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BRITISH-BORN MAURITIAN WRITER



E.E. Fry:

'A need to understand my heritage is my Inspiration'

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Mauritius Police: Right to form a union!

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At MN, we support any worker in their rights to form a union and the police officers too and we don't think people should be victimised for union work.



CI Hector Tuyau



British-born Mauritian student participated in London Triathlon

Vanessa Mootien: 'All my family in Mauritius are shocked, I swam in the Thames...' pg 9

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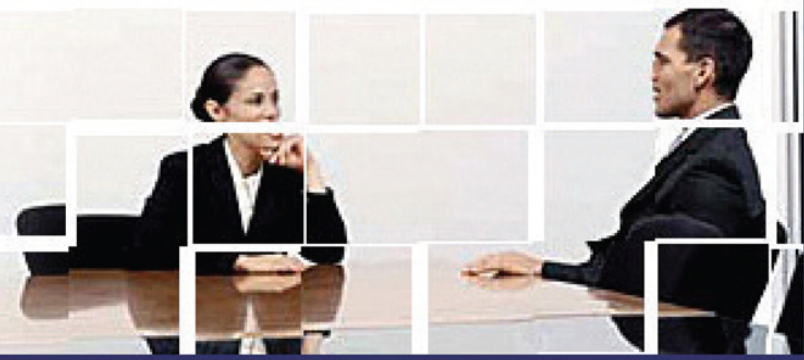
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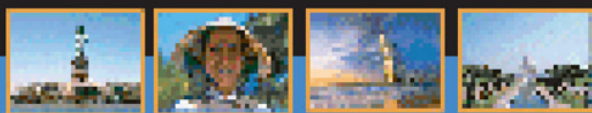
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Editor's Views!



Best Loser System: a scapegoat?

by Vijay Ram

Last month pronouncement of the UN Commission on Human Rights has raised passionate debates on whether the Mauritian electoral system should do away with the BLS. The nomination of an extra 8 MLA's since independence is seen as a safeguard for ethnic minority representation in parliament. The nomination of these 8 deputies is carried out on the basis of the score they achieve at the elections and of a declaration of their 'communities'. Rezistans ek Alternativ contested that they could not stand for elections as they could not say to which 'community' they belong as the population census was unhelpful as it has a 'community' monitoring dated back to 1972. The Human Rights Commission decided in their favour.

The government has been given a deadline to correct this irregularity as it is an infringement of the constitutional rights of an individual to stand for elections. So what are the options?

PM Ramgoolam has reacted quickly to say that it was about time to get rid of the BLS as he thinks we should not be thinking of ourselves as belonging to a 'community', but rather as Mauritians. He favours constitutional reforms to bring about a parliament of 62 elected past-the-post and 20 nominated on a party list. The MMM, through his leader Berenger wants to add another 8 deputies nominated by the party leadership to guarantee ethnic balance. The MSM wants the extra 8 nominated deputies to stay as it is, that it is left to the Electoral Commission to nominate.

There is another school of thoughts that favours an updating of the 1972 census and re-establishing the statistics relating to 'communities'. The MMM claims that the actual census system, introduced after the 1982 MMM-PSM absolute victory, has done away with the communal element. That we can't undo what was previously done. Let's here note that in established western democracies like the UK, ethnic monitoring is common management practice and is not seen as 'communal', on the contrary, they are required by statutes.

Everything is being proposed as against the background that the BLS is 'communal' and it is time to get rid of 'communalism'. The reality is that whether it is BLS or something else, people vote for those they can better identify themselves with. And this is a reality that is true to most parliamentary democracies of the world. That's why we end up having predominantly non-hindi speaking in No 19, predominantly Muslims in Nos 2 and 3, and predominantly hindi-speaking in Nos 5 and 11. The only way to 'mauritanise' the electoral habits is by political education, not by state imposition. The backlash could be dangerous and brutal.

The 1982 vague of change was done on the background of permanent mobilisation of the civil society: trade unions, students organisations, womens' associations and active intellectual participation. Even then, look at what has happened to our national game of football! Hardly a hundred of spectators on the 'gradins'. In the 80's our junior boys could match the likes of Ghana in front of 10, 000. Look at where they are today! And where we are! Look at what decommunalisation of sport has brought us as result 40 years later. It has killed the game and worst, the passion that goes with it! Communalism is still alive and kicking ... the game is dead!

Do we really want further ideological engineering when the people is not ready?

Police: Right to form a union!

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The Human Rights Commission is also looking at a claim by CI Hector Tuyau that he has been unjustly transferred from the Anti-Piracy Unit to a Port Louis station. The Police Commissioner will have to answer that the transfer was not punitive as Mr Tuyau is a lead member of the union.

At MN, we support any worker in their rights to form a union and the police officers too and we don't think people should be victimised for union work.

Send us your opinions and they will be published in the Editors Forum subject to editorial approval

INTERVIEW

BRITISH-BORN MAURITIAN WRITER



E. E. Fry: 'A need to understand my heritage is my Inspiration'

Writer E. E. Fry grew up in Hampshire, the daughter of an English policeman and a Mauritian nurse, later turned secondary school teacher. *Sugar Cane* is her first novel. Set between England and Mauritius the story weaves its way through the sixties to the present day. Described as a thriller, a murder mystery, a love story and a travelogue, it is a must-read for all book lovers. If writing a work of fiction is a journey, then, E. E. Fry has discovered many things about herself along the way. Here she answers questions for Mauritius News readers in her own unique flowing narrative style. Fry grew up in Hampshire, the daughter of an English policeman

by Mylene

It was a need to understand and remember my heritage that inspired me to write *Sugar Cane*.

My mother travelled to the UK from Mauritius in 1970 where she met and married my father, so you could say Mauritius is in my blood. That makes me bi-racial and bi-cultural, but it was not until my mother passed away in 1996 that I had to find a way to keep Mauritius alive within me. *Sugar Cane* was a way for me to grow up and to put together all the stories and gossip I'd heard over the years in such a way that would help me better understand where fifty percent of me had come from.

The cultural differences between England and Mauritius is apparent.

It is the similarities between our two cultures that I find most striking. For example, we are both island people, surrounded by a natural defensive moat. We no longer have an indigenous population just a collection of different races that have arrived at different times for different reasons. As a result of this those who have lived on the island the longest feel marginalised by those who have recently arrived. However, we try to live together as harmoniously as possible, not allowing the natural challenges of living in a racially and culturally diverse society impede our advancement as human beings. This is what makes our countries great – the successful coming together of people with different cultural perspectives, religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds. There is strength and wisdom in our diversity.

I find an inner peace when I read and when I write.

I read for three different reasons. First, to learn new things. Second, to escape and the third to experience various writing styles.

Iain Banks, Philippa Gregory, Robert Harris and Jon Krakauer are authors whose books I buy the moment they are published without even reading the blurb. Then there are books which I consider to be exceptional and which I have read too many times to mention. Jane Austen, of course and so many others. Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow by Peter Hoeg and *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy to name two. My reading list is quite eclectic really, from Will Self to Maya Angelou.

The greatest craft of a writer is to be aware of the world around them.

Being aware and to be able to interpret life into a written form for others to read and for them to make their own interpretation. Many people ask if any event or characters in the book reflect my own life. I'll leave that to your imagination. *Sugar Cane* is a work of fiction but certain situations within the book were inspired by real events in my life. A writer has to give something of themselves to be able to share a story. When you watch a film, your senses are dictated to by what is on the screen. Reading allows the reader to come to their own rendition.

Growing up in the 1970's - 80's in the UK with mixed parentage had its challenges.

My childhood was interesting. Those challenges I faced helped to make me the person I am today so I wouldn't change anything in my life. Beth, the protagonist in *Sugar Cane* experiences similar challenges like coming to terms with her ethnic make-up. I was very lucky that I had two very strong parents who were colour blind. I lived in a strange bubble that many of my school friends couldn't get to grips with. I was English, but didn't tick all the boxes. I suppose in good Mauritian tradition, the best way to describe my childhood would be through the medium of food...

...We ate rice, lentils and some form of rougaille every day.

When friends came over for tea they'd refuse to eat our food. Mum would have to cook them fish fingers and oven chips otherwise they'd starve. She'd make that tutting sound with her tongue behind her teeth, the

international sign of the Mauritian mother, as she placed the plates in front of them. Then she would heap rice and tomato sauce on mine. Whenever mum wasn't about for tea, dad would ask my sister and I what we wanted to eat and invariably we would demand Cornish pasties, chips, faggots, toad in the hole, fish fingers. This was our forbidden treat! Our little secret. My mother would always admonish him when she found out and appeared completely flummoxed as to how we could enjoy what she deemed as tasteless fatty food. Yet, for us it was like nectar from the Gods and a positive nod to our dad and our Englishness.

Writing is a solitary pastime, so you've got to be in the right "place" to be able to be creative.

Luckily I have a wonderfully understanding and supportive husband who encourages me to find that space and time to write and be creative. I've always thought I should have a writing routine, but like most flawed humans, I fail miserably when it comes to self discipline. When the spirit takes me I can go into my shell for weeks on end. In between writing my second novel, *The Earring Tree*, which depends heavily on historical research, I promote my book, *Sugar Cane*. I've always loved writing. I've written short stories as well as silly stories for children and rhymes. I'm happy just keeping myself busy.

Looking back, I would tell my 16year old self...

...not to worry so much. Stay positive, focus on what you want to achieve, maintain a bit of energy, care for your dreams and keep moving forward without fear. I think I've done alright up until now. There've been a few curve balls that have knocked me for six but you just brush yourself down and get back up. Isn't that the English/Mauritian way?

Food, sega music and Green Island rum

Those are the three constants whenever I visit Mauritius and without a doubt, food tops that list. Even after a 12 hour flight, the first thing I do is demand to be taken to Quatre Bornes market for my gato pima and dholl puri!

Don't bud. Just do.

That's my advice to any budding writer out there. Remember, if you've got a story in you, it's not a book until you've written it down on paper. Writing is a craft that takes practice and a great deal of effort. For me, to have someone read my work and like it, is priceless. Just like a singer needs to find their own voice, a writer needs to discover their own style and I'd say that is one of the most important voyage for a writer. I'd suggest reading the first few pages of your favourite book, then put pen to paper. Try out this exercise with a few different authors. Hone that skill and you'll be a writer my friend.

Cars fuelled by water and being able to get Mauritian food delivered to my door in Somerset....

.....apart from those two wishes? I'd like to keep my vision of the future under wraps. You never know what life is going to throw at you, so best not to make too many plans. I find happiness comes from being flexible enough to roll with the punches. The future becomes the present in its own time.

Sugar Cane is published by SandyBred Publishing.

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Revocation of licence of London Metropolitan University

Interview with Dimple Dhaliah, Solicitor



MN: We saw the withdrawal of the licence from the London Metropolitan University last month. The student world is up at arms on what they claim is unjust. What does the withdrawal mean to the University and more importantly to the affected students?
DD: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has withdrawn the licence of the London Metropolitan University which means that the institution has been removed from the Register of Licensed Sponsors and that students from outside the European Union are not allowed to study at the University anymore. This is a concern for international students only. Those students who are already studying at the University will be allowed to continue with their courses until they finish or until the end of the academic year if they meet the Tier4 requirements. The University will not be able to recruit new students from overseas and travel to the UK for studies. Their licence remains revoked.

MN: This revocation may affect the studies of some 2,000 students. The voice of the students opposition is that the timing was not right as it was just at the end of the summer holidays.

DD: There is never a correct time, however this is the beginning of a new academic year and such a decision has certainly affected the University and the new students who were about to start courses. Some of them may have already paid part of the fees and other travelling expenditure. This will certainly imply implementing refunds policies for those new students who now have to find alternative courses.

Following the new immigration regulations, the message is that people with no leave to remain in the country will not be accepted. This time the University has paid the price for it along with genuine overseas students. It is alleged that during a sample check, it emerged that 26 students did not have leave to remain. Also that there was a lack of monitoring of lectures attendance. Poor record keeping of English language tests and academic qualifications. The poverty of systems and failures drove the UKBA in finding the University not fit to remain a Tier4 Licensed Sponsor.

MN: What are the legal options available for those who feel unjustly aggrieved?

DD: On the 21st of September, Mr Justice Irwin of the High Court has given permission to the University to seek Judicial Review against the UKBA's decision. LMU will have to present a muscular defence against the claimed irregularities. They have argued that they have not been given a fair opportunity to remedy the problems.

The UKBA has operated a helpline for those affected by the decision and who need help: +44(0)207 133 4141, lines are open 09.00-17.00(GMT). They also have a help centre to answer questions and provide guidance. These options are for genuine students but not for those who may be in the UK without valid leave to remain or who do not meet the immigration criteria to be a Tier4 student.

These people will need urgent immigration and legal advice!

Help is also available at the desk of the National Union of Students.

MN: Is it a case now that we may need tighter regulations to avoid unscrupulous agents luring youngsters into bogus immigration scams?

DD: What has happened only affects the LMU, however it may damage the reputation of the UK as a top overseas choice for university education. Potential students might worry about the status of other universities and teaching institutions. The future of international students in the UK remains to be seen.

Indeed this will raise the question about bogus colleges. The authorities' efforts to tackle these have been great, but they still exist. The agents travelling abroad to lure students have adopted a number of new approaches to entice students into coming to UK with many unreal promises. The innocent students are only looking for a brighter future and many times they get trapped.

Individuals need to make verify on registration and accreditation before making any payment to agents. Most of the time it gets too late the time action is taken by the authorities and regulations are put in place. The current system in place should be reiterated and people should not make the mistake to think that the reviews have lapsed in anyway whatsoever.

MN: There may be Mauritian nationals among those affected by the revocation, what is your advice to them?

DD: In the first place to concentrate in their studies. If they have still more than one year of studies to complete at LMU, they should find out about the criteria of other universities about completing their courses after this academic year.

My ultimate advice is for anybody to seek legal advice before it gets too late.

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Royal College Curepipe: 100 bougies!

by Vijay Ram

centenary of producing the elite! These austere walls built in blue basalt have seen many a leader being born. The list would be too long, but let's just mention PM Ramgoolam and his father SSR before him. Heads of government, of the judiciary and the Police, top academics, leading figures in businesses, political and social work, in education and the arts, in science and research in agriculture and sports ... products of the RCC. Bravo! Hundred times ... Bravo!

The 1st of October saw the centenary celebration of this unique institution. The organising committee consisting of Amedee Darga, Rajah Pillay, Raheem Gopaul and Faizal Jeerooburkhan put together a calendar of activities at the Robert D'Unienville Hall with speeches from Michael Atchia, Serge Riviere, Raj Meetarbhan and Newruj Burton. Let me share my sense of pride to have belonged to this iconic school. My academic pathway was average in comparison. But the one thing I discovered within those walls was the germ of human

rights activism. Yes, the context of a transition from colony to independence helping, I still remember the underground after class hours of the 'Think In Society'. Facilitated by Vinesh Hookoomsingh, fresh from the May 68 culture, we would discuss current political issues, philosophical and ideological theories and prepare ourselves for future active engagement in political and social life. Many of us would later actively lead the Mai 75 student movement and eventually take responsible roles in human rights organisations, the trade unions and political parties. Thanks RCC! How could I forget the other wonderful moments we had at the Sport Inter College, the College Fancy Fairs or the only occasions the Loretto girls would be allowed in to watch Georgie Espitallier Noel and Serge Kimoune performing Moliere! Thank you Royal College to have offered me the tools to be the human being I now am!

Terrae Quis Fructus Apertae!



Child rapist gets 12 years!



Prosecuted for raping a child of 11, Kamil Hossenbux was jailed at the Croydon Crown Court. Judge Ruth Downing sentencing Mr Hossenbux, in her judgment told the accused: "You had some perverted belief that she wanted to learn about sex. It could have turned into grooming. She is a young girl who has just started school. You corrupted that when you approached her. It was a case of deception. You passed yourself as a man of substance but you have a grubby criminal record and you are not a man of substance."

The Judge also stressed that Mr Hossenbux had serious sexual issues and that the rape he committed was made worse because he breached the family's trust. He was given the green light from the family to drop the girl to school and pick her up. In his defence, Kamil Hossenbux told the court that he was helping the little girl to learn about using the computer and pleaded not guilty. Kamil Hossenbux is well known in the Mauritian community and runs a home for the mentally handicapped in Croydon. He used to run a few business colleges in London and was engaged in massive recruitment of students, mainly from his office at Quatre Bornes in Mauritius.

CHAGOS**COUNTDOWN 2016**

Chagos Environment Training Course 2012

Training ambassadors for the environment within the community



The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) has started training sessions on environmental conservation issues for the UK Chagossian community. The aim of this training is to deliver practical and theoretical sessions to the community to become ambassadors for the environment within their community. The participants have learnt more about the environment of the Chagos Archipelago during a nine weeks training. An intensive foray into the world of conservation...

Week one was dedicated to communication about conservation. The students received "basic training in film-making and planning, creating their own storyboard to help direct a film they will make throughout the course. To showcase their achievements and relay their feelings as they learn more about Chagos and its environment, the film will be edited and shown officially at a graduation ceremony later this year", can we read on the ZSL website.

Yannick Mandarin, one of the participants told on the ZSL blog that this was a unique experience for him. "The first workshop was amazing. I met Xavier, Rebecca and Jon who have done a fabulous job introducing the new course to the Chagossian community and the

new generation to raise awareness about the ecosystem and what's happening in the Chagos archipelagos, bringing new opportunities to those passionate about the fauna and the flora to be part of protection and conservation programmes. My commitment to the course is to achieve a good level of understanding of the marine biology and terrestrial environment so I can pass it on to future generations, to maintain a good balance of the ecosystem for the future. As a team we will work together to achieve our target through motivation, dedication and inspiration."

Week two of the training was focussed on bird conservation and monitoring. Week three was dedicated to Coral I.D. and conservation. During week four the participants were introduced to Marine Protected Areas and Sustainable Fisheries. The following week was on communication strategies and evaluation. Week six - Land restoration and management - Hampstead Heath

More information about the training of the participants can be found on the Chagos Environment Training Course Blog 2012 [<http://www.zsl.org>].
Photo Credit: ZSL



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'Shirley the Poppy Fairy and the Little Girl Lucky' Mauritian author publishes first book

The globetrotter author Asha Jesrani's just published her first book 'Shirley the Poppy Fairy and the Little Girl Little Girl lucky'. The Mauritian author is very proud of this first novel and said to Mauritius News that "even if this book is written for children... people of all ages will enjoy it."

Asha Jesrani was born in Mauritius and later settled in Australia and United Kingdom. She currently lives in Dagenham, London. As many Mauritians in the United Kingdom, Asha Jesrani was working in the care industry for almost 12 years "until she became a homemaker in 2009. She is married to a doctor and mother of two sons. Her adventure into storytelling started with the bedtime stories that she used to read to her elder son. The story developed and turned into a wonderful journey. Storytelling became part of her life, and she started to enjoy it and to create new protagonists for the stories. "She came with a new inspirations, love, and wonderful ideas, which she has never taken seriously. And she says a special thank-you to her son John for making it happen. This is her first children's storybook. She really hopes reading the story will change some children's lives. Nowadays, loads of children are probably unaware of fairies. Fairies do exist, and fairies love to help children because they have pure hearts. Asha sincerely hopes all children will enjoy reading the story", she explained on the cover of her book. This book is about a little girl called Lucky. Her classmates

don't want to be her friend; she is a clever girl and does so well in her class. But Lucky's intentions are to help them to do well in the class too. She was upset and didn't know how to help her classmates, until Shirley the poppy fairy comes along and guides her indirectly. With the help of Shirley the poppy fairy, Lucky follows her heart and finally wins all her classmates' hearts and becomes their best friends forever. For Asha Shirley, the main character of her book is of "good influence for kids...I basically want children to have an example. Lucky is a very helpful girl always ready to support her friends and family. The book is available on Amazon.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Asha-Jesrani/139290986216030?fref=ts>



University of Wolverhampton's opens new branch campus in Mauritius



The first students have now all started their courses at the University of Wolverhampton's new branch campus in Mauritius.

The official launch of the new campus in the Cybercity at Ebene took place on 26 March 2012.

Now around 100 students have enrolled at the campus for degree courses in Law and an MA in education.

The Mauritius branch campus is run in partnership with the Ramnath Jeetah Trust and additional courses will be launched for delivery during the academic year 2012/13. University of Wolverhampton Chancellor, the Rt Hon Lord Paul of Marleybone, said: "The Wolverhampton initiative in Mauritius responds to one of the most significant trends in the area of higher education – the internationalisation of learning and the value of transferring and sharing knowledge."

University of Wolverhampton Vice-Chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer, said: "It's very exciting following all the work setting up the campus that we now have courses running and students enrolled. It's another milestone for us."

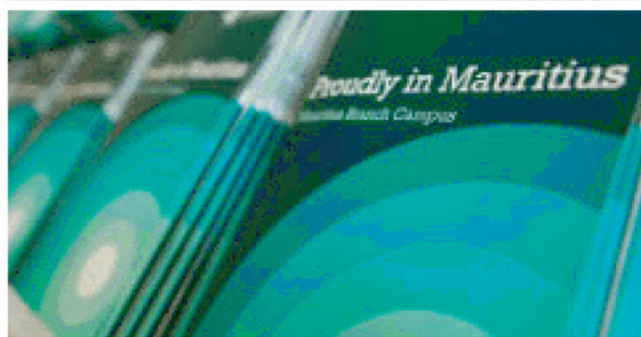
"Our focus at the University of Wolverhampton is to provide an excellent teaching and learning experience for our students, whether they study with us in the UK or overseas. "We already had many successful graduates from Mauritius who had studied here in Wolverhampton and we hope our new students will mirror those successes at the new campus." The University currently has 150 graduates from Mauritius, the majority of whom studied law. The University has already launched a Mauritius Alumni Association, with Wolverhampton graduate The Honourable Mr Yatindra Nath Varma, the Attorney General of Mauritius, as its Honorary President. The Hon. Mr Yatindra Nath Varma, is the Attorney General of the Government of Mauritius, a position he has held since 2010. He graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with an LLB (Hons) Law in 1998. The University of Wolverhampton has established links with universities in 30 countries and has over 2,500 international students from over 100 countries living and studying in Wolverhampton.

<http://www.wlv.ac.uk/>

Mauritius organizes two BSM in Africa
Enterprise Mauritius is organizing two Buyers and Sellers Meeting (BSM) in Africa in November. One event is planned in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 26 and 27 November and the second in Maputo, Mozambique from 29 to 01 December 2012.

GRF planning to celebrate 1st anniversary
The Global Rainbow Foundation (GRF), chaired by Armoogum Parsuramen, will celebrate its first anniversary on December 12. An Indian celebrity known for her involvement in social issues might be the guest of honour for reading on this occasion.

Registration for PBD Mauritius opened
Registration procedures to participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Mauritius 2012 have started on September 10. A total of 500 seats are available. PBD Mauritius will be held from October 26 to 28. Fees for Mauritians are fixed at Rs 1,500 while for foreigners it is US\$100. Those wishing to register can either go to the Ministry of Arts and Culture head office in Port Louis or at the Indian High Commission. Online registration is also operational on www.pbdmauritius.org. Apart from cultural activities (see our cultural diary), PBD Mauritius will include a business forum at Hilton Mauritius Resort and a business promotion event at Audi showroom. A conclave on Indian diaspora will be held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) on 27 October. The inaugural ceremony of PBD will take place at the Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre on October 27 and the plenary session on October 28 at MGI.



TIT BITS NEWS FROM MAURITIUS by Ahmad Macky

Preparation for Rio Olympic Games (2016) on
The Ministry of Youth and Sports has already begun preparations for the next Olympic Games in 2016 to be held in Rio. Minister Rittoo also stated that psychologists will be working with the ministry to mentally prepare athletes.

Eco-label on sea products introduced by end of year
The Ministry of Fisheries aims to boost the fisheries sector by introducing eco-labelling on sea-products. A tag placed on the products will certify that the products were produced in a sustainable, environment-friendly way. Minister of Fisheries Nicolas Von Mally said that his ministry is working diligently on the project and the labelling may be introduced by the end of the year.

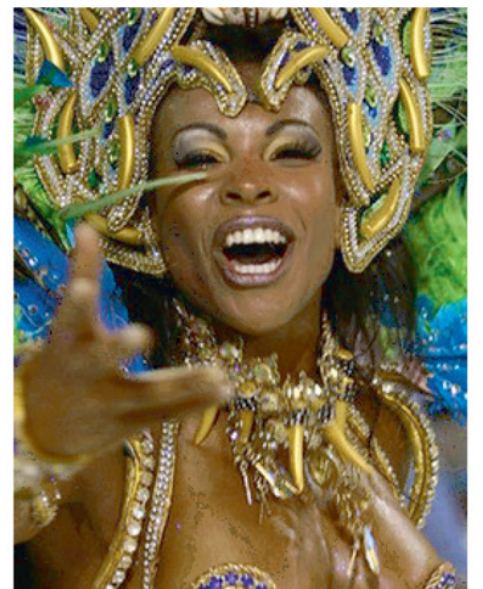
One student to attend Lindau Meeting in June 2013
In a bid to create a nation of scientists, the government is coming up with several initiatives to increase youth interest in science fields. One upcoming initiative is to allow one student to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting which will be held in Lindau, Germany in June 2013. This will give at least one student the opportunity to rub shoulders with Nobel laureates in the science field.

37th assembly of AACB in Mauritius in 2013
One good news followed by another. After the appointment of the governor of the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) Rundheersing Bheenick as vice-chairman of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB), BoM has been chosen to host the 37th assembly of the AACB in August 2013.

EM proposes forum on light engineering industry
Enterprise Mauritius proposes to organize a forum on the light engineering industry this month. The event will be an opportunity for operators and professionals in the sector to interact and discuss issues and opportunities. Foreign entrepreneurs will also be invited to participate.

Expression of interest for Foodex 2013 in Japan
After the success obtained by Mauritius in previous participations in Foodex (the country now exports rum and sugar to Japan) some local companies have already expressed an interest to be present at Foodex 2013. Enterprise Mauritius (EM) has been collaborating with JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) for the past four years, especially regarding the participation of Mauritian companies in Foodex Japan.

Côte d'Azur carnival in Mauritius in 2013
Following the success of the Flic-en-Flac carnival on July 1, MTPA is participating in Côte d'Azur and Nice Carnival in February 2013. Winners for various competitions held during the Flic-en-Flac carnival such as best costumes and best decorated restaurants were rewarded at a prize-giving ceremony.



Minority Protection

Inherent feature of a political system based on freedom and justice



Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam is reputed for his firm belief in the rule of law. Electoral reform is not a priority but politicians are obsessed with it and taking the population for a ride. When the PM says that the Best Loser System (BLS), a minority-protection system which has maintained stability since the times of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, « n'a plus sa raison d'être », surely he should have a better alternative which should make public so it can be debated.

by Rafic Soormally

PM Dr Navin Ramgoolam on the same wavelength of Ashok Subron of Rezistans ek Alternativ

The UN Human Rights Committee issue arose after candidates of the Rezistans ek Alternativ (R&A) party decided to flout the 1968 National Assembly Regulations at the 30th May 2005 general elections by refusing to select the relevant category (Hindu, Muslim, Sino-Mauritian or the residual category General Population) on their nomination forms in the knowledge that their candidacies would be rejected. They swiftly applied to the courts and Judge Eddy Balancy ordered on 10th June 2005 for their names to be entered for the elections. The Electoral Commission complied. None of the R&A candidates was elected. However, on 10th November 2005, the Full Bench of the Supreme Court reversed the decision of Judge Balancy. In 2007, R&A referred the matter to the UNHRC alleging that their Civil and Political rights have been infringed under sections 25 & 28 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Mauritius is a signatory.

Ahead of the 5th May 2010 general elections, R&A engineered the rejections of their candidacies again by refusing to select one of the 4 categories. Again they applied to the Supreme Court and the Judge Mungly-Gulbul upheld the law, meaning the 10th November 2005 decision of the Full Bench. R&A bypassed an appeal in the Mauritian Courts and applied directly to the Privy Council for special leave to appeal. On 20th December 2011, the Law Lords pointed out that the real motive of R&A was not the objection to the declaration of their candidates' communities but their political campaign to abolish the BLS which depends on those declarations. They threw out their case and advised them that this was a political matter and that they should challenge the Mauritian constitution through the Mauritian courts, which they did on 30th April 2012. This case is subjudice. However, while this case is still pending, the UNHRC came out with their report on 31st August 2012 clearly in support of R&A, but through unclear and contradictory statements. Although the UNHRC's recommendations are not binding on the way Mauritius conducts its internal affairs, they nevertheless gave the Mauritian government 180 days deadline to respond, and the PM has promised to do so.

PM Ramgoolam should ask for clarifications

The PM should ask for clarifications in what is without question a very confusing, contradictory and fallacious report submitted by the UNHRC.

1. The 2007 complaint lodged at the UNHRC by R&A concerns the fact that their candidacies had been rejected because they failed to comply with the regulations concerning declaration whether their candidates belonged to the Hindu, Muslim or Sino-Mauritian community by way of life, or did not so belong, in which case they were equally obliged to select the residual category of General Population. But Judge Balancy ordered their reinstatement and that was implemented. They did go to the polls and failed to get elected. Judge Balancy's decision was only

reversed after the elections. Should not R&A's complaint therefore have been rejected?

2. By coming out with its report when R&A has already challenged the Constitution on the question of community declaration and the BLS in the Mauritian Supreme Court, is not the UNHRC attempting, directly or indirectly, to interfere in the internal affairs of Mauritius and trying to influence the outcome of the case presently before the Mauritian courts?

3. The Article 25 of the Civil and Political Rights of candidates states the following : « Persons who are otherwise eligible to stand for election should not be excluded by unreasonable or discriminatory requirements such as education, residence or descent, or by reason of political affiliation ». But then, the UNHRC goes on to consider « whether the mandatory requirement to declare a candidate's community affiliation is based on objective, reasonable criteria, which are neither arbitrary nor discriminatory » (para.15.4, p.12). Article 25 refers to « political affiliation », but the UNHRC interprets it as « community affiliation » upon which it has based its recommendations. The UNHRC is under obligation to clarify as to why it has taken « political affiliation » to mean « community affiliation ».

4(i) Under para.14.1, p.11, the UNHRC states that « the issue before the Committee originated from the 2005 general elections and not from the 2010 elections and the provisions of the Covenant are not enforceable by national courts » and that « the cause of the violation appears to be the same, namely the requirement of communal classification. » (should be community rather than 'communal!'). But then, it contradictorily says that « community affiliation has not been the subject of a census since 1972 » and that « the continued maintenance of the requirement of mandatory classification of a candidate for general elections without the corresponding updated figures of the community affiliation of the population in general, would appear to be arbitrary and therefore violates article 25 (b), of the Covenant ». Hence, the alleged « cause of violation » is not about mandatory community declaration as it first stated, but with the fact that such declaration is based on an outdated 1972 census rather than updated figures. In its opinion, it is the alleged outdated census which would appear to be arbitrary and violates article 25 (b) of the Covenant.

PM Ramgoolam should therefore ask for clarifications as to : 4(ii) How the 2005 elections (the case before them) and the 2010 elections (the case not before them) appear to be the same when R&A candidates were allowed to field the 2005 elections but were disallowed in 2010, and how could appearance amount to violation.

4(iii) Whether the UNHRC is condoning and encouraging the deliberate flouting of the laws and regulations of Mauritius by any political party?

4(iv) How « the requirement of [community] classification » could be « the cause of the violation » and how, at the same time, it is the alleged outdated 1972 census which is the cause of violation. The UNHRC should also clarify on

which figures it decided that the 1972 census was outdated (hence its advice « to update the 1972 census with regard to community affiliation and to reconsider whether the community based electoral system is still necessary », para.17, p.12), how this appeared arbitrary and how such appearance could violate article 25(b) of the Covenant.

Importance of census

Like BLS, Equal Opportunities legislation also depends on community declaration although, in the latter case, it is not mandatory. The BLS can also be extended to include women. If the General Population category poses problem, given that African-Mauritians and Christians form the majority in that category, they should be identified separately. A Mauritian has the fundamental right to be identified by his/her community, religious or ethnic. Census data are used for numerous purposes and is an important feature of a modern society, a feature which has to be periodically updated irrespective of BLS. Mr Barboise Goburdhun summaries it beautifully when he says « A CENSUS is not just about finding out the total number of each community. It must ask for many other information so that the state can plan resources efficiently, and meet the needs of the people. With today's technology a census should be a breeze. An unplanned society is a chaotic society. » (l'Express 18 Sept 12). But the UNHRC is not in any position to say that the 1972 census is outdated in the absence of updated figures nor is it in any position to instruct any country how frequently a census should be carried out.

Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam is reputed for his firm belief in the rule of law.

The BLS is an adjacent reform introduced to ensure that minorities are fairly represented in Parliament because the FPTP system is defective. But what people are experiencing is not a fight against the FPTP beast, but against the taming BLS. Electoral reform is not a priority but politicians are obsessed with it and taking the population for a ride. When the PM says that the BLS, a minority-protection system which has maintained stability since the times of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, « n'a plus sa raison d'être », surely he should have a better alternative which he should make public so it can be debated.

No minority protection electoral system can operate without the identification of the community of the unelected candidate before or after the elections. Whichever the case, the present 70 MPs (62 FPTP + 8 BLS) should not be increased because Mauritius does not need so many MPs. Any reform should be based on a maximum of 70 MPs as Mauritians are not prepared to feed more politicians. Since the PM has promised to reply to the UNHRC, he should take on board all those very important aspects in the interest freedom and justice.

TIT BITS NEWS FROM MAURITIUS by Ahmad Macky

THE OBEROI IN WORLD TOP 100

The Oberoi Hotel in Mauritius announced last Thursday that it has been recognized in Condé Nast Traveller "World's Top 100" list for the second consecutive year. The Oberoi ranked 6th Best Resort in the Middle East, Africa & the Indian Ocean Region. This is an improvement on last year when the rank was 11th Best Resort in the region. The Oberoi, Mauritius is the only hotel in Mauritius to be featured in The "World's Top 100" list.

REGIONAL MARITIME TRADE

The Indian Ocean Commission discussed a maritime trade line with representatives of its member countries during a two day workshop on Monday 10th September in the presence of Minister Anil Kumar Bachoo. The Minister for Shipping told delegates of his faith in the project and of government's intention to help promote the project. The general secretary of the IOC (Indian Ocean Commission) underlined, during the opening of the workshop, of the importance of trade links as one of the sine qua non conditions of the sustainable development of the region and its integration in the global economy.

CALL EXPERT IN MAURITIUS

Call Expert, which is a reference on the outsourcing market in France for more than ten years, announced its installation in Mauritius. Call Expert will be the financial and industrial partner of ProContract, expert in Clientele Relations in Mauritius which has merged with Execom in 2011, a branch of CIEL group. Call Expert was founded in 2001 and its presence in Mauritius will allow it to become one of the leaders in outsourcing in the Indian Ocean. Call Expert is also present in Algeria.

CROP 2012 IN DANGER: SUGAR CANE MAY BE AFFECTED

Except in the East because of rainfall exceeding the normal and crop water requirement, the weather has been generally favourable to ripening despite the minimum temperatures being higher than the normal. Productivity levels are following the expected trends with lower cane yields in the North and West as a result of the drought spells experienced during the growth phase. Sugar production will be in line with the area harvested when comparing 2012 with 2011. However recent fires which broke in the North destroying vast acres of standing canes may affect the total sugar cane production.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT IN MAURITIUS AT A COST Rs 30 billion.

The government of Mauritius and the Singapore Government have signed an agreement on the 7th September 2012 about the adoption of the Light Railway infrastructure in Mauritius. The importance of a rapid transport system and the need to decongest our roads from traffic congestion during peak time have compelled the government of Mauritius to introduce Light Rail Transit in Mauritius the sooner the better. During his official visit to Singapore last September 2010, Prime Minister Ramgoolam discussed the Light Rail Transit system as a potential solution to address the issue of traffic congestion which has become a serious impediment to development in Mauritius. So the project of the Light Rail Transit is in the pipe line now. It is just a matter of few months where work could get started.

The Minister of Transport Anil Baichoo said on the occasion of signing of the agreement that the contract Mauritius made with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) is a good bargain. The Minister insists that SCE will have to deliver its services within 13 months as at a date and to recommend the best alignment option.

The Curepipe-Port-Louis corridor covers a length of at least 27 kilometres and such works will cost at least between Rs 180 to Rs 220 million.

Perfectly Imperfect World

The Paralympics

by MYLENE, LONDON

I was there at Excel the day Esther Oyema of Nigeria lifted 135kg, nearly three times her body weight, to set a new world record in the power-lift event. I admit I was prepared to be moved and inspired by the Paralympians, weren't we all, but to be honest nothing prepared me for the emotional reaction I would have. I was moved to tears watching the events. The sheer grit, courage and boldness of these athletes got to me and made me realise I was privileged to be there and to be able to watch such superhuman sportsmanship live.

Against all odds, these sporting men and women have pushed themselves through a gruelling regime to compete on a global stage. More importantly than just sports, the London Paralympics has brought people with disabilities into their own. They are living proof that you don't need a perfect face or body to be a great achiever and no one can look at a prosthetic limb without the word bionic springing to mind. The informal definition of bionic is to have superhuman strength or capacity.

Watching these competitors in their fragility and undisguised disability participate on an international level made me think that our preoccupation with beauty and looks is not only narrow, but shallow. Advertising has warped our idea of true beauty and we have unashamedly bought into the hype. So, it was a welcome change not to see giant in-your-face posters of airbrushed models promoting the beauty or fashion industry at Excel. The absence of such intensive glamorous promotion was refreshing and stimulating. With a little re-tuning, imperfection can be seen as one of the many forms of beauty and if the euphoric atmosphere at the games is anything to go by, this positive attitude will continue long after Rio and future Paralympics to come.

PATRICIA MUSTAPHA - 800m Women Wheelchair Race T54



"Like Scody I lost my leg when I was nine years old, but mine was due to an accident."

Born in the district of Pamplémousses she is married with three children. She admits there are not enough facilities for the disabled and much more could be done to provide transport to athletes for training purposes in Mauritius. 'I race in the T54 category. This is for athletes with normal arm and hand function. Some of us may also have some use of the trunk of the body and of the leg. I was up against some very strong rivals in this race and did not make it past the first round. Wheelchair racing has become a major sport and TV coverage of the games has made it mainstream not only to see these three wheeled chair races, but to see swimmers without limbs and volleyball being played sitting down. 'At these games we all push the limit of speed and skill,' ends Patricia. After seeing the London sights, Scody and Patricia returned home with dignity in the knowledge that they and all the other athletes at the games have changed the public perception of what the disabled can do.

Scody Victor



"I got an infection in my legs when I was nine years old and my leg had to be amputated, but I have never let this stop me from leading a full life."

A hairdresser by trade, he got into the sport in 2005. Standing at a height of 1.75cm and weighing in at 65kg, he trains twice a week at the Magic Quatre Bornes Sports club. In 2006 Clifford Benjamin became his trainer and he went on to win the EAD 50m freestyle gold medal in the 2007 Indian Ocean Games.

"Although I didn't win gold here, I came 7th in my category S9'. S9 is a classification created by the International Paralympic Committee to categorise swimmers based on their level of disability. S1 is seen as being the most disabled and S10 as the least. In the swimming category, S represents freestyle, backstroke and butterfly strokes.

'I love swimming and I also enjoy wheelchair basketball,' he says. Married with one daughter he would like her to grow up embracing his sporting motto: Always be a winner.



Mauritius at the Paralympics



Some of you will remember that Mauritius made their Paralympic Games debut in 1996 in Atlanta and was represented by two athletes. For one reason or another no one was sent to the games in 2000, but for the next three Olympiads including this one, the country has put forward athletes full of gumption and guts. This year, our two compatriots were Patricia Mustapha and Scody Victor. They take time to talk to Mauritius News.

Vanessa Koonjul and Ashvin Degnarain Olympics experience



In summary, Ashvin and I are both British Mauritian and live in London. We applied for the "Gamesmaker" role back in September 2010 and had an interview in Spring 2011. We found out that we would be working as NOC Assistants (National Olympic Committee Assistants) in late 2011 and the advantage we had in order to be selected for this role was having a second language: Creole. Ashvin and I met in May 2012 during one of the training sessions. After 6 months of training including 10 hours of driver training (in fantastic BMWs) we were delighted to be selected as NOC Assistants for Team Mauritius. Our role was to offer our services at the Olympic Village to athletes and officials, in addition to transporting officials to Olympic venues. We were very fortunate to work directly with the delegation - we had the privilege of escorting the team to the Olympic stadium during the opening and closing ceremonies and were able to support the athletes at their competitions. Ashvin worked closely with the female athletes who took part in road cycling and the triathlon. I worked mainly with the officials, driving them to competition venues and was able to support the Mauritian athletes competing in Athletics, Beach Volleyball and Boxing. Our NOC accreditation allowed us to access all Olympic venues which was very special. Volunteering at London 2012 has been the best experience of my life to date and I feel very proud for having worked for my parents' home country.



British-born Mauritian student participated in London Triathlon

Vanessa Mootien: 'All my family in Mauritius are shocked i swam in the Thames...'



It needs a lot of courage to engage into a difficult event like the London Triathlon. But British-born Mauritian dentistry student, Vanessa Mootien decided to participate in this event to raise money for a Charity supporting cancer research. Her aim was to collect a £1,000 and to finish the race. She finished in 2hrs 6 minutes. Congratulations to Vanessa Mootien who is now aiming to do the Olympic distance in 2013. She shares her experience of this event with Mauritius News.

'As a keen swimmer since a child, I used to swim for Essex. Whilst at university, a lecturer mentioned triathlons in year 2003, I was really intrigued, and my feelings were 'how inspiring, I'd love to do that!' Nine years later, Vanessa Mootien decided that it was her time. But she was aware of the difficulty of the task. 'Last year, in December I applied and pledged to raise £1000 to charity, my chosen being cancer research U.K in memory of someone I respect.'

'Throughout the year, I have been training and in the last week, the training was intense, swimming in a lake gaining some technique training, whilst also getting on the bike on the road for a 20k bike ride then running for 3-5k. This was exhausting, physically, but more the mental aspect, significantly, the mental endurance needed and strength, for one to actually get up at 6 am to swim in a freezing cold lake, or to ride a bike for a long distance before going to work. I've had some low times but after 6 weeks of training I got used to it. Well it became bearable and part of my life. Eating the right foods and drink helps, however as iv been away, this schedule was not adhered to 100% as the social part of my life also needed some attention!

'I didn't sleep for the all-last week. Fearing the unknown, the fact I was petrified of the swim in the Thames, being a pool swimmer. Open water swimming is so different and on another level, no lane control, temperatures then hit below body temperature (wetsuit always required for this reason), other competitors beating and swimming for space, kicking and hitting at every angle, and the most important reason, YOU cannot see in the Thames! However Saturday arrived, I stayed in Brentwood with my mum, excitement and nerves hitting my stomach I can't differentiate between the two..

My friends and family supported me and if it wasn't for them screaming the whole way through, I would have lost any form of encouragement.

I finished the race in 2 hrs 6 minutes. This was very hard and some dark times, I did try and have the mind set to enjoy this, so I did.

I'm not an athlete and I'm not skinny but I completed it and I'm proud! All my family in Mauritius are shocked i swam in the Thames...I am doing the Olympic distance next year! This was very hard mentally and physically. But I did it! I raised money for charity and did it! My family and friends who have supported me throughout and on the day of the event should be acknowledged too.

Navratri at the sound of Garba dance!



Sharad Navratri will be celebrated from the 16th to the 23rd of October to worship the goddess Shakti. The beginning of autumn is taken as sacred for the worship of the Divine Mother. The dates of the festival are determined by the lunar calendar. Navratri represents the celebration of goddess Durga. The festival and fast of nine nights culminates on Vijayadashami in fervour and devotion of the different 'roop' of Durga-Shakti.

The nine nights of fast and sacrifice are dedicated to the three avatars of the goddess.

First three nights – Durga Maa

Goddess Durga is a form of Parvati and she is depicted riding on a tiger, wielding weapons and killing demons, which represent evil forces and energies. Thus, symbolically, Durga destroys all of our impurities, vices, defects and help us gain purity and perfection.

Middle three nights – Lakshmi Devi

Lakshmi is the Goddess of wealth. There are many who consider her to be the most important of all. Maa Lakshmi destroys the demon of scarcity and poverty and grant inexhaustible wealth and abundance.

Final three nights – Maa Saraswati

Her name incarnates the true self which is all knowing and all powerful. Saraswati thus becomes the Goddess of education, wisdom, intelligence, skills, creativity. She wants the others to excel and stimulate creativity. On Navratri nights, she destroys the demon of ignorance and grants us knowledge and divine wisdom.

Navratri will be celebrated all across London in temples, community centres and town halls. They are celebrated in prayers in the form of Garba dances. Those in the Wembley region could go to JFS School, the Mall, Kenton HA3 9TE between 20.00-23.00.

Mauritian Reminiscences

The Bible Society of Mauritius turns bicentenary in November



Second from the left, Mr. Roger Murat, the first Mauritian to occupy the post of Executive Secretary of the Bible Society of Mauritius in 1974, and second from the right, Mr. David Cohen, an Australian, the first Executive Secretary of the BSM.

In a little more than one month the Bible Society of Mauritius will be celebrating its bicentenary. So to say, this institution is as old as the Mauritius Turf Club which has celebrated its 200 years lately. Time now to go down memory lane for the epic history of an organization that started as an auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

by Dodo

On November 11, 1812 a committee under the chairmanship of the Civil Chaplain, Rev. H. Shepherd, decided upon the formation of a Bible Society of the Islands of Mauritius, Bourbon and Dependencies, pursuant to the plan of the British and Foreign Bible Society, established in London.⁽¹⁾ The Governor, His Excellency General Warde, became the first President of the Society. However, due credit must be given to the first British Governor of Mauritius, Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar, under whose chairmanship "the first General Meeting was held on November 3rd 1812".⁽²⁾ The Society functioned for about twelve years, and finally collapsed in 1825 from lack of support.⁽³⁾ The bad economic conditions of the island, epidemics and so on made it impossible to maintain the work satisfactorily.

The Society did not completely disappear for faithful individuals kept in touch with London and continued to distribute Scriptures. Amongst them were Rev. Jean Lebrun and his son as well as Rev. L. Banks, Colonial Chaplain. On May 25, 1852 the Society was revived as an Auxiliary of the BFBS (British and Foreign Bible Societies). On 20 June 1852, Rev. Patrick Beaton wrote to the BFBS referring to the formation of the Auxiliary at a meeting held on May 23, 1852.

Uninterrupted existence from 1852 to date

From this date the Auxiliary continued to function with varying success, in spite of natural catastrophes such as cyclones, fire and flood, epidemics and fluctuation of the island's economy. Scriptures were taken to all the communities in Mauritius as well as to the surrounding islands namely Reunion, Rodrigues and the Seychelles. Scriptures were available in English, French, German, Hindi, Chinese, Gujarati, Urdu, Tamil and Telugu.⁽⁴⁾ They were sold below cost because of low income of so many purchasers.

Some great names in Mauritian Church History are connected with that of the Auxiliary. Rev. Jean Lebrun, first L.M.S. Missionary to Mauritius, Rev. S. Anderson who translated the Gospels into Creole, Archdeacon Henry Buswell, Rev. George Murdoch and others are mentioned in the minutes of proceedings of the Auxiliary. In 1950, Rev. Victor Butt, missionary with the Intercessor Fellowship took over the responsibility of the Auxiliary in Mauritius and with the help of one or two members, they kept the flame alive.⁽⁵⁾ The depot in Port Louis, the capital, was transferred from being just a shelf or two in a shop to a small premise.

150th anniversary of the BFBS celebrated in Mauritius

In 1954, a public meeting was held to commemorate 150 years of the British and Foreign Bible Society⁽⁶⁾ and from

that date an Annual Meeting, a Children's rally and an Annual Meeting of all Protestant Clergy and missionaries figured in the program. In 1959, when Rev. V. Butt left Mauritius, a new committee was formed. The following year, the Committee decided to ask the BFBS for a full-time agent. Mr. David Cohen came to Mauritius in August 1963 and he worked under the direction of the Bible Society of Kenya. From this time, the work developed into a lively organization still supported entirely by Protestant Christians.

The first Bible House was opened in Rose-Hill in November 1966. (Ibid) The Society changed its name to "The Bible Society in Mauritius" in 1968 when it became a National Office of the United Bible Societies - the movement founded in 1946 which groups the 141 Bible Societies around the world - shortly after Independence Day, March 12, 1968. Mr. Norman Hunter replaced Rev. David Cohen as Executive Secretary in 1970.⁽⁷⁾

The powerful Catholic Church joins the bandwagon

With the decisions promulgated after Vatican II, the sales of Scriptures to Roman Catholic Christians, increased considerably. The Roman Catholic Church was invited to send representatives to sit on the Executive Committee. Some Roman Catholic priests and lay people are now active members of the Society. The collaboration between the Catholic Church and the Bible strengthened as years went by. The first publication, especially for the Roman Catholic Church, was a Gospel of Luke in "Français Courant" printed in 1974. Twenty thousand printed copies then followed. Moreover, links with the Churches in Réunion, where more than 90% of the population is Roman Catholic have been established and strengthened since 1968. (Ibid)

In November 1974, Mr. Roger Murat, the first Mauritian, was appointed Executive Secretary. He had been Rector of one of the most prestigious secondary schools and an active member of the Diocesan Council of the Anglican Church. (8) Miss Violet Minton replaced him in November of 1977. The latter had been a member of BFBS Auxiliary since 1950 and was elected to the first Executive Committee. She had served in various capacities on this committee and finally became Chairperson in 1975. Miss Minton's term of office ended on 31st October 1979. Since then, Mauritians have occupied the post of Executive Secretary

From the 1980s down to the new millenium

As from 1 November 1979, Mr. James Li Hing took over but as he was called to take new responsibilities at the United Bible Societies Africa Regional Centre in 1980, Mr. Jean-Alain Moussié replaced him in May 1980. In September 1980, the Bible Society of Mauritius was accepted in the United Bible Societies family as an Associate Member and

became a Full Member eight years later. Since 1986, Mr. Marc Etive, following Mr. Moussié's nomination at the Africa Regional Service Centre, fills the post of Executive Secretary now restyle as Executive Director. (9)

Thanks to the support of the British & Foreign Bible Society and the German Bible Society, the Bible Society acquired a property in Eau Coulee in 1995, where it set up its headquarters. The development of the Mauritian economy has enabled the Bible Society to further develop its activities, fundraising in particular. In 1996, an Information & Fundraising department was created. In addition, at the time the government gave incentives to printing plants for investment in equipments, the Bible Society seized this opportunity to offer its services as a Production Centre to the Africa Region in view of allowing Bible Societies in this area have Scriptures at lower cost. Consequently, a Production Department was established in 1998 but was closed in 2005.

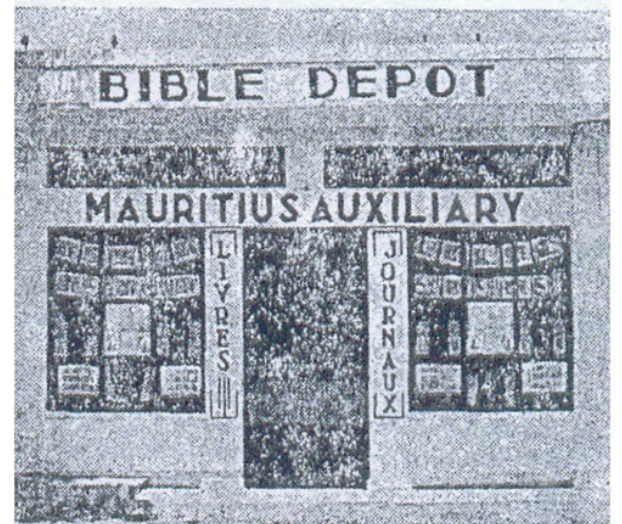
Translation is crucial in the life of a Bible Society to accomplish its mission of putting God's Word in a comprehensible language. Following requests from several Churches to have Scriptures translated into Creole, the Bible Society launched an interdenominational translation project of the New Testament into Creole in year 2000. Thus, in December 2002, the Gospel of St Mark, Levanzil Mark in Creole was launched at the Municipality of Port-Louis. (Ibid) Last but not least, the "Bible Society Resource Centre" was jointly inaugurated by the Secretary General of the United Bible Societies, Reverend Miller Milloy, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, at Trou-aux-Biches. (10)

Today at BSM: All for one, One for all:so;

Today, the principal Christian denominations (including the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II, as previously only the Protestant denominations were present on the Executive Committee of the Bible Society) collaborate fully with the Bible Society in its distribution program of the Word of God in Mauritius, Rodrigues, and Réunion. As regards the Seychelles, since its recognition as National Office in November 2004, the Bible Society of Mauritius is no more responsible for the work there.

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1. The first British Governor, Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar, who chaired the first General Meeting leading to the creation of a branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Mauritius in November 1812.

HOLLYWOOD & BOLLYWOOD by Mithila Seebaluck

Killing them softly

Director: Andrew Dominik
Cast: Brad Pitt, Ben Mendelsohn, Ray Liotta, Richard Jenkins, Sam Shepard, Scoot McNairy, Vincent Curatola, James Gandolfini

'Killing them Softly' is Dominik's third feature after The Assassination of Jesse James which also featured Pitt. He has adapted the 1974 crime novel Cogan's Trade by George V Higgins and updated it to the America of 2008, the era of financial meltdown and political conversion. Dominik demonstrates the political dimension in two parts. In 2008, US taxpayers were asked to bail out banks for the sake of self-assurance and reputation. These taxpayers also had to tighten their belts. Here, local clever guy Markie (Ray Liotta) has to be wiped out for robbing some other wise guys' poker game: he didn't do it, but someone has to be slaughtered for the sake of confidence and prestige, and hitmen have to accept a reduced fee in the economic climate. Hollywood's heartthrob Pitt plays Jackie Cogan, a hitman whose task is to investigate and tidy up the fallout from a bumbled amateurish hold up at a mafia protected poker game. Cogan is laid back and talkative; he is rough, leonine, dictatorial, snobby and casual. He is on top of his game but with a flaw. He cannot kill anyone he's met! He despise killing up close and is squeamish at his prey begging for mercy, so he kills at a distance. It is what he calls "Killing them softly".

Full of thrills and casually pessimistic, this drama revolves around tough weary men complaining about having to clean up the mess left by other screw-ups and not being given their due. It is a stuffy and reeking gloomy male world. Cogan is hired anonymously by Richard Jenkins. The robbers are the two jerks, Frankie and Russell, well played by Scoot McNairy and Ben Mendelsohn who together with their boss Johny "Squirrel" Amato (Vincent Curatola) must be killed. But Cogan guilty of sentimental incompetence subcontracts the task to his old friend Mickey (James Gandolfini). Mickey hilariously demonstrates he is incompetent for contract killings as he is now a heavy drinker and a prostitute addict. The blood spattering, mockery, quarrelling and bitching does not lead us anywhere. All it does is demonstrate a deep state of confusion and sorrow. The movie wants to hit hard, get down and dirty whilst also looking slick but it poorly manages to do so despite all the ironic overtones. However Dominik knows to exploit what the audience wants and what he's got. His treatment of Ray Liotta in a slow motion attack is a clever and smug demonstration that he's got the guy from 'Goodfellas' in front of his camera. Dominik revels in pride. Slapped with an 18-certificate for its violence, "Killing them Softly" is a shameless pessimist take on the change and hope promised to the United States in 2008.



BARFI



Director: Anurag Basu
Cast: Ranbir Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra, Illeana D'Cruz

The movie starts with an old man crawling out of bed, setting up a camera and sitting in front of it for a portrait shot. The camera zooms in every action hardly catching a glimpse of the actor. Until of course the camera clicks and you see a grey haired Ranbir Kapoor. You sort of get a heavy heart when you realise that this is probably a no 'happy-ending' movie but I couldn't have been more wrong. Barfi exudes the warm glow of a life well-lived! The story revolves around Barfi or Murphy (Ranbir) a deaf and mute handsome boy, Shruti (Illeana) a confused young woman and Jhilmil (Priyanka) an autistic girl. At its warm gooey heart is the story of a love-triangle between these three actors yet it is unlike any love-triangle you've seen before, especially the odd pairing of the deaf and mute Barfi and the autistic Jhilmil. Their handicaps aren't something you sympathise with as their unconditional love is unaffected by this fact which puts blinders on your eyes. By the time the climax approaches you almost find yourself wishing them to be together. The soul of the movie is undoubtedly Barfi. One cannot help but notice the Charlie Chaplin and Raj Kapoor influence that has shaped the character of Barfi. But Ranbir brings both the legends in the same line of vision, and yet creates a character which is unique in its enthusiasm and optimism. This is a man with no money and no voice, who lives by his quick wits. He is always one step ahead of the local cop, whose entire career seems to consist of chasing Barfi. But Barfi won't be trapped, either by his disabilities or his circumstances. He's a guy who cannot speak a word, yet every line he acts out on screen you're able to read in your mind even you don't know the head or tails of the sign language. That is the magic of Barfi! And then there is the surprise package of Priyanka

Chopra who steals the show from Ranbir, if that's possible. Priyanka's inherent personality disappears into her character. We don't see the 'actress' on screen at all! We only see Jhilmil who breaks your heart, numbs your eyes and makes you smile all in the same breath. Priyanka looks her part and her rendition of an autistic character is by far the best representation of this condition on Indian celluloid. A key factor why PC is so effective is Anurag Basu's decision to not give her dialogue. PC literally has less than 10 lines to speak in the whole film and it's her nervous silence that gives you a heavy heart. While Ranbir and Priyanka effortlessly prove they are the best actors of their generation, Illeana D'Cruz makes a confident engaging debut into Hindi cinema. Whether she's here to stay, time only will tell. But we have surely been lured by her refreshing beauty, quiet grace and worthwhile acting. Anurag Basu gives his film a jumpy narrative that juggles between present day, 1972 and 1978 with no particular order. This does create complexity but all of it has masterful detail and continuity. It is smart film design and this characteristic runs through Barfi right till the end. The reason it is so important is that the camera and the narrative are the fourth and fifth characters of this film. Pritam's music adds a nice silent-era charm to this already fantastic story, making it an occasion when words simply aren't enough. "Barfi!" celebrates life without dismissing the dark passages and obstructions that we often encounter as we travel through that rocky road to death. To be able to celebrate life so warmly and sensitively the filmmaker has to know death closely. Basu, a cancer survivor, has been there. Barfi is that rare film that can make you smile and cry in the same scene. Its technical brilliance is only outdone by its emotional complexity and death. "Barfi!" comes as close to being a modern masterpiece as cinematically possible. To miss it would be a crime!

Hollywood Gossip

Innocence of Muslims' actress Cindy Lee Garcia files lawsuit in Federal Court

The actress who has been subject to death threats filed her original lawsuit requesting for an injunction because she wanted to clear her name. This time she refilled her case in the Federal Court tacking on more claims to her suit which previously included unfair business practices, libel and fraud. The actress added copyright claims to the suit and is looking to sue the hundreds of people that reposted the video on YouTube is also asserting that YouTube cannot "lean on the safe harbour provision of the Digital Millennium Act [to show the video] because it failed to remove the video at the behest of a copyright owner".

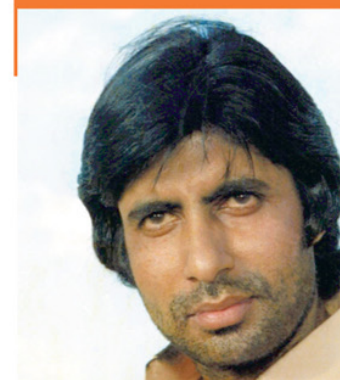
Nicole Scherzinger & Chris Brown – An Item?

Rumours are swirling round that the 23 year old singer and the pussycat girl might be more than just friends after a video of them kissing hit the web. Though their representatives denied the kissing, the twosome was definitely spotted getting cosy while hanging out with Will.i.am at Hollywood hotspot Supperclub. Well atleast this Chris Brown's romance report does not involve Rihanna for once.

Anne Hathaway to perform Cabaret for New York's Public Theatre

The beauty will hit the stage at New York's Public Theatre to perform in a one-night-only celebration concert. The Dark Knight Rises star will perform songs from the musical Cabaret on October 24, including, "Perfectly Marvellous" and "Cabaret," according to the Public Theatre's website. "I am delighted to reunite with The Public for this special night to celebrate the theatre's rededication, and support its mission to spread great theatre to all the people of New York", Hathaway stated.

BOLLYWOOD GOSSIPS



Big B turns 70 this October

Big plans are underway for Amitabh Bachchan's 70th this month. The decor, invitations and overall presentations are in charged by Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. This duo is known for its lavish and grand vision so one can guess the kind of treat AB is in for. A short documentary has been made for the occasion featuring some never seen before pictures of the actor from his birth to this present day. A book will also be released on the special day depicting the legendary actor's life. The party which promises to be the event of the year is said to be only attended by family and close friends.

Rani's Loss, Madhuri's Gain

Hurray! This bollywood queen will be seen in Gulab Gang. Produced by Anubhav Sinha and directed by Shaumik Sen, the script of the latter was firstly narrated to Rani Mukherjee. After the narration, Rani told them she will get back to them but after waiting for a few months with no response, the producer turned to Madhuri who said yes to the project. As we say, someone's loss is someone else's gain.

Wedding bells for Vidya

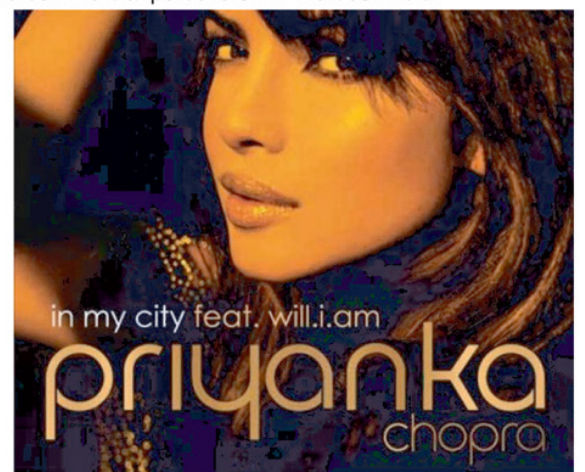
These two lovebirds have been playing the hide and seek with the media for a quite a time now. Vidya Balan and Siddharth Roy Kapur will allegedly tie the knot this December. Siddharth is the CEO of UTV Motion Pictures and has been dating the Oo la la girl for a few years now. Glad to see that this beauty queen opted to settle down but we also hope she continues to entertain us on the big screen. All our blessings and love to the couple.

'Barfi' is India's official choice for the Oscars

Anurag Basu's Barfi has been chosen to officially represent India for the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category. The decision was taken at the Film Federation of India (FFI). Starring Ranbir Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra in the lead, this movie about the love story of a deaf boy and an autistic girl has been massively applauded for its moving narratives. The simple yet overwhelming portrayal of the delicate and complex characters has been equally enjoyed by the commercial potboilers. All the best India!

Priyanka the singer!

Priyanka Chopra has released her first international debut 'In my City' featuring Will.i.am, produced by RedOne and Brian Kennedy. The album was launched on Thursday Night Football on NFL network internationally. Priyanka reported it being an enriching experience opening new chapters in her professional life. After its release in India, Salman Khan tweeted to have liked the song so much that he's listened to it three times back to back. Way to go PC!



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Introduction to Diabetes

by Dr Sadat Muzammil MBBS.MRCP.MRCPedIn



The prevalence of diabetes for all age-groups worldwide was estimated to be 2.8% in 2000 and 4.4% in 2030. The total number of people with diabetes is projected to rise from 171 million in 2000 to 366 million in 2030. With such high numbers of patients there are several complications. These can be debilitating and severely effect the quality of life of the person.

Diabetes is rapidly growing in the world. It has been reported that the incidence and prevalence of type 2 diabetes are increasing; it is projected that the total number of people with diabetes will rise from 171 million in 2000 to 366 million by 2030. This massive increase of diabetes comes with a huge socio-economic cost. The number of adults with hypertension is predicted to increase by 60% to a total of 1.56 billion people by 2025.

Hypertension affects approximately 70% of patients with diabetes and is approximately twice as common in persons with diabetes as in those without. Importantly, hypertension in patients with diabetes causes a significant increase in the risk of vascular complications in this population, and together both conditions predispose to chronic kidney disease.

I manage diabetes on regular basis and have a keen interest in diabetes and its complications. I feel that I should write about my experiences as a physician and make people aware about its serious implications. Therefore I have decided to write this article on diabetes and its complications. This is a 'nap shot' a bird's eye view' of the topic, for specific questions, please contact you primary physician.

Complications of Diabetes:
Diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) is a common complication of diabetes mellitus; up to 36% of individuals with non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus are affected by this condition, which is believed to be progressive and irreversible. DPN leads to foot ulcers, foot and toes amputations.

Effects on Heart, Blood pressure: Its effects can be seen as having myocardial infarction, end organ damage, angina, and congestive heart

failure.

Effects on Brain: Diabetes affects the brain and with association with hypertension it can lead to stroke, TIA, vascular dementia (memory impairment).

Complications on vision/Eyes: Different levels of blindness and decrease in vision can occur with poor blood glucose level, where high glucose and raised blood pressure can damage the small nerves and blood vessels of the retina, and they ooze fluids into the retina and eye-background and lead to a damaging process which causes blindness.

Effects on Kidneys: Usually started with oozing of protein and glucose from the kidney once the blood pressure and blood glucose levels in the body are persistently raised, this can cause an ongoing damage to kidney cells and their function deteriorates and causes a snow-ball effect on the renal function and if continuous to occur, can lead to renal failure. Diabetic Nephropathy is one of the common reasons for patients having dialysis.

Sexual side effects: Patients usually don't volunteer information and adverse effects of diabetes in their intimate life, but this can cause disharmony in a relationship. Erectile dysfunction, and dryness in female patient is common, this can be treated in most cases. Patients should discuss this with their family physicians.

Diabetes and its future implications:
Financial implications: In the UK, NHS estimates indicate that the NHS spends some 9% of total hospital expenditure on treating diabetes and diabetes complications. Furthermore, an estimated 10% of NHS hospital beds are occupied by people with diabetes. A report entitled 'Diabetes in the NHS' estimated a total cost of £3.5 billion per annum, over £9.6 million each day. (diabetes.co.uk). With such large numbers of patient world wide, associated with complication has huge financial implications on the health system.

One can only imagine what will be its cost value for developing countries, such as Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. According to recent consensus, countries like Pakistan, diabetes is going to spread like an epidemic. Pakistan is going to be one of those countries where diabetes will be the most common condition. Its complication will be extremely devastating for its patients in future.

Personal implications: This has no cost bearing; diabetes is a chronic and a life long condition which involve the whole body. It can lead to depression, poor quality of life. It affects family life, professional life, emotional damage and an increase risk for future generations.

Prevention: 'Prevention is better than cure'. Reduce the reversible risks factor can help delaying diabetes in high risk patients.

Regular exercise, weight loss, smoking cessation, diet. All these measures are helpful.

Medications: Treatment options for managing diabetes have prove dramatically in the last 10 years, now newer medications are available, both orally and injection form. Adequate control of blood pressure, renal function, vision is important.

Diabetes is a serious condition, risk reduction, adequate control of both the blood pressure and blood glucose levels are important. Patient should visit the family physician, ideally a doctor with a specialist interest in diabetes and its complications.

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DECOUVERTE by Robert FABRE

La Papaye



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Elle est très appréciée comme jus frais, comme dessert avec d'autres fruits, ou en confiture. La version verte, est utilisée en gratin, en salade, ou comme simple légume. Le latex qui s'y trouve sert à attendrir les viandes, surtout la chair des poulpes.

La papaye est plus riche en vitamine C que les agrumes. Son taux de vitamines A (carotène), est supérieur aux autres fruits. Elle est pourvue des vitamines du groupe B, en quantité, comparable aux fruits connus. Elle est très riche en potassium, calcium et magnésium. On y a relevé aussi la présence du cuivre, du zinc et de manganèse. Au fait, ce fruit est un grand laboratoire chimique qui peut aider à la bonne gestion de notre organisme grâce à ses propriétés anti-oxydantes et détoxifiantes.

Le jus de papaye fermentée

Faisant fi des richesses que possède le fruit frais, les scientifiques ont orienté leurs recherches sur l'extrait de papaye fermentée que le Professeur Luc Montagnier en aurait donné au Pape Jean Paul II contre la maladie de Parkinson.

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Death Announcement Frantz Henri Pecheur

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at the age of 76

Mauritius News offers its condolences to his wife Magda, his sons, his stepsons, his stepdaughters and great grandchildren. His sons in law and daughters in law and to all his family and friends in Mauritius, France and other parts of the world. May his soul rest in peace.



Editor: Vijay Ram
Deputy Editor: Julien Tuyau
Promotion Manager: Bryan Chellen

Collaborators
Paul Prentice, Ahmad Macky, Devinia Sookia, Dodo, Eddy Abraham, Claude Canabady, Ruqayah Khayrattee, Mithila Seebaluck, Robert Fabre

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