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Sticking to traditional formula of hard news and film happenings

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AS the English, Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia newspapers continue to blaze new trails with exclusives and new columns, Tamil dailies have generally preferred to stick to the traditional formula of hard news and film fare.

Yesterday's Tamil Nesan and Malaysia Nanban amply proved this with almost every story being carried by the mainstream media in other languages.

Even then, local stories have to compete for prominence with foreign pieces.

For example, the lead story quoting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to undergraduates in both newspapers yesterday had to compete for space with pictures of Tamil actresses.

There have, of course, been occasional forays into uncharted territory like the second instalment of Tamil Nesan's Women's Forum by Datin Seri Indrani Samy Vellu, who runs the newspaper.

But these have been few and far between with the staple fare for readers being one devoid of reaction from the community to national programmes or issues affecting the community.

There have been few stories about trends within the Indian youth or problems besetting the younger generation - issues that the Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese and English Press devote considerable space on a regular basis.

Malaysian Indian politics, especially that of the MIC, continues to receive coverage with Tamil Nesan sticking largely to the MIC headed by Indrani's husband, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

The dearth of stories affecting the community at large could be related to a lack of staff or direction, or both.