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24th Year

A meeting with Madan Dulloo, Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Cooperation Minister

Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Cooperation Minister Madan Dulloo has for some time been criticised at home for his travels abroad. It has been pointed out that on various occasions he made overseas trips to attend to official business which could have been covered by Mauritian Ambassadors in post.

Early in September, MN had the opportunity to meet the Foreign Affairs Minister in London to ask him about his mission to Belgium, his presence in the UK, and the visa requirement to France by Mauritians.

Mr Dulloo is chairman of the ACP countries in the WTO negotiations, spokesperson for the whole ACP Group in the Doha Development Plan negotiation, one of the negotiators for the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, and one of co-chairpersons to negotiate the documents that came out of the negotiations with the EU. Taking into consideration his many roles as spokesperson, as his statement below about his mission indicates, it may be inferred that this trip may be one of those occasions when his presence in the UK and Belgium may be considered as significant.

"My mission consists of meetings with ACP Ministers in the context of negotiations of the economic partnership agreement with the European Union, and to discuss the question of the Sugar Protocol in regard to the recent offer made by the European Commission to the African Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) countries.

So I'll be in Brussels meeting with my colleagues, i.e. ACP ministers and for consultation in order to present a common front on matters pertaining to the Common Partnership Agreement (EPA), but more essentially on the Sugar Protocol because at a recent negotiations of the EPA, the European Commission on behalf of the European Union (EU) has made an offer of free market access to the ACP countries on the European market for all commodities with the exception of sugar and other sensitive products.

This latest offer from the EU through the European Commission is tantamount to the dismantling of the Sugar Protocol itself. From the



point of view of the ACP countries, the EU cannot proceed with a unilateral denunciation of the Sugar Protocol by virtue of provisions in the Sugar Protocol itself, and provisions in the Common Agreement.

The EU should conduct a joint review in the light of changes and circumstances, in the light of negotiations within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to hold rounds of negotiations. So there should be a joint review by the European Union and the ACP countries in order to decide what to do with the Sugar Protocol and how to make any decision WTO-friendly.

So, when this offer was made by the European Commission for duty-free access except for these sensitive products including sugar, the underscoring was that at the level of the WTO, sugar should be declared a sensitive product so that there may be special provisions that would guarantee our preferential market for sugar on the market of the European Union.

Continued on Page 3

Visa requirement to France by Mauritian nationals is not yet abolished

Following report in the local press that Mauritian visitors will no longer require a visa to enter France, we are frequently asked by MN readers to confirm this information. They find it impossible to obtain a visa to France from the UK French consulate for relatives who come to visit them in this country.

We took the opportunity to ask Foreign Affairs Minister Madan Dulloo to elucidate this point for us when we met him in London in September. From the Minister's explanations, below, we can see that the visa requirement for Mauritian nationals has not been abolished yet.

"If everything goes well, if the negotiations are concluded, and all the administrative measures are put in place, as we expect, there won't be any visa problem for Mauritian visitors to France. But of course, the situation may be the same as for requirement to enter the UK where the control is effected at the port of entry.

Mauritius who wish to visit some countries of the European Union, including France, covered by the Schengen visa scheme have to apply for the visa at the French Embassy in Mauritius. The situation was chaotic when people had to go and queue up at the French Embassy as early as 4 o'clock in the morning in order to be able to make the necessary application. They were afterwards convened for an interview, following which they had to wait for the reply of the Embassy.

After representations made to the French Embassy, they changed their administrative measures to facilitate Mauritius to have an appointment etc, which is working well for the moment. But still, the PM and myself have made representations to the European Union (EU) and to member states of the EU concerned, and they have agreed to remove Mauritius from the list of those countries that require the Schengen visa in order to visit member states within the Schengen area.

But there are various steps to follow for these measures to be implemented. First there is the

introduction of the law and the regulations in order to remove Mauritius from the list of those countries that require the visa before entering the Schengen area.

After the necessary legislation has been introduced, the new regulations have been published in the European gazette, the European Council should give a mandate to the European Commission to come and negotiate with Mauritius.

After completion of negotiations with Mauritius, if successful, then the measures that have been spelled out and agreed upon during these negotiations will be officially implemented.

There are various steps to be followed. Right now, we have reached the stage where the European Council is giving the mandate to the European Commission. So, we expect very soon for negotiations to start in Brussels with the European Commission about the measures for which the Commission has obtained the mandate.

We have every reason to be optimistic that, in time, the necessary arrangements will be put into place so that there won't be any need for Mauritians to obtain a visa to enter France.

But at the same time, it must be borne in mind that the last word will rest with the immigration authorities at the point of entry. People will still have to go through the normal procedure, as they do here to enter the UK."



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Paul Bérenger makes a dramatic come back as the Leader of the Opposition. But what about his political ambitions?

The PM must realise that even the minority can make a major difference to the political scenery of Mauritius



By Santaram Santok *

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's Labour-led coalition government suffered a serious blow last month when the leader and deputy leader of PMSD, Maurice Allet and Eric Guimbeau respectively, decided to break free and return to the Opposition benches.

It is worth noting that the PMSD had formed the previous government in alliance with the MMM and the MSM, but months after the alliance's defeat at the last general election decided to join the new government of Ramgoolam unconditionally.

So what forced the PMSD and its leader Maurice Allet to return to the Opposition ranks? Apparently this follows a couple of recent public declarations made by the Prime Minister in which he was perceived to have sided with one section of the community, forming the majority of the population to the detriment of a minority, historically represented politically by the PMSD since its creation by late Jules Koening.

It is believed that Ramgoolam tried his best to stop the split but the PMSD members were so infuriated by his comments that they decided that enough was enough. Once in Opposition, PMSD announced that they were backing MMM and its leader Paul Bérenger and at the same time vehemently expressed their desire to see the return of an MMM-MSM-PMSD alliance government at the next general election.

The result of the PMSD's decision meant that Paul Bérenger, the MMM leader, was soon appointed Leader of the Opposition by the President of the Republic given that his Party, with PMSD's support, now commanded the larger number of MPs on the Opposition bench in Parliament.

The appointment of Paul Bérenger as the Opposition Leader meant the inevitable resignation of Nando Bodha (MSM) from that office. Bodha, in a similar quirk of fate, had ousted Paul Bérenger from this very same constitutional post, last year.

What goes around comes around! Judging by the way he was repelled by MSM's unrelenting efforts, although with a razor-thin majority, to oust him as the Leader of the Opposition last year, Paul Bérenger's determination is not in doubt.

The biggest loser in this current political debacle is undoubtedly the Labour-led coalition government which seems to alienate itself from a section of the community, squeezing itself further and further from claims of

working in the interest of national unity. For the Prime Minister, the sight of one of the coalition partners dissociating itself from his government is little short of a nightmare. PMSD's move is also set to deprive MSM of their much needed political oxygen, the party who until recently was claiming to be the strongest force on the Opposition, at least in numbers.

Whilst Paul Bérenger humbly announced that he was not too keen to grab the post of Leader of the Opposition, fearing to be seen as an opportunist, the MSM on their side had no choice but to accept their destiny. That is a bullet they had to bite.

It is obvious that all three Opposition parties want an MMM-MSM-PMSD alliance to fight the next general election. However, what is holding them back from entering into such a partnership are the modalities upon which such an alliance should be based. The MSM wants to form the next government with their Leader Pravind Jugnauth, if elected, as the Prime Minister for the whole duration of its term whereas the MMM is in favour of their leader Paul Bérenger (or may be his nominee) sharing the helm with MSM.

The idea of sharing the Prime Ministership proved a big success during the 2000 general election but this very same so-called 'winning formula' did not strike a chord with the voters during the last general election. If MMM was to have its way, would the voters accept the power-sharing as they did in 2000, that is Paul Bérenger holding the office of Prime Minister for part of an alliance government in power? As with everything else in politics, such an eventuality is very difficult to predict. It must also be borne in mind, how far is the electorate prepared to have Pravind Jugnauth as their next Prime Minister. He did not even get elected last time round when the country went to the polls in 2005!

The present government is rumoured to be facing a damaging split with the walkout of the PMSD. This is being looked upon as the precursor of a much feared dilution of the existing coalition in power. It is perhaps high time for PM Navin Ramgoolam to face the fact that coalition with unsavoury partners can produce undesirable blowbacks, which in turn could mean the Labour Party being exorcised and buried before the end of its term of office. PM Ramgoolam needs to rethink his concept of a national unity, which can only be best achieved, not by the perception of siding with one section of the community because of its numbers but by

bringing together the various components as he did two years ago. Such a strategy saw his return to power in 2005. With the breakaway of PMSD, the PM must realise that even the minority can make a major difference to the political scenery of Mauritius.

Paul Bérenger is definitely in much known territory as a seasoned Opposition Leader, and has also a proven track record of being a Prime Minister whose leadership was never brought into question insofar as the issue of national unity was concerned. However, whilst his journey as the Leader of Opposition has begun once again, Paul Bérenger has not silenced the doubts about whether he can reach his destination. For now he seems to be working towards a deal without committing to detail.

On the other hand, the move of the PMSD towards the MMM without any rancour or bitterness, and its allegiance to a future MMM-MSM-led partnership is not unprecedented and shows that the party has successfully renewed itself. Whereas, for the MSM, it has seemingly left all its options open. It is now up to Pravind Jugnauth to determine whether he wants to join Navin Ramgoolam or to rethink the modalities of his alliance with the MMM.

It has long been obvious that if he decides to go for the very unusual coalition with Labour, he will have to renounce all hopes of becoming the next Prime Minister. He cannot penetrate the ring of steel around Navin Ramgoolam as the Prime Minister. Whereas, if he does choose an alliance with MMM, as he has long been hoping for, he is assured the throne of the next Prime Minister in the event of a victory albeit not for the net duration of the term of the government. It is all a question of compromise.

With the Opposition grabbing most of the headlines, may be it's high time for the Prime Minister to quietly announce his much-awaited Cabinet reshuffle to claw back some public and media attention. Some of his Ministers might also avail themselves of a new set of clean slates amidst growing public disapproval of the way they are handling some dossiers of national interest. For the PM, at least, is the fact that he does no longer have to worry about creating any ministerial post for the benefit of the outgoing PMSD!

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Mr S Brumby of
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October 2007

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Meeting with Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation Minister Madan Dulloo

(Continued from Page One)

But now when the European Union is proceeding with the denunciation of the protocol, purely and simply, and inviting us to agree to a new arrangement of market access of sugar, we consider that this will undermine the advantages that the ACP countries are already benefiting under the Sugar Protocol.

I should point out, those ACP countries who are not signatories of the Sugar Protocol, who now want to accept this new EU offer of quota free and duty free entry but without the same preferences that we were benefiting on sugar, happy that this arrangement will allow them to enter the European market.

But then there is a danger that once this Sugar Protocol is dismantled and there is a free for all as far as access of sugar on the European markets, not only the ACP countries but other countries will also benefit. But most of the ACP countries, especially the Least Developing Countries (LDC), are not competitive compared to the other big countries. That's why we are telling the ACP countries to be very careful. There is danger there. Not only the Sugar Protocol countries will be affected but also all the ACP countries will actually not benefit from this new offer because they might be undermined, as with textiles and other products. Once those big countries move on those EU markets they will squeeze out altogether all the ACP countries.

Common Front

We are, therefore, now trying to have a consultation among the ACP countries in order to establish a common front to the EU. We want to make them aware of the danger. There should be unity, there should be solidarity among the ACP countries. There should be a common front to devise a common strategy to provide an answer to the offer made by the European Union. We are having meetings at the level of the ACP and were also having joint meetings with the European Union in Brussels.

UK Meetings

On my way to Brussels I am having

meetings with various institutions and members of the UK Government. I have had meetings with the Natural History Museum especially to carry on the work we are doing on the DODO research programme, on the question of conservation, and also on the establishment and development of some of our institutions like the Mauritius Museum, the National Institute, the setting up of a Dodo Gallery. I am having consultations on the action we are taking especially in the field of biodiversity and nature preservation.

Global Warming

I have had a meeting with the newly set-up Grantham Institute on Climate Change, because now we are having all sorts of international meetings dominated by the question of climate change and global warming. Even the United Nations General Assembly to meet this month (September) from the 24th onwards will be held with the main theme of Climate Change. We have high level meetings. Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam will be heading the Mauritian delegation on Climate Change and we shall be intervening in the field of adaptation and resilience on vulnerable economies like Mauritius.

Mauritius has taken the lead amongst small Island Developing States and is still holding the brief on Climate Change and Global Warming. So we have had meetings at Imperial College of Technology to seek a linkage, if possible, with Mauritius. Mauritius has the ambition of making Mauritius a knowledge hub in the region and we have therefore discussed the possibilities of support in capacity building, education, training, transferred technology, and the plan to make of Mauritius a centre of excellence. So, this why we are trying to establish cooperation with brand name institutions like Imperial College, Oxford University etc.

We have also had a working session at the Kew Garden because there are a lot of endemic species

Titbits from Mauritius

by Ahmad Macky

Bush in Diego Garcia

George W. Bush, United States President, stopped in Diego Garcia on his way to Sydney, Australia, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. The visit was scheduled with less than 12 hours' notice, and in less than 90 minutes Bush met with more than 100 military members from both the Navy and Air Force.

This visit is considered as a missed opportunity for the members of the 'Groupe Réfugiés Chagos' whose leader Olivier Bancoult declared on a Private radio: "I was very surprised to learn that the President of the United States visited Diego Garcia. Had we known, we would have done our best to tell him about the history of the island, that the Chagossians were deported and that the US should give us back the island. We will soon be meeting our lawyer and see how we can make the President consider the human aspect of the issue by addressing him a series of letters."

Tourist dies at Roches Brunes

The dead body of Danny Collie, a tourist of 73 years, was found burnt in his bedroom in the early morning of Tuesday September 11.

Police reported that the fire broke out at 22h40 the previous evening in the victim's apartment, a one storey concrete building situated at Père Arokium Street, Roches Brunes.

The raging fire was first put out by volunteers of the locality before getting the assistance of the Fire Brigade of Coromandel.

The scene was also attended by local police. The body was removed from the premises and transported to the mortuary.

The autopsy indicated that death was due to shock and extensive burns. Foul play is suspected and investigation is under way.

Drug dealer arrested

Police arrested at Riche en Eau a certain G. Sivatree, 49, a watchman at the local sugar estate for possession of Cannabis.

His house at Riche En Eau was thoroughly searched and police came out with 1.2 kg of cannabis, 200 grams of cannabis seeds, several dried stems suspected to be those of cannabis and a sum of Rs 22,000 suspected to have been obtained from drug dealing, three sheets of bluff paper and a marked kitchen scale suspected to be used to weigh his goods.

The watchman confessed to police that he was a drug dealer.

Ganesh statue blocks road

The 108-foot-tall Lord Ganesh's statue fell head over heels on Grand Bois Road near the Aquarel Factory last Thursday, causing a massive road block in the region over several kilometers for quite a few hours.

The statue was to be inaugurated the following Sunday on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturti celebration. The police and the SMF were called to move the statue and clear the traffic. There were no casualties.

Court case for Ilot Gabriel

After a series of demonstrations, the Common Front for the protection of Ilot Gabriel, turn to court.

The members intend to lodge a plaint at the Supreme Court to repeal the allocation on lease of Ilot Gabriel to Mr Fayraj Woosht and intend to discuss the conditions stipulated in the contract of the promoter. George Ah Yan, spokesperson of the Common Front, declared: "As from next week the Front will lodge a plaint and in the meantime we are verifying and cross-checking our information and documents that we intend to produce. We are also continuing to take people to Ilot Gabriel and hope to have a big group of visitors all the time."

Human Rights team from UK

A delegation of some 20 judges and jurists from the UK Middle Temple are expected in Mauritius from September 15 to 22. Invited by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Ramu Valayden, they will discuss various subjects pertaining to human rights.

During a meeting with the press Valayden also indicated the other activities that would be held at the Human Rights Centre for the next three months. "The arrival of the judges and jurists will coincide with a series of conferences we are organizing on several themes."

"The Prime Minister has intimated that we have to fill Human Rights Centre with life and a variety of activities to be organized by the Justice Ministry as well as by NGOs," the Justice Minister said.

Noise level standard

The Environmental Standards for Noise Regulations have been amended.

Noise level emissions, including Azzaan (call for prayer by Mosques) have been defined and classified under the 'Neighbourhood' section.

The authorized levels are as follows: from 7h-18h, 60 decibels; 18h-21h, 55 decibels, and from 21h to 7h, 50 decibels respectively.

In the industrial category the authorized noise levels are from 7h to 21h, 60 decibels and 55 decibels from 21h to 7h.

Privy Council to sit in Mauritius

The Registrar of the Privy Council, Mary MacDonald, is in Mauritius for consultations with the various parties concerned to ensure that the five Law Lords who will act on behalf of the Council in the island will have all the required facilities to conduct their session locally in accordance with established standards.

Mary MacDonald has met Attorney General Ramu Valayden. She lays emphasis on the security of files which will be submitted to the Mauritius session.

The first sitting of the Privy Council in the country is scheduled for September 2008.

Law & Order

Drug peddler arrested

A 56-year-old planter of *Brisee Verdière* was arrested last month by police on a charge of drug peddling.

He was caught by two undercover policemen who posed as customers. The product was wrapped in a newspaper and had a street value of Rs 10,000. His house was searched but no drug was found.

Brother attacks brother with molotov cocktail

A 67-year-old man residing at Sainte Croix reported to local police that in the night of September 11 he was awakened by the barking of dogs.

When he peeped through his window he saw a lighted object being thrown into his courtyard. He suspected his own 56-year-old brother, a resident of St Pierre, involved in an act of vandalism. According to him, it could be a question of vengeance. Fortunately, there was no injury nor damage to property.

The police team and officers of the Scene of Crime Unit visited the premises of the victim and found a bottle containing pieces of burnt paper. Enquiries still under way.

Gunshot attack at Goodlands

A 35-year-old resident of Goodlands, reported his wife found pieces of lead on his terrace and dents on his aluminium window.

He told police that on September 10, at about 8 pm while he was at his brother's place not far from his own residence, he heard two gunshots, but did not worry about it thinking that it was something else.

According to neighbours, two males were found running away soon after the gunshots. Police are on the track of the two individuals.

Unidentified body found

The Harbour Police attended to a body discovered near J.Kalachand Store situated at Caudan, Port-Louis, on Wednesday, September 12.

The body of a male aged about 30, wearing a blue T-shirt and blue jeans was found with injuries and his face covered with blood. The postmortem revealed that death was due to a fracture of skull with a subarachnoid haemorrhage.

The local police, police photographer, draughtsman, and some crime officers attended the case.

Suicide on the rise in Mauritius

Some 360 Mauritians commit suicide every year, most of whom are aged between 14 and 35. The suicide rate has increased eightfold in the last three decades. Official record claims that some 121 Mauritians committed suicide in 2006, a figure which according to specialists, should be multiplied by three.

Mauritius is no exception to the worldwide alarming suicide situation. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one million people die from suicides every year, and 10 to 20 times more people attempt at their own lives.

Befrienders' President, Ibrahim Sheik Yousouf, points out that suicides should be the concern of everybody. "The majority of Mauritians believe that suicides are the problem of other people, until some close relative or friend dies self attack." He points out.

Arrest of thieves in possession of goods stolen from hotel

Police arrested six men at Chemin Grénier in possession of property stolen from a hotel in the south.

Following several thefts in the hotel, police decided to take action. Undercover Officers, disguised as employees of the hotel discovered that the thieves were getting access through the back door at weekends. Two of them were nabbed while trying to enter the hotel, while the others were arrested after investigations.

Nurse assaulted by patients

A charge nurse at the Brown Sequard (mental) Hospital of Beau Bassin was assaulted by three patients last week. Seriously injured, he was admitted to the Dr Jeetoo Hospital (the old Civil Hospital) in Port Louis. His state of health is considered as serious.

The incident occurred when the nurse entered Ward 4 of the hospital to look after the patients. One patient who is in the same ward, jumped on the nurse threateningly with a broken bottle that he directed towards the victim's neck and injured him in the process.

Two more patients joined in the assault. The nurse pushed away his attackers and rushed to hide himself in an adjoining ward before shouting for help. The attack is being investigated by the authorities.

Tourist attacked in broad daylight

A 61-year-old South African tourist, lodging in a hotel at Pointe aux Piments reported that she was attacked in full daylight last Month.

The visitor declared that she was walking along the Coastal Road at Grande Pointe aux Piments when a motorcycle ridden by two individuals stopped in front of her. Both men struggled with her trying to pull off her earings but were unsuccessful. She has been injured in her left ear, right hand and attended treatment at SSR Northern Hospital.

However, the attackers snatched her handbag containing 1,000 Rand and a sum of Rs 200 before speeding away. With the help of volunteers, the brigands were arrested and handed over to Police.

Mauritian PM at the UN General Assembly

PM Navin Ramgoolam calls for bilateral dialogue with UK and France

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam appealed to the United Kingdom and France, two major and important economic, trade and development partners of Mauritius, for bilateral dialogue with Mauritius over the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin Island.

Speaking from the United Nations rostrum in New-York on September 28, the Prime Minister said the excision of the Chagos Archipelago by the colonial power at the time of the independence of Mauritius constitutes a dismemberment of its territory in total disregard of UN resolutions 1514 and 2066.

Furthermore, he added, it is also a violation of the Charter of the United Nations itself. The Mauritian PM requested the United Kingdom to engage in bilateral dialogue as soon as possible with a view to enabling the island to exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Concerning Tromelin Island, Ramgoolam noted the progress registered at the recent Mauritius-French Joint Commission. We fully appreciate the continued support of France and the United Kingdom in the development of our country. We have been striving to reach an amicable agreement on these issues but we cannot and will not compromise on our territorial integrity and our sovereignty over those islands, he declared.

The Prime Minister also spoke in favour of a permanent seat for India at the UN Security Council. This seat is long overdue. As the largest democracy and secular state, India is a living example of peaceful co-existence of major religions, cultures and faiths. India can be a source of inspiration as well as a testing ground for the outcome of the forthcoming United Nations High Level Dialogue on Inter-religious and Inter-Cultural understanding and Cooperation for Peace, he said.

Commenting on the situation in Myanmar where Buddhist monks are calling for a return to democracy, Ramgoolam said he was in favour of sanctions against the military regime of that country. He said that in 1997 he as Prime Minister took the decision to stop buying rice from Myanmar.

Ramgoolam spoke of the legal cadre set up in Mauritius to protect human rights. He also appealed for the launching of a Special Fund for the Least Developing Countries to help them struggle with climatic conditions. The Prime Minister confirmed the organisation in April 2008 in Mauritius of a conference on poverty eradication under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Issue of new banknotes

The Bank of Mauritius will launch a new series of bank notes to which Mauritians are invited to participate in creating the design.

It is one of a set of activities organized by the Bank of Mauritius for the commemoration dinner by the financial, economic and political establishments and will continue over the next four months. The Bank of Mauritius' Governor Manoo Bheneck also announced the forthcoming issue of a commemorative coin and a Rs20 coin.

Recruitment in the civil and police services

Reports of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Disciplined Force Service Commission (DFSC), for the period July 2005-December 2006, reveal that 980 posts were filled in the Civil service. According to the report, 43,691 candidates applied for jobs to the PSC. At the DFSC, 593 persons were recruited, among whom were 370 policemen, 83 prison officers and 78 firemen. The two reports were combined as the Public & Discipline Force Service Commission (PDFSC).

Mr Régis Yat Sin, who presented the report says that the information aims at establishing transparency concerning the activities of the two commissions. However, he underlines that the PSC and the DFSC are aware that constructive changes need to be undertaken to keep pace with the demands of an evolving society. The report points out that recruitment exercises are time consuming with pre-selections, written examinations and interviews.

Islamic Banking

The Al Barakah Multi-purpose Co-op Society Limited, pioneer of Islamic Banking, Finance and Insurance, organized a seminar at the Gold Crest Hotel in Quatre Bornes.

The objective of this seminar, which was under the theme of "Cooperation & Justice", was to sensitize Mauritians to the concept of Islamic Banking and Finance which is an active successful financial system in many countries such as Malaysia.

Speaking at the seminar, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development said that he was confident the Islamic banking and financial system has its place in the Mauritian financial environment. He added that 2007 will be an eventful year concerning the financial sector with the introduction of new financial systems. He encouraged Small and Medium Enterprises to invest in such a system which

provides direct investment and many more facilities.

Speaking at a workshop in Quatre-Bornes, the Minister estimated that Islamic banking combines the principles of justice and cooperation. "I am convinced it will work in Mauritius and that it would promote economic growth, efficiency, investment and access to capital", he said.

Sithanen added that this system should add to the economic dynamism noted in the island this year.

"This system would test the capacity of the regulatory institutions like the Bank of Mauritius and the Financial Services Commission in adapting major changes in this industry", he underlined. According to the Minister, Islamic Banking is worth a trillion US Dollars and its annual growth is between 15% and 20%.

Prison Officers learn human rights

A hundred newly-recruited Prison Officers have been initiated in human rights. "By knowing your basic rights and the rights of others, you will be better equipped to do your job", Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Rama Valayden, told them at a one-day workshop.

Various themes were discussed. These included human rights, the Constitution of Mauritius, sex discrimination, sexual harassment and the work of NGOs in prisons.

The objective is to upgrade the knowledge of the newly-recruited Prison Officers of the different subjects mentioned so that they can perform their duties with more confidence. A pocket-size copy of the Constitution of the island was also given to the Prisons Officers. The National Human Rights Commission has embarked since 2006 on a series of workshops/seminars aimed at creating the necessary awareness of human rights issues among different stakeholders.

Nutrition plan under preparation

The Health Ministry is preparing an action plan on nutrition to promote the health of the population by improving their food habits.

Jaya Veerapen, a senior official of the Ministry, said that such an action plan was necessary in view of the studies showing that Mauritians do not follow a good nutrition regime.

"The data have revealed Mauritians have very bad food habits, rich in oil, fat and sugar and low in fruits and vegetables. This is why they are prone to health risks", she said.

Results of a study done in 2004 reveals that 24.3% of children are obese; 17.8% of those aged between 12 and 19 are underweight, 8.4% are overweight and 7.3% are obese. On the other hand, 15% of adults (20/70 years) are suffering from diabetes, 23.1% from hypertension, 10% are obese and 23% are overweight.

Mrs Veerapen said these figures were of concern since the risks associated with them lead to cardiovascular and renal diseases, eye problems, sexual dysfunction and leg amputation.

National colleges increase to 12 from next year

The number of national colleges for admission into Form 1 will increase from 9 to 12 from January 2008.

The colleges are as follows: Royal College of Port-Louis; Droopmath Ramphul College; John Kennedy College; Queen Elizabeth College; Mahatma Gandhi Institute; Royal College of Curepipe; Sookdeo Bissoonoyal SSS; Dr Maurice Cure SSS; Gaetan Raynal SSS; Port-Louis SSS; Forest Side SSS and Sir Abdool Raman Osman SSS.

Human Rights Centre inaugurated

The Human Rights Centre, the first of its kind in the region, was inaugurated on August 30. It is located opposite the Supreme Court in Port-Louis. It has as objectives to inform and educate people about their rights.

"It is primordial that every citizen should be empowered and that can be achieved if people know about their guaranteed rights and apply them, and also respect other people's rights", Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam said at the inauguration ceremony.

A documentation centre and a library will allow the public to learn about human rights. Officers of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights are posted at the Centre to guide and help people through issues related to human rights. The Centre also comprises a conference room that can be used by NGOs and any other parties.

For Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Rama Valayden, human rights can only be a reality when all people are equal in rights and dignity.

A statue of Anjalay Coopen, workers' right female activist shot dead in 1943, was unveiled on the premises of the Human Rights Centre by the Prime Minister.

Community Child Protection Programme launched

A Community Child Protection Programme (CCPP) for the protection and the development of children was launched at the Municipality of Vacas-Phoenix.

It will help in strengthening the protection of children, sensitize people on the different forms of abuse and violence against children, encourage them to denounce all cases of abuse against children, set up first help and bring about the intervention of the society in the prevention of such cases.

Mauritius selected for the Montreal Protocol Implementers Award

Mauritius has been selected for the Montreal Protocol Implementers Award in recognition for the job done by the National Ozone Unit of the Environment Ministry in favour of the protection of the ozone layer.

The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel Champion Award was also given to Satecavé Seebaluck for his contribution to the protection of the ozone layer at local and international level.

Mauritius adhered to the Montreal Protocol in 1992. Since then, several projects in favour of the ozone layer have been initiated in the island with financial aid from a fund devised under the Protocol. Till date, all the provisions under the Protocol have been adhered to, which have resulted in the elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in 2005, five years before the deadline fixed by the Montreal Protocol.

Workshop for MPs

Members of Parliament participated in a two-day workshop organised by the Parliamentary Leadership Centre (PLC) of the SADC (Southern Parliamentary Forum in conjunction with the National Assembly, the Graduate Institute for Leadership and Professional Development, the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes and the University of Mauritius.

Addressing the MPs, Speaker Kailash Parryag stressed on the need for a parliamentary system that would be able to better respond to the needs and aspirations of society in the wake of globalisation and economic liberalisation for a healthy and progressive democracy.

He recalled that Parliament as the essence of democracy is "an organ that promotes human development, contributes to alleviate poverty, safeguards and upholds the freedom and dignity of all people, irrespective of colour, creed or race."

This workshop aimed at equipping MPs with cutting-edge knowledge and information to enable them to better understand their individual and collective responsibilities and optimise their performance. The workshop focussed on several issues such as building effective Parliamentary Committees; Parliament's role in the Budget process; gender mainstreaming; regional trade, development and integration; democracy and governance; and parliamentary-civil society relations.

NGO warns children of the dangers of the Internet

The Internet Child Safety Foundation (ICSF) has warned parents against the dangers that Internet represents for their kids who sit alone in front of their computers.

Director Mahendranath Busogpaul said that many Mauritian children have computers at home and more and more will have this equipment in the future with loan facilities made available by banks. However, he added, if parents allow their kids to have computers in their rooms, parental control over what they see or watch on their computers would be very difficult.

According to him, Mauritian kids stay between three to five hours daily in front of computers.

The Internet Child Safety Foundation was created in 2001 with the objective of protecting kids against the dangers of the Internet.

Alcohol consumption prohibited in public places

Consuming alcohol in public places, except on the beaches, would soon be prohibited by the government.

Health Minister Satish Fraser said that alcohol has become a scourge in the island. This explains the decision to ban it in public places and to control the opening hours of shops selling these products. "We will also review the physical distance that separates shops selling alcoholic products and school establishments", Fraser added.

One official at the Health Ministry indicated that seven out of ten cases of domestic violence are related to alcohol and more and more patients admitted to Brown Seaward Hospital suffer from alcoholism.

The PMSD quit government

The Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) left the government on September 17 following comments by Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam on some Mauritians.

Ramgoolam qualified these people as "dinosaurs." The PMSD had got two MPs - Maurice Allé and Eric Gérard. They are back in the Opposition and it is most likely that the leader of the MMM, Paul Bérenger, would become Leader of the Opposition again. He has got the full support of this party.

Presently, the distribution of MPs in the Parliament is as follows: Alliance Sociale : 42, Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM) : 11, Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) : 10, Mouvement Rodriguais (MR) : 2, Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais (OPR) : 2, Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) : 2 and Union Nationale : 1 Total : 70

Child abuse

A 4-year-old child was sexually abused by one of her neighbours last week. After denouncing the suspect, the latter was arrested by police.

He appeared at Bamboo Court under a provisional charge of indecent assault. The Child Development Unit and the police are still inquiring into this matter to find out whether or not other children have fallen victims of abuse.

Noxious Substance

During the week, a 67-year-old man residing at Grand Bois was taken to Nehru Hospital by one member of his family after he had absorbed a certain quantity of an unknown noxious substance at his place. He was admitted and his state of health is serious. The motive is not yet established and an inquiry is under way.

CID robbed

Strange but true. Thieves broke into the house of a police CID officer in broad day light at Nouvelles France, ransacked it and scammed with everything they could lay hands on. The objects stolen are valued at over Rs 50,000.

Four Chinese arrested

Four Chinese nationals - Chi Tak Wen, Ping Chiu Chu, Didi Wu and Zun Long Zhou - were arrested at the airport on September 9 last with fake British passports.

Police suspects them to be part of a clandestine emigration racket towards Great Britain. "They were going to work in Chinese restaurants in London against payment of a huge sum of money. Mauritius is being used as a transit point", one policeman said.

Unfit Food

The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life lost its case before the District Court of Curepipe where La Laiterie de Curepipe was sued for production of food unfit for human consumption.

During a surprise visit to this company, situated at Forest Side, on October 21, 2005, a Health Inspector from the parent ministry took some samples of the milk produced to be analysed at the central laboratory of the ministry.

Miss Chunnun, the laboratory technician who analysed the samples, drafted a report in which she incriminated La Laiterie de Curepipe for non-respect of food norms.

The prosecution lost its case for technical reason. Miss Chunnun was not summoned as a witness to confirm the content of her report.

Payment Scandal

Members of the District Council North have addressed a letter to the Prime Minister to inform him about an overpayment of Rs 14 million by the Council to a scavenging service.

According to them, this irregularity has been going on for the last 29 months. Sunil Soomaroo, a member of the Terre Rouge Village Council, is even asking for a Commission of Inquiry because to him the accounts of the District Council lack transparency.

The Chief Executive of the District Council has already ordered an inquiry, the conclusion of which will be forwarded to the Central government, assures Nitin Seetha, president of the council.

Repo Rate unchanged

After taking cognizance of the findings and recommendation of the Monetary Policy Committee, the Board of Directors of the Bank of Mauritius has decided to keep the key Repo Rate unchanged at 9.25% per annum for the coming two months. The last increase in the Repo Rate aimed at fighting inflation.

State Land Allocation

Saint Félix Worldwide Resort Ltd has applied recently to the Judge in Chambers for an injunction forbidding the Ministry of Housing and Lands, represented by its Permanent Secretary, to allocate the lease of State land of 30 acres vested in the company and the contract of which was recently rescinded to the benefit of Midas Acropolis Co Ltd.

In a notice served to Accropolis Co Ltd annexed with an affidavit, the applicant company averred that it could not understand why the land was allocated to the respondent company and confirmed having looked for information from the parent ministry, but was left in the dark.

Morne Heritage

The Morne mountain site is worth preserving because of its universal value, says the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam.

He was speaking at the opening of the "Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund site office" on Thursday. "The mountain must be developed while keeping its specificity and credibility because it symbolizes resistance to slavery," he added. The PM also announced the arrival of Professor Robert Shell, an expert in history and demography, on September 6 to set up a committee for justice and truth that will help foster national reconciliation.

Hearts patients

Heart patients in Rodrigues are complaining of the long, tiring travel they have to undertake to come to Mauritius for medical check ups. They have also travel for review cares after operations and this is causing much inconvenience to them.

They claim that patients face numerous health problems during their voyage. Those who cannot afford the expenses complain that review cures are costing them too much. "A few patients are taken aback and are scared to travel due to abdominal pain and backache. We make an earnest appeal to the government of Mauritius, through Dr Sanil Guiness, to send a cardiologist on a monthly basis for the review cures," says a heart patient.

Ashok Chundunsingh is new football coach

The Club M has a new coach. Ashok Chundunsingh has been chosen to replace Sarjoo Gowreesunkur who resigned after the defeat of the national team in the 7th Indian Ocean Islands Games held in Madagascar in August last. Chundunsingh is back at the top of the national team. He was replaced nine years ago.

The chairperson of the Mauritius Football Association (MFA) Prem Jodha said that Chundunsingh's job is to prepare the national team for the 2010 World Cup preliminaries to be held in South Africa and the 8th edition of the Indian Ocean Islands Games that will take place in Seychelles in 2011.

19,500 Road accidents and 140 Deaths annually

The increase in the number of fatal accidents is causing serious concern for the Government, the police and other stakeholders. Official figures for fatal road accidents are dramatically on the rise. The total number of road crashes as at June 2007 was 10,214, out of which 64 were fatal accidents, 202 were serious injury accidents and 819 slight injury accidents.

For the first nine months of 2007, 84 persons have died in road accidents compared to 71 for the whole of 2006. Alcohol has been identified as one of the main causes of these accidents. The Road Safety Unit figures point out that 67 persons have died from January to June of this year, 57.8% compared to the same period last year.

Concerning serious accidents there has been an increase of 68, 8% and these involved mostly young persons. Records also point out that 17% of those killed during the year had exceeded the authorized alcohol limit and that the increase in the number of crashes involved to a greater extent motor and auto/moto cycles.

Les Secrétaires généraux du Commonwealth et de la Francophonie font le point sur leur coopération dans le domaine politique et du développement

Abdou Diouf, Secrétaire général de la Francophonie, s'est entretenu ce lundi 10 septembre à Londres avec son homologue Don McKinnon, Secrétaire général du Commonwealth, dans la longue tradition de rencontres régulières entre les Secrétaires généraux des deux organisations.

Au cours de leur séance de travail, la discussion a porté à la fois sur les volets politique et économique puisque le Commonwealth et la Francophonie coopèrent déjà dans ces deux domaines. Dans le domaine politique, Abdou Diouf et Don McKinnon ont échangé sur la situation politique de certains pays membres des deux organisations, en particulier ceux qui connaissent des crises. Ils ont par ailleurs évoqué les possibilités de renforcer leur coopération en matière de prévention des conflits et de renforcement des institutions démocratiques et de l'Etat de droit à la lumière des Déclarations de Bamako et de Saint-Boniface pour la Francophonie et de celle de Harare pour le Commonwealth. Enfin, ils ont discuté des grandes questions internationales qui les préoccupent comme les négociations commerciales à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), la promotion de la bonne gouvernance et la question de la dette des pays du Sud.

Cette rencontre a également été l'occasion de faire le point sur leur collaboration dans le domaine de la coopération au développement et en particulier le projet intitulé « Renforcement des capacités en formulation, négociation et mise en œuvre de politiques commerciales ». Ce projet, mis en place avec l'Union européenne, vise à pallier l'insuffisance des ressources humaines et techniques en matière de négociations commerciales dans les pays en développement. L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) et le Commonwealth se sont ainsi engagés,

depuis 2005, à aider les 79 pays ACP (Afrique-Caraïbe-Pacifique) à s'insérer dans le commerce mondial, en mettant à leur disposition l'expertise de haut niveau leur permettant de maîtriser les procédures de formulation, de négociation et de mise en œuvre des politiques commerciales. Cet appui est d'autant plus important que les pays ACP sont engagés depuis 2002 dans les négociations d'accords de partenariat économique avec l'Union européenne, dont la date butoir est prévue au 31 décembre 2007. En outre, les deux organisations collaborent dans le domaine de la gestion de la dette publique. Des perspectives de collaboration ont également été envisagées entre la Francophonie et le « Commonwealth of Learning » par rapport à l'utilisation des technologies de l'information dans le domaine de l'éducation.

Le Commonwealth et la Francophonie partagent une vision commune des grandes priorités pour le développement des pays du Sud, notamment en matière de démocratie, de paix et d'Etat de Droit, dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation et en matière de développement durable et solidaire. La prochaine rencontre des deux Secrétaires généraux aura lieu à Paris en 2008. Pour rappel, l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie compte 55 Etats et gouvernements et 13 observateurs. Le Commonwealth regroupe 53 pays et 10 Etats sont membres des deux organisations : Cameroun, Canada, Chypre, Dominique, Ghana, Maurice, Mozambique*, Sainte-Lucie, Seychelles et Vanuatu.

Pour plus de renseignements sur la Francophonie : www.francophonie.org

National Maritime Museum (UK) launches new Atlantic Worlds

Gallery

The National Maritime Museum opens Atlantic Worlds, a new permanent gallery on 30 November 2007. The gallery explores the inter-relationship, connections and exchanges created between Britain, Africa and the Americans between 1600-1850, and looks at the impact legacy of the British Empire on the three continents.

The gallery presents four main themes: Exploration and Cultural Encounters; Trade and Commerce; Enslavement; and War and Conflict. They reveal how geographical exploration and the navigation of the Atlantic opened up new trade routes from the early 17th-century onwards and brought Europeans into contact with different cultures, setting in motion a dynamic of conquest and exploitation, as well as trading and cultural exchanges.

Paintings, prints and drawings, decorative arts and ethnographic materials are amongst the 220 objects from the Museum's extensive collections showcased in the new gallery. These include, a 16th-century Spanish astrolabe, discovered on the island of Valentia, in Co. Kerry, Ireland in 1845, gold weights, fashioned in the form of masquets, used for weighing gold dust by Akan people of Southern Ghana during the 18th and 19th-century, and a North American shot pouch made from moose and caribou skin, with porcupine quillwork embroidery and woven panels of triangles and rectangles reflecting Métis, Cree and Chipewyan influences.

The opening Atlantic Worlds marks the bicentenary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade which was passed by parliament on 25 March 1807. The Gallery displays new material relating to the

transatlantic slave trade including a rare and detailed daily logbook from the slave schooner Juverna, written by Master Robert Lewis, which records the vessel's maiden voyage between Liverpool, West Africa and Surinam during 1840-1850 and includes general observations on a classic Triangular Trade slaving expedition from England.

Atlantic Worlds examines the motivations and ambitions of Europeans, often making long perilous Atlantic crossings to reach the New World and places previously only reached by long overland trade routes. The gallery also explores the encounters and exchanges made by travellers upon reaching North America and West Africa with peoples including the Edo and Akan, sophisticated African societies founded on riches from gold mining and extensive trading.

By the late 17th-century, England had established colonies in North America and the Caribbean, with over 350,000 people having emigrated from England by 1700. These new colonies exported produce including sugar and tobacco and imported finished goods in return, such as woolen cloth. The gallery reveals how the triangular trade began supplying these colonies with enslaved Africans to work tobacco, rice and sugar plantations.

The wealth generated by the new empire of the seas underpinned population growth stimulating the growth of cities in Britain and fuelling the Industrial Revolution. The British economy moved from one based on agricultural work and domestic production, the one based on manufacturing and industrialisation, sustained by the wealth and goods acquired from overseas. From 1688 to

1815 the growth in Britain's population, wealth and empire combined to create one of the most powerful nations in Europe.

As the demand for cheap labour on plantations in Americas grew, enslaved Africans became the most valuable commodity for European traders. By the 1730s, Britain had become the largest slave trading country in the world. It is estimated that 12 million African people were enslaved in the course of the transatlantic slave trade, 3.4 million of them in ships of the British Empire.

Atlantic World recounts the stories of some of the people involved in the resistance movement and the campaign for the abolition of the transatlantic trade - including Toussaint l'Ouverture, Olaudah Equiano and Samuel Sharp whose acts of resistance and rebellion were crucial to the turning of European public opinion against the trade.

Britain's struggle to secure the future of its North American and Caribbean colonies and safeguard the associated commerce culminated in frequent conflict and resistance. The final part of the gallery explores important events such as the Seven Years' war (1756-63), which was fought between Britain and France and ended with the treaty of Paris and Britain gaining control over virtually the entire North American continent and acquisitions in the Caribbean.

The new gallery has been funded through the generosity of the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums and Gallery Improvement Fund, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (in memory of Mary A. Dracopoulou), CHK Charities Limited, Dr Lee MacCormick-Edwards, the Kirby Liung Foundation and the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights.

Lottery Results Last Month

National lottery results for Aug 2007

Sat 29 Sep 07	1 - 9 - 10 -
11 - 16 - 49 - 37	34 - 35 - 44 - 4 - 5
Wed 26 Sep 07	2 - 8 - 16 -
24 - 32 - 41 - 4	35 - 37 - 1 - 8
Sat 22 Sep 07	3 - 12 - 15 -
18 - 30 - 31 - 25	29 - 33 - 7 - 9
Wed 19 Sep 07	2 - 5 - 6 -
13 - 25 - 47 - 45	34 - 42 - 3 - 5
Sat 15 Sep 07	3 - 7 - 12 -
21 - 25 - 36 - 24	23 - 37 - 5 - 6
Wed 12 Sep 07	4 - 13 - 18 -
21 - 30 - 46 - 5	These results have been obtained from the National Lottery, Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprints or discrepancies in the results published in this column
Sat 08 Sep 07	4 - 10 - 20 -
24 - 39 - 49 - 31	
Wed 05 Sep 07	11 - 24 -
26 - 35 - 39 - 40 - 38	
Sat 01 Sep 07	3 - 27 - 34 -
41 - 42 - 48 - 8	

Euro Millions (Every Friday)

Fri 28 Sep 07	22 - 30 -
34 - 35 - 44 - 4 - 5	
Fri 21 Sep 07	1 - 17 - 32 -
35 - 37 - 1 - 8	
Fri 14 Sep 07	5 - 9 - 11 -
29 - 33 - 7 - 9	
Fri 07 Sep 07	2 - 3 - 33 -
34 - 42 - 3 - 5	
Fri 31 Aug 07	6 - 18 - 22 -
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News from Australia

Delicious Mauritius on Australian television



Eddy Abraham OAM, Melbourne

Channel 7 screened a six-minute promotion of Mauritius in its holiday destinations series, "The Great Outdoors", on Saturday 1 September. Bikini clad Jennifer Hawkins, Miss Universe 2004 described Mauritius as a "romantic holiday destination".

"What do you think you need on a romantic holiday?" she asked. "The food has to be A1 and of course has to look good and most of all it needs to be romantic", she said whilst whetting her appetite for a red hot lobster on the BBQ. "Well this place most definitely is Mauritius, just 8 hours on a plane from Perth. Mauritius is an island built for holidays", she added.

She described the weather as being always warm and the scenery stunning. "This is their winter ... sunny skies!" she remarked ironically.

Jennifer visited the market among a sea of vendors exhibiting their colourful fabrics. This is where she discovered the multilingual facet of Mauritius. "There's plenty of cheap shopping, especially the big market and everyone speaks at least a couple of languages. There's English, French, Mauritian Creole. Take your pick. But they all want to make sure you have a holiday that's right for you, your family, backpacker or whatever the budget, romantic extravaganza", she emphasised.

And a romantic extravaganza, she did enjoy. Jennifer Hawkins who praised the attractions of the Taj Exotica Resort & Spa in August 2006, this time went scuba diving and returned with stunning shots of the underwater world.

On board the yacht before her dive, she is heard asking the helmsman, "how do people get their privacy on the boat?", to which the answer was, "yes for sure you get privacy, because... ok... we are on board but we are here just to please, look after the client. The client is free". In fact she did manage to get her privacy while relaxing and reading a book in a pleasant cabin. Her reaction was, "ok, not exactly a huge cabin, but, hey, a romantic holiday..."

Jennifer described the rich variety of the Mauritian cuisines while being shown a fish curry, Mauritian style.

Her real contact with the fish however, was during the scuba diving experience, where stunning pictures of the sea world were shown. She proudly exclaimed, "Mauritius is surrounded by coral reefs. So if you do just one thing, get in the water, there's loads of fish, but keep out of their way. The fish was so colourful, really good. I like you all and I took all my shots."

Any visit to Mauritius would not be complete without a séga scene. Jennifer explained the dance as follows. "Mauritius is famous for its gorgeous sunset, and that's where you catch the national dance of Mauritius, called séga. It's not the polka, let's put it this way. It is the perfect dance to follow our romantic dinner". In fact, the romantic dinner was lobster washed down with French Champagne.

Romantic, was Jennifer's catch phrase throughout her report. However she paid tribute to her hosts by saying, "I'm just the reporter, you guys are the romantics".

A glimpse of Historical Lambeth

By Teresa Lloyd

Who comes from Lambeth? What gives it so much character? How did this London Borough originate? There are umpteen questions surrounding this south London Borough that I will not have the space to answer. But I can answer a few. I'm not a Lambeth resident but instead from its neighbouring Southwark but I have found this journey of research insightful. The premises of Mauritius News are based on the lengthy Wandsworth Road once a mere country lane probably a few centuries ago. But I agreed to write to form a series. So I start within the borough of this monthly Mauritius News to uncover the past of Lambeth. Readers all have an opportunity to think and reflect upon their own home location and compare it with neighbouring districts.

Research can be as complex and long a piece of string but in my research I have uncovered a treasure trove of fascinating details that I knew nothing before until I started to delve. The Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth was formed in 1900. Kennington is a contrasting mixture of rich and poor that possesses fashionable squares and terraces next to sprawling council estates. While Brixton is a noisy, colourful cultural mixture. Norwood possess a more Victorian character. But each area possesses its own unique charisma and charm mainly formed as a result of the shape and geography of uneven development.

As I have just started this Everest task of putting history together so that all readers can enjoy whether or not you are from Lambeth, I feel that Lambeth residents will feel proud to learn that William Wilberforce (1759 - 1833) lived in Broomfield Lane, later called Broomwood House in Clapham West Side. He successfully campaigned against the slave trade as an MP in the late 18th century, together with his friend and fellow MP Henry Thornton who lived nearby at Battersea Rise. They were both prominent members of the Clapham Sect and a plaque commemorating Wilberforce still exists on 111 Broomwood Road.

As March 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Britain, this has already been highly publicised in the media. Throughout the year, Lambeth Council is holding a series of events that people can freely take part in to mark the Bicentenary and look at the role Lambeth has played in both the slave trade and its abolition. It took 18 long years of campaigning until abolition was finally passed through Parliament on 25th March 1807. But not all were against the slave trade. Plantations in the Caribbean funded large suburban villas in South London. In the 18th century a group of local evangelists and Christians became known as the Clapham Sect, of which the Holy Trinity Church became Head Quarters. They met and worshipped here, a short distance from Clapham Common. Few realised he had an opium addiction but this condition was barely publicly known.

Learning about the history of Lambeth and some of its famous residents is like researching family history. Its important to research the past to understand the present. The 19th century saw the beginning of witnessed the slow steady development before the advent of railways from the 1840's. When the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth took over local government from the Vestry in 1900 they were confronted with lots of opposing forces. These included mistrust and south, poor and wealthy, industrial and semi-rural. Some lived grim and squalid lives in North Lambeth and Vauxhall while children picked blackberries in the country lanes of Streatham and Norwood and sheep grazed on Brixton Hill.

A housing crisis loomed during the turn of the 19th century north of the borough. Despite the philanthropic attempts to provide low cost housing by Victorian economists, they still failed to alleviate the growing problem of finding affordable homes. So the Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890 enabled local authorities to clear slums and build additional housing.

Fields and farms once thrived on the southern border of the borough. During outbreak of the First World War, between May 1915 and September 1916 Lambeth suffered the onslaught of seven Zeppelin raids. Lambeth experienced enormous damage especially to Streatham Common Station in which six people were killed. Seventeen incendiary devices hit Brixton. The Borough suffered the same trummers just like the rest of the country and it celebrated when war ended in November of 1918. There were street parties and dancing.

I found a lovely nostalgic picture taken during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee showing the Horse Guard procession along Westminster Bridge Road on 22nd June 1897. During this poignant event thirty six English and foreign Princes and Life Guards were included in the event. The post Second World War period triggered significant changes to the demography of the area. The effects of the bombing on London's housing created a vacuum of homeless workers. The war undermined morale and resources available. New housing suddenly became a major priority despite the shortage of building materials and workforce. Earlier architectural plans had to be abandoned and soon a thousand prefabricated homes got built. An extension to the Hemans Street estate off the Wandsworth Road was the first to be finished by Lambeth Council.

Lambeth attracted a highly varied population of different nationalities during the post war period, that reflects upon the present situation that we have today. The influx of Africans, Jewish, Polish and Italians have contributed to this highly mixed cultural clash. The SS Empire

Windrush in 1948 sailed round the world, was the first to sail through the Caribbean serving to both collect and deliver servicemen and civilians. The ship picked up about 500 West Indians to England who searched for new opportunity and a better living conditions in England. As the male workforce had fallen considerably in the aftermath of war, many West Indians were stimulated to work for London Transport and British Rail. The post war decade filled many immigrants with the harsh realities of living in a wretched foreign environment.

The 1960's heralded a wave of much new immigration from Africa, but records show that lot racism existed as we only have to look at the small ads from the south London Press to understand the climate of racism. Many were worded "whites only", "No coloured". So a long history of difficulty for finding suitable rented housing was created in the at least fifty years ago.

Lambeth, however wanted to shake off the low morale of the effects of war. In 1951 staged a highly effective pageant as part of Lambeth Festival celebrations on the steps of the Lambeth Town Hall to uplift the spirits of locals of Lambeth. The area of Battersea deserves to be mentioned, since the name itself originally comes from Batrice's Egg (Batrice's Island) coined when the original Anglo Saxon settlement was surrounded by marshland. Due to the highly fertile soil of Battersea it became famous for its market gardens hence the use of some of the agricultural names that have been applied to some of the street names such as Lavender Hill, Plough Road, Sheepcote Lane. Catherine Boulter grew up as the daughter of a market gardener in Battersea who later became married to William Blake. But due to the steady rise of the Industrial Revolution, the Market gardens and farms began to disappear from the mid 19th Century with the steady growth of small factories, railway lines and new housing developments. But at least the street names still bear the memory of times past.

Clapham Junction station is known as the "busiest station in the world", it certainly is

Eddy Abraham receives his Queen's Birthday medal



Eddy Abraham with Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Professor David de Kretser

On September 5, Eddy Abraham, MN correspondent in Australia, was invested with the medal of the Order of Australia, which was awarded to him in June this year on the occasion of The Queen's Birthday.

It was the Governor of the State of Victoria, His Excellency Professor David de Kretser, who presented the Medal to him. There were 162 recipients and Eddy was the only Mauritian among them.

Apart from the main medal, Eddy also received 2 miniature ones. A certificate from the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Major Michael Jeffrey, was also presented to him.

with about 2000 trains that run through it daily by the beginning of the 19th century. But not far away, in 1876 a local Brixton businessman James Smith made an unexpected large sum of money through gambling on horses. He put his winning to practical use by setting up the first purpose built department store and it was given the name Bon Marche in 1924. The title is French meaning being built on land previously occupied by market gardens in Brixton. Today it is a highly successful shopping centre thanks to the early enterprising zeal of just one resident who had a vision and knack for racing.

Another exciting development that has reflected the areas changing level of wealth is the apartment block on the corner of Clapham Common North and Cedars Road.

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Gabriel Islet lease

PM Dr Navin Ramgoolam warns against racism and is, in turn, accused of racism himself

In Mauritius, there is a much higher incidence of racism amongst non-whites themselves rather than whites against non-whites or vice-versa. I do not believe that the PM Dr Navin Ramgoolam is a racist as alleged.

Gabriel Islet is one of the many small islands surrounding the island of Mauritius. By Cabinet decision, the Mauritian government leased out part of the islet to Mr Jayraj Woosht (Director of Ocean Blue Island), an inhabitant of Triolet in the electoral district of Pamplemousses / Triolet where the PM Dr Navin Ramgoolam was elected. The PM is honest about the fact that he is a personal friend of Mr Woosht with whom he used to do sea diving in the past. Given that the conditions of the lease provide for environmental and ecological protection, the PM also vouches for Mr Woosht's love of nature and he makes it abundantly clear that if any condition is not respected, appropriate action would be taken. The object of the lease is to promote eco-tourism on the islet.

The Protesters' Case

However, this lease has become the focus of certain objections and various criticisms. Mr Danwarshwar Emarit, owner of a catamaran ferrying tourists to and from the islet for around 30 years wants to know what criteria have been used for the purposes of the lease and whether those involved in the exploitation of the islet have the necessary (ecological) competence. Also, given that hundreds of families in the north of Mauritius earn their living through activities to the islet, they find it unfair that the lessee has decided to charge Rs400 from tourists and requested catamaran owners to cease their activities.

Mr Georges Ah-Yan, member of a movement whose object is to save the Mauritian beaches ('Collectif Sov au la place') argued that, since Gabriel Islet was leased, its environment has deteriorated and that such degradation was caused by certain people who had extracted sand and cut down certain endemic species of plants and trees. A published photograph shows, as evidence, not the locations of sand extraction or the damaged plants and trees but the 'incriminating' garden equipment such as picks, rakes and sabres, allegedly buried in the sand in an open area and uncovered by ecologists and other operators in the exact spot. Mr Ah-Yan also argued that, because of the fragility of the islet's ecosystem, previous governments never wanted to lease it to anyone. He states that the reason the islet has now been leased to Mr Woosht is because he is a friend of influential politicians, the PM included. He is also against charging tourists for access to the islet.

The Government's argument

The Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam did not refute the economic repercussions on those affected by the lease of Gabriel Islet but he does come down heavily on Mr Georges Ah-Yan and his supporters. In a speech (Sunday 09 Sep 07) at Union Park, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the Union Park Hindu Samelan Sabha, the PM unequivocally states that the campaign against the government's decision to lease Gabriel Islet to Mr Woosht, and against Mr Woosht himself, is racially motivated. He points out that the environmental condition of the islet before the lease, with all its drug syringes, litter and garbage, was worse. He reminds his audience that a similar campaign was led when he returned *'Île aux Bénitiers'* to the Nabheebucus family from whom the lease was revoked by ex-PM Paul Béranger (a Franco-Mauritian) purportedly in favour of Ireland Blyth Limited, one of the top companies in Mauritius owned by Franco-Mauritians. The PM argues that because Nabheebucus and Woosht are of Indian origins, racially motivated movements make out that they are incompetent as if they have no right to manage the islets of

Mauritius

The PM makes it clear that he knows the identities of those who are financing such movements. In the same breath, the PM gives other examples of a resurgence of racism in the country. He mentions cases of racism against a Minister's wife who was refused entry to a hotel allegedly because she was wearing a sari, and against another Minister's son who was refused entry to a club allegedly because he is 'trop noir' (too black). The PM promises new laws to combat such racism.

On the subject of environmental protection, the PM prides himself of having saved the *'Valley of Ferney'* from the destructive hands of ex-PM Paul Béranger.

Voice of Hindu

Mr Krit Monahur of the *'Voice of Hindu'* speaks of the 'hidden agenda' of Mr Ah-Yan and his movement and asks why other islets managed by Franco-Mauritians, such as *'Île aux Aigrettes'*, *'Île aux Cerfs'*, have not been the subject of any such attack. Mr Ah-Yan justifies his non-action on the ground that he was a teenager at the time of the lease and was only interested in football.

Repercussions

Although the PM did not specify who the 'racists' were, it is clear that he was targeting certain Franco-Mauritians who probably own the hotel and the club which respectively refused entry to the sari-wearing lady and the young man.

By denouncing what he felt was a clear case of racism, the PM has been attacked as being a racist himself, and Mr Maurice Alliet's PMSD Party, with its two MPs, himself and Mr Eric Guimbaud, a Franco-Mauritian, resigned from the Social Alliance Government and joined the opposition bench comprising of the MSM / MMM alliance. The PM has also been attacked and criticised by various people, under their own names and pseudonyms, in various sections of the press. The PM refuses to apologise for what he had said at Union Park. In fact, he maintains his accusation of racism. Let us scrutinise this issue.

Analysis

Given the protesters' and the Government's cases as stated above in the Gabriel Islet lease affair, Mr Ah-Yan and his movement have the absolute right of protest while the PM also has the right to denounce racism if, based on the information he possesses, he felt that the protesters were racially motivated. Perhaps the PM should provide the public with more information.

Apart from raising the political awareness of the people through protests, what official complaints did Mr Georges Ah-Yan make to the government? Why does he now say, post-Union Park speech, that if the government does not allow people free access to the public beaches of Gabriel Islet he would refer the matter to the courts? Should not his recourse to justice have been taken much earlier in his campaign?

Do people accept Mr Ah-Yan's contention that he never complained against the lessees of *'Île aux Aigrettes'*, *'Île aux Cerfs'*, not because they were Franco-Mauritians but because he was too young and too busy playing football? If he were then, he certainly is not now. Will his eventual court case also include those islets?

Is the government using Mr Ah-Yan's protests as an excuse to deviate attention from what has been reported on both the government's and the PM's unpopularity in the country where people are in great financial difficulties and struggling to make ends meet, while the rich are getting richer? In spite of the PM's purported racism instigated by some Franco-Mauritians, generally, the Franco-Mauritians are those who are driving the economy of the country and any government should and do support them in a capitalist-driven economy. Why should the government target them, as alleged, when it is not in its interests to do so?

Conclusion

Part of the mandate upon which the present government was elected was to prevent the ex-PM's bias in favour of 'gross capital' and to share with the rest of the population.

Speaking out against allegedly racially-motivated protests in the Gabriel Islet lease affair amounts to a criticism and not an economic measure in resolving the 'gross capital' syndrome.

But the leasing of the islet to a non-Franco-Mauritian does show a departure from the concentration of economic power in the hands of the few, as promised by the PM.

Where I believe the PM may have slipped is when he spoke, as reported, in terms of 'nous bunne dimoun' as, he clearly identifies himself with the origins of Messrs Nabheebucus and Woosht.

Although the PM may have been justified in describing the protests of Mr Ah-Yan and his movement as being racially-motivated, he should explain, or withdraw if necessary, his reference to 'nous bunne dimoun'. He may be forgiven for having spoken in patois (or creole), which is a very confusing and an imprecise spoken language.

This problem would not have occurred had he spoken in a proper language. I do not believe that Dr Navin Ramgoolam is a racist as alleged since the treatment of events does not point in that direction. But to say that this issue signals the beginning of the end of the government is premature because general election is not for tomorrow. At the end of the day, the majority of people will vote against the government only if they believe the government has not improved their lives and not because they think the PM was wrong in feeling that Mr Ah-Yan was racially-motivated.

As far as the PM's use of the words 'nous bunne dimoun' is concerned, he should reassure those who feel aggrieved that it was not his intention to separate his 'bunne' from their 'bunne', but that it was merely a figure of speech (*à propos de parler*) to show people that Mr Ah-Yan's campaign was racially-motivated in that he targeted only Indo-Mauritians, including himself as PM, in the lease of certain islets around Mauritius.

On the other hand, Mr Ah-Yan should proceed to the courts to ensure free access to all our public beaches, not only to those of Gabriel Islet. At the same time, while taking appropriate steps through proper legislation to combat racism in all its forms, the PM should address the negative economic fallout on those affected through the leasing of the Gabriel Islet and, at least, offer them proper compensation.

On the issue of racism, people should note that this evil does take numerous forms, and not necessarily one of whites against non-whites or vice versa. In Mauritius, there is a much higher incidence of racism among non-whites themselves.

On a personal note, I would like to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the case of a racially-motivated attempted assassination of the identity of a non-white adopted orphan. She was represented by Ms Guy Olivry, won her case before the Supreme Court of Mauritius by way of judicial review many years ago. Her file has still not been actioned to the Civil Status Office by the State Law Office as agreed in court.

M Rafic Soormally

Ed. Note: Politicians are aware that every word they utter in public should be politically correct to avoid any ill-feeling among the population.

In spite of the racial harmony we proclaim to the world, there exists in Mauritius a permanent suspicion and an uneasiness among each community. Such a situation is, now and then, inflamed by one or other community.

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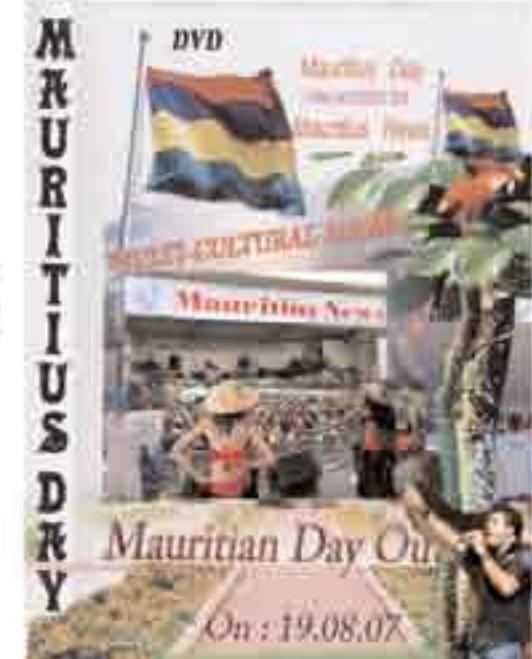
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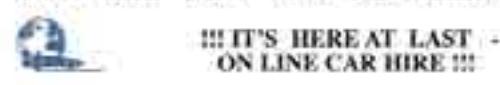
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Père Laval in Australia and London

A travers de l'océan

Mémoire Omniprésente du Bienheureux Jacques Désiré Laval

Une magnifique et émouvante messe fut célébrée en ce splendide printemps, le dimanche 9 Sept 2007 à l'église de St Jean Vianney Midgrave, état Victoria de l'Australie. — (Jean-Marie Vianney, Payssan, péniblement devenu Prêtre, Curé d'Arce, vit dans la pauvreté et la prière, rassemblait des foules — 1859 — Tant comme l'apôtre Mauricien, le Père Laval!!!

Cette messe annuelle était organisée par la VMPC (Victoria Mauritian Pastoral Council) fondée le 1er février 1973. Le thème de cette Eucharistie fut " AVEC PERE LAVAL, PAS ZET LEKOR!!". La communauté mauricienne s'était rassemblée en grand nombre, environ 800 participants, pour prier avec ferveur selon le désir de notre âme, — notre âme qui aime et vénère le Bx Laval car "nous rêvons non désir et nous vivons des Ainsi-soit-il" jusqu'au bout du temps que la Magistère Suprême de l'Eglise, — la Congregation pour les Causes de la Canonisation, à Rome aura proclamé le Père Laval comme Saint. "Deo Volente". Pour beaucoup d'entre nous, le Père Laval est le "Santo Mauritius Generis" — (saint de la race mauricienne.)

Pendant le chant d'entrée, "Dans la joie et l'allégresse" une procession s'est déroulée avec des bannières, notamment celle de la VMPC, Northern Mauritian Seniors, Stella Claviger et Rodriguan Society of Victoria; y suivait 3 séminaristes don't Richard Rose (mauricien), 2 prêtres et le célèbre Principal, le Père Anthony Denton (Australien). Des mots d'accueils furent présentés par Robert Feillauffé à tous ceux présents pour cette messe d'action de grâces.

Lors de son homélie, qu'il commença en François, le Père Anthony a souligné le cheminement du Père Laval malgré toutes les épreuves qu'il allait éprouver. "Vous êtes venus tous, comme Pèlerins du Père Laval, des quatre coins de l'île Maurice, de Rodrigues et de Seychelles. Avec le Père Laval, Pas Zet Lekor"

Ensuite il a continué en anglais. " Today is a wonderful celebration of Our Beloved Laval. This wonderful follower of Christ came from a wonderful Catholic family. His brother, Michael died in infancy and his mother died when he was only 8 yrs old. As J.D.Laval grew up he had to struggle to find, to get to know the Lord's will — His Vocation.

His father had spotted his intelligence and gave J.D.Laval opportunities to study at college. While he was away, tragedy struck again — his father died.

J.D.Laval had to decide first between medicine and priesthood. He became a doctor first. He went down the path of luxury, even missing Sunday mass. God intervened at this point in his life. J.D.Laval had a profound understanding that he was separated from God. He had an accident; he fell from a horse. He was lucky not to die. This was a catalyst — a call for

his vocation. So he became a priest after his studies in 1838. Like our community had to come to a strange country — Australia; like us, Fr Laval went to Mauritius from France. His message for the people of Mauritius, the people he was to serve was: "This is my Master, The One I serve, The One I want you to know, The One we have to love and follow."

Liturgie de la puote: 1^{re} Lecture par Patrick Brochard, 2SER (South Eastern Radio) 2^{me} Lecture par Hilda Rémy.

Prière universelle par les représentants de diverses organisations Mauriciennes à Victoria: Rodriguan Society of Victoria (Marie Bienheureux Jacques Templain) C.H.A.R.M.R.I.C., Désiré Laval Cultural Heritage

Association of Rodriguans (Patricia Kimtin), S.A.C.I.M. — Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius (Chantal Felix), Golden Age Club (Lise Toussaint), Northern Mauritian Senior Club (Sylvie Lagan Moseley), 3zzz Radio (Benjamin Rozenmont).

Après chaque offrande de prière on a chanté "Mater Tris, écoute sa la prière la".

"Dieu Tout-puissant, viens nous va guérir" fut le chant durant la communion. Après la communion ce fut un Hymne de réflexion "I will choose Christ".

Et le chant final "Le Christ est avec nous, laisse non tourne non Bonheur".

Après la messe nous nous sommes rassemblés dans la salle d'œuvre; exquatement décorée et avec confort, pour des rafraîchissements et snacks mauriciens (en abondance) dans un atmosphère convivial et fraternel. Ce fut le moment des retrouvailles et des discussions. Aussi c'était le moment propice pour écouter quelques artistes mauriciens; des chansons, des séga dances, line dances, J.Claude et ses disco et des autres artistes.

Renseignements à Lilete Louis, présidente et le comité de la VMPC pour avoir organisé superbement cette journée afin de fêter Le Père Laval.

Bravo au Père Anthony Denton, directeur des vocations de l'archidiocèse de Melbourne pour son bel effort en célébrant cette Eucharistie en Français sans oublier tout le soutien de Richard Rose, séminariste Mauricien.

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Check your health

Cancer of the Large Bowel

The Large Bowel

The large bowel or large intestine is what forms the last section of the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). The GIT starts from the mouth, and ends at the anus. Food is taken in through the mouth and digested as it passes through the stomach, small intestine and then passes through the large intestine where it is converted to faeces and expelled. The large bowel plays a central role in water absorption from digested food content and the formation of faeces (stool). It can be broadly divided into 6 main parts (Figure 1 below):



By Darren Patten
B.Sc. Surgery &
Anaesthesia
Imperial College London

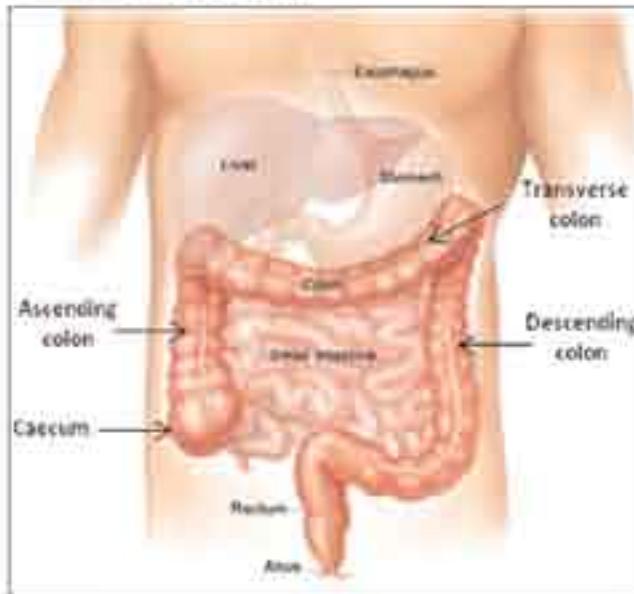


Figure 1. Picture of the GIT highlighting areas of the large bowel

Caecum
Ascending colon
Transverse (horizontal) colon
Descending colon
Rectum
Anus

Once food is converted into faeces, it is deposited in the rectum which acts as a storage compartment. Once full, faeces pass from the rectum to the anus where it is expelled. The anus is surrounded by muscles which contract and relax allowing it to open and close when required.

The large bowel is a structure that actively works day and night. The cells that make up the large bowel are continuously dividing and repairing to replace the worn out and damaged ones.

Due to this high rate of cell division and repair, the large bowel is a common site where cancer can develop. Cancer in the large bowel is usually referred to as colorectal cancer and can start anywhere, like from the start of the caecum to the anus, although cancer of the anus is relatively rare.

How common is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the United Kingdom, affecting men and women in equally. Every year approximately 35,000 people in this country are diagnosed with this disease and nearly 16,000 people die from colorectal cancer.

90% of people who are diagnosed with this condition usually fall into the 55 year old and upwards age group. On average colorectal cancer is commonly found in the 70-year-old age group.

Are there any risk factors?

The risk factors for colorectal cancer are:

A positive family history of colorectal cancer and cancer elsewhere

Having polyps in the large intestine - polyps are like little bulb structures made from cells of the large bowel and form outpouchings. The more of these a patient has, the greater the risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Ulcerative colitis - is a disease confined to the large intestine causing wide spread inflammation and damage. The cells of the large bowel then try to repair and divide to heal the affected areas. As a result, the likelihood of cancer increases with higher rates of cell division and repair.

Diet - a high-meat and low-fibre diet has been associated with colorectal cancer although the cause of this is not yet clear.

Are there any symptoms?

Most cases of colorectal cancer do not experience symptoms. The following symptoms may however, indicate colorectal cancer:

Unexplained changes in bowel habit that do not resolve - for example persistent unexplained

diarrhoea or constipation.
Blood in the stool

Unexplained anaemia (low levels of haemoglobin - a pigment found in red blood cells responsible for absorbing oxygen) - for example any adult who is not a menstruating woman should almost always be investigated by a colonoscopy. This is a flexible camera inserted via the anus so that the internal lining of the entire large intestine can be directly viewed (Figure 2)

Abdominal pain and detection of a lump in the abdomen. Intestinal obstruction - this occurs when the tumour occludes the tubular structure of the large intestine preventing the passage of faeces. This leads to abdominal bloating, nausea and vomiting, constipation and the patient may experience a great deal of pain.

Unexplained weight loss
Significantly reduced appetite

How is colorectal cancer detected?

Physical examination can be a poor indicator and rarely shows any abnormalities although an abdominal mass may be present. A rectal examination may reveal a mass in patients with rectal cancer.

Colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy (this is similar to the colonoscopy but it is shorter and can only visualise the rectum and the end of the descending colon) may reveal evidence of cancer (Figure 3 Below).

Blood from the stool can be sent for analysis but can give rise to inaccurate readings.

Full blood count - this may show evidence of anaemia along with low iron levels.

CT-Scan - may reveal an abdominal mass. This investigation is not very good at diagnosing colorectal cancer but rather, is very good at showing the size, extent of local spread of the primary tumour and the presence of secondary tumours in other parts of the body.



Figure 2: This is the normal lining of a healthy part of the ascending colon imaged by colonoscopy.

Treatment & Outcome

Surgery can be offered to early cancer stage patients to remove the tumour in the affected area. However, there are times when non-diseased parts of the large intestine are removed to ensure that the cancer does not return and the patient may need to have a colostomy bag which collects the faeces and requires manual emptying on a daily basis. Colostomy bags are used more frequently if the patient has had the descending colon and rectum removed due to cancer. Chemotherapy may also be offered after surgery to ensure that all microscopic cancer cells, not visible to the eye, are killed which will decrease the chance of the patient relapsing.

In some cases where the cancer is at an advanced stage (with the presence of secondary tumours in other parts of the body), chemotherapy can be offered to shrink the tumours in the aim to decrease pain experienced and thus improve the quality of life of the patient. Surgery can also be offered to "de-bulk" (reduce the size of the tumours - this is not curative) the tumours and pain killers are given to make the patient comfortable.

If colorectal cancer is caught at very early stages, the chances of remission and survival are very high but, in patients with advanced disease, the survival rate is significantly reduced.



By Devinia Sookia (US)

A more Humane Mauritian Generation



Ten years ago tourists were appalled to see the number of stray dogs and cats on the streets of Mauritius. This even made headlines in some newspapers abroad. Visitors to this beautiful tropical island were not only shocked by the ill-treatment of dogs and cats but also by the behaviour and mentality of many of its inhabitants. Dogs were kept as watchdogs, tied most of the time only to be released when dark and fed on leftovers and waste. Cats were kept only to chase rats and mice.

There was no consideration whatsoever for these poor animals. Those people did not think for one minute that dogs and cats are just like human beings and that they have feelings, understanding and intelligence. They need love and affection from their masters. The word "Pet" was unknown. Luckily today the situation seems to have somewhat improved though not much. However, there is hope for the future. Many of the younger Mauritian generation seem to be more caring. They take good care of their pets and seem to realise the value of pets.

Stray dogs and cats are less seen on the streets of Mauritius due to the good work of PAWS. Its work has included education of young school children on pets as well as adoption and sterilisation programs. PAWS is an organisation looking after the welfare of animals throughout the island. It is situated at Domaine Rivière La Chaux, Beau Vallon, Mahebourg. Though it has several employees, most of the people helping at PAWS are volunteers. It was founded in July 1999 by a small group of animal lovers who were very troubled by the terrible condition of domestic and stray dogs and cats on the island. These people were also distressed by the population's ignorance in matters of pet care and the lack of access to veterinary care.

Initially, PAWS volunteers concentrated on helping wounded and sick animals around the island and the re-homing of abandoned animals. They tried to find homes for puppies and kittens. But as more animals were brought to them everyday, they faced the sad reality of the overpopulation of dogs and cats in Mauritius. They realised that they would never find good homes for all of them. In 2001 they were strongly advised by WSPA (The World Society for the Protection of Animals), IAR (International Animal Rescue) and the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust to go to the root of the problem and to reduce the number of animals born. They were advised to concentrate their resources on sterilising rather than re-homing and on educating the public on how to take better care of their pets so that they did not become strays. In 2001 and 2002 PAWS sterilised 1,300 dogs and cats largely with the help of two local veterinarians working at weekends.

In June 2002, a brand new mobile clinic was donated to PAWS by WSPA and the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust. With the help of foreign vets who were available for four months of the year, 3,271 dogs and cats were sterilised in three years. In 2005, PAWS was fortunate to have the sponsorship of Laureate Investments, a Mauritian offshore company and was thus able to employ one full time expatriate vet and two full time resident vets. They managed to sterilise 3,416 dogs and cats. Laureate Investments donated two mobile clinics/caravans, each with the space for two vets, and four pick-up trucks to pull the caravans and transport staff, animals and their owners. It also sponsored the salaries, accommodation and living expenses of five expatriate vets plus the salaries of twenty support staff. In 2006, 12,004 dogs and cats were sterilised.

PAWS is aware that the sterilisation strategy will only bring the desired result of controlling dogs and cats overpopulation in Mauritius in the future if it is carried out in parallel with education of the Mauritian population. They know that to improve Animal Welfare in Mauritius, they will have to change the way the population thinks about animals. So in 2007 while the sterilisation team carries on the good work started in 2006, the management team along with some dedicated volunteers is trying to focus on education.

If you have any relatives or friends in Mauritius who need a vet for their pets or need to have their dog or cat sterilised, please tell them to contact PAWS. Details are as follows:

PAWS
Domaine Rivière La Chaux
Beau Vallon, Mahebourg,
MAURITIUS
Tel: (230) 631 23 04
Fax: (230) 631 22 96
Web Site:
www.pawsmauritius.org

Footnote: Article reprinted in this issue with appropriate byline



Figure 3: This is the normal lining of a healthy part of the ascending colon imaged by colonoscopy.



Mauritius News Cuisine

'Tipik Mauricien' Recipe'

Introducing 'Tipik Mauricien' homemade spices
Cooking Mauritius food is not difficult, it only needs a little practice to get the mixture of flavours right.

Cooking can be made easier with the help of 'Tipik Mauricien' spices. Many different dishes can be made with these unique spices:
 - Biyani (meat, fish, chicken or vegetable)
 - Callish (meat, fish, chicken or Soya for the vegetarians)
 - Halim (which is a meat soup prepared with dholi or lentils)
 - Pilau Rice (Rice flavoured with saffron)
 - Daube or Red Sauce (meat, fish or chicken cooked in tomatoes)
 - Delicious fried meat or chicken.

'Tipik Mauricien' also makes special Rassum spices. Rassum (Jeera Water) is a special soup-like made to accompany any curry dishes.

Special meat madras curry (very hot)

Serve 6-8
 2 lbs boneless meat (beef or lamb) washed and cut into small cubes
 2 large onions (1 finely sliced and 1 grated or ground)
 2 tbs ground ginger and garlic
 1 large tin tomatoes
 2 fresh tomatoes (cut into 4)
 4 tbs madras curry powder (hot)
 1 tbs ground cinnamon and

cloves)
 Half tin of coconut milk
 Few curry leaves
 4 green chillies
 A few slices green pepper
 3 lbs finely chopped coriander leaves
 1 tbs onions seeds
 Half tbs methi leaves
 Salt to taste
 Enough cooking oil for cooking

for 5- 10 mins
 Add curry powder with little water stir constantly for 3 mins
 Cover and leave to cook until the oil floats
 Then add coconut milk green pepper, grated onions and stir well
 Then add fresh tomatoes, green chillies and coriander leaves to garnish
 Cover and cook for 5 mins.

Instructions:

Heat oil using a saucepan or (earthenware)
 Fry sliced onions, onion seeds, methi leaves, ginger and garlic, cinnamon, cloves and curry leaves
 Stir for 3 mins then add meat and salt
 Cover and leave to cook on low heat until meat is tender
 Add tin tomatoes and cook

Making Curd-ish Delight by Mylene Oishi (Japan)



Mylene (kneeling right) with Tofu-making Crew

When I first came to Japan, there were many local shops that made tofu on the premises and once a week a mobile shop would also come round. Hearing the distinctive sing-song call of the tofu van, neighbours would gather round not only to buy but to chat and exchange recipes. Over the years the small shops closed down one by one as the owners reached retiring age. With no one available to continue the tradition, housewives were left with no alternative but to buy mass produced tofu from the supermarkets.

It is no wonder therefore that shops such as Umemoto Tofu, a family run business that celebrates one hundred years in the tradition of tofu production is steadily becoming a rare sight. So it was with great pleasure I accepted an invitation from the owner, Hiromi Umemoto, to visit her shop and experience first hand how tofu is made.

Together with Toshiko Ejima, a published writer, we made our way to the lush countryside of Nara, located in the western part of Japan, to find out more about this Asian vegetarian dish.

Tofu is bean curd made from soybeans. It is an ideal food for a healthy diet because it is high in protein yet low in fat and calories. It is also easy to digest with a light taste that will appeal to almost any palate. Inexpensive, it can be eaten hot or cold or straight out of the package, which is a bonus in this hurried world we live in. Furthermore, as there is no difference between plant and animal proteins it is a great food for non-meat eaters.

Tofu production begins in the early hours of the morning. Cleanliness and hygiene is of the utmost importance as the slightest germ or dirt will render this protein-rich food inedible. First, the machinery gets cleaned and washed, even though it was cleaned and washed down the day before. The staff wear long PVC apron and Wellington boots. All jewellery has to be removed and hair must be covered to enter the production area.

The first step in the process is to thoroughly wash the soy beans and leave it to soak in water. Once softened, it is mashed and steamed. This bean material then gets separated by a machine into an edible pulp known as okara and the liquid remains which is soy milk. Brine (natural salted water) and a coagulant is added to the pulp which is placed in a settling tank lined with cloth. The cloth acts as drainage which creates a coarse textured tofu, known as nomen-goshi, the kind used almost every day in Japanese homes.

As all the ingredients are natural, the flavour and consistency varies according to the season, the climate, the humidity and various other factors.

"No two days are the same in the tofu world," says Hiromi

Umemoto, "that's why I find this protein-packed food fascinating". She has travelled throughout Japan and to China where tofu originated in a quest to learn as much as she can about this oriental curd.

Nowadays, many of us are searching for ways to eat more healthily. Research in the USA and Japan has shown that eating tofu has many advantages, such as lowering cholesterol levels, lowering blood pressure and can even help those suffering from the bone disease osteoporosis. Needless to say, more research is imperative if this ancient eastern food is to play a role in preventing diseases or alleviating illnesses.

Baked Tofu

A delicious nutritious meal in six simple steps

- 3-4 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 cake of firm tofu
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Lightly oil a baking dish
3. Mix soy sauce, oil and garlic in a bowl
4. Cut the tofu into 3/4 inch cubes and toss in the soy sauce marinade
5. Spread the tofu in the prepared baking dish in a single layer
6. Bake for 20-30 minutes, stirring once or twice until brown

Fresh tofu can be bought in Chinatown, London

Luxury Villas to Let Casa Del Sol Mont Choisy, Mauritius



Office address:
77 St Jean Road,
Quatre Bornes,
Mauritius

Tel:
(230) 465 9067
Fax:
(230) 454 6167

Email: casadelos@intnet.mu

Two luxurious self-catering villas with all household amenities. Three minutes' walk to the sea.

Maximum number of guests: 6
 Minimum period of stay: 6 nights
 Rate per night: £30 - £35
 (Includes maid service)

Your Horoscope for October 2007 by Stargazer

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

You will face ups and downs at work but you are brave enough to face any situation.

Be friendly and listen to your friends. They need you. It is advisable that you do some sports. As it is now you are deeply stressed.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

You have the possibility to solve a crucial problem. Boss will be glad!

It's time to show your skill and this will occur when you will meet people. You are an able seducer and flirting is your domain.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

Your life is about to change drastically and despite all the problems, this is the path you have chosen.

You are ready to impress your partner just like the first day. You have an inexhaustible energy which impresses many.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

Confident, intelligent and all knowledgeable. You are full of qualities and nobody can refuse something.

You want to live something powerful and tender at the same time and it's not easy for your partner.

Leo (July 23 - August 23)

The most will allow you a change of plans and to take new decisions.

Take it easy! People are believing that you are deliberately trying to poke a fight with them. Look for happiness instead.

Virgo (August 24 - September 22)

You have too many ideas in mind, to the extent of not knowing where you want to head.

Choose your priorities and do the needful about times with your friends, and relax.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

October is for the grand renovation in your life. You can expect something positive.

Your partner did tell you about it; you are his/her life. You are in good form and presently you feel light and well.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 22)

There are signs that not everything will be satisfactory at your workplace. You should surround yourself by people who are sure about what they are doing.

You should meet often, your partner of course!

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

A little bit of hard work will not do you any harm. See what are your priorities and all will be fine.

Despite some problems, love still reigns supreme between in your life. So, you have every reason to be cheerful.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20)

You are a leader but you tend to overdo things at times, and not many people like it. Be more friendly and welcoming.

Some may see you as proud and arrogant but know you have a nice soul. That's what you are!

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19)

You are intellectually good and well surrounded. You do work with your heart.

You are enjoying a good relationship with your loved one. You care for each other, and this will only strengthen the relationship.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

You are facing some problems but your perseverance will pay.

You are about to live some magical moments if your partner holds all promises. You have a good store of energy to cope with demands made on you.

Do you want to work, retire or settle in Mauritius? Looking for property or want to invest in Mauritius? Facing any problem with public bodies or local authorities in Mauritius?

Need assistance with your permits and licences or any administrative issue?

Whatever you need, we may have the solution.

Sit back, relax, and leave all your worries to us.

Contact us for all your Business Facilitation services, dealings with the public sector, property management, etc

UNIQUE THINKING LTD MAURITIUS

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Email: info@uniquethinking.biz

Website: www.uniquethinking.biz

October 2007

Deaths

The details published below are the only information supplied to us

BEEKANAND Vijayanand-	Plaine des Papayes-	47 yrs- 12 Sept
COOMJEE Syam-	Eau Coulee-	56 yrs- 12 sept
SEEBORUTH Chabeall-	Creve Coeur-	89 yrs- 12 Sept
KUTWAROO Sabitree-	Surinam-	84 yrs- 12 sept
DOOKUN Hariparsad-	Petit Rafray-	98 yrs- 12 Sept
DEVASON Ganeshsingh-	Rose Hill-	37 yrs 12 Sept
KANARAM Parmessur-	Bamboo-	63 yrs- 12 Sept
DOOKHEE Bhagwantee-	Belle Rose-	89 yrs- 12 Sept
BHOLAH Devanand-	Petit Rafray-	48 yrs- 12 Sept
JEEBUN Mohanlall-	Triplet-	54 yrs- 12 Sept
MAUDABACCUS Fizhia-	Vacoas-	71 yrs- 13 Sept
BEEKARRY Rajisingh-	Bon Accucil-	43 yrs- 13 Sept
SIRDAWN Suresh-	Quatre Bornes-	59 yrs- 16 Sept
RAMJUTTUN Rajkaliah-	Brisee Verdiere-	91 yrs- 16 Sept
GURBURRUN Rameshwar-	La Flora-	61 yrs- 16 Sept
ITTOO Surawan-	Vacoas-	60 yrs- 16 Sept
HEMRAZ Takka-	Aleec Brilliant-	59 yrs- 16 Sept
BEEKNOO Roukminee-	Vacoas-	82 yrs- 16 Sept
SEEBORUTH Bhinod-	Bambou-	56 yrs- 16 Sept
GOOMANE- Awantec-	Riv du Poste-	76 yrs- 16 Sept
BOODRAM Lutchmeeparsad-	Riv du Rempart-	65 yrs- 16 Sept
MUNGRAH Ramesh-	Palma-	58 yrs- 16 Sept
RAMJEAWON Basdeo-	Grand Bois-	66 yrs- 16 Sept

Deaths announcement (UK)

Sen Vythilingum (47) of Epsom passed away on September 20
Ms Chintamanee Sootarsing (66) of Battersea, London, passed away on September 26

In Memory

"In memory of a dear and beloved sister-Mila Balloo née Sauboarah
Sadly taken from us two years ago
Always in our hearts
Forever in our thoughts
Very much missed by those left behind."
Geeta.

Mauritian Christian Church (International)

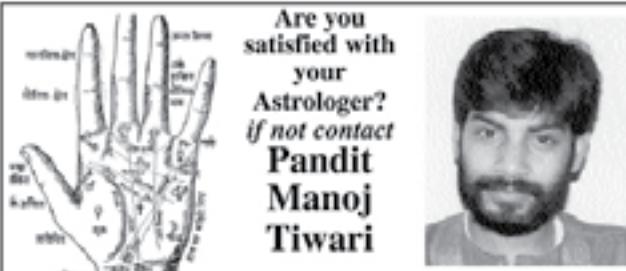
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Sacred Workshops at The British Library

By Teresa Lloyd

Different religions are such an interesting topic to explore, so much so that I could not resist the opportunity to attend an open invitation in mid July 2007 to attend the Sacred exhibition at the British Library. I first learned about this newly launched exhibition via the Westminster Cathedral newsletter, one of the priests had already enjoyed visiting the Library three times as it offered so much to visitors who want to compare and learn more about the early texts and manuscripts that formed the basis of the three main Faiths - Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Being a calligrapher too also made me want to view the amazing patterns, pictures and words that show to the followers of these faiths how they originated and why.

The art of calligraphy was my personal strongest motive for attending Sacred, not just once but on four occasions. My first experience on 18th July was in the company of other fellow members of the Cathedral that proved to be a group tour, but having picked up a leaflet inviting visitors to attend art workshops based on themes and ideas of the illuminations I soon started to plan ahead to attend the art/calligraphy family workshops held in the learning space starting in August.

Sacred opened its doors to members of the public from 27th April and will end on 23rd September 2007. Admission is free, with a ticket at the booking table. Since religion is very much part of our identity and is as important today as thousands of years ago. Though, I come from a Catholic background it's still important to develop a sense of understanding of other faiths beyond our own. Here at Sacred there is a wealth of highly treasured and preserved amulets, Bibles, Dead Sea Scrolls, wedding dresses, rugs and Korans to name only a few.

Viewing ancient artefacts and looking at the passionate sense of detail that is invested in the very early hand written manuscripts of the Bibles and Korans and Hebrew books offers a deep understanding of how seriously people of the time held their religion. It offers a profound spiritual connection. These three main faiths have shaped so much of European history. They are often referred to as Abrahamic faiths because of the part Abraham plays in their holy books. As Sacred is the first in a series of exhibitions celebrating the diversity of religious traditions within Britain. It holds one of the finest collections of Sacred books. An example is the Hebrew Bible protected under an enormous veil depicting the List of Commandments dating back to 1482.

For the first time I viewed the Royal Qur'an fancifully decorated in gold leaf that give it a rich texture, created in 1310 from Mosul Iraq. This Holy book is a rarity having survived intact since 1304-17. The Scribe who created the illumination was Aliibub Mohammed. The script is outlined in black ink to give fuller definition and vowels are produced in black ink while gold rounds mark the end of a verse.

At Sacred it is also possible to see model places of worship too thus enabling people from different faiths to compare how they pray. There is also a display of wedding outfits that show how women dress according to their faith. For example the original dress Jemima Khan wore for her Muslim wedding in Paris in 1995 is displayed showing the gold silk Salwar Kameez and dupata (trousers) underneath the main gold dress are still preserved today.

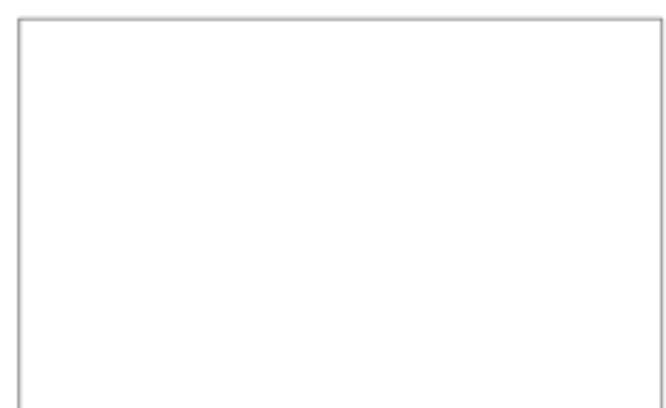


One visit I wanted to find out how to get involved in the practical Free Family Events so I picked up a leaflet at the desk. I returned again on 13th August for the art workshop starting at 12pm until 2pm and had the fun of cutting out my initials to create my own masterpiece using pens and colourful materials provided. Having worn a Fish patterned dress that I'd bought in a Mauritian market in January 2006, the supervisor thought I should use the patterns that already exist as a starting point. Plus just outside the Learning Space is a design of a seven headed serpent so she suggested find inspiration.

The afternoon was spent trying out colours and shapes and I found the whole process stimulating and therapeutic. On the final Friday 17th August, I fitted a different design but this time I felt luckier to have more choice given the use of gold / silver pens these were not available at the start of the workshop, plus we all had the bonus of plenty of coloured sugar paper to apply to our names to create vivid features. Creatures with powerful expressions are inspirational to followers of faith.

The next learning curve is the Islamic Calligraphy, starting on 20th August Islamic lettering by Ahmed Moatassim a Moroccan calligrapher who carries out Royal commissions. He taught us the main letters of the alphabet of Islam and how to write our names but it requires plenty of practice and patience. I found this the most challenging of all. But at least I tried. On the Friday 24th August a few media persons from the Moroccan press wanted to find feedback, it wasn't difficult for me. I express my thanks showing my new Islamic masterpiece with the word -Thank You. I'm glad I came.

Anil Chuckowa, winner of the "Best Front Garden" in the 2007 Hackney competition

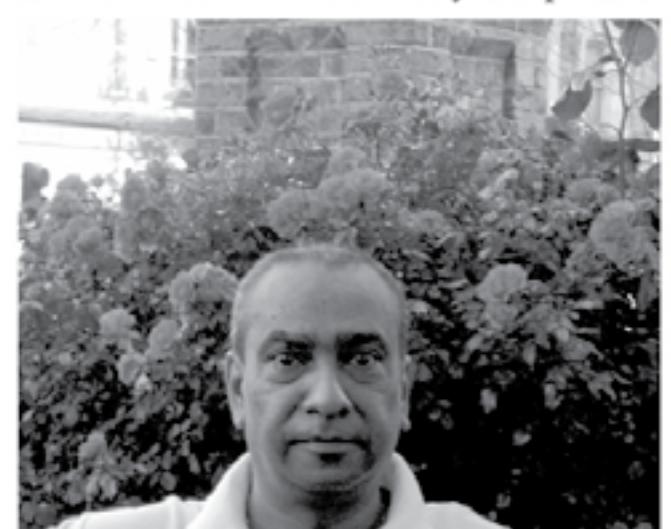


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Anil Chuckowa took the first prize for the Best Front Garden in the 2007 Hackney in Bloom Competition.

The monthly publication, Hackney Today wrote in its August edition "Judges were impressed with the sheer number of plant varieties, height variations and colourful window boxes containing Fuchsias & Dahlias."

The publication also mentioned that "this year's competition was the biggest so far" and aimed to make the borough more attractive while raising awareness of the environment.

The last race of the legend Gunness Gujadur (Ton Mica)



Turf veteran Gunness Gujadur congratulating a winner from his stable

The horse-racing world is in mourning with the death of Gunness Gujadur, affectionately known as Ton Mica. He died on September 4 at the ripe age 96, following a long illness.

Born in May 1911, Gunness Gujadur has had a long career in horse racing. It was in 1954 that he took charge of the legendary Gujadur stable. During his long turf career, he won 26 classic races and four stable championships in 1969, 1970, 1973 and 1976. Four of his horses have also been crowned - Elaine (1954), Verdot (1969), Radlet (1970) and Corban (1972).

One of his most memorable victories was the Maiden Cup (the most renowned classic) in 1984 when Nippy Regen, a total outsider, preceded favourite Noble Salute in the last strides. Over 125,000 spectators were at the Champ de Mars to watch that race. This victory was a particularly intense moment for him in his career. "I will always cherish dearly that big victory", he said to the press on that day.

Ton Mica used to say that horse racing taught him humility in victory, sportsmanship in defeat, and patience to bide for the right moment. He also attributed his success to the grace of God, the unflinching support of his family, and his life-long love for horses.

Gunness Gujadur was the most senior stable

manager in the country. In an interview to the Mauritian press, he said that he regretted the traditional racing culture had been replaced by a gambling one. "I think that the negative image of racing and the associated love of 'easy money' have contributed greatly in bringing about this change." But he admitted that the racing world had changed considerably since the time he started out. "The improvements are there and the efforts of the Mauritius Turf Club must be applauded. If the government lends a helping hand, I'm sure the situation would improve." It is to be hoped that his last wish will be heard by the authorities.

Besides this unshakable passion for horse racing, Gunness Gujadur knew how to lead his boat safely in the business world. He was for a long time a broker in Port-Louis (Rue Brown Séquard), becoming, over the years, a major landowner. After the death of his inseparable brother, Sir Radhamohan, in 1988, a disappearance that greatly affected him, Gunness Gujadur took charge, alone, of the stable. He was shouldered in his task by the sons of Sir Radhamohan. He also sat, during several years, on the board of the Mauritius Commercial Bank.

Judo

Great distinction for Joseph Mounawah



The national judo coach Joseph Mounawah has been appointed chairman of the educational and training centre of the African Union of Judo (UAJ).

This nomination was announced by the chairman of the UAJ, Lassana Palens from Ivory Coast, in Rio de Janeiro in September 11. Joseph Mounawah was indeed in Brazil to follow a stage for coaches, two days before the start of the World Judo Championship in that country. There was only one athlete at this event in Brazil. The Mauritian Mac Coy Paulin (81kg) was eliminated after his first bout by Georgio Bainchurashvili from Georgia.

Cycling

Lincoln, simply the best

What an astonishing surprise to see the triumph of the Mauritian cyclist Yannick Lincoln on the Tour de Maurice on September 16.

It's the second time that he won the champion title, after the one he scooped in 2005.

Yannick Lincoln finished the six stages in 13h03mn04s, just ahead of fellow countryman Frédéric Géminiani (13h04mn, 23s), and Jean-Denis Armand (13h04mn, 26s) from Réunion Island.

This is a good performance for the Mauritian team who performed lamentably at the recent Indian Ocean games in Madagascar.



Khamajeet and Descann in Argentina

The chairman of the Mauritius Sports Council (MSC), Diraj Khamajeet and his managing secretary, Rajen Descann, are actually in Argentina where they are attending at the "20ème congrès mondial sur le sport de masse". This congress is organized by the Trim and Fitness Sports for all association. 244 countries across the world are attending this congress.

Triathlon

Valéry de Falbaire won in Belgium

The Mauritian athlete Valéry de Falbaire won a triathlon event in Oudeye, Belgium, on September 1.

He competed in the under-19 group and finished first the three events (750m swimming, 20km cycling and 5km road racing) in 57mn01s.

Valéry de Falbaire was at a training camp from August 17 to 27, financed by the International Triathlon Union.

CMTK

Football

At the head of the Club M, Ashok Chundunsing appointed as new national trainer



Club M & inset, Ashok Chundunsing

Ashok Chundunsing takes over as the national football coach for the second time. He was coach ten years ago but was removed from the control of the Club M by the Mauritius Football Association (MFA) when Mauritius was beaten by other participating countries, namely Madagascar, Seychelles and Réunion Island.

Now that the MFA has called back Chundunsing, the question is whether he is the right person for this job. "I know that this is a big challenge for me and I have accepted it anyway. To achieve my target I think I need to be very strict while evaluating the competence of the players. There's a lot to do and I think that I can deliver", says the new coach. We just have to wait and see.

Ashok Chundunsing replaces Sarjoo Gowreesunkur who quit the Club M

following the disastrous performance of Mauritius at the recent Indian Ocean Games in Madagascar.

Akbar Patel, the coach who gave Mauritius football team the gold medal in the Indian Ocean Games in 2003, was approached by the Mauritius Football Association (MFA) to take over the national team on a temporary basis, for three weeks only (end of August till 16th September).

Patel got a better performance from his players in the last two matches against The Seychelles (1-1), in the last match of the African Cup played on Sunday, September 9, and against a Chinese team, Meizhou City (1-1) on Sunday, September 16. He admitted, afterwards, that he was not interested to continue with the Club M.

On September 20, the managing committee of the MFA ratified the nomination of Ashok Chundunsing as the new coach of the national team. "Everyone knows that Ashok Chundunsing is a different coach. He has a hard personality and is a real stickler to rules and principles. Nobody likes him, it's true. But, he wishes to come back with a new approach and a new plan for the national squad. He is a trainer of value. We can count on him. He wants to build a promising team", explained Prema Jodha, chairman of the MFA.

In contrast, those who are involved in sports matters say that the MFA's decision to put Ashok Chundunsing at the head of the Club M technical staff is politically motivated. Only the future can reveal whether the MFA were right or not.

Tennis

First round knockout for Giraud

Marinne Giraud, 310th in the WTA world ranking, is looking forward to score points in order to progress further.

She participated, two weeks ago, in the Tokyo Ariake International Ladies Open, where she lost, unfortunately, in the first round. Marinne Giraud was beaten by a Chinese Yi Jing Zhao, 7-6 and 6-2.



Marinne Giraud

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