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Truth & Justice

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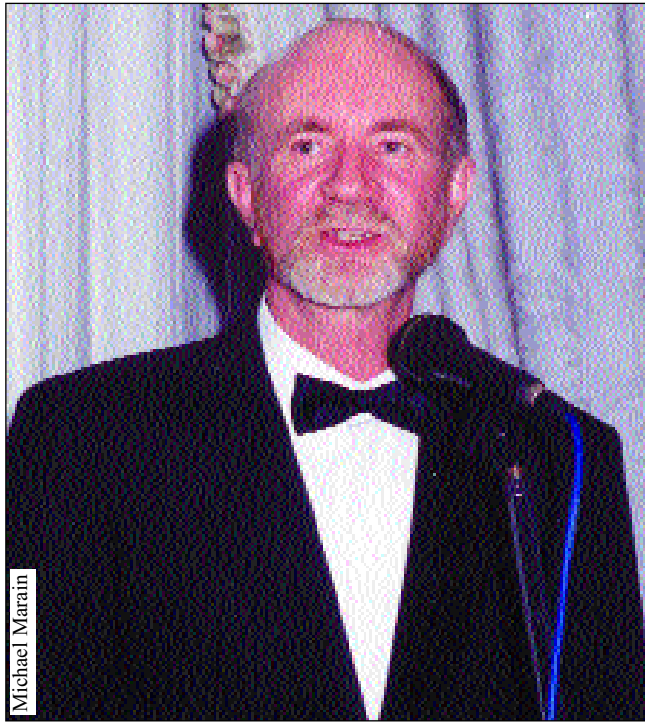
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Rodrigues' first foreign diplomat Paul Draper MBE appointed Honorary British Consul



In the process of its devolution programme the Mauritius Government has decided to grant the outer island of Rodrigues its own regional legislative assembly. Election of members to the assembly is scheduled to take place on September 29.

It is perhaps in view of this constitutional development of Mauritius's distant island (located at 350 miles away from its own shores) that the British Government has decided to appoint a honorary consul with residence in Rodrigues.

The British Government's choice has fallen on British-born Paul Draper MBE who first went to Mauritius in the early seventies.

In the 1960s Londoner Paul Draper befriended a few Mauritian migrants in the UK and started to learn the Creole language. By the time he went to Mauritius in the early seventies he had already mastered the language and when he landed at the Mauritius airport the authorities feared that they might be dealing with some sort of foreign agent, it was reported.

But Paul, a close friend of the late Bishop Trevor Huddleston was much more of a missionary and social worker than a foreign agent though his present title of Honorary Consul has the flavour of one of those spy novels of Graham Greene or John Le Carré!

Well, from the very moment Paul Draper set foot in Mauritius some 30 years ago, he dedicated himself to voluntary welfare activities among the disabled to make them self-sufficient through the apprenticeship of various handicraft activities. Today his Craft Aid institution both in Mauritius and Rodrigues are providing employment to several severely disabled nationals of the two islands.

"The Honorary Consulate's work will be an important extension of the British High Commission's activities. Its establishment reflects growing engagement by Britain in Rodrigues as well as the island's increasing attraction as a tourist destination, with the expansion of air links. The Consulate will provide consular assistance to British nationals in Rodrigues and help coordinate High Commission activities in the island," said British High Commissioner to Mauritius, Mr David Snoxell

Of the choice of Paul Draper himself, the High Commissioner said "Paul has worked on the island for 18 years and is the most well-known British personality around. It is particularly fitting that somebody who has given so much through his work at Craft Aid, and through the employment of handicapped people and the school he runs for deaf children, should be our Honorary Consul."

(The picture above was taken last year at the Anglo-Mauritian Dinner in London which raised funds for the Rodrigues Craft Aid charity).

Newsweek gets its facts wrong about Chinese coolies

In Newsweek (USA) issue of August 12, under the heading THE NEW COOLIES, Brook Larmer wrote "more than 100 years, Chinese coolies were recruited to harvest sugar cane in Mauritius." This is a wrong statement since the Chinese never came to work as coolies in Mauritius especially on the sugar plantations.

In fact, Chinese migrants came to Mauritius on their own accord as traders. Today, the Sino-Mauritians, as a minority group, wield considerable economic power, at par with any other section of the Mauritian society.

If Brook Larmer got this bit of her article wrong, one could be forgiven to entertain some doubt about the rest of her contribution to Newsweek on the tribulations of the Chinese girls who were imported to Mauritius during the past few years as a result of a manpower shortage in the island.

"We were treated as slaves," the girls told Newsweek, "stitching pockets into Hilfiger jeans for 14 hours a day, seven days a week, 365.2 days a year."

It must be acknowledged that at a garment factory owned by a group of Hong Kong industrialists, Chinese girls had been complaining about their conditions of work and their pay. Following the death of two girls, the workers went on strike and some were repatriated.

The girls in China are now seeking compensation, on various grounds, from the recruiting agent in China and from the Hong Kong factory owners.

Women marching to draw attention to the spate of rape incidents in Mauritius



Women have been marching to denounce the sexual violence against them which has been taking place in Mauritius for some time now. The most recent attack took place during the night of July 16 at the seaside resort of Blue Bay when a woman's house was burgled by two intruders who after taking her money sexually assaulted her.

Their crimes accomplished, the rapists gagged the woman and took her with them in her own car to prevent her from calling the police.

The car broke down at La Vigie on the way to Curepipe and the two rapists left their victim by the roadside.

The distressed woman stopped a passing car for

assistance during the early hours of the morning and two of the six occupants agreed to take her to the police while the other four who were under the influence of alcohol preferred to wait on the spot for their return.

But instead of taking the woman to the police the two characters in turn sexually abused her.

At least 10 cases of rape have been reported since the beginning of the year. On July 24, serial rapist Gerard Agamenon - known locally as Dr Miko - was sentenced to a total of 72 years for the rape of five women.

It is against this sort of background of violence towards women that the march was organised to highlight the dangerous situation prevailing in the island.

Mowlana Ibrahim Khushtar passed away on Thursday, August 15. See Obituary on Page 3

More victims on killing roads

We have been highlighting in previous issues the great danger for road users prevailing in Mauritius. Even the government has agreed that action should be taken to bring down road toll.

The deaths of three persons within the last few days in separate accidents during are casualties of common occurrence in the country.

On Saturday, August 7, a cyclist, Luc Bozelle, was knocked down by a car on the road at Argy in the Flacq district. The post-mortem revealed that he died instantly from a skull fracture and excessive draining of blood in the head.

On Sunday, August 11, 13 years old Mishal Beharry

on holiday in Mauritius with his parents died in a road accident at Triolet when the car in which he was travelling at 2am and driven by his mother hit a stationary lorry.

The mother was not injured, it is reported. Mishal was the son of Prakash Beharry, a senior official formerly attached to the Mauritius High Commission in London.

The latest casualty (at the time of going to press) occurred on Wednesday, August 12, and involved 22 year old Shivani, equally on holiday at home. She did her Architecture studies in Malaysia.

She was to fly to the UK in September for further studies at the University of Kent. Shivani met her death in car accident on a road at Flic en Flac.

Road users are advised to be extremely prudent in Mauritius because of the amount of reckless driving on the part irresponsible drivers.

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The Delphis Bank story

An obsession or a call for justice?

“From your recent edition, you have dedicated a lot of space to the loss of Delphis Bank and Shareholders' capital. Having obtained a recent copy of the shareholders' list, it is difficult to comprehend your paper's obsession when less than 12% of the investors live in the UK. At least, they can claim a capital loss on their UK Tax Return for this year.”

**An on-going and profitable concern driven to the wall purposely?**

The above text is part of an email that has been sent to us by someone whose name we have decided to withhold from publication.

We are grateful to him for his tax advice for what it's worth but we must say that in every article we have written on the Delphis Bank scandal we have talked of the interests of shareholders in general though our thoughts were particularly with those who were influenced by our past editorial and the publicity we carried.

Shareholders hard-hit in this Delphis scandal

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Paul Bérenger has been saying it was public knowledge since 2001 that the chairman of the Global Finance Direct had made it known that he wished to buy the Delphis Bank (We said the same thing in our July issue.)

Well, since it was the intention of the chairman of the Global Direct Finance to acquire the Delphis Bank why did he not, as they do in all reputable financial centres, put in a bid officially for the bank, signifying his intention either to buy or take over the Bank. Is there no Takeover Panel or an Office of Fair Trading in Mauritius to prevent such a scandalous situation as the destruction of the Delphis bank and the sale of its assets estimated at 600,000 million rupees for just Rs50 million. (If they sit long enough on the Rs50,000 the money might start incubating.)

A legal and legitimate bid would have enabled the Delphis Bank shareholders to have a say in the disposal of the bank. The decision to accept or reject a bid must rest with the shareholders, and it is a known fact in the business world that a bid for a company is an opportunity for shareholders in general to make some profit in regard to their investments.

In the case of the Delphis Bank, instead of a bid from a prospective buyer, the **connivers** decided to deprive the shareholders of all their rights by putting the Bank into receivership. Overnight the shares became useless, yet the bank itself never filed for bankruptcy.

Has the Bank of Mauritius acted ultra vires?

Many people have always refused to accept that the Delphis Bank was in receivership. We ourselves have always referred to the 'Bank in administration', and that what it actually was. The Port Authority, as an interested party, may have had the right to challenge the solvency of the Delphis Bank but the Bank of Mauritius was not right to put the Bank overnight into receivership. While determining the solvency of the Delphis Bank at the request of the Port Authority, the Bank of Mauritius should have put the Delphis into the care of an administrator.

Receivership could only have happened if the Bank was found insolvent. But at no time was the Delphis Bank insolvent. Inviting applications for the acquisition, the so-called receiver manager Mr Thacoor stated that the Delphis was the fifth fast-growing bank in the country. In his letter to prospective partners the Chairman of the Global Fiance Direct stated that the Delphis was an on-going profitable concern.

In its issue of March 9, the Mauritian daily paper *l'express* stated that in 1998 the Opposition had declared that there was a suspect tie between the Bank of Mauritius and the Delphis Bank. It came as little surprise to many that, once these people came to power, the Bank of Mauritius should revoke the trading licence of the Delphis Bank. However, it is felt that that in trying to settle score with the Delphis Bank (for reasons best known to themselves) some people fell into a trap and unwittingly made of the Delphis Bank an easy prey for the connivers and the predators. Today, in spite of themselves, they still have to condone a very scandalous situation and defend those who have openly expressed aversion to the kind of people who may in future hold the office of PM.

Incubation

Four months have elapsed since the sale of the Delphis Bank and yet the Receiver/Manager has not written to shareholders to inform them of what he intends to do about their investments to create the assets of the Delphis Bank.

In a letter to depositors, Mr R. Owadally writing on behalf of the First City Bank Ltd states:

“(a) FIRST CITY BANK LTD (formerly known as DEL SUBS COMPANY LIMITED) has been duly licensed by the Bank of Mauritius to carry on banking business in Mauritius.

(b) By virtue of two deeds drawn up by Me.Darmalingum Goorriah, Notary Public, on the 16th April 2002, and 25th April 2002 and transcribed in Vol.4880 No5 and Vol.4880 No.6, respectively, THE DELPHIS BANK LIMITED (In Receivership) acting by and through its Receiver /Manager, has sold, handed over, transferred, assigned and delegated to the DEL SUBS COMP ANY LIMITED (now known as FIRST CITY BANK LTD), its undertaking and banking business, including the rights and obligations under (a) the deposits received and (b) the loans, advances and credit facilities extended, by THE DELPHIS BANK LIMITED (In Receivership) together with all the mortgage rights and all rights secured by fixed and/or floating charges and/or any form of guarantee and security, including life insurance policies, fixed Deposits, etc., the whole more fully set out in the aforesaid notarial deeds.

As a consequence of the above, FIRST CITY BANK LTD do hereby confirm that it will honour all its obligations in respect of your accounts and/or deposit(s) together with its accrued interest on its respective date(s).”

Here again no mention is made of the Delphis shareholders who invested to create the liquidity of the bank for job opportunities for past and present employees, and to attract the predators (an expression well-known in the business world).

What is to be done now?

The chairman of the Global Finance Direct has got 'his bank', as he calls it; there is no political upheaval on the horizon to upset the power-sharing arrangement, and everyone seems very happy including the usual muck-rakers as well as the influential press against the background of a gross injustice. It is now left to the Shareholders themselves to decide on the course of action to follow.

A member of a World Business organisation in the City of London with whom we have discussed the disposal of the Delphis Bank assets, and whose observations have been incorporated in this article, has further expressed the view that there is enough controversial subject matter in this Delphis Bank issue for financial management or company law students to analyse and dissect. Who knows, we may find the Delphis Bank story on an examination paper one of these days. A Mauritius News article has been in the past used by an Irish Examination Board on a questionnaire, (We did publish the Board's request for release of copyright.) It has been announced that Barclays Bank (Mauritius) has renewed a bid to take over the French bank BNPI operating in Mauritius. One may wonder why bother to make a bid when the country has established a precedent of how a bank can be acquired on the cheap by depriving the shareholders of their investments.

Peter Chellen
Managing Editor

Eminent Mowlana Mohammad Ibrahim Khushtar passed away in Mauritius

Born in Pakistan, he subsequently adopted Mauritius as his own country, of which he became proudly a citizen

More than 10,000 mourners at State funeral

One of the most loved and respected spiritual Leader of the Muslim community in Mauritius and a well-known Islamic scholar with followers in numerous countries, Mowlana Mohammad Ibrahim Khushtar, Siddiqui, Razvi, died on Thursday, August 15, 2002 in Port Louis at the Sunni Razvi Academy, surrounded by his nearest and dearest. He was 81.

Some decades ago he himself incepted the Academy for the spiritual well-being, Islamic education and religious practices (including Zikr and Mowlood) for the benefit of the Muslims of Mauritius and the neighbouring areas, La Réunion, Madagascar, Comores, Seychelles, South Africa and other southern, central and eastern African countries.

The State funeral decided by the Government with the consent of the deceased families, was held after the Friday prayers (Jum'ah) on August 16, and the burial took place at the Eid-Gaah in Vallée Pitot, Port Louis, attended by thousands of grateful mourners from all communities and walks of life.

Several dignitaries comprising Prime Minister Sir Aneerood

sources and sound logic. His vast contribution to the spiritual, educational and social development of the Muslim community, is acknowledged with gratitude by a large section of the Mauritian nation.

Without doubt, Mowlana Khushtar was in the same line with great legendary figures of the past, such as the late Mowlana Abdullah Rashid Nawab, Makki, in the 1920s and 30s, founder of the famous Muslim High School in Port Louis, who among other initiatives, pioneered the then new revolutionary teaching methods in Islamic education in Mauritius, Burma, Sri Lanka, India.

Mowlana Khushtar could be compared with the most popular and charismatic Islamic Missionary, the late Mowlana Shah Mohammad Abdul Aleem, Siddiqui, around the 1930s and 40s, and some other Islamic luminaries, including Professor Mallick in the 50s.

Mowlana Khushtar who around mid-seventies moved to England



At Plaisance Airport, Mauritius, before flying to England in 1975 for permanent settlement, Mowlana Khushtar (centre) is seen with some of his well-wishers came to pay their respects.

On the far right, is our friend Monaf Fakira who as a Member of Parliament at that time, took the side of the Mowlana against the unacceptable and unprecedented treatment meted out to this religious personality by the then government in power, influenced by some people. Most of them have since disappeared from the scene, while the victim is today honoured with State funeral and showered with love from the masses.

Jugnauth, Deputy PM Paul Bérenger, The Lord Mayor of the City of Port-Louis, His Worshipful Mr Moorgess Veerabadren, Opposition leader, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, the Pakistan High Commissioner and Diplomats from other countries, Heads of different religious denominations, Ministers, MPs, Councillors and representatives of various professions, trades and organisations.

The creation of the Eid-Gaah itself, with the beautiful Masjid and Madrassa situated in the picturesque valley at the foot of the majestic Moka mountain range, was another unique idea and creation of the Mowlana on this vast plot of land offered to him by the Government for a nominal amount of One Rupee, to be in line with Islamic rules: No mosque should be built on land donated free, it should be on land bought for this specific purpose for the use of the Muslim community (Ummah).

In the mid-sixties, Mowlana Khushtar, came to Mauritius to be the Pesh Imaam (Grand Priest) and Khateeb (Preacher) of the Jummah Mosque at Royal Street in Port Louis where his regular sermons (Khutba) and Waez (religious lectures), most of the time broadcasted on the radios and TV, were followed with great interest not only by the Muslims but also by members of other communities, young and old, men and women, in Mauritius and beyond.

He was known to be a powerful and knowledgeable speaker, with deep conviction in his arguments, always supported by authoritative

and settled with his extended families in Manchester, continued to develop Sunni Razvi circles besides Mauritius, throughout the U.K, France, South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe and elsewhere. He travelled widely around the world. Although born in Pakistan, he subsequently adopted Mauritius as his own 'native' country, of which he became proudly a naturalised citizen. His base for all his actions has always remained Mauritius, which he used to visit regularly and stayed for long periods of time.

Hence, one of the Mowlana's last cherished wishes was to travel back one more time to his beloved Mauritius, which he did with determined insistence some months ago, though in very poor health. The Almighty Allah has decided that this should be his last journey in this world. He will be missed by all his loyal, sincere and devoted followers everywhere, who will In' shaa'Allah pray the Almighty for him. Innaa Lillaa-hi Wa Innaa Ilayy-hi Raaji'oonn ! May the Creator accept the mission accomplished by the Mowlana and Bless him with Jannatul-Firdawss! Ameen!

A B -

Mauritius News expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the late Mowlana Khushtar, to all his relatives, friends, followers and to the Muslim community in general.

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Mauritius Intellectual and Professional Group

(M I P G)

Members: Gerald Lai Tung (Consultant), Raj Jusson (Lawyer), Coosraj Sunassee (PhD Education), Gorah Kaudabux (Social Policy), Ramduth Toofanny (Consultant Educational Studies), Zaid Hosany (MSc. Health), Raj Beeharry (Business and Finance), Sunil Mungar (Accountant).

These members are based in UK and take a keen interest in politics in Mauritius. We are all very concerned that with all the favourable economic conditions Mauritius has failed to take advantage in creating a very prosperous nation. We acknowledge that since independence our country has made good progress but the underlying facts remain our politicians have failed to secure a safe future for our nation.

In his statement Paul Berenger claims that there is a national debt of Rs 57 billion rupees and he has to take action by raising VAT to 15%. During the last election many people were aware of it and in a press conference I had asked him what he would do about it. He is two years too late. Gordon Brown UK chancellor repaid £30 billion pounds debts in two years. I wish Paul Berenger would look at the measures taken by Gordon Brown.

By raising VAT he is asking the ordinary people to pay these debts. Businesses and the rich are being let off. Surely there are others fiscal measures that he can take to re-pay these debts. Raising VAT will slow down the economy and everyone knows what happen when the economy is not functioning. Revenue Income is reduced. Rise in unemployment. Decline in infrastructure. Reduction in investment, and the social cost is unimaginable.

MIPG is a radical group that advises the government to formulate short, medium, and long-term policies. We analyse, evaluate global economies and social policies and apply it to Mauritius economy. Mauritius could face economic, social and environmental consequences if the government does not apply radical policies to prepare our nation for the next 50yrs. We need (1) to free ourselves from debts, [2] to have a dynamic economy, [3] have a radical social policies to meet the need of the nation, [4] A First class Education matched by A First class health care system, [5] to create an environment that is able to sustain life comfortably.

MIPG has other members who live and work in Mauritius.

Chan Toofanny

Director, Social Science and Politics, Political Advisor and Strategist

Four Bangladeshis injured on site of work

Four Bangladeshi nationals working at the Samlo Steel Co. Ltd were injured last month after an iron rod heated at 1,300 degrees fell accidentally on them.

Three of them were admitted to the Burns Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Caudes.

Bam Cuttayan dies

Wellknown musician and séga singer Bam Cuttayan died on July 24 at the age of 50.

He is the composer of «Parol envole», «Fler Rakets», «Pei Iarm kuler», «Zanfan Later» and other ségas.

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Sally Mellis is the new Chief Executive NCTJ (UK)

Sally Mellis, acting chief executive of the National Council for Training of Journalists (NCTJ) since Rob Selwood's sudden and unexpected death in December, has been confirmed in the job.

Formerly Rob's deputy, and training director, Sally, 55, first joined the Council in 1982 and is the longest serving member of the staff.

As exams manager she helped run the twice-yearly National Certificate Examination held at up to 15 centres in the UK.

Five main board directors interviewed a final short-list of five candidates on May 16.

Sally, like Rob Selwood, is a non-journalist. Says Chairman Rodney Bennett-England: "There were some excellent candidates, but

Sally finally won on her wide experience, proven skills and excellent industry contacts built up over 20 years".

Sally has a son Jamie, and a daughter Zoe. Her husband, David, was formally financial controller of Orient Express.

"I will do my very best to take the NCTJ forward, whilst retaining the good solid base Rob has established," she commented on news of her appointment.

There have been some immediate in-office changes, and discussion are already taking place to keep the NCTJ at the forefront of journalism training.

In November, 2001, the Council celebrated its 50th anniversary with a luncheon attended by leading industry figures, as well as scores who have helped in a voluntary capacity.

An "Institut Interculturel" to be set up in Mauritius

The "Institut culturel de dialogue pour la paix" would be set up in Mauritius, according to the Arts and culture ministry.

One official at the ministry said this decision follows a seminar on the subject which took place at Hotel Le Coralia, Mon Choisy, early last month.

Mozambican Culture minister Miguel Costa Mkaima and BRENDA's director-general Armoogum Parsuramen participated in the workshop.

"The initial budget of the Institute would turn around 250,000 US dollars and Mauritius would contribute 69,000 US dollars", he said.

Mkaima told journalists that the Institute would work in favour of the inter-cultural development of populations of the region.

"Intercultural dialogue paves the way for the construction of peace and the mutual understanding among States that share the same vision", he underlined.

Mysterious Suicide

The body of a female Prison Officer, in a putrefying state, was found in her house at Vallée-des-Prêtres, a Northern suburb of Port Louis, last month.

The woman, a widow of 42 years, apparently committed sui-

cide by poison. In a note found beside her body, she had stressed on the fact that her work was "rough" and that she been fed up of leading a lonely life. Her husband died in an accident eight years earlier.

Email

Can you help?

From: Angelina.Baker@CliffordChance.com
Subject: Advice

I want some advice from someone who knows.... I'm off to Mauritius in October I have my flight booked but I haven't sorted out my accommodation yet, can't decide where to stay, where is it best to stay on the Island, I've seen on a separate web site villas on the Northern part of the Island, what's it like there? I had thought of staying down south near blue bay? If I leave accommodation till I get there will there be accom services at the airport?

Tolerance

"Tolerance is not concession, not indifference. Tolerance is the knowledge of the other. It is mutual respect through mutual understanding. Let's throw out the old myths and take up the results of current research. Man is not violent by nature. Intolerance is not 'in our genes'. Fear and ignorance are the root causes of intolerance, and its patterns can be imprinted on the human psyche from an early age.

Mr Frederico Mayor,

Director-General of UNESCO.

The aim of tolerance is peaceful coexistence. While tolerance recognises individuality and diversity, it removes divisive masks and defuses tension created by ignorance. It provides opportunity to discover and remove stereotypes and stigmas associated with people perceived to be different because of nationality, religion or heritage.

Just as a gardener recognises characteristics of each variety of seed and prepares the ground accordingly, a tolerant person takes into consideration the uniqueness of all people. Through understanding and open-mindedness, a tolerant person attracts someone different, and by genuinely accepting and accommodating that person, demonstrates tolerance in practical form.

As a result, relationships blossom. The seed of tolerance, love, is sown with compassion and care. The more one becomes loving and shares that love, the greater the power in that love.

When there is lack of love, there is lack of tolerance. For instance, the example of mother and child: when an obstacle comes to a child, because the mother has love for that child, she is prepared to and has the power to tolerate anything. At that time, she does not worry about her own well-being, but uses love to confront all circumstances. Love makes anything easier to tolerate.

The family is the first classroom to learn tolerance, as there are always some adjustments to be made to accommodate others. School is the second classroom. However, tests of tolerance are taken each and everyday of one's life. Tolerance is inner strength which enables the individual to face and transform misunderstandings and difficulties.

The power of tolerance should be used as a shield of protection since it cultivates the ability to cool the strong and heated feelings of others. Certain circumstances often demand tolerance. Bodily pain can be an example. Indeed, advanced medical treatment has done wonders in helping individuals tolerate pain. Yet, such benefits do not mean that discomfort is eliminated completely. At some level, tolerance becomes an indispensable power to cope. What would the world be like if everyone was tolerant, if everyone created spaces of mutual respect through mutual understanding? In fact, tolerance develops the ability to accommodate the problems of everyday living.

To be tolerant means to respect our neighbours' opinions, rights, religious beliefs and above all, to hon-



Kesini Murugesan

our their worth. Respect should not be measured by physical and material factors like caste, colour, race, religion, sex, nationality, status or popularity.

Tolerance also means appreciating diversity, harmoniously coexisting and supporting one another. One note of disrespect can cause unity to be broken. Sometimes, even in little matters, people quickly get upset, aggressive, angry or violent; they then isolate themselves into sub-groups, producing dissension and conflict.

Tolerance, a value instilled by the family, the 'school of character', starts at home, is developed further during schooling years and finally, contributes towards making a peaceful world. People say they want peace in the world, but what kind of peace do they desire?

People ask for peace, but whose responsibility is that? Can anyone who remains peaceless be an instrument for peace? Authenticity of action depends on authenticity of person. And the root of peace is tolerance.

Without tolerance, peace becomes only a utopic term. We are at a crossroads of human civilisation. Things are rapidly disintegrating; values are in the ascendant. That is made bitterly apparent by wars, civil strife, riots and ethnic cleansing.

In Ireland, the war which has been going on for decades is due to the intolerant attitudes of people who fail to respect the religious beliefs of others; indeed, the ongoing war between Catholics and Protestants show that the people are religiously intolerant.

Tolerance is the foundation, the major building block upon which a healthy, functional society stands. Tolerance, leading to Peace is the prominent characteristic of what we call "a civilised society", and the character of a society can be seen through the collective consciousness of its members.

Kesini Murugesan

Pig breeders asked to change job

A government committee has invited pig breeders in the island to shift their operation to construction, tourism, transport and entrepreneurship. Aid from several institutions have been proposed to them.

One member of the committee said pig breeders could benefit from micro-credit facilities offered by the Trust fund for the social integration of vulnerable groups and the Development Bank of Mauritius.

"They would also benefit from training in their respective fields", he said.

According to the committee, conditions in which pork are bred are very poor and against the laws of the country. "They are found too close to inhabited areas", the committee member said.

"In Roche-Bois where some 60 breeders have 1,250 pigs, the wastewater is thrown directly into the sewerage system or canalised uncovered

Ivory Coast seeks Mauritian expertise in the industrial sector

An industrial delegation from Ivory Coast led by Guy M'Bengue, general coordinator of the Industrial Commission of Ivory Coast, was in Mauritius to learn about the Mauritian industrial experience in order to make better use of the US Africa Growth and Opportunity Act.

The delegation met with several

ministers and high officials of the industrial sector. They also talked to the directors of the Mauritian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), the Board of Investment and the Small and Medium Industrial Development Organisation (SMIDO) and to directors of enterprises engaged in the industrial sector.

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London's population to reach 700,000 by 2016

According to the new Mayoral report, London is growing at a considerable rate. It is estimated that by 2016, the population is set to reach 700,000.

The mayor's report "planning for London's growth", suggests that London's increase in population, is the equivalent of adding a borough the size of Islington every three to four years.

These figures also suggest that by 2016, employment in London would have risen sharply with more than 40,000 additional jobs in business services. There will also be a job cluster effect as a result of this, as primarily financial and business services, will be concentrated even more in the centre of the City. Without investment, this would mean the cost of London offices would rise, to more than they are today.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said, "These figures show that London's growth is by

far the biggest regional issue in the UK. Population and employment growth on this scale demonstrates London's success and it is good news for the economic and social vitality and for the wider UK economy."

This will also lead to more pressure on public services, such as housing, the environment, transport and others.

Crucial decisions about London's infrastructure must be made now, as the services are already suffering the effects of under-investment.

In the last two years alone, the capital has gained about 190,000 more people, and this rapid growth stands out compared to other UK cities and urban regions.

The Mayors 8.1 million population projection is substantially higher than the 1996 Office for National Statistics, as they envisage a population of 7.6 by 2016.

London before London exhibition

A new prehistoric gallery at the Museum of London will be opening on Friday 18 October. It will explore the Thames valley long before the capital even existed.

London before London will take visitors back over half a million years, from when hippos and elephants roamed Trafalgar Square to when Heathrow Airport was an Iron Age Settlement and people measured their time by the phases of the moon.

London before London, traces the relationships between people and their surroundings. The Thames is the central part of the story and to the lives of the communities who live alongside its banks. The river provided water for cooking and cleaning, endless supplies of food, an altar for religious offerings and sacrifices and the last resting place of the dead.

In the centre of the gallery, a

"River Wall", will feature almost 500 objects recovered from the Thames bank, including numerous bronze and iron swords reflecting its role as a sacred river.

London before London will challenge the stereotype of the noble savage, hunting wild beasts with clubs and living in caves. Sophisticated communities established extensive trade networks and adapted to their environment in order to survive.

Displayed in the gallery are a range of carefully fashioned tools and weapons that formed the backbone of daily life - used in everything from cooking to construction.

Status symbols of wealth and power show that hierarchical systems existed even in prehistoric times, perhaps the ultimate possession was a 6,000 year old jade axe especially imported from the Alps.

Living in Constant Fright

Marie, a 34-year old Mauritian and mother of four children aged from 4 to 14 years, is a divorcee since two years ago. However, her children and herself are still standing in awe of her ex-husband being given that the latter still calls on them every now and then.

Six months after her marriage in 1988, Marie's ex-husband started to harass her. He insulted and assaulted her. The situation worsened when money was short in the household. Marie was working as a machinist during that period. In December 1991, she had been victim of a road accident while running away from her husband's assault with her 18-month old baby-girl in her arms. The baby died in hospital three days after the

accident. Even the children are not spared by her husband.

Marie declares that she had sought help from the "SOS Femmes" Centre of Moka on several occasions but each time she had had to go back to her husband as she was not authorized to stay at the Centre for more than three months. She had nowhere to go.

Very often Marie's husband took half of her Rs 1400/- monthly salary to have a good time in the company of his friends. Fortunately she obtained her divorce a couple of years ago. Nevertheless, she is still afraid of him. Marie is currently having a hard time, being jobless. Her only source of revenue is a meagre monthly allowance of Rs 2 040/- from the Ministry of Social Security.

No case to answer

Ten people accused of rioting after the football match opposing local club Sunrise FC and Egyptian club, Zamalek, March 24 1996, would not be sued in Court.

The decision came July 12 last from the Director of Public

Prosecutions (DPP).

Meanwhile, another accused pleaded guilty of participating in a riot that occurred at Vallée-Pitot. He was sentenced to two years' probation and had to furnish two bails worth Rs 10 000 each.

Foreign reserves on the rise

Mauritius foreign reserves rose to Rs 30 billion at end of June last as against Rs 22,6 billion as at June 2001, according to the latest bulletin from the Bank of Mauritius published July 21 last.

"Net reserves have continued to rise and reached Rs 39,4 billion in May last or the equivalent of 35,9 weeks of imports", it said.

Meanwhile, the USD was exchanged at Rs 30.28 in June last as compared to Rs 30.41 in May and Rs 30.49 in April.

The Euro was exchanged at Rs

27.89 in May and at Rs 28.91 in June and the Pound was exchanged at Rs 44.41 in May and at Rs 44.87 in June.

According to the Bank, the rise in the exchange rate of the Euro and the decline of the USD will benefit to several sectors of the island's economy - free zone, tourism and the sugar sector.

It estimated that revenue per tonne of sugar sold would bring around Rs 14 000 as against Rs 12 500 as estimated earlier.

MTPA wants 45 000 more tourists

The Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) needs some 45 000 more tourists this year to fill the 1500 additional rooms that would be available December next so as to bring the room occupancy rate to 70 percent.

Official figures showed that

last year the island attracted 660,000 tourists and 322,000 for the first semester of the year.

One official at the MTPA said July 14 last that the authority would participate in 22 operations during the 2002/2003 tourist season.

Mauritius to offer Rs 330 million to Madagascar

Deputy Prime minister Paul Bérenger said last July 20 that Mauritius would offer Rs 330 million (Rs 300 million as credit and Rs 30 million as grant) to the government of Madagascar to help it boost up the economy of the island.

At a meeting with the press, Bérenger was very critical of African governments who had not recognised the new government in power in Madagascar. Mauritius did so early July a few days after Didier Ratsiraka left for Paris, in France, together with his family.

Mauritian and Seychelles NGOs to collaborate on HIV/aids

Two non-governmental organisations, one from Mauritius and one from Seychelles, have announced their intention to set up a network of people infected with HIV/aids in the Indian Ocean.

"Talking about the disease helps to further the cause of HIV infected people. The objective is to eliminate bias ideas about the diseases", Reginald Hoareau, secretary of Faith & Hope (FAHA- Seychelles) and Nicolas Ritter, chairman of PILS(Mauritius).

Another project concerns the recording of compact-disc by artists from Mauritius, La Reunion and Seychelles, in order to collect funds to help HIV- infected people in this part of the world.

The POSB to become a commercial bank by 2003

The Postal Service is to undergo a major transformation in the structure, administration and the financial operations creating more employment for the Post Office Savings Bank (POSB).

The government are hoping that this change will allow the post office to become a public company. The new board, including the Chief Executive Manager Kris Lutchmeenaraidoo said that these measures are set to transform the postal service into a larger company under the name of Mauritius Post Ltd.

Krish Lutchmeenaraidoo said, "The idea is that the PSOB will eventually become a financial institution."

Lutchmeenaraidoo had already had meetings about the eventual privatisation of the postal service. The major changes in Mauritius Post Ltd will be the effect of joining with POSB and changing its identity to a commercial bank of the island.

The changes will also include post boxes being compulsory, making collections in local areas easier. There will also be an introduction in the use of a post code, making delivery of letters a quick-

er process.

Lutchmeenaraidoo thinks that the new service of distribution will be more efficient. "With the introduction of the postal code, we hope to work collectively with the local people and the local authorities to create a uniform system." The introduction of postal boxes will also make collection easier. "It is important not to forget the person delivering and collecting the mail. The introduction of boxes will ensure that the system will be quicker and more efficient. Post boxes are functional and can be easily used for most letters and parcels in the local area".

The new project will also see the creation of a Postal authority, who will work closely with the Information and Communication Authority. The Postal Authority will be an organisation in control of all postal services and the quality of service. The board has placed emphasis on the modernisation of the existing infrastructure

The next big project will be the construction of the Postal Tower, proposed to be built at Ebene working with the Cybercity project. They are currently considering different designs by architects.

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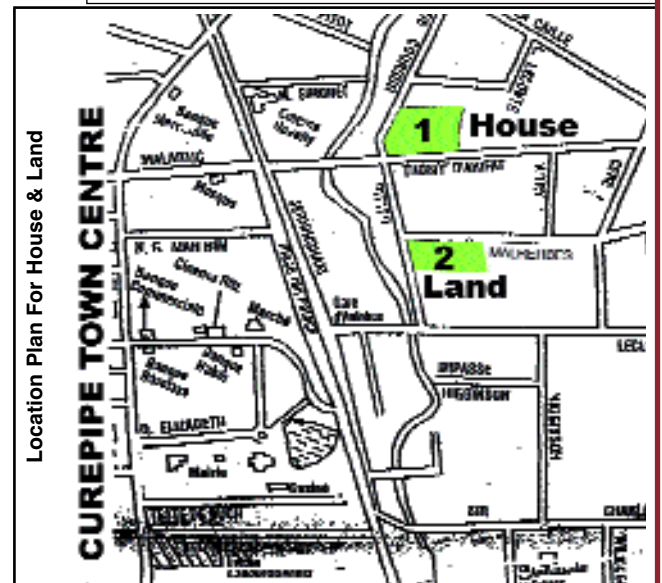
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A British Summer with spice

Britain has gone Bollywood mad. This summer has seen Indian fashion with a modern twist taking over the high street, yoga adopted into our everyday lifestyle, a whole floor dedicated to all things Indian at Selfridges, not to mention the amount of people rushing to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's Bombay Dreams. So it's no surprise that Channel Four has jumped on the band wagon.

It is in this context that we devote this page to the Indian cinema in the UK. In France, India was equally celebrated at the recent Cannes Festival.

As part of their Indian Summer Season of programmes and live events, Channel 4 organised an occasion to celebrate Indian culture with two days of free live events, taking place in London's Regents Park and also in Leeds Roundhay Park.

India came to Britain in more ways than one for the two-day spectacular. An estimated 80,000 people of all cultures, ages and backgrounds congregated on London's Regents Park to experience an Indian Summer like never before. Not only was there a combination of film, sport and music spread over the two days to enjoy, but the weather had also been specially imported from India so everyone could enjoy the sun.

The free events took place on 27-28 July, featuring live cricket screenings of England v India from Lords, the UK premiere open-air

screening of Monsoon Wedding on giant screens and ending on a crescendo of global music from Nitin Sawhney and guests.

The turn out was more than was expected as people had travelled from afar to experience the atmosphere. The chilled out charms of Nitin Sawhney's blend of Indian-influenced, eclectic soul music, put everyone in a relaxing mood and was the perfect end to the event.

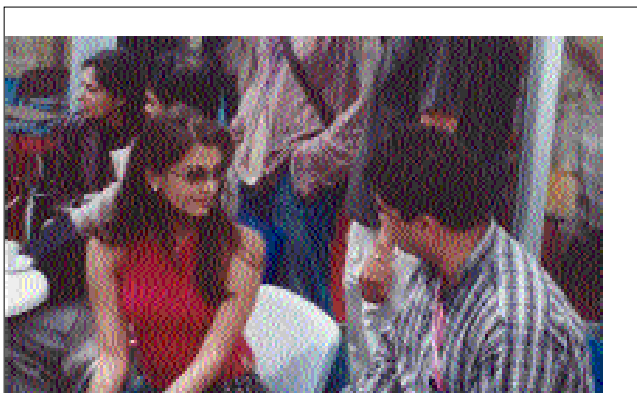
Throughout the day music was played into the park from Club Asia DJs, Bollywood brass band Bombay Baja and also traditional Indian songs. There was also a chance to sample authentic Indian food courtesy of Saffron D'or.

Overall, the event was a success, the atmosphere was perfect for a hot summer day and the mix of east and west combined effortlessly to create a synthesis of the modern and the traditional.

L'Inde au 55ème Festival International du Film de Cannes

L'Inde a encore brillé avec éclat cette année, par sa forte présence au 55ème Festival

Première mondiale pour Devdas de Sanjay Leela Bhansali



Aishwarya Rai parlant à un reporter au Festival de Cannes (Voir l'article au www.mauritiusnews.co.uk)

Dans la section des films en Première Mondiale à CANNES, présente Hors Compétition au grand amphithéâtre lumière, Devdas, un long métrage de 3h01 en couleur.

Le maître passé du somptueux spectacle que BOMBAY ait connu depuis.

Devdas est la nouvelle oeuvre majeure de Sanjay Leela Bhansali, le film de l'année le plus ardemment attendu dans son propre pays. Devdas est basé sur une version XXIème siècle d'une nouvelle classique du romancier bengali Sarat Chandra Chatterjee (1838-1894).

Traitant la tragédie d'un amour condamné, on peut dire que pratiquement une génération a pleuré sur Devdas. Bhansali est le troisième cinéaste à en tirer une version en hindi. Celles de Promotes C. Barua en 1935 et de Bimal Roy en 55 avaient connu un réel succès commercial par leur beauté. Quatre ou cinq versions en langue régionale ont déjà été présentées et d'autres sont à venir.

Dans Devdas, il y a des plans séquence très bien préparés, des systèmes de caméras comme à Hollywood. Ce film très esthétique qui malgré tous ses moyens manque cependant un peu de vie et d'émotion selon certaines critiques, est une ouverture par son ampleur qui vise un marché occidental à

travers sa sélection à Cannes.

L'histoire d'un amour qui dépasse tout... même la vie. L'épouse d'un homme, Devdas, qui n'a fait qu'aimer... Devdas a partagé son enfance avec sa jolie amie Paro. L'amour suprême était ressenti avant même qu'il ne soit compris.

Avec la jeunesse, l'amour s'intensifie. Mais hélas, à cause d'une faiblesse fatidique de Devdas, un mur se dresse entre lui et sa chère Paro. D'un côté du mur se trouve Paro, au coeur brisé, qui devient l'épouse d'un autre. Et de l'autre, Devdas entièrement abattu. Incapable de supporter l'agonie d'une vie sans Paro, Devdas fait de l'alcool son meilleur ami. Mais cela n'atténue en rien sa douleur. Même le dévouement sincère et stoïque d'une belle courtisane, Chandramukhi, ne peut le consoler d'avoir perdu Paro.

Les superstars du cinéma étaient à Cannes pour la projection: Shah Rukh Khan qui joue Devdas, Madhuri Dixit dans le rôle de la concubine Chandramukhi, et la ravissante ex-miss monde 1998 Aishwarya Rai, Paro. Et Jackie Shroff (Chunnilal), Kiro Kher (Sumitra), Smita Jaykar (Kauchalya), Ananya Khare (Kumud).

Gilles Berger

Un hommage à Raj Kapoor

Cannes a payé son tribut à l'un des hommes de la scène les plus aimés et plus adulés de l'Inde, Raj Kapoor.

Un hommage particulier lui a été réservé avec le choix des projections de 'Barsaat' (La Mousson, 1949) et 'Awaraz' (Le Vagabond, 1951) qui ont été autant des succès commerciaux que des triomphes artistiques.

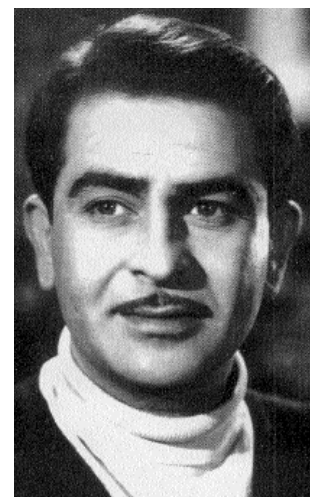
La contribution de Raj Kapoor au cinéma Indien, en tant qu'acteur, réalisateur, producteur et directeur de studio, peut difficilement être égalée.

Pendant plus de cinquante ans, il a brillé au firmament du cinéma de Bombay. C'est vers 1930 que Bombay est devenu comme Hollywood.

On lui doit les premiers films Indiens à avoir touché le coeur et l'imagination de millions de personnes bien au-delà des frontières de l'Inde.

Encore vénéré aujourd'hui, la spécialité de Kapoor a été de créer un cinéma qui avait projeté les désirs ardents des classes moyennes.

L'effet a été relevé par son flair original et sans faille pour d'émotives et inspirantes musiques social tout aussi simple, présenté à la fois avec humour et pathos. C'est lui qui



a créé un monde utopique, un monde de rêve à son époque.

Gilles Berger

N de la R: Comment peut-on parler de Raj Kapoor sans mentionner Nargis, son co-star de Barsaat et d'Awaraz.

Nargis était la plus belle actrice tant à l'orient qu'à l'occident. Son jeu de scène lui aurait valu en temps présent quelques Oscars, surtout pour son incarnation de la souffrance elle-même dans *Mother India*.

Indian film-makers are back to Mauritius

Indian film-makers have started again to come to shoot their films in Mauritius.

A film entitled «Ek pardesi» produced by Partho Ghosh with Amar Upadhyaya and Kirti Chawla is being shot presently in the island. Another shooting team is due in August. The film to be shot is called «Armaan» with Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor and Preity Zinta in the leading roles. «Saazish» by director Goldie Tucker with Sanjay Dutt and «Excuse Me» directed by N. Chandra are also scheduled to be shot in Mauritius.

2000 census figures released

Population estimated at 1,117,100

The Population Census conducted by the Central Statistical Office in July 2000 reveals that the population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,117,100 compared to 1,056,800 at the 1990 census. For the period 1999-2000 an average annual growth rate of 1.1 per cent has been recorded.

The 2000 Population Census enumerated 296,300 private households, representing an increase of 25 per cent over the 1990 census figure of 236,100. The household size dropped from 4.5 in 1990 to 3.9 in 2000 reflecting the continued tendency of newly formed families to make separate living arrangements. Furthermore, data collected during the census show that the population density increased to 578 persons per sq km from 518 persons at the 1990 census.

The sex ratio of the population is as follows: the number of males (men and boys) was 583,900 compared to 527,900 in 1990. The number of females (women and girls) was 595,200 in 2000 against 529,000 in 1990. Life expectancy at birth for men improved from 65.6 year in 1990 to 68.2 years in 2000 while for women the improvement was from 73.4 to 75.3 years.

The literacy rate of the population aged 12 years and above improved from 80.8 per cent in 1990 to 85.6 per cent in 2000. For males, the rate improved from 85.6 per cent to 88.7 per cent and for females from 76.1 per cent to 81.5 per cent. Moreover, the highest educational attainment of the population aged 15 years and above has improved between 1990

and 2000.

The proportion with primary school level only or below decreased from 59.4 per cent in 1990 to 49.8 per cent in 2000. During the same period, the proportion having passed the School Certificate increased from 11.2 per cent to 13.6 per cent while the proportion having passed the Higher School Certificate increased from 3.4 per cent to 6.7 per cent. About 2.2 per cent had a tertiary qualification in 2000 compared to 1.6 per cent in 1990.

In the year 2000, the number of persons with a job was estimated at 466,300 compared to 407,600 in 1990, representing an increase of 58,700 which amounts to an increase of about 5,900. The employed male population was 310,800 while the females employed population was estimated at 155,000.

As regards the industrial sector of employment, the tertiary sector (trade, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication, financial services, community, social and personal services) accounted for 49 per cent of employment. The share of the primary sector (mainly agriculture) dropped to 12 per cent in 2000 from 17 per cent in 1990, while the percentage of the secondary sector (mainly manufacturing and construction) decreased from 43 to 39.

The number of unemployed unadjusted for possible over-reporting, increased from 24,400 at 1990 census to 48,100 at the Census 2000. The corresponding unemployment rate works out at 5.6 per cent in 1990 and 9.6 per cent in 2000.

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A review of the Indian screen

Yeh Hai Jalwa

Starring: Amisha Patel, Salman Khan

Director: David Dhawan

The storyline: Raj (Salman) thinks he is orphaned as a child, until he hears his father is alive. He flies to the UK, to be confronted with his father's family.

His father (Rishi Kapoor) rejects his son's arrival. Meanwhile, Raj meets Sonia (Ameesha Patel) who is the daughter of his father's legal advisor.

The main plot centres around Raj trying to get closer to his father.

Humraaz

Starring: Amisha Patel, Bobby Deol, Akshaye Khanna

Director Abbas - Mustar

This is a Bollywood adaptation of a perfect murder. The story is based on the love story of Priya (Amisha Patel) and Karan (Akshaye Khanna).

As dance partners they are set to perform for shipping tycoon, Raj Singhania (Bobby Deol). Raj falls in love with Priya.

The story then takes a more sinister twist after Raj proposes to Priya.

Om Hai Jagadish

Starring: Anil Kapoor, Abhishek Bachchan, Fardeen Khan, Tara Sharma, Mahima Chavdhary, Urmila Matondkar & Waheeda Rehman

Director: Anupam Kher

The story of three brothers Om (Anil Kapoor) married to Ayesha (Mahima), Jai (Fardeen), Jagadish (Abhishek).

Jagadish is the youngest and is a computer hacker. Wanting to further his career, he wants to go on a computer course but is burdened with heavy loans.

Om refuses to let him go on the course. Jai is then accused of hacking the college computers and robbing exam papers.

Awaraz Pagal

Deewana

Starring: Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Aftab Shivdasani

Director: Vikram Bhatt

The story revolves around a dentist accidentally getting involved with the underworld. A mafia don



Feeling depressed, his friend, Chunnilal (Jackie Shroff) invites him to a new world of women and alcohol. Devdas is soon hooked and he then finds a new love interest Chandramukhi (Dixit). She falls in love with him, but he is still in love with Paora.

Things worsen when Devdas discovers Paora has a new love, Zaminder Bhuvan (Vijayendra Ghatge) This has a fantastic soundtrack by Ismael Darbar and is a must see Indian Movie.

Crab Soup

Crab soup is one of the first Chinese dishes to 'invade' the Mauritian kitchen. It is supposed to be an aphrodisiac and very good after a hangover. It started the fame of Gros Piti, a renown restaurant in Port Louis where the race-goers would eat in the evenings.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Ingredients | 4 big chopped peppers |
| 2 large live crabs | 1 pinch of red chilli or 2 fresh red chillies (according to taste) |
| 1 tablespoon of starch | 1 teaspoon of ajinomoto |
| 6 red tomatoes | 1 bunch of spring onions |
| 1 bunch of chopped thyme | Oil and Chicken stock |
| Chopped onions | |

Preparation:
Kill the 2 crabs in the Chinese fashion, that is, by placing them into boiling water. Clean them and keep only the white parts and the claws. Throw away the fat.

Cooking:
Pour some oil into a Chinese wok, the onions and starch until brown, add the tomatoes and thyme. Cook for 4 minutes and add the crab meat. Stir until the meat becomes covered in the sauce.

Add the chillies, red pepper, crab claws and chicken stock, stew for 20 minutes on a low heat.

Before removing, add 1 spoonful of ajinomoto and chopped spring onions. The soup must be served very hot, ideally in Chinese bowls with Chinese spoons, which will keep the soup hot.

From the Genuine Cuisine of Mauritius by Guy Félix

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Commonwealth Games

Mauritian swimmer deserved a medal

In spite of their good performance during the several heats to reach the finals in various events, the Mauritian athletes stood no chance of taking a medal at the recent Commonwealth Games.

However, many including, News of the World Frank Warren who wrote in his column on August 4, believe that Commonwealth Games competitor Jaqueline Khadun from Mauritius should have received a gold medal if only for her courage and bravery.

Most people watching the games will remember Khadun, who received a 10 minute standing ovation inspite of her finishing 3 min 2sec behind most of the other disabled competitors.

Miss Khadun is 48 and suffers from polio and at one stage during the heat was seen holding on to the lane marker to catch her breath, which resulted in her being disqualified. However, it was not this which was still upsetting her one hour later, it was because she was three seconds outside her personal best.

Mauritius has lowest fertility rate in Africa

The US-based Population Reference Bureau published a report, in which it said Mauritius had a fertility rate of 2.0, the lowest in Africa compared to Nigeria (7.5), Somalia (7.3), Mali (7.0), Democratic Republic of Congo (7.0) and Uganda (6.9).

One official at the Health Ministry in Port-Louis said the report cites the lack of family planning as one of the threats to women's health in African countries.

The Minister said, that although women live longer than men, they face many unique health challenges, including the stress of childbearing.

According to the report, Mauritius had the highest rate of contraception in Africa and is the leader in family planning with 75 per cent of women making efforts to prevent contraception.

Meanwhile, a new report by the Central Statistics Office in Port-Louis estimated the population of the island at 1, 205 665 at December 2001 of whom 597, 207 were males and 608 458 females.

Concerning births, it said the number of live births recorded stood at 19, 667 in 2001, which represents a decrease of 2.7 per cent as compared to 2000 when the figures reached 20 205.

On the other hand, 7, 966 deaths were registered in 2001, causing a 0.2 per cent decrease, against 7,982 a year earlier.

The CSO also revealed that there was a 3 per cent decrease in the number of marriages in 2001 (10, 630) as against 10,963 in 2000.

Your HOROSCOPE for August 2002 by Anna

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Try to be patient with partners, as love and money matters become difficult to handle. Make yourself available to your family and friends.

Keep your eyes open this month as someone you might ignore, could be the key to happiness. Use your smile and kind words to put an end to a heated discussion. Balance your health with your lifestyle.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20)

This month sees you connect with a special person who can fulfill your dream. As your emotions take over, you will not be able to ignore them, so take care with concentration at work.

Your energy levels will be high, so take care not to over do it. Changing a career could be a good plan, problems are not as big as they seem, so don't stress out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Entertaining is what you are good at and this month will be action packed. Invite friends and family round and enjoy yourself. Don't over react with a conflict, take a deep breath and keep cool.

Make an arrangement to see an old friend you have been meaning to get in touch with. Start a new fitness regime, but take it slowly, in every department.

CANCER (June 21 - July 20)

Be good to yourself and take that much needed holiday. A surprise message will be a sigh of relief about a relationship. Look out for new people in your area as they could be your new love interest.

Take a break from work and go out and enjoy yourself. You are not the shy type, so get yourself noticed. Take time to rest afterwards.

LEO (July 21 - August 21)

Generosity and personality will put you in a sociable mood, this will reflect the rest of your year too. A lavish party will introduce you to a new friend who will be linked with travel.

Your high energy will bring you new surprises. Arguments about money may lie with a family member, stand your ground and don't back down.

VIRGO (August 22 - September 22)

A dream will become reality this month as you use your personality to your advantage. There may be a dispute with a loved one over money, don't get wrapped up in guilt, until you are sure of the whole story.

A work offer comes your way, and you deserve it after all your hard work. Take care of your needs, both physical and emotional before you begin to help others.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

Get ready to socialise this month, you will be popular with friends and family as well as many fans. Recognition at work is long overdue, but a promotion or new job offer could change it all for you.

Keep an eye out for a new love interest and take time out to relax. You may be burdened with work but the result will show it is all worth it.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 22)

Popularity and generosity will arrive this month. Good news with finance and love will boost your confidence and home improvements are made.

Don't be surprised if relationships begin to be high energy. But with your new health venture you can keep up the pace. Enjoy yourself and you will benefit.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 20)

Get your bags packed and ready to travel. You have adventure and optimism and long distance travel is something you have always wanted to do.

Look out for a health issue reoccurring and get it checked with a doctor. Travelling may leave you in debt, but you will have something waiting for you when you return that will benefit your finances.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19)

You may receive an offer you can't refuse this month. A long lost friend may visit with an unusual invitation. You may find yourself working over time to finish projects, but this will help to illuminate your money problems.

Good news is on its way, so be patient. Give yourself a break and meet up with family, this will revive and refresh your outlook on life.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

Get ready for romance and fun this month. You may get in touch with someone who you had given up on, but make plans to meet them soon. It could lead to a new you. Don't let an argument ruin your month, it will sort itself out

Getting stressed will not help. This month will be action packed and exciting. So enjoy yourself and take it easy.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

You will have a busy start to the month. Your ongoing optimism will lead to good things in both love and at work. Bringing people together will have its benefits and rewards.

Sorting out problems may be tricky, but you will be able to resolve them no matter how difficult they seem. New people interest you this month, take your time to see who is right for you. You can afford to be choosy.

Agony Aunt

Nina has been a contributor to other publications and we are happy to enlist her collaboration to Mauritius News.

Readers may contact her via Mauritius News by brief letters or directly by email on CRAWFN3@AOL.COM.

Nina will deal with your queries, problems, comments or suggestions through this column, space permitting. Please note, letters may be shortened and not all letters may be suitable for publication.



by Nina Crawford

Hurt, confused and angry

From reader R.G.

I am 22 years old. My girlfriend left me after 5 years together. She told me that she could not cope with our long-distance relationship any longer and that I had changed. I am confused because I do not think I have and things seemed to be going well. Recently, a mutual friend revealed she had been seeing someone else whilst I was at college. I am now angry, hurt and upset. I want to do something that will hurt my girlfriend and punish her for what she has done to me. On the other hand, I still love her and desperately want her back. Maybe I should spread rumours about her to her new boyfriend so I can have her back. Then maybe I should dump her. I don't know what to do - I can't sleep or eat and I am becoming angry and ill with thoughts of jealousy and revenge.

Name & address withheld

Nina says:

Breaking up is always difficult but it is especially so when it is with a first girlfriend or boyfriend. It represents shattered dreams and hopes to the one who has not consented to the break-up. It is even more painful and heartbreaking to find out that another person is involved. The shock of discovering an unfaithful partner leads to anger, hurt, a violation of trust and usually dents one's self-confidence. Sometimes we wish to hurt the other party just so that they can experience our pain or suffering, or as a payback. Mixed emotions and confusion set in; there are many unanswered questions.

However, being jealous and holding long-term anger is unhealthy, as you have discovered. Whether you scheme, plot and take revenge subtly and behind the scenes or whether you take direct acts of revenge - it all leads to the same thing: you only really hurt yourself in the end. It is just not worth it.

Assuming your mutual friend knows his facts, just be grateful you found out what your ex is like; but also understand that it is tough being in a long-distance relationship. Not many people can cope with that situation over a long period of time. Also accept that people do change, including you. The situation shows the importance of communicating and meeting one another's needs and not assuming your partner is happy just because you are.

Once you can honestly assess your past relationship (with warts and all), the role you both played and the strain of circumstances, you may realise how lucky you are to be now free. There really are plenty more fish in the sea, especially when you are so young. Start afresh with all the joy and excitement of finding a new love and being "in love" again and learn from your past so that you have a better relationship.

A word of warning - do not assume that all girls will treat you like your ex did and so you should hurt them before they hurt you. You could obviously end up losing someone who would have been your ideal soulmate/life partner. Instead think of all your good points and how you can share a happy relationship. Be willing to give and take and, equally important, listen and communicate. Women love nothing better than to feel loved, listened to and appreciated.

If you feel you cannot move on until you have spoken to your ex to answer your questions, then see if she will agree to meet you or at least talk to you over the telephone. Plan what you will say and aim to be understanding and level-headed if you want full, honest answers. Blaming her and being angry will terminate the conversation.

You could also express your full hurt and anger out on paper to yourself and then try to think things through from all sides - seeing the bad and good in each other and the relationship in a more rational way. This fairness and rationality will not come to you overnight; but you must persist in order to move on freely and not contaminate future relationship(s). You are then in a better position to write her a fair and considered letter if you want.

Finally, if you do spread rumours about her, she is very unlikely to come back to you, unless she has low self-esteem or she herself is planning to take her revenge on you for tarnishing her. That's the problem with taking revenge - you never know the full consequences or where it will lead you.

From Reuben

Could you also be our Agony Aunt for our newsletter?

Reuben M.

Send me the details and I will let you know.

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Workshop seminar on the review of the National Physical Development Plan

The Government of Mauritius through the Ministry of Housing and Lands, has decided to update the 1994 National Physical Development Plan in the light of the rapidly changing events.

Because of the significant and long lasting adjustments to the economy and impacts to the environment, it now needs updating. Hon Moohesswur Choonee, the Minister of Housing and Lands opened the first workshop of the NPDP on the 18th July 2002 at the Maritime Hotel in an endeavour to reveal the new strategically plan and vision to change the face of Mauritius in twenty years time.

These changing events and plans which need to be reviewed and updated are as follows: The Government's aim to capture a bigger slice of the high-tech, IT and other knowledge-driven industries on purpose-built business parks.

Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Transport

The tourism industry's objective to maintain and enhance the image and quality of its products and in doing so develop coastal sites to major integrated resorts.

The agricultural sectors move to restructure the sugar sector, upgrade and diversify its activities and re-use some of its land for development.

Manufacturing's challenge to remain competitive in textiles and other traditional markets whilst maintaining its existing operations, sites and workforce.

Transport pressures brought about by ever-increasing rate of car-ownership and worsening traffic congestion especially in the conurbation.

Constant changes to the environment in town centres, rural areas and on the coast, which threaten the image of the country and the livelihood of all its citizens and businesses.

Consultation Process

The first Workshop is an important part of the consultation process which started in April 2002 and which will close in December when the revised draft NPDP will be completed. Such a consultation involves not only Central Government departments and agencies with an interest in Land Development, but also Local Governments, Private Sector, NGOs and Other Groups.

The aim is to involve as many as possible of these key stakeholders in the consultation, so that a consensus can be achieved on the key issues and development strategies which will be needed over the next 20 years.

Following the workshop, the current findings will be updated and a revised land development strategy will be prepared. The revised draft will then be discussed at a second workshop later this year when the main programmes of the strategy will be described.

Only after the second workshop, and when further modifications and refinements have been carried out, will the Development Plan be finalised.

In his address to the audience at the opening Workshop, Mookesswur Choonee, the Minister of Housing and Lands gave an indi-

cation of the wish for the private sector to collaborate and participate in government projects, more precisely the tendency towards public private partnership (PPP).

Massive Investment

The Minister said that with the increasing cost of capital, he presumed that developments in future would rely heavily on the PPP mechanism. Mookesswur Choonee wants to maintain an enviable economic growth, massive investment in all sectors such as, transport, education, Information Technology and Health.

The Minister mentioned that 9 Sector Reports have been submitted and circulated for comments. These reports cover the following, Environment/Natural resources, Tourism, Economy, Land use, Settlement & Town Centres, Physical Infrastructure, Transport, and Agriculture.

The Minister of Housing & Lands also emphasised the need for good Town and Country Planning which is becoming ever increasingly important.

He said, "There are more pressures on our attractive and environmentally-sensitive coastlines and beaches with major private sector proposals for integrated resort developments, yet we need to maintain public access and enjoyment to these same national assets.

These bring along increasing pressures on infrastructure and services in our major towns and cities, with perhaps 50% more homes and jobs over 10-20 years, and with these will come a doubling in traffic flows, increases in congestion and decreases in the amount of open spaces."

According to Minister Choonee: "It is an important step forward in the consultation process which will help achieve a balanced development, taking into consideration future projects and lifestyle of the population. We can all help in identifying and refining these key issues and challenges so that the realistic and achievable development strategies can be put forward for future action".

Long-term Vision

He concluded on those terms: "Our long term vision is for Mauritius to be an economically vibrant island. An island driven by cutting-edge technology, high value-added industries and services, quality tourism, a regional financial centre with good infrastructure and an appealing environment. An island where it will also be pleasant to live, work and enjoy life. The NPDP Strategy Study should capture the vision of Mauritius in the next twenty years."

Let us not forget that the NPDP Workshop wants to involve all of us to participate in this exercise and submit our comments and suggestions of how should we visualise the development of Mauritius in the next twenty years.

Comments and suggestive projects should be addressed to John Smith, Team Leader, NPDP Ministry of Housing and Lands, 4th Floor SILWF Building Edith Cavell Street Port Louis.

Tribulations of an ex-police Sergeant

Dany. B., an ex-Police Sergeant is suing the Government of Mauritius for damages to the tune of Rs. 300,000 on the ground of having been forced to go on premature retirement at the age of 57 due to victimization.

As a matter of fact, in a report submitted in 1988 to the then Commissioner of Police, the late Mr Bhimsen Kowlessur, Dany had accused a senior officer of the Force of having misused "manpower" at the expense of the state. In fact, the said officer had detached a Police Attendant to serve at his official residence.

Dany declares that since then he had been subjected to several punitive transfers, and even demotion

from Sergeant to Police Constable, in 1989, a few days before being confirmed in his post of Specialist Sergeant in the Police Internal Control Unit.

Although Dany was reinstated in his post of Sergeant in January 1992, he was nevertheless barred from sitting for the exams for promotion to the inspectorate, in December of the same year.

Furthermore, instead of being given the responsibilities and salary of a Police Sergeant, those of a specialised Police Internal Controller were assigned to him.

Dany avers that finally being unable to digest those injustices any longer, he bowed himself out of the police force.

Blind violence of a crazy old man

Following a Court Order, Veeren, a 32 years old father of two young children, has been evicted from his father's house, at Quatre Bornes in Plaines Wilhems district, since the 9 June last.

In a statement to the press, Veeren declared that, since his childhood, his mother now aged 56, his siblings and himself have always been the object of his father's violence, physical and moral torture.

He further stated that his younger brother, aged 26, had also

been evicted by the old blind man some time back.

Veeran's wife and children have found provisional refuge at a relative's place in Mahebourg in the South-East of the island.

To cap it all, despite his blindness and his dependence on his wife for his personal needs, the old man has applied for divorce from his better-half since last year.

It is reported that the blind sexagenarian lapses into vulgarity whenever he is queried about his inhumane attitude towards his family.

Mauritian wins Rs 75,000 in a anti-smoking competition

Mr Krishnaduth Bholah, a football coach from Quatre-Bornes has won a prize of Rs 75,000 in his effort to stop smoking. He won the African prize of the competition which had 388 participants.

Mr Bholah aged 40, a social smoker who smoked six to seven cigarettes a day said that it was not hard for him to give up. He was encouraged to enter the competition when his boss at the Municipality of Quatre-Bornes handed out entry forms to his employees.

Participants had to stop smoking

between 2 and 29 May, they then had to submit a sample for analysis. Mr Bholah who won a further Rs 25,000 on the Mauritian level, intends to spend part of his winnings on football equipment for the young football players from deprived families of Surinam. He will also contribute towards the cost of organising and flying over a group of footballers to La Réunion.

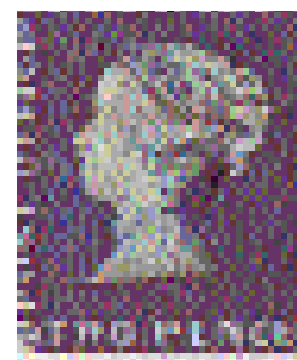
A computer for his children and house renovation are also on his plan to spend the Rs100,000

A man from Québec, Canada, won the world prize of Rs 300,000.

The most famous stamp in the world: The Blue Mauritius

Visitors to the Buckingham Palace to view the Queen stamps collection opened to the public on the occasion her Jubilee celebrations will have been delighted to cast their eyes on the most famous stamp in the world, the Two Pence Post Office stamp, known as Blue Mauritius

This stamp with the printed words Post Office instead of Post Paid issued in 1847 was withdrawn from circulation with the result that there are only a few known to exist, one of them is in the Queen's collection.



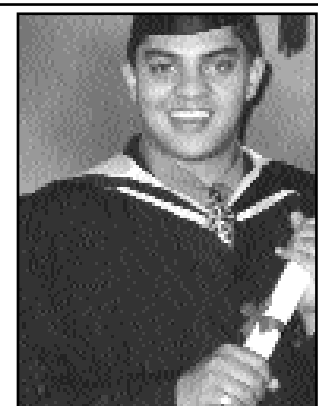
Today's worth: £2 million

Examinations success

Congratulations to Miss Vedinee Lutcmiah on graduating with a 2:1 BA. Hons. from Brunel University in July 2002. Best wishes for the future from her father Mr. Dave Lutcmiah, her mother Mrs. Sheila Lutcmiah and her brother Mr. Iswaraja Lutcmiah.

Congratulations to Kevin Chetty of Seven Kings Ilford, who has obtained a First Class BSc degree with Honours in Physical Sciences and Physics at the King's College, University of London. He has also been awarded a scholarship to complete a Master's degree at the same University.

We wish him continuous success in his career. Best wishes from his Mum and Dad, brothers Steven and Darren, friends and family over here and also in Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago.



Initiation à la langue Française

13eme partie

Nous avons traité la partie du discours qu'est le nom et j'espère que vous avez pu comprendre les différentes facettes qui composent le nom. Il est bon cependant de garder vos notes pour toute référence future si vous croyez hésiter quand vous en faites application.

Exercice: Comment nomme-t-on:

Une montagne qui vomit des flammes et de lave?

Un espace de terre qui est entouré d'eau?

Une étendue d'eau entourée de terre?

Une maison couvert de chaume?

L'époque ou l'on coupe le blé?

L'époque ou l'on coupe la canne?

L'époque ou l'on coupe le raisin?

Le repas que l'on fait le matin?

Le repas que l'on fait le soir?

L'arbre qui donne des pommes?

L'arbre qui donne des bananes?

Pour notre leçon d'aujourd'hui nous allons aborder la partie du discours qu'est l'article. L'article est un petit mot qui se place devant le nom.

L'article en prend le genre et le nombre.

Articles définis

Les articles définis sont: le, la, les; au, aux; du, des

Le, pour le masculin singulier : LE jardin

La, pour le féminin singulier : LA rose

Les, pour le masculin pluriel : LES arbres

pour le féminin pluriel : LES fleurs

Article élié

Devant un mot commençant par une voyelle cependant ou un h muet, on met l'article élié l', au lieu de le, la. Exemple: L'oiseau, l'homme.

Questionnaire:

Qu'est-ce que l'article?

Quels sont les articles définis?

De quel genre et nombre sont les articles le, la, les?

Devant quels mots se place l'article élié?

Exercice: Remplacez le tiret par un des articles définis le, la, les ou l'article élié l'.

___ table, ___ four, ___ fourchette, ___ oiseau, ___ os

___ arbres, ___ roses, ___ jardin, ___ année, ___ an

___ jours, ___ journée, ___ matin, ___ soir, ___ matinée

___ étoile, ___ abeille, ___ abeilles, ___ poulet, ___ poule.

Exercice: Soulignez les articles contenus dans cette dictée.

L'oiseau vole. Les cadeaux de l'an. Les jouets de la fille. L'âne porte les paniers. Nous sommes les enfants de l'île Maurice. Les Coupeurs coupent la canne à sucre. Le camion transporte les cannes. Les moulins broient la canne. Les roses dans le jardin.

Articles définis contractés

Les articles définis au, aux, du, des sont dits contractés.

Au est mis pour à le

Aux est mis pour à les

Du est mis pour de le

Des est mis pour de les

Questionnaire: Nommez les articles définis contractés

Child labour on the decrease in Mauritius

The number of children working in Mauritius is decreasing, from a total of 4,900 in 1990 to 1,600 in 2001, aged between 12 to 14 years old.

Most children end up on the child labour market after having failed at school. Most are employed by small businesses, restaurants, mechanics and in carpentry. Often exploited, many find themselves unable to turn down the work as they often contribute to the family budget. Some children find themselves working after school and return home too exhausted to do their school work.

Under the Labour Act, it is ille-

gal to employ children under 15. When employers of under-age children were interviewed, they all said that they took them on at the insistence of the child's parents so as not to leave them 'train la rue'.

On the World Day against Child Labour on June 12, the Ministry of Employment and Industrial Relations stated that the situation in Mauritius is not as advanced as in other African countries. They added that the decline in the number of children working in Mauritius is due to the Ministry's Enforcement Unit, which since 1995 has cracked down on businesses employing young children.

Glass Gallery converts into an environmental museum

The Environment Minister Rajesh Bhagwan, has transformed the Glass Gallery into a museum, as an example of recycling glass. Both the environment Minister and the Tourism Minister Nandkumar Bodha want more people to visit this fantastic art exhibition.

The Tourism Minister feels that the art sector of Mauritius needs to be promoted more with tourists, and hopes that more people will visit the Glass Gallery. The idea to convert the Gallery into a museum was done by Mr. J C Lagesse, Director of the Phoneix Camp Minerals (PCM). The company is

working to protect the environment and hopes the gallery will provide information about recycling. It is hoped that it will also give a boost to the tourism sector.

It is hoped that it will attract local visitors as well as those from abroad, to find out about the process of recycling and how to preserve the environment. Many organisations have supported the PCM on this project. They include Friends of the Environment, The Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, The Mauritius Marine Conservation, The Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM) and the Black River National Parks.

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Income generating office/commercial floor 800sq m Sterling House, Port Louis

Contact: Shandi Co Ltd, Office 101, 1st Floor, Sterling House, 9-11, Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port-Louis, Mauritius

Tel: + 230 208 6774 + 230 208 0994

E-mail: Nasoom@intnet.mu or purusoujoodha@intnet.mu

Deaths

Every entry published below contains the only information supplied to us

Mauritius

Bissessur HOSANEE 92 yrs, 04.07. 02 - Viswanaden VEERAPEN (Gassen)54 yrs, Port-Louis - M. Goinsamy CATHAPERMAL 30.06.02 Reduit - Marie Noel Armand Berty JOLICOEUR 01.07.02.Rose-Hill - Paul James LIM KUN HING (Ton Paul) 77 yrs, Port- Louis -. Maurice DU COUDRAY WIEHE 05.07.02. - Coinsamy RAGAVEN 26.06.02 Rose-Hill.- Marie Franchette Yolande BAYARAM (born Carver)78 yrs, 09.07.02. Curepipe -M.Koo Fat CHANG KOOYUN FONG 74 yrs 13.07.02, Port-Louis - Louis Henri SENIKAH 27.06.02- Mrs Byanoomatee SOOROOJBALLY 26.06.02 - M.Narainduth SHEORAJ (Dutt) 77 yrs 16. 6.02.-John KWET KWI ATTAN 71 yrs, 15.07.02. Rose-Hill - Henri Maurice DAURAT 80 yrs, Trochetia, Morcellement- Wid Yolande CLARK 09.07.02- Jose ALEX 64 yrs, Albion.- Comrasamy RAMSAMY 72 yrs,Vacoas.-Jean Rene FRANCE ITHIER 11.07.02. Quatre-Bornes.-Wid LEUNG SUN WAH (born Ah Quie Lung Hung 91 yrs, 09.07. 02. Port-Louis -M. GOINSAMY POINEN 07.07.02. Beau Sejour.- Kumar AMEEKADUTH MUCKLA 66yrs, 09.07.02.- Wid. Marie Hosanna MANIACARA (born Flore) 85 yrs, 12.07.02. -Kumar Aameekaduth MUCKLA 66yrs, 09.07.02.- Serge DESJARDINS 68 yrs, 10.07.02. Serge MAMODE 67 yrs, 20.06. 02. -Moonsamy VETHAN 14.07.02 Pope HENNESSY, Beau-Bassin.- Joseph Pierre Henry PERRIER 86 yrs, Rose-Hill.- Marie Jean Phillippe AUFRAY 15.07.02. Beau-Bassin. M.Pramchand HARDIN (Prem)66 yrs,12.07.02. Bhagwasting RAMKISSOON , 93, Quatre-Bornes, -.Louis Regis DABYSING, 55 , 31.07.02.Quatre-Bornes.- Wid. Laurence Odette HONG FONG YUE, 79, 29.07. 02.Curepipe.-Lee YING NGOK, 75, 27.07.02,Sir Virgil Naz.Port-Louis.- Sandragassen CUTTAYEN ,50yrs,24.07.02 .Mont Roche.-Louis RAGOUNAETH 66yrs, 24.07.02. Morcellement - Maxime Laval GERARD (Max) 24.07.02. Coromandel - Aplamah Sanassee GORAYAH (born Appadu), 68 yrs,25.07.02 Rose-Hill- .- Wid. Octave BECHET (born Andre Boule)91 yrs, 19.07.02. Ismael Mamode LALLMAMODE 64 yrs, 13.07.02-Jacques Daniel TALBOT (Dany)40 yrs,24.07.02.Eau Coulee- Antoine AH CHIN KOW 64 yrs, 17.07 02 Quatre Bornes- Paramaseeven NARRAINEN 12.07.02 Port-Louis- Clement MOOTOO 67 yrs, 13.07.02. Curepipe.- Wid Eveline AUGUSTE (Dame Boulotte) 20.07.02. Beau-Bassin. Moonsamy VETHAN 14.07. 02, Beau-Bassin - Viswanaden VEERAPEN (Gassen Jimmy)12.07.02. Port-Louis.- Laila Bibi AZMATALLY (Soobraty) 57 yrs. 27, 07. 02.Riche Terre.-Raymond RAY 26-07.02. Wid. Vedwantee P. CALLOO 21.07.02. Port- Louis. M.Soopramanien CHINASAMY (Visnoo) 67 yrs, 16.07.02.Phoenix- Louis Maurice FRANCOIS 23.07.02. Triolet- Jose DUVAL 21.07.02 Curepipe-M.Michel VINAYAGAM PILLAI 58 yrs, Quatre-Bornes- Anil RAMKELAWON 27. 07.02. - M.Umer.MAHAMOODALLY 91 yrs, 25.07.02 Saint Pierre -Binesh BANARSEE 22.07.02. -Mrs Fernande Arlette FLORE (born Maclou) 30.07.02 Quatre-Bornes - Louis Regis DABYSING 55 yrs, 31.07.02 Quatre-Bornes -Mrs Ghislaine AZA (Mazanne Othello) 22.07.02. Beau-Bassin - Louis Fernand Lelio THOMAS 22.07.02. Wid Laurence Odette HUNG FONG YUE 79 yrs, 29.07.02 Curepipe.-MGabriel RAMJUTTUN (Jeune Gens) 21.07.02. Mrs Nasseem Golam HOSSEN (Born Kodabux) 22.07.02.Siddiq Mohamed HOSSEN 29.07.02. Gerard Ignace LADOUCE 30.07.02. M Mooroogus VYAPOREE 56yrs, 23.07.02. Mahebourg -Surendra APPADOO 54.0702. 30.06.02. Jayrajan MOOTHOSAWMY (Daven) 27.07.02. Vacoas- Goinsamy THANJAPPEN 84 yrs, 23.07.02. Mon Loisir.- Roopun SONAH 23.07.02. Mrs Judith BALLGOBIN, 6.08.02, Plaine Magnien.

Overseas

Suzy Kamal SAMPUTH 55 yrs 10.07.02. London- M.Vijayen APPAVOO Vivian APPAVOO 12.07.02. Edmonton, England.- Frank LINCOLN 25.07.02. Harare, Zimbabwe. Phillippe MARIE 70 yrs,14.07.02. Melbourne Australie.- Mrs Rajeshwaree SEEBALUCK(born Jhundo)38 yrs, 19.07 02.South Africa.- Georges KOW

Deaths Announcement

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Mrs Anne-Marie Ramphul, 57, (born Mootoosamy), of Tooting, London S.W.17. She passed away after two long months of illness on the 18.07.02 at St George's Hospital. The funeral service was held at St Boniface Church. Anne-Marie was the sister of the late brilliant literary critic Jean-Baptiste Mootoosamy. We convey our sympathy to his son Roy and all the relatives affected by this great loss.

UK Friends

Mr Rashid Mungloo died on 23rd July 2002 and the funeral took place on 24.7.02. He was a devoted father to his sons and daughters and grandchildren. He is well loved by all his relatives, and friends. Mourned by sons Safeek & Mozaffar, daughters Taherah & Amnah. (Rashid was born and lived in Brisee Verdier until 1960. His wife died 2 years ago.)

Bassir Kurmally (Born 1943)

Bassir died on Tuesday 23.7.02 at the Civil Hospital in Port Louis where he was admitted four days earlier following an accident. His funeral service was held at the Brisee Verdier Mosque, and the funeral itself took place at Beau Bois Cemetery. Bassir will be greatly missed by his wife, son Iqbal, daughters Sahera, Sakinah, Safidah, and all relatives. He is also mourned by his brothers in Mauritius and in UK

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Mrs Bhanoomatee Soorojballi

In loving memory of our beloved grandmother, Mrs Bhanoomatee Soorojballi (born Baljoresai) who passed away on the 26th June 2002, at the age of 78.

Your sudden departure has left us adrift in an abyss of grief. The emptiness within us can only be partially relieved through memorable and loving thoughts of yours which accompany us all, in each and every step we take, in this journey of life.

We would like to thank everybody who took part in our grief.



She will be sadly missed by her sons, daughters and relatives.

Carmen Silvera

Readers who have enjoyed the television comedy Allo Allo will remember the charismatic Edith among the characters of this popular series played by Carmen Silvera. Sadly, this charming lady passed away on August 3. Her legacy to us is the comedy which we shall continue to enjoy.

The actress who played the role of stone-deaf wife of resistance member René, died after being diagnosed with lung cancer three months ago.

Born in Canada on July 22, 1922, she moved to Coventry when she was a child. She began to make a name for herself in the early sixties in many television parts but it was Allo Allo which made her a household name.

The series which ran from 1983 to 1994 and also starred Gordon Kaye, who became a close friend of hers. He said " She was always ditsy, fun and had a wicked sense of humour".

She died in Denville Hall, the actor's retirement home in Middlesex. Her agent Barry Burnett said: "She was cheerful right to the end. She said recently she had a very happy life, some



wonderful holidays and wonderful success in her career."

Carmen married at 19 to a fellow actor. She divorced at 26 and never remarried.

Maximum autonomy for Rodrigues

The constitutional development of Rodrigues is moving forward with the adoption of Standing Orders for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Members of the Assembly will benefit from duty free facilities for the purchase of cars and a Retiring Allowance provided they have completed two terms in the assembly and have contributed 4% of

their monthly salary into a pension scheme.

The Chief Commissioner for Rodrigues will earn a monthly salary of Rs 55,000 and members of the assembly will earn Rs 15,000 per month.

The number of people on the Rodriguan electoral list is 22,778. Election will be held September 29.

Blind people need help

According to latest figures available, 7,700 blind people in Mauritius are in need of financial help. Only a thousand of them receive some help from the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund.

A report by the Social security and national solidarity ministry published recently said the Trust Fund would soon launch an awareness campaign to help these people. It said the outreach programme for the blind was not fully functional.«Outreach officers will guide and rehabilitate visually-impaired people island-wide until they can attend the Centre to join the school and integrate the training programme to avail themselves of the services offered», one Social security officer said.

New Deputy High Commissioner of India

Mr Dnyaneshwar Manohar Mulay is the new High Commissioner of India in Mauritius, succeeding Dr Atul Khare.

The new deputy who joined the Indian Foreign Office in 1983 first worked in the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi, before working as an advisor in Tokyo and subsequently in Moscow followed by a spell in the Ministry of Commerce in India.

Mr Mulay is very experienced in economic, commerce and investment matters as well as specialising in South East Asian matters. He is a talented and published author who has written seven books. Already he is planning a book on Mauritius.

He is a married father of two sons and a daughter who will be joining him in Mauritius in September.

Les archives de Maurice s'informatisent

Les quelque 3 000 cartes, plans et dessins qui constituent le fond documentaire des Archives nationales à Maurice seront accessibles bientôt sur ordinateur.

"Nous voulons préserver ces documents et donner en même temps un meilleur service au public", a déclaré le directeur, M. Geeanduth Suneechur.

Les Archives sont équipées maintenant d'une imprimante et d'un scanner de plans. Ce nouveau matériel permettra l'agrandissement ou la réduction de la taille des documents scannés.

Elles prévoient également de faire un inventaire complet et illustré de la collection de cartes, de plans et de dessins.

Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres

A.C.M.L

The Annual Mass to the memory of the Mauritian Apostle

The Blessed Father Jacques Désiré Laval will be celebrated on the 8th September 2002 at 11h 30 at the Church of Notre Dame de France

6 Leicester Place, Leicester Square by the Rev. Fr. Chung from Mauritius

Choir: St. Paul Folk Group

Organist: Duncan Middleton

Soloist: Judy Pritchard-Latchman

Followed by a Social Gathering Buffet & Bar at the Waterloo Action Centre

14 Baylis Road, London (near Waterloo Station)

From 1h30 to 5h00

Mylene Lamy writes from Japan

Sayonara World Cup A record of first-times



Jeonju Stadium, Korea

It is fitting that the first World Cup series of the 21st Century will go down in history registering many firsts.

First time for the World Cup to be held in Asia.

First time the series has been co-hosted. South Korea and Japan.

First time an Asian country made it in the best four category. Korea.

First time Brazil and Germany meet as a World Cup Final.

First time in many years there was no sign of hooliganism.

First time British fans have been asked the question: "Are you a hooligan?" by polite Japanese. In response, first time for British to wear T-shirts stating: "I am not a hooligan".

First time for Turkey to reach the quarterfinals.

First time for a coach to take two different nations to a World Cup semifinal. Coach: Dutchman, Guus Hiddink. Netherlands and Korea.

First time the world's largest pot of couscous, listed in the Guinness Book of Records 2000, has been exhibited outside Tunisia in Osaka.

First time for Ireland to score more than one goal in their World Cup appearance. Ireland 3 - Saudia Arabia 0.

First time for a referee to show the yellow card an astonishing 17 times. Referee: Antonio Lopez Nieto. Germany Vs Cameroon.

First time a World Cup holder (France) failed to score a goal in defence of their title.

First time 'rent-a-crowd' tactics were used to fill the thousands of empty seats at first-round games, due to a ticket fiasco.

First time a South Korean fan set himself on fire to become 'a spirit that will run with the Korean team in order to win'. He survived.

First time the price for hosting the World Cup trebles in four years - France 1998, \$1.5 billion. Japan 2002, Yen 571 billion.

First time for China to make their appearance on the World Cup stage after 44 years of near-misses.

First time Turkey makes history when Captain Hakan Sukur scored just 11 seconds into the match against South Korea. Previous record held by Vaclac Masek (former Czechoslovakia) 15 seconds, in 1962.

In the 2002 World Cup series, that opened with great ceremony in Korea and finished in great style in Japan, there were no losers, everyone was a winner... and that's a first.

Trade-unions want increase in teachers' pay

The chairman of the Government Hindi Teachers Union (GHTU), Suttuhdeo Tengur, has asked for an increase in teachers' salaries «to compensate teachers for the help they extend to children in their education process.»

According to him, reforms announced in the education field give new responsibilities to the

teachers as the number of subjects taught goes up, from five to six, apart from physical education, that is being introduced at primary level.

«Actually, teachers get between Rs6,150 to Rs10,945 monthly. This should be increased to the range of Rs8,545 and Rs16,415 monthly», Tengur said.

He emphasized that the economy would improve with the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGO), the depreciation of the Euro as compared to the rupee and the stabilisation of petrol prices on world market.

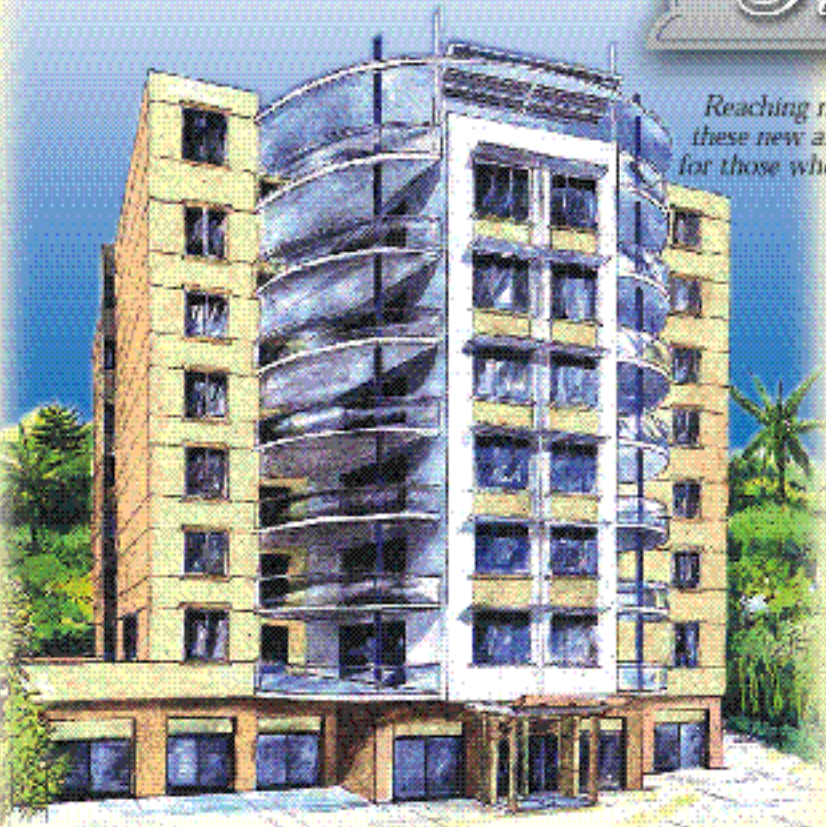
«This shows that the State can pay its teachers on merits», Tengur concluded.

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Holiday postcard

Basking in the sun during his summer holidays, our contributor Marc Grégoire could not resist the temptation to share with us his blissful moment

Oh! What a bliss ! PRAIA DA ROCHA, Algarve, Portugal



I am contemplating a formidable illusion lying side by side with reality here, at Rocha Beach - Algarve, Portugal. It is so lively and so lovely that I am mesmerised: the sea as blue as the sky under the brilliant sun, boats sailing through the horizon; over my head, sea-gulls by the dozens courting and swooping on each other.

Pretty women in colourful bikinis swarming around, some swimming in the warm sea, and some basking on the couches under the umbrellas, lined up in three coloured sections: here, in the middle close to us, (my wife, friends and myself), the umbrellas are blue; there, near the cliffs, they are yellow; and not far, back of us, near the restaurant, they are red.

The golden shining sand along the beach with strolling girls - some topless and some topless plus - exhibiting their tanned skin on parts they should hide. And with the penetrating x-rays of the sun, the sea is bewitched and excitingly lashes her waves.

While the waves come rolling to break on the shore, a rousing lamenting sound engulfs the air with a spell. The Rocha Beach of Algarve is transformed into a paradise on earth. In the presence of such beauty, Louise, our companion, lifts up her hands to heaven exclaiming "Thank you PAPA !".

And my heart full of joy beats for whom, and why?

Marc Gregoire

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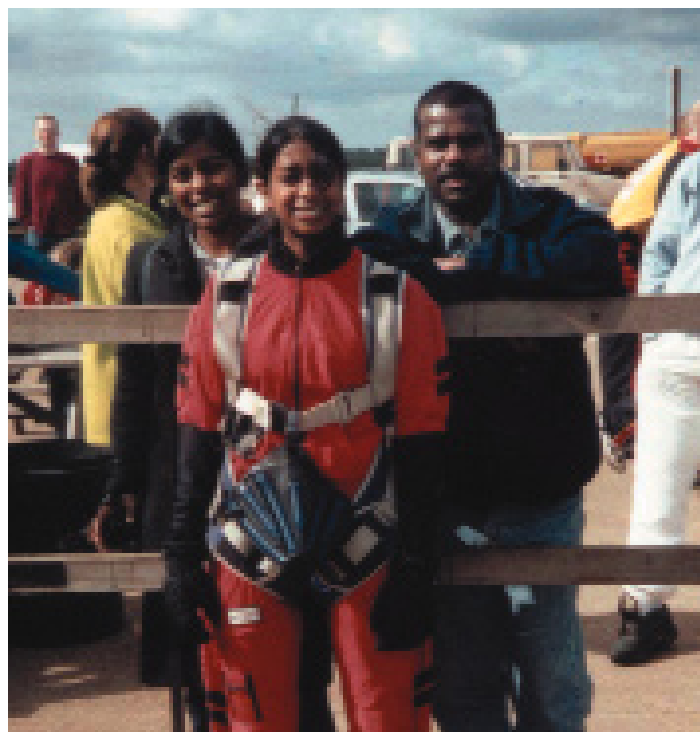
(Mauritius time).

Very interesting offer to
Mauritians who wish to invest
for the future.

May be later divided into small plots.

(Value of land may go up with the Government policy allowing foreigners to buy properties in Mauritius)

Parachute Jump for charity fund raising



Congratulations to Prescilla Sawmynaden (centre) on successfully completing a sponsored parachute jump at the North London Parachute Centre on the 19th May this year where she raised £500 for the National Asthma Campaign. The jump was from 10,000 feet which included a freefall down to 5,000 feet at 120mph.

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