

Monsoon Journal

A parfait media publication

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• ISSUE 2

• JULY 2007

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Prime Minister, Premier & Mayor Praise Monsoon Journal



Toronto's newest ethnic English Newspaper "Monsoon Journal" received a pat on its back from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Mayor David Miller as the publication celebrated its first birthday this month.

Details in Page 12

Siva Sivapragasam

Economy ahead of expectations, says Bank of Canada

While noting that inflation and the economy are running ahead of expectations, the Bank of Canada sounded a calming tone by noting that the risks for inflation were "roughly balanced", in a one-page release making its key interest rate announcement on

July 10th.

The Bank of Canada raised its key interest rate by one-quarter of a percentage point to 4.5 per cent - prompting chartered banks to hike consumer loan rates - and signaled strongly that a second rate hike in September may do

the trick in tempering inflation.

But soothing language in the bank's release provided a moderating effect on money markets as the Canadian dollar dipped below 95 cents US on July 10th, for the first time in several days.

Canada celebrates World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day was commemorated around the world and in Canada on June 20th.

"To most of us the fear and persecution refugees are fleeing and the conditions they endure while in exile or in refugee camps are hard to imagine," said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. "Yet day after day, these individuals find the strength within themselves to survive. Their plight is real; their stories are moving and Canadians are proud of the efforts

made to help them."

With almost 10 million refugees around the world, the issue requires international cooperation and solutions. As part of the global community, Canada is engaged in helping resolve problems before they result in refugee situations and, when refugee situations do occur, helping find durable solutions. These include: helping refugees integrate into those countries to which they have fled; helping them return home; or resettling them in



Canada when appropriate. To this end, Canada has also increased the number of privately sponsored refugees it accepts, encouraging Canadians to get involved.

Each year, Canada provides protection to more than 25,000 refugees through its asylum and resettlement programs.

Continued in Page 49

- DEPTH -

"Depth of friendship does not depend on length of acquaintance." - Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)



Banana blossom in Bambalapitaya, Sri Lanka [humanityashore.org]

Sri Lanka Rupee in Freefall



Sri Lanka's rupee hit an all time low recently, ending at 111.75/111.80 per US dollar.

Some analysts expect the rupee to weaken to around 118-120 per US dollar by the end of the year.

The rupee is steadily depreciating mainly due to trade-related moves in an economy that runs a hefty trade deficit because of costly fuel imports and the impact of inflation.

It has lost nearly 4 percent so far this year, after weakening by around 5 percent in 2006.

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Monsoon Journal -August Issue

Indian Independence Day Supplement

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"Monsoon Journal" August Issue will contain a special supplement to commemorate India's Independence Day which falls on 15th August. The Supplement will contain informative and interesting articles on post-independence India. The supplement will be attractively illustrated with suitable pictures. Businesses interested in advertising in the Supplement, please call 416 358 3235 or e-mail: info@monsoonjournal.com. Suitable articles for publication are also welcome.

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Canada - a Paradise on Earth

Raymond Rajabalan

This article is being published to commemorate Canada Day which fell on 1st July

It took courage to move to a new country. To become a Canadian citizen is another big step...

Multiculturalism, Global village, peaceful co existence, Unity in Diversity-when one thinks of these terms, the name of only one country in the whole world comes to mind .It is none other than the great nation of Canada. While many affluent countries in the world often do only lip service when it comes to helping people in need in less fortunate countries, it is only Canada that always spearheads the nations that readily come forward to assist the affected people .

From the drought affected arid expanse of Darfur in Sudan, to Tsunami -affected Indonesia, to areas threatened by snow storm in Pakistan or for that matter where ever there is a severe calamity or crisis, it is always Canada that springs into action first. The second largest country in the world, just like its vast expanse has a heart of gold as evidenced by its noble actions and one is indeed proud to call this as his home land.

Keeping the doors wide open

When the month of July dawns, colourful celebration of Canada Day are held throughout this great nation, with gala ceremonies including fire work displays and a variety of cultural shows. At the same time for the more than 300,000 Tamils who call it their home, July brings painful memories that took place in our mother land 24 years ago. When there was widespread state sponsored violence and mayhem against the minority Tamils



throughout the island of Sri Lanka in July 1983 - now referred to as Black July - it was Canada that offered to help the victims of the pogrom and kept its doors wide open to welcome the affected people. The same magnanimous deed was repeated countless times by this country to the thousands of civilians from all over the world who flocked to Canada longing to become citizens of this beautiful and benevolent country.

What we could do for Canada?

In 1986, when a group of nearly 200 refugees arrived in Canada by ship while there was a chorus of opposition from various groups Hon. Brian Mulroney, the then Prime Minister, brushing aside protests from various sources, welcomed them with open arms. Hats off to this great gentleman who had courage and foresight to provide refuge to them .In fact it is on record many of these people have prospered so well that they have become successful business men employing hundreds and contributing to the economic growth of their adopted country.

The time has now come for the Sri Lankans to to ask for themselves what they could do

for Canada and not what Canada could do for them. It was heartening to read a news report recently that the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce has collected over the recent years a colossal sum of over 125,000 dollars for the Scarborough Hospital Foundation while the Tamil community has pledged another 100,000 dollars to the Centenary Hospital. Incidentally these are two Hospitals heavily patronized by the Tamil community.

Studying for a PHD at Age 18...

Likewise, hundreds of youths from the Tamil community have become University graduates of various disciplines and also have achieved fame for themselves in Canada. A recent case in point is Ted Paranjothy, an 18 year old Sri Lankan Tamil high school student from Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg, Manitoba who has won so many awards including an International Biogenius Challenge competition Boston, USA. While he is the first ever Canadian to win this award he has done another incredible feat of being enrolled as PH.D student while in high school.

Two decades ago, Prime Minister Hon Pierre Elliot Trudeau

had the vision of embracing multiculturalism and as a result of his wisdom and fore sight , the country as well the people all over the world who chose to live in this great nation have benefited .His successors too have accepted this noble policy resulting in the over all benefit for this great nation and its citizens.

○ Canada - You are not getting older. You are getting better!

Chronology of Canadian History (1840-2007)

○ 1840-The Act of Union unites Canada West (Ontario) and Canada East (Quebec) into the province of Canada, with a new parliament.

○ 1848 -The provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia gain self government

○ 1857-Queen Victoria names Ottawa as capital of Canada

○ 1867- Nova Scotia , New Brunswick , Quebec and Ontario unite in a confederation called the Dominion of Canada .Sir John A. McDonald is named Canada's first prime minister

○ 1870 -The province of Manitoba is made part of the Dominion of Canada; the North West Territories established.

○ 1871-The province of

British Columbia is added to the Dominion of Canada

○ 1873- The province of Prince Edward Island is added to the Dominion of Canada

○ 1898-Yukon is given territorial status

○ 1905- The provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are added to the Dominion of Canada

○ 1931 - The statute of Westminster gives Canada complete independence from Great Britain.

○ 1949 - Newfoundland becomes Canada's 10th province . Canada, United states and ten western European Nations forms the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO)

○ 1965-New Canadian flag , with red maple leaf and red and white colours was adopted.

○ 1971- The policy of Multiculturalism was accepted by Federal Government

○ 1980-The National Anthem "Oh Canada.." was created.

○ 1982 -Canada adopts a new constitution that ends British control over constitutional amendments: a Charter of Rights and freedom is added.

○ 1989- Free Trade agreement between Canada and U S A enacted.

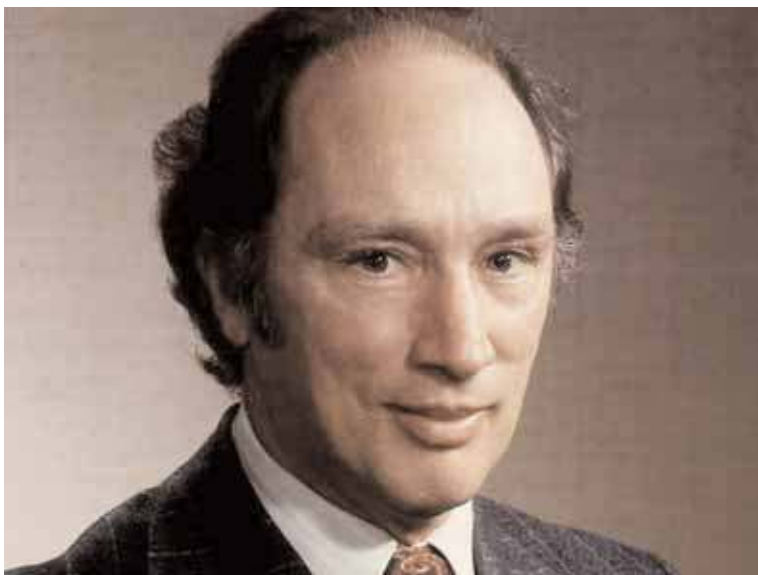
○ 1999-Nunavut was created from the Northwest territories.



Hon. Brian Mulroney - Former Canadian PM

Pierre Trudeau and Multi-culturalism

The first multicultural policy was set up in Canada. Many factors influenced the introduction of the policy. The mid 1960s were marked by increasing troubled English-French relations in Canada. The government appointed a Royal Commission to study this problem and recommend solutions to these problems. The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism held hearings accros Canada. In 1969 the Bicultural and Bilingual act become a law. However the commissioners heard about more than just the English and French relations. Ethnic spokespersons everywhere argued that the old policy of assimilation was both unjust and unfair and overall a failure. The ethnic representatives told the commissioners that immigrants and thier children had helped during the great depression side-by-side with other Canadians; they too had sacrificed their sons and daughters to



the national war effort, and they were now being denied the benefits of Canada's economic revival and their own hard work. They argued that althou they were not of English or French heritage they were still every bit Canadian and they wouldnt put up with being excluded.

They urged that a new model

of citizen participation in a larger society be adopted- one that adressed all the ethnic groups that were part of Canada They even offered a blueprint for a Canadian identity based on the public acceptance of difference and support of cultural pluralism. Unlike the melting pot model of the United States, they preferred

the idea of a 'cultural mosaic'- unique parts fitting together into a unified whole. They argued that ethnicity did not determine Canadian identity but rather the identity of the people did.

To the surprise of many the Commission agreed. The Royal Commission presented the government with this idea and recommendations which would acknowledge the value of cultural pluralism to Canadian identity and encourage Canadian institutions to reflect this pluralism in their policies and programs. The policy was accepted in 1971 while Pierre Elliot Trudeau was Prime Minister. When the policy was first announced, it was one of multiculturalism within a bilingual framework. Multiculturalism affirmed English and French as the two official languages of Canada. But ethnic pluralism was declared to be a positive feature of Canadian society worthy of preservation and development.

Many other provinces followed the federal lead by introducing multiculturalism policies in their areas of authority. In 1982 it became a

law and later in 1988 Bill-C-93 was passed as the Multicultural Act. This broke the final barriers of any racial laws and any ethnic problems.(www.pch.gc.ca/csp-pec/english)

What Is The Federal Governements Position On Multiculturalism?

What Are The Multicultural Centres Of Canada

Immigration

" The government will support and encourage the various cultures and ethnic groups that give structure and vitality to our society. They will be encouraged to share their cultural expressions and values with other Canadians and so contribute to a richer life for us all."

Pierre Trudeau

Monsoon Journal
Printing the Winds of Change
around us
All lands home, all men kin.

**" To discern the truth in every
thing, by whomsoever spoken,
is wisdom. "**
- Thirukkural # 423

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

This is Monsoon Journal's Anniversary Issue. The paper comes out monthly, usually second week of the month, 12 times a year and distributed free of charge throughout Greater Toronto Area.

Since its first issue, Monsoon Journal has grown in many respects - in professionalism, in average page count, in circulation, in advertising support and in sustainability.

The Monsoon Journal is a voice to the voiceless; particularly of matters that are of humanitarian concern which needs to be brought to the eyes of Canadian and Global audience.

The Monsoon Journal takes pride in playing an integral role in connecting communities across our great city of Toronto and beyond by being a bridge of communication; and contributing to enrich the cultural traditions of

the mosaic, that Toronto has come to be renowned globally.

It's our pleasure to work on a community newspaper for a community full of so many people with fine passions, admirable skills and high ideals.

Our thanks go to the readers and subscribers, who are the whole reason for us to continue publishing.

We're grateful for the columnists, writers, editors and busi-

nesspeople who put their energy and share their inspiration.

For the past year, readers and advertisers have made The Monsoon Journal successful. That's good reason to celebrate this milestone birthday.

It is the end of a successful year of publishing and the start of a new one and Monsoon Journal looks forward to being in your hands month after month.

Thanks for reading!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tamil Catholic Community Prays for Unity & Peace

July 21, 2007
Saturday 11.00 am - 4.30 pm

Martyr's Shrine, Midland, Ontario

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Canada - Karai Cultural Association

Time: Sunday July 22nd 2007 at 9:00 A.M

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Mr. A. Carunakaran (905) 472 1163

Mrs. K. Sothinathan (905) 790 9323

Web Site: www.karainagar.com

Vaanavill 2007

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Sat & Sunday 6.00 pm

Armenian Community Centre
45 Hallcrown Place (Victoria Pk/401)

416-299-0700, 416-836-7228
416-419-5863, 416-285-9941

Varthaga Vasantham

(Trade Show)

Aug 4 & 5, 2007, 10.00 am - 10.00 pm

Free Admission

Richmond Green Park

1300 Elgin Mills Road, Richmond Hill

416-298-9322, 647-409-8966

Tamil Carnival By United Tamils Association

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RBC-Royal Bank

Morningside/Milner Branch Grand Opening Event - June 23rd, 2007



Kids enjoy ice-cream and Jumping Castle



Lisa Gallacher, Vice-President, Scarborough Region interviewing the kids for Leo TV



Lisa Gallacher, Vice-President, Scarborough Region, Jennifer Tory, Regional President GTR & Mohan Sundaramohan Branch Manager



Jennifer Tory Regional President GTR speaking to the TV media



Mohan Sundaramohan Branch Manager, Lisa Gallacher, Vice-President, Scarborough Region, Jennifer Tory Regional President GTR & Deborah Robitaille, De Novo Branch Advisor



Imtiaz Seyid, Vice-President South Asian Markets (Centre) with Account Managers - David Bastiampillai (Right) & Amoor Thevathasan (Left)

Nearly 2000 persons turned-up at the recently opened Royal Bank's Morningside and Milner Branch to participate and enjoy in the activities of the Grand Opening Celebration event held last month. Branch Manager Mohan and his team had earlier forecast a turn-out of only 500 but the attendance exceeded the target.

Petting Zoo Animals, Pony rides, Jumping Castle, Giving away of balloons were some of the fun activities that thrilled the kids who were present. BBQ, Ice Cream and other refreshments were provided in plenty. There was a long line-up for Pony rides stretching into the afternoon. Helium balloons and 200 Leo Gift Certificates were handed out to the kids. There was a DJ at site to keep the people entertained. The Media, both Print and Electronic were present to cover the Event.

Ms. Jennifer Tory, Regional President-Greater Toronto Region from RBC, who spoke at the event remarked that the turn-out was much more than what was expected and thanked the attendees for their presence spe-

cially on a busy Saturday. Further she referred to the recent financial contributions made by RBC to the Scarborough Hospital Foundation and the Providence Healthcare Centre.

Ms. Lisa Gallacher, RBC's Vice-President for the Scarborough Region, speaking to the Media outlined the role played by Royal Bank and it's staff in community work. Mr. Mohan Sundaramohan, Manager from Morningside & Milner Branch, welcomed those present at the Event and stated that the friendly staff at his Branch were always available to attend to customer needs and requirements. He mentioned that the staff at his Branch was conversant in ten different languages to serve the diverse communities of the area.

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Professional Studies - Royal Credit Line for Students

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David Bastiampillai

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Royal Bank-Morningside & Milner Branch
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Remarks by Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance on Canada-India Day's Gala Dinner

Good evening; Bonsoir, Namaste; Sat Sri Akal; and Salam.

It is truly an honour to be here tonight along with;

- 1) the Honourable Satish Mehta, Consul General of India;
- 2) His Excellency R.L. Narayan, High Commissioner of India; and
- 3) My Co-Chief Guest, Premier Dalton McGuinty.

On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Canada's New Government I want to extend a warm welcome to everyone and offer our congratulations to India.

This is a monumental occasion and a very special year.

ever-increasing growth curve with stable eight to nine percent annual growth over the past several years.

If this current pace of expansion continues it is predicted that India will become the world's fifth largest economy within a decade overtaking;

- 1) Italy;
- 2) France; and
- 3) the U.K.

India's economic revolution has been fuelled by strong exports of ;

- 1) chemicals;
- 2) metals;
- 3) pharmaceuticals;
- 4) textiles; and
- 5) Information Technology

largest established petroleum reserves on the planet next to Saudi Arabia.

(Mutual Benefits)

Our government recognizes the tremendous opportunity to build further bridges between our two countries.

As a trading nation, Canada is actively pursuing trade and investment opportunities in a systemic and sustained way.

The mutual benefits are obvious. To sustain the momentum and economic growth India will require a predictable long-term supply natural resources and energy.

It will require the development and expansion of infrastructure like;

- 1) roads;
- 2) railways and water systems; and
- 3) it will require a variety of financial services.

Canada is well positioned to help meet this growing need.

- 1) We have an abundance of oil, natural gas and uranium.
- 2) We are a centre of excellence in science and technology.
- 3) We have construction firms with vast global experience.
- 4) And we are a modern financial services centre.

Over the past couple of years we have seen investment into Canada by India in the order of a couple billion dollars.

A good start, but not near our potential.

If we want a stronger, more durable trade relationship;

If we want to be a global leader in developing and adapting technology;

If we want to drive Canada's productivity and competitiveness;

Then we must see more two-way investment.

Our long-term goal is establishing a high-quality free trade agreement with India.

(Indian Influence)

But our relationship goes well beyond economic considerations.

Canada and India have become good friends with a great appreciation and respect for cultural diversity.

India's contribution to Canada



has been profound and deeply rewarding.

Today, India is the second largest source of new Canadians with over 700,000 people of Indian heritage calling Canada home.

Indo-Canadians have shared their culture, shared their values and shared their skills and expertise and continue to do so. Through cultural organizations such as Panorama India, Indo-Canadians have also shared their spirit of generosity and giving.

They have provided monetary gifts to many worthy causes over the years such as;

- 1) The Prime Minister of India's National Relief Fund;
- 2) The Tsunami Victim's Fund; and



3) To support the South Asian Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum.

(Conclusion)

I would like to conclude with a final thought.

On Canada Day I hosted a swearing-in ceremony in my riding of Whitby-Oshawa.

I saw the look of pride on the faces of those who were finally receiving their Canadian citizen-

ship.

To me, this is what Canada is all about.

It is about embracing other cultures and encouraging new Canadians to be the best that they can be.

These people have tremendous potential and their personal success, is our collective success.

This gathering tonight is living proof of such success.

Indo-Canadians have made a lasting positive impression on our social fabric and Canada is a much richer place as a result.

I applaud you for your contribution to Canada and again congratulate India on achieving 60 years of independence.

Je vous remercie de m'avoir invité ce soir.

Thank you for inviting me here tonight.

JIM FLAHERTY
MINISTER OF FINANCE
CANADA-INDIA DAY GALA
DINNER
HILTON GARDEN INN
VAUGHAN
JULY 8, 2007.



While Canada is celebrating its 140th birthday, India is marking 60 years of Independence.

Au nom du premier ministre Stephen Harper et du nouveau gouvernement du Canada, je désire souhaiter chaleureusement la bienvenue à chacun de vous et offrir mes plus sincères félicitations à l'Inde.

Il s'agit d'une occasion unique et d'une année tout à fait spéciale. Tandis que le Canada célèbre son 140e anniversaire, l'Inde souligne ses 60 ans d'indépendance.

In historical terms, our two nations are in their infancy.

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Canada's New Government Celebrates giving parents greater choice in Child Care

Canada's New Government made a commitment to support Canadian families and give them real choice in child care, and it is delivering on that promise. Since launching the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) in July 2006, the Government has provided 1.5 million Canadian families with monthly UCCB cheques of \$100 for every child under six years old.

Today, the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, was joined by local families at the West Portage YMCA-YWCA in Winnipeg, to celebrate one year of giving Canadian families choice in child care.

"Since July 2006, Canada's New Government has been providing families with \$100 per month - up to \$1,200 a year - for each child under the age of six to help cover the costs of whichever form of childcare they choose," said Minister Solberg. "When it comes to raising children, we know that every family has its own needs. We think parents know what is best for their families based on their own circumstances. Our Universal Child Care Plan puts parents in charge."

"Based on our extensive experience in child care programming over several decades, we believe it is important for all parents to have access to a mix of quality child care choices," said Dave



Young, Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg that hosted the event. "Families tell us that the most important thing about YMCA-YWCA child care is that the centre is supportive of the families and their children."

The Universal Child Care Benefit is the first part of Canada's Universal Child Care Plan, which helps families balance work and home responsibilities. The second part, introduced in Budget 2007, is the provision of an additional \$250 million per year to provinces and territories to create new child care spaces. Different provinces, like different families, face unique challenges when it comes to child care. This new transfer is in addition to other transfers to the provinces and territories for early childhood development and early learning and child care. All told, each year,

the federal government will transfer \$1.1 billion to the provinces and territories in support of families with children, and this amount will grow to \$1.3 billion by 2013-2014.

Also in Budget 2007, a new investment tax credit of up to 25 per cent will go to businesses that create new child care spaces for the children of their employees, for up to \$10,000 per space created. In addition, Canada's New Government has introduced a new \$2,000 Child Tax Credit that will provide up to \$310 for parents of children under age 18.

For more information and to subscribe to the Universal Child Care Plan electronic newsletter, please visit www.universalchild-care.ca

<http://www.universalchild-care.ca/en/home.shtml>

Microsoft will import some workers for Vancouver software development centre

Microsoft Corp. is setting up a software development centre in the Vancouver area this fall that will house hundreds of employees - many of them highly skilled programmers brought to Canada from other countries to work on the company's products.

The location will be one of only a few development centres outside Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Wash., about 200 kilometres south of Vancouver.

Four others exist in North Carolina, Ireland, Denmark and Israel and two more are planned for Boston and Bellevue, Wash., which is near Redmond.

Microsoft says the Vancouver location will allow the company to recruit and retain highly skilled people who would have difficulty with U.S. immigration requirements.

"It's not uniquely a Microsoft issue. ... It has affected lots of other industries as well as other companies in the technology industry," Microsoft Canada president Phil Sorgen said recently from headquarters in Mississauga, Ont..

In addition, Microsoft has embarked on a strategy to tap into a "global market for technical talent" by setting up development

centres in multiple locations.

"We will have employees from around the world, including Canada, as part of the development centre," Sorgen said.

"Vancouver is an international gateway. It has a diverse population (and a) strong international reach that we think will give us greater access to the best and brightest," Sorgen said.

In particular, he noted there is a growing number of students in the Asia-Pacific region that are graduating with computer science degrees and Vancouver has "a very strong connection" to that region.

"We're opening it with the expectation of a couple hundred developers to be in place in the fall, with optimism we can grow over time," he said.

"The type of people we hire will truly represent a global footprint. ... So we look for cities that foster and support innovation and are multicultural and diverse in nature."

Many of the centre's personnel will be new to Microsoft but current employees will also move there, he said.

Sorgen declined to discuss Canada's immigration law but said the "innovation agenda" that has



been publicized by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Industry Minister Maxime Bernier is "very supportive of attracting the best and brightest to Canada in fields like high tech and fields that expand our knowledge economy here in Canada."

"And we think Canada has an environment that is perfectly suited for highly skilled professionals like the ones we'll hire."

Financial details for the Vancouver office were not disclosed. The company has narrowed its choices of location but hasn't signed a lease yet.

[CP]

Leading Scientist Says Climate Change Increases Poverty and Hunger

By Lisa Schlein

A leading climate change scientist says the warming of the planet would have a devastating impact on the poor and the hungry. He urges the United Nations to make greater efforts to help the poor, the hungry, and malnourished adapt to the realities of climate change and its difficulties.

The chairman of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Pachauri, says the effects of climate change will be mainly felt in the areas of health and agriculture. He says it is the poor who would suffer most from the change.

He says heat waves in different parts of the world are making people ill and causing many deaths. He says the situation is particularly bad in poor countries that do not have the infrastructure or wherewithal to protect people from extreme heat.

Speaking of the agricultural effects of climate change, Pachauri says two-thirds of the world lives in rural areas and the majority of these people are in developing countries. He says a great many are dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

Pachauri says climate change would lead to an increase in precipitation in temperate areas, but a decrease in tropical and subtropical areas, where most of the people on Earth live. Those who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, he says, would be adversely affected by the decrease.

"At the global level, with the decline in agricultural productivity, in the largest countries of the world or the most populous countries of the world, we will find that food stocks will diminish," Pachauri said. "And, as a matter of



fact, that has already started happening. The result of that will be an increase in food prices. Now, that in turn, hits the poorest of the poor very badly."

Pachauri says Africa is particularly vulnerable to decreases in rainfall. He says many regions of the continent are already suffering from an enormous scarcity of water.

"There would be the problem of hunger and undernourishment, simply because agricultural yields will go down, are going down," he said. "And, with food prices likely to go up, they would just not be in a position to import the quantities that would be required for sustenance."

Climate scientist Pachauri says farmers suffering hard times will have to adopt measures such as the more efficient use of water resources. He says new strains of crops that can withstand higher temperatures and lower quantities of water will have to be developed.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects sea levels will rise from 18 to 59 centimeters by the end of the century. It says small island states in the so-called Mega Deltas in Asia - low-lying areas in Asia that are vulnerable to heavy flooding - will be among the most threatened.

[VOA]

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Few can afford to buy at Jaffna's restocked markets

Jaffna's town market is once again stocked, with many of its small retail shops bursting with canned and packaged goods and large bags of dried fish, lentils, dhal and rice. However, increasing numbers of Jaffna residents and the 40,000 internally displaced people in the district cannot afford them.

When the A9 highway - the vital transport route linking the Jaffna peninsula to the rest of the country - was closed on 11 August 2006, the 150-plus trucks that daily delivered goods into and out of the district ceased operation. Jaffna became totally dependent on sea transport and limited air freighting for all its imported goods.

S. B. Divaratne, commissioner general of Essential Services which has been running the sea transport operation, takes some pride in their shipping achievements over the past 11 months. "Adequate stocks are available in all basic food items, including medicine in Jaffna," he said. The commissioner general said

112,197 metric tonnes of essential food items had been transported by sea to Jaffna since September 2006 in more than 50 separate ship loads.

While food stocks are up, the number of buyers is decidedly down. N. Pathmanathan, a shopkeeper in the Jaffna market told IRIN: "While I had shortages of food and other commodities soon after the closure of the A9, I have no problems getting goods now, it's just the costs are so much higher." In his 24 years as a shopkeeper, he said he had never seen the situation so bad. "I am only doing one quarter of the business that I did prior to 11 August 2006," he lamented.

A short distance from the market at Rolex Restaurant, A. Sinnathurai, the head waiter, told a similar story. "We had to close this entire back room [half the restaurant's total space] because of a lack of customers," he said. "Business has dropped 50 to 60 per cent."

According to the June Jaffna Food Security Bulletin (JFSB), a

joint publication of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), "food items are available. Market prices, however, are substantially more expensive than Colombo market prices."

For example, June prices for bread and flour were 150 percent higher in Jaffna than in Colombo. Those for white rice and red rice 160 and 220 percent higher, respectively; for milk powder 110 per cent and kerosene 205 percent higher.

Fishing hit

High prices are only part of the problem. Since the A9 closure and with continuing security concerns on the peninsula, many of Jaffna's 600,000 residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs) no longer have productive livelihoods or reliable sources of income. The Jaffna District government agent, K. Ganesh, in a January situation report said 17,498 families, 9 percent of the population, are involved in fishing, but severe restrictions imposed by the Sri Lankan military have limited their ability to fish.

"Fish production has slightly increased since the beginning of the year but is still only 10 percent of pre-conflict levels with the consequent impact affecting household livelihoods," according to the JFSB.

Agriculture hit

In the agricultural sector, according to the government agent's report, 96,525 families, 51 percent of the population, are



A shop owner at Jaffna Town market

farmers or farm labourers. Their ability to produce was hit hard by the lack of fertilizers and other farm inputs. In addition, some farmland was taken out of production because it was in areas designated high security zones, and some was mined.

"Available land for paddy cultivation is 13,000 hectares for the last 'Maha' season, only 6,627 was cultivated," the JFSB said. And because of lack of agricultural inputs, "the average yield has dropped to 1.5 metric tonnes per hectare... compared to the usual yields of three to four metric tonnes per hectare."

The situation in the livestock industry is not much better. According to FAO, the number of livestock, including poultry and cows, is only 34 percent of pre-conflict levels, though efforts are under way to replenish stock. Many livestock were killed in the conflict, and many farmers sold their stock when short of cash to buy essentials.

Big price increases for fish, poultry, eggs

These drops in fish and farm

production have led to significant price increases. Fish, which was 150 rupees per kilo before 11 August 2006, is now 600. Chicken, which was 180 rupees a kilo, is now 700. Even an egg which was 7 rupees goes for 23 rupees - over three times the price. For many Jaffna residents, these former staples have now become luxury items.

V.T. Selvaratnam, director of education for Jaffna District, told IRIN: "Given the food shortages and the high prices, even I and my family can only eat chicken once a month. How can poor families possibly cope?"

An answer to that question was provided at Nanthurai welfare camp in Jaffna town. An IDP, Jasantha Arul Nasensan, who was displaced from Allaipiddy in August 2006, told IRIN: "Now we go to the market and see the pretty things," she said laughing with a group of a dozen or so other IDPs. "We do window shopping, because we don't have money to buy anything there."

[IRIN]



Internally displaced people IDPs at the Nanthurai welfare centre in Jaffna say they go to the market just to window shop as they have no money to buy anything

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Singapore, India Have Highest Growth Rate in Number of Millionaires

By Claudia Blume

Several Asian countries saw the fastest growth in the number of millionaires worldwide last year. And in China, the government plans to raise the minimum wage.

The number of Asians with assets of more than \$1 million increased 8.6 percent in 2006, compared with a year earlier. Investment bank Merrill Lynch's annual wealth report, released jointly with financial services provider Capgemini, says their combined wealth increased 10.5 percent to more than \$8 trillion.

Five of the 10 countries worldwide where the number of millionaires is growing fastest are in Asia - led by Singapore with a 21 percent increase and India, where the growth rate was more than 20 percent last year. Indonesia, South Korea and Hong Kong are also among the top 10.

Victor Tan, Merrill Lynch's chief equity strategist for the Asia-Pacific region, says the increase in millionaires was driven by the region's strong economic performance last year.

"As we have seen, both real

GDP [gross domestic product] growth and growth in market capitalization worked together in 2006 to fuel the strong increase in the high net worth individual population and the combined wealth," he said.

While the number of millionaires is rising in some areas, there are concerns in China that inflation is eroding incomes for millions of poor families. The government has ordered local authorities in areas that have economically lagged behind other parts of the country to raise the minimum wage by the end of this year. Prices for key foods in China, such as pork and poultry have risen more than 25 percent so far this year.

The minimum wage in China varies by location. The southern city of Shenzhen has the highest - 106 dollars a month, while Jiangxi province has the lowest, at \$35.

In the aviation industry, Australia's flag carrier Qantas will open a regional pilot training center. The academy, which will operate independently of the airline, will train about 3,000 new pilots in

the next 10 years, both for Qantas and other airlines. The center will initially be run from Qantas' existing facilities in Sydney and Melbourne.

Also in Australia, the federal court cleared the U.S. bank Citigroup of insider trading charges. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission alleged that the bank used inside information to trade shares in the transport company Patrick in 2005, while Citigroup was helping organize a takeover of the company at the same time.

The court ruled, however, that Citigroup had adequate safeguards in place to ensure that the trader who bought the Patrick shares knew nothing about the takeover deal.

And finally, Playboy - the U.S. adult entertainment company - will open an entertainment center in Macau. The Playboy Mansion will be part of the Macau Studio City, an integrated resort combining film studios, gambling facilities and hotels. The complex is scheduled to open in 2009.

[VOA]

Continued from Page 1

Prime Minister, Premier & Mayor praise Monsoon Journal

"Monsoon Journal" is an independent, English monthly Newspaper published primarily for the Canadian South Asian communities.

In his message to "Monsoon Journal" Prime Minister Stephen Harper has remarked that "Monsoon Journal" has quickly established itself as a strong voice in Canada's South Asian community. He predicts that "Monsoon Journal" will serve as an important forum for the South Asian community and that the staff and readership can take pride in the success of the young publication.

Premier Dalton McGuinty has stressed that the Newspaper will be a rich source for readers to learn more about the community and the world. He has stressed that this monthly publication is an ideal way to help the South Asian community to celebrate their language, culture, history and tradition.

Toronto's Mayor David Miller has commended that Monsoon Journal is a useful and important publication catering to the needs of the South Asian community and

that Newspapers like "Monsoon Journal" should be encouraged and supported.

"Monsoon Journal" has been well received by it's readers for its independent reporting, quality editorial content and attractive lay-out. The Publishers have felt the need for an English Newspaper for the younger generation of the South Asian communities who are mostly literate in the English language as the majority of them born in Canada are not very conversant in their vernacular languages.

"Monsoon Journal" is circulated in the Greater Toronto region (GTA) mainly through Sri Lankan and Indian stores and also delivered directly to subscribers. Advertisers wanting a wide-exposure in the Greater Toronto area have sought Monsoon Journal as an ideal print medium for marketing their products and services to the South Asian community.

The full text of the messages received from Prime Minister Harper, Premier McGuinty and Mayor Miller can be seen in the inside pages.

Buying a new home & change of your mind

by T.M. KESAVAN
Barrister & Solicitor

What happens you change your mind after you sign an agreement to buy a home from builder? This question was dealt in the case of Pleasant Development Inc. v Iyer (2006).

In this case, on September 15, 2003 the purchasers had signed an Agreement of Purchase and Sale with the Builder to purchase a new home for \$280,000.00 with a closing date of January 23, 2004. The Purchaser paid the Builder a deposit of \$10,000.00. The Builder has signed the agreement on September 16, 2003. On the following day, September 17, 2003, the purchasers attempted to verbally cancel the Agreement of Purchase and Sale. The buyer believed the document he signed in the sales office was "only an offer" and said he was told by the sales person that he had 10 days to change his mind and cancel the deal. The transaction never closed and the defaulting buyers sued the builder for return of their deposit. The matter came up for final ruling in the appeal court. The important question was whether the defaulting buyers would have to forfeit their \$10,000.00 deposit when the builder did not suffer or prove any damages as a result of the breach. The other question for the court was whether the defaulting buyers are entitled to

relief against forfeiture.

Was it necessary for the builder to prove damages in order to forfeit the deposit?

The law is clear that a deposit may be forfeited without proof of damages. Even in the case where the builder resells the home at a purchase price that is high enough to compensate for any loss from the first sale, the builder may nevertheless retain the deposit. While the language of the contract is not by itself determinative, the use of the word "deposit" will imply that the payment is intended for forfeiture upon the purchaser's breach. The common law position is that if the agreement is silent and the purchaser defaults, the deposit, by its very nature, is forfeited to the builder. The Agreement refers to the money as a deposit. There is nothing in the Agreement to suggest that the deposit is to be returned to the buyer upon default. Unless an agreement indicates an intention that the deposit is not to be forfeited, the builder has an implied right to retain it.

In the above mentioned case, the court held that the \$10,000.00 paid by the defaulting buyer was intended to be a deposit in the strict sense of guaranty to bind the buyer to the transaction. The deposit was forfeited upon the default of the buyer. In these circumstances, it was not necessary for the builder to prove damages in order to for-

feit the defaulting buyer's deposit.

Were the buyers entitled to relief against forfeiture?

Under Ontario law, there are circumstances where the loss of a deposit may be subject to relief from forfeiture. If there is relief, the deposit is returnable, in whole or in part, to the defaulting buyer. If the court regards the forfeiture of the deposit as a penalty, then regardless of the wording of the agreement, the court has an inherent power to return the deposit to the defaulting buyer. The onus is on the defaulting buyer to show that it inflicts a penalty, rather than determines the damages payable by the defaulting buyer.

The courts will award relief

from forfeiture of the defaulting buyer's deposit only where it is established that the deposit is out of proportion to losses suffered and that it would be unconscionable for the builder to retain the money. In the above mentioned case, the court held that the deposit was only 3.6 per cent of the purchase price; it was not out of proportion to the builder's losses; and it was not unconscionable to allow the builder to retain the deposit.

For new home buyers, there are several important lessons to be learned from this case;

Firstly, make sure you want the house before you sign the agreement. Secondly, unless the contract has a specific condition

to allow for financing or lawyer approval, there is no 10-day cooling-off period for new homes. Only in the case of buying new condominiums, there is a 10-day cancellation period by law. Thirdly, if the buyer backs out and the builder loses money because the real estate market declines, the defaulting buyer is responsible for the price difference, carrying costs, legal fees and a host of other losses. Fourthly, promises made by a sales person are not part of the transaction if they are not written into the contract. Finally, never leave the builder's sales office without a signed agreement.

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Homelife Future Realty Inc. celebrates its 5th Anniversary

Achievements of owner Selva Vettivel and his staff were recognized by Homelife CEO

Messrs. Homelife Future Realty Inc. celebrated their fifth-Anniversary last Saturday. The Celebrations were held at Mardi Gras Banquet Hall and was well attended by a representative gathering from the Business community.



Andrew Cimerman, CEO - Homelife & Mrs. Lori Cimerman congratulating Mr & Mrs. Selva Vettyvel



Mr & Mrs. Selva Vettyvel with some of his agents at his brokerage office

Popular South Indian Actress Suganya in Toronto



Suganya, the well known south Indian movie star graced the Bharathanatya Arangetram of Suganyaa Sundraralingam and Rosani Sundaralingam, held recently in Scarborough. In the picture Mr. R.N.Logendraligam, the Editor in Chief Uthayan is presenting the Certificate of Honour, on behalf of the M.P for Scarborough- Agincourt Hon. Jim Karygiannis.



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Disabled Sri Lanka veterans battle high cost of prosthetics, unemployment

One shirt sleeve flapping limply, war veteran and rights activist Asoka Dayaratna signs a document with his left hand, finishing with a flourish.

"I don't usually use my artificial arm, unless it is for a special occasion," says the former army commando who lost his right arm fighting Tamil Tiger rebels in Wilpattu, northwestern Sri Lanka, in 1985.

Although his Israeli-made prosthesis makes fine movement possible, he taught himself to write with his remaining hand. "I am afraid to use the artificial arm often, because, if it breaks, I cannot get it repaired here."

The predicament has set Dayaratna, founder and president of the Association of Disabled Ex-Service Personnel (ADEP), on his current mission, to set up a local factory to manufacture artificial limbs that can be given either free of charge or at subsidised rates to injured servicemen.

"Sri Lanka has about 15,000 to 20,000 disabled [government] troops who use artificial arms and legs," says Dayaratna whose

organisation counts about 8,000 injured former soldiers and policemen. "Once they have been given an artificial limb by the army, they find it very difficult to maintain it or replace it."

He says government-issued limbs are prone to breakage. Better quality custom-made prostheses made by a private manufacturer cost between Rs 25,000 (about US\$227) and Rs 75,000 (about \$680), prohibitively expensive for many of the disabled who are either unemployed or barely eke out a living.

Sri Lankan government forces have been embroiled in a prolonged war against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for over three decades during which an estimated 65,000 civilians and combatants have been killed.

Since hostilities escalated in December 2005, some 5,219 civilians, security force personnel and LTTE fighters have died, according to figures released by the government. In addition, 1,525 government soldiers have been wounded in the latest bout of

fighting.

Big demand for prosthetic devices

The army's Rehabilitation Directorate says up to the end of 2006 there were some 11,154 officers and soldiers "with some form of permanent disability who cannot be engaged in the fighting role".

According to the government agency, 9,340 limbs for use by disabled soldiers had been manufactured locally up to the end of 2005 by its main welfare and rehabilitation centre, Ranaviru Sevana, and the non-governmental organisation, Jaipur Foot Programme.

Dayaratna, however, estimated that since 1983, when the battles first heated up, at least 22,000 government military personnel have been disabled.

His organisation is seeking funding to train four or five Sri Lankan technicians in Malaysia or Taiwan in the manufacture and maintenance of artificial limbs so that they can set up shop here to meet the pressing demand.

The prospect heartens amputee G. Jayatillaka who finds it hard on his purse even to buy the special socks that cover the stump before the prosthesis is put on it. "If I give my limb for repairs [to the army workshop in the capital, Colombo], I don't know when I will get it back. There is a long waiting-list because the main concern now is to equip the new casualties," he said.

Advocacy for war disabled

ADEP, the island's only private outfit representing war-affected men and women, has started awareness and advocacy programmes that draw attention to

the situation of disabled servicemen - particularly with the aim of increasing employment opportunities for them. The programme is funded by a World Bank grant of Rs 500,000 (about \$4,545) that was recently given to the organisation.

ADEP is urging broad-based initiatives such as better access in public places for the disabled, improved transport facilities, and promotion of the status of war widows and orphans.

Using donor aid, Dayaratna helps war veterans living in specially designated communities called Ranaviru (war heroes) villages, integrated with neighbouring villages, and is even trying to establish contact with disabled LTTE members.

Of particular concern to the 52-year-old, battle-scarred activist is the blow the ex-soldiers take when they turn 55 and find the salaries they have been paid up to then take a sharp drop when they are commuted to pensions.

S.H.U. Jayatissa, who had both his legs amputated after being caught in LTTE mortar shelling in Mullaitivu, northeastern Sri Lanka, in 1996, lives with his wife and two children on his army salary. "I have no job now and I am really concerned for my future when my salary stops coming in," he says.

Employment for war disabled

ADEP has embarked on imparting training in skills such as candle-making and the production of exercise books. It also provides low-interest loans for the purchase of three-wheeler scooter taxis to ex-servicemen whose



artificial limbs do not hinder them from such employment.

However, being successfully employed can be a challenge. "We have a small candle-making business at home. All of us, including our three children, are involved in it," said K. Thilaka Priyangani, the wife of a soldier who lost his eyesight in a landmine explosion. "But, our main problem is finding steady buyers; we have to go from shop to shop to try to sell our products."

Dayaratna is also keen to see veterans provided with psychological counselling and points out that scant attention is paid to the after-effects of war injuries.

"One of our biggest challenges is to help disabled soldiers spend the rest of their lives gainfully, without any tension and to be able to provide for their families," he says, blaming post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the increasing number of crimes and violent incidents in which many ex-servicemen become involved.

[IRIN]



From bad to worse in Sri Lanka

By Peter Apps

Sri Lanka's military may have captured the last eastern Tamil Tiger rebel stronghold, but few expect the conflict - or the resulting humanitarian crisis - to go away.

For someone who covered the slide to war last year, it is a dimly familiar picture - and there is little sign of any imminent improvement.

Thousands have died and tens of thousands have fled their homes since fighting broke out a year ago, shattering what was left of the 2002 ceasefire. Aid workers and journalists have been among many killed, abducted or simply disappeared while rights groups have accused both sides of ignoring international humanitarian law.

Major ground fighting began in July in the island's east after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shut off water supplies to government areas south of the port of Trincomalee. The rebels reopened the sluice gates shortly before government troops overran them, but the government did not stop and continued

its offensive.

Tens of thousands were trapped in eastern rebel territory under heavy shellfire but were eventually able to make their way back into government areas. As the rebels have fallen back, some have been able to return.

But rights groups have raised concerns some have been bussed back to areas against their will. United Nations agencies and the Red Cross have largely been able to operate but other smaller aid agencies have found access difficult.

The rebels - whose northern heartland remains under their control and is seen as the next place fighting is likely to escalate - say the war in the east is not over either and observers expect ongoing ambushes and hit-and-run guerrilla attacks.

Aid workers say residents are also extremely worried by other armed groups in the east. Former eastern Tiger leader Karuna Amman split from the mainstream rebels in 2004 and his fighters have been widely seen as backing the government - despite denials by both sides. Now his group is

also said to have split and is also facing off against other pro-government armed groups ahead of elections due to take place in the east at an unspecified date.

Both the LTTE and Karuna are accused by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) of kidnapping children to fight, and aid workers say there is little sign of either letting up. In the northern Wanni jungles where the Tigers still run their de facto state, aid workers say adult recruitment is also soaring.

And at the northern tip of Sri Lanka, the government continues to hold the Jaffna peninsula, cut off from the rest of the island by rebel territory. Food shipments are largely getting through, but the population has now effectively been besieged for close on a year.

Opinions are divided as to where the war will flare next or who will make the next move. Some expect another government drive into northern LTTE territory, while the rebels warn that they will hit government, military and economic targets in the island's southern heart.

Any escalation would further



hit a population which has already suffered two decades of war. And with aid agencies occasionally accused publicly of supporting the Tigers and with fighting blocking

essential supply lines, few relief workers are confident they will be able to reach those affected.

[Alertnet.org]

IFJ Urges Sri Lankan Government to Acknowledge Wider Issues on Press Freedom

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has welcomed Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's recently reported comments on the government's commitment to press freedom reform, but fears that independent journalism will still be compromised.

According to IFJ affiliate the Free Media Movement (FMM), state media reports have trumpeted comment President Rajapakse made while chairing a progress review meeting of the Ministry for Media & Information.

Rajapakse reportedly spoke of the need for "a more vibrant and efficient role by the government-owned media".

But IFJ Asia-Pacific director Jacqueline Park said the real extent of the Sri Lankan government's newfound commitment to press freedom remained to be seen.

"The IFJ is glad to see President Rajapakse finally publicly acknowledging the importance of depoliticising state-owned, government-controlled media," Park said.

"But actions speak louder than words, and we look forward to seeing how President Rajapakse



and his government demonstrate their new commitment to free media," she said.

Rajapakse spoke on the role of government-owned media to "project the country's situation to the international community at a time where various people were trying to tarnish the country's image by engaging in a slanderous campaign abroad".

But the FMM was quick to point out the distinction between a free media as essential to a functioning democracy, and a media that presents a positive spin on Sri Lanka to the world.

"Editorial pressures and journalists' safety remain pressing issues in Sri Lanka, and we hope that this will be part of the government's agenda on press freedom reform," Park said.

According to the FMM, without secure expertise, commitment of journalists, or representative coalitions matching the diversity of the profession, media law reforms can not commence.

The IFJ urges the government to acknowledge the wider issues on press freedom which will create positive steps to guarantee a freer media.

"Fundamental rights such as media freedom and basic human rights including freedom of speech need immediate attention, and must be constantly uplifted by the government", Park said.

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Harper urged to locate Canadian Embassy branch in Jaffna

Citing difficulties faced by relatives of Tamil constituents of Pickering-Scarborough East in accessing Canadian Embassy located in Colombo, Mr. Dan McTeague, Canadian parliamentarian, in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Harper, urged him to consider locating a Canadian Embassy branch in Jaffna. The MP also pointed out to the Prime Minister that Colombo is engaged in "ethnic cleansing," and continues to "marginalize the Tamil population."

Full text of the letter follows:
June 27, 2007
Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2
Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I am writing to you concerning the plight of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. It is clear to many observers of the region that the situation in Sri Lanka has become untenable as the Sri Lankan government continues to marginalize the Tamil population.

One of the methods the government employs to denigrate the Tamils has been to resort to what can only be described as a novel approach to ethnic cleansing. It appears the government has instituted a program designed to bring about the removal of Tamils from the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Several Canadians of Tamil

origin in my constituency have indicated to me that their loved ones have encountered considerable difficulties in accessing the services of the Canadian embassy in Colombo. Moreover, ongoing immigration applications and even the simple the act of acquiring information from the embassy has been impeded by this targeted policy of removing Tamils from the capital area.

Mr. Prime Minister, the world community can ignore the facts all they want but it will not change the realities. The peace in Sri Lanka resulting from the tsunami has long since dissipated.

There have been countless reports of extra-judicial killings and government-sponsored activities designed to subjugate, or eliminate entirely, the Tamil presence in Sri Lanka - a fact that seems to have been lost entirely by our immigration section in Colombo who continue to delay approving legitimate humanitarian and compassion applications.

Quite frankly, I am appalled Mr. Prime Minister, that the Government of Canada does not even seem to be taking seriously the reports on the situation in Sri Lanka that it receives from our own political officials at our embassy.

I am also very troubled that while every consideration was given by your government, as well as when your party was in opposition, to labeling certain Tamil



groups as terrorists, the same condemnation and attentiveness by Canada to the actions of the Sri Lankan government towards the Tamils has been severely lacking.

Prime Minister, to facilitate access by Tamils to Canadian representation in Sri Lanka, I hereby request your assistance in the opening of a Canadian consulate in the city of Jaffna that is capable of providing immigration services.

Moreover, I also request that the Government of Canada be a little more focused and pro-active in recognizing what is going on in Sri Lanka and that it speak out more clearly against the violence and discrimination that the Sri Lankan government is placing on the Tamil people.

I look forward to your reply at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P.

[TN]

Eros International buys stake in Tamil film company

Media company Eros International has acquired a 51 per cent shareholding in Ayngaran International Ltd, thereby marking its foray into Tamil films. Ayngaran International is a newly-incorporated holding company that is acquiring the business and assets of Ayngaran. Tamil movies constitute the second largest film segment in the country after Hindi and Ayngaran has a dominant market share in the Tamil film content and distribution industry.

The transaction will give Eros access to Ayngaran's library of over 600 films, while securing rights to approximately 25 new films already in development, a release said here today. The deal forms part of Eros' strategy to pursue partnerships and acquisitions in the multi-billion but fragmented Indian film industry.

Eros will provide an initial funding to the new venture of \$ 33 million through internal and external sources to take over and grow the existing business as well as to produce, acquire and distribute forthcoming Tamil films based on agreed forecasts and targets, it said. Eros International Chairman

and CEO Kishore Lulla said "we are really excited about this deal. Ayngaran is the Eros of Tamil Films. The film business is poised to expand rapidly."

Distribution of 'Sivaji - The Boss'

Eros and Ayngaran have previously co-operated on the international distribution of the Tamil film 'Sivaji-The Boss' starring Rajnikant, which created history by grossing over USD 25 million worldwide, the highest-ever for any Tamil film. It also featured in the UK charts in spite of showing across just 13 Cineworld screens.

Ayngaran Chairman K Karuna Moorthy said "aligning with Eros will allow us to accelerate our growth and become a global player in Tamil films by maintaining and building on our competitive advantage." Of the total 1,090 movies produced in India in 2006, 223 were in Hindi and 162 in Tamil. Internationally, Tamil films have a huge market in the UK, USA, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia and the UAE.

[PTI]

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A Glass of Milk

By Kumar Punithavel

Many years ago Sundar fled from violent conditions in Sri Lanka along with his wife and son and sought refuge in Canada. Since then they have become citizens of the country. He was a medical doctor in Sri Lanka but in Canada, before he could practice, he has to get proper certification from a Canadian professional institution. Like all new immigrants they rented an apartment in an area in Toronto that was known as the Tamil ghetto.

Sundar not only had to provide for the family but also had to pursue some studies before he could practice as a doctor. In sheer desperation, he took a door-to-door salesman job for a utility company and that was hard work peddling for clientele.

One typical hot summer's day, ridden with pangs of hunger and thirst with hardly any money in his pocket being Friday with his week's earnings paid later in the evening, Sundar was desperate for a morsel of food. Struck with giddiness and yet only after much contemplation, he decided to ask for some food at the next door he called. For one who has been a doctor in Sri Lanka and comfortably placed in society, it was a very hard decision to ask for food; virtually to beg for some viand. He felt the whole world had come to an end and even wondered whether God had abandoned him. He felt like what Valluaver had said (Couplet 1062):

If he that shaped the world desires that men should begging go,

Through life's long course, let him a wanderer be and perish!

From the translation of the Rev G U Pope translation

Let the maker of the world wander and perish, if he ordains men to beg and live here

- Yogi Shuddhananda Bharathi

Summoning up enough courage he laboriously slogged to the next door on his peddling route. And when he knocked on the door, an attractive and friendly middle-aged lady answered.

Sundar for a moment lost his nerves to ask for food. He was used to do charity for others, but never received from others. His pride deeply bruised and with great hesita-

tion, meekly asked for a glass of water, instead as he had planned, for some food. The lady, however realizing that he must be both hungry and tired working on his long and monotonous rounds, went inside and came back with a glass of cold milk straight from the fridge.

Sundar slowly sipped the full glass of milk with gratitude shown all over his face. It was to him, at that moment, the best drink he ever had in his life. In a strange land, here was a lovely lady with a heart of gold who offered him a glass of milk when he asked only for a glass of water. He wasn't sure whether it was an act of benevolence on her part or he should offer to pay for it. Timidly, he asked her how much he owed. Responding with a sweet smile that was both natural and spontaneous, she said: "You owe me nothing. Our mother has taught us never to accept pay for kindness. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to show kindness. Hope you have a great day vending your wares."

Sundar looked up at the beautiful face and said, "Madam, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you for your kindness".

As he stepped on the pavement to continue his day, he wandered what wonderful folks the Canadians were. It is the average citizen who makes the fabric of the country and not some politicians who are always in the news. Sundar, not only felt strong, but his faith in God and humanity was also renewed. Only a few moments ago he was ready to curse God for his fate and even give up the struggle in this wonderful country. But with renewed confidence Sundar resolved to pursue his dream to practice as a doctor in Canada for which he was highly qualified already in Sri Lanka.

Years rolled on and this beautiful lady was getting older and older. One day she came to know she was stricken with deadly cancer. After a lengthy treatment, giving up hope at the local hospital, she was transferred to a regional hospital for treatment.

There she was referred to the senior oncologist, Dr Sam Sundar. He went through her file and suddenly noticed she was from the same part of Toronto where he had peddled for a utility company for a living when he came to Canada as a refugee. With all



sorts of memories bouncing back in his heart, he went up to see the patient.

He walked down the long hallway to the room of the patient with events of his struggling days living in a ghetto apartment reeling by from one to another. He couldn't help but wipe the tiny teardrop out gently and tapped at the door and walked in. One look at the patient's face, he realized it was the same lady who had given him the magic potion of milk, certainly a turning point in his life. She was oblivious of the past and unaware of the identity of the doctor. Sundar resolved at that moment itself that he would give all his worth to save this wonderful woman who, to him, had become a kind of guardian angel. And who said angels have wings!

He gave prompt instructions that she be transferred to a special care unit and indicated very clearly to the administrative department that all bills should be referred to his personal attention for settlement. After a long struggle with cancer, she slowly recovered and one day it was time for her to get back to her home.

Her husband had come to take her back and also all in readiness to settle the hospital bills that had bloated up to a tidy sum. Seated together in the room, the couple wondered how much they would be asked to pay in full settlement. The nurses suggested to the husband go to the administrative department and take care of the paper work to get the discharge. She suggested he could then come for his wife to go home.

He returned very shortly with a surprised look on his face and an envelope in his hand and said: "Darling, the doctor had settled the payments, and at the office they gave me only this envelope." Together they opened the envelope with great anticipation and wonder. Going through the invoices at the bottom found a note:

"Paid in full with a Glass of Milk" - (Signed) Dr. Sam Sundar.

They couldn't fathom the mystery behind this act and decided to personally thank the doctor for his benevolence and also for the reasons behind his generosity. When they knocked at the door and walked into his office

only the secretary was there. She had been already told about what had happened in the life of the doctor some years ago. Seeing the couple she immediately got up from the seat with respect and told them they can walk right into his consultation room.

Dr. Sundar got up from his seat and welcomed them with a smiling face and warmly shook their hands. After thanking him, they asked why he had offered to pay their hospital bills and what was behind the note scribbled about 'glass of milk' and signed by him.

Sitting back leisurely, Dr Sundar recounted the incident in great detail and how desperate he was at that moment. He told them that act of kindness impacted on his life deeply; equally his views on humanity positively. He thanked her for her kindness done without any expectations and said: "Madam, meter of a person is how that person treats someone who cannot do good in return. I used to shiver what I would have been if I had not met you, my guardian angel".

And he became emotional, turned aside pretending to look at a file and secretly wiped a tear off his face. There were tears of joy in the eyes of the elderly couple. The lady spontaneously walked around the table and hugged the doctor. There was a moment of silence that cannot be categorized; it was a spontaneous silent expression of feelings that are deeply human and rarely experienced. Finally the lady broke the ice and invited the doctor to their home, not for vending but as guest with the family. He smiled and replied, "any time for a good Glass of milk I will be there".

"A timely benefit-though thing of little worth the gift itself, in excellence transcends the earth." -Rev G.U Pope (202)

Though small, a timely help in need is much greater than the world at large. - Yogi Shuddhanada Bharathi.

"Each benefit to those of actions' fruit, who rightly deem, Though small as millet-seed, as palm-tree vast will seem." Re G U Pope (104)

Though small like a millet-seed, a good done in need is considered great in effect like tall Palmyra. - Yogi Shuddhananda Bharathi.

To contact Kumar Punithavel; kumpunithavel@yahoo.com

RBC hosted Citizenship Ceremony for Canada's newest Citizens

A South Asian family shows off their gift of evergreen seedlings after becoming some of Canada's newest citizens on Canada Day in Toronto. They were among 76 people from 24 countries to become Canadian citizens at a special Canada Day citizenship ceremony at Harbourfront Centre, which is also part of the RBC World Routes festival.

This is the first citizenship ceremony that RBC supported and RBC anticipated this to become a year round tradition at other ceremonies across Canada. "Our clients and our employees come from all over the world which is why we are committed to the suc-

cess of new Canadians," said RBC Chief Human Resources Officer, Zabeen Hirji. "It is a privilege to share in this milestone with Canada's newest citizens as they begin their journey as Canadians."

"RBC has been and continues to be very outspoken on the important role immigration plays in Canada's social, cultural and economic development," added Mark Whitmell, RBC Cultural Markets Director. "We are also challenging ourselves and others to do more to support the success of new Canadians."

RBC is also the presenting sponsor of Harbourfront Centre's World Routes 2007, a summer-

long multicultural music festival that also showcases local and national film, dance and crafts. It also hosted the RBC Discovery Zone where visitors were able to map their cultural roots, answered interesting Canadian Trivia and entered a contest to win \$1000 shopping voucher at HBC, Future Shop or Esso.

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Computek College conducted its Annual Graduation Day on July 4th, 2007 at the Delta Hotel.

(Former Sheraton, Scarborough)

Over a hundred students of both the Kennedy & Eglinton campus and the Kennedy & Sheppard campus graduated in the field of Business, Healthcare and Technology. Graduates who spoke on behalf of the graduating class thanked the college for providing them with the hands-on training and experience necessary to excel in today's labour market.

The Director, Dr. Tham Vasanthakumar, welcomed the students, teachers and special guests. Special Guests included the Ontario Minister of Revenue, Honorable Mr. Michael Chan, who spoke of the important contribution that immigrants have made to Ontario's economic growth and development. He was followed by the Chief Guest Ontario Minister of Government Services, the Honorable Mr. Gerry Phillips who reflected on graduation as a milestone in the lives

of the students and their families. The Ministers then awarded diplomas to the graduates.

Guests of Honor included Professor Lyn Geddes, McMaster University, Hamilton, Professor Elagu Elagupillai, Carlton University, Ottawa, Ms. Zana Dragovic, Program Manager, AAAC.

The evening ended with a reception held in honor of the graduating students. Computek College graduates currently work as Personal Support Workers, Early Childcare Assistants, Accounting Assistants, Office Administrators and Network Administrators organized the formation of the Alumni Association. For further information regarding Computek Colleges Programs & Alumni Association, please contact 416-285-9941 or 416-321-9911.



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Graduates seated to be honored



Ontario Ministers Hon. Gerry Phillips and Hon. Michael Chan with Dr. Vasanthakumar and a graduate

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Monsoon Arts



A Lankan in Post-Maoist Beijing

by K.S.Sivakumaran

Have you read the English translation of the Sinhala novel, "Nandithaya"?

If not, please read it. I shall tell why we should do that in a moment.

But before that, we should know something about the novelist and the translator. They are both women and are extremely talented people. They are bilingual.

The English title of the book is "Chameleon" and it is published by Sarasavi Publishers in Nugegoda.

The women concerned are Sunethra Rajakarunanayake and Vijita Fernando. I know these two ladies who are well known in Lankan literary circles. I know them personally. But it is better to quote some authority figure, the respected English / Sinhala scholar, Dr.Lakshmi de Silva to know more about Sunethra and Vijita.

On Sunetra: "The author of the original work "Nandithaya" (note how the stately serenity of the name which signifies 'pleasant' is destabilized by the derisory, ya) is Sunethra Rajakarunanayake, whose MSS of a collection of short stories 'Sambol Plus' was short listed in 2004 for the Gratiaen Award. Her earlier collection of short stories "Attaining Age" won the State Literary Award in 1997. Yasmine Gooneratne in "Celebrating Sri

Lanka Women's Writing" (WERC 2002) describes her as '... much traveled... an overtly feminist journalist whose stories are sophisticated, feisty and funny ... A Sinhala novelist whose writing is sexually frank. Her English stories are interestingly cosmopolitan' "

On Vijita Fernando: " Vijita Fernando, herself the author of such compelling short stories as "Circle of Power" and "Wedding in the Family" won the Gratiaen Award as well as the State literary Award for "Out of the Darkness, her acute and sensitive translation of Gunadasa Amarasekera's sequences, "Asathya Kathawak" and "Premaye Sathya Kathawa". The quality of her work had already been acknowledged in 2001 by the presentation of the State Literary Award for Women Writing", her collection of 25 short stories which reflects the individual styles of the original writers with marvelous dexterity"

I like this novel because: it is set in a foreign locale - Beijing in Post -Maoist and Cultural Revolution China; the characters are all women and the points of view are all from the women's stances and written by a woman who had lived in China; the central character, however, is a Lankan Sinhala Male, who is intrinsically good or maybe he is a scheming exploiter; the novel is cosmopolitan; it provides

glimpses of the aftermath of the decadent cultural revolution which did a lot of damage to the greatness of China; it is an expose' of fakes; and the like.

The book has 210 pages and has five chapters. Except the last one, the rest of the chapters are absorbing and I read them straight without stopping. The last chapter was somewhat boring to me because, I couldn't understand the significance of it at first reading. You might like to know how the chapters captioned: Sojourn in Beijing, Bunsiri from Thailand, Gabriella Meets Sri Lankan. Apples for Bala, and a Folk Song from Beijing.

Incidentally, this Bala is a Thamilian from Chennai in India. Sunterra makes him speak in his own words and typical South Indian fashion. At least that how the novelist sees a Thamilian from her woman point of view.

I must point out here that the Thamil words that are used here and there are written with wrong spellings and this looks unreal, while the novel is an imaginative creative writing in a realistic canvas.

I think the characters are well drawn. However, let's go back to Lakshmi to see how she has read the novel:

"'Nandithaya' presents a crowded canvas filled with characters of many nationalities tenuously linked by loneliness and the need for social warmth in the immensity of a prosperous, consumerist Beijing. Among these are three women, Thai, American and Indian, whose interaction is confined to an occasional shared meal, going shopping or sightseeing and laughing together over the experiences and acquaintances they have in common. Outside this group is Shange, a native who has lived through political, economic and social change; as she sank into the water, fragrant with bath salts in the sunken bath at her friend Dingling's home, and views the jade green tortoises on its steps, she visualizes the doorless common toilet they used as children. All these women,

excluding the cool self-reverent Kiran, have separated from dishonest and brutal husbands; Gabriella, the Italian scholar likewise broken free from an exploitative Chinese lover, but does not know where or whether to go..."

"Into this footloose and fancy free community erupts the anarchic Nanditha, a Sri Lankan"

Now this Nanditha, feel, is an enigmatic character. I think the novelist has succeeded in exposing chameleons like Nanditha who are cool villains in a society, not necessarily Lankan.

Here are some passages from the novel to show you both the writer's imaginative description and the translator's rendition into English. They are chosen at random:

"The Sri Lankan man had read somewhere that in Beijing the broad highways on which luxury cars travel are getting broader. Some time back the question had been asked at a gathering of environmentalists at a hotel in Colombo, why Sri Lanka couldn't use only bicycles as they do in Cuba and in China. He remembered this and smiled to himself."

Professor Nanditha came into our midst dressed in a red checked sarong and collarless, short sleeved shirt of the same material. A gold chain peeped through the opening in the shirt. All the women hugged him and expressed their joy at meeting him. Kiran, who had just come in, put her palms together and greeted him with a "Namaste". I stretched out my right hand.

"One hand is not enough...for Asian Buddhist friendship, both hands are needed" Nanditha said

gripping both my hands and looking deep into my eyes.

"My dreams have all been shattered and broken...I married twice. Both were mistakes. I think that men give beautiful promises. whisper words to read your hear, not because they are false. At the moment they say those words maybe they too really believe them. Whatever it is, I will not trust an American or an Italian. Never again!"

When it was close to the time he was to leave for China, the Sri Lankan man had read in a copy of "China Today" that in 1979 there were 230 million poor in China. But now it says there are only 30 million. How could they have crossed over the development disasters of Mao's time and the madness of the Cultural Revolution?"

People who are old now have gone through every tribulation. We have suffered the insults of the Red Guards languished in prison, and went through a time when we dared not honestly open our mouths even on some happy occasion. So let the old people have a little happiness before they die. I am now too old. Or else I too would have got married" Grandfather started saying this to everyone everywhere in a loud voice.

This novel explores traits in characters of women and men coming from different cultural backgrounds in a cosmopolitan word. Besides it also gives us glimpses of today's China.

You will enjoy this novel.

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Monsoon Health



Watch your step

By Mithura Anandarajah

In the winter, we smother ourselves with heavy coats, toasty gloves and warm insulated bulky boots. We can't wait to put them away and pull out the shorts and tees. What we look forward to most of all, is to slip on those sandals. Wiggle those toes, slip on those slinky sandals in all colors of the rainbow. Or, if you belong to the male species, grab those flip flops and let's see some leg. Girls, this is the time to deck those toes in magenta pink or metallic blue. Boys, this is the time to cut those toenails. It is probably the only time in the year that we actually pay attention to our feet. Unfortunately, this attention is mostly superficial skin deep. Only when each step is painful and agonizingly slow, do we stop and really take care of our feet.

Did you know that about one quarter of all the bones in your body are down in your feet? Made up of 26 bones, 33 joints, 107 ligaments and 19 muscles, each foot bears the weight of your body on a daily basis. The average person takes approximately 10,000 steps a day, which adds up to about 115,000 miles

over a lifetime. When neglected and not cared for, your feet can reflect your general health. What can result is improper body alignment, skin conditions and painful steps. At some point in our lives, we can relate to painful steps. It could be after dancing for three hours in high heels, or it could be caused by working and standing for over eight hours. Painful feet and foot conditions affect every part of our daily activities. Thankfully, most of these can be prevented or treated. A chiropodist or podiatrist specializes in the intricacies of feet and their care. Early intervention can cure, treat or minimize the symptoms of many conditions. Recommendation of proper foot care will also facilitate this process.

The following are some conditions often treated by these professionals.

INGROWN TOENAILS:

Ingrown toenails are common painful conditions that occur when the skin on the side of the toenail grows over the edge of the nail, or when the nail grows into the skin. They can develop for many reasons. Sometimes, the toenails are simply too large.

Trauma, such as stubbing a toe, can cause a piece of the nail to jam into the skin. Tight footwear or foot deformities can contribute to this condition. Ingrown toenails can be extremely painful and cause swelling. Sometimes, an infection can occur. Uninfected ingrown toenails can be treated by following this regimen:

- ✍ Soak the feet in warm soapy or salt water
- ✍ Dry them thoroughly with a clean towel
- ✍ Apply an antiseptic solution and bandage the toe.

If an infection occurs or if there is excessive swelling or discharge develops, it should be treated by a Chiropodist, who can trim or remove the nail with a minor office surgical procedure. The best way to prevent this condition is to wear comfortable shoes that fit adequately and trim the nail regularly straight across at a comfortable length.

WARTS

Plantar warts are benign growths that occur on the sole, heel or ball of the foot. The human papilloma virus (HPV) causes several different types of warts, which are the most common type of skin infection. This



virus thrives in moist areas like bathroom showers or locker room floors. It enters the body through open cracks or sores; it remains there to cause infection and spreads if the feet are not washed and dried after exposure. Signs and symptoms include hard, raised areas on the sole of the foot; black dots may be seen or have a "cauliflower" appearance. Infections can be mild or severe; pain can be caused by pressure on the foot on the painful areas. Thorough washing with soap and drying of feet will help prevent infection and re-infection. Wear protective footwear in public areas with high risk of holding the virus, such as public showers, locker rooms etc. Once the warts develop, surgical care may be required to reduce the wart, followed by a chemical treatment to kill the virus. This treatment

should only be done by your Chiropodist.

CORNS and CALLUSES

Calluses are areas of thickened skin caused by repeated friction and pressure. They form to protect the skin and the structures beneath it from injury or damage. They can form on the sole of the foot, on the heel, or under the five metatarsal heads. These areas typically bear most of the pressure and friction from standing and walking. As the callus thickens, it causes additional pressure against the skin inside the shoe, resulting in pain. Corns are dead skin cells that build up and harden to form a callus-like point that presses on the nerve below. Calluses and corns occur as the body's natural response to continued friction and pressure points. Poorly fitting shoes or abnormal gait can result in callus or corn formation. If left untreated in people with diabetes or circulatory problems, they can lead to foot ulcers. Custom made orthotics can help correct structural foot problems causing corns and calluses. Special padding may be required to reduce pressure areas. Your Chiropodist can provide footwear advice and treatment options. Never try to remove these structures with a razor blade or sharp instrument.

Continued in Page 49

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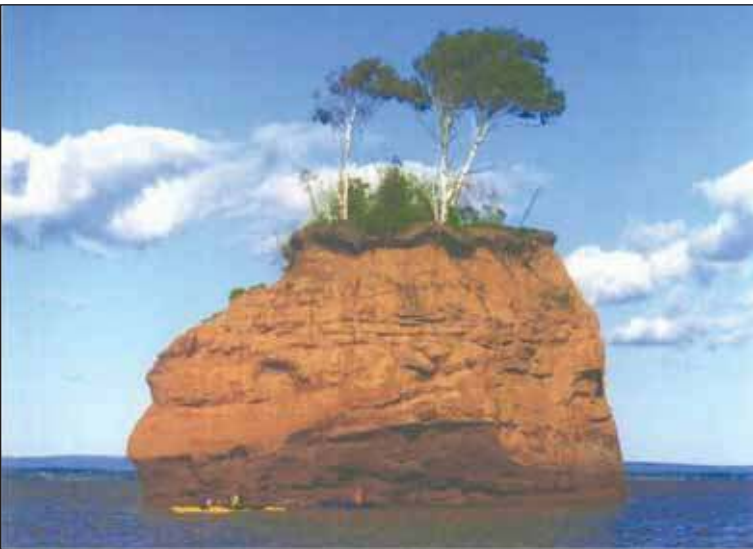
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Medical Tourism, mainly revolves around patients and their families visiting the Tamil Nadu's best hospitals for world-class services, which are cost effective. From all over India and other parts of the globe, thousands of health tourists are coming to Tamilnadu to avail the medicare of expert doctors.

Conventionally, Medical Tourism also spans the prestigious medical colleges and institutions of the State. Students and research scholars are attracted to Tamilnadu's superior medical education standards.

The Wellness Tourism also promotes our indigenous motifs of yoga, meditation, siddha, ayurveda... all of which aim at preventing the root cause of disease well before they manifest themselves as physical ailments.

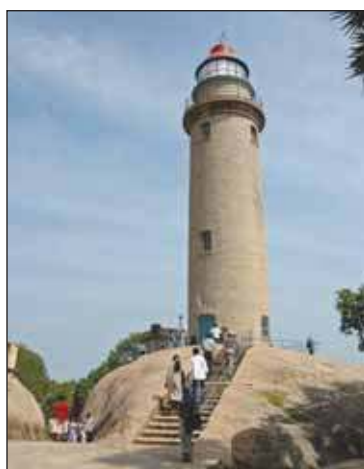
The state offers a wealth of world class medical infrastructure and knowledge-power that is being leveraged effectively for Medical Tourism.

Tamilnadu offers an enchanting array of fascinating tourist destinations for tourists who care about their health. Multi-speciality hospitals, catering to treatment



for people from all over the world are now much sought after. Several Tourist resorts in Mamallapuram and other places offer facilities of Ayurvedic medicare which can be compared to the best anywhere.

Govt. of India has announced a new category of 'Medical Visas' for the convenience of 'Health Tourists'. Indian Missions in various countries may be contacted for details, and procedure for obtaining medical visas'.

[tamilnadutourism.org]




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Canadian Tamil youth wins prestigious Science award

A Srilankan born Tamil student has become the first Canadian ever to win the Sanofi-Aventis International Biogenius challenge competition in Boston, USA and receive \$7500 US award. He competed against 13 other student presenters from US and one from Canada.

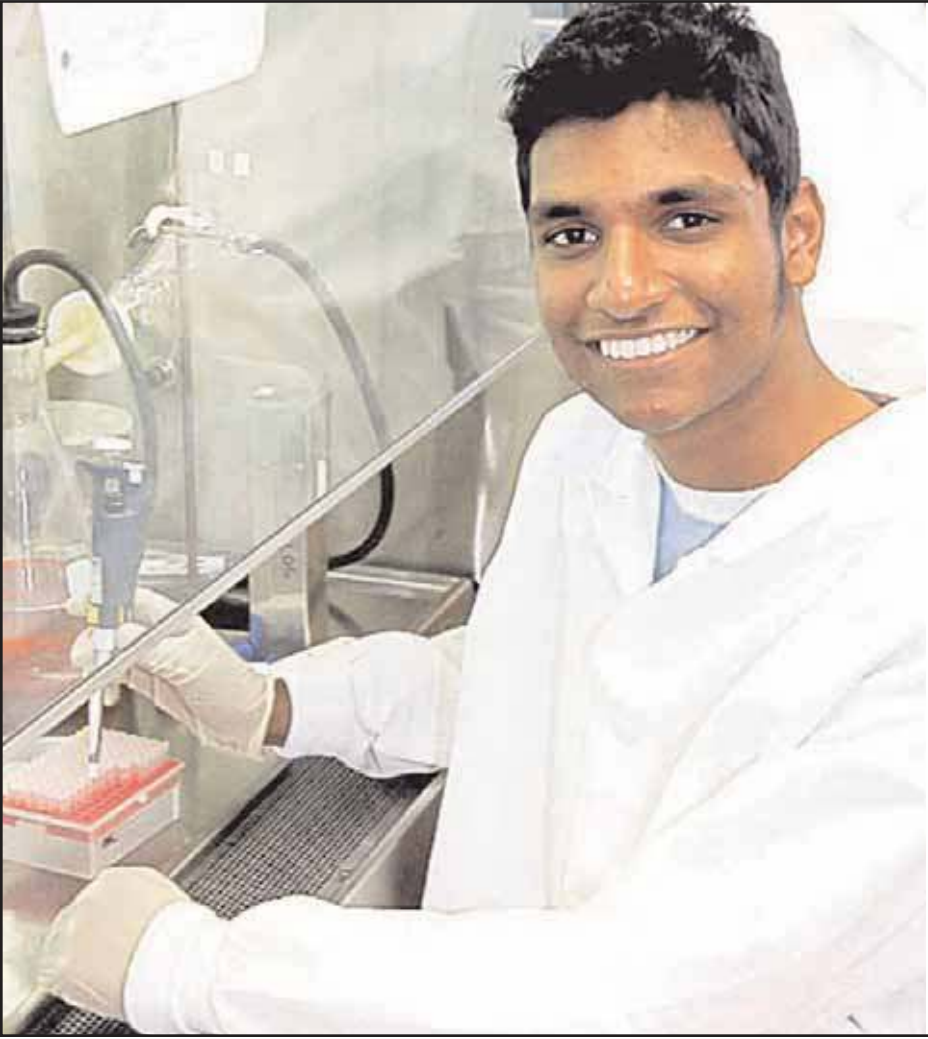
Ted Paranjothy, 18, a grade 12 student at Fort Richmond Collegiate in Winnipeg, Manitoba was recently awarded first place overall in the Senior competition for his

Collegiate in Winnipeg.

But he is also spurred on by the memory of a childhood friend who died of leukemia. When he was five, she would come to school each day wearing a hat to hide the effects of chemotherapy.

"One day she wasn't there any more," he said. His parents explained to him she had passed away. It was the first time he had heard the word cancer.

His father, Sel Paranjothy, remembered



project "Lockdown on Cancer; Molecular Characterization of Novel Anticancer Compounds" His project was judged the best high school biotech project in North America. He also represented the province of Manitoba in the Canada wide SABC event in May.

Ted recently won the Manitoba Association of School Trustees (MAST) Student Citizenship Award on behalf of the Pembina Trails School Division (PTSD). The award included a monetary prize of \$500.00 and a formal reception.

In MAY 2006, Ted was recognized with both a Manning Innovation Achievement Award and a Manning Young Canadian Innovation Award for his cancer-related research project at the Canada-Wide Science Fair at University of Québec at Chicoutimi campus.

Ted's project, "Novel Tumour-Specific Apoptosis-Inducing Derivatives of Apoptin" demonstrated that peptide derivatives of apoptin, a small amino acid protein extracted from the chicken anemia virus, can be used to induce programmed cell death in cancer cells without harming healthy, normal cells. He demonstrated that smaller peptide fragments of apoptin can be effective, thus opening the door to future research with this anti-cancer agent.

He also holds a full patent for an anti-cancer agent, has coauthored two articles that have appeared in scientific journals, was declared the top student bioscientist in North America and was recently awarded a \$60,000 TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Community Leadership.

It just comes out of a genuine curiosity of nature, more than anything else," he said between classes at Fort Richmond

the vow his son made to eradicate the disease.

"[Ted] said, 'Someone should find a way to [cure] cancer,' " recalled Mr. Paranjothy. "He said when he grows up, he'll find a way to stop cancer."

Ted hasn't forgotten his pledge, and now the Winnipeg teen devotes his life to fighting the disease.

"Why, after all these years and after all this money and people's support, how come there's no cure?" he asked. "So to find a solution, I thought I'd go on the front lines and do some research myself."

For Ted, the front lines are a university laboratory where groundbreaking research is being done. For the past two years, Ted has worked with his mentor, Dr. Marek Los, an associate professor in the department of biochemistry and medical genetics at the University of Manitoba and CFI Canada Research Chair in New Cancer Therapies.

Before joining the lab, Dr. Los first gauged Ted's abilities by having him write an exam designed for PhD student candidates. He passed.

"That was kind of an indication that he's good," Dr. Los said. "He's basically being treated as a PhD student already."

A football player and high school council president, and co-author of three articles published in professional peer-reviewed scientific journals, Paranjothy was recognized again June 7, entering the 2007 Youth in Motion Top 20 Under 20 award and mentoring programme for young Canadians who have demonstrated significant levels of innovation, achievement and leadership.



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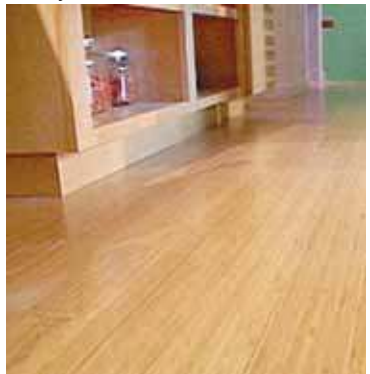
Green Building on the Rise

By Jeff Swicord

As energy prices continue to rise, more and more housing consumers in the U.S. are looking for ways to save money on home energy costs.

From high-rise apartment buildings to single-family homes, so-called "green building" is the hottest trend in architectural design today. Simply put, green building takes into account the energy efficiency of the design and the environmental sustainability of the materials used.

Susan Piedmont-Palladino is an architect and curator at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. She explains the concept of green building. "Green building is thinking about where it comes from and where it goes. That goes for the material as well as the energy. How are you getting the energy, what systems are you using to heat your house and cool your house? And where are



the waste products going to end up?"

The National Building Museum has assembled part of a green house designed by California architect Michele Kaufman as part of its exhibit on green building. Susan Palladino points out some

of its green features. "The first one to notice is this generous overhang."

The exterior of the house is designed to maximize or limit solar exposure during different times of the year. "This overhang keeps the high summer sun off the glass. And then the sun in the winter is, of course, a little bit lower. The sun in the winter can slide or glide, it is The Glide House, can glide right under the overhang and warm up the interior," Piedmont-Palladino says.

The materials and design inside the house are equally important to its green character. The exhibition emphasizes the choices people make when building, designing and furnishing a home. "Some of the furniture is eco resin, which is a recycled material. And all of the upholsteries, the fabrics, they minimize out-gassing, minimize sort of nasty toxins that are sometimes hidden in the things we buy."

The flooring is made of bamboo, which is the fastest-growing plant on the earth and considered a renewable resource. The lighting in the house is all fiber-optic, which gives off less heat than a conventional light bulb. "And it consumes vastly less energy than typical lighting."

The kitchen countertops are made from recycled paper.

The U.S. Green Building Council is an organization made up of representatives from the building industry. It has come up with something called LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certifica-



tion. LEED Certification is a way of measuring green design performance.

"The dishwasher and the washer are both Energy Star appliances which reduces the energy consumption..."

The Alta, a new condominium development by builder P.N. Hoffman in Washington D.C., is the first LEED certified condominium development in the city.

Shawn Seaman is a vice president with P. N. Hoffman. He has been interested in the green building concept for many years. He says it was not hard to convince his company that green was the way to go with the Alta project.

"It has actually been a benefit for the company because it has been a marketable feature. And it separates us from the competition."

Consumer demand for green is increasing and other builders in Washington plan to offer green projects. Susan Piedmont Palladino says the next step is to design entire green communities that are self-sufficient and generate their own renewable energy.

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Monsoon Food Court



Taste of Thai

By Nate V

"Thai Cuisine known for its balance of five fundamental Flavors each dish or the overall meal - hot (spicy), sour, sweet, salty and bitter (optional). Although popularly considered as a single cuisine, Thai food is really better described as four regional cuisines corresponding to the four main regions of the country: Northern, Northeastern, Central and Southern, Southern curries, for example, tend to contain coconut milk and fresh turmeric, while northeastern dishes often include lime juice.

Thai food is known for its enthusiastic use of fresh (rather than dried) herbs and spices as well as fish sauce.

Thai food is popular in many Western countries especially in Australia, New Zealand, some countries in Europe such as the United Kingdom, as well as the United States, and Canada. Instead of a single main course with side dishes found in Western cuisine, a Thai full meal typically consists of either a single dish or rice with many complementary dishes served concurrently.

Rice is a staple component of



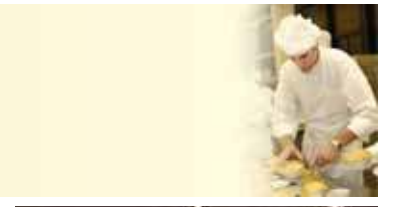
Thai cuisine, as it is of most Asian cuisines. The highly prized, sweet-smelling jasmine rice is indigenous to Thailand. This naturally aromatic long-grained rice grows in abundance in the verdant patchwork of paddy fields that blanket Thailand's central plains. Its aroma bears no resemblance to the sweet smell of jasmine blossoms, but like jasmine flowers, this rice is precious and

fragrant, a small everyday delight. Steamed rice is accompanied by highly aromatic curries, stir-fry and other dishes, incorporating sometimes large quantities of chilies, lime juice and lemon grass. Curries stir-fry and others may be poured onto the rice creating a single dish called khao rad gang, a popular meal when time is limited. Sticky rice is a unique variety of rice that contains an unusual balance of the starches present in all rice, causing it to cook up to a pleasing sticky texture. It is the daily bread of Laos and substitutes ordinary rice in rural Northern and Northeastern Thai cuisine, where Lao cultural influence is strong. Noodles, known throughout parts of Southeast Asia by the Chinese name kwaytiow, are popular as well but usually come as a single dish, like the stir-fried Pad Thai or noodle soups. Many Chinese cuisines are adapted to suit Thai taste, such as kwaytiow rue, a

sour and spicy rice noodle soup.

There is uniquely Thai dish called nam prik which refers to a chili sauce or paste. Each region has its own special versions. It is prepared by crushing together chilies with various ingredients such as garlic and shrimp paste using a mortar and pestle. It is then often served with vegetables such as cucumbers, cabbage and yard-long beans, either raw or blanched. The vegetables are dipped into the sauce and eaten with rice. Nam prik may also be simply eaten alone with rice or, in a bit of Thai and Western fusion, spread on toast.

Thai food is generally eaten with a fork and a spoon. Chopsticks are used rarely, primarily for the consumption of noodle soups. The fork, held in the left hand, is used to shovel food into the spoon. However, it is common practice for Thais and hill tribe peoples in the North and Northeast to eat sticky rice with



their right hands by making it into balls that are dipped into side dishes and eaten. Thai-Muslims also frequently eat meals with only their right hands.

Often Thai food is served with a variety of spicy condiments to embolden the dish. This can range from dried chili pieces, sliced chili peppers in rice vinegar, to a spicy chili sauce such as the nam prik mentioned above.

The ingredient found in almost all Thai dishes and every region of the country is nam pla, a very aromatic and strong tasting fish sauce. Shrimp paste, a combination of ground shrimp and salt, is also extensively used. Thai dishes in the central and Southern regions use a wide variety of leaves rarely found in the west, such as kaffir lime leaves. Fresh - kaffir lime leaves' characteristic flavor appears in nearly every Thai soup (e.g., the hot and sour Tom Yam) or curry from those areas. It is frequently combined with garlic, galangal, lemon grass, turmeric and/or fingerroot, blended together with liberal amounts of various chilies to make curry paste. Fresh Thai basil is also used to add fragrance in certain dishes such as Green curry. Other typical ingredients include the small green Thai eggplants, tamarind, palm and coconut sugars, lime juice, and coconut milk. A variety of chilies and spicy elements are found in most Thai dishes. Other ingredients also include cilantro, cilantro roots, curry pastes, curry powder, dark soy sauce, dried shrimp, five-spice powder, long beans or yard-long beans, oyster sauce, Thai pepper, rice and tapioca flour, and roasted chili paste.

Any comments to:

chef@monsoonjournal.com



Pad Thai

Serves 4 as a noodle course or 2 as a main course

10 oz Thai rice noodles
1/4 cup tamarind paste
1/4 cup warm water
6 oz skinless, boneless chicken breast
6 oz fried tofu
6 tbsp roasted unsalted peanuts
2 tbsp fish sauce
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp lime juice
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 tsp chopped garlic
8 large shrimps, shelled and deveined (50 oz)
4 eggs
1/2 cup bean sprouts

3 stems green onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
1/2 tsp roasted chilies
Strips of red pepper and green Pepper
Fresh coriander leaves
Wedges of lime

Soak noodles in plenty of cold water for at least 2 hour. Combine tamarind paste with a 1/2 cup warm water in a small bowl and let soak for at least 30 minutes. Slice the chicken into 1/4-inch strips. If you find it difficult to cut thinly through fresh meat, leave it in the freezer for 15-20 minutes to harden slightly and then slice. Reserve. Slice the fried tofu into 3/4-inch cubes. Reserve. Blend or

process peanuts into coarse meal. Reserve. Return to your reserved tamarind paste in its water. Mash it and transfer the mud-like mixture to a strainer set into a bowl. Mash and push with a spoon, forcing liquid to strain into the bowl. Scrape off the juice that clings to the underside of the strainer. You will have about 5 tbsp of tamarind juice. Add to it the fish sauce, sugar and lime juice. Beat to thoroughly mix and reserve. Discard the solids left in the strainer. Heat oil in a wok (or large frying pan) until it is just about to smoke. Add garlic and stir, letting it cook for about 30 seconds. Add chicken and stir-fry for 1 minute. Add tofu and shrimps and stir-fry for 1 more minute. Break eggs into wok and let them fry without breaking them up for 1-2 minutes. While eggs cook, quickly drain the noodles and then add to wok, giving



them a quick fold, stir-frying for 1 minute from the bottom up. Add reserved tamarind juice, etc. (from step #6) and continue stir-frying, mixing everything together for 1-2 minutes. Your noodles will have subsided to half their original volume and softened up to al dente. Add about 2/3 of the reserved ground peanuts and stir. Add about 2/3 of the bean

sprouts and all the green onion pieces. Stir-fry for 30 seconds and take off heat. Transfer noodles to a serving dish and sprinkle with roasted chilies. Top with the rest of the ground peanuts, the rest of the sprouts, some strips of red pepper and fresh coriander leaves. Stick a couple of lime wedges on the side and serve immediately.



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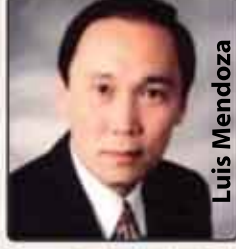
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Anniversary Greetings



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

July 2007

Monsoon Journal First Anniversary

I am pleased to congratulate the staff and readership of the *Monsoon Journal* as you celebrate the newspaper's first anniversary. Your publication has quickly established itself as a strong voice in Canada's South Asian community.

I commend your ongoing commitment to providing Canadians of South Asian descent with a balanced perspective on issues affecting their countries of origin and their adopted home. Canada's multicultural identity is strengthened by these efforts to foster fellowship. The staff and readership of the *Monsoon Journal* can take great pride in the success of your young publication, which is a reflection of the vibrancy of Canada's South Asian community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I extend my best wishes to the staff and readership of the *Monsoon Journal*. I know your publication will continue to thrive as an important forum for the South Asian community.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Premier of Ontario – Premier ministre de l'Ontario

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to congratulate the management, staff and readers of *Monsoon Journal* on the occasion of its first anniversary.

The South Asian community in Ontario has made vital contributions to the economic, social and cultural fabric of our great province. In reading *Monsoon Journal*, Ontarians have the opportunity to learn more about a community that has helped to make our province an even better place.

South Asian Canadians can trace their roots to countries throughout the world. This monthly is an ideal way to help them celebrate their language, culture, history and traditions. I would like to congratulate *Monsoon Journal's* dynamic team for informing, entertaining and inspiring the South Asian community. I am confident this journal will continue to attract a growing number of avid readers.

I offer my sincere best wishes for much ongoing success.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier



Mayor
DAVID MILLER

A Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the publisher, staff and readers of *Monsoon Journal* on the occasion of its 1st anniversary.

Newspapers, magazine and business directories provide useful and important information. *Monsoon Journal* is a well-designed newspaper and trusted resource guide that promotes services in English to the South Asian community.

Ethnic publications that strengthen our communities and contribute to our cultural development are always encouraged and welcomed. Toronto is a city renowned for its rich resource of people from around the world, and we deeply appreciate their contributions to the prosperity, growth and success of our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I congratulate everyone involved with *Monsoon Journal* and offer my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

Mayor David Miller



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Message from Indian High Commission in Canada



MESSAGE


I have great pleasure in extending my greetings and best wishes to all the readers of the *Monsoon Journal* on its first anniversary.

Events in South Asia are moving rapidly and there have been many important developments in the region in terms of politics, the economy, society and foreign policy. Over the last year, the *Monsoon Journal* has kept its readers informed about these developments and provided them with much useful information about what is going on back home.

With its influence, focus and dynamism, the Indo-Canadian community plays a vital role in the development of Indo-Canadian relations. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to them and their families my best wishes for the future.

I wish the publishers, editors and all those associated with the *Monsoon Journal* continued success in the years to come.

[R. L. NARAYAN]



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6th July 2006

The Editor,
Monsoon Journal.

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to the Monsoon Journal on this occasion of its 1st Anniversary.

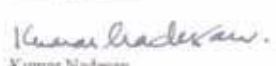
News papers play an important part in the daily lives of individuals - providing reports that impact on the lives of its readers, fostering and nurturing democracy and the values of the free world.






Your newspaper has, in fact, a higher responsibility, in that, it helps build, bind and unify the South Asian Tamil community in Canada. Further, it provides a platform to share news and views and to discuss issues that affect their wellbeing, and shape the country.

The Virakesari recently celebrated 75 years of publication. Established in 1930 to address the needs of the Tamil speaking population in Sri Lanka, the Virakesari has a similar responsibility in safe guarding the rights of the Tamil speaking population. Consequently we share a similarity in mission.


Please convey our good wishes to your Management and staff as we celebrate your past achievements and look forward to your future successes.

With best wishes,


Kumar Nadesan
Managing Director

Message from Deputy Director-Sri Lanka Press Institute



It gives me immense pleasure that the Monsoon Journal is growing fast and gaining successes. One would say that the success of a journal/magazine is not the result of a 'marketing strategy', but a result of the truest generations of readers put in the journal. I see that the Monsoon Journal is getting a great recognition among the Tamil Diaspora community, and I learn that it has a readership of thousands of people in Canada.

It provides valuable and credible information which stood into a very straight and fearless Journalism. I believe that the, the Monsoon Journal will evolve as an example for how a journal must act in the society.

I like this Journal and I wait eagerly every month to read its carryings. It is very informative and interesting. The Monsoon Journal is known for its coverage of political news and national news of Sri Lanka. A general fact is that the truth is the first causality of any war. This is totally true in the case of Sri Lankan ethnic conflict. Therefore, if a foreigner wants to know about the truth of the Sri Lankan conflict, I would recommend them to read 'The Monsoon Journal'. The Monsoon Journal covers a lot of political news and the other happenings in Sri Lanka as well as the socio, political and economic issues of the Tamil Diaspora community in an independent way. This relates to the concept of 'media responsibility', and therefore, tends to be freedom-centered. I like that.

The English grammar, vocabulary and the style of meaning construction of this journal are very good. All the feature articles and the news features reflect a high standard, because well known scholars and Journalists contribute to this. I am equally pleased that my former colleague Mr. Siva Sivapragasam is associated with this journal as an Editorial & Marketing Consultant. His rich and rewarding experience in Journalism & Marketing will be a safe investment for the Publishers of "Monsoon Journal". The Monsoon Journal gives more space for detailed analysis and insight. I see journalistic values in its entries. I hope it sticks that way.

The electronic version of the Monsoon Journal easily reaches into our computer. It is very attractive and easy accessible.

In short, it is a connecting bridge between the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Tamil Diaspora, and also links them to the world through the world language of English.

I wish all the people who have been the driving force behind the success of this journal.

Kalasuri A. Sivanesaselvan
Deputy Director-Sri Lanka Press Institute
Former Chief Editor Virakesari & Thinakural

Monsoon Journal Team Members

Mr. Siva Sivapragasam

Siva Sivapragasam is a Media Professional who graduated from the University of Sri Lanka with an Economics degree. His interest and passion for Journalism made him join Lake House, the largest Newspaper group in



Sri Lanka. At Lake House he worked for the Daily News, the premier English Daily in Sri Lanka in the capacity of Finance Editor for the newspaper. Later he joined the Virakesari Group of Newspapers and functioned as the Secretary & also the Marketing Manager for the Virakesari Group for more than 30 years.

Since his arrival in Canada, Mr. Sivapragasam has continued his Media work and was assisting for "Thamilar Mathiyil", the Tamil Business Directory. He was also a Director of the Canadian Tamils' Chamber of Commerce, handling the Publishing work for the Chamber. He is the Editorial & Marketing Consultant for Monsoon Journal.

Mr. Sivapragasam possesses several years of Media experience.

Mr. Raymond Rajabalan

Raymond Rajabalan completed his early education at St. Anthony's college, Kayts, in Jaffna, his birth place. He had his Pre-University education at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. He is an Honours Degree graduate in Natural Science, from The University of Peradeniya. He began his teaching career at Kandy St. Anthony's and later taught at St. Peter's College, Colombo.

He continued to serve as Additional



Chief Examiner for GCE A/L Exam in Botany, in Sri Lanka. Receiving an overseas contract, he served in Nigeria for 6 years with that country's Civil Service Commission. He was appointed Chief Examiner - Biology, by the West African Examinations Council.

He moved to Canada in 1986 and completed a 3year course in Diploma in Accounting and worked in a leading manufacturing firm for 15 years.

During that time he developed an interest in Broadcast Journalism, worked as News broadcaster for Geethavani and has contributed articles for several Sri Lankan newspapers in Canada for the past few years.

Currently he is serving as an Editorial Executive for Monsoon Journal and regularly contributes articles on a wide variety of topics, in addition to his employment as an Accounts Administrator.

Mr. Kumar Punithavel

Kumar Punithavel has had a long and varied career. After working in Sri Lanka and Nigeria as an Engineer, he migrated to Canada in 1986 with his wife and two children. Starting afresh in Canada, he began by opening a Sri Lankan grocery store. Following this, he pursued various other trades. He is currently in self imposed retirement due to personal reasons. He started writing articles about Hinduism out of necessity, as he wanted to impart the rich traditions and culture of the Sri Lankan Tamil Hindus to the next generation. What began as a hobby has now become a passion. He is a regular contributor to the Monsoon Journal and other

Torontonian Newspapers.

Mr. Anand Jayachandran

Anand Jayachandran, is working full time with 'The Globe and Mail'. It was his wish to step into journalism that made him contribute to Monsoon



Journal a year ago. He continues to contribute to Monsoon Journal in the Cinema section with Tidbits, film news, gossips and Film reviews. One of his articles was recently published in 'Desi Life', a magazine from Toronto Star. Having immense passion for the cine world since his childhood, Anand wishes to pursue Cine Journalism if time permits and may be flag that off as his retirement plan.

Mr. Kuhan Velumailum

Kuhan Velumailum, nicknamed as Chefnate, has spent the last 20 years pursuing his passion in global cuisine. He



is currently working as an Executive Chef for a world renowned Hospitals System. In his spare time he has dedicated to contribute for Monsoon Journal, writing articles about various global cuisines and introducing a variety of recipes. Kuhan Velumailum always wishes to continue the exploration of the taste of sumptuous world cuisine.

Mr. Gnane B. Gnanendran

Gnane Gnanendran is an ex merchant marine officer and served the trade for 7 years before migrating to



Canada in 1987. He is currently employed as an IT support specialist at a leading consulting engineering firm in the GTA. In his spare time he does desktop publishing and photography. He has contributed his services to most of the community newspapers and magazines since 1994. He is also involved performing in cultural events - as MC (in Tamil), singer and drama artist. He is true asset to the development of Monsoon Journal not only in Graphics and Layout but also in many ways such as covering events, design, etc.

Mr. Santosh Kumar

Santosh Kumar is a graduate in Statistics from Loyola College, Chennai, India and has an MBA in Marketing



(Advertising & Sales Promotion). He has completed his Diploma in Digital Visual Communication and Prepress. He has 5 years experience working in the Advertising sector in India and Middle East. He is now responsible for the layout design for Monsoon Journal and has helped in improving the appearance and style of the paper immensely. He has been working in Canada for the past 2 Years and his experience in Graphics is helping Monsoon Journal to develop further.

Mr. Rudy Ruthran

Rudy Ruthran has been in the field of Audio and Video Technology and has served many customers at many events for well over 15 years. As technology changes Rudy developed himself strategically and positioned himself to tackle any major events. Rudy is also a Realtor and helps Monsoon Journal in produc-



tion, introducing new ideas and also covering events.

Mr. S. S. Mathavan

Mathavan, soft spoken and gentle, is well known for his 'always willing to give a helping hand by nature' - to



everyone around his circle. He moved to Canada in 1989 and always ready with this helping spirit. When monsoon journal was looking for assistance in distribution, he voluntarily came forward and helped in circulation. Currently he is pursuing a career as a licensed driving instructor and of course, helps as the circulation coordinator of Monsoon Journal.

Other Monsoon Journal Team Members are Promotions Coordinator S. Senthivel and contributing Columnists K. Thirukumar, Ram Nambiar, Tony Navaneelan, Mithura Anandarajah, Puvy Vivekanathavel, Krishni Logan & Shiyam Logan.

"Together everyone achieves more"



Logan Velumailum
Publisher

Chalangothaiyam School of Dance

20th Annual Program held at Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto

Srimathi Nirmala Suresh, Director and Principal teacher of Salangothayam performed her Arangetram at the young age of fourteen, under the tutelage of Leela Narayan, a well known exponent of Bharatha Natyam in Jaffna.. Nirmala continued

her studies with Dr. Srimathi Padma Subramaniam, one of the greatest living exponents of the art of Bharatha Natyam. Salangothayam enters its twentieth year of teaching the South East Asian children of

Ontario the ancient and venerated art of Bharatha Natyam.

As in the past two years Srimathy Nirmala Suresh was assisted by Mr. Srikanth a renowned dance teacher from Tamil Nadu, India, and he is also a student of Srimathi Padma Subramaniam. The choreography of the dance ensemble was developed by

Srimathi Nirmala Suresh in collaboration with Mr.Srikanth and it ranges from traditional

Bharathanatyam to folk dances and dances from other parts of India.



Growing Support to Mr.Samy Appadurai

Mr. Samy Appadurai, PC Candidate for Scarborough Centre was invited to the celebration of 1st anniversary of the Canadian Government's head tax apology and address to the Chinese Canadian Community,

Organized by the Chinese Canadian Conservative Association on June 22,2007 in Markham .

Hon. Jason Kenny, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity was the keynote speaker at the event.

Many party candidates, supporters and volunteers were present.



Saravana Bhavan's opening in Richmond Hill



So you are living in a Common-law Relationship???

Superficial loss

Any capital loss on a capital asset that is sold and repurchased by the individual or that individual's spouse or common-law partner within 30 days from the date of sale is denied and added to the adjusted cost base of the repurchased asset.

This rule applies to common-law partners who, in the past, were able to sell a security with an accrued loss between themselves for fair market value consideration in order to realize the capital loss. This planning is no longer available to same-sex partners.

Principal residence exemption

A principal residence is generally a residence that is owned by a taxpayer and was inhabited during the year by the individual or certain family members. A gain on the sale of a principal residence is exempt from tax. Since 1982, married or common-law couples could designate only one property between them as a principal residence. Prior to the introduction of the same-sex legislation, a same-sex couple was able to "double-up" on the principal residence exemption, and shelter a gain on both a city home as well as a cottage or vacation property, as each partner could claim one such property as his or her principal residence. This opportunity is no longer available.

Home Buyers' Plan (HBP)

The HBP is a plan that permits first time homebuyers to withdraw funds from an RRSP for the purchase of a home, without the withdrawal being included in income. A first-time home buyer is an individual who has not occupied a principal residence owned either by him/her or by his/her spouse or common-law partner during the period that begins January 1 five years prior to the year of withdrawal and ends 31 days before the withdrawal.

Same-sex partners are now governed by this rule; this may hamper the ability of same-sex partners to take advantage of the HBP.

Estate Planning

Generally, upon death, an individual is deemed to dispose of all of his or her capital property at fair market value. The main exception to this rule is that any property that is left to a spouse or common-law partner may be transferred at its adjusted cost base.

This is probably one of the most sig-

nificant benefits now available to same-sex partners as they can now leave any of their capital property to the surviving partner without incurring a capital gains tax liability upon death.

Transfers under the refund of premium rules of a deceased's RRSP to a spouse or common-law partner shift the income inclusion from the deceased to the spouse or partner. The spouse or partner may obtain an offset for this income inclusion by investing the proceeds into his/her own RRSP or RRIF. This opportunity is now available to same-sex partners who can avoid the significant tax burden often levied on the fair market value of the RRSP or RRIF upon death. Same-sex partners should carefully review their RRSP or RRIF beneficiary designations to ensure that, where appropriate, their partner is named as the beneficiary on the plan.

Finally, the first \$10,000 of a death benefit, which is an amount paid by a former employer after an individual's death, usually in recognition of the former employee's service, can be received tax free by a spouse or common-law partner. Previously, the full amount paid to same-sex partners was taxable.

Testamentary Spousal Trusts

The ability to achieve post-mortem income splitting is now available to same-sex partners. A partner who is planning to leave money to his or her partner who is also earning income can take advantage of an extra set of graduated tax rates to accomplish post-mortem income splitting.

Scenario one - Outright inheritance

In 2001 Jack inherited his partner's \$750,000 investment portfolio. Last year the portfolio had an 8 percent return. Jack's marginal tax rate is 50 per cent. Looking only at the investment income from the inherited portfolio, Jack received an income of \$60,000 (\$750,000 x 8%). At his 50 per cent tax rate, his tax bill is approximately \$30,000.

Scenario two - Inheritance placed in a testamentary trust

Tom also inherited his partner's \$750,000 investment portfolio. Under the terms of his will, Tom's partner set up a trust and instructed that the portfolio be placed in it. Tom is also at a 50 per cent marginal tax rate, but the tax payable on the annual income of

\$60,000 (\$750,000 x 8%) can be taxed in the trust, applying the graduated taxation rates used by individual taxpayers in their personal income tax returns. This results in tax payable by the trust of approximately \$20,000. The savings in tax dollars between the two scenarios is approximately \$10,000 each year.

Alter-ego and Joint Partner Trusts

A new estate planning opportunity exists under legislation that came into effect in June 2001, allowing an individual to establish a trust to help meet his or her various estate planning objectives while minimizing the tax implications. The strategy involves the transfer of assets to an alter ego trust or joint-partner trust, primarily to avoid probate tax on the value of assets that pass to a surviving spouse or partner.

The joint partner trust is now available to same-sex partners who may wish to transfer all of their assets to a trust. The recently enacted legislation allows a tax-free transfer to a joint partner trust. On the death of the last-survivor of the two partners, the assets in the trust will be deemed to be disposed of at fair market value, and tax will be payable at that time on capital gains realized because of the deemed disposition.

A joint partner trust requires that it be set up by an individual who is at least age 65 and that the individual and the individual's partner, together or separately, are entitled to receive all of the income of the trust until the last partner dies. Also, during the time the trust is in effect, no one else is entitled to receive or have access to any income or capital growth of the trust.

Once assets have been placed in an alter ego or joint partner trust, those assets no longer form part of the estate, and therefore are not subject to probate tax.

This exercise should be carried out with a professional lawyer who is familiar with the subject matter.

Goods and Services Tax Credit and Child Tax Benefit

The goods and Services Tax Credit and the Child Tax Benefit are determined by reference to the combined net income of both spouses/partners. A household in which both partners earn income may result in a reduction or elimination of either of these benefits.

Before 2001, this was not a concern for same-sex partners, as their net incomes did not have to be combined to determine eligibility for these benefits.

Married or Common-law partner credit

A married or common-law partner credit is available if an individual lives with and supports a spouse or common-law partner. This credit is reduced based on the net income of the other partner.

Equivalent to married credit

The ability of one person in a relationship to claim an equivalent to married credit for a child is no longer available to same-sex partners who are considered to be common-law partners.

Child care expenses

Where both parents earn income and child care expenses are incurred, the spouse or partner with the lower income must claim those expenses. Before 2001, for same-sex partners, the child's parent could deduct these costs even though that person might have been the higher income earner in the relationship.

Transfer of credits

An individual can claim medical expenses for both him/her and his/her partner. Thus, the partner with the higher net income will generally claim the medical expense credit and achieve a greater level of tax savings than the partner with a lower net income, provided both partners each have sufficient income so that the 3 per cent net income test does not affect them. Otherwise, the lower income earner should claim the expenses.

Charitable donations

One partner can claim charitable donations made by either partner. Thus, the partner with the higher net income will generally claim the donation and gift tax credit and achieve a greater level of tax savings than the partner with the lower net income.

Provincial tax credits

Provincial tax credits generally take into account the total of both partners' net income in determining the amount of the credits available.

Family law issues must be considered

Each province in Canada has legislation granting rights to partners in a marriage or spousal common-law relationship when that relationship ends, whether



BOBBY SIVA
Financial Advisor
416 410 3274



WATERLOO REGION NEWS

Kitchener Center MPP updates local community on the provincial governments initiatives

John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre updated his government's commitment to the Waterloo Region. A breakfast meeting was held on June 19th at the Kitchener Downtown Community Centre, Kitchener.

Mr. John Milloy spoke of the provincial governments allotment of \$100 million for the Perimeter Institute and the University of Waterloo's Institute for Quantum Computing and a new Satellite Medical School for downtown Kitchener to improve access for students to medical schools. A new School of Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo to increase

opportunities for students is also on schedule.

He spoke of the diverse population of the region and the commitment of his government for new Canadians. Over the last six years, Waterloo Region has welcomed over 15,000 new Canadians. In 2007, the government designated Waterloo region as an Ontario Immigration Gateway which means that we will be a part of the Ontario Immigration.ca portal, featuring local community as a prime destination to potential newcomers overseas as well as newcomers residing in Ontario. The Provincial

government has been assisting newcomers by negotiating the first-ever

Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement with the federal government, which quadruples spending on language training and settlement services to \$920 million over five years.

A large number of community representatives and local dignitaries were present. Tamil community was represented by Mr. S. Sivakumar, President of Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, Mr. T. Balakrishnan, Director of Public Affairs and Mr. Dennis Loyola, Director of Social Events.



(L-R) Mr. T. Balakrishnan, Mr. John Milloy MPP, Mr. S. Sivakumar, Mr. Ken Seiling - Regional Chairman of Waterloo, Mr. Dennis Loyola.



Isai Kavi Ramanan's "VAAZHKKAI VAAZHVADHARKE" in Waterloo

Tamil Nadu's famous literature personality Isai Kavi Ramanan's North American tour included the Waterloo Region. Vaazhkkai Vaazhvarharke (Life is to live) was held in Waterloo on June 17th. The function was held at Lutheran Church Hall organised by Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo Region, the well known socio-cultural body of local Tamilians. Mr. Dennis Loyola, the director of Social Events welcomed the Guest speaker and the community.

Isai Kavi Ramanan is a prolific poet in Tamil; inspired greatly by

Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi and Tiruvalluvar. His poetry ranges from blank verse to rhythmic melodies and the songs from rustic folk to semi classical. The lecture was appreciated by the audience because the poets were in relation to ordinary people's life long experience, the struggle and joy. Two books, titled Ramananai Kelungal and Vandi Poyi Kondirikkiradu, compilations of poetic thoughts in Tamil, and two CDs replete with the musical rendering of select verses from the books, were available for the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sivakumar, the president of the association thanked Isai Kavi Ramanan for giving the association an opportunity to be part of his North American lecture tour. He reminded that the organization has encouraged local and foreign lecturers and artists to promote Tamil literature and Culture in the past and would continue to do so in the future.

"Parents are responsible for the conduct and culture of their children upto a point after which, their destiny takes over"



Isai Kavi Ramanan



Thank you speech by Mr. Sivakumar, President of Tamil cultural association



Welcome speech by Mr. Dennis Loyola, Director Social Events

UNHCR official calls on Sri Lanka to double its efforts to assist IDPs

Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Judy Cheng-Hopkins has called on the Sri Lankan government to double its efforts to allocate land to displaced people and allow them to move out of the welfare centres they have been living in for more than two decades.

The government's return programme in eastern Sri Lanka was top of the agenda in talks Cheng-Hopkins held earlier this week with top government officials, including the ministers for foreign

affairs, disaster management and human rights, and resettlement and disaster relief services.

In the past three months, almost 100,000 people have returned to their homes in Batticaloa district that they had been forced to flee earlier in the year due to heavy fighting between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Assistant High Commissioner, who visited returnees in Batticaloa, urged the



government to ensure the protection of internally displaced people and to make sure that returns

were voluntary and sustainable. She said that to achieve this improvements were needed in health care, education and employment opportunities in the return areas.

During a visit to Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka, Cheng-Hopkins reviewed UNHCR initiatives for durable solutions in terms of relocation and local integration. She travelled to the Thattankulam relocation site, where UNHCR has helped 130 families settle after years of living

in welfare centres, and visited Kalmadu, where another relocation site is being prepared.

Cheng-Hopkins, who wrapped up her visit on July 11th, urged the government to cede more land so that more relocation sites could be built. She stressed during the visit the need for more such initiatives if durable solutions were to be found for some 312,000 persons who have been in a state of protracted displacement for two decades.

[UNHCR]

OPPORTUNITIES

MARGOSA CREDIT UNION LIMITED

A start-up credit union serving the Sri Lankan community in Toronto is seeking an experienced manager to direct the launch this fall. He or she would open the new branch, manage the staff, and work closely with the board of directors to build a presence in the community. The ideal candidate is a take-charge leader with sound finance, credit-granting, operations, and customer service experience in Canada's financial services industry.

**Margosa
Credit Union Limited**

Interim General Manager

Margosa Credit Union Limited is Ontario's newest credit union and has ambitious plans for growth in the years ahead. It needs an experienced manager to lead the member service representatives in building assets, profitability and new member relationships. Working under a renewable six-month contract, the Interim General Manager will be responsible for accounting, treasury and regulatory reporting; manage the banking system, all delivery channels and supplier relationships; create marketing strategies and develop new business; and ensure that all operations and credit-granting activities are carried out in compliance with legislation, regulations, sound business practices, by-laws, and policies and procedures. As the credit union's first loan officer, you will be responsible for underwriting mortgages, personal loans and lines of credit. You are a dedicated, high-energy individual with a passion for service who features strong leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. Your 10 years of operating experience in a Canadian financial institution includes budgeting, internal audit, and risk management responsibility, and you have a solid track record in customer service. A competitive salary awaits the right candidate.

A start-up credit union serving the Sri Lankan community in Toronto is seeking dynamic customer service specialists to deliver personal banking products to members. The ideal candidates are dedicated, high-energy individuals with strong interpersonal and communication skills and a passion for service.

**Margosa
Credit Union Limited**

Member Service Representatives
(Full-time/Part-time)

Margosa Credit Union Limited is Ontario's newest credit union and has ambitious plans for growth in the years ahead. The Member Service Representatives are responsible for providing member/customers with prompt, courteous service, including processing counter transactions, responding to branch and telephone inquiries, identifying financial needs, recommending suitable products, and resolving account problems. You are a proactive self-starter with customer service experience in a Canadian financial institution who can work comfortably in a small team environment. Tamil and/or Sinhala language skills would be a significant asset. Competitive salaries and an attractive benefits package await the right candidates.

Margosa Credit Union Limited plans to open its doors this fall with a single branch on Ellesmere Road in Scarborough. It will offer a full-service banking alternative to the 350,000 people of Sri Lankan background living in the Greater Toronto Area.

All responses are confidential. Qualified applicants may forward their resume by e-mail to

The Secretary
Margosa Credit Union Limited
at
sealan_professionals@yahoo.ca
by fax at
416-609-9889
or in writing to
308-3852 Finch Avenue East
Toronto, ON M1T 3T9.

We thank all candidates but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Seven non ethical reasons to be a Vegetarian

By Kumar Punithavel

People become vegetarian for various reasons. Religion, ethics, environmental benefits and health are some of them. What ever the reason may be, unless it is beneficial to the person, one is bound to fall back and become an omnivorous sooner or later. Fundamentally people became a vegetarian for selfish reasons!

Let us see some of the benefits to be a vegetarian. When a machine is fabricated, it is designed to function at optimum efficiency to a particular fuel. If a machine, for example, designed to operate on petrol is fueled with kerosene instead, it is bound to cause problems. The human anatomy is a complex machine of incredible caliber; it has a pump which runs nonstop, at times more than hundred years. And that pump is the heart. This complex machinery, like the mechanical engine converting fuel to energy, transforms food into energy. The body has a digestive system that changes the food to various products. The intention therefore is to decide on the best food for the human system to operate at its optimum efficiency.

The entry point of food to the human is the mouth. In the human's mouth, one can notice the teeth are similar to those found in herbivorous animals that are large spade like and abut one another. The meat-eaters have sharp teeth and are not abutted. When we humans eat meat, we need to use tooth pricks at the end of the meal since our teeth are not suitably set or arranged for such an exercise. I am yet to hear about a carnivorous animal like lion or leopard using a tooth prick at the end of the meal! Furthermore, human premolars and molars are square, flattened and nodular and used for crushing, grinding and pulping non coarse fibrous foods.

We have saliva in our mouth that contains the carbohydrate-digesting enzyme, salivary amylase. This is there to digest starch. The gullet (throat) which is the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach in humans are narrow and suited to small, soft balls of thoroughly chewed food to go through easily.

The stomachs of herbivorous animals are comparatively small as they eat in small quantity but at frequent intervals. The meat eaters have large stomachs as they make a kill and stock a week's supply in it and rest. Our human stomach is single chambered and moderately acidic. The stomach volume of humans is only about 25% of the digestive system. In carnivorous animal stomach is about 65% of the digestive system and the acidity of the gastric juice is pH 1 which is extremely acidic. The stomach serves as a mixing and storage chamber, mixing and liquefying ingested foodstuffs and regulating their entry into the small intestine. Thus it is clear the human digestive system, or more correctly our body was made for vegetable food to be consumed at

regular intervals.

The small intestine of humans is a very long one. The human body size is measured from the top of the head to the end of the spine and averages around to three feet in length. Our small intestine is about 10 to 11 times the length of our body. In the case of meat eating mammal it is only 3 to 6 times the length of the body. This also suggests the creator ordained the human creature to live on vegetables. I dare not insult the Almighty, and face his/her wrath by and thereby place my health under threat!

The human colon demonstrates the pouched structure peculiar to herbivorous mammals. The distensible large intestine is larger in cross-section than the



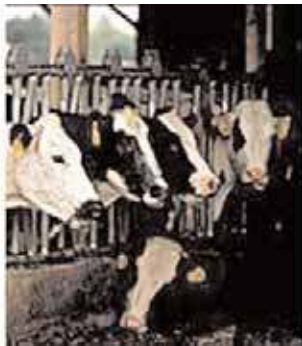
small intestine, and is relatively long. Man's colon is responsible for water and electrolyte absorption and vitamin production and absorption. There is also extensive bacterial fermentation of fibrous materials, with the production and absorption of significant amount of food energy (volatile short-chain fatty acids) depending upon the fiber content of the diet. In the case of meat eating mammals the colon is short and non pouched. The muscle is distributed throughout the wall, giving the colon a smooth cylindrical appearance. When meat is delayed in the colon of the human, it in fact rots and causes irritation, and stinks. It is found colon cancer is more common in meat eating humans as it is trying to cope with a food for which it is not designed to digest. By using food that the human digestive system was not designed for, we end up with higher incidence of heart disease, hypertension, and various cancers including colon cancer to a great extent. It is wrong to say God created the animals for humans to eat. If so, God was not smart enough to give a digestive system suitable to digest meat. Believers of God, if they are to respect his/her decision should not eat meat. The first reason for not eating meat should be; because our body is not suitable to digest meat.

Some argue that humans have always eaten meat, so it is the natural food of humans. Human morality is to move away from the law of the jungle; 'might is right'. It may indeed be natural for the powerful to dominate the weak, but that doesn't mean it is correct. To day the demand for meat has made it necessary to breed animals in great numbers. It is estimated 20 billion head of livestock taking up space on the earth, which is more than three

times the world's human population! In the best selling book by Eric Schlosser titled 'Fast food nation' it is mentioned that American spend a colossal sum of 110 billion dollars a year which is more than they do on higher education.

It is no wonder there is obesity in North America in epidemic proportions. Should one spend so much money and gain extra pounds which cause illness like Breathing disorders (e.g., sleep apnea, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Certain types of cancers (e.g., prostate and bowel cancer in men, breast and uterine cancer in women) ?

Some of the others are:
Coronary artery (heart) disease



Depression
Diabetes
Gall bladder or liver disease
gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
High blood pressure
Joint disease (e.g., osteoarthritis)
Stroke

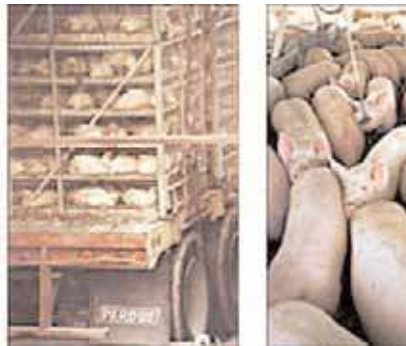
The fast food is bad mainly because the excessive meat and animal fat contents. One should keep away from meat for reasons of good health. The second good reason to keep meat away one's food is to prevent obesity and related diseases?

According to British group Vegfarm, a 10 acre farm can support 60 people growing soybean, 24 people growing wheat, 10 people growing corn and only two people producing cattle. In the west grain consumption is indirect, (first being fed to animals) westerners each consume as high as 2,000 pounds of grain a year. Putting it very candidly, author Frances Moors Lappet writes in his book 'Diet for a small planet': Then imagine the room filled with 45 to 50 people with empty bowls in front of them. For the 'feed cost' of your steak, each of their bowls could be filled with full cup of cooked cereal grains'. If this condition of meat eating continues my progeny will starve to death very soon.

According to Harvard nutritionist Jean Mayer reducing meat production by just 10 percent in the U.S would free enough grain to feed 60 Million people. The third excellent reason in being vegetarian is that it is good for the survival of the humanity in this planet and thus it is good for our generations to come.

Many environmentalists, meeting for discussions to save the planet are more likely to such with dinners having large chunk of steak. They make speeches condemning the usage of cars

because of their emissions. But the gases produced by the animals make much more damage than the vehicular emissions. The gases produced by animal like methane and nitrous oxide cause enormous greenhouse effect with 23 and 296 times the warming power of carbon dioxide respectively. In fact it is estimated that while animal agriculture accounts for 9% of our carbon dioxide emissions, it emits 37% of our methane, and a whopping 65% of our nitrous oxide which is the biggest culprit. It may take some time to find alternative fuel to fossil fuels to use in vehicles, but we do have vegetarian food which will reduce the green house gases to a great extent. Thus the fourth excellent reason for one to



become a vegetarian is that it is good for the earth which is the only planet we know and call it ours.

The high demand for meat had forced farmers to adapt factory farming. It is estimated an average meat-eater is responsible for the deaths of approximately 2,400 animals during his or her lifetime! In an article in the industry journal 'National Hog Farmer' recommends the average space per animal to be six square feet. He mentions 'crowding pigs pays'. These animals do not see sun in their limited lives, with no hay to lie on, no mud to roll in. They live over metal grates, and their waste is pushed through slates beneath them and flushed to huge pits.

Business as usual at the animal farm: From left: chicken debeaking, cow confinement, poultry transport and hog crowding. Practices of common producers of beef calves include castration and dehorning. Veal calves, are taken away from their mothers shortly after birth, live their entire lives in near darkness, chained by their necks and unable to move in any direction. Virtually all chickens today are factory raised with as many as six egg-laying hens in a wire floored battery cages with hardly any room to move. As much as 100,000 hens are housed in a single building. One can go on and on, but how does that affect us if we eat them? Due to the congestion and unhygienic conditions they are prone to disease. There isn't much control on drugs used on these animals. Repeated use of antibiotic is unavoidable in the industry due to over crowding and unhygienic condition of breeding. This animal when consumed triggers the body to produce antibodies to make the antibiotic inactive.

There is an interesting poem in Tamil written by an elderly

much-loved poet Navalyyoor Somasundaram. In it he mentions how the high cast Mudalyar inadvertently ate excretes of his scavenger, like raising the water from a deep well to a high reservoir and doing the irrigation on high ground. He vividly describes the scene where the Mudalyar's chicken was grazing in the back yard of the scavenger's house, and all the filth it had been eating that day came as a fine roast chicken on the high cast Mudaliyar's table. In the case of the meat eaters they are digesting low dose of antibiotic from the factory farmed meat which makes their body immune to those medicines. Due to the low dosage antibiotics from farm meat, the body produces antibodies to these drugs. One would certainly like to live a little longer, and would hope the medicine will work on them in case of an infection. The fifth reason why a person should avoid the (factory farmed) meat is that it will prevent body becoming immune to medicines. It must be mentioned that a byproduct of this act of refraining meat is that we humans can be more human without causing hardship mentioned above to the less fortunate beings that are factory farmed under extremely cruel conditions.

Antioxidants found in the foods we eat help protect our cells from damage created by substances called free radicals. Our cells produce free radicals when they burn oxygen. These byproducts can damage all parts of the cell; proteins, fats and even genetic material. Eating fruits and vegetable is the best way to get healthy cells. That is because these vegetarian foods are typically rich in protective antioxidants. The sixth reason to be a vegetarian is the rich supply of antioxidants gained from vegetables.

Last but not least, vegetarianism makes one smarter. As per Daily Telegraph 22nd of January, 2007, a study, published in the British Medical Journal, suggests that people who choose the vegetarian path are smarter than their carnivorous counterparts.

The research team started out by investigating the link between diet and intellect, to see if they could get the bottom of why smarter people are less likely to get coronary heart disease. Tracking babies born in 1970, the scientists measured IQ at age 10 and interviewed them as adults. Male vegetarians had an IQ 106, compared with 101 for non-vegetarians, while female vegetarians averaged 104 compared with 96 for their meat eating peers. It was George Bernard Shaw who said 'a mind of the caliber of mine cannot derive its nutriment from cows'. Hope the cow heads will get the message reading this article.

Vegetarians always knew they are smarter, but it's nice for them to know they have proof to sustain their convictions. Why not you too join the band wagon of smart people?

Contact :
kumarpunithavel@yahoo.com



தமிழ் இசைக் கலா மன்றம்- ஒன்ராறியோ

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Examination 2007ம் ஆண்டுக்கான பரீட்சைகள் Application form/விண்ணப்பப்படிவம்

Please submit one application per subject / ஒவ்வொரு பாடத்துக்கும் தனித்தனி விண்ணப்பப்படிவம் நிரப்பவும்.
It is suggested that your name is printed with the correct spelling in English to avoid mistakes in your certificate
சான்றிதழில் பெயர் ஆங்கிலத்தில் பதியப்பட்டிருப்பதால் தெளிவாக உங்கள் பெயரை ஆங்கிலத்தில் எழுதவும்.

First Name (In Capital Letters)

Last Name (In Capital Letters)

Address:

City:

Email Address:

Telephone:

Subject for applying:
விண்ணப்பிக்கும் பாடம்:

Particulars of last music /dance/mirudangam/violin/veena/ exam completed by you
நீர் கடைசியாகச் சித்தியடைந்த இசை, நடன, மிருதங்க, வயலின், விணை பரீட்சை பற்றிய விபரம்.

Subject:

Teacher's Name:

I hereby certify that the above particulars are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any incorrect declaration will result in automatic expulsion from the examination at any time.

மேலே தரப்பட்ட தரவுகள் யாவும் உண்மையானவை என்பதை இத்தரல் உறுதிசெய்கிறேன். பிழையான தகவல்களைத் தந்திருந்தால் பரீட்சைபிலிருந்து எச்சரிக்கப்படுவதை அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறது. இத்தரல் அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறது. இத்தரல் அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறது.

Attached herewith is a cheque for \$being the fee for examination / பரீட்சைக்கட்டணமாக இத்துடன் \$.....டாலருக்கான கார்டோலை இணைத்துள்ளேன்.
You are allowed to send one cheque for any number of subjects you are applying for / ஒன்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட விண்ணப்பம் அனுப்பும் மாணவர்கள் ஒரு கார்டோலை மூலம் பரீட்சைக் கட்டணத்தைச் செலுத்த அனுமதிக்கப்படுவர்.

Signature / கையெழுத்து

Date / திகதி

Examination / பரீட்சைகள் - 2007

Please use the index number from previous examinations (If any)

தமிழ் இசைக்கலாமன்றத்தால் ஏற்கனவே வழங்கப்பட்ட சுட்டிக்காட்டும் இடத்தில் இருந்தால் அதனை பாவிக்கவும்

1. Applications are accepted until July 15, 2007
இசை, நடனப் பரீட்சைக்கான விண்ணப்பங்கள் ஜூலை மாதம் 15ம் திகதி வரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படும்

2. On completion of the on-line input, print the receipt with the index No. from the print out on front of the cheque and mail it with the cheque payable to **Thamil Isai Kalam Manram of Ontario, 50 Weybright Court Unit #33, Scarborough, ON M1S 5A8**

வலைப்படிவத்தில் விண்ணப்பிக்கான பற்றுச்சீட்டை பரீட்சைக் கட்டணத்துக்கான கார்டோலையுடன் மேலே குறிப்பிட்ட விலாசத்துக்கு அனுப்பவும். கார்டோலையின் முன்பக்கத்தில் சுட்டிக்காட்டும் தவறாத குறிப்பிடவும்.

3. Please fill out one application form per subject per grade.
ஒவ்வொரு பாடத்துக்கும் தனித்தனி விண்ணப்பங்கள் நிரப்பி அனுப்பப்படவேண்டும்

4. Admission cards will be mailed out in August.
அனுமதிப்பத்திரங்கள் ஆவணி மாதத்தில் அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படும்

5. All Examinations will be held for grades 1 to 7.
எல்லாப் பரீட்சைகளும் 1ம் வகுப்பிலிருந்து 7ம் வகுப்பு வரை நடைபெறும்.

6. Students are allowed to apply for grades one & two or two & three together.
பரீட்சார்த்திகள் 1ம், 2ம் வகுப்புக்களுக்கும், / 2ம், 3ம் வகுப்புக்களுக்கும் சேர்த்து விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்.

7. Students applying for grades 4 and above are not allowed to take more than one grade.
4ம் வகுப்பிற்கு மேற்பட்ட பரீட்சார்த்திகள் ஒரு பாடத்திற்கு மட்டுமே விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்.

8. Students are allowed to take different subjects of the same grade.
பரீட்சார்த்திகள் ஒரே வகுப்புகுரிய இரண்டு இசைப்பாடங்களுக்குத் தோற்ற அனுமதிக்கப்படுவர்..

9. Students applying for grade 2 and above should have completed the previous grade of the same subject in an examination conducted by the Manram or North Ceylon Music Society. பரீட்சார்த்திகள் 2ம் வகுப்பிலிருந்து 7ம் வகுப்பு வரை விண்ணப்பிக்கும்போது அதற்கு முந்திய வகுப்புகான பாடத்தில் தமிழ் இசைக்கலாமன்றம் அல்லது வட இலங்கை சங்கீத சபையினரால் நடாத்தப்பட்ட பரீட்சையொன்றில் சித்தி அடைந்திருக்கவேண்டும்.

10. Examination Fees/
பரீட்சைக் கட்டணங்கள்

Grade 1	\$ 40.00
Grade 2	\$ 50.00
Grade 3	\$ 60.00
Grade 4	\$ 75.00
Grade 5	\$100.00
Grade 6	\$125.00
Grade 7	\$300.00

Late FEES

after July 15, 2007

\$20.00 Until July 31st.

ஜூலை 15ம் திகதிக்கு பின்னர் கிடைக்கும் விண்ணப்பப்படிவத்திற்கு மேலதிக கட்டணம் \$20. ஜூலை 31ம் திகதி வரை அனுமதிக்கப்படும்.

11. A student who previously completed a grade in a music exam and would like to apply for a different subject in the same grade need not sit for the theory exam for that grade. The Student will get an Ordinary Pass if the student obtains 45 marks and above in the practical Examination. Students should apply for both practical and theory examinations if they wish to get higher results such as a Distinction or First Division.
இதற்கு முந்திய பரீட்சையொன்றில் ஏதாவது இசைப்பாடம் ஒன்றில் ஏற்கனவே சித்தியெய்திய பரீட்சார்த்தியொருவர் அதே வகுப்புகான இன்னொரு இசைப்பாடத்துக்குத் தோற்றவாரியானால் அவர் எழுத்துப்பரீட்சைக்குத் தோற்றாமலே சாதாரண சித்தி பெறமுடியும். இதே பரீட்சார்த்தி விசேடசித்தி, முதலாந்தர சித்தி, இரண்டாந்தர சித்தி ஆகியவற்றுள் ஏதாவதொரு திறமை சித்தி பெற விரும்பினால் செயன்முறைப் பரீட்சைக்கும் எழுத்துப் பரீட்சைக்கும் தோற்றவேண்டும்.

Many Small People, In Many Small Places...

A Sojourn in Guatemala

This spring, I set out for Guatemala with twelve other students from my university on a trip coordinated Global Youth Network, a non-profit Christian organization. For four weeks, we traveled to several different locations, immersing ourselves in the culture, the language and the prevailing ways of life. Among many other opportunities, we had the chance to visit mountain villages and orphanages, paint buildings, attend Spanish school, hear firsthand accounts of the brutalities spawned by the civil war and live with a community of ex-guerrilla members. We came across people from the international scene who are devoting

we engaged in actual conversation with the people we met. They all possessed a wonderful kind of persistence, in that they would not allow our lack of Spanish to get in the way of our communication. Fervent gestures and sign language often punctuated our conversations, whose purposes quickly became clear. In a country where silence was practiced and ignorance prevailed among the government-fearing public, being able to tell one's story to a willing listener was a rarity, an opportunity that one could not afford to miss.

Guatemala's 36-year civil war came to an official close in 1996. The war marked a period of geno-

By Anushi Sivarajah

areas offering bags of free food provisions (usually corn) to the villagers, in an effort to put themselves in the good graces of the voters.

Our trip to Guatemala happened to coincide with the chaos that precedes any federal election; political propaganda was spray-painted shamelessly across mountainsides, buildings and on roadside boulders, while billboards bearing the faces of the contenders loomed tall in the cities.

At a Sunday church service we attended in our first week, a pastor addressed the upcoming elections and the ploys used by politicians aiming to secure rural votes. He urged the congregation to look past the free gifts. Politicians who approached them in such a manner were likely the ones caught up in drug trafficking and dealings with serious criminals, he warned. He emphasized the importance of inquiring about these politicians, finding out what ideals they stood for and making an informed choice. He reminded them that the kindness these politicians showed on voting day could quickly evaporate once elections were through.

Ultimately, he was encouraging his congregation members to step into the loop of political consciousness, to put aside their physical isolation from the urban core and to take an active interest in keeping the politically corrupt in check. The act was a touching reminder of what it means to be socially responsible.

* * *

Our first ten days were spent in the mountains. Nestled in its foothills was the city of Jalapa where, we were assured on the day of our arrival, Internet cafes and marketplaces abounded. We stayed with a Canadian man named Ted Van Der Zalm and his family, who had been in the country since the autumn of 2006. Their project, Wells of Hope, was founded several years ago with the intent of providing free, accessible drinking water to the people of Guatemala.

In rural areas, it's all too common that within a community, a single lake or river will serve as a communal place to bathe, do laundry and collect water for



Some of the children we met after a day of hiking

drinking and cooking purposes. This water is further polluted by excrement from grazing animals.

Having completed some irrigation projects in Africa, Ted Van Der Zalm was approached by Guatemalan missionaries who implored him to help refine their own irrigation systems. He quickly realized that what many communities were lacking was a permanent source of clean water - and thus sprung Wells of Hope. Every year, the family raises enough funds to drill more wells. The Van Der Zalm's relocate to Guatemala until all projects are completed, after which they return to Canada to fundraise for the following year.

Ted ensured that we were always engaged in some kind of activity that involved getting a

feel for the extent of need in rural areas. One day, he brought us along with him as he set out to inspect some recent drill sites. The hikes to the actual wells involved steep, uphill climbs and were a part of the local people's regular walking routines. Ted reminded us that while we were walking bare-handed, the villagers would often bear heavy loads on their backs and, in the case of young mothers, would have to carry their infants along with them.

He continued to throw us anecdotes and tidbits of information that served the collective function of delivering us a forceful reality check. The underlying theme was to stop taking everything we encountered at face value. As we walked, he spoke to



On our first day in Jalapa, we met a family doing laundry in the Contaminated laguna (lake) behind our house.

their time to making many small but potent changes in attempt to heal the country's damaged social infrastructure. Among them were a Canadian family heading an initiative to drill free wells in rural areas and volunteers participating in teaching projects that encourage lateral thinking over rote memorization. But what ultimately became the most valuable part of our cultural experience was the interaction we shared with the locals.

Communicating was difficult at first. There wasn't a single member on our team who had any prior knowledge of Spanish. Without a formal translator, it was up to us to learn the language through exchanges with the locals, who knew very few words of English themselves. It was exasperating to find ourselves forgetting the same essential travelers' phrases time and time again. Still, these feelings of frustration would quickly dissipate whenever

cide led by the then-ruling government against the indigenous Mayans and resulted in over 200,000 deaths. Bent on evicting the rural population from its rightful land, the government employed countless vicious tactics on its part. The most notorious was the "Scorched Earth" campaign, in which the national army recklessly invaded villages, set on torturing the men and children, raping the women and mutilating pregnant mothers. Having carried out their massacre, they would go on to burn down the village, literally leaving nothing but 'scorched earth' in their wake. Over four hundred villages were destroyed in this manner.

Some of the political players involved in these heinous war crimes have managed to re-integrate themselves back into society - back into the world of politics, even. The country is no stranger to political corruption. Candidates for election will often visit rural



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Monsoon Photo Journal



Garland Maker - Bambalapitty

By Dushiyanthini Kanagasabapathipillai



This small place is given free of charge

There are many garland makers along the Galle Road in Bambalapitty near the Hindu temples. Annamalai Navaratnam (50) is one of them. He comes to his small shop in the morning to make garlands along with his two assistants. He is known as "Nava" among his fellow garland makers and customers.

Nava has been making garlands for the past 25 years. He recalled his memories with a smile. "I had the privilege of making cash garland ("Kasu

Malai") made out of notes and coins to Kasiananthan. And I have made flower garlands to Kirupaananthavaariyar when he visited Sri Lanka. I also made garlands to Kambavaarithy Jeyaraj, and numerous politicians and well known people in the society" said Annamalai Navaratnam.

He has two assistants to help him deliver the garlands on time to the customers. "I pay Rs. 1,500 to each of them daily, whether I have business or not. I

get a lot of orders during the wedding season and temple festival season. The customers make orders on the mobile phone. I have to compete with my fellow garland makers in the vicinity. We have a healthy competition among us" further said Annamalai Navaratnam.

He buys flowers and banana strings from Matale in bulk. Flowers are very delicate like human hearts, and have to take extra care of them according to Nava.



The weather is becoming hotter daily and the fresh flowers need more delicate care



Garlands are made fresh daily



Nava has customers from all ethnicity

Variety of flowers, leaves, banana strings and silk strings are used to make garlands for weddings

"Garland making is a sacred service. I enjoy making garlands. I make garlands for auspicious and inauspicious events. It needs a lot of patience and time. I have been making garlands in Bambalapitty for 25 years. But my children are not following my footsteps because the demand requires a lot of time, which does not allow to attend my personal commitments. I have to dedicate myself in order to keep my customers happy on delivering the garlands on time" says Annamalai Navaratnam (50), a garland maker in



He gets the flowers from Matale, in Sri Lanka's Central Province



Nava wants to continue to be a garland maker



Making garlands is a passion for Nava and his assistant

The Rajagopuram of Sammakodu Sri Kathirvelaiyutha Swamy temple in Bambalapitiya, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Temple festival and wedding seasons have begun



New Board members appointed at Rouge Valley Health System AGM

Three community representatives join members from Durham and east Toronto



Three community representatives have



joined the Rouge Valley Health System Board of Directors rounding out a slate of experienced leaders.

The new members are: Ross Deebank, Vice-President, Finance, The Toronto-Dominion Bank; Lea M. Ray, Vice President of Corporate Finance, Warner Bros. Entertainment Canada Inc.; and Joan Wideman, Vice-President of Corporate Services, Lenbrook Group of Companies.

Board Chair Tom Atkins welcomed all three new members at the RVHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. Atkins thanked past board Chair David Sinclair, whose term has expired, for his nine years of service and leadership to the hospital system. Sinclair remains as an ex-officio member of the board until next year's AGM.

Brief biographies of new members

Ross Deebank

Ross Deebank is Vice-President, Finance, with The Toronto-Dominion Bank. The Pickering resident has been with the bank since 1986 holding positions of increasing responsibility including Manager of Corporate Planning, Vice-President of Finance and Administration and Vice-President of Corporate Services. Ross has extensive experience within the Bank in financial management, strategic planning, operations, strategic sourcing, commercial banking and internal audit. Currently, Ross is responsible for management reporting for the Bank and is also involved in the consolidation of a number of different financial reporting and forecasting applications onto one new platform. Holding degrees in Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts, he also has been a member of several advisory groups including the Sourcing Interest Group, the Hewlett-Packard Print Advisory Committee and the Xerox Financial Services Executive Advisory Council.

Lea M. Ray

Lea M. Ray is a Canadian Chartered Accountant and is currently employed in Toronto, Ontario as Vice President of Corporate Finance for Warner Bros. Entertainment Canada Inc., a division of Time Warner. A native to Windsor, she holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours Business Administration) Degree from the Odette School of Business, University of

Windsor. She began her career with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Windsor, before transferring to PwC Toronto's Business Investigations Unit, where she worked on corporate insolvency and receivership engagements. In 1994, she commenced her industry career with Warner Bros. Actively involved in her profession, she has served as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario's Professional Conduct Committee, Career Information Committee, and the CA Champions in Industry Program. She is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Toronto Board of Trade. A keen supporter of community involvement, she has been an active volunteer to various charities. For the past 10 years, she has been a Director of the Toronto based charity, 10,000 Trees for the Rouge Valley.

Joan Wideman

Joan Wideman is the Vice-President of Corporate Services for the Pickering-based Lenbrook Group of Companies, in wholesale distribution and global brand management of specialty entertainment productions and communications equipment with operations in Canada, the USA, the United Kingdom and Singapore. She is currently a Director with the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade Council (APBOT) and Co-Chair of the Government Relations committee. She has received several awards and appointments including: the first Community Leadership Award from the Pickering Rotary Club in 2002; appointed to the Pickering Business Advisory Council in 2004, which she currently co-chairs with the Mayor; Business Person of the Year in 2006, from the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade, as she completed her term as chair of the APBOT Council. She is the mother of four children, active in her church and enjoys gardening, music and traveling with her husband Dwight.

Brief biographies of all board members are posted at www.rougevalley.ca/aboutus. Agendas and minutes of board meetings are also posted on the Rouge Valley website.

Rouge Valley Health System is an innovative leader in quality family centred care, with regional programs in cardiac care, mental health and paediatrics. Rouge Valley consists of several health sites, including two hospitals: Rouge Valley Centenary, in east Toronto; Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering, in the west Durham Region. Together a team of doctors including 224 general practitioners and 325 specialists, more than 1,000 nurses and many other professionals, care for a broad spectrum of health conditions. In consultation and partnership with community members, other hospitals, healthcare 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 create new ones catering to the needs of the growing communities of east Toronto, Ajax, Pickering and Whitby. It's in our nature to care.

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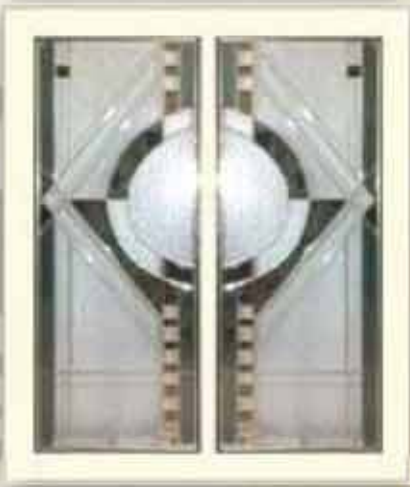
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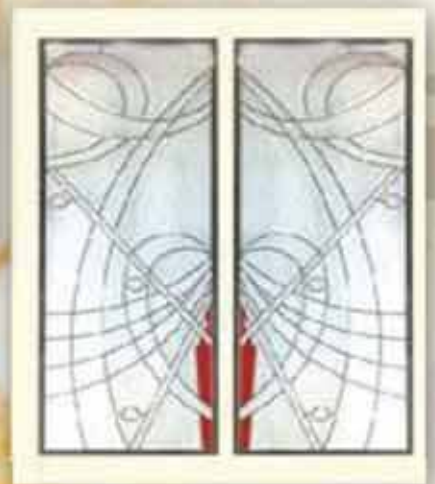
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not washed and dried after exposure. Symptoms include itching, dryness and cracking of the skin. Those who scratch and then touch other parts of the body, may spread the infection. Prevention and treatment include thorough washing and drying of feet. Wear protective footwear in public places; wear clean dry

shoes. If an infection occurs, see your Chiroprapist for treatment.

PLANTAR FASCITIS

Plantar fasciitis is an inflammation in the foot caused by excessive stretching and inflammation of the plantar fascia. The fascia is a broad band of fibrous tissue that runs along the base of the foot. What results is heel pain, arch pain and possible spurs. Over-pronation or flat feet can contribute to this painful condition; also an unusually high arch

or improper footwear can further irritate the fascia. Treatment of this condition may include physiotherapy for pain relief and exercise to stretch/strengthen the fascia. Also custom made orthotics, which are insoles that support the arch, allow for correct weight bearing and alignment. Your chiroprapist will facilitate treatment and prevention. Also they can suggest the correct footwear.

The above listed are just a few of the conditions that impact

your feet and how they step in your daily life. Often addressed with the onset of pain and/or infection, most can be prevented and symptoms minimized. Wear those slinky sandals or those flip flops but bear in mind that they support your whole body weight. Pay attention to your foot care, besides the colorful array of nail polish. Proper care will preserve that bounce in your step in time to come.

Dwarf palmyra with high neera yield identified

Scientists in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) have identified many dwarf types of Palmyra, with high 'nungu (fruit)' and 'neera' yield after carrying out surveys throughout the palm growing regions of India, which would be a potential resource for wasteland.

The fruits (propagation material) from these identified selections were collected and sown in the farms of TNAU, under the scheme sponsored by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, Dr V Ponnuswami, Professor, Horticulture, TNAU, told PTI.

These dwarf selections--12-foot tall-- would be further multiplied by micro propagation in the near future and would be supplied to the needy people, Ponnuswami said. Saying that Palmyra palm adorned the dry landscape of the semi-arid regions of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra, he said India has nearly 102 million palms and half of the trees were in Tamil Nadu.

Out of 51.90 million trees in Tamil Nadu, more than 50 per cent of the palms were concentrated in the southern districts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram, with Thoothukudi alone having major share of 10 million trees.

It is the livelihood for so many villagers particularly women folk in the dry land tracts of different states of India and requires very little attention and every part of the tree is being used for agribusiness, he said.

The two major yield components of the tree were 'nungu' and 'neera' and of late, there were so many aerated artificial beverages floating in the market. Recent scientific evidences revealed that these beverages were having a lot of chemical residues, leading to health hazardous, Ponnuswami said. An average palmyra palm attained a height of 18 to 20 metres and extraction of sap (neera) from the inflorescence was called tapping which was the most important use of palm.

For tapping, tappers climb palmyrah by traditional methods without using any aids and this way of climbing involved risk of life and further left ugly and indelible scar on the tappers chest, legs and also on hands.

In addition, due to manual climbing the efficiency of the tappers was also reduced, thereby earning also coming down.

Due to this factor, present day youngsters were not interested to venture in this field. As in all cultivated or exploited palms, reduced stature would be a much appreciable quality since it facili-

tated easy harvest of its economic part Ponnuswami claimed.

There was no alternative to climbing when the 'neera', has to be tapped. Thus height was a serious limitation and it increased labour time and effort considerably, in addition to the risks inherent in climbing, he said.

For health drink and nungu collection, a dwarf palmyra tree having a short juvenile period and high yield of neera per tree was the most important features, Ponnuswami said. Moreover, climbing palmyra involved drudgery, therefore skilled persons were slowly evading this job, he said. For all these betterments, the basic need was the survey, identification and collection of elite genotypes

with high neera yield and dwarfness, Ponnuswami said. Keeping these in mind, the Centre has sponsored two schemes on palmyra titled + Survey, collection and evaluation of palmyra (borassus flabellifer) types for

higher neera yield and post harvest characters+ and + Entrepreneurship development of edible and non-edible products formulation, bio-crafts, value addition and marketing of palmyra palm,+ with a budget outlay of Rs 18.82 lakh and Rs eight lakh respectively.

These schemes were in operation at the Faculty of Horticulture, TNAU here, Ponnuswami, the principal investigator for both the schemes, said.

Besides survey and collection of elite palmyra types with dwarf stature, the activities of schemes included increasing shelf-life of neera and development of entrepreneurship among the palmyra tappers and their family members, Ponnuswami said.

[PTI]



Nungu in Koyil Poratheevu, Batticaloa district, Sri Lanka. Nungu - Kernel of the Palmyrah; the near-black fruits contain three heart shaped & cream coloured 'nungus', when cut into the hard shell and out pop. Some fruits may have up to four kernels in one fruit. It looks and tastes like very delicious jelly, as a unique wonder delicacy of nature. Photo: [HumanityAshore.org]

Continued from Page 1

Canada celebrates World Refugee Day

This year, since January 2007 alone, Canada has made major commitments to provide protection to 2,810 Karen refugees living in camps in Thailand, 5,000 Bhutanese refugees living in camps in Nepal and agreed to accept up to 1,400 Iraqis in the Middle East.

"World Refugee Day in Canada has always focused on the strength of refugees and for their positive contributions to their new communities," said Jahanshah Assadi, UNHCR Representative in Canada. "But this could not have been possible without the strong commitment of all levels of government and individual Canadians, as well as faith-based organizations, and other non-governmental organizations, who work so hard to restore meaning and hope to the lives of refugees in Canada.

Minister Finley added, "So many of the refugees who have come to Canada have successfully

integrated into our society and have made tremendous contributions. Their experiences, their hopes, their dreams and their skills have helped build a richer Canada."

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is working closely with settlement service agencies and private sponsoring groups as they deliver key services and supports to help refugees adapt their talents to a new and very different life in Canada.

In December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 20 as World Refugee Day to bring attention to the plight of the world's refugees and to offer support, encouragement and respect. With this year's theme of "Refugees' Strength," the day is an opportunity to celebrate the resilience of refugees, and the contributions they have made to the countries in which they've settled.

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Kollywood TidBitz

Kollywood Top Contenders

Actor-turned-director **Venkat Prabhu** has made a mark for himself as a successful director with Chennai 600028. The movie on Gully Cricket has gone on to become a big hit. Several offers to wield the megaphone have come knocking to Venkat Prabhu's doors. But the young director has chosen to go on a wait and watch mode. He is currently acting in Seeman's Vazhthukal. Asked why



back to acting, Venkat Prabhu says, "I play a meaty role in the movie. Directed by Seeman insisted that I do the pivotal role in Vazhthukal". "Since he had tremendous faith in my acting credentials, he gave me the offer to act along side Madhavan. I could not resist the offer".

Sandhya is one of the young heroines in Tamil, who is keen to do varied roles. The actress says, "I am not interested in the routine heroine running around trees and



romancing the hero. I want to portray different characters and leave a mark for myself in the industry". Sandhya is currently shooting for Kannamoochi Enada opposite Prithviraj, Thoondil along side Shaam, Manjal Veyyil with

Prasanna. Sandhya will commence shooting for director Selvaraghavan's forthcoming film Malai Nerathu Mayakkam with Paruthiveeran fame Karthi this month-end. She says, "I consider myself lucky to do different roles after Kadhal. Movies including Dishoom, Koodal Nagar and Vallavan had enough scope for me to prove my acting skills".

Telugu super star Chiranjeevi's son **Ramcharan Theja** is making his foray to film-dom. The young lad is currently shooting for a Telugu film. Close on the heels of the movie's completion, plans are on to introduce



Ramcharan Theja in Kollywood. Chiranjeevi has approached director Lingusamy for the job. The latter, who completed Bheema starring Vikram recently, would direct a bi-lingual (to be made in Tamil and Telugu simultaneously). It would feature Ramcharan Theja in the lead role. Search for the rest of the cast and crew are on.

Shriya is a rage in Kollywood. Her Sivaji: The Boss opposite Rajnikanth has witnessed a bumper opening. She is equally thrilled for her Hindi venture Awarapan opposite Emraan Hashmi which opened recently across the globe last week. "I accepted Awarapan because I was convinced of its strong storyline, the director and the reputed



production house. They have a history of making sensitive films that have become hits. Their female characters are well etched. After the success of my films in the South, I needed a film that could parallel my position there. I think I have made the right decision". She is thrilled for she has been assigned to act in Sangeet Sivan's Ek -The Power of One opposite Bobby Deol and two Tamil films Kandasamy opposite Vikram and Azhagiya Tamil Magan with Vijay.

Sridevi and Kamal Haasan were considered the lucky pair in Tami cinema in late 1980s and early 1990s. The two had come together to render several blockbusters then. After Dasavath-



aram' is complete, buzz is that Kamal will act in a film to be directed by P Vasu. It is said Vasu is trying to sign on Sridevi for that. However the actress, who is married to Bollywood producer Boney Kapoor, does not seem to be interested in acting again. Efforts are on to convince her. Meanwhile, Vasu has been roped into play a prominent role in

some. Vivek and Rajni combine to provide some very hilarious moments.

Vivek must come in for special mention for his performance, especially the scene where he very candidly points out about every spring chicken of the industry trying to become the Superstar overnight, aping his mannerism (watch the movie for the real fun). Shriya comes and goes in the songs where one must say she looks gorgeous, but there is a very thin line between glamour and vulgarity and here the lines seem to have blurred. The high points of the first half however must be the songs. Balleilakka simply rocks. Nayanthara fits the song to perfection - looking very beautiful. The STYLE song, in praise of the Superstar's inimitable element of style has been shot in a way that is completely novel to Tamil cinema. The choreographers - Brindha and Prabhu Deva respectively have done a great job. The plot of the movie thickens as we get closer to the interval and it is only in the second half that Rajni really unleashes on screen; it's action time.



Whether he talks, flips sunglasses or walks nonchalantly. Let's get it straight, Sivaji is a Rajni film directed by Shankar and not a Shankar film starring Rajni; which one do you prefer? One thing for sure, if you prefer the latter you are surely in the minority. The movie has enough and more for people who think that Rajni was at his best in Thillu Mullu and also for those who think that nothing can beat Baasha.

The movie portrays Rajni in different flavors of fun, lover, the terror and the boss.

One gets to see the first two in first half and the last two in the second half. There is ample fun for everyone who is looking for

Dasavatharam.

Eagerly expecting the release of Billa is not only Ajith, but also **Nayantara**. Hoping that the film will turn a new leaf in her career, Nayantara anticipates that more offers would come in her way once Billa gets released. "Billa is the best crew that I have worked so far. Everything was organized and planned. Director



Vishnuvardhan was always cool and good at extracting work from others. It is like a picnic for me since this is one of my longest abroad schedules", says Nayantara, when asked about Billa. On dancing in Balelakka with Superstar Rajnikanth in Sivaji, the actress says, "My mobile is continuously ringing after the release of Sivaji as my friends and fans are complimenting me for sharing screen again with Rajnikanth".

Veteran actress **Jayapradha** is making a comeback in Tamil cinema after a long gap. The yesteryear heroine had won accolades for her roles in movies including Ninaithalae Inikum and Salangai Oli opposite Kamal Haasan. The beautiful lady is playing a prominent role in Kamal



The second half is all about Rajni and the villains, Suman being the lead antagonist. He has managed to look every inch the 'wolf in a sheepskin' kind of character. Dressed in white and white, sporting a wide smile, this might just become the new stereotype look of the Tamil villain for some time to come. Villains cannot get more handsome. The script moves at an express rate here, with twists and turns galore. Not at one point does the tempo of the movie drop. In between, there are some very interesting



comic interludes involving Solomon Pappiah (you are bound to laugh every time he appears on screen) and a few other comic scenes to offer some relief from the tense main plot.

Shankar has taken all the cares to make the script as unpredictable as possible and that has worked, as the biggest twist of

Haasan's Dasavatharam. No sooner the news of Jayapradha making a comeback in Tamil film-dom spread, then several producers made a beeline to her. However Jayapradha has chosen not to do any more Tamils films now. According to her, "I accepted to act in Dasavatharam, since it was Kamalji's film. He is one of the actors, whom I admire a lot. I watched him at very close quarters and admired him a lot. I readily agreed when Kamal Haasan approached me".

After Rajnikanth and Kamal Haasan, **Ajith and Vijay** are considered the money-spinners in Kollywood. Movies starring Ajith and Vijay have never failed to rake in moolah at the box office. Both the prominent actors of Tamil cinema were spellbound



after watching Rajnikanth's Sivaji. Ajith, who is currently shooting for Billa, a remake of Rajnikanth's yesteryear blockbuster, watched Sivaji at Kuala Lumpur in an exclusive premiere along with Malaysian Minister Datho Samuvel. Impressed with movie, he heaped laurels on both Rajnikanth and Shankar. Vijay managed to watch the movie at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad along with the likes of Mahesh Babu and others. Spellbound by the looks of Rajnikanth, Vijay poured encomiums on Rajnikanth and said that he admired Rajnikanth in every frame. Silambarasan, called Little Super Star in the industry, is currently shooting at Theni for Kaalai. He watched the movie at a theatre in Theni and was highly impressed.

by Anand. J

Comments to:

cine@monsoonjournal.com

FILM REVIEWS

SIVAJI

The movie without any bias is undoubtedly one of the best entertainers in the recent times. If one sees it purely as Director Shankar's movie, the viewers will be highly disappointed but if one sees it as a pure entertainer, then the movie comes out great.

One can easily relate Shankar to a Rajni fan since he has shown actor Rajinikanth in all dimensions which a die hard fan of Rajni would like to see. Movie has all essential entertaining ingredients like fantastic locations, Technical wizardry, mind blowing songs, good mixture of comedy, action and sentiments with a very old storyline boosting one man crusade against tirades. Superstar Rajinikanth proves yet again why he is a Superstar.

The man was chosen by destiny to give us moments of unmatched joy and that is what he does in Sivaji, enthrall. He exudes charisma in each frame.

the movie fell like a thunderbolt on the audience; you don't see such things normally in a Rajni movie. The climax (of course you know who had the last laugh) is easily the best and the most exciting part of the movie.

Though defying superhuman powers, the fights choreographed by Peter Heinz and the extremely lavish sets created by Thotta Tharani stand out. Camera work of K.V.Anand is first rate through out, Antony's editing is crisp and Sujatha's dialogues are rock solid.

A.R.Rahman's songs are being lapped up by the audience with background score adding substance to the narration. Shankar, the architect of the product should be applauded for raising the bench mark of a Rajni movie. Future directors might find it even more challenging to script the Superstar in the future.

Kudos and full marks to the team of Sivaji for dishing out a neat, clean family entertainer sans blood, gory and violence.

Sivaji - Stylish and Entertaining.

by Anand. J

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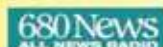
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