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Mauritius News

Truth & Justice



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Twenty years of Mauritius News November 1983 to November 2003

The First issue of Mauritius News in November 1983



Yes, this was Issue No 1 of Mauritius News. It came out in November 1983. It was a very cold month, and we can still remember when we had to go all the way to east London, in Aldgate, to have the articles typeset in strips by the people specialised in this job. We did the proof reading on the spot and took the final copy to the printers in south London for the paste-up and printing.

In 1983, the High Commissioner for Mauritius was the late Gian Nath, who was himself new on the job. He sent us the picture above (with his wife Chintra) before his departure from Egypt where he was Ambassador before moving to London.

Twenty-years ago, in that very first edition, as a leading article, we wrote about Diego Garcia and the plight of the Chagossians. Today, Diego and the Chagossians are still making headlines in the international press.

Recently, (on October 9, 2003), the British High Court sadly ruled that there was no prospect for further compensation to be paid to the Chagossians. In our November 1983 Diego Garcia article, Dr Ram Mannick (a University lecturer, also known as Ramotar) writing under the pen name of Scorpio said "Mauritians

have generally accepted (as a fact) the final payments made by Britain to the displaced Ilois now living in Mauritius, and that the fifty year lease (to the US) is valid and there is little that Mauritius can do to alter that."

In October of this year (2003), the same verdict is rendered by the British High Court of Justice.

Twenty years ago, Dr Mannick wrote "In its election manifesto, the Alliance Party, headed by Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth, gave the Diego Garcia issue a couple of lines - and this was reiterated in the Governor General's speech at the Opening Session of the Mauritius Legislative Assembly - "Particular attention will be given to recovering Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin Island."

In October 2003, Paul Bérenger, heading the government (in coalition with Jugnauth) declares that the Chagossians are Mauritians and November 3 will be commemorated as the date of their return to Mauritius (i.e. to commemorate their return to the motherland after their displacement from the Indian Ocean islands 40 years ago).

But the Chagossians have been granted the British citizenship and have of late been demonstrating outside the House of Commons in Westminster and the High Court in Aldwych (London).

Well so much about Diego Garcia and the Chagossians in 1983 and 2003. Whatever else has Mauritius News witnessed in those 20 years? As they say, so much water has passed under the bridge, and yet little seems to have changed in terms of Mauritian politics. Anerood Jugnauth's MSM was in power in 1983, and in 2003 the MSM is still in power (in coalition with the MMM of the same brotherhood, one may say). In 1983 Sir Anerood was PM, and in 2003 he is President of the country. In a way, it's a bit of what Gaëtan Duval used to say "plus que ça change, plus c'est la même chose".

In those past 20 years, Navin Ramgoolam made a short appearance as PM but he subsequently failed to grasp the political mood of the country. Refusing a fresh alliance with Paul Bérenger in 2000, he allowed Sir Anerood Jugnauth (who took up the Bérenger offer) to get back on the political rails, and ensure good prospects for the Jugnauth dynasty.

Well, before we embarked on the publication of an organ for the Mauritian community our team were engaged in voluntary work among the Mauritian community in the UK without funding from any source. When the paper came into existence we were already operating the Mauritius Association of Great Britain from our office on the Peckham Road in Southwark and many were those who knocked on our doors for assistance of one sort or another. We encouraged the setting up of branches of the Association in various boroughs which became known as the Mauritius Association of Southwark, the Mauritius Association of Lambeth, the Mauritius Association of Lewisham, the Mauritius Association of Haringey, the Mauritius Association of East London, among others. We had good relationship with the Mauritian organisations in Manchester, Leeds, Coventry. Mauritius news, through its support, could bring together thousands of UK Mauritian for a Mauritian day in London.

We are happy to say that Mauritius News still enjoys the trust of the Mauritian community in the UK. Our policy has been total honesty in every respect of the word. We have never tried to cheat any member of the community especially to fill our pockets. Today, Mauritius News also enjoys the trust of our young people, and they come to us for support. Mauritius News over the years has been a training ground for so many of our young folks offering them an opportunity to gain work experience in administrative practice, IT training, desktop publi-

shing,, etc.

20 years of dedication to the community cannot be summed in the space of a few columns. Yet, Mauritius News believes that the real job starts NOW. It is for the parents to play their role to enable the future generations of our people here to make their presence felt.

We have explained over and over why as an ethnic group there is need for our identity to be recognised. It is the policy of this country to keep record of the ethnic origin of people who have come from other countries so that everyone gets a slice of the cake. Mauritians are classified as "OTHERS" in the country's census and for official statistics. We'll say it bluntly that while the other ethnic minorities in the UK are having it so good, we still have to contend ourselves with the crumbs off the table from which they are feasting! We are very often regarded with disdain as judged from the sort of response we get when we ask for anything.

20 years on, we can say that Mauritius News has been the product of excellent team work. We take this opportunity express our heart-felt thanks to all friends, contributors, advertisers, and sympathisers.

Peter Chellen (Managing Editor)

MAURITIUS ASSOCIATION (Great Britain)

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All correspondence to be addressed to the Secretary

During those early years, our leaflets were designed by letraset (as the one above designed by Ringo Calinghen). Even then we were bold enough to hire the Lord's Banqueting Centre (Yes, that's where they play cricket) for a Christmas/New Year Party.

As usual, we had hundreds upon hundreds of people turning up. Lots had to be turned way in spite that very cold night. (The Mauritian associations had not yet start mushrooming then!). In the course of time, for the younger people, the paper took the initiative to launch the annual football competition and to organise fairs in various localities of London for the community.

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20 years of Mauritius News

We are grateful to His Excellency The High Commissioner for Mauritius, Mr Mohunlall Goburdhun, and to the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, Mr Trevor Phillips, for the words of encouragement expressed to our team on the 20th anniversary of Mauritius News.

At least two other messages are held up in the post as a result of the unofficial strike that has been taking place for over two weeks now. Royal Mail willing, we may insert the messages in the next issue.

MAURITIUS HIGH COMMISSION



32/33 ELVASTONE PLACE
LONDON SW7 5NW
Tel. No.: 020 7581 0294/5
Fax No.: 020 7823 8437

MESSAGE

Dear Editor,

I have the pleasure to convey to you our congratulations on the happy occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Mauritius News.

I seize this opportunity to commend the efforts of all those behind the publications of the Mauritius News, for their endeavours in

keeping the Mauritian nationals settled in the United Kingdom constantly aware of the latest news on Mauritius.

I am also happy to learn of the new initiative of the Mauritius News to take on board the new aspirations of the younger members of the Mauritian community in the United Kingdom.

Recently, our country has witnessed important changes at the helm of the Government, with the appointment of Sir Anerood Jugnauth, G.C.S.K, K.C.M.G, P.C, Q.C., as President of the Republic of Mauritius, and the Honourable Paul Raymond Berenger, G.C.S.K., as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius.

You can rest assured that you will be kept informed of changes and developments taking place in all spheres in Mauritius. I am confident that the Mauritius News would continue in its endeavour to promote Mauritius as a popular tourist destination and an ideal location for foreign investors in the fields of information and communication technology, financial services, and freepoint.

I once more wish the Mauritius News success in its future activities.

Mohunlall Goburdhun
High Commissioner

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Have you ever wanted to feel the ultimate adrenalin rush? Here is your chance!

The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation is looking for adventurous volunteers to make a fundraising parachute jump for free! There are two types of jump available - a 'Tandem Skydive' from 10,000 feet attached to a professional instructor and a 'Static Line' jump which is performed solo from up to 3,000 feet. You can jump from any one of over twenty British Parachute Association approved airfields across the UK on the date of your choice plus no experience is necessary as all training is given.

If you would like to make a thrilling skydive give us a call at the office on 01296 395995 or email enquiries@britishwheelchairsports.org and we will send you a full information pack so that you can experience the thrill of your life.



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY



"The CRE are delighted to congratulate Mauritius News on reaching its 20th year.

You have provided a great service to the Mauritian families living in the UK by giving them a voice here and keeping them up to speed with news

from the island.

"Not many ethnic media publications survive such a distance these days, and it is a testament to all those who have worked on Mauritius News over the years that the paper is still thriving. We look forward to seeing Mauritius News grow from strength to strength."

Trevor Phillips
Chairman

Epilogue of a murder investigation

Hizbullah leader Cehl Meeah cleared of murder charge by Mauritius Assizes Court.
See Report on Page 13

By-election to replace Jugnauth

Rajesh Jeetah,
Labour candidate
in No. 7

Lecturer at the University of Mauritius, Rajesh Jeetah is the Labour candidate at the December 21 by-election in Constituency No. 7 (Piton Rivière-du-Rempart).

Rajesh is the son of Ramnath Jeetah, ex-minister and disciple of late Professor Basdeo Bissoondoyal. Rajesh Jeetah is at his first attempt in an election.

Race

CRE will investigate racism in the police forces

CRE Chairman on BBC's documentary: *The Secret Policeman*

The revelations contained in Mark Daly's documentary are truly shocking. This is not just a matter of a few recruits who can be trained out of their behaviour. This shows a pattern of behaviour which is widespread, and though officially condemned, is tacitly condoned by their peers.

We will be asking the BBC for all the material gathered by Mr. Daly to see whether there are grounds for a formal investigation by the CRE. In the meantime I will be writing to every chief constable in England and Wales asking what measures they have in place to ensure that no racist is allowed to wear a police uniform.

I will also be asking what procedures they have in place for detecting racist behaviour on the part of serving officers, and to provide opportunities for colleagues to come forward with information.

I will also be writing to the heads of the training schools and the chairs of the police authorities in a similar vein. I will be seeking an early meeting with police authorities, and will of course be discussing this with Ministers.

How the police deal with the BBC and its methods is clearly a matter for them. However, I would suggest that their resources would be best deployed dealing with the serious issues raised by this film.

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583 Wandsworth Rd
London SW8 3JD

Tel: 0207 498 3066
(+24-hour answering service)
Fax: 0207 627 8939

E-mail:
editor@mauritius-news.co.uk

Web site:
http://www.mauritius-news.co.uk

MANAGING EDITOR:
Peter Chellen

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Mauritius:
Vel Kadressen
UK: Parastudio

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Seven young entrepreneurs rewarded

The winners of the Entrepreneur Start-up Scheme launched February last by the Small and Medium Industries Development Organisation (SMIDO) received their awards end September last at a ceremony at Domaine Les Pailles, near Port Louis.

They are: Yasser Mohamudally (cabinet making), Didier Lau Po Hung (Ice cream and cocktails making), Prakash Kurnauth (milk production and animal breeding), Jean-Noël and Corina Law (catering), Alfred Wong Cheong (signs maker), Julien Ferrière (manufacture, import, sale and installation of car accessories) and Zaahid Akmal Peerboccus (clothing). In all, 37 dossiers were presented to the jury.

City Textiles open at Coromandel

City Textiles, a textile unit built by Star Knitwear Ltd, started its operations end September last at Coromandel, near Port-Louis. Its director, Ali Parkar, said the group had invested Rs 400 million in this modern factory that would operate on a 24 hour basis.

Indian-born Parkar came to Mauritius for the first time in 1987. He opened the Star Knitwear Ltd at Rivière-du-Rempart, with a workforce of 200 people and a turnover worth Rs 30 million. 95 percent of its products are exported to the European

10 year-old Akhmez Aumeer still missing

Ten-year-old Akhmez Aumeer, who was residing with his parents at Camp Chapelon, near Port-Louis, disappeared from his family's home January 25 last. He is yet to be found.

His mother, Nazleen, still hopes to find her son. On the day he disappeared, Akhmez was playing with his younger brother on a bare land near his parents' home.

Akhmez was a student at the Institute of Islamic and Secular Studies, Cassis.

Mauritius News a statement of faith

Mauritius News, the paper that gives Mauritians an identity in the UK among the ethnic minorities.
Mauritius News, the paper that gives the Mauritian community a voice in the UK.
Mauritius News, the paper for generations to come, Much depends on us for all this.

Clandestine lab for making illegal copies of films dismantled

The Anti-Piracy Unit of the Police dismantled October 1 last, in Rose-Hill, a sophisticated clandestine laboratory used for making illegal copies of VCD and DVD films.

Police said highly-sophisticated equipment that can make 90 copies of illegal audio VCD in a few minutes were seized, together with 1400 copies of illegal VCD and DVD and a few pornographic films, all valued at Rs 1.5 million.

The owner of the building, Patrick Hu Hoi Chuen Miow Wah, 38 years, was arrested and released on parole. According to police, this business was very lucrative in the island.

The Queen congratulates Jugnauth

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II sent a message of congratulation and best wishes to the new President of the Republic of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

Outgoing President Karl Offmann resigned the Presidency on October 1 and Jugnauth was sworn in a week later.

Paradise Club commemorates two years of broadcast programme



Guests with presenters Norman G. (in front) and Jacques Roussel (behind him).

Presenter Jayraanee sharing the anniversary cake

"Absolutely wonderful" said Jay and Norman in unison as well-wishers and listeners joined them at Spectrum Radio's Battersea premises in October. The occasion was to celebrate the Paradise Club's second anniversary. The programme, which started two years ago on a three-month trial, has been a resounding success.

Peter Chellen (Managing Editor of Mauritius News), one of the three backers and presenters (Jayraanee Naidu and Norman G. being the other two) who launched the programme in 2001, came to extend his best wishes to the Presenters.

Also present for the commemoration was recent recruit, Jacques Roussel, the programme's entertainment correspondent, who helped to compile a limited edition CD celebrating the multicultural essence of the Paradise Club. Copies will be sent to the guests who attended.

Paradise Club has gone from strength to strength and one main feature being the regular link-up with Pamela Patten from MBC.

"The mutual exchange of programmes is another aspect of the show that has been well received, especially in time of celebrating special occasions such as Xmas, New Year etc", said Jacques Roussel.

The response has been very good with new listeners every week – those wishing to hear news from the island find this fascinating.

Paradise Club over the past two years has given support to numerous charity events and continues to be the voice for those who need to express themselves.

"The audience is very diverse. People from all walks of life that listen to the show. There are those who simply want to learn about the Mauritian culture, music, food and the people" expressed Norman G.

The latest addition to the team, Jacques Roussel, reviewing the latest releases has given the Mauritian artistes a big boost.

The team feel quite confident about the future of Paradise Club.

"We are very thankful to Spectrum radio and all the listeners for their support for the past two years" said Jay. "We look forward to their continued support".

Our congratulations to Mauritius News on the occasion of the paper's 20th anniversary in November 2003.

J.N.

Pictures: courtesy Christiane Saide

MCB wins case against Bénichou after 12 years

The Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB) has won its case against Jacques Bénichou, a French industrialist, after a period of 12 years, early October last. Judges Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong and Asraf Caunhye stated that they cannot contest the validity of the MCB's demands concerning the seizure of Bénichou's shares in PR Ltée, as well as other money and property.

The MCB has also obtained the seizure of Bénichou's shares in the following companies - Sunesta, Belle-Mare Investment Ltée, Maurigarments Ltée, Aquabeach Management Ltée, Panda (Maurijeans) Ltée, Aureus Ltée and Triplex Confections Ltée. In both cases, the judges have ordered the sale of the shares by a Sworn and Exchange Broker and their transfer to their respective buyers.

The first demand of seizure was meant to recover a sum of Rs 76 295 324.15 + interests that Bénichou owed to the MCB. The two others concern the payment of a sum of Rs 56 295 324 due by the defendor to the bank.

23,700 jobless in Mauritius as at April 2003

According to the Employment Service headquarters of the Training and Employment ministry, 23 717 people were officially registered as jobless as at April 2003 as compared to 23 786, a year earlier.

The number of jobless women rose from 10 536 in 2001 to 12 059 in 2002 while the number of jobless men rose from 10 117 in 2001 to 11 720 in 2002.

District-wise, the highest number of unemployed comes from Plaine Wilhems (6 136) as against 3 121 in Grand Port. Port-Louis had 2 608 registered unemployed and Savanne (2 597).

The data registered by this ministry showed also that 49 per cent (10 883) of the unemployed were between 20 and 29 years of age and 10 173 were aged between 30 and 54 years.

On the educational background, 29% of the unemployed had passed their School Certificate (SC) or General Certificate of Education (GCE) or the Higher School Certificate (HSC). While 5 647 had failed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) and 17 000 of them had not continued their education for obtaining a School Certificate award.

The official figures also indicated that 1 387 vacancies were announced during the same period, among which 1 311 in the private sector between January to April 2003.

World women entrepreneurs meet in Mauritius

Some 250 women entrepreneurs from at least thirty countries met in Mauritius early October last for the 51st World Congress that took place at Grand Bay, in the north of the island.

Inaugurating the session, Prime minister Paul Bérenger said he was satisfied with the participation of women in the economic development of the island during the past decade.

According to him, women represented 21% of the workforce in the island in 1993 and 34% in 2003. «They are at least 30% in the public sector and half of the staff of the Prime Minister Office are women», Bérenger added.

Meanwhile, Women rights and family welfare minister Arianne Navarre-Marie insisted for the setting up of a database containing the necessary information on women entrepreneurs. She also called for the sensitisation of young people to entrepreneurship.

Mauritian women entrepreneurs chairperson, Mooneera Joonas-Malleck, named a few topics that were discussed at the congress - namely investment opportunities in Mauritius, role of women entrepreneurs, access to credit, emerging economy of the island, new world economic order and globalisation, new technologies and

Khadafi Oozer gets seven years

Khadafi Oozer was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment early October last by magistrate Rita Teelock, sitting at the Intermediary Court in Port-Louis.

He was found guilty of having tried to assassinate Jacques Wiehé, an architect, in August 2000, at Poste La Fayette or Rivière du Rempart, and of possessing firearms.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth elected President



Parliament approved unanimously, in the absence of Opposition MPs, a motion presented by Prime Minister Paul Bérenger on October 7 to appoint Sir Anerood Jugnauth as President of the Republic of Mauritius under section 28 of the Constitution of the country.

On the same day, Jugnauth took the oath of office at Vaghjee Hall, in Port-Louis before Chief Justice Ariranga Pillay. He thus became the fourth President following in the steps of Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Cassam Uteem and Karl Offmann, since the country became a Republic in 1992.

Jugnauth was born on March 29, 1930, at Palma, Quatre-Bornes. Son of a labourer, he went to the Government primary school in his village, and attended the local Regent College in 1943 for his secondary education. On passing his School Certificate in 1948 he took up a job as teacher at New Eton College. He was only 18. He subsequently joined the civil service as a clerk in the Poor Law Department (now social security department).

His love affair with the legal profession began when he was transferred to the Justice Department two years later. At the age of 21 (in 1951), Jugnauth went to London to study Law and came back in May 1955, as a barrister. At the end of the same year, he was elected chairman of the Palma village council. He married Sarojini Ballah on December 18, 1957.

Jugnauth entered politics in 1963 and stood for the general election of the same year under the banner of the Independent Forward Block (IFB). He got 55 per cent of the votes of the 5,000 electors of constituency no. 7 (Piton/Rivière-du-Rempart), and got himself a seat in the Legislative Assembly. Subsequently, he became a member of the All-Mauritius Hindu Congress. In 1965, he was a delegate to the Constitutional Conference in London to discuss the future of the island.

In November 1966, he was nominated Labour Minister, a job which he left in April 1967 to become a magistrate in the judiciary. He also stayed away from politics.

It is only a decade later that his name was associated again with politics. In the meantime, the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) initiated by Harilal Bhugalloo, had been infrastructured by Paul Bérenger. Bérenger's policy was to make Mauritians of every creed feel and think as one nation. Yet, in recognition of the ethnic majority of the country, Anerood Jugnauth was made Chairman of the MMM, setting thus a Hindu to oppose veteran Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (later Sir). Bérenger retained for himself the job of General Secretary of the Party.

This new political party (MMM), very close to the population, at that time, had its first taste of election victory in 1973, when Dev Virahsawmy got himself elected in a bye-election in the constituency of Triolet-Pamplemousses against a Labour candidate. Triolet was the stronghold of veteran Dr Ramgoolam. The writing was on the wall. Labour, in power since 1948, was

beginning to decline.

At the 1976 general election Anerood Jugnauth was introduced as the future Prime Minister of the country. He was again elected in the same constituency of Piton/Rivière-du-Rempart, defeating a Labour candidate by 32 votes.

The MMM won the general election with 34 seats against 28 to the Labour party led by Prime minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and 7 to the Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) of Sir Gaëtan Duval. However, Ramgoolam joined forces with Duval and formed the next Government while Jugnauth became the leader of the Opposition.

Six years later, in 1982, the MMM joined forces with a new party, the Parti Socialiste Mauricien (PSM) led by Harish Boodhoo, who broke away from the Labour party and won all the 60 parliamentary seats at the June general election. The Labour party did not obtain a single seat. Such was the charisma of Paul Bérenger then.

On the Opposition, Jugnauth and Bérenger spoke with one voice. In Government, their differences exploded. After nine months in power they parted company which brought about a fresh general election.

Jugnauth created a new party, the



From left to right: Deputy PM and Finance Minister Pravind Jugnauth, PM Paul Bérenger, and President Sir Anerood Jugnauth

Mouvement Socialist Militant (MSM) that took on board Boodhoo's PSM. In March 1983, Jugnauth, in alliance with the Labour party and the PMSD, won a landslide victory (41 seats to 19) against the MMM.

In 1987, the same coalition won again, but the cohabitation had run out its course and broke up in 1990. Jugnauth went back to his old chum Bérenger. The MSM and MMM won the 1991 general election with 57 seats against 3 to Labour (under the leadership of the young Navin Ramgoolam making his debut in politics.)

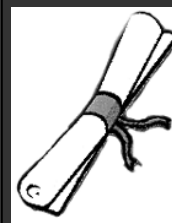
The *ménage à deux* again did not work for too long. Jugnauth - Bérenger fell foul of each other once more. The divorce came in 1992 when Bérenger preferred the Opposition bench than to sit by Jugnauth. Bérenger got himself the reputation then of being a 'quitter'.

Bérenger's MMM remained still a force to be reckoned with. Bérenger joined forces with young Ramgoolam and made him the next PM of Mauritius through the MMM/LP election victory of December 1995. After 13 years as PM Sir Anerood bowed out to the nation. Old age and ill-health plus the heavy burden of office have taken their tolls. Jugnauth's political career was over, this was the general consensus then. But little did the people (and he himself too!) know that he was to dart forth the brightest rays at the sunset of his political career to end up as the

President of the country and to occupy the prestigious presidential Chateau of Le Réduit - residence of former British Governors and where royalties may stay on official visit to the island.!

But before this was to happen, destiny was to work in his favour. Faithful to his quitter reputation, Bérenger left Ramgoolam for the Opposition bench once more. Ramgoolam was left with a majority of MPs in Government. It was the first time since independence that any Party had enough MPs of its own to run the government without having to solicit the support of another party for a coalition. And that was to prove fatal to Ramgoolam.

It is a fact that in Mauritius political parties are doomed to coalitions to secure election victories. No party of its own steam can secure the majority of votes required to form a government. Ramgoolam made the mistake to think that he could achieve this because he already commanded a majority in the House. And so when Paul Bérenger approached him once more for a fresh coalition for the September 2000 General Election, he turned him down. Bérenger went back to Jugnauth who could not believe his luck. He was pulled out of the doldrums. The rest is history! But what is more fascinating for the ailing Jugnauth is



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Sat 04 Oct 03	2- 8- 23- 32- 35 - 39 - 16
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3ème Festival International du Film Insulaire

l'Océan Indien invité d'honneur

La troisième édition du Festival International du Film Insulaire s'est déroulée du 27 au 31 Août 2003 à l'île de GROIX au Sud du MORBIHAN en BRETAGNE. Ces îles, porteuses de fantasmes, de rêve, de terreur parfois pour ceux qui les accostent, se sont dévoilées en images.

Cette année, la destination nous menait vers des contrées fabuleuses, rêves d'or, d'épices, de flibuste et d'aventures épiques, sur la route des INDES, les îles de l'OCEAN INDIEN.

Le Festival a fait escale à l'île MAURICE, RODRIGUES, AGALEGA, même à DIEGO GARCIA et dans l'île de La REUNION au cours de deux soirées spéciales riches en images numériques et en musique. On est allé aussi à MAYOTTE, aux COMORES et à MADAGASCAR.

Coups de projection sur trois films de fiction mauriciens

"TANGA" (25'), tourné à l'île MAURICE, en créole mauricien. C'est l'histoire de Ken, un enfant de 10 ans qui use ses éternelles "Tangas", des sandalettes en caoutchouc, pour aller à l'école et jouer avec ses copains. Il voue une passion pour le football et rêve de s'acheter une "vraie" paire de chaussures de foot.

"COLAS, Le DICTIONNAIRE" (16'). Les deux passe-temps favoris de Colas sont la pêche et la lecture de son dictionnaire. Mais sa femme Elise, ne voit pas d'un très bon oeil les activités annexes de son mari.

"Le REVE de RICO" (22'), c'est de réussir son CPE, le concours d'entrée dans le secondaire ou seuls les 2.000 meilleurs seront admis. Mais la veille, Rico a rêvé que le bus qui l'emmène à l'examen tombe en panne et qu'il ratait l'heure de la convocation...

Documentaires sur l'île

Maurice, Rodrigues, Agaléga et Diego Garcia

"ZAFAIR KAYA" (52'), tourné en vidéo Béta par Michel VUILLERMET qui en est le scénariste et le réalisateur, parlé en créole mauricien et sous-titré en français, est une co-production RFO, ICV Maurice.

Île MAURICE, Dimanche 21 Février 1999- Kaya, un chanteur renommé, vient de mourir en garde à vue. Il venait de participer à un concert légal en faveur de la dépenalisation des drogues douces. A la

nouvelle de sa mort, des émeutes éclatent dans toute l'île. Un pays démocratique, cité en exemple, est frappé de plein fouet par un "cyclone social" d'une violence tout à fait exceptionnelle. Une contre-autopsie révèle que Kaya a été victime de brutalités policières. La révolte embrase les villes et les quartiers populaires où Kaya, chanteur rasta, précurseur d'un style, le Seggae, était la voix protestataire des jeunes de toutes origines, mais surtout des Noirs créoles. Cette nouvelle musique, mixage entre le Reggae et le Séga, musique traditionnelle mauricienne, est porteuse d'idées fortes: métissage, fusion, non-violence.

On a ensuite projeté deux courts métrages sur l'île RODRIGUES: "Mauritius Pride" (26') a été tourné par Jim DAMOUR avec une vidéo Béta, à RODRIGUES et à MAURICE, en créole mauricien et rodriguais. Les quelques 35 000 habitants de l'île RODRIGUES semblent bien éloignés de l'agitation de MAURICE.

Le bateau navette "Mauritius Pride" relie les deux îles en trente heures et assure l'essentiel de l'approvisionnement de RODRIGUES tout en transportant les passagers. Si RODRIGUES exporte vers MAURICE des bovins et des moutons, son agriculture et la pêche subviennent à peine aux besoins de ses habitants. Pour y vivre, sa population, en majorité créole et catholique, cultive le maïs ou pique les "ourites" dans le lagon.

"La MER, l'ECOLE, la VIE", 26' de vidéo Béta, du réalisateur, producteur et distributeur rodriguais Jean-Laval PLAICHE, en créole rodriguais et sous-titré en français. "moi pas allé lécole. Pou moi lécole, cé lô salée !" Cette réflexion d'un pêcheur de l'île RODRIGUES, petite soeur de MAURICE, illustre la vie de la plupart d'entre eux. Le film montre la pêche à la Senne le jour de la fête du poisson le 1er Mars et relate avec bonheur la solidarité qui unit tous ses pêcheurs.

"DIEGO, l'INTERDITE" (52'). Tourné en vidéo DVCAM, parlé en créole chagossien et mauricien, sous-titré français. Le réalisateur, auteur du scénario et du montage, David CONSTANTIN nous explique :

"En 1966, la GRANDE-BRETAGNE décida d'exciser l'archipel des CHAGOS, au Nord de l'OCEAN INDIEN, du territoire de l'île MAURICE en échange de l'Indépendance de cette colonie. La population de l'archipel, les Chagossiens, fut déportée de sa terre natale vers l'île MAURICE. La GRANDE-BRETAGNE loua

ensuite l'archipel des CHAGOS à bail aux ETATS-UNIS qui installèrent une base militaire sur la plus grande île: DIEGO GARCIA. Cette base sert depuis le 11 Septembre 2001 de point de départ aux attaques des B52 sur l'AFGHANISTAN.

L'île MAURICE, pour sa part, réclame toujours le retour de l'archipel sous sa souveraineté, mais en dépit des lois internationales interdisant le démembrement des anciennes colonies, ces revendications sont restées sans écho. Mais les Chagossiens ont continué le combat. En Novembre 2001, 35 ans après leur exil forcé, la Haute Cour de Justice de LONDRES déclara illégale la déportation des Chagossiens et leur donna le droit de retour sur leur terre. Une première tentative de retour fut reportée en raison des événements du 11 Septembre. Derrière cet épisode sombre de la décolonisation se cache la tragédie longtemps ignorée d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants déportés du jour au lendemain, privés d'une vie avec la nature pour être jetés dans les bidonvilles de PORT-LOUIS. Vivant dans une extrême pauvreté et dans un pays qui ne voulait pas d'eux, certains d'entre-eux moururent de chagrin, d'autres se suicidèrent et la plupart dépouillés de leurs maigres économies par des individus peu scrupuleux.

"DIEGO, l'INTERDITE" veut raconter cela en donnant la parole aux Chagossiens eux-mêmes. Certains d'entre-eux, aujourd'hui âgés, espèrent toujours revoir leur île avant de mourir. Les plus jeunes, qui n'ont jamais connu la vie sur les îles, ne parlent que d'y aller. Ce film parle de déportation, d'exploitation, de mémoire et d'espoir. Ce film parle de gens "kidnapés" de leur propre pays et dont le sort n'est même pas connu de ceux dont ce rapt est supposé assurer la paix et la sécurité."

Dans le même ordre d'idée, "La DERIVE de l'ATLANTIC" (85'), en yiddish sous-titré français et français, de Michael DAËRON et co-produit par France 3 : l'histoire du navire de réfugiés juifs débarqués à MAURICE pendant la guerre 39-45 et le retour sur le passé d'une ex-réfugiée et son fils qui veut comprendre.

"AGALEGA, DERNIERS JOURS au PARADIS", un petit film de Gérard PERIER (26') tourné sur place, produit et distribué par RFO, en créole sous-titré français. AGALEGA, petite île de l'OCEAN INDIEN, se prépare à vivre ce que ses 300 habitants considèrent comme une révolution: l'introduction de la monnaie dans cette société qui fonctionnait jusqu'à présent grâce à l'entraide et aux



Sunset on Diego Garcia

US Picture

bons d'échange. La monnaie, signe de progrès économiques pour AGALEGA, est aussi perçue comme une menace : Pour l'instant, AGALEGA ne connaît ni vols, ni criminalité, ni impôts sur le revenu, ni maladie grave, ni télévision... AGALEGA parviendra-t-elle à préserver ces "bienfaits" après son entrée dans l'ère de la modernité ?

La 3ème édition de ce Festival, qui explore le phénomène de l'insularité à travers le cinéma, fut pendant trois jours d'une exceptionnelle qualité. C'était pour certains l'occasion de revoir des événements qu'ils connaissaient, et pour d'autres une découverte en profondeur de l'OCEAN INDIEN, de ses racines, de son histoire, d'une actualité poignante ou tout simplement de personnages comme chacun rêve d'en rencontrer.

Lena GOEL et Gilles BERGER (Paris)

Francophonie

La bourse francophone de promotion internationale d'un film du Sud, a été remise par Roger DEHAYBE, l'Administrateur général de l'O.I.F. (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie) le 24 Septembre dernier à PARIS.

Le lauréat en est le metteur en scène Zeka LAPLAINE (RDC) pour "Le Jardin de Papa" produit par la Société "BAKIA Films" de KINSHASA au CONGO qui a reçu un montant de 80.000 Euros.

Une mention spéciale a été décernée au film vietnamien "Mê Thao", "Il fut un temps",

de la réalisatrice Viet LINH qui a reçu un soutien de 40.000 Euros.

Le jury a également mentionné le documentaire en moyen métrage d'Irissou MORA KPAI : "SI-GUERIKI", "La Reine mère" du BENIN.

Le FIMA (4ème édition) : le Festival International de la Mode Africaine est organisé au NIGER du 3 au 8 Décembre prochains. Regards croisés des créateurs de mode africaine et de leurs pairs occidentaux, à la découverte des diversités culturelles sous la devise : Paix, Culture, développement.

Gilles BERGER

Pas une blague !

Ceci est une information très importante et qui mérite d'être publiée... L'incident eut lieu à Montréal et à Bruxelles.

Il y a quelques semaines de cela, dans une salle de cinéma, une personne s'est assise sur quelque chose de piquant sur un des sièges. Lorsqu'elle s'est relevée pour voir de quoi il s'agissait, elle a trouvé une aiguille plantée à travers le siège avec une note attachée disant "Vous venez d'être infecté par le HIV."

Le Centre de Contrôle des Maladies de L'O.M.S, rapporte plusieurs événements similaires dans plusieurs autres villes récemment. Toutes les aiguilles testées SONT positives HIV. Le Centre rapporte qu'on a trouvé des aiguilles aussi dans les retours de monnaie de téléphones publics ainsi que de machines distributrices de liqueurs douces.

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De plus, les soussignés demandent à chacun de vous de communiquer cet avis à tous les membres de votre famille et vos amis du danger potentiel. Merci. On nous a demandé de passer ceci au plus grand nombre de personnes possible. Ceci est très important!!!

Pensez que vous pouvez sauver une vie juste en redistribuant ceci. S.V.P. prenez quelques secondes de votre temps pour faire passer message. Merci!

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Half of the population suffers from NCD

Diabetes, hypertension and obesity are among the most common non-communicable diseases NCD prevailing in Mauritius, according to the Health ministry.

The situation is alarming, it said recently. Health minister Ashok Jugnauth said he was concerned at the latest figures concerning eye treatment because of diabetes, at least 250 new cases are recorded monthly at the Moka Eye Hospital and 90 per cent of them are linked to diabetes.

Five years back, a study by the Health ministry revealed that 110 000 people aged 30 or more were suffering from type 2 diabetes and 88,000 others were at risk. Some 165,000 were suffering from hypertension. «No survey has been carried since then but we know from hospital records that cases of non-communicable diseases are on the rise», one doctor at the SSRN hospital said.

At the Health ministry in Port-Louis, one official indicated that since March 2001, a

mobile unit goes through the island to offer medical check-up to the population. He said the latest figures collected through this service, and dated May last, revealed that 29,268 new cases of NCD, apart from 7,390 new cases of diabetes and 24,155 new cases of hypertension were discovered.

61,518 new cases of obesity were also recorded. Commenting this situation, Dr Ramchandra Bheenick said at least 25 per cent of the active population was suffering from non-communicable diseases. While Deputy chairperson of the Mauritius Diabetic Association (MDA), Ursule Ramdanee, recalled that diabetes is the number one disease in the island. Chief nutritionist at the Health ministry, Sachee Joganah, estimated that the population was not eating a well-balanced diet. «It should change its food habits by eliminating sugar and by consuming more fruits and vegetables», she said.

Election to replace Sir A. Jugnauth 21 December

The election of one member of Parliament to replace Sir Anerood Jugnauth as representative of the constituency of Piton/Rivière-du-Rempart would take place December 21 next, according to the writs published by the President's Office, October 8 last.

The Electoral Commissioner Irfan Rahman announced that the Nomination Day has been fixed for December 1, and would take place at the Bheewa Mahadoo Government School, Rivière-du-Rempart.

Dr Prakash Hurry has been announced by the MSM-MMM Alliance as their candidate. The Labour Party has chosen Rajesh Jeetah, a University lecturer to stand as its candidate.

Meanwhile, hundreds of posters from Mouvement Démocratique National has appeared in villages of this constituency, suggesting that its leader Raj Dayal would be a candidate in this election. We have yet to know more.

Commissioner of prisons sacked

At least 22 prisoners were wounded during the week-end ending September 28 at the Beau-Bassin Prisons, following a punitive expedition by prison guards.

Four of them were severely wounded and admitted to hospitals. Among whom, Wendy Lafleur, who is in a state of coma.

Parents of the prisoners said prison guards broke into the cells and attacked some of the prisoners at night with matraques and tear-gas. «When the others protested, they were also beaten», they said.

Following this incident, the Government sacked the Commissioner of prisons, Radhakrishna Brojmohun. He was replaced by Jensing Shipdoyal. The government also decided to retain the services of an Indian retired prisons officer to advise the prisons department on ways and means to handle matters in the prisons.

Benoît Jolicœur appointed French Honorary Consul in Rodrigues

Ex-MP and ex-minister Benoît Jolicœur was appointed Honorary Consul of France in Rodrigues October 14 last. French ambassador to Mauritius, Henri Vignal said this initiative was necessary with the increasing number of French tourists visiting the island. He said the job of a honorary consul is to act as a facilitator and to help French people visiting the island.

Jolicœur is the second person to be appointed Honorary Consul in Port-Mathurin, after Paul Draper (Great Britain), since the advent of Rodrigues to autonomy October 12, 2002.

Profits worth Rs 516 million for the Mauritius Ports Authority

The Mauritius Ports Authority announced September last profits worth Rs 516 millions for the financial year ended June 2003.

Chairman Prakash Maunthoorah said this performance was the result of several factors that included rigorous financial management and an increase in the volume of traffic in the port - from 4.7 million tonnes in 2001/2002 to 5.2 million tonnes in 2002/2003, or a 11 % increase.

He said the traffic of containers increased by 48.9% to reach 246,699 as compared to the last financial year. Some 2098 ships came to the island in 2002/2003, a 10 % growth as compared to 1893 ships in 2001/2002.

Maunthoorah also indicated that the MPA was investing Rs 2.1 billion in the construction of new port infrastructures, the enlargement of the space for containers. He also added that the MPA would soon build a petroleum depot at Mer Rouge on 16 hectares of land.

Murder suspect Maigrot cannot leave the country

The main suspect in the murder case of Vanessa Lagesse in March 2001, Bernard Maigrot, cannot leave the country, Magistrate Manish Gobin, sitting at the Mapou Court said in a ruling October 15 last. Maigrot wanted to go on business affairs to Madagascar and Europe for ten days.

Police objected to his demand arguing they may lose his track. The magistrate said: «Temptation by its very nature manages to escape every now and then the control and reason of man and it will indeed be fatal for the hearing of the Preliminary Enquiry should such a temptation, albeit temporary, overpower the applicant during the time that the latter is outside Mauritius.»

PM Bérenger declares Muslim Personal Law will be tackled next

Prime Minister Paul Bérenger told a Muslim gathering at the Taher Bagh, in Port-Louis, in October to celebrate his promotion PM, that the dossier on Muslim Personal Law (MPL) would be the priority of the government next year.

He said at least 70 per cent of the election programme proposed by the MSM/MMM Alliance in September 2000 had been realised.

«We would be finishing with the electoral reforms by the end of the year and early next year, we will study the replacement of the Industrial Relations Act. Then, we will tackle the MPL», the Prime minister said.

Commenting on the situation in the Middle East, Bérenger strongly criticized the United States for its bias role in the conflict between Israël and Palestine.

«I am angry that though possessing money and oil, Arab countries cannot lobby in the United States, leaving this job only to Israël», he said.

The Prime minister wished a Palestinian State be set up in the coming months.

School children intoxicated

At least 20 primary school children from the Rose-Belle North Government School suffered from respiratory problems in October and had to be rushed to the nearby hospital.

Parents as well as officers from the Environment ministry blamed the ethanol production plant, «Alcodis», set up recently in the locality's sugar factory. But the directors of the plant rejected the blame in a press statement.

The school premises were closed for some days and the pupils transferred to another primary school in the village. Replying to a query in Parliament the next day, Education and scientific research minister Steve Obegadoo said officers of the

Environment ministry had discovered that the oxydation basin of the plant was out of use and its equipment was not working properly.

«As the oxygen was no more provided for the smooth process, hydrogen sulphide is being released by the effluents. According to the Ministry of Environment, as the prevailing wind was blowing from an East/North Easterly direction, the gas could have been blown towards the school situated about 750 metres east of the factory», the minister emphasised.

However, Obegadoo added, the plant could not be blamed as it was not operational during the weekend preceding the incident.

Bérenger to visit India in November

Prime minister Paul Bérenger will pay an official visit to India November 18 to 23 next.

A communiqué from Government House, in Port-Louis, indicated October 17 last that Bérenger would meet India's PM Atal Behari Vajpayee and other leaders of the Indian community during his visit to that country.

This visit would be the first of the new Prime minister who was sworn on September 30 after Sir Anerood Jugnauth resigned from this office to be come President of the Republic.

Earlier, Bérenger said, he would visit India, China, Mozambique, Madagascar and a few Arab countries.

Islamic Cultural Centre ready by end 2003

The construction of the building that will house the Islamic Cultural Centre in Port-Louis will be ready by the end of the year. The works started four years ago.

This project is being funded partly by the Islamic Development Bank (Saudi Arabia). Several other countries and local people have also brought in their contribution.

This 2,800 square-metre-building is being built on an area of three hectares of land donated by the State at corner Ail Doré/La Paix streets in Port-Louis. It is composed of an administrative block, a multi-purpose hall and a library.

New chairman for the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate

The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate elected Hector Espitalier-Noël as its chairman for the year 2003/2004 on September 28 last. He succeeded to Rajeshwar Goorah. The Deputy chairman is Hansraj Ruhee.

Other members of the Syndicate are: Deodass Boodram, Arnaud Dalais, Patrick de Labauve d'Arifat, Patrick Giblot Ducray, Rajeshwar Goorah, Patrick Guimbeau (jr), Chabilall Khelawon, Arnaud Lagesse, Paul Lavoipierre, Patrice Legris, Georges Leung Shing, Cyril Mayer, Denis Pilot, Heeralall Prayag, Mandata Ramdour, Frédéric Robert, Ananrow Sonoo, Adolphe Vallet and Joseph Vaudin.

Espitalier-Noël, 45, is married with two children. He is the Chief Executive of the Espitalier Noël Group and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He is also the chairman of New Mauritius Hotels, Rogers & Co.Ltd, and past chairman of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association and the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate.

No new compensation for Chagossians

The London High Court stated October 9 last that Chagossians displaced between 1967 and 1973 cannot claim a new compensation and the restitution of their islands.

British Judge Duncan Ouseley said Great Britain had already offered compensation to Chagossians in the 80s «and they had renounced their islands.»

But Chagossians said they would appeal against this judgement. «If we lose at the Appeals Court also, we would go to the European Court of Human Rights», Robin Mardemootoo, lawyer to the Groupe Réfugiés Chagos (GRC), led by Olivier Bancoult, said.

Chagossians were displaced from their islands in the Chagos Archipelago during British colonial rule of Mauritius, to make way for the construction of a US military base on the island of Diego Garcia.

Summit Textiles sacks 1,200 workers

About 1,200 workers of Summit Textiles, working in several units of the factory, were sacked early September last. Trade unionists Jane Raghoo and Reez Chuttoo of the Federation of Progressive Unions (FPU) said the situation was very difficult in the textile sector.

They called upon the authorities to consider offering an unemployment allowance to factory workers who have been sacked until they find another job.

Chuttoo emphasised there was a qualitative degradation of working conditions and respect for workers rights in this sector.

«On one side, the government is encouraging long term training and has asked workers to become polyvalent to be able to find a job. On the other hand, employers are offering jobs only to people who want to become polyvalent, without paying them adequately», he said.



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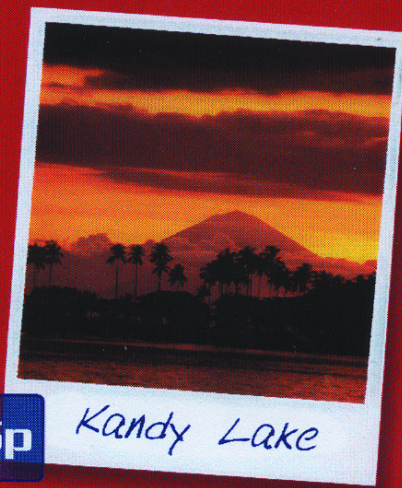
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The UK scene

It happens here as well

by Shaffick Hamuth

For those who thought blunders and mismanagement occur only in Mauritius, here is something to cheer them up.

A new state of the art library has been built in West Denton, Newcastle Upon Tyne to replace an old one. With a budget of £5 million at their disposal, councillors planned everything, from design to the stylish decoration of the new building. But they forgot to

budget for the most important thing: The transfer of books from the old premises and the purchase of new books to stock the building!

Now, the library is ready to open . . . without books! Officials said they were amazed that such a blunder was allowed to happen. Councillors are now desperate to get extra budget approved for the additional costs. The library is still expected to open on schedule.

Sexism in pocket money

Pay inequality starts well before women reach the workplace. Girls get less pocket money than boys, according to research released recently.

On average they get £3.74 a week, compared with £3.81 for boys. Most is spent on sweets, comics and magazines. Girls are twice as likely to buy books as boys, who tend to save for computer games. More than one in ten children get no spending money at all, the study, conducted by Financial group Goldfish found.

Editor's note: What about the vast fortune spent on mobile phones by boys and girls of all ages? The Goldfish financial experts seem to have missed this spending power of kids.

Supermarkets under threat

The UK's food industry insist to say that preparing for a potential terrorist strike is a "top priority".

Supermarkets and food manufacturers say they are aware they can be perceived as a target and have held high-level meetings to receive security updates.

While reassuring the public they are doing all they can to guarantee the safety of supplies, they also stress they have received no information about an imminent threat.

The Food and Drink Federation, which represents manufacturers, says it is aware of the need to be prepared for any threat.

Supermarkets have called for guarantees over the supply of food to be included in any future civil contingency plan.

It must be remembered that the supermarkets in England and the US have always been a soft target for people with a particular grudge or grievance. Drink bottles here in the UK, and babies' food containers in the US have in the past been injected with poison causing alarm for months until the culprits were caught. Vigilance against such a crime is in fact an on-going concern.

The possibility of the spread of *substances nocives* in public places is being brought home to the French people, and a rescue drill has recently been staged in Paris for the emergency services. The French are agonising over a threat similar to the spate of dangerous attack on a Japan underground railway which killed many.

MPs admit commuting is hell for travellers

OVERCROWDING ON PUBLIC transport is so bad that 'many travellers face daily trauma on their journeys,' a report by MPs said.

Passengers are forced into 'intolerable conditions' and the monitoring of rail overcrowding is 'fundamentally flawed', added the House of Commons Transport Committee.

It said that failing to take seriously the issue of the health effects of crowding until 'objective' evidence was presented was 'tantamount to waiting for a tragedy to occur'. 'Passengers are unable to board vehicles, or if they can, are forced into intolerable conditions. There should be immediate and urgent plans to improve the situation,' the committee said.

London Underground spokesman said: "The Tube does get overcrowded from time to time, but our staff are trained to deal with such situations to ensure passenger safety."

To ease overcrowding in the longer term, the Government must commit to funding for Tube station expansion projects and new rail lines, such as Crossrail.'

Five more years of rail misery for commuters

Rail passengers face five more years of misery before the railways are back to the condition they were prior to the Hatfield disaster of 2001, the country's most senior rail chief has warned.

Tom Winsor, the rail regulator, said it would take until 2008-9 to get the railways back up to pre-Hatfield standard because of the "legacy of Railtrack's years of waste and neglect".

Mr Winsor further said that the national railway system needed an extra £10billion of taxpayers' money in the coming decade to improve the ailing network.

Diwali celebrated in great in London in great pomp

Apart from the **CURRY**, the **studs** and the **bare hips**, the celebration of Diwali is the most popular tradition which the Indians have brought to enliven the beginning of the Autumn season in Britain.

Hindus with plenty of clout were invited to celebrate the Festival of Light at the House of Commons where the patroning PM was galanded. With a bindi mark on his forehead Mr Blair lit a diwali lamp for the ceremony.

On Saturday 18, the Greater London Authority, under the patronage of Mayor Ken Livingstone, staged an open-air festival at Trafalgar Square with the participation of various cultural associations among the London Asian cultural groups

Ken Livingstone, himself, addressed the congregation of faithfuls at the world famous Swaminarayan Hindu temple of Neasden to welcome the Hindu New Year.

The Swaminarayan Temple is the largest outside of India. It is a major tourist and architectural attraction of London – with visitors including presidents and prime ministers. It serves a community representing around a third of the UK's Hindu population.

Diwali, 'festival of lights', coincides with the Hindu New Year and is an occasion of joy and happiness and observed over five days by Hindus Sikhs and Jains.

■ The Brent celebration of Diwali was sponsored by the Western Union. Diwali in fact is the most important date in the Hindu calendar. It represents the New Year for Hindus around the world and is celebrated in style universally. This year's celebrations started off on the 24th September with the auspicious period of Navratri, when nine nights of celebrations including dancing and community events took place throughout Brent and the UK.

The Western Union Brent Diwali - Festival of Lights concluded on the 18th October 2003, with a spectacular parade through the streets of Wembley. The 'switching on' of the Western Union Brent Diwali street lights took place on Ealing Road at 6pm by *Bend it like Beckham* and *Eastenders* star Ameet Chana followed by a non-stop entertainment programme courtesy of Western Union.

The Blaine legacy

David Blaine may have recovered himself from his self-imposed ordeal, but the ordeal of some spectators' of his show is not over yet.

Ten police officers are facing possible disciplinary action for going to see the magician in his air cage when they should have been on patrol fighting street crimes.

The officers were caught on camera when they turned up *in force* to contemplate Blaine, apparently, starving himself for 44 days in his Tower Bridge glass box.

The ten law-enforcers, who included nine probationers, should have been on night patrol in Newham at the time of their offence.

Christmas mail under threat

Postal workers' leaders have warned that industrial action over pay could threaten the

Christmas mail and spread across the country as thousands of postmen and women staged their latest walkout.

Members of the communication Workers Union in London marched through the capital and called on the Government to intervene in a bitter row over allowances . . . for a better Christmas.

Bad breath in Britain

More than half of the people in Britain could have breath that smells worse than their pet's odour, according to a survey.

Women are the worst offenders, with three out of five fail-

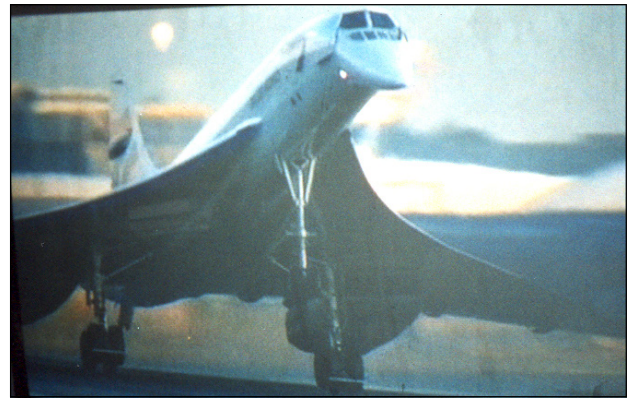
ing a sulphur emissions test, the survey indicates.

'Some mouths may be dirtier than cat litter,' dentist Brian Grieveson said in a statement that accompanied the research released recently.

Diwali

Farewell, Concorde

By Reuben Virassamy-Poullé
(Science and Technology correspondent.)



"C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas l'avenir" were the words that were muttered in Toulouse, with a certain premonition, as Concorde 001 first took off with a thunderous clamour on 2 March 1969 from its Aerospatiale Factory. Sadly, this premonition has proved to be correct, the Supersonic Jet made its final voyage on 24th October with a pleasure flight from Heathrow to, deafening the unfortunate local residents in the process.

Concorde was built in a decade when the famous London route master bus was being produced, and when we still planned to get to the Moon.

In 1962, British and French officials signed an agreement to build Concorde. Several Airlines lined up to order Concorde but later backed out due to the expensive cost of the Project. It was like trying to build a Formula One Car from the combined resources of the Morris Minor and Citroën 2CV production Lines!



Concorde's last afternoon flight over MN office

After a prayer and Billion of pounds of British and French taxpayers' money, the world's most spectacular aerospace attraction was created. Concorde hit the world with a bang, but last month the "Sonic boom" years ended with a whimper. Ironically, the end of the supersonic era happened in the very year when the world celebrates the Centenary of 100 years of flying: the Wright Brothers changed the face of travel with their famous first flight.

It is said that expensive fuel and maintenance costs, and the crash in Paris in July 2000 have led to Concorde's demised fate. Passenger numbers have fallen owing to fears of a repeat of the crash which made Concorde the most dangerous civil aircraft ever built.

Others think that the Supersonic Jet in the British Airways fleet could be a target for terrorists wishing to make a name for their cause.

The 20th century was the Century of Speed, when Humankind moved from horse power to locomotion, from air travel to space shuttles, progressing from 60 miles to 19,500 miles per hour. With demise of the Concorde could we predict that with excessive financial costs and all the environmental factors, it is a matter of reverting to the horse and cart!

Pictures MN

New Year's Eve transport in London

An all-night transport service on New Year's Eve was announced by the Mayor of London, as a further boost to the ongoing drive to bring visitors to London. Visit London's revamped website will act as a New Year's Eve celebrations one-stop-shop, providing details and booking information on the hundreds of parties in clubs, bars and restaurants across the city, and providing an online hotel booking service with a lowest price guarantee.

Mayor Ken Livingstone said :

"I am delighted to announce that London's tube, bus and tram network, and many overland train services out of London, will run all night on New Year's Eve. Whether your New Year's Eve celebrations involve clubbing in Hoxton, dinner at the Ritz or a house party in Orpington, we'll take the headache out of getting home."

"This is also great news for the tourism industry in London. All night transport will help sell New Year breaks in London, but the news also helps underline the message of Visit London's new advertising campaign, that London is fast becoming the world city for the twenty-first century."

From midnight on New Year's Eve there will be a free all night tube service.

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Mauritius News cuisine

Octopus Daube in coconut juice

Ingredients:

1 kg of young octopus
2 onions
1 bunch of thyme
1 tablespoonful of pounded ginger and garlic
1 cup of coconut juice
salt, pepper and ajinomoto

Preparation of coconut juice:

Grate the coconut finely, put the coconut in a piece of muslin cloth, and squeeze the juice.
(You can use a juice extractor instead.)

Preparation and Cooking:

Wash the octopus with kitchen salt and put it in a casserole with very little water, and let it cook very slowly for 1 hour. (You can also use a slow cooker for six hours.) Remove the octopus, slice it and save the juice. In very little oil, brown the onion, garlic paste and thyme, add the sliced octopus and the coconut juice gradually and cook for a further 10 minutes.

*From "Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius"
by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel,
translated by Maryse de Broglio-Sand.
(Editions de L'Océan Indien - 1988).
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Hike in postal tariffs

Postal tariffs in Mauritius would go up as from November 1 next, the Postal Authority said.

According to the figures announced, these tariffs would go up by 20 to 500 per cent as per the services offered.

Thus, a local mail of less than 50 grammes costing presently Rs 1 would be delivered at the rate of Rs 2; airletters would be sold from Rs 5 to Rs 7 each; a local registered letter would cost Rs 8 instead of Rs 6 and Rs 25 instead of Rs 6 for foreign letters; a small packet would cost Rs 30 instead of Rs 5; Rs 7 instead of Rs 5 for sending a letter less than 5 grammes to the regional countries and Rs 8 instead of Rs 6 to European and Asian countries.

A member of the Institute for Consumer Protection (ICP), Mossadeck Sahebodin, said the rise in the tariffs was unjustified. «There has been no improvement in the services offered», he added.

Meanwhile, post office employees have warned they could go on strike by the end of the year if their work conditions are not improved.

They have asked for a 30 to 40 percent rise in their pay packet. Ranjit Ludhor of the Union of Post Officers (UPW) said the employees are waiting since March last for a meeting with the management of the Postal Services to discuss their problems.

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Rodrigues celebrates the first year of its autonomy

The island of Rodrigues celebrated October 12 last the first anniversary of its autonomy in the presence of President Sir Anerood Jugnauth.

Several activities were organised to mark this event – inauguration of the new passenger terminal at the Plaine Corail airport and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at Petit Gabriel. Sports activities were also organised.

According to Chief Commissioner Serge Clair, autonomy has brought a big change in the political status of Rodrigues. «I think autonomy brings confidence to man that he has the possibility to manage, think and build», he said.

Clair stated that Rodrigues is still in a transition period and «we are coming out slowly.»

Your HOROSCOPE for September 2003 by foreteller

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Financial concerns involving other people might be on your mind right now, so watch for good progress with business alliances, tax, credit matters and expenses.

An unexpected romantic blow-up is on the way, so now is the time to heal relationship strains. Your attention will also turn to travel, religious and intellectual pursuits.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20)

Personal relationships are on the agenda and you will strive to bring more cooperation between you and those you care about.

Marriage proposals could result for some. However, be careful not to be too trusting with business colleagues.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

Health, fitness and work interests are what you worry about. This month there are days when you have more creative ideas and better communication with people you see daily.

November is propitious for home, property and family interests, but please stick to your budget to avoid financial shortfalls.

CANCER (June 21 - July 20)

More money can come to you through a raise or bigger commissions but power struggles can erupt at work with stressful aspects. You may decide to take some health measures as well.

You will enjoy connecting with distant family members and friends. You may also have to remove frustrating obstacles in trying to launch a project.

LEO (July 21 - August 21)

As you know, you are ruled by the Sun, so expect fortunate trends on some days this month, especially fun days for enjoying some family togetherness.

Good mercury aspects favour family discussions, property matters, moving or signing home improvement loans. However some old health problems can flare up again, but not to worry.

VIRGO (August 22 - September 22)

There are some disappointing days when communication isn't at its best, but good news of some sort can reach you later in the month.

There are also favourable days for study projects, correspondence and short trips. You have increased self confidence and incentive for your projects.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

Although a sudden expense out of the blue could show up early this month, you should be lucky to expect a raise or bonus. Good Mercury encourages you to follow up on some money making ideas.

You find it dull when people agree with you, but you also find it infuriating when they disagree!

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 22)

Personal interests are paramount now, although you experience a sudden and unwelcome jolt concerning romance or finances, there are days when your charisma and drive get you some well deserved recognition.

Sharing your ideas with others will be much appreciated. Watch out for a family member who may have some health issues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 20)

A little privacy might feel like the best thing now. A secretive love affair can get rocky in early November. However, later days are ideal for some private romantic encounters.

Frustrating days ahead for dealing with confidential financial issues. Keep all medical and dental examinations on schedule.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19)

Your social life will be livened up, but although things may get off to a rocky start, group activities will be most enjoyable, especially with old friends.

Watch out for some sudden monetary windfalls, and be more careful with your purse, wallet or other valuables. You may also find renewed interest in spirituality.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

Career interests are your major concern this month, and new opportunities may come up to you, but with more responsibilities that you can handle easily.

On the financial side, money can slip through your fingers too easily! Take care of your long term security plans. As for health, check-ups should not be taken lightly.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

This month you are a lot more interested in education, legal matters and religious endeavours. Plenty of energy, drive and self confidence means that you can vigorously pursue some new adventurous personal interests.

Unfinished work projects or added family responsibilities can take the zest out of any fun recreational outings.

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Two and half kilos of heroin seized

At least two and a half kilos of heroin was seized by police in Mauritius and in La Réunion during the weekend ending October 26 last.

First, the Mauritian police seized half a kilo heroin (valued at Rs 5 million) at Gokhoola, in the north of the island, at the home of 45-year-old Shawkatally Reaz Patharoo. He was arrested.

Patharoo was being followed by police for the past two months. On that day, they stopped his car at Pamplemousses and found 25 grammes of heroin in it. They then proceeded to his home in Gokhoola and searched it.

Plastic cylinders containing the drug was found together with a sum of Rs 180 000 which police believed was the

sum of heroin sales made by Patharoo were seized.

Then, a Mauritian woman travelling by the «Mauritius Trochetia» was arrested in La Réunion with two kilos of heroin.

Police believed the 33-year-old woman, Marie Dorinne Lorette, left Mauritius a few days earlier for Madagascar where she took the ship in order to come back to Mauritius.

She was arrested by French policemen during a stop-over at Le Port, in La Réunion. Her cabin was searched and the drug found. Lorette was known to the police authorities in La Réunion. The drug value was estimated at Rs 20 million.

At least Rs 250 million worth of heroin was seized by police during the past two years.

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* All Saints Day - 1 November* Indentured Labour Day- 2 Nov
 * Eid-ul-Fitr - 25 or 26 Nov* Christmas - 25 December

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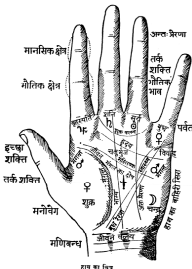
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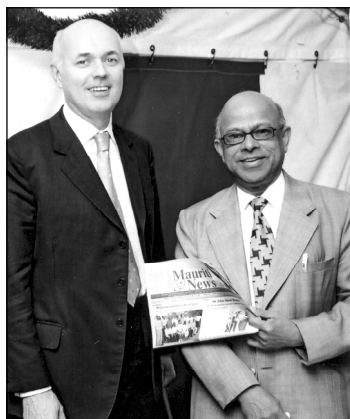
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issue should reach us by November 10.**Goodbye to the Smith
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Our job is never done . . .*

What was wrong with Mr Ian Duncan Smith as a political leader apart from his lack of charisma? This is something that everyone has been trying to find out.

There is no doubt that there is something strange about him that sort of made him a bit of a misfit as a leader. The blasting defeat of the Conservative Party at the recent by-election of Brent East

seemed to have sealed his fate as leader of his party. Ironically, the candidate was a Mauritian-born who did him little good in this Labour bastion, now taken over by the Liberals (at least for the time being!).

We have had the opportunity of meeting IDS on at least two occasions. He struck us as a genuine person (though we do not necessarily have to agree with his politics), but what we found strange about him was that, for an ex-military man, he is too soft-spoken. We sincerely believe that what made him a weak leader is the fact that he is a man devoid of arrogance. There is no way that any man or woman can expect to lead a party without a very good dose of political arrogance. This is to our mind the lacking element in his character which sped up his exit!

If one wants to witness arrogance one has only to look at Diane Abbott MP. How much of her attitude has to do with education rather than with a preferred environment for her progeniture!

**Win a free
return
ticket to
Mauritius**

Your subscription number will be entered in the December free draw for a return ticket to Mauritius offered by Air Mauritius. Please return your renewal form as soon as possible.

Wedding Ceremony

Congratulations to Niven Gunaratnam & Darshini Patten on their wedding held in Mauritius on 3rd September 2003.

From Parents

STARDUST ENTERTAINMENT

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
Super Family Party**

WATCH THIS SPACE

**Hizbullah leader cleared of triple
murder charge**

The Mauritius Supreme Court in Mauritius on October 30 dropped the triple-murder charge against Hizbullah leader, Cehl Fakeemeeah, detained since December 2000, for allegedly giving instructions for the crime on the night of October 26, 1996, at Gorah Issac street, in the capital, Port-Louis.

«It's a great day for the country where truth has prevailed by divine grace. I have always claimed my innocence in this case. Divine justice is superior to human justice», Meeah told journalists, while being taken away by police to face other charges.

He will be back in Court on November 6 to listen to the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions on 12 other charges against him «to wit giving instructions to commit hold-ups, to kill one bookmaker and the former Labour Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, among others.»

Hundreds of Hizbullah supporters, outside the Court, shouted «Cehl is innocent», while the police took the leader back to La Bastille prisons for further detention.

It all happened on the night of October 26, 1996. Three men – Babal Joomun, Zulfikar Beekhy and Yousouf Mourad - political activists of the Labour Party/MMM Alliance- were gunned down at Gorah Issac street, in Port-Louis where they were putting up posters for the Municipal election taking place the following day. The three men were campaigning against the Hizbullah Party in Plaine-Verte.

The then Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam promised to bring the murderers to justice while his Deputy then, Paul Bérenger, (now Prime Minister in a different coalition government), accused the Hizbullah Party of the crime.

Following the murder, several bank hold-ups and other murders were committed in the island by a «death squad».

Nothing happened till December 3, 2000, when a member of the alleged death squad,

Toorab Bissessur, accused the Hizbullah leader to be the person who gave instructions for the triple-murder of Gorah Issac street. The following day, Hizbullah leader Cehl Meeah went to police at its HQ in Port-Louis, in a bid to clear the doubts against him. He was then arrested. While in detention, the Hizbullah leader was elected as a councillor to the municipal council.

Other denounced members of the death squad who were on the run, namely Bahim Coco, Azad Nandoo, Reaz Jamaldin and Noorani Boodhoo, committed suicide by taking cyanide.

Another member, Hateem Oozeer, was captured by the police. He became State witness and confessed he was the squad's driver. Oozeer accused his leader Cehl Meeah to have given instructions to commit the various murders and hold-ups.

A preliminary inquiry started on November 26, 2001 following which the Presiding Magistrate found enough evidence against Meeah to refer the case to the Assizes.

On Meeah's being cleared yesterday of the triple murder, his lawyer said that he had made a further plea to the Court for all the other charges to be dropped as well.

«I have always maintained that Hateem Oozeer was not a credible witness. We have got the evidence today», he said.

At his residence in Plaine Verte, Meeah's family said special prayers after «iftaar» on Thursday night to celebrate the event.

His 76-year old father, Hossen, said justice had prevailed, hoping his son would be back home after the hearing of November 6. «I have always believed in my son's innocence. He is honest and always performs good actions. He'll be back home by divine grace», he added.

Meeah's brother-in-law, Beellall Neeyamuthkhan, said truth and justice had prevailed in this period of Ramadan after three years of great sadness.

On the make and take - Top cop under investigation**The second in command in
the police force on alleged
corruption charges**

Mauritius's Assistant Commissioner of Police facing allegations of corruption has applied for vacation leave as is the privilege of any police officer under investigation.

It is reported that the Assistant Commissioner is being investigated by the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) for allegedly accepting bribes, and spending a weekend free of charge at a luxurious hotel together with his family. The hotel accommodation charges themselves amounted to Rs120,000 (over £2.500) .

Ahmad Macky

Examinations success

Rachel Lim-Kee has been honoured this month in recognition of her academic excellence in the field of IT, her outstanding contributions to the community and for the courage, strength and support she gives to those

around her.

Rachel Lim-Kee earned a 1st Class BSc Hons Degree in Information Technologies (IT) studying at the University of Middlesex, London at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year.

As with most great achievers there is usually some form of support to whom they can look to. Rachel's continued support comes from her close family; her Mother Josette, her Father Xavier, her brothers Jason and Darren and not forgetting her close friends.

We wish her all the best in her future career path and every success in everything she goes on to do.

We congratulate Rachel once again on her great achievement and hope that continued success is granted to her in the future.

From relatives and friends

Deaths

Every entry published below contains the only information supplied to us.

Mauritius

Wid. George David (Lisette Ninan) 71yrs, 14.08.03. Curepipe - **Soorah Narain Naidu** 55yrs, 14.08.03. - **Vaisar Veeren** 86yrs, 10.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Mrs Chockalingum** (born Moorogun) 61yrs, 13.08.03. - **Armoogum Angalamay** (tantineVelloo) 88yrs, 08.08.03. - **M.Narainsamy Lutchannah** (Vishu) 62yrs, 16.08.03. - **Jean-Marc Christian** 44yrs, Mont Roche, Beau-Bassin. - **Binah Luchmee Teelock** 05.08.03. - **Yousouf Bordie** 15.08.03. **Seeven Goornaden** (Deva) 42yrs, 09.08.03. Route Nicolay Port-Louis. - **Sewock Domun** (Manilal) 81yrs, 04.08.03. - **Anne Elio Boodhoo** 12.08.03. - **Marseline Latchman** (tantine Mayaye 18.08.03. Cassis. - **Lutchmoune Egambram Narainen** (Ton Paul, Papa Doré) 10.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Khelawan Aunatooa** (Bhai Soon) 57yrs, 13.08.03. - **Wid. Janine Rungassamy** (born Clelin) 22.08.03. Rosnay street, Beau-Bassin. - **André** (Ah Chin Gnan) Chan Chong 80yrs, 15.08.03. Curepipe. - **Permananda Possea** (Jacques) 48yrs, 22.07.03. La Tour Koenig. - **Lea Antonia Rolande Jacquin** 15.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Pierre Wong Chin** 48yrs, 16.08.03. Beau-Bassin. - **Thérèse Cheung Chin** 14.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Mrs. Mary Dorothy Lemasson** (born Sheville, Dolly) 80yrs, 19.08.03. Beau- Bassin. - **M. Lo Let Hing Lo Choy** (Erres, Patron) 75yrs, 20.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Logee Mardaymootoo** 06.08.03. Albion Dock, Fanfaron. - **Mrs Denise Tranquille** (born Ducasse 11.08.03. Quatre-Bornes. - **Réné Edie Cassimally** 57yrs, 12.08.03. Baie du Tombeau. - **Mary Gladys Nookadu** 25.08.03. La Caverne, Vacoas. - **Alex Kut Moi Cheung** 29.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Mrs. Michel Young Shee** (born Elsie Goindoo) 59yrs, 03.09.03. Roche Bois. - **Marline Li Kwong In** 27.08.03. Baie du Tombeau. - **Marie Gilberte Jean-Louis** 44yrs, 28.08.03. - **Mrs Anne-Marie Ng How Tseung** 92yrs, Leoville Homme street, Rose-Hill. - **Cassam Gareeboo** 01.09.03. Pamplemousses. - **Joseph Michel Loo Chin Moy** 30.08.03. Centre de Flacq. - **Mrs. Premputtee Sookun** (born Matadeen) 17.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Jascaran Bhageerutty** 80yrs, 16.08.03. - **Marie Michelle Paule Adèle** (born Nanan)79yrs, 30.08.03. - **Marie Paul Judith Batour** (born Vincent) 19.08.03. - **Marc Antoine Verte** (Yvon) 26.08.03. - **Clement Velvindrion** 22.08.03. - **Sabeawatty Prayag** (born Lalichand) 61yrs, 25.08.03. **Byewahed Tagualy** (Wahed Tegaly) 72yrs, 19.08.03. Ex-Medine Camp de Masque. - **Orwatty Gangarum** (Dhorpath) 87yrs, 24.08.03. **Patrice Toussaint** 43yrs, 19.08.03. Sainte Croix. - **C. Philippe Genève** 21.08.03. - **Louis Edmond Rosette** (Bamon) 82yrs, 19.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Frank Céline (Roger)** 81yrs, 14.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Louise Eerasamy** (born Mootosamy) 87yrs, 21.08.03. Quatre-Bornes. - **Laval Clency Pompeya** 20.08.03. - **Meryiam Sinassamy** 78yrs, 21.07.3. Cassis. - **Kwan Cheong Yeung Kock Yu** (Longaille) 66yrs, 28.08.03. Terre Rouge. - **Willise Marion** 21.08.03. - **Mrs. Andrea Kim Yin Oh-San** 22.08.03. Quatre- Bornes. - **M. Amardeal Jaymangal** (Ton Lallah)72yrs, 17.08.03. - **Gisele Subramanien** 26.08.03. Quatre-Bornes. - **Mrs. Noëlla Lise Goornaden** 05.08.03. Rose-Belle. - **Soondarlall Panchoo** (Subash)55yrs, 28.07.03. Montagne Blanche. - **Mohun Parsad Jaulimsing** 13.08.03. Beau-Bassin. - **Vasoodenen Sawmynaden** (Tamby) 86yrs, 07.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Isworelall Dewan** 66yrs. 05.06.03. - **Goinsamy Munisamy** 87yrs, 07.08.03. Montagne Longue. - **Barla Kistnen Sinnassamy** 66yrs, 05.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Wid. Alix Lavictoire** (born Dennemont) 04.08.03. - **Gajamooghén Tancanamootoo** (Gajam) 03.08.03. Vacoas. - **Rajdeoduth Hurhangee** 48yrs, 15.07.03. - **Jeetunsing Rambaruth** 92yrs,10.08.03. La Chapelle street, l'Escalier. **Louis Silvio Palmyre** 06.08.03. - **Mr Young Han Choo** 06.08.03. - **Wid. Gisele Chavry** 09.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Louis Emmanuel Dansant (Amour)** 79yrs, 10.08.03. Quatre-Bornes. - **Mrs. Beebtee Lallah** 87yrs, 14.08.03. **Michel Gaston Crouche** 66yrs, 05.08.03. Saint Pierre. - **Jim David Anthonee** 58yrs, 08.08.03. Port-Louis. - **Jacques Yves Larose** 05.08.06. Beau-Bassin. - **Ah-Chin Gnan Chan-Chong** 80yrs, 15.08.03. Curepipe. **Louis Laurent Géroflé** 80yrs, 08.08.03. Vacoas. - **Louis France Hitié** 80yrs, 09.08.03. Rose-Belle. - **Wid. Octave Comty** (born Viviane Marguerite) 86yrs, 07.08.03. Rose-Hill. - **Fatma Hyda** (Kala Fat) 82yrs, 04.08.03. - **Mrs. Yousouf Allykhan** (born Sabila Soobye) 56yrs, 02.08.03. **Christian Lloyd Rodney Watterson** 45yrs, 05.08.03. **Marie Juliane Amadis** 02.08.03. Port-Louis.-

Overseas

M. Liu Kee Fah Liu Yew Fai (Ti Louis) 61yrs, 06.08.03. New Southgate, London. **Marie Luce Jacqueline Cotte** 60yrs, 03.08.03. France. - **Georges Telescourt** 80yrs, 20.08.03. Melbourne, Australia. **Mrs. Jean d'Abbadie** (born Renée Marrier d'Unienville) 94yrs, Paris, France. - **Mrs. Rosemont Papet** 71yrs, 27.08.03. Edmonton, London. - **Jacques Maurice Malherbe** 72yrs, 20.08.03. **Généviève Moocarme Herren** 09.08.03. Switzerland. - **Mrs. Evelyne Vellin** 76yrs, 12.08.03. Paris.

Deaths Announcement

Anthony Mootoo Choken

Announced with great sadness the death of Anthony Mootoo Choken who passed away on September 9 at the age of 61 years.

Anthony of Essex who succumbed to a heart attack was married with three children.

Mourning by all relatives in the UK and in Mauritius.

Mrs Radha Mauree (Widow)

Mrs Radha Mauree (born Ruthnum) passed away at Coromandel, Mauritius, on October 24. She was 60 years old.

Mrs Mauree who is survived by her son and daughter will be missed by all members of her family.

Docteur Pierre Vassal



La Démocratie Sociale Chrétienne de France (DSCF) est en deuil.

C'était avec une grande émotion et une profonde tristesse que fut annoncé le décès de Président du mouvement, le docteur Pierre VASSAL, Membre de l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre Mer survenu le 15

août 2003.

Les obsèques avaient eu lieu à Charleville Mézières (Ardenne) le 21 août 2003.

Le bureau de la DSCF invita tous ceux qui avaient pu apprécier les qualités intellectuelles et morales que le Dr Vassal avait su mettre au service des plus grandes causes à participer à l'office religieux célébré le samedi 4 octobre 2003, en l'Eglise Saint Germain l'Auxerrois pour honorer sa mémoire.

Requiescat in pace!

Rédaction: Le Dr Vassal a été pendant bon nombre d'années un de nos correspondants en France.

La photo ci-dessus du docteur fut prise devant le Consulat de l'île Maurice au sud de la France.

A tous ceux qui pleurent sa mort nous offrons nos sincères condoléances.

Political round-up

Boodhoo out of danger

Political figure Harish Boodhoo suffered a stroke and had to be hospitalized. Boodhoo underwent an emergency operation and is now under observation at the Cardiac Centre, pamplemousses. However, doctors say he is out of danger.

Dayal seeks political power

Former Commissioner of Police, Raj Dayal, who had to step down following allegation of irregularities and mismanagement, is to stand as candidate at the by-election in the Constituency No 7 of Rivière du Rempart. Dayal, who created his own party, the Mouvement Démocratique National, claims he is a potential future Prime Minister.

He has been maintaining a prominent presence in the area and is believed to have a substantial pulling force. Dayal said he has asked the United Nations to send international observers at the election to prevent fraud. Readers will recall Dayal lost by only 700 votes at the last general election in 2000.

Bérenger blasts US support for Israel

Prime Minister Paul Bérenger said that his government will soon tackle the " Muslim Personal Law " issue.

Bérenger, who was chief guest at a dinner party hosted by the Muslim Reception Committee at the Taher Bagh, Port Louis, to celebrate his recent promotion to PM, added that he was confident the MSM/MMM government would fulfill all the electoral promises made in September 2000. He reiterated that all ethnic communities should feel a sense of belonging to the nation.

The Prime Minister also demonstrated his anger against the United States for supporting Israel in its oppression of the Palestinians. He said that Arab countries should be able to lobby the US too and not give in to Israel.

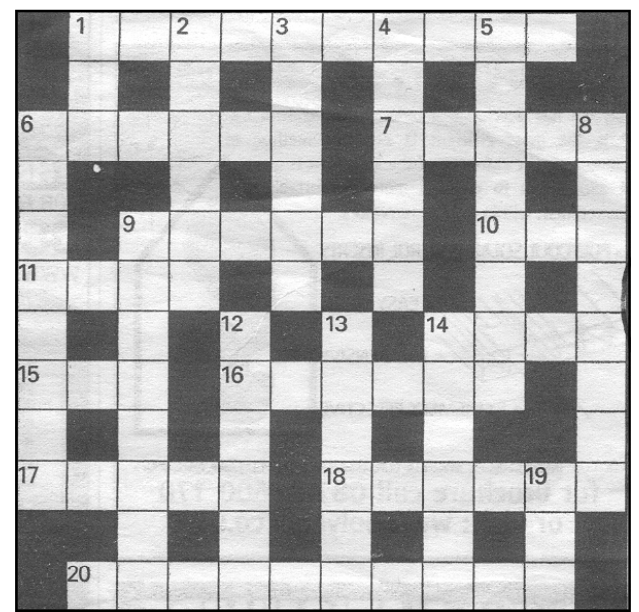
Deputy Prime Minister Pravin Jugnauth was also the reception.

Ramgoolam severely criticises

Jugnauth At a party meeting at Plaine des Papayes, Opposition and Labour Leader, severely criticised former Prime Minister and present President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, for allowing Paul Bérenger to become Prime Minister.

Ramgoolam said that Jugnauth has let the population down by allowing political power to be concentrated in the hands of an "oligarchy". Ramgoolam also attacked Bérenger for doing the opposite of what he preaches

Crossword No 3



ACROSS

1. Is actually rampant in Mauritius.
6. Winding curve
7. Dance style
9. Hovers
10. Meshed fabric
11. Flower
14. In resin
15. Creative skill
16. Member of sea troops
17. Track
18. Monastery
20. Berenger will surely this month

DOWN

1. Rare on London streets
2. Seldom
3. Transfer to the internet
4. Beat with stick
5. Arrange
6. Giant.
8. Rodrigues just got it
9. Shares the rent
12. Current measure
13. Genuine.
14. Enrol
19. Resolution

See solutions on Page 15

Football

ASPL 2000 wins the MFA Cup

Mauritian football champions, «Association sportive de Port-Louis 2000»(ASPL) won the MFA Cup September 29 last after its victory over the Savanne S.C by two goals to one at the Georges V stadium, in Curepipe.

Port-Louis striker Westley Cotte opened the score on the 12th minute of the game, with a header following a freekick. Cotte scored a second goal on the 36th minute of the match.

Last year's Cup winner, Savanne S.C took control of the game during the second period but could score only one goal on the 50th minute by Shyam Purran who beat Port-Louis keeper, Kersley Auguste, with a header. Final score: 2-1 in favour of ASPL 2000.

Uganda beats Mauritius (3-0) in Kampala

The Mauritian national football team, Club M, was defeated by Uganda on the score of three goals to nil, October 11 last, at Nakivubo stadium, Kampala, in the first leg of the preliminaries for the African Cup of Nations and the 2006 edition of the World Cup.

Coach Akbar Patel said the Mauritian team played very well during the first period but succumbed to a better Ugandan team during the second. The Ugandans scored thrice in a row during that period.

In the absence of its best players - Sébastien Bax (Santos FC, South Africa), Désiré Périatambee (Le Mans, France), Jimmy Cundasami (St. Louisienne, La Réunion), Orwin Castel and Tony François, Patel aligned the following players for this match: Nicolas Doro (goalkeeper), Cyril Mourgine, Henri Spéville and Stéphan L'Enflé (defence), Johan Marmite, Guillano Edouard, Gilbert Bayaram, Ashick Punchoo, Jerry Louis (midfield) and Christophe Perle and Kersley Appou in the attacking position.

US AMBASSADOR TO MAURITIUS INVOLVED IN DISHONEST BUSINESS PRACTICES The UTAH Supreme Court has ruled that the US Ambassador to Mauritius owes more than \$8 million in a civil judgement for dishonest business practices.

In a 5-0 decision, the Justices upheld a 3rd District Court jury's verdict against the Utah shopping mall magnate. The judgement includes \$5.5 million in punitive damage. An Associated Press (AP) story this week said " the Utah Supreme Court ruled that the Ambassador was dishonest in a real estate deal with former partners."

The Ambssador and his company , Fairfax Realty Inc., the ruling said, must pay \$6.5 million, plus interest and legal fees, to Armand and Virginia Smith of New Mexico.

The US Embassy in Mauritius said: " This was a corporate business dispute from 1994 in which the Ambassador was not personally involved.

"He was, however, CEO of the corporation and accepts responsibility for decisions made by the executives of the corporation."

Ahmad Macky

The Holy Month of Ramadan

Fasting for the month of Ramadan started on October 27 which will culminate with the celebrations of Eid Ul Fitr on November 25 or 26 (depending on the visibility of the moon).

We are now in the 1424th year of the Islamic era and the month of Ramadan has started on the 27th October 2003.

The compulsory fasting (Sawm in Arabic and called Roza by Mauritians) for Muslims take place during the month of Ramadan when Muslims abstain from eating, drinking and conjugal relations during the hours of fasting. Ramadan is actually the 4th pillar of Islam. The complete beliefs and practices of Islam is centred around 5 pillars which are (1) the declaration of faith (Shahada), (2) the 5 daily prayers (Salah), (3) Alms giving (Zakat), (4) Fasting (sawm) and (5) the pilgrimage (Hajj).

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar, which like the Gregorian Civil Calendar (used in the West) has 12 months. The 12 Islamic lunar months, each has 29 or 30 days, therefore, are on average 11 days shorter than the Gregorian civil year, hence the Islamic year shifts earlier in each civil year by about 11 days. Now one can understand why Ramadan comes early every year!

Fasting is a unique religious practice of cleansing one's heart and drawing one's soul closer to God. Prophet Moses, upon whom peace be, for example, fasted for forty days prior to receiving revelation from God. Prophet Jesus, upon whom peace be, also fasted when he was called upon to take up his public ministry. Muslims attach great reverence to both Prophet Moses and Jesus. In the case of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, the month of Ramadan is a special month as the Qur'an was first revealed to him while he was immersed in contemplation in the remote stillness of Mount Hira.

For the Muslims, the compulsory fasting in Ramadan is a divine prescription as can be seen from the following verse of the Qur'an (the Muslim Holy Book):

O ye who believe!
Fasting is prescribed to you
As it was prescribed
To those before you, That ye may (learn)
Self-restraint,
Chapter 2, verse 183, The Holy Qur'an

As to why we fast in Ramadan, this is very clear from the verse below:

Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an as a guide to mankind, also clear (signs) for guidance and Judgement (between right and wrong). So everyone of you who is present (at his home) during that month, should spend it in fasting, but if any one is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (should be made up) by days later.

Allah intends every facility for you;
He does not want to put you in difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful.

Chapter 2, verse 185, The Holy Qur'an

Ramadan Mubarak to all Mauritius News readers.

Bashir Ebrahim-Khan

(Mauritian-born Bashir Ebrahim-Khan, author of this article, is Deputy Director of the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre in North Kensington.)

Mauritius Bar and Restaurant receives award in the Restaurant of the Year competition

The Mauritius Bar and Restaurant of Thornton Heath, South London, received the Second Prize as the Restaurant of the Year, and the Second Prize for the Family Restaurant of the Year awarded by the Croydon Guardian.

The award was made on the strength of nominations made by the local residents of the Borough, and among the competitors were such famous restaurants as Le Boulevard, and those of the Tiger Tiger chain.

Rajiv Dabedeen, owner of the Mauritius Bar and Restaurant was a guest of honour at the award ceremony. His daughters Tisha and Nisha had the pleasure to execute a few Bollywood dance numbers in the presence of a very large gathering of local residents during the Weekend Festival of Croydon.

The daily period of observance starts before the break of dawn and ends immediately after sunset. In London this year, throughout Ramadan, dawn will vary from 5am to 6am and Sunset (breaking the fast) will vary from 4.45pm to 4.00pm. (In 1983, Ramadan coincided with the month of June, with sunset times up to 9.25pm!)

It is a recommended practice to start the fast with a light meal, known as Suhoor in Arabic and to break the fast with 1 or 3 dates or some water by reciting "O God! For your sake, we have fasted and we now break the fast with the food you have given us."

Fasting is compulsory upon all able, physically fit, sane Muslims, male or female, who is above the age of puberty. Children below this age are not required to fast but are encouraged to do so by way of starting a good habit. In fact Ramadan is so joyful and the spirit is so intense that many children the world over insist on fasting the whole of Ramadan.

Muslims believe God is full of mercy that He has made provisions for those who are old, feeble or sick for whom fasting is excused and replaced by an act of charity such as feeding a poor person the equivalent of a complete meal for each missed day of fasting. Women who are in menstruation or in confinement after giving birth must not fast but defer their fasting at a later date. Similarly expectant mothers or mothers nursing their babies or those who are travelling a distance of 50 miles or over are also allowed to defer their fasting.

The following practices are recommended during the month of Ramadan:

- Reading, reciting and study of the Holy Qur'an,
- Increasing acts of charities especially feeding the poor and visiting the sick and the old.
- Performing the Taraweeh prayers, which is an additional prayer offered after the 5th and final prayer of the day during which over the period of Ramadan the complete Qur'an is recited by the Prayer leader.
- To demonstrate utmost patience at all times, to avoid provocations, or telling lies or gossips.

After all fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drinks, but cleansing of the soul to achieve a state of God-consciousness.

There is an important celebration that takes place during Ramadan. The Night of Power, or Lailat Ul Qadr described in the Qur'an as "better than a Thousands months", is believed by Muslims to occur during the odd-nights of the last ten days of Ramadan and will be observed by increased and intense supplications and prayers.

Finally Ramadan will end after 29 or 30 days with the Festival of Eid Ul Fitr, a day of thanksgiving and happiness. To ensure that one's fasting efforts is accepted by God and also to ensure that on the day of Eid all Muslims, rich and poor celebrate in happiness, a nominal charity known as Zakat Ul Fitr must be given to the poor before the Eid Prayer.



Tisha and Nisha Dabedeen featured in the Croydon Advertiser. (Picture by Carl Fox, reproduced with permission)

Beauty contest

Sabine Bourdet is Miss Mauritius 2003



Twenty-five-year-old Sabine Bourdet was elected the most beautiful girl of Mauritius on October 17 at the Serge Constantin theatre in Vacoas.

She also won the titles of «Miss Sirène» and «Miss Élégance», and was made princess to «Miss Talent». Sabine teaches dancing.

The new Miss Mauritius' two princesses are Connie Ross and Reitchia Ramkalawon.

During the same evening, Marie-Aimée Bergicourt (Miss Mauritius 2002) won the title of «Miss Indian Ocean». Her two princesses are «Miss Mayotte» and «Miss Réunion».

Beauty Salon Babes Attack Students with Gas

Three women working in a beauty and massage parlour in Flacq (west of Mauritius) attacked a group of students with tear gas. Following this incident, 50 boys were taken to hospital. The women, who have been arrested by police, claim they were constantly harassed by these youths who would pass comments on them everyday.

Exasperated by their attitude, the women decided to wait for them outside their school to gas them. 13 of them are still in hospital.

Police is on standby to prevent tensions involving angry parents and the parlour owner.

Eid Mubarak

Mauritius News extends its best wishes to all Muslim readers, advertisers, supporters, shareholders and friends for the Holy Month of Ramadan, and an enjoyable celebration of Eid -ul-Fitr

Promotion free draws

You could win a return ticket to Mauritius when your subscription number will be entered in a free draw in June and December.

Mauritian Cultural Association London
invites you to a
“Family Disco Dance Night”
Venue: SELBY CENTRE
Selby Road, Tottenham, London N17
Saturday 29th November 03
From 8pm - 2am * Music By: DJ Ray
(Specialist in Disco, Sega and Bhangra Sounds)
BAR AND MAURITIAN SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE!
Tickets: £6.00 in Advance
£7.00 On the Night
Children over 12 yrs £5.00
Children under 12yrs FREE
For more Information and Advance
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Mitty: 020 8881 3384
Mahen: 020 8520 9131
Mukesh: 0795 725 7927
Peter: 0787 945 4288

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Reduced For Quick Sale: Land at Vacoas
104 Toises with old two-bedroom house
Avenue Swami Vivekananda, Vacoas
Price: £35,000 (O.N.O.)
Tel: 01255 425296 (day)
01206 862 420 (eve)

Contract killers from Mauritius?
An anonymous telephone call has warned us that there are contract killers brought from Mauritius to sort some people out. Could this be true?
We told the caller that he should give the details to the police.

Solutions to Crossword No 3:
ACROSS: 1. corruption 6. spiral 7. raga 9. floats 10. net 11. lily 14. esin 15. art 16. marine 17. Trace 18. priory 20. celebrates
DOWN: 1. cop 2. rarely 3. upload 4. thrash 5. organise 6. stalwart 8. autonomy 9. flatmate 12. ampere 13. proper 14. enlist 19. res
(See Page 14 for the grid with questions)