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Mauritius News



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Truth & Justice

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Feb/March 2011 - No 280 Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius Monthly - 70p 28th year



Miss M competition pics by Michael Marain



Air Mauritius UK Regional Manager, Mr Tony Cowles, presenting Air ticket to Melissa

Melissa Nathoo in her own words



Both my parents are from Mauritius - my mum from Curepipe and my dad from Vacoas.

I live in Bury St. Edmunds, in Suffolk, where I was born and brought up. In 2006, I went on to study Broadcast Journalism at the Nottingham Trent University.

I currently work at LA Fitness as a Membership Sales Advisor but have aspirations to work in the media industry. Alongside this, I do part-time modelling. Last year, I took part in a photoshoot for the McLaren Formula One Team, modelling some of their items of clothing with Jenson Button.

They got in touch again this year and asked me back to shoot their entire 2011 female collection of clothing. So I did that for a couple of weeks ago (27th Jan) alongside Lewis Hamilton.

I one day hope to work either in television or on the media side of Formula One. And if I can combine both, so much the better!

Melissa Nathoo, is crowned by Solicitor Raj Boodhoo
The tiara is a present from Mrs Savina Choolun-Boodhoo (Solicitor)
Ed Note: This show had class. Bravo MN!



Peter Chellen with Miss M GB. No relation, as alleged by some sick mind on facebook. She never worked for us, either.



The Judges

Did any of these judges fix it for the winners? Some losers have been spreading this sort of rumour on their facebook. Another one put a film on YouTube, which she soon removed in the face of action. It's tough to lose!



Melissa & Lewis Hamilton





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Mauritius News in difficulty**An apology to our subscribers, advertisers and readers in general**

MN did not appear in February for reasons beyond our control

At the Miss Mauritius event on Saturday, February 5, in an address to the assistance I said, "at this very moment Mauritius News is going through a traumatic experience. A Mauritian woman to whom we had offered employment as a self-employed person, left a few days ago for another job without advance notice and without any handing-over. She has dealt the business a severe blow in many respects ..."

Effectively, on January 26, while the woman was supposed to be working on the Feb issue, she simply sent us an email in the evening to say that she would not resume work unless she was given an immediate monthly increase of £400 for her services. Talking to our legal advisers on receipt of the email we were told to forget about her as she would have secured herself alternative employment.

I shall not dwell too much on this topic as I have received threats from her Asian husband after talking to her. The man told me on the phone that I had been harassing his 'missus'.

One day in October last year, he called unexpectedly at the office and was not happy that 'his missus had been promised a £400 increase of her monthly fee and I was not doing anything about it. He also expressed discontent about the foul language used in the office in the presence of his 'missus'.

We have given all information about the woman (and the threats) to the Company's solicitors and our board members, plus copies of certain documents found on our office computers. We have even been advised to make a statement to the local police.

All said and done, MN is facing considerable disruption in many respects. We had no time to look for replacements. I was at that time fully taken up with the Miss Mauritius competition. Missing an issue also means loss of revenue. No handing-over means we are unable to follow up the payment of invoices.

The pressure resulting from the woman's sudden departure caused us considerable mental strain. The blow was meant to be harmful, but why? We have been helpful to that woman. You do not do such a thing to people who have helped you.

Outsourcing

For the past 27 years, MN has been providing training and employment opportunities to many compatriots who are now well settled in life. Whatever we pay them here in England will always be much more than they would receive at home in Mauritius for the same job.

As we have said on previous occasions, it is now time to outsource some of the MN activities to Mauritius where we can employ more people for the same money paid here. In this respect, we have been making enquiries in various quarters in the country. We have been let down so often, even by the most reputable people. There seems to be forces working against us. Our demarches have not materialised yet. But it should, sooner or later.

Though our idea of outsourcing has already been copied and put into practice by others, Mauritius News—as long as it exists—will always be miles ahead within the Mauritian community ... in the UK and elsewhere. **We are the voice of the Mauritian Diaspora.** However, we must inform all concerned that to put in place the outsourcing arrangements in Mauritius, some delay and disruption may occur in forthcoming issues of MN. We shall keep you informed.

However, all development demands investment. And for this we shall have to put into operation the company's shareholding scheme (as outlined in the paper recently) and welcome direct investment as well. If we have survived 27 years on a shoestring budget, we are certain that there are members of the community in the UK and in Mauritius who will want to see the survival of Mauritius News for another 27 years plus

March 2011

Peter Chellen

Chief Guest of National Day 2011 conferred the GCSK

Mauritius seeks support of the Maldives in sustainable development

H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of the Maldives, Chief Guest on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary celebration of independence, was conferred the medal of Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK) on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr Navin Ramgoolam. The medal was presented to the distinguished visitor at the State House by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

In the official speech pronounced by the Mauritian Prime Minister at the banquet offered in honour of the Chief Guest and his wife, the former sought the support of the Maldives in view of the forthcoming international meeting on climatic change due to be held in Durban, South Africa, this year.

Dr Navin Ramgoolam said Mauritius was eager to develop a synergy and strategies with the support of the Maldives in view of a reduction of harmful gases in the atmosphere. It is of note that the President of the Maldives has been given international recognition by the United Nations and high profile magazines, among others, for his commitment to the cause of sustainable development.

During a working session at Clarisse House, the President of the Maldives said that both islands should speak of one voice in international forum for a while.

Dr Ramgoolam, presently President of the Indian Ocean Commission, observed that the integration of the Maldives to the I.O.C. should pose no problem. Both of them expressed regrets of the climatic tragedy that hit Japan on 11 March after an earthquake of high magnitude followed by a devastating tsunami.

Political development**Student loans are the unfair graduate tax**

By Andrew Tarrant



The Conservative-led coalition government pushed a decision through the House of Commons on the 9th of December 2010 to permit universities to raise the current annual cost of tuition from £3290 to £9000.

Vince Cable, the Secretary of State for Business, the department within which responsibility for Higher Education falls, argued that his proposals were "fair" and that they were fairer for students and taxpayers than an "unworkable" graduate tax.

The government argued that the rise in tuition fees was unavoidable: the deficit meant that the taxpayer could no longer afford to fund universities directly and that student contributions would have to rise. The truth of the matter is that the change is part of an ideologically driven agenda to amend funding for the welfare state by moving away from progressive taxation to flat rate income taxes.

A generalised change that George Osborne, the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, first called for back in 2005 in a speech to the right-wing think tank, the Social Market Foundation. The government defends its proposals by saying that its funding mechanism is more progressive than the one it inherited from the previous Labour government.

This is misleading. Technically, "progressive" charges are defined as ones where the proportion which you pay increases as your income rises. Income tax is a progressive tax since as you earn greater amounts of income then the rate rises. Charges which are imposed at a flat rate are defined as "regressive". Value added tax ("VAT") is a regressive tax, since regardless of how much you earn, you pay the same rate of tax for any purchase to which VAT applies.

Independent analysis of the proposals by the Institute of Fiscal Studies supports the government's assertion that its loan scheme is marginally more progressive for the lowest earners than the one it inherited. This is because the charge on loans provided under the last Labour government was also regressive.

However, the key difference is that the bulk of tuition costs were met by the general taxpayer through income tax. So, the charges levied by the Labour government were regressive for a sum of approximately £9000 over the three years of a typical degree, whereas the Coalition government's charges are regressive for a sum approximating £27,000.

The government argues that a graduate tax is unfair or unworkable. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has argued "I don't believe it is right that we ask those on low incomes to pay taxes to

prop up an unaffordable university funding system that they are not benefitting from directly". There is some merit in this point.

However, it is not an argument against a graduate tax. The latter could be applied in two ways to make it fair. It could be restricted to graduates but apply to all of them, whenever they graduated. All of the graduates sitting around the Cabinet table were fully subsidised when they went to university.

According to polling conducted for the National Union of Students, most people consider that it would be fair if all graduates should pay extra tax to finance the system that allowed them to get where they are today. If, inexplicably, this is off the table, then a funding system which applies only to future graduates could still be made more progressive. It is irrelevant whether it is called a loan or a graduate Tax. It could be done by charging graduates higher interest rates if they earn more.

The government have claimed that a graduate tax is unworkable because graduates might move abroad to avoid paying it. If this is a genuine problem, it applies with equal force to a Loan. It is not a basis for choosing between the two.

The government's broader argument that the university funding system is unaffordable financed by income tax, but affordable when paid by loans is clearly nonsense. The level of expenditure is either affordable for a country or it is not affordable. The design of the charging system is not a decision about the amount which can be afforded by a country, but instead about who in a country pays for something.

Income tax is met by the broadest group of people, a graduate tax by a less numerous group (if charged to all graduates) and loans by the least numerous feasible group. As a consequence of being fewer in number, the latter individually face higher charges. The estimate going forward is that most graduates will face a permanent additional charge on their incomes for thirty years.

The government has opted to charge the narrowest group and it has opted that the charge should be set on a regressive basis. The reason the Conservatives have favoured this is that it suits their ideological and material preferences.

It is, on the other hand, astonishing that the Liberal Democrats have gone along with this.

The famous expression says that the route to hell is paved with good intentions. In this case, from a progressive perspective, one might say that it is specifically paved with the shreds of the Minister for Business, Vince Cable's, credibility and that of his party, the Liberal Democrats.

"We disagree with Nick" – the no vote's winning slogan?

Andrew Tarrant

The phrase "I agree with Nick", took on a life of its own during the 2010 election. It was repeatedly used by Gordon Brown and David Cameron in the first leaders' TV election debate. It became a popular slogan and the Liberal Democratic Party even printed it on t-shirts for its activists.

Less than a year later, opponents of voting reform are hoping to use Nick Clegg's support for the Alternative Vote (AV) as the main reason why the public should oppose it when they vote in a referendum on electoral reform on May 5th 2011. It reflects a dramatic turnaround in the popularity of the Liberal Democrats and their leader – whose opinion ratings have fallen as low as 8% in recent months.

The reason a referendum will take place on May 5th to decide between these two systems is because it was the key demand of the Liberal Democrats in exchange for forming a coalition government with the Conservative Party.

Essex University's British Election Study found that if the previous general election had been fought using this system then the overall result would

have been 25 more Liberal Democrat MPs, 15 less Conservative MPs and 10 less Labour MPs elected. The Liberal Democrat leader says he hopes that it will be a "step" towards a fully proportionate system in the future which would see even more Liberal Democrat MPs elected.

Under a proportionate system, the number of MPs each party had elected would reflect the total number of votes received throughout the country. The current first past the post system based on individual constituencies tends to favour parties like the Conservative and Labour parties with concentrations of votes in particular regions and penalise parties like the Liberal Democrats with a more even geographic spread of support.

At the last election, the national vote shares of three main parties were 36% (Conservative), 29% (Labour), and 23% (Liberal Democrat), for which they received the following proportion of elected MPs: 47% (Conservatives), 39% (Labour) and 9% Liberal Democrats.

The No to AV campaign would like to retain Britain's existing "first past the post"

voting system for electing politicians. Under this system, each voter has one vote and the politician that receives the largest number of these individual votes in each constituency is elected.

Under the proposed change to AV, voters would get to rank the politicians standing in a constituency by order of preference. If no politician gets more than 50% of vote and is automatically elected, then the least popular politicians are "eliminated" in ascending order and the second preferences of the people who voted for them are re-allocated.

This elimination and reallocation process goes on until a single politician has more than 50% of the votes. The No to AV campaign is primarily staffed by Conservative activists, although it has some prominent Labour politicians taking part.

The Conservative Party, Nick Clegg's coalition partner, is campaigning for a no vote. The Yes to Fairer Votes campaign is mostly made up of Liberal Democrat activists and is of course backed by this Party, although some even more

Continued on Page 4

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Titbits from Mauritius

By **A mad Macky**

Fatal accident in St. Julien: 12 dead and four seriously wounded

A fatal accident happened recently at St Julien, in the Eastern part of Mauritius.

A mini-bus, carrying about 15 Bangladeshi workers on their way to work, and a HGV lorry transporting macadam collided. As a result of this collision, 12 people died on the spot with another dying in hospital two days later.

The dead bodies (11 Bangladeshis and the Mauritian mini-bus driver) are mostly employees from a nearby Textile Industry. All the Bangladeshi bodies were repatriated to Bangladesh.

Four victims are still fighting for their lives in the Intensive Care Unit of the SSR Hospital.

Police are still making inquiries about the cause of this accident.

Former Lord Mayor found guilty of corruption

Tirat Moosun, the former Lord Mayor of the City of Port Louis, was found guilty of corruption (conflict of interest) by Intermediary Court of Mauritius. Moosun was accused of breaching article 13 (2) (93) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 2002.

Moosun supposedly gave favour to his sister, a Mrs Vimla Calychurn, by not adopting the proper legal procedure, as stipulated by law.

His sister obtained a market stall without even applying for it. At the time when his sister obtained this market stall, Moosun was the Lord Mayor of Port-Louis.

Moosun bypassed all applications made by other people and offered the market stall to his sister.

This matter only came to light when two market traders complained about it to ICAC (Ind Commission against Corruption) and police.

Reservoirs levels cause concern

The situation of Mauritius' reservoirs is still alarming. The government has decided to review the Water Rights Policy in Mauritius and all possible options to maintain a minimum water distribution have been considered.

Measures will be implemented to supply water to the different sectors of the economy throughout the year.

The Minister of Energy and Public Utilities announced his decision at a recent press conference.

He expressed the determination of the government to review the water rights policy in Mauritius. He has the backing of other Cabinet Ministers.

Comoros President visits Mauritius

The President of Comoros Islands, Ahmed Mohamed Sambi's first visit to Mauritius visit was focused primarily on the public health sector and the judiciary.

He was welcomed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Arvin Boolell. The President was accompanied by his Minister of Health, Dr Sounhadj Attoumaned.

On the Wednesday, he made a courtesy call to Prime Minister R ngoolam before meeting the leader of the opposition, Paul Berenger.

The delegation held a workshop at the Ministry of Health. Discussions centred on the updating of a partnership agreement signed in 2001.

A courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, followed.

Government purchases clinic

The government has bought The Med Point Clinic for the sum of RS 145 million. The Minister of Health and Quality of Life, Maya Hanoomanjee, admitted that the institution will be converted into a specialized centre for the elderly.

Located in Solferino, the Med Point Clinic closed down last September owing to financial problems. The clinic was formerly run by Dr Malhotra, the son-in-law of President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and the brother-in-law of the Finance Minister, Pravin Jugnauth.

The Med Point Clinic sale led to questions from various quarters.

Officer attacked

Two armed men attacked a police officer when he was heading home from the harbour station on his motorbike.

The aggressors were also on a motorbike. They overtook the police officer and then forced him to stop. They allegedly hit the officer on the head with their helmets. Then, one of them stole his motorbike.

The police are searching for the two men.

Two hotel employees steal diamond ring

Two employees from the Sugar Beach Hotel stole a diamond ring, valued at 1,800 Euros (Rs 74,790), from a hotel room. The victim is a French tourist who was on holiday in Mauritius.

The accused were named as Vijay R mesh, a 28 year-old room servant, and Archanand Bindyah, a 47 year-old bar attendant. Both men confessed to police that they did steal the diamond ring when arrested.

The French tourist kept her diamond ring in the room of the Sugar Beach Hotel where she booked to stay whilst on holiday in Mauritius.

The tourist realised that her ring was missing from the place she kept it. She went to the police and complained.

Dead woman in boyfriend's house

A woman in her thirties was found dead in her new boyfriend's house at Pointeaux-Biches in the new year. Police

suspect that she died of an alcohol overdose.

The woman left her ex-boyfriend in Triolet six months ago to go and live with her new one. The police are investigating.

Hit and run accident

A 38 year-old woman in Baie-du-Tombeau was seriously injured when a car hit her recently and ran.

According to the investigators, the driver who hit her escaped immediately from the area.

People walking by found the woman next to the road. She had leg and head injuries. She was taken to the SSR National Hospital for attention.

Her condition is apparently critical. Police are still searching for the driver.

Car wash banned in Mauritius

Washing your car at a petrol station is now illegal. Anyone found wasting water either by having their car washed or using water for irrigation or cleaning purposes could be liable for a fine of up to Rs 200,000 and a maximum prison sentence of six months.

This drastic measure by the Central Water Authority (CWA) was taken because of the critically low level of water in the reservoirs and to mitigate water shortages.

Driving

test fees up

Driving tests fees, as well as registration fees for taking the oral examinations component, have gone up. They are now Rs 300 and Rs 500 respectively.

According to a spokesman from the Driving Learner Institution, "practical tests to obtain a driving licence are done in three stages: firstly road driving, followed by reversing, and then parking".

Learner drivers must pay R 500 to do these three different tests each time. And if the learner driver fails, they must again pay R 500 to re-sit the exams.

The Lam Po Tang case

The atrocious murder case of Helene Lam Po Tang took a new dimension recently. A third suspect, 33 year-old Kishan Dhooky from Quatre Bornes, was arrested on in January.

Dooky was suspected of aiding and abetting. The new suspect is a close friend of Sanjeev Nunkoo, the alleged murderer who is in detention.

Gary Lam Po Tang, the victim's husband is accused of having ordered the murder of his wife.

Helene Lam Po Tang was stabbed 39 times and died in her house at Tombeau Bay last October.

Three year-old boy found dead in closed car

A three year-old boy was found dead in his uncle's car recently. He died of suffocation, as none of the car windows was open.

The car was parked on

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African tourist

A South African tourist was relaxing in a restaurant in Flic-en-Flac when two men walked over to her table. They offered her a drink and the trio spoke for a while.

One of the men asked the lady if she wanted to go for a walk on the beach. She declined the offer. According to the woman, the man turned violent.

He allegedly forced her to leave the restaurant with him. He took her to an abandoned house, threw himself on her and tried to rape her. She fought back and managed to run away.

Shocked and with blood dripping from her face, she returned to Tamarin, where she was staying at a friend's house.

The South African lady told her friend what had happened and they went to the police to report that matter.

The victim was taken to Victoria Hospital, in Candos, for a medical check-up. Police is still searching for the two men.

Death threat by former police officer

A former police officer from Rose-Belle allegedly spat on the face of a lawyer and threatened to kill him.

The lawyer says that he caught him trying to break a water pipe in his apartment.

The lawyer challenged him for an explanation but all he got was the spitting and the death threat, he said to the RoseBelle Police.

The former police officer was detained. He has appeared in court.

Attempted rape of South

He appeared in Court charged with "dangerous driving" and "assault with premeditation".

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Ireland and the Mauritian tourist industry

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The Irish market which has been patiently built over the years by the Mauritian tourist industry, must have been severely shaken after the murder of beauty queen Michaela McAreavey, daughter of emblematic manager of Tyrone Gaelic Football Team, Mickey Harte. The victim's young husband, John McAreavey, is himself a popular soccer player and nephew of the Irish bishop, Mgr McAreavey, who married the young couple.

It is a fact that Mauritius has figured prominently in Ireland in the fields of business and tourism in the decade just gone by. *Post.ie*, or *Sunday Post Online* of 6 February 2005 carried 'The Irish take their wishes to Mauritius', by Linda Maher who hailed the island as "a high-end tourist destination [...] and a favourite with honeymoon couples looking for something a little different." The journalist referred to the Integrated Resorts Scheme (IRS) and focused on the 'Anahita project', "one of the first luxurious resorts to become available under the IRS" to Irish investors. Indeed, according to this article, "the target market for Anahita is high net worth individuals from the main tourist markets: Ireland, Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Dubai, India and South Africa."

Maurice Lam, Chairman of the Mauritius Board of Investment at the time, is reported by the journalist to be "particularly excited about Irish interest in Anahita. He believes that Ireland is a perfect example for Mauritius to follow in terms of attracting foreign investment." Finally, the article quotes "one Irish investor with a business in Mauritius [who] said [that] the economy was more comparable to Europe than Africa despite the location. Many people view Mauritius as simply a sunshine destination, but many don't realise that it's an industrious country, with textiles and sugar as its main exports." Significantly, while knowledge of Mauritius is spreading in Ireland, it is, perhaps naively, represented as something of a refuge or a last Eldorado, in a fast-changing modern world.

The "safe and sure" mantra shaken

However, the mantra singing Mauritius as a "safe and sure" destination (to quote Patrice Legris, director of the AHR M which groups hotel and restaurant owners of the island) was severely hit after the tragic death of Michaela. "We're not even safe in paradise" is the new clarion call emanating from the international press. The worse is that Irish tour-operators have stopped selling Mauritius as a tourist destination. MTPA itself was compelled to postpone a campaign targeting honeymooners in Ireland, to encourage them to come to Mauritius for St Valentine this month. To minimize the fall, Patrice Legris is reported saying that the tragic death of Michaela, which is much regretted, is an isolated case and that, in general, Mauritius remains a safe and sure destination for tourists.

Albeit, it is downright sure that Michaela's death, which was related to theft, has impacted negatively on the Irish. R. Lating what he heard on a very popular Irish radio show called Liveline, hosted by the well-known Joe Duffy, Saffiyey Edo, a Mauritian who lives in Limerick, communicated the following to the page "Forum" of *Le Mauricien* of Monday 17 January:

"While many acknowledged that one community cannot be held responsible for the acts of three individuals, many called for completely different reasons. About 75% of the callers recounted how they have been victims of theft while staying in hotels. This, I think, is very detrimental to the reputation of our country. The radio show is listened to by millions here, these types of stories could have a lot of people seriously reconsidering holiday plans to Mauritius. I am no expert in the matter, but I think tourism authorities should take active steps in investigating the matter. Hotel managers should seriously take whatever complaints of theft laid by their guests. Quite a few people on the show complained that hotel authorities did not take the matter seriously, one lady actually said a hotel staff was 'apathetic' to her complaints..."

Dramatic increase of thefts in 'Tourist Belt'

Indeed, the dramatic increase in the number of thefts in the "Tourist Belt" of the island, must cause serious concern to the Mauritian authorities. No less than five cases of thefts with violence were reported during the week-end following Michaela's death. More worrying is the fact that half of thefts in the 'Tourist Belt' in 2010 were committed inside the very hotels where the tourists are deemed to be afforded comfort, safety and security. S. Edo's advices published in 'Forum' should be considered with due diligence:

"For a country that prides itself for its warmth and hospitality, we should actually practise it. Let's hope that the authorities concerned will take appropriate steps. Nothing is going to bring Michaela McAreavey back, but let's hope that the tragedy will have hotel managers think twice before recruiting people and will have hotel employees do their jobs honestly because, as we have seen, the best laid plans can change in 2 minutes."

It is high time the authorities react strongly to stop aggressions and robberies on the persons of tourists from insiders. The more so as MCIT investigators in Mauritius are on the point of putting forward damning evidences proving that the floor supervisor Sandeep Moneea was the mastermind behind the series of thefts at Legends hotel.

MTPA taken to task for inopportune visit to mourning Ireland

Dodo

Stakeholders in the tourist industry and decision-makers at Government House have taken to task the MTPA (Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority) for dispatching its director, Karl Mootoosamy, to Ireland the very day after the murder of Michaela McAreavey-Harte. Authorized sources indicate that the presence of the former in Britain a few days before the funeral of the victim, has not been appreciated at all at Government House, which had already designated the Mauritian High Commissioner, Mahen Kundasamy, for a diplomatic and political damage control exercise in Ireland.

MTPA director Karl Mootoosamy met tour operators in Ireland and England. Tourism Minister Nando Bodha, who was in the forefront to re-affirm Mauritius as "an exclusive and safe destination" for tourists in general, has warned against "toxic information", if not "Mauritius Bashing" in international press although admitting that, generally speaking, journalists and editors have carried their articles on the issue with an open spirit.

After the postponement of a promotion campaign concerning Irish honeymooners, the MTPA has indicated that it would work in collaboration with some 10 Irish tour operators to restore the image of Mauritius as a high standard tourist destination and on other themes showing the island as an ideal place for meetings and conferences and golf playing. Parallel to the re-scheduling of promotional activities for Mauritian tourism in Great Britain, the Minister Nando Bodha has called for the need to bounce back while diagnosing the ills and pitfalls of the industry nationwide and apply urgently remedial measures.

However, hotel operators in Mauritius have been critical about the inopportune mission of the MTPA director in Great Britain. They argue that this special mission was quite undue as the MTPA owns costly public relations antennas in Great Britain and could have used them to feed its Port-Louis base with data for the preparation of a credible work-plan. The data collected could have been used to develop a long-term communication strategy which could prove more productive than a sterile Go and Talk promotion.

Hotel operators have also warned MTPA against an eventual backlash of the recent exposure of Mauritius in the international press. They expressed concern on the dilly-dallying regarding beefing up security in hotels and called for a serene, de-dramatized approach in place of an unproductive, if not counter-productive spin doctoring.

"We disagree with Nick" – the no vote's winning slogan?

(F om Page 3)

prominent Labour politicians, including Labour's leader, Ed Miliband, are backing it. The Labour Party is allowing its politicians a free vote on this issue.

The No to AV campaign argue on their web-site that AV is a "politician's fix" "...taking power away from voters and allowing the Liberal Democrats to choose the government after each election. The only vote that really counts under AV is Nick Clegg's". It would be fair to say that the reform would make coalition governments involving the Liberal Democrats a much more likely outcome of General Elections. In addition, they also emphasise that AV is complicated and difficult to understand. This argument is patronising, there is no reason to believe that British voters are less capable than voters in other countries, like Australia, which have AV systems. They also say the existing system is fair, creates strong governments and excludes extremist parties like the British National Party (BNP).

The Yes to Fairer Votes argue that a reformed system would be fairer because it means that voters get more say: voters could vote for their true preference first and would not be forced to only vote for one of the two main parties. They also say that MPs of all parties would have to work harder because they would have to get more than 50% of the voters to support them to be sure of being elected. In addition, they argue, the number of safe seats where a Conservative or Labour candidate has a "job for life", regardless of performance, would be reduced.

They also say that the level of support for extremist parties such as the BNP means that they would not get any MPs elected under this system either. Although the Yes campaign is running on an argument of "fairness", it should be noted that the only party that will realistically benefit are the Liberal Democrats.

The pro- and anti- reform campaigns have just begun. At this stage it is too early to say who might win. The pollsters also disagree about the popularity of the two opposing positions. An ICM poll for the Electoral Reform Society in November 2010 found that 35% would vote for change and 22% would vote to keep the existing system. A You Gov poll conducted at the same time recorded that while 35% favoured change, 41% opposed it. Peter Kellner of You Gov thinks that the difference between the results is probably down to the phrasing of the polling question. You Gov's question mentions that the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government is in favour of change, the ICM question did not.

What these polling results do suggest is that the more closely the referendum is associated with the Coalition parties, the more likely the No Vote will succeed and the Yes vote campaign will fail. This is why the No campaign will try and turn the vote into a referendum on the popularity of Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats rather than the technicalities of the voting system.

Andrew Tarrant is a UK Political Analyst

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Association France Maurice

Remise de la médaille d'or de l'Etoile Civique à M. Louis-René Dalais Vice-Président de l'Association France-Maurice organisée par l'Union des Gaullistes de France



De gauche à droite ; M. Thierry Burkard, M. Louis-René Dalais et M. Denis Piat, respectivement Président, Vice-Président et Membre du Conseil d'Administration de l'Association France-Maurice.



Dans la salle également, M. Jean-Claude Montocchio, ancien Secrétaire Général de la Chambre de Commerce de l'île Maurice et son épouse.

M. Louis-René DALAIS, très ému, reçoit des mains du Président Serge Guillemot sa médaille d'or d'ÉTOILE CIVIQUE et son certificat.



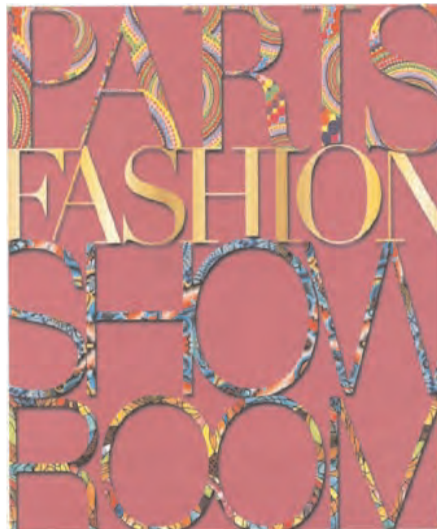
Reportage Denis Piat

MAURITIUS, On the Spice Route, 1598-1810
 en anglais et en français est actuellement disponible en librairie à Maurice chez Bookcourt à Port-Louis. Pour une commande par e-mail: bookcourt@orange.mu ou, andrel@intnet.mu

Pour la version française elle est actuellement disponible en librairie en France et sur de nombreux sites internet tel que: <http://livre.fnac.com/a2994966/Denis-Piat-L-ile-Maurice-1598-1810>
 See more information in this issue

Manish ARORA, invité d'honneur du Prêt-à-Porter à Paris

Prêt-à-Porter Paris, The heart of fashion. Le Premier rendez-vous international de la Mode
 - Collections Automne-Hiver 2010/2011 - se tenait Porte de Versailles



Technology in New Delhi, where he created his own brand in 1977. He did remarkably well the following year with his first collection, he became the star of Indian fashion.

It was a great honour for him to represent his country at the Hong Kong Fashion week in 2000. In the beginning he offered an astonishing blend of Indian tradition and occidental

motifs, as psychedelic or kitsch. Every season the stylist works out his outfits using different ideas, he launched a second attempt in 2001 named "Fish Fry".

Reebok shoes requested his talent. He also contributes to create a collection of Mac Cosmetic make up in 2008, draws glasses for Raphael Young, he created colouring Swatch watches and decoration of soft Nivea cream jars.

Last November in Paris, Manish ARORA made a sensational event adding colour and joy for Nespresso. Prince of colours has decorated expresso coffee machines, showing Nespresso shop windows of Champs Elysées.

C'est le créateur indien Manish ARORA, invité d'honneur du Prêt-à-Porter à Paris, qui habillait cette saison les hôtes du Salon. Les couleurs vibrantes de ce designer hors normes donnaient une nouvelle énergie dans les allées.

La tenue était originale : une robe moderne finement cousue prenant bien la taille, en coton imprimé aux motifs faisant très design, rappelant des dessins au henné indigo et avec les lettres du Prêt à Porter et The heart of fashion mixé par-dessus.

Le grand foulard porté en collier était animé de pois en dégradé de couleurs conjuguées pour faire ressortir les collants flashy : orange fluo, vert fluo, rouge fuchsia.

Une tenue jeune, gaie, chaleureuse, aux antipodes de la sobriété du costume foncé traditionnel des hôtes. Celles-ci étaient fières de présenter un créateur connu et à leur dire ce nouveau look faisait voyager et même rêver comme Bollywood les clientes qui vivent dans la grisaille parisienne.

A gauche de l'entrée principale, dans la zone « Atmosphere's » révélatrice des tendances, le rendez-vous de la création internationale regroupant des marques pointues déjà reconnues et talents de demain. Une exposition sur mannequin lui était réservée.

Le chatoiment des couleurs et le caractère baroque des broderies de l'Inde de toujours revisités par le regard résolument contemporain de Manish ARORA (sur notre cliché, ensemble mauve et turquoise porté sous un mantel de camaïeu violine)

Mais le créateur talentueux ne s'est pas contenté de cette participation puisqu'il était aussi présent au Fashion Showroom de l'Hôtel Rothschild à Paris avec une installation superbe.

Born in Mumbai, Manish ARORA was the most talented student from the National Institute of Fashion and

modernity. He creates coloured



La tenue d'hôtesse de Manish Arora

structural silhouettes, adornment of traditional embroidery, of pearls or extravagant ornaments.

Nicknamed "the John Galliano of India", Manish

Well-known in the fashion world, a rising designer in international field, Manish ARORA has been rewarded several prizes.



Ensemble mauve et turquoise porté sous un mantel de camaïeu violine

ARORA used a variety of bright colours and fabulous

Lena Goel & Gilles Berger (Paris)

MN regrets missing out the Feb issue

As explained on Page 3, the Feb issue was not printed for reason beyond our control. The main problem is staffing and production cost. We explain that some of the work will have to be done in Mauritius for both staffing and cost reasons. For this arrangement to be put in place, there may be some further disruption for which we request the understanding of everyone.

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Australia News

Interview with the new High Commissioner in Canberra, H.E. Mrs Mirella Chauvin



By Eddy Abraham



High Commissioner, HE Mrs Mirella Chauvin

Eddy Abraham: Your Excellency, congratulations on your appointment as H.C. Give us a brief account of your journey to this point.

High Commissioner: First of all I would like to thank you for the warm welcome and for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself to the readers of Mauritius News in England.

I was an Education Officer in Mauritius working at the Loreto College, Rose-Hill. In 2005, I stood as a candidate for the Municipal Election and was elected in Beau-Bassin.

One year later, I was chosen to be the Mayor of Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill. I was also candidate for the General Election in 2010 in Rose-Hill but was not elected.

I remained councillor of Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill up to my appointment by the Government as High Commissioner to Australia in November 2010.

EA: How was the Accreditation Ceremony at Government House in Canberra?

HC: It was grandiose and moving and will remain a memorable day.

EA: Are you accredited to New

Zealand as well? If yes, when do you intend to present your Accreditation Papers?

HC: I am indeed accredited to New Zealand and will present my Accreditation Papers in a near future.

EA: It is your first appointment as H.C. What do you see as the priorities in the relationship between Mauritius and Australia?

HC: The relationship between Mauritius and Australia is excellent and I look forward to maintaining and further strengthening the good bilateral relations existing between our two countries.

EA: Australia will host CHOGM in Perth this year. What preparations are you making for the Mauritian delegation to this important Commonwealth Meeting?

HC: We are actively participating in the CHOGM Coordinating Committee with all other High Commissions, headed by Mr Terry Crane, Head CHOGM Taskforce 2011, with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The last meeting was held in September last year. I will be attending another meeting on the progress of administrative and logistical arrangement, with the Director of CHOGM 2011 Taskforce and with Mr Kamlesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General.

I am also liaising with the CHOGM 2011 Taskforce and Mauritius.

EA: Australia has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, for 2011 and 2012. What benefits

can Mauritius, (a member of IOR-ARC), expect from the country of your accreditation?

HC: Congratulations to Australia. Our main focus is on economic cooperation, particularly on Trade and Investment, with a view to promoting sustained growth and development. We can share information and get technical help from Australia.

EA: What Official duties have you attended to thus far in Canberra and when do you intend to pay a courtesy visit to the other Australian States?

HC: I have attended meetings with DFAT and functions with other Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

I have also been to The Lodge, (The Prime Minister's Residence in Canberra), to celebrate Australia Day. I intend to pay a courtesy visit to other Australian States in the near future.

EA: Your Excellency, do you have a message for the readers of Mauritius News in England?

HC: I wish all of you the very best for 2011, full of joy, peace and prosperity.

Mauritius needs the knowledge and knowhow of all its fellow citizens from the diaspora.

Feel free to contact me on: (02) 62811203 at the High Commission in Canberra to discuss matters pertaining to our Motherland, Mauritius.

EA: Your Excellency, I thank you very much for your time. I wish you every success in your posting in Canberra.

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Aiming for the Top Grade in your Coursework or Examination

All students, whether secondary, tertiary or higher education, have assessments by means of course-works or assignments and examinations. This article sets out the steps important steps in completing course-works in general, including science.

Each assignment has learning outcomes and grading criteria. All assignments are set to test your understanding of a topic, subject. An assignment, therefore, involves both an investigation and the piece of writing that is evidence of that research.

That is both process (the doing) and product (what you have done). To be successful you need to not only understand what the assignment is asking you to do but also the skills which you need to develop. Essentially the assignments test your knowledge and understanding of a topic, subject and task.

You then demonstrate your knowledge and skills by writing about the topic in an assignment or report, essay or you can demonstrate (present your work).

Types of course-works

There are different types of assignment and you will be asked to produce either one or some of the following: essay, report, project, presentation poster, role play, and display leaflet, etc. For a start, your ability to express your ideas is a very important aspect of your life.

It is difficult to learn the formal rules of writing, but essentially you are learning to communicate your ideas to the reader - and get a good grade!

How to improve your

writing skill?

Think of writing as a craft in which you are the apprentice. You learn by practising a range of different skills and you get practice by doing lots of assignments and reading your tutor's comments will be helpful.

Whether you learn to build brick walls or compare some bacterial growth, you they need practice and cannot do these complicated tasks at the start of their course - just like writing.

What you are saying in your writing is personal to you; your ideas go forward to convince the reader you understand the subject. If you use other people's ideas then acknowledge this/say so by referencing (reference to the writer).

An assignment is conducted by putting sentences together and so the meaning of what you are saying is carried forward. A sentence is a self-contained unit of meaning, and you want to solidly construct sentences to carry forward your ideas.

Introductions comment on the subject and the way you are going to approach the topic. This helps the reader follow your ideas, some of which will be complex and also the reader knows you will be covering the important aspects of the question. It's also useful here to define the key terms.

Main body, this is where your main ideas go, the points you want to make (or arguments) supporting evidence and example, in a sensible order. Here you can add pictures, data, or graphical representations of your work so long as

it is relevant and you relate it to your text.

Conclusion is where you summarise arguments, points of view (yours) so far and a clear statement of conclusion if required. Given your task is to convince the reader of your understanding then this is a good place to remind the reader of all your good ideas. That is why we summarise the arguments.

Briefly on Planning

Plans are simply flow charts or columns of notes of your ideas. A good idea is to use the key idea from the 'topic sentence' as a heading for each paragraph.

A paragraph is usually about 100 words long, so if you know the word limit for the assignment, you can work out how many main ideas you need to come up with.

Whatever form your plan takes, check it against the assignment brief and the assessment criteria so you cover the tasks or question. If you are not sure what is required, then ask a friend and/or your tutor.

Lecturers would rather give some support and advice, than ask you to re-submit a referred piece of work, and then to mark it again!

Key verbs in assignment briefs

Account	Account 'for' asks you to give reasons for. An account asks for a detailed description.
Analyse	Make a detailed examination or investigation into something.
Assess	Consider a balanced way the points for and against.

Comment	Look for similarities and differences.
Compare	Find the differences between two or more things.
Contrast	Emphasise the differences between two or more things.
Criticise	Give your considered opinion about the value of the theories/practices, and back up your criticism with evidence from your research (reading, observation and so on...).
Define	Give the precise meaning of something. Show how the distinctions you make are necessary.
Discuss	Investigate or examine by argument; give reasons for and against.
Evaluate	Make a judgement about the value, importance, what worked and what did not and why? How can it be improved?

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Is Drinking Water Beneficial For The Skin?

By Devinia Sookia (USA)*



We always hear about the benefit of drinking water to stay healthy and for a good looking skin. However what we really do not know is how many glasses of water should we drink daily for a healthy skin.

Drinking Water For General Health

Drinking an adequate amount of water daily is important for overall good health because water is involved in and helps improve many bodily functions. These functions include digestion, absorption, circulation, and excretion.

There are other more specific benefits for drinking water as well. Water assists in the flushing or removal of harmful toxins from the body. If the body does not have sufficient water, metabolic wastes will not be removed as efficiently as they should. The body would be holding in toxins instead of expelling them as is required for good health.

Much of this toxin removal is performed in the kidneys. Therefore the benefit of drinking water in this case is to allow the kidneys to perform their task properly.

Another benefit of drinking water is to carry nutrients into the cells of the body. In addition to helping nutrients get into the cells where they are needed, the benefit of drinking water in adequate amounts also helps to keep the cells well hydrated so they can function properly and efficiently.

Drinking water is also beneficial for muscles. It helps maintain proper muscle tone and prevents painful muscle cramping.

The prevention of kidney stones or at least the reduction of risk of developing kidney stones is another benefit of drinking water in the right quantities. Drinking water helps to increase the energy level in people and helps to lubricate the joints in the body.

It is believed that drinking water in large amounts curbs the appetite and therefore can be an effective tool for weight loss.

Drinking Water for Healthy Skin

The benefit of drinking water in large amounts for proper skin health is a controversial area. Many believe and have stated that water is very beneficial for proper skin care.

The main stated benefit is that drinking a large quantity of water keeps the skin

hydrated and prevents dry skin. Claims are also made that drinking water gives the skin a radiant, healthy, younger looking complexion with no wrinkles, and allows skin to maintain its elasticity and suppleness.

However, many experts are now refuting the above-mentioned benefits. Unless the individual is severely dehydrated, drinking large quantities of water will not prevent dry skin. Basically the moisture level of skin is not determined by internal factors.

Instead, it is external factors such as skin cleansing, the environment, the number of oil glands, and the functioning of these oil-producing glands that determines how dry the skin is or will become. The water that is consumed internally will not reach the epidermis.

In fact, the water moves through the body system rather quickly. If the skin is dry, the best solution is to treat the skin from the outside with a suitable and moisturiser or lotion for dry skin.

It appears there is no significant benefit of drinking water to cure or prevent dry skin. Health experts suggest that eight glasses of water should be consumed per day to obtain the maximum benefit. Some claim that the best benefit of drinking water occurs when fresh distilled water is consumed as opposed to tap water. Tap water can be inconsistent in composition and can contain unwanted minerals and additives.

Spring water is also questioned by many because of the possible presence of contaminants and pollutants. However, there is no agreement on this and opinions vary widely in terms of the proper water type choice. As long as the water is clean, then it is acceptable.

The suggestion of drinking eight-8 ounce or 250 ml glasses of water per day (the so-called 8-by-8 rule) is an interesting one because it does not seem to have any basis in science. It is a rule often quoted but difficult to trace back to a medical or scientific study. In addition to the 8-by-8 rule, recommendations often include to avoid dehydrating foods and beverages such as coffee, tea, cola, other caffeine containing drinks, and alcohol.

However, many believe that 8 glasses of water is too much and the same benefits of drinking water can be obtained with smaller quantities. Some specialists suggest that for an average-sized adult in good health with healthy kidneys and living in a temperate climate, only four glasses of water is

required to obtain the benefits of drinking water and to replace daily water losses.

The water does not have to be in the form of distilled water, bottled water or tap water. Water to hydrate the body can be obtained from eating water-rich fruits such as melons, vegetables, and foods. It is believed that water in foods stays in the body longer and has a better chance of being absorbed whereas liquid water exits the stomach quickly before proper absorption is able to occur.

Beverages such as milk and juice also contribute to the daily water intake total. Even beverages that are said to dehydrate are useful according to research. Caffeinated beverages dehydrate the body to some extent but this is more than compensated for by the amount of water in the beverage. A cup of coffee actually adds about two-thirds of a cup of hydrating fluid.

Therefore, drinking a cup of coffee will add to your water intake total. Alcoholic beverages when consumed result in a net loss of water in the body. One drink may not make too much of a difference, but several will cause noticeable dehydration.

If consuming alcohol, it is best to drink water as well to keep hydrated.

As there is no certainty about the benefit of drinking large amounts of water daily, there is no clear course of action. The best strategy is to be reasonable. Be aware of what your body is telling you. If you lack energy, are constantly thirsty, and have dark urine then this could be a sign that you are not getting enough water.

Thirst is the body's way of signalling a need to increase water intake. So pay attention to this warning sign. If you are running to the bathroom every hour then perhaps you are drinking too much. An average healthy person should be passing urine 3 to 4 times per day. If this is the case, then the body is likely to be well hydrated.

When exercising and sweating there is a need to replace the lost water regularly in order to prevent dehydration and heat sickness. The same is true when residing in hot climates. In these situations, the benefit of drinking water is obvious.

Certain illnesses also require extra hydration. The benefit of drinking water in larger amounts than normal also extends to pregnant and breastfeeding women where the body requires more fluid intake. For older people drinking more water is a good idea as dehydration is more likely to occur due to physiological changes in the body.

*Devinia Sookia is a barrister-at-law, journalist, writer and attorney.

Kaya remembered

Singing Legend Lives On



It was a Mauritian concert like no other. The music had everyone dancing but, it wasn't sega. The charismatic singer sang with passion, his music moving not just my body but, also my soul. It was early 90s in London and tragically, by the end of that decade, this great talent, Kaya, was gone.

Last month (21 February) marked 12 years since Kaya (Joseph Reginald Topize) died in suspicious circumstances

in a police cell. It's surely a failure of the justice system that the circumstances leading to his death are still not clear.

And no one has ever been held accountable, bizarre considering he was in custody, watched by police.

Amazingly, he was only there for allegedly confessing to smoking a spliff, herbal cannabis, during a concert days before.

It's criminal when any human loses their life prematurely especially when it seems so avoidable, as in this case. Kaya was 39 and a gifted singer and guitarist. He was also a husband and a father to two kids.

Kaya invented seggae music by fusing sega with reggae. His sound, 'Mo la Mizik', became a voice for the poor and disadvantaged, bringing to the fore the country's social problems.

His song writing is genius, easy to understand yet deep and often prophetic. He talks about real life experiences in a clear way that transcends countries and even cultures. It's real and conscious lyrics, calling for equality and justice for all. The songs praise God and His way. There is no slackness at all, no swearing. His messages are inspirational and totally positive.

Then you add the sweet bass-led rhythm. Along with his group, Racinetatane, the natural talent of our country's musicians shines through. They played in perfect harmony, music that captures that tropical

island vibe, music you feel.

Seggae keeps growing, with a host of top artists and groups making this style of music. From humble roots, this visionary Rastafarian, along with those he inspires, takes Mauritian 'kiltir e langaz Kreol' across the world through seggae music. The beat makes it more accessible than sega for non-Mauritians so more people than ever can appreciate the huge talent that exists on our island.

Kaya is no longer here but like his hero, Bob Marley, he'll never die. His golden voice and sweet seggae music will forever bring hope, understanding and happiness to generations of people, mainly us lucky Mauritians.

R.I.P Kaya ... To fer mwa fyer mo enn Morisyen.

Montre mwa ki sanla ki pe fer
la charite,
Dir mwa ki sanla ki pe envi fer linite,
Montre mwa ki sanla ki pe fer la
verite,
sime la limiere sa li pou leternite,
(Hey) Sa mem sime ton montre mwa,
Sa mem sime ki mo pou passe

("Sime la Limiere" - Kaya)

Robin Sooklall

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National Lottery Results Dec 2010

Lotto Draws: Twice weekly		
16 Feb	05-11-15-26-29-32	49
19 Feb	06-16-26-32-34-46	33
23 Feb	01-08-15-21-31-39	32
26 Feb	06-08-20-29-34-36	43
02 Mar	01-25-27-41-46-49	04
05 Mar	04-13-23-29-41-43	49
09 Mar	09-11-37-40-41-49	33
12 Mar	07-17-19-29-30-38	40
16 Mar	02-15-16-18-47-48	21

These results were obtained from the National Lottery. Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprints or discrepancies in the results published in this column.



www.apsainternational.net



A Mauritian Charity dedicated to the fight against diabetes in Mauritius. Support of Overseas Mauritians solicited with thanks! Tell Mrs Audrey Hardy

on
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Email: apsa@intnet.mu

Thought for the month

It does not matter so much whether we believe in God or not.
What matters is whether God believes in us ...

P.C.

Exchange Rates from KBR Foreign Exchange

£1.00 = 1.15 Euros
1.00 Euro = Rs 40.58
1.00 US \$ = Rs 28.60
£1.00 = Rs 46.57

*Figures correct at the time of going to press

26 years on

IMBEL Travel heads for New Horizon with excellent service to the community

Imbel Travel is a leading travel company for Caribbean and Mauritius destinations and is serving the local communities for over 26 years. With its high street location at 22, West Green Road, Tottenham, London-N15 5NN for that long a period, Imbel Travel has very cordial relations with people from local communities, who in turn have great rapport with its sales team. The services are aimed at all customers with best value products, which now cover all global destinations from this office. Imbel Travel will be launching its brand new website very soon, which will provide an option to book online using the latest technology.



After strengthening the existing market as ticket provider, Imbel Travel started its holiday division to cater prestigious holiday market around the world. The new team at Imbel Travel is also promoting Wedding and Honeymoon market with destinations like Mauritius, Australia, Thailand, and Caribbean. Imbel Travel deals with all major airlines, Euro star, Accommodations and provides flight ticket around the world.

As holidays are one of life's luxuries and to be free from the stress of everyday life, their expert holiday team, therefore, is dedicated in making these moments memorable with their expert knowledge and precise planning while analyzing choice and available preferences.

The new Management and Sales team have passion of travel and with their long experience in all aspects of aviation, travel and holiday business. Their reservation team has first hand information about destinations, hotels, excursions and attractions and has wealth of travel experience by visiting those places, along with extensive training. The new Management team has an accumulated experience of around 80 years of the business.

Imbel Travel motto is to make client vacation as smooth as possible by sharing their wealth of experience. Their team is friendly, professional, and experienced to work for customer satisfaction. Most of Imbel business comes from repeat clients and recommendations which gives them a challenge to perform more professionally as always. Imbel Travel is fully bonded travel company and holds ATOL, IATA and ABTA licenses, which provides customer protection for the tickets and holidays. Imbel Travel has price match guarantee policy and will match or beat any price available in the market.

Imbel Travel been awarded as best agent by

Air Mauritius for 2005, 2007 and 2008 which is a ringing endorsement of service they provide and new team is committed to bring many more accolade in the future.

Today, Imbel Travel, it is not just a travel company but an established brand and soon will be a one-stop-travel-shop which will offer the broadest selection of travel products and services through high street location and online.

Mauritius News would like to congratulate Imbel Travel and its new Management team, and wish them continued success in the days to come.



General Manager Gulshan Kohli (left) and Manager Anand Aracharya

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Quebec Immigration program. (NO "Restricted occupations" list similar to the Federal one. Non-French speaking persons can also qualify and if you or your spouse has completed the education below, you will get priority)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNIVERSITY LEVEL Degree 3 years Biochemistry / Chemistry / Probability and Statistics / Nursing . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COLLEGE LEVEL TECHNICAL TRAINING (3 Years): Insurance and Financial Advisory Services Business Management Nursing Chemical Engineering Techniques Laboratory Techniques Chemical Process Techniques Composite Material Processing Techniques Plastics Transformation Techniques Pharmaceutical Production Technology Nuclear Medicine Technology Diagnostic Radiology Technology Radiation Oncology Technology Food Processing and Quality Technology Civil Engineering Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SECONDARY LEVEL VOCATIONAL TRAINING: Dental Assistance (2 years) Pharmacy Technical Assistant (1.5 years) Masonry/ Bricklaying (1 year) Metal Structure and Metalworking Manufacturing (1.5 years) Sheet Metal Work (2 years) Use of Composite Materials (1 year) Plumbing and Heating (2 years) Welding and Fitting (2 years) Precision Sheet Metal Work (1.5 years) Retail Butchery (DVS - 900 hours / 1 year) Cable and Circuit Assembly (1 year) Aircraft Structural Assembly (1 year) Aircraft Mechanical Assembly (1.5 years) Machining Techniques (2 years)
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Federal immigration skilled worker program

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialist Physicians/ General Practitioners and Family Physicians - Dentists/ Dental Hygienists & Dental Therapists - Pharmacists - Physiotherapists - Registered Nurses - Electricians & Industrial Electricians - Plumbers/ Welders & Related Machine Operators - Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics - Crane Operators/ Drillers & Blasters - Surface Mining, Quarrying & Construction - Supervisors, Oil and Gas Drilling and Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical Radiation Technologists - Psychologists & Social Workers - Chefs & Cooks - Contractors and Supervisors, Carpentry Trades - Contractors and Supervisors, Mechanic Trades - Restaurant and Food Service Managers - Primary Production Managers (Except Agriculture) - Insurance Adjusters and Claims Examiners - Biologists and Related Scientists - Architects
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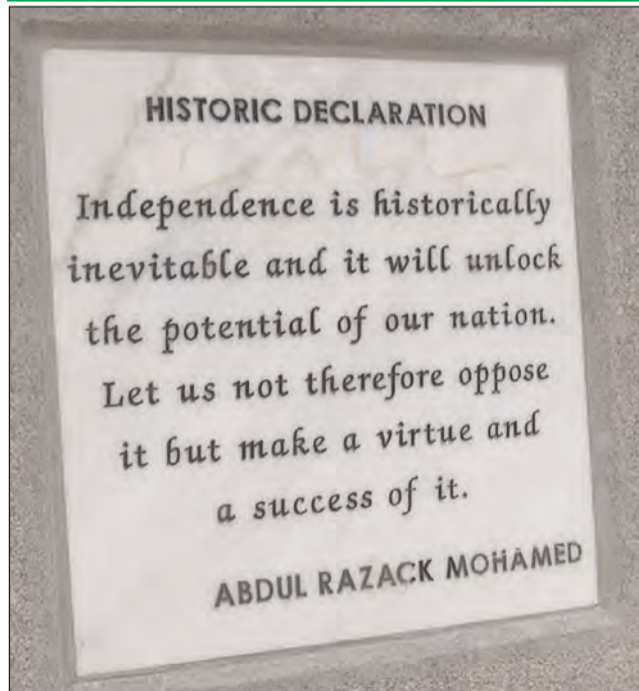
Food for thought Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging
Seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and
The debts are high
And you want to smile, but
You have to sigh
When care is pressing you
Down a bit
Rest if you must, but **don't quit.**

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the
Pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just
How close you are.
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when
You're the hardest hit –
It's when things seem worst that **you must not quit.**

Independence 2011

Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed Remembered



The above declaration can be read at Place d'Armes in Port Louis, near Government House, on a stele dedicated to Sir Abdul Razack Mohamed, CAM (Comité d'Action Musulman) leader.

Sir Abdul was right. Independence of Mauritius was inevitable. In spite of all the fears, the potential of Mauritian nation has in fact been unlocked over the years.

It may be recalled that the support of the CAM was crucial for Britain to grant sovereign status to Mauritius in 1968 when other political leaders were against independence.



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Bollywood Spice

Bollywood Superstar, Hrithik Roshan, leads 'Guzaarish' into the Oscars Library



Bollywood superstar, Hrithik Roshan, has earned himself a phenomenal amount of critical acclaim, as the script of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Guzaarish' is officially honoured by the Oscars Library.

After having been nominated for the Filmfare Best Actor Award, the screen icon's outstanding performance has undisputedly leveraged the film

in entering the permanent script collection of the Library Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Hrithik's par excellence acting skills are showcased in 'Guzaarish' as he performs the role of 'Ethan Mascarenhas', a former magician who tragically becomes a quadriplegic, spreading joy among the people as a radio jockey, but subsequently pleading for a mercy killing at court.

Featuring alongside Aishwarya Rani and Bachchan in the film, it has been Hrithik's highly accomplished performance that has generated critics' praise and outstanding reviews for himself as well as the film itself.



Bollywood startlet, Deepika Padukone, is to sizzle on screen for the title track of Rohan Sippy's highly anticipated 'Dum Maaroo Dum'.

Deepika Padukone Sizzles In 'Dum Maaroo Dum'!

Flaunting a new tattoo of a cobra, Deepika has set the tone for the racy remix, set to be the most explosive film track ever!

Deepika will set pulses racing with her sultry makeover, following the de-glam look in her last movie, 'Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Sey'.

Adding to that will be stunning creative visuals produced by the use of laser lighting effects, set against the backdrop of an earthy jungle to make for a truly visual treat.

The song, 'Mit Jaaye Gham', has been reworked by music director Pritam from RD Burman's original classic from the hit film, 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna', carrying on the theme of the film with lyrical and visual references to the

underside of India's busiest party hub, the world renowned Goa.

Beyond her formidable acting talents, 'Mit Jaaye Gham' provides Deepika with another opportunity to showcase her exceptional dance moves and captivating beauty, as audiences will be hypnotised by her performance on-screen.

Featuring leading talent from the Indian film industry such as Abhishek Bachchan, Bipasha Basu and Prateik Babbar, as well as Telegu cinema's Rana Daggubati in his Bollywood debut, 'Dum Maaroo Dum' is set in the exotic Indian beach resort of Goa.

It tells the story of six characters whose lives change forever when they become

embroiled in the shady and perilous underworld.

A fast-paced, stylised thriller which races through the by-lanes, beach shacks and party scene of Goa, 'Dum Maaroo Dum' is a compelling tale set against the stunning backdrop of one of the world's most famous tourist hotspots.

Get ready for a cinematic high when 'Dum Maaroo Dum' releases through Twentieth Century Fox on 22nd April 2011.

This film will take audiences on a trip that will have them on the edge of their seats from the title sequence to the end credits.

2011 Celebrations Kick Start With The 12th IIFA Voting Week



R teish Deshmukh



From left to right: Riteish, Kareena Kapoor and Karan Johar



From left to right: Boman Irani, Anil Kapoor and Riteish

4th March, 2011, Mumbai: The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Voting Weekend for the IIFA Awards in Toronto, opened recently to the members of the Indian Film fraternity.

The 4th, 5th and 6th of March marks the 12th year of IIFA's Voting Weekend, where the reigning superstar of the big screen, Kareena Kapoor cast the first vote, followed by Arjun Rampal, Karan Johar, Sonu Sood, Riteish Deshmukh, Yash Chopra, Ramesh Sippy, J.P. Dutta, Manmohan Shetty and other members of the film fraternity and the IIFA Advisory Board.

Akin to past IIFA Voting Weekends, many prominent members from the fraternity are participating this year.

Each year over 1,000 industry stalwarts, actors, directors, producers, technicians and composers among others cast their votes, which decide the nominations for the awards. Each year, the IIFA management invites the Academy members and the Film Industry to cast their votes and shortlist nominations in the category of the Popular Awards.

The Voting Weekend also derives the Technical Award winners.

Having cast the first vote, previous IIFA awardee Kareena Kapoor shared, "It is a great privilege that has been bestowed upon me to cast the first vote and inaugurate the 12th IIFA Voting Weekend. IIFA has set a high standard with its voting procedure and hence established a benchmark for excellence and credibility. This being the IIFA's premiere in North America, I am eagerly looking forward to the IIFA Weekend in Toronto."

2011 marks the twelfth year of the IIFA celebrations. The International Indian Film Academy makes its North American debut in Ontario, Canada this year wherein the three-day long IIFA Weekend and Awards is all set to take place from the 23rd to 25th of June.

Ramesh Sippy, IIFA Advisory Board member said, "In its 12th year, IIFA has continued its focus of promoting the very best of Indian cinema globally and the IIFA Voting Weekend is a key component of making IIFA, the success it is."

"2010 has been a great year for the Indian movie business. The IIFA Voting Weekend is a wonderful opportunity to honour colleagues by voting for the best of the best.

With the Videocon IIFA Weekend and the Micromax IIFA Awards 2011 in Toronto, Canada, we will continue to bring the on-screen magic to the Indian diaspora with the grandest celebration of Indian cinema," said Wiz Sabbas Joseph, Director - Wizcraft International Entertainment.

The IIFA Voting process is a stringent and methodical procedure that is closely monitored by PriceWaterHouse Coopers (PwC), the official auditors for the event. The popular category nominations will then be available for the global audience to participate in the voting process.

The final winners of the IIFA Awards are revealed on the night of the Awards ceremony when the envelope is opened onstage, in front of the live audience. The results are surrounded by secrecy and the credibility of the voting process is one of the key parameters of this prestigious award.

Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd promotes the IIFA celebrations globally each year and travel to a new beau locale taking the Film fraternity with it to amalgamate and celebrate the best of both cultures, thereby taking Indian Cinema to a wider audience.

Comedy Supremo, Akshay Kumar, set to charm audiences once more in 'Thank You'!

Bollywood all-rounder, Akshay Kumar, is set to rock cinema halls with laughter once again, as the charming comedy caper, 'Thank You', releases in cinemas across UK and worldwide on 8th April 2011.

Proving his on screen versatility following a critically hailed, emotionally-charged performance in 'Patiala House', Akshay Kumar returns with a performance that oozes charisma, colour and perfect comic timing, in a film that lifts the lid on extra-marital affairs.

After the staggering Box Office success of 'Singh is King' and the earlier 'Welcome', the superstar has teamed up once more with much-loved comedy director, Anees Bazmee, for another surefire hit which will have

audiences in stitches well after the end credits roll.

Filmed on location in Canada, 'Thank You' sees Akshay feature opposite vivacious starlet, Sonam Kapoor, and alongside a host of fellow industry luminaries such as Bobby Deol, Irrfan Khan, Sunil Shetty, Celina Jaitley and Rimi Sen in a battle of the sexes which will transform matrimony to acrimony.



Munni enters Guinness Book of World Records ...



Record breaker, Malaika

A Bollywood song has made it into the record books following a performance Down Under.

"Munni Badnaam Hui", one of 2010s sexiest songs, entered the Guinness Book of World Records. Led by Malaika, over 1,200 people danced for three minutes to set the

new record. The song is from the film "Dabangg" and stars actor Salman Khan.

The event was organised by Indian Film festival 2011 director Mitu Bhowmick Lange to promote Bollywood Down Under.

The song was played at Melbourne Park in Australia with over 1,200 people dancing together. Malaika received a certificate for setting the record.

Lange said, "It's been amazing to see such a large crowd has come together and danced with the same steps on this exciting number."

The previous record had been set in Singapore when over 1,008 people danced to a song.

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To mark the bicentenary of the end of French occupation of Mauritius, "Editions du Pacifique" have published a reference book on the former "Isle de France". As a strategic location on the spice route, Mauritius was for a long time a source of conflict between the powerful European countries. Being a vital stop-off point on the commercial routes to the Orient, "the star and key of the Indian Ocean" has known many occupiers, was then discovered, abandoned, conquered, strongly defended ... it was a point of battles or a port for sailors. Featuring a large number of pictures, maps and documents from the author's private collection, this book takes you on a journey of discovery, detailing the ever-evolving history of an island of passion, jealousies and bloody battles, of fights for scientific discovery and the commerce in spices.

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The Miss Mauritius Experience



From left to right: **Second Runner-up: Rebecca Mangaroo,**
Miss Mauritius GB 2011: Melissa Nathoo,
First Runner-up: Shiksa Matabadul.

Miss Mauritius GB 2011

19 Finalists for one title!



Saturday 5th February 2011 at Wandsworth Town Hall. What a fantastic evening. Sleek and glamorous, they were all aspiring 'Miss Mauritius GB 2011'. These fine ladies put up a great show. It took a lot of effort, courage and no doubt cost them all some money to appear before an audience and a panel of eight judges to be scrutinised and judged as to whether or not they had what it takes to be crowned 'Miss Mauritius GB 2011'.

Non-Mauritians who attended the event were impressed with the high standard of the participants and commended the organising committee for providing such an opportunity for young ladies in the community.

In between, the traditional segas provided by Dorian Delia of Jalsa des Iles, songs by RnB Singer and Music group and music from DJ Indi, DJ Steph, DJ Eagle and DJ Shaney, of Maurice Sound Systems, the young ladies aged between 18 to 27 years of age, paraded with different dresses and answered to their best ability questions posed to them by the charming Charles Maurice, host for the evening. Although from the same culture, their family backgrounds differed. All with different experiences, they displayed courage, confidence, beauty, achievements and Knowledge.

All these qualities were mustered for this occasion and in the end as we all know, there can only be one Miss Mauritius GB 2011. This beauty contest was judged on their appearances based upon their initial casual dress, their evening gown and their personality as it transpired through their responses to the questions they faced.

Due to their life experiences, we had a variety of personalities which came through. It was a refreshing and gratifying experience to see so many educated and well-spoken ladies combining charm and willing to do charitable

work at such an early stage of their life.

Such contest as Miss Mauritius GB 2011 organised by Mauritius News, led by Peter Chellen, gave these young ladies a convenient platform to gain exposure. It has provided the contestants with a valuable opportunity to show what they are capable of achieving in front of an audience. I believe that this takes a lot of courage and willpower on their part to put themselves to such scrutiny.

Participation to such contests is nowadays regarded as a valuable experience and will strengthen any curriculum vitae and give the participants this extra advantage on their fellow competitor when going up their career path. Participation and indeed winning such contest will no doubt give prospective employers an insight into one's ability to achieve a goal if one makes an effort and shows commitment to pursue such goal.

I commend the finalists and congratulate the winner of Miss Mauritius of Great Britain 2011, Miss Melissa Nathoo.

I should once more wish to end on a vote of thanks to Peter Chellen for his initiative, to Mauritius News and its partner, The Mauritius Cosmopolitan Society, for diffusing the news through the community, all the sponsors whose financial donations have greatly helped, all those supporters who have untiringly worked for weeks before to put up the show. But not the least the judges with the delicate task of picking up a winner.

Savina Choolun-Boodhoo (Solicitor)

Editor's note: The tiara crowning Miss Mauritius GB was donated by Mrs Boodhoo, and those for the two runners-up were donated by Mel Armoogum of the Miss M Organising Committee.

Miss Mauritius GB 2011 was organised by Mauritius News with the support of the Mauritius Cosmopolitan Society

Sponsored by (in alpha order) Air Mauritius, A & M Travel, Choolun-Boodhoo (Savina) of Raj Law Solicitors, HRL De Costa, London School of Law, Mauritian Club.Com, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA), N9 Travel Centre, Oxford College International, Retnon Shunmoogum of Mauritius Tamil Maha Sangam (MTMS), Sun Resorts (Hotels Group)

23 UK Mauritian girls, as far as Edinburgh, enrolled for the beauty contest and 19 turned up for the final line-up on February 5 at the Wandsworth Civic Suite in the Borough of Wandsworth in South London.

It was a cold wintry evening and yet the girls came to stand for the tough psychological test of their own personality among a large gathering of spectators. They came on stage a first time in casual dress and subsequently appeared in their evening dresses, one by one, to be questioned in the presence of a panel of judges chaired by Lord Brian Davidson.

The election of the Miss Mauritius GB 2011 and the two runners-up were based on the following criteria: 1. Casual Dress 2. Evening Wear 3. Overall personality 4. Oral delivery on achievements and aspirations.

The lucky winners are:

Miss Mauritius GB 2011: Melissa Nathoo - 25 years old - of Bury St Edmunds, A graduate in Broadcast Journalism from Nottingham Trent University. (Melissa is in the centre of picture on left)

First Runner-up: Shiksa Matabadul - 19 years old - of Romford, Essex, student nurse at London South Bank University. (Shiksa is on the right in the picture)

Second Runner-up: Rebecca Mangaroo - 21 years - of Epsom, Surrey, studying Business and Design at Kingston University. (Rebecca is on the left in the picture).

The first prize was a return ticket to Mauritius offered by Air Mauritius, and week's stay for two at the new Long Beach Hotel, Belle Mare, Mauritius, offered by Sun Resorts.

As our contributor Marc Grégoire writes below

"Pour un coup d'essai, ça a été un coup de maître."

P.S.: We must, however, understand the immense frustration of the losers as everyone cannot win. There was quite a bit of lamentation and recrimination around.

I can assure the candidates that there was no hanky-panky in the Miss Mauritius GB election. To avoid any allegation of 'fixing', a symptom experienced after each previous competition, I personally hand-picked the judges whose integrity I can vouch for.

The rumour that one of judges had confessed to some girls that the election was fixed can be ascribed to sour-grape.

For the next competition we shall arrange for the audience to vote as well. This was a suggestion made by Mrs Savina Choolun-Boodhoo before the event, but it could not done this time.

The event had its failings such as the undue delay to start and the lack of adequate changing room. We have learned a lot from this experience.

To everyone who contributed to the success of the event, and the girls themselves, I say a big thank-you.

The three Organising Committee members Dinah Ramsamy, Yvonne Goder and Mel Armoogum deserve special mention for their dedication.

We also have in mind Mrs Vadee Shunmoogum of the Furzdown Bar who came to our rescue when we were badly let down by the Mauritian bar people who pulled out at the last minute fearing that the assistance would not be worth their while. They went back on their word.

Peter Chellen

An appreciation from Marc Grégoire

Pour un coup d'essai, c'est un coup de maître, bravo!



Left to right: Lord Bryan Davidson, Dianne Griffiths, Senior Lecturer Sandhi Patchay, Rebecca Mangaroo, Melissa Nathoo, Shiksa Matabadul, Vivienne Griffiths and Sudesh Jeewon (Principal Oxford College)

I must say, Peter Chellen, the Chairman & Managing Director of Mauritius News, has the knack to pull out of thin air the most out-of-the-ordinary event. It was purely thin air when he told me about the Miss Mauritius project in October last, and he managed to make it a real event on February 5 of this year.

In my opinion it turned out to be a masterpiece. I was both happy and proud to attend with my family. Indeed, the beauty contest organised by Mauritius News at the Wandsworth Civic Suite, Wandsworth High Street, London SW 18, was a real success. For a first try by Mauritius News, it was a hit.

As we arrived on the ground floor of the reception hall, my wife Leonilde, my nephew & niece Mr & Mrs Juão & Paula Martins, and myself, were welcomed on the door by the architect of the event himself, our friend Peter Chellen. He,

then introduced us to Dinah, London School of Law Principal, Dr Kesso Ramsamy's daughter who showed us to our seats, among the best near the stage in the main reception hall.

As we were being seated, through the milky light, we were impressed by the brightness of the hall, and the beautiful ladies who were sitting at their tables. The ladies kept, with admiration, the audience under their charm. I was amazed to see not only so many different personalities and various ethnic groups in the audience but also the number of people who turned up. Everyone was there in a single spirit — to keep the show alive and kicking.

While the musical group was delivering typical sega sounds of Mauritius paradise, in the right wing in the hall, the barmen were preparing their special drinks and that made my mouth water thinking about



By Marc Grégoire

the Mauritian special mix: rum with coconut milk. In the same right wing, not far to our table, the catering ladies were displaying their exquisite Mauritian menu, and waiting to please those eating-out lovers who were not unfamiliar with Mauritian kitchen to have the opportunity to taste the dal puri and its various curries, the chilly cakes and samoussas etc, all freshly made.

Continued on Page 13

An appreciation from Marc Grégoire

Pour un coup d'essai, c'est un coup de maître, bravo!

(Continued from Page 12)

Then, came the announcement of the appearance of the competitors on stage. The music stopped. The curtain drawn apart, a floodlight flashed and luminously revealed the radiant faces of the 19 young beauties. They followed, one by one, to form themselves into a semicircle.

For their first appearance, every competitor dressed as she saw fit: in short skirts or in slack/trousers. For their second appearance, all of them were in a long evening dress. Indeed, they were stunning. My admiration and congratulations to them all.

I confess that I never thought that there were so many pretty young Mauritian ladies in the UK. They kept me fascinated as they answered the questions put to each one. Well at ease, they spoke with a smile as real ambassadors who knew the rope, and how to deliver in a multiracial society like ours to introduce and develop their ideas. They were sweet, intelligent, and articulate. Their parents should be very proud of them. They make me proud to be Mauritian. The juries must have got themselves a hard task



Savina and Raj Boodhoo of Raj Law Solicitors (sponsors) with the three winners

to pick up a winner among those attractive candidates.

Now, what's about the sega dance girls, the singer (segatier), and the ravanners? Did they manage to bring to the assistance the beat of true 'sega mauricien' on that evening of Saturday of the 5th February? The girls did marvelously well in their long dress in the colour of our national flag. They graciously danced and danced

to accompany sega singer Dorian, and the ravanners.

I congratulate Peter for the excellent show he staged for us. The success of the Miss Mauritius beauty contest demonstrates clearly what members of the community in the UK can do when they put their heads together.

Marc Grégoire

Mauritian Senior Carers complete NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care



The Mayor and Mayoress of The London Borough of Redbridge came to an Awards Ceremony and for Afternoon Tea at Cambridge Nursing Home Among the awards presented were Level 3 NVQs in Health and Social Care which were achieved by all four of our Senior Carers who are all Mauritian.

"We are very proud of their hard work and their achievements," says Tayvanie Nagendran, Operations Director at the Cambridge Nursing Home.

Pictured above are the Senior Carers with the Mayor and displaying their NVQ certificates. (from left: Feroza Abdel-Hassan, Karen Andee [the Mayor] Kunal Jennah, Pavn Samachurun).

Wedding anniversary



Congratulations to Mala and Singh Chuttoo who recently celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary.

From all members of the family

Maha Shivaratri celebration

This year MMS celebrated the Maha Shivaratri on Tuesday 3rd March from 6pm to 10.30pm at the Darji Pavillion in Palmers Green.

Devotees of Lord Shiva observe the Shivaratri Festival by following the prescribed rituals with sincerity and devotion. All through the day, devotees abstain from eating food and break their fast only the next morning, after the nightlong workshop.

Ritual baths of Shivalinga in the numerous Shiva temples by Shiva worshipper, mainly women, is another significant feature of Shivaratri customs and traditions. Devotees strongly believe that ritual workshop of Lord Shiva on the auspicious day of Shivaratri rids them of past sins and they are blessed with Moksha.

On a Shivaratri day, Shiva

temples are thronged by devotees, mainly women, who come to perform the traditional Shivalinga pooja and seek blessings from the god. At time there is so much rush in the temples that devotees have to wait for their turn to perform pooja. At their turn for workshop, devotees circumambulate the Shivalinga, three or seven times, and then pour water over it. Some also pour milk. Sounds of bell and shouts of 'Shankarji ki Jai' or (Hail Shiva) reverberate in the temple premises.

Ritual Bath of Shivalinga

Following the rituals prescribed in the Shiva Purana, every three hours, Shivalingam is given a special bath with milk, yoghurt, honey, sandalwood paste and rose water. Puja, meditation and chanting of 'Om Namah Shivaya' accompany the ritual bath.

Following the bath, vermilion paste is applied on the linga. Traditionally, leaves of a forest tree three Aegle marmelos (bilwa, maredu, wood apple) are used for Shiva puja. Thereafter, Bilwa leaves which have to be a stalk with three leaves, is kept on top of the Shivalinga.

Lawyer turned Medical Doctor

Congratulations, from friends and members of the family, to Shenaz-Sherin Domah, daughter of Mr Mohammad Domah, who passed the MBBS with distinction at the Queen Mary School of Medicine.

Shenaz of Watford is already holder of a law degree as previously announced in Mauritius News.



In Memoriam

Our "Lucy" has gone ...

"THREE years she grew in sun and shower; Then Nature said, 'A lovelier flower On earth was never sown; This child I to myself will take; She shall be mine, and I will make A lady of my own...'" William Wordsworth, *Lucy Poems*

She left this world too soon and she was indeed a beautiful flower. On Friday the 11th of February 2011, Nalina Tirvengadam (niece of Sir Harry Tirvengadam), left us without saying goodbye... Having devoted her life as an English Language and Literature teacher and a loving mother; she was cherished by numerous friends and relatives. Her contagious laughter, wit, courage and resilience will be engraved into our hearts forever.

In this time of sadness, our thoughts and prayers go to her parents Mr and Mrs Radha Tirvengadam.

May your soul rest in peace sweet angel... Sleep tight...

Véronique Kistnen-Murdy

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A Tribute to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on th 43rd year of Independence Day

From the gate of history
You rode out into legendary
Where once you walked in agony, poverty
Today your country walks in dignity, prosperity
With hard work, courage, hope
You carved a path to a brilland destiny
Let the whole nation
Men, women, yound and old
Rise as one to give you
The salute of eternity

Navin Nunkoo

Author: Bhagavat-Gita for the 21st Century

Mauritian reminiscences

The Mauritian debt of gratitude to Ireland

In memory of **Michaela McAavey (born Harte)**

".....Here wast thou bay'd,
brave hart;
Here didst thou fall; and here
thy hunters stand,
Sign'd in thy spoil, and
crimson'd in thy lethe. –
O world, thou wast the forest
to this hart;
And this, indeed, the heart of
thee."

(William Shakespeare,
"Julius Caesar")

In a sense, Ireland gave us everything (from the British victory which led to the conquest of Isle de France in 1810 and which had weighed so much in the destiny of Mauritians since then to the poetical legacy of Robert-Edward Hart of Irish connection), yet we snatched the life out of her. How ungrateful and how inhuman!

Indeed, Mauritius has been served, in one way or another, by Irish ever since French rule. "Descendants of the 'Wild Geese', who had found refuge in France, arrived at Isle de France as early settlers under Governors Denis Denyon (1721-1725), Denis Brousse (1725-1727), Pierre Benoit Dumas (1727-1729, and in much larger numbers under Mahé de La Bourdonnais (1735-1746)." (1)

The term 'Wild Geese' has been coined to designate the Irish emigrants who left Ireland for political reasons in the 17th



Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy, deemed to have been instrumental in initiating the first constitutional reforms of the island, in company of Lady Hennessy and son in Mauritius.

century and "took refuge in Brittany, Normandy, the Paris region or other regions of France, as well as Spain, Scandinavia, the Low Countries and the Austrian Empire." (Idem)

What did these Irish-born emigrants come to do in Isle de France under the early French governors? "They came as hired hands such as carpenters, soldiers, sailors, and chaplains." (Idem)

French Mauritius continued to welcome Irish-born people in the second half of the eighteenth century, the more remarkable among them being fighting troops in the service of France. "Later from the 1750s onwards, Irish Regiments that formed part of the 'Irish Brigade in the Service of France' sojourned at Isle de France on their way to India; the Regiments of Lally (17 December 1757-27 January 1758), Care (April 1771-September 1772) and Walsh (1788-1790) left their mark in the annals of Isle de France." (Idem)

Indeed, a few of the soldiers serving in the Irish regiments settled on the island for good. Such was the case of officers William de Keating and Thomas O'Gorman in the 1780's and 1790's. The musician of the Walsh Regiment, Henry Louis Denys

Chelin, together with his wife and son settled on the island in the late 1790's.

"Henry Louis et son épouse s'installèrent à la rue de l'Hôpital où selon toute probabilité elle ouvrit un café offrant le couvert et une salle de jeux équipée de billard." (2)

Irish troops instrumental in British 1810 takeover

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Irish played a decisive part in helping the British secure the Mascarenes. "The chief events leading up to the takeover of Rodrigues (1809), the capture of Bourbon (July 1810), the French naval victory at Grand Port (August 1810) and the invasion and fall of Isle de France in December 1810" have all seen "the active participation of Irish soldiers and seamen, generals and officers". (1)

Indeed, at that time, many Irishmen were recruited to form part of British troops. "A large proportion of the crew of the British frigates was Irishmen. Ireland had only been formally politically united with Britain less than a decade before the battle of Grand Port. Few members listed came from Dublin, Limerick and Cork but sometimes their origin is simply given as 'Ireland'." (3)

Admittedly, the most prominent part was played by Colonel Henry Sheehy Keating, the first to land with the British troops in the north of Mauritius on 29 November 1810, and Commodore Sir Josias Rowley, one of the signatories from the victorious camp of the Act of Capitulation on 3 December 1810.

Both Irishmen were previously implied in the takeover of the other two islands of the Mascarenes, Rodrigues (August 1809) and Bourbon or Réunion (July 1810). One Mauritian historian has argued that the British takeover of the island has been a blessing indeed, insofar as the liberation of the masses and the evolution of the democratic process was concerned.

"If the British had not dislodged the French...and taken over Mauritius in December 1810 – the 66 thousand slaves



Loreto Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been providing a high quality education in Mauritius for more than one and a half century now.

would not have been liberated in 1835 – and Indian Immigration en masse (450 000 from 1834 to 1923) would not have taken place. As such, Mauritius would not have experienced the evolution of a democratic system of Government." (4)

An immense contribution to quality education

Whatever would have been the case, the British administrative era in Mauritius did open the way for numerous "Irish-born professionals, politicians, soldiers, settlers, and members of various religious orders" (1) to serve on the island. There has been "the immense contribution made to education in Mauritius by the I.B.V.M. Congregation (Loretos) from 1845 to the present day." (Idem)

I.B.V.M. stands for The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary created in the 17th



Mgr Donald Liston, Bishop of Port-Louis (1949-1968), the last of the three Spiritan Bishops, all Irish, who served the island to the eve of the accession to independence.

century by Mary Ward in the Yorkshire. However, the credit for the real pioneering effort in the field of quality education for girls goes to an Irish lady Teresa Ball who started the first Loreto House in Dublin.

As a matter of fact, the success obtained in the field of education by the Loreto Sisters is a telling evidence of the success obtained in general by the Irish missionaries in Mauritius. "La preuve la plus éclatante de la réussite des missionnaires irlandais demeure sans conteste la gestion des collèges Loreto ainsi que les écoles primaires dont ils avaient érigé en modèles." (5)

On the other hand, the case of boys' education in Mauritius has been served with much success by the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Fathers of the Holy Ghost (C.S.Sp.).

Of governors and bishops from Ireland and others

It is indeed an honour that the second British governor appointed to rule Mauritius, from 1823 to 1828, was none other than the Irish Sir Lowry Cole, and that, following in his footsteps, "several Irish governors were appointed, among them, in the 1880s, Sir John Pope Hennessy who had a vital role to play in taking Mauritius further along the road towards constitutional and social reforms." (1)

To him we owe the famous slogan, "Mauritius to the Mauritians!", and, as such, he can be considered as the real father of the century-long process of the evolution of Mauritius towards autonomy and full independence.

On the other hand, let alone Irish members of the clergy and educators, no less than four Irish bishops, "Mgr Peter O'Neill o.s.b. (Benedictine Order), and three Spiritan Bishops of Port-Louis: Mgr John Baptist T. Murphy (1916-1926); Mgr James Leen (1926-1949) and Mgr Daniel Liston (1949-1968)" have been at the head of the Catholic Church in Mauritius. Their administrations have been a blessing for the island:

"These four Irishmen, out of a total of eleven Bishops to date, had a major impact on the spiritual life and moral values of twentieth-century Mauritius. Significantly, since 1991, a Mauritian-born Bishop, trained in Dublin and a member of the same Congregation of the Holy Ghost, Mgr Maurice Piat C.S.Sp., is at the helm of the Catholic Church, having succeeded the much-revered and greatly-loved Mgr Jean Margéot." (1)

Just as Mgr Maurice Piat, a large number of "Mauritian-born students...have completed their education in Irish tertiary institutions, notably at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (R.C.S.I.), University College, Dublin, or other Colleges of the National University of Ireland at Cork or Galway." (1)

Prominent among them are the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Arvin Boolell, Dr Charles Yip Tong and Dr I. Gaya who all studied in Dublin.

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On the cultural, artistic and economic fronts

On the cultural and artistic fronts, apart from gratifying Mauritians with the exquisite works of Irish artists like Frederick Robert Nixon and writers like Charles John Doyle, Ireland has inspired a host of Mauritian writers and novelists as Karl de Souza, Arthur Martial and Lilian Berthelot.

Quite obviously, it is imperative, "in the context of Irish-Mauritian connections", not to "forget that Robert-Edward Hart (1891-1954) belongs to a family with ancestors from both countries" (Idem) and whom Jean Urruty has described in the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography as "not only the bard of Mauritius, but the poet of the entire Indian Ocean" and "up till now the greatest poet Mauritius has ever produced."

On the economic front, Mauritius has learnt from Ireland's economic progress as a nation in the 1980s. Furthermore, "sporting links between Mauritius and Ireland have existed since the foundation of the Mauritius Turf Club in 1812..." when "British and Irish officers and Government officials first participated in races at Mangalkhan and the Champ de Mars for many years." (Idem)

The law of reciprocity tampered with

Mauritius has, on one or two occasions, shown how much she values her connection with Ireland. Thus, "the contribution of Ireland to the education of Mauritian-born young people was recognized in the 1960s by Mauritius which made a generous donation to the R.C.S.I." (Idem)

The donation amounted to £ 10,000. Again, in response to a call as far back as 1849, in the wake of the Great Famine, Mauritius made a "donation £ 3 000 to the Irish nation" which "was the largest of all and even surpassed the contributions of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert combined." (Idem)

Sadly enough, on a fateful 10 January 2011, Mauritius played it foul to Ireland by strangling to death, in hotel room 1025 of the Legends, her 27 year old beauty queen Michaela McAavey-Harte. A national shame!

D O D O

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Photos: "No Man is and Island" of Professor Marc Serge Rivière, to whom we are indebted.

Everest Challenge

Mauritian climber scales the heights ... for charity



Jaysen, with the Mauritian flag, on top of Cold Mountain



Next up, Mount Everest - good luck Jaysen

Jaysen Arumugum is a Mauritian who always wanted to get to the top. And in April, he attempts exactly that. Climbing Mount Everest, no less.

As well as being his passion, the attempt to scale the world's highest mountain is an opportunity for the climber to raise money to help fight breast cancer both in the UK and in Mauritius.

Jaysen, 35, wants to be the first Mauritian to climb the highest peak on every continent. Having already succeeded in climbing five of the peaks (including Kilimanjaro-Africa, Mont Blanc-France, Elbrus-Europe, Kosciusko-Australia, Aconcagua-South America and Denali-North America), he now has his sights set on the daddy of them all.

He leaves on April 2 for this ultimate adventure; it will take him 69 days of gruelling climbing before he reaches the summit of Everest.

"Climbing Everest is a dream of mine since I was a young boy. It's going to be a tough climb though and I have embarked on a rigorous training regime. I have left no stone unturned to make this dream come true.

"Everybody in my immediate circle - my wife, parents, sisters, friends and colleagues - are all very supportive. With their blessings, I am sure I will succeed," he proudly tells Mauritius News.

Africa

Born in London to Mauritian parents, Jaysen lived in Mauritius for seven years. His passion for climbing began when he saw 5,895-metre-high Kilimanjaro on a flight to London.

"Kilimanjaro stood

in all its splendour with its snow-covered peak. It was a beautiful sight. It was at that point I decided one day I would try to climb it," he recalls.

In November 2002, he dared. "It was my first high-altitude mountaineering experience and will most probably be the most memorable. I remember spotting the mountain for the first time and feeling my heart race.

"The adventure was not without side effects, though. It was a real shock feeling the effects of altitude. I did not expect it to be so painful, experiencing dreadful headaches at 4,200 metres," he recalls.

He will never forget his first impressions upon reaching the top. "The feeling was amazing. I thought to myself 'what a wonderful world this is' and I was so lucky to be at the top of Africa. It helped me appreciate the planet we live on and how grateful we should be to be here."

This first experience made him realise that mountaineering is serious business. He enrolled in a series of preparation programmes, including formal training on snow, ice and rock. He realised he had the ability and desire to conquer the seven summits and was not going to stop with Kilimanjaro.

Europe

"Through the International School of Mountaineering I was able to climb the highest mountain in Western Europe as well, Mont Blanc, at 4,807m.

"It was July 2004 and all went well until the descent. I was attached to two other climbers when all hell broke loose. The three of us

lost grip of the snow face sliding down for some 100 metres, pretty much vertically. Luckily our training kicked in and we managed to slow down," he remembers.

That was his first near-miss but undaunted, Mount Elbrus at 5,642m, came next in July 2005. "When I got back down and looked at the photos, I realised that in most of the summit photos I was holding the Mauritian flag upside down!!! That's what the cold and lack of oxygen does to you. I wasn't, however, going to go back up to take the photos again!" he added.

South America
Next was Aconcagua, South America, at 6,962m in November 2006. "I had never experienced the extreme cold I faced up on Aconcagua. I lost about 5kgs in weight and the skin on my face was peeling off. Although wind-burned and a little frost-bitten I was overjoyed to have made it," Jaysen says.

Australasia
Kosciusko in Australia, at 2,228m, in April 2007 was the easiest of them all, according to Jaysen.

"At only 2,228m it was never really going to be too taxing. It was a six-hour round trip and I took my new wife, Cheryl, with me. We shared a picnic near the top," he recalls.

North America
His next climb was Denali in North America, which is 6,194m high and is known as the Cold Mountain.

"It was in June 2009 and took me four weeks. This was a proper expedition of 12 climbers where we carried everything we

needed for the trip, including clothing, tents and cooking utensils. There was no guarantee of success with this climb but I managed it. I'd like to say a big thanks to our main guide, Heidi. Sadly, she died recently when she got caught in an avalanche on her holidays," he adds sadly.

His battle to raise money for breast cancer victims is now all that is motivating him towards Mount Everest, so much so that he is not even focusing on the difficulties that he will encounter.

He will fly into Kathmandu and trek toward Everest base camp on the South side of the mountain for acclimatization. Jaysen will then go Tibet where he will attack the mountain from the North side.

He confides. "I know it won't be easy, but then I want to do it, I will do it. It is my dream. And doing it for breast cancer will push me to keep going. It is great being able to 'give something back' and to be able to raise money for such a good cause," concludes the brave adventurer.

He will also be working with Charities and the Ministry of Health in Mauritius to raise awareness and to improve the chances of Mauritian women surviving this terrible illness.

Find out more by visiting Jaysen's website at: www.jaysenarumugum.com.

You can make donations there or on www.justgiving.com/jaysenarumugum. A proportion of funds raised will go towards fighting breast cancer in Mauritius.

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