needs may fluctuate between five and ten hours.

While sleeping, the body consolidates the day's learning into memory, thereby improving processing and understanding of skills. The intensive firing of neurons during sleep contributes to information being organized and stored in the brain. The blood flow increases to our muscles, bringing in nutrients and discarding waste. This allows for tissue repair and growth. Sleep also contributes to our mood. Lack of sleep causes irritability, moodiness and impatience. Chronic

By Mithura Anandarajah, PT
Registered Physiotherapist

sleep deprivation will impact our metabolism and can result in the body storing excess carbohydrates. This will often lead to weight gains. The release of hormones is often correlated with our sleep cycles. For children and young adults, the growth hormone is released during periods of sleep. Sleep deprivation results in a decrease in body temperature and a decrease in immune system function, measured by our white blood cell count. Deprivation for extended periods can cause increased heart

rate variability, thereby impacting cardiovascular health.

Sleep is a dynamic process and consists of two different stages defined by the quantity of neuronal level. Sleep consists of NREM (non-rapid eye movement) and REM (rapid eye movement). NREM sleep consists of approximately 75% of sleep time and includes the time it takes to fall asleep as the brain waves and breathing slow down and muscles relax. NREM sleep includes deep sleep. REM sleep is usually associated with dreaming. During REM sleep, the eyeballs move rapidly, the heart rate and breathing become rapid and irregular and the blood pressure rises. If a person is extremely tired the duration of the REM cycle becomes shorter.

The quality of sleep is just as important as the quantity of sleep. Six hours of uninterrupted



sleep is better than eight hours of interrupted sleep. Any parent of a newborn would confirm this. Ideally get an adequate amount of sleep every night. Establish a regular sleep schedule and try to fall asleep and wake up at the same time. If you do lose sleep, make up for it as soon as you are able to. Remember the four "R" - regularize, ritualize, relax and resist. Regularize your schedule and sleep-wake patterns. Ritualize the process of sleeping, whether it is keeping the room dark, cool or listening to music. Relax and find ways to reduce your stress to facilitate sleeping. Mostly, resist the stimuli, exercise or behaviour that would prevent sleep. Sleep tight!



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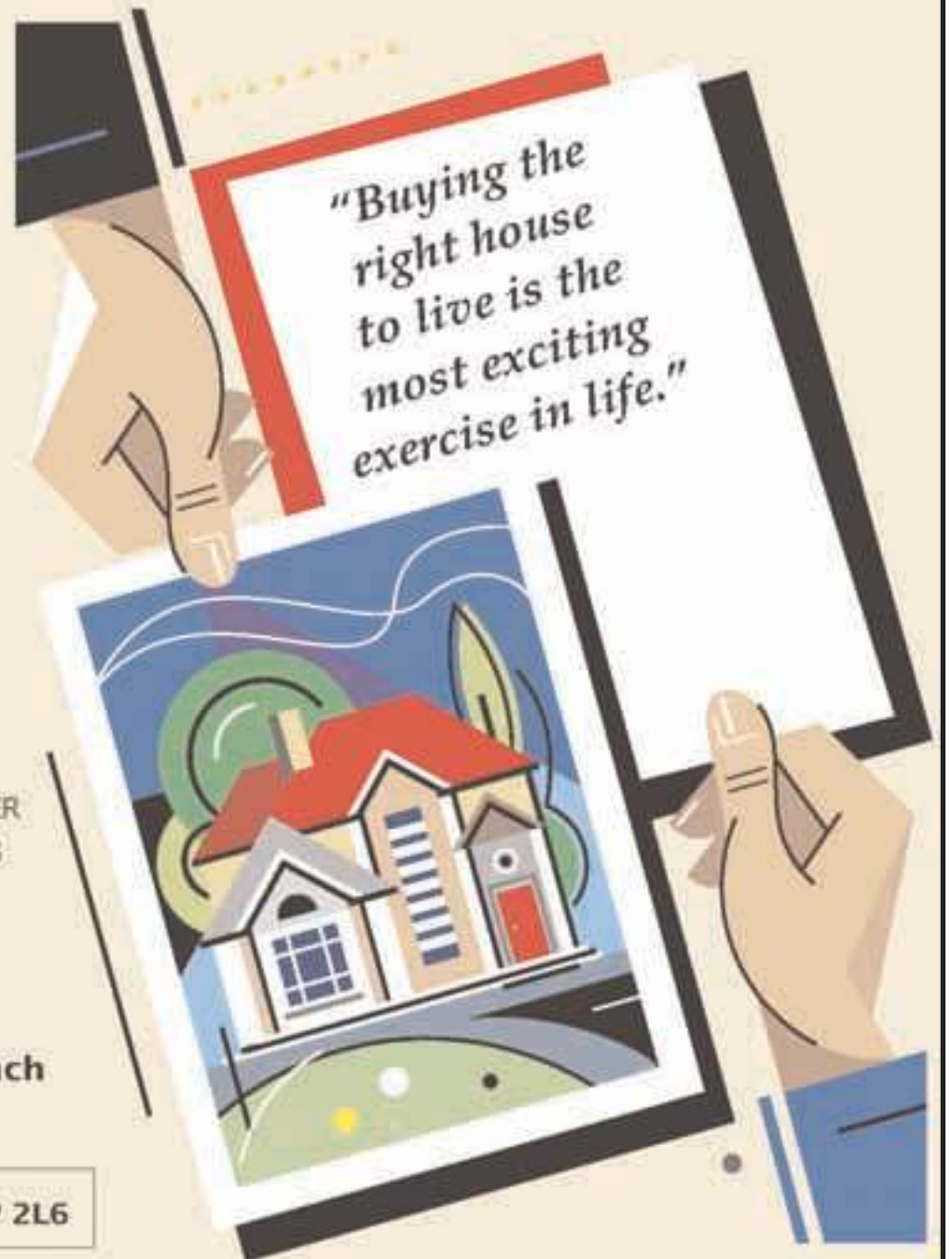
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July 15, 2009

MESSAGE

I am delighted to send my good wishes to the readers of the Monsoon Journal on the 62nd Anniversary of India's Independence. It is heartening to know that Monsoon Journal is bringing out a special Supplement on this occasion.

The Independence Day is an important occasion in our national life. It is on this day in 1947 that we gained our independence from foreign rule. Every year on this day we rededicate ourselves to the ideals, values and objectives of the founding fathers of our Republic and remember their sacrifice and struggle which made it possible for us to live in an independent country.

India's rapidly growing economy is opening new avenues for the Indian community in Canada to add another dimension to their links with India – the dimension of trade and investments. Our hi tech sectors like IT and biotech are considered amongst the best and fastest growing in the world. We are a living testimony that democracy and development are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

The celebration of India's Independence Day of India by Monsoon Journal shows the strong emotional bonds which members of the Indo-Canadian community have with India. We are proud of the contribution made by Monsoon Journal in promoting India in Canada and also in promoting India-Canada relations.



Preeti Saran
Consul General

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भारत गणराज्यम्, भारत
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA
OTTAWA

28th July 2009**MESSAGE**

I am pleased to know that "Monsoon Journal", a monthly English newspaper published in Toronto, is bringing out a Special Supplement to mark India's Independence Day 2009. On this happy occasion, I convey my heartiest greetings to the Editorial Board of the Monsoon Journal and to all its readers.

It is commendable that Monsoon Journal has been making vital contribution in informing its readers about the current political, economic and social developments in India. We also appreciate the Monsoon Journal's role in acting as a bridge in promoting relations between India and Canada which are growing rapidly.

I wish the Editorial Board of the Monsoon Journal and all its readers the very best in their future endeavours.

S.M. Goyal
(S.M. Goyal)



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Canadian Tamil writer wins Sri Lanka short story competition

By: Raymond Rajabalan

Sambasivam Ahileswaran, known as Ahil in literary circles born in Saravanai in Northern Sri Lanka, presently residing in Canada has won the first prize in the late Chembianselvan R. Rajagopal memorial short story competition conducted in July by the Colombo based literary journal "Gnanam".

Ahil's winning submission 'Pathavy Uyarvu' (Promotion) is a very moving story based on recent military action in North. His short story has won the praise of numerous writers in Sri Lanka as well as in Canada. This story has already been published in the Canadian weekly newspaper 'Senthamarai'

Ahil is a poet and the author a number of books and is a recipient of numerous literary awards

" Poem - The Poem of the day - Editor's Choice Award - 1997

" Poem - The International Library of Poetry - Editor's Choice Award - 2001

" Poem - The International Library of Poetry - International Poet of Merit Award - 2002

" Young poet award by UVA Province



Hindu Vigilance Society 2002, for releasing a book "Fasting and its benefits"

The writings of multi talented Ahil has appeared in many leading journals, magazines, periodicals and newspapers in India, Canada and Sri Lanka

He has already published three books including a novel. He is due to release two novels and a collection of poetry.

Monsoon journal wishes Ahil further success in all his future endeavours.

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) presents " Sex and the Village"

The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) sponsored another fabulously, vibrant float in Toronto 's 29th annual Pride Parade. "Sex and the Village" was the official entry from the South Asian queer community and as promised, it set the Pride trails ablaze with fiery music, colourful costumes and smouldering dance moves.

The community float "showcased the diversity of the South Asian queer community. Our aim was to show that village attire is and can be sexual, and is not any less than the overtly sexualized urban clothing that gets more attention" Siva Gunaratnam - Tamil Outreach Coordinator for ASAAP.

"Can't Stop, Won't Stop" was this year's official Pride theme and it had significant meaning for the South Asian queer community and the ASAAP staff: "This year marks ASAAP's 20th year and knowing that we have supported the community for this long proves that our services are necessary (and will continue to be necessary), as will our engagement with the greater queer community - it will continue to be bigger and bolder," Siva Gunaratnam - Tamil Outreach Coordinator for ASAAP.

As always, this year's Pride Parade generated a lot of enthusiasm, crowd support and media attention. It brought together different pockets of the community to beautifully celebrate diverse lifestyles. Men, women, children, families - all found something to connect with and relate to at Pride.



ASAAP's Tamil Outreach Program targets the Tamil population living in Toronto. The program conducts workshops on a wide variety of topics, (including anti-homophobia, healthy relationships and HIV 101), in a broad range of settings. Funded by the City of Toronto, programming such as this responds to the needs of Toronto's increasingly diverse population and the clear demand that educational tools, programs and service providers reflect that diversity.

For more information about the Tamil Outreach Program, please contact Siva Gunaratnam at 416.599.2727 x227 or tamil.outreach@asaap.ca.

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Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada - AGM Highlights

Sri Lankan Accountants Association of Canada (SAAC) is a non profit organization consisting of 125 life members who are members of accounting bodies like CA, CGA & CMA. in Canada

and also members of CIMA, ACCA of England & CA of Sri Lanka. SAAC objective is to consolidate all Accountants having Sri Lankan roots living in Canada under one banner and promote fellowship

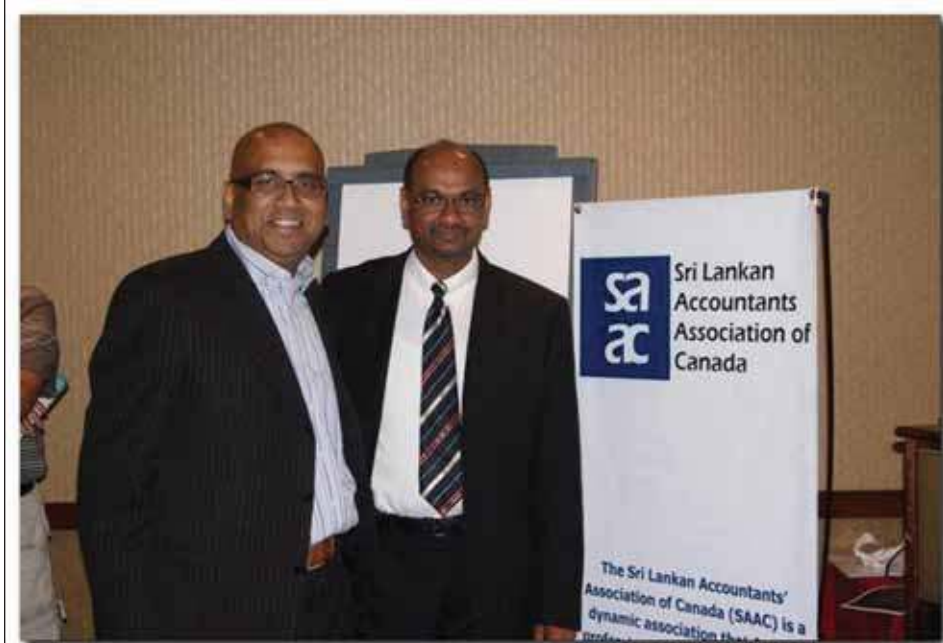
nationally and Internationally.

SAAC is dedicated towards the provision of an equitable forum for the transmission of ideas aimed at enhancing the knowledge of members, profes-

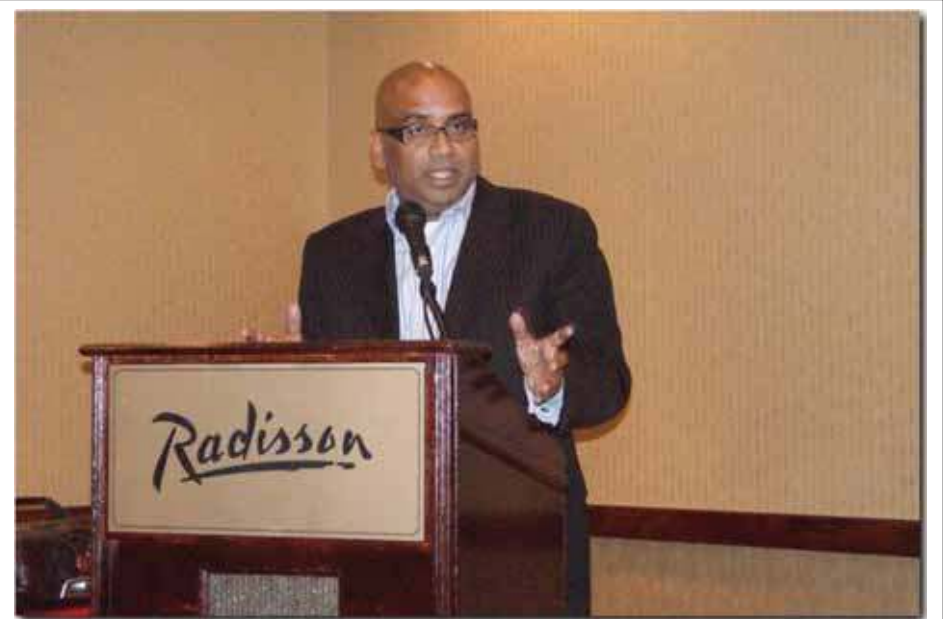
sional development activities, job opportunities, and networking for social interaction between members and community as well.

To achieve this SAAC regularly conduct seminars on topics that

are relevant to its members. Interested individuals should contact Rajan @ 647-669-7824 or Ari @ 647-893-8295 or visit the web site www.saac-ontario.com.



Kanish Thevarasa CA, Honorary member SAAC with Rajan Tharmarajah CGA



Kanish Thevarasa CA, Honorary member SAAC addressing the membership at the AGM held at Raddison Hotel



Rajan Tharmarajah CGA- President SAAC - speaking to the members at the AGM



Section of the SAAC members at the AGM held at Raddison



N Nandakumar expressing his point



Ponniah Sritharan CGA , presenting the Secretary's Report at the AGM



Sivagnanam Sritharan CGA - delivering the welcome speech at the AGM

Youth Violence

By: Raymond Rajabalan

The killing of two young Tamil youths last month in Scarborough has evoked a range of emotions such as panic, fear, frustration and helplessness among the Tamil community in particular and Torontonians in general. Violent killings among Tamil youths were taking place in Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in large numbers during 1990's. Due to combined efforts of various law enforcement agencies together with the cooperation of general public, these killings were brought to an end at the beginning of this century and there was a general sense of relief in the community.

However, within the past three years youth violence has raised its ugly head once again causing great concern among all communities.

Every child is born as a bundle of joy with sweet innocence bringing great happiness to the parents conferring upon them the title 'parenthood'. However, depending on the environment of growth, the child is subjected to new experiences in a variety of situations. During preschool years the child follows the examples and behaviour patterns of parents, siblings and close relatives. These experiences play an important part in moulding the character and future of the child.

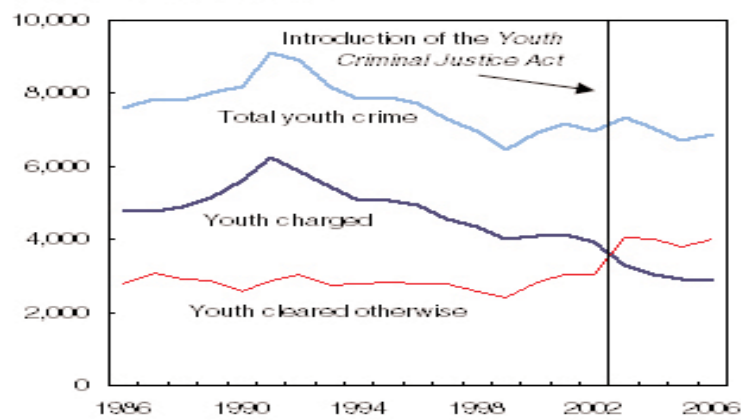


Once admitted to preschool, the child begins facing a totally new environment and is and gradually begins to adapt to the variety of rapidly evolving situations. Over a period of time the cumulative effects of such experiences -whether unpleasant or pleasant -leaves a lasting impact on the child's mind, contributing to their choice of life directions in the later years. If these choices turn out to be socially unacceptable, the youths end up deviating from the norms of civilized societies. In some instances these choices results in youths losing their lives as has been indicated by the recent tragic events across GTA.

In western world, interplay of several factors contribute to this

Youth crime rate, 1986 to 2006

Rate per 100,000 population



situation of some youths going astray from the main stream and indulge in anti social activities. Many scholars involved in the field of psychology such as Kalmuss and Seltzer (1986) Decker (1988) Sacco and Kennedy (1994) Ellis and Decker Seredy (1996) have made extensive studies regarding the causes of youth violence. All of them have come to the general conclusion that home is the cradle of violence. However, there could be many exceptions to this view since peer pressure among loosely knit youth groups too contributes to acts of violence.

The problem of divorce and separation is a wide spread phenomenon in western world. The difference of opinion occasionally arising between married couples some times becomes magnified and blown out of proportions. If left unchecked at the early stages, the festering wounds of disagreement and discord finally

leads to divorce. In worst case scenarios, there have been incidents of tragic death of either parent or sometimes both parents. Needless to say in such situations the child in that family feels abandoned and is compelled to seek safety outside the home, obviously leading to unpleasant developments.

When a male partner suddenly leaves the family in the lurch the female counterpart faces a bleak future especially when there are children in the family. Under such a situation, the single mother is forced to undergo serious struggle to run the family. After obtaining divorce, a number of fathers fail to pay alimony resulting in the child being deprived of their basic needs. As a result many such children attempt to obtain their basic needs by resorting to petty thefts.

Apart from this children of new immigrants originating from



war affected nations face additional problems. Ethnic conflicts, civil war, social discrimination in their homeland etc have created indelible scars in the minds of children from the early age. Many of these children had watched with horror brutal slayings of their kith and kin. Some of these children were silent witnesses when their homes were flattened by carpet bombing. These children grew up with frustration watching helplessly when their opportunity for higher education was deprived by the governments in power. In the later years, their pent up anger and frustration gets misdirected forcing themselves to indulge in acts of violence. The chain reactions resulting from such bitter experiences create a variety of social complications, resulting in dangerous ramifications.

Evolution of violence among youth

The violence among youth develops at various stages of their life. When the children are in their teens, a few of them begin indulging in shop lifting in stores and supermarkets either due to poverty or due to the mistaken belief of getting a cheap thrill not realizing the consequences.

Contd. in page 37

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New satellite site provides care closer to home for hemodialysis patients

Expansion of program is a partnership between The Scarborough Hospital and Yee Hong

It was over a home-cooked breakfast five years ago that Dr. Paul Tam and Dr. Joseph Wong began planning a new hemodialysis centre at the Yee Hong Scarborough Finch Centre.

Dr. Tam, Medical Director of The Scarborough Hospital's Regional Dialysis Program, and Dr. Joseph Wong, Founder and Chair of the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, had crossed paths several times since meeting as young doctors three decades ago. So when Dr. Tam called Dr. Wong with the idea, Dr. Wong invited Dr. Tam to his home for breakfast.

Today that idea is a reality. A modern, state-of-the-art facility is now serving 24 patients who require hemodialysis three times a

week. Later this year, the centre will reach its capacity of 72 patients, providing more than 11,000 life-saving treatments a year.

"Looking at patient demographics, it was apparent that in this area we had a high population of dialysis patients, many of them aging," says Dr. Tam, adding the centre serves area residents as well as those living at Yee Hong. "We are always looking for strategic ways to expand our program and better meet the needs of our patients."

"We are proud of our partnership with The Scarborough Hospital and welcomed the idea of a hemodialysis centre at our site," says Dr. Wong. "This new

centre will allow our residents who need dialysis to receive treatment here, at the place they call home."

The Scarborough Hospital provides care to 514 hemodialysis patients at the hospital and its three satellite sites. Currently the hospital has 12 home hemodialysis patients and 232 peritoneal dialysis patients. As well, approximately 3,000 people are seen regularly in the chronic kidney disease clinic - the largest of its kind in North America.

An estimated 2 million people in Canada have kidney disease and more than 20,000 require dialysis to stay alive.



St. Clair Arthur (left), five-year dialysis patient, Dr. Paul Tam (middle), Founder and Medical Director of The Scarborough Hospital's Regional Dialysis Program and Dr. Joseph Wong (right), Founder and Chair, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation participating in the unveiling



(from left) Tilda Hui, Executive Director, Yee Hong Scarborough Finch Centre, Florence Wong, CEO, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, Dr. Joseph Wong, Founder and Chair, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, Gerry Phillips, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Dr. Paul Tam, Founder and Medical Director of The Scarborough Hospital's Regional Dialysis Program, Bas Balkisoon, MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River and Dr. John Wright, President and CEO, The Scarborough Hospital



(from left) St. Clair Arthur, five-year dialysis patient, Florence Wong, CEO, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, Jean MacLeod, member of the board of directors for the Central East LHIN, Dr. Paul Tam, Founder and Medical Director of The Scarborough Hospital's Regional Dialysis Program, Dr. Joseph Wong, Founder and Chair, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, Gerry Phillips, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, Bas Balkisoon, MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River, Michael Del Grande, City Councillor for Scarborough-Agincourt, Dr. John Wright, President and CEO, The Scarborough Hospital and Lindsey Crawford, Vice President, Patient Services, The Scarborough Hospital



Tour in Progress on the official opening day

Dialysis Background

What is Chronic Kidney Disease?

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is defined as the presence of kidney damage, or a decreased level of kidney function, for a period of three months or more. CKD occurs when the tiny filters in the kidney are damaged; this interferes with the kidneys' ability to remove wastes from the body. Although chronic kidney disease has many causes, diabetes and high blood pressure are common ones.

What is dialysis?

Dialysis is a treatment for kidney failure that removes wastes and water from the blood. It cleans the blood either by passing it through an artificial kidney machine or by filtering it inside the abdomen. Dialysis may be used as a temporary measure or long-term, when kidneys have failed. There are two types: hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

What is hemodialysis?

Hemodialysis means "cleaning the blood." In hemodialysis, the

blood is circulated through an artificial kidney machine, which contains a dialyzer (also called an artificial kidney). The dialyzer has two spaces separated by a thin membrane. Blood passes on one side of the membrane and dialysis fluid passes on the other. The wastes and excess water pass from the blood through the membrane into the dialysis fluid, which is then discarded. The cleaned blood is return to the bloodstream.

What is peritoneal dialysis?

In peritoneal dialysis, the blood is cleaned inside the body in the abdomen in the peritoneal cavity, which is lined by a thin membrane called the peritoneum that surrounds the intestines and other internal organs. This cavity is filled with dialysis fluid that enters the body through a permanently implanted catheter. Excess water and wastes pass through the peritoneum into the dialysis fluid, which is then drained from the body and discarded. The process is repeated from three to

five times a day. This treatment can be performed without assistance, either at home or at work.

Fast Facts:

" The Scarborough Hospital has the largest Chronic Kidney Disease Program in North America, providing care to 3,000 pre-dialysis patients.

" The Scarborough Hospital has the largest Peritoneal Dialysis Program in Canada with 232 patients.

" The Scarborough Hospital provides hemodialysis to 514 patients at the hospital and its three satellite centres. Twelve patients are part of the home hemodialysis program.

" An estimated 2 million people in Canada have kidney disease.

" More than 20,000 Canadians require dialysis to stay alive.

" Currently 1,190 people in Ontario are on the waiting list for a kidney transplant.

Last year, 481 people in Ontario received a kidney transplant: 262 from deceased donors, 219 from living donors.

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Sikh soldiers guard Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II has switched bearskin hats for turbans outside Buckingham Palace, where Sikh soldiers have begun guarding the monarch and her treasures, Britain's defense ministry said Friday.

Signaler Simranjit Singh and Lance Cpl. Sarvjit Singh are the first Sikhs to take part in patrols outside the queen's residence and to stand watch over the Crown jewels at the Tower of London across town.

Guard duties are usually carried out by the Guards of Household Division, famed for their bearskin hats and crimson coats that attract picture-taking tourists in their thousands. The ministry said the Sikh soldiers instead wore turbans and blue uniforms.

Other army regiments often help carry out guard duties at Britain's Buckingham Palace when the Household Division is on operations. The ministry said the two soldiers are the first of the 90 Sikhs in Britain's army to be handed the task.

"It's purely a coincidence that this has happened now," said a defense ministry spokeswoman, on condition of anonymity in line with policy. "Regiments take it in



turn to stand in for the Household Division and it just happens that two of the soldiers this time round are Sikh."

Sarvjit Singh, who was born in India and is a member of 3 Regiment Army Air Corps, said he was thrilled to have had the opportunity to guard the queen.

"My experience being a Sikh on the queen's guard is beyond words," said the 28-year-old. "It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I feel privileged to have this honor."

"Being in London and parading in front of hundreds of people has been brilliant. Being Sikh hasn't made any difference," said

Simranjit Singh, 26, from Coventry in central England, who is attached to the 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support).

"It's been hard work, but definitely worth it," he said.

He said the toughest part of the role is keeping perfectly still when on sentry duty outside the queen's home.

Sikhs routinely guarded Queen Victoria - a colonial ruler of India. At the time of World War I, Sikhs formed about 20 percent of the British army, but numbers dwindled following India's independence.

Courtesy: OyeTimes.com

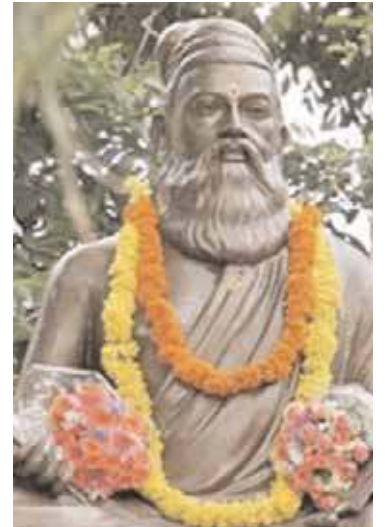


Thiruvalluvar statue unveiled in Bangalore amid tight security

Amid tight security, a bronze statue of Tamil saint-poet Thiruvalluvar was finally unveiled here on Sunday by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi, ending an 18-year standoff on the issue following opposition from pro-Kannada groups.

Barring a minor protest by Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activists at Malleswara, about 10 km from the main function venue, the ceremony passed off without any trouble with about 3,000 security personnel maintaining a tight vigil.

Police had rounded up over 1,000 activists of pro-Kannada organisations since August 7 to thwart pro-Kannada outfits from disrupting the event. The 83-year-old DMK leader unveiled the statue by pressing a remote control button at RBANM grounds in the



presence of Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa, as part of statue-diplomacy between the two states which is expected to turn a new leaf in the strained relations over the Cauvery river water sharing issue.

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By Riyaz Wani

Local elections in the restive Indian state have reshaped Kashmir's landscape of conflict

In the summer of 2008, Indian Kashmir reverberated with the groundswell of protest. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, heeding the call of the separatist conglomerate, the Hurriyat Conference. This was the first time after the initial years of two decades of armed conflict that Kashmiris reverted to the method of peaceful political agitation, loudly turning their backs on the gun. (The immediate provocation for the protest was the transfer of state land to a Hindu trust which facilitates the annual pilgrimage to the ancient shrine of Shri Amarnath in the Himalayas. The decision stirred the deep local suspicion of a larger design to undermine the Islamic character of the troubled, Muslim-majority Valley of Kashmir.)

To handle the protests, the state government took recourse to curfews and stringent security measures, which shut the Valley down for almost three months. Yet the most effective way of dealing with the protests - and the underlying mistrust of New Delhi that they stemmed from - was not through the baton but the ballot. Elections for the state assembly in December 2008 were revelatory.

Initially, observers feared the worst for the polls. Major regional pro-New Delhi parties like National Conference (NC - the opposition party at the time), People's Democratic Party (PDP - the then ruling party) and the Congress itself (India's ruling party) squared up for a tough electoral battle. But the seething "separatist" summer seemed to have driven these establishment and more conciliatory parties to the fringes of the Valley's political landscape. Hurriyat, which saw the state polls as designed to strengthen India's "occupation" of Kashmir, called for the boycott of the exercise. In the lead up to the vote on 17 November, it seemed that the force of recent popular protest would leave the polling booths relatively empty. Instead, turnout shocked everybody. Booth after booth, long waving queues of people waited for hours in the winter chill to cast their votes. An estimated 63 per cent of voters (around three million out of the 4.8 million eligible voters) cast their votes, which was by far the highest turnout recorded in the Valley in the past 20 years.

The separatists were stunned, as were most observers of the cri-

sis in Kashmir, a state in the throes of secessionist violence since 1989. The same people who fought the system in the summer voted for it in the winter. The struggle against Indian rule had gone hand-in-hand with participation in democratic elections, even though the former and the latter apparently stood in opposition to each other.

The assembly elections had a significant discourse-changing effect within Kashmiri politics. Suddenly, separatist figures who rode high on the long summer of discontent were pushed to the margins of the state's political life and the pro-India mainstream parties like NC and PDP hurtled back to centre-stage (the NC won the plurality of seats, and formed a coalition government with the Congress). It goes without saying that a free and fair election can usher in profound political transformation in any society. What's more remarkable is that the democratic electoral process within the long-running conflict situation in Kashmir has proven therapeutic too.

The election in December 2008 isn't the only one that nudged Kashmir along a different track. In 2002, Kashmir assembly polls were held in a situation of unremitting militant violence. The state was still reeling from the destabilizing consequences of the short India-Pakistan war in 1999 over the Kargil heights. The continuing insurgency inside Kashmir intensified with fidayeen attacks and suicide bombs becoming routine. But the election in 2002 - which was the first cleanly-held exercise in the state's entire democratic history - made a significant, redeeming difference. In a spectacular change in its Kashmir strategy, New Delhi finally agreed to hold a free and fair election in the state as an effort to both clear its name of past wrong-doing and to undermine the ideology and popularity of the separatists.

Democratic processes in Kashmir at the time lacked all credibility. Successive elections in the state had been rigged to suit New Delhi's chosen allies and political outfits. In 1987, the ruling NC was allowed to manipulate the election in its favour when all indications pointed towards the triumph of Muslim United Front, an alliance of largely religious parties led by the Jamaat-i-Islami. The same practice was followed in 1996, when the Indian army coerced people to vote to boost the turnout in what remained a mostly boycotted election, with less than 20 per cent of eligible Kashmiris voting. All the polls from 1953 through 1975 also

Kashmir's democratic catharsis: Local elections in the restive Indian state have reshaped Kashmir's landscape of conflict



share in this history of manipulation, with local governments being imposed and dismissed at the will of the Indian government. Such a rich tradition of orchestrating from New Delhi sparked the outrage that fed into a violent secessionist movement in 1989 (which was only abetted and transformed into a more Islamist insurgency later in the 1990s with the spill-over of Afghanistan-hardened mujahideen fighters after the triumph of the Taliban).

Yet the effect of the 2002 polls was striking. The election for the first time dislodged the NC and ended its fifty year-old monopoly over Kashmir. And the beneficiary of this urge for change was the PDP - then just six years old - led by a former home minister of India, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. The result was cathartic for the long pent up democratic aspirations in Valley. The realization that Kashmiris could actually change governments through the ballot gave the otherwise alienated people a fresh stake in the system. Everybody in the Valley expected the NC to ride back to power on New Delhi's support. But relatively high turnout (44 per cent) set in motion a sea change in Kashmiri politics.

While the verdict of the election came as a relief to Kashmiris, it was something of the opposite for many politicians. Realizing that political power in Kashmir was now flowing from the people rather than from the will of New Delhi, politicians had to become more responsive to local issues and aspirations. Political parties which until now exclusively represented New Delhi's interests in Kashmir began to better accommodate the Valley's grassroots discourse. The PDP, which was part of a six year rotational coalition government with Congress, focused on improving governance and security while deftly straddling the Valley's mainstream-separatist political divide.

The separatist strand, as embodied by the likes of the pro-Pakistan Hurriyat Conference, remained important within Kashmir's political landscape. But pro-India mainstream parties, particularly PDP, made deep

inroads for the first time into undermining the political appeal of the separatists. They incorporated much of the agenda of the separatists, but stopped well short of the conventional rhetoric that calls for independence from India. PDP was in the forefront of this new politics, criticising the much-loathed Armed Forces Special Powers Act, seeking a reduction in the security presence of the state and demanding an acceptable settlement between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The reconfigured platforms found resonance with Kashmiris, and helped consolidated a mainstream mass base in the state.

PDP rule resulted in the rise of a representative political mainstream with strong indigenous moorings, that responded to local discussion and debate and helped dissipate the accumulated public anger which decades of political stonewalling had created. The party worked to make the security forces more accountable for their treatment of civilians. It also reined in the dreaded "Special Operation Group" of the Kashmir police which was responsible for gross human rights violations in the state. It released a number of detained separatists as part of its "Healing Touch" policy. Under the weight of increasing democratization within Kashmir, the hardline positions of several separatist parties began to crumble. Unnerved by the resurrected relevance of the mainstream parties, separatists have steadily moved towards a more pragmatic articulation of their demands.

It has become increasingly common to hear talk of flexible solutions to the Kashmir crisis, which accommodate changing global realities (including India's rise on the international stage and Islamabad's growing willingness to compromise on Kashmir). And one major separatist Sajjad Lone, hoping to remain relevant, controversially decided to enter electoral politics, unsuccessfully contesting in the recent national parliamentary election.

The past seven years of the democratic experience in Kashmir - albeit still flawed in many respects - encourages the belief

that an environment of conflict and division can be improved if a democratic outlet is made available. Democratic processes may not overhaul the fundamental crisis or counter the daily motions of insurgency and repression, but they have more subtly softened the sources of discord, tempering their intensity.

In India's case, Kashmir may not be the only example of the utility of democracy within conflict. Seventeen years ago, an election in Punjab - the western Indian state that endured an armed, separatist Sikh campaign through the 1980s - made a substantial difference to the affairs of the troubled state.

This change was duly noted in the contemporary readings of the poll, and a parallel was forged. As Sumeet Ganguly writes in *Crisis in Kashmir*, "The (Punjab) state elections of 1992, which followed five years of insurgency and direct rule from New Delhi, resulted in extremely low voter turnout but did bring to power a legally constituted government. The subsequent local elections produced extra-ordinarily high turnouts - more than 80 per cent of the eligible voters". This is a trajectory that emerged in Kashmir too, with the middling turnout in 2002 polls leading to more than 60 per cent polling in the 2008 assembly polls. A democratic process that has generally made right and responsive noises, delivered on broad parameters of governance - no doubt with some glaring failures now and then - has simultaneously engaged and battled the separatist discourse. This has even caused the separatists to begin to find their own democratic moorings and appreciate the new ground realities. Now it is incumbent upon India and Pakistan, the state stakeholders in the conflict, to build on these developments and pursue a meaningful settlement. [open democracy]

Riyaz Wani is a Kashmir based Indian Journalist and reporter for India's prestigious National daily The Indian Express.

China's string of pearls strategy 'worries' India

Though India is trying to make a stronghold in South Asia, China seems to have been working consistently over the last four decades to strengthen its south Asian presence and fulfil its 'String of Pearls' policy, and that has many in India worried, writes Raashi Bhatia in a recent Reuters article.

His full write up as follows:

Many in India believe that Beijing is building special relationships with India's old foe Pakistan and Sri Lanka and is extending its reach down the Indian Ocean.

China's 'String of Pearls' strategy seems to be surrounding India and has given food for thought to many in New Delhi for quite some time now.

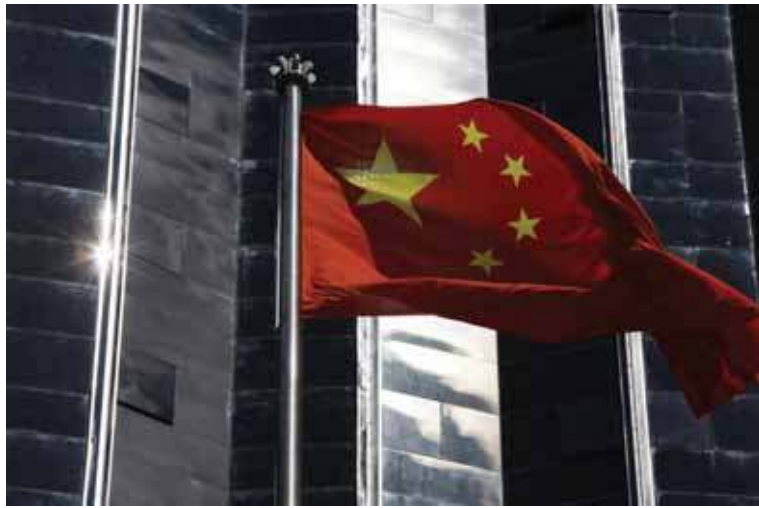
At the G8 summit in L'Aquila recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a bid in front of the international community to include India in the United Nations Security Council, which would put it on par with China, which is one of the five permanent members.

Christopher J. Pehrson, author of the book "String of Pearls: Meeting the challenge of china's rising power across the Asian littoral", says the 'String of Pearls' describes the manifestation of China's rising geopolitical influence through efforts to increase access to ports and airfields, develop special diplomatic relationships and modernize military forces that extend from the South China Sea through the Strait of Malacca, across the Indian Ocean, and on to the Arabian Gulf.

Though India is trying to make a stronghold in South Asia, China seems to have been working consistently over the last four decades to strengthen its south Asian presence and fulfil its 'String of Pearls' policy, and that has many in India worried.

Alka Acharya, head of East Asian studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, says that China's 'string of pearls' policy started in the 1980s and its basic aim was to give China increased energy security with refueling stations throughout the world.

But it has helped China project



its political and military influence further. Some in India think China's latest addition to its string of pearls is the Hambantota port in southern Sri Lanka.

Construction on the first phase began last year with Chinese funding, and the whole \$1 billion project is expected to finish by 2023.

B. Raman, a retired senior government official, has written a paper on the project of Hambantota port in which he mentions that "the Chinese interest is more strategic than purely commercial. It is very unlikely that Sri Lanka would allow the Chinese Navy to use Hambantota against India. But a Chinese naval presence in Hambantota would add to the concerns of the Indian Navy by increasing the vulnerability of the South to pressures from the Chinese Navy."

Raman also mentions in his paper that China had helped Pakistan with a similar project in Gwadar on the Mekran coast in Balochistan.

The first phase of construction has already been completed and the port was given a nod when Pervez Musharraf was the president.

When it is done, Hambantota is likely to have an aviation fuel storage facility and a liquefied natural gas refinery. The first phase will have bunkering facilities to refuel ships that pass the nearby shipping lanes, among the world's busiest.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa says India has nothing to worry about because the proj-

ect is strictly a commercial venture.

India though is taking no chances and is increasing its troops along the northeastern border so as to prevent any further infiltration of Chinese soldiers, who had illegally entered Indian territory last year.

A retired intelligence officer who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity said China had begun building a road in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early 1970s.

"We had got hold of a source who told us that China was building a road from China- Gilgit-Neelum Valley, they had also planned a number of tunnels and bridges in places where roads couldn't be constructed," the officer said.

The status of the road is not known, some say it is still under construction.

The Karakoram Highway, which connects China's Xinjiang region with Pakistan's north, can also be seen as one of China's pearls. The highway, called the ninth wonder of the world by some because of its altitude, was completed in 1986 after 20 years of construction.

The road opened up China-Pakistan trade and gave both of India's rivals a fast route through the mountains, not far from the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Should India be worried about China's String of Pearls, and will the Chinese strategy dampen India's plans to be the dominant power in South Asia?

[Reuters]



Indian PM Defends Engagement with Pakistan



By Steve Herman

India's Prime Minister says Pakistan's pledge to fight terrorism should be trusted, but its actions need to be verified. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh notes some cooperation with Islamabad on the investigation into last year's terror attack on Mumbai, but says it has not gone far enough. The Indian leader finds himself on the political defensive, resulting from his recent engagement with Pakistan's leaders.

Mr. Singh says unless his country wants to go to war again, it has no option but to engage its neighbor and long-time rival in dialog. Speaking to his Parliament, Manmohan Singh said it is in India's interest to directly talk with Pakistan, rather than going through third parties.

"I hope and pray that the leadership in Pakistan will have the strength and the courage to defeat those who want to destroy, not just peace between India and Pakistan, but the future of South Asia," he said.

The remarks were part of a rebuttal to criticism here of a joint statement with Pakistan issued two weeks ago on the sidelines of an international summit in Egypt. There has also been a perceived lack of enthusiasm for the document among members of Mr. Singh's Congress Party.

The joint statement said India and Pakistan would battle terrorism without linking such efforts to peace talks concerning the disputed Kashmir region.

That has prompted a personal attack on Mr. Singh by opposition parties.

A senior leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, Yashwant Sinha, who spoke in Parliament before Mr. Singh, termed the declaration in Egypt a

"surrender" and said the Indian prime minister has "walked into the Pakistani camp."

"All the waters of Neptune will not wash away the shame of [the joint statement in] Sharm-el-Sheikh," he said.

The document was also interpreted by some as an acknowledgment by India of meddling in Pakistan's Balochistan Province.

The Pakistani government has long accused India of financing Baloch nationalists and encouraging them to create trouble in the large, but mostly undeveloped province. India's government denies such activities.

In his remarks to Parliament, Mr. Singh said he is willing to discuss Balochistan and any other concern Islamabad has, because, as he told Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, India has nothing to hide.

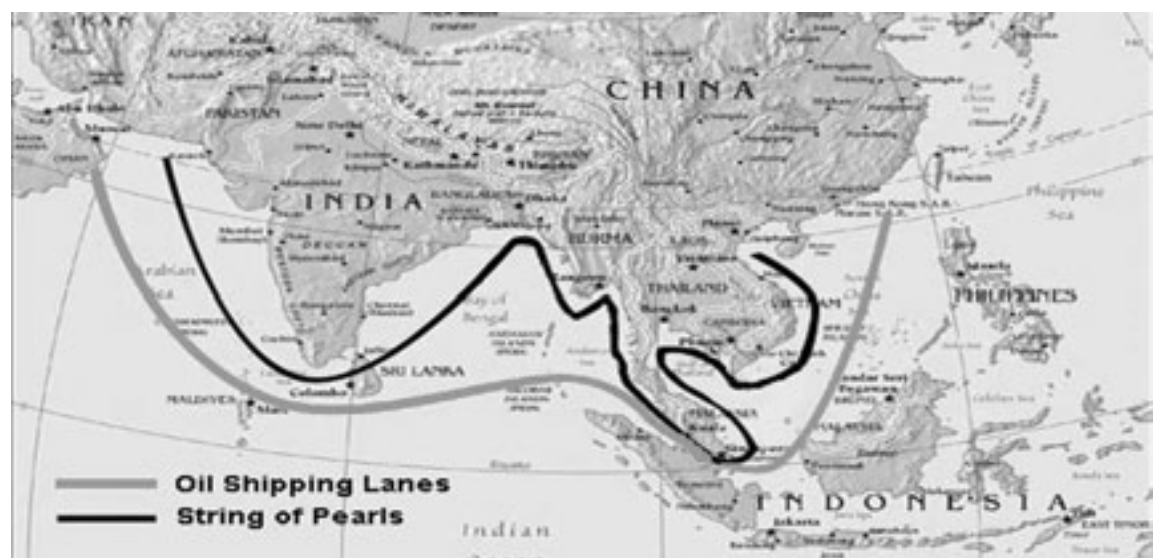
"I told him that we have no interest whatsoever in destabilizing Pakistan nor do we harbor any ill intent toward Pakistan," added Mr. Singh.

The prime minister added that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan, living in peace with its neighbor, is in India's own interest.

The peace process between New Delhi and Islamabad has been on hold since last November's terrorist attack on the Indian commercial capital, Mumbai. A group of well-trained and heavily armed militants from Pakistan are blamed for the assault in which more than 160 people died.

India and Pakistan have been rivals, and have fought several wars against each other, since Britain ended its rule and partitioned the subcontinent in 1947.

[voa news]





Clinton's visit to India very successful in Style and Substance: Experts

By Ravi Khanna

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton concluded her first visit to India at the end of July, where she highlighted areas of agreements on defense and nuclear energy. There were differences on the U.S. push to lift trade restrictions and to control greenhouse gases. Some U.S. experts on South Asia say her main focus was to encourage India to partner with the U.S. and play a more assertive role on the world stage in counter-terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation.

Secretary Clinton set the tone of her visit at the very outset. "President Obama and I believe that we are entering a new and even more promising era of relations with India," Clinton said. "And we are looking forward to working to broaden and deepen our partnership"

Before she left, the two sides had reached agreements that would allow India to buy fighter jets and space technology from the U.S. American companies will be setting up two nuclear power plants in India under the 2008 civilian nuclear deal.

Some U.S. experts on South Asia say her main focus was to underscore that India is a major player on the world stage and the U.S. will encourage India to play a more assertive role.

Walter Andersen at the Johns Hopkins University says Secretary Clinton achieved that.

"The bottom line was, it is to the U.S. strategic advantage to have strong India, whether or not there was a military relationship, strong India suits our purposes. On that foundation she developed it further," he said.

Anderson says the two sides differ on significant issues, such



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Indian Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna after signing of a U.S.-India bilateral science and technology endowment agreement in New Delhi, India July 20, 2009. [State Department photo]

as India's refusal to accept strict controls on greenhouse gas emissions and on what he says in some cases are India's protectionist trade policies.

And so he says the two nations can work on differences within the strategic forums they set up this week.

"That is valuable because before those issues become problems we will have discussed with each other and no one will be taken by surprise because we will bring up the key differences that we have," Anderson adds.

During her visit, Secretary Clinton also announced that Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be the first world leader to become President Obama's state guest later this year.

Lisa Curtis at the Heritage Foundation says President Obama wants India as a global partner in preventing nuclear proliferation and fighting terrorism.

November's attack in Mumbai are seen India as the equivalent of the 2001 attacks on the U.S. And so Curtis says it was significant that Clinton stopped in Mumbai to privately attend a

memorial for the victims.

"I think this sent a very clear signal that she understands the impact on the Indian psyche of these attacks and that she also is sympathetic to Indian terrorism concerns," Curtis states.

She praises Clinton for not broaching publicly India's refusal to resume the peace process with Pakistan, a position India has taken after the Mumbai attacks were traced to a Pakistan-based militant group.

Curtis says the Obama administration can play a crucial role in bringing India and Pakistan together. "If it works privately and encourages both sides to develop a new security paradigm of the region, in which they focus on confronting non-state actors in combating terrorism rather than high profile mediation attempt - I think that would just backfire on the U.S.," she said.

Experts say the trip was just the first step in the new administration's push to build a deeper relationship with India, on a foundation they say was laid down by the two previous administrations.

[voa news]

Director Priyadarshan wins 'Best Director' Award for 'Kanchivaram'

By Sampurn

Department of Information and Publicity and Navadharshan Film Society, Pondicherry usually hosts Film Festival of Indian Panorama. The best films selected by the Directorate of Film Festival, New Delhi will be screened for the occasion. Finally, jurors of board have selected Director Priyadarshan as "Best Director" for his film "Kanchivaram". The award named after Sri Sankaradass Swamigal Awards will be handed to Director Priyadarshan with a memento and cash prize of Rs.50,000.

The awards ceremony is slated to be held during second week of September, 2009 with Pondicherry Chief Minister V. Vaithilingam presiding over the occasion.

The film "Kanchivaram" had



earlier won the best appreciation at Toronto International Film Festival. It has Prakash Raj, Shreya Reddy and Shamu donning lead roles and story revolves

around the life of a poor silk weaver and his tribulations.

(Courtesy: Music India Online)

Unfurling @ Wagha border

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai

It's known as the "Berlin Wall of Asia". The Wagha Border is situated in the city of Lahore in Pakistan and in the city of Amritsar. Flag hoisting ceremony of both countries takes place every morning and flag lowering ceremony takes place in the evening. Sunrise adds colour to the morning ceremony, while the sunset adds beauty to the evening closing ceremony.

A large number of people gather on both sides of the border to witness the daily ceremony. People sing and cheer when the national anthems of their countries are being played. The soldiers on both sides dress up in ceremonial attire and carry out their duty.

The bus service from Amritsar to Lahore was inaugurated on January 24th 2006. Divided Punjab was linked for the first

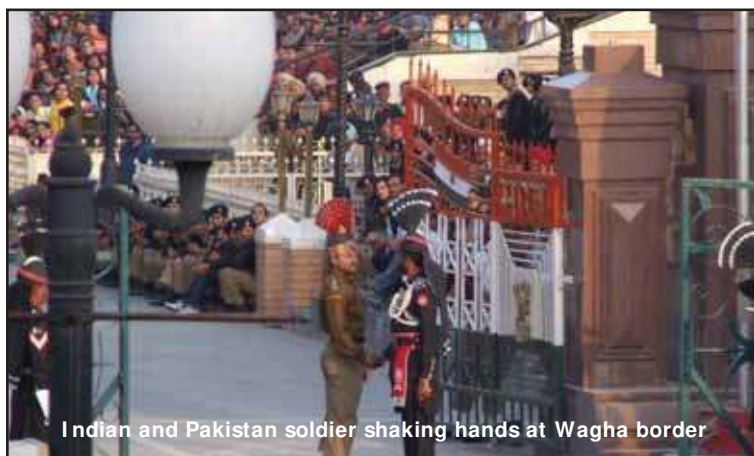
time in January 2006, after partition in 1947. The total journey from Amritsar to Lahore is 60 kilometers (37 miles) long. The Pakistan bus was named "Dosti" which means friendship, while the Indian bus was named "Punj Aab, named after five rivers.

According to media reports, well-known Pakistani folk singer Reshma, who was on the bus along with her troupe, said, "I had planned to come to India by air, but I got my ticket cancelled when I learnt this is the first time in the history of India and Pakistan that a Lahore-Amritsar bus service is being started from today (January 20th 2006)."

Punjab is said to have derived its name from the five rivers that flow through this region. The Indus, the Sutlej, the Beas, the Ravi and the Ghaggar. [humanity Ashore.org ~ dushi.pillai@gmail.com]



A view of the India Gate from Wagha Border, Lahore



Indian and Pakistan soldier shaking hands at Wagha border



Pakistan soldiers on duty

A leader should know how to manage failure

(Former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam at Wharton India Economic forum, Philadelphia, March 22, 2008)

Question: Could you give an example, from your own experience, of how leaders should manage failure?

Kalam: Let me tell you about my experience. In 1973 I became the project director of India's satellite launch vehicle program, commonly called the SLV-3. Our goal was to put India's 'Rohini' satellite into orbit by 1980. I was given funds and human resources -- but was told clearly that by 1980 we had to launch the satellite into space. Thousands of people worked together in scientific and technical teams towards that goal.

By 1979 -- I think the month was August -- we thought we were ready. As the project director, I went to the control center for the launch.

At four minutes before the satellite launch, the computer began to go through the checklist of items that needed to be checked. One minute later, the computer program put the launch on hold; the display showed that some control components were

not in order. My experts -- I had four or five of them with me -- told me not to worry; they had done their calculations and there was enough reserve fuel.

So I bypassed the computer, switched to manual mode, and launched the rocket. In the first stage, everything worked fine. In the second stage, a problem developed. Instead of the satellite going into orbit, the whole rocket system plunged into the Bay of Bengal. It was a big failure.

That day, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Prof. Satish Dhawan, had called a press conference. The launch was at 7:00 am, and the press conference -- where journalists from around the world were present -- was at 7:45 am at ISRO's satellite launch range in Sriharikota [in Andhra Pradesh in southern India]. Prof. Dhawan, the leader of the organization, conducted the press conference himself.

He took responsibility for the failure -- he said that the team had worked very hard, but that it needed more technological support. He assured the media that in another year, the team would definitely succeed. Now, I was the



India needs to work with IC in countering China - Former Indian diplomat

India has a common interest with the US in countering China's strategy. No matter the motives behind the US' current emphasis on a "political settlement", after having been a staunch supporter of Rajapaksa's war, Delhi must closely work with the Barack Obama Administration, writes former Indian diplomat M. Bhadrakumar, who sees Delhi's political leverage over Colombo diminishing in what he thinks 'post-LTTE' era. To make up lost influence India needs to work with the IC, promote urgent international monitoring mission and mobilise IC opinion favouring political process and settlement within reasonable timeline, he said.

In an article appeared in Deccan Herald recently, Bhadrakumar who said "the IMF conditionalities should include a verifiable commitment by Rajapaksa to move forward with an internationally supervised peace process," added further that "the European Union has done the right thing by calling for an inquiry into war crimes."

"Rajapaksa indeed has a blueprint for the final resolution of the Tamil problem. It involves the systematic colonisation by the Sinhalese of the Tamil homelands north of Elephant Pass so that over the next decade or so,

the demography of those regions will be altered to the disadvantage of Tamils. This was how Colombo 'solved' the Tamil problem in the eastern provinces of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara," Bhadrakumar said.

In his anticipations, "the Sinhalese establishment will promote an exodus of Tamils to India as a matter of state policy. As victims of state discrimination, Tamils will be willing or even eager to migrate to India as time passes. This will constitute the Sinhalese establishment's 'permanent solution' to the Tamil problem."

In the opinion of Tamil circles that commented on Bhadrakumar's article, the biased Indian Establishment was in no way less guilty in exploiting the China card to justify its abetment to Colombo and in continuing its nullification of the national liberation struggle of Eezham Tamils.

"India's stand is important for the IC to embark upon any positive move." The Tamil circles said.

But the bare minimum requirement for India and the IC to face the Eezham Tamils in making up any lost influence is boldly and openly acknowledging their status as a nation having self-determination and guaranteeing their security and territorial integrity. [TN]

project director, and it was my failure, but instead, he took responsibility for the failure as chairman of the organization.


The next year, in July 1980, we tried again to launch the satellite -- and this time we succeeded. The whole nation was jubilant.


Again, there was a press conference. Prof. Dhawan called me aside and told me, 'You conduct the press conference today.'

I learned a very important lesson that day. When failure occurred, the leader of the organization owned that failure. When

success came, he gave it to his team. The best management lesson I have learned did not come to me from reading a book; it came from that experience.

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Jump in US Home Sales Reported



By Michael Bowman

America's battered housing industry is showing signs of life, according to new U.S. government statistics.

U.S. home sales recorded the largest monthly increase in more than eight years, rising 11 percent in June, according to the Commerce Department. It was the third consecutive month of rising sales.

Global Insight economist Nigel Gault says the sales jump is a welcome sign of improvement in an industry that has suffered its worst slump in decades.

"The signals, at least on the home sales front, are pretty clear. We hit bottom sometime during the first half of the year, and we are now on the uptrend," Gault said.

Even so, home values continue to decline. The median sales price in June was \$206,000, down from \$219,000 in May and

\$234,000 a year ago.

Nigel Gault says, over time, a revival of home sales will revitalize the entire industry.

"The housing market is stabilizing. Sales are starting to pick up. And as a result, builders are also starting to increase their construction of new homes," Gault said.

From 2003 through 2007, a housing boom boosted the U.S. economy, spawning construction across the country and providing millions of American homeowners with equity that many used to finance everything from home improvements to new cars.

But the housing market crashed in 2008 amid a rash of mortgage defaults and home foreclosures that triggered last year's financial meltdown and helped send a faltering U.S. economy into a deep, prolonged recession.

[VOA News]

GTA REALTORS® report sales up first two weeks of July

TORONTO, July 20, 2009 - In the first two weeks of July, Greater Toronto REALTORS® reported 4,437 sales up 27 per cent compared to the first two weeks of July 2008. The average price for these transactions was up four per cent year-over-year to \$394,750.

"The resurgence in home ownership demand experienced in the spring has continued into the summer. Home buyers continued to take advantage affordable market conditions in the first half of July," said TREB President Tom Lebour. "If the mid-month results carry forward, we may see the best July on record."

Year-to-date sales, at 45,213 are down four per cent compared to 2008. Average price, at \$384,645 is down one per cent.

"The GTA housing market has held up very well this year given the current economic climate, especially relative to past economic slow-downs," explained Jason Mercer, TREB's Senior Manager of Market Analysis.

"The cost of borrowing has been key. With inflation in check, the Bank of Canada has been able to aggressively lower interest rates – an option that wasn't available in the early 1990s or early 1980s."

Summary Of July Sales And Average Price

	July			
	2009		2008	
	Sales	Average Price	Sales	Average Price
City of Toronto ("416")	1,703	\$419,754	1,369	\$419,199
Rest of GTA ("905")	2,734	\$379,174	2,128	\$353,257
GTA	4,437	\$394,750	3,497	\$379,072

Source: Toronto Real Estate Board

For a complete copy of the Market Watch Report visit www.TorontoRealEstateBoard.com

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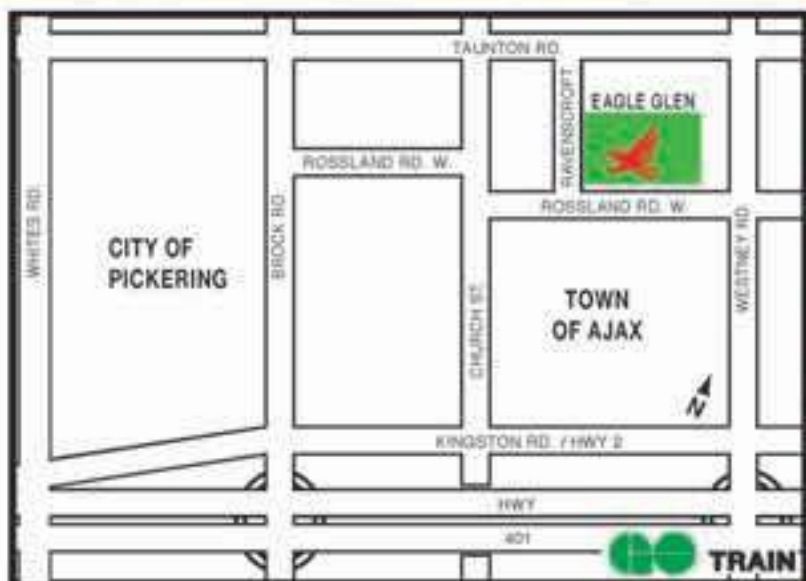
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MONSOON FEATURE

EAGLE GLEN

A FAMILY COMMUNITY BY JOHN BODDY HOMES

John Boddy Homes has won the Diamond Award for 'Best Builder' for the twelfth year in a row in this year's Readers' Choice Awards and has now opened its newest phase in their Eagle Glen community in Ajax. Located just minutes east of Toronto, the Eagle Glen Community combines the closeness and convenience of city living with a suburban feel, and its prime location makes it a great place to call home. Classic two-storey homes are available, as well as side and back splits, bungalows, and future town-homes. Homes start at 1,800 square feet and range up to a spacious 3,858 square feet, some with triple car garages. John Boddy Homes offers traditional size lots with a minimum of 105 feet in depth and a limited selection of wide shallow lots and pond lots. With such a broad range of house sizes and styles Eagle Glen has the ideal home to suit every preference. From the unique



which allows for interior custom colours with a maintenance free



exteriors and charming streetscapes to the elegant interiors, various John Boddy Homes include such impressive standard features as vaulted ceilings, double door entries, décor columns, mirrored sliding closet doors, ceramic kitchen backsplashes, double basin bathroom vanities with make-up counters and so much more. Their gourmet kitchens, welcoming great rooms with cozy gas fireplaces and elegant dining rooms with coffered ceilings are all spacious and comfortable, making them the perfect location to enjoy time together with family or entertaining friends. In addition, some models include such impressive extras as classic french doors, transom windows and custom octagonal skylights allowing light to travel throughout the home for a bright and spacious feel.

For their homeowner's convenience, most John Boddy Homes include main floor laundry rooms, laundry chutes, kitchen breakfast bars, private water closets, interior garage access, high efficiency furnaces and basement rough-ins for future bathrooms. Also, windows are vinyl clad wood

exterior. Other features include arched entryways, custom millwork, window mullions on all front and rear facades and decorative garage doors featuring appealing window lites. Custom landscaping packages and paved driveways are also included in all homes providing the renowned curb appeal that enhances the entire Eagle Glen community.

Innovative floorplan designs combined with an extensive array of standard features included with every new home have become a corporate trademark of John Boddy Homes and 'Eagle Glen'. Not only does a John Boddy Home offer such striking standard features, there are also a wealth of opportunities to upgrade, making their homes as unique as each individual homeowner. The 'Eagle Glen' Sales Office features a Décor Centre that contains various upgrade items to select from in order to customize your home. Their high-tech electrical and décor consultants allow homebuyer's to make upgrade selections on site, enabling them to conveniently personalize their home.

For a limited time they are now offering a select few

model inventory specials that include over \$20,000 in savings. Features such as, granite counter tops, oak staircases, octagonal skylights and so much more are offered at huge reductions. Drop by their sales office and their sales representatives will gladly take you on a personal tour.

For a limited time only John Boddy Homes is currently offering a number of special incentive packages. An upgrade master ensuite with a separate shower and upgrade tub, a granite kitchen countertop, oak staircase and \$5,000 in free upgrades are now included with every home. They are also currently offering one year of Rogers services free! Included in this package are home phone with 150 long distance minutes and 2 calling features, personal TV with

free rental of a standard definition box, a HD digital box, VIP package, free on demand programming, Canadian timeshifting channels as well as Rogers Hi-Speed internet service and all are installed for free.

When you purchase a new home in Eagle Glen there are no hidden closing costs. John Boddy Homes pays for education levies, development charges, water and hydro meter hookup fees, boulevard tree planting, landscape package and a paved driveway.

The Eagle Glen community offers many important neighbourhood amenities such as a brand new public elementary school opening in September 2009, places of worship, fully equipped parks and easy access to both Ajax and Go-Transit Services. Toronto is easily accessible from nearby Highways 401 and 407. Located just north is a host of shopping and recreation centres,

'Eagle Glen' allows residents all the amenities of the urban lifestyle while providing the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring countryside.

Since 1955, John Boddy has been involved in the construction of thousands of new homes throughout Ontario, and has earned a reputation as an accomplished builder of fine residential communities. Of significance are the award winning 1000-acre 'Bridlewood Community' developed during the 1960's and 1970's in Scarborough, the 'Forestbrook Community' in Pickering developed in the 1980's, 'Willowcreek' in Peterborough, and 'Eagle Ridge on the Green' in Ajax developed in the 1990's and early 2000's.

The John Boddy Homes' team of experienced management, planners, designers, supervisors, marketing and sales personnel have distinguished themselves by creating innovative and unique designs in truly outstanding communities that meet the needs and desires of today's families.

With five fully furnished model homes to view, a visit to Eagle Glen is a must. Drop by the Sales Presentation Centre located on Stevensgate Drive, north of Rossland Road West, one half kilometre west of Westney Road three kilometres north of Hwy 401. Sales office hours are Monday through Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Let their friendly knowledgeable staff help you determine which of the many home styles available is perfect for you and your family and get set to join the ever-growing 'Eagle Glen' family community by John Boddy Homes. For more information, please call (905) 619-1777 or visit the website at www.johnboddyhomes.com.

Rendering of Model
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WORDS OF PEACE

Squeeze the Orange

Since we don't know for how long we have life, it's important, says Maharaji, to extract every drop of joy from it. For many years, he has been urging people to make a priority of finding true joy through the simple but profound experience of peace within.

Getting the most out of life is very much like squeezing an orange, Maharaji says.

"When you squeeze an orange, you don't want everything. You don't want the seeds, and you definitely don't want to squeeze the rind. This is the difference between orange juice you squeeze at home and pre-packaged orange juice you buy from the stores. When they squeeze an orange, they squeeze everything, because they have to do it by machines. Otherwise it would be too expensive. When you squeeze an orange at home, the orange juice will be beautiful, sweet, clear. You make sure that all that unwanted stuff isn't squeezed."

Similarly, Maharaji says, when people say they want to squeeze everything they can out of life, they want pure joy, without pain and suffering mixed in.

"If you try to squeeze joy from this world, you can," he says, "but beware. The potential of every joy that you get from this world has the capability of turning into incredible misery for you. In fact, most of the time it will. That's the reality-it will turn around."

There is a joy that comes from the heart, Maharaji says, that has no such capability.

"It is pure, 100 percent joy," he says. "This is the possibility you have in this life. This is what you can extract. Everything that happens in this world will happen, but that's really irrelevant. What is relevant is what we extract from life, what we are able to save, what we are able to salvage."

Maharaji often answers questions to help clarify his message of peace.

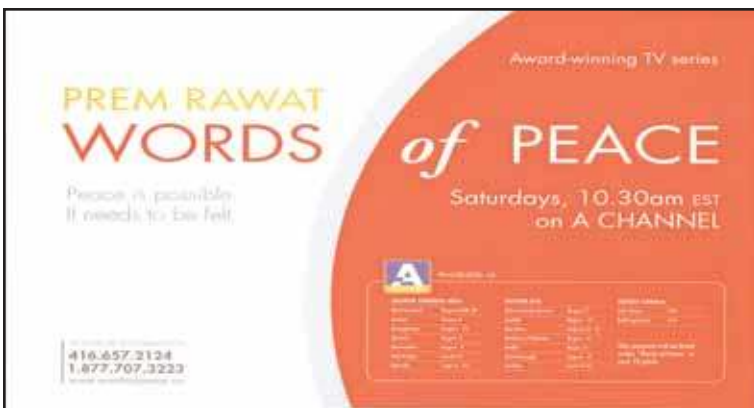
Q: I experience a lot of joy



fulfillment of your desires. You think to do X, Y, and Z will bring you happiness. I'm afraid not. Happiness is that state of being in which everything is in equilibrium. This life is not about what we think we want, what we do have, and what we don't have, but being in a state of equilibrium.

Everything in this world-whether it is friendship, whether it is fascination-wears away. That's its nature. This joy I am talking about has no beginning and no end. Please don't even try to comprehend what that means! It's incomprehensible-let's leave it at that.

Q: I don't know how to begin to find something like that. Can you help me?



with my family and friends that feels very real to me. Why is that any different from the joy you talk about?

A: There is a joy that comes from the outside, and there is another joy that comes from inside. I'm not ignoring the joy that comes from outside. I'm not saying that your children and grandchildren, your pet, your friends, your relatives, don't bring you joy. They do, but it comes from outside of you. There is a joy that comes from the inside, and it only comes when there is simplicity in your life.

Q: But as long as I am happy, does it really matter where it comes from?

A: What do you think happiness is? You think happiness is

A: I do have something to offer. It's not new, but it's a gift. I give this gift to those who want it, from one human being to another. You may think, "That's too good to be true," because in this day and age, when somebody says they're giving you a free gift, people think it has to be a con job. In this case, it's not.

Search for this joy, this peace. That's objective number one. Wherever you find it is great. If you don't find it anywhere else, then look me up. I can help.

For more info, 416 657 2124
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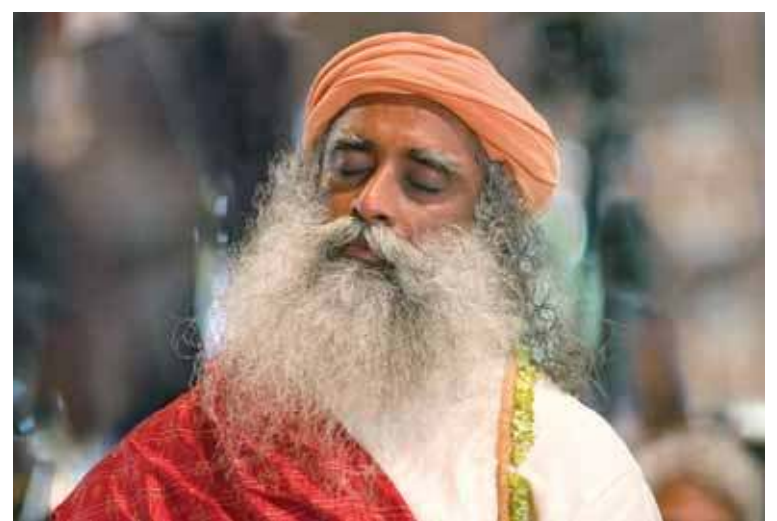
To learn more about Maharaji, visit:

www.tprf.org
www.maharaji.net
www.wordsofpeace.org

With some things, it is best that you know them only by experience. If you want to explore rebirth, first you must die. When you ask, "is there rebirth", what you are asking is "What is my nature? Is it just body, or am I much beyond that? What is this that is me? Or in other words you are asking who am I? What is my essential process of life?" These are very big questions.

If you cry with this question, if you roll on the ground, unable to bare this question, I have many ways to answer you. If you just

"IS THERE REBIRTH?"



Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit www.ishafoundation.org
Toronto local contact 416 300 3010 or email Toronto@ishafoundation.org

casually say, "Is there rebirth?" Then I cannot answer your question because whatever I would say or do, you would not understand. Now, if I say yes or no, half the people will believe me, half the people will disbelieve me. Again the same trouble - belief and disbelief. If you believe there is rebirth, it will not make any difference to you. If you do not believe in it, it will make no difference to you anyway.

Right now, you do not know life beyond this body and mind, so do not imagine anything. Just learn to conduct this life in the highest possible way within the limitations of this body and mind. Even in this body, in what beautiful ways you can exist, you are not allowing that to happen. Then how can you handle what is beyond the body, what is going to happen after death? If you get more interested in the next birth, the life that is here now will be forgotten.

It is always the desire of the mind to search for something that is not here. There is so much of life in things that are here. About that, your intention is always less. There is no concern about how your life now should be. But you are concerned about what will happen tomorrow, what will happen after 10 years, how will my child be, even though marriage is not over, how will I get my child,



how will I get a grand son... Like this, it makes all kinds of calculations. What you should understand is, somehow, mind always attempts to escape from reality.

If you could simply be, you would either become enlightened or understand that "I am a fool". Anything else is not possible. So


the mind keeps doing something or other, about tomorrow, about next birth, or something else. If it keeps quiet, it will understand that it is an utter fool. If this is understood, you have taken a very big step in yoga. The moment man experientially realizes he is a fool, wisdom will flower. Till he realizes this, how can there be wisdom? Foolishness will keep on going.

So when what is happening in your mind in this moment is not in your control, if you think beyond life, beyond death, you will just waste time, energy and life because you do not have the necessary intensity to penetrate dimensions which are beyond your present level of experience.


Your present level of experience is limited to five sense organs. With these, you cannot experience anything that is not physical. The only thing that you can experience in the world is that which is physical. So if you want to know that which is not physical, when you say, "Is there life beyond death?", when you ask this question, you are saying, "I want to know that which is beyond the physical body". If you want to know that which is beyond the physical, see how to go beyond the five sense organs. The trap is there.

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Temporary suspensions of removals lifted for Burundi, Liberia and Rwanda

The Government of Canada announced at the end of July 09 that due to improved conditions in Burundi, Liberia and Rwanda, the temporary suspensions of removals to these countries have been lifted, effective immediately.

"After a thorough review of country conditions and consultations with stakeholders, the Government is lifting the suspension of removals to these three countries," said the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety. "This decision is in line with the actions of other Western nations that also remove inadmissible individuals to Burundi,

Liberia and Rwanda."

"The removal of individuals who are not lawfully in Canada is key to maintaining the integrity of the immigration program and to ensuring fairness for those who live in this country lawfully," added Minister Van Loan.

The temporary suspensions of removals to Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe are NOT being lifted. The conditions in these countries make it appropriate to continue the existing suspensions.

The Government of Canada may impose temporary suspensions of removals to countries when conditions such as war or environmental disaster endanger the safety and security of the civilian population.

A suspension of removals is always only a temporary measure. It is lifted when conditions in the country improve and there is no longer a generalized risk. Exceptional humanitarian and compassionate measures have been implemented by the Government of Canada to accommodate individuals affected by the lifting of the temporary suspensions of removals.

When a temporary suspension of removals is lifted, people who have a refugee claim in process are not removed while their claim is under consideration.

For more information, visit the Canada Border Services Agency's Web site at www.cbsa.gc.ca.

Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai opens new High Commission in Dhaka

Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, formally opened Canada's new High Commission building complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The ceremonial ribbon-cutting was carried out on Thursday, 9th July jointly by Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai and Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hasan Mahmud.

The new Canadian High Commission building in Dhaka incorporates both the Chancery and the Official Residence.

Canada established bilateral relations with Bangladesh after its

independence in 1971. Built upon shared values of democracy and pluralism, relations are focused on development cooperation, trade and investment, regional security, immigration and people-to-people links.

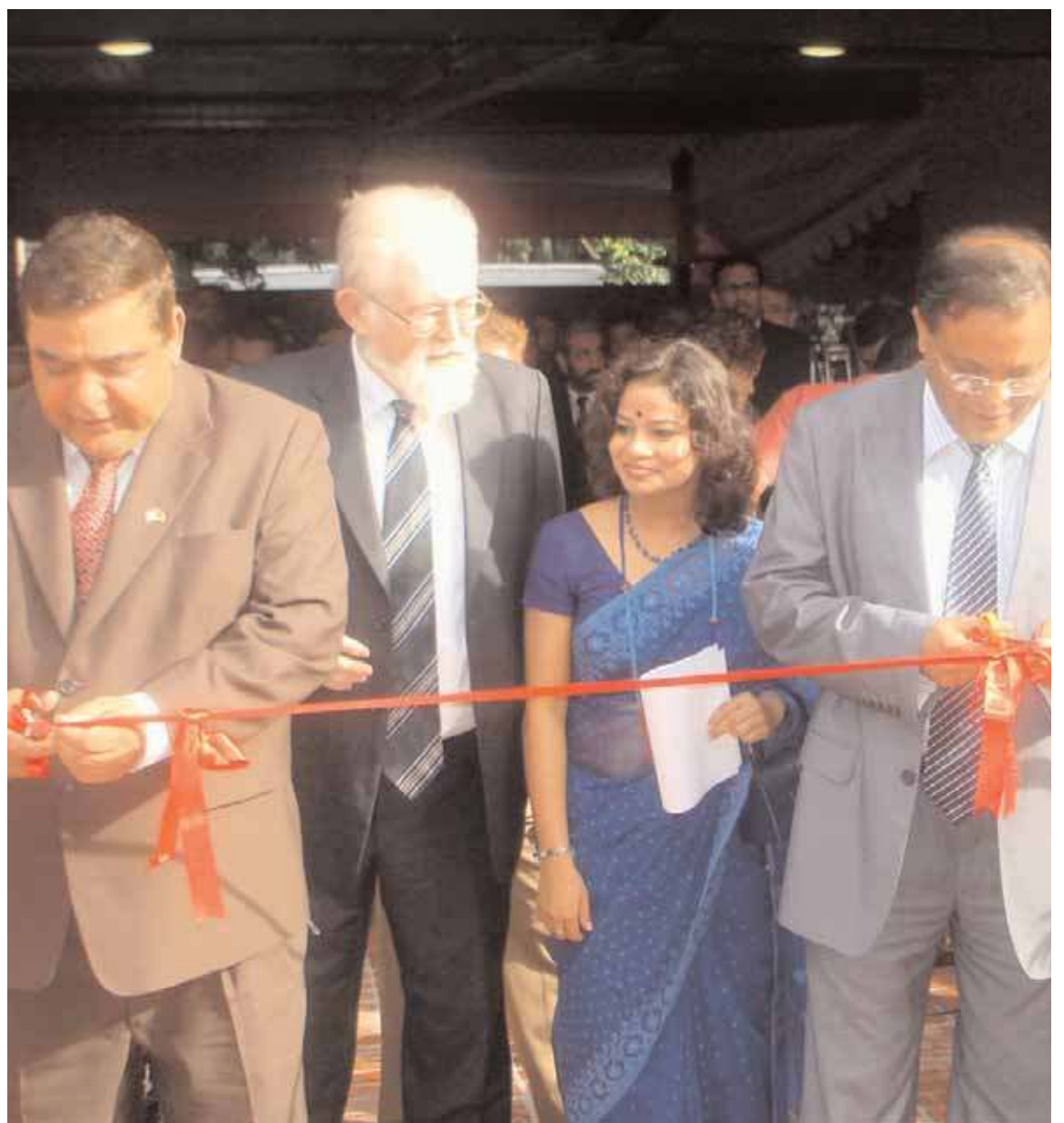
"I believe the new building epitomises the soundness and the potential of the flourishing bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Canada," Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai said.

He pointed out that the Bangladeshi - Canadian community is estimated at over 100,000 and continues to make significant contributions to Canadian pros-

perity and the multi-cultural fabric of Canada.

"Our relationship is based on a priority CIDA program, a 100,000-strong Bangladeshi diaspora in Canada, a billion dollars annually in two-way trade and ongoing diplomatic cooperation at the UN and on such key issues as climate change, the global economic crisis, human rights and refugees, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism," Parliamentary Secretary Obhrai added.

For more information, contact Darryl Whitehead at (613) 947-4567



Official opening ceremony of the new Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh. From the left - Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai; High Commissioner Robert McDougall; High Commission official Punam Azad and Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs

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D.K. Pattammal

- the musical legend

By: Raymond Rajabalan

Damal Krishnaswamy Pattammal (28 March 1919 - 16 July 2009) was a prominent Carnatic musician and a playback singer for film songs in many Indian languages. D. K. Pattammal and her contemporaries M.S. Subbulakshmi and M.L. Vasanthakumari were popularly referred to as the "female trinity of Carnatic Music." Pattammal has been appreciated all over the world by Carnatic music lovers. This trio initiated the entry of women into mainstream Carnatic Music.

Background

Named Alamelu, but fondly called "Patta", Pattammal was born in an orthodox Brahmin family in Kancheepuram of Tamil Nadu, India. Her father, Damal Krishnaswamy Dikshithar, was deeply interested in music, while her mother, Kanthimathi (Rajammal), was a talented singer. However, in line with strict orthodox tradition, Rajammal was not permitted to sing even for friends or relatives. Despite her orthodox background, Pattammal sang and showed considerable music talent at an early age, like her 3 brothers; D. K. Ranganathan, D.K. Nagarajan, and D.K. Jayaraman.

Pattammal received no formal training. As a child, she would sit through the concerts and imitate the musicians on returning home. She would also sing simple devotional hymns and songs that her father had taught her. She had also received tuition from a Telugu music teacher.

Career

In 1929, at the tender age of 10, little Patta gave her first ever radio performance for Madras Corporation Radio (now known as AIR), and 3 years later, she gave her first public concert at Madras Rasika Ranjani Sabha in 1932. One year later, Pattammal moved to Chennai to become a regular performer in concerts and gave her first performance at the Mahila Samajam (the Egmore Ladies Club), and won acclaim. In 1939, Pattammal married R. Iswaran. She quickly rose to stardom, and her musical career spanned more than 65 years.

D. K. Pattammal has established a reputation as an authority on the compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar. She has learnt authentic versions of Dikshitar's compositions from Ambi Dikshitar (Dikshitar's great grandson) and from Justice T. L. Venkatrama Iyer. In addition to Dikshitar compositions, Pattammal has also popularised many

compositions of prominent composers like Papanasa Sivam.

Pattammal's sweet disposition and humble nature belie the fact that she started a few revolutionary trends in Carnatic music. She is the first Brahmin woman to have performed this genre of music publicly, both on stage and on air. Brahmins ranked as the highest in the caste hierarchy prevalent in India in the early 20th century, and society considered it taboo for a Brahmin woman to perform on stage. Furthermore, Pattammal is also the first woman to have performed Ragam Thanam Pallavi in concerts. Ragam Thanam Pallavi is the most difficult concert item in Carnatic music. Before Pattammal, it classed as a male stronghold. Not only did Pattammal boldly venture into Pallavi singing, but she also performed very complex Pallavis in intricate talas (rhythmic cycles) impressively enough to earn the respect of her male peers. For this reason, she became dubbed "Pallavi Pattammal". She learnt a few pallavis and compositions from Naina Pillai, and several from Vidyala Narasimhalu Naidu - the nephew of Narayanswami Naidu, a prominent composer of javalis. Today, many female Carnatic musicians perform Ragam Thanam Pallavi as the main item in their concerts.

Papanasa Sivam introduced Pattammal to singing for films. Although she received many offers to sing for films, she only accepted those which involved the singing of devotional or patriotic songs, and declined offers involving romantic songs. The first film Pattammal sang in was Thyaga Bhoomi. Later, she sang in other films including Naam Iruvar. She has popularised several patriotic compositions of Subramania Bharathiyar. Pattammal had the rare honour of performing at the foundation-laying ceremony of the Bharati Memorial at Ettayapuram.

Touring

Pattammal has performed in all major states, sabhas and venues throughout India, as well as numerous destinations around the world, including the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sri Lanka and other countries.

Awards and titles

D. K. Pattammal has received several awards and titles throughout her career. Most notably these include the title "Gana Saraswathi" bestowed on her by the musician

Tiger Varadachariar, the



Sangeetha Sagara Ratna title, the Sangeet Nadaga Academy award in 1961, the Sangeetha Kalanidhi (considered the highest accolade in Carnatic music) in 1970, the Padma Bhusan from the Government of India in 1971, and the Padma Vibushan, India's second-highest civilian honor, in 1998. Pattammal was also elected Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1992.

Performing style

Pattammal possesses a full-throated voice in the low alto/high tenor range. Her outstanding musical qualities include an overwhelming technical expertise, an uncompromising adherence to pitch and rhythm, and clear enunciation of lyrics. Her performances of shlokas and viruttams (poetry or verse sung improvisationally without rhythmic accompaniment) express great emotion. She also has a reputation as a very disciplined musician. As a child she woke up before dawn and practised for hours. Throughout her performing career she meticulously planned her concert items weeks in advance and practised rigorously.

Disciples

Pattammal's style of singing attracted many students, foremost among them her younger brother D.K. Jayaraman, who sang with her in several concerts, and who himself received the Sangeetha Kalanidhi in 1990. A few of her other popular students include her daughter-in-law Lalitha Sivakumar, Geetha Rajashekar, her granddaughter Nithyasree Mahadevan, and Bhavadarini Anantaraman. Pattammal has taught students from several countries.

Death

Pattammal died of natural causes in Chennai on July 16, 2009 at 1:30 pm. She is survived by her husband, R. Iswaran, her sons I. Sivakumar and I. Lakshman Kumar, as well as her grandchildren Rajguru, Gayathri, Nithyasree, and Charan.



Indians happier, healthier than many developed nations

India is way ahead of many developed economies, including the US and the UK, in terms of happy lives and eco-friendliness, with the country cornering the 35th spot among 143 nations.

The 'Happy Planet Index (HPI)' compiled by UK-based New Economics Foundation has placed India at the 35th position while the list is topped by Costa Rica.

The index is based on high life

expectancy, high life satisfaction and ecological footprint - a measure which takes into account carbon emissions by individuals.

Going by the report, the US is at the 114th spot while the UK is better placed at 74th position.

Among the BRIC nations, Brazil and neighboring China are ranked higher at ninth and 20th places, respectively. Russia is a distant 108th. [PTI]

UAE Tamil Sangam holds gala ceremony in November

UAE Tamil Sangam (UTS) is a non-profit organization devoted to furthering Tamil culture in United Arab Emirates. UTS seeks to promote and co-ordinate Tamil cultural, educational and community activities and is open to all per-

sons interested in promoting the Tamil language and culture.

On 13th November 2009, UTS is celebrating 1st year of completion with a gala ceremony. For more details: <http://www.uaetamilsangam.com>

India's Independence Day celebrations at Yonge Dundas Square - August 9th, 2009

Presented by Panorama India - Live performance by Hans Raj Hans

Come Celebrate India's 62nd Independence day with thousands of South Asian Canadians on Sunday August 9th at Yonge Dundas Square from 9 am - 8pm. The day will begin with a flag hoisting ceremony by Consulate General of India Ms Preeti Saran and other dignitaries from federal, provincial and municipal government. Be part of the parade down Yonge Street celebrating and showcasing rich Indo Canadian culture through creatively decorated floats representing different regions of India. Floats will have rich landscape of India along with regional dances and cultural activities moving through downtown Toronto.

Activities will begin at 9:45 am at Yonge/Dundas Square. On this day Yonge Dundas Square will be converted into mini India with stalls serving great Indian cuisine, local handicraft, henna artists and great entertainment. There will be cultural programs throughout the day on the main stage and evening will cap off with a lively and entertaining concert by one of India's most renowned and successful Singer Mr. Hans Raj Hans.

Mr. Hans Raj Hans will be the Parade marshal for this year. His singing career spans over 4

decades and in 2007 he was presented with one of India's highest award "PADMASHREE AWARD" for his contribution to India music.

India's Independence Day is presented by Panorama India who is celebrating its 10th year anniversary. Formed to promote Unity in Diversity, Panorama India is a not for profit organization that brings under its umbrella the various Indian cultural groups in Canada. Panorama India would like to invite all media and public to come join us in this great event.

Recap of India's Independence Day parade

Date:

Sunday August 9th, 2009

Venue:

Yonge Dundas Square

Flag Hoisting: 10 a.m

Parade timing:

10:30 - Noon

Activity Timings:

Entertainment from

10 till 8 p.m.

For additional Media information or for interviews please do not hesitate to contact us at info@panoramaindia.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 416.716.5793



LETTERS & OPINIONS

Samy Appadurai

The return of the men in uniform, particularly the lower ranking army and navy men to the remote villages in the southern Sinhalese areas of Sri Lanka where they were born and raised in poor families brought a sigh of relief to their spouses and immediate family members. They could not believe that their loved ones were still alive and safe from the war against the Tamil youth in the north. Ever since they were deployed, the monthly wages had been deposited in their bank accounts regularly and no special or disappointing messages were delivered. Of course such bad news would not be delivered when mass number of soldiers were in battle. There was a strong conviction amongst the relatives of those soldiers that they were alive and assumed that their loved ones were safely engaged in the battle.

The Sri Lankan government like any other governments that engage in war rarely disclose the actual number of deaths on their side and exaggerate that of the enemy. This is what has been going on in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan as well. An iron curtain of sorts has fallen on the country and censorship towards the international independent media has made the image of this war blurry to the outside world. At the tail end of the war the engagement of starlight monitoring and capturing of photos of the war zone has brought some vague pictures and we have been able to compile an estimate of the casualties, arms and ammunitions that were captured though again it is still not very clear.

The mass scale of recruitment in the rural areas sent insufficiently trained soldiers into the field with nothing more than hope. They soon realized that they had been somewhat blindfolded and their hope of surviving was questionable. Some realized their fate and wanted to get out, but when they thought of the consequences that they would certainly face, they decided to remain.

The top officers in the security services had many opportunities in aboard to be well trained with modern war equipment and were instructed on war strategies as well. It is believed that even after the intensive training; some experts from foreign countries were personally present in the battlefield and provided guidance. It elevated the morale of the high ranking officers and gave them extra courage in discharging their duties.

May 2009 marked the beginning of the so called post war period and many faces have graced the Sri Lankan political stage as new actors, directors and producers. The high ranking army and navy officers and commanders have gone beyond their official boundaries and are interfering in the political drama which has alarmed the politicians and the religious leaders who have been the directors of this drama

Sri Lanka's never ending political turmoil

behind the scene for a long time.

Recently, some of the particularly lower ranking religious leaders have been performing as supporting actors in the drama. Sometimes religious leaders have been playing dual roles as directors and supporting actors and we have to wait and see what the next role may be in the future. It is crystal clear that the heroes who do not follow the directions or do not listen to them or ignore their suggestions could be punished severely and this has already happened. Some time back when a powerful leader who came to power with their support and blessing, later on deviated, his actions based on his own convictions had to face bitter consequences and it brought to the end not only his political career, but also his life. They have a constant powerful voice in the Sri Lankan political drama and it can be reduced by a smaller degree but not substantially.

The history of Sri Lanka of the middle period proves that they are the king makers and disposers. They have a self proclaimed vision in their mind that Sri Lanka is the chosen holy land and the Buddhist Sinhalese are the chosen people to establish and spread Buddhism and its traditions around the world and therefore it is their moral obligation to wipe out anyone with equal claims in any part of the country. Any other religious faith would not be tolerated in sharing equal status, even the Hindu faith. Siddhartha Gautama, Lord Buddha perfectly embodied the essence of Hindu philosophy. In fact Lord Buddha never advocated for a new religion and never expected people to worship him as god and he did not claim to be the son of god. One of the fundamental features of Buddhism is tolerance. The Buddha also preached the doctrine of "Ahimsa" or non-violence, which seems to have been forgotten. In line with these convictions one of the former presidents of Sri Lanka once said that in Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese are the trees and the minorities are the climbers on the trees. They (the minorities) cannot ever be a tree.

The third power sharing force is the political parties. Though there appears to be a multi party system working in Sri Lanka, the United National Party a party more inclined towards free enterprise and the Sri Lankan Freedom Party which leans more towards socialist ideology and has roots in the rural areas of the country are the main parties which dominate the political scene. The system of government of Sri Lanka is a so called democratic government. It had been shifted from a parliamentary democracy to the presidential system. The president is elected by the popular voters directly and can remain in the post for a maximum of two terms like the United States. According to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the only people who can run for the office of

the president of Sri Lanka must be a Sinhalese by ethnicity and Buddhist by religious faith. The parliament has the legislative power and the leader, the Prime Minister is the leader of the political party that has the highest number of members in parliament. The third organ of the government, the judiciary system is supposed to act independently, without any direct or indirect interference from the politicians however, I do not wish to elaborate further in this regard.

The last but not the least is the force of the minorities. The minority forces are accumulated in two camps, such as the ones who accept the Sri Lankan constitution and work with the political system of government. Their activities are bound by the constitution of Sri Lanka. The second group operates mainly with the intent of regaining their rights by other means. They have proclaimed themselves as freedom fighters while the government addresses them as terrorists and they do have some power in Sri Lankan politics, even in the presidential elections. By disenfranchising the voting rights of the Tamils who were the descendants of indentured workers brought by the former British colonial rulers from Southern India, a portion of them were repatriated to India by the Sri Lankan government. It has been considered by the Tamils both in India and Sri Lanka that the move was taken primarily to reduce the power and position of Tamils in Sri Lankan politics.

Though the Sri Lankan government claims that the armed struggle of the Tamils was almost completely wiped out and that the war is now over, the army claims that the war is not over and there are elements of the terrorists that have survived and it may take more time to eradicate these cells, and if not done carefully, the situation may turn back to square one. I do not think it is a mere guess, rather there is a heavy weight on those saying these words and exposing such threats will make their position elevated and more important. The people of Sri Lanka, the religious leaders and the politicians should not overestimate their importance and leave them aside and share power amongst them. The officials of the forces have tasted a bit of power and got motivated if not intoxicated by it and want more power in the political drama. They feel that they have suffered, worked hard and made a lot of sacrifices and they deserve more recognition and power.

There is another tactic that the politicians in power use to keep their power within themselves and allowing others to demand for bigger and better pieces of the pie. Recently a suggestion was made by the executive department to offer high diplomatic posts to the senior ranking officials in the army and send them abroad and allow them



to enjoy their new prestigious positions so that their powerful voice, suggestions and demands would not be a growing threat to the government. This is but a temporary measure. If Sri Lanka had to fight against the British Empire and in the fight for independence they would have acquired the experience of war. But this was not the case and now they think that they could gain more political power and a better say in policy making, a better salary and working conditions.

The next political force comes from a non believer of the western democratic system of government. They believe in proletariat dictatorship of government, based on Marxist philosophy. They are popularly known as Che Guevara. They attempted to capture the power by a coup d'états. They failed and were crushed by the government. They have come back as another supporting actor in the Sri Lankan political drama. I do not know whether or not how far they have given up their revolutionary method of grabbing power. If a favorable situation should arise, they would not mind reactivating their methods of maneuvering politics.

The current power struggle is acquiring a different shape and it has to meet the multi dimensional forces. The religious organizations will continue to have their share more or less constant; rather it is getting stronger these days. The army will have direct or indirect influence in the rule of Sri Lanka. Pakistan is a good example in the same region in the Indian subcontinent, although the nature of politics, ethnicity and geographical conditions are different, there is strong possibility in the role of the forces in influencing the government whether elected by the voters or not. In Pakistan the forces have a very strong hold in the government; if the politicians do not play their cards well, they may be pushed down.

During the last three decades the politicians were able to portray the war and mobilized the immediate attention of the masses towards defending their nation from the armed struggle by the Tamils. The masses had no other choice other than to put back their domestic problems such as mass unemployment, increased prices of goods and services, sky rocketing inflation, domestic violence, corruption, deteriorating social amenities, lack of proper medical care and educational facilities and broken promises. Wars have a way of distracting people from their everyday concerns.

Now the government proudly claims that the major part of the war is over and engaged the masses in the celebration of their glory. Praise for the leader and his popularity has gone up very high but how long is it going deviate from the actual critical situation where the masses have been suffering and no sufficient relief measures have been taken. In time, the masses will

no longer be able to contain their frustration.

The Marxists also wait for the worst economic situation and consider the time ripe and the masses will be ready for any revolutionary changes to overcome their suffering. So far they have tried to give their mandate to the two big political parties with the high hope of finding drastic solutions for their pressing problems because none of them had given any tangible solutions. The Marxists know very well that when the masses are some what economically able to survive, they will not push for an overhaul of the economy or any revolutionary change in the system of government.

Two main potentially growing super powers have all of a sudden shown a very high concern and interest in Sri Lankan affairs. The elephant and the dragon (India and China to be exact) shed crocodile tears and won the heart of the Sri Lankan government. They are competing against each other and aim to under cut the speedy progress through a cold war. The small nations around them such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh have been getting help in terms of financial, military aids, donations and skilled personalities in constructive and destructive fields. The elephant and the dragon have their battles in the grass lands of these small nations. One of them may aim to have control on Sri Lanka as the former Soviet Union had in Cuba, a small island south of United States of America. At this stage it may look good for these nations but in the long run, they will be brought into their indirect control and they will be controlled through economic domination and interdependency

If the rights of the minority are suppressed any longer it will be a disaster in the future. The late Colvin de Silva, one of the veteran politicians once predicted that one language will lead to two nations. It is a very sensible saying and not an outdated comment. It does not confine the language but rather goes beyond to include the entire minority rights. Tamils claim they are the majority in their traditional homeland which is the eastern and Northern parts of Sri Lanka, whereas the government of Sri Lanka cleverly says that every part of the country belongs to everyone of the Sri Lankans. In words, it appears very compassionate but in the real sense the Tamils strongly feels that they are deceived. I do not know whether or not they sacrifice their rights for privileges.

I have my doubts that the current political moves, the trends, the directions, and maneuvers will solve Sri Lanka's problems. The war took 30 years; it may take another 30 years to heal.

Samy Appadurai is a renowned broadcast journalist, author, educator and public speaker who makes his home in Toronto.

Social work practice in an international context at Renison University College



Waterloo:

A successful Indo-Canada student exchange program came to an end at the Renison University College in Waterloo. Pavithra Kozhinjaiappan and Priadarshni Srinivasan of Tamil Nadu, South India completed their Social work student exchange program at the College. They are students of Lady Doak College of Madurai. In return, two Canadian students Bronwyn Naylor and Tiffany McCabe completed their assignment in Madurai.

The Waterloo community honored and bid farewell to the students at the University. Dr. Linda Snyder, the associate professor facilitated the event and thanked the community support. The students also thanked Canadians for the support and sponsoring their stay and to the Waterloo Region Tamil community for the wonderful hospitality.

Pavithra Kozhinjaiappan:

I was really very happy when I got selected for this program and these three months here in Canada was a wonderful experience for me. I had learnt a lot of new things from weather to people to courses that I took and the placement. The courses gave me good learning about Canada's native people and the other about the older adults. I also learnt about the difference in practice of social work in Canada and in India. This exchange programme has given me good exposure to the working of a social worker and also the different roles that a social worker can take up in the field. On the whole this exchange programme was a good opportunity to learn and also to under-



Audience



Dr. Linda Snyder

as fresh as ever. Being a social work student this exchange program gave us an opportunity of viewing things in a more positive way and also from that cultural context from which we are viewing things. We always had only pleasure and no pain while being a part of this exchange program.

Our first day both in Canada and Renison was really scary since everything that we saw and heard was totally new to us. The number of people whom we knew in person was just two which was Tiffany and Bronwyn but they were of great help to us right from the beginning till now and only at this point we realised how difficult it would have been for both of them coming to a new country that has a different culture and different language as well. We also felt that people here



Priadarshni Srinivasan



Pavithra Kozhinjaiappan



Audience



(L-R) Priadarshni, Pavithra, Tiffany McCabe and Bronwyn Naylor

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stand the differences in culture and also the practice of social work in this culture.

This kind of exchange programme should be encouraged to develop good relations between nations and also to encourage the students to learn a different atmosphere, adapting to a different culture and to the people and to every aspect of the exchange and to make best use of it.

It is now the end of this exchange and I feel that in these 3 months I have had a good learning and also this opportunity that was given to me was made proper use of to learn many things. I am happy that I am going back to India and I hope that I can have opportunities where I can implement my learning to practice. At the same time I hope to come back here to pursue my higher studies and make my future better and successful.

Priadarshni Srinivasan:

It gives me immense pleasure in exchanging my views about the exchange program. Actually speaking we had a nice time in Canada and also felt lucky for being in this program. This wonderful experience that we had would always remain in our hearts

are very concerned towards the others because right from the first day till now we have experience only warm welcome and friendly smiles from even people whom we didn't know. Everybody wanted to make us feel at home and they really did, because we felt very comfortable and didn't feel home sick by any means. Though this project was a pilot project we have gained so much of knowledge from it that would be of good use right throughout our entire practice of social work. The placements that I went gave me a different view about how social work is practiced in an international level and I was also surprised to see the different services that are provided here. I was able to learn about the basic ethics and skills that a social worker should have no matter from which country or origin he/she is from. We also have

developed a close bond friendship with the students here and it is definitely going to be hard while departing from them. Both the courses that we took in this exchange program like Aboriginal perspective and older adults were really beneficial since it gave us a wide knowledge as what is happening in the society at present and how it can be handled more in a professional way.

Our beautiful journey comes to an end but not the bond of love that we have developed with people who really helped in making both us and the entire program a success. I would also to thank all people whole heartedly who was the reason behind giving an opportunity for being here and for having a pleasant full experience which we would never get in our life until luck strikes us once again and I really don't want to go back...



MONSOON FEATURE

By: Praveen

The beautiful game of futbol is much more than just a game. In many countries around the world it is worshiped like a religion. Soccer as it is termed in North America interested me at a tender age of 4 years old. I am now 15 years old and have an even bigger passion for the game. I play for the Unionville Milliken Soccer club boy's under-15 team and this past July, we had the opportunity to represent Canada at the Costa Blanca cup in Spain.

The Costa Blanca Cup is one of the largest youth soccer tournaments in Europe and the most participated tournament in the soccer frenzy country of Spain. With over 250 teams of all ages which come to participate in the tournament the stakes are high. Each team plays at a high level, and most are professional European Clubs allowing their youth teams to participate in the tournament. This was a great opportunity to see how our team would be able to measure up to the Europeans and the rest of the world. From all across the globe, teams came to play in the tournament including: Cameroon, Russia, Britain, Philippines, Portugal, Brazil, Italy, France, Spain, and many other countries.

The Club's Technical Director,

Unionville soccer team represents Canada in Spain



Canadian Team Players

Filipe Bento has been coaching us for the past 3 years and made us amazing soccer players and to become positive individuals. It was his idea that we participate in this great world class tournament, which he perceived as a life time opportunity and experience for our team.

The experience was amazing. We were treated like professional players, as soon as we arrived at the airport there was our guide waiting for us and a 50 seated coach bus that was assigned to us for the whole stay. Like a Professional tournament on the third day we were there, we were

to participate in the opening ceremonies. We paraded with all the other teams through the city and sang O Canada to show our patriotism. We ended up in a large outdoor stadium where there was music blasting and cheering it was great. We were introduced and we took our seats. The ceremonies began and the master of ceremonies started things off, there were soccer freestylers who did tricks with the ball, and there was singing and dancing. The night finished off with an amazing spectacle of fireworks.

Then we had our first game against a team from an area

Zamora defeated us 1-0. Though we did not put our heads down we were ready to take on the next challenge we were determined to make it past the group stages.

Our last game in the group stages came against a team called Tenerife from the Canary Islands. They were a fast paced team but we were able to keep up, it was an even game throughout. The game ended 1-0 in favour of Tenerife; though we were unsatisfied we knew we played a good game. That night we found out that we would be still advancing to the round of 16 as the 3rd place team in our group. The next morning we were set to play the favourite to win

the game, the game ended 1-0.

Even though we were knocked out of the tournament in the quarters we believed that the experience gained from the trip was incredible. In the past years of traveling and playing with this team to Europe, this by far was the best performance by our team. This showing that we are improving and taking advantage of the opportunities. We later found out because of goal differential we finished 5th in the tournament out of 26 teams. We also were later told that the team that we played second in the group stages, Zamora won the whole tournament. With our amazing talent throughout our whole team



Costa Blanca Cup Canadian Team Players



Canadian Team in Red

named Calpe in Spain. We played a terrific game and defeated them 3-1. In the process crushing many stereotypes of that all Canadians live in igloos and cannot play soccer. It was a great way to start the tournament. We had a day break and went to enjoy the sunny beaches of Benidorm which was the area our hotel was located. While enjoying the hot summer sun and relaxing for our next game. Our next competitor was an amazing team also from Spain called Zamora, it was a hard fought battle and in the end

Team Players with Banner

the whole tournament, Independante, a team from Madrid the capital of Spain. We had nothing to lose we went out with a goal to advance to the quarter finals. The whistle blew and game had started it was dead even back and fourth, but Independante struck first, 1-0. As time was running out we needed a goal and got it in the last 2 minutes. The game went to penalty kicks where we came out victorious and upsetting the favourites. The next day was the quarters and we played another team from Spain called A.D. Moypagas Mondsysa from Madrid. We played a solid game but had some unlucky breaks that cost us

we definitely surprised many people and gave them a new impression of the upcoming future of Canadian soccer.

It was great to experience the European style of play, the professionalism of the tournament, culture and lifestyle. Not only we will be using these experiences for helping us win future games but we learnt many life skills. When participating in team sports we learn sportsmanship, dedication, teamwork, self confidence and perseverance which are very important in the real world. I can assure that my teammates and I will reap the benefits of these skills and experiences on whatever future endeavours we pursue.



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IMF's \$2.6 billion Funding - Recognition for Sri Lanka's Ethnic Cleansing Policy of Tamils

By Arun Senathirajah

The IMF on July 24th approved a US\$2.6bn loan to the Sri Lankan government. The 20-month standby facility is intended to re-cushion the foreign-exchange reserves, and to relieve the country's burgeoning fiscal crisis. Despite intense speculation to the contrary, human-rights concerns have not prevented the loan from being made.

Sri Lanka Closed IMF Office, Now Welcome the IMF

In 2006 Sri Lanka turned down an IMF offer to give the country a status of Heavily Indebted Poor Country. Reluctant President Mahinda Rajapakse government made the IMF's country office to close down and celebrated the departure of the IMF as a freedom from the power clutches of the Westerners, and made big declarations and promises that they will never to go back to Western aid conditionalities.

The governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Nivard Cabraal, also went on record telling the IMF to put Washington's finances in order following the global financial crisis, rather than advising Sri Lanka on monetary policy. Again he said, in early June 2009 'We will never go after donors and lending agencies with a begging bowl. We are capable of standing on our own and raise funds through capital markets.'

In early July 2009 changed his tune and said 'Let it come at the time it comes. Till it comes let us managed it (exchange rate) as it is being managed.' Finally on July 16, 2009 he has begged down by accepting IMF's conditionalities and placing his signature in the 'Letter of Intent' an approval process document submitted to IMF Managing Director for the \$2.6 billion lending facility called Stand-By Arrangement funding program.

Under this Stand-By Arrangement, The IMF lends countries which experience severe balance of payment problems. The IMF staff support this program says 'the loan is for specifically the government's goals of rebuilding reserves, reducing the fiscal deficit to a sustainable level and strengthening the financial sector.' IMF's lending is phased out with continuous monitoring and supervision by the IMF officials. Sri Lanka has accepted conditionalities and benchmarks. The following some of the salient conditionalities.

1. The government to reduce budget deficits to 5% of the GDP by 2011
2. Maintaining floating exchange rate policy and building up of foreign exchange reserve at a sufficient level to cover - minimum of 3.5 months import requirements.
3. Measures to preserve the soundness of the financial sector by repaying the borrowing from the banking sector
4. Repayment of foreign debt on a phased out period of time frame.

UN's Blanket Cover Human Rights Violations

While Secretary General Bai Ki-Moon led the UN to provide blanket cover for the worst human rights violations of the failed state Sri Lanka, the IMF officials behaving like economics faculty professors in a university, purely talking in economic terms and finalized the Stand-By Credit

approval process, while political pressure make them to finalize decisions.

In spite of intense controversy over Sri Lanka's serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law IMF has approved the loan. It is not an unexpected decision, because the donor countries - US, UK etc. have actively assisted Sri Lanka by supplying funds and weapons to crush a Tamil Liberation movement and to massacre 50,000 Tamils in the last two days of the war. They were silently watching when the atrocity taking place and have now rewarded same President Mahinda Rajapakse government for what they have done to Tamils.

US Silent Sanction and Strategic Alliance with India

When a clause in the US foreign Operations Appropriation Bill stated 'unless Secretary of the State Hilary Clinton certifies that "Sri Lanka is treating internally displaced persons in accordance with international standards, including by guaranteeing their freedom of movement, providing access to conflict-affected areas and populations by humanitarian organizations and journalists, and accounting for persons detained in the conflict," and Sri Lanka is promoting "reconciliation and justice including devolution of power to provincial councils in the north and east as provided for in the Constitution of Sri Lanka" IMF funding is going to be blocked by the U.S. Treasury Secretary.

During Hillary Clinton's visit to India, India instructed Hillary Clinton to grant the IMF loan to Sri Lanka, otherwise Sri Lanka would fall deeper into the clutches of China. Sri Lanka achieved a great success in aligning to China. Sri Lanka was successful in bringing US, India and even the IMF to its line. India foreign diplomacy has failed over and over in the case of Sri Lanka. So the President Barack Obama's sanction came through the Secretary of State Hilary Clinton unannounced approval signal for the IMF's \$2.6 billion has materialized through US strategic alliance with Tamil genocide active partner India against China.

The newly elected U.S. President Barack Obama on him Tamils laid some hope to save their brothers, sisters, parents and other relatives were betrayed by his cooperation with Indian rulers. His action also has proved that he has no concern of human rights for Tamils, may be concerned of human rights for other races in the world, but clearly concerned of their strategic interests in alliance with Indian regional power which is a partner in genocide on Tamils with Sri Lanka, against China in the Indian Ocean and South Asia. But for President Barack Obama, he still wants to maintain the U.S. as the crusader for human beings. The same U.S. government openly supported to create Kosovo where only about 3,000 people were died, since it is really human rights issue for the U.S. government.

But, when more than more 50,000 Tamils massacred by the Sinhala racist Sri Lanka government and it still keeping 300,000 Tamils under UN funded barbed wires are not a human rights issue for Barack Obama to intervene. US President is so concerned about human rights vio-



Placard held at a Tamil Awareness Rally on Aug 3, near the UN Mission of the People's Republic of China in New York City.

lations, and have resolved a Black Haward University professor's harassment by a white police officer, by inviting both of them for a beer evening at the white house. But 1400 weekly dying people and the 300,000 Tamils under the barb wired UN funded internment camps and the massacre of 50,000 Tamils by Sri Lanka forces are not carrying the enough weight to draw his attention, may be merely because this has not happened in the US or in a country like Kosovo in Europe.

More than the Sri Lankan Request

The voting rights for the US 17%, UK 5%, and France 5% constituting to the control of 27% in the IMF. Rest of donor the 175 countries each have less than 5%. It has been reported together with the United States, Britain and France, Germany and Argentina have abstained from voting for the loan. But in reality without these three countries consent the IMF has no legitimacy to approve a loan. Sri Lanka entitlement for the reserve funding is SDR (Special Drawing Rights) 413.4 Millions (equal to US\$610,328,638.50).

But, IMF has come out with a more generous package of US\$2.6 billion i.e. 4.26 times higher than its eligibility. In addition to using its own reserves, Sri Lanka borrowed from other countries such as Libya and China issuing sovereign bonds to carry out the war against Tamils. This amount is totaling to about \$0.7 billion. IMF now wants Sri Lanka to get cleared from the obligations and accommodated that amount with the originally requested \$1.9 billion. IMF is more generous in this consideration, in spite of no such additional request sought from Sri Lanka government.

The IMF cover-up of the Real Reason

The IMF cover-ups the real reason of war expenditures for the balance of payment problem and says Sri Lanka's "The global financial crisis has had a significant impact on Sri Lanka's economy. Persistently high budget deficits forced the government to rely on short-term financing from international markets. The global shock resulted in a sudden stop to this financing. Capital outflows and intervention by the central bank to prevent the exchange rate from depreciating-exacerbated by a decline in demand for Sri Lanka's exports-resulted in a significant loss of international reserves which, despite the recent rebound in capital inflows, remain very low.'

But analysts point out large budget deficits (IMF loan application is for

\$1.9 billion, while, its 2008 budget deficit is \$1.6 billion mainly because of defense expense increase), home-grown balance of payments crisis caused by extensive defense expenditure, bloated public sector spending and inflation that peaked last year at 30 percent are the real reasons for the large foreign reserve crisis. Really structured financial products linked major western countries faced the global financial crisis. Sri Lanka's capital market is not that much developed to be impacted by the current global financial crisis as pointed out by the IMF.

IMF lending approval while Sri Lanka's credit rating is downgraded would definitely help to repair the rating of the country. Thus would make a healthy path to get more donations and funds from countries such as China, Iran, and Libya and from the global capital market system. Further it took the opportunistic position by utilizing the rivalry strategic power position seeking India V. China & Pakistan, Co-Chair countries V. Iran & China and India & the U.S. V. China. When one country refused Sri Lanka was successful in jumping to its rivalry country. All these countries have united in their partnership position in ethnic cleansing of Tamils along with Sri Lanka.

Tacit Approval for Sri Lanka's Tamil Ethnic Cleansing Policy

Sri Lanka is a beggar or a donor is not an issue for the Tamils in the country whether they live in the NorthEast, Upcountry or elsewhere. What is really matter is the IMF's funding approval is a tacit approval for the Sri Lanka's Tamil Ethnic Cleansing Policy. Sri Lanka foreign currency reserve position deteriorated mainly because of its Tamil Ethnic Cleansing policy. In order to crush the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) the only strong voice for the Tamils, Sri Lanka has spent without worrying about economic impact on the country.

That is simply because they know very well that international financial organization such as Group 8, ADB



(Asian Development Bank), The World Bank, European Union's GSP Plus and the IMF would come to the rescue only on some promises and conditions which Sri Lanka never kept up and would never keep up. Not worrying about the balance of payment crisis Sri Lanka went on spending its available foreign currency reserves for the prime purpose of war against Tamils. As Sri Lanka expected the IMF has now come to the rescue. Sri Lanka lost some currency reserves in controversial oil- hedging deals with Citibank and Standard Chartered Bank.

But the major component was spent on buying war weapons and equipments. The IMF is virtually replenishing the foreign reserve Sri Lanka spent to buy cluster bombs, artilleries air craft missiles used to attack hospitals packed with war wounded patients and Tamil civilians, to buy bulldozers to crush the wounded alive and the people in bunkers and to buy highly inflammable chemical to burn them into ashes in its own declared safety zones.

Safety zones were announced to get the people safely there to bomb them in mass groups. Further this lending approval will further supportive of the Sri Lanka's ethnic cleansing policy. Sri Lanka's ethnic cleansing is a multi-pronged strategies targeting to the total wipe out of Tamil ethnic population in the island. These can be cited as follows and not limited to:

- " Settling Sinhala Convicts in Tamil tradition lands under Government Sponsored Large Scale Irrigation Projects
- " Mass Scale Massacres
- " Abductions and killings
- " Silencing Tamil media
- " Land Encroachments
- " High Security Zones-Forfeiture of Tamil Residential and Cultivable Lands for Military Camps and subsequent Sinhala Settlements
- " Starvation and Stopping Medical supplies - A9 closure
- " Forcibly Settling Tamils among Sinhalese to suppress their Voices
- " Declaration of Sacred Sites only for Buddhist
- " Schemed Buddhist archeological findings in Tamil lands
- " Erection of Buddhist statues in public and military camps in Tamil area
- " Creating Fisheries Villages
- " Merging part of Tamil electorate with Sinhala electorates or districts
- Human Rights Watch said, 'current government policies, however, in failing to respect human rights standards, threaten post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation, and stability, and thereby undermine the purpose of the IMF loan.'

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**By: Subramaniam
Kanthaswamy**

With the passing away of Pattammal, an era in Carnatic music has ended. It was an epoch of women power, a period when three glittering stars shone so brightly. These ladies - MS Subbalakshmi (1916-2004), D.K. Pattammal (1919-2009), and M.L. Vasanthakumari (1928-1990) - were known as the classical triumvirate.

Pattammal was born in an orthodox Brahmin family in the village of Damal near Kanchipuram to Krishnaswamy Dikshitar and Rajammal. She was named Alemelu, but was fondly called "Patta" or "Pattammal" and the name stuck. Patta, growing up in Kancheepuram, showed a precocious talent for music and Sanskrit from the age of five.

Pattammal's talent and interest in music were nurtured by concerts at the music festivals hosted by Kancheepuram Naina Pillai, regarded as one of the all-time greats among Carnatic musicians. Little Patta would sit through the concerts and imitate the musicians on returning home. She would also sing simple devotional hymns and songs that her father had taught her. She received no formal training in music. Her only exposure to the outside world was the Kamakshi temple where she listened to slokas recited by the priests. During the Thyagaraja Utsavam, the six-year-old sang all those slokas without a single omission. A musician from Arani, well known as 'Telugu Vadhyar' was so impressed that he offered to teach her music. Her school-teacher father was ecstatic, yet apprehensive. The village of Damal saw her first public performance where she sang with her brother in tow.

Women from orthodox families, especially Brahmin families, were not allowed to sing or dance in public at that time. Circumstances prevented her from learning in the gurukula system under one guru. But she trained under many vidwans to acquire a rich and varied repertoire of not merely the compositions of the Music Trinity - Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri - but also the Tamil kritis of Muttuthandavar, Arunachala Kavi, Gopalakrishna Bharati, Subhramania Bharati, and hymns from such Tamil devotional anthologies as Tiruppugazh, Thevaram and Arutpa. Pattammal's repertoire was vast, expanse and covered a full gamut of great composers.

Vai.Mu. Kothainayaki Ammal the pioneering woman novelist succeeded in convincing Pattammal's father that women

outside the Devadasi community could also take to a career in music. The year 1933 saw Pattammal give her first public concert at the Mahila Samajam (the Egmore Ladies Club). Those who had come to see the spectacle of a Brahmin girl singing in public went away admiring her. Soon Pattammal had many concert offers coming her way, and to facilitate her career, the family moved to Chennai. Thus began her long career of concert performances - she was well on the way to stardom.

Damal Krishnaswamy Pattammal (DKP) took Carnatic music to new heights by blending traditionalism and trailblazing innovations. She defied tradition to become the first Brahmin woman to give public concerts. Until Pattammal and Rukmini Devi Arundale came on the scene, Brahmin girls were not allowed to sing or dance in public. They symbolised a new liberation that Indian women had not experienced before. Pattammal, broke away from the conservative, orthodox hold of a patriarchal order and took women musicians to the public platform.

Laya, or the art of rhythm, was not a women's forte, until Pattammal came to the scene. Women used to sing padams, javalis or devotional pieces which were not heavy on laya. Pattammal made history as the first woman who dared to break into the then strictly male bastion of singing "Ragam, Thanam, Pallavi." It came as a shock to the male performers that a 'mere' female brain could not only grasp the maze of laya as Pattammal did, but also revel in exploring what daunted many of them. Her mastery of the rhythmic complexities of laya earned her the sobriquet 'Pallavi Pattammal.' Laya wizard Palghat Mani Iyer overcame his reluctance to accompany women on the mridangam when he played for Pattammal not because his daughter was married to Pattammal's son, but because he was overwhelmed by her laya gnanam (knowledge) and was convinced that her sangitham (music) had substance.

Pattammal earned a reputation as an authority on the compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar. She learnt authentic versions of Dikshitar's compositions from Ambi Dikshitar (Dikshitar's great grandson) and from T. L. Venkatrama Iyer. Her renditions, considered one of the most authentic versions, serve as a valuable guide to other musicians. Few could vie with her in the treatment of Shyama Sastri. When she sang his "Annaye" (Purvikalyani), "Brova vamma" (Manji), and the sparkling "Nilayadakshi" no lover of classicism could remain untouched.

Her resonant perfection in Sanskrit has been acclaimed, but it is easy to see that mother tongue Tamil held a special place in Pattammal's heart. It could be sensed especially when she sang the "national songs" of the British

D.K. Pa t t a m m a l

(28 March 1919 - 16 July 2009)

- A tribute to the music legend



era with an ardour unknown to the present generation. Among them Subramania Bharati's verses stood out for their burning zeal. She made the hall flame with the patriotic fire of Bharati's songs. She summoned peace with "Santi nilava vendum," which was her signature piece. It has no special beauty of melody or lyric but it stood the test of time purely on the strength of the straight-from-the heart thrust the singer infused into it. "Poonkuyil koovum" had a light touch, vastly different from a "Koluvaivunnade", but the delicate strains of Kalki's song retain the unmistakable stamp of a voice and mind steeped in the classical mode.

Again, in a break with tradition, Pattammal was among the first woman playback singers in films where she is best remembered for her rendering of patriotic songs. She was quite a radical in her own way. At the peak of the British rule she sang and popularised the patriotic songs of Bharatiyar defying threats of arrest and incarceration. In the unique timbre of her voice and unmistakably clear diction, compositions of Subramania Bharathy and Papanasam Sivan reached the masses.

Year 1947 dawned brightly for India with political freedom from the British being only a few months away. A.V. Meiyappan released his film "Naam Iruvar" ("We Two"). The film was a political and patriotic melodrama, replete with Nationalist ideas. It turned out to be a major hit setting him firmly on the path to fame and fortune. The film had

two dance sequences choreographed by the famous Bharatha Natyam guru and nattuvanar, Vazhuvoor B. Ramaiah Pillai and danced scintillatingly by 'Baby' (later Kumari) Kamala. The songs, "Aaduvomey Pallu Paaduvomey", and "Vetri Ethu Dhikkum" written years ago by Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiar in anticipation of the freedom of India were sung off screen by

Pattammal. The songs and the dances made the film not only memorable but also created a cultural revolution in the attitude of the people towards Bharatha Natyam. Every mother saw a 'Baby' Kamala in her little daughter whether she had the talent or not! The rendering by Pattammal of the songs in her silky soft soothing style invested them with immortality. Even after sixty-plus years the song "Aaduvomey" is telecast by many TV channels every year on the Indian Independence Day. The music for the film was composed by R. Sudarsanam.

Pattammal sang for more AVM films besides "Nam Iruvar". Those were, "Vethala Ulagam" (1948), "Vazhkai" (1949) and "Rama Rajyam" (1948). In "Vethala Ulagam" Pattammal sang two melodious songs, "Thoondir puzhvinai pol sudarvilakkinaipol" and the more popular "Theeratha vilayattu pillai", both written by Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar. "The excellent singing of Pattammal and the bewitching dance by 'Kumari' Kamala elevated the last scene in the film to great aesthetic heights. Pattammal also sang in AVM's "Vazhkai" (1949) which introduced Vyjayanthimala to movies with a bang. Vyjayanthimala, danced to Bharathiyar's song "Bharatha Samudayam Vaazhvey" sung by Pattammal.

Pattammal also sang for an entertaining comedy in 1948, "Pizhaikkum Vazhi" produced by the noted comedian, T. S. Durairaj. She sang two songs which were written by Madurai G. Sundara Vaathiyar and composed by G. Aswathamma. One of them is worth mentioning. It highlighted the Indian nation, her perennial rivers, culture, poets and all - "Engal Naattukku Endha Naadu Eedu."

"Lavanya" (1951) produced and directed by G. R. Lakshmanan (totally forgotten

today) had Pattammal singing two songs highlighting the patriotic spirit, and problems of the poor. The songs were "Pazham Bhaaritha nannaadu" and "Thanga oru nizhal illaiye." Both songs were written by Papanasam Sivan and composed by S. V. Venkataraman.

Pattammal married R. Iswaran in 1939, when she was 20 years of age and, alongside a hectic performing career, she had performed the responsibilities of wife and mother, never expecting any concessions in consideration of her career demands. And in contrast to the mores of Brahminical orthodoxy of those times, Iswaran not only encouraged her to continue her music but in fact soon gave up his job to manage and guide her professional career.

Pattammal had the incredible good luck to have her own brothers as vocal accompanists at different times, and seeing Jayaraman develop into a Sangitha Kalanidhi himself. She also had the rare distinction of performing on stage, accompanied by daughter-in-law Lalitha, grand-daughters Gayathri and Nithyashree, great grand-daughter Lavanya, and on the Mridangam by son Sivakumar. Her late brother D.K.Jayaraman, a musician of outstanding talent, was her deciple and vocal accompanist for many years

Pattammal was an excellent teacher, interested in the individual student, as also in the larger aim of perpetuating the tradition. She trained not only brother D.K.Jayaraman to maintain her uncompromising standards, but also her daughter-in-law Lalitha, who succeeded him as her accompanist. Son Sivakumar and nephew J.Vaidyanathan have made a name as mridangam artistes. Both Pattammal and Jayaraman have trained several students to carry their torch. Another source of great pride and satisfaction is that grand-daughter Nithyashree Mahadevan is a frontline vocalist of today.

Pattammal was a recipient of several awards including the coveted Sangita Kalanidhi conferred by the Madras Music Academy (1970), the Padma Bhushan (1971), the Kalidas Samman (1998-99) and Padma Vibushan (1999) conferred by the President of India. For Pattammal, however, the most significant accolade is the one from one of the giants of Carnatic music, "Tiger" Varadachari, who described her as "Gana Saraswati."

"Naan Oru Vilayattu Bommaiya", her signature kriti, the magnificent "Saundararajam", and the patriotic fervor of Bharatiar songs are immortalized by Pattammal's stamp of emotional involvement and spontaneity. With her passing away the Carnatic music world has lost a radiant gem. But her music will stay forever. She will always be remembered as a champion of Tamil music.

World coverage of Obama's visit to Sub-Saharan Africa

**Ellakiya Sivapalan,
BA (Hons)**

July 10, 2009 was a historic day for the Sub-Saharan nation of Ghana as the first African American President of United States chose them as the host country to make his first official African visit. There was considerable amount of international attention to President Obama's visit to Africa. Media networks and press around the world covered the visit extensively. While some coverage was positive and hopeful about the visit and the significance it entailed, others were more critical, claiming the stay was too short, only lasting a day. Some coverage was more informative; exploring and analyzing the political and economic implications of the visit as well as foreign policy issues. Here is a look at the various media perspectives and interpretations around the world on this event.

Local news from Ghana celebrated the highly anticipated arrival of President Obama. The website Graphic Ghana gave a chronological and elaborate account of the entire affair. Here is an excerpt: Accompanying the 44th American President to Accra were his wife, Michelle, and two daughters, Sasha and Malia, as well as some senior US trade and diplomatic officials.

They were welcomed to a red-carpet reception on the tarmac at the Kotoka International Airport, at exactly 9.20 p.m. amid spectacular Ghanaian cultural performances, drumming, dancing and tight security.

The reception team was led by the President of Ghana, [Professor John Evans Atta Mills, Naadu, the Vice-President, Mr.

John Dramani Mahama, Lordina, ministers of state, Members of Parliament, senior government officials ..and other dignitaries.]

After taking time to share some words with each member of the host delegation, President Obama extended the greetings beyond the official protocol and invited his family to join the 50-member Ghana Dance Ensemble to dance to some "Obonu" music.

President Obama then left in "The Beast", the official car of the US President, to take some rest before today's programmes. By today's programme, President Obama will attend a breakfast meeting this morning to be hosted by President Atta Mills at the Castle, Osu.

The meeting is expected to be attended by about 300 guests, including former Presidents Jerry John Rawlings and John Agyekum Kufuor. After the breakfast, the two presidents are expected to hold bilateral talks at the Castle after which Mr. Obama and his wife will visit the La General Hospital.

From the La General Hospital, Mr Obama will proceed to the Accra International Conference Centre where he is expected to deliver his statement on Africa to Members of the Ghana Parliament.

There is a sense of pride and celebratory tone shown in the local coverage of President Obama's visit to Ghana. International media share this tone and feel Ghana is justified in feeling proud of being the chosen one for Obama's first African visit.

This is because Ghana is one of few African nations that has progressed significantly in political and economic development. It

has had a stable democracy for over a decade now and is the first African nation to achieve independence.

Ute Schaeffer of Deutsche Welle, a German broadcaster company, writes similarly about the significance of choosing Ghana as the host country. In her article "High Expectations for Obama's visit to Africa" she writes "Ghana has achieved results that have eluded many other African countries due to a lack of support from the local elites. The country has made progress in areas that the US views as important for the entire continent: economic and political development, transparent use of resources, political responsibility and actions to combat poverty and foster education and development."

Schaeffer also outlines the implications this visit has for policies on oil and security. Africa's oil and other resources are crucial to the US and maintaining close security partnership is necessary to deter and prevent international terror groups from operating in the continent, especially in vulnerable regions. After all, oil and security concerns are not only problems for Africa but are also US national interests. Schaeffer writes this core concept remains unchanged from the years of Bush administration. However, Africa has high expectations for the new President. Obama's "Yes we can" attitude and positive approach has many Africans feeling hopeful about a bright future and the possibility of a more equal relationship. A more equal relationship for Africans means that "African products should get the same access to the American market as American products



have to the African market."

Peter Baker of the New York Times, writes from a western perspective, outlining Obama's clear message to the continent and what the West expects of it. Baker describes Obama's approach as "tough-love"; expecting Africa to take responsibility for its own problems. He quotes Obama: "We must start from the simple premise that Africa's future is up to Africans..it is easy to point fingers and to pin the blame for these problems on others..but the West is not responsible for the destruction of the Zimbabwean economy over the last decade, or wars in which children are enlisted as combatants."

As tough as the talk can get, it undermines certain political dynamics between African nations and the US as Henry Ochieng and Angelo Izama writes in All Africa.com, "But any tough talk will likely be taken alongside the realities of working in Africa where many of America's allies are countries like Uganda, with political establishments that are largely considered repressive and corrupt - and yet they still remain of strategic interest to the US either because of the natural



**MONSOON
NEWSLINES**

resources or geographical location. Walking the talk deepening democracy and good governance for the Obama administration will therefore have to be taken in light of this reality".

Oxfam International, a non-for-profit international humanitarian agency, also mirrors this perspective on these certain realities. It, however, expects the Obama administration to move toward a new partnership with African nations that will ensure transparency and accountability. Oxfam's criticism of US foreign aid system is that it lacks a coherent assistance strategy for many of the countries it is trying to help. It expects the US to keep the public informed on the nature and amount of aid as well as allow the recipient nations to manage its own development agenda. Oxfam believes that along with a coherent foreign aid strategy the US needs to develop a comprehensive global climate strategy that will help poor communities cope with impacts of global warming. Mr. Offenheiser, President of Oxfam America, believes this is possible under Obama's administration.

As varied as the coverage was on this historical event, international media shared one similar sentiment throughout: Obama's administration will bring a renewed hope and co-operation to the troubled continent.

Sources: *Deutsche Welle, Graphic Ghana, All Africa.com, New York Times, Oxfam International (website)*

Youth Violence

Contd. from page 17

Later on the level of crimes evolves into swarming, drug trafficking, extortion, robbery, stealing of motor vehicles etc.

At the high school level some of these misguided youths resort to bullying their fellow students. What starts as simple act of fun, later mushrooms into the formation of gangs resulting in group violence. In North America each year countless tragic killings and assault takes place within school premises for trivial reasons. Many social groups are very alarmed by these violent incidents even though such acts do occur only occasionally.

Their concern is due to the fact that after an initial act of violence, in many instances there has been an incidence of series of revenge attacks resulting in unpleasant chain reactions. Youthful ignorance and false sense of bravado together with the influence of gang members results in a lethal cocktail, resulting in mayhem.

It is true that all levels of Governments have attempted to

address this issue to prevent youth violence from spiraling out of control. Though they have achieved varying degrees of success, yet it must be remembered that the onus of guiding the youths fall primarily on the parents.

Parents should monitor the activities of their children during the formative years and advice them of the various choices available to them in this great country. At the same time the children should be treated with respect and their views should be listened with attention so that a compromise could be reached whenever conflicting views arise. Instead of indulging in open dialogue, imposing traditions of the east upon the children already torn apart by clash of cultures will only aggravate the situation resulting in rebellious behaviour leading to violent crimes.

As regards, the recent acts violence among Tamil youths what is puzzling is that most of them were born and bred in this country. As such one cannot



attribute these actions to the social problems in Sri Lanka. Some Observers have pointed out that most of these youths are unable to obtain summer jobs due to the economic down turn and in the absence of any productive activities they wander aimlessly indulging in socially unacceptable behaviour. This reasoning appears to be true and if some cultural centres are set up across the GTA, these youths could involve themselves in various sports and cultural activities, thus using their

free time productively.

According to some estimates, it is expected that by the year 2017, about 55 percent % of the population in Scarborough will be South Asians. As such the social groups operating among Tamil Communities must take immediate efforts to seek provincial government support to set up a few cultural centres

In addition, Canadian social groups should organize more frequent forums, seminars and conferences to address youth issues

and provide guidance and help to the younger generation.

Sri Lankan Graduates Association and Canadian Tamil Youth development centre, Canadian Tamil Congress some of the organizations in the Tamil community that have been doing a great service for Tamil youths.

There is a general saying that "More flies are caught by honey than vinegar". As such the society must attempt to understand the root causes of the problems faced by modern youths who intermingle among diverse communities with vastly differing socio cultural background. The youths should be approached with compassion, kindness and genuine interest so that the wall of barrier existing between the youths and the rest of the society can be brought down.

The youths are the future leaders of the society and as such they should be provided every possible form of guidance, counseling and support to assist them in paving the path for their bright future. Let us all resolve to unite and build up a healthy society of brilliant and disciplined youths.

MONSOON FEATURE

By: Winthya Varatheswaran

In the first article, I triumphed over the many challenges of the pre-departure to Ecuador and finally landed with great excitement. Within the first week, I witnessed beautiful old cities, rich cultures and some of the realities of Ecuador. However, as my teacher had said, we were all in the "honey moon" stage of our experience and I surely wasn't thinking about the challenges that I was about to face.

As we were lost somewhere around the small town of Amaguaña, I was a bit nervous if we would make it to the house before the sky darkened. But, of course the driver found his way to the house that was going to be my home for three months. As I got out of the car nervously, I was greeted with hugs, big smiles and friendly faces from my host family members and as soon as I entered the house, they directed

An Educational Experience in Ecuador - Part 2



stood most of what I was trying to say. By the end of the day, I was tired of trying to speak Spanish, but I was happy because I felt comfortable with my host family. As the days past by and my Spanish gradually improved, my relationship with my host family only grew stronger and I became a member of their family.

The second day with my host family was exciting because I met

first day at work was hectic! I had to record all the height measurements, weight and blood pressures of the patients that were coming in, while the nurses quickly yelled out numbers in Spanish. Although I knew my numbers in Spanish pretty well, it was a bit difficult to understand what they were telling me at the speed they were talking. After making a tonne of mistakes, I mastered recording data and moved on to more interactive tasks like talking to patients, taking their blood pressure, checking the body temperature, measuring heights and weights and administering vaccinations. I was fortunate to be volunteering with the nurses I was working with because they permitted me to do anything that I was capable of doing.

By the end of the one month, I was very good at injecting, talking to patients about concerns and doing all my regular work duties. However, the next two months were the most interesting because I did things at the age of 17 that only students in medical school would be doing. After training and practice, I began to clean and bandage deep wounds, stitch open abrasions, diagnose patients, listen to the hearts of

fetuses, perform regular check-ups on children and pregnant women and learned a little thing or two about what being a doctor really is. When my Spanish improved even more, I used my skills to educate the public by presenting about the swine flu, nutritional diets, exercising and important vaccinations. My fondest memories at work were when we went to elementary schools to put their regular vaccinations. All the kids would run up to me and hug me and say "hola doctora" (hello doctor) and then the next question would be are you going to be giving needles and to which grade? When I say yes, they all run off to tell their friends about

with these kids were amazingly fun and definitely unforgettable.

Another moment at work that I can't forget is when the doctor I was volunteering with received a patient that came in with a headache. After the check-up, the doctor found out the patient was lying and had another problem as soon as the child started crying. The doctor tried so hard to make the girl tell him what was wrong with her, but in the end he couldn't. When the doctor stepped out of the room to talk to the girl's mother, I talked to her, held her hand and told her not to worry and that I was there to help her. Through sobs, she slowly told me that she was being abused by a classmate at school and that she was afraid. I hugged her, wiped away her tears and told her everything was going to be okay and that I was going to help her. The doctor was surprised that she had told me everything and from



me to a table full of food just for me. As I finished eating the most I have probably eaten in my whole life, I shared pictures of my family and told them about my life in Canada. Although my sharing required a bit of charades and different hand gestures for my lack of Spanish, I'm sure they under-

all the people that I was going to work with in the medical clinic. As I entered the small, busy clinic, there were patients everywhere and all the doctors and nurses were busy at work; however, each person took the time to welcome me and introduce themselves. My



who will be receiving needles. I vividly remember one of the grade 3 classes that we had to vaccinate and as soon as we walked through the door some children began to cry, some hid under their desks and some ran to the back of the classroom. As we called out the names of the kids, they were so scared that they started to run around the classroom, so I had to play a game of tag with all the kids, carry them over to their teacher and then give the needle. My experiences

that day on, he let me sit in his chair and be the doctor to all his patients. Although it took a lot of hard work, practice, dedication and risk, in the end, it was all worth it for the life-time experiences and unforgettable memories. Even though we all worked hard, there were many times where we had so much fun. On April 17, my group members and I packed our bags, got onto a plane and headed toward the province of Manabí for a little fun on the coast.

BOOK REVIEW

"Canada - The Meat of the World Sandwich" - Samy Appadurai

Reviewed By
Siva Sivapragasam

The title of this Book will keep the readers guessing as to what the contents will be. It is a metaphor used by the author to describe the importance of Canada on the global front. The world is treated as a sandwich and Canada is the meat- the most delicious part of it!

"Canada - The Meat of the World Sandwich" By Samy Appadurai is perhaps one of the few books authored by an immigrant from a South Asian country.

This is seen in the fact that the author devotes many pages to the life and history of Toronto and Scarborough, areas heavily populated by immigrants of South Asian origin. As a proud Canadian of Asian origin, the author attempts to describe the many and diverse characteristics of Canada as a Nation from his perspective as an immigrant. He has delved into many issues which have arisen from his own experience and those of other immigrants.

The author who is experienced in the field of Education

both in his own country of origin and Canada, has outlined in some detail the importance of Education and stresses the importance of "investing in human capital" to enrich the standards of living of the people. He points out that the mosaic framework of Canada lends itself for teachers and students to benefit from this multi-cultural set up.

The Book also devotes much space to Canada's accommodative immigration policies, it's principles and Philosophy. The author points out that the liberal policies adopted have certainly benefited



Samy Appadurai

the country. However, he does not fail to recommend an overhaul of the Immigration policy to suit the changing times and patterns in the country.

Some of the other issues dis-

cussed by the author in the Book are related to violation of women's rights, Canadian Foreign policy, Linguistic Leadership, Toronto as a model Rainbow city, Are we doing our best to serve our children etc. The author has penned some of his personal experiences as an immigrant to Canada and has shared the new experiences that new Canadians bring into this country from their previous homeland.

Samy Appadurai's "Canada, - The Meat of the World Sandwich" is certainly a delicious meal to eat and digest. It will certainly kindle and satisfy your reading taste-buds.

The Book is published by Author House and is now available in leading Bookshops. An official Book Release function has been organized on Sunday, 13th September at the Eastown Banquet Hall, Scarborough.

VISHAL OPTS FOR ROMANCE

The shoot for Vishal's *Theeratha Vilayattu Pillai* (TVP), a romantic comedy, directed by Thiru, kicked off recently.

Produced by Vishal's GK Corporation, the film has three heroines - Neetu Chandra, Tanushree Dutta and a new girl. The others are Santhanam, Mouli and Oorvasi. Yuvan Shankar Raja is the music director.

Talking about the film, Thiru says, 'It is a hilarious treat for youngsters. Unlike his recent films which were action-oriented, TVP will be romantic and humourous'. Though his last couple of films had taken a beating, Vishal is cool and composed. He is confident of regain his pride with TVP.

He says, 'When Thiru narrated the story, I decided that it was the one I was looking for. I immediately gave my nod.' Queried on working with debutant directors, Vishal says, 'I could see a spark in them. They gave their heart and soul for the project. I am not against doing movies with established film-makers. It will happen, soon'.

Pinning hopes on technology

It now seems to be the season of film-makers from USA making their mark in Kollywood, After Arun Vaidyanthan, comes G Arun who has completed a course on film direction in the USA.

The young film-maker is churning out *Ethiramarai* meaning contradiction in English. Speaking about the film, he says, 'it is a psychological thriller based on a link between a CBI officer's private life and a serial murder case he is handling.'

'The backdrop of the story is Chennai and is shot in various locations in and around the city. Many scenes are taken on expensive sets designed by art director Rajeevan, says the director.

'Due credit should be given to cameraman Dinesh Kumar who has put his heart into the project'. 'Everything from shooting to projection will be 100 per cent digital,' he adds.

'With the introduction of cameras like Red-on, Phantom high-speed, the digital images have cinema quality competing with films, if not better. Hence we have shot the whole cinema using this technology,' G Arun says.

All the songs are penned by Kaviperarasu Vairamuthu with music by Muruganmohan. Editing is by Sabu - Riyas. Newcomers Ajaykumar, Rakesh, Banushree, Shirina are in the lead.

The venture is produced by Escape International, a new

cinema venture, started by Arun. Known for innovations in the previous business, he wanted Escape to stand out from other production companies in terms of technology.

Arya in Susi's next?

Director Susi Ganesan is reportedly keen on casting Arya for his next film that would go to floors in a couple of months. Arya is currently acting in *Madarasa Pattinam*, a historical tale set in the 1940s and *Chikku Bukku*. Meanwhile, Susi Ganesan is busy with post-production works for his magnum opus *Kandhasamy*, which would hit the screens soon.

Man, mission and Madurai

Madurai is the toast of Tamil cinema today. To cash in on the fame and name for *Madurai* in Kollywood, Produced by Wide Angle Creations, *Madurai Sambavam* which dwells on the life of a youth in the temple town. Directed by noted lyricist Eureka, the movie is based on a real-life incident that happened in Madurai. Harikumar, Anuya and Karthika play the lead.

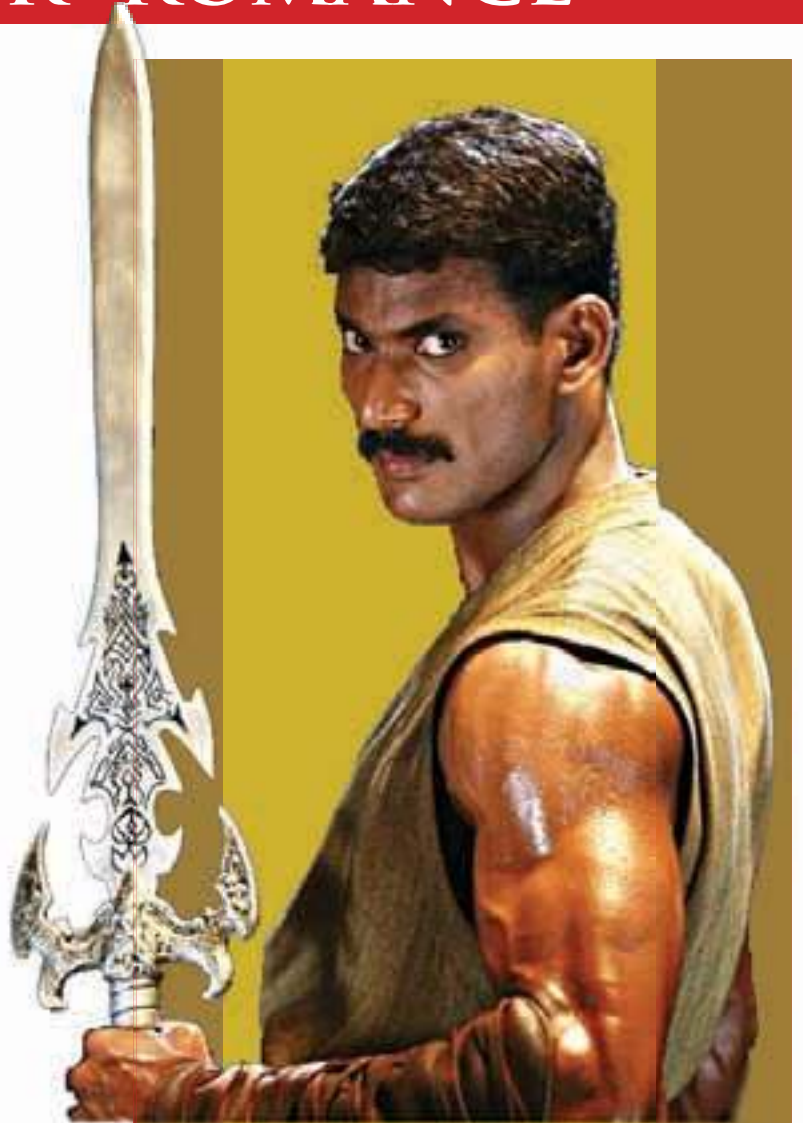
According to the director, 'an all-out action film, it was shot entirely in Madurai. Since the film is based on an incident, we chose to shoot the movie there'.

'We shot in several busy areas including the bus stop, railway station crowded markets adjoining Meenakshi Amman temple. The people were co-operative. In a nutshell, it is about an angry young man on a mission.'

Choreographer-turned-actor Hari Kumar says, 'I am emotionally attached to the town. I admire the innocence of people living here and been to the temples regularly. I am confident that *Madurai Sambavam* will become a big hit'. The movie will hit the screen later this month.

From Kerala with love

It is now for Malayalam movies to be dubbed and released in Tamil. After the recent *Mammoty* and *Suresh Gopi* films, comes Naren and Meera Jasmine-starrer *Minna Mini Kootam*. The romantic entertainer is being released in Tamil as *Kadhal*



Seivom. Produced by Janardhan, the film has Naren, Jayasurya, Indrajith, Meera Jasmine, Samvrutha and Roma in the lead. Speaking about the film, Janardhan says, 'It is a beautiful romantic story. It highlights the father-daughter bond, a rarity in South Indian cinemas'.

The dialogues are written by Srinivasan.

On his part, Naren says, 'I am happy that one of my best Malayalam movies is being taken in Tamil. Directed by Kamal, the movie won me name and fame in Kerala. The film has good music and is shot well'.

Meera Jasmine also is excited about the movie being dubbed in Tamil. Plans are on to release the movie later this month

[newstodaynet]

Rahman turns emotional on Lankan Tamils' plight



Oscar Winner A R Rahman on Saturday turned emotional over the plight of suffering Sri Lankan Tamils as an honorary doctorate was conferred upon him by Anna University.

Speaking after receiving the doctorate, the music maestro said that he had been skipping functions in Tamil Nadu keeping in mind the plight of the Tamils suffering in Sri Lanka.

'Soon after I won the Oscar, I was invited for several functions in Tamil Nadu. But I had avoided them because many Tamils were suffering in Sri Lanka. I hope that a solution will come,' he stated.

'If I had hurt anyone by not accepting their invitations, I apologise to them,' he said, adding, this was his second function in Tamil Nadu after winning the Oscar.

He said the first public function he had attended was the inauguration of Apollo Children's Hospital a few days ago.

[UNI]

Meena weds at Tirumala

Renowned South Indian actress Meena entered into wedlock with Vidyasagar, an IT professional from Bangalore, at Tirumala hills near here on Sunday, July 12th.

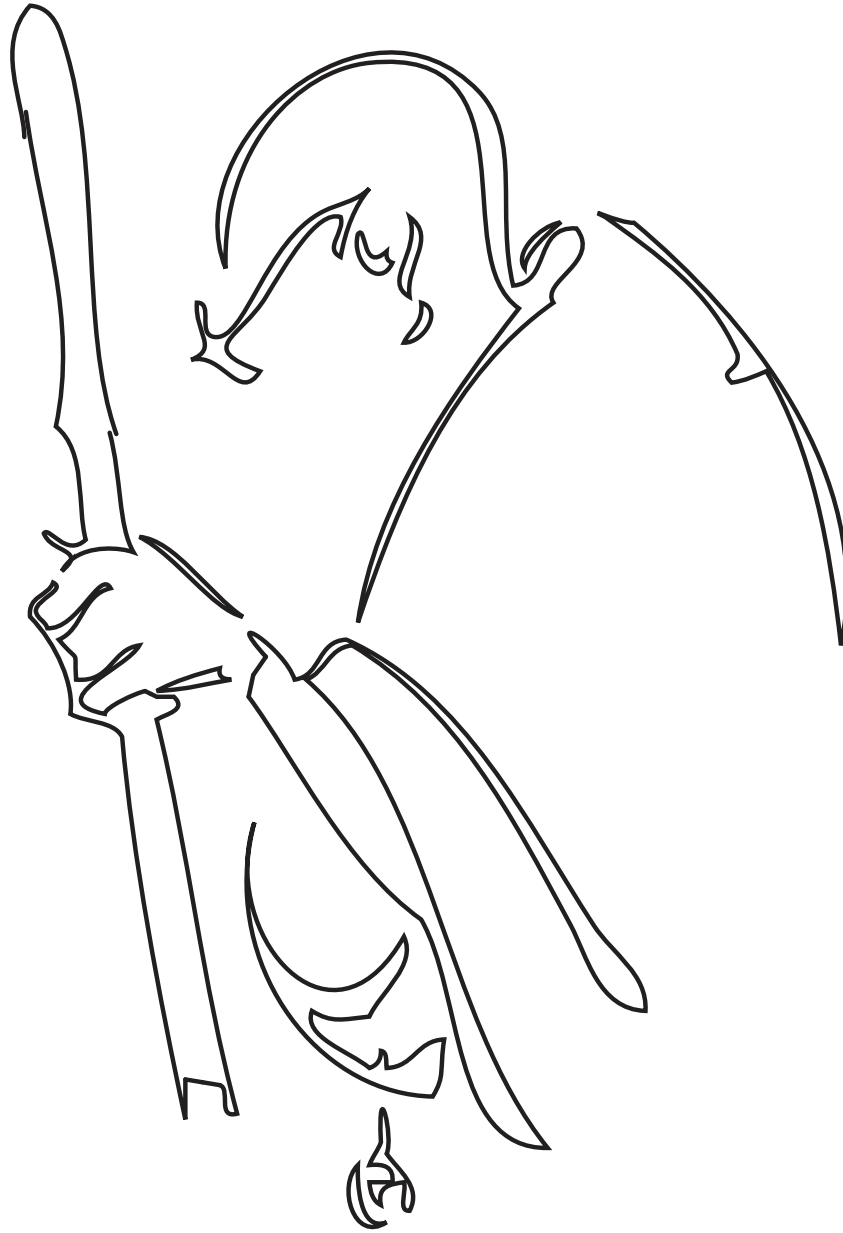
After tying the nuptial knot, the newly-wed couple offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara and left for Chennai, her family sources told PTI.

Meena, who started her film career as a child artiste, has paired with top South Indian stars including Rajnikanth, Kamal Hassan, Mammoty and Mohan Lal.

A Chennaite, Meena who has starred in hit movies such as *Muthu*, *Veera*, *Ejamaan* and *Avvai Sanmughi* in Tamil, is popular in Kannada and Telugu films also.



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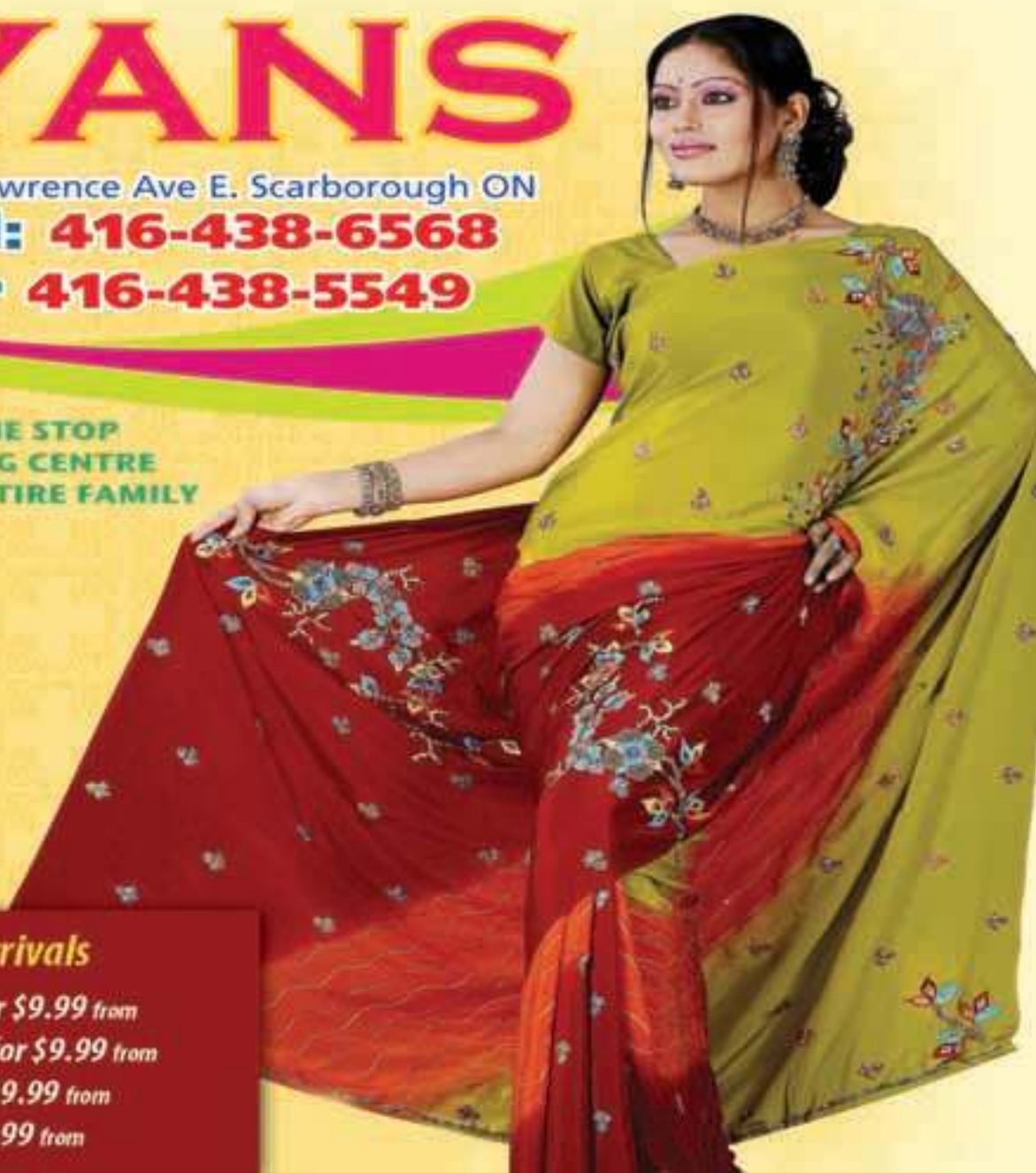
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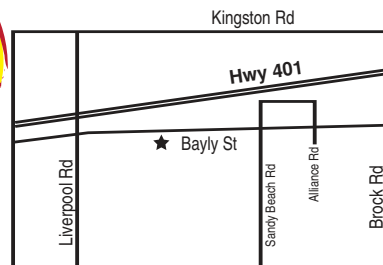
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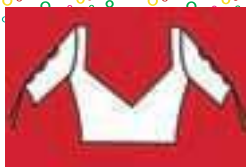
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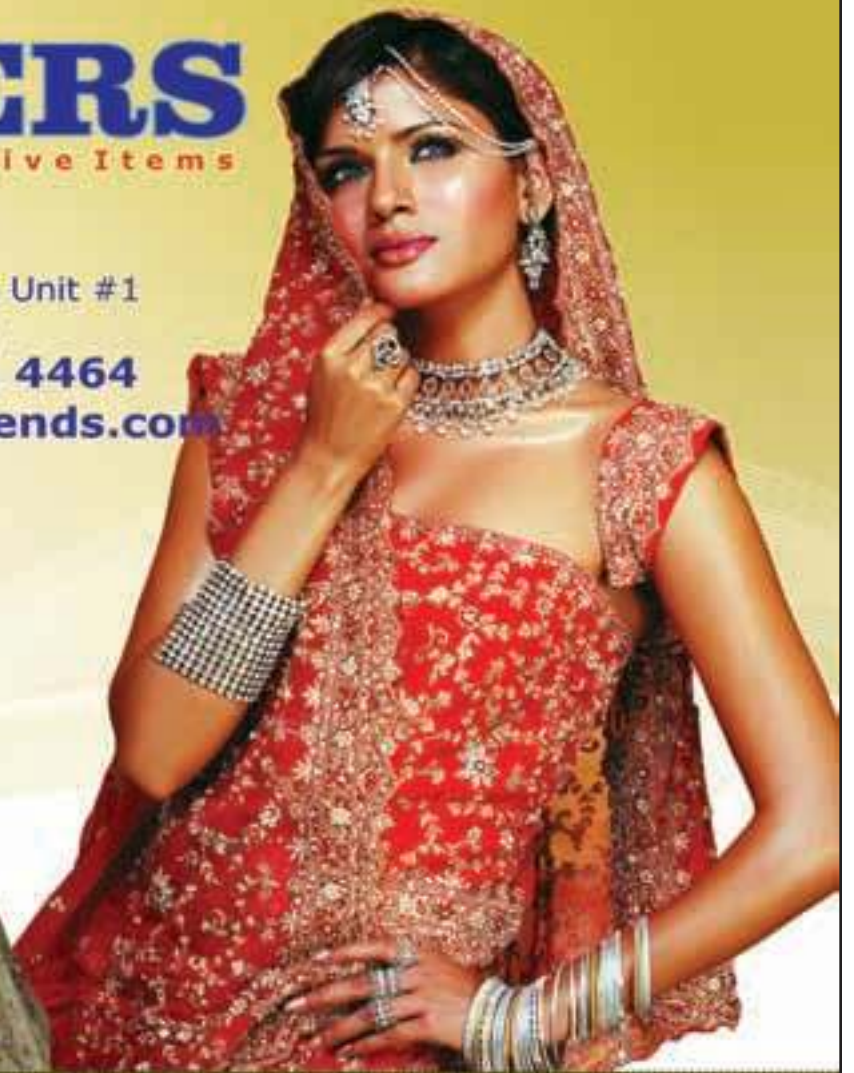
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INDIA SAYS ECONOMY HAS WEATHERED ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

By Anjana Pasricha

India says its economy has weathered the economic downturn triggered by last year's global financial crisis, and is showing signs of revival.

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told parliament recently that the economic slowdown has halted. He said the economy is expected to grow by 6.7 percent this year.

There is reason for his optimism. Many of the signals about the economy in recent days have been positive, with several large companies turning in better than expected profits for the first three months of the fiscal year.

The biggest cellular telephone company, Bharti Airtel, reported profits of 24 percent,

and the leading automobile maker, Tata Motors, posted a surprise profit of nearly 60 percent.

Economist P.K. Choudhury, of the domestic rating agency, ICRA, says companies that depend on domestic demand appear to have weathered the global economic crisis.

"I would say that what was expected, [was] that the first quarter would be much more dismal than what it is now. So in that context, in a relative way, many of them are doing quite well," said Choudhury.

However, sectors that depend on overseas customers, such as India's information technology sector, have not been so lucky. The deep recession in Western countries, from where I.T. companies get lucrative contracts, has hurt most companies, which saw

revenues grow much more slowly compared to previous years.

Small export units suffered even more as demand in Western countries for textiles and jewelry dried up.

Other anxieties remain. Below average monsoon rains have cast a shadow on hopes the economic turnaround will be brief. Rains have been patchy in the northern region, which produces much of the country's food, and there are widespread worries that the agriculture sector will be adversely affected, dragging down growth.

But there is growing confidence that Asia's third largest economy will post relatively healthy growth in the coming year. The confidence is reflected in the buoyant share market, with the benchmark Sensex rallying by

more than 50 percent since March.

Economist Choudhury says swift interventions by the government when the global economic crisis began to unravel last year has helped stem the decline.

"What happened, government reacted very fast. Whatever action [had] to be taken, at right point of time, grants or subsidies or interest rate reduction, monetary policies, fiscal policies, everything was positively tuned towards an immediate action for recovery," he said.

However, economists warn that it may take at least three years before the country returns to the high growth path of nearly nine percent seen in the years preceding 2008.

[VOA news]

THE TRAIL OF TWO BRITISH INNOVATORS IN INDIA

Team of archaeologists find in Yercaud the graves of Robert Bruce Foote and Peter Percival



SCHOLARS' CORNER:
The headstone on the grave of Robert Foote in Yercaud.

T.S. Subramanian

CHENNAI: The grave of Robert Bruce Foote, an influential figure in the history of Indian archaeology and geology, has been discovered at Yercaud. Foote (1834-1912) was a man of varied interests — he was a geologist, archaeologist, ethnographer, palaeontologist, museologist and landscape painter. His discovery of a stone-tool on May 30, 1863 at Pallavaram, near Chennai, pushed back the antiquity of humankind in the Indian subcontinent and placed India in the world map of pre-history. It was a remarkable find because the stone tool, used by

hunter-gatherers, was more than 500,000 years old.

Archaeologists Shanti Pappu and Kumar Akhilesh, and Dr. Shanti's father, V.R. Pappu, discovered it in the graveyard of the Holy Trinity church at Yercaud, the hill station in Tamil Nadu, in June.

The team also discovered the grave of Foote's father-in-law Reverend Peter Percival there. Percival (1803-1882) too was multi-faceted. He was a scholar in Tamil and Telugu. He published the first Tamil translation of the Bible. He authored Land of the Veda: India Briefly Described in some of its Aspects, Physical, Social, Intellectual and Moral. Percival translated hundreds of Tamil proverbs into English and wrote a book on Tamil proverbs. He translated into English the aphorisms of Tamil poetess Avvaiyar. He authored Anglo-Tamil and Anglo-Telugu dictionaries, and published the journal Dinavartamani in Telugu

and Tamil. He was a Registrar of Madras University and Professor of Vernacular Literature in Presidency College, Chennai. Percival



The grave of Peter Percival, found in the graveyard.

and Foote were friends. Both were from Britain.

For Dr. Pappu, the discovery was the culmination of years of work to locate them. The founder of Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, Chennai and Pune,

she said she developed an interest in the life and work of Foote after she began investigating the pre-historic archaeology of Tamil Nadu at Attirampakkam, 60 km from Chennai, in 1991.

She, Dr. Akhilesh and other scientists chose the particular site because Foote, besides discovering the stone-tool at Pallavaram in 1863, found stone-tools several lakh years old at Attirampakkam the same year. Later he proceeded to discover, document, interpret and write about more than 400 prehistoric sites in southern and western India.

Dr. Pappu, who is writing a book on him, said: "One of my major efforts in this study was to locate Foote's grave and pay tribute to his remarkable personality." She added: "His prolific publications comprising reports, memoirs, short notes and catalogues of antiquities, his lectures and dialogues with interested individuals, geologists and other scholars place him amongst the foremost intellectuals of the late-19th century."

Both Foote and Percival (who was the father of Foote's first wife, who had passed away early)

settled in Yercaud. Documents on Foote's life indicated that he died at the Presidency Hospital, Calcutta on December 29, 1912 and that he was cremated there on January 3, 1913. So attempts to locate his grave were abandoned. In June 2009, a search-team decided to follow the leads on Foote's retired life in Yercaud.

"To our joy and surprise, we located the grave of not only Foote but Percival in the well-kept graveyard" with the help of local citizens and the parish priest, said Dr. Pappu.

Church records said Foote worked for the Geological Survey of India. More significantly, they said that although his body was cremated in Calcutta, his ashes were buried in the Trinity Church cemetery. Possibly, in those days it was difficult to transport a body over a great distance.

Foote's gravestone reads: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Nearby is the grave of Percival, who was also an architect, championed girls' education in Jaffna and later lived at Little Bourne at Luz in Mylapore, Chennai.

[courtesy: hindu.com]

Tamil Nadu temple murals effaced on a large scale

150 to 250-year-old works whitewashed; loss to Tamil Nadu's painting tradition



VANISHING LEGACY: At the Mannarkovil temple near Ambasamudram in Tamil Nadu, some surviving paintings juxtaposed with the whitewashed wall where a ceiling-high painting of Narasimha existed; Below is a photograph of the since-effaced Narasimha painting, taken in 2007.

T.S. Subramanian

VANISHING LEGACY: At the Mannarkovil temple near Ambasamudram in Tamil Nadu, some surviving paintings juxtaposed with the whitewashed wall where a ceiling-high painting of Narasimha existed; Below is a photograph of the since-effaced Narasimha painting, taken in 2007.

CHENNAI: An array of striking paintings has been whitewashed out of existence at the Rajagopalaswamy Kulasekara Alwar temple at Mannarkovil in Tirunelveli dis-

Muthalamman temple at Kodan-gipatti, near Karur.

Over the past several years, similar mural masterpieces have been whitewashed at the Meenakshi temple in Madurai, the Arunachaleswarar temple at Tiruvannamalai, the Vishnu temple at Tiruvellarai near Tiruchi, and Siva temples at Patteeswaram near Kumbakonam, Tiruppulivanam in Kancheepuram district and Vedaranyam, all administered by the

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Tamil Nadu government.

Similar vandalism has been witnessed at other temples in the State, including the Varadarajaswamy temple in Kancheepuram, the Lakshmi Narasimhar temple at Sevilimedu, and the Sanjeeva Rayar temple at Iyengarkulam, both near Kancheepuram.

The latest round of effacement that has been revealed took place about six months ago in the name of renovation, and it is still under way. Sculptures on pillars and inscriptions have also been "cleaned" by sand-blasting: it involves training sand on them at high pressure. This is in violation of a Government Order that bans sand-blasting in temples as it damages sculptures and inscriptions. A sign-board at the temple says Rs. 8,16,000 will be needed for "sand-blasting (chemical wash)" for the renovation.

The Mannarkovil temple was built by Chera king Rajasimha in the 11th century A.D. for the Chola emperor Rajendra. It has an independent sub-shrine, belonging to the 13th century, devoted to



the Vaishnavite saint Kulasekara Alwar, who spent his last days in Mannarkovil. It has inscriptions of the Chola and the later Pandya kings. It has three sanctum sanctuaries.

The murals that have been whitewashed existed on the side walls of the mantapa (hall) in front of the sanctum on the first floor. While the paintings on the sanctum walls remain, those that were whitewashed include the scene of Rama's coronation (pattabishekam) and the Dasavataram on one side. On the opposite side, a masterpiece

of Narasimha too has disappeared under coats of lime. Murals on the wooden beams supporting the roof have received coats of paint. Murals on the second floor mantapa, which underwent a gaudy restoration some decades ago, have been whitewashed.

K.T. Gandhirajan, a specialist in art history, said murals in the temples at Mannarkovil and the nearby Tirupudaimarudur, Edaikal and Kalakkadu, exhibited the rare characteristics of "the confluence of Tamil Nadu and Kerala schools of painting." What was special about the Mannarkovil temple was that it had paintings on both walls and wood.

"The idea was that the halls should be replete with paintings. The artists must have used two types of pigments — one for the wall and another for the timber — because the colour schemes are different," he said.

P. Krishnan, during whose tenure as temple Executive Officer the murals were whitewashed, said he never gave permission for such work. [courtesy: The Hindu]

PHOTOS: A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN/
K.T. GANDHIRAJAN

MONSOON FEATURE

By: Devadas Chelvam

Humility is a very rare virtue that is highly pleasing to God. It is marked by a non-judgmental attitude. We are in general prone to assess others quickly, especially noting their negative qualities. The biblical injunction "Judge not lest you be judged" goes against the grain. It expects us to give up a common, normal, socially conditioned and approved habit.

Why should we renounce a habit that gives us a sense of security, and makes us feel superior to others? The truth of the matter is we hardly know ourselves, much less do we know others. Yet we tend to project our own faults on to others. It excuses us from seeing ourselves as we are, so that we may correct our evil habits.

Lord Jesus said: "why do you notice the little piece of dust that is in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? ...You are

a hypocrite. First take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the dust out of your brother's eye." (Mt. 7: 3-5)

Most of us waste our precious time and energy, finding fault with the world, its political leaders, big businessmen, entertainment industry, media and advertising. We enjoy listening to negative news, reading the gossip columns, and are eager to talk about the weaknesses of our neighbors or family members.

Ammachi, the embodiment of Divine Love and Wisdom, who visits Canada every year, states: "To live in peace, one must get rid of all mental conflicts and see only the good in people. We become mentally weak when we look at the faults.

We raise our level when we see the goodness. Whoever it may be, when we say that that person is bad, we have already become bad ourselves. Let ninety-nine percent of another person be wrong, yet we should see the one single percent of good in him. Then our own level will be raised. We will lower ourselves if we see the wrong in him. We should always pray: "O lord. Make my



eyes see only the good in everyone. Give me the strength to serve the world selflessly." (Awaken Children, Vol. III, pp.51-52)

Paramahansa Yogananda observed, as a young disciple at his Guru's ashram, that those who were highly critical of others eventually left the ashram. He concentrated on introspecting himself, and correcting his own faults. Thus he became a great sage with the grace to bring millions back to God through his classical book: 'The autobiogra-

Judge Not

phy of a yogi'. He said to his disciples often: "Reform yourselves first, and then you can reform thousands."

Since most of us are given to pretension, we are not aware that we do not really know who we are. Through various circumstances of life, God is working in us continually, to transform our evil into good. He is infinitely patient, wise and loving, while His grace is ever active in us, even through many incarnations.

Ultimately God is victorious, and evil cannot prevail. The Divine Artist never fails. A painting in process may be seen as ugly and chaotic by others, but the talented artist sees only the marvelous end product. We are all God's glorious works in progress. When He is finished working on us, every one of us will shine with a unique beauty for ever. Hence the importance of being patient with God, ourselves, and others.

We can free ourselves from a judgmental attitude by repeatedly pondering on the 'maha vakyam'

(great sentences) of the outstanding Sri Lankan sage Yoga Swamigal: 1. We do not know. (Nam ariyom) 2. There is no evil. (Oru pollappum illai)

Peace Pilgrim, who walked across America and Canada several times, meeting with people to talk about peace, was loved by thousands due to her non-judgmental attitude. She always exuded peace, love and joy.

Once she was babysitting for an eight year old girl when a car arrived and a man got out. The girl was terrified and ran to hide in a barn. The man known to be a violent child abuser followed the little girl.

Peace Pilgrim, instead of judging and condemning him in fear and anger, looked at him with loving compassion. Surprised by Peace Pilgrim's response, he faced her for a while, and left peacefully. No words were spoken. Thus the child was saved by Peace Pilgrim's habit of approaching people without negative judgments.

Uighurs: China's Muslim Minority Claims to be Marginalized in Its Ancestral Homeland



By Zlatica Hoke

The July 5th riot in China's remote western province has brought attention to one of China's largest minorities, Muslim Uighurs. Here's a look at a people who have been living there for hundreds of years.

In the 6th century, Uighur-Turkic prince Aprin Chor Tigin wrote the following verse:

I desperately long for my woman.

With her lovely eyebrows, she is the fairest of all.

I yearn for a re-union.

Immersed in deepest thought, I miss her.

I burn with the desire to kiss her.

Prince Tigin lived and loved in Central Asia, a region where more than eight million Uighurs still make their home. In his time the Uighurs shared their kingdom with other Turkic peoples of Central Asia and Southern Siberia. But they were far more advanced than most because they lived

along the Silk Road, which served as a major route of commercial, cultural and religious exchange throughout history.

At the turn of the 20th century, scientific and archaeological expeditions to East Turkistan led to the discovery of numerous Uighur cave temples, monastery ruins, wall paintings, miniatures, statues, valuable manuscripts, documents and books.

German explorer Albert von Lecoq said the medieval "Uighur language and script contributed to the enrichment of civilizations of the other peoples in Central Asia. Compared to the Europeans of that time, the Uighurs were far more advanced. Documents discovered in Eastern Turkistan prove that a Uighur farmer could write down a contract, using legal terminology. How many European farmers could have done that at that period?"

When the Uighurs embraced Islam in the 10th century, they started to build mosques, reli-

gious schools and libraries. Remnants of the medieval Islamic architecture can still be found in cities such as Kashgar, Urumqi, Turpan and Gaochang.

But in recent years, Uighurs have become better known as China's separatists, often labeled as terrorists. Even before this year's riots in Xinjiang, the Chinese government had blamed various Uighur groups for 200 violent attacks in the past decade, including more than 160 deaths. Beijing says Uighur separatists are part of a network of international Islamic terrorism with funding from the Middle East, training in Pakistan and combat experience in Chechnya and Afghanistan. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, the United Nations added many separatist groups to its lists of terrorist organizations. Among them was the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, or ETIM. The United States has also labeled this mostly Uighur group

as terrorist.

But Xinjiang separatists say China is using the international anti-terrorist campaign to justify its long-standing repression of non-Chinese minorities. Washington-based Uighur-American attorney and activist Nury Turkel says the Chinese government has consistently enforced cultural assimilation of Turkic people with the majority Han Chinese culture. "They are using all the possible tactics, such as banning the Uighur language, banning the Uighur names -- they come up with a Chinese version of the Uighur names -- encouraging the Chinese people to marry the local people," he said. But he said the Uighurs have never been religious extremists and that most of them do not practice Islam.

Several human rights watch groups have condemned China's crackdown on Uighurs. In a recent statement, Amnesty International said the ethnic identity of Uighurs in western China is being systematically eroded. Earlier reports have said the crackdown on suspected terrorists includes restrictions on religious freedom, closure of mosques and enforced "political education" of academics, key personnel in the media and arts, and Islamic clergy.

But some analysts warn that even though the Uighurs' connection to international terrorism may be minimal, it has to be watched. Graham Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council and one of the authors of a new study on China's Uighur Autonomous Region, says examples of Russia, Sri Lanka, Serbia and other countries with large ethnic minorities show that frustrated independence movements may resort to terrorist acts.

He says religion plays an increasing role in supporting these movements. "There is militant Judaism, even militant Buddhism in Sri Lanka. So we are witnessing the phenomenon of religion coming in and bolstering, if you will, ethnic minority. So political Islam is involved here. How much will political Islam become a dominant force in the Uighur struggle? Today it has been a lesser force, but I would bet that if the rest of the Muslim world is any indicator, Islam will be growing in its role in China, supporting and cheering this nationalist struggle," says Fuller.

China has made efforts to develop Xinjiang, fueling funds into industrialization, education and employment, but Uighurs say the Han Chinese have benefited the most from it. Frederick Starr, founder and Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute in Washington, says China's economic success will not necessarily improve the Uighurs' lot. He says some political change is essential to avoid violence. He says China is more likely to avoid conflict by allowing greater local initiative, communal self-government at various levels, and some expression of oppositional sentiment by Turkic and Uighur and Muslim people within the system.

China's northwest province is predominantly agricultural and pastoral, but it is also rich in mineral resources and energy. The oil fields in the far north are among the largest in China. The region has extensive deposits of coal, silver, copper and lead. Analysts say people who have called this land home for thousands of years must have more say in how these resources are to be used. [voa news]

By: PK
 Variety is the spice of life; enjoy every flavour of life to the extent of your imaginations.

Upcoming Actor & Dancer Profile



you reach your destiny because not most people can hang in and give up"

The Backstory:

Niks Vaja was born in Northampton, May 1984. Like every child he was a very naughty little boy and like all parents he kept on being threatened that he would be sent to Boarding School. At the age of 8 he was sent to Africa to live with his uncle for 1 year. At the Age of 12 Niks was sent to Boarding school. Panchgani a hill station above Pune and spent 3 years of his life studying out there but it was a life time experience and would recommend it to any teenager out there. From the experiences he encountered, he reached a level of maturity age that gained him respect from his family and friends. In 2006 Niks graduated from Sheffield Hallam University, completing a degree in; (Bsc) Computer Network Engineering and gained a 2.1, this was a 4 year course including a 1 year placement.

Niks has been dancing since the age of 8 his most memorable moment in his dancing career so far has to be the time he accidentally went off stage because he was just enjoying himself so much that he lost judgment of how small the stage was. But the good thing about this was that the audience thought it was part of the dance and they cheered

productions Niks was part of the stage production; Cinderella, in which he played one of the ugly sisters. His most recent project has seen him work with Summerise Studios and be involved in a British movie, Vermillion - Colour of Love. This movie will be nominated for the British Film Festival later this year. In this British movie hit, Niks is portrayed as a gangster, a protagonist character. Look out for this movie; the film has got great reviews, and sure to be a blockbuster.

"Acting is a gifted talent that allows you to adapt to any specified role and bring the best out of you"

His first modelling show was a memorable moment of his modelling career, In 2008 he was selected for a competition / fashion show for Man of the Moment.



him on. H has performed at countless events in the UK and Weddings. He has also performed to Bollywood songs such as Teri Liye, Milo Na, Marjani and many more.

"Like they Say when performing the only person that knows you have made a mistake is yourself, so carry on and show no fear that is an identity of a true dancer"

Whist acting there have been many moments that have been unforgettable but there is one instance that stands out from all, back in his early days in theatre

Since this time he has furthered his modelling career and has been involved in high classed shows around the UK, such as Elegance and even had the opportunity to model for PK Del Mar.

"No matter whom you are or how you are always having belief in yourself and you'll be noticed and respected for it"

From all this Niks Vaja, can be seen as an all rounder in the entertainment business, a 'special talent'.

As every kid has a nickname Niks was given one too, it was 'Niki Baba'. Some people also call

him by his middle name Vishnu that was given to him by his father.

Niks Inspiration comes from one person in his life who has encouraged him through his decorated life. This person had dreams herself which to a certain extent she fulfilled, but Niks felt that there was more that could have been done, so he has strived hard to complete her dream, this person is no other than his elder sister.

There are many characters out there that inspire Niks in the entertainment industry but when asked who was his one character that he drew inspiration from he could not say, he replied that he does not look to one personality, this is because he believes every individual has there unique qualities and wishes he can adapt each of their best qualities, into his life.

Admiration:

There are few people that

Niks admires and has always remembered what they have said to him in the past ranging from his family to people he has met in the Industry.

From his father (Mansukh Vaja) always has and does say to him "if you want something doing, do it yourself"

Niks Mother (Ralisa Vaja) says " Always have a practical mind and work it as a computer"

There is a saying that the young ones in the family can always show the right path when the elder divert away and my strength comes from his little brother and Cousin (Kano and Tushal) who always say to him "Niks we will always be beside you, just make sure whatever you do, you do to the best of your ability"

Niks has had the privilege of meeting people from the industry, i.e. Ameet Chana. Aryan Vaid, Jackie Shroff (Dada) they all have said the same thing "hang in till

Personal Style:

When it comes to dressing himself, the places Niks likes to shop ate are H&M, Next, Top Man, and many small high street retailers which are un recognized but have outstanding outfits.

His close friends speak of him as a good-natured great guy to hang out with, and always fun to be around with. They describe him to be the one to be there through thick and thin, and never leave their sides when they need him the most.

Looking Ahead:

As ever Niks dream is to be happy and be comfortable and not worry about anything. Fame, wealth and happiness with this life would be perfect. His dream is to work alongside major Actors in different industries and acknowledge their skills and talent and learn from them. Niks also hopes to one day have a place with a sea view where he can go and relax whenever he feel like getting away.

Niks Goals in life are to reach the very highest peak of his acting and please the audience with his talent, he aims to be a successful Actor and known for the quality of work that he can provide. Niks would like to be established internationally in the entertainment industry.

One of his other goals in life is to a have well settled life and provide his family with the comfort that they were not able to have in their early days.

His aim is to show everyday people like himself that if you want something it is not impossible to achieve it, working hard, being patient and do anything you want to but with a clean heart true success will come to you, this is the example I would like to set for all ages out there looking make a bright future.

Read more at the Following Links:

- www.starnow.com/Niks160
- <http://www.purestorm.com/profile.aspx?id=Niksvv>
- <http://summerislestudios.wordpress.com/2009/02/22/niks-vaja-actor-and-model/>
- <http://www.angelstages.com/profile/2134>
- <http://www.modelmayhem.com/NiksV>



Lions 5K Walk

The Lions 5K Walk will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at Markham Town Centre in partnership with Social Services Network (SSN) and Milliken Mills Lions Club (MMLC).

More than 2,000 walkers including many politicians, business, and healthcare leaders are expected to participate in the walk. The goal of this year's walk is to raise the awareness on mental health in the community. A substantial portion of the proceeds raised will be used to support efforts to raise the awareness of mental health issues within the York Region. This event is part of Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW). MIAW is an annual national public education campaign designed to raise awareness among Canadians about the significant social and economic impact mental illnesses have on our society.

Statistics and published reports indicate that mental illness is the second leading cause of human disability and premature death in Canada. One in five people will experience a mental illness at some point in their lifetime. Everyday, approximately half-a-million Canadians are absent from work due to psychiatric problems. Mental illness costs the Canadian economy a staggering \$51 billion a year in health care and lost productivity. Only one-third of those who need mental health services in Canada actually receive them.

No doubt, we all have witnessed a member of our family or a friend suffer from this illness. Please read this recent article to understand the issues and the impact.

Theresa Boyle, Toronto Star, TORONTO (Jul 13, 2009)
When Liberal MPP David Caplan was appointed provincial health minister a year ago, he naturally turned for advice to his mother, Elinor,
Please visit link: <http://www.thespec.com/arti->

Social Work in Waterloo Region

Participate in this bridge program for Internationally Trained Professionals to transfer your skills into the Social Work field

Fifteen participants will participate from September 2009 to February 2010

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- Sector-specific job search, language skills, and Employer links
- Advanced English for Social Work
- Links with academic programs and credential assessments
- Links to mentors in the field

All interested applicants must attend an Information Session. Register in advance for one of the following Information Sessions held at The Working Centre, 58 Queen St. S., Kitchener.

Wednesday, July 8th at 6:00pm • Monday, July 13th at 1:00pm
Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:00pm • Monday, July 27th at 1:00pm
Wednesday, July 29th at 6:00pm

For more details, contact Ghazala Fauzia at 519-743-1151 x. 152 or e-mail ghazalaf@theworkingcentre.org

Partners



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With this in mind, I invite all to join me in raising \$10,000 for this cause and to participate in the 5K walk on October 4, 2009. I will be continuously updating everyone with the developments of this major historic event.

For now please go to my Giving Page below and make a generous donation. Its completely safe to donate online and tax deductible receipts are issues instantly <http://www.canadahelps.org/GivingPages/GivingPage.aspx?gplD=4151>

Please register for Lions5KWalk.

Thank you.

Naushad Hirji, Co-Chair LIONS 5KWALK, Board Chair, SSN, Email: nhirji@socialservicesnetwork.org, www.socialservicesnetwork.org

Inner Engineering Program

19 - 25 Aug 2009

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4 Credit Union Drive, Toronto, ON M4A 2N8 - Canada

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Wed 19 Aug: 9-10 am & 6:30-7:30 pm

Session Info:

TIMINGS:

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Please select Morning or Evening session for weekdays.

Weekend sessions are common.

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Weekday Evening Session: 6:30pm to 9:30pm**

Saturday: 10am to 1pm

Sunday: 8am to 5pm

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SRI LANKA:

'DEVOLUTION' HAS JOINED THE RANK OF WORDS TO BE WISHED AWAY - LIKE 'FEDERALISM'



by Col R Hariharan

The government of Sri Lanka under President Mahinda Rajapaksa said it was going to war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) with the battle cry of freedom. It spoke of a vision of a Sri Lanka where peoples lives would not be determined by the language they spoke. However, after the war is over, with a great deal of sacrifice of men and material resources, the emerging socio-political environment does not indicate the vision coming true; it may well remain what it was – just a vision.

By now it is clear that the word 'devolution' has joined the rank of words to be wished away - like 'federalism' - into political obsolescence. And the word 'minority' also might join the list soon. That seems to be the new emerging order that is seen across the board not only with the ruling coalition but among the major political parties. This was best illustrated by the United National Party (UNP) presided over by Ranil Wickremesinghe. As Prime Minister he agreed to federalism as fundamental to the peace process in 2002 but now he and his party had no hesitation in jettisoning it at the altar of political expediency. And the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) is no better.

This comes as no surprise to Sri Lanka watchers as political parties, like many of their leaders, have done similar acts of political somersault more than once. (I should confess our own Indian political parties and leaders are no better. The latest in this genre was the Tamil Nadu political leader Ms Jayalithaa's sudden volte face on the question of Tamil Eelam on the eve of recent parliamentary poll.) Apparently, it has become part of the political culture although it is extremely doubtful whether the common man is taken by such double whammy on the eve of elections. But in Sri Lanka in the past, the political double speak was the main reason why Tamil people lost faith in the political process. Ultimately Tamil youth took up arms to fight for their beliefs, right or wrong, because they saw only failed political process.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa appears to be in no hurry to implement the 13th amendment of the constitution in full, despite repeated promises to do so after the eastern province election. There might be sound internal political reasons for this; the President appears to be getting ready to advance the date of Presidential election to early

next year as indicated in his recent interview to cash in on his popularity to get elected as president for a second term. And probably he would like to retain his Southern Sri Lanka votes in tact.

But does the President require a popular mandate to implement what is authorised in the constitution? In case a peoples' mandate was necessary for the President's course of action, parliamentary poll would be the true barometer. That would help his party gain a majority in parliament without the President sacrificing part of his present term. Of course, a strong presidential mandate first would ensure the SLFP sweeping the parliamentary polls. Thus it would enable the President to do away with the dependence



upon other smaller parties. It might also reduce the influence detractors of his policy who have migrated from various political parties to the SLFP bandwagon as well as the opposition - the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the right wing Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU).

With nearly twenty percent of Tamil population living as displaced persons behind barbed wire in welfare camps, elections would be democratic if they are free. Would they be free before the presidential poll? That is a question the government has to answer because there are contradictory signals coming from different limbs of government. And there is also the traditional gap

between intent and action of the government.

The President has with equal alacrity turned the all party committee for devolution, which he constituted on assuming office in 2006 with a lot of fanfare, into one more committee of irrelevance if not non-action, as recently confessed by its chairman Tissa Vitarana. His report submitted is said to cover a wide range of subjects that ail Sri Lanka from the executive presidency to revision of constitution to the rights and powers of people living away from Colombo. This well meaning effort is in the danger of consigned to the archives of history to company with President Chandrika Kumaratunga's attempts at constitutional amendment that had almost everyone's consensus.

an admirable sentiment but it does not appear realistic in the absence of political, structural, constitutional and social actions needed to make it a reality. Unless the vision of a minority free Sri Lanka is fleshed out with appropriate missions to turn into a reality, it would remain a distant vision only. And sadly, this is what it is turning out to be, it appears.

The ethnic divide has established deep roots of distrust between the two communities that are yet to be uprooted. So when the state once again sidelines the basic issue of Tamil quest for equitable treatment there cannot be but a feeling of *déjà vu* among the people on this issue. These are partly reinforced by the continued presence of nearly 300,000 Tamil IDPs still in 'welfare camps' with no hope of returning back to their war ravaged villages "within six months" as promised earlier.

Their doubts on the new dispensation increase further when Dayan Jayatilake, who turned in a stellar performance at the UN to save the face of Sri Lanka, was sacked overnight. Of course, he was 'guilty' of trying to sell the state's own merchandise – the implementation of 13th amendment (plus?). Such actions only turn the feeling of discomfort of those who question government policy decisions into to insecurity. A nation needs conscience keepers to question and introspect. And a free media is the vehicle of conscience keepers; and they are ill served if the Damocles sword of Press Council keeps the media in tenterhooks.

After decades of agonising conflict Sri Lanka needs an ambience free of fear and suspicion, where all people will have a fair share of power in decision making. And that unfortunately is not happening.

The process of polarisation of Sinhala and Tamil communities had been going on for over half a century. It had been clouding the emergence of a united Sri Lankan identity after it became bread and butter of Sinhala and Tamil politics in Sri Lanka. It has resulted in Sri Lanka going through a full circle from politics to extremism to militancy to insurgency to terrorism to war to politics now. Should Sri Lanka go through this agonising cycle all over once again? This is a question the people and rulers of Sri Lanka cannot afford to ignore.

■ Soldier patrolling the Line of Control Line of Control - barb wire across the border

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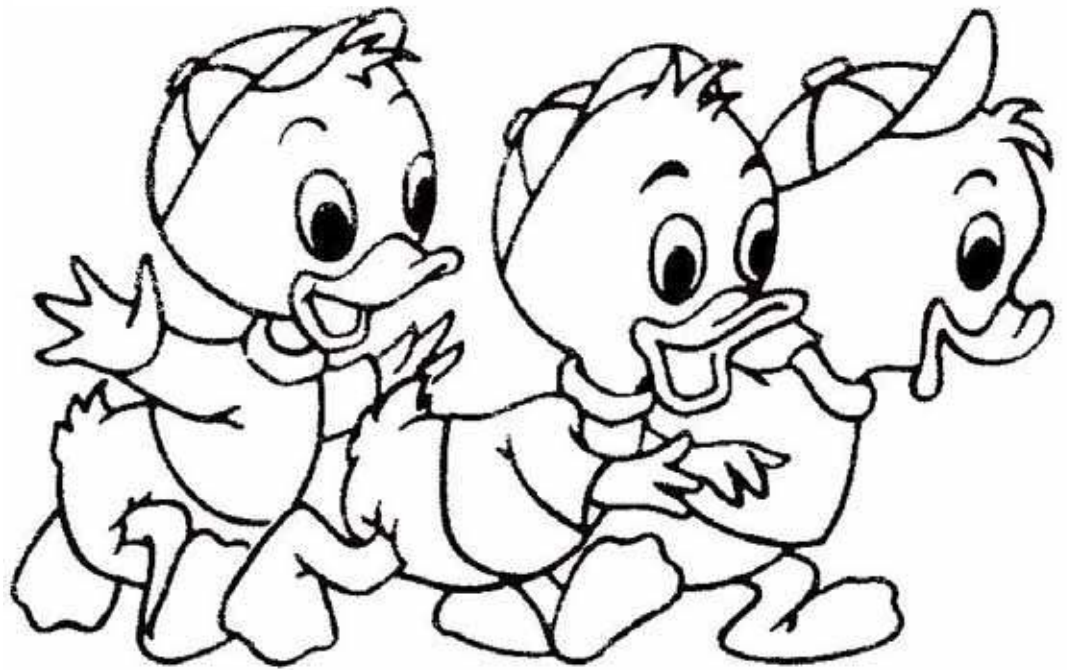
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Only one winner will be selected.

Color me Competition - 18



Entry Form: August 2009

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13 Millennium Scholars chosen for Honours

Shanthiya Wins Provincial and Jeyapalan twins win local and TD Canada Trust Scholarships

Thirteen students in Markham are among the winners of the 2009 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation Excellence Awards. The award recognizes university- and college-bound students for their achievements in leadership, innovation, academic performance, and community service:

Rida Anmol - Local, Markham District High School, Waseya Ansari - Local, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Shanthiya Baheerathan - Provincial, Markville Secondary School, Evan Chong - Local, Markham District High School, Raha Francis - Local, Brother Andre Catholic High School, Timothy Galang - Local, Brother Andre Catholic High School, Ardavan Ganeshalingam - Local, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Vijayabharath Jeyapalan - Local, Markville Secondary School, Vinobharath Jeyapalan - Local, Markville Secondary School, Tiffany Lau - Local, Unionville High School, William Liu - Local, Unionville High School, Jia (Amy) Qian Lu - Local, Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute, Nissi Wei - Local, Markham District High School

Local award winners will receive an award of \$4,500, provincial/territorial award winners will receive \$20,500 and national award winners will receive a total of \$25,000.

TD Canada Trust Scholarships for Community Leadership

TD Canada Trust announced the recipients of the 2008-2009 TD Canada Trust Scholarships for Community Leadership valued at up to 70,000 each. From across the country, these young Canadians have made a meaningful and lasting difference in their communities. All of these extraordinary young people share one common belief - one person can indeed make a difference.

The 2008-2009 TD Canada Trust Scholarships were officially awarded on May 7th at a national ceremony in

Ottawa by Tim Hockey, Group Head Personal Banking and Co-Chair TD Canada Trust.

TD Canada Trust Scholarship Recipients

Daniella Barreto, Jillian Cameron, Megan Fultz, Taylor Gordon, Aristides Hadjinicolaou, Anna James, Vijay Jeyapalan, Vino Jeyapalan, Omar Karim, Alyssa Lake, Nicole Leroux, Taryn McKenzie-Mohr, Julia McLellan, Latif Murji, Humza Nusrat, Ketaki Rawal, Rebecca Reiss, Mauricio Ruiz, Adam Stacey, Julien Tremblay.

Profiles of 3 students are given below:

Shanthiya Baheerathan

Markville Secondary School, Markham, ON



Recognizing that numerous students within in her school required a niche to become physically active, Shanthiya co-founded "iLive, a healthy living club". Her efforts to promote motivation through wellness practices have garnered her recognition from all levels of the school.

She also managed the Science and Innovation conference for the Mayor's Youth Task Force, wherein 300 students learnt from speakers from DEEP Science Academy, the Science Centre, and IBM. She has engaged herself in a multitude of school and community based initiatives. During the past four years she has been involved in such groups as DECA, Canadian Cancer Society, Cadets, Markham Stouffville Hospital and many more. Shanthiya also indulges herself in traditional dance, classical music, and piano.

Vijayabharath (Vijay) Jeyapalan

Markville Secondary School, Markham, ON

Motivated to take action when he joined a youth group to research barriers for at-risk young people, Vijayabharath is today co-chair of the Markham Mayor's Youth Task Force. He has organized more than 40 events, including "The Amazing Markham Race," to support Pathways York Region, helping raise \$25,000 for Pathways' local residential youth home.

Vijayabharath explores academic growth beyond high school, by participating in learning programs such as Queen's University Enrichment Studies, Western's Initiative for Scholarly Excellence, the Forum for Young Canadians and Shad Valley.

He is also active in peer tutoring, youth mediation and the boys' club.



Vijayabharath Jeyapalan **Vinobharath Jeyapalan**

Vijayabharath seeks a career as an international public lawyer.

Vinobharath (Vino) Jeyapalan

Markville Secondary School, Markham, ON

Learning that youth can gain power in numbers, Vino established the Youth Environmental Network of York Region to fight the environmental crisis. After winning a major grant, he created the annual Ecological



Action Conference, where 300 attendees hear speakers such as Severn Cullis-Suzuki and Justin Trudeau. He was recognized as the 2008 Green Entrepreneur of the Year and the Lakehead's Do Something Award winner.

For two years, Vino served as the co-chair of the Markham Mayor's Youth Task Force, and planned a Battle of the Bands event for the Canadian Cancer Society. He is founder of the school environmental club and takes part in anti-bullying, peer tutoring and mediation groups. He also participated in Shad Valley, Waterloo Unlimited, and the DEEP Science Academy.



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Tamil Canadians remember Black July 1983

We remember so we can say never again



On July 25, 2009, Tamil Canadians took a stand at Queen's Park against racism, discrimination and persecution in an event marking one of the darkest periods in Tamil Canadian history - the Sri Lankan anti-Tamil pogrom of July 1983. The event is also designed to thank Canada for saving thousands of Tamils fleeing from persecution.

The event was organized by the Canadian Tamil Congress and this remembrance event for the Tamil Canadian community featured speeches by community leaders, human rights groups and elected officials along with cultural performances. There were interviews, stories and photo opportunities with survivors of Black July 1983 which is also available at <http://www.blackjuly83.com/Survivors.htm>;

Black July was a pivotal and dark period where Tamils in Sri Lanka became the victims of unchecked racism and discrimination. Armed with voting lists,

pipes, machetes and bats, mobs searched, attacked and killed Tamils while authorities watched. Thousands of Tamils saw their homes and businesses burned and looted. Though accustomed to institutionalized discrimination, the tragic events of Black July stripped away any security Tamils felt living in Sri Lanka and forced many of them to flee for their lives.

Not apparent at the time, Black July also marked a pivotal moment in Canada's immigration history. After the brutal events of 1983, Canada was the savior for Tamil Canadians as it welcomed, with open arms, several thousand civilians. Tamil Canadians feel a deep sense of gratitude for Canada, where equality, justice, and respect for human rights thrive. While Black July remains seared in the memories of Tamil Canadians, this anniversary also serves as a reminder to the miracle of a country they now live in which gave so many a chance to

feel safe and build a new life. Tamil Canadians also gathered to pray for the nearly 300,000 internally displaced Tamils who are currently being held in Sri Lankan internment camps in what human rights groups are calling "appalling conditions," with restricted movement and little access to clean water, food and medical aid.

Photo Courtesy: Ninaivukal.com



Deputy Premier of Ontario, Hon. George Smitherman



CTC President Prof. Sri Ranjan



Cultural Performance



Olivia Chow, MP being interviewed by Ms. Satkunarajah of CTC



Section of the participants



Black July 2009 Banner - more details at www.blackjuly83.com



Cultural Performance

7,500 Tamils Gather at Midland Martyrs shrine to pray for Peace with Justice

On July 11th 2009, Tamil Catholics from Ontario gathered for the 22nd time to invoke blessings for the people who are in detention camps at Vanni, Pulmoddai and Jaffna.

Midland Martyrs shrine is a miraculous place. That was experienced on the 11th July itself. All the weather forecast predicted a heavy rain with lightening and thunder storm. Many were in doubts whether the celebrations would take place in the open ground of the shrine. It was indeed a miracle. There was bright sun shining through out

the day and all the liturgy and other programs went on without any obstacles.

The procession of Holy rosary begun at 11.30 from the place where a huge cross was installed on the hill and proceeded to the alter. At 12.00 noon, Con-celebration of the Holy mass started along with 5 priests and a deacon.

During the sermon, the thoughts were shared from the experience of a priest who died while moving from Mullivaikal to Vavuniya. Many thoughts and intercession was proclaimed at

the Eucharistic sacrifice and people expressed a great satisfaction that services were more meaningful and to their satisfaction.

After the noon services, all the people gathered dispersed for sharing their meal and their stories. Shrine itself with lot of tress and people found a day well spent as a relaxation and felt relief that the day was away from busy activities.

In the evening at 3.30 p.m., Eucharistic Adoration and benediction were conducted in the main church and lasted till 4 o'clock.



Banner showing IDP children behind barbed wire at camps





Minister of Health Promotion Helps Launch Local South Asian Group's Year-long Blood and Stem Cell Campaign

The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion was the chief guest at the launch of the Tamil Canadian community's year-long blood and stem cell awareness campaign aimed directly at 'living' their mission, 'To encourage the spirit of multiculturalism... and understanding with other ethnic communities.'

Understanding community is at the heart of Canadian Tamil Congress' (CTC) commitment to providing over 450 units of blood during 2008. This is the largest



amount of blood collected by any partner within Central Ontario region. Building on this success, the CTC has committed to 1,000 blood donations (500 during the summer and 500 over the next calendar year). Knowing the need for stem cells, CTC has expanded its generosity by including the collection of 50 DNA samples for testing in hopes of providing potential stem cell donors for South Asian Canadian patients.

The campaign will operate out of 10 mobile and two permanent blood donor clinics across the city during July and August of which certain identified clinics will offer DNA sample (buccal swab) collection opportunities. These swabs will be tested in hopes of matching any of the 15 South Asian and 14 East Asian patients currently waiting for a stem cell transplant.

To launch this campaign, the CTC joined with South Asian representatives, Canadian Blood Services and OneMatch at a clinic/swab on July 14th.

Government of Canada Announces Members of Indo-Canadian Advisory Committee for Historical Recognition Projects

Three individuals have been named to the newly formed Indo-Canadian Advisory Committee for the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP).

The three-member committee is chaired by Mr. Jack Uppal. The other members are Dr. Ratna Ghosh (Vice-chair) and Mr. Iqbal Gill. The committee met for the first time on June 29th to begin reviewing submitted proposals for projects that recognize the experiences of the community. The committee will provide advice to the Minister on the merit of the proposals.

Mr. Uppal is a successful business person and community leader, often described as one of the most prominent figures in Canada's South Asian community.

Dr. Ghosh is a professor at McGill University and is a Member of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Gill is a teacher with the Peel District School Board and serves as the chief editor of

Khabarnama, a weekly newspaper focused on the Punjabi-Canadian community.

"These three individuals have demonstrated great leadership and made major contributions on issues important to their community," said Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. "The advice they are providing on the merit of eligible Indo-Canadian Community Historical Recognition Program projects is extremely valuable."

The CHRP, announced in 2006 and launched in 2008, is a grants and contributions program for community-based commemorative and educational projects related to historical immigration restrictions and wartime measures that were applied in Canada.

A total of \$2.5 million is available to the Indo-Canadian community for projects related to the Komagata Maru incident of 1914, such as monuments, commemo-

rative plaques, educational materials and exhibits. The Komagata Maru was a ship that arrived in Vancouver harbour carrying approximately 376 East Indian passengers, most of whom were not allowed to land because the ship did not make a continuous journey to Canada, as prescribed by Canadian immigration regulations at the time.

"This Government believes it is important for all Canadians to learn about our history. These important projects enable the communities affected to undertake meaningful commemorative and educational activities to ensure that their experiences are shared with others," said Minister Kenney.

Members of the Indo-Canadian Advisory Committee are appointed for a two-year term with the option of an additional two-year term.

Tamil Canadian advocacy group casts doubt on Sri Lanka's commitment for resettlement

Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) has released the first of its monthly situation report tracking Sri Lanka's progress in freeing and resettling its nearly 300,000 IDPs.

The "Situation Report for July 2009" argues the likelihood of Sri Lanka meeting its 180 day commitment is "dim" and "unlikely" considering only 5,104 IDPs have been freed as of July 3, 2009. Continued scrutiny and reporting by the international community and press are critical at this juncture of Sri Lanka's future.

"Many internally displaced persons remain effectively as prisoners" cut off from the outside world and, in some cases, subjected to torture, summary execu-

tion and starvation," said Harini Sivalingam, a Toronto based lawyer and policy director for the CTC. "About 1,400 people are believed to be dying every week, and some girls and women have become pregnant due to rape."

The report notes that Sri Lanka has failed to adhere to several of the "Guiding Principles" for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as set out by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"It is time for Sri Lanka to show gestures of accommodation and reconciliation towards Tamils by working quickly towards releasing and resettling the IDPs," Ms. Sivalingam said. Many view

this resettlement process as a final chance for peace on the island. Failure to take advantage of this opportunity could send the country into a downward spiral of resumed suffering, from which there would be little hope for recovery.

Currently, nearly 300,000 civilians are confined in numerous camps in northern Sri Lanka with no freedom of movement to leave. Issues of overcrowding, poor sanitation, minimal health-care and lack of basic necessities plague these camps where aid and media organizations are prevented from having full access. The CTC will release monthly reports until the nearly 300,000 IDPs are resettled.

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Happy Independence Day to Pakistan

Cricket Catching on in the United States

By Paige Kollock

The sport of cricket is making some inroads in the United States, even though most Americans still know little - if anything - about the game. Typical reactions tend to range from bemusement to bafflement. But changing demographics, brought about by immigration from cricket-loving parts of the world, are helping the sport to establish a foothold in a country where baseball remains the national pastime. In New York, the city's police department is finding the centuries-old game a good way to reach out to sections of the community.

Many kids use these fields in

the Queens section of New York to play sports like baseball or soccer, but as the demographics of the communities surrounding these parks shift, so too do the games played in them.

Faced with an influx of new immigrants, the New York City Police Department - already the sponsor of several sports leagues - needed a way to reach out to these burgeoning ethnic groups. And they seem to have found it in cricket - an open air game played between teams of eleven players on a large grass field with balls, bats, and two wickets. The object of the game - for your team to score more runs than the opposition.



Deputy Inspector Amin Kosseim runs special projects for the department's community affairs bureau. "It helps occupy their time in the summer. It helps maybe keep them out of trouble," Kosseim said.

Now in its second year, the league has grown from six to ten teams, with 170 players.

Alfaz Ally is from Guyana and has been playing for nine years. He says cricket's popularity is growing in New York, even though it is still not widely understood. "The remarks you usually hear is that cricket is a copy of a baseball. Well, we think baseball is a copy of cricket," Ally said.

Putting together the league is hard work.

"We have to go out into communities, we have to draw interest. We have to put rosters together, we have to get coaches, we have to get managers, we



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to book an interview.

provide transportation, we supply all the equipment, the uniforms, get permits for the fields. Although it's rather overwhelming at times, when you see the look on the kids' faces, it's all worth it," Kosseim said.

And, although the police say they do not use the program to recruit, players like Hanzia Munir from Pakistan are already thinking about a career in law enforcement. "I would like to get in

because I would like to be a cop," he states, "and the second thing, you're supporting your community, and I would like to do that."

An ambition that supports the New York Police Department's view that the program is helping the department make contact with the Muslim community - a group police have struggled to reach in the past.

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