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LONDON 2012

Team Mauritius at the Olympics



Despite the defeat of our beach volley team in the first round of the competition on July 28, the Olympics' spirit is still high among our athletes. The Mauritian delegation comprises of 18 members, 11 athletes and eight officials, including staffs and coaches. Natasha Rigobert, beach volley team, was the flag bearer at the opening ceremony. Fabrice Coiffic, the Mauritian 100m specialist will be on the starting blocks on August,4. Mauritius has a good chance for a medal in boxing where Collin and Lavigillante are competing. Allez Maurice!
See the complete Olympics coverage on pg 10 & 11.

Former Irish Miss World Rosanna Davison to visit Mauritius

The former Miss World was at the St Geran when Michaela Harte was callously murdered on 10th January 2011. The celebrity daughter of famous singer Chris De Burgh usually visits Mauritius for Christmas and the New Year. Rosie says she cannot think of not holidaying on the island she has been visiting regularly since 1995 with her father and family. The former Miss Ireland does empathise with the Harte family and shares their loss and sorrow.



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Editor's Views!

by VIJAY RAM

Olympics Fever

The Games are now here. Olympians will compete within the spirit of international friendship. We welcome the substantial contingent of Mauritian athletes. So, it's not just traffic jams, overcrowded city centres and special Olympics lanes. It's a much welcome oomph to the city economy, local businesses and general mood of the population at a time of a depressed market. So let's hope and wish that our Mauritian delegation gets its fair share of bronze, silver and gold!

Ramzaan Mubarak

Our brothers and sisters of the Muslim faith are now well into the Holy month of Ramadan. The ninth month of the Islamic Calendar is always greeted with fasting. All of you Rozaa keepers will refrain from food, drinks and physical relations from sunrise to sunset for 30 days. This bodily sacrifice is rewarded with the 'sawab' as it is believed all the wishes are multiplied. The whole day is animated with a spirit of charity towards others which culminates in the altruistic concept of Zakat.

Eid ul-Fitr will be celebrated as the end of the fasting month and it will be all worth it!

Michaela Harte: the upshot

The accused are now free. The jury found them not-guilty. The prosecution case relied on confessions that were not corroborated. Elementary DNA matching were absent in the investigations. The police MCIT is blamed for using inhumane and muscular methods to force confessions. The office of the DPP has left behind some of its credibility. The department of the Home Office, which is a portfolio of PM Ramgoolam himself, has come under fire. They have to act quickly to establish faith in tackling law and order. The family of Michaela Harte is not happy. The judicial decision has not assisted them with closure. Worse, they had to face seeing photos of the dead body being insensitively published in an amateur paper. The editor of which has since been arrested and bailed. Has there been a press leak from the police investigating team? Has this jeopardise the process for a fair hearing? The Harte family intends to fight for justice, rightly so. Some hot-headed fans have started an electronic campaign to boycott Mauritian tourism. Former Miss Ireland Rosanna Davison is not part of the campaign, she will visit her favourite destination for Christmas and the New Year. PM Ramgoolam has promised new investigations with the help of foreign detectives. The body of the victim may be exhumed for post-mortem examinations.

In the meantime, it is the people working, studying and living in Ireland and the UK who have to be real ambassadors of the country.

Mauritius: Smuggling hub

Is Mauritius turning into a smuggling hot spot? Recently unearthed revelations by Kathy Lynn Austin of the NGO Conflict Awareness Project pose major concern to the Mauritian authorities. The international arms watchdog has revealed that illegal deals were carried out by the Russian underworld to provide arms to fighters in The Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Syria on whom there is a UN arms ban. In their last report the NGO exposes an illegal trade network in which may be involved imminent political personalities. There is now an international investigation involving Interpol and local agencies like ICAC, FSC and MRA to trace the dealings of a locally incorporated company by the name of Island Air System Ltd.

The CBI of India is also investigating some Mauritian connection on another illegal arms deal involving Abhishek Verma and the falsification of documents at the Board Of Investment. Is another high profile politician involved?

Let's hope that the nominations of Kailash Purryag as new President and Razack Peeroo as new Speaker bring some fresh air in this cordite smell of gunpowder!

Send us your opinions
and they will be published in the
Editors Forum subject to editorial
approval
[see pg 19]

editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS



Dallpuri Parlour

A number of venues today offer people to have a taste of the very common fast food. They are all round London: Tooting, Wood Green, Turnpike Lane, Walthamstow, Croydon, Upton Park. We can even get the famous 'Dallpuri Dewa' in frozen form!

The craze for typical Mauritian food has hit the high street in a bad way. There is a general proliferation of ethnic food on the shelves of our mainstream stores. Among the much sought out Asian food, the Mauritian Dallpuri is emerging as a front runner in fast food. It is delicious, cheap and healthy. A stop at the Mauritian Express in Tooting becomes a social occasion. People come with their family for a day out. It's like a carrefour where people meet up and exchange news and gossip. There are stores which sell other codiments like: achard, mazavaroo, piment confi, sirop, allouda etc. Apart from those who would sit and eat at the parlour, the place also caters for take aways. So, you have no worries of the catering hassle when you are hosting people for a wedding, a birthday or any party. They will provide for the snacks and main meals consisting of dallpuri, carri gros pois, rougaille and achard legume. Bonne appetit!



The Boodhoo-Crosby family would miss no opportunity to renew their homeland stock. After some dallpuri, catelesses and gateaux arouilles, Mr Crosby was looking for the 'brede chouchou' so dearly missed since their last visit to Mauritius. Mohammed who runs the carrefour, also has alouda lamousse, sirop dowlut and corn moutton watsonia. Mr Crosby told MN: "Having visited Mauritius for over 15 times, we are all very much hooked on the local food."



Accountant Neeraj Beeknoo who works for King's College Hospital in London, told us that he would always bring his wife and kids to savour the local specialities. While Mrs Beeknoo and the girls went for their usual girlie goodies at the Tooting market, Neeraj joined the queue for the family order.



Bibi Nawoor and Premnath Naiko pride themselves in cooking their dallpuri 'so-so' in front of the customers. The Chaska caters for the Mauritian and Indian communities in the Newham Borough. Premnath told MN: "We get a lot of Mauritians coming to eat from different parts of London. But we like to vary our food to satisfy other tastes. We are mostly busy with take away orders."

PROFILE

Deputy Commissioner of Police Seerungen at Washington Conference



Tangavel Seerungen was present at the plenary session of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. The Conference which was held from the 17th to 29th of June saw the presence of delegates from 60 countries.

The ACSS is a Department of Defence institution for strategic security studies and supports African states to promote civil-military cooperation, respect for democratic values and safeguard human rights.

The Conference addressed the burning issues of Piracy, Maritime Security, Electoral Security, Democratisation, Counter Narcotics and Organised Crimes. Nuvin Ramboruth of the PMO also attended the leadership conference.

MMM-PTr

The interrogations

Recent political negotiations and discussions seem to suggest that another MMM-PTr alliance is now imminent. Berenger told the press that his party and Ramgoolam are in agreement on almost all aspects of a programme to bring about constitutional and electoral reforms to set up a second Republic.

The crucial element of how much power should the new President hold is still to be defined. Should he preside over Cabinet meetings? Would he hold executive powers? Will he be more influential than the Prime Minister? Who controls the Police and Army? Decisive questions!

The agreement for electoral reform stems around the establishment of an 86 member National Assembly. 62 MLA's to be elected by ballots, 20 through the Party List and 4 by way of Best Loser System. The latter is option is where most of the controversies and divergence. In their previous coze cozer, Berenger and Ramgoolam were poles apart as to the compatibility of The BLS and a dose of PR.

Ramgoolam has made public, to please an ever popular leftist lobby, that he would do away with the declaration of community for those standing as candidates for elections. So, to complement the system he favours, Berenger is proposing that the Electoral Commissioner's office be responsible to declare the ethnic denomination of candidates. Can an institution of the state decide on who belongs to which community? What would the criteria be for such classification? Should this not rather be a subjective declaration rather than an objective ruling?

The elections are 'pas pour bientot' according to Ramgoolam. So there would be seemingly a working arrangement in the form of a coalition, use the 3/4 majority to vote on the constitutional reforms, get rid of PMSD and a few 'recalcitrants travaillistes', promote Berenger and his lieutenants into ministerial posts, share some of the quangos etc. Then what? Re-negotiate a pre-electoral alliance. Who would be partnering who? Once he has got his PR, would Berenger still want to be PM under a more powerful President in the person of Ramgoolam? Would there be some further coze cozer, would he find a new 'mon bon ami' or rather 'ti frere'? Or still, how would he resist the temptations of going alone in a 3-corner contest?

Only the future can tell...as did the Remake 2000!



Kailash Purryag, new President of the Republic of Mauritius

by AHMAD MACKY

Cabinet appoints new ambassadors

At the Cabinet Ministers meeting of July, Prime Minister Ramgoolam has recommended the appointment of three Ambassadors. Marie France Roussety is appointed as a Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles with residence in Mauritius. PM Ramgoolam has also recommended the appointment of Mrs Indira Savitree Thacoor-Sidaya and Mr Azad Dhoomun GOSK as Roving Ambassador for Africa with residence in Mauritius as announced in Budget Speech 2012.

A100 MEDICAL OFFICERS TO BE RECRUITED

The Ministry of Health & Quality of Life would shortly recruit about 100 Medical Officers under the Pre-Registration Training Schemes to combat the shortage of medical officers in our hospitals and other government health institution. Many medical officers in Mauritius recently have emigrated overseas for greener pastures.

Kailash Purryag, has been sworn as the new President of the Republic of Mauritius on July 21st July 2012 at Le Reduit in the presence of distinguished guests. We notice the presence of the PM Ramgoolam, his wife and other members of Parliament

Purryag has been a speaker of Mauritius Parliament for some years but could be replaced by a certain Razack Peeroo, an ex-Attorney General in the Labour government of Sir Seewoosugur Ramgoolam, the very first Prime Minister of the island.

It is to be recalled that Sir Anerood Jugnauth who used to be the President of the Republic of Mauritius had resigned from his post few months ago just to join active politics. Mr Jugnauth looks strong, able and willing to fight for according to him, the injustice and social problems facing his country.



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Agalega attracts India's naval interests



The waters of the Indian Ocean seem to be the fishing pond for emerging superpowers. After the US and UK's display of supremacy through the occupation of Diego Garcia, the French presence in La Reunion and Mayotte, it is now the avid interests of India on Agalega that is catching the eyes of international geopolitics observers.

The INS Savitri of the Indian Marine has been paying regular visits to Agalega, the dependent island of Mauritius. Recent revelations of the Times Of India suggest that there may be some agreement between the two countries as to the use of the island for defence purposes. There is world concern that there may be implications of national sovereignty. This has been vehemently denied by PM Ramgoolam and Arvind Boolell, Foreign Minister, when he met with Indian PM Manmohan Singh during his visit to the Indian subcontinent in July. The INS Savitri is having its second visit to Agalega in a month. This visit is being presented as part of the international campaign of war against maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean.

The Madogs of Diego



Gaston Valayden is on an international tour to promote his play 'The Madogs of Diego'. He was in the UK and Tunisia in search of promoters. Funding through local sources are either by the Ministry for Arts and Culture or the Corporate Social Responsibility agencies, both offering limited options.

This tragi-comedy was performed under its original name 'Les Chioumme' at the Port Louis Theatre Festival in 2005 by Trup Sapsiway. It won the Best Fringe Award at the San Francisco Fringe Festival in 2011.

The play which deals with the plight of Chagossian people focuses on one particular anecdote 'La Calorifere'. It puts into drama the fright of the exiled people when they saw their dogs being put to a chamber and burnt alive by british officers and plantation owners.

Gaston Valayden: "We wanted to express the sense of intense emotions felt by the exiled people. What were they to expect after the fate of their dogs, was it the beginning of their 'holocaust'?"

The Crawley Kids



It's coming to a decade since people from the Chagossian community left the suburbs of Port Louis for Crawley. President Allen Vincatassin told MN that the community will be commemorating this piece of history with festive events. There will be a Fancy Fair in August and other parties across that part of Sussex.

How is everybody settling? The beginning were hard years: the language, the culture, jobs, housing, welfare benefits, kids' schooling. Now the bulk of the community is very much settled within the mainstream. They are now equipped to face the same challenges of an enduring recession of the average citizen in the country.

Kids are at playgroups and primary and high schools. Some have accessed university courses. A few young men have followed the Football Academy at the local Crawley FC and promoted to senior position with a possibility of playing for Crystal Palace FC in the Championship.

"Most of us work at the Gatwick Airport doing any jobs available," Nathalie told MN. "We are very active with our Church every Sundays." One lady has started a noodles business. There are a few Salon de Coiffure. There is no shortage of musicians, bands and segatiers. So, well done you!

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The Emirates Air Line cable car Travel link connecting two world class destinations

by MYLENE, LONDON

"The Emirates Air Line is a stunning addition to London's transport network, providing a much needed new connection across the Thames. I am sure the Emirates Air Line is now set to be a must-see destination in its own right, giving people the chance to drink in breath-taking panoramic views. Crucially, the Emirates Air Line supports my ambitious plans to revive the neighbouring areas.....creating jobs for Londoners and stimulating growth," so said The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson at the unveiling of the UK's first ever urban cable car.

On the following day that those words were spoken, June 27th, I made my way to Greenwich North underground station to see for myself this brand new way to travel across the Thames. My first sight of the red, silver and black cars travelling at heights of 90 metres between two brand new terminals (Emirates Greenwich Peninsula by the O2 and Emirates Royal Docks beside the ExCeL conference centre) was spectacular. I could almost believe I was in a scenic mountain pass rather than a revitalised part of east London, an area that had been neglected for decades.



Marco Lamy

Approaching the terminal (it's all airport terminology here), polite uniformed staff are on hand to point passengers in the right direction to purchase boarding passes (tickets) or to ensure their oyster has enough money for the journey, in which case it's straight to the take-off platform where more staff are waiting. The cable cars arrive at a very slow pace, slow enough without stopping, to allow at least eight people to board, one at a time, before ascending towards the sky. From the cabin you get to see a spectacular bird's eye view of the capital city, taking in Canary Wharf, historic Greenwich, the Thames Barrier and the Olympic Park. It is a unique perspective of London. Emirates Air Line boasts a cable span of 1,100 metres with three soaring helix towers. The two newly constructed terminals connect two world class destinations, The O2 on the south side, with ExCeL on the north.

Convenience and accessibility has been one of the main focus point of this world class infrastructure sponsored by Emirates. Pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists can board one of the 34 cabins that come round every 30 seconds. With a capacity to carry up to 2,500 people per hour in each direction, it is the equivalent of 30 buses.

On the return journey, myself and my brother Marco, managed to get a cabin all to ourselves. I felt free to stand up and move around and take pictures when suddenly a voice came through a small speaker asking me to stay seated and to state that the inside of all cabins are monitored.

The Thames Cable Car gets my vote as a destination that must be seen by Mauritian family and friends when they visit London.

Marco was one of the first member of the public to step into the cable car, making him the first Mauritian to ride the Emirates Air Line cable car. He says, "I have crossed the Thames by bridge, boat and plane but my most memorable crossing is by the Emirates Airline Cable Car." Can't say better than that.

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Mylene's box

To build or not to build

There is a belief that if we stop building in London, we stop growth. The concept is that people tend to flock to thriving cities, therefore a growing population encourages the flow of talent, money and an international workforce.

We cannot fail to have noticed that the London skyline is dotted with cranes as construction companies turn design into structure. It is a tremendous achievement that weeks apart, two exciting and innovative structures have opened to the public.

The Shard of Glass, Europe's tallest skyscraper and The Emirates Air Line Cable Car. These two major new landmark in the capital send a message across the globe that London can attract serious investment, which in turn will help to accelerate the economy and boost employment. Those of us who complain of the inconvenience and nuisance of building sites across the capital, have to remember that a city starts dying when important industries no longer thrive and vital population move away. If this happened, we would be left with a desolate urban landscape of boarded up houses and businesses.

As the eyes of the world focus on our vibrant capital, these two great engineering achievements send a positive, optimistic message across the globe.



The Shard

A timeless reminder of the power of imagination to inspire change



The Shard, London - The Shard from Tower Bridge, photo courtesy of Sellar Property Group

Standing 309.6m (1,016ft) high on the capital's South Bank, the Shard is the tallest building in Western Europe providing 31.4 acres of space. Officially inaugurated on 5 July 2012 to mark the completion of the exterior of the building, the Shard has been described as a vertical city. On completion it will house high quality offices, world-renowned restaurants, the 5-star Shangri-La hotel and exclusive residential apartments inside its crystalline facade.

Like all London skyscrapers, The Shard quickly gained a nickname, which has since also become its formal name. This name came about during the planning stages when master architect, Renzo Piano described the development as a 'shard of glass' because each external facet of the building looks exactly like a fragment of glass.

The Shard is the highly visible face of London's newest commercial quarter, London Bridge Quarter. It is a key part of the continuing regeneration of the South Bank and is the result of a shared vision between The State of Qatar, Sellar Property Group and Renzo Piano. Fast becoming one of the most recognisable London Skyline silhouettes it boasts the capital's highest public viewing gallery with a 360° view of London stretching for over 40miles.

For a hefty sum of £24.95 you can travel by the latest high-speed 'kaleidoscopic', state-of-the-art lift to level 69 where London is laid out before you as a diverse tapestry capturing past, present and future before travelling to level 72, the highest level open to the public where you will have the experience of being exposed to the elements and the sounds of the city beneath. Or, you can wait until spring 2013 when the building is due to complete and all floors will be open to the public.



Misrepresentation of chocolate spread



by DEVINIA SOOKIA, USA

Kids enjoy hazelnut chocolate spread on toasts and in Sandwiches. They can have it morning and night, whether it is for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or for late night snacks. Mum's job becomes easier as well as she does not have to prepare complicated breakfasts and snacks. Hazelnut chocolate spread is sold worldwide but mostly in Europe, Canada and USA. It is known by the brand name of "Nutella" and manufactured by Italian confectioner "Ferrero". Older Americans may remember that Nutella was created in the 1940s in Italy. As cocoa was in short supply from World War II rationing, pastry maker Pietro Ferrero thought of stretching a small amount of cocoa by blending it with rich tasting hazelnuts which were plentiful in Italy. For more than 40 years Nutella spread on bread or toast was a popular quick breakfast in Europe. The product was then introduced in the United States in 1983, according to the company. In USA "Nutella" has been advertised as healthy and nutritious for a long time. The ads specify that the spread is made with skim milk and a hint of cocoa and is nutritious. Many mums have taken the adverts for granted and fed their kids with Nutella sandwiches for a long time. The fact that no inquiry was made regarding the statement about the healthy properties of the spread is beyond belief. The truth of the matter came to light when a mother from San Diego, California filed a lawsuit against Ferrero last year. Athena Hohenberg alleged that Nutella has been marketed as something "healthier than it actually is promote the chocolate spread as part of a "tasty yet balanced breakfast" when combined with milk, orange juice and whole wheat bread.

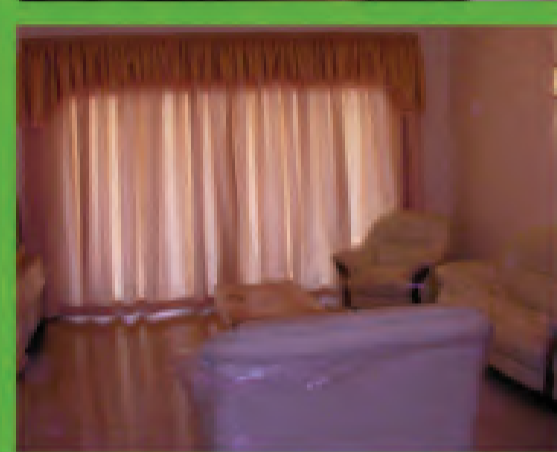
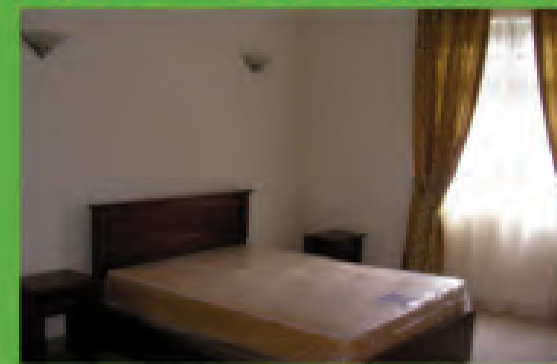
The California mom alleged in her legal complaint that she fed her 4 year old daughter Nutella after seeing ads that represented the spread as "nutritious" or a "healthy breakfast." But last December Hohenberg's perception changed when she learned from friends that Nutella was in fact not a 'healthy' or 'nutritious' food but in fact contained a lot of sugar and fat. She learned that the chocolate spread she has been feeding her husband and four-years-old daughter was full of sugar and fat. Nutella contains 21 grams of sugar per serving. It turns out the chocolate spread is just as bad as a bar of chocolate. The main ingredients listed on the label are sugar, palm oil, cocoa, hazelnuts and skimmed milk and it packs in 200 calories and 11 grams of fat per 2 tablespoons. The hint of cocoa and skim milk are last on the list.

This case was criticised by many but it was

accepted as a class action. As legal analyst Justine Flaherty pointed out, a change in California law in 2009 allowed class action lawsuits easier certification. Hohenberg's lawyer who was Ronald Marron and a veteran class action lawyer characterized Ferrero's advertising as misleading for claiming Nutella could be part of a "healthy breakfast." Ronald Marron said that there are certain health benefits associated with eating chocolate but not in this case. Ronald Marron and Hohenberg were not the only ones to question the Nutella marketing messages. Jennifer Harris, the director of marketing initiatives at the Rudd Center for Food Policy at Yale University which tracks food advertising, said her organization noticed the Nutella ads in question about six months ago. She stated that they seemed pretty outrageous. She also added that food companies highlight the positive aspects of their food but hide the bad things. Among other things Hohenberg asked the court to put a stop to Ferrero's marketing of Nutella as being "healthy," to ask the company to run further ads informing the public that Nutella is not healthy and to return money the company earned from any wrongful act or practice. This case is what would have been a case of "misrepresentation" in the United Kingdom. A misrepresentation is a statement of fact made which is untrue thus resulting in damage to the plaintiff if relied upon. Plaintiff can then sue for damages.

Nutella sold in USA comes from a plant in Brantford, Ontario, Canada. It expanded in 2010 because of growing sales of the spread. In USA Californians are the biggest consumers of Nutella. The headquarters of Ferrero located in North York declined to comment on the case. All of the decisions about the Nutella formula and advertising come out of the Toronto office. Recently there was a publicly statement that Ferrero had made a settlement out of court. Nutella the only chocolate spread that has its own world celebration day has lost a \$3 million class action lawsuit filed by a California mother shocked to discover it was not healthy. Consumers who purchased Nutella in California or any other state in USA between January and February 3 of 2008 are entitled to receive a refund of up to \$4. The refund applies only in USA not Canada. The company has also agreed to change its marketing campaign and will give more space on the jar for its nutrition label. Ferrero issued a statement, saying it stood by its product and its decision to settle the lawsuit was in the "best interests of the company."

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Poornima Day in East Ham



The Poornima Day (full moon) was celebrated on the 3rd of July by more than 300 devotees at the Shirdi Sai Temple of East Ham. This special day known as Guru Poornima, was first celebrated in 1908. Devotees perform the Guru Pooja, chant kirtans and bhajans and donate gifts.

Funeral announcement Rajoo Anseereeganoo



Sadly passed away on Monday 9th July 2012 aged 60 . Will be sadly missed by his wife, Rani , his sister Dhamee and his two brothers Bala and Dass
Deepest sympathies from Vishnu Sooboodoo and Kesso Ramsamy 's family

Ramadhan: The Iftar



by TOOFANY IBRAHIM

In the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims across the world observe Ramadhan, a period of fasting and other rituals designed to bring self-purification through self-restraint and other good deeds. The fasting begins at dawn and lasts until sunset, when observers break their fast with an evening meal called the Iftar. Iftar is taken when Adhan is called out by the muezzin just when the sun sets. The fast is traditionally broken by first consuming a date, but however in Southeast Asian countries where dates may not be as readily available, other sugary treats are often consumed. During the times of the holy Prophet Muhammad, he himself broke his fast with a combination of milk and dates.

This turned out to be a shrewd nutritional move. Upon breaking a fast, the body's immediate need is for an easily available energy source to raise low blood sugar levels. Glucose fits this bill perfectly, and dates are simply packed full of it – sugar comprises up to 70 per cent of the fruit and 1kg of dates is said to give the body 3,470 calories. Dates are also a good source of protein and minerals, such as potassium and magnesium, used for building muscles and tissue, and contain a rich source of vitamins.

However, in Mauritius this tradition has changed a lot. At Iftar a lot of cakes such as the samosa, croquette, milk and juices are prepared. This moment is mostly awaited by children and at the time the Adhan is called, it's a pleasure to see them enjoying the treats and it's also a moment for the family to gather and spend some nice time together. In addition, offering Iftar to others is highly recommended as the Prophet Muhammad said: "Whoever gives Iftar to one who is fasting will have a reward like his, without that detracting from the fasting person's reward in the slightest." In such a way, Iftar helps to avoid misery and encourage Muslims to help those near them and promote peace and harmony in the society.

Le Meritt ELIPSIS Condominiums in Trianon, Mauritius



Le Meritt Holdings Ltd established in 2007 has launched 'Le Meritt ELIPSIS' one of the most prominent Residential project in Trianon, Mauritius.

Since its inception, Le Meritt is highly regarded as one of the leading property development group in Mauritius due to its innovative and diversified projects brought by its dynamic partners Satori Investment from Singapore and LEAD Properties from Mauritius. The vision and driving force of its founding Directors are continuously bringing dynamism in the Mauritian real estate industry.

One of the main objectives of Le Meritt is to bring international development concepts and design to Mauritius and leave a worthy legacy by contributing positively to the development of the economy. Le Meritt sincerely believes that the best way to be at the forefront of the market is to secure the commitment of the most outstanding team of international and local professionals.

In 2009, Le Meritt has revolutionized the sector by launching Le Meritt GENESIS, the first international condominium project with integrated facilities (Mini Golf, Junior Olympic 25m Swimming Pool, Lounge Bar, etc) dedicated to Mauritians.

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Launched in a difficult period of the Mauritian economy, this high-rise residential project of 116 condominiums has triggered a massive response from the public by setting the record for the fastest selling project. The project is today fully sold and completed.

In 2011, Le Meritt surprised the industry by launching Le Meritt ELIPSIS, the largest property development project of Mauritius with five Towers comprising a total of 250 condominiums for Phase I. Le Meritt ELIPSIS stands out with its iconic elliptical design and emphasis on green architecture and innovation, such as its sky deck garden at the top of each tower. Its futuristic design with well-planned units has evoked countless headlines in the press and TV and triggered another buying sensation. The building is now under construction by a Grade A Contractor and targeted to be completed in 2014. The developer has several banks offering the best housing loans for the buyers. Le Meritt ELIPSIS is a fully secured gated project with 24/7 CCTV camera all around the compound and security personnel welcoming the residents and guest. As a contribution to Green Architecture, the project does rain water harvesting to be reused for irrigation, cross natural ventilation, solar panels to light up common lightings and propose a Green Roof Garden on top of each tower.

The project will comprise of common Club House with swimming pool, kids pool, jacuzzi, gym, landscaped garden and a Bar Lounge to be run by a professional offering breakfast, lunch and dinner facilities. Its location is amongst the best in the region as it is nearby the biggest Shopping Malls, best schools and medical facilities.

The Phase II comprising of a Commercial block and two residential Towers will be launched around September 2012.

Le Meritt is honoured and privileged to be an award-winning developer by receiving various Design and Development awards from the prestigious International Property Award (IPA) in London, 2010 and in Dubai, 2011. Le Meritt received in 2012 two other recognitions, the International Diamond Prize by the European Society for Quality Research in Rome and The International star for Leadership in Paris.

Le Meritt is the registered trademark of Le Meritt Holdings Ltd which has other upcoming innovative projects in the pipeline.

Mauritian duo star in Olympics Opening Ceremony



Two Mauritian best friends from England starred in the opening ceremony of the Olympics watched by billions of people across the globe on Friday night after four months of rehearsals.

Arshad Takun and Shazia Mowlabaccus performed at the Olympic Stadium on Friday (27) in the segment dedicated to the British National Health Service (NHS) and English children's literature after impressing judges at the auditions in December 2011. The segment featured the British born Mauritians dressed up as a doctor and nurse while completing a sequence involving hospital beds that lit up, children and dancing. Characters from children's books such as Mary Poppins, Captain Hook and Lord Voldemort from Harry Potter also appeared in the creative piece.

Arshad and Shazia, who met at Brunel University in London 10 years ago, have remained best friends and auditioned and performed together in front of 80,000 people in the Olympic Stadium. The audience included heads of states, British Royalty, VIP including America's First Lady Michelle Obama and celebrities, as well as sporting legends like Muhammed Ali. The Opening Ceremony was also watched by billions people around the world including Arshad's family in Curepipe and Quartier Militaire and Shazia's family from Port Louis and Petite Riviere.

Shazia Mowlabaccus from London said: "We had to dedicate a lot of time to rehearsals but it was definitely worth it. It was so exciting to be part of such a spectacular event, and was even more special to perform together. We met some great people and the memory will stay with us forever."

Arshad Takun from Essex said: Performing at this great event has been a truly amazing and a life-changing experience. Its been an honour to be part of our country's history and heritage through the NHS."

The pair worked with Oscar-winning artistic director of the ceremony Danny Boyle, who is best known for directing the film 'Slumdog Millionaire'. He attended the majority of the rehearsals and Shazia described him as "personable, down to earth and very supportive."

Arshad and Shazia also cheered on the Mauritian team as they walked into the stadium



TEAM MAURITIUS

MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI
Heather ARSETH	Fabrice COIFFIC	Richanno COLIN	Aurelie HALBWACHS	Annabelle LASCAR	Jason LAVIGILANTE
MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI	MRI
Christianne LEGENTIL	Noun Chin Elodie LI YUK LO	Giles MARQUET	Natacha RIGOBERT	Fabienne ST LOUIS	

The Maur... the Olym... London.



Natasha Rigobert

Second defeat in a row for Mauritian Beach-Volley team

Li Yuk Lo and Rigobert will get their next chance in pool play in a Wednesday matchup with the Germans Holtwick and Semmler. The Mauritian pair was defeated by the Czechs team comprised of Klapalova and Hajeckova on a score of 2-0. Li Yuk Lo and Rigobert was defeated in their Olympic opener Saturday by the Brazilian team of Juliana Silva and Larissa Franca, 21-5, 21-10.

		2-0		
KLAPALOVA.	HAJECKOVA.		RIGOBERT N	LI YUK LO.
		Sets		
		1	2	3
	KLAPALOVA. HAJECKOVA.	21	21	
		10	11	
		Duration	14m	14m
				RIGOBERT N LI YUK LO.

Results

Christiane Legentil 7th of the Judo women's under 52 kg

Christiane Legentil missed an opportunity to bring back home an Olympic bronze medal in London on Sunday, 29. The judoka born in Rodrigues took a respectable seventh place in the women's under 52 kg. Despite this seventh place, Joseph Mounawah, technical director of the Mauritius Judo Federation said he is satisfied with the performance of his athlete. "She deserved better, even a bronze medal."



Christiane Legentil and Joseph Mounawah

TEAM MAURITIUS TIMETABLE

Athletics

[Fabrice Coiffic & Anabelle Lascar]



Men's 100 m

4 August
10:00 100m Preliminaries (men)
12:30 100m Round 1

5 August
19:45 100m Semifinals
21:50 100m Final

Women's 800 m

8 August
11:35 800m Round 1
9 August
19:30 800m Semifinals
11 August
20:00 800m Final



Fabienne St Louis will compete in the Women Triathlon on the 4th August.

Aurelie Halbwachs

Women's Road Race Final, Road Race —DNF

Heather Arseth

Women's 200m Freestyle , Heat 1. Rank 4th in 2:07.81

Gilles Marquet

Men's 200m Freestyle 39th in 1:58.91

Team Mauritius supporters in Japan



Yoshihisa Uchida, Mauritius News reader in Japan, watching Team Mauritius on the Japanese Broadcasting TV during the opening ceremony. Mauritius has fans even in Japan. Hurray Mauritius!!!!

Mauritian delegation at Olympic Village in East

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GOVINDEN *AGENDA*

The Executive Committee of the M.T.M.S (U.K) invites all members and devotees to the religious function of GOVINDEN to be held for four Saturdays (22nd and 29th September, 6th and 13th October 2012). The first three Saturdays abhishegham will start at 6.30 pm and the poosai will start at 7.30 pm followed by the distribution of prasadam. The venue will be MURUGAN TEMPLE, 200 A, ARCHWAY ROAD, HIGHGATE, LONDON N6 5BA. The last Saturday 13.10.2012 abhishegham will start at 6.00 p.m prayers and bhajanum throughout the night at the basement floor of the temple.
All items of donations and flowers for the decoration of Lord KRISHNA should be brought to the Temple in the morning on Saturday the 14th October 2012. And may I appeal to all devotees wishing to donate their time for cooking and general help please arrive early on the day.
Donations: Cheques should be made payable to MAURITIUS TAMIL MAHA SANGAM (U.K) and sent to the treasurer Mr K.SAMINADEN 133 WOOLWICH ROAD GREENWICH LONDON SE 10 0RJ

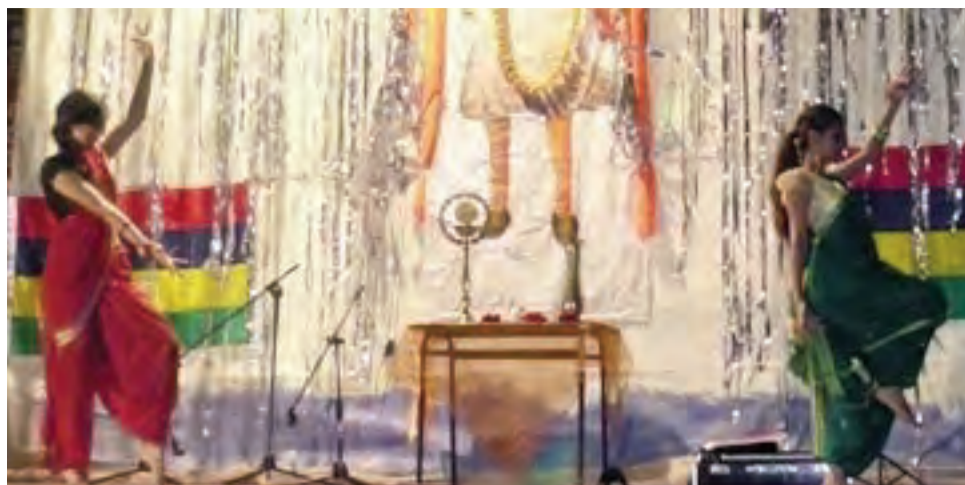
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The Mauritian Marathi Society celebrated Shivaji Day



by **SURESH GUNPUTRAO, LONDON**

The Mauritian Marathi Society(UK) celebrated Shivaji Day on 9th June in Palmers Green, North London. Different sections of the Hindu community came together to pay tribute to Chatrapati Shivaji and sing his praises.

Chatrapati Shivaji, a Marathi, made his Maharashtra his power base. However, celebrating his life and achievements should not be a "marathi thing". Shivaji rose against the Mughals to protect Hinduism, the faith he was born in, from destruction.

Our event on 9th June attracted a small crowd which we hope will be bettered next year. Those who helped with their physical and material contributions have our utmost gratitude.

MAURITIUS TAMIL MAHA SANGAM (U.K) CANJEE POOSAI

The Executive Committee of the M.T.M.S (U.K) invites all members and devotees to the religious function of CANJEE POOSAI to be held on Sunday the 5th August 2012. Abishegham will start at 10.30 am for Ammen and the poosai will start at 11.30 am followed by the distribution of canjee. The venue will be MURUGAN TEMPLE, 200 A, ARCHWAY ROAD, HIGHGATE, LONDON N6 5BA.

Donations will be most welcome, in particular we would like to receive the following items which are essential for the CANJEE POOSAI: Rice, Oil, Onions, Spinach, Yogurt, Milk, Flour, Flowers.

All items of donations should be brought to the Temple early on Sunday the 5th AUGUST 2012. And may I appeal to all devotees wishing to donate their time for cooking and general help please arrive early on the day.

Please kindly contact any members of the Executive Committee for your donations.
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The Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks, Honorary President of the Association & Fr. Terry Donnelly CSSp Chaplain of the Association.

A social gathering in Church Hall (next to the Church) after Mass Drinks and Mauritian snacks will be available. Consuming food and drinks not purchased at this social defeats the charitable spirit and objectives of today's event. Please be as generous as you can by buying items on sale

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PRIZE DRAW

Results

1st prize Return ticket to Lourdes Pilgrimage, France
2nd prize £25 meal voucher for Port-Louis Bar, Totemham, London
3rd prize £25 meal voucher for Mauritius Bar, Norbury, London

Names and winning numbers

1st Prize

Name: Karen Lewis - Number: 0257

2nd Prize

Name: Alvin Adaken - Number: 0085

3rd Prize

Name: Michael Crainger - Number 0431

4th Prize

Name: Karen Lewis - Number: 2060

5th Prize

Name: Patrick Payen - Number: 0020

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Mauritian Reminiscences

Colonial Mauritius hosted a third official princely visit 85 years ago



From left to right (in the foreground) : the Duke of York (left) in the company of Paul Langlois, commissioner of the Mauritius Turf Club, and the Duchess exchanging a few words with Hon. Maurice Martin, president of the Mauritius Jockey Club, during the horse race contests held on 1st June 1927. (Courtesy: La Société de l'Histoire de l'île Maurice).

by DODO, MAURITIUS

In a little less than sixty years, from 1870 to 1927, colonial Mauritius was gratified with three royal visits. During the first one, in 1870, Mauritius welcomed H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred, the second son of Queen Victoria who reached the island on board the HMS Galathea on 24 May. The next royal visitors, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, came on board the HMS Ophir in August 1901.

Then came in June 1927, on board the HMS Renown "the Duke and Duchess of York, the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, parents of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II." (1) They had graciously accepted "to stop for 2 days in Mauritius on their way from Australia where they had opened the Parliament." (Ibid)

Drawing an analogy with the princely visit of 1901, historian Auguste Toussaint stated that "la troisième visite princière que recut la colonie en 1927 donna lieu à des fêtes encore plus éclatantes que celles qui avaient marqué la précédente en 1901." (2) The princely visitors were « le fils cadet du Roi George V et son épouse – le Duc et la Duchesse de Cornouailles et d'York. » (Ibid) They landed at 11.30 a.m. from the « Renown, l'une des plus belles unités de la flotte britannique. » (Ibid) Port Louis city had been dressed in her best to welcome the princely couple as this was related in the press by Solange: "La capitale, métamorphosée, miroitante, flambait jour et nuit dans une orgie de couleurs. Ce n'était partout que fleurs et verdure, oriflammes, et drapeaux claquant au vent, guirlandes d'ampoules multicolores qui, le soir venu, fleurissaient l'espace de corolles lumineuses, et suspendaient dans l'air des bouquets de fruits bleus, pourpres ou verts. Ça et là, de somptueux arcs de triomphe, dont les fragiles piliers de mousse s'étoilaient de roses, de lys, de camélias, de pâquerettes, et au fronton desquels s'inscrivaient de respectueuses formules de bienvenue, qui scintillaient, la nuit, en lettres de feu. Alors sous sa rutilante livrée d'apparat, on eut dit une ville enchantée des Mille et une Nuits

Et que dire quand, le soleil disparu, surgissait cette grande magicienne qu'est l'électricité ? C'était alors une éblouissante vision de chimère et de rêve, un spectacle unique de féerie, une page étourdissante de Perrault, ou l'étrénel conteur eut prodigué plus riches trésors de son imagination... » (3)

En effet, « le soir la ville fut brillamment illuminée » et, pour en ajouter à l'éclat, « des feux d'artifice furent tirés au Champ-de-Mars et sur la Petite Montagne. » (2)

Driven in a limousine amidst bursting enthusiasm and euphoria

Everything was arranged on the quay to welcome the princely couple.

"Sur le quai, trois grands pavillons sont aménagés. Dans le premier, tout contre le Chien-de-Plomb, se tiendront le Gouverneur et sa famille, les hautes autorités militaires, civiles et religieuses, les grands officiels, les députés. Les deux autres pavillons, situés un peu en arrière et à angle droit du premier, sont occupés par les invités du Comité de Réception. » (3) At 10 a.m. sharp, the Governor, Sir Herbert Read, and his delegation arrived on the « Renown » to welcome the Duke and the Duchess. At 11.10. a.m., the delegation came down the ship, and at 11.20. a.m. the royal visitors appeared on the scene. The princely couple was welcomed as they set foot ashore by a salvo of 21 gunshots and the

enthusiastic acclamations of the crowd and the sounds of joyful music. Solange became lyrical as she recalled the moments the Duke and the Duchess first blessed the Mauritian soil with their royal footsteps: "Qui n'a point entendu les acclamations enthousiastes du peuple, ses hurrahs frénétiques, la salve impressionnante de 21 coups de canons, au moment solennel où leurs Altesses mirent pied à terre, et les éclats joyeux des fanfares ; qui n'a point vu, surtout, assis au fond de l'auto princière, un jeune homme svelte et finement racé, portant avec une souriante simplicité la grandeur de sa naissance et de son rang ; à côté de lui, une exquise jeune femme, rayonnante de grâce souveraine, auréolée du double prestige que confèrent la beauté et le lustre d'une couronne ducale, celui-là, dis-je, ne peut comprendre l'émotion qui, en ce jour mémorable, étreint l'âme mauricienne. » (3)

Writing upon information supplied by Rex Fanchette some forty-five years later about the enthusiastic welcome the couple obtained in Port-Louis, Mauritius Times correspondent Kamen Ragoonaden confirmed: "Mauritius went heart and soul for the young royal couple. As they were driven along the streets of Port Louis and around the Champ de Mars, thousands of people, men, women and children waved their Union Jack and shouted "Long Live the Duke and the Duchess!" And the royal couple graciously waved their hands and smiled back to the huge crowd who had come from the four corners of the Island, to express their joy." (1) The number of people who turned out in Port Louis on that day could have reached a third of the population of the island. "D'après une statistique officielle, 35,000 se rendirent au Port-Louis le 1er juin pour assister aux fêtes de jour et de nuit. En estimant au double de ce chiffre le nombre de ceux qui étaient déjà dans la capitale ou qui s'y rendirent en autos et autocars on peut conclure qu'un tiers environ de la population générale de la colonie se trouvait ce jour-là dans la capitale. » (2)

Calling at Government House: welcome speeches and princely reply

The royal visitors were driven to Government House in a Vauxhall specially ordered for the occasion. "LL. AA.RR., prenant place dans la voiture Vauxhall commandée à leur intention, font un parcours triomphal à travers Port-Louis, par les rues Moka, Jemmapes, St Georges, Labourdonnais, Pope Hennessy, Desforges, de l'Eglise et Farquhar pour rentrer à l'Hôtel du Gouvernement qu'elles atteignent à 11.13... Le Duc et la Duchesse prennent place sous le dais érigé au centre du grand balcon de l'Hôtel du Gouvernement » (3) Welcome speeches were pronounced by Sir Henry Leclézio, Chairman of the Reception Committee, and Mr. Alfred Gellé, Mayor of Port Louis. Sir Henry Leclézio laid stress on the unanimous welcome that was given to the Duke and the Duchess and that cut across all the communities living on the island: "This Committee is composed of representatives of all sections of the Community – from the descendants of the founders of the Colony, who came from France in the 18th century and formed the nucleus of the population, to those of the immigrants from India who have made their home of Mauritius and including persons who have come from other countries either to trade or to settle in this Island. The opinions and aspirations of the several sections of the population may differ on questions of local interest, but they are all in union in their attachment and loyalty to Their Majesties the King and Queen and to the Royal Family." (3)

The Mayor of Port Louis also welcomed the princely couple and, as Sir Henry Leclézio, referred to the visit paid in 1901 by their parents. "We earnestly hope Your Royal Highness will enjoy your stay, brief as it will be, in our small island, and I beg to assure Your Royal Highnesses that nowhere, a warmer, more cordial and more sincere welcome awaits You than in Mauritius, this distant, yet plucky, little outpost of the Empire so full still of the pleasant memories of the visit of Your August Parents, their Gracious Majesty, then like You, Duke and Duchess of York, of whom it is our pride to be the loyal and dutiful subjects." (Ibid)

The Duke then took the floor for his discourse. He thanked the President of the reception committee and the mayor of Port-Louis for their kind words of welcome and was particularly thankful for the allusions made to the royal visit of 1901. "Je vous remercie particulièrement de vos allusions à la visite faite par le Roi et la Reine, il y a vingt-six ans. Leurs Majestés conservent les plus heureux souvenirs de ce très intéressant séjour et des nombreuses bontés qu'elles ont reçues ici. Elles s'intéresseront toujours, de la façon la plus vive à votre bien-être et à votre avancement. » (Ibid) The Duke promised that they would always defend the interests of the colony and rejoiced of the friendly relations that had developed between Britain and France:

"Cette île demeurera toujours inséparable du souvenir d'engagements navals, également glorieux pour les combattants de l'une et de l'autre escadres. Je me réjouis de penser que ces rivaux séculaires, la Grande-Bretagne et la France, sont maintenant réunies dans les liens d'une ferme amitié et que, grâce à leur coopération et à leur alliance, la plus grande guerre de tous les temps s'est terminée par la victoire de la Liberté et du Droit. » (Ibid)

Attending horse-racing at the Champ de Mars

After Government House, the Duke and the Duchess were invited to attend horse-racing at the Champ de Mars and were duly welcomed by the Mauritius Turf Club: "The Mauritius Turf Club accounts it a most signal privilege to be permitted to present this cordial and loyal Address and Greeting... We will ever recollect with pride and gratitude the response made by YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES to our invitation to visit our racecourse in Port Louis and to grace with Your Presence the races organized in Your Honour in conjunction between the Mauritius Jockey Club and ourselves. We are greatly touched by Your graciously consenting to hand the trophies of victory to those of our sportsmen who will be favoured in what may, with special appropriateness at do-day's historic meeting, be called the "Sport of King". » (Ibid)

As a matter of fact, the horse-racing events of the 1st June 1927 have been well noted in the Mauritian annals. "Une foule mondaine, qui n'eut pas été déplacée à Longchamp ou à Epsom, se pressait dans les tribunes nouvellement construites tandis qu'une multitude évaluée à 75,000 personnes couvrait le Champ-de-Mars qui offrait un coup d'œil splendide, unique au monde, déclara même un membre du cortège ducal. Le Duc et la Duchesse assistèrent à toutes les courses et ne quittèrent le Champ-de-Mars que vers 4 heures et demie de l'après-midi pour se rendre au Réduit. » (2) It is noteworthy that in a letter dated 2nd June, signed by the Private Secretary of the Duke and addressed to the president of the Mauritius Turf Club, J.A. Duclos, was sent from the H.M.S. Renown, to convey the warm thanks of the princely couple for the time spent at the Champ-de-Mars race-course: "I am desired by the Duke of York to convey to you an expression of His Royal Highness's warm thanks for so kindly arranging the race meeting yesterday. The Duke and the Duchess greatly enjoyed the afternoon racing which afforded so excellent an opportunity of their meeting and seeing so large a number of the inhabitants of Mauritius which they sincerely appreciated." (3)

A magical and nostalgic night at the Governor's residence

Still carried by her lyrical style, Solange described the atmosphere at the Governor's residence with passion: "L'atmosphère est capiteuse, des propos se croisent, des rires festifs, des robes de fées, des robes de reines étincellent tous les lustres en cascades irisées. Enfin, là-bas, sur le velours rouge de l'estrade, apparaît le couple princier, et toute l'assistance, respectueuse et émue, défile, s'inclinant en de profondes révérences. Puis, grisés de musique, les couples tournoient... Ce fut une soirée unique de magie, Et dont nous garderons toujours la nostalgie,

peut-on dire avec Rostand. » (Ibid) The participation of the princely couple in the dancing party at Le Réduit was naturally reported in the press. "A 21hres 30, grande réception au château du Réduit. LL. AA. RR. voulurent bien donner le signal de la danse. Au cours de la soirée, le Duc a pris à danser Mmes Maurice de Pitray et Pierre Hugnin, ainsi que Mlle Rey, fille de M. Aristide Rey et de Mme, née de la Hogue. La Duchesse voulut bien danser avec MM. Pierre Hugnin et Maurice de Pitray » (4)

A charming incident occurring while the banquet was in full swing at the Governor's residence, was reported in the press: "A table, mercredi soir, au Château du Réduit. Brusquement, la lumière électrique s'éteint. Son absence se prolonge. Le Duc d'York, tirant un briquet de sa poche fait jaillir une flamme, en s'écriant gaiement, en français : »Et d'une ! » M. Eugène Serret, juge à la Cour Suprême, également porteur d'un briquet (désormais on ne dînera plus en ville sans son briquet) imite le geste princier en s'écriant à son tour : « Et de deux ! » Et au milieu des rires que dominait gentiment celui de la duchesse, clair et frais comme un gazouillis d'oiseau, on mangea à la lueur des deux briquets, en attendant les flambeaux. » (Ibid)

Hunting and lunch at Bois Antelme and tree-planting at Victory Square

The following day, after a royal lunch offered to their Majesties in the green and poetical Antelme Wood, the Duchess moved to Pamplemousses Botanical Gardens where "en souvenir de son passage ici, elle plante deux pins au Square de la Victoire." (Ibid) It is noteworthy that "31 years later, in 1958, the Duchess, by then the Queen Mother, revisited the Gardens and was shown the tree." (1) However, before proceeding to the lunch at Plaine Noël and to Pamplemousses Gardens, the Duchess had attended a function at the town hall of Curepipe through the initiative of Mrs Roger Pezzani "pour y recevoir le merveilleux album offert par les dames des Plaines Wilhems." (4) The Duchess was accompanied by Lady and Miss Read, and "l'honorable Mrs Gilmour, sa dame d'honneur." (Ibid)

Prior to the lunch at Antelme Wood at Plaine Noël, the Duke had participated in a hunting party organized there. "The climax was certainly the 'chasse' at Plaine Noël... The hunt was a big success. The weather was fine; 23 stags were shot and His Royal Highness wounded a splendid red deer." (1) The gun used was a "Savage 300". (5) The lunch following the hunting party was quite a memorable one. "Ce fut le dernier émerveillement et non le moindre. 350 couverts. Décoration d'un merveilleux gout artistique, et dont M. Fernand Bijoux fut le génial artisan. Particulièrement remarqué, le chemin de table de la table d'honneur, constitué par un ruisseau de fleurs, rehaussé de spécimens de tous nos oiseaux de cru, d'une naturalisation frappante de vérité et de naturel. » (6) The menu of the day consisted of « langue fourrée et palmiste, chaud froid de pintade, dindon, jambon et salade », the dessert of « plombière et friandises » and the drinks of « vin blanc, vin rouge et champagne. » (5)

"The darling couple » leaving for home on 3rd June

After the short but sweet visit, the princely couple took leave of the tiny but big-hearted island. "A little after midnight, in fact early morning on 3rd June, the Royal Visitors, the darling couple of Mauritius, left for home on board H.M.S. Renown." (1) However, in March 1958, the Duchess (who had become Queen Mother in the meantime after the accession of her daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to the throne in 1952) walked once more on the Mauritian soil. But this arrival had nothing official. "The stay of the Queen Mother in March 1958 was unscheduled. The Queen's plane on which she was travelling from Australia was forced to land in Mauritius." (Ibid) Albeit, during this unscheduled visit, "the Queen Mother revisited the Botanical Garden and was shown the tree" that she had planted on her 1927 visit, a little more than thirty years earlier.

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ROLYWOOD GOSSIPS

B-Town mourns the death of its first superstar



by MITHILA SEEBALUCK, LONDON

Rajesh Khanna passed away on 18th July with his wife Dimple Kapadia, daughters Twinkle and Rinke, son in law Akshay Kumar by his side. He died at his home Ashirwad after suspected liver problems. In his career spanning over more than five decades, the actor featured in about 160 films, debuting in 'Akhri Khat'. With ever-green songs such as 'Mere sapnon ki rani', 'kahin door jab din dhal jaaye', 'Yeh sham mastani', the actor became known as the king of Romance. Summarising the phenomenon that he was, actor Anupam Kher said that "he gave us a crash course in romance".

Rajesh Khanna has been a big name in the Indian cinema of the 70's and 80's. He started his acting career in "Aakhri Khat" in 1967. But it was between 1970 and 1975 that he came to fame with hits like "Araadhna", "Namak Haraam", "Do Raasteh" and won the Best Actor Filmfare

Award in "Sachaa Jutha" – 1971, "Anand" – 1972 and "Avishkaar" – 1975.

He struck a flourishing working partnership with Kishore Kumar who would perform his playback songs. He has played along top heroines like Sharmilla Tagore, Asha Parekh, Mumtaz, Babita and Hema Malini. He married actress Dimple Kapadia in 1973. They have 2 daughters, both in the cinema industry. Rajesh Khanna became a Member of Parliament between 1991 and 1996.

He left millions of mourning fans when he died on 17th of July of kidney and liver troubles. The Indian nation bid him farewell on 19th July. The legend would probably have said ' Babumoshai, zindagi aur maut upar wale ke haanth mein hain jahan pana, yeh na to aap badal sakte hain na main!'

The Review

Cocktail



Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone and Diana Penty

If anyone's name would be taken after the Guru of Romance, Yash Chopra, then it is that of Imtiaz Ali. This Imtiaz who has directed movies such as Jab we met and Love Aaj Kal and most recently Rockstar, never fails to satisfy his audience when it comes to romance. A keen observer of heartache and manners of beautiful people in big cities, Ali functions as co-writer in Cocktail. He creates a love-triangle that references the oeuvre of Aditya Chopra-Karan Johar of the 80s and 90s (foreign locales, superior Indian values, decadent western lifestyle) and yet feels new.

It helps that the material is directed by Homi Adajania, whose first film Being Cyrus was a dark, twisted look at a dysfunctional Parsi family. Homi keeps it crisp. He restrains the melodrama, until the last half hour at which emotions do its peak and go crazy. The plot gets needlessly intricate, and the actors — Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone and Diana Penty — bite into their roles. Cocktail is a fun, romantic romp.

To discover this, you must get through the painfully slow first twenty minutes which sees Saif reprise his role of urbane, enticing rogue called Gautam whilst Deepika dons that of a party-girl – Veronica, who dances on bar tops in minimal clothing and finally debutante Diana Penty as Meera, the fresh off the boat desi -girl who wears salwaar- kameez can cook and even prays. The three become friends, start living together and enjoy the urban city life. This typical bollywood love triangle gets unconventional when Gautam and Veronica start

having casual sex and the latter even raves about how good he is in bed.

Twist in the story occurs when Gautam's mother, played by the amazing Dimple Kapadia arrives unannounced and mistakes Meera for her prospective daughter-in law.

The polarity between Meera and Veronica is superficial and oddly-old fashioned. Veronica says stuff such as "I'm a rich bitch" which makes you twitch and go eeeee! Imtiaz and his co-writer Sajid Ali mixes these clichés with dialogue and texture. So when Veronica asks Meera to stay with her, she says, "Everything that's in the house is on the house." And, at one point, Gautam declares, "Tum lonely ho aur main characterless."

The writing is enhanced by the performances. The highlight is Deepika's effort at moving away from her usual statuesque mannequin pose and gets to the nitty-gritty bit of her character which is filled with raw emotions and fulfils the requirement of a needy poor little rich girl. This is by far her best performance till date. Saif is an old hand at these sorts of roles but still manages to cast his charm and makes the girls go all hoo-haa! Diana is saddled with the most colourless character but she infuses her role with a quiet poise and holds her own.

Let's just say this Cocktail is a very fizzy one!

Big B & Bebo sharing screen space after 8 longs years

Last seen together on celluloid in Dev in 2004, Kareena Kapoor and Amitabh Bachchan will finally come together in Prakash Jha's next – 'Satyagrah', starring Ajay Devgan in the main lead. Kareena will be playing the latter's ladylove whilst Big B plays that of his mentor. Apparently Kareena's character will perhaps be one of the most powerful leading ladies of Hindi cinema. Looking forward to this one!



Esha Deol ties the knot

This month we saw yet another one of our leading ladies tying the knot. Esha Deol wed long-time boyfriend businessman Bharat Takhtani. The traditional south-Indian ceremony was held at the Iskon temple in the suburbs of Juhu. The temple was heavily decorated with flowers and the ladies all draped in rich kanjivaram sarees. Mother of the bride, Hema Malini was elated that her daughter has settled down with the right guy whilst papa Dharmendra got annoyed when asked about the absence of Esha's step-brothers Sunny and Bobby at the wedding. This star studded wedding saw celebrities such as Rani Mukherjee, Big B and Vinod Khanna coming to bless the bride and groom. Our best wishes to this lovely couple!



Wrestler-Actor Dara Singh passes away

Singh who won the world wrestling championship in 1960 turned actor and acted in several Bollywood movies and Indian serials. He shot to fame when he played the role of the demigod Hanuman in the television adaptation of the Hindu epic Ramayana. He served as a member of the parliament when he was appointed to the Rajya Sabha from 2003-2009. He died on 12th July at his home in Mumbai aged 83 years old.

Middle-class dreams come true

Huma Qureshi is the new babe on the block! What if your first film never takes off, you still have five in your kitty! This newcomer not only gets complimented from Shah Rukh Khan and Amir Khan but she also gets to walk the red carpet at the 65th Cannes Film Festival. Things started taking a turn for the better the moment Anurag Kashyap pencilled her in for his Gangs of Wasseypur. The latter is a sprawling saga about the coal mining mafia in Bihar but this debutante manages to shine through and has got filmmakers swearing by her talent already. Way to go Miss Qureshi!

It's a cut cut cut for Jism 2

Pooja Bhatt's Jism 2 runs into trouble as the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC) all love making scenes to be diluted by at least 50% each. The board is unhappy with the bold love making scenes. This movie marks the debut of Sunny Leone in Bollywood and also stars Randeep Hooda and Arunodhaya Singh in the male leads. A senior member of the CBFC commented that the problem is not the number of love making scenes; it is rather its length. The scenes need to be 'cut' so that their impact is diluted. It remains to be seen whether Pooja decides to abide by the rules or as she has let heard, the movie might receive an online release.

The Dark Knight Rises

by MITHILA SEEBALUCK, LONDON

Before reading the review please have a look at the cast. Then think, 'can anyone go wrong with this cast?' Now think in Capital Letters. CAN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN GO WRONG WITH THIS CAST? Nolan has got the crème de la crème of Hollywood to work with and half his battle was won before it began. And the good thing is that his actors haven't disappointed.

The Dark Knight Rises is a magnificent film and I am not using that word casually! Steven Nolan has created a dark, genuinely frightening grand finale to his Batman trilogy. In his hands, this comic book material becomes something else. A thing of horror, beauty and epic scale. I don't remember the last time I felt so many emotions in one movie. I cried, I clapped with delight, got goose bumps and yet there were even snatches of boredom!

The Dark Knight Rises begins eight years after the Dark Knight ends. Batman falsely disgraced as the murderer of district attorney Harvey Dent has vanished. Commenting on batman's character, Nolan said "We see him at his lowest point, physically and mentally. He is suffering from the consequences of his choices he made at the end of the Dark Knight. He is somebody who's become more reclusive than he's ever been in his life before. He's remorseful. And batman has disappeared".

The upside is that the strict laws passed after Dent's death have kept Copen city crime-free and peaceful until now. There is a new villain in town, Bane, a hulk of a man who also wears a mask. Anne Hathaway describes the new baddie as "cool" and also comments that Bane is scarier as

he has an ideology and not only does evil because he wants to but because he feels it is necessary. The actress herself plays catwoman in the film. She masters this very believable psychological characterisation of a con woman but at the same time does not fail to project the iconic image of the cat woman with the amazing costume.

These men and women must come together as Bane unleashes. All comic book villains want to destroy the world but Nolan's genius is that he invests the scenario with real urgency and emotion. Nothing feels false about this city, its people and the few good men who protect it or the horrifically dangerous ones who want to destroy it. Nolan and his co-writers impeccably blend fantasy into contemporary reality. They bring to life the things we fear most, economic meltdown, terrorism, civil anarchy and they do this so effectively that it seems perfectly normal to have a man in a bat suit or a woman in a cat suit.

So you're probably wondering where I got bored. The Dark Knight Rises start slowly after a sensation mid-air opening sequence, the first hour is all set up. A lot happens but you can't always connect the dots. I started to get restless. You might also but let me assure you all the furious plotting builds up to a sensational second half and an absolutely staggering climax.

Let me also warn you that The Dark Knight Rises is not a fun popcorn movie. It does not allow you to stretch or sends a few texts in the meanwhile but Nolan wants to engage you and disturb you deeply! The Dark Knight Rises is spectacular, go and get your ticket now!



Shooting at The Dark Knight Rises screening

Twelve lives lost and atleast fifty injured! This tragedy occurred when a mask-wearing gunman opened fire in a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado at a midnight screening of 'The Dark Knight Rises'. News of the meaningless shooting spree went viral when many stars shared their sadness and condolences for the victims' families and friends on Twitter. Actress Alyssa Milano wrote "No. Colorado shooting. My heart aches. Prayers for the victims

President's brother to make a debut in Anti-Obama Documentary



It's Nairobi, Kenya and living in a hut which seems like 'something like out of slumdog millionaire' as per Dinesh D'Souza, is the abode of George Obama. D'Souza who is the author of 'The Roots of Obama's rage intrigued tracks him down and interviewed him for the film 2016: Obama's America. This 30 year old is the youngest of the several children that Barack Obama Sr. had with his four wives. In the clip published by the , D'Souza asks George Obama why the half-brother of the most powerful man on the planet lives in poverty. The president's half-brother refuses to criticise him.

Newly single-dad Tom Cruise wants a normal life for daughter Suri



Despite living in the public eye, Tom Cruise wants daughter Suri to have a childhood as any other child would do. After his divorce with Katie Holmes was finalised, Tom arrived in New York to meet his daughter. The actor is said to want to maintain a meaningful relationship with her daughter though the circumstances might be difficult. He also stated that he shall regularly be in touch with her through the phone and little Suri will be visiting him on the sets when she's not in school.

Love is in the air!



Hollywood's latest lovebirds are none other than the 'blood-sucking' sucking duo, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart. Love-smitten, the pair who shot to fame with the Twilight series has been secluded to the confines of their home by their fame. A close source to the couple reported that the couple are deeply in love with each other but also prefer to spend time and get cosy at home. Best wishes to this lovely couple!

Miley Cyrus : Starving herself due to the paparazzi?

Miley has had to defend her from those who commented that her skinny frame is a bit too thin. Here's what Cyrus, 19, tweeted on Friday July 20th as to why she does not always eat : "thinking about eating Ziggy's dog food I'm so hungry. But I'm stuck in this hotel like friggen Rapunzel cuz of the soul suckers on the street." It seems paparazzi pressure is proving a little bit too hard for this youngster. Now we just wish that Miley gets back to her normal self and we don't want to see her any skinnier!



Mariah Carey may be close to signing a \$17 Million deal with American Idol

After the upheaval the judges table on the sets of Indian Idol, FOX has been scrambling to find high profile replacements for Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler. There have been several speculations as to the list of names been taken into consideration but the latest report reveals that one person is close to being official: Mariah Carey. Carey would reportedly receive a record-breaking salary of \$17 Million for the singing competition's season.

FUN ZONE

TRAVEL WORDS SEARCH

E M P T X T L Y E R S V L D P T
 L M D L H S C C G O U I B E C R
 Y O O G A N G R A C U H S S V A
 R A I V E N U U U T D F X T I I
 Y L D R E C E I G A U C S I P N
 F R R I T R W S N O Q I U N A B
 Q U T N L I S E A B A T B A S K
 C U E N O O C E L L R Y P T S Q
 R Y J D U I H K A G R L Q I E F
 Q W T S T O T B E S I W Y O N U
 T R A P E D C A E T V U D N G F
 I S L A N D H T C A E A I P E B
 Q G Q N T T C Q G A C B A W R X
 B K Q B Q N W Z H V V H O B S U

Try our travel word search puzzle and have fun finding a range of travel related words such as vacation, beach, train, destination and flight. Search horizontally, vertically and diagonally for all 20 words, put your skills to the test and see how many you can find!



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BUS	CITY	COUNTRY
CRUISE	CURRENCY	DEPART
DESTINATION	FLIGHT	HOLIDAY
ISLAND	LANGUAGE	OVERSEAS
PASSENGER	PLANE	TICKET
TRAIN	VACATION	

	4			9	3			6
		5				4	2	
	1	8	2	5				
9					1			8
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	5			7	2			
4			1	6				2
2						8	1	4

SUDOKU

Tout savoir sur la banane



by ROBERT FABRE

La banane est à la fois un fruit et un légume. Elle se consomme cuite quand elle est verte. Elle est composée alors de 20% d'amidon. Lorsqu'elle mûrit, cet amidon se transforme en sucre et elle revêt une belle couleur jaune.

Très digeste, c'est un des premiers fruits qu'on peut introduire dans l'alimentation des tout petits.

De par sa teneur en beta carotène, en vitamines du groupe B, en magnésium et surtout riche en potassium, la banane, est un fruit idéal pour les sportifs. Le diabétique peut en consommer avec modération, de préférence celle qui n'est pas trop mure.

En Inde, la banane est aussi connue comme, ' le fruit du paradis '. Symboles de pureté, la banane et le noix de coco, sont toujours présentes, en offrande, aux différentes divinités. Les repas traditionnels sont, du reste, servis dans des feuilles de banane. Ces traditions sont, jalousement, sauvegardées par la diaspora indienne de par le monde, y compris l'île Maurice.

Le Bananier
 Contrairement à ce qu'on l'on pense, le bananier dans le monde n'est pas un arbre, mais une grande herbe. Il n'a pas de tronc mais possède un stipe. Ses feuilles s'emboîtent les unes dans les autres pour former le pseudo-tronc. On peut imaginer le bananier comme étant un gigantesque poireau qui produit des fruits. Ayant atteint sa maturité, au bout de 7 mois, le bananier produira au sommet de sa tige une inflorescence. Cette inflorescence, en forme de cœur, porte à sa base les fleurs femelles qui se transformeront en régime de bananes. A noter que les bananiers se reproduisent par la formation de nouvelles souches à partir de ses racines. Après avoir offert ses fruits le bananier meurt.

A savoir que les fibres du bananier entre dans la fabrication de nombreux produits. A titre d'exemples, on peut citer l'emballage pour la cuisson des aliments et le chanvre de Manille connu aussi comme l'abaca.

La Production
 Cultivée dans plus de 120 pays sur une superficie de 10 millions d'hectares, la production de la banane avoisine quelque

100 millions de tonnes annuellement. Elle est le 4eme produit agricole après le blé, le riz et le maïs. Elle se situe au 1er rang de la production fruitière dans le monde avec les agrumes.

Bien que L'Inde et le Brésil soient les plus grands producteurs mondiaux, ils n'en produisent que pour la consommation locale.

Les pays exportateurs sont le Costa Rica, L'Equateur, la Colombie, les Philippines, le Guatemala et certains pays du groupe ACP. Les pays importateurs sont L'Europe, les Etats-Unis, le Canada, la Russie et le Japon. Plus de 75% du commerce internationale de la banane est sous l'emprise de 4 multinationales aux USA et en Grande Bretagne.

La banane représente une source alimentaire très importante pour plus de 400 millions de personnes dans les pays tropicaux, qu'elle soit consommée comme fruit ou comme légumes.

Est-ce que les pays importateurs verront le Cavendish disparaître des étagères de leurs supermarchés ?

Au début du siècle dernier, des chercheurs avaient fini par trouver, après sélection et croisement, une variété de banane qui se prêtait à l'exportation, c'était le Gros Michel. Tout allait pour le mieux pour les exportateurs et les importateurs, quand, en 1950, apparut ' la maladie de Panama ', causée par un champignon. Cette maladie décima des plantations entières du Gros Michel dans le monde. Le commerce de la banane en souffrit des conséquences désastreuses et on disait, adieu la banane.

Le Cavendish
 Alors que l'on croyait tout perdu. Un britannique, ramena une variété de banane qu'on appela Cavendish, de son nom, et qui allait vite remplacer avantageusement le Gros Michel. Cette variété a le mérite d'avoir une peau fine, elle est très sucrée et elle est très appréciée comme dessert. En outre, elle supporte bien le transport et la plante, ne dépassant pas les 3 mètres facilite la récolte. On a donc investi beaucoup dans ce secteur et on croyait que le Cavendish était à l'abri des attaques de champignons.



KITCHEN CORNER

Fish or octopus Vindaye

The Vindaye is one way of cooking the octopus or fish in a spicy vinegar sauce for conservation.

Preparation

Wash the octopus and rub it with unrefined salt until the whole glue has disappeared. Pound them on the grinding slab. Cut into pieces. Wash, drain, then mix with table salt and a pinch of ground pepper.

Ingredients

- 1 Kg of tender octopus or fish
- 125 g of ginger
- 125 g of garlic
- 125 g of green saffrn diluted into half cup of vinegar
- 6 big red peppers cut in halves
- 40 cl of mustard oil
- 250 g of small onions

cooking

pour the oil into the chinese wok, heat and fry the octopus. As soon as it becomes red, reduce the heat and cook over moderate heat for half an hour. Stir from time to time. remove from the wok and drain. Brown the garlic, ginger and the pepper. Add the crushed green saffron diluted in vinegar and cook for two or three minutes. Add the small onions and cook for five minutes. Sterilize a glassware by boiling it for 15 minutes. Dry and pour your vindaye, which will be nicer if kept for a week or more. Cover your vindaye with hot oi. Use a clean plastic spoon each time you serve the vindaye. You can replace the octopus by fish. The best fish in vindaye sauce is the tuna. You can also render the octopus very tender by cooking it in a "slow cooker" for six hours on minimum heat.



The Forum

of **Mauritius News**

THE READERS CORNER

Police brings shame to Mauritius

by KEVIN SAGUM, ENFIELD, UK

While the defence counsels shouted 'justice' after the Mauritian Supreme Court's decision to clear Avinash Treebhoooon and Sandip Moneea of murder, nothing is close to justice. Mr John McAreavey, the victim's widower, would definitely vouch for that. In fact the mystery about this case remains intact. It must be remembered that Mrs Michaela McAreavey was found dead in her hotel room at the Legends hotel few minutes after she left her husband to fetch biscuits from her room. Investigators have found out that Michaela did struggle for her life and she was even put into the room's bath tub to suffocate her. Moreover, there was even a witness who confessed to have heard Michaela's cries of help coming from the room. And yet Mauritian lawyers shout that justice has been made.

The shameful truth is that the Mauritian police investigation was appalling throughout. Police had failed to check the finger prints of guests in the hotel and were allowed to leave without even taking a statement from them. It is a shame for the Mauritius Police for being so slack, unprepared and incapable of being trusted for solving a murder case such as this one, especially with the spotlights of the international media on the judiciary proceedings. We would have thought the police would have been better

informed and briefed, if not better trained in the first place.

Mauritian police even has a forensic investigation team which shockingly could not find any piece of evidence linking to the killer. The number of potential suspects in this case is logically certain or traceable. Michaela was only in a hotel room, not in the middle of nowhere. The only evidence the police had after 18 months of investigation and on which the prosecution relied on was a confession. Even that was purported to be extracted by police brutality.

Serious questions must now be asked about the way Mauritian police investigates crimes and protects people. Innocent people may have been convicted after being forced to fake confessions. On the other hand, criminals may escape conviction due to poorly led investigations or by using unlawful means. Police brutality not only denies a particular confession the ability to be heard in a court, but weakens or kills the prosecution's case. After all, should their role and purpose not be to uphold the law firmly and work with the prosecution in bringing to justice those who break the law?

Kevin Sagum, LLB(Hons), LLM
Enfield, United Kingdom



"L'industrie Agro-alimentaire a Maurice"



by SARAH & LEENA SOWAMBHUR, UK

I am concerned about this article which appeared in the July 2012 edition of Mauritius News. I am surprised that Mauritius is now producing 'foie gras' while many countries are banning it on the ground of animal cruelty. To produce 'foie gras' the birds are force fed (gavage) fatty food by metal tubes being pushed down their throats. This procedure causes a lot of pain to them, cause their livers to enlarge, and their weight to increase so much that their legs cannot carry them.

Consumers have a right to know how their food is produced and be given the opportunity to make informed choices.

Many countries of Europe, several states of America and Argentina have banned the production of 'foie gras'. The results of extensive research have shown that such practices used contravene Animal Welfare legislation. High in Fat, High in Cholesterol. Foie gras is unhealthy for humans. It derives 85 percent of its calories from fat. A 2-ounce serving contains 25 grams of

fat and 85 milligrams of cholesterol.(21)

The Israeli Supreme Court ruled that foie gras production violates the country's cruelty-to-animals laws, and the practice is now banned in Israel.(22) Germany and other European nations have prohibited the production of foie gras, and force-feeding birds is prohibited in the U.K. and in Switzerland, where foie gras packages are required to carry labels to inform consumers that the birds were force-fed.(23,24) The European Union is working to phase out the force-feeding of birds entirely in its member countries by 2020.(25)

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill into law that will ban the production and sale of foie gras from force-fed birds in that state starting in 2012.(26) Whole Foods Market does not allow the sale of foie gras in any of its stores in the U.S. and the U.K.(27) Mauritius, being an advanced country will surely fall in line.

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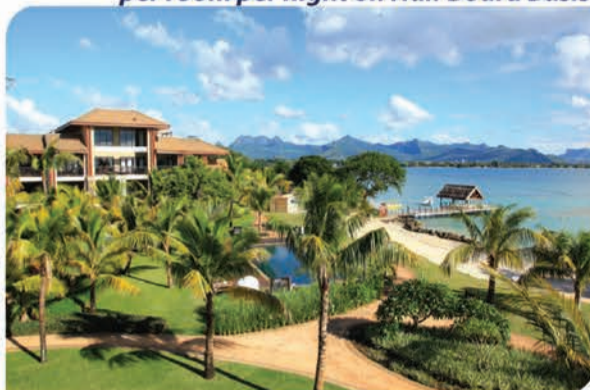


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