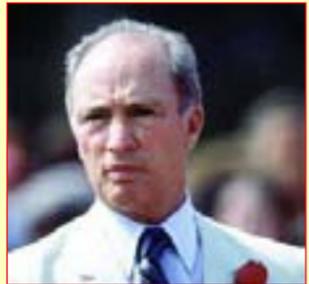


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 - Pierre Elliott Trudeau
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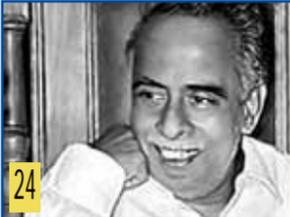
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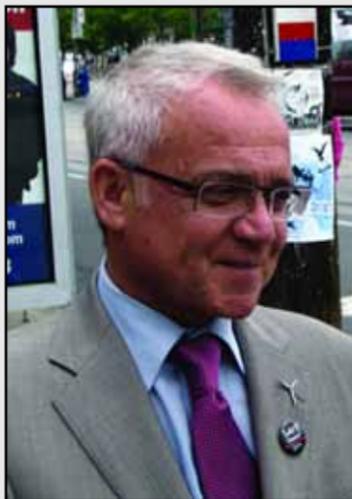
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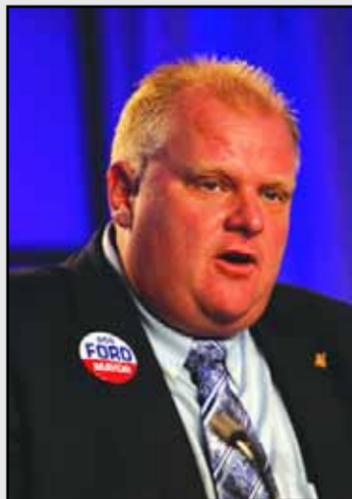
Who will lead City of Toronto on Oct 25th



George Smitherman



Joe Pantalone



Rob Ford



Rocco Rossi

Read full story in page 16

The Scarborough Hospital's Garden Party hosted by The Punjani Family at their Bridle Path home raises over \$100,000

Well over 300 donors and guests attended The Scarborough Hospital's Garden party hosted by The Punjani Family that was held on Saturday, Oct 2nd. There were many sponsors at various levels which helped support and elevate the event.

The master of ceremony was Jora Sahota, Host/Producer, Eye on Asia TV on City TV who also encouraged everyone to generously donate for a worthy cause.

Miss India Canada, Ms. Meher Pavri was also in attendance and provided entertainment with her elegant singing. Other entertainment included Greek dancing and the Chinese dragon dance.

The evening raised well over \$100,000 for The Scarborough Hospital. Several distinguished donors and guests attended as well and the event was very successful, Dr. John Wright said, President & CEO of The Scarborough Hospital during his speech. He further outlined the importance of the community to help bring the hospital to a higher standard.

Shafiq Punjani and Alisha Punjani also spoke and thanked the hospital staff for their dedication and hard work that everyone put into the event. The Punjani family was so pleased they were able to host a unique event like this successfully.



Venue of the Garden Party at The Bridle Path
 More pictures on page 4 ...

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'RBC provides great service and helped me build a new life'

When Buta Uppal came to Canada in 1997, he could have never imagined the success that awaited him.

Buta soon discovered, however, that building a new life meant starting over again from the ground up. Although his family owned a poultry farm back in India and he had helped them run the business, he took an entry-level job at a poultry plant in British Columbia at minimum wage. This helped him to learn the business from a Canadian perspective. Buta was able to quickly familiarize himself with Canadian business practices and within six months of working at the poultry plant, he was able to set-up and begin running his own business. Today he runs a successful poultry products company in British Columbia.

"The business was very small at first, and there were lots of challenges along the way," recalls Buta. He persisted through the ups and downs and worked hard to make his company successful, all while establishing a new life here.

From early on, RBC Royal Bank® helped him to build the strong financial foundation that would support his success. He worked closely with his RBC® account manager, Jasmil who set up the right accounts for both his business and his personal banking. Buta also acquired a mortgage for his home with RBC.

"The people at RBC have always understood what I wished to do and they help me do it. The service is excellent." Jasmil continues to ensure Buta's banking is on track, providing advice on ways that he can save money.

Buta also appreciates being able to speak with someone in his native language — Punjabi. "Working with someone who is friendly and who speaks



my language has been very helpful to me in organizing my finances."

In many ways, Buta is the epitome of a successful new Canadian; he's worked hard and has built a new life for himself in his adopted country. He now owns and operates a multi-million dollar business that employs 35 people. "My business is in good shape. I am planning to grow

it further, but I am pleased that it is on track." When he takes the next step, Buta knows that RBC will be there for him, as it has been every step along the way.

"My whole family banks here and I would recommend RBC to anyone. They've helped me a lot. They provide good advice and great service."

Make your transition to Canada worry free

Getting settled and established financially are just a few of the priorities for newcomers to Canada. Camon Mak, head of multicultural markets for RBC offers four tips for making a successful transition:

- **Choose the right banking account to meet your needs** – Ask your banking advisor to help you choose the right account based on your anticipated transaction pattern and potentially your average monthly balance – you'll save money on service fees if you choose the right account.
- **Build your credit history** – Your credit history from another country is not readily accessible to Canadian financial institutions when applying for credit in Canada. Get a credit card to help you start building your credit rating in Canada as quickly as possible – this will help to position you for future borrowing needs.
- **Manage your money** – Use RBC's online banking tools to help keep tabs on your monthly spending and for convenient payment of all your important bills.
- **Buy your home with ease** – Purchasing a home can be very rewarding but also time intensive. Ask our advisors about home ownership advice and RBC's first-time homebuyer loans that fit your situation.

Newcomers can get advice on setting and meeting their financial priorities in their new country in our guidebook, Understanding Banking in Canada, available with the RBC Welcome to Canada banking package. You can also find out how to obtain a copy online at www.rbc.com/newincanada.

Three tips for new Canadians starting a business

If you are thinking of starting a business in Canada, it pays to know what resources are available. There are several special programs and services offered by the government, and financial institutions to help newcomers become successful business owners in Canada.

"Newcomers should look for start-up incentives, advisory services and step-by-step roadmaps," said Camon Mak, head multicultural markets.

Mak offers tips for getting started:

- Find a small business advisor at a bank who understands your needs as a newcomer. They can provide you with the appropriate advice to help your business succeed.
- Ask your advisor where to look for information on understanding local market opportunities.
- Talk to your advisor about getting connected to important community resources, such as an accountant, lawyer and government services.

Further tips are available online at www.rbcroyalbank.com/tips. You can also visit <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/lifeevents/business.shtml>, to find more information on how to start your own business in Canada.



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¹Savings are based on a comparison of the cost of banking service fees for a typical account holder with an RBC Day to Day Banking® account compared to an RBC Signature No Limit Banking® account or an RBC VIP Banking® account. Savings were calculated assuming the use of all banking services available within the package. The amount actually saved will vary depending on the extent to which you use each of the account services. For this calculation, the following assumptions regarding service use were made: Overdraft protection, 1 cheque order annually, 2 Interac Email Money Transfers, \$1000CDN of travellers cheques purchased annually, plus the use of 4 bank drafts annually, travel coupon and assumes the use of a Safe Deposit Box. Savings for the RBC Signature No Limit Banking account also includes 45 debits, 3 Interac Withdrawals and Rewards credit card. © Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ™ Trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.

Government Partnership Celebrates Launch Of Züm Bus Rapid Transit Service In Brampton



David Tilson, Member of Parliament for Dufferin-Caledon; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Ontario's Minister of Transportation; and Her Worship Susan Fennell, mayor of Brampton, today participated in a launch event for Züm, Brampton's first bus rapid transit (BRT) service, and the official opening of the new Brampton Transit Bramalea Terminal.

Züm service will run along Queen Street, from downtown Brampton to York University, and began operations from September 20, 2010.

"Investments in regional transit links will connect cities, create jobs, boost the Canadian economy and improve the environment," said MP Tilson. "This rapid transit system will provide commuters in Brampton and the Greater Toronto Area with a more efficient transit option, while cutting commute times and taking

more cars off the road."

"Supporting public transit projects across Ontario makes good economic and environmental sense," said Minister Wynne. "New Züm BRT service will provide convenient and timely access to other transit networks in Toronto, Mississauga, York Region and GO Transit, and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Transit investments like this are part of the McGuinty government's Open Ontario plan to strengthen our economy and create more jobs and opportunities across the province."

"The launch of Züm marks an incredibly important milestone for both Brampton Transit and the City of Brampton," said Mayor Fennell. "City council made it a priority to work quickly and efficiently with senior levels in government to deliver a modern, reliable and environmentally friendly bus rapid transit system to the



people of Brampton, on time and on budget. With the launch of Züm service on September 20, Bramptonians will benefit from a sleek, state-of-the-art, world-class rapid transit system that will connect them with major events and activities in and around Brampton, and across the GTA."

The \$285-million Brampton Züm project is being delivered in two phases, and the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Brampton are equal funding partners. In

addition to the Queen Street corridor, Phase 1 also includes construction of BRT lines on Main Street and Steeles Avenue, with scheduled completion by September 2011 and September 2012 respectively. Work is ongoing and future events will be held to mark important construction milestones. Phase 2 of the project will expand services along Queen Street and Steeles Avenue, as well as introducing service on Bovaird Drive. Completion of the second phase is expected by

2021.

The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$95 million through the FLOW initiative. The Province of Ontario has already provided its contribution of \$95 million, and the City of Brampton will fund the remaining \$95 million in total project costs.

For more information on Ontario's transit investments, visit www.ontario.ca/transportation-news.

BASMATI RICE : ARE WE GETTING VALUE FOR WHAT WE PAY?



Basmati rice is regarded as the most popular variety of Rice in the world. It is sold at a premium price in the world market. The defining fact is that the word BASMATI should only be used to describe certain long grain aromatic rice varieties grown exclusively in the Punjab region in India and Pakistan.

With Market demand increasing for this product globally, combined with the price sensitivity in all global markets, producers and importers alike are inclined to adulterate the blend of this very premium quality rice in order to match market demands at low prices. This has resulted in different variants of Basmati rice (which is blended with cheap and low quality Long Grain rice) entering into the global market place and being sold as Basmati Rice.

According to European Union laws, a Basmati product must contain no more than 7% non-basmati rice. Up until now, variety

testing of rice accurately has been almost impossible to do but a UK based laboratory, Reading Scientific Services Limited (RSSL) has developed a DNA based test to accurately test the products.

The method [based on DNA profiling] has been validated on all of the commercially available varieties of Basmati rice and has been designed to give suppliers and consumers confidence in the accuracy of product labelling," said Barbara Hirst, technical manager of RSSL's DNA and protein laboratories.

Given the importance placed on consumer awareness and choice, it is a matter of time until this method of testing rice would be used by countries across the world to validate the quality of this exceptional variety of Rice.

Source: www.foodproductiondaily.com "New test to detect fake Basmati rice" Jane Byrne, 27th January 2009. Viewed, 29th September 2010.

Newcomers find managing finances in Canada more difficult than expected: RBC Poll

TORONTO, September 27, 2010 — Forty per cent of newcomers to Canada say that managing finances is more difficult than they expected, according to a recent RBC poll. Additionally, close to half (47 per cent) are worried that they will not have enough money to live comfortably.

While two-in-three (63 per cent) newcomers are excited to see what the future holds in Canada, they indicate that higher than expected day-to-day living expenses

(41 per cent) and items costing more than anticipated (26 per cent) are the biggest financial obstacles to overcome.

"Setting up your day-to-day banking and establishing a budget are important pieces in a complex puzzle that people need to deal with when moving to a new country," said Camon Mak, director, Multicultural Markets at RBC. "Sitting down with a financial advisor who understands the anxiety that can come with a move to a new country goes a long way in helping newcomers focus on building their new lives."

The survey shows that newcomers use a variety of measures to manage their finances, including living more modestly than they did back home (30 per cent) and taking on extra jobs (22 per cent) to help make ends meet. Some respondents noted that they would go as far as postpon-



ing medical or dental work until absolutely necessary (20 per cent) to control their living expenses.

Mak offers the following advice to help newcomers make a successful transition to Canada:

Choose the right banking account to meet your needs – Speak with a financial advisor who can help you choose the right account based on your anticipated transaction pattern and potential average monthly balance. You'll save money on service fees if you choose the right account and RBC offers the flexibility to choose an account that fits your needs.

Build your credit history – Your credit history from another country is not readily accessible to Canadian financial institutions when applying for credit in Canada. RBC now offers a range of credit solutions to help skilled workers new to Canada get started without prior credit history being required.

Track your spending and follow a budget – Take advantage of RBC's online banking tools, such

as myFinance Tracker, to help manage your monthly spending so you know exactly where your money is going. myFinanceTracker will automatically categorize transactions, track expenses and provide advanced budgeting capabilities for all personal banking and credit card accounts.

RBC's Welcome to Canada package helps newcomers who have been in Canada for less than three years with key financial decisions and includes advice and discounts on products and services. Details on the RBC Welcome to Canada banking package, the "Understanding Banking in Canada" guidebook, and branch locator that identify representatives who speak a variety of languages can be found at www.rbc.com/settlequick.

Information on moving to Canada, including financial advice and solutions can be found at www.rbc.com/canada and is accessible to consumers around the world.

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around us
All lands home, all men kin.

"Never cheat on grains (Food)"
- Auvaiyar - circa 1st century
C.E Tamil Poetess

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"Source for Multi Ethnic Exposure"

From the Publisher's Desk ... World Food Day, 16 October 2010: "United Against Hunger"

By Krishni Loganathan, B.A. (Hons)
Imagine having to choose between
food and shelter on a daily basis. Imagine
having to limit the number of meals you
have in one day. Imagine the look of a mother's
face as she has to tell her child that there
is no food for them to eat today. These are
all conditions that impoverished families
have to deal with on a consistent basis. Privileges
of eating meals everyday are not so common
for families surviving to make ends meet
as many families across the world eat just
enough to survive another day.

The food industry in North America is
consistently growing, with proportions
enough to feed an entire impoverished family.
North Americans specifically are served large
portions of more than enough food that is
wasted every day. In North America alone
more than 100 billion pounds of food is
wasted every year. Now think of the millions
of people living below the poverty line

and barely surviving another day that would
have happily eaten all of this wasted food.

With the standards that the food industry
has about the quality of food that should be
consumed and sold to customers is one of
the many causes for the massive amount of
food wastage every year. Restaurants become
popular and in demand because of the quality
of food that is being made, and if standards
are not kept up then the business fails. Pounds
of food are being thrown out every day
because they cannot be kept overnight to
sell to customers. It is a shame that this
food is not donated to local families in need
or food shelters that serve the homeless.

As October 16th approaches let us be
accountable for the food that we waste and
only take enough that we can eat. Think
about the starving children in third world
countries in Africa and Asia, and what a
privilege it would make to them to eat every
day.

The difference we can make in some-

UNITED AGAINST HUNGER



16 October 2010 World Food Day



one's life can be as small as a gesture as
donating canned food items to a food drive.
If you cannot afford to donate food, there
are many other ways to make a difference
including donating your time. If we all do
our part change can happen. Volunteering at
a soup kitchen is a great way to donate your
time and give back to those that are not as

fortunate as us. Donating non perishable
items throughout the year and not only during
the holiday season will make a great difference
for a child going to sleep hungry.

As World Food Day approaches let us
open our hearts by opening our pockets, let
us donate whatever we can to a local or
national charity towards a great cause; the
children and families less fortunate than
ourselves. There is only so much one person
can do, but together, united at a national,
international and global level we can help
to make a difference to raising awareness
and ending global hunger.

Monsoon Journal joins hands with the
world humanitarian community and wishes
very much success to the 1 billion hungry
project (<http://www.1billionhungry.org/>) and
hopes that you all sign the anti-hunger
petition. Let us all be thankful for what we
have and offer what we can.

"If you can't feed a hundred people,
then feed just one." - Mother Teresa

The Scarborough Hospital's Garden Party ... More pictures



Umesh Vallipuram, AMG Canada and Mark Beckles, RBC



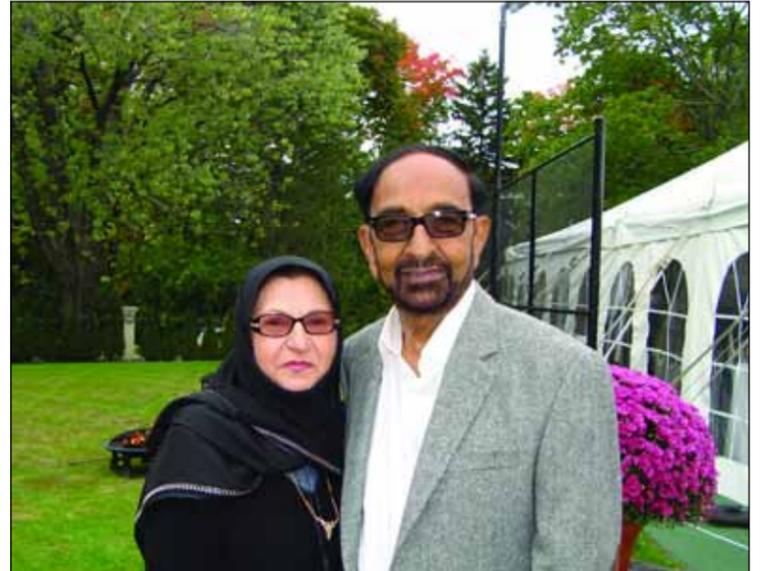
Dr. Chung-Wai Chow and Dr. John Wright
with Meher Pavri, Miss. India - Canada



Guests at Party, Mike Ahilan, RBC Terry Chan, RBC and Ken Kirupa, Re/Max



Imtiaz Seyid, Terry Chan and Mike Ahilan of RBC with Alisha Punjani



Mr & Mrs. Punjani

Volunteers to host 26th annual Bazaar on Oct 21st



Reta Barker, the Knitting Convenor for
The Scarborough Hospital's Volunteer
Services' Bazaar Committee, shows she has
plenty of talent up her sleeve—along with
her knitted items, she has made batches
of homemade peach jam for this year's
annual Bazaar.

This year's event will be held in the
Irene Stickland room at the Birchmount
campus of The Scarborough Hospital on
Thursday, Oct. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00
p.m., and will include all your favourite
features from years past—a Silent

Auction, bake sale, jewellery, knitting,
plants, an English Tea and delicious
samosas and Jamaican patties—along with
Reta's wonderful jam, of course.

The Bazaar is a terrific place to shop
for some early holiday gifts, and proceeds
support the Volunteers' fundraising efforts
for the hospital. The Silent Auction items
will be available for viewing and bids
beginning on October 18, just outside the
Tim Horton's at the Birchmount campus.
Free parking will be provided with any
purchase.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada

Some of the photos taken on Oct 1st by Deb Ransom



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, delivers his first address to Canadians



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General Designate David Johnston enter the Parliament of Canada



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and his wife, Her Excellency Sharon Johnston, leave Parliament Hill in a landau

"We're allowing people to become anti-immigrant in Canada. We're playing into people's fears. We're playing into people's ignorance, as well, because the government has not led in its responsibility to educate people that our prosperity ... is going to depend on the immigrants." Justin Trudeau, a Liberal MP and the opposition immigration critic made these remarks when he visited the Regina Open Door Society, an Immigrant Settlement Services Organization on Sept 28th.

Justin Trudeau is the son of former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, hailed as the "Dashing Fighter for Canada".

Justin Trudeau made these observations on the day of his

continued.

"I celebrate his birthday every year, which also happens to be the birthday of my eldest son, so it makes it a time to remember all the extraordinary things that my father did as a dad. I'll let the historians and journalists wrangle over what his legacy is and I'll remember the values that he shared with me, the way he raised me as a phenomenal dad. It's nice to see pictures of him on the TV and in the news today, but he's always close to my heart."

Trudeau said his visit to Regina was in the spirit of Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's tasking cabinet members to "get out of the Ottawa bubble, get out of our ridings across the country and start talking about the kind of country we want

Government has not led in its responsibility to educate people that our prosperity is going to depend on the immigrants: Justin Trudeau



Left to Right: Ralph Goodale MP, Regina Open Door Society Executive Director Darcy Dietrich and Justin Trudeau MP

father's 10th death anniversary, a report by Joe Couture of Regina, Saskatchewan based newspaper, The Leader-Post said.

The report further said:

"I reflect on my father every single day of my life, particularly in this job," Justin Trudeau said after visiting the Regina Open Door Society.

"I don't particularly celebrate this day as an anniversary," he

to build."

"It's not about just talking about it," he said. "It's about listening. It's about hearing people. It's about engaging with people on the challenges they're facing. Listening to their fears and their concerns and trying to allay them. Listening to their hopes and their dreams and trying to fulfil them. That's what politics is all about."

He said that, under the



Conservative government, "people have forgotten the government should be about that."

His said visiting the Open Door Society was "excellent."

"Organizations like this that work extremely hard don't get the pay or the recognition that they need," he said. "For me to be able to come and tell them, 'Wow, you guys are doing a great job. It's really important. It fits into the kind of Canada we need to build,' is very rewarding to them, but it's also tremendous for us to be able

to see what good work they're doing."

He said his priority as critic is to ensure the government "doesn't keep polarizing the issue around immigration."

"We're allowing people to become anti-immigrant in Canada. We're playing into people's fears. We're playing into people's ignorance, as well, because the government has not led in its responsibility to educate people that our prosperity ... is going to depend on the immigrants."

Trudeau also planned to visit the First Nations University of Canada and meet with Liberal Party supporters.

Ralph Goodale, Regina Liberal MP and deputy party leader, said it was "encouraging" that Trudeau visited the city.

"I think he has a dimension now, an understanding, of immigration on the Prairies," Goodale said. "He'll remember what (the Open Door Society) is and how it functions and what it needs."



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**MONSOON
NEWSLINES**
by IRIN News

Months after the end of fighting between Sri Lankan government forces and the Tamil Tigers, women in the north are taking up a new and challenging role as breadwinners - with more and more becoming day labourers to support their families.

A survey conducted by the Jaffna-based Center for Women and Development, a non-profit group, revealed that the northern region had approximately 40,000 female-headed households - including more than 20,000 in Jaffna District.

"Three factors have reduced the male-headed households in number: the war, disappearances



Kaliyamagal is the owner of a small shop at an IDP camp in northern Sri Lanka ~ Photo: Dilrukshi Handunnetti/IRIN

or being in military custody," said Saroja Sivachandran, the centre's director.

The Sri Lankan civil war, which began in the 1970s, claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced more than 280,000 people, primarily in the north and east of the country. The government took control of the east in 2007, and declared victory in the north in May 2009.

Although up-to-date statistics are hard to come by because

Women take over as breadwinners in Sri Lanka North

many people remain displaced, Sivachandran and government officials say the northern and eastern regions combined are home to some 89,000 war widows.

"This has drastically altered their livelihood options. Over 50 percent of them [women who head households] are single parents under 30 years of age supporting their own and extended families," said Visaka Dharmadasa, executive director of the Association for War-Affected Women (AWAW).

AWAW and other support groups say many employers are discriminating against women, in some cases paying less than US\$1 a day.

Maillaiyappal Thangavelu supports her two children, parents and three sisters by working on a



The number of female-headed households has increased

given, often because they have many mouths to feed," Sivachandran said.

"Women provide cheap labour, so they are preferred," said Nagarasa Thavaselvam, president of the Kampanai Camp Residents' Committee in Jaffna, adding that in some households, men are now becoming dependent on women for economic support. Thavaselvam himself is one of many house-husbands.

Government security restrictions on traditional occupations - such as fishing and farming, the main industries of the north - have also driven women to work, Thavaselvam added.

At a construction site, a manager gave his own reasons for hiring women over men: "Women report to work on time. They don't drink and provide cheap labour."

Although many women are finding jobs, more assistance is needed to boost their livelihoods in a society where many women have never worked outside the home before, and had never imagined they would do anything other than care for their families.

Imelda Sukumar, a government official for Jaffna and Mullaitivu districts, said industries had to be encouraged to create more jobs, but there had been some programmes for community-based income generation and

cash for work at small infrastructure development projects.

"These projects are vital for areas where women carry heavy economic burdens," Sukumar said.

Meanwhile, unemployment - particularly with fishing and agriculture still being pieced back together - is fuelling food insecurity, she said.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has provided returning families with six-month food packages, but because many households have been unable to access their land and "resume normal activities", they have given returnees three additional months of food support.

While determining the extent of further assistance needed, WFP will move away from free food and to food for work on community projects or skills training - which will also benefit women.

"It is critical that female-headed households are supported with skills training and other appropriate interventions," Giancarlo Stopponi, officer in charge and head of WFP's programme unit in Colombo said. "This will better prepare families for a successful transition from resettlement to

early recovery, and thus achieving some form of sustainable household activity."

The Center for Women and Development said one economic support programme for war-affected women is a \$100 grant to help them open a shop, pack chillies and coriander for commercial distribution, or purchase a sewing machine.

An AWAW programme assists farmers to secure farmland.

According to an update from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, nearly 6,900ha of abandoned land is being targeted for cultivation.

"The next season is likely to be better, enabling farming families to return to their original livelihoods," said Dharmadasa of AWAW.

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I sail on the river of life,
In my frail little boat
Captained quite often by my Lord.
Then the waters are placid and cool.
Life drifts along peacefully for me,
This makes me over confident;
And so I take the controls,
Sure I can manage the river.
Then it turns rough, rapids
And waterfalls confront me,
My little boat is battered
Try, as I do, to be in control.
Exhausted and humbled by life
I return the controls to my Lord.
Without a word of reproach
He guides my boat for me.

-By Betty Paul Thottam.

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Former female fighters strive for a better life

by IRIN News

BATTICALOA - Lalitha* was 23, from Petiva Pullumalai, deep in Sri Lanka's eastern interior, when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) came for her.

At the time, each family living under LTTE control was required to provide a child to the separatist forces fighting for an independent Tamil homeland for three decades. Lalitha joined up to spare her younger sister.

After heading a female Tamil Tiger team in battle for nine years, Lalitha escaped in 2004 to take care of her then-ailing mother, only to end up on the run.

She was terrified of being identified by the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) or the LTTE and putting her family at risk.

"Every day I would change my accommodation so I would not be tracked down," she said. Today Lalitha lives with her mother in their partially built home, earning a small wage managing a makeshift shop in the eastern city of Batticaloa.

According to the World Bank, only one-third of skilled youth are employed in Sri Lanka and much of the Batticaloa's population remains dependent on traditional livelihoods like fishing and paddy farming to subsist.

But for women like Lalitha, that struggle can be more pronounced.

The biggest problem for female ex-combatants in Batticaloa is that a conservative Tamil civilian society does not allow them to use the skills they learnt in the armed movement, said Sonny Inbaraj, a researcher from the UK-based Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who recently completed a study on the reintegration of female ex-combatants in Batticaloa.

"Society would have them learning how to sew or be domestic helpers, rather than being carpenters, masons, bricklayers or computer repairers," he said.

At the same time, however, Inbaraj believes the women have formed strong support networks among themselves, and are often the heads of households in this post-war period.

"I don't think there is stigma at the community level against the women ex-combatants... Most of them were from areas that supported the Tigers," he says.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has helped 660 ex-combatants, more than 50 of them women, who took the risk to enrol in the government-backed plan in the east.

"These are people in govern-



For many of Sri Lanka's former female combatants, the road back to normalcy will be a long one-pic by Rebecca Murray/IRIN

ment rehab centres," Richard Danzinger, IOM's chief of mission in Sri Lanka, said. "Once discharged they come to us, and we see what their needs and aspirations are. Then we provide both direct and indirect assistance. For example, business grants, civic education training and vocational training."

Rasenthi*, from rural Thihilivetta in the east, was 13 when the LTTE knocked on her family's door. She survived a fierce battle in the LTTE stronghold of Vaharai when 80 Tigers were killed, including her best friend, and Rasenthi was hit by shrapnel. After an operation by LTTE medics, metal now replaces bone on the right side of her skull.

"When I came home I had a bad reputation," Rasenthi recalls. "Many of my old friends didn't talk to me, and feared to be associated with me." After being identified by the SLA, Rasenthi ran away to hide near Batticaloa town for three years. "I was very scared," she says.

The 22-year-old now says she has missed too much school to return. She has instead enrolled in a six-month bakery course at the national Sarvodaya vocational training centre in Batticaloa, hoping for a steady job.

The Sarvodaya programme is part of the government-backed reintegration programme that offers vocational skills for aspiring electricians, plumbers, beauticians and food manufacturers, and community leadership training.

To date, some 200 people have graduated from the programme, and there is a large demand from the private sector for their skills, E.L.A. Careem, Sarvodaya's long-term coordinator in Batticaloa, says.

"With the last 30 years of war, many youth have had difficulties with work and their future," he says. "Mentally and physically they have had challenges - no father, mother, or sister. And many only have only low-level skills, as compared to youth in Colombo. But gradually we are establishing a new generation.

15 year - old Anusha Ravichandran still looking for her sister: "My sister is my best friend; please bring her back to me"

by IRIN News

Sixteen months after the end of the civil war in northern Sri Lanka, thousands of former rebel fighters are still missing or in government detention, according to the government and a local NGO, Law and Trust Society.

Anusha Ravichandran, 15, and her family lost contact with 16-year-old Dharisah two months after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels forcibly recruited her in March 2009. Ravichandran spoke to IRIN about her loss:

"My sister was my best friend. We shared a lot together. Even during the war, she would comfort me when I was scared of the shelling going on around me. We moved from place to place during the war. I did not have many friends and she gave me everything a friend and a sister can give.

"They [Tamil Tigers rebels] were losing the war. They wanted one [recruit] from each family. We managed to hide our sister from the kidnapers [rebels] in 2008 but in [March] 2009, they took her from us.

"She got in touch with us through several other cadres who were in the movement in April. She told us the Tigers warned her not to escape or her family would be killed. I know she was scared for our safety.

"There was nobody to tell when this happened. There was nobody in control. We hoped that she would return after being conscripted. When the war ended in May last year, we had high hopes about her return. But she never came.

"Sometimes when I try to study for school, I remember my sister and I feel very sad. My parents are sad too. We have lost a



Anusha Ravichandran is still looking for her sister - Picture by Udara Soysa/IRIN

lot, but my sister is my biggest loss.

"We have told [the Sri Lanka] human rights commission and ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] about her fate but nobody has any idea of her whereabouts.

"I want somebody to find her - please bring my sister back to me."

Listen to our voice, also - Sri Lanka North East Women's Network

It was observed by us that in the aftermath of tsunami and the destructive war, resettlement programs have been in progress in the north and the east of Sri Lanka without focusing on the views of women and their special needs.

It is very unfortunate that the resettlement programs that have been initiated in the war and tsunami affected areas of the north and the east of Sri Lanka have failed to incorporate the views and needs of the women who had borne the brunt of the manmade disaster and the natural disaster that had ravaged the country, particularly the north and the east of Sri Lanka. The needs and rights of women have been neglected. Let's remember once again our neglected rights and needs!

* How can we sleep in houses that do not have doors?

* Even though confirmed that my children are not dead but their whereabouts is still unknown

* Is it too much to provide us with employments as we have lost everything and become destitute?

* How can I visit my husband who is in the detention camp leaving my daughter alone with-

out any protection?

* How long can we bathe at wells and ghats which do not provide us with any privacy?

* Is it fair to decree that entitlement to housing scheme is possible only if we have land deed?

* As women, we bear loads of burdens.

* As the toilets are located far away, we can't relieve ourselves in the night.

* Even a twelve year old girl is not safe from rape. How can I protect myself?

* The armed groups and the other powerful people are threatening us.

Our requests:

* Please return my land to me

* Please do not separate families and relatives under the guise of relief and resettlement

* Gone are the days people visited homes to enjoy hospitality. Nowadays they visit houses to rape us. Please stop this menace

* The meaning of a house is changed now. Please give us at least a door and a window

* We are tired of repeating this request. Please listen to our concerns and wishes before doing anything for us.

* The war is over. Yet, abductions, murders, robbery and violence are still rampant. Our problems won't be solved until these things are solved. Please stop these things.

* Our children are missing. They say they are not dead. Then return them to us.

* Please let us live. Please do not deprive us of our livelihoods. Please improve it.

The above are the genuine requests and concerns of the women of the north and the east. We have given it to you in their language as much as possible. It is because we want their aspirations and needs to reach you. We want you to know the sufferings and the pain that they are undergoing. The views and the concerns submitted by women have been prepared as a report. This is a summary of that report. This recommendation is a link between the organizations that serve affected women and the individuals.

The purpose of the recommendation is to revive our action to amplify the voices of women that have been hitherto neglected. The response of handful of government and non-governmental organizations or some individuals to their problems are not enough given the magnitude and the gravity of problems highlighted here. We urge the government, non-governmental organizations, social activists and the society that immediate steps should be taken to secure the demands of women.



Why Does Recovery Take So Long?

Adapted with permission from Multi-Health Systems & Dr. J. Douglas Salmon, Jr. from Rehabilitation Education and Coping Pamphlet Series

By: Dr. J. Douglas Salmon, Jr.

The following provides a general overview of the symptoms related to head injury. As each person's injury is unique, some of the information may not apply to your specific situation. Therefore, it is important that you ask questions and do your best to understand your own specific situation.

Where Do the Main Physical Symptoms Come From?

An injury to the head may or may not involve injury to the brain and to sensory organs such as the eyes, ears, and nose.

Headaches are perhaps the most common symptom following head injury and usually result from injury to the muscles surrounding the head and neck. Occasionally, migraine headaches, or headaches due to injury to nerves at the back of the head may occur.

Dizziness is also very common and may be the result of injury to the inner ear, eyes, or neck or due to emotional distress resulting from the injury. Ringing in the ears and hearing loss may also occur from damage to the inner/middle ear or nerves involved in hearing at the time of head injury.

Poor balance may occur as a result of muscle injury, visual disturbances, or brain injury.

Loss of smell may result from certain types of skull fracture as small nerve fibers which connect the nose to the brain are torn.

Double vision and other visual disturbances may arise from injury to the nerves of the eye or injury to the eye itself. Problems with visual perception (judging shapes, distances, speeds, or finding objects in crowded areas) may result from brain injury.

Disturbed sleep is usually the result of physical pain, discomfort, dizziness, emotional stress, worry, and/or inactivity. It normally improves with the passage of time and improved symptoms.

Brain injury most commonly affects an individual's concentration, memory, reaction time, and thinking speed, as well as planning, organizing, and problem solving abilities. Permanent and lasting injury to the brain is uncommon for anyone who has been unconscious and/or without awareness for less than several hours immediately after a head injury. Generally, traumatic brain injury does not cause ongoing headaches or dizziness directly but may result in changes in personality and behavior. Emotional problems (e.g., depression, nervousness, and irritability) are usu-

ally caused by other factors, but may be worsened by brain injury.

How Long Do These Symptoms Take to Improve?

In general, headaches and dizziness (depending on the reason for them) often require many months to fully improve, and for some people, headaches in particular may never completely go away. However, it is rare for these symptoms to prevent a person from living a meaningful and productive life in the long run. Recovery time from injury to the eyes, ears, and sense of smell may vary from several weeks to 1 to 2 years depending on the degree of injury; some permanent loss of hearing, smell, or vision may occur. Improvement in brain functioning generally occurs over a 1 to 2 year period, with the possibility of ongoing impairment depending on the nature and severity of the injury.

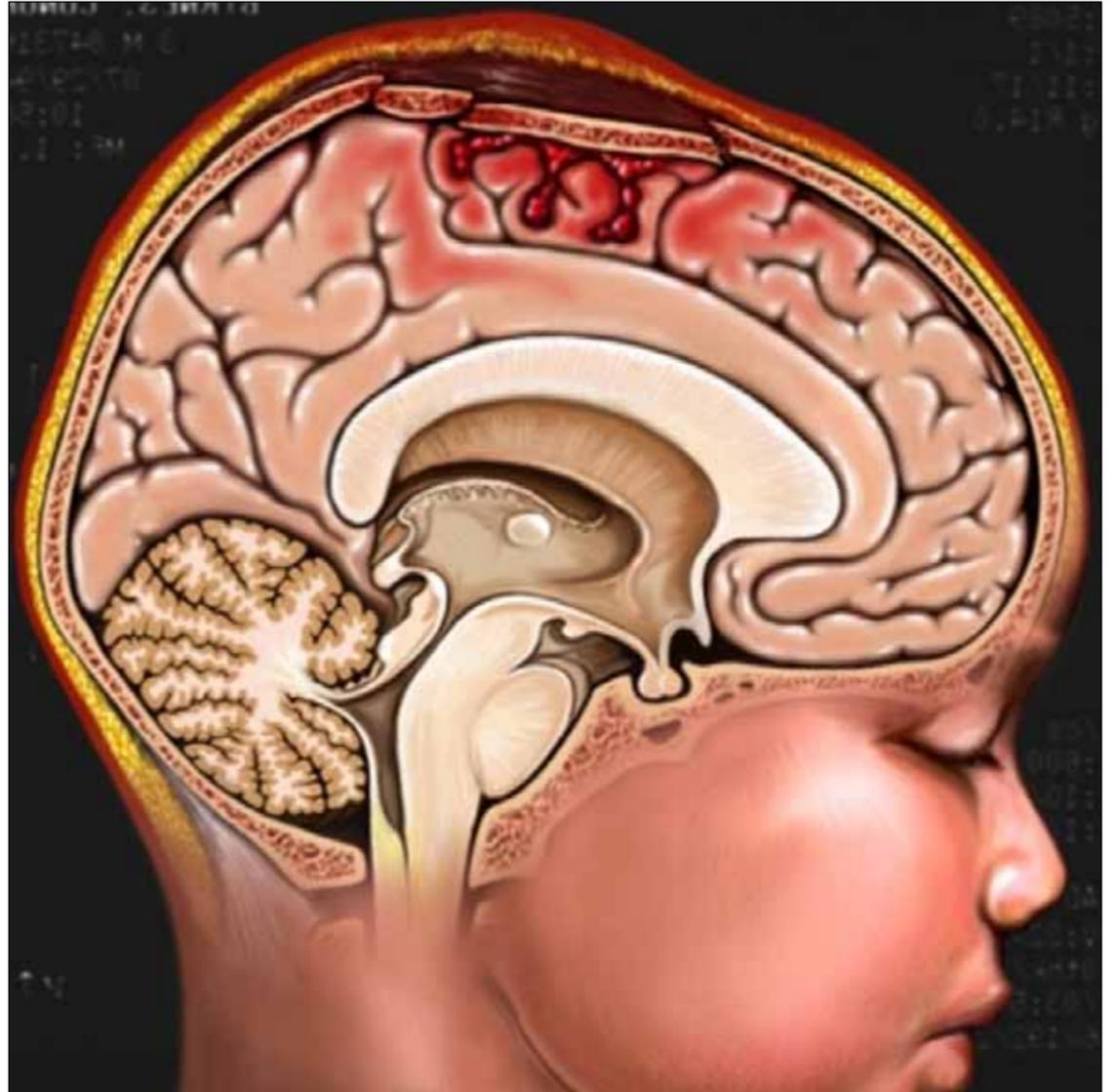
All of the above symptoms are expected to improve in the initial stages to some degree, with the possibility of worsening being very unlikely thereafter. Periods of high stress and other factors, such as those shown in the diagram, may aggravate symptoms from time to time.

Factors That May Slow Recovery

A number of additional problems associated with the main symptoms of the injury may slow your recovery. Symptoms such as headaches, pain, and dizziness often create other problems such as poor sleep and eventually fatigue. Also, the use of medications (especially certain sleep and anxiety medications) can create side effects like dizziness, blurred vision, poor balance, memory or concentration problems.

Because of the relatively long healing time required by the main physical symptoms, the person initially may be unable to work or do many of the activities that he or she enjoyed prior to the injury. As a result of stress, uncertainty over the future, lack of positive activities, and being out of the work force, the injury may begin to affect the person's emotions/personality, social life, and job situation. Anxiety, depression, irritability, memory problems, family stress and conflict, and the prospects of unemployment and shattered dreams also may be complicating factors.

As new concerns are added to the situation, the main symptoms often worsen. The initial symptoms also tend to heal more slowly when other factors become serious problems. Over time, all



of these factors add to, and may worsen one another unless the cycle is broken by using positive coping strategies.

Speeding up your recovery

Unlike recovery from a cold or flu (the illnesses with which most of us are more familiar), a longer natural recovery time is required of symptoms resulting from head injury and, as mentioned above, a number of other factors can slow the recovery process even more. How well one manages these other factors determines whether the main symptoms are likely to continue beyond the "expected" recovery time, and how much the symptoms will affect the recovering person's life. Note that no "magic pill" has yet been discovered to remove many of the physical symptoms. Even prescribed medications usually only mask the pain rather than actually promote healing.

The best approach that you can take to speed up your recovery time is to use the following strategies:

Learn as much as you can about your symptoms by asking doctors and therapists lots of questions (keep a list of questions and concerns)

Keep mentally, socially, and physically active as much as possible

Gradually build up your activity level

Exercise daily according to a doctor's or therapist's directions

Minimize medications (consult with your physician)

Use relaxation techniques and coping strategies

Keep your mind off your problems and focus on those things that you enjoy

Don't bottle up your feelings
Do things that are fun and meaningful to you

Maintain a positive attitude
Spend time around positive and supportive people

Set realistic goals for activities you'd like to do.

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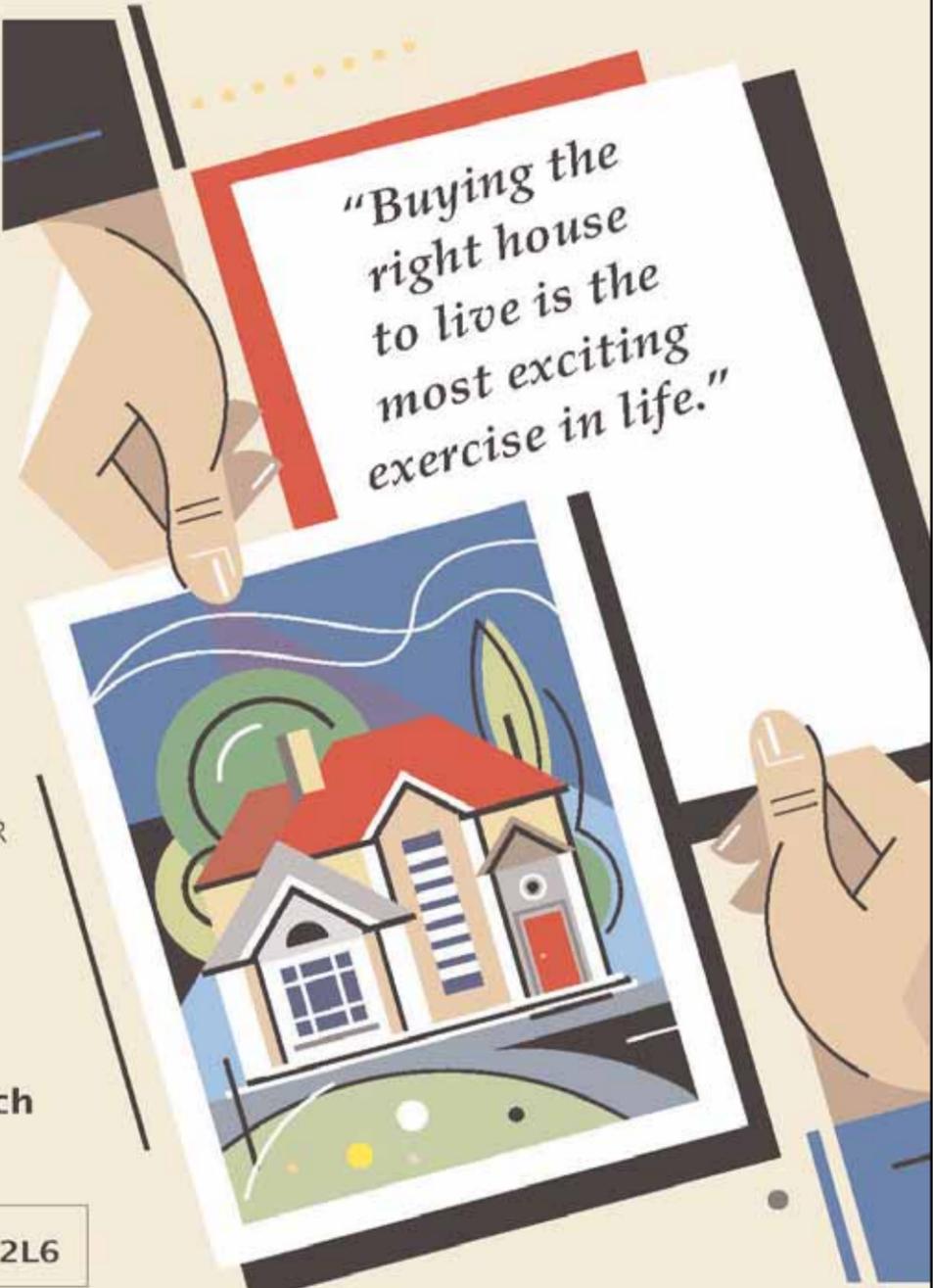
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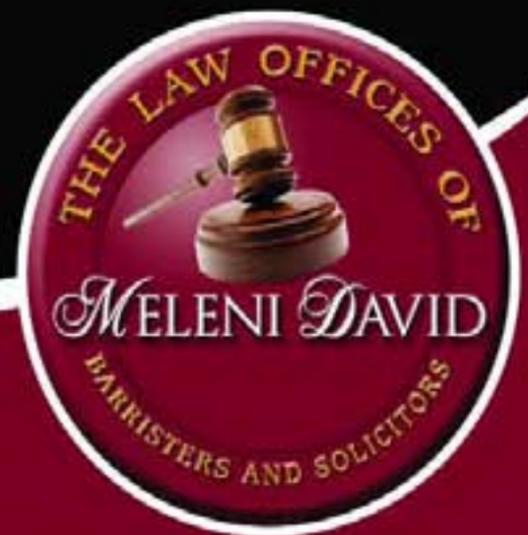
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Brief introduction of Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day, or Thanksgiving, presently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863. It did not become a federal holiday until 1941. Thanksgiving was historically a religious observation to give thanks to God, and is still celebrated as such by most religious families, but it is now considered a secular holiday as well.

Most Americans celebrate by gathering at home with family or friends for a holiday feast. Though the holiday's origins can be traced to harvest festivals which have been celebrated in many cultures since ancient times, the American holiday is tied to the deliverance of the English settlers by Native Americans after the harsh winter at Plymouth, Massachusetts and that event has become the pre-eminent foundation story for English North America.

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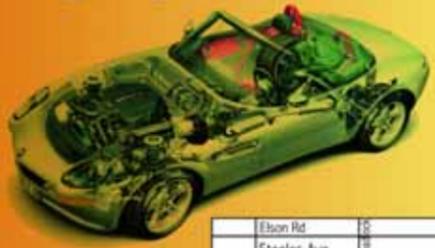
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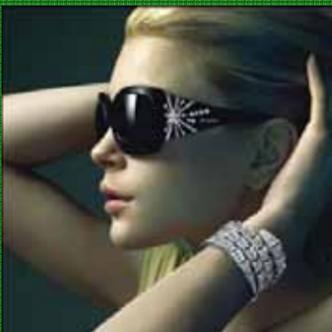
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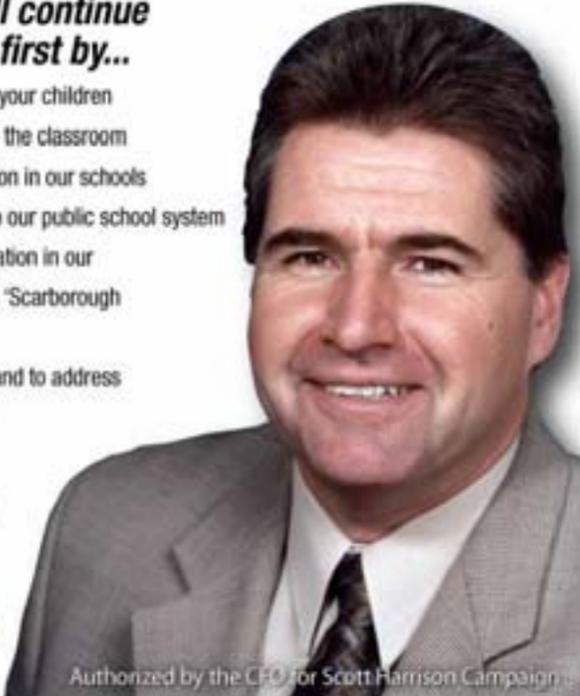
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World leaders' meetings draw demonstrators from Falun Gong, Kurd, Tamil and Tibetan groups near UN Headquarters

As world leaders met at the U.N. General Assembly, New York is also played host to scores of demonstrations near the UN Headquarters as well as near hotels where leaders are staying.

The Voice of America reports that, "it's a scene repeated every September, when the United Nations General Assembly opens. Demonstrators rally in the blocks around the U.N., and in front of the nearby Waldorf Astoria hotel,

where Tibetans protested the arrival of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao"

Following are pictures of groups holding demonstrations near UN Head quarters on Sep 22nd:

UN922A:

"Falun Dafa," also called Falun Gong — defined by supporters as a spiritual movement that embraces truthfulness, compassion and forbearance, and by the

Chinese government as an "evil cult." The Chinese Communist Party banned Falun Gong in 1999, The Vancouver Sun says.

UN 922B:

According to VOA news, many demonstrations at this year's General Assembly are in protest of Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

UN922 C:

The Inner City Press reporting on the Tamil rally said: "Tamils

bussed in from Canada held pictures of bodies charred in the Sri Lankan government's "bloodbath on the beach" of May 2009. They spoke of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's slow to begin panel of experts, hoping that it might expand its mandate and do justice. One hope they aren't holding their breaths."

UN922D:

The Epoch Times reporting on the protests by Tibetans said:



"There are lots of human rights violations in Tibet", said Ngwang Tashi, president of Regional Tibet Youth Congress of NY & NJ. "There is no right even to religious practice, no freedom, no right to express one's own thoughts, not even to keep the picture of the Dalai Lama."



89,000 War Widows in the North and East of Sri Lanka

Some 89,000 females in North and East have become widows due to war, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs said recently.

Deputy Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs, M.L.A.M Hizbullah, stated that there are 49,000 widows in the East while 40,000 in the North.

"About 25,000 are from

Batticaloa, of which 12,000 are below age 40 and about 8000 of them have minimum three children, but none of them have any form of income," he said.

Deputy Minister explained that President Mahinda Rajapaksa had entered into an agreement that the Indian Government to conduct programs on self employment.

(MB)

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Page 1 Story

Toronto residents will elect a new mayor and council, as well as school trustees, for a new four-year term on Election Day, October 25, 2010. This is your opportunity to have a say in the local government by exercising your democratic right to vote.

More than any other government, municipal government has a great impact on residents' quality of life. Emergency services, water supply, public transit, roads, collection of garbage and recycling, parks and libraries are examples of Toronto's municipal services. By voting, you can influence decisions made in your city and local neighbourhood.

People can vote in the City of

Who will lead City of Toronto on Oct 25th

Rob Ford / Joe Pantalone / Rocco Rossi / Geoge Smitherman
People of Toronto reminded to use their democratic right and vote in the 2010 city election on Oct 25th

Toronto municipal election if they are a Canadian citizen, are at least 18 years old and are either a Toronto resident or are a non-resident owner or tenant of land in Toronto – or are that person's spouse (husband/wife).

The City is in the process of mailing election information to all Toronto households, including key dates, details about assistance available to people who need help voting, and instructions for obtaining information in languages other than English. Translated material will also be available on the City website for downloading, and "How to vote" booklets will be available at each voting place in large print, and Braille, and printed in 23 lan-

guages. The booklets include information about identification requirements and step-by-step voting instructions.

For new Canadians and first-time voters, the City has produced a guide to municipal elections, which has been distributed at community events and through the Citizenship and Immigration offices and at their citizenship ceremonies. The City newsletter "Our Toronto" that was just delivered to one million households also provides useful information about voting in this fall's election. Additional copies of "Our Toronto" can be picked up at City Hall and City civic centres.

Voting will be quicker for people who are on the voters' list for

the 2010 election. Are you on the list? If you check and find that you are not on it, it's easy to have your name added to the voters' list. If an elector would like to find out if he or she is on the voters' list, or to make changes to their information, they can phone 311. Through 311, people can get assistance in more than 180 languages – because 311 uses an interpretation service to help staff speak to residents in languages other than English.

People need to take personal identification (ID) with them when they go to vote. Before being issued a ballot at the voting place, voters will be asked to show either one piece of ID showing their name, Toronto address

and signature (for example: Ontario driver's licence) or two pieces of ID – one showing their name and signature – and a second piece of ID showing their name and Toronto address (for example, a telephone bill).

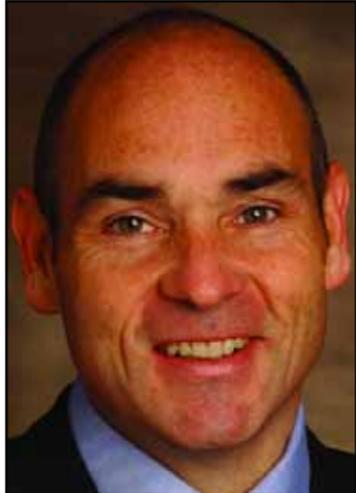
The City will ensure that all voting locations are accessible, as required by provincial law. In addition, the City will have voting equipment available to enable voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently. You can find out more about participating in the election by calling 311 or by checking the City's 2010 election website at <http://www.toronto.ca/elections>.

Please make the effort to get out and vote on October 25.

Profiles of Leading Toronto Mayoral Candidates

George Smitherman

George Smitherman has the experience, energy, ideas and values that are needed to get Toronto



working again. A lifelong resident, George has been a forceful and passionate advocate for our city and has succeeded in making Toronto a better place for all of its residents.

Long before ever thinking about running for elected office, George was gaining a reputation as a community leader who always backed his words of support for a cause with action. Whether playing a leadership role in the campaign to save the Wellesley Hospital or by adding his voice, and even challenging his party, on the recognition of the basic human rights protections long denied but now enjoyed by all, George's tireless work ethic and personal connection to his community has always earned him the respect of all, even those on the opposite side of the issue.

As a Member of Provincial Parliament, George represented the riding of Toronto Centre for over ten years. During that time he spearheaded a number of local initiatives including the establishment of a new community skating and reading program, enhanced services for Toronto's newest citizens and immigrants at Sherborne Health Centre.

George takes great pride from helping to lead the successful redevelopment of Regent Park and the early rise of Pathways to Education – a now national program that started in Regent Park, which led to a huge reduction in dropout rate. George's tireless work for his constituents led to him being the first Liberal in the history of Now Magazine to be voted by its readers as Toronto's "Best MPP".

As Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, George restored the independent status of Women's College Hospital, delivered community health centres for all Priority neighborhoods, helped provide over half a million Ontarians with access to a family doctor and improved wait times for key services while at the same time undertaking a massive capital expansion of Toronto's hospitals. During this time over 6,000 units of housing were created to help keep people with severe mental illness out of the criminal justice and correctional services systems.

As Deputy Premier George Smitherman was a strong voice for the City of Toronto at the Cabinet table helping Toronto secure a share of the province's gasoline tax for transit, greater flexibility and independence in managing its affairs through changes to the City of Toronto Act, an historic investment in new buses, streetcars and subway cars for the City of Toronto as well as billions in funding for public transit expansion including the subway line to York University and beyond to York Region.

As Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, George received the World Wind Energy Award for championing green energy. George was responsible for the passage of Ontario's Green Energy and Green Economy Act, which will clean our air, reduce our carbon footprint and

create opportunity for more than 50,000 new green energy jobs. George is proud of the role he played in making Ontario the recognized North American leader in renewable energy policy, which has already resulted in billions in new investment.

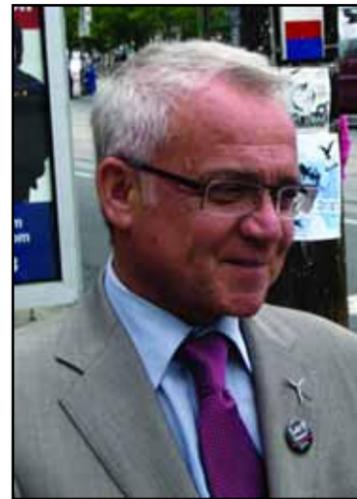
George also knows how to get things done at City Hall having served as the chief of staff to former Toronto mayor, Barbara Hall. During his time in this role, George represented the Mayor in Economic Development, City Budget and the re-zoning for the Air Canada Centre and the adjacent Railway Lands, pioneering KINGS initiative that led to the revitalization of King Parliament and King Spadina.

Born and raised in Etobicoke, George has made downtown Toronto his home for more than twenty years. Prior to holding elected office George owned and operated his own retail business in the City of Toronto for a decade. He is married to Christopher Peloso. The two recently welcomed Michael, a young toddler, into their family and are in the final stages of adoption.

Joe Pantalone

When Joe Pantalone arrived in Toronto from Sicily when he was 13 years old, he knew only two words: Yeah and No, words he learned from watching American movies. The son of a TTC tunnel worker and a seamstress, Joe found his place in the people and politics of the vibrant streets of Little Italy. Like other immigrants, Joe made Toronto his home. He attended Harbord Collegiate, tested his political mettle in student politics, and graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in geography.

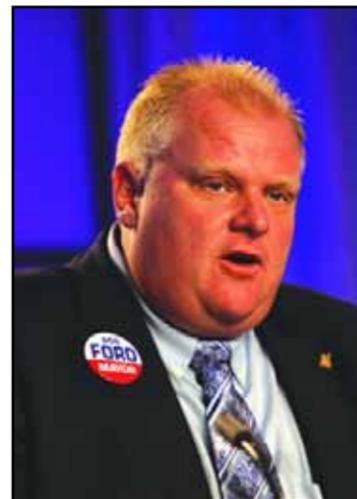
In 1980 Joe was elected Toronto Alderman and began his 29-year commitment to leading and collaborating on innovative projects that



have helped sustain the environment, economy and community for the people of Toronto.

Rob Ford

Rob Ford is a lifelong resident of Toronto. The son of a former MPP, the late Doug Ford, Rob grew up with community service in his blood. Elected in 2000 as the Councilor representing Ward 2 in North Etobicoke, Rob has become one of the hardest working councilors in the city. His focus on ensuring transparency and accountability in public spending, setting an exam-



ple for excellence in customer service, and his passion for making sure tax dollars are spent on the things

people and families need most has marked him as a leader on council.

Prior to being elected, Rob spent 10 years building a family business into a multi-million dollar North American enterprise serving that now employs over 200 people with locations in Etobicoke, Chicago and New Jersey. Their clients include many of North America's largest and most recognized brands.

Rob's passion for promoting the positive development of youth and his own experience in playing high school and university-level football was the foundation for his efforts to bring football back to high schools in Toronto. He recognized that team sports, such as football, can provide a catalyst that helps engage at-risk youth, teaches teamwork and leadership skills, and provides a positive environment for teens to develop as healthy, productive citizens. In 2002, Rob founded the highly successful Eagles football program at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School in North Etobicoke where he remains as head coach of the Junior and Senior teams. To expand the benefit of this program to all youth in the city, Rob established the Rob Ford Football Foundation which has raised more than \$100,000 to purchase equipment and establish football programs at high schools across Toronto.

Rob remains an active supporter of numerous community organizations and charities, including the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, Terry Fox Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Toronto Board of Trade and the Toronto West Rotary Club. Rob also donates each year to numerous charitable organizations and events.

Rob and his wife Renata live in north Etobicoke with their daughter Stephanie and son Douglas.

Contd. in page 17 ...

Expansion and Pressure Required on Early Education: Juanita Nathan

By Ms. N. Prasalni

Juanita Nathan – a candidate running for the role of School Board Trustee in the Markham for Ward 7 and 8 - has a strong commitment to expand the early education in every community and puts emphasis on the importance of parent engagement.

Ms. Nathan's motives arise from her academic knowledge and experience as a Psychology graduate from Brock University; and her active involvement with the community. Keeping this in mind, Ms. Nathan adds that "In having parents and communities partake in the school system allows them to reinforce solidarity within communities". Studies show that children who attain higher quality of education at a young age have greater opportu-

nities to attain higher grades and have higher chances in entering post secondary education. "This is why we need the full day kindergarten and we need it rolled out in all elementary schools rapidly" added Ms. Nathan. About 600 elementary schools across the province will have full day kindergarten effective September 2010 with an additional 200 expected to roll out in 2011.

Juanita Nathan adds, "Trustees are advocates for quality education and have an obligation to ensure the Province act on their plans rapidly, and that is exactly what I plan to advocate for." Other important issues addressed by Ms. Nathan are education without additional costs; reduction of language barriers among parents and schools; and



creating inclusive environments for students with special needs. Juanita Nathan's continual community involvement, academic experience, and qualifications have definitely proven and prepared her to be a promising candidate as a School Board Trustee in the Town of Markham for Ward 7 and 8.



Neethan Shan's Campaign Team had its official opening ceremony for the Campaign Headquarters on September 12th at 2 p.m. Close to 300 supporters dropped by on that Sunday to offer their support for Neethan Shan's candidacy. Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Former

Opening Ceremony of Campaign Headquarters for Neethan Shan

M.P.P., Scarborough East, Former Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Former Minister of Children and Youth Services, attended as the Chief Guest and endorsed Neethan Shan's candidacy to become the next City Councillor of Ward 42. Many other dignitaries were also pres-

ent to speak in support of Neethan Shan's candidacy. The campaign headquarters is located at 5633 Finch Ave. East, Unit 6 at the southwest corner of Tapscott and Finch intersection. Phone: 416 398 5106 Email: info@neethanshan.ca

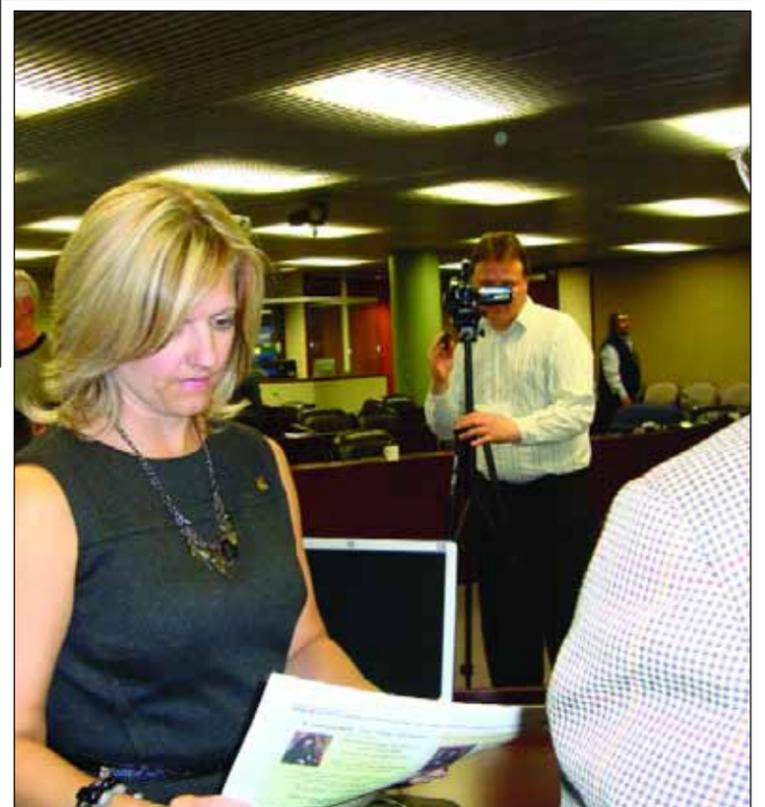
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Neethan Shan with his supporters



Opening ceremony of Campaign Headquarters of Neethan Shan



Cheryn Thoun, Manager, Communications Planning & Research looking through an ethnic newspaper

Profiles ... Contd. from page 16

Rocco Rossi

Rocco Rossi was born at Grace Hospital in Toronto on February 6th, 1962. Rocco's parents, Domenico and Domenica Rossi, emigrated to Canada from Italy in the late 1950's. With little money and little English, they worked hard to build a better life for their five children and taught Rocco the value of respect, hard-work, and honesty.



Success In Education

Remembering the values his parents taught him, Rocco persevered in school and earned scholarships to institutions that otherwise would have been out of his reach: Upper Canada College, McGill University, and Princeton.

While Rocco always had an inter-

est in politics, he understood that it should be a time of service rather than a career. Turning to the business world, Rocco found success in transforming failing companies beginning with his father's packaging business. Over 18 months, he and his cousins had quadrupled the company's earnings.

Rocco soon took on leadership roles at larger companies including the Toronto Star, Labatt/Interbrew, The Boston Consulting Group, Neo Materials Technologies Incorporated and MGI Software.

Above all his achievements and experiences, Rocco has been most grateful for his wife of twenty-three years, Rhonnie, and his twenty-year old son, D.J, who live together in Midtown Toronto.

The sudden death of a close friend and colleague galvanized Rocco to leave the business world behind and dedicate himself to improving the city he was born and raised in: Toronto.

After managing John Tory's 2003 mayoralty campaign, Rocco joined the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation as CEO. Over five years, he kayaked, biked, and climbed to raise half-a-billion dollars for the charity in addition to leading its initiative to put heart defibrillators in public places.

The charity trusted Rocco to deliv-

er results with his trademark determination and energy which he did beyond all expectations.

In spite of his success in the charity world, Rocco found that in order to truly improve the city he loved, it would take a change at City Hall.

Throughout his life, Rocco has been driven by the values his parents, who lived the Toronto immigrant story, taught him as a child: respect, hard-work, and honesty. These are the values that animate Rocco's mayoralty campaign to Take Back Your City Hall.

Rocco understands the frustration Torontonians feel with a City Hall that has broken the public trust.

He also understands that Torontonians deserve more than empty promises and the destructive politics of anger. Torontonians deserve a plan to turn anger into action.

Rocco has spoken out on the issues that will define Toronto for the coming years and presented a clear plan to move Toronto forward, make City Hall honest, and get value for our money.

Rocco is running for mayor because it is the values his parents instilled in him – respect, hard-work, and honesty – that will rebuild the broken trust between City Hall and Torontonians.



Rob Andrusevich, Senior Communications Advisor answering to ethnic media



International Commission of Jurists chastises Sri Lanka over rebel detention



INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION
OF JURISTS

Government

i. Voluntariness of surrender and rehabilitation

- Ensure prompt judicial review and supervision to determine if 'surrender' and participation in 'rehabilitation' is voluntary.
- Ensure that rehabilitation, where voluntary, is carried out in a manner demonstrably for such purposes and not amounting to a disguised form of criminal punishment.

ii. Due process rights

- Guarantee right to legal rep-

resentation and access to a lawyer of the detainee's choosing at all stages, family visits, medical visits, and access by an international and independent humanitarian agency

- Guarantee right to challenge the lawfulness of detention before judge or other competent authority

- Guarantee prompt charge and trial, release, or genuinely voluntary participation in rehabilitation based on transparent and lawful criteria
- Guarantee the additional due process rights enumerated on pages 35-36 of this report

iii. Children

- Verify that no children remain in detention, and more broadly ensure full implementation of recommendations by UN Special Envoy for Children and Armed Conflict, particularly with regard to screening procedures and risk of prosecution.¹²⁵

iv. Amnesty

- Consider amnesty for ex-combatants except where alleged acts amount to crimes under

international law.

B: To the Sri Lankan Parliament and Government

- End the state of emergency.
- Support legislation establishing the parameters for rehabilitation, prosecution and possible amnesties for individuals who took active part in hostilities.

- Review, reform, and repeal provisions of the PTA and Emergency Regulations (2005 and 2006) identified above, to bring them into compliance with international law and standards

- Take steps to eliminate the practice of administrative (or 'preventive') detention, including statutory, regulatory, and administrative reform.

- Where administrative detention is invoked, ensure that this is done only in exceptional situations during declared states of emergency pursuant to ICCPR article 4.

C: To the Donor Community and the United Nations

- Donors and the United Nations should offer technical assistance to support the development of a legal framework that complies with international law and standards and that is cognizant of the wider implications of reconciliation.

- Donors should condition their support to rehabilitation on the establishment of a legal framework that provides for due process and safeguards the internationally-recognized rights of detainees, especially children, and ensures a transparent process of ex-combatants' rights.

- The United Nations should continue to refrain from supporting Government activities within the camps until a legal framework has been put in place which provides for due process and safeguards the rights of all detainees, especially children.

- The United Nations should prioritise advocacy for the establishment of a legal and policy framework for the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals who took active part in hostilities.

Singapore Minister Balaji Sadasivan passes away

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Balaji Sadasivan, who was battling colon cancer, died early on Monday, Sept 27th morning. He was 55.

Singapore daily The Straits Times in a report paying tribute to Minister Sadasivan said:

Foreign Minister George Yeo broke the news of his death in a Twitter message just before 10.30 am on Sep 27th. 'Mourns the passing away of dear friend and colleague Dr Balaji Sadasivan,' he tweeted.

Dr Balaji had surgery at Gleneagles Hospital on Sept 23, 2008 to remove a cancerous tumour in the colon.

Before he entered politics in 2001, he was a neurosurgeon at Gleneagles Hospital.

Soon after, he was elected as an MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC. He was appointed minister of state for health and environment in November 2001.

From May 2006 to March this year, he was senior minister of state for foreign affairs and information, communications and the arts. In April, his responsibility was confined to the ministry of



Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Dr Balaji Sadasivan

foreign affairs.

Dr Balaji leaves behind his wife, Dr Ma Swan Hoo, whom he met in medical school, and two children, Anita and Dharma.

Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo, who broke the news that his Senior Minister of State Balaji Sadasivan had died early on Sep 27th morning, said he was 'highly intelligent and very articulate.'

'He had a compendious mind and a great sense of humour. He was optimistic by nature and positive in his disposition,' he said in comments e-mailed to The Straits Times.

Paying tribute to Dr Balaji, 55, Mr Yeo recalled how when he himself expressed doubts over the Nalanda project, Dr Balaji had encouraged him to persist.

The project was to re-establish the ancient Nalanda

University in Bihar, India and Mr Yeo is a member of the mentor group. Before leaving for the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week, Mr Yeo said he wanted to meet Dr Balaji but was told that his cancer had

taken a turn for the worse.

'As I would be away for over two weeks, I decided to drop him an email, just to tell him what a wonderful person I thought he was, and to say that my wife and I were praying for him,' Mr Yeo said. Dr Balaji did not reply.

'Balaji was a dear friend and colleague. He was a wonderful human being. ... I feel very sad for his wife and children,' Mr Yeo said.

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Canadian Blood Services honours Canadian Tamil Congress

The Canadian Blood Services (CBS) honoured the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) as the top Community Partner for Central Ontario at the national event "Honouring Our Lifeblood" in Ottawa on September 20, 2010. The Canadian Tamil Congress, the coordinating body for Tamil Canadian blood donors, accepted the award in recognition of Tamil Canadians' outstanding contributions to the Canada's blood system.

Only one community partner from each of the seven regions in Canada was honoured at the event. In particular, the CTC was singled out for becoming the largest community blood donation group across Canada. The complete list of honorees was published in the Globe and Mail newspaper on September 21, 2010.

The Canadian Tamil Congress partnered with the Canadian Blood Services in 2008 through its Partners for Life program. The group wanted to choose a charity that would enable its members to give back to their communities across Canada. To date, Tamil Canadians have brought in close to 1000 units of blood and have saved 3,000 lives.

In 2009, the CTC launched a year-long blood and stem cell awareness campaign and subsequently surpassed its original pledge of 50 registrants for the OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network. Recognizing that there is a strong demand for South Asian donors, the CTC plans to expand its partnership across the country to build a greater profile for the One Match network.

Dr. Meera Selvakone, member



Canadian Blood Services honours Canadian Tamil Congress in their National Event

on the Board of Directors at the Canadian Tamil Congress, and Vathany Uthayasundaram, Coordinator for the CTC Blood Donation and Stem Cell Awareness Campaign, were on hand in Ottawa to accept the prestigious award from Canadian Blood Services. The awards ceremony took place at the renowned Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

Mr. Stu Schwartz, an Ottawa radio personality and announcer for the Ottawa Senators Hockey Club, opened the event as the Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Graham Sher, Chief Executive Officer Chair of the Canadian Blood Services, gave a speech welcoming all honorees, guests and members of the Canadian Blood Services. Dr. Marla Shapiro, medical consultant for the CTV National News and Canada AM, was the keynote speaker and talked about her experience fighting breast cancer.

Several recipients of blood products spoke about how grateful they were to have received

blood donations and how their lives were saved as a result. Jon Brent, an 18 year-old student, talked about his experience waiting for a bone marrow transplant after being diagnosed with leukemia as a child. His eloquent retelling of his story drove home the message to all present about the very real need for blood and stem cell donations.

"Members of the Tamil community and the CTC volunteers have worked hard to get our community to this place of being honoured by Canada's blood system," Dr. Selvakone said. "The need for blood donations is great and it is wonderful that Tamil Canadians recognize this and are rolling up their sleeves to donate".

The CTC is greatly honoured to receive this award and thanks the CBS for recognizing Tamil Canadians' contributions to the wider Canadian community.

To make an appointment to donate, please call the CTC at (416)240-0078 or the Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2-DONATE

Hundreds flocked to Thomson Memorial Park on September 19, 2010 for the "Tamil Canadian Walk for Cancer Awareness". About \$35,000 was raised for the Canadian Cancer Society thanks to the generous support of the participants. Organized by the Canadian Tamil Congress, the 5 km-walk drew everyone from students to families to senior citizens. Several community organizations and businesses participated in the event, which featured a 5-km walk, games and a BBQ.

NDP Leader Jack Layton who himself bravely fought cancer recently, Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant, Ontario Minister of Energy Brad Duguid, Mayoral Candidate George Smitherman and Toronto Police Staff

Tamil Canadian Walk for Cancer Awareness draws Hundreds of Walkers; Raises \$35,000

Superintendent Mike Federico delivered speeches at the walk. The congratulatory messages from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Federal Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff was read at the event. The Toronto Police Service join the campaign as partners and lent its full support with officers from 41 and 43 Divisions attending. A police recruiting booth was set up for those interested. A police horse and a police motorcycle led the walk.

Dr. Meera Selvakone, a family physician and a Board of Director for the Canadian Tamil Congress, said participants were walking to save every one of our fellow Canadians across the country whose lives have been irrevocably touched by cancer.

"By participating in this walk, you are taking control of cancer," she told the assembled crowd. "You are proving to yourselves and to your fellow Canadians that you are not going to give up without a fight."

Dr. Selvakone stressed the importance of Tamil Canadians learning about healthy lifestyle choices such as quitting smoking, adopting healthy diets and incorporating exercise to reduce the risk of getting cancer.

"Our community members need to recognize the symptoms of cancer early," Dr. Selvakone said. "Tamil Canadians should be going for annual health checks and participating in government screening programs for breast cancer, colon cancer and cervical cancer." Guy Laporte, Director of Toronto Revenue Development for



the Canadian Cancer Society, and Sherry Lamb, Senior Manager of Special Events for the Canadian Cancer Society, also delivered remarks at the event.

Dr. Priya Jeganathan, the coordinator of the Tamil Canadian Campaign for the Canadian Cancer Society, thanked all the walkers, community organizations, speakers and supporters for rallying behind such an important cause.

"You and your families have made this Tamil Canadians Against Cancer campaign a huge

success," Dr. Jeganathan said. "In addition to funds raised, we as a Tamil community have taken a huge step forward in increasing awareness about this disease, and an another step forward in taking control of the dreaded 'c' word."

Dr. Jeganathan also thanked Bharradhi Arts for their support during the campaign.

"The maturity and professionalism exhibited by your students show wisdom far beyond their years," said Dr. Jeganathan. "I was humbled to meet such a talented group of individuals and it has been a real privilege working with you on this campaign in honour of your founder, the late Mrs. Bhavadharani Mathivasan."

The Walk-A-Thon was part of the Canadian Tamil Congress' larger Canadian Cancer Society campaign, which aims to raise awareness about cancer prevention, treatment and support within the Tamil Canadian community, and raise funds for research to end cancer. The campaign targets the distinct differences that exist when it comes to the community's knowledge base and understanding of the resources that are available to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. To bridge this gap, the Canadian Cancer Society was selected as the charity of choice this year.

Last year, more than a thousand walkers helped raise funds for SickKids Foundation, which treats more than 100,000 children annually.

[Full text of press statement by CTC]

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Gauri Guha

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Gauri Guha is an established and acclaimed professional North Indian classical vocalist. She has received many grants from Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council. She has performed internationally in many prestigious concerts and has been profiled on TV, Radio and in various newspapers in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Gauri has eight albums to her credit.

Gauri has also obtained an M.A. degree in Literature from Jadavpur University, India, Business Management Degree from Humber College, Toronto, Canada, and Call Centre

Management Certificate from Centennial College, Toronto, Canada. She is a part of the Mentoring Partnership Program organized by Scotiabank and Triac.

In 1977, Gauri was posted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Govt. of India, at the Indian Cultural Centre Guyana, as a Cultural Officer for three years, during which she taught Indian music at the Centre and performed extensively in the Caribbean Islands. Over the last

33 years, Gauri trained hundreds of students and conducted lecture demonstrations and workshops internationally.

From 1997 to 2003 Gauri taught at and was on the board of the Worlds of Music Toronto. Since 2002 Gauri has been a regular teacher at the Sangit Academy, Belgium.

In 2006 Gauri sang in the movie - "The Hindu Tomb" - produced at the Lille Festival, France. In 2007, she taught and performed Indian music at



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Neufchateau, the biggest music seminar in Europe and performed at the Toronto International Indo-Jazz Festival. In 2008 and 2009, Rogers TV and the Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage produced biographies on Gauri. From 2006 to 2010 Gauri performed at the Asian Heritage Month Festival.

Gauri had been the judge at the Indo-Canadian Idol and several other competitions. She is a registered Examiner and conducts music examinations held by Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya approved by Miraj Maharashtra, India. She is on the evaluation committee of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Gauri received felicitations from the Federation of Bangladeshi Association of North America (FOBANA), the Association of Women of India in Canada (AWIC), BAPS Swaminarayan Temple Ladies Group, and the Life Time Achievement Award from Creations India.

"Her Success, Her Way" - Employee Selected for Profile in September

To commemorate International Women's Day 2010, and to build momentum for its 100th anniversary in 2011, Scotiabank launched the "Her Success, Her Way" recognition program on March 8th.

HumanResources/Scotiabank Group announced that Gauri Guha has been selected for profile as part of the "Her Success, Her Way" and her personal story of success will be featured on the September edition of Scotia World.

The campaign set out to search for Scotiabank women who are successful for their achievement in life, both within the workplace or the community. A successful woman is one that defines success her way; displaying strength, integrity and service in her daily life. Twenty-four (24) nominated women (12 from Canada and 12 from our international locations) were selected and their stories will be profiled on internal or external Scotiabank websites, in print ads or in internal or external publications throughout 2010 leading up to March 8, 2011.

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Former Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka has begun serving his 30 month imprisonment in the Welikada jail.

He was under detention in the

Former Sri Lankan Army Commander Sarath Fonseka goes to Welikada prison for 30 months

Navy Headquarters pending an army court martial inquiry and at the end of the inquiry, he was sentenced to a 30 month rigorous prison imprisonment for deviating from tender procedures in the purchase of military equipment while he was the Army Commander.

The President, Mahinda Rajapakse, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces endorsed the imprisonment. Thereafter prison officials and army officers escorted Fonseka to the Welikada jail for him to serve the sentence.

It is learnt that pressure was brought to bear on the Sri Lankan

President not to endorse the prison sentence. However, President Rajapakse endorsed the Court Martial prison sentence.

Sarath Fonseka was earlier stripped off his medals and deprived of his pension rights by another army court martial on other charges that he was involved in political activity while he was in uniform.

When Sarath Fonseka was



taken to the Welikada Prison there was a small crowd of people along with his wife gathered to get a glimpse of Fonseka entering the prison.

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Book Release

'When sweet minds merge'

Celebration of Tamil at the Tamil Christian Church

The Tamil Christian Church of Canada recently hosted the book release of a mini-novel 'When sweet minds merge' by Tamilini Hensmen which proved to be a celebration of Tamil. The author who ventured into the task of writing a novel in Tamil depicting the life-style, values and norms of the Jaffna Tamils achieved great success.

She hails from Urumpirai, a sub-urban town in the north which has produced a galaxy of Tamil men of learning. Tamilini happens to be a great-great grand daughter of C.Y. Thamothyerampillai who put into print many ancient Tamil classics which were earlier in 'ola' script.

The function was presided over by Mohan Thavaratnam who also hails from the 'yam' famed terrain. Rev. Isaac Selvaratnem who introduced the author praised her for her love of the Tamil language and culture. She had spent most of her life-time outside of the Tamil areas but still had the passion for the language she cherished. People in all walks

of life like Ilayabharathy of the CTBC (Canadian Tamil Broadcasting Corporation), Manuel Jesudason, a legal luminary, Rajmeera Vimalanathan, a Tamil scholar, Vettivelu, a literary critique and Ponniah Thayaparan, editor of Siraku newspaper gave their greetings and commended the author for her work of love.

The author Thamilini Hensmen in her acceptance speech said that Tamil was her passion and it was nurtured by the Tamil Christian Church of Canada and the CTBC which made her an acceptable person who can speak and write well in Tamil-though deprived from Tamil atmosphere for a pretty long time. The Torontonians Tamil presence (Pothikay-Panchalan Jegatheesan) was an added inspiration for her.

Tamil cultural items also found a place in the agenda when Sheba Emil, Andrea Thayaparan and Rebecca Gnanaranjan gave a classical dance to the tune of 'Va Va! enatharase,' invoking the

blessings of the almighty God (in addition to the uplifting prayer beseeched by Rev. Dr. Samuel Vinson-the presbyter of the TCCC) to shower his blessings upon the function and the author. Then praise of the The Mother Tamil sung in classical music in following the Canadian National Anthem gave a full Tamil flavour to the function, started with the lighting of the traditional lamp.

Thamilini Hensman is rare phenomena in the Tamilian community of Toronto. In spite of the unfavourable cultural conditions that surrounded her she stood by her language, culture and faith to indulge in creative writing illustrating Tamilian values, culture and norms. It is a challenge for most of us to carry on the same passions and values to the younger generations- an area in which most of us have failed. Tamilini Hensman has the potential to write more novels of this nature. Let the good Lord give her the health and long life to pursue her goals.

jatputharajah

RVC Cardiac Rehab Track Opening Celebration

Walk This Way with heart

Business suits and running shoes were the track uniforms on Friday, September 17, when Rouge Valley Centenary hosted Walk this Way, an event to officially launch the newly-rubberized cardiac rehabilitation track. The track's new coating was one of many enhancements made possible thanks to contributions from the annual Walk with Heart walkathon.

Walk this Way opened with speeches from those who were both on the track and behind it, sharing their stories of how they became involved and why they remain committed to its services. Speaking on behalf of RVHS and the cardiac care program were Jay Kaufman, board chair; Bernard Johnson, manager of cardiac diagnostics and cardiac rehabilitation; Dr. Joseph Ricci, medical director of cardiac services; and Bryna Rabishaw, program director of cardiac and critical care programs. Community leaders voiced their encouragement. John McKay, MP, Scarborough-Guildwood; Margaret Best, MPP, Scarborough-Guildwood and Minister of Health Promotion and Sports, and Toronto city councillors Paul Ainslie and Ron Moeser congratulated the hospital and the program on this investment for a healthy community.

Thanks to everyone who came to the event, supported the



program, volunteered or directed its enhancements over the years. Knowing they have your support makes each step easier for our patients.

With hearts beating and shoes

laced, the inaugural first lap was made on the newly-rubberized cardiac rehabilitation track at Rouge Valley Centenary.

Walk this Way was a celebration of the generous support of past and present donors, participants and volunteers during Rouge Valley's annual Walk with Heart fundraising events. Between 2008 and 2009, more than \$110,000 was raised to enable many enhancements to the cardiac rehab program.

Thanks to these generous contributions, we have helped over 8,000 individuals take control of their heart health.

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Negativity on immigration shown by Angus Reid poll conducted after MV Sun Sea arrival may subside with the passage of time

Canadians shouldn't forget their compassion

By Amarnath Amarasingam

Canadians have long been struggling with the place of immigrants and refugees within their borders. The competing forces of humanitarianism that is ingrained in the Canadian identity and the equally important need for national security often clash in public discussions about immigration and refugee policy. The question of which of these dual forces is winning out in terms of public opinion often depends on when the question is asked.

In a 2005 Gallup poll, for example, 58 per cent of Canadians stated that they would like to see the level of immigration in Canada remain the same, 27 per cent wanted to see the number decrease, and 20 per cent wanted an increase. This is in stark contrast to Great Britain and the United States, where 65 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, wanted to see lower levels of immigration.

As Philippe Bourbeau, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa, has shown, 1994 was the only year in which the majority of Canadians, at 53 per cent, stated that they were letting in "too many immigrants." This number continued to decline even after the arrival of the "Chinese boat people." During the summer of 1999, four boats carrying 599 migrants from the Fujian province of China arrived in B.C.

In the media, and among certain groups in society, the reaction to these Chinese migrants foreshadowed many of the sentiments heard after the arrival of the MV Sun Sea, which docked in B.C. in early August carrying 490 Tamil refugees. Fears of tuberculosis, test boats, and queue jumping appeared in media reports and statements by public officials.

The Toronto Sun, for example, wrote on July 25, 1999, that "their gamble of jumping to the head of the immigration line by arriving illegally on our shores paid off.

They and the smuggling ring that ran the operation rightly calculated that Canada was a weak, easy mark."

With the arrival of these boats, "there were all kinds of unnecessary hand wringing and concerns over Canada being flooded with refugee claimants, that the system was broken, and that this encourages abuse," says Scott Watson, a professor of political science at the University of Victoria.

Many scholars have noted that in addition to its humanitarian tradition, Canada has been moving toward a securitization of migration over the last few decades. What this means is that the movement of people across borders has slowly moved from being viewed in economic, humanitarian or racial terms to being incorporated into a framework of national security and defence.

While this shift to securitization has occurred at the bureaucratic and policy level, it does not seem to have trickled down to the public. When Canadians were asked, in 1997, whether they agree or disagree with the statement, "Immigrants make an important contribution to this country," 67 per cent agreed with the statement. Asked the same question in 2000, the number increased to 77 per cent. This increase occurred, it is important to remember, a year after the arrival of the Chinese boats in British Columbia.

"I don't think that securitization is the dominant view of Canadians," says Watson, "There is a securitized narrative, but I don't think it is necessarily the dominant one. At this point, it is still competing with the humanitarian representation."

This humanitarian representation again took a hit with the arrival of the MV Sun Sea. With reports that a migrant ship was on its way, many Canadians once again abandoned their expressed

commitment to multiculturalism as well as the UN Refugee Convention.

In its place, again, appeared a stunning ignorance of Canadian refugee policy, confusion about the Tamil community, fears of test boats, concerns of tuberculosis, and suspicion that Tamil Tigers were constructing a base of operations in Canada.

These nebulous sentiments found online and heard on talk-radio were concretized when Angus Reid released the findings of its national poll on Aug. 20. Many in the Tamil community were saddened by the results. One result in particular was particularly jarring: 48 per cent of Canadians believe that the passengers and crew of the MV Sun Sea should be deported even if their refugee claims are legitimate and even if it is found that they have no discernible link to a terrorist organization.

In other words, many Canadians would send these refugees back, even if they are no different from refugees who come to our borders on a daily basis.

The results of the Angus Reid poll may be partly due to the fact that it was undertaken only a few days after the arrival of the MV Sun Sea. The results may reflect an uncharacteristic alarmism and fear that, if other polls and surveys are true, often subsides with the passage of time. As Canada continues to struggle with issues of national security, we would be best served to take seriously our equally important commitment to humanitarianism.

(Amarnath Amarasingam is a doctoral candidate in the Laurier-Waterloo PhD in Religious Studies, and is currently writing his dissertation entitled, *Pain, Pride, and Politics: Sri Lankan Tamil Nationalism in Canada*. He can be reached at, amar2556@wlu.ca. This article first appeared in *The Province, British Columbia*.)

M&M Twins Limited, a name synonymous with ethnic and speciality foods in Canada for the past 30 years recently obtained sole importer / distributor rights for all Canned Cheese Products from Woerle International, Austria. Having been founded in 1889 and hence, having over 120 years of experience in Cheese Production, this esteemed organization is one of the largest and most up-to-date private cheese dairies in Austria. The finest speciality cheeses continue to be pro-



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M&M Twins Joins hands with Woerle International, Austria



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product which is very popular mainly among people from the sub-tropical parts of the world. This cheese has an extended product life of at least 1 full year and does not need to be refrigerated until it is opened. The cheese is a very creamy and delicious processed cheese and is assured to be a firm favourite among kids and adults alike. It is also an excellent choice for Camping and outdoor activities because you do not need to worry about it getting spoilt due to the lack of refrigeration.

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LETTERS & OPINIONS

by M.K. Eelaventhan

Critical estimate of Anna's contribution to Tamil and the Tamils.

Annadurai's 102 nd birthday that falls on September 15th. 2010

Mr.C.N. Annadurai the beloved disciple of Periyar owes a lot to Periyar to have shaped his multifarious career. If it is not for Periyar, Annadurai may not have attained this unique position. Periyar's language was blunt and down to earth. The illiterate masses believed in meaningless superstitions and succumbed to Bramanical domination. To quote, Swami Vivekananda, "superstition is bad but bigotry is worse. Tamils as a whole in a blind folded manner fell a prey to superstition, bigotry, and indulged meaningless and metaphysical arguments on ceremonies. The word 'Sathi' (caste) is an alien Sanskrit term, but the Tamils consciously and unconsciously believed in a caste system that brought their own ruination. Periyar who did not have a formal education but possessed immense commonsense. He rightly thought that unless he was downright in his approach, he cannot bring in the desired revolutionary changes in the people's mind. The revolution Periyar carried out was not a bloody revolution but a bloodless revolution. His struggle lasted nearly sixty years. Whether he achieved his desired goal may be debatable, but a visible change in the people's thinking cannot be denied.

ANNADURAI'S APPROACH

Annadurai with his academic background did approve the approach of Periyar to revolutionize people's thinking. The people were behaving like dump driven cattle. But while appreciating Periyar's approach in the social, Political and economic fields he felt there was a need to use the mellowed language to win over the people. He felt that his bloodless revolution should be brought through Tamil youths and students of colleges and universities. He sowed the seed of revolution by attracting the youth's mind and heart by using alliteration, similes, and metaphor in his speeches and writings. He addressed series of meetings at Pachaiyappan College, Presidency College and other universities especially at the Annamalai University and the impact was permanent. His lively

Annadurai the champion of the Eelam Tamil Liberation

debates with Tamils scholars raised the debating standard and literary criticism entered a new phase. His criticism of Kammban's Ramayanam and other religious works was an eye opener to the Tamils. He was not denying the literary acumen of the great poet Kammban. But the contents of Kammban's work consciously or unconsciously paved the path to worship Rama and Seetha as divine beings which in turned led to Aryan domination. Following these debates the literary scene in Tamilnadu underwent a sea change. Anna was a master of the English language too. The literary criticisms that he studied in the English literature helped him to view things in a dispassionate manner. Though he honoured great poets, did not want to encourage personality cults.

ANNA WAS EMBODIMENT OF GRATITUDE

Canchipuram Natarajan Annadurai was born into a humble family in Canchipuram, Taminadu on the 15th of September 1909. His father was Nadarajan mudaliar and his mother was Pangaruamma. Though his mother was living, his younger days were shaped by his mother's younger sister. In Tamil mother's younger sister is addressed as Chinnamma. He was deeply attached to her. He completed his master's degree at Pachaiyappan College offering economics as his major. In his young days, he was very unassuming but developed strong friendship with his colleagues. Even during his school and college days, his debating talent and oratorical skills were a well known factor.

Though he was brought up and nurtured by Periyar He was originally in the Justice Party and later joined with the Thiravidar kalagam (Dravidian party) led by Periyar. He parted company in 1949 Periyar in the latter days and formed the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kalaagam) September 17th in 1949. Though he parted company with Periyar, his love, respect and attachment to him remained undiminished. As a respect for his guru, though the DMK was formed, the post of the presidency was kept vacant and Anna functioned only as the general secretary of the movement. When the DMK came to power in 1967, the first thing he did was to go to Periyar and sought his blessings. That speaks volumes of his gratitude to Periyar. He made an open declaration that all the social reforms that Periyar envisaged will be implemented. As promised, the DMK implemented the policies and programs of Periyar.

ANNA AT THE RAJASABHA

DEMANDED TAMIL AS A OFFICE LANGUAGE OF THE UNION

Annadurai love for his language and the desire to give it's due place was openly pronounced by him at the Rajasaba sessions on 05-05-1963. This what he said,

"I will say that of all the languages, barring Sanskrit which has come a dead language, Tamil has a literary tradition that goes back to five thousand years, I may tell, Madam Deputy chairman, for the information of the House that the President is going over to our part of the country to release the English edition of the ancient Tamil work tholkappiam. Tholkappiam is grammatical work written more than three thousand years ago. We possess such an inheritance.

We are very proud people as far as language is concerned. We think that no language can stand comparison of Tamil.

D.L Senguptha (West Bengal) Except Bengali.

Anna: Along with Bengali...I can never forget that I have got a hoary language in which my forefathers spoke, in which my poets have given sermons and scriptures, in which we have got classics and literature of inexhaustible knowledge, I will never be content till that day when Tamil takes its due place as one of the official languages in the Union.(04-03-1965).

It is unfortunate though years are rolled down his dream and demand remains unfulfilled. I sincerely believe that in the very near future Tamil will be declared an official language of Union of India. Let us remember "that the eternal Vigilance is a price we pay for liberty" The above excerpts are from the Raja Sabha speeches of Anna. They clearly point out two distinct features. The richness and the Hoary past of Tamil have been clearly explained and there for it was a solid foundation laid by him toward declaring Tamil as a classical language. Of course, let us remember that Parithimal Kalaignar for the first person to pronounce the Tamil is a classical language. The contribution by Maraimalai Adigal, Thiru Ve.Ka, Devenaye Pavanar and Mu.Va also paved the path for the Tamils to be conscious of their richness of their language. Their researches were also added factor to make Tamil as a classical language. But, to the eternal credit of Anna it was he that declared Tamil as a classical language in the highest legislature's forum of India.

I WAS A WITNESS TO ANNA'S PRONOUNCEMENT

I was privileged to attend the



Mr. C.N. Annadurai

second International Tamil conference of Tamil Nadu at Chennai in the year 1968. Annadurai in his extempore speech which he addressed to the Tamils and the foreign audience in English said about the attachments of the Tamils to the Tamil language in this moving words. In his speech he spoke of the ancient heritage of the Tamil language is richness it's flexibility, it's adaptability, its amenability and that's why the Tamil language to able to survive down the ages, in spite of repeated slaughters by different notations. "Tamils by nature are lethargic and indifferent on all issues, but when they know there is a danger to the Tamil language God forbid at to what they would do". His statement is pregnant in its meaning.

ANNA'S WRITINGS

Anna start his career as a journalist in the year 1934 his writings covered on politics, short stories, fictions drama's one act place and parodies. Within the short period of 34 years the volume of works written by him it's amazing. Words fail to describe his multifarious talents. Epistles to his Tambi (Brother) or more than 290 and these letters covers more than 3000 pages when printed. His writings excel in quality & quantity. He proved that pen is mightier than the sword. Even his political opponents like Kalki could not resist to pay a tribute to Anna's dramatical talent. His one night drama "?????" was compared to Bernard Shaw's artistic out burst.

IMPACT OF THE PURE TAMIL MOVEMENT ON ANNA

Emigrant scholars Marai malai adikal thiru Ve. Ka, R.P.Sethupillai, Pavanur, and Bharathi' dasan's poetry paved the path for the pure Tamil movement in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Annadurai though conscious of the pure Tamil movement and its impact in the society he could not adapt the same pure Tamil style because he was dealing with the masses. But his tributes to Maraimalai adikal, and Thiru Ve.Ka it is a clear Vindication of his love to preserve the purity of the Tamil language. His alliterating, allusions subtle satires pungent and criticisms

was a treat to the literates and to the illiterates.

HE DETHRONED SANSKRIT

During his period sanskrit dominated in the field of education, religion, politics and social spheres. With determine calculated move he dethrone sanskrit. He passed legislation to conduct self respect marriages and saw that marriages were conducted in Tamil to up lift the Tamil masses and make them feel proud of their language.

RENAMED MADRAS AS TAMIL NADU

He pleaded in Tamil nadu and also in Raja Sabha that Madrass be renamed as Tamil Nadu. He to start with he faced opposition but he won over the opposition. When one member asked him to what satisfaction he has by renaming Madras state to Tamil Nadu?" Typical of Anna he retorted in this manner. "What we gain, its, we gain sentimental satisfaction and status for our ancient Tamil Nadu. If in Madras we change the name of china bazaar in to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Road, Nothing is changed in the street, but something is changed in our thinking, in our soul and in our fibre."

With this same enthusiasm and vigour Anna introduce the Bill for renaming in the Madras Legislative Assembly and it was passed with a thundering applause. Then he echoed "Tamil Naadu" and the members responded "Vazhga! This emotional outburst was a unique scence in the entire history of our Tamil Nadu.

Really this was a historical event and the entire Tamil Nadu is proud of it even now and it will be so for centuries together. This was the climax of his career. But, unfortunately for him and for us he couldn't live long to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

HIS OPPOSITION OF HINDI

Though Tamil was the made the language of curriculum; sanskrit continued to occupy a key place by the Pro Sanskrit lobby. Added to this factor, Hindi imposition was gaining foot hold from 1938.

The Indian constitution came in to vogue in 1950 in according to its bill, after the lapse of fifteen years Hindi was to replace English in the administrative field. This led to the anti Hindi agitation by Anna during 1964. Chief Minister Bakthavathsalam stood like a rock and dealt with situation with iron hands and took away numerous precious lives.

Contd. in next page...

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Annadurai the champion of the Eelam Tamil Liberation

Pg 24 continuation

This was a turning point in the political scenario of Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu felt the danger they were facing due to Hindi domination and decided to hand over power to the DMK headed by Anna. Some section express fear the Central Government might bring down the Tamil Nadu Government but Annadurai in a fearless manner pronounced I have done "what I can! Let Delhi do what its wants!" This fearless clear cut pronouncement was a challenge to Delhi. At this convocation address delivered at Annamalai University, he satirically remarked. "The Government of Tamil Nadu, as stated in unmistakable terner that Tamil and English can server all our purposes, the former the official languages of state and the latter as the link language. What serves us to link with the outside world is certainly capable of rendering the same service inside India as well. To plead for two link languages is like boring a smaller hole for kitten while there is a bigger one for that cat"

CHAIR FOR THIRUKURAL

The International forum of Tamil studies conducted in Madrass in 1968 focussed world attention on the antiquity and greatness of the Tamil language. He was also conscious of the greatness of the unique personality of the saint, sage philosopher – Valluvar. Valluvar is considered as a bard of the universal and hence he created a chair of Thirukural for Valluvar in the Madras University Annamalai University and Madurai University.

ANNA'S LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE EELAM TAMIL CAUSE WILL BE REMEMBERD BY POSTERLITY

In 1958, he focused the Eelam Tamil problems in tWo fronts. First, he did his best to draw attention to the Delhi government. At the time, Nehru was a prime minister and Kamaraj was a chief minister both turned deaf ear and blind eye to the Eelam tamil problem. He got a cartoon drawn in the Homeland paper to show the indifference of these two personalities. In 1958 June 22nd he declared Ceylon Tamil's a freedom day and conducted demonstration and mass meetings. At the meeting he conducted the Nepier Park, thousands assembled and the resolution passed focussed our problem and its considered as a historic event in the Annals of Tamil freedom.

WORLD ATTENTION FOCUSED

In 196,1 when Tamils demonstrated against Singala implementation in the northern and the eastern provinces in Srilanka opposite the "kacheris(Secretariets) in a open expression of sympathy for Eelam Tamils there was a mass meeting on the 13th of March 1961 at Mareena Beech. The gathering of the masses and the resolution passed was a turning point in our freedom struggles. His articles in Thiravidar nadu in Tamil and Homeland in English focused world attention.

In 1958, in his Homeland dated June 15th he described the atrocities committed by the Srilankan Arm forces in a very

strong language. He described the plight of the Eelam Tamils as "Cinderallas in Ceylon". On June 29th 1958 Homeland issue he brought out, articles and photos describing in a moving manner the suffering of the Eelam Tamils. Again on July 22nd 1958 the Homeland issue covered his letters addressed to the world forum appealing to their attention.

In 1958 on August 10th he appealed to the Tamils to rally round to make Bandaranayaka feel guilty of his conduct. In his Homeland, in thick letters he wrote the following para:

"That does not necessarily mean, demanding a Tamil Raj comprising Tamil Nad and that portion of Ceylon wherein Tamilians are in a majority..The task immediately ahead is to focus public attention on the problem. World opinion should be harnessed to the cause for justice and fair play. The plight of the Tamilians in Ceylon should be placed before the discerning public all over the world.

ANNA'S REACTION TO KRISHNA MENON

In conclusion, let me state as to what Anna said "to V.K.Krishna Menon theN defence minister. Krishna Menon in keeping with his position said to Anna, " His interference in the internal affairs in Sri Lanka is embarrassment to India. He said ' Sri Llanka is a loving close neighbors of ours and a little island, we cannot afford to offend its feelings. Typical of Anna, anna retorted by saying the Krishna Menon is a political giant, with rich experience in politics and that he is not a match to him;but he asked the questions " if I see my neighbor hugging and kissing his wife I shall not look on but out of shyness I will look the other side but If my neighbor under the protext that he is the husband and trying to knife her to death and she cries in agony Am I to watch on? Nor I have to go to her rescue. The Plight of the Eelam Tamils is the same. I cannot to watch on when they are dying I have to go to their rescue. This statement of his silenced Krishna Menon and he didn't say anything after that. This is where Anna's excels in the beautiful art of diplomacy. What his diplomacy is to say the worst things in the best form.

KARUNANITHY THE BETRAYOR OF THE TAMILS

Unfortunately, for us the so called the disciples of Anna, especially Muthuvelu Karunanithy the present chief minister of Tamil Nadu doing the very negation of what Anna Stood for. Much against our wish, Honorable. Karunanithy will go down in history as a greatest betrayer of Eelam Tamils. The verdict of history cannot be easily be altered.

(M.K. Eelaventhan is a Former Member of Parliament - Sri Lanka and Member of Trans National Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE), Representing Canada-Email:

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LETTERS & OPINIONS

by M.K.Bhadrakumar

An Assistant Secretary dealing with South Asia in the State Department in Washington a decade-and-a-half ago once took justifiable pride that she only needed a clutch of minutes to get the Indians all worked up into a tizzy. What the loquacious U.S. diplomat, who was an old India-Pakistan hand familiar with the human frailties (and vanities) in our part of the world, meant was that Indians never bothered to crosscheck facts when they came across an unpalatable thought.

She had a point. And her adage holds good. When an opinion piece by the U.S. strategic analyst, Selig Harrison, appeared in the New York Times recently alleging large-scale Chinese military presence in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, history seemed to repeat itself. Our tribal instincts resurfaced. It still remains foggy on what basis Mr. Harrison painted the apocalyptic vision of war drums beating distantly in the obscure Himalayan mountains.

The regions beyond the northern edges of Kashmir comprise tangled, inaccessible mountains and it is highly improbable that Mr. Harrison wrote on the basis of any first-hand information regarding the 22 secret tunnels in which 11,000 Chinese soldiers belonging to the People's Liberation Army reportedly huddle uneasily alongside stockpiles of deadly missiles that could be launched against India. (Actually, the Pakistani authorities have invited him to go to that picturesque region and take a good look himself.)

Not much ingenuity is needed to discern that Mr. Harrison based his opinion piece on intelligence sources.

All he would say later was that his story was based on "western and regional intelligence sources." Who could be these sources? Politics should, after all, begin with asking a few blunt questions. Were these sources Pakistani, Afghan, Iranian, Russian or Chinese who guided Mr. Harrison? Seems illogical.

Were they Indian sources based in Delhi — or Indian "analysts" comfortably located in Singapore? Indeed, by a process of elimination, we arrive at the conclusion that the greatest likelihood seems to be that Mr. Harrison's sources were American.

The Reality of Growing Chinese Power and Influence in the South Asian Region

This of course is by no means casting aspersions on Mr. Harrison's integrity. In fact, he has been most candid about his thesis when he concluded his opinion piece with a stirring call to the U.S. administration. He wrote: "The United States is uniquely situated to play a moderating role in Kashmir, given its growing economic and military ties with India and Pakistan's aid dependence on Washington.

"Washington should press New Delhi to resume autonomy negotiations with Kashmiri separatists. Success would put pressure on Islamabad for comparable concessions in Free Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan ... Precisely because the Gilgit-Baltistan region is so important to China, the U.S., India and Pakistan should work together to make sure that it is not overwhelmed ... by the Chinese behemoth."

Both Islamabad and Beijing have since repeatedly and unequivocally refuted the contents of Mr. Harrison's article. Top Indian officials who have full access to intelligence have also off-the-record given their estimation that any Chinese presence in the Gilgit-Baltistan region could be related to flood-relief work and some development projects and it doesn't involve Chinese regulars of the PLA. They are also inclined to accept the Chinese assurance that there is no change in Beijing's stand on the Kashmir issue, including the part of Kashmir that is under Indian governance.

Equally, in their assessment, Chinese nationals are not taking up habitation in Gilgit-Baltistan, but come to the region from time to time to build infrastructure projects and they go away upon the completion of those projects. Delhi regards the figure of \$1.7 billion as Chinese investment in Northern Areas and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as far-too inflated a figure. As a senior Indian official put it "They [the Chinese] are a business-like people and they won't invest in that kind of area like that."

Evidently, there is a glaring disconnect in New Delhi between those who know and generally prefer not to speak and those who rave but have no flair or patience for checking the facts on the ground. The problem with disregard of facts is that incrementally you withdraw into a smaller and smaller coil of rage and ultimately resign yourself to a sense of powerlessness, frustration and defeat. Should that be the fate of a great country like India that has survived for millennia?

Ultimately, it all boils down to China's presence in the South Asian region and, as the Prime Minister put it the other day, "we have to reflect on this reality, we have to be aware of this." The issue is: what is the nature of the "reality" so that we can come to terms with it?

The reality is China's growing power and influence that need to be tackled in regional politics. The security of our region and its future will significantly depend on the choices that China makes. Having said that, we too have choices to make. Even if India fails to overtake China economically, it will nonetheless be the second-strongest regional power and will be the most serious constraint on Chinese power. That is to say, the manner and the directions in which India chooses to use its power is going to be no less important than China's actions in their impact on regional stability.

Of course, our choices are going to be harder than China's. The heart of the matter is that a stable, peaceful South Asia can only be built if India works with China. The alternative will be war and mayhem and history provides many examples. The point is, there is a fundamental choice involved here — the choice between "influence" and stability. India and China are on the same side — both want influence and neither seeks instability.

However, we cannot insist that regional stability is synonymous with India's primacy. The international community will only mock at us if we do so in this era of globalisation. As, for that matter, was the region in a blissful state of stability even in the halcyon days when India's influence reigned supreme?

In short, the rise in China's influence in the region can lead to peace and regional stability provided we eschew outdated notions of "sphere of influence." On the contrary, a struggle will inevitably ensue if India chooses to contest China's growing influence since the quintessence of that choice will be that India is prepared to sacrifice peace and stability in the region in its quest for regional primacy. Our South Asian neighbours will only see our



Hamabantota harbor constructed with Chinese aid in Sri Lanka (pic: news.lk)



Chinese workers at harbor construction in Sri Lanka

choice as a quest for regional hegemony and they cannot be expected to accommodate hubris.

Alas, a segment of our strategic community seems to think that South Asia can be peaceful only under Indian tutelage. It perceives China's desire to expand its influence in the region as inherently threatening. But what is the alternative?

China has already grown to be the second biggest economic power in the world. With such economic power, political and strategic power inexorably follows. To quote from a recent thoughtful essay by well-known Australian scholar Hugh White, "China's power, controlled by China's government, must be dealt with as a simple fact of international politics. If Americans deny the right to exercise its power internationally within the same limits and norms that they accept for themselves, they can hardly be surprised if China decides not to accept the legitimacy of American power and starts pushing back. These days it can push back pretty hard."

Again, all evidence so far points to a distinct pattern that China wishes to expand its influence in South Asia without breaking international law or the rules set out in the Charter of the United Nations. China has not used its power improperly. The fact that China has growing ambitions to develop communication

links via South Asia to the world market bypassing the Malacca Strait (which is an American "choke-point") or that China aspires to explore the vast untapped potential for regional trade and investment in South Asia do not make the Chinese policies illegitimate.

Our dilemma is that we are used to exercising a level of regional primacy in the neighbouring countries and we may have come to regard it almost as a mark of our national identity. Clearly, the instinct to "fight" to keep our perceived regional primacy stems from a wrong notion.

The rise of China's influence doesn't have to be a story of India's weakness but can remain a story of Chinese strength. What is it, arguably, that prevents Indian companies even today from spreading wings to the mountains, jungles and beaches of Nepal, Myanmar or Sri Lanka with the gusto with which the Chinese businessmen are doing?

Last week, Yunnan commenced direct flight to Colombo. Why is it that a Raipur-Colombo air link remains "uneconomical?"

Nothing like this Chinese "challenge" ever happened before in the South Asian region. Japan or America or Britain could have mounted it in these six decades, but they didn't. But then, they weren't South Asia's neighbours. China is a neighbour.

(The writer is a former diplomat.)

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John Boddy Homes has been voted 'Best Builder' in Ajax/Pickering for the thirteenth year in a row for this year's Readers' Choice Awards and has now released its next phase at their 'Eagle Glen' community in Ajax. Located just minutes east of Toronto 'Eagle Glen' combines the closeness and convenience of city living with a suburban feel, and its prime location makes it a great place to call home. Classic two-storey homes are available, as well as side and back splits, semi-detached and townhouses. Homes start at 1,700 square feet and range up to a spacious 3,858 square feet, some with three car garages. John Boddy Homes offers traditional size lots with a minimum of 105 feet in depth and a great selection of extra deep lots, pie shaped lots, walk out basements and a select few backing onto 3.5 acres of mature trees. With such a broad range of house sizes and styles 'Eagle Glen' has the ideal home to suit every preference. From the unique exteriors and charming streetscapes to the elegant interiors, various John Boddy Homes include such impressive standard features as vaulted ceilings, double door entries, décor columns, mirrored sliding closet doors, ceramic kitchen backsplashes, double basin bathroom vanities with make-up counters and so much more. Their gourmet kitchens, welcoming great rooms with cozy gas fireplaces and elegant dining rooms with coffered ceilings are all spacious and comfortable, making them the perfect location to enjoy time together with family or entertaining friends. In addition, some models include such impressive extras as classic French doors, transom windows and custom octagonal skylights allowing light to travel throughout the home for a bright and spacious feel.

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

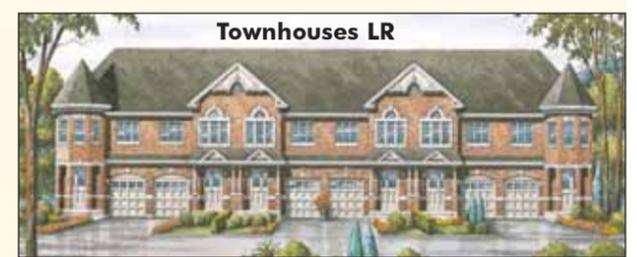
Other features include arched entryways, custom millwork, window mullions on all front and rear facades and decorative garage doors featuring appealing window lites. Custom landscaping packages and paved driveways are also included in all homes providing the renowned curb appeal that enhances the entire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

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

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

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The 'Eagle Glen' community offers many important neighbourhood amenities such as a brand new on-site public elementary school, places of worship, fully equipped parks and easy access to both Ajax and Go-Transit Services. Toronto is easily accessible from nearby



Townhouses LR

Highways 401 and 407. Located just north of a host of shopping and recreation centres, 'Eagle Glen' allows residents all the amenities of the urban lifestyle while providing the beauty and tranquility of the neighbouring countryside.

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

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

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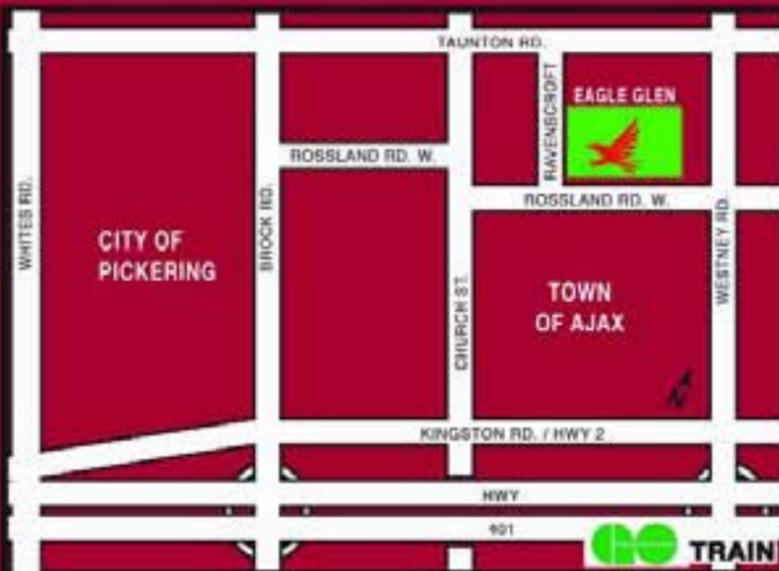
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WATERWAYS FROM CHINA AND INDIA THREATEN TO DESTROY AGRICULTURE IN BANGLADESH

Ongoing wrangling over vital waterways that pass through China and India – the two most populous countries in the world – could lead to agricultural devastation further downstream in Bangladesh, experts warn.

The Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers – together one of the largest freshwater flows in the world – pass through Bangladesh on their way to the ocean, but the rivers' catchments are outside the country, leaving the impoverished nation to rely on neighbours to allow water through.

However, with neighbours under pressure from population and economic growth looking to their own water and hydro-energy needs, Bangladesh is suffering.

As climate change increases Himalayan glacier melt and swells rivers below, China and India are likely to move forward with more dam projects, said Steve Luby of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh.

"The loss of the Himalayan ice pack means China and India are going ahead with plans to dam, and decrease water supply to Bangladesh," Luby said. "That puts a country that is already vulnerable in a worse position. In Bangladesh, more than 80 percent of the water used is used in agriculture."

Bangladesh first felt the impact of disrupted flow from the Ganges in 1975 when India built the Farakka barrage, which led to an almost 50 percent drop in dry season flow.

Now India, with a population of 1.1 bil-

lion that is expected to swell to more than 1.5 billion in the next four decades, plans to construct another large dam that will block a significant portion of downstream flow from the Meghna.

On top of that, China with plans to divert water for its own use from the Brahmaputra, which accounts for 71 percent of the water in the Ganges delta, said Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, of the Ministry of Water Resources.

"If somebody diverts the main flow and takes the water away, then a major ecological catastrophe will take place in this delta," said Ahmed, who is executive director of the centre for global change in the ministry's Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). "It'll have a tremendous adverse implication on Bangladesh."

According to World Bank and UN estimates, China's population of more than 1.3 billion is expected to grow by about 70 million by 2050. While its projected population growth rate is lower than India's, its GDP has skyrocketed at 10 percent or more annually over much of the past two decades.

Many of Bangladesh's aquifers have become contaminated with arsenic, making them dangerous for human consumption. Surface water is also heavily contaminated, while the recharge rate on deep, underground aquifers is too slow for them to be a viable alternative.

Ahmed said that with too little water, agricultural production drops, causing a rise in local food prices and seriously impacting a country where the UN estimates 50 percent of the population live on less than a US\$1 a day and 46 percent of children are malnourished.

"When rice prices rise, people eat less," he said. "Less water means less grain means less food for people who are already malnourished."

Bangladesh already faces water shortages because of severe drought in the north.

With two-thirds of the country's population working in the agriculture sector, communities are hard hit, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

"Part of the northern region is facing de-



A woman washes clothes along the Buriganga River – photo by: Manoocher Deghati

sertification. There is a huge shortage of irrigation facilities," she said. "Because of the unilateral withdrawal of water by India, major rivers have silted up. These rivers have died. Salinity is spreading because there is no water coming from upstream to push the seawater back."

Increased salinity has caused groundwater problems and led to a drop in agricultural production in the southern coastal regions, where farmers once relied on the Ganges during the dry season for their water-dependent rice crops.

"When the water became saline and there wasn't enough water coming from upstream, people had to forfeit the most important crop and gradually they picked up less economically important crops, so their whole livelihoods changed," said Ahmed from WARPO.

Ahmed warns that it will probably become ecologically impossible for people to live or maintain livelihoods in the southwest of Bangladesh.

With these ongoing water disputes, Bangladesh is having a hard time pushing back against India – its powerful neighbour that helped Bangladesh become independent in 1971. "It's a difficult situation because India is a large country," said Adilur Khan, secretary of human rights NGO Odhakar. "At the official level, India is a big brother that puts pressure on its small neighbours."

A Joint River Commission established by the two countries in 1972, and the 1996 water-sharing treaty between the two countries, have done little to resolve the problem.

The sharing of the Ganges' waters remains a long-standing diplomatic issue between India and Bangladesh over appropriate allocation and development needs.

With no end in sight to the dispute, experts agree that it will be essential to hold multilateral talks between India, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Nepal – the five neighbouring countries that contain the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin. [IRIN News]



Less water could spell trouble for Bangladeshi farmers downstream photo by: David Swanson

SCIENTISTS WARN SEVERE WEATHER TO INCREASE IN NEAR FUTURE

By Elizabeth Lee

U.S. climate scientists say they expect more heavy rains and droughts in the near future. Weather experts were speaking before a panel of U.S. lawmakers in Washington. The Pakistani ambassador to the U.S. was also at the discussion. He says extreme weather in Pakistan this year is creating security concerns that could extend beyond the borders of his country.

In Pakistan and Russia, in China and the United States, torrential rains and severe heat have killed thousands of people and left many more homeless.

Appearing before U.S. lawmakers, these climate scientists said heavy rains have been increasing around the world, causing devastating floods.

One reason – the planet is getting hotter, and warmer air holds more water. Michael Wehner, a climate scientist from California, says he expects extreme weather to become the norm. "The intensity of future rare heat waves are projected to be unprecedented with temperatures to be higher than it has ever been seen. I expect that daily high temperature records will continue to be broken at high rates across the United States and much of the world in the foreseeable future," he said.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Husain Haqqani, says this year his country experienced the worst monsoon rains in its history. At their peak, he says more than 20 percent of Pakistan was underwater. "Unfortunately, the country is getting hotter. The summers are lengthening and the winters are shrinking and becoming milder. Monsoons, the main source of water in our rivers, are becoming totally unpredictable," he said.

Ambassador Haqqani says the flooding in Pakistan is also causing security concerns. "There is the prospect and possibility of insurgent and extremist groups taking advantage of the circumstances," he said.

The ambassador says Pakistani security forces have been diverted from fighting terrorism to helping with flood relief, leaving the country vulnerable.

He says one of the main causes of extreme weather is human activity. "Our scientists in Pakistan believe that green house gases emitted by factories, motor vehicles and even farm animals across the world are contributing to rising global temperatures," he said.

Republican Congressman James Sensenbrenner insisted that global warming is not linked to extreme weather. "This is about how to tie this natural disaster to the Democrats' environmental agenda which will do nothing to stop the monsoon rains in Pakistan. There is no evidence of a direct link between climate change and these floods," he said. These scientists say while they cannot tie any single severe weather event to climate change and global warming, they say the increase in greenhouse gases and man made pollutants will increase the likelihood of more extreme weather in the future. [VOA News]

WAR AMPUTEES FIGHT FOR NEW LIMBS IN SRI LANKA

More than 16 months after the Sri Lankan government ended a 26-year civil war by defeating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, thousands of amputees await help.

Ninety percent of Sri Lanka's estimated 160,000 amputees, many disabled by landmines and explosions linked to the civil war, lack proper prosthetic limbs, says the Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, a project of the Cambodia Trust.

"I am handicapped due to a needless war and I am still suffering," said Jeganathan Sivakumaran, a 25-year-old from Mullaitivu, a town in northeastern Sri Lanka. He lost both his legs in a shell attack in early 2009 and is still without prosthetics. "I live like an animal in the street begging for money."

Artificial limb services are inaccessible and limited in terms of providers and funds at district level because of a lack of skilled technicians and donor support, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) told IRIN.

"There are not enough service providers in this field to cover the artificial limb needs of the country," Ivan Rasiyah, USAID programme coordinator, said. "The government doesn't have enough capacity to provide these services due to a lack of facilities and trained people."

Such issues, particularly prominent in the north, are a primary concern for Sri Lanka, said Ravindra Solomans, a representative for the department of social services.

"In the remote areas resources are a big problem – there are not enough therapists, and not enough accessibility," Solomans said. "Now that the civil war is over we are training officers and volunteers in this field."

The government says it hopes to make all public areas accessible to disabled people within five years. "The most body-friendly raw material is expensive and imported from the United States. Indian materials are inexpensive, but not very patient-friendly," activist Lalith Ganhewa



Only one in 10 of Sri Lanka's amputees is able to get a prosthetic limb pic: Udara Soysa/IRIN

told IRIN. For example, a prosthetic made in the United States can cost between US\$5,000 and \$12,000, putting it out of reach of many Sri Lankans, who earn an average of \$4,500 a year, although that does not reflect inequalities between urban and rural populations, according to the US Department of State.

Shankar Kamalarajan, 41, from Jaffna, the capital of Northern Province, lost his right leg in a landmine in 2007 when collecting wood in the jungle. He was unable to find a prosthetic until February this year when a local community group sponsored him.

But for those who cannot find sponsors, the prospects look bleak. "Two years I spent as a beggar because I could not do anything to help my situation," Kamalarajan said. "There were days I did not have food and had to starve. Now I am trying to adjust to a new life leaving the trauma of being handicapped in the past."

A pilgrimage to Kailash Manasarovar

Lord Shiva has been described as One without a beginning or end, immaculate, powerful, omniscient and supremely perfect.

-Yajur Veda

THE YATRA

The Kailash Mansarovar yatra is organized by Ministry of External affairs (MEA) normally takes 30 days to complete. Of these 17 days are spent on travel/trekking in Indian side whereas 13 days are spent in western Tibet (China). MEA is the nodal agency which co-ordinates all arrangements on the Indian and Chinese side. Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) makes complete arrangements for boarding and lodging of all yatries on the Indian side. Every year MEA takes 16 batches to Kailash Mansarovar having quota of 60 persons in each batch including a Liaison Officer who leads the group and is responsible for the successful completion of Yatra. The selection is on the basis of draw of lots if number of applications received by MEA is more than the quota.

Normally, every year 40-50 persons are able to undertake yatra in each batch. Prior to this two days are taken for intensive medical tests in Delhi and finally those persons who have passed the tests are declared fit by doctors at Indian Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) hospital. After the passport and visa formalities, and briefing by MEA, yatries depart for the yatra from Delhi.

The stay of the yatries is for 3 days at Delhi and is arranged by Delhi Government at Gujrati Seva Sadan. On the intervening night before the departure, government also arranges Bhajan Sandhya followed by dinner for yatries and distributes trekking kit to each yatri.

The group leaves early morning from Delhi by bus for Almora in Uttaranchal. The mood is usually of religious fervour in praise of Bhole Baba. The route takes you to Gaziabad, Haldwani, Kathgodam, Baba Neeb Karori, Kainchi before yatries reach Almora late in the evening for the night halt. Lunch is provided by KMVN at guest house in Kathgodam.

There is a drop in temperature as yatries move from Delhi to Almora. 2nd day of the yatra is also undertaken by bus. Yatries start early in the morning from Almora and reach KMVN rest house, Pithoragarh where they have lunch. In the evening yatries are given a warm reception at ITBP headquarter, Mirthi. ITBP personals give briefing about the pros and cons of the yatra and precautions to be taken during the yatra. The role of ITBP for providing security and making arrange-

ments for well being of yatries is commendable, as without their contribution and Godly help the yatra can not be possible. Yatries reach Dharchula at around 7.30 P.M. Dharchula is a small town bordering Nepal. River Kali Ganga flows here which divides the boundaries of Nepal and India.

The third day of the trip is when the actual trekking begins. Early morning yatries start their journey from Dharchula to Mangti by Sumo. This is the place where ponies and potters are made available to yatries. Each yatri is allowed 25 kgs of luggage. It is advisable for all the yatries to take porters and ponies for carrying their personal bags especially for elderly persons and ladies. The long trek, increase in altitude and bad weather can make conditions difficult to walk. After the trekking for 6 Km yatries reach Gala. Yatries stay at Gala which is at the height of above 6000 fts. One can see lush green hills in front and river Kali Ganga flowing below.

The fourth day starts from Gala and takes one to Buddhi. The 23 km trek is irregular and risky with regular descents and ascents. It often rains and most of the trek is usually covered in rain. Enroute you cross Malpa, Lakanpur and Lamari before you reach Buddhi at about 6.30 P.M at the height of 8500 fts. The wild flowing river Kali accompanies throughout the route. There are number of waterfalls in this route and one has to pass under these waterfalls as you get natural showers.

The fifth day's travel starts from Buddhi and after covering a distance of 21 kms yatries reach Gunji at the height of 10500 fts. The first 3 kms is a steep ascent before you reach chiyah lekh pass which is at the height of 11500 fts. The route is tough but natural beauty is enchanting with Kali flowing continuously. The top pass is vast ground having an ITBP post where passports are checked and tea is served by ITBP. There is a stay of two days in Gunji because of the medical check-up by ITBP doctors again to examine the high altitude affect and how much the body has acclimatized. Some yatries are kept under observation till next camp if some abnormal conditions are seen.

Finally, on the seventh day you start onward journey from Gunji to Kalapani at the height of 13800 fts., covering a distance of 11 kms. Here you are accompanied by an ITBP Doctor and personals. There is a temple of Goddess Kali and Kali Ganga is originated from this place. You can see Sheshnaag mountain and vyaas gufa from here. The immigration formalities are also completed here by checking



passports of each yatri. The eighth day you start from Kalapani for Nabhidhang situated at the height of 14500 fts. The climb is gradual initially, then becomes steep. Vegetation and greenery starts decreasing and hills begin to look barren. The weather is mostly cloudy but the sky is clear as you reach Nabhidhang. There is a lovely sight of OM Parvat at Nabhidhang, the snow settles in the crevices of the mountain in the shape of the mystical OM. It is a rare sight to watch.

The ninth day route is the toughest of the yatra as you have to start early at 3.00 A.M in the morning in order to ensure that the yatries reach Lipukekh pass, Indo-China border by 7.30 A.M. at the height of 17600 ft. The route is narrow and there is a steep climb with snow on the trek near Lipulekh pass, which makes it difficult to walk in darkness. The weather is usually indifferent and temperature is also very cold. After a hard trekking yatries reach lipulekh at 7.30 A.M in the morning. You wait for half an hour before Chinese authorities came to receive you. They collect the passports and hand you to a guide, who accompanies you throughout the yatra on the Chinese side. The Chinese side is also covered with snow and the trek is not clear, so you have to slide down on snow while descending. After descending to Chinese side for about 8-10 kms on foot, you reach a point where a bus is made available to yatries for travel to Takalakot. The bus route is uneven, dusty and irregular track. Taklakot is the first place of stay in Chinese side.

From Taklakot you leave for Darchan, to start the Kora of Mt. Kailash. Darchan is about 140 km from Taklakot and the entire route is covered by bus.

Next morning, you are ready for the parikarma of Mt. kailash and leave early from Darchan for Deraphuk - a distance of 20 km. The route is plain. First you reach Yama Dawar at Torpoche, where you offer prayers. Travelling a distance of 10 kms you enter Lha Chu valley from where ponies and potters are made available to yatries.

This valley is also called valley of the river of gods. The camp at Deraphuk offers bare minimum facilities. From camp one can see north face of Mt. Kailash giving a magnificent view of the mountain. From there you can also go to Kailash Charan which is about 5-6 kms ascent towards Mt. Kailash and one stands face to face in front of Kailash.

The second day of parikarma is the toughest of the whole yatra. You start early morning at 4.00 A.M so as to reach Dolma Pass, being the highest point in the yatra at the height of over 19500 ft. which has to be crossed by noon because of inclement weather conditions and low oxygen. The crossing over this pass represents a transition from former life to a new one with all of the previous sins forgiven by the compassionate Goddess of mercy, Dolma. You stay at Dolma Pass for about 45 minutes performing Puja and tie flags for peace and prosperity. Yatries descend from Dolma and see the most beautiful and enchanting Gauri Kund emerald in color and covered with snow. It is said that Mata Parvati comes here for daily oblations. From this point onwards is a continuous descend on rocky trek towards a valley. As you reached valley, few tented shops are available there providing eatables. You rest there before walking few more hours along the valley to reach Zultul Phuk camp for night stay. The 3rd day's trek is plain and easy and after few hours journey you reach Darchen by noon.

Thus, the parikarma of Kailashpati is completed with His grace and you all feel the sense of fulfillment and upliftment of your souls.

Next morning, it is time to leave Darchan and proceed for Mansarover Parikarma. The stay along the shores of Mansarover is of four days. It is mostly on the bus. After leaving Darchan, the first place you reach is Hore. Hore is a small place having a monastery and few shops containing items for daily use. Yatries purchase vegetables and other food items for their stay at Mansarover. As you move along the shores of



Mansarover, you are elevated by the pristine beauty of vast blue water body in front of you and Mt. Kailash in the background of Manas. It is really a treat for all. You reach Qugu, after a bus drive of almost five hours at 1.00 P.M where you stay for next two days.

After your stay at Qugu, fully charged with divine thoughts and memories of Kailash Parikarma, you start for the next stop at Ckihhu. While moving across the lake, you reach a monastery which is at the height of about 100 mts from the roadside where the bus usually stops. Some of you then start strolling along the banks of Manas and others stay in the bus. Very few are willing to go to the monastery as it is a steep climb. Some make up their mind to see the monastery and start climbing towards the monastery. As you reach the top of the monastery, the view of the Mansarover from height is marvellous and unexplainable.

One cannot expect more than that from the lord of all lords. As you are admiring the beauty of the lake from top your sight is focused on the OM shape surfaced on the water. You are amazed to see such a miracle in the middle of the lake. You thank Lord Shiva for His grace as you are bestowed with the darshan of OM. It is really a memorable moment of your lives. It is an experience of the life time which no words could describe. You reach Ckihhu, where your Mansarover Parikarma is also completed. Everybody is happy and in an elevated mood sharing their experiences with each other. You stay there for a day. Ckihhu is called bird in Tibet as the Monastery at Ckihhu is in the shape of bird on a hill. With the two most important objectives of the Yatra - Kailash and Mansarover parikarma accomplished, you are headed for Taklakot.

All of you have a sense of fulfillment and gratitude and regard for Kailashpati having blessed you in successful completion of the longest pilgrimage of the Hindu religion. The physical travails and tribulations are all forgotten.



Kanayalal Raina

RETURNEES IN SRI LANKA BRACE FOR MONSOON RAINS



A family under their makeshift shelter in Mullaitivu



Returnees have little shelter against the rains pic: Udara Soysa/IRIN

Upcoming monsoon rains could spell trouble for thousands of returnees to conflict-affected northern Sri Lanka.

The annual northeast monsoon rains run from November through February, and are usually accompanied by strong winds and extensive flooding.

Inter-monsoonal rains have already begun in some areas.

"I'm very concerned for the returnees once monsoon rains start," Thaya Thiagarajah, a senior official with the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India, told IRIN. "Their shelters will not protect them from the monsoon rains. Authorities need to take urgent action."

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), many of the more than 200,000 returnees since late 2009 now live under transitional or emergency shelter, including tents, tarpaulins, tin sheeting and improvised housing shelters.

Humanitarian needs are likely to increase in the next few weeks and months, as the monsoon season approaches, agencies say.

Earlier this year, the UN estimated that 160,000 homes in the north had to be repaired or rebuilt following the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May 2009.

While initial plans for some 80,000 new homes are in place,

time is running out for those with little to protect themselves from the elements in the meantime.

"I live in a shelter I made using just a few roofing sheets. It will not hold out the rain. There is no proper protection. Water will come through the openings and will flood everything," Suji Kanniah, a housewife who returned four months ago, said. "I do not have money or material. I shudder to think about the upcoming rain."

Many describe the assistance as inadequate.

"It's not enough. It's simply not enough," Kurupiah Navaratnam, a former farmer from Mullaitivu, said. "We are trying to strengthen our shelters by putting tent material given by UNHCR [UN Refugee Agency] on top of our shelters. God only knows how successful it will be."

Arunachalan Balasubramaniam, a former schoolteacher who returned in February, echoed those concerns, describing his shelter as nothing more than an "animal cage. We live in sub-human conditions. Apparently, the whole world has forgotten about our plight," he said. "My house is open to deadly snakes, animals and rain without any protection - how can you call it a house?"

However, one official from the Government District Secretariat in Mullaitivu, who asked not to be identified, told IRIN:

"The government recognizes this as a problem and is trying to find ways to address this. I think there are funding constraints. But I believe they will eventually address this."

Meanwhile, efforts are under way to prepare some 28,000 residents of the Menik Farm IDP camp outside Vavuniya for the worst.

Agencies are supporting government initiatives on the ground to mitigate the rains' impact, including reinforcing drainage systems and updating mapping of groundwater tables and flood-prone areas.

Most of the shelters/tents in the camps have exceeded their natural lifespan and are not being replaced due to lack of funding. Shelters in zones 2 and 4, in particular, are not expected to withstand heavy rains, aid workers report.

Sunil Kariyawasam, director of the department of meteorology, told IRIN from Colombo that the country was now entering the inter-monsoon season. "We can expect some heavy rainfall during this period in all parts of the country," he warned.

According to the department, nearly 280mm of rain per month is expected in northern Sri Lanka during the upcoming northeast monsoon season. It is forecasting higher-than-average rainfall due to the current La Niña cycle. [IRIN News]

Three Questions: China's Identity Crisis

China issues a scorecard on its human rights progress each year, offering a distinct view from that of international groups monitoring the country's situation.

This year's report pays special attention to improved living standards, including increased access to television and Internet, which is tightly controlled. Researchers said a top accomplishment is a 34 percent increase in private car ownership last year.

VOA spoke with Christopher Hughes of the London School of Economics and Political Science about how China's view of itself affects its relationship with the world.

Why is China focusing on car-ownership in a report about human rights?

This goes back a long way, right back to the Cold War and the establishment of the U.N. and the various international agreements on human rights, when the Communist bloc always said that it wasn't just civil and political rights but equally important or, in fact, more important were social rights and economic rights and rights to development. So their argument is that it doesn't make sense to talk about civil and political rights when people are hungry. I think the problem for China now is that they've already reached a level of material development that's pretty good. And they themselves face a dilemma because they really don't know whether to see themselves as a developing country anymore or as a superpower. And China has these two

faces. It seems like China is sending a pretty unambiguous message to the world that it is a developed country, as seen in its recent dispute with Japan.

It says that through its actions, but then their own premier, Wen Jiabao, made a statement emphasizing that China is still a developing country and should be treated as one. And so they really want it both ways. When it's convenient, they'll say they're developing and they need aid and special treatment and concessions. But on all those other issues, like asserting their claims to territory, dealing with Japan or India or even the U.S., suddenly they seem to have pretty advanced capabilities.

How do you see this dichotomy playing out on the international arena?

Well, I think we are entering a very difficult period, and the clash with Japan in recent weeks was just one of many of these problems that China is becoming more assertive over. China for many years has been insisting that its economic rise will be peaceful, but its behavior really since about 2008 and the financial crisis, where China has sort of got a new confidence that the U.S. is in decline in some sense or is relatively weak and distracted, and China's time has come. Since then, its behavior has started raising a lot of questions over its intentions and how it's going to use its growing power.

[VOA News]



A protester scuffles with police officers who were trying to stop a fellow demonstrator from throwing a bag of tofu during a protest to support Chinese dissident Tan Zuoren at the Chinese government's liaison office in Hong Kong, 9 June 2010.

“Race based Politics will rip Society Apart,” says Lee Kuan Yew -The Maker of Singapore

- An interview with Dan Mydans

“SO, when is the last leaf falling?” asked Lee Kuan Yew, the man who made Singapore in his own stern and unsentimental image, nearing his 87th birthday and contemplating age, infirmity and loss.

“I can feel the gradual decline of energy and vitality,” said Mr. Lee, whose “Singapore model” of economic growth and tight social control made him one of the most influential political figures of Asia. “And I mean generally, every year, when you know you are not on the same level as last year. But that’s life.”

In a long, unusually reflective interview recently, he talked about the aches and pains of age and the solace of meditation, about his struggle to build a thriving nation on this resource-poor island, and his concern that the next generation might take his achievements for granted and let them slip away.

He was dressed informally in a windbreaker and running shoes in his big, bright office, still sharp of mind but visibly older and a little stooped, no longer in day-to-day control but, for as long as he lives, the dominant figure of the nation he created.

But in these final years, he said, his life has been darkened by the illness of his wife and companion of 61 years, bedridden and mute after a series of strokes.

“I try to busy myself,” he said, “but from time to time in idle moments, my mind goes back to the happy days we were up and about together.” Agnostic and pragmatic in his approach to life, he spoke with something like envy of people who find strength and solace in religion. “How do I comfort myself?” he asked. “Well, I say, ‘Life is just like that.’”

“What is next, I do not know,” he said. “Nobody has ever come back.”

The prime minister of Singapore from its founding in 1965 until he stepped aside in 1990, Mr. Lee built what he called “a first-world oasis in a third-world region” — praised for the efficiency and incorruptibility of his rule but accused by human rights groups of limiting political freedoms and intimidating opponents through libel suits.

His title now is minister mentor, a powerful presence within

the current government led by his son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The question that hovers over Singapore today is how long and in what form his model may endure once he is gone.

Always physically vigorous, Mr. Lee combats the decline of age with a regimen of swimming, cycling and massage and, perhaps more important, an hour-by-hour daily schedule of meetings, speeches and conferences both in



Singapore and overseas. “I know if I rest, I’ll slide downhill fast,” he said. When, after an hour, talk shifted from introspection to geopolitics, the years seemed to slip away and he grew vigorous and forceful, his worldview still wide ranging, detailed and commanding.

And yet, he said, he sometimes takes an oblique look at these struggles against age and sees what he calls “the absurdity of it.”

“I’m reaching 87, trying to keep fit, presenting a vigorous figure, and it’s an effort, and is it worth the effort?” he said. “I laugh at myself trying to keep a bold front. It’s become my habit. I just carry on.”

HIS most difficult moments come at the end of each day, he said, as he sits by the bedside of his wife, Kwa Geok Choo, 89, who has been unable to move or speak for more than two years. She had been by his side, a confidante and counselor, since they were law students in London.

“She understands when I talk to her, which I do every night,” he said. “She keeps awake for me; I tell her about my day’s work, read her favorite poems.” He opened a big spreadsheet to show his reading list, books by Jane Austen,

Rudyard Kipling and Lewis Carroll as well as the sonnets of Shakespeare.

Lately, he said, he had been looking at Christian marriage vows and was drawn to the words: “To love, to hold and to cherish, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse till death do us part.”

“I told her, ‘I would try and keep you company for as long as I can.’ That’s life. She understood.” But he also said: “I’m not sure who’s going first, whether she or me.”

At night, hearing the sounds of his wife’s discomfort in the next room, he said, he calms himself with 20 minutes of meditation, reciting a mantra he was taught by a Christian friend: “Ma-Ra-Na-Tha.”

The phrase, which is Aramaic, comes at the end of St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians, and can be translated in several ways. Mr. Lee said that he was told it means “Come to me, O Lord Jesus,” and that although he is not a believer, he finds the sounds soothing.

“The problem is to keep the monkey mind from running off into all kinds of thoughts,” he said. “A certain tranquillity settles over you. The day’s pressures and worries are pushed out. Then

there’s less problem sleeping.” He brushed aside the words of a prominent Singaporean writer and social critic, Catherine Lim, who described him as having “an authoritarian, no-nonsense manner that has little use for sentiment.”

“She’s a novelist!” he cried. “Therefore, she simplifies a person’s character,” making what he called a “graphic caricature of me.” “But is anybody that simple or simplistic?”

The stress of his wife’s illness is constant, he said, harder on him than stresses he faced for years in the political arena. But repeatedly, in looking back over his life, he returns to his moment of greatest anguish, the expulsion of Singapore from Malaysia in 1965, when he wept in public.

That trauma presented him with the challenge that has defined his life, the creation and development of a stable and prosperous nation, always on guard against conflict within its mixed population of Chinese, Malays and Indians.

“We don’t have the ingredients of a nation, the elementary factors,” he said three years ago in an interview with the International Herald Tribune, “a homogeneous population, common language, common culture and common destiny.”

Younger people worry him, with their demands for more political openness and a free



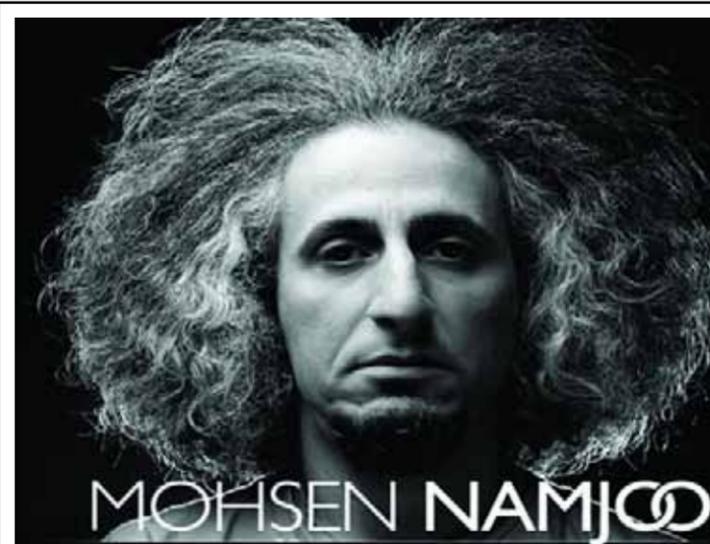
exchange of ideas, secure in their well-being in modern Singapore. “They have come to believe that this is a natural state of affairs, and they can take liberties with it,” he said. “They think you can put it on auto-pilot. I know that is never so.”

The kind of open political combat they demand would inevitably open the door to race-based politics, he said, and “our society will be ripped apart.” A political street fighter, by his own account, he has often taken on his opponents through ruinous libel suits.

He defended the suits as necessary to protect his good name, and he dismissed criticisms by Western reporters who “hop in and hop out” of Singapore as “absolute rubbish.”

In any case, it is not these reporters or the obituaries they may write that will offer the final verdict on his actions, he said, but future scholars who will study them in the context of their day. “I’m not saying that everything I did was right,” he said, “but everything I did was for an honorable purpose. I had to do some nasty things, locking fellows up without trial.”

And although the leaves are already falling from the tree, he said, the Lee Kuan Yew story may not be over yet. He quoted a Chinese proverb: Do not judge a man until his coffin is closed. “Close the coffin, then decide,” he said. “Then you assess him. I may still do something foolish before the lid is closed on me.”



Mohsen Namjoo in Concert

A cultural phenomenon and one of Iran’s most controversial and influential musicians today, Mohsen Namjoo gains worldwide appeal with his visionary take on traditional Persian music fused with western blues and rock. With his band and full live orchestra, Namjoo takes the stage at Toronto’s prestigious and newly renovated state-of-the-art facility at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

Dates: Saturday, October 16th, 2010 at 7.30pm
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By

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By

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Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam Ratifies Constitution: Elects Prime Minister, Speaker, and creates Senate

Full Text of TGTE Press Release

The Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) met at the United Nations Plaza Hotel in New York between September 29th and October 1st, when it ratified its Constitution, and elected its Prime Minister. Delegates in New York were joined via teleconference by delegates from London and Paris. The conference was opened with a moment of silence to remember those who have lost their lives in the freedom struggle.

The opening plenary was addressed by former U.S. Attorney General Mr. Ramsey Clark, Deputy Chief Minister of Penang (Malaysia) Professor Ramasamy, Professor David L.

Phillips from Columbia University and who also served as UN and U.S. State Department adviser, and Mr. Ali Beydoun, Executive Director of UNROW Human Rights Impact Litigation Clinic of the American University's Washington College of Law. UNROW recently published a report on Sri Lanka War Crimes which was submitted to the UN. After the opening session the Assembly turned to the challenging task of discussing the draft constitution. They debated and settled on a parliamentary model. The Parliament decided that the head of the government would be the Prime Minister. They also chose to create three Deputy Prime Minister posts. The Deputy Prime Ministers will be joined in the cabinet by seven other minis-

ters.

The TGTE Parliament will have a bicameral legislature. It will consist of the Parliament of elected representatives and the Senate. The Senate will serve as an advisory body as well as provide expertise. The Parliament also codified the recall mechanism of the elected members.

After the Assembly ratified the constitution, and unanimously elected Mr. Pon Balarajan from Canada as the Speaker of the Parliament, and Ms. Suganya Puthirasigamany from Switzerland as the Deputy Speaker. The Parliament unanimously elected Mr. Visvanathan Rudrakumaran as the first Prime Minister of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam.

Jaffna Central College old boys' Association of Canada - 18th Annual Central Nite 2010 get together & dinner

Elaborate arrangements are being made by the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of Canada to conduct their 18th Annual "Central Nite 2010" get together and dinner on Saturday October 30, 2010 scheduled to commence at 7.00 p.m. at Claireport Place Banquet Hall, 65 Claireport Crescent, Etobicoke, On. M9W3 6V5.

Date & time: Saturday October 30, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.
Venue: Claireport Place Banquet Hall
65 Claireport Crescent. Etobicoke. On. M9w 6v5
Telephone #: 416 - 675 - 7700

Dr. Sam K. Maheswaran, Professor of Microbiology, University of Minnesota will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and our former staff member guru Mr. V. Vigneshwaran will be the Guest of Honour.

Distinguished old centralites, friends, well wishers together with their family members are invited to attend this 18th Annual Central Nite 2010. The generosity, wholehearted assistance of the old centralites and friends are vital for the association in order to continue their service to their alma mater and to the needy students of the college in their higher studies.

For further information, kindly contact: R. Sivakumar 905 - 294 - 1773
Cell: 416-271-1044; R. Chelvaratnam 416 - 287 - 5429; Siva Kanapathypillai 416 - 438 - 0660 cell: 416 - 899 - 6044;
S. Yoganathan 416 - 609 - 9081 / 416 - 409 - 0084.

EUROPEAN UNION'S PROJECT TO BE FACILITATED BY GODS OWN CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The Delegation of the European Union in Sri Lanka is visiting the Jaffna Peninsula from the 6th to 8th of October 2010. The main objective of this visit is to launch a "Mobile Library Service" which will benefit the Children of the Jaffna Peninsula.

The European Union is funding this "Mobile Library Service" to be launched in association with the Jaffna Public Library, the Jaffna Municipal Council and the Five Zonal departments of Education. The Project will be facilitated by Gods Own Children Foundation, a grassroots non governmental organization specializing in Special Projects for Children and Youth. The Mobile Library Service will visit poor neglected schools in the Jaffna Peninsula, whose Children have no access to Libraries or any form of reading resources. The Mobile Library Service is to be launched at the Jaffna Public Library on the 7th of October 2010 to commemorate International Children's Day which is celebrated in Sri Lanka on the October 1st every year.

Matrimonial

Bride Wanted

Young and handsome youth, Age 29, working for reputed Insurance Company in Colombo, Sri Lanka, looking for a girl for marriage from Canada.

Ref: Mat/010910

Contact by e-mail: toronto@monsoonjournal.com

Bride Groom Wanted

Young, good looking girl, Chartered Accountant, age 25 working in Colombo, Sri Lanka looking for a bridegroom for marriage from Canada.

Ref: Mat/020910

Contact by e-mail: toronto@monsoonjournal.com

WORDS OF PEACE

Peace Begins with You

If the desire for peace is so obvious, why isn't there peace in this world? Maharaji, who has helped millions of people realize the dream of living in peace, says the solution is easier than people think it is.

"If peace is what we want, we can have peace," he says. "The only thing that is stopping peace from manifesting is that people do not recognize their own needs. People do not recognize that in the heart of every human being there is a desire to find peace.

"What does that mean? It means that first of all, you have to know yourself. Peace begins with you understanding you."

Maharaji travels the world with a simple message that has profound implications: the peace people are looking for already exists within each individual. That's why, he says, the efforts of governments and social groups to create peace are doomed to failure.

"The world has made the subject of peace incredibly complicated," he says. "Everywhere we go, there is a new idea of what peace is.

"I say to you that unless and until the fundamental duties of a human being are fulfilled, it does not matter what else we achieve. Those achievements will fall short. Because people do not realize who they are, ignorance is taking advantage of this whole world. Everything in this world takes advantage of us. Where the possibility lies to be content, we are discontent.

"I will tell you a little story that will perhaps put it in context for you.

"One day, a hungry lion was going through the forest looking for something to eat. He came upon a little rabbit and immediately pounced on it.

"As he was just about ready to eat the little rabbit, the rabbit said, 'Wait, wait, wait—you can't eat me!'

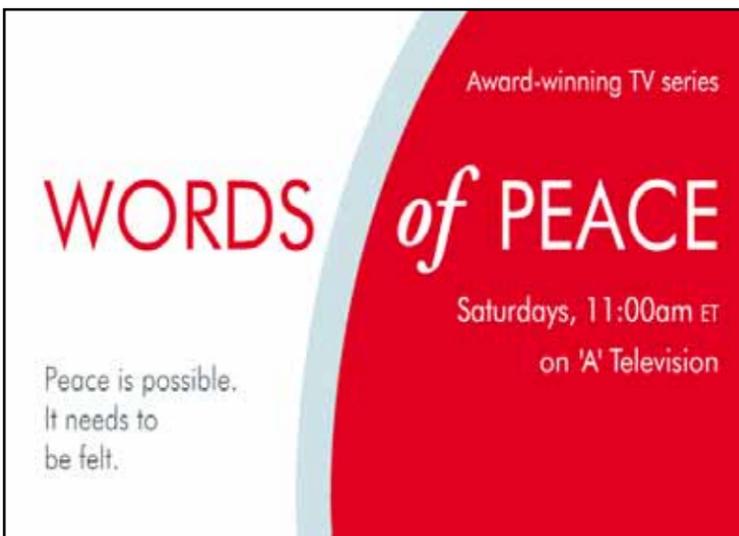
"The lion said, 'What makes you think I can't eat you? You are



"The rabbit said, 'See how powerful I am? As soon as they see me, all the animals run away!' He hopped away, and the lion stayed hungry. If the lion only knew who he was, he would have realized that the animals were running away not because of the rabbit, but because of him."

This simple children's story, Maharaji says, illustrates how important it is for people to know themselves—to understand our potential as human beings.

"Not only is peace possible," he says, "but it begins with you. You have to take the first step, and that first step is to begin to have access to yourself—to your



so small. I am hungry. If I decide to eat you, I will eat you!'

"The rabbit thought very quickly and said, 'Actually, I have been sent here by the lord of the jungle. I am his representative, and if you eat me, he will be very upset.'

"The lion thought, 'I'm sure this rabbit is bluffing.' He said, 'Okay, prove it. If you can prove that you have been sent by the lord of the jungle, I will let you go.'

"The rabbit said, 'No problem. Walk behind me, and we will go through the jungle and see what happens.'

"Imagine the scene: this little rabbit hopping along, with a big lion following him. Everywhere they went, as soon as the animals saw the lion, they ran away.

heart. In the depths of the heart lies the thirst that will lead you to the well. Just as the thirsty can understand the value of water, and the hungry can understand the value of food, we need to feel the thirst for peace that dwells inside of us."

For those who find that thirst, he says, he can help with learning how to satisfy it.

"From my perspective, how to access that peace inside is not an issue," he says. "I know how. It can be done."

For More Info, & Free DVD, Call 1 877 707 3221 –Toll Free

To learn more about Maharaji, visit:

www.wopg.org
www.tprf.org

Divinity is not just about the soul but also about the body.

While raising funds for community work, a group of students knocked at the door of an 88-year-old lady and informed her of the different ways she could contribute to their cause: 'You can make a pledge for the next three years, and you don't have to pay it all up front.' Even before they could finish, the old lady burst out, 'At my age, I don't even buy unripe bananas, let alone make a pledge for three years!'

A person striving to attain

Make every Endeavour a spiritual one



Sadhguru Vasudev is a realized master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organization that strives for ultimate human well-being. For world-wide program information, visit www.ishafoundation.org
Toronto local contact 1-866-424-ISHA (4742) or email Toronto@ishafoundation.org

spirituality should be just like the old lady — allowing oneself absolutely no free time, not even to buy unripe bananas. You have to be in a hurry. If you slack even a little bit you will lose a lot. This is not the time to take things slow; it's the time to get burnt up quickly. Whether it's a friend who delays you, an accident that cripples you, or your own laziness that brings you down — it really doesn't matter. You have to make it. And once you do, even if do not fully experience spirituality, you will at least experience something you can't decipher but which puts you on a higher plane.

Every small step is a giant leap towards fulfillment. Would life not be great if you could stay at the top forever? How would it feel to be free from all the things that pull you down? Or those that push you in the wrong direction? Would it not be wonderful to know that wherever you are is the best place to be? Science tells us that everything has the same energy. But everything is still not the same. The food that you eat today, what



happens to it tomorrow? Energy which drives animalistic instinct can also pave the path to divinity. Divinity is just not about the soul, it is primarily about the body.

The body, mainly seen as a mass of flesh, can be transformed into a divine entity if its systems are reorganized in a particular way. Given sufficient practice, the

body can be made to do more than just crave for self-preservation and procreation. It can become something else and function in a different dimension also. The body can always be engineered to become a divine entity, more than just a biological entity. A tremendous amount of energy can be transformed for constructive purposes. It needs steady application — the result soon follows.

Attaining spirituality is not about giving up on worldly things. It does not mean you should not go to the office, that you can't be with your family, or that you give up everything that gives you pleasure. Instead, you must make everything you do a spiritual process; talking to someone, reading, or even exercising regularly, anything. If every activity is made a spiritual endeavor, in a few months you will find yourself in a completely different space, where your presence is cherished by every living form around you. You just have to constantly keep trying.

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THE CITY OF
Waterloo
NEWS

By Brent Davis,
Record staff

WATERLOO — With bands, balloons, and enough ice cream for 5,000, students and staff at the University of Waterloo bid farewell Thursday to David Johnston with a mixture of sadness and pride.

The longtime university president will become Canada's governor general on Oct. 1, and the feeling among those gathered at the Davis Centre for an ice-cream social is that UW's loss is the country's gain.

Johnston feted at university send-off

"He's going to bring the spirit of Waterloo, and it's going to be great for Canada," said second-year biomedical science student Madhuran Vijayakumar. "He's going to leave a lasting mark here."

In his 11 years at UW, Johnston has been praised for his work in expanding the university's presence and reach while encouraging the community as a whole to aspire to something greater.

"David is all about community, about inspiring us all to be the best that we can be," vice-president of external relations Meg Beckel told the crowd.

In his efforts to forge partnerships between the university and the broader business, academic

and cultural sectors, Johnston has often cited the Mennonite tradition of barn-raising, where everyone's invited, and everyone's involved.

"That's been the great spirit of this community," he said, after receiving a painting by Peter Etril Snyder depicting a barn-raising luncheon.

Johnston quite happily made the trip to the microphone a slow one. Moving through the throngs of well-wishers, he shook hands, signed autographs and posed for photos with a big smile crossing his face. And that's the man many of those gathered said they'll miss the most.

"David is always someone to take the time to listen to the stu-

dents," said fourth-year kinesiology student Dave Smith. "It doesn't matter who you are. That will carry over nicely into his role as Governor General."

Retired civil engineering professor Nick Kouwen said he'd never been overly enthusiastic about the university — until Johnston arrived in 1999.

"Since he's been here, I think I've been more the rah-rah-rah type," Kouwen said. "We never had that before in a president."

The vast majority of Johnston's working years have been spent in academia, in various teaching and administrative roles at Queen's University, the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario,

McGill and UW.

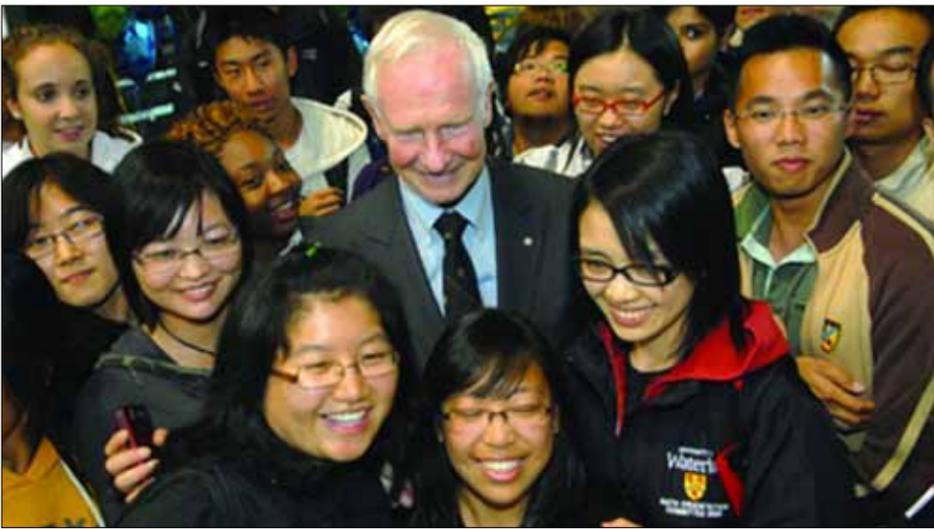
He joked that his new role will certainly be a change. "It's the first real job I've had, because I've never left university."

On Tuesday night, Johnston was feted at a gala dinner, where it was announced that the new Research and Technology Park will be named in his honour. An endowment program to help students study abroad, the David Johnston International Experience Awards, was also introduced.

In his farewell remarks Thursday, Johnston said he was "the luckiest person in the world" to be associated with UW.

"All universities are special," he said. "This is special-special."

bdavis@therecord.com



Philip Walker/Record staff - Students crowd around outgoing University of Waterloo President David Johnston on Thursday at a special public farewell as he leaves to take on his new job as governor general of Canada



Philip Walker/Record staff - Enough ice cream was ordered for 5,000 as students and staff from the University of Waterloo bid farewell to their outgoing president, David Johnston, and wished him well in his new job as governor general of Canada



Philip Walker/Record staff - There were plenty of hugs and laughter as outgoing University of Waterloo President David Johnston made his way Thursday through the William G. Davis Centre on the university campus



Philip Walker/Record staff - Outgoing University of Waterloo President David Johnston put his smile muscles through a workout as student after student wanted a photograph with Canada's next governor general



Philip Walker/Record staff - Outgoing University of Waterloo president David Johnston received a painting by Peter Etril Snyder depicting a barn-raising luncheon, an oft-cited metaphor by Johnston in his efforts to forge partnerships between the university and the community

MELA 2010, Indian flavor spreads its wings

Kitchener: The Waterloo region Indian community held its annual Mela festival at the City of Kitchener on the 11th of September. It was a colourful evening with spicy food, Henna, Bharath Natyam Dance, Bollywood music etc. Local digni-

ties and area MP's joined in during the event. The president of Indo-Canada Ms. Sheela Samat presided and thanked the event organisers and sponsors.

The Tamil Arts community was represented by the students of Sri Abiramy Dance Academy of

Waterloo and Laya Iasya Dance Studio of Cambridge. Mr. Prakash Venkataraman, President and Dennis Loyola, the Secretary of the Tamil Cultural Association of Waterloo region were the key personal at the inauguration ceremony.



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Halloween

Raymond Rajabalan

Halloween is an annual holiday observed on October 31 in some parts of the world including North America. It has roots in the Celtic festival of Samhain and also of the Christian holiday All Saints' Day, but is today largely a secular celebration.

Common Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, wearing costumes and attending costume parties, carving jack-o'-lanterns, ghost tours, bonfires, apple bobbing, visiting haunted attractions, committing pranks, telling ghost stories or other frightening tales, and watching horror films.

History

Historian Nicholas Rogers, exploring the origins of Halloween, notes that while "some folklorists have detected its origins in the Roman feast of Pomona, the goddess of fruits and seeds, or in the festival of the dead called Parentalia, it is more typically linked to the Celtic festival of Samhain. The name is derived from Old Irish and means roughly "summer's end". A similar festival was held by the ancient Britons and is known as Calan Gaeaf

The ancient Celts believed that the border between this world and the other world became thin on Samhain, allowing spirits to pass through. The family's ancestors were honoured and invited home while harmful spirits were warded off. It is believed that the need to ward off harmful spirits led to the wearing of costumes and masks. Their purpose was to disguise oneself as a harmful spirit and thus avoid harm. Samhain was also a time to take stock of food supplies and slaughter livestock for winter stores. Bonfires played a large part in the festivities. All other fires were doused and each home lit their hearth from the bonfire. The bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into its flames. Sometimes two bonfires would be built side-by-side, and people and their livestock would walk between them as a cleansing ritual.

Origin of name 'Halloween'

The word Halloween is first attested in the 16th century and represents a Scottish variant of the fuller All-Hallows-Eve, that is, the night before All Hallows Day.

Symbols

Development of artifacts and symbols associated with Halloween formed over time encompassing customs of medieval holy days as well as contemporary cultures. The soul-



ing practice of commemorating the souls in purgatory with candle lanterns carved from turnips became adapted into the making of jack-o'-lanterns. In traditional Celtic Halloween festivals, large turnips were hollowed out, carved with faces and placed in windows to ward off evil spirits. The carving of pumpkins is associated with Halloween in North America where pumpkins are both readily available and are much larger – making them easier to carve than turnips. Many families that celebrate Halloween carve a pumpkin into a frightening or comical face and place it on their doorstep after dark. The American tradition of carving pumpkins preceded the Great Famine period of Irish immigration and was originally associated with harvest time in general, not becoming specifically associated with Halloween until the mid-to-late 1800s

The imagery of Halloween is derived from many sources, including national customs, works of Gothic and horror literature, and classic horror films. Elements of the autumn season, such as pumpkins, corn husks, and scare-

crows, are also prevalent. Homes are often decorated with these types of symbols around Halloween.

Halloween imagery includes themes of death, evil, and the occult, magic, or mythical monsters. Traditional characters include ghosts, witches, skeletons, vampires, werewolves, demons, bats, and black cats. The colours black and orange are associated with the celebrations, perhaps because of the darkness of night and the colour of fire, autumn leaves or pumpkins.

Trick-or-treating

Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children go in costume from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The word "trick" refers to a (mostly idle) "threat" to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given. In some parts of Scotland children still go guising. In this custom the child performs some sort of trick, i.e. sings a song or tells a ghost story, to earn their treats.

Halloween costume

Halloween costumes are traditionally modeled after monsters such as ghosts, skeletons, witches, and devils. Over time, the costume selection extended to include popular characters from fiction, celebrities, and generic archetypes such as ninjas and princesses.

The telling of ghost stories and viewing of horror films are common fixtures of Halloween parties. Episodes of television series and Halloween-themed specials are aired on or before the holiday, while new horror films are often released theatrically before the holiday to take advantage of the atmosphere.

Foods

Because the holiday comes in the wake of the annual apple harvest, candy apples (known as toffee apples outside North America), caramel or taffy apples are common Halloween treats made by rolling whole apples in sticky sugar syrup, sometimes followed by rolling them in nuts.

Around the world

Halloween is not celebrated in all countries and regions of the world and among those that do the traditions and importance of the celebration vary significantly. Celebration in the United States and Canada has had a significant impact on how the holiday is observed in other nations. This larger North American influence, particularly in iconic and commercial elements, has extended to places such as South America, Europe, to Japan under the auspices of the Japanese Biscuit Association, and other parts of East Asia.



Religious perspectives

Christian attitudes towards Halloween are quite diverse. In the Anglican Church, some dioceses have chosen to emphasize the Christian traditions of All Saints' Day while some other Protestants celebrate the holiday as Reformation Day, a day to remember the Protestant Reformation." In more recent years, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston has organized a "Saint Fest" on the holiday. Similarly, many contemporary Protestant churches view Halloween as a fun event for children, holding events in their churches where children and their parents can dress up, play games, and get candy.

Many Christians ascribe no negative significance to Halloween, treating it as a purely secular holiday devoted to celebrating "imaginary spooks" and handing out candy. To these Christians, Halloween holds no threat to the spiritual lives of children: being taught about death and mortality, and the ways of the Celtic ancestors actually being a valuable life lesson and a part of many of their parishioners' heritage. In the Roman Catholic Church Halloween is viewed as having a Christian connection, and Halloween celebrations are common in Catholic parochial schools throughout North America and in Ireland.

A Book release organized by
Centre for War Victims and Human Rights
(CWVHR)

BLACK JULY '83 : INDICTMENT
25th Year Memories of Sri Lankan Historic Racial Riots of July 1983

Compiler
Editor I.T. Sampanthan

An Introduction by
Professor Kopan Mahadeva

Venue
Canada Kanthasamy Temple Hall
733 Birchmount Road, Scarborough M1K 1R5

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LETTERS & OPINIONS

By Luxman Arvind

President Mahinda Rajapakse addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York City in September 2010 made many happy when he declared for the whole world to hear "no nation on earth can wish Sri Lankan Tamils more fortune than Sri Lanka itself" In the Island, in the world and in the diaspora opinion will be divided on this but the President deserves to be given the benefit of the doubt. There is much for the people of Jaffna – and the now bifurcated Eastern Province - to feel happier now than when the LTTE held them prisoners and in their Pol Potist grip.

The sense of relief of the Jaffna man is eloquently recorded by a recent visiting journalist from New York - Ross Tuttle. He tells of an ordinary man in the street who captures his relief from his captive society thus - "at least now we have the freedom to travel by bus to a hospital in Colombo" So the Tamils of the North were reduced by their own "liberators" to a level where going to a Hospital of one's own volition was considered a luxury.

A few comparisons of recent happenings in the Peninsula will be of interest. If we use an hackneyed Hollywood cliché, the subject may be viewed from three angles – the good, the bad and the ugly.

On the good side, there is much now to apportion to the happy part of the discussion. Basil Rajapakse, arguably, the 3rd most powerful of the quartet of brothers, chaired a meeting of the Jaffna Development Council recently that saw in attendance representatives from many disciplines – political (Govt. and Opposition) The ubiquitous SLA and Police, key administrative officials among others were all predictably there - in their finery.

For the first time the TNA was represented by influential MPs – Suresh Premachandran, M.A. Sumanthiran, PC and Saravanabhavan. Senion leader R. Sampanthan was conspicuous by his absence - reported to be convalescing in Chennai. Basil, the President's brother, has shown keen interest in agricultural performance. In response to complaints from farmer interests engaged in the cultivation of Onions, Chillies and Paddy, he had assured them their representations will be attended to on a basis of priority.

When representatives of the

fishing industry complained their supply to the markets at home and to South Sri Lanka are lower than they can deliver and the cause being shortage of nets, freezing facilities, Ice factories and the like Mr. Rajapakse had pointed out similar complaints are heard from the South as well. He had, nonetheless, assured the NEP fishermen his support – all of which seems to have been well received by the Tamil side.

The news that Northern Province Governor G. A. Chandrasiri is to hand over the Vasavilan Central College on behalf of the government to the school with nearly 1,300 students in the HSZ certainly will be welcomed. It was reported this will be done in the presence of Provincial Education Director P. Vignaswaran.

Just as encouraging was the news SLA Jaffna Commander is arranging for IDPs from Vadamaratchi East held in Radhunavil and Kudaththanai Camps will be settled in their own villages in Iyankachchi, Mullaivaadakkal and Radunavil. The first stage of re-settlement will be in Madurenkerni, Vaththarayan, Uduththurai and Pazhiyalai. It was further announced they will be allowed to engage in their traditional avocation of fishing in their areas.

Colonel P.A. Dayananda announced those new and other cars, vans, lorries, motor-bicycles seized from the Tamil population in the Wannu during the conflict will now be released in stages in army camps in Pudumathalan, Mullaitivu, Pudukudiruppu areas. This is yet another matter that caused deep anguish in Tamil minds because many owners of these vehicles – some having invested their lives savings in buying these – still believe they have been robbed of them.

There were wide reports of many of these having been illegally cannibalized and sold to Brokers in the Anuradhapura area - in connivance with sources within the army and the Police Spare-parts traders coming from Colombo, Kurunegala and other parts of the island were reported to be doing brisk business in these spare-parts. Some of these vehicles have been illegally transferred on fraudulent documents.

The TNA is in record of having declared earlier "if the government wants to usher in a period of active cooperation in re-constructing and developing the Tamil areas of the North-East, they will not find us wanting" They appear to be redeeming

Rajapakses and Tamils – Promises and Performances



Vasavilan - School in High Security Zone in Jaffna reopens - 28 Sep.

their pledge as they are now in participating – sitting in the same Conferences with their bitter political opponents Douglas Devananda, Karuna and others.

And so was the signal from the government when the TNA Parliamentary delegation visited Delhi in July our High Commissioner Prasad Kariyawasam entertained them at Dinner there using the occasion for a free flow of exchange of views. This meeting could not have taken place without clearance from the highest levels in Colombo. If KP's NERDO activities too provide development, badly needed facilities and employment no Tamil will object to this.

Of particular interest to the Tamil people will be the declaration by Military Intelligence Chief General Kapila Hendawatta that "all LTTE under-graduates in custody have been released" It will be good if the TNA confirm this seminal development.

The visit to Jaffna and the presentation of a large number of books to the Jaffna Library by the Most. Venerable Thibbotuwawe Sri Sumangala, the Mahanayaka of the Malwatta Chapter - the first visit in memory in recent times – bears its own significance in the warming of relations between the two major communities. That he was received with solemnity and reverence by the people of Jaffna should be noted in particular. I feel personally happy about this visit because for sometime I have written a visit from the most influential and powerful of the Buddhist clerical hierarchy will send a message of peace and unity to the Tamil people.

The 17th months since the defeat of the LTTE appears to have significantly boosted the country's tourist potential. Already last year's figures of 229,000 mark has been surpassed reaching 342,000 till end July – an impressive 48% increase. New markets have

expressed interest to come into the former war-torn Sri Lankan market. Industry sources predict the target for 2012 set around a million tourists is likely to be realized. The Indian market alone can provide well over a quarter million annually – keen to see Jaffna, Trinco and Batticaloa areas. News of these areas have filled their media for years.

In gearing for this the industry and the Tourist ministry are expanding star accommodation and "products" – meaning the different sites. This will now include various points in the North Eastern Province closed to tourists in the past few decades. Jet Wing – one of the major tour operators and hotel-owning Group - has announced new construction of star-class hotels in Jaffna, Uppuveli and Kuchchaveli immediately. This will be extended to other areas in the foreseeable future say Jet Wing sources. Aitken, Spence, John Keels and the Galle Face Hotel Groups have sent in their own scouts to the Jaffna District to seek investment potential to increase tourist-accommodation capacity in the near future.

The disappointments that were reported in the building and opening of the modern Swimming Pool in the premises of Jaffna Central College for use of the people of the District appears to have reached a new state of good fortune. The news around now is that the completed pool will be available for use in the next few weeks. This certainly will win over a large reservoir of youth support in general for the government.

The growing Garment-export industry – the largest foreign-exchange earner in the country - also lends much needed support to the government's efforts to raise the income and living standards of the people of the NEP. A large number of well-paying jobs for the youth and the graduate-unemployed in the area will then follow.

Nestles of Switzerland, a respected global Corporate leader, has already invested in a high-value Milk Chilling Plant in Kilinochchi and are encouraging Cattle farming in the District. Mr Basil Rajapakse in his visit last week paid particular attention to the matter of cattle farming and said it has come to his notice due to the war most goats and cows - left from the care of their original owners have now gone astray. He asked officials concerned to pay special attention to help people in the area get back to large-scale cattle-farming. Of no less importance is the Poultry industry, which the State should encourage the people in the NEP to get into in a substantial way to ease the current shortage of eggs and chicken meat.

The housing boom is gradually beginning to take hold and will not only increase the badly needed housing stock in the Province but also create multiple thousands of jobs and business opportunities for the people of the area. In addition to the 500 young persons now said to be under training at the Police Training School further recruitment is also reported to be in the pipe-line. USAID is committed to train about 50,000 new hands in several disciplines to meet the growing demand in the post-conflict period. It is believed this process is now under way. The commissioning of the re-furbished KKS Cement Factory at KKS, Paranthan Chemical Plant, the Paper factory at Valaichenai and the Ilmenite industry at Pulmoodai should, all combined, bring good news to the long suffering population of the NEP.

The larger than usual crowd that assembled for the Nallur Kandasamy Temple Festival this year – including multiple thousands from the diaspora – gives an indication many in the diaspora will be more than happy to participate in the re-awakening of the Jaffna economy – a far cry from the Separate State image many in the Sinhala South are regularly and unduly fed with. American Ross Tuttle's careful observations in this regard bear much relevance here - "most Tamils were never part of the armed conflict" This outsider's studied observation gives the lie to the mischievous claim of a noted anti-Tamil lawyer, pseudo-historian, political somersaulter and writer - who does not fail to remind his Sinhala supremacist audience whenever he gets half a chance "all tigers are Tamils and, therefore, it follows all Tamils are tigers"

Contd. in page 41 ...

Contd. from page 40 ...

To create a climate of confidence and hope for the future it will be useful if the government arranges to keep the public informed of progress in these commercial activities through regular media communiqués in all 3 languages. This is also likely to attract investment once news of post-conflict development reaches the ears of the overseas markets.

In spite of all these impressive gains the people of the North-East still live in a state of uncertainty and fear. Abductions, extortions – unfortunately reported to be by sources closely aligned to the government - continue to be committed with impunity. Political patronage at the highest levels by government politicians from the Jaffna region is obtained by colluding with VVIPs in sharing in huge State contracts through inflated price mechanisms. No better effective insurance against censure from the top for the many contradictions that continue to enrage the Jaffna public. Police protection to the people and the administration of justice still is far from ideal. Compared to the rest of the country, it is the people in the NEP who suffered most and fear the draconian features of the Emergency Regulations.

Lankans for long sending many of them to prison for trivial reasons of a political nature (Journalist Tissanayagam being one example) It will be unfortunate if this not be done away with in toto in the near future considering the main cause for its coming into being is now absent.

One of the saddest cases of the barbarity of the Emergency Regulations is that of the case mentioned by Deputy Minister Hisbullah, repeated in Parliament by TNA's Sumanthiran, of a 13 year old in his area taken in as a LTTE suspect 14 years ago. The man is now nearing 30 and has been in prison more than half his life. Sadly, he does not know why he was taken in and is equally unaware what his fate is going to be.

To any caring State, one would feel even HR rights of a single humble individual should matter – and the party given the benefit of natural justice. This also gives room to enquire about the status of those authorized eminent members of society as Prison Visitors – yet another protective instrument of the citizen to ensure people are not unlawfully detained by quirks of the process of administration Was this also done away with?

It is an irony of fate while the people of Jaffna are clamouring for a better quality of life the

pronounce but is now so name on the way to a new Vihara in the Keerimalai road.

Re-settlement of IDPs to their original homes and the fate of Tamils held in the post-May 2009 period continues to be a serious and recurring problem.

TNA MP Sumanthiran in Parliament states government admits 11,000 surrendees arrested were taken into custody but is unable to provide details of where they are held or if they are alive at all – in spite of relentless searches by the immediate families.

Sumanthiran continued 80,000 were taken in without Detention Orders – a safeguard to protect citizens from arbitrary arrest enshrined in the Constitution - an important element in the rights of a citizen. These D/Os are expected to be manually signed personally by Police officers above the rank of ASPs after taking into consideration each individual case.

But in almost all cases, pre-signed D/Os are presented by Police Constables where thousands were taken in and never heard of again. The case of surrendee Elilan, a prominent member of the militants came up before the LLRC. His wife complained her husband was never heard of again and that the State refuses to confirm if he is dead or alive.

Sumanthiran complained to Parliament, Leave Applications to the Supreme Court to file HR causes can be easily disposed of in a day or two. But in many cases it is, said Sumanthiran, it is now the norm for these urgent matters to engage delays of several months. In his September address in the Royal Commonwealth Society meeting Rajiva Wijesinghe, Government MP - confirms 250,000 of 280,000 IDPs taken in have already been released. Both Sumanthiran and Wijesinghe give different figures for the same issue. Only one of the two can be right.

Sources close to the government agree the regime feels a change of mind and attitude of the 300,000 + Tamil diaspora is a high priority and have asked Tamil friends to come out with ideas. KP and Daya Master coming over to the government side has been a major victory. However, with the government rewarding senior and retiring SLA plums of office in the more prominent embassies this can hardly win the diaspora to the government side. Many of these senior SLA men have been invariably linked to HR and War crimes against relatives of those in the diaspora. Naturally, they would rather not be seen dead next to these army officers. President Rajapakse has to do many things to win the Tamils over to his side – if the donor and international community are to be convinced of

the government's sincerity. His band of trusted lieutenants will have to come out with fresh ideas here.

President Rajapakse in his address at the UNGA - recognizing global criticism of various forms of discrimination against the Tamil community- sought to appease the world by declaring "the greatest challenge to us is healing of wounds of the recent past" and assured his initiative to appoint the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission is to "give full expressions to the principles of accountability" While the objective appears laudable, the modus appears to be flawed.

The State's recent record of Commissions of Inquiry (the Trincomalee youth killing, the French aid workers massacre) is certainly not enviable is universally known. While the point that broke the camel's back, as it were, was the massive pogrom of July 1983 the terms of reference of the LLRC avoiding this seminal event tends to remove whatever credibility that was expected in the government's initiative. It is also well known even that Commission that went into the 1983 events under former Chief Justice S. Sharvananda many of the awards then made never found the hands of those who suffered.

In the matter of the highest award of Rs.750,000 in respect of a successful millionaire (in 1983) who lost over Rs.30 million the interest recommended even to this paltry sum was not paid. Even a sum of Rs.5 million that REPIIA had approved to the party after 2 years of study was sabotaged by various dilatory tactics of the State Bank concerned. He was asked by the bank to provide collateral in the form of assets worth thrice the sum. This was not possible for that former millionaire found all his assets destroyed and stolen in 7/83.

Eventually, after much canvassing political VIPs, the State Bank asked him to come out with an acceptable Guarantor. The party was able to locate a successful relative who had filed details of assets worth Rs.90 million. The REPIIA recommendation of a loan was refused – this time on the grounds the Guarantor was "old" He was 56. It is believed the party told a government official "you do not find many teenagers building up assets over Rs.90 million these days. If the applicant was a Sinhalese he would got his money long ago" So that is the justice Tamils are likely to engage even in the future – unless there is a sea change of attitudes on the part of GoSL under the Rajapakses.

It is not that the Rajapakses do not understand the fear of the Tamils or the feelings of the ordinary Sinhala masses – now under the heavy weight of an unbear-



LETTERS & OPINIONS

able Cost of Living factor. If sources close to Temple Trees are to be believed, it appears the regime, taking the example of Deng Zhiao Peng of China, is bent on strengthening the economy with the belief political reforms can follow later. President Rajapakse attempted to impress the UNGA with the declaration "we have doubled our Per Capita in a short period" This is not denied but even a sudden Per Capita increase loses its meaning when the actual rate of inflation is as high as it is in today's Sri Lanka. If the CoL factor is brought down to the level of two years ago today's higher Per Capita will make many Lankans happy.

The Rajapakses have much work to do before they can rest on the laurels of their "War Victory" Uniting the country, ushering in peace, winning over the Tamils and the diaspora and taking Sri Lanka to a Per Capita of more than US\$8,000 is well within their reach. President Rajapakse must take advantage of his new armoury- the 18th Amendment – to bring the Tamil people in the NEP to the national fold. It is not everyone out there in the world is critical of him.

The much respected Wall Street Journal had this to say "one of Sri Lanka's achievements was preserving the democratic rule throughout 26 years of bloody conflict" WSJ may not be perfectly accurate in its assessment since many features of democracy are wobbling along – it can be argued looking at what is happening in Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in the region Sri Lanka has something to be pleased about.

President Rajapakse probably dreamed of a 2/3rd majority of going down in history as the man who united the Sinhalese and the Tamils after 60 years of estrangement; of having secured the confidence of Tamils they are now part of a united land; and of being truly a President for all the people in the country.

President Rajapakse and his regime might as well remember what the respected "Economist" from London – a non-partisan observer – recently remarked "he has put the consolidation of his power ahead of a sorely needed national reconciliation with an aggrieved Tamil minority is a decision Sri Lanka will regret at leisure" He will do well to change this opinion of him both in the outside world and within his own land.



Tamils are pleased with the city's newfound security, but are discomfited by the presence of the soldiers, who are mostly of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese ethnic majority - Pic by New York based journalist Ross Tuttle in Foreignpolicy.com

It is no secret almost every single country in regular contact with GoSL call for the repealing of the ER - as an essential feature of the process of reconciliation. President Rajapakse, fully aware of this assured the UN General Assembly "substantial part of the Emergency Regulations have been removed" and he plans to repeal "a good part" of the remaining "in the coming months" Dr. Rajiva Wijesinghe, now MP – and a member of a think-tank close to the regime - assured the Royal Commonwealth Society in London early this month, gave the same assurance using the same terminology "a substantial part of the ER" will be phased out.

It will be noted both were fairly clear the entire gamut of the despised Emergency Regulations – that has bedeviled ordinary Sri

Cabinet of Ministers recently approved a brand new prison for the region – at a cost of Rs.292 million.

The gradual increase of Sinhala settlers, families of soldiers to whom permanent houses are constructed, proliferation of Buddhist Viharas continue to add to the fears and the woes of the majority Tamil people in their areas that a process of enforcing them into a minority in their own areas is now well under way.

Hindu temples robbed by outsiders of their gold statues and precious artefacts are common occurrences that continue unabated. In what is feared to be a process of forced Sinhalese name changes of roads are taking place in sickening regularity.

Okkallapaduwa is a name the majority in the area unable to



Experience of a Sinhala family touring the Jaffna "Cantonment"

by R.A. Ratwatte

The winding narrow lanes with the Palmyra fences almost reaching the tar, 'herds' of cyclists (they ride five or six abreast and this I am told is a form of enjoyment).....are still there. A recent visit to Jaffna after the first sprinklings of rain from the inter monsoonal showers showed us just how different and hauntingly beautiful the landscape could be. The ice cream is still spectacularly decadent and the Palmyra toddy sublime. A well cooked Jaffna crab curry far surpasses the "Singapore style crab curry" that Colombo thrives on today.

The journey is not as tedious as I remember it. In these days of air conditioned, well sprung vehicles a metamorphosis from the days of the humble Morris traveller. The roads too are much better and improvements are being done as we speak. Ours was a first time experience for three children who had not been able to visit due to a war that had prevailed throughout. The traditional pilgrimage to Nagadipa, one of the three places that the Lord Buddha had visited and one of the reasons why this land is sometimes referred to as the thrice blessed land, was mandatory.

The designers of the boats carrying passengers to Nagadipa are I am sure, though long dead, would be laughing themselves hoarse in another world! The boat trip is like an act of revenge against Sinhala Buddhist pilgrims. It defeats logic as to why life jackets are worn in a mode of

transport that would never allow the passenger to ever reach the open water should the boat happen to sink. As many as 80 passengers packed into a boat meant only for 30, with an entrance with two tiny doors and a clearance that doesn't allow even a 5'1" medium sized man to stand up straight, are compelled to wear life belts by the armed forces. Ludicrous to say the least!

On the subject of the armed forces, their presence is marked from the time one enters the Peninsula or even before. Their presence is seen at every junction and it was rather amusing to see a Lance Corporal with a whistle controlling the crowd, very effectively at the sacred baths at Keerimale. One wonders what reaction the presence of soldiers at Kataragama (multi religious shrine) or even at the sacred Dalada Maligawa (Buddhist Shrine), carrying out this same function would evoke!

It costs Rs100/- (\$1/-) for a vehicle to enter the beautiful Casuarina beach. When one gets there one is pleasantly surprised, as to how clean it is. It has only the stray cattle and aggressive crows who try to disturb those who happen to come there. The water is pristine and the beach is wonderful.

The point I am trying to stress is that the "control" enforced on the hordes of domestic tourists who visit the Peninsula by the armed forces is not at all bad. At the turn off to Kayts and Nagadipa each vehicle is politely

told by a Policeman that they are forbidden from throwing their waste and polythene out of the window and are required to put it in designated bins. The bins are freely available and seem to be emptied regularly. As a result the horrible sight of scraps of polythene hanging from barbed wire fences like dead bats' does not assail one and spoil the serene, and pristine landscape. Hundreds of thousands of noisy and impatient tourists from the South behave with a degree of discipline and orderliness which they should follow when they return to their home provinces.

Of course one is at the "mercy" of these uniformed worthies as they too are only human. At times one is virtually "ordered" to visit monuments and shrines built to honour war heroes that one doesn't really want to see or has been to before. Other times needless searches that involve 10 year old children to get out of vehicles and carry their bags, for a cursory search at checkpoints happen. But one should realise that the presence of forces' and their conduct in general is not very offensive, as far as this Sinhala visitor is concerned.

What do the "native" people feel? I was fortunate enough to meet a few intellectuals' (University, professors, school teachers and educated people working for NGO's like CARE) who felt that life in Jaffna itself was only slightly better but that life in the Wannu had improved dramatically. But there was one factor



Jaffna crab – pic by www.indi.ca

that needed to be addressed very urgently.

The IDPs living in camps and more specifically the school going age children apparently had lost at least one and in most cases up to 3 close family members, in the last few days of the bloody war of "liberation". These children are apparently traumatised to a degree that we people of the South would never understand. This combined with the suffering they still undergo in tents and temporary accommodation is, I am told, an area that is not being addressed adequately.

Those who face reality in Sri Lanka - let me tell you such people are few and far between in this land of lotus eaters - should know that psychiatric care given to them is not enough. There is a desperate need for qualified people to work with these children for they are the future of Jaffna and

her people. If this generation grows up with fear and hatred, the consequences will be worse than what we have witnessed over the last few decades and will nullify the effects of the golden opportunity that we have now for a lasting peace.

The only peace we can hope to sustain is one based on mutual trust. Trust based on a deep and lasting knowledge of our cultures and their inherent values. This is something my Tamil friend who took me and my family to Jaffna and hosted us, shared during our many discussions.

This is what inspired me to make this humble attempt to write this piece. This is what I hope the rulers of this country, the intellectuals and the majority should realize before it is too late.

R. A. Ratwatte Lives
in Kandy, Sri Lanka

Maharaji in Toronto

Saturday, August 28th 2010, dawned, a typical Toronto Summer day.

The International Conference Centre was a hub of activities from the early hours of the day.

A diverse crowd of people freshly attired with smiling faces brought in the sunshine into the already well-lit Lobby.

Greetings and handshakes continued for sometime. Then everything sobered. All volunteers comprising a happy combination of elders and about 20 teenagers, took their assigned position, still smiling, eyes shining with expectation. Ushers, with care and respect, guided all, the children and the elderly., into the Hall and to their seats.. Most of the Guests were seated, at least 15 min prior to the start time. The seats were well arranged so as to enable all

guests to have a clear view of the stage.

A count down time from 10 to 0, brought in a video on the wide screen. In the Video, 3 people inspired everyone with their live stories and their particular ups and downs, expressing truthfully how the Knowledge they were shown by Maharaji helped them to survive through them and to continue their lives happily.

A young University student was on stage as the MC and spoke confidently.

The whole place was quiet, and focused, knowing what follows when MC welcomes Maharaji to the stage.

There he was, truly on stage!

Then it was a flow in English.

Translation facilities were made for guests in Hindi, Tamil, French and Spanish.



Emphasis was made on the difference between believing and knowing

It was a peaceful serene focused audience, not a whisper from little kids or the elderly.

No one wanted the evening to end, including Maharaji.

A Spring in Summer! Next year??

A Rare volunteer opportunity at a Great Event!

Recently, the worldwide known International speaker Prem Rawat, lovingly called Maharaji by many, came to the International theatre in Mississauga to inspire us with his message of inner peace. Here Rawat describes the possibility of finding contentment, and peace within ourselves. Also pointed out the difference between 'Believing' and 'Knowing'

The event itself began at 3:30 PM, when a crowd of over 1200 people filed into the auditorium, awaiting to hear "Maharaji's" inspirational words. However, for that to be possible, the efforts of 60 dedicated volunteers were needed. I was fortunate enough to be one of those volunteers.

The biggest difference between this volunteer opportunity, compared to any other, was the people. The other volunteers, aside from being much older than

me, were all extremely happy to see me and talk to me, even people I had never met. This was greatest and also strangest part of my experience there, because in the society that I grew up in, people simply are not that open about themselves. However, as the day went on, I began to realize that the thing that brought these people their overwhelming happiness was the prospect of hearing their Maharaji speak. Although I had not heard him speak yet, that was when I realised the power of his words.

Prem Rawat spoke from 3:40 to 5:00 PM to a room filled with eager ears, including mine. I wish many of my friends have a chance to hear him.

Muralie Vignarajah
Grade 9 student

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Nadigar Thilagam - 82nd Birthday Celebrations Oct 1st, 2010

By T. Murali - from Chennai

Today is October 1st. It can be called as Actors day or simply Nadigar Thilagam's birthday. Today the thespian, if he had been amongst us, would have turned 82. Like they used to do every year, the Sivaji Prabhu Charities Trust had arranged for the Birthday celebrations and the function was held today evening at Kamarajar Arangam, Chennai. Every year on this day the trust brings out a special day postal cover on a film personality and also award cash prize and Dr. Sivaji memento to artists and technicians.

The Chief Guest of the evening was the Central Minister G.K.Vasan. Producer director and Chairman of

Radha and Chandrababu being a few among them. On the lines of those stalwarts, today the person who was honoured was Makkal Kalaingar Jaishankar. Known as Thennagathu Jamesbond

[Jamesbond of South] this actor was the darling of producers who helped many a person in distress.

At this point Mohanram asked Ramkumar to do the welcome address. Ramkumar welcomed everyone and thanked G.K. Vasan for agreeing to preside over the function. He said that the moment they asked him, Vasan said that it is his privilege to do the honours. Ramkumar further said Vasan stated that he would do anything for Sivaji Sir and the Family. Ramkumar

Peethambaram, Make up man Pandian, Playback singer cum actor A.L.Raghavan and actress dancer Rajasulochana. With this Ramkumar wound up. Mohanram came to the mike and announced that the special cover was going to be released. He gave a brief synopsis on Jaishankar and clippings from Nadigar Thilagam - Makkal Kalaingar combo were screened. A dialogue between the two in Keezhvanam Sivakkum and a song sequence featuring both from Anbalippu were shown.

The next item was the release of the special postal day cover on Jaishankar and that was released by the Post Master General, Chennai city Mr. Ramanujam and was received by G.K. Vasan. The family members of Jai were called up and both his sons Dr. Vijay Shankar and Sanjay Shankar came to the dias and received the special day covers.

Next it was the turn of the Dr. Sivaji awards distribution. Make up man Peethmabaran is a very senior person who also happens to be the father of director P. Vasu. Though he had done more films with MGR and NTR, one of his memorable films was Padikkadha Medhai. So when the song Engirundho vandhaan with Nadigar Thilagam appearing as Lord Krishna was shown on the screen the fans joy knew no bounds. With this Peethmabaran was given the cash award and memento.

The man who came next was Make up man Pandian and though he had worked for NT, he had done around 130 films for Ilaya Thilagam Prabhu. Various get ups of Prabhu were shown on the screen and later Pandian received the award.

A.L. Raghavan was honoured next. Though he had not directly sung for NT, his rendering of Puthi sikamani Petra Pillai from Iruvar Ulam was screened and A.L.



Raghavan was given the awards.

Rajasulochana who was described as an artist of great potential was the one who was honoured next. For her the evergreen song Naan Kavinganumillai from Padithaal Mattum Pothumaa was shown. This was one of the two occasions when the whole fans went into a crazy mode.

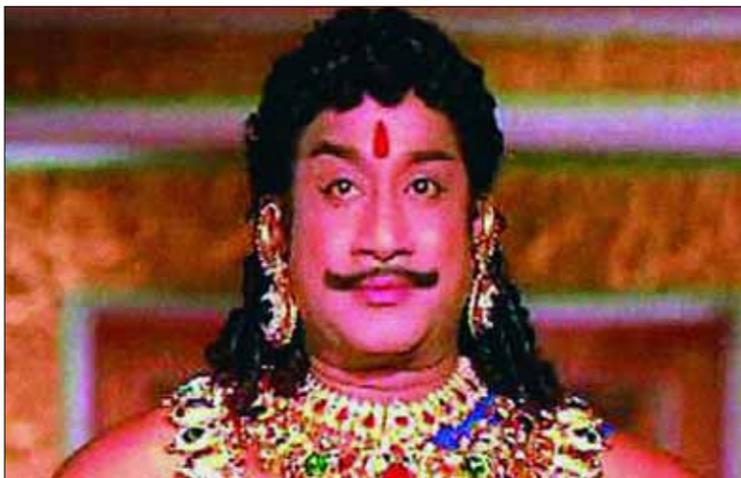
With this award presentation came to an end and Guhanathan was asked to speak. Surprisingly Guhanathan spoke little. He cited various films of NT and said nobody in earth can match him in acting. He said that he is very pleased that the sons of NT and G.K. Moopanar were seen together and he wanted them to continue to be together for the betterment of Tamils by giving them a new direction. With this he stopped.

Vasan came to the mike. He took care in welcoming every one by name and said that he is participating not as a minister but as a fan of Sivaji. He said that he had done some home work for speaking about NT. He tiled about various human natures and categories that NT brought out by his films. As an example, he quoted Pasa Malar for affection, Veerapandiya Kattabomman for bravery, Thillana Mohanambal for arts, Bale Pandiya for comedy, Parasakthi for dialogue and wondered if anybody could ever match up there. He wished all good things for the family. Vasan then spoke from the heart. He said that inspite of being away from power in Tamil Nadu for the past 43 years, if at all Congress is still alive and kicking with the power to decide the winner, it was because o NT and his

fans and he said that Congress organisation would never forget that. This was received with the thunderous applause which lasted for 5 minutes. Vasan further added that he and his organisation would always stand by the Sivaji family in their artistic and public life. With that he thanked everyone for the opportunity given and retired to his seat. Now it was the turn of Prabhu to offer Vote of Thanks and Prabhu who had become a prolific speaker did his part well. He recalled the good old days when NT and Moopanar were great friends and said that Vasan is like a brother to him.

He thanked him for readily agreeing and coming to the function inspite of his busy schedule. He then recollected the golden days of Peethambaran, Pandain and A.L. Raghavan and said that the Sivaji family is honoured to honour them. He had a special word of praise for Rajasulochana who he said is a versatile actress who can do any roles with aplomb. Prabhu was very thankful to the Jaishankar family for coming to the function and said that Jai was a great well wisher of him. He finally turned round to the fans and said that without them and their support the family would not have come so far. He said that fans occupy the most important place in his father's hear and also in the family's heart. He thanked everybody for making the function a grand success.

With Prabhu's speech coming to an end, it was time for National Anthem and the curtains came down on the evening.



FEFSI, V.C. Guhanathan was another special invitee. Film/TV personality Mohan.V. Raman was the comper. There was good rush with almost 3/4th of the auditorium seats being taken up. The meeting started with a prayer song. Then Mohanram came and informed the gathering about the activities of the Trust.

Right from the year 2000, the Sivaji Prabhu charities trust has been bringing out Special Postal Day covers on yesteryear personalities with MKT, PUC, MK Radha, MR

added that Jaishankar was a very close friend of the family and the Trust feels honoured to bring out the special day cover on Jai. He recalled that when Prabhu started to act, it was Jai who sent word through actor V.K. Ramasamy that Prabhu though being the son of Sivaji would not require that and he on his own is capable of achieving greater things in the film industry. He thanked the Family members of Jai who had come in. He also spoke about the Dr. Sivaji award winners who were Make up man

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Enthiran: Miss it and you may be missing entertainment at its best

Sci(ntillating)-fi(lm) - Miss it and you may be missing entertainment at its best, says M. Bharat Kumar in reviewing the Rajnikanth-Shankar-Sun Pictures' blockbuster Enthiran in Chennai's popular Evening Daily The News Today

Man makes a machine. But the latter goes gaga wreaking havoc on mankind. The onus is now on the creator to set things right. This is the beaten-to-bush storyline in the West since time immemorial. But for Tamil audience, lace it up with Rajnikanth's magic and Shankar's aura. That is Enthiran for you.

For all its labels of being the first sci-fi film in Tamil cinema, Enthiran is surprisingly easy to follow. Shankar has over the years fine-tuned his film making strategy of putting across simple messages as grandly as possible. Enthiran's grandeur compliments the story-telling rather than seeming incompatible with it. If the common man is able to understand what robotics and robots are about, it is largely because Shankar has painstakingly simplified it for them.

Of course, a team of seasoned technicians (music composer A R Rahman, cinematographer Rathnavelu, art director Sabu Cyril and editor Anthony), have lent him able support. And having superstar Rajnikanth on board makes his task that much easier. So like the vintage Windies team that dominated the cricket world in 1980s, the film scores, almost in every department.

Dr Vaseegaran (Rajnikanth), is a professor in robotics, who successfully creates an android humanoid robot to resemble him. The machine, which the professor plans to dedicate to the Indian army as a replacement for soldiers in the battle field, is programmed to excel in all the subjects under the sun. Vaseegaran is assisted in this task by Siva (Santhanam) and Ravi (Karunaas). Christened as Chitty, the robot wins the approval of Sana (Aishwarya Rai), Vaseegaran's ladylove.



Rajnikanth and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in a still from "Enthiran".

Everything is hunky dory until Chitty gets programmed to experience human emotions. It instantly falls for Sana's beauty, which lands both its creator and itself in deep trouble. A feud erupts between them.

Enters Dr Bohra (Danny Dengzongpa), Vaseegaran's mentor, with an evil motive. Dr Bohra sees an opportunity here to further his malicious ambitions. He gets hold of the machine after Vaseegaran dismantles it and throws it away in a fit of rage. This time the battle between Vaseegaran and Chitty assumes lethal proportions. Chitty manages to snatch Sana away and develops its own army of robots with the sole motive of killing Vaseegaran. The battery of robots go on a killing spree. It is all up to Vaseegaran to end the menace. Rajnikanth comes firing on all cylinders. He sizzles and

scintillates with his onscreen charisma. One minute he is Vaseegaran, the sober intelligent scientist, possessing traits that he is normally not associated with and in the other, he is Chitty, the role which allows him to be his usual hyperactive self. As the machine flexing its muscles, as the one-man army unleashing havoc and romancing Aishwarya Rai, he brings enormous energy and credibility to his performance.

Aishwarya Rai, is truly the beauty who can launch wars among her admirers. Unlike contemporary heroines, who appear in blink and miss roles, she is there all through playing a relevant character. Danny Denzongpa is a refreshing change from the regular baddies that we normally get to see in Tamil cinema.

The rest of the cast includes Kalabhavan Mani, Cochin Haneefa, Sabu Cyril in a cameo, Santhanam and Karunaas.

Technically the movie raises the bar for Tamil films. The exotic locales abroad- the venue for romantic songs, the awesome stunts, seen through Rathnavelu's camera, heighten the cinematic experience. To top it up there is Rahman's hi-tech music, (unusual in a Rajnikanth film but in keeping with its theme) and realistic sets designed by Sabu Cyril. So what you get to experience is nothing short of movie magic.

Shankar influenced and inspired by late writer Sujatha that he is, has ensured that the masses are initiated into the complex subject of robotics as smoothly as is possible. The shrewd filmmaker in him has combined mass elements (a must in Rajni flicks) in the right mix. Deriving from sources ranging from Blade Runner to Frankenstein, Shankar uses Chitty to make a comment on the human condition. The second part is rather exhaustive, but there is no denying that Enthiran is an adrenalin pumping roller-coaster ride. Miss it and you may be missing entertainment at its best.

TAMIL ACTOR MURALI DIES OF HEART ATTACK

Actor Murali died of a massive cardiac arrest in the early morning on Wednesday, Sep 8th. He was 46. Murali was rushed to Sri Ramachandra University Hospital, Porur, after he complained of severe chest pain. But, according to the hospital sources, he had no pulse even as he was brought in and was declared 'Dead on Arrival', said a report by Ramya Kannan and S.R. Ashok Kumar said on Indian daily The Hindu.

The report further added:

Murali, son of Kannada film director G.Siddalingiah, started his acting career in Kannada films, but it was his stint in Tamil cinema that fetched him fame and recognition. Murali's first Tamil film was "Poovilangu." The film was directed by Amirjan, who was then the associate of director K.Balachander. After the success of the film he did "Pagal Nilavu" which was the first Tamil film of director Mani Rathnam. Some of Murali's hit films include "Puthu Vasantham", "Porkalam", "Kalamellam Kadhal Vazhga", "Vetri Kodi Kattu", "Sundara Travels", "Poomani", "Alithantha Vanam", "Desiya Geetham", "Idayam", "Thanga Manusukkaran", "En Asai Machan", "Anandam" and "Samuthiram." He got an award from the State government for his acting in director Bharathiraja's "Kadal Pookkal" and won the Kalaimamani in 2001. He has done 98 films and his 99th film is said to be half-completed. Murali also played a small part in his son Atharvaa's debut film "Bana Kathadi." Producer Sathyajothi Thygarajan said, "I will miss a good friend. Only few days ago we all celebrated the engagement of his daughter Kaavya in his house. In "Bana Kathadi", he makes a statement about good heart health, ironically." Tamil film director Amirjan said Murali was a good person and a talented actor. "He was spotted by director K.Balachander who wanted me to use him in "Poovilangu." The director was convinced of Murali's acting talents and the film's success proved this judgement right."

Actor Kuyili, the first heroine to be paired with Murali in "Poovilangu" said, "he was a very good actor and was always on time to his shoot. One cannot forget his subtle performances on screen. The talented actor made it big in Tamil cinema with his unique style and ability to blend romance, pathos and comedy in the right measure." Murali is survived by his wife Shoba, sons Atharvaa and Akash, and daughter Kaavya.



Frenzied fans flock to see Rajnikanth's

'Enthiran'

The multi-crore Rajnikanth-starrer 'Enthiran' (Robot) opened to a frenzied response in over 1000 theatres across Tamil Nadu and worldwide on Friday, Sep 30th.

The tri-lingual film, directed by Shankar, opened to a "superb" response, industry sources said adding tickets had been sold out for the next 10 days, according to Indian News Agency PTI.

Celebrating their icon's latest release, die-hard Rajni fans performed poojas to his giant cut-outs outside theatres and burst crackers, as they had been eagerly awaiting the release of the film, which was two years in the making.

Starring Aishwarya Rai and Danny Denzongpa among others, the film is touted to be one of the most expensive ventures in Indian cinema.

Shankar expressed relief at the positive opening of the film and said that the crew had done a lot of hard work to deliver the sci-fi which sees Rajni in a new avatar as a robot. Enthiran is Shankar's second venture with the superstar after the blockbuster "Sivaji - the boss".

According to a report on BBC, Rajnikanth's latest film Endhiran (The Robot) has been made with a budget of 1.6bn rupees (\$35m; £23m), according to the film's makers - Sun Pictures Kalandidhi Maran and team.



A section of the crowd which gathered to watch Enthiran in Udhayam Theatre, Chennai. Photo: K. Pichumani

Meleni David Law Office Celebrates 5th Year Anniversary Celebrations



The five years of the law office of Meleni David have just zipped by but what's most notable is the dramatic change we've seen in their own Office growing from a mere 3 to a staff of 35 including two Medical Doctors and five Lawyers. They have moved to the larger community with LOMD images every- where, whether it is the smart

car or billboard or the news papers This resulted in Meleni David receiving the Best Marketing award from the Chamber of Commerce.

The Staff of Meleni David who hosted "The 5th Anniversary" of their office in Grand style attributed their success to this statement;

"Success could not be measured by the money you have earned in a single day or year; success is definitely measured by the level of self fulfillment and happiness in you".

Some of the photos taken at the event are given below:



Meleni David and her staff



Meleni David with Father Peter Jitendra



Meleni David with part of her team



Valentine Balasingham Reflecting on the path to success



Meleni David receiving bouquet from Senior Lawyer Sharla Bandoquillo



Meleni David with News Media



Meleni David thanking her staff for their dedication



Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated

Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated by members of Hindu Federation on 11 September 2010. A boat cruise was arranged on this day as usual and it made a 4 hours cruise across Lake Ontario with over 350 persons, dressed in colourful Indian attire, who were on board on this beautiful sunny afternoon. Vigneshwara, is one of the most popular deities worshipped by members

Ganesh Moorti by offerings of milk, sweets, fruits & then arti. Pooja was performed by priest of Mandirs and then Ganesh Moorti was formally immersed in the lake amongst chanting of mantras, led by Pandit Roopnath Sharma the president of Hindu Federation, asking the Lord to removed all misfortunes from the devotees and come again next year.

After offerings were made to Ganesh the sharing of sweets was distributed among the devotees.

sidered the most intelligent. A challenge was thrown to brothers Ganapathy and Karthikeya by Sage Narada. The challenge was whoever went around the globe first would have the fruit first. Karthikeya went around the world which took quite some time while Ganapathy went round his parents thrice and claimed the fruit. The logic he gave was that since his parents represented the universe he had gone round them.

Now do not look at this story

India since the ancient times. Its popularity has only grown in recent times. Lord Ganesh is worshipped in different forms in India and abroad. At Jabalpore the Lord appears in a female form. At Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh he appears as playing a flute. He is worshipped as Mahabini in Borneo, Totkar in Mongolia, Tchoprak in Tibet, Brahmanesh in Cambodia, Kwanshi-diyik in China, Vinayaksha in Japan. Vaishnavites

hand he has a rope while in another he has an axe. With the axe he cuts off the attachment of his devotees to the world of plurality and thus end all the sorrows that go with it.

The rope is used to pull the devotee close and closer to the Truth. In a third hand he holds a rice ball that represents the joys of Sadhana. With the other hand he blesses his devotees and protects them from obstacles that they may encounter on their



of most Indian religions. It is Hindu's most important festival. Ganapathy is also the God of Knowledge and is invoked at the commencement of any function. He is the god that protects his devotees from any obstacles (vighnam). Hence the name Vighneswara. He is also described as the Supreme Leader (Vinayaka).

Hindus assembled at different temples early in the morning and offering prayers at the respective temples, came in buses to the lakeshore. Some came in their own cars. They all enjoyed this day when pooja was performed to

A lunch buffet was served and bhajans were sung to the delight of every one by the kirtan Mandli of Devi Mandir and Shi Ram Mandir to celebrate this auspicious day. It was a day of joy among the devotees.

Ganapathy is said to have had two spouses. Buddhi (intellect) and Siddhi (achievement). Thus, he is the master of knowledge and achievement.

His parents were Siva and Parvati. Legend has it that Ganapathy himself wrote the Mahabharata, to the dictation of Guru Veda Vyasa. He is also con-

as a rational logical person but try and understand the thought behind it. It is to do with the use of the Intellect. Ganapathy used it to know what the Sage meant while his brother took the Sage ka order at face value. Similarly in our lives we must learn to use our Intellect (the ability to discriminate between right and wrong) and look at the deeper meanings of things. Using our intellect will force us to make decisions, right or wrong, time will tell. If wrong, so what, we will learn by our mistakes. The key is to try.

Ganesh Puja was prevalent in

call him Vishwak Sena. There is a rock cut temple in King-Hsein in China for him. With five faces he is worshipped in Nepal. In a Yogic pose of meditation he attracts the people of Java. He can truly be said to be India's international God

As Ekadanta, the Lord has limitless powers. As Heramba, he removes obstacles. As Lambo-dara, He protects all worlds. As Surpa Karna, He shows compassion by giving the highest knowledge. All these names for Lord Vinayaka, who is the Lord of all. The Lord has four hands. In one



Spiritual path of seeking the Supreme.

Kanayalal Raina

Harry Jeganathan recognized for community service

Harry Jeganathan, The President of Markham-Unionville Provincial PC party, for the 2nd consecutive year was feted with the presentation of the award for community service on the occasion of the 63rd Indian Independent day celebration hosted by South Asians Association of Ontario.

The award was presented by Mr. Leon E. Benoit, M.P. Vegreville, Mannville, Alberta.

In addition, Harry is also recognized for the following:

He is a passionate neighbourhood advocate. Strong supporter and believer in keeping environment clean and green. He has been school council chair in his district for the past five year and has raised scholarship funds to support high school students transitioning to universities/colleges. He is the founding member

of the South Asian Conservative Association of Ontario and has been working as volunteer for the riding of Markham-Unionville for the PC party more than ten years.

It should be noted that due to Harry's dedication and commitment to the community, the lead-

ers of the community have suggested and are supporting his candidacy for Markham-Unionville electorate.

Harry is a possible candidate in the upcoming general election to represent the PC party for Markham-Unionville.



Elderly at risk of poverty in Sri Lanka

The seniors count for 10% of Sri Lanka's population, live with poor health and not receive adequate health care or pensions and are at risk of poverty writes Melani Manel Perera in the PIME Missionaries News Service, AsiaNews.it web portal:

Colombo (AsiaNews.it) - In Sri Lanka, life expectancy is 80 years for women and 74 for men. To date, the elderly account for approximately 10% of the population. Despite the low percentage, the elderly are at risk of poverty, with poor health care and pensions. HelpAge Sri Lanka is the only association that for over 25 years has provided assistance to the elderly in different parts of the country. On 1 October in Colombo, on the occasion of World Day of the elderly, the association brought together more than 600 Sinhalese and Tamils, Buddhists and Muslims - all over 60 - who celebrated the day with songs, dances and plays.

Sister Janaki Hettiarachchi, from the convent of the Holy Family, Wennappuwa, who together with other sisters took part in the Day, said that this type of event helps young people understand the value of older people, who for many are still something special. "Young people - she says - looking at these initiatives may start to ask 'how can we help our old people?'"

The event was also attended by Felix Perera, Minister of Social Services, who met senior representatives of various districts of the country, including those affected by civil war from Vavuniya, Amapara and Batticaloa. Presented with the need for urgent reform of the welfare system, the Minister has pledged his commitment to introducing a new pension scheme for people over 70 years of age and older people who do not have enough income to survive.

Durham Tamil Cultural & Academic Society presents Annual Youth & Children's Talent Show – "Believe in You 2010"

Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham hosted their annual Youth and Children Talent show "Believe in You 2010" on Saturday September 25th, 2010 at J. Clark Collegiate in Ajax. This show was dedicated in bringing children to share their talents, skills, knowledge and most of all to enjoy Tamil culture. During the process of this wonderful production, the youth and the children developed friendship, mutual understanding and life-time skills of leadership and self confidence. The Society is proud that most of the performances are choreographed by youth and all participants are from the Durham Region.

There were over 120 participants from ages two showing their budding talents. Weeks of training and preparations paid off as the show turned out to be very successful with over 500 persons attending the show. There was a variety of performances from classical and non classical Bharathanatyam dances, Hip Hop, Farm World and Carantic music Tamil and English Evolution of Music to end the show.

Many dignitaries from all levels of government and community groups made their presence to show their support. Honorary guest Minister Jason Kenny, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Multiculturalism, Hon. Mark Holland MP Ajax-Pickering, Mr. Joe Dickson MPP Ajax-Pickering, Mayor Steve Parish, Councillor Ashby and Councillor Crawford

from Town of Ajax, Mayor Dave Ryan, Councillor Johnson and Councillor Dickerson from City of Pickering graced the show by their attendance.

The guest speaker was Professor Chandrakanthan and the motivational speaker was Shelly-Ann Brown 2010 winter Olympic Silver Medalist .Bobsleigh uplifted the calibre of the show. Community Partners, Mr. Mrs Wiley 3rd VP from Royal Canadian Legion, Mr. Don Terry Manager of Public Affairs Ontario Power Generation, Mr. Forbes Manager - Settlement Workers In Schools Community Development Council Durham, Constable Martin Wind from Durham Regional Police. Shashi Bhatia, Chair of Indo Canadian Cultural Association of Durham. Mr. David Poopalapillai, National Spokes person for Canadian Tamil Congress and Iffat Zehra, Executive Director, Community Economic Development for Immigrant Women were among the many who attended the show.

Tamil Cultural and Academic Society of Durham likes to convey their sincere thanks to all the parents, children, and youth. The Society extends it's appreciation to all the, media, community partners and local governments for their utmost support in making "Believe in You 2010" a successful program. A special thanks was also extended to all sponsors for financial-ly supporting this event.

Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.



UP COMING EVENTS

Saturday October 9th, 2010

Navarathi Pooja

Venue: Village Community Centre , Ajax

22 Sherwood Drive,

(located on Church Street and Sherwood Rd) Ajax. On

Time: 6 PM

Sunday October 24th, 2010

TCASD Literacy Day/ Pumpkin Carving Contest

Venue: Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

Time: 2-6 PM

For more information call 416-857-0846

Durham Tamil Association awards University Scholarships at its 9th Annual Youth Festival



Durham Tamil Association's year long celebration of its 10th Anniversary's grand finale was its 9th Annual Youth Festival on Oct 2nd at J. Clarke Auditorium. Over 100 kids and youth participated with an amazing performance of Tamil classical musical instruments, music, bhārata natyam, comedy drama, tiny tots, and fashion show. Local MP's MPP's, Mayors, Councillors, Candidates from Ajax, Pickering, Whitby and Oshawa all extended their well wishes. TD Bank Port Union, Ontario Power Generation, City of Pickering

was recognised as Community partners of DTA.

Congratulations to DTA's first annual \$1000 University Scholarship Award Recipients Prashanth Selvakumar and Prasaanth Ganesalingam. Durham Tamil Association celebrated its youth festival showcasing that "Unity is Strength" and invites all Tamil organisations to join hands and achieve more for all our youth and kids. www.durhamtamils.com

Seen here are some pictures taken at the event.





Canadian Tamils' Chamber successfully hosted 3rd Annual Golf Classic Golf Tournament on Wednesday, September 8th, 2010 at Silver Lakes Golf & Country Club, New Market

Photos by
Ken Photo/Gnane

Highlights of the event photos are given below



Chamber's Treasurer Jey Sinnadurai & President Ken Kirupa



Team by Warren Sinnathamby of Sorkkam Club



Team by Philip Sabapathippillai, Scotiabank



Team by RBC Royal Bank



Team by Scotiabank



Team by Innovative Detailing



Team by Mike & Vince of RBC Royal Bank



Team by RBC Royal Bank



Team by CableShoppe



Team by NJ



Team by Law office of Gary Anandasangaree



Team by the Co-operators



Team by Arthur Fire Protection



Team by Industrial Alliance



Team by CanTYD



Guy Bonnell VP, The Scarborough Hospital Foundation presenting to the winner



Senthrooran Punithavel from the Co-operators presenting to the winner

Photos by
Ken Photo/
Gnane



Registration in progress



Volunteers getting ready to register guests, Krishna & Thusyanthy



Warren Sinnathamby



Volunteers Shiyam & Lavan



Mike Ahilan and Vince Sinnadurai



Jude Francis & Kisho Rasajothy



Trophy Winners Team NJ, with CTCC President Ken Kirupa and Past President Gary Anandasangaree



CanTYD Team



Dr. Figurado and Anton Dharmaseelan



Team by Liland Insurance



Display of Trophies to the winners



Participants during dinner



Participants during dinner



Participants during dinner



Ken Kirupa, Gary Anandasangaree presenting Trophies to the Runners up



MONSOON FEATURE

In this article I will give you some idea as to how the marriage system worked in the ancient Hindu traditions. As per the Hindu customs and traditions, marriage is very binding and can not be broken for small reasons. At the time of marriage the bride and the bride groom perform sapta-padi and promise each other for being faithful and truthful, sharing money, property and assets, and leading the life as two wheels of a cart.

The Sanskrit slokas the priests read at the time of marriage fully explain the gravity and purpose of marriage. As the girl's father, or guardian, gives her away to the bridegroom, he says to the bridegroom's father, "I give you, for your son, my beautiful virgin daughter: accept her therefore." The father of the youth must reply, with my hand, with my voice, and with my body I joyfully accept thy daughter for my son, and religiously receive her in my family."

Marriage is a very old tradition in India. We have traces in Vedas, Upanishads, epics and stories of panchtantra about the different kinds of marriages being performed in the ancient India. Hereunder, I have given a brief account of different kind of marriages of olden days:

Brahma Marriage:

Gurukul system prevailed in very old days as per the education pattern in India. In this system the boy goes to live at his guru's ashram to acquire knowledge and expertise. This stage is Brahmacharya or studenthood for the boy. Only once he completes his studies that is brahmacharya he would be eligible to get married and this form of marriage is named Brahma Marriage.

Once the boy is ready to get married, his parents would approach the family of a matching and eligible girl. The father of the girl also carefully chooses the bridegroom who should be well versed in Vedas and is of a noble character. This is how a Brahma marriage was arranged. The girl's family didn't have to give any dowry to the boy's family. There was the ritual of kanyadaan which symbolizes that the father gifts his daughter to the boy. This marriage is performed even before the girl is attained her puberty. The mantras are chanted while performing the marriage, which are addressed by the groom to the bride. Among the eight types of marriage systems this

Relation of Marriage

RELATIONS - 3

is regarded as the highest type of marriage by the dharmashastras.

Prajapatya Marriage:

According to Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, the father gives his daughter to the bridegroom, by addressing the couple with the mantras, "May both of you perform together your dharma." This kind of marriage is similar to Brahma marriage, which may be the origin of Prajapatya marriage. In other words it can be said that the joint performance of sacred duties by man and a woman is known as Prajapatya marriage.

Unlike the Brahma Marriage in Prajapatya Marriage, the bride's father goes in search for a groom for his daughter. In prajapatya marriage there is no trading involved. Kanyadana is a part of it as in the Brahma ceremony. In a holy yajna, learned person and parents do marriage and advice both (boy and the girl) to continue their family life religiously. In this marriage all the married persons give blessings to newly married couple.

Gandharva Marriage:

About Gandharva marriage, we find references in Hindu mythologies and epics. This is equivalent of eloping in today's world, and couples whose union is not blessed by families seek refuge in this custom. The Gandharva marriage involves simple exchange of garlands.

Gandharva marriage is a form of love marriage where the bride and the bridegroom get married secretly without the knowledge of their parents. Mutual love and consent between bride and the bridegroom, are the only conditions to bring about such a marriage. It is a voluntary union of a maiden with her lover. Parents and kinsmen have not much to do in such marriages. Kama Sutra regards this marriage as an ideal one. Hindu mythology literature abounds in such type of marriages. We have references of the marriage of Dushyant and Shakuntala; Daksheya and Prajapati, Bhima and Hidimba; Kamdeva and Rati, Kach and Devyani who married following this system and their marriage was acceptable in the society. The two get married prior to informing anyone. Gandharva marriages take place mostly in temples. It usually breaks up their relationship with their respective families. Happens whatever, both agree to marry and continue family life.

Asura Marriage:

Asura Marriage takes place when an unsuitable bridegroom approaches the family of the bride. While per-

forming holy yajna marriage is performed and the parents of girl give some dowry to bridegroom. It could be looked upon as bribe for getting the girl the boy desires even if he is in no way is a match for the girl. So the system of marriage is more like buying a product. This form of marriage is more popular amongst low caste Hindus. This kind of marriage is common among the tribes in India.

Rakshasa Marriage:

In Rakshasa marriage the groom fights battles with the bride's family, overcomes them and carries the girl away. Then he persuades her to marry. This is not considered as the right kind of marriage as this is a forced marriage. This is a marriage by capture. This form was common in many other ancient civilizations. It appealed to the warrior instinct of the Kshatriya, and was sometimes practised by them. Hindu scriptures describe this form of marriage as forcible abduction of a maiden from her home. Women, thus, caused many fights and battles in ancient times. This kind of marriage was neither acceptable nor practiced in the higher classes like Brahmins.

Paishacha Marriage:

Paishacha marriage is considered as the most inferior type of marriage. In this type of marriage the girl's wish is not considered whether she wants to marry or not instead she is forced to marry. She is seized against her wish. The marriage is performed against the wish of the girl and her family. Men would marry a woman, whom he had seduced while she was asleep, intoxicated or insane. This kind of marriage was later prohibited.

This was considered the worst form of all types of marriages. In this pattern of marriage the bride was molested or stolen, when she and her relatives were asleep, or in a state of intoxication during a tribal festival. The inclusion of this form of marriage in Hindu Sutras, can only be justified on the ground that it was so prevalent among the primitive tribes that the Sutras could not have avoided its inclusion. By recognition of this form, the only advantage was that the children could be regarded as legitimate.

According to Kautilya, "Of these

eight forms of marriage, only the first four (Brahma, Daiva, Arsha and Prajapatya) are ancestral customs and are valid on their being approved by the father. The rest, for it is that they receive money, the money paid by the bridegroom for their daughter. In case of absence by death of either the father or the mother, the survivor will receive the money. If both of them are dead, the maiden herself shall receive it. Any kind of marriage is approvable, provided it pleases all those that are concerned with it."

Arsha Marriage:

In Sanskrit, Arsha means Rishi or sage hence Arsha marriage suggests marriages with the sages or rishis. In this form of marriage the bride is given in exchange for two cows received from the groom. Marriages of this type used to happen because the parents of the bride couldn't afford the expense of their daughter's marriage. So the girl is married off to an old sage. However, this kind of marriage is not considered noble as there is give and take or business like transaction is involved. In this marriage the father of bridegroom takes nothing and marriage was performed in holy yajna.

Daiva Marriage:

If after waiting for a reasonable period for a suitable man for a girl, when her parents do not find anyone, they go looking for a groom in a place where a sacrifice is being conducted. Here the girl is groomed with ornaments and married to a priest. Daiva marriage means the girl is married to a priest during a sacrifice. According to the shastras Daiva marriage is considered inferior to Brahma marriage because it is considered degrading for the womanhood to look for groom.

In nutshell it can be concluded that marriage of a virgin well-adorned is called "Brahma-marriage." The joint performance of sacred duties by a man and a woman is known as "Prajapatya-marriage." The giving in marriage of a virgin for a couple of cows is called "Arsha-marriage." The giving in marriage of a virgin to an officiating priest in a sacrifice is called "Daiva-marriage." The voluntary union of a virgin with her lover is called "Gandharva-marriage." Giving a virgin after receiving



By Prof. Saran Ghai

plenty of wealth is termed "Asura-marriage." The abduction of a virgin is called "Rakshasa-marriage." The abduction of a virgin while she is asleep and intoxicated is called "Paisacha-marriage." So looking at all the eight types of marriages it can be said that there are two extreme ends. It is true that there cannot be same and uniform rules for everybody. The Hindu shastras have divided each type according to the social structure and system.

In the current times, mostly love marriages and arranged marriages are prevalent. I would encourage all the marriageable age young people and older age people, who are looking for a suitable life partner, avoid love marriages and contact me to help them organize an arranged marriage. After all this is the question of my business. Just kidding.

Prof. Saran Ghai

If you or anyone you know is in the marriageable age and needs help in finding a suitable life partner, contact me. Similarly, if you or anyone known to you is of older age, I mean within approx 45-65 years age group, is alone and is looking for a suitable life partner should contact me. I would like to say to the older age people living alone, "Why should you live alone when there is someone who is still waiting for you and is ready to say, "I love you", I care about you. Will you marry me?"

For all your questions and registration for marriage please contact me at (613) 340-8359. E-mail: info@rishtashaadi.com or visit: www.rishtashaadi.com.

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Don't Hesitate - Call Us, we will see you personally and discuss

IT IS EASIER TO PASS LIFE ALONE WHEN YOUNG BUT THE NEED OF A LIFE PARTNER becomes even more WHEN YOU GROW OLD.

In the old age YOU need a person who LOVES YOU, LISTENS TO YOU, SHARES YOUR JOYS AND SORROWS, CARES ABOUT YOU and is ALWAYS AVAILABLE in you need.

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Global Economy Still Gloomy

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United States of America pumped under the US Treasury's TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) about \$700 billion and even more tax payers' money to bail out the failing banks and the economy. The UK has already tried a £200bn experiment which was not a clear success. European Union Treasury has set up European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) to finance by extending loans to nations experiencing sovereign debt distress. The Facility is devised to sell bonds and use the money it raises to make loans up to a maximum of € 440 billion to euro zone nations in need. Further, € 250 billion loan backed by the IMF in order to obtain a financial safety net up to € 750 billion. The agreement allows the European Central Bank to start buying government debt which is expected to reduce bond yields. Austerity plans brought with the support of IMF to the affected European have brought unrest situation in Greece has now spread to other European countries such as France, Spain, Lithuania etc.

Another round of pumping billions?

Mervyn King the Governor of the Bank of England and Ben Bernanke Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of the USA and other Central Bankers might explain the policy to the public by statements after statements; another way of describing it would be as a multibillion-pound leap in the dark. Now, they are referring to is another round of quantitative easing, or pumping billions into financial markets in order to jumpstart an economy stuck in a rut. Yet all the signs are that the Bank of England and America's Federal Reserve are preparing to make such a punt given the gloomy outlook for their economies. This week (3rd week of September 2010) both central banks put out minutes of their last policy meetings. Both make grim reading. The Fed's minutes are one long litany of all that ails the US economy – employers not hiring, banks not lending, consumers not spending. Put those pieces together and you get the picture of an insipid recovery, with the economy not growing anywhere near enough to bring down dole queues. The statement ends with the assurance that Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are ready "to provide additional accommodation ... to support the economic recovery". The Bank's minutes are not as emphatic, but own up to "a reduction in growth prospects". They did not say the multibillion funding in US dollar, Eurocurrency, Sterling Pound efforts have failed in the both sides of the Atlantic shores. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney now says '... the economy is still a long way from returning to strength, and finding good, high paying jobs will remain a challenge for some time.' Keeping interest rate low - a monetary policy tool did not work as central bankers anticipated. Since interest rates in the US, Canada and the UK are practically at zero that leaves central bankers with one big option: more quantitative easing. The US is likely to go first,



with the UK probably following next year. Will Canada which has already started increasing the interest rate ahead of its southern counterpart also join in pumping funds?

Economy in the USA

Concern about America's stumbling recovery has been rising. The dollar is the weakling among rich-world currencies. But Americans should take too soon to despair about their economy. Some forecasters believe that America's disappointing GDP growth in the second quarter, 2.4% at an annualized rate, could be the start of a slide towards a second recession. One worry is jobs, or the lack of them. American business created only 71,000 in July, too few to match the growth in the population of those of working age and far too few to shorten the queue of unemployed noticeably. Unemployment is stuck at 9.5%, even though corporate America is flush with cash. Companies are still unhelpfully shy of hiring; preferring to squeeze yet more output from fewer people. The recovery has lost momentum in part because shops and warehouses are fuller, so that the initial boost to demand from restocking is fading. The housing bust still casts a shadow. Households must save to work off excess debts. Firms fearful of weak consumer spending are cautious about investing. Bank credit is scarce. All this stands in the way of a full-blooded recovery. But a slide into a second recession would require firms to cut back again on stocks, capital spending and jobs. Anxiety about deflation remains justified: any sign of it would require much bolder measures from the central bank. However, for the moment the Fed has sent the right signal: concern but not panic. Apart from anything else, it is not clear that yet more monetary stimulus would have created many new jobs. Its firms might be more willing to spend their cash if they had a clearer sign from Mr Obama how he intends adopt fiscal policy - eventually to close their country's fiscal deficit. But in the short term eyes are fixed on the Federal Reserve. On August 10th the central bank acknowledged that the recovery had slackened and said it would reinvest the proceeds from the maturing mortgage securities it owns in government bonds. This was a small shift back towards 'quantitative easing.'

Economy and Sovereign debt crisis in Europe

Past few months' good sign in Europe is based on exports mainly

from Germany, but the anxieties about the euro area's economy may be faded away soon. Germany depends on its auto exports to America and China. China's nouveaux riches are ordering German cars and French claret. In Europe it is far too early to celebrate recovery on at least two counts. First, Germany apart, the euro area remains weak. Spain, whose economy is barely growing and where the jobless rate is 20%, may face problems similar to the USA. Second, Germany relies on exports, not spending at home: the home market is one of the few places where sales of Mercedes cars have fallen this year. So its economic fortunes remain closely tied to the rest of the world—including one of its biggest markets, America. This surge in new business has been good for jobs. Unemployment in Germany has been steadily falling, in contrast to the trend in the rest of the euro zone—and America. GDP in the 16-country block rose at an annualized rate of 4%—much faster than in America and only a bit shy of surprisingly strong growth figures in Britain.

Euro zone and the Secret Task Force

Eurogroup Chairman Jean-Claude Juncker has recently warned against a further drifting apart of euro zone economies in an interview with a German newspaper. The danger of a government-debt crisis in the euro zone began to preoccupy top European policy makers in October 2008. Hungary, an EU member which doesn't use the euro, found itself unable to sell bonds to jittery investors. The EU, using an existing but little-used program, and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank swiftly propped up Hungary by pledging about €20 billion in loans. But it soon became apparent that the euro zone had no tools to save one of its own. EU treaties made clear the facility used for Hungary was off limits to euro members. For most EU officials, the IMF was taboo, too: Its loans were fine for poor ex-Communist nations, they felt, but not for developed euro members. The secret task force, coordinated by the committee chairman Jean-Claude Juncker, had been meeting surreptitiously since November 2008 to craft a plan should a Hungary-style crisis strike a euro nation. Membership was limited to senior policy makers. The task force met in the shadows of the EU's many councils and summits in Brussels, Luxembourg and other capi-

itals. Participants kept colleagues in their own governments in the dark, for fear leaks would trigger rampant speculation in financial markets. Potential crisis candidates were obvious: Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain, a group of deeply indebted states derisively tagged with the acronym "PIGS" by bond traders.

Economy in the UK

The Guardian in its recent editorial says, 'Trouble is, when central bankers on both sides of the Atlantic tried this tactic last year it was hardly an unqualified success. Take the Bank of England, which pumped £200bn into the economy over just a few months. While it brought down the interest rates on government bonds, it is unclear whether all that cash merely fuelled a giant party for investment bankers, with asset markets surging, share dividends rising and, yes, bonuses soaring. A Bank of England paper published this summer noted that the policy "had a significant impact in financial markets" but was agnostic on how much the money helped the rest of the economy. Amid a big slump, the UK is set to make massive gambles in economic policy.'

Emerging economy India and China

Indian economy is expected to expand by 8.5% this year. It has a long way to go before it is as rich as China—the Chinese economy is four times bigger—but Indian growth rate could overtake China's by 2013, if not before. Some economists think India will grow faster than any other large country over the next 25 years. Rapid growth in a country of 1.2 billion people is exciting, to put it mildly. There are two reasons why India will soon start to outpace China. One is demography. China's workforce will shortly start ageing; in a few years' time, it will start shrinking. That's because of its one-child policy. An oppressive measure that no Indian government would get away with once introduced forced-sterilization program. India is now blessed with a young and growing workforce. Its dependency ratio is one of the best in the world and will remain so for a generation. India's economy will benefit from this "demographic dividend", which has powered many of Asia's economic miracles. The second reason its advancement in science and technology, where younger generation is taking more interest in it.

International Currency War



The world is in the midst of an "international currency war" according to Brazil's finance minister Guido Mantega as governments force down the value of their currencies to boost their struggling economies. The comments are the first public admission made by a senior policymaker has become increasingly widespread practice since the global economic downturn. Many countries, - China, have been deliberately weakening their currencies by selling them on foreign exchanges or keeping interest rates artificially low to make their exports cheaper. China has kept the yuan weak to boost exports and has resisted US pressure to allow it to rise. Switzerland also began selling Swiss francs on foreign exchanges last year to weaken its currency. Economists fear that such moves are resulting in increasing currency volatility and instability. Increasing competition among individual countries to devalue also makes it harder to mount a co-ordinated policy response to the economic downturn, particularly amid fears of a renewed slowdown. "...a general weakening of currency. This threatens us because it takes away our competitiveness," Mr Guido said.

Policy Alternatives for Improvement

Central bankers and financial policy makers now discuss quantitative easing as the fall-back plan in case the economy goes into a nosedive. This global crisis has led to unprecedented fiscal and monetary policy actions by governments and central banks all over the world, raising questions about the modalities, the effectiveness and the coordination of those policies. There are number of factors to be considered including trade elasticities between countries, the size and openness of economies, and financial imperfections for the international effects of fiscal stimulus. Some other economists urge for more microeconomic research on price-setting practices of importers and exporters may help to mitigate the trade surplus issues. Policy makers have to pay more attention to long term damage from protracted excessive fiscal deficits and of the benefits from significant fiscal consolidation. Great uncertainty continues to surround future prospects of the global economy.

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**MONSOON
FEATURE**

By Aazhkadalaan

On the 26th of September 2010, Aazhkadalaan's, book entitled 'Vallipuram is our village – A Search' (Enkaluur Vallipuram – Oru Theedal), was launched at the Merupuram Kaali Amman Temple in Scarborough. The book launch presided by Mr. T. Sivapalu, president of the Canada Tamil Writers Association. The book launch was started with the blessing of the temple chief priest Suresh Kurukkal. Kavinjar V. Kanthavanam introduced the author. Professors E. Balasundaram and N. Subramaniam reviewed the book and congratulated the author's talent and efforts.

The author Aazhkadalaan (V.

BOOK RELEASE
Vallipuram is my village – A Search (Enkaluur Vallipuram – Oru Theedal)

Paramanathan) has published more than twenty books, and written several hundreds of articles on religion, literature and culture in newspapers and journals. He has very humble and quiet personality and tirelessly does his writing.

Prof. Balasundaram on his speech, stated that, he knew the author more than 25 years as a writer and researcher. When prof. Balasundaram carried his research on "Place names of Jaffna district", Mr Paramanathan helped him to collect data from Vadamardchi region. He also described the author as a "Mobile Library". Aazhkadalaan knows each and every subject. Aazhkadalaan has deep knowledge in religion as well as in Tamil

literature especially in Siva and Vaishnava literatures

His first book entitled "Aazhkadalan" was published in 1983. Since that time he continued to write articles, poems, and published two books about Vallipuram and the religious life of the people of the region. He also instrumented others to write books about Vallipuram temple. Vallipuram, the ancient city of Jaffna Kingdom, was attracted by the Sri Lankan historians. From time to time historians have published their findings about Vallipuram and its historical values. Vallipuram is located near the city of Point Pedro in the Vadamardchi region. There is an ancient Vishnu Temple constructed in the early century A.D. It is

the fact that, Dynasty of Jaffna Kingdom, Singai-Ariya Chakravarthi ruled from vallipuram capital, and they renamed it as Singai Nagar.

Recently some writers have published very misguided information about the location of Vallipuram temple, its boundaries and its history. These writings made the author, Aazhkadalaan to bring out and establish the real fact, the historical background, and the location of the temple. Containing strenuously collected data through extensive and painstaking study over the region, this book encompasses multifarious and diverse facts of the life of the people of the region. This book deals about the name of Vallipuram, trustees of the vallipu-

ram temple, geographical features and economical resources of the region, rituals and rite of the temple, literatures connected to Vallipuram temple, and historical evidences related to the temple, etc.

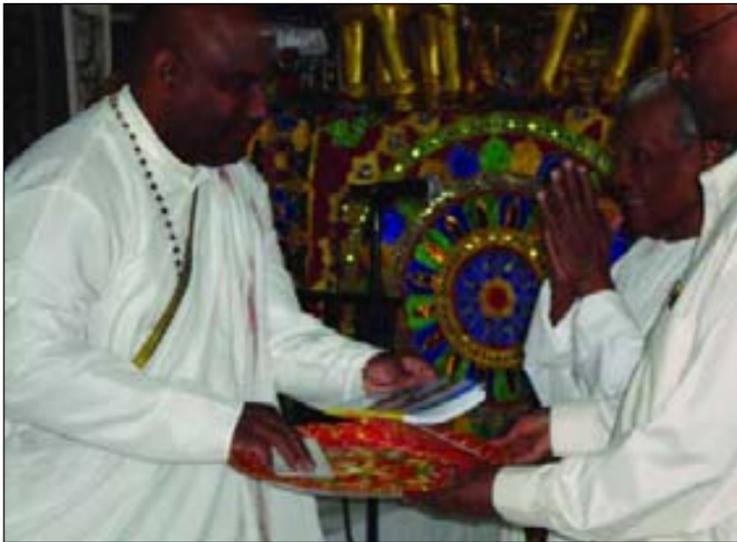
This book is a fascinating and comprehensive study on the Vallipuram temple and its people, historical document and it has been released in correct time. It is worth to have a copy of this book.

Book Review: By KAARIYUURAN.

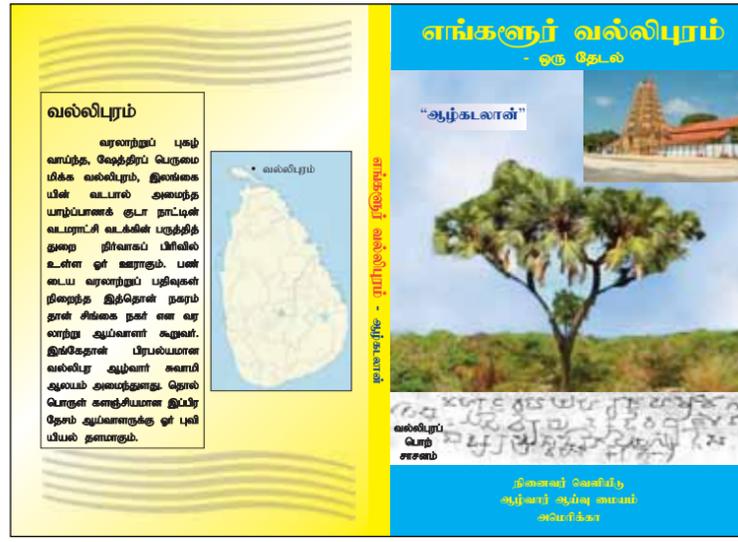
(If anyone needs a copy, please contact Monsoon Journal. It's priced at \$10.00)

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Dr. Lambodharan receiving the book



Kavinjar V. Kanthavanam speaking



Logan Velumailum receiving the book



Dance Performance



Temple Chief Priest Suresh Kurukkal



Author V. Paramanathan and Tamil Writers Association President T. Sivapalu



Section of the Audience



T. Sivapalu presiding the Book Launch

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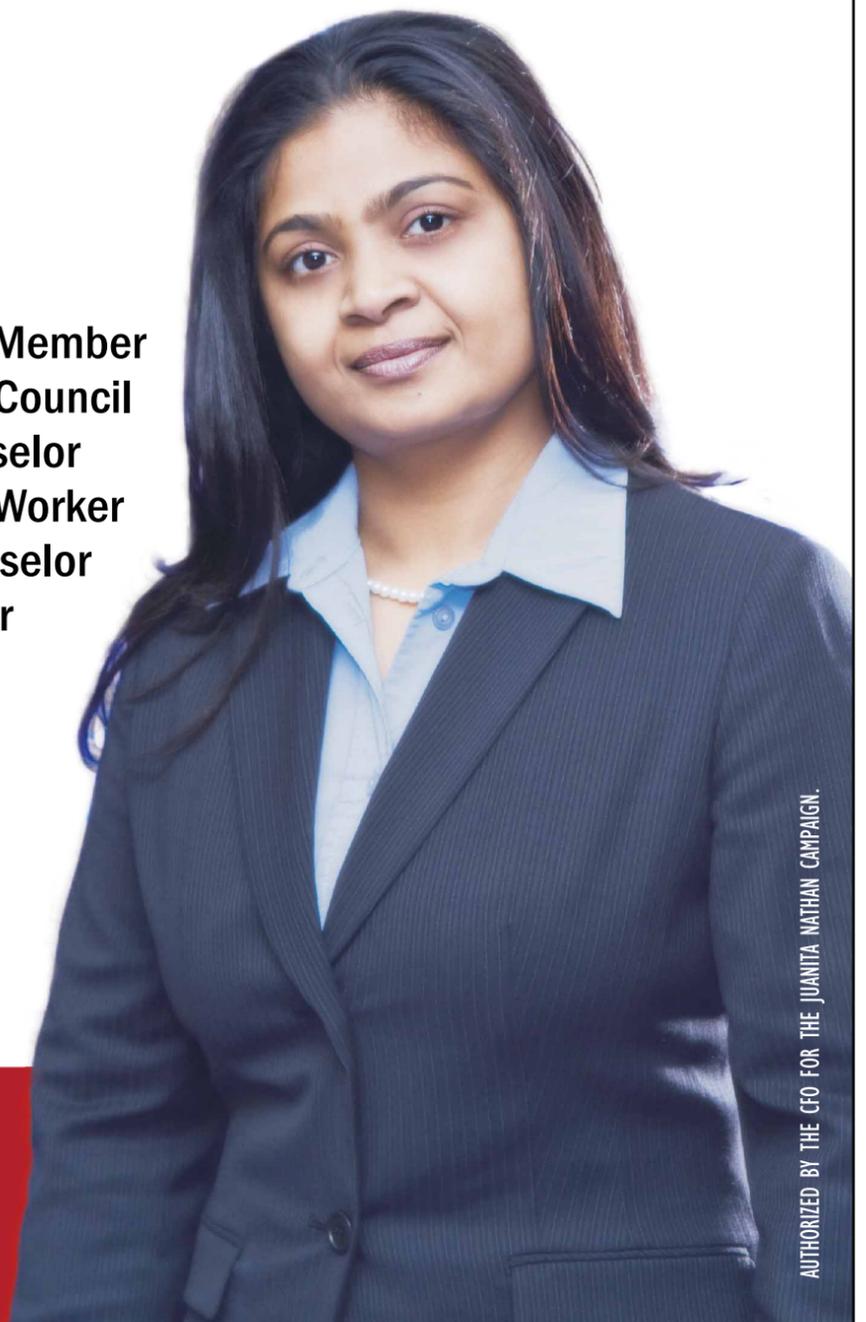


Election Day:
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Advance Voting:
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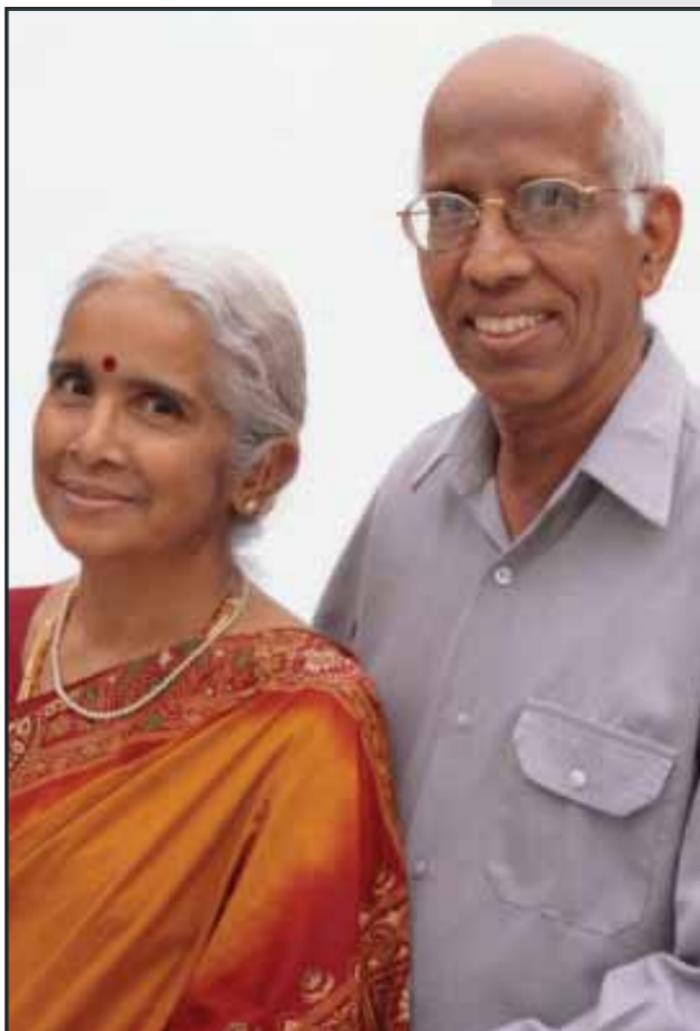
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