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# Mauritius News

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Truth & Justice

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August 2011 - No 284 Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius Monthly - 80p 28th year

**Health Minister arrested by police  
The six MSM ministers have now  
resigned from office**



Health Minister, Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee arrested on Corruption Charges

For the first time in Mauritius a serving government minister is arrested and subsequently released on bail. Health Minister Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee who was under investigation by the Independent Commission Against Corruption was arrested on July 22 on corruption charges. Though she was released on bail, the ICAC investigations are still going on about the Minister's involvement in the re-evaluation of the purchase price by government of a private clinic from £75 million rupees to 145 million rupees. The Opposition has called this deal the scandal of the century.

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, criticised for leaving the island on mission on the very same day of the ICAC injunction against Mrs Hanoomanjee, told the press that he had asked the Minister, before his departure, to resign. She ultimately did so, her position in government had become untenable, especially after the interdiction of three senior officials her ministry, including the Permanent Secretary. She could not stay in office while officers were having to carry the can.

Mrs Hanoomanjee is a member of the Movement Socialist Mauricien (MSM), a partner of the Alliance Government. Following her resignation, the five other MSM ministers, including Deputy PM and Finance Minister Pravind Jugnauth, left the government as well. Mr Jugnauth has, however, made it known that his party will stay as partner of the Alliance. As for his next political move he has declared to the press that he would wait for the return of Prime Minister Ramgoolam to decide. At the time of writing, the PM was still in England.

The situation is made more complicated as the owner of the MEDPOINT clinic is the brother-in-law of outgoing Finance Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Mauritius awaits the return of Ramgoolam with excitement to know how he would deal with the situation. It is felt that that he cannot let the MSM on the loose for too long because should they ally themselves with the Opposition MMM (Mouvement Militant Mauricien) the balance of power could sway against the ruling Labour Party. The political parties are all aware of the PM's dilemma. The PM is known to be a fine strategist, and he will get out this dramatic situation, it is expected.

Ahmad Macky

**Mauritius becomes an International  
Arbitration Centre**



During his week's visit to London at the end of July Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam signed an agreement with the London Court of International Arbitration at Marlborough House to make of Mauritius an International Arbitration Centre.

When the country introduced the International Arbitration Act in 2008, it embarked on the ambitious project of establishing Mauritius as an international arbitration centre of excellence - the first of its kind in the region, as stated Attorney General Yatin Varma at the opening session of the international arbitration conference held in the island in April last. This statement was reiterated by Prime Minister Ramgoolam at Marlborough House.

The Prime Minister further outlined the fact that Mauritius has the right environment conducive to implementing such an ambitious project: political stability, good governance, and a progressive judiciary system.

It is understood that arbitration is a mechanism aimed at solving international disputes, and mediation will be introduced in the court system of Mauritius to that end. The Mauritian PM recently said that he wanted Mauritius to be a gateway to Africa. Because of its strategic position in the Indian Ocean, it is believed that the country will be able to surmount all difficulties and become effectively an international arbitration centre of excellence.

P.C.

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## Is the Mauritius Alliance Government petering out?

The six Ministers of the MSM tendered their resignation to the President of the Republic on Monday, July 26 in protest against the treatment of one of their ranks, Health Minister Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee, by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). They now sit in Parliament as backbenchers while still vowing their allegiance to the Alliance Government. "We are faithful to the PM and the Government. Our grievance is with ICAC and not with the PM. We have resigned as a measure of solidarity with Mrs Hanoomanjee who has been unfairly treated by the anti-corruption body," the MSM leader, Pravind Jugnauth, was reported to have told the press. Pravind Jugnauth held, until his resignation, the office of Deputy PM and that of Finance Minister.

Mrs Hanoomanjee was arrested on July 22 and released on bail. Three senior officials of her ministry (including the Permanent Secretary) were also arrested.

The MSM Ministers' resignation took place while the PM, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, has been on mission in London. At a press conference in Port Louis in the afternoon of July 26, the MSM leader was asked by reporter Ahmad Macky whether it was a blackmail ploy on his part, to force the PM to intervene to get Mrs Hanoomanjee off the hook of ICAC. Owing to the ICAC indictment, Mrs Hanoomanjee was compelled to resign and it was our duty to resign as well, Mr Jugnauth replied.

Mrs Hanoomanjee, as outgoing Minister of Health, has been on the carpet for several months since endorsing the purchase by Government of Medpoint, a private clinic, for the highly inflated price of 145 million rupees when it was originally alleged to be worth 75 million rupees. There has been a national outcry against this transaction, referred to as the scandal of the century. The most vociferous has been the Opposition leader Paul Bérenger. The Opposition would not let the corruption allegation die away as the clinic used to belong to the brother-in-law of the Deputy PM and Finance Minister. In the end, the government had to agree for ICAC to investigate—who has recommended legal action against the Health Minister.

There have always been speculations that the partnership between the Labour Party of Dr Ramgoolam and the MSM of the Jugnauths would not last long. Now people are asking how can the MSM stay in the Alliance Government after the resignation en bloc of its ministers. Apart from the ministers, all the MSM official nominees in various functions are still in post, the MSM leader told the press. Pressure is, however, being brought to bear on the party to leave the government. It is a political dilemma, which PM Ramgoolam will have to face on his return home during the weekend. (Already he is blamed for being out of the country at such a crucial time, especially to leave in the wake of the ICAC indictment of one of the Government minister—on corruption grounds.)

Dr Navin Ramgoolam came to London on July 20 to receive the Overseas Bencher award from the Inner Temple where he kept his dinners as part of his law studies. The award is made to former students of the Temple who have distinguished themselves at the bar or in public life in their own countries.

Will there be call for a realignment of the political parties? Everything is possible in politics. However farfetched it may seem, could there be an alliance between the MMM and the MSM? The Labour Party dreaded such a rapprochement that ousted the Party from power at the previous general election. On the other will a patch-up take place to keep the MSM by the side of Labour?

Pravind Jugnauth has told the press that he will wait for the reaction of Prime Minister Ramgoolam before deciding on his next month. The PM is expected to leave London on Saturday, July 30.

There is a school of thought that if Jugnauth the Younger could be groomed for a prime ministerial position in the long run, Navin Ramgoolam could aspire to retire to Le Réduit as President of the Republic. Such a scenario is highly favoured by various socio-cultural groups on the island. The Alliance Government may not peter out after all.

## The way the cookie crumbles — On creuse sa propre fosse

### Lessons to learn from the fall of the Murdoch Empire

The first and most important lesson to be drawn from the crumbling of the Murdoch Empire is that history repeats itself. No empire lasts forever. The Roman Empire, the Mogul Empire and even the British Empire had their day and their end. The Murdoch saga is an example of the inevitable result of the concentration of power in one man. It has exploded in his face. Tant va la cruche à l'eau à la fin elle se casse— so often goes the pitcher to the water in the end it breaks. That's how the cookie crumbles.

Mr Murdoch fed himself on newspaper and his greed for them and other media was insatiable. He has extensive control over the media in his homeland of Australia, the States, the UK, China and even India. It's not for nothing that he is referred to as the Mogul Media.

Under authoritarian, totalitarian and dictatorial regimes, the State controls the media. In a democracy, the media can control the State through those at the helm to the point that a Rupert Murdoch had become the terror of all the political leaders in the UK. "No PM could afford not to pay him their respects once in power," said Channel 4 television programme: Murdoch—The Mogul Who Screwed The News. Sounds very much like the Godfather!

Since such a situation has been happening in a democracy like the UK, we can be forgiven for asking what is the position in countries like those of some African and Asian nations, where transparency is non-existent. Can some people in a small country like Mauritius be able to monopolise 'la presse écrite et parlée, through the ownership of several titles, radio and television broadcasting, and to have politicians eating out of the palms of their hands? Can this sort of thing happen in Mauritius is a very valid question on which the Mauritian nation may wish to ponder—in the interests of democracy, for which Mauritius has so far received the praise of the western world.

It's worth repeating, there is a lesson for us all from the Murdoch scandal: empires don't last. The day of reckoning will come. No one could have predicted that such a powerful man as Rupert Murdoch would eventually be humbled and brought to his knees. Empire builders beware!

P.C.

## Britain and the Euro: Bystander at risk

By Andrew Tarrant

It might be thought that Europe is still "a far off country of which we know little". These words were originally those of a British Prime Minister in 1938, justifying the failure to support Czechoslovakia against Nazi aggression.

This week, the British political establishment have been focused on the newspaper hacking scandal while politicians across the continent have been battling to save the Euro. The insularity of British politicians could once again impose a tremendous price on the British people. Failure to engage in 1938 led to a World War which destroyed the British Empire; failure to do so in 2011 puts at risk the UK's financial sector.

Technically, British politicians play no role in the management of the Euro. Britain secured an opt-out from participation in the single European currency back in 1992. But the single currency has replaced national currencies in 23 of the 27 EU Member States, including all the large economies.

The European Monetary System was flawed as events have proven. But because of its determination to remain outside, Britain was unable to influence design of the System or its subsequent evolution.

If we imagine that we can safely watch at a distance, we may have a rude awakening. The British economy cannot avoid the economic consequences of decisions made by others concerning the Euro. It is often pointed out that the EU is Britain's largest trading partner — 45% of British exports go there, compared to 2% to China. But in terms of immediate effect, the greatest risk is financial.

Britain's banks have invested very heavily in Euro-zone countries. If those loans were to go sour, British banks would return to insolvency. They would have to be bailed out once again by the taxpayer. Their already diminished supply of credit to British businesses would be further reduced. British banks have outstanding loans to Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain alone of 620 billion Euros. To put this in context, that is 50% more than Britain exports everywhere in a year. In addition, it is likely that the loans made by banks in other European countries have been insured with banks in Britain. No one knows the exact size of the amounts insured but it could be as much as an additional 600 billion Euros. The economist Peter Bofinger says "the Lehman bankruptcy would look like a drop in the Ocean compared to what we would see if a country in the euro zone were to go bankrupt."

The crisis of the Euro arises because three participating countries in the single currency — Portugal, Ireland and Greece — have levels of public debt which have made it impossible for those governments to meet interest payments to holders of their government bonds. Spain could also join them if it is obliged to bail out its ailing local banks. The four countries are collectively known as the PIGS. The flaw in the original design of the European Monetary System is that it contained no mechanism for disciplining governments which overspent or undertaxed.

Outside of a currency union,



like the Euro, the traditional response of countries caught in such a predicament would be to devalue their national currencies. This would typically generate growth by making exports cheaper and therefore more competitive on international markets. In turn, this would increase tax revenues from the higher profits of exporting companies.

Once a country joins the Euro, it no longer has its own currency and so devaluation is not an option. This means that countries which are unable to meet credit repayments have three options: to exit the Euro, default on the debt or to seek a bail-out.

For governments at risk of default, exiting the Euro is not an attractive prospect. Analysts at the investment bank Nomura estimate that countries would have to devalue their currencies by about 30% against the Euro in order to generate sufficient growth to improve their positions. But the advantage in terms of exports would be reduced by the increased cost of meeting interest payments on bonds. When the latter were sold, they were denominated in Euros and governments remain legally bound to repay interest in Euros.

As a consequence of even higher interest repayments, exiting the Euro would likely increase the risk of defaulting. Defaulting is not necessarily a panacea. A defaulting country might find it difficult to borrow any funds from creditors for some years, except at impossibly penal rates. One solution to this is to agree with creditors on a limited default, agreeing to repay a loan over a longer period or to pay a lower interest rate than originally agreed.

As the risk of a country defaulting increases, new government bond issues require larger and larger premiums to compensate lenders for the risk. The problem with this is that these entail higher payments thereby increasing the risk of default. The loan cycle enters a potentially snowballing vicious cycle. Such a cycle was reflected in the extortionate 40% premiums which would have been demanded on the open market for loans to Greece last week.

The preference for countries at risk is to seek loans from an international institution or other countries. This is what has happened in the Eurozone. However, other European countries have been reluctant to lend sufficient sums at low enough rates to Portugal, Ireland and Greece to remove the risk of defaulting. On the other hand, they also do not want the PIGS to default. This is partly an issue of Eurozone solidarity. It is also



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## Titbits from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky

### MINISTER OF HEALTH MAYA HANOOMANJEE AT ICAC

The Minister of Health, Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee was summoned by Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on Wednesday, July 20 to answer questions in relation to the MedPoint Clinic inquiry.

The inquiry has developed into a new stage and ICAC is investigating the letter written on July 9, 2010 by the Health Minister to Minister of Finance Pravin Jugnauth as regards the purchase of the Clinic by government for an inflated price of Rs144 million.

The Minister was arrested on July 22 and released on bail.

### HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Ramadan starts on August 2 this year. It is a sacred month of the year for the one billion Muslims throughout the world. It is a time for inner reflection, devotion to God and self-control. Muslims think of it as a kind of tune-up of their spiritual lives.

Fasting in the month of Ramadan has, according to Muslims, many special benefits. Considered as the third pillar of Islam, fasting during the month Ramadan is a religious obligation.

Ramadan is also a time of intestine worship, reading of the Quran, giving charity (zakat) purifying one's behaviour and doing good deeds. Fasting during Ramadan is compulsory to Muslims.

### MINISTER OF FINANCE IN SWITZERLAND

The Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Pravind Jugnauth left Mauritius on Saturday the 16th July 2011 for Geneva, where he participated in a meeting to do with "Aid For Trading".

While in Switzerland he supported the Board of Investment project to attract investors to Mauritius. The Board of Investment representation comprised its director Mr Prakash Maunthooreea and Ken

Ponusamy.

It is reported that the Minister had to cut short his to return home owing to the arrest by police of the Health Minister, Mrs Maya Hanoomanjee, a member of his MSM party, a constituent of the ruling Alliance Government.

### AUDIT REPORT 2011 HIGHLIGHTS WASTAGE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Audit Report 2011 made public in July highlights considerable wastage of public funds in most central and local government departments. Year after year, the Audit Department lays stress on the mismanagement of government funds, yet it would seem that no remedial action is taken to prevent the annual recurrence.

### HONEYMOON KILLERS COMMITTED TO TRIAL

On July 18, 2011, the Mapou Magistrate Court decided that a prima facie case existed to commit to trial the two suspects, Sandeep Moneea and Avinash, accused of the murder in January this year of Irish tourist Michaela Harte. She was on honeymoon at the 5-star hotel Legend of Grand Gaube.

The two hotel employees pleaded not guilty but presiding magistrate Sheila Bonomally found that there was enough evidence to commit both men to the Assizes Court of Mauritius.

The newly-wed was found dead by her husband in the bathtub of the hotel with the water still running. Since the arrest of the two suspects attempts have been made to pin the murder on the husband.

### RAMGOOLAM TO SUE BERENGER OVER FALSE NEWS

There is a clash between the Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and the Leader of the Opposition, Paul Bérenger.

This is over an allegation by Bérenger at a recent press conference that the PM had met with the Director of the MedPoint Clinic privately to

discuss the sale of the clinic to government. Ramgoolam in turn categorically denied the allegation at a meeting with the press, and has made it clear that he would sue the Opposition leader to obtain redress..

Bérenger is adamant that he received the information about the Medpoint meeting from a ministerial source.

### A NATIONAL ART GALLERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A collection of paintings worth millions of rupees will be transferred to the new premises of the National Art Gallery when it will be ready in 2012.

This was affirmed by the Minister of Art and Culture, Mukeswar Choonee, in Parliament. He said that 61 paintings had been restored and indexed in December. They are for the time being kept at the Mauritius Institute in Port Louis under strict security.

### NEW EQUIPMENT IN HEALTH CENTRES

Most of the country's health centres will be equipped with sophisticated apparatuses such as foetal scopes to monitor and measure the heartbeat of pregnant women's foetus. Another up-to-date equipment will be haemoglobinmeters to measure the haemoglobin of the future mothers. This was announced by former Minister of Health, Mrs Hanoomanjee. "Multiple family planning measures have kept the population increase to 1%. Without these measures, the Mauritian population would have reached 3.5 million." The population now stands at 1.2 million.

### JEWELLERY EXHIBITION

Enterprise Mauritius has announced the holding of the 2nd edition of "Eclat Tropical" from 24 to 27 November 2011 at the Grand Bay International Conference Centre. Companies interested in participating in this high class event were expected to apply to Enterprise Mauritius by 29th July 2011.

## INFLATION

The latest statistical figures release from the Bank of Mauritius indicate that all three underlying measures of inflation rose in June 2011.

Core 1 inflation stood at 4.9 % for the twelve month period ended June 2011, up from 4.6 % for the twelve month period ended May 2011 to 4.4 % for the twelve month period ended June 2011. A year earlier, Core 1 and Core 2 stood at 2.2% and 2.6% respectively. TRIM 10 inflation, which trims 5% of the most volatile items in the CPI on both sides of the distribution, rose to 4.7 % in June 2011, from 4.4% for the twelve month period ended May 2011. TRIM10 inflation stood at 2.1% in June 2010.

### BANK TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO NEEDY STUDENTS

The State Bank of Mauritius will award about 100 scholarships to needy students this year.

The Scholarship Scheme is meant for bright students in need of financial support to pursue further studies in tertiary institutions in Mauritius recognized by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). Students with family household income less than Rs 15,000 per month are eligible. Last year, the bank awarded scholarships to 57 students including 5 from Rodrigues island.

### MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK BUILDING AT GREEN CONFERENCE

The 2011 Green Building Conference and Exhibition took place at Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg this week. The 2-day event saw the participation of world renowned designers and experts in sustainable construction.

The conference was an opportunity for local architect Jean Francois Koenig to present the new MCB headquarters at St Jean

### MON CHOISY DEVELOPMENT

A new Real Estate Scheme project will be developed at Mon Choisy over 3.4 hectares. This residential development will consist of a total of 90 luxury apartments and villas. This one-billion rupees project will be financed jointly the Mauritius Commercial Bank and the Rand Merchant Bank of South Africa.

### POLICE ENQUIRY ON HADJ OPERATORS

A police enquiry is going on after a complaint was made at the Plaine Verte police station to the effect that, since 2009, the Islamic Cultural Centre, has been issuing illegal permits to Hadj operators for the organization of Hadj, contrary to the provisions of Regulations made under the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund Act.

This was stated by the Prime Minister in an answer to Reza Uteem, an elected member of Port-Louis South and Port-Louis Central, who wanted to know "whether information as to if any allegation of illegal issue of operator's licence for the Hadj 2010 by the Centre" has been reported to the police.

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## Work on first pirate prison to start on August 22

The first pirate prison on the island will be set up at Petit Verger. This will also include a courthouse.

Work on the same will start on August 22 after the arrival of a European Union (EU) delegation. Also, a bill to tackle the problem is ready and will be presented in parliament soon.

These details were announced during the signing ceremony between the ambassador and head of delegation of the European Union, Alessandro Mariani and vice prime minister and minister of Finance and Economic Development, Pravind Jugnauth at the New Government Centre, Port Louis.

An additional grant of around three million euro, representing Rs125 million, was also provided for the implementation of a transfer agreement that is part of the Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme. This is financed by the European Development Fund. This model is similar to the one implemented in Seychelles. Somalian pirates will be judged and deported to their country of origin where they will serve their sentence.

## White Paper on culture/arts in the pipeline

A White Paper on arts and culture will be presented in about two months with various measures and policies to encourage local and international artists.

The White Paper will consist of various proposals, including the setting up of a creative art industry, music caravan and ensuring more protection to artists. Art clusters will also be set up to allow artists to sell their products daily.

## Samuel Yeung to dress Miss Mauritius Universe

After winning the Heat Fashion Tour 2011, young and talented designer Samuel Yeung has been given the opportunity to design the outfit for the current Miss Mauritius 2011 candidates and the national costume for Miss Mauritius Universe 2011 Laetitia Darche.

Darche will leave for Sao Paulo, Brazil on August 14 to participate in the Miss Universe contest which will be held on September 12.

The Miss Mauritius 2011 Grand Finale will be held at J&J Auditorium at Phoenix on August 6.

## Multimedia creativity workshop (23-24 August)

Creative Masters Tour, a two-day workshop on multimedia creativity, will be held on August 23 and 24 under a dome built exclusively for this purpose at Trianon.

This was announced on by Nicolas Le Maire, director of Maurisoft, during a press conference held at its headquarters in Phoenix.

Maurisoft, a company that specialises in multimedia solutions and the official representative of Adobe in Mauritius and the African region, will provide creative Mauritians of various trades with the opportunity to interact with professionals of global repute within the multimedia world.

The workshop will have key speakers like Mohammed Jogie, director of South Africa-based Morning Star Design, Lisa Taylor, colour consultant at the National Colour System Company and Harry Ravalomanantsoa, head of sales for Toon Boom Animation in the Africa/Indian Ocean region.

## Three youths take part in exchange programme

Three youth leaders, aged between 18 and 25, will visit France from July to August 20 in the context of the international youth exchange programme (Rencontres Internationales de Jeunes).

The programme aims to enable young people from different countries to discover the French culture and visit some historical monuments. It is an initiative of the ministry of Foreign Affairs of France through the French Institute of Mauritius in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The three young people were selected out of 17 candidates on June 24.

## Gender statistics favour women

The Central Statistics Office has published the gender statistics for 2010. It gives an idea about the women and men in Mauritius and includes their demographic profile, family status, labour force characteristics and their role in decision making.

According to CSO figures, in 2010, there were 17,540 more women than men. It also shows that the female population will exceed the male population by around 28,000 by 2050. The sex ratio in the population declined from 100.2 in 1972 to 97.3 in 2010 and is expected to decrease further to reach 95.8 by 2050.

## AGFT centre to be ready by April 2012

The Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Interpretation Centre, which will bear the name of Beekrumsing Ramlallah, will be inaugurated by April 2012.

Government has already voted a budget of Rs56 million for the centre. The new centre will serve as an innovative multimedia arena, with the aim to present the history of immigrants who came to Mauritius.

It will also showcase archaeological remains, including the results of scientific excavations. Interviews recorded in the context of the Oral History project (whereby all people aged who are 70 years and above and are descendants of indentured labourers, will be interviewed) will be transcribed and preserved in the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre.

## PRB report due for publication in October 2012

The Pay Research Bureau (PRB) will publish its next report in October 2012.

At present the bureau is working on wage structures with unions, starting with the Fédération des Syndicats du Service Civil (FSSC) and the State Employees Federation (SEF). The bureau has already completed its first task, which consisted of reviewing the conditions of service of officers and employees of parastatal bodies.

## 35 per cent green electricity by 2020-2025

By 2020-2025 the country will produce 35 per cent electricity through renewable resources. One way of achieving this is through the promotion of power generation by individual households.

In this perspective, Solar Ernte-technik Ltd (SETL), a subsidiary of Leal Group, has been proposing since a year now the residential solar photovoltaic (PV) and has registered up to now more than 600 demands.

The advantage of the PV is that it works in relation to the level of radiation in the atmosphere, which means that even if there are clouds it will produce electricity. In the non-residential sector, SETL has already installed panels at Hindu Girls College in Curepipe and IVTB in Port Louis. It plans to reach clinics, schools and offices.

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## Pas de doute, le désastre, c'est de la faute des vieux !



Waste is now classified for recycling

Quand la vieille dame a choisi le sac en plastique pour ses achats, la caissière lui a reproché de ne pas se mettre à « l'écologie ».

La caissière dit à la vieille dame que la génération des vieux comme elle ne comprenait tout simplement pas le mouvement écologique ; que seuls les jeunes allaient devoir payer pour la vieille génération qui a gaspillé toutes les ressources de la planète !

La vieille femme s'est excusée auprès de la caissière et a expliqué :

« Je suis désolée, nous n'avions pas le mouvement écologique de mon temps. »

Alors qu'elle quittait le magasin, la mine déconfitée, la caissière en rajouta :

« Ce sont des gens comme vous qui ont épuisé toutes les ressources à nos dépens. C'est vrai, vous ne souciez absolument pas de la protection de l'environnement à votre époque ! »

La vieille dame fit tout de même remarquer qu'à l'époque, on retournait les bouteilles de lait, les bouteilles de Coca et de bière au magasin.

Le magasin les renvoyait à l'usine pour être lavées, stérilisées et remplies à nouveau ; on utilisait les mêmes bouteilles à plusieurs reprises. À

cette époque, les bouteilles étaient réellement recyclées, mais on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

De mon temps, on montait l'escalier ; on n'avait pas d'escaliers roulants dans tous les magasins ou dans les bureaux. On marchait jusqu'à l'épicerie du coin aussi. On ne prenait pas sa voiture à chaque fois qu'il fallait se déplacer de deux coins de rue.

Mais, c'est vrai, on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

À l'époque, on lavait les couches de bébé ; on ne connaissait pas les couches jetables. On faisait sécher les vêtements dehors sur

une corde à linge ; pas dans un sèche linge avalant 220 volts. On utilisait l'énergie éolienne et solaire pour vraiment sécher les vêtements.

À l'époque, on recyclait systématiquement les vêtements qui passaient d'un frère ou d'une sœur à l'autre. C'est vrai ! On ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

À l'époque, on n'avait qu'une TV ou une radio dans la maison ; pas une télé dans chaque chambre. Et la télévision avait un petit écran de la taille d'une boîte de pizza, pas un écran de la taille d'une armoire.

Dans la cuisine, on s'activait pour fouetter les préparations culinaires et pour préparer les repas ; on ne disposait pas de tous ces gadgets électriques spécialisés pour tout préparer sans effort.

Quand on emballait des éléments fragiles à envoyer par la poste, on utilisait des emballages comme du papier journal ou de la ouate, dans des boîtes ayant déjà servi, pas des bulles en mousse de polystyrène ou en plastique.

À l'époque, on utilisait l'huile de coude pour tondre le gazon ; on n'avait pas de tondeuses à essence auto-propulsées.

À l'époque, on travaillait physiquement ; on n'avait pas besoin d'aller dans un club de gym pour courir sur des tapis roulants qui fonctionnent à l'électricité. Mais, vous avez raison : on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

À l'époque, on buvait de l'eau à la fontaine quand on avait soif ; on n'utilisait pas de gobelets ou de bouteilles en plastique à jeter à chaque fois qu'on voulait prendre de l'eau.

On remplissait les stylos plumes dans une bouteille d'encre au lieu d'acheter un nouveau stylo ; on remplaçait les lames de rasoir au lieu de jeter le rasoir tout simplement à chaque rasage. Mais, c'est vrai, on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

À l'époque, les gens prenaient le bus, le métro ou allaient à pied et les enfants prenaient leur vélo pour se rendre à l'école au lieu d'utiliser la voiture familiale et maman comme un service de taxi de 24 heures sur 24.

À l'époque, les enfants gardaient le même cartable durant plusieurs années, les cahiers continuaient d'une année sur l'autre, les crayons de couleurs, gommes, taille crayon et autres accessoires duraient tant qu'ils pouvaient, pas un cartable tous les ans et des cahiers jetés fin juin, de nouveaux crayons et gommes avec un nouveau slogan à chaque rentrée. Mais, c'est vrai, on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique.

On avait une prise de courant par pièce, pas un bloc multiprises pour alimenter toute la panoplie des appareils électroniques indispensables aux jeunes d'aujourd'hui.

La vieille dame avait raison : à son époque, on ne connaissait pas le mouvement écologique, mais on vivait chaque jour de la vie dans le respect de l'environnement.

## Zhang Jun designated in Paris June 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 as UNESCO Artist of Peace



Zhang Jun, UNESCO Artist for Peace, is officially ranked as China's national top-class performer. Born in Shanghai on October 1974, Zhang successively graduated from Shanghai Drama Scholl (1986-1994), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (1997-2000), and got his MFA degree from Shanghai Theatre Academy (2006-2008). Zhang started learning Kunqu at the year of 12 and became a professional Kunqu actor since 1994 in Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe.

Regarded as the Prince of Kunqu Opera, Zhang plays the «Hsiao Sheng» (young - man) role type of 600-year-old Chinese Kunqu Opera, a masterpiece of The Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001, and has acted many leading roles in famous Kunqu plays such as The Peony Pavilion, The Palace of Eternal Youth and The Jade Hairpin. Zhang has won China's national top performing award... the « Meihua (Plum Flower) Award » as well as many acting prizes and honorable titles including one of the « Shanghai Ten Outstanding Young Persons » in 2004, the Grand Prize of Performing & Promoting Kunqu by UNESCO in 2005, the «China National Young Cultural Elites» in 2006 and one of China's Best Ten Kunqu Opera Performers in 2007. Zhang has also played the leading role in Tan Dun's opera Marco Polo, which was nominated for a 2010 Grammy Award. Being recognized with his outstanding artistic achievements and endeavor to popularize Kunqu among the youth worldwide, Zhang Jun has been designated by UNESCO in 2011 as one of UNESCO Artist of Peace.

### Les Charmes du Kunqu

Le Kunqu est aujourd'hui comme l'opéra le plus ancien de Chine et de la planète ; avec la tragédie grecque et le théâtre sanskrit, il a été reconnu comme l'un des trois plus anciens arts dramatiques au monde. Mais alors que les deux premiers se sont d'ores et déjà éteints, le Kunqu est demeuré jusqu'à présent plein de vie, toujours représenté sur scène.

Ancêtre des multiples genres d'opéras chinois, il est devenu l'une des marques esthétiques singulières de l'Orient, essence de la culture traditionnelle du peuple chinois.

En 2001, il a été proclamé par l'UNESCO chef-d'œuvre du patrimoine oral et immatériel de l'humanité. Ainsi était manifestée sa valeur exceptionnelle ; dépassant les champs de l'expression théâtrale, il est reconnu comme trésor du patrimoine culturel mondial. Le Kunqu est le plus accompli des théâtres classiques chinois. Poésie, musique, chant, danse et jeu d'interprétation révèlent, en une union parfaitement harmonieuse, un mode d'expression artistique considéré jusqu'à présent comme le plus haut modèle de l'esthétique théâtrale chinoise.

Au XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle, vers la fin des Yuan, début des Ming, des personnages tels que Gu Jian, originaires des régions du Kunshan, procèdent à un réarrangement et à un perfectionnement du système de sonorités Qiang en vogue au Sud de cette région pour aboutir à la constitution du Kunshan Qiang. Sous l'ère Jiajing des Ming (1522-1566), l'illustre compositeur d'opéra Wei Liangfu entreprend à son tour un réaménagement des ensembles sonores et vocaux, achèvement musical qui unit raffinement et élégance des tons Shuimo- ou Kunqu. Par la suite, le dramaturge Liang Chenyu poursuit l'œuvre de Wei Liangfu et compose le premier récit de l'histoire du Kunqu. Par la suite, le dramaturge Liang Chenyu poursuit l'œuvre de Wei Liangfu et compose le premier récit de l'histoire du Kunqu, « Huanshaji », dont l'adaptation sur scène marque l'avènement du Kunqu comme art théâtral à proprement parler.

Les chants, auparavant uniquement accompagnés de musique, se voient augmentées d'une mise en scène au système d'interprétation codifié, processus qui mène à la naissance du genre Kun. Sur scène, chants et danses obéissent à des règles : chaque mouvement, chaque geste est soumis à des normes. Les paroles du kunqu issues de la création lettrée de l'époque se conforment aux traditions poétiques des Tang et des Song et la langue des stances porte l'expression des sentiments.

Le développement ultérieur de cet art est marqué par les compositions de chefs-d'œuvre éternels tels « Le Pavillon aux pivoines » ou « le Palais de la longévité ». En particulier, « Le Pavillon aux pivoines » de Tang Xianzu, qualifié au début du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle de Shakespeare de l'Orient, a été traduit à travers le monde et son influence profonde nous anime encore aujourd'hui.



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## National auction market to be set up

A national auction market where fresh vegetables and fruits will be sold, will be set in the periphery of the district of Port Louis. This is in line with the Government Programme 2010-2015 which stipulates that a national auction market for fresh vegetables and fruits be set up to enable consumers to have access to high quality produce that meets the standards of food safety.

## Banks to be equipped with e-cheque system

The e-cheque system will be officially launched in the third week of this month. By this system, clearing of cheques will be carried out based on scanned images of the cheques which the banks will send to the clearing house and eventually to the the paying banks. Presently some 20 banks are operating in Mauritius.

## NTC acquires new buses in a bid to cut repair expenses

The National Transport Corporation (NTC), which, on average, provide transport for 60 per cent of the labour force in the country every day, is planning to purchase about 100 buses by the end of the year, and an additional 200 buses next year. The NTC believes that with new buses, it will be able to cut down on repair expenses and fuel consumption. A recent PNQ by the leader of the opposition, Paul Bérenger, compelled government to reveal that the National Transport Corporation has a massive deficit of Rs 710 million.

## E-health to be operational in 2012

The setting up of an 'e-health system' has been planned for the third quarter of 2012. This will cater for better health service delivery, planning and protection of privacy, which is otherwise impossible with paper-based records. In practice, this will help save Rs 8 million which go to waste annually because of drugs that are unfit for consumption.

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## REMEMBER", A NEW BOOK BY DR JEAN-GEORGES PROSPER, MBE, CSK.

**REMEMBER, MÉMOIRE DU COEUR** "is the title of a book to pay tribute to late Pierre-Georges Télescourt, who died in Melbourne in August 2003. The author Dr Jean-Georges Prosper, has dedicated his work as a way of saying THANK YOU to P.G. Télescourt for the academic benefits he has acquired as a student of the eminent teacher and to highlight his numerous contributions to education, literature, poetry, culture and humanity at large.

Dr Prosper "has very generously agreed to accede all proceeds from the sale of his publication to the "P.G. Télescourt Education Fund", the book says. The Fund will assist Mauritian students from poor and needy backgrounds, with their education, thus continuing the philosophy advocated by P.G. Télescourt towards the disadvantaged during his teaching career at Royal College of Port-Louis. "Ce qu'il enseignait à ses élèves, à part de l'anglais et le français, c'est le respect des différences sociales, l'écrasement des préjugés et le fait qu'on est tous frères en ce bas monde."

Numerous contributors have paid tribute to late P.G. Télescourt in the book. The High Commissioner for the Republic of Mauritius in Canberra, H.E. Mirella Chauvin wrote the Preface. "Je suis heureuse de recommander cet ouvrage aux lecteurs car il contribue énormément à comprendre la diversité de la culture mauricienne et la contribution des Mauriciens à promouvoir la richesse de notre pays dans le monde", she wrote.

Copies of cultural documents exchanged between the author, P.G. Télescourt and members of his family, feature in the book, as well as the Eulogy I delivered at the funeral service. Eminent Mauritians have also showered highly praised credentials on late P.G. Télescourt in the book. A variety of poems abound. The recipient thoroughly deserves such an accolade, given that during his lifetime, he has selflessly dedicated himself to serving others in his different capacities and obtaining undeniable results.

Dr. J.G. Prosper needs to be congratulated for such a magnificent tribute to one of the most deserving eminent Mauritians. The book must be a collector's item for all lovers of literary work. An official launch is being planned in Melbourne.

### Legal advice

# MONEY COUNTS

By Pravin Jugdaohsingh



security guard and a small quantity of its goods at the property during the week following the break date. NYK had not heard anything from Ibrend and NYK surveyor contacted

company to act on your behalf. Are you aware of the particular details that your debt management company must produce? Are you aware of the recent OFT guidelines on this regard?

Are you aware of your legal rights on a property that you own with your partner? Are unmarried couples treated differently from married couples on claims relating to beneficial interests in properties? At the moment yes, but the Supreme Court is currently hearing a case on the matter which could be set a precedent on the matter. Are your interests sufficiently protected?

### Your rights

What if you are a landlord or a tenant. Are you aware of your tenancy rights? Have you been unlawfully evicted? As a landlord are you aware of the appropriate notices to serve on a tenant to regain possession of your property? Are you aware of your repairing obligations and the legal consequences of failing to observe those obligations?

If you are a property owner have you been wronged by a builder or surveyor? Are you embroiled in a neighbour dispute, e.g. boundary disputes?

Whether we are protecting our family, investment, property or business, we all need help. I know a lot of family and friends that have made the journey to the UK to make a better life for themselves and their family. To get on in our lives we have to put an element of trust in others, but unfortunately others take advantage and we often feel helpless and we are embarrassed to ask for help, or we simply do not know whom to turn to in our hour of need. Sometimes, asking for help mean the difference between everything and nothing. What we don't always realise is that the law affects our everyday life, no matter how trivial the matter may seem.

If you are in need of legal help I will be available to answer any questions in my monthly column.

Alternatively you may contact me on 020 8509 6827 or email [pj@gtclaw.co.uk](mailto:pj@gtclaw.co.uk)

The economy is a topic that has dominated the news for the last three years. We have all seen the effects, whether in our own personal lives, or we know friends and family who are struggling, or we have simply observed hardship from afar. Unfortunately, whether we like it or not, money dominates our lives and in these uncertain times and animal instinct takes over. We all know the saying "survival of the fittest" and in litigation I see the proverb practiced on a daily basis.

Ibrend. Ibrend claimed that NYK had failed to give vacant possession and was therefore liable for rents. NYK did not agree. Ibrend sought a declaration from the court on the issue. The court found that the NYK had not vacated the property and was therefore liable for rents.

### Lesson

The lesson to be learnt is that if you are a tenant or a landlord, the NYK case highlights the importance of timescales and not taking anything for granted notwithstanding what may have been agreed verbally outside the terms of the lease.

Even big business is feeling the pinch and they're doing their utmost to protect their profit margins.

Technology is at the business in today's modern age and with the number of users on-line, every artist, publicist, producer, and brand, they know only too well the effects of copyright infringement. Following the case of L'Oreal -v Ebay, which went before the European Court, websites, such as Ebay, which allows vendors to sell goods on-line could be forced to prevent Intellectual infringements which will inevitably affect their profit margins. What if your business acts as a platform for vendors? How does the aforementioned ruling affect your business?

We are all feeling the strain. What if you are trying to reduce your debt and you have instructed a debt management

In today's climate every penny counts. Take for example the case of NYK Logistics (UK) Ltd v Ibrend Estates BV. In that case, NYK occupied the warehouse, which was owned by Ibrend under a lease. NYK claimed that it had terminated the lease by exercising the break clause. Ibrend disputed that NYK had validly exercised the break option claiming that it had failed to give vacant possession on 3 April 2009, which was a condition of exercising the break option. If Ibrend was correct, it was agreed that the lease continued after 3 April 2009 until 25 December 2009, when it was terminated following NYK having further exercised the break option, which they exercised without prejudice to its claim that the lease had already terminated.

NYK and Ibrend had also entered into negotiations to allow NYK to complete the decoration works after the break date. However, nothing was formally agreed. NYK proceeded on the basis of the negotiations and had its workmen,

## MFC AGM

The Mauritius Football Competition will be holding their AGM on Sunday 09/10/2011 at 3pm. The address is 2-8 Gracefields Gardens Streatham, London SW16 2ST.

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## The Importance of Fibre in Your Diet .

*The question that often comes to mind is why whole wheat food lowers blood sugar when carb count is almost the same as in white products such as rice and flour .*

*By Devinia Sookia (USA)\**



Although the total carbs are about the same for both whole wheat and products made from white rice or white flour, there are still a lot of benefits gained from eating foods prepared with whole grains.

Whole grains (whole wheat bread) and grown rice contain more fibre than refined grains (white bread) and white rice. Fibre helps to control blood glucose by delaying the rise in blood glucose after the food is eaten. Fibre has also been associated with an improvement in insulin resistance. The food labels do not tell the whole story. If a slice of white bread contains 1.6 grams of fibre, it may be rounded up to 2 grams on the food label. If a slice of whole wheat bread contains 2.4 grams of fibre, it may be rounded down to 2 grams of fibre. Although there is almost a whole gram (0.8 gram) difference in fibre, the food label does not show the difference. Especially as Fibre is very important for our health.

### Fibre Fights Disease

Diets rich in fibre have been shown to have a number of health benefits including a decreased risk of coronary heart disease and a lower risk of type 2 diabetes. Fibre has also been associated with an improvement in insulin resistance, the condition that underlies type 2 diabetes. Many researches suggest that consuming a high fibre diet (50 grams per day) reduce blood glucose levels in people with both type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes. It has also been shown to improve cholesterol levels. Therefore it seems very important that people with diabetes get adequate amounts of fibre. The recommended minimum intake is 14 grams of fibre per 1,000 calories or about 25 to 30 grams of fibre per day.

### Getting More Fibre

Many people are not meeting the daily goal of fibre. In fact research shows that people only eat about half the amount of fibre foods that they should. As a result they are getting only an average of 15 grams of fibre a day. You can increase your fibre intake by cutting back on processed foods, white rice and white breads and increasing your daily amounts of fruits and fresh vegetables. Remember to drink plenty of water and to make this dietary change slowly to avoid gastrointestinal distress.

### Fruits

Fresh fruits contain more fibre than canned fruits and a lot more fibre than fruit juices. Berries (especially raspberries and blackberries) can be especially high in fibre. If the skins of the fruits are edible, eat them as well but wash them properly before eating as the skin is very rich in fibre. Aim to eat two servings of fruit every day.

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

## Can diet alone reverse Type 2 diabetes?

Gordon Parmley taking part in the Newcastle University study with Professor Roy Taylor

Research funded by Diabetes UK and carried out by a team from Newcastle University has discovered that Type 2 diabetes can be reversed by an extremely low-calorie diet alone.

In an early stage clinical trial of 11 people, all reversed their diabetes by drastically cutting their food intake to just 600 calories a day for two months. And three months later, seven remained free of diabetes.

### 'Remarkable' results

Professor Roy Taylor of Newcastle University, who led the study and is also Director of the Newcastle Magnetic Resonance Centre, said: "To have people free of diabetes after years with the condition is remarkable - and all because of an eight-week diet."

"This is a radical change in understanding Type 2 diabetes. It will change how we can explain it to people newly diagnosed with the condition. While it has long been believed that someone with Type 2 diabetes will always have the disease, and that it will steadily get worse, we have shown that we can reverse the condition."

### Liquid diet drinks and non-starchy vegetable diet

Under close supervision of a medical team, the participants' diet consisted of liquid diet drinks and non-starchy vegetables. They were matched to a control group of people without diabetes and then monitored over eight weeks. Insulin production from their pancreas and fat content in the liver and pancreas was studied.

### Pancreas regained ability to make insulin

After just one week, the Newcastle University team found that their pre-breakfast blood glucose levels had returned to normal.

A special MRI scan of their pancreas revealed that the fat levels in the pancreas had returned from an elevated level (8%) to a normal (6%) level. In step with this, the pancreas regained the normal ability to make insulin and as a result, blood glucose after meals steadily improved.

The volunteers were returned to eating normally but had received advice on portion size and healthy eating.

### Diet should only be undertaken under medical

### supervision

Dr Iain Frame, Director of Research at Diabetes UK, said: "We welcome the results of this research because it shows that Type 2 diabetes can be reversed, on a par with successful surgery without the side effects."

"However, this diet is not an easy fix and Diabetes UK strongly recommends that such a drastic diet should only be undertaken under medical supervision. Despite being a very small trial, we look forward to future results particularly to see whether the reversal would remain in the long term."

Diabetes UK is keen to stress this study involved an extreme diet conducted under close medical supervision. We strongly recommend people do not attempt to lose weight in this way. People with diabetes who want to lose weight should consult their healthcare team before undertaking any eating plan and read our information on how safe dieting can help manage diabetes.

Article source: [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)  
Diabetes UK is the largest organisation in the UK working for people with diabetes, funding research, campaigning and helping people live with the condition.

### Vegetables

All vegetables are no low in calories and carbs. However they are an excellent source of fibre. Choose fresh or frozen vegetables for the best nutrients. Try to have at least two portions of vegetables with each meal.

### Legumes

Legumes include dry beans and peas which are full of fibre. Try adding beans to stews, salads and soups.

### Whole Grains

The U.S. Dietary Guidelines recommend consuming the equivalent of at least 3 ounces of whole grains per day. Research has shown that doing so can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, may help with weight maintenance and may lower the risk of other chronic diseases. Barley, oats, whole wheat, wild rice, rye, quinoa and buckwheat are considered as whole grains.

Check out the recipe below for a delicious way to consume 6 grams of fibre .

### Stewed Black Eyed Peas.

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 green or red bell pepper cut into 1 inch strips  
1 small onion sliced finely  
2 garlic cloves minced  
1 inch piece of fresh ginger crushed  
2 15.5 ounce cans of black eyed peas rinsed and drained  
1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes or chili powder  
2 sprigs of fresh thyme  
1 tbs of chopped fresh coriander

1. Put oil to a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add chopped peppers and simmer for approximately 10 minutes. Add onions, minced garlic and crushed ginger

2. Add black eyed peas and red pepper flakes or chilli powder and simmer for 5 to 10 more minutes.  
3. Add chopped sprigs of thyme

Remove from heat and garnish with coriander. Do not add salt as canned beans tend to retain some of the salt even if you rinse them. Serve with a little portion of brown rice, steamed broccoli and grilled chicken with a spicy tomato sauce known as "rougaille" to Mauritians or "salsa" to others for more fibre.

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### National Lottery Results July 2011

#### Lotto Draws: Twice weekly

30 Jul 11	4 - 10 - 29 - 32 - 34 - 40	48
27 Jul 11	4 - 16 - 22 - 34 - 39 - 42	35
23 Jul 11	1 - 2 - 11 - 30 - 33 - 45	39
20 Jul 11	6 - 10 - 15 - 32 - 42 - 49	4
16 Jul 11	4 - 9 - 13 - 15 - 18 - 40	30
13 Jul 11	7 - 11 - 15 - 18 - 19 - 49	25
09 Jul 11	1 - 2 - 21 - 24 - 33 - 49	39
06 Jul 11	26 - 32 - 34 - 35 - 41 - 48	1
02 Jul 11	10 - 18 - 34 - 35 - 39 - 48	6

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



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## Thought for the month

No wise combatant underestimates their antagonist.

*Johann Wolfgang Goethe*

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\*Figures correct at the time of going to press

## H M S Mauritius, Vacoas 1962-1975

### 2011 Reunion - Portsmouth

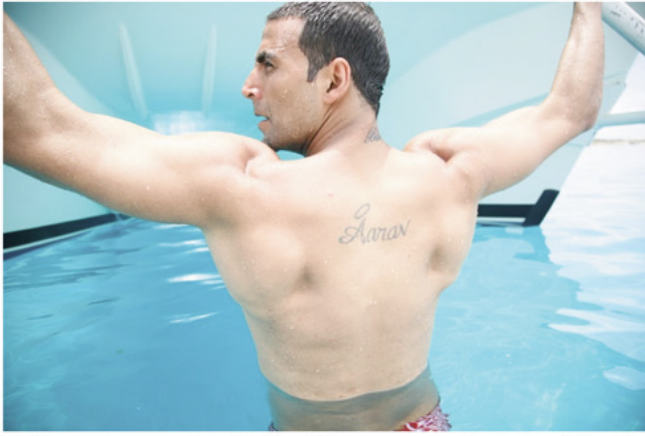
At the moment, approximately 100 former members of HMS Mauritius, Vacoas, will be holding their 4th annual reunion in Portsmouth, United Kingdom, on 8th October 2011.

There is a website called 'Mautitian Veterans' (which is hidden behind another website) and any former service personnel and civilians who worked in HMS MAURITIUS are eligible to join.

For further information on membership [which is free] send details of the years you were there rank and where you worked to [roberthchase@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthchase@btinternet.com) and copy to [micheal@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:micheal@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk) and put membership in the subject line. Also please mention you saw the advert in Mauritius News.



## Bollywood Superstar, Akshay Kumar, becomes a Superhero for his Son!



Bollywood superstar, Akshay Kumar, recently dubbed for the Hindi version of Hollywood, action blockbuster, 'Transformers - Dark of the Moon'. Akshay dubbed for the role of 'Optimus Prime', which is one of the key characters in the film. He took the dubbing role for his son, Aarav, and what's more, he did so for free, saying this wasn't a business deal and that he was really lucky to land the opportunity.

The screen hero further added that he saw 'Transformers 1' with his son when the film first released and it happens to be his favourite film, Optimus Prime being his favourite character. So when he was asked to lend his voice to the Hindi-dubbed version of the film he was overjoyed and more than happy to do it as a gift to his son. He said, "A father always wants to be a superhero for his son. I got the opportunity to do so through Optimus Prime."

## FEEL THE 'FORCE' WHEN THE ACTION UNFOLDS ON SCREENS THIS AUTUMN

Twentieth Century Fox presents John Abraham and Genelia D'Souza in one of the boldest action-romances of contemporary Indian Cinema



Prepare to be engulfed by 'FORCE' when the action, passion and drama come alive in cinemas across UK and worldwide in Autumn 2011. Released through Twentieth Century Fox, 'FORCE' features two of the hottest stars of Indian cinema, John Abraham ('Dostana', 'New York', the Oscar-nominated 'Water') and Genelia D'Souza ('Life Partner', 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na'), in this most awaited action romance film of the year.

A stylised thriller among the new wave of Indian films paying homage to the seminal Indian action genre, 'FORCE' combines state-of-the-art fight sequences and thrills with an original romantic narrative, delivering an abundance of on-screen energy and vigor that will have audiences gripped from the opening sequence to the end credits.

Directed by the critically acclaimed, Filmfare and National Award winning Nishikant Kamat 'FORCE' is a contemporary action romance and a Hindi reinterpretation of the Tamil blockbuster, 'Kaakha Kaakha', which achieved widespread popularity among audiences and critics alike. 'FORCE' is produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah who previously brought cinematic gems such as 'Aakhen', 'Singh is King' and 'Namaste London'.

At the heart of the action-love story is a renegade cop, played by John Abraham, in relentless pursuit of a ruthless, underworld gangster. He believes that the only way to eradicate crime is to give criminals the bullet - not hand cuffs. The hype is already astir around the pin-up star's infamous eight-pack physique to be unveiled in the film. Sharing screen space with John is one of the most vivacious and exuberant talents to join the ranks of Indian screen beauties, as Genelia D'Souza plays John's love interest. The seat-grabbing suspense is perfectly balanced with passionate romance and a melodious soundtrack, masterfully composed by one of the leading Indian music composers, Harris Jayaraj.

A combination of real visceral action and an intense love story, the film promises to leave an impact. Get ready for a high-octane cinematic experience when 'FORCE' releases in cinemas in the UK and worldwide in Autumn 2011 through Twentieth Century Fox.

## CORRUPTION AND CASTE DISCRIMINATION EXPOSED IN RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT'S 'AARAKSHAN'



One of the most controversial and thought-provoking films to emerge from India this year, based on true accounts, releasing in UK and Worldwide on 12th August 2011

The debate and discussion will heat up this summer as Reliance Entertainment's 'Aarakshan', a high voltage, socio-political drama based on one of the most contentious Indian government policies of caste-based reservations in government jobs and educational institutions, releases in cinemas in UK and worldwide on 12th August 2011.

From the makers of 'Raajneeti', one of the top grossing Indian films of 2010, and based on real life events, 'Aarakshan' is directed by the country's most fearless and hailed director, Prakash Jha, who exposes the corruption and caste discrimination rife in India's political and educational system. Flawless and compelling performances are delivered by the Indian film fraternity's finest acting talent, spearheaded by veteran of Indian cinema, Amitabh Bachchan (Black, Zanjeer, Sholay). Appearing alongside the screen icon are major artists from the industry's younger generation

including the formidable Saif Ali Khan (Dil Chata Hai, Omkara, Kurbaan) beguiling starlet Deepika Padukone (Om Shanti Om, Love Aaj Kal, Housefull) and rising star of the Indian screen, Prateik (Dum Maaro Dum, Dhobi Ghat). Delivering exceptional supporting roles are industry veterans Manoj Bajpayee, Shabana Azmi, Tanvi Azmi and Hema Malini.

Set against the rural backdrop of Bhopal, 'Aarakshan'. The film exposes many issues prevalent in contemporary society, even in the UK - issues such as multi-faith integration and ethnic minority quotas for certain government jobs - to the extent of disregarding meritocracy.

'Aarakshan' reflects how such rules ignite resentment and instead of discouraging discrimination, often institutionalise it, thereby perpetrating marginalisation and alienation.

**Synopsis:** 'Aarakshan' is weaved around the central character, 'Prabhakar Anand' (Amitabh Bachchan), the legendary idealistic principal of a college that he has single-handedly turned into the state's most

respected. 'Deepak Kumar' (Saif Ali Khan) is his loyal disciple and protégé, who will do anything for his teacher and unequivocally follows his mentor's every principle. Deepak also loves his tutor's idealistic daughter, 'Poorbi' (Deepika Padukone) and shares an exemplary friendship with 'Sushant' (Prateik). The story conveys their love, their exuberant friendship, their zest for life, their ideals and their dreams for the future. Suddenly shedding light on one of the most controversial socio-political issues of recent years, with the Indian Supreme Court's order on reservations, the narrative suddenly becomes a rollercoaster ride of high drama, conflict, and rebellion, which tests their love and friendship for one another to the core and their loyalty to Prabhakar Anand.

Prepare for a controversial exploration of the corruption and caste discrimination that continue to hold back one of the world's emerging superpowers and tie it to the dark ages, as Reliance Entertainment's 'Aarakshan' causes waves across the nation and beyond from 12th August 2011.

### HOLLYWOOD FILM REVIEW

## Transformers 3: Dark Of The Moon



Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Frances McDormand, Josh Duhamel, John Malkovich, Leonard Nimoy, Rosie Huntington-Whitely Director: Michael Bay Rating: 12A

"Third time's a charm" doesn't necessarily ring true for film franchises and that's certainly the case here in the third outing of the Transformers as a Cybertronian ship crashes on the moon in the 60s, setting into motion the Space Race. The Americans, naturally, get to the wreckage first and remove some strange pillars from the ship.

Back in the present day, Sam (LaBeouf) and his girlfriend (Huntington-Whitley - no Megan Fox this time around) find themselves caught up in a fight between the Autobots and the Deceptions as both try to find the Cybertronian ship on the moon to loot it for its remaining contents, which include Sentinel Prime (Nimoy), who issues a stark warning to Sam never to let the Autobots get their hands on the mysterious pillars. And as far as the plot goes, that's really about it.

That won't bother you much if all you're after is 157 minutes of warring robots, and to be fair there are a few good action scenes - mid-air transformations, sliced-in-half skyscrapers, etc. Impressive special effects abound and for good measure there's even the addition of a bit of 3D, in which Huntington-Whitley definitely gives Megan Fox a run for her money despite some laughably bad acting elsewhere. Nimoy was also a good choice for Sentinel Prime, even if his casting does give rise to a multitude of over-done Star Trek nods.

But none of that can make up for the film's pitfalls - if you care about clever humour, tension, excitement and character development, you won't find it here. Vaguely entertaining, but ultimately robotic.

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**A point of view on marriage**

# Love or Arranged?

By Sabrina Cattaree



As a teenager, most girls dream about their knight in shining armour whisking them away like a princess in a fairytale story; having the perfect wedding day, with the perfect dress, the perfect speech and the perfect guests. (I blame Disney for that!) But the reality soon hits home and realise that marriage isn't really the fairytale ending.

Instead, what we find, is a constant battle between man and woman struggling to understand each other's ways and emotions (Like the book men are from mars and women are from Venus); The stigma of Society and the pressure of knowing that we are not getting any younger. What's interesting to know is, can a book actually train you to maintain the "perfect" marriage; what exactly, is needed to make a marriage last and a man or woman forever wanting to be by your side? All these questions run through my mind constantly, but to be perfectly honest, I don't think there is an answer.

Being a British born Mauritian, I was brought up in a British lifestyle, but with Mauritian traditions and beliefs. You can't escape it; if you're Mauritian, than prepare yourself for the constant talks, gossips and stereotyping. No matter how long one has been in this country, this way of life is part of us unless of course you choose to detach yourself from it.

Back in the days, arranged marriages were the most common way for two people to tie the knot. They say that parents know best (in our case aunts and neighbours are also included in this), and in this case, most of it has proven to be true. I know many people whom have gone through an arranged marriage and till date they are still together. But, are they still together as the women still have the old fashioned way of doing all the chores whilst her husband just works? Does society have a big part to play in all this? ("Dimoun ki pour dire?") Or does love after marriage really work?

There are many ways one could look into the situation, but for many people once you're married that's it. You live for your husband. A relative once told me that if I were to separate and re-marry, I would only become a widow if my first husband dies! (Silly I know). I honestly believe that yes, there is love, but it's forced upon the person, they have no choice but to fall in love with the person as they are now married. There was an interesting article in 'Psychology today' regarding arranged marriages and the following statement really gave me food for thought: "A study in Jaipur, India a few decades ago found that people in love marriages were more in love for the first five years, while those in arranged marriages were more in love for the next 30 years. (Of course, since Indian love marriages are viewed as immoral, their difficulties may be due at least as much to social stigma as to poor matches.) People do not expect to love their spouse at first-love is seen as something that develops (when it does) over time and through shared experiences." Jefferson Fish- Psychology Today. "Love is seen as something that develops", yes this is true, but surely one has the right as with whom they fall in love and not be already married to the person.

I've always believed in love marriages and choosing the person for myself. However, the truth is, we never really know who is right for us. We would have to sail the seven seas to find Mr Right, but then us girls would be branded as cheap and non- marriage material. It's a vicious cycle. Although Mauritian, I do feel that the whole insight into marriage has changed, it's become

more of a game for some and a non importance for others. You must be wondering what do I mean by game? Well, Many foreigners which may include Mauritians marry a British born just to gain residency, as shocking as this may sound, I'm sure many of MN readers would have heard of stories of this happening. Some marry British born individuals on the pretence of Love, get married and then leave after they get their Permanent Residence papers. The worst thing is that the parents of the unfaithful Moron know about their intentions but let it be. Its circumstances like these that make me think twice about finding love, especially with a Mauritian born student, but then one has to realise that not all men or women are the same.

You get a few people that don't want marriage at all. They want to avoid the fuss and hassle of it all and instead, opt for a lifelong boyfriend and girlfriend relationship. Honestly, for me I find that a little worrying. One that doesn't want to get married just shows that they are afraid of commitment. What 'fuss' would writing your name on a piece of paper do to you?

Something that irritates me however, is the whole commotion people make over a woman being divorced. People change over the years, mistakes made and not forgiven, some people are used and separation happens. I respect a woman more for leaving a man whom she felt incompatible with than staying with him for the sake of others and being unhappy. Divorced women aren't bad people; they just have self respect and probably had a tough life, so why are they given so much grief. Why is it so difficult for them to find love again? Why do mothers turn their noses at them? It's sad really, but that is the culture we are brought up in. A Man once said to me "You have to understand, my mother wants someone perfect". Perfect! What on earth does that mean? Does perfect even exist? Is a divorced woman not perfect? Doesn't it show that the woman is committed and married a man? Do you honestly think you're going to find a non married virgin in this day and age?

I'm quite old school myself (traditional); I want to get married to a guy of my choice and have a reasonably sized family and give my dad his grandchild. If I am not married by the age of 30, I may have to resort into turning to the aunts for help. It's the fear of being alone that scares me. I like to feel secure and stable. Yes, society may have a role to play in my perspectives but I am Mauritian at the end of the day.

MN's Remarks: Ms cattaree may have made some valid points. According to the office of National Statistics, there has been a decrease in divorces rates since 2008, however, the rates of Marriages has shown an even bigger decline in the same time. This would indicate that couples are more hesitant to make the commitment of Marriage and may be stay in long term relationships instead. An article published in the Dailymail on March 3rd, 2011 stated that Arranged Marriages are more likely to last as the matches are carefully considered with thought going into whether potential partners' families, interests and life goals are compatible.

We should also note the above article is the opinion of one individual which MN may or may not share, however we invite our readers to send their own thoughts on this subject and may publish the best one(s).

# Money is the root of many break-ups



Some say that money is the root of all evil, but one thing's for sure, it can be at the root of relationship breakdowns. It is estimated that more than two million Brits break up purely because of money worries.

Spending and borrowing are causing one in four (26 per cent) couples to argue and one in 20 to break up, according to the latest Personal Credit Index survey from CreditExpert, the online credit report monitoring service.

Despite the index rising by two points, indicating an increase in consumer credit confidence, money worries are proving a relationship-breaking issue for many, they say.

The index, which is based on survey data from Ipsos MORI in January 2007, tracks consumers' current credit confidence and future expectations on a quarterly basis also reveals that almost one in 10 (nine per cent) lie to partners about their finances and even hide bank and credit card statements from them.

Money arguments are overwhelmingly about spending, with more than 90 per cent citing their own or their partner's spending as the bone of contention. A further 27 per cent have disputes over borrowing. Some couples quarrel over both spending and borrowing.

When it comes to money, 18-34-year-olds are the most hot tempered, with almost half (42 per cent) having had a disagreement about money. Adults aged over 55 are the least likely (11 per cent) to have rows about spending with their partners.

Almost a third of couples in supervisory, clerical or junior managerial social groupings (30 per cent) argue about finance, as do 28 per cent of higher managerial or professional groups. Strangely, just 17 per cent of those not working bicker about money.

The index also highlights that financial arguments are more prevalent among those who are uncomfortable with their level of borrowing, with 51 per cent of those admitting to arguing about debt and spending and one in eight (13 per cent) reporting that they have broken up with their partner over finances. Most worryingly of all, a third of couples with children argue about finances and seven per cent break up purely over arguments about finances and financial problems.

Jim Hodgkins, managing director of CreditExpert, says, "The index underlines just how many couples in Britain argue, and in some cases split up, over their finances. It's hardly surprising that 18-34 year olds - those most likely to be first-time buyers in the property market - feel the pinch and argue the most. What is sad is the number of children affected.

"It has never been more important to keep on top of your financial situation. If you feel worried about your level of borrowing, then your partner will pick up on it and feel worried too."

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

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### H M S Mauritius, Vacoas 1962-1975

2011 Reunion - Portsmouth  
At the moment, approximately 100 former members of HMS Mauritius, Vacoas, will be holding their 4th annual reunion in Portsmouth, United Kingdom, on 8th October 2011.  
There is a website called 'Mautitian Veterans' (which is hidden behind another website) and any former service personnel and civilians who worked in HMS MAURITIUS are eligible to join. For further information on membership [which is free] send details of the years you were there rank and where you worked to [roberthchase@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthchase@btinternet.com) and copy to [micheal@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:micheal@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk) and put membership in the subject line. Also please mention you saw the advert in Mauritius News.

# First Mauritian Sega Album released in UK

## Met Sega La

Ivan  
Antalika

windblows UK

### Black and White Sega Night Promoting Ivan Antalika Album

A Live show to promote the release of 'Met Sega La' will be held at T Chances Hall  
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10th September 2011

Performing artists

- Mario Imousse - Casse cabine, Pik so orit
- Sylvio Lynx - Rhum la na bon mem
  - Jose Jadoubindou - Ti la mok
  - Katingo - Konfi, Non non non
  - Zul Ramniah - Siranda
- Cannes des Fleurs Sega Dancers
- Windlows professional sega band
  - DJ El Sid

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Management reserve the right of admission  
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8pm - 2am

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**Mauritian Festival in London**

**Sensational Season Gathering**

Every year there are Mauritian festivals in London which bring together the Mauritian community with some fantastic live music and not forgetting our traditional food and drinks. This year's season was kicked off Mauritian Sensation's Summer Festival which took place on July 10th at Chesnut Park in North London.

Mauritians and friends gathered from across the country to enjoy the day. Some great artists performed live on the day and were supported by live bands Les Windblows.

Nitish Joganah came from Mauritius for the event and sang his old classics; *krapo kriyer* and *Dilo pou arreter 9hrs*. The crowd enjoyed every moment. We were also privileged to hear the original and a remix version of *Ton Madev*. Nitish is an old favorite in London. He is such a down-to-earth guy that will approach everyone when he comes over and will have a laugh with whoever he is with. His comments in politics or just normal day-to-day life will make us all smile. Nitish quipped about how Mauritians in the UK should stop inviting our young relatives over to the UK only to leave them home and dry when they get here! May be he should stay here a little longer and see our hardship!

Other artists who were present on the day were: Zul Ramniah, Don Panik, Milo, Mario Imousse, Sylvio Lynx and not forgetting Ivan Antalika, our very own Segatier in the UK. Ivan, who played with Sega Blues at Mauritius Festival organised by MNews in 2007 has released his very own Album from the UK (See Advert page 12).

The event was well organised by event organiser, Rocky Mokhoon. The public had ample space on the field to sit and relax for a fun day out. Mr Mokhoon said after the event that everybody who came made the day very special in their own way and looked forward to seeing them again next year.



*Crowd gathering near the bar for food and drinks and below watching the performers on stage*



*Nitish Joganah live on stage*



*MFC Members, Rouben Pavahey & Ajit Hurkoo enjoying the day out*



**Thank You Message**

Mauritian Sensations would like to say a Huge thank you to the Mauritian community for attending their Mauritian Open Air Festival on the 10th of July 2011. With legendary artists such as Nitish Joganath, Donn Panik, Zul Ramiah, Mario Imousse, Sylvio Lynx, Ivan les windblows, they all gave exceptional performances with the live Band and the stage was rocking.

It was the place to be the atmosphere was electric and the crowd in excess of over 3000 people danced away in the sunshine to the sega beats and joining in with the exotic sega dancers, House DJs, and the outstanding Artists on stage.

There was also a wide range of Mauritian food and drinks including the Phoenix Beer on sale. Mauritian Sensations would also like to say a big thank you to all their sponsors including Air Mauritius, Lyca Mobile, Lambeth solicitors, Care concern UK and many more.

This day was great reminder of our beautiful Mauritian culture which is so unique in so many different ways and Mauritian Sensations have been committed to for a number of years and aim to always bring the best of the Mauritian culture into the UK through entertainment and also are very committed to raise awareness of their charity Hope and Wellness for those less fortunate in



*Jayson (Rocky) Mokhoon giving away a Ferrari Toy Prize to the winner*



Mauritius. Mauritian Sensations will always aim to ensure that all families from different age groups and background will always be entertained at their events. Finally a massive thank you to Jayson Mokhoon Founder and Organiser of Mauritian Sensations and his team, for their undisputed and loyalty dedication and commitment and support to our Mauritian culture and raising awareness of who we are in the UK. As Mr Mokhoon said in his own words Mauritian Sensations is all about bringing the best of our tropical Paradise Mauritius into the UK and Europe. Well done Mauritian Sensations.

Mauritian reminiscences

# 110th anniversary of first 20<sup>th</sup> century royal visit to Mauritius



His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Cornwall (3<sup>rd</sup> front row, from the left) at Mare-aux-Vacoas during the hunting party organized at Plaine Raoul, Mare-aux-Vacoas, on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1901.

The first important event in Mauritius at the dawn of the twentieth century was the visit in August 1901 of the Duke and the Duchess of Cornwall and York, George Frederick Ernest Albert and Victoria Mary, grandchildren of Queen Victoria. (1) Earlier in 1901 the aged Queen had died, her son succeeding as Edward VII. The 1901 royal visitors "were destined to be King George V and Queen Mary." (2)

The royal guests "were expected to arrive in Port-Louis on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1901." (Ibid) However, "they came a day earlier" than scheduled. As a matter of fact, the royal couple arrived "la veille, vers 4 hres de l'après-midi." (3) However, this early arrival did not encroach on the official programme of visit as "se conformant au programme arrêté par le Comité de réception, le Duc et la Duchesse ne descendirent que le lendemain à trois heures de l'après-midi." (Ibid) News of the early arrival of the princely couple soon reached every nook and corner of the island with the result that "une foule de 25,000 personnes, représentant toutes les classes de la communauté, se porta sur le port, espérant que leurs Altesses Royales débarqueraient dans la soirée." (Ibid) The country had prepared to welcome the royal visitors with pomp and fervour:

"On the next day, the Capital as well as the suburb was richly decorated. The principal buildings of the town were covered with green twigs, flowers and flags. One could see a crowd of faces at the windows, on the balconies, on the street pavements. Opposite the quay an arch of triumph was raised on which, was hung the picture of a girl gracefully dressed, and holding a red plate upon which were written in yellow. "Welcome to our Highness". (2)

From Quay Square to Government House



The invitation card dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901 to the hunting party organized in honour of the Duke and the Duchess.

People swarmed to the capital on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. "Dès le matin une animation extraordinaire régnait dans la capitale. Une foule énorme, qui grossissait à l'arrivée de chaque train, circulait dans les rues, envahissait les balcons, les fenêtres, les trottoirs et s'écrasait



The Duke of York and Cornwall acceded to the throne on June 22, 1911, as George V of England

littéralement sur la Place du Quai et aux alentours de l'Hôtel du Gouvernement." (3)

Hurras and vivas rent the atmosphere as the popular George and Mary set foot on the Mauritian soil. A salvo from Fort Adelaïde (the Citadel) greeted the visitors who were welcomed by the Governor Sir Charles Bruce and God Save The King was played. The royal convoy then made for Government House.

On entering Government House on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the royal guests raised the chief judge Victor Delafaye to the dignity of Knight bachelor. (4) Then several addresses were presented to them by religious bodies, the Chamber of Agriculture, the Commerce and Agents, the Government artisans, the representatives of the different communities, including the Indians of the island, and by the Lodge of Freemasons. (2)

Gratitude for loyalty to British ruling king Edward VII

The Duke in his speech, to the addressees of the people, thanked them for welcoming him and his wife and expressed joyfulness towards their loyalty and attachment to his father King Edward VII, and, he went on to say: "I note with especial satisfaction, from the addresses of those non European Communities, who have made their home among you that they are living in contentment under the rule of their King Emperor

in Mauritius. We have looked forward with keen interest to visiting your beautiful island, rich in its honourable traditions, in the history of literature and statesmanship; proud of its association with Naval achievements that shed equal glory on England and France. . . . I fervently trust that under divine providence the people of Mauritius may ever remain a united, loyal and prosperous community." (Ibid)

After that, the royal guests proceeded to lay the foundation stone of the pedestal upon which the statue of Queen Victoria would be erected before Government House. It was followed by the procession of thousands of school children, before the Duke and Duchess, each one leaving at the Duchess' feet, a nosegay. After that came the artisans of Port-Louis and then, the members of the Hindu and Chinese Community. The Duke and Duchess then drove through Pope Hennessy street to the Champ de Mars. On both sides of the street were stationed the soldiers of the 18th Bengal Infantry and the 27th Madras Infantry.

The royal couple and their company then moved on to the Central Station whence a special train took them to Réduit.

Fête with equal enthusiasm in the countryside

After the royal tour in Port Louis, the distinguished visitors were fêted in the countryside. "Les autres fêtes qui signalèrent la visite ducale se déroulèrent dans les districts ruraux de la colonie que les hôtes princiers visitèrent presque tous et où ils reçurent un accueil non moins enthousiaste que dans la capitale." (3)

On the sixth of August the royal couple was "present at the boat-races held in their honour at Mahebourg." (2) M. de Coriolis on that occasion made a speech, noted for its eloquence. He said among other things: "Vainqueurs, les Anglais le sont encore, puisque après avoir fait flotter leur pavillon sur cette île, ils ont conquis nos cœurs par leur esprit de tolérance et de justice et qu'ils récoltent aujourd'hui le bénéfice de leur sage politique par l'imposante et enthousiaste manifestation qui a prouvé, à vos hôtes royaux notre affectueuse loyauté et, notre dévouement à l'Angleterre".

That day the princely couple lunched with the stationmaster Ricard Laventure at Rose-Belle railway station. (5) On leaving the station the prince offered two gifts – a fork for the stationmaster's daughter Amélie and a paperweight for the stationmaster's personal use.

Hunting party at Plaine Raoul and reception at Eureka

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of August the Duke was invited to a hunting party. "Une partie de chasse aux cerfs, bien dans la tradition mauricienne, fut organisée en l'honneur du duc le 7 août à la Plaine Raoul, Mare-aux-Vacoas." (6) The Duke was welcomed to the hunting ground by Léopold and Henri Antelme. "...ce sont mes oncles qui l'ont reçu. Dans la matinée, par un temps épouvantable, Son Altesse a fait du Stalking en compagnie de mon oncle Léopold à la Plaine Raoul où il a manqué deux gros-cerfs. Le lunch a eu lieu dans la splendide salle verte qui avait été construite pour recevoir 500 personnes au bord du chemin d'où l'on domine la Mare aux Vacoas et qui ne contenait que mes oncles, mes cousins et moi-même et quelques personnes de la suite de Son Altesse. On a donné ensuite une petite battue à la Plaine Bonnefin où 10 ou 12 pièces ont été tuées en quelques minutes." (7)

The same day the royal visitors proceeded to Alma sugar estate, "appartenant à la famille Leclézio, avant d'être accueillis à une réception à Eureka, Moka." (6) Back to Réduit, the Duke of York chaired a solemn meeting during which the governor Sir Charles Bruce was elevated to the



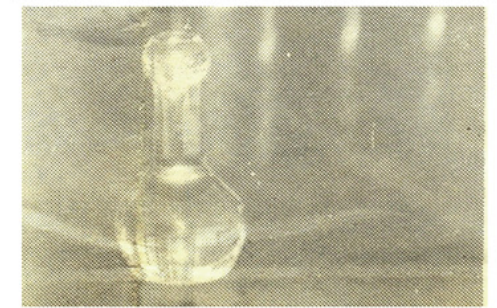
Ricard Laventure, the stationmaster of Rose-Belle, who had the privilege to lunch with the princely couple.

dignity of the distinguished Order of St Michael and St George and Dr Edward and P.E. de Chazal were conferred the C.M.G. (4)

Léoville L'Homme's fitting tribute on departure day

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August the royal couple departed after having hosted a banquet on board the Ophir. But not before paying a visit to a charitable institution in Port Louis, "le Couvent de la Montagne, dirigé par les Soeurs de Bon Secours." (3) Léoville L'Homme under the pen name, Léon Lauret, paid a fitting tribute to them. He grew particularly poetical when he wrote about the Duchess:

"La Duchesse a conquis les cœurs par sa grâce et par sa charité. Aux gens du monde qui se sont pressés autour d'elle dans les réceptions, il lui a suffi d'adresser un mot ou un sourire pour faire des heureux. Aux pauvres, aux malades, aux déshérités du monde, qu'elle n'a pas voulu oublier, sa charité a versé le baume souverain qui



The spoon (photo 5), one of the items offered to stationmaster Ricard Laventure by the Duke, is still preciously kept in the family but the paperweight (photo 6) has unfortunately got lost.

apaise les colères, fait oublier les injustices du sort, et mène doucement à croire qu'après tout, le monde n'est pas si méchant qu'on a coutume de le dire." (2)

DODO

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## Miss Mauritius UK 2011 at The Long Beach Hotel in Mauritius



Melissa Nathoo posts her holiday snaps on Facebook

Miss Mauritius UK 2011, Melissa Nathoo was in Mauritius last month enjoying a well deserved break.

During her stay at the Long Beach hotel, Melissa was interviewed by Le Mauricien on winning the Miss Mauritius UK 2011 competition.

She told the national newspaper that she and her mother, who accompanied her to Mauritius were very well received at the hotel. Being a vegetarian, the staff were all to ready for our Miss Mauritius UK and gave her special treatment. She said “ They are treating me like a celebrity, I’m a vegetarian and the Chef is conjures up different meals every night, its great!”

Miss Mauritius UK 2011 was held at Wandsworth Town Hall, organised by Mauritius News.

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