

01/09/2003

Tamil Press focuses on Dr M's Merdeka message

Balan Moses; Ramlan Said; Lim Chee Wei

BOTH Tamil Nesan and Malaysia Nanban dazzled with their National Day coverage yesterday, with their front-page play of the message from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad complementing the National Day supplements.

The Prime Minister, sending out a strong 46th anniversary message, advised Malaysians to work hard to continue enjoying the prosperity which God had blessed the nation with for the past four decades.

Tamil Nesan led off its lead story with Dr Mahathir's advice that Malaysians, especially Bumiputeras, should also be patient, disciplined and selfless to achieve success.

Malaysia Nanban quoted the Prime Minister as attributing the development the country has achieved to the hard work of all Malaysians.

It also highlighted the fact that Dr Mahathir's speech was longer than usual.

The supplements carried stories about the independence struggle and profiles of leading personalities associated with the event.

Malaysia Nanban featured distinguished journalist and linguist, the late K. Sarangapani, and his role in the development of the Tamil language and culture in Malaysia.

It also carried several thought-provoking articles on the meaning of independence.

Tamil Nesan carried a pictorial spread on page one of its supplement depicting various aspects of Malaysian culture.

Both also featured Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on their front pages, with his statement that the Government would nip the problem of gangsterism in schools in the bud.