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# Mauritius News

ISSN 0953 2706

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December 2010 - No 278

Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius

Monthly - 70p 28th year

*With this December 2010 issue Mauritius News enters its 28th year of publication*

Let my people go!

## Britain must grant the Chagossians the right to return to their islands



On November 3 - Chagossians Day in Mauritius. A handful of Chagossians demonstrated across the road opposite the Houses of Parliament, the world symbol of Democracy. The Chagossians have been deprived of their homeland by this very Parliament, now deaf to their plaints.

Where are the others? we asked of those present. "Camarade, ou connne bien: beif travaille, chouval manger." A direct reference to those allegedly in the pay of the British government who are having a grand time in the UK and are not 'lor terrain' when needed. (See more on the Chagossians Page 10.)

## Miss Mauritius UK Competition

The first Miss Mauritius in UK was organised in 1979 and the winner was Lovenah Arunasalon. Since then, several competitions have been organised—though not at regular frequency. We now give the UK Mauritian community and friends of Mauritius rendez-vous on February 5, 2011 at the Wandsworth Civic Suite for the next election of a Miss Mauritius in the UK. (See more on Page 15.)

World Travel Market 2010

## Air Mauritius obtains Virgin Trophy



Donald Payen (5th from left), Vice President of Air Mauritius (Commercial & Communications), holding a silver trophy presented to the airline by Virgin Holidays at the World Travel Market, London Excel, in November 2010.

Virgin Holidays' award was based on the results of a survey conducted among its travellers through the year in terms of customer satisfaction. Air Mauritius registered the highest suffrage for its comfort and service delivery.

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Fundraising

# Christina’s Appeal

In our October issue we published an appeal on behalf of Ms Christina Catherine, a compatriot living in Mauritius, who had to undergo fresh surgery overseas, at a cost of some £100,000. We stated that evidence submitted to us confirmed the figures.

We also stated that 28-years-old Christina, born with a heart defect, has had surgery on occasions before, the last one being 19 years ago in Liverpool. *An email address was given for further information.*

Following the publication of the note in Mauritius News we had a phone call from a woman who asked us whether we had ascertained that the claim was genuine. But first, she wanted to know whether we wanted the conversation to be in English or French. I said English, French or Creole for that matter. However, we are aware that there are some islanders who feel that the Creole language is now beneath them, especially after their *frottement avec les anglais*. She opted to deliver in English.

I assured the woman that the note about the patient was sent to us by a well-known Mauritian community worker in London who holds a managerial position in the National Health Service. We assured her that we had seen copies of the medical certificates, and of the costing of the surgery etc. She still would not let go. She retorted “you know with this sort of money you can buy a house here, and a bigger one in France.”

She went on and on, *patati patata, patati patata*. Even a sheep would lose its cool. I said if you are not happy, you may write to the email address given. “As the publisher, it is your responsibility to make sure ... *patati patata, patati patata* ...”

When I told her off (in order to get her off my back): she said “You have no manners, you have come to this country and you have learned no manners from the English.” In the presence of such trite that betrays a degree of mental shallowness, I put down the receiver.

A few minutes later, the phone rang again and a man said “you have been rude to my sister, you cut her off,” and, to show that he was better-mannered than I was, he put down the receiver on me ...immediately.

Well, the woman can have peace of mind now when she reads the following correspondence received.

**Peter Chellen**  
December 2010

Date: Tue, 9 Nov 2010 23:54:35  
From: Dany Luchmun <noelleluchmun@yahoo.co.uk>  
To: Peter <editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk>, sooboodoo vishnu <vishnul@blueyonder.co.uk>  
Subject: Re: Fwd: Fw: Fwd: Christina

Dear Vishnu & Peter

I would like to thank you for your help and support. The appeal in the newspaper was very good but unfortunately I have had no response.

My niece, Christina has had her surgery in Neker Hospital, Paris, on Friday 29th October. After the main surgery there were complications, she was taken back into the operating theatre for evacuation of blood clots in the lungs. The heart is doing well but her kidneys are not functioning, she is on dialysis and has been transferred to the Intensive Care Unit of George Pompidou Hospital in Paris.

The costs is now estimated to exceed 60,000 euros because of her extended stay in the Intensive care unit. Family and friends are still working hard fundraising.

We have had good response from the events in Mauritius, France, Australia and some of the Adventist churches.

God has answered our prayers and we know that with His help Christina will get better. The medical and administration staff of the hospitals here in Paris have been very patient and understanding.

I would like to thank you again for your help.

Regards  
Dany

**Exorbitant  
tariff increase  
on telephone  
calls to  
Mauritius**

UK Telephone companies have been telling us that they are forced to increase their charges on international calls to Mauritius as a result of the continued tax increase imposed by Mauritius itself at the receiving end.

It would appear that Mauritius Telecom should receive a fee for all calls cleared in Mauritius. The more they charge there, the more we pay here.

Lycamobile advertises at 15p per min. Telediscount is now 10p per min. Fone 2 has gone up to 6p per min.. UK Mauritians are subsidising the economy of the motherland which, we hope is well appreciated at home by the authorities.

# Zionism hates Democracy, says Arab member of Israeli Knesset

JOONEED KHAN, MONTREAL, November 23, 2010

*Zionism as ideology defines Israel uncompromisingly as a Jewish State, indeed as a State for Jews, and this ideology absolutely prevents Israel, in spite of all pretences to the contrary, from being a Democratic State for all its citizens on the minimum basis of equal rights and equal opportunities.*

This assessment was driven home last week by Haneen Zoabi, an Arab Member of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), at a meeting of students, teachers, journalists and activists of the Boycott Israeli Apartheid (BDS) campaign in Montreal.

It puts the Balad MK (National Democratic Alliance) squarely in the camp of those, mainly Israeli Arabs, who oppose Zionism in the name of Democracy. “I don’t hate Zionism”, she told Electronic Intifada in a July interview, “it’s just that Zionism hates Democracy”.

It also makes her, like Balad founder Azmi Bishara who went into self-exile for fear of prosecution in 2007, the target of an Israeli law that calls for the exclusion of political parties which question Israel as “the state of the Jewish people” and also “the democratic nature of the state” - a law, it must be said, that the Israeli Elections Commission and the Supreme Court have not yet upheld.

“The head of Israeli intelligence said in 2007 that Israel would prosecute those who do not recognize it as a Jewish AND democratic State, even if they operate by legal and democratic means”, she said last week.

Israeli Apartheid Within

Petite, fragile-looking, easy to smile, the 31-year-old scion of a political Arab family of Nazareth is in fact very articulate and feisty. Her participation in the Free Gaza Flotilla last May and her presence on board the Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara, which was brutally raided by Israeli commandos who killed nine activists et injured as many as 60 others under cover of the night, attest to her quiet determination and clear sense of purpose.

“Coverage of the Palestinian question tends to focus on the occupation, on demands for a State with East Jerusalem as its capital, for the removal of the illegal settlements, for the right of return of 1948 refugees. This is all true and good. But even if all these demands are met, the problem will not end. For the Palestinians of 1948, those who stayed in Israel where they now form 18% of the population but are denied full citizenship rights, will remain an issue, linked to the nature of the Zionist State itself”, she said.

“If all Palestinians had been expelled in 1948, Israel would not have needed to define itself as a Jewish State. We are the reason that it defined itself this way. In 1948, 850.000 Palestinians left, but 150.000 did not; today we are 1.2 million, and we make up 18% of Israel”, she added.

“But we get less than 18% of the Budget and the jobs in both the public and the private sectors, of admissions in the universities, and Jewish schools get eight times more financial support than Arab schools”, she enumerated in support of her claim that Arab Israelis are second class citizens - and that Apartheid is a central feature of the 1948 Israeli State itself, not just a reality of the occupation in the 1967 Palestinian Territories.

Full-fledged Palestinians

“We are Palestinians as much as those who live in the Occupied Territories and in the refugee camps, and we are not allowed into the armed forces - which is a further obstacle because those who enlist also benefit from study scholarships and other privileges”, she said.

“This discrimination against us is never admitted openly, but it is fully institutional and functional. Internal documents show that universities do not allot more than 9% of admissions to Palestinian students. Palestinians are even fewer on their teaching staff”, she went on.

The philosophy and psychology graduate, and media specialist, stressed that the so-called “1948 Palestinians” are part and parcel of the Palestinian people as a whole - “even though the Palestinian Authority in the Occupied Territories has ignored us since the Oslo Accords of 1993”.

“We were under Martial law from 1948 to 1966, 82% of our lands were confiscated to make way for 600 Israeli towns and villages, Israel has at least 24 laws that discriminate against us, seven new ones are upon us, one of which allows Jewish villages with less than 500 housing units to decide if Arabs can settle there or not”, she said. “And we are not allowed to marry outside and continue living in Israel”, she added.

“We are the indigenous inhabitants of the land. We are the First Nations. We expect apologies from the settlers and occupiers, at the very least. Above all, we demand equality. Zionism excludes us, and we will never achieve equality under a Jewish regime. This is why we are fighting for democracy, and against Zionism”, she said.

And she concluded: “We are part of the problem and we need to be part of the solution. We need to be at the negotiating table. There will be no solution without us. Some Israelis are talking of swapping our communities for Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories. We tell them this is a non starter: settlements are illegal but our communities are legitimate and legal. We have a thing or two to contribute to the peace negotiations”.

*Mauritian-born Jooneed Khan is a journalist, writer and human rights activist living in Montreal.*

## Palestine Solidarity Campaign

# British Government under pressure on war crimes legislation

*‘Britain cannot become a safe haven for war criminals’, Sarah Colborne, Palestine Solidarity Campaign*

Palestine Solidarity Campaign joined with Amnesty International and other groups in voicing opposition to the Government proposed changes to procedures of war crimes.

The Police Reform Bill includes proposals which, if passed, will make it much more difficult to obtain an arrest warrant for anyone accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Currently, a victim of such a crime can seek the arrest of a suspected war criminal by presenting evidence to the City of Westminster Magistrates court. The proposed change will require the prior approval of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for that arrest warrant.

This would mean that the DPP, who is appointed and “superintended” by a government minister, the Attorney General, would have a veto over whether a suspected war criminal to be arrested, no matter how clear the evidence. And the DPP could find themselves under immense pressure from their boss, the Attorney General, to refuse an arrest warrant application if it was for someone from what the government considered an ‘ally’ country.

The proposed change would delay the proceedings which could allow suspects to evade arrest by leaving the country, and would create a high risk of political interference in the issuing of an arrest warrant, which should be a judicial matter based on the evidence alone.

Sarah Colborne, Campaigns Director of Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said: “In Britain, we have always prided ourselves on having an independent judiciary, able to take decisions without political interference. By proposing to prevent a victim of crime from submitting their evidence before a judge the state is interfering with the right to bring a private prosecution, one of the oldest rights known to common law.

Our justice system should not be altered according to the wishes of senior politicians from Israel - who are fearful of arrest because of decisions they have personally taken.

The government have not managed to produce evidence of even one arrest warrant that was granted on insufficient evidence of war crimes. Our government may not want Tzipi Livni and other Israeli politicians to face the threat of arrest warrants - but our government has a responsibility to uphold international law and bring those responsible for crimes, such as the massacre of over 1400 Palestinians in Gaza and destruction of UN and civilian infrastructure, to justice.’

*‘Britain cannot become a safe haven for war criminals’*

110 mainly Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs have already demonstrated they are opposed to these changes, by signing Early Day Motion 108.

A motion with identical wording was tabled during the last Parliamentary session and signed by 145, including the vast majority of Liberal Democrat MPs.

**Mauritius News**  
ISSN 0953 2706

*Truth & Justice*  
Published in the UK  
Founded 1983

The first Mauritian Newspaper Overseas \*  
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London SW8 3JD  
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The editorial team and management of Mauritius News do not necessarily share the views expressed by contributors.

Annual subscription fee:  
(12 monthly issues)  
UK: £15  
Europe: £20  
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## Titbits from Mauritius

By Ahmad Macky

### Mauritius Occupies 39th Place on Corruption List

According to Transparency International Report 2010 on corruption, just released on Tuesday October 26 2010, Mauritius is placed 39th on the list out of a total of 178 countries which have been checked by the census.

This result shows that no improvement on good governance has been undertaken by our government to combat corruption in Mauritius.

Three countries namely, Denmark, New Zealand and Singapore come at the head of the corruption list of 2010 with a score of 3.9 points. They are closely followed by Finland and Sweden and then come Canada, Holland, Australia, Switzerland and Norway. According to the report, countries which are more corrupt and worsely affected by corruption are Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma and Somalia.

### Sarojini Seeneevassen The New Ambassador in Berlin

It is now confirmed that Sarojini Seeneevassen is our new Ambassador in Berlin. Sarojini Seeneevassen is to leave Mauritius on December 3 2010 in order to take her new function as Ambassador very soon. She will be replacing Ghislaine Henry who was be called by the Government of Mauritius.

Sarojini Seeneevassen told the press that it is a great responsibility to be an Ambassador and a big challenge which she has no fear to take. Sarojini is the daughter of the late Renganaden Seeneevassen, a great tribune and a popular member of the Labour Party during the time of Sir Seewoosugur Ramgoolam. She is actually a marine biologist professionally.

Sarojini knows Germany too well as she used to do all her studies there and even married in that country. So far, no date has been given yet when she is due to start.

### The First Woman as Vice President of the Republic

A woman has just been appointed as Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius on Thursday November 11 2010. She is Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau, an active member of Labour Party. She used to be once a junior Minister in the Navin Ramgoolam’s Labour party.

A motion, to this effect was tabled in Parliament by the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam at a special session. The leader of the Opposition, Mr Paul Bérenger seconded the motion and both sides of the house in Parliament approved the motion that the new Vice President job is to be given to Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau.

It is to be recalled that Mrs Ohsan-Bellepeau replaces the late Vice President Angidi Chettiar who passed away on September 15 of this year.

The oath-taking ceremony of Mrs Monique Ohsan-Bellepeau took place at State House in the morning of Saturday 13 November 2010. What’s a destiny in her new life? She was called upon on that same Saturday evening to act as President interim of the Republic of Mauritius in the absence of the actual President of the Republic, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth who fled to India on a foreign trip.

### New Cabin Crew for Air Mauritius

Air Mauritius recently recruited 35 cabin crew in order to join its existing team of 489 stewards and hostesses to ensure its smooth running.

The new CEO Raj Bungraj has been personally involved in the recruitment process and gave the necessary support to accelerate the employment of additional fresh resources with a view to enhancing customer service, says a press release from the airline company.

Bungasraj has also announced that a new recruitment exercise for cabin crew will be launched shortly.

### Necrology: Ex-chief Justice Sir Cassam Moolan Passes Away

Sir Cassam Moolan, the ex-chief Justice of Mauritius and who occupied equally the post of governor-general during the illness and after the death of Sir Seewoosugur Ramgoolam, died on Monday November 15 2010. He was 83 yrs old.

Sir Cassam retired in 1988, the very year when he was made “Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur” by France. Her funeral was held on the same day amongst relatives and friends.

### Statistics on Road Accident

Since the beginning of 2010, just over 5,644 accidents have been recorded, including 123 fatal ones. The Prime Minister (PM) was answering a question by MP Stéphanie Anquetil.

In order to reduce the death toll resulting from road accidents, the Prime Minister has announced several measures including the introduction of three additional speed cameras, organization of lectures and talks on road safety in youth clubs and companies employing many drivers and the creation of a driver education training centre.

The PM added that tinted glass, which was previously banned, would now be authorized to be used in vehicles. To a supplementary question by Bérenger, leader of the Opposition, as to why this measure was being implemented, the PM replied that if Mauritius banned tinted glass while other countries did not, there would be a problem in the importation of cars. He also explained that the priority was to prevent excess speeding.

### CEB Director Resigns

The Director General (DG) of the Central Electricity Board (CEB), Mr Chevan Dabeedin, resigned from his job on Thursday November 11, 2010. The Board of the CEB has officially accepted his letter of resignation.

According to our information, the DG preferred to quit since his contract would soon be over in few days time and that he received news that the contract would not be renewed.

The DG , it is said, is leaving at a time when a serious scandal is rocking the CEB over Rs 23.3 Million spent on the purchase of 660,000 Philips light bulbs. These bulbs, manufactured in China, are said to be defective and are not manufactured under licence from Philips.

### Small Planters on Hunger Strike Again

The former planters of Riche Terre, who had to vacate the State lands given on lease to them for the project of Jin Fei went on hunger strike on Monday November 8 2010.

They insist that they are not going to accept the Rs 120,000 compensation per acre that the Government is offering them. They also want the publication of the Noel-Ramkissoon report which the government recommended on their case last year. The planters believe that the Government has not implemented the report’s recommendations.

Their spokesman, Mr Salim Muthy, condemns the attitude of the Minister Agro-Industry, Mr Satish Faugoo for his evasiveness regarding the situation of these small planters.

### Seaside Murder and Rape

Cedric Matombe, a 17 yrs old student was allegedly murdered whilst taking a walk with his girl friend on the public beach close to a place called Le Bouchon.

The alleged murderer namely Ferino Calou, 40 yrs old who in the past has lots of convictions for criminal cases was arrested for the murder of the young man and for the rape of the latter’s girl friend . After killing the young man with an iron bar and placed his body in a ditch, he then raped the girl friend of the dead man who at that time was unconscious due to the shock.

Calou appeared before the Court in Mahebourg on Wednesday November 10 2010 where he was charged with both murder and rape. Bail was not given.

### Oil Refinery Plan

Minister Saukatally Soodun has said that with the help from India, Mauritius will have its own oil refinery while the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) will build storage facilities for petroleum products’

“It is also the wish of the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,” the Minister said, adding, work will soon begin on this project. Minister Soodun is convinced that an oil refinery will push Mauritius to develop into a “Petrol Hub” in the Indian Ocean.

### Construction Index

The Construction Price Index, which stood at 100.4 in June 2010 increased by 0.4 % or 0.4 point during the third quarter of 2010 to reach 100.8 in September 2010.

This is explained by an increase of 0.7% in the “Materials” sub index ( hardcore, sand, aggregate, block, sanitary installation and steel bars). The other sub indices, namely ‘Labour’ “Hire Plant” and “Transport” remained unchanged during the quarter.

### Blood to Private Clinics

The amount of Rs 1, 500 which the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life charges from private medical institutions is specifically for the processing of blood per pint and not a fee for the blood.

Minister Maya Hanoomanjee affirmed this in a reply to MP Satish Boolell who had inquired about the price charged per pint of blood to patients in private medical institutions. The processing charges, she explained was for blood bags and filters, reagents for blood grouping and screening, equipment, manpower and transport.

She further added that patients suffering from thalassemia, haemophilia, chronic anaemia and those receiving dialysis treatment in private medical institutions were exempted from fees for the transfusion of blood.

With regard to regular voluntary blood donors, they are granted two pints of whole blood and five units of blood components for every five blood donations, explained the Minister.

### Hajj Pilgrims from Mauritius

The first group of some 300 Hajj pilgrims left Mauritius on board of a special flight of Air Mauritius to Saudi Arabia on Sunday October 31 2010. They were all dressed in white attire. A group of volunteers was also present to help the pilgrims with their luggage.

Other groups left on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Hajj, an annual pilgrimage to Mecca, is the fifth pillar of Islam, a duty that Muslims—who can afford it—must carry out at least once in their lifetime.

### Robbery Rs 300 000 at St Pierre

An armed man robbed a Betting Office at St Pierre, Moka on Monday 1st November, 2010.

The bandit arrived minutes after a person had deposited nearly Rs 300,000 in the office. The attacker entered into the office of the young woman who works as a cashier at the agency and forced her to hand him over the money. Panic-stricken, the woman had no other choice but to comply. When the man had the money in his hands, he ran out of the building and jumped onto a motorbike driven by an accomplice.

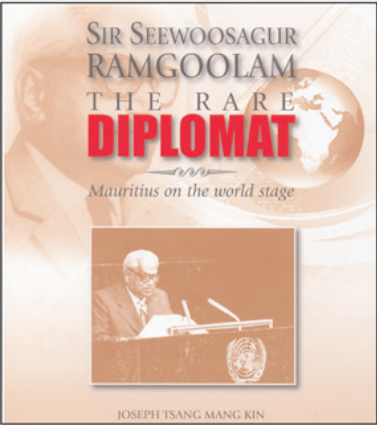
Police is investigating.

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# Former Diplomat Joseph Tsang Mang Kin’s “Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam – The Rare Diplomat”



Front cover of book showing SSR at UN platform, an appropriate illustration of a leader of world class

“Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam – The Rare Diplomat – Mauritius on the world stage” which is the fully explicit title of Joseph Tsang Mang Kin’s book, was launched on 10 November by no other than SSR’s son, Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The launching ceremony was held at the municipal hall of Quatre-Bornes. The 140 pages book, appropriately illustrated with photos of SSR in company of the world political figures of the time and which are documents in themselves, has been published by the Editions de l’Océan Indien and is on sale at Rs 300. The foreword is from Joseph Tsang Mang Kin himself and the preface by Vijay Coomarr Joyypaul, C.S.K., two seasoned diplomats.

In his foreword, Joseph Tsang Mang Kin aptly and diplomatically answered the question he set himself: “Why this book on SSR’s diplomacy and now?” “The short answer is that no such book exists. Nobody has yet written about the work done by SSR on the international scene to present him as the man of vision, who identified the country’s real problems from the start and imagined original solutions that he resolutely pursued ... “ If I don’t speak out, who will? I was obviously duty-bound to come forward and testify.”

In his short speech Tsang Mang Kin highlighted the stroke of genius that took SSR to General De Gaulle. Mauritius could not piggy-back on UK to enter the EEC, De Gaulle having said no to the British. Without Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and without General De Gaulle there was no way for Mauritius to join the EEC. It was De Gaulle who helped Mauritius join OCAM, thereby putting Mauritius on the threshold of Africa. That is why the country owes an immense debt of gratitude to these two great men De Gaulle and SSR thanks to whom the billions earned during the past 30 years from the EEC put Mauritius on the road to economic development and social success.

TMK also touched on the year 1971, known as the *Année de braise* when SSR had to make some tough and unpalatable decisions like postponing the elections. The opposition’s serial strikes in transport

and the port were driving the country to chaos and more important for the country, that was the very time SSR was negotiating with the EEC Council and Commission. That was an arduous enterprise which SSR had to bring to fruition in a context where a new breed of politicians were challenging the Westminster system of Government and campaigning against getting our sugar into the EEC and were bent on killing our nascent tourism and the Export Processing Zone. TMK says that SSR did the right thing and his book gives all the intricate circumstances and rationale behind the hard decisions the great statesman had to make. Today, with hindsight, all Mauritians are grateful to SSR.

“Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, The Rare Diplomat – Mauritius on the World Stage” reveals for the first time how the first Prime Minister of the island did it against all odds and brought Mauritius on the World Scene.

## TMK’s timely publication to perennize a “heroic epoch”

Joseph Tsang Mang Kin goes on to say why he has come with this publication at this juncture. It is with no little pride and, indeed, much gusto that he writes about the timeliness of the publication: “I am also one of the last witnesses of that heroic epoch of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, having been by his side on numerous occasions on the world scene, on missions to several countries mostly in Africa and Europe, and having accompanied him to EEC, Francophonie and OAU meetings and summits. I saw the colossal statesman at work, a diplomatist, that is, one characterised by diplomatic address, and I immensely enjoyed working with a most caring and compassionate man, a real humanist.”

Historians, politicians, diplomats will for ever be grateful to Joseph Tsang Mang Kin for having written *Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam The Rare Diplomat*” which, for the first time throws light on an unknown but essential part of SSR’s work in the 1960’s and the 1970’s . There lies



Author Joseph Tsang Mang Kin

the basis for the success of Mauritius today.

## When DNR lets his heart speak...

Sharing totally Joseph Tsang Mang Kin’s reminiscences of the diplomatic moves of SSR which shaped the economic, social and cultural destiny of the country, Dr Navin Ramgoolam revealed how SSR’s notoriety on the world stage has helped him personally to enlist the support of world leaders as Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, Jacques Chirac of France, Henri Kissinger of the United States.

In his view, SSR’s diplomacy was guided by the supreme interest of the country seen in the long term, a principle that imposed both self-restraint and courageous independent stands.

SSR proved to be a pragmatist who was yet unwilling to compromise whenever the sovereignty of the country was at stake. This is how he could enlist the support of de Gaulle’s France to enter the EEC and take benefit of the sugar Protocol, although he was the head of government of a former British colony. He could grant fishing rights to the Russians in full Cold War to the displeasure of his allies of the West, the Americans and the British. Again, he adopted the one-China policy despite the pressures and criticisms of the latter.

DNR concluded saying that SSR has initiated the economic diplomacy of Mauritius, which his (Navin’s) government has restored on coming back to power.

Mauritius News is privileged to publish the following TMK-inspired poem which so well translates the gist of the book:

### SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM THE RARE DIPLOMAT

We, Mauritians, will always celebrate  
The dad who took the fragile infant state  
To UN in New York for their blessings  
And then to each of the World’s great leaders, on the list was Indira Gandhi.

Then he went to de Gaulle and  
Pompidou  
Saw Willy Brandt, Moro and  
Malfatti

Also Senghor, Kenyatta, Nyerere  
He went to Washington to meet Johnson  
Then Richard Nixon  
and Ronald Reagan  
He also met Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai And  
rubbed shoulders with the British PMs  
He turned our place into an interface  
Connecting East and West, plus Africa.

DODO



Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam (left) with author

## More titbits ...

### Dead Body found in an abandoned house

The body of a man was found in a deserted house in Terre Rouge on Tuesday the 2nd November, 2010. The dead man identified as Kissoonduth Goorjie was 43 yrs old and

married. He had taken the habit of sleeping in the area and body was discovered by a shocked neighbour. The reasons for the man’s death are not yet known.

### Bangladeshis attack

A store owner in Highlands was beaten by workers from Bangladesh early in November.

The expats got upset when the store owner asked them to pay for the products they wanted to purchase. Instead of paying, the Bangladeshi

workers started to beat him. “A large group of Bangladeshi workers came to my store. They forced me to the floor and kicked me violently. My wife and a client were also assaulted and injured” said the victim. Police is investigating this incident.

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News from Australia

# New Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius

by Eddy Abraham, Melbourne



The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, has announced that the next Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius, will be Ms Sandra Vegting. She will take her posting in January 2011, replacing the present High Commissioner Mrs Catherine Johnstone.

Ms Vegting has had a long career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Her service overseas includes Belgium, Egypt and Greece. Since January 2009 she was the Director of Human Rights

and Indigenous Issues Section. Ms Vegting is a French speaker and is a Graduate from Monash University, holding a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Economics.

In announcing her appointment, Minister Kevin Rudd said, "Australia has a long standing friendship with Mauritius and other Indian Ocean Islands States." He also mentioned that, "Australia's links with Mauritius are based on a well-established trade relationship and strong

cooperation in multilateral forums including the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and the World Trade Organisation." Minister Rudd did not miss making reference to the Mauritian community in Australia.

"There is a significant Mauritian community in Australia with approximately 20,000 first and second generation Mauritians living in Australia," he said.

## Australian Mauritian seeks State seat

Jérôme Laxale, de père Mauricien et de mère Réunionnaise sera candidat aux prochaines élections de L'état de NSW en Mars prochain. Jérôme a été choisi parmi les jeunes pour assurer la relève des anciens labourites. Jérôme détient un Master en Politique et Relations Internationales et il est le CEO de Laxale Hair and Beauty Products, une entreprise qui emploie une vingtaine d'employés.

L'article qui suit est du The Northern District Times

**Labor names Ryde hopeful**

1 Dec 10 @ 08:00pm  
by SCOTT HOWLETT

Jerome Laxale, who joined Labor in 2004, has been endorsed as the State Labor candidate

Jerome Laxale, who joined Labor in 2004, has been endorsed as the State Labor candidate for Ryde.

A 27-year-old small business

director from Marsfield has been endorsed as the Labor candidate for the seat of Ryde at the March 2011 State Election.

Jerome Laxale, who joined Labor in 2004 and has been the Eastwood Labor branch president since 2008, said he was nominated, unopposed on Monday.

He said he agreed that the perception in the community was that Labor had lost its way.

*(Le Courrier Creole)*

"What's driven me to stand it at a branch level, it is the party it used to be and returning to the ideals of the Labor Party," Mr Laxale, who was educated at The King's School in North Parramatta, said.

"The government has been distracted internally at times, and they have been, but the Keneally Government is more focussed on governing."

Mr Laxale, who is fluent in French, said winning the seat

# 440,000 International students facing deportation and 147,000 waiting for a PR

According to the latest figures there are 440,000 International students who have overstayed their student visas. Most of them are working for cash or dealing in dubious activities. It will not take long for the Immigration department to track them down.

The Daily Telegraph on 1 Sept 2010 reported that some

international female students are earning up to \$10,000 a week as sex workers while brothel websites openly advertise "new fresh girls".

One Asian woman has not turned up to a single lesson at the English course she signed up to attend. Instead she has been working 12-hour shift, seven days a week at a group of 4 city brothels.

DIAC fraud officers were alerted to widespread abuse of student visas, with some of the sex workers paying corrupt immigration agents in their own country up to \$8,000 to arrange their "visas" under the foreign student program.

Source: le courrier Creole  
www.lecourriercreole.com.au

Coming up  
'Miss Mauritius Great Britain' organised by  
Mauritius News  
See Page 15

from Liberal MP Victor Dominello would be tough but not impossible.

"I am not going out there with a mentality that I am going to lose," Mr Laxale told the Northern District Times yesterday morning "I can win the seat. Anything is possible."

Ryde State Labor MP John Watkins retained the seat at the 2007 State Election, but he quit the following year and the seat was won in a landslide by Mr Dominello at a by-election in October 2008.

Mr Laxale said he was looking forward to challenging Mr Dominello.

"The Labor Party is the right party to move forward in a seat like Ryde, which is so important to the state," he said. "Former member John Watkins showed what a strong local member can achieve. "As Labor's candidate, I hope to emulate his success for the good of the community."

## Festival Shadows 2010

Le 16 Novembre 2010, a eu lieu la soirée d'ouverture du « Festival Shadows » au Studio des Ursulines, cinéma d'Art & Essai indépendant du Vème arrondissement de Paris.

Il s'agit d'une biennale consistant à présenter des films indépendants chinois. Ce festival existe depuis 2006, c'était donc la 3ème édition. Deux films étaient projetés ce soir là.

Le premier, un film d'animation intitulé « MS RED » des réalisateurs Zhang Gong et Wang Yang.

Le second est un film de fiction « the bride » du réalisateur Zhang Ming qui s'était spécialement déplacé pour l'occasion.

Les deux films sont très différents mais ils ont un point en commun, la critique de la réalité contemporaine chinoise.

**The bride (La nouvelle mariée)**

**Synopsis:**

À la suite du décès de son épouse, Qi travaille seul dans un salon de thé et rêve d'une vie meilleure. Il élabore, avec ses trois amis, un stratagème qui leur permettrait de sortir de leur condition précaire.

Qi part ainsi en quête d'une nouvelle épouse, jeune et naïve, que les trois amis envisagent par différents moyens de tuer afin de percevoir l'argent de l'assurance. Ce cinéaste dresse ainsi le portrait de quatre hommes déçus et déçus par des échecs amoureux successifs.

Ce film réalisé en 2008, d'une durée de 96', a été présenté en vostf (version originale sous-titres français).

Après la projection, toute la salle restait silencieuse, encore bouleversée par la profondeur du film. Nous étions nous même très émus par l'histoire quelque peu sordide. C'est un film rythmé, complexe et riche en rebondissements. L'action se déroule dans une petite province, et on ne s'attend pas à un tel élan dramaturgique. Les personnages sont vraiment attachants et pourtant si cruels.

On comprend alors la nouvelle réalité chinoise : la course à l'argent, le recul de la morale et le fossé culturel et économique entre les grandes agglomérations et le reste de la Chine.

Le réalisateur nous dépeint ici une réalité si crue de la société chinoise que ce film ne peut être qu'un film indépendant. Ça change beaucoup des films qu'on a l'habitude de voir et c'est en cela que c'est vraiment intéressant. Ce film ne sera jamais diffusé à la télévision chinoise car on ne trouve pas ici de héros, de caractère positif. L'histoire, sujet à controverses, en plus se termine mal.

Considéré comme l'un des cinéastes majeurs de la « Sixième génération », enseignant à l'Académie du cinéma de Pékin, c'est en connaissance de cause que Zhang Ming a réalisé ce film. C'est donc un film à très petit budget, tourné avec des amis non professionnels et des élèves de son école. L'accueil du public mérite qu'on en parle.

Joée Valland Yang & Gilles Berger (Paris)

## Commémoration du 70eme anniversaire de l'appel du 18 juin 1940 du général de Gaulle



L'UNION DES GAULLISTES DE FRANCE (UGF) a voulu commémorer le 70eme anniversaire de l'appel du 18 juin 1940 du général de Gaulle. La



Recevant Diplôme d'Honneur, ancien ambassadeur de France a Maurice (a droite), M. Albert Salon

cérémonie s'est déroulée dans le cadre prestigieux du Sénat à Paris (Palais du Luxembourg) samedi le 20 novembre.

Des "Diplôme d'Honneur" ont été remis à certaines personnalités présentes. A cette occasion, M. Roy Bissoondoyal, Ministre Conseiller de l'ambassade de la République de Maurice à Paris a également reçu un "Diplôme d'Honneur" de l'UGF qui lui a été remis par le président national de l'UGF M. Stéphane Gallardini.

Un autre récipiendaire fut M. Albert Salon, ancien ambassadeur de France, membre du Conseil d'Administration de l'ASSOCIATION FRANCE-MAURICE et conseiller de l'UGF pour le Français et la Francophonie.

De nombreuses personnalités étaient présentes, dont M. Yves Guena, ancien ministre du général de Gaulle, ancien président du Conseil Constitutionnel, les commandants de la Marine nationale Messieurs Faber et Barazer, Madame Catherine Vieu-Charier, adjointe du Maire de Paris M. Delanoë, en charge de la Mémoire et du Monde Combattant, le général de Corps d'Armée Jean Combette etc...

D'autres convives étaient également présents à la cérémonie; M. Louis-René Dalais et M. Denis Piat, respectivement vice-président et membre du Conseil d'Administration de l'ASSOCIATION FRANCE-MAURICE-Paris.

Les remises de "Diplôme" ont été suivies d'une réception dans la salle "René Coty" du Sénat.

Denis Piat (Paris)



Diplôme d'Honneur a Roy Bissoondoyal de l'Ambassade de Maurice a Paris



M. Louis-René Dalais (a gauche) et Denis Piat

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Just ask Aunty

# Straight from the heart . . .

**Should I leave my family for her?**  
**I am 48 and my marriage problems started more than three years ago, when I felt neglected and disrespected by a passionless wife, who concentrated on the children and made no effort with me.**

Frustrated, I tried to discuss it with little response. Desperate for love I ended up having an affair with a divorcee woman. It was great to feel wanted and admired again. I kept the affair a secret because I didn't want to upset the children and my family and also I feared losing some friends. However recently my wife has found out through a friend and confronted me.

After the initial shock she has agreed to forgive me and has been trying to make an effort. I have a good life, three grown up children and I am well respected among my peers that is why I have been putting off leaving for now however I still have strong feeling for the other women and she has been going crazy asking me when I am going to leave my wife.

I am worried if I let her go I will never have the chance to be in a relationship with someone I love.

**AUNTY SAYS:** It is evident from the fact that you have taken the time to write in that you are not 100% sure that leaving your family home is the best decision for you.

You need to ask yourself whether you are truly ready at this stage of the life to leave the comfort of your old habits to venture into something new and unknown.

I know it may seem that the grass is greener on the other side but say for example it does not work out with this new

lady are you willing to risk all that you will be leaving behind for her.

If your answer to that question is yes than you have your answer.

**Why can't I find a boyfriend?**  
**I am feeling really low at the moment. To get straight to the point I feel fat and ugly and really unattractive to men. Every time I go out with my friends they all get chatted up by guys and get loads of compliments and I am always left in the corner.**

I pretend it doesn't affect me and usually just brush it off like I don't care but inside it hurts real bad. It has come to the point that I am making excuses to avoid going out with friends. I have tried losing weight but after countless diets I have given up.

I just wish I had a boyfriend but I just don't know where to start. Any advice would be really appreciated.

**AUNTY SAYS:** You need to first remove from your mind that you are unattractive to men. I know that's easily said than done but men are attracted to women of all shapes and sizes.

Your low self esteem is not doing you any favours when going out with you girlfriends, subconsciously you are sending out negative signals that you are not happy with yourself and because of this it is hard for people namely guys to approach you.

You have to first learn how to love yourself before you can even consider finding a partner. If you do choose to lose weight it has to be for you not for anyone else. No one is perfect everyone has their imperfections but you need to celebrate what is good about you.

If you can manage to master these points you will be half way to finding the right man

for you.

**Stressed out over Christmas..**  
**I am stressing out over Christmas dinner. I have two grown up sons who are married and have their own children but they both live close by.**

Every year I prepare Christmas lunch for the whole family, but this year I have had enough. I am so angry that both my daughters in law make on effort whatsoever to assist me and expect everything to be prepared when they pop over for Christmas lunch.

I am considering booking a holiday for the festive season just to teach them a lesson but I really don't want to travel.

**AUNTY SAYS:** You shouldn't have to feel that you have to leave the country just to enjoy your Christmas. There has to be a more civilised way to handle the situation without entering into an argument.

It seems to me that your sons and daughters in law are unaware of the way you are feeling and maybe assume that you enjoy the role of being the matriarch of the family and don't want to step on your toes by taking that role away from you. You on the other hand are feeling unappreciated. When everyone is together perhaps over dinner bring up the subject of Christmas and just be honest that you want to take it easy this year. Do it as early as possible so that they can make their own plans. Don't worry, they won't dislike you, on the contrary I am sure they will be happy to take the burden off you and they will probably invite you over for Christmas dinner at their place.

**Need Advice? Write to: Just Ask Aunty**  
**583 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JD. Email: editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk**

## Mail to the editor

Dear Sir  
I am very sad to hear of the departure of Kadres Venethatar from this word. May he rest in peace and please send my condolences his wife Devi and his children.

I was at Dhanjee college (Rose-Hill) with Kadres from 1959-1965. I ran cross country against Kadres for Plaisance Atheletic Club (Mahebourg-Port-Louis). Kadres ran for Dhanjee College which produced many cross country champions. Kadres was really a flyer and broken his own records so many times. His manager, the Principal of our college (late Mr Shantilall

Dhanjee) was very proud of Kadres and so were all the students. I recall vividly Mr Dhanjee speaking highly of Kadres on MBC. His sports officer was France Sandapen, ex goal keeper of Hindu Cadets who was a teacher at the college. Cross Country always took place on a Sunday in Mauritius. Kadres always bring his trophies on Monday morning to show the teaches and students. I have always envied his running ability even now. He was never arrogant of his achievements - just a nice guy. What Beckham is for foot-ball - Kadres Venethatar was for cross-country.

Whenever I go to our motherland to meet my ex.college friends, Kadres name always come. Mr S. Dhanjee passed away a few years ago. Before his death he wrote a book 'Souvenir D'une Carriere' printed by Super Printing Co. Ltd, Mauritius. He stated the following,"Vers L'annee 1960, il preparera quelques coureurs pour un cross organise par la Municipalite de Quatre-Bornes. Un coureur de l'equipe Dhanjee College le remporta: il s'appelait Venethatar. Ainsi fut lance serieusement l'entrainement de nos athletes pour le cross; et des lors, le college Dhanjee

enregistra victoire sur victoire, grace a des coureurs come Venethatar, Sooben, Seenyen, Haulkory, Arienne et les autres"

I was very fortunate to be given the book as a gift by the nephew of the late Mr Dhanjee. There are some lovely pictures of Kadres in the book. I would really like to meet his wife and children to share some memories of Kadres.

Please, please pass my condolences to Kadres family and may he rest in peace and his achievements will live for ever.

*Fareed Aumeer (Watford)*

## It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas...



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## Horoscope December 2011

### Aries (March 21 – April 20)

Time marches on, so you cannot stay where you are. You too must make the bold decision to march on. Make every effort to take it to improve your station in life. A golden opportunity may be coming your way again. It may not necessarily be in your star but you will find a lot satisfaction coming your way be it careerwise or on the home front. You will see that both at work and at home everyone has your welfare at heart.

### Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

If you are churchgoer you may light a candle for the blessing you have been receiving and will receive during this favourable month. Success brings friends, you know who are genuine. However short life is, you still have a lot to live for, either in terms of your life span or for the quality of your life itself. You will be right to make the best of your opportunities, but always be careful not to give way to excesses, which can be destructive.

### Gemini (May 22 – June 22)

Everyone likes his food. In your case there is a tendency to put on weight, it is advisable to control what you eat. Fatty food is not recommended. Obviously, it is bad for your weight problem, it is also bad for the heart. If you fall into this category, be extremely careful. There is still some demand on your finances. Fortunately, there is some compensation on the way to balance out your spending this month. You could relax just a little.

### Cancer (June 23 – July 23)

December is a month propitious for flying to other destinations for those born under your sign. You could be attracted to join friends for a trip abroad. This seems to be on the card. Money is a bit of a difficulty if more than one member of the family wants to go. You can only be careful with spending. Romance is in the air. What started for a little fun during the festivities may still linger in your heart, certain development may be encouraging.

### Leo (July 24 – August 23)

Modest investors in domestic property may feel uncomfortable about the housing market. Housing investment is meant to be a long-term venture. Don't worry about the fall in property value, as long as you are not selling. The market will pick up. On the other hand, this is a buyers' market. You may add to your property portfolio by new acquisitions, which will be worth considerably more on recovery of the economy, when prices can only go up. Long-term investors know the game.

### Virgo (August 24 – September 23)

A bit of flirting coming your way does not necessarily mean a love affair ahead. Do not get carried away too quickly, be sure of the lie of the land before committing yourself. You can be sentimental at times, be certain that your feelings are reciprocated. There is considerable pressure to cope with at work and you may be feeling low if you are not properly supported from above. The situation will improve but some waiting is inevitable presently.

### Libra (September 24 – October 23)

You will find that keeping a record of what you do everyday helps to keep you on target as regards what you have set yourself to achieve. Diversions may easily get you out of your trajectory and end in frustration. You should be enjoying fruitful family relationships, though differences of opinions exist within most groups be it at home, among friends or at work. Keep an ear to the ground to pick up what is relevant to you, without antagonising anyone in the process.

### Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

Someone you have not seen for a long time may suddenly drop in. You can be certain it will not to pay you any compliment, but more likely to solicit a favour. But don't be too rigid: Listen first, then assess. Sometimes it is good to stop and think about life and its favours. Thus you will find that presently you have quite a bit to be grateful for. More importantly, you have the power to make a difference for others as well.

### Sagittarius (November 23 – December 21)

You have to understand that a bird in hand is worth more than those in the bush. Do find some happiness with what you have and you will be less dissatisfied with yourself. You do not have to emulate others at all costs. Your every move indicates that your future will be stable because you have the good sense to make provision for your needs. If you remain focused as you are you will inevitable reap the fruit of your labour.

### Capricorn (December 22 – January 20)

It is now time to make peace with the friend or member of the family with whom you have been at daggers drawn for a long time. Of course, you must be sure that the other party is willing also to make peace. A genuine mediator could help. You have shown that you are very keen and very serious on your job. Your efforts are normally appreciated though you may not be told of it. Be careful you do not become unemployed for complaining.

### Aquarius (January 21 – February 19)

December can be one of the coldest month this year and you may feel depressed as the gloomy days linger on. Go out as often as you can for a change of mood. This is an opportunity to concentrate on your creative ability. Don't waste any talent you possess. Being your own best judge, you know what you are good for and could be developed for your own good

### Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

If you are young at heart you may find romance on Valentine's Day. As a married person, if you do want to send your relationship rocking don't get carried away by any attention you receive at functions by those seeking adventures, males or females. You have had your good times and your bad times, as anybody else. So don't dwell too much on the negative side of your existence. You still have your cake though you have eaten so much of it already.

# Jameel Peerally's 'Chagossians, Orphans of the World'



**The shame of Britain (as opposed to the Pride of Britain)**  
Chagossians (dispossessed of their home islands by Britain) living in squalor while British politicians unashamedly cosset themselves in cotton wool.

Scarcely a week after its launch at the Musée de la Photographie in Port Louis, photographer Jameel Peerally's book "Chagossians, Orphans of the World", which has the advantage to be in English and in French, has attracted the attention of many readers abroad – specially from European countries such as France, Norway, Spain and Italy. On the local market, the book is on sale at Rs 750.

Exclusively in black and white, the photographic book of Jameel Peerally displays some 70 unpublished photos of Chagossians living their "forced exile" in Mauritius, Seychelles and Agalega.

The first pages of the book research the history and the whole issue of the Chagossian dilemma. For this part the publisher is indebted to Joël Toussaint, a former journalist who has a wide knowledge of the issue related to the uprooting of the Chagossians from their homeland.

The book launch was attended by a host of activists and

sympathizers among whom the former President of the Republic, Cassam Uteem, the chief guest Father Gérard Mongéard, the leader of Groupe Réfugiés Chagos, Olivier Bancoult, and the other historic leader of the Chagossian cause, Fernand Mandarin. Tristan Bréville was the master of ceremony.

'Orphans of the World' is a photographic testimony and environmental portrait of the last of the Chagossians.

**The Chagossian issue**  
**"THE CHAGOSSIAN ARE** originally from a group of 65 islands known as the Chagos Archipelago. A tropical paradise situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, namely Diego Garcia, Peros Banhos and Solomon. Five generations of Chagossians had been living on these islands since the mid-1780s when French colonists

from Mauritius Island established a coconut plantation on Diego Garcia.

When Mauritius negotiated its independence in the late 1960s, the British government obtained the use of and access to the Archipelago. Diego Garcia was leased to the United States and now serves as a major military base. The people living on the archipelago were forcefully removed and deported to Mauritius Island and some to the Seychelles. They have not been allowed to go back to their homeland.

Forced into exile some forty years ago, they have been suffering much hardship while living in the utmost poverty on Mauritius Island."

(Extract back cover presentation)  
**DODO** (Mauritius)

The Chagossians group Jalsa des Iles has become favourite entertainers within the UK Mauritian community.

We have seen them recently performing at the Rum festival, the Creoles Festival, and the World Travel Market, all in London.

The Jalsa des Iles identify themselves totally with the UK Mauritian community.

They perform what they call the sega typique and their musical instruments are the Ravannes, Maravanne, and Triangle, essential for the traditional Mauritian sega folk song and dance.

The Jalsa des Iles is led by lead singer Dorian Delia and his wife Marie-Joyce.

On November 13 they held their own Divali Celebrations at the Jasmin Hall in Tooting, south London.

See Pictures on the left.

Mrs Savina Choolun-Boothoo of Raj Law Solicitors was invited to address the assistance on the meaning of Diwali, as reported on Page 18.

# The Chagossians' tribulations

## We will never give up



'We will never give up'. Loud and Clear. This is not a challenge from the Chagossians (Ilois) exiled in Mauritius or The Seychelles, but from the Chagossians settled in Crawley, West Sussex, south-east England. They are members of the Chagissian Refugees Group (CRG).

The Chagossians obtained the right to British citizenship following a British High Court decision in 2000. They went to Court to declare illegal and inhumane their forcible removal from their island to create the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) in the 1960s.

The Crawley Chagossians were demonstrating opposite the House of Commons in SW1, as the street nameplate 'OLD PALACE YARD' indicates behind them, to mark the Chagossians Day on November 3 proclaimed by the Mauritius Government.

Unless, they obtain satisfaction they will be there every year on November 3, in greater numbers, to tell the world of their sufferings as a result of their expulsion from the Chagos group of islands in the Indian Ocean four decades ago. 'We will never give up' is their *Cri de Bataille* which will be taken up by generations to come, just as those in the pictures above have taken up from their elders driven out of the Chagos islands 40 years ago. Britain has now got an additional thorn in its flesh, 'really from within'.

In Mauritius, on November 3, PM Navin Ramgoolam lashed out against the hypocrisy of the British Government in continuing to occupy the Chagos illegally in spite of a condemning UN Resolution, and to inflict misery on the displaced islanders.

A CRG member phoned me to say that they were not happy that former Mauritius Foreign Affairs Minister Anil Gayan said on a local Radio that Chagossian Bancoult leader was a British subject fighting the British Government. The leader enjoys dual nationality as many Mauritians do.

## Chagos WikiLeaks inflame passions in Mauritius

During the Chagossians' first High Court battle in the UK in 1999/2000 against Britain, it came to light that a White Hall official (senior British civil servant) had reported in confidential documents that the Chagos Archipelago made up of 65 islands were inhabited by a few Man Fridays\* who had no permanent roots on the island.

It took the islanders a strong legal team to prove to the Court that they had been living on these islands for generations. The Court ruled that the British Government had acted illegally in removing them from their homes in the 60s and 70s to create the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)

The Supreme Court decreed that the Ilois had the right to return to their islands. But the British Government, in 2004, by an Order-in-Council signed by HM The Queen bypassed the Court's ruling. The matter is now to be decided by the European Court of Justice.

But the British Government having leased the main island of Diego Garcia to the USA for military installations and defence purposes had no intention at any time to allow the Chagossians to return home. This has now transpired in the WikiLeaks documents being published on the internet.

As recently as May 2009, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office told the Americans that the creation of the Marine Protected Zone on 55 of the Chagos Islands will prevent the Chagossians from ever returning to their islands.

Mr Colin Roberts, Foreign Office Director for Overseas Territories had the indecency to

refer to the islanders as Man Fridays, (possibly in his mind subhuman) as his former officials did in the 1960s..

The leaks reveal that in converting the Chagos Archipelago into the world's greatest marine park, it was the intention of the then British Foreign Secretary David Milliband of a Labour Government to put paid to the Chagossians' attempt to ever return home.

The WikiLeaks revelations have angered Mauritian PM Navin Ramgoolam and his Foreign Affairs Minister Arvin Boolell. The British Prime Gordon Brown and Foreign Secretary David Milliband had made the promise at the Trinidad CHOGM meeting last year that the Mauritius Government would be consulted in all decisions affecting the Chagos Archipelago, over which the Mauritius Government is claiming back its sovereignty.

Yet, the British Labour Government unilaterally created the Indian Ocean marine reserve park to make the Chagos a no-go area even to Mauritius. "They lied to us, they have reneged on their Trinidad pledges," Mauritian politicians are shouting at home.

But for the British Government, their own interests come first. 'Everything I have done has always been in the interest of Britain,' said David Milliband during the recent British Labour Party leadership campaign. It is reported that PM Navin Ramgoolam declared that he was happy David Milliband lost the leadership battle. The Mauritian PM was infuriated to learn from the WikiLeaks that Milliband was allegedly lying to

him all time.

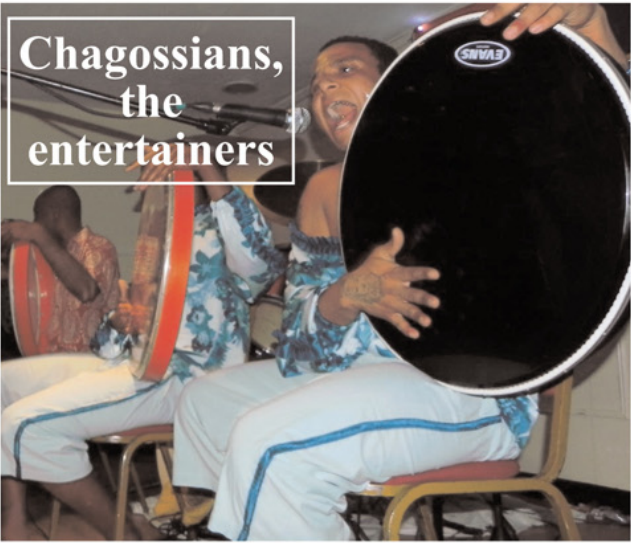
In view of all these political or diplomatic lies, one may reasonably ask whether it has ever been the intention of the British government to give back the Chagos islands to Mauritius when it is never the intention of Britain to ever return The Falklands Islands to Argentina or the Rock of Gibraltar to Spain. *Nous y sommes, Nous y restons*, no more no less.

It has to be reiterated that former PM Mrs Thatcher said that the Chagos would be returned to Mauritius when it would no longer be needed for security purposes or defence of the West. When will that ever be! The 50-year lease of the Chagos Archipelago to the Americans runs out in 2016 (in five years' time). According to the terms of the lease, it is renewable for another 50 years. Well, Mauritius wants to be party to future negotiations.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam has not attended the commemoration ceremony to mark the 200th anniversary of the British capture of Mauritius from the French in December 1810. Her Royal Highness Princess Anne was in Mauritius Dec 1 to 4, for the occasion. The PM has also turned down the British High Commissioner's reception in honour of the Princess Royal, it is reported. Reuters states Foreign Secretary will convene the British High Commissioner to explain the duplicity of his government at home.

P.C.

\* Reference to Robinson Crusoe's servant Friday on the desert island.



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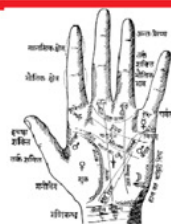
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JANUARY		
1	Sat	New Year's Day
2	Sun	New Year's Day
3	Mon	New Year Bank Holiday
4	Tue	Holiday Scotland
5	Wed	
6	Thu	
7	Fri	
8	Sat	
9	Sun	
10	Mon	
11	Tue	
12	Wed	
13	Thu	
14	Fri	
15	Sat	
16	Sun	
17	Mon	
18	Tue	
19	Wed	
20	Thu	Thaiposam Cavadee
21	Fri	
22	Sat	
23	Sun	
24	Mon	
25	Tue	
26	Wed	
27	Thu	
28	Fri	
29	Sat	
30	Sun	
31	Mon	

FEBRUARY		
1	Tue	Abolition of Slavery
2	Wed	
3	Thu	Chinese spring festival
4	Fri	
5	Sat	
6	Sun	
7	Mon	
8	Tue	
9	Wed	
10	Thu	
11	Fri	
12	Sat	
13	Sun	
14	Mon	St. Valentine's Day
15	Tue	
16	Wed	
17	Thu	
18	Fri	
19	Sat	
20	Sun	
21	Mon	
22	Tue	
23	Wed	
24	Thu	
25	Fri	
26	Sat	
27	Sun	
28	Mon	

MAY		
1	Sun	Labour Day
2	Mon	Early May Bank Holiday
3	Tue	
4	Wed	
5	Thu	
6	Fri	
7	Sat	
8	Sun	
9	Mon	
10	Tue	
11	Wed	
12	Thu	
13	Fri	
14	Sat	
15	Sun	
16	Mon	
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20	Fri	
21	Sat	
22	Sun	
23	Mon	
24	Tue	
25	Wed	
26	Thu	
27	Fri	
28	Sat	
29	Sun	UK Spring Bank Holiday
30	Mon	
31	Tue	

JUNE		
1	Wed	
2	Thu	
3	Fri	
4	Sat	
5	Sun	
6	Mon	
7	Tue	
8	Wed	
9	Thu	
10	Fri	
11	Sat	
12	Sun	
13	Mon	
14	Tue	
15	Wed	
16	Thu	
17	Fri	
18	Sat	
19	Sun	Father's Day
20	Mon	
21	Tue	
22	Wed	
23	Thu	
24	Fri	
25	Sat	
26	Sun	
27	Mon	
28	Tue	
29	Wed	
30	Thu	

SEPTEMBER		
1	Thu	
2	Fri	Ganesh Chaturthi
3	Sat	
4	Sun	
5	Mon	
6	Tue	
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OCTOBER		
1	Sat	
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17	Mon	
18	Tue	
19	Wed	
20	Thu	
21	Fri	
22	Sat	
23	Sun	
24	Mon	
25	Tue	British Summertime ends
26	Wed	Divali
27	Thu	
28	Fri	
29	Sat	
30	Sun	
31	Mon	

2011 Year Planner

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MARCH

1	Tue	
2	Wed	
3	Thu	
4	Fri	
5	Sat	Maha Shivaratree
6	Sun	
7	Mon	
8	Tue	
9	Wed	
10	Thu	
11	Fri	
12	Sat	Independence/ Republic Day
13	Sun	
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31	Thu	

APRIL

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2	Sat	
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12	Tue	
13	Wed	
14	Thu	
15	Fri	
16	Sat	
17	Sun	
18	Mon	
19	Tue	
20	Wed	
21	Thu	
22	Fri	Good Friday Bank Holiday
23	Sat	
24	Sun	
25	Mon	Easter Monday
26	Tue	
27	Wed	
28	Thu	
29	Fri	
30	Sat	

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JULY

1	Fri	
2	Sat	
3	Sun	
4	Mon	
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23	Sat	
24	Sun	
25	Mon	
26	Tue	
27	Wed	
28	Thu	
29	Fri	
30	Sat	
31	Sun	

AUGUST

1	Mon	
2	Tue	
3	Wed	
4	Thu	
5	Fri	
6	Sat	
7	Sun	
8	Mon	
9	Tue	
10	Wed	
11	Thu	
12	Fri	
13	Sat	
14	Sun	
15	Mon	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
16	Tue	
17	Wed	
18	Thu	
19	Fri	
20	Sat	
21	Sun	
22	Mon	
23	Tue	
24	Wed	
25	Thu	
26	Fri	
27	Sat	
28	Sun	
29	Mon	Summer Bank Holiday
30	Tue	Eid-UI-Fitr*
31	Wed	

NOVEMBER

1	Tue	All Saints Day
2	Wed	Arrival of Indentured Labourers
3	Thu	
4	Fri	
5	Sat	Bonfire Night
6	Sun	
7	Mon	
8	Tue	
9	Wed	
10	Thu	
11	Fri	
12	Sat	
13	Sun	Remebrance Sunday
14	Mon	
15	Tue	
16	Wed	
17	Thu	
18	Fri	
19	Sat	
20	Sun	
21	Mon	
22	Tue	
23	Wed	
24	Thur	
25	Fri	Bank Holiday
26	Sat	
27	Sun	
28	Mon	
29	Tue	
30	Wed	

DECEMBER

1	Thu	
2	Fri	
3	Sat	
4	Sun	
5	Mon	
6	Tue	
7	Wed	
8	Thu	
9	Fri	
10	Sat	
11	Sun	
12	Mon	
13	Tue	
14	Wed	
15	Thu	
16	Fri	
17	Sat	
18	Sun	
19	Mon	
20	Tue	
21	Wed	
22	Thu	
23	Fri	
24	Sat	
25	Sun	Christmas Day
26	Mon	Boxing Day
27	Tue	
28	Wed	
29	Thu	
30	Fri	
31	Sat	New Year's Eve

Christmastide

Turkey Time Is Here Again

By Devinia Sookia (USA)\*



Tired of having the traditional turkey over Christmas ? Try to cook other meats . There are many meats out there that taste delicious and are healthy as well .The trick is knowing how to choose the right ones.

There are many good reasons for including meat in your diet . The most important one is that meat is a good source of protein , vitamins and minerals provided it is healthy .Healthy meat means lean cuts which are cooked in a healthy way such as grilling and baking .Thus it is not loaded with saturated fat and bad cholesterol .

The meat group goes beyond red meats like beef and lamb .They also include poultry, pork, fish and shellfish. While their tastes vary widely, each of these types of meat provides nutrients the body needs . Protein is the basis of bones, muscles and other body structures.

It is essential to many of the body’s systems. Vitamins include the antioxidant vitamin E as well as important B vitamins, notably niacin, thiamin, riboflavin and B6 .These are involved in many body functions such as regulating the nervous system and making red blood cells. Minerals found in meat are iron which is important for blood health, zinc for a healthy immune system and magnesium

needed in the bone-building process.

Choosing Lean Cuts Of Meat:

Fatty meats that are bad for you are cuts which include saturated fat .

Saturated fat raises levels of the unhealthy LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol in your blood. Saturated fat and bad cholesterol are more prevalent in organ meat, minced meat including fresh sausage, bacon and some luncheon meats . When cooking meat, even if you choose the leanest varieties you will see how much white solid fat there is on that piece .

Therefore this fat should be trimmed off before cooking. Always choose meats and cuts which have the least fat. When cooking beef choose cuts with the words “round” and “loin” in the name, including top and bottom round, round eye, top loin, sirloin, and tenderloin. When cooking chicken and turkey ,pick chicken and turkey breasts and cutlets. When cooking minced meat , it is hard to know how much fat the meat contains .

Minced beef might be only 75 to 85 percent lean. Minced beef labeled “lean” should be only 10 percent fat, with less than half of it saturated.”Extra lean” is less than 5 percent fat

but nearly all of its fat may still be of the saturated kind. Finally grinding your own meats at home with a food grinder is the only way to make sure you are not having unhealthy minced meat .

Try Other Meats

If you think only of beef or chicken when planning meals, you are missing out on a variety of tastes. With the growing popularity of ethnic cuisines and the quest for leaner types of protein, new and unusual cuts of meat are now available in many meat markets.

Goat meat considered as red meat is becoming more popular because of the growing interest in Jamaican food and other cuisines that use it. Goat meat is very lean . Meat from a young goat, or kid is tender, while adult goat has more taste.

Cuts are similar to those available for lamb, from chops to roasts and kebab or stew chunks. Rabbit is popular in European cooking.

It is available fresh or frozen and can be a substitute for chicken. It is a lean, rich source of protein with a mild taste . Game is the term used for the meat of all wild birds and animals.

However many varieties are now raised on farms. Venison

(deer), boar (wild pig) ,meat of hares and alligator as well as birds like pheasant and quail are all healthier choices to consider.

Meat Inspections

If you are worried about trying a new type of meat , you must make sure that the meat was inspected before buying it.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service inspects beef, lamb, pork, goat, and domesticated poultry, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea, and ostrich. Inspection of buffalo, rabbit, and other game by the USDA is voluntary,not mandatory.

Other governments such as the British and French Governments have similar procedures .Therefore ask if your meat was inspected before buying it . Therefore ask if your meat was inspected before buying it .

Now that you have a wide list of meats to choose from for your Christmas and New Year’s Day celebrations , enjoy your meals .

Bon Appetit

Mauritius News Cuisine

Rasson

10 to 12 servings

Rasson is the Mauritian version of an Indian soup Rassam a thin,fiery hot,lentil-based consommé.

Rasson has reputation of curing many ills, in particular for combating the unpleasant physical effects of a hangover. Two bowls sipped the morning after, are guaranted to make one stand up, ready to start anew.

But Rasson is also a most agreeable addition to a meal of rice, beans and chutneys. It is frecuently served at parties, usually after midnight, to be sipped slowly in genteel cups. It effectively chases yawns and galvanizes the guests so the party can go on.

This recipe for Rasson has been handed to us by Mme Manikon of Camarel,wife of a well known hunt traker, who makes barrels of the devilish brew on the of Saint Anne, patron saint of the parish. This tradition in olden times was made more interesting by a dose or two of illicit rum; a mere prank, aflouting of the law befitting the wild nature of the region of Black River.

Ingredients

- 1 lb dholl [yellow split pease]
- 1 lb songes bredes
- 4 tablespoons oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons ripe tamarind pulp
- 1 teaspoon crush garlic
- 8 whole dried chillies
- 8 curry leaves
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1 table spoon fresh coriender
- 1 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme leaves
- 1 or 2 whole cloves
- 1 teaspoon small aniseed crished
- 2 tablespoons tumeric
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 12 cups water ( 3 litter )

Method

Boil the dholl until creamy soft. Mix into a puree,and pass through a strainer. Reserve.

Cook the bredes songe until very tender, and mash with a fork, or in a food processor

Heat the oil in a large saucepan or stock pot. Add the onions and sautée until golden. Add the dholl, the bredes and the tamarind. Let it cook for 5 minutes. Add 1 cup of water and the spices, stirring well until the mixture is homogeneous.

Bring to a boil, and cook a few minutes before adding the rest of the water. Simmer, covered for one hour.

Variations

Add the Rasson, while it is cooking the strained juice extracted from crushed lobstershells after they have been boiled.

Similarly, use the juice extracted from small crabs, or from the heads of shrimps or freshwater prawns(camarons).

Each ingredient contributes its specific flavour to the Rasson. The best Rasson, comments Mme Manikon, is made with a base of chicken stock and shellfish juices.

Notes —( Variations)

The consistency and spiciness of rasson can be alteredto suit taste. Simply augment or reduce the amount of water or spices.

Note that Mme Manikon, uses fresh ripe tamarind in her recipe — deligently scrapes the pulp from the seeds —a commandable and time consuming exploit. Other cooks are happy to use the convenient, ready to use tamarind paste sold in island stores.

Like all soup, rasson can be expanded to include a variety of base ingredients. Although the vegetarian nature of the original dish will be sacrificed, the taste and texture of the broth will benefit from the addition, for instance, of deer, pig or wild boar feet.

Left over lobster legs shells etc. can be utilized with advantage in a rasson. Crush and boil your leftovers in 2 to 3 cups of water, strain,and use as part of the liquid called for in the recipe.

Similarly chicken carcasses ( quartered ), necks and giblets add a lot of flavour to rasson. Saute lightly in oil prior to the rasson.

Rasson with deer feet

Rasson indeed has some exotic and savoury variations. It can be enhanced by the addition of deer, pig or wildboarfeet.

From the ‘Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius’ by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel (Translated by Maryse de Broglio-Sand) Published by Editions de l’Océan Indien (EOI) Reproduced with permission

Health Matters

WHO urges all countries to strengthened Health Financing so more people can use services

Berlin - Geneva-Governments worldwide are struggling to pay for health care. As populations get older, as more people suffer chronic diseases, and as new and more expensive treatments appear, health costs soar.

Even in countries where health services have traditionally been accessible and affordable, financing mechanisms are increasingly stretched. In countries that depend heavily on people paying directly for services at the point of delivery, health bills push 100 million people into poverty each year.

This year’s World Health Report gives governments practical guidance on ways to finance health care. Taking evidence from all over the world, it shows how all countries, rich and poor, can adjust their health financing mechanisms so more people get the health care they need. It encourages the international community to support low and middle-income countries’ efforts to increase health coverage.

“No one in need of health care should have to risk financial ruin as a result,” said Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO. “The report sets out a stepwise approach. We encourage every country to act on this and do at least one thing to improve health financing and increase health coverage over the coming year.”

WHO highlights three key areas where change can happen: by raising more funds for health, raising money more fairly, and spending it more efficiently.

Raise more funds for health

In many cases, there is scope for governments to allocate more money for health. In 2000, African heads of state committed to spend 15% of government funds on health. So far three countries (Liberia, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania) have achieved this. If the governments of the world’s 49 poorest countries each allocated 15% of state spending to health, they could raise an additional US\$ 15 billion per year - almost doubling the funds available.

They can also generate more money for health through more efficient tax collection, as Indonesia has done, raising revenue by 10% points. They can find new sources of tax revenue, such as sales taxes and currency transactions. Ghana, for example, has funded its national health insurance partly by increasing the value-added tax (VAT) by 2.5%. A review of 22 low-income countries shows that they could between them raise US\$1.42 billion through a 50% increase in tobacco tax. India could generate \$370 million per year by implementing a levy of just 0.005% on foreign exchange transactions.

The international community has a key role to play. An average of \$44 per capita is required to ensure access to even a small set of quality health services in low income countries. Many struggle to do this. Today, 31 countries spend less than US\$ 35 per person on health. If all donors joined the government of Norway and others that have kept their

promise to allocate 0.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) to official development assistance, three million additional lives could be saved in lower income countries by 2015.

Raise money more fairly

This means removing the key financial barriers to obtaining care. Countries like Japan that manage to ensure health services are available to the entire population have done so by reducing dependence on direct, out of pocket payments and increasing prepayment - generally through insurance or taxes or a mix of the two.

The funds raised are then pooled, so that it is not just those who are unlucky enough to get sick that bear the financial burden. This is the model used in many European countries, with Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Rwanda, Thailand and Turkey all making significant progress in the last decade - along with Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova.

Spend money more effectively

Smarter spending could increase global health coverage by anything between 20%-40%. The report identifies ten areas where greater efficiencies are possible.

One of these is the purchasing of medicines. France has adopted a strategy

of using generic drugs wherever possible - this saved the equivalent of almost US\$ 2 billion in 2008. Hospitals are another. Hospital care often absorbs from half to two thirds of total government spending on health: almost US\$300 billion is lost annually to hospital-related inefficiency. More efficient spending on hospitals could boost productivity by 15%.

The international community has a key role to play in improving efficiency. Five years after the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which aimed to harmonize aid around country-led programmes, more than 140 global health initiatives run in parallel - imposing logistic and reporting burdens on recipient governments that stretch resources still further. The Government of Rwanda, for example, currently reports on more than 890 health indicators - a hugely time-consuming process.

Looking ahead

On 22 November, WHO presents the report to a ministerial conference on health financing, hosted by the Government of Germany.

The organization and its partners will then embark on a programme to help countries review their health financing systems and strategies alongside their national health policies and plans. It will encourage and facilitate exchanges of experiences between countries, and help countries adjust financing systems so that more people get to access the health services they need.

## Miss Mauritius GB

Organised by Mauritius News  
Supported by Mauritian Cosmopolitan Society

Sponsored by Air Mauritius, Raj Law Solicitors,  
London School of Law, A & M Travel

Venue: Wandsworth Civic Suite, next to Wandsworth Town Hall,  
Wandsworth High Street, London SW18

Date: 5 February 2011 - Time: 7.30pm to 1.30am

Requirements:

Age 18 to 27 years old Status: Unmarried/No children Character:  
Respectable

Nationality: UK-born Mauritian/British Subject

Application Deadline: 6 January 2011

Selected applicants will be notified by 10 January 2011

### Criteria for finals

The finals will be held on 5 February 2011. Election of Miss Mauritius GB, assessed by a panel of judges, will be determined on Appearance and Bearing, Dress and Elegance. Finalists will be expected to answer, in English, a few questions of general interest from the panel of judges.

Bikini Parade will not be included.

Applications received after the closing date will not be opened and will not be entertained. Postmarks, as far as possible, may be identified as proof of posting.

To avoid any confusion with the former events held in the UK, Mauritius News is using the title of "Miss Mauritius GB" for the competition to be held in 2011. It will be a renewal with the past.

A Management Committee has been set up to stage this event.

## Miss Mauritius Great Britain 2011

organised by Mauritius News

### Application Form

Deadline receipt by MN: 6 January, 2011

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Letters)

(Block Letters)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Age on 5th February 2011: \_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_ months

(Proof of age should be produced when required. Applicants must be over 18 and under 27 years old by the 5 February 2011.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Block Letters)

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone / Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Status (Please circle as appropriate):

Previously married YES/NO

Married currently YES/NO

Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

If not born in the UK, how long have you been a British Citizen?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years

(Applicants will be expected to show proof of Mauritian Parentage AND British Citizenship.)

Date: ..... Signature: .....

Completed Application forms with 2 photos (1 face and 1 full body) should be forwarded to Mauritius News, 583 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 3JD by 6 January 2011.

Alternatively, completed (scanned) applications with attached photos may be emailed to <editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk>

For more information, email Yvonne at <yvonnegoder@hotmail.co.uk>

or call Mauritius News on

0207 498 3066.

**This Application form may be photocopied to complete.**

Prizes for the winner and two runners-up will be announced in next issue

## Former Miss Mauritius UK makes herself known on Google



1986

Ruma Luckeenarain was elected Miss UK in 1986. In a note on google she writes:

"I won Miss Mauritius UK in 1986 and my name is Ruma Devi Luckeenarain. This was in Mauritius News in London and it was in the newspapers in Mauritius as well.

This information is not on google and I thought I would enquire why.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know if there is any way that this information could be on google.

## Sponsors can brand their names with this event

List of sponsors in next issue of MN, on leaflets, website and in the Souvenir Brochure will include those who have signified and confirmed their intention to be part of the Miss Mauritius UK scene.

Mauritius News also invites businesses that may wish to brand their companies' name in the paper, website, leaflets and souvenir programme to ring MN on 0207 498 3066, or email us at <editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk>

## Misses Mauritius UK of yesteryears



1979



1980



1987



1988



Last century, still!

Where are those lovely Misses Mauritius UK who graced the competitions as far back as 1979? We shall be delighted to invite them to the evening of 5 February 2011 if they make themselves known to us and wish to attend. We may even tell their stories in Mauritius News, if they care to tell us.

One person we know of his whereabouts is the gentleman in the 1987 and 1988 pictures. In the 1988 picture, he is happily presenting the BA ticket to the lucky Miss Mauritius of the year.

He will have the honour to present the return ticket to Mauritius to Miss Mauritius GB 2011. This time it will be an Air Mauritius ticket, because he is now the Manager of Air Mauritius UK and Ireland—Mr Anthony Cowles.

# Government heeds Law Society’s warnings about impact of immigration cap

The Government’s announcement of a skilled immigration cap acknowledges concerns of the business community over impact of the cap on the UK’s global competitiveness.

The Law Society has lobbied hard on behalf of highly successful international law firms that operate in a global market, highlighting the point that recruiting the very best talent from around the world underpins the success of these businesses.

# East London Mosque launches centenary year

The East London Mosque Trust celebrated the launch of its centenary year on November 25 2010, at the House of Lords hosted by the Lord Sheikh of Cornhill.

Invited guests included Members of Parliament, diplomats of various Muslim embassies based in London, heads of leading Muslim institutions and leaders from civic society bodies.

A student of Al-Mizan primary school based at the Mosque opened the evening’s programme with a recitation from the Holy Qur’an.

The Lord Sheikh said in his opening statement: “The East London Mosque and centre has had a glorious past and it’s a privilege to host this centenary event in this great venue. The mosque leaders are not resting on their laurels, and they continue to go forward in strength to strength.

“In 2001, His Royal Highness Prince Charles and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed al-Faisal launched the project to build the current London Muslim Centre, which was completed in 2004. The presence of these two high profile figures, at the launch of the London Muslim Centre, shows the high regard by royalty as well as the wider community.

“25,000 people come to the mosque every week, which increased to 47 percent during the month of Ramadan. 25,000 people and they are not all Muslims, they are non-Muslims

as well - big number! Goes to show how popular the centre and the mosque is and the valuable function which it fulfils. Amongst other services the centre provides Muslims and non-Muslim the opportunity to learn through dialogue, discussion and interaction.

It is very, very important that we give the true message of Islam. Sometimes our religion is not understood; it is our duty and responsibility to convey the true message of Islam and in that respect the centre and mosque is fulfilling a valuable function.”

Rushanara Ali, MP for Bethnal Green and Bow speaking at the event said: “My father who came to the UK in the 1960’s and those of us who have moved to the East End long before, all of us have had a place in the mosque, with support and encouragement from the mosque.”

She went on to say: “We as a community have come of age, both in terms of what we do at the grassroots level, but also in national public life. And that’s represented in terms of parliamentarians in the House of Lords, as well as in the House of Commons. There are many more Muslims in British politics and public life increasingly.

I think it’s really important for us to have a voice across the board, to highlight the concerns and issues that face the British Muslim community, but also in terms of the contributions we

The Society warns that until full details emerge of how the process will work under the new cap, its true impact will not be clear.

However, Law Society Chief Executive Desmond Hudson said prioritising sponsored visas for skilled migrants with a job offer reflects a new understanding of the importance of these migrants to the UK economy.

“Migrants brought in to work in the UK’s large international law firms are highly-qualified, well-paid individuals who make a significant contribution to the domestic economy through business generation, salary expenditure, tax revenue, and the creation of support roles filled from the domestic labour market.

“They also bring specific expertise and experience of foreign markets that supplements, develops and creates opportunities for the excellent legal talent sourced from the resident labour market.”

However, the Society warns that even though priority will be given for skilled migrants the fact remains that as long as an upper limit on numbers persists, businesses are likely to encounter problems in recruiting essential staff. The Society urges the Government to review the limit annually to ensure that it does not damage the UK’s international competitiveness.

make as British citizens.”

Chairman of Pro Bono in the London Muslim Centre, Robin Knowles CBE QC said: “It’s that recognition of the importance of a community that represents Muslims and non-Muslims alike, that lies behind the Pro Bono initiative mentioned. It stands for everything that the mosque stands for, for service, for volunteering, for willingness on the part of those that have strength and time to give, to those in a weak and difficult moment or in a moment for a lack of understanding. To do that for men and women alike, to do that for whoever in the community may need so, it is just an example of a range of projects that have been mentioned this evening.”

A number of other speakers spoke of their experience and volunteering for the mosque and the centre. Dr Abdul Bari, Chairman of the East London Mosque Trust closed up on the evening’s speeches by saying: “Serving a mosque is a privilege for any Muslim and part of our religious teachings. Mosques are not the individual property of anyone person and we are just caretakers of the House of God. The vision of our predecessors was to create an institution that bound the communities together with a common goal. They have done remarkably well, and we see the testament to that by celebrating 100 years of what they seeded. Our job is to take this forward, for our future generations.”

# BBC Survey shows Young People used as ‘cheap labour’ for carers, says Paul Ragan

Welsh insurance tycoon Paul Ragan, who is a key supporter of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, said the BBC survey that reported there were four times more young carers in the UK than officially recognised had come ‘as no great surprise’ and that young people are being used as ‘cheap labour’ for carers.

“We have said for many years that there are far too many child carers who are not recognised or supported,” said Mr Ragan, who was a child carer himself

and looked after his own mother, who suffered from schizophrenia, from the age of five until 10 on a Sheffield council estate.

“Now that the plight of child carers has received the public attention that it deserves the important issue is what we do about it,” said Mr Ragan, who is a star of Channel 4’s ‘Secret Millionaire’.

“The vital thing is that all financial support for young carers is ring-fenced and protected from all central and local

government cuts.”

4,029 schoolchildren from 10 UK schools responded to a questionnaire prepared for the BBC by academics from Nottingham University.

This survey would reflect that there are about 700,000 young carers currently in the UK – the 2001 census identified only 175,000 child carers.

A spokesman for the National Young Carers Coalition (a group of charities including the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Barnardo’s and the Children’s Society) agreed with

Mr Ragan and said the figures came as “no surprise”.

“The Princess Royal Trust for Carers provides 85 young carer’s services and interactive websites and supports over 25,000 children who are looking after family members,” said Mr Ragan.

“It is more important that we support the work of the Trust now than ever before. We must all ensure that cuts to public spending do not impact upon young carers,” said Mr Ragan.

## Tête-à-tête with:

## Mauritian-born actress Françoise Pascal

Françoise Pascal first taste of showbiz came when she was dancing on UK TV *Top of the Pops* in the 60s. Her breakthrough film was *There’s a Girl in My Soup* with Peter Sellers in 1970, playing Paola. More importantly, she hit the big time playing saucy French girl *Danielle Farve* in Vince Powell’s *Mind Your Language* with Barry Evans in the 1970s.

*Françoise Pascal who now dedicates her life to charity will hold a Barry Evans and Vince Powell Memorial Lunch in aid of Barnardo’s Charity.*

*Dianne Griffiths asks Françoise about the event to be held on February 6th 2011.*

**D.G: What is the event for, can you remind us?**

**F.P:** The Event is to celebrate the lives and work of late actor Barry Evans, and the writer of many comedy series Vince Powell—who also wrote *Mind Your Language*.

**D.G: What is the purpose of the event?**

**F.P:** It is to raise as much money for the charity Barnardos. Barry Evans himself was a Barnardos child. There will also be an unveiling of a blue plaque on former Barry’s House on Sunday 6th February 2011.

**D.G: Where is the Lunch to be held?**

The event will be held at the Marriott’s Hotel in Maida Vale.

**D.G: How do we buy tickets? Are there any special packages?**

**F.P:** The details have been published on my website: *Barry Evans and Vince Powell Memorial Lunch on 6th February 2011 at the Marriott Hotel, Plaza Parade, Maida Vale, London, NW6 5RP.*

A Plaque Unveiling ceremony will take place at the house where Barry used to live at 8 Buckland Crescent, London NW3 5DX. The Hotel to Barry’s Home is approximately 7 minutes by car and 30 minutes on foot.

**D.G: How much should the guests contribute for the Memorial Lunch?**

**F.P:** Tickets are £70 per person and £700 for a table.

**D.G: Tell us about the menu.**

**F.P:** Champagne to welcome guests on arrival, followed by a three-course meal, served with 2 bottles of wine (red and white ), 2 bottles of water (Fizzy and Non) on the table, Desert, Petit Four and Coffee.

Sally Farniloe-Neville will act as Fund-raising auctioneer for the event.

**D.G: Any media coverage?**

**F.P:** We are in discussions with a TV company who have expressed an interest in covering the event. We hope you can all join us on the day and look forward to seeing you there.

**D.G: Where did the idea come from?**

**F.P:** It was the idea of many fans who thought Barry Evans had been forgotten by everyone and my idea was to have a reunion lunch at first but it turned out to be more than anticipated.

**D.G: What do you hope to get out of the event?**

**F.P:** I hope to make sure that Barry and Vince will not be forgotten and to raise as much money for the Charity, Barnardos.

**D.G: How many of you are involved in the event?**

**F.P:** I have gladly taken on the role as sole organiser of the event.

**What are your fondest memories of Barry Evans?**

**F.P:** Working with Barry in *Mind Your Language* was the highlight of my career. As an actor Barry gave 100% of him to his fellow actors so that they can shine.

**D.G: What have you been doing since ‘Mind Your Language’?**

**F.P:** I have been working for many charities and have been raising money for them, as well as raising awareness to their cause.

**D.G: What other charities are you involved in? What is your role?**

**F.P:** I am currently involved with the ‘Sick Children’s Charity’ and they have made me an Ambassador to the cause. I am aiming next year to take an active part in it to raise as much money as I can for them.

**D.G: What do you most enjoy about your work?**

**F.P:** Being with people and having communication with them, making people happy and laughter is the greatest remedy as a little 7-year-old told me when I visited him. He had a brain tumour and died on Monday 8th November. The thought that I made him laugh and made him happy with my visit engulfs my heart with joy and happiness. May he rest in peace. He was the bravest boy I have ever met. That is what gives me satisfaction in life.

**D.G: You were in the American show ‘The Young and the restless’ for 7 years, what has living in America taught you?**

**F.P:** I was in America for 7 years, I made many films, TV series and soap operas. Made tremendous amount of money but living in America taught me nothing. When you are back in a country that had given you life before i.e ENGLAND!—it teaches you humility when you are down and when you lose everything, having to struggle again and again to make ends meet and to survive. I know how to survive in the deepest of jungles and in the loneliest of planets!

**D.G: What is your idea of a perfect moment?**

**F.P:** A perfect moment is when I am with either my boyfriend or my son, having a good laugh at all time and leaving your troubles far far away, a happiness that you do not recognise and you are satisfied with.

**D.G: How do you relax?**

**F.P:** Having a drink with my boyfriend and laughing all the time.

**D.G: What do you want for Christmas?**

**F.P:** To win the lottery! Really, I was two numbers away from becoming the latest millionaire the other Friday, but eh! You never know, I wish to win it for Xmas so that I can give my family and my friends a really Happy Xmas!



Françoise Pascal in her heyday. She had it all! Picture from her website.

Dianne Griffiths

# What has 2011 has in store for us from the outset?

The VAT goes up to 20% in January. This means that the Government pockets one-fifth on everything we spend. This sort of money should be more than enough to fill the coffers of the Treasury, and allow MPs more personal expenses.

The good news is that from April 2011, all basic-rate taxpayers will be able to earn £7,475 before they pay any income tax at all, an increase of £1,000 on today’s tax-free personal allowance. It will be news for higher-rate taxpayers who pay more (Which?

magazine).

There are bad news as far as airport charges are concerned. It is getting to a point where the surcharges are higher than the price of the ticket itself. It is not surprising that many people complain to us that they find the total price exorbitant. Already the British Airport Authority introduced an additional surcharge from November 1, and there are more taxes on the way on longhaul flights, economy and business classes. Virgin boss says these surcharges will kill th trade.

## Mauritius Budget

The recent Budget in Mauritius makes provision for the imposition of a fee of £10 on each foreign visitor, to which some are referring as a tourist tax. This money is apparently required for to meet the

expansion costs of the Mauritius airport.

The Mauritius Budget also makes provision to increase the funds available to develop and expand the tourism sector. This measure has been welcomed as a move in the direction.

Mauritius’s economy banks on tourism, yet the former Minister of Finance and the former Tourism Minister closed down the official Mauritius tourist office in London to contract out the promotion of such an important industry to those who, in spite of their expertise, cannot be the ONLY avenue to tourism development in Mauritius.

It is high time that the Mauritius Tourist Office based at the High Commission re-established to become as active as it had been for several decades.

**Mauritius a top travel destination for 2011**  
**The island nation of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean came in top, with tourists placing increasing importance on good value for money.**  
*BBC World News: Fast Tracks’ Fiona Foster reports (8.12.10)*

# The Engineering Tower of UOM named after Professor Sir Edouard Lim Fat



Following a promise made by the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, on his launching of Sir Edouard Lim Fat's autobiography in August, the Engineering Tower of the University of Mauritius has been named "Professor Sir Edouard Lim Fat Engineering Tower" during an official naming ceremony held on Friday 29 October in the presence of the Minister of Tertiary Education, Rajesh Jeetah, and the full bench of the administrative council of the university among whom the Vice-Chancellor Professor Konrad

Morgan and the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Professor Soodursun Jugessur, C.S.K., O.S.K. Professor Sir Edouard Lim Fat, kt., is former Head of School of Industrial Technology and former Pro- Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius.

Professor Sir Edouard Lim Fat was appointed as the first Head of the School of Industrial Technology of the University in 1968. In his address, Profesor Soodursun Jugessur laid stress on the exceptional contribution of Professor Lim Fat in so many fields such as agriculture, industry, education, engineering and technology, and observed that the achievements of the latter have brought recognition to the country in the Indian Ocean region as well as worldwide.

Professor Lim Fat, a nonagerian by now, has expressed his unwavering conviction that technology is vital for the advancement of the country. This is why the University of Mauritius which started as a simple College of Agriculture, developed other schools among which the School of Industrial Technology. However, the former Head of the School of Industrial Technology noted with regret that the role of engineers is still looked down on in Mauritius. "This is in sharp contrast with the situation in Russia, Europe or China where the majority of ministers were engineers," he observed.

## Tribute to an unsung hero and a passionate researcher

The Minister of Tertiary Education, Rajesh Jeetah, spoke highly of Sir Edouard Lim Fat's crucial contribution in the creation of the Mauritius Export Processing Zone which had been a key instrument in curbing the chronic unemployment situation which hit the island in the years following independence.

"Sir Edouard Lim Fat is an unsung hero of our nation whose achievements in the socio-economic landscape of our country are undeniable," said the Minister who was too keen to remind his audience of the contribution of Sir Edouard Lim Fat's School of Industrial Technology in the training of qualified manpower for the industrial sector in the 1980's.

Minister Jeetah seized this golden opportunity to share his concern about the field of research. "I would like to appeal to the academic staff of the University to engage in more research in priority areas for the country, to put their knowledge and expertise to the development of innovative processes and technology and to generally contribute to the betterment of our society," said the Minister of Tertiary Education.

At the end of the official ceremony, a commemorative plate was unveiled in the lobby of the Engineering Tower in the presence of the many guests among whom were former Vice-President of the Republic Raouf Bundhun, Member of National Assembly Suren Dayal and former Minister of Education Dharam Gokhool.

### INSERT

## Sir Edouard Lim Fat's



## autobiography

Sir Edouard Lim Fat's autobiography was launched in August last by Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam at Imperial China Restaurant in Trianon. Printed by T. Printers Co Ltd under the title "From VISION to MIRACLE - Memoirs of Sir Edouard LIM FAT and the story of the Mauritius Export Processing Zone (EPZ)", the 215 pages book is sold at Rs 500 in bookshops in Mauritius.

More than a family and personal story, the book has an invaluable importance as a primary document about the Mauritian economy and the evolution of one of its key industrial sectors, the Export Processing Zone, which remains

one of the major employers and revenue earners of the island. The following is a survey of the book:

"Although Sir Edouard Lim Fat's "From Vision to Miracle" is primarily and centrally autobiographical, covering almost nine decades of an individual's successes and failures, joys and sorrows, the book devotes some space to the story of the Mauritian EPZ from 1970 to 2009, the author having been the pioneer of this economic sector which has become one of the jewels in the crown of the Mauritian miracle.

The autobiography embraces the vivid pictures of his childhood in a poor village in Mauritius during the great World Depression of the nineteen-thirties, his student days in England at a time of profound political upheavals in U.K., the complete transformation of Mauritius from colonialism to independence. This son of a modest shopkeeper graduated in Chemical Engineering from the Imperial College of London and in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Newcastle in England.

Sir Edouard tells us about his professional career in U.K., his work as Engineer in Mauritius and his frequent travels to the lands of the Asian Tigers - travels which inspired his vision of a Mauritius trading along the same paths. With objectivity and

modesty, he tells how he helped to establish the Mauritius EPZ which has been rightly hailed in the world as a Miracle. For his contributions, Sir Edouard has been popularly known as the father of the EPZ.

Less known but as important is Sir Edouard's contribution to the success of the new University of Mauritius where he became the first Head of the School of Industrial Technology. For his contribution to the creation of the University of Mauritius, he was awarded an "Emeritus Professorship" in 1975 and was elevated to Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II of England in January 1991 for his contribution to the economy of Mauritius."

## The book and other publications

"From Vision to Miracle" is organized in four parts, the first three dealing with the life and work of the author, the last part exposing his experience and his views on the performance and problems of the EPZ from 1970 to 2009. It is certain that the reading will appeal both to those in quest of personal inspiration in general and to those who are specifically interested in the economic development of the island. Indeed, "From Vision to Miracle" is an inspiring masterpiece which should be read by all his countrymen.

Other publications to which Sir Edouard Lim Fat has been associated recently are

## Chagossians in UK

Many of the Changossians in the UK find themselves well in their skin among the UK Mauritians, and they are seen performing our folk music, sega and dance, at various Mauritian functions. Jalsa des Iles, a group of ravaniers, singers and dancers, managed by Dorian and Marie-Joice Delia, aware recently on demand at several official events (See more on Page 10)

The Jalsa des Iles even orgnised their own Diwali show on November 13 at Yasmin Hall in Tooting, souh London., and the Chagossians invited Mrs Savina Booshoo of Raj Law Office to tell the assistance of the meaning of Diwali.

Distinguish guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is really a great pleasure and honour to address you all today on this auspicious occasion of this Mauritian Diwali night.

As a practising Hindu, I have been asked by the organising committee of this event to say a few words about Diwali in view of the fact that we are gathered here to celebrate Diwali today. The meaning of Diwali comes from the Sanscrit word 'Dipavali' meaning Row of lights.

Diwali is a happy occasion and it has different meaning for different people. This usually depends upon each and every one's faith and also their geographical location or natural and/or adopted environment.

In Mauritius and most places, and for most people, Diwali is the festival where people thoroughly clean the homes, wear new clothes, most importantly, decorate their homes with deeyas and fancy lights and of course prepare several varieties of Mauritian/Indian sweets.

Diwali is firstly a great favourite of children



Mrs Savina Choolun Boodhoo

because of the lights, firework and of course sweets that are prepared for this occasion. The tradition in Mauritius is to prepare and share the sweets among neighbours, family and friends.

Business people regard it as a favourable day to start a new accounting year because of the festival's association with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi, to find her way into people's homes.

Diwali is also used to celebrate a successful harvest in India. Some people also celebrate one of the Diwali legends, which set out the return of Rama and Sita to Rama's kingdom after fourteen years of exile.

Diwali is such a festival which we now call an international festival. It is celebrated as the festival of lights regardless of any mythological explanation. It is a time where we strengthen friendship and family ties.

It is also the moment where we have positive energy flowing around us in our own environment and our home. This is said to be because of the hygiene in the home and also the wish to make ourselves and our entourage happy. This celebration would not have been

To Page 19

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# HRH The Princess Royal unveils historic monument in North of Mauritius

After the French commemoration in August of the Battle of View Grand Port that took place , south-east of Mauritius, 200 years ago when they successfully drove away the British, it was the turn of the British to commemorate the 200th anniversary of their taking possession of the island, through the north, in December 1810.

HRH The Princess Royal was in Mauritius from Dec 1-4 for the commemoration and she unveiled a commemorative monument at Bain Boeuf, a stone-throw from the beach of Péreybère, well known to UK Mauritians

In next issue, speech for the occasion and more on the monument

Text on monument  
**THE BRITISH INVASION OF THE ISLE OF FRANCE STARTED HEREABOUTS WHERE THE LANDING TOOK PLACE ON 29 NOVEMBER AND ENDED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PORT NAPOLEON (PORT LOUIS) WHERE THE FRENCH CAPITULATED ON 3 DECEMBER 1810**  
This monument was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal KGKT GCVO QSO in the presence of Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK KCMG QC the President of Mauritius on 2 December 2010  
*See on Page 22 DODO's article: The 1810 British takeover of Isle de France*



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for your  
pound's worth

## UK Chagossians celebrate Diwali from Page 18

possible without the initiative of some individuals who are committed to the happiness of this community:  
I would like to say how proud I am as a Mauritian to see other fellow countryman and country woman who are determined and dedicated to preserve our cultural heritage.

As we all know, it is a fine balancing exercise to be able to preserve our culture and pass it on to the next generation and to be able to allow social integration in the wider community to happen. But for us Mauritians in the UK, we can do this, we are doing it.  
For today's celebrations we have the following individuals to be grateful to: Mary Joyce Delia and her team. We also have the contribution and dedication of Dorian Delia of the group Sega Typique. We are

proud to welcome Alain Ramanisson and Laura Beg who are both Mauritian and very talented singers. And last but not least we have the musician group Ravanna who are based in Mauritius which have been part of this European Tour.  
This European Tour started in France, then proceeded to Switzerland and they are now here in Tooting, London today.  
Happy Mauritian Diwali  
**Savina Choolun-Boodhoo**

Mauritius News Games

Spot the difference between the two pictures below!



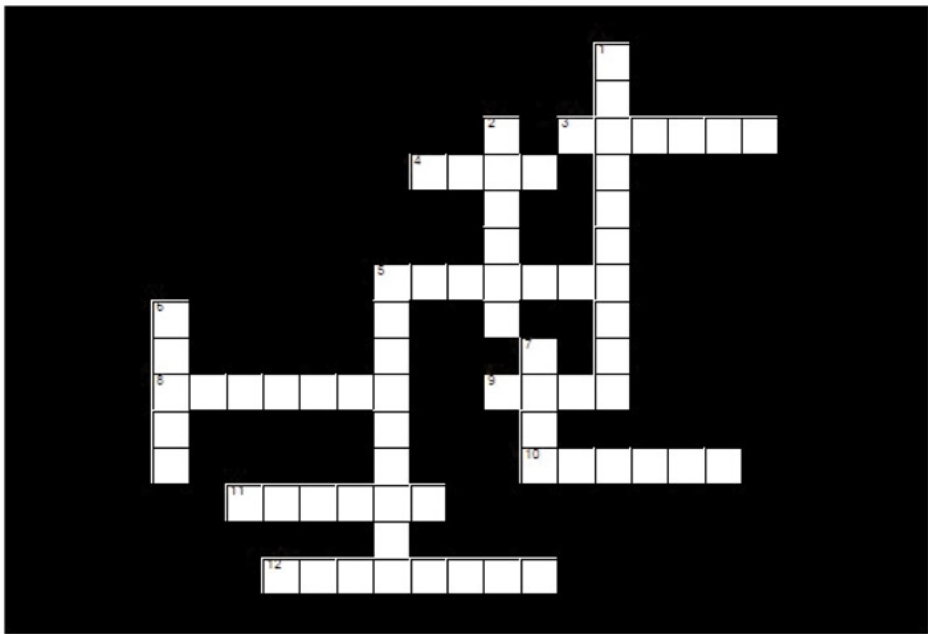
Public Holidays for 2011

New Year	Saturday 01 January
New Year	Sunday 02 January
New Year (Special)	Monday 03 January
Thaipoozam Cavadee	Thursday 20 January
Abolition of Slavery	Tuesday 01 February
Chinese Spring Festival	Thursday 03 February
Maha Shivaratree	Wednesday 02 March
National Day	Saturday 12 March
Ougadi	Monday 04 April
Labour Day	Sunday 01 May
Eid-UI-Fitr*	Wednesday 31 August
Ganesh Chaturthi	Friday 02 September
Divali	Wednesday 26 October
All Saints Day	Tuesday 01 November
Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Wednesday 02 November
Christmas	Sunday 25 December

*\*The exact date of this festival is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.*

Crossword

Gods of Olympus



- Across
- Down
3. God of light, music, healing, and sudden death

4. God of war...blind, brutal, destruction

5. Twin sister of Apollo

8. Every year her daughter spent six months with Hades in the underworld

9. The almighty god who ruled Olympus and protected Greece

10. Symbols are the owl and olive tree. Daughter of Zeus and first wife, Metis

11. Sister of Zeus...protected the city, the home, and the family

12. Ruled seas and rivers...can cause earthquakes and storms
1. First taught men how to use fire to work metal

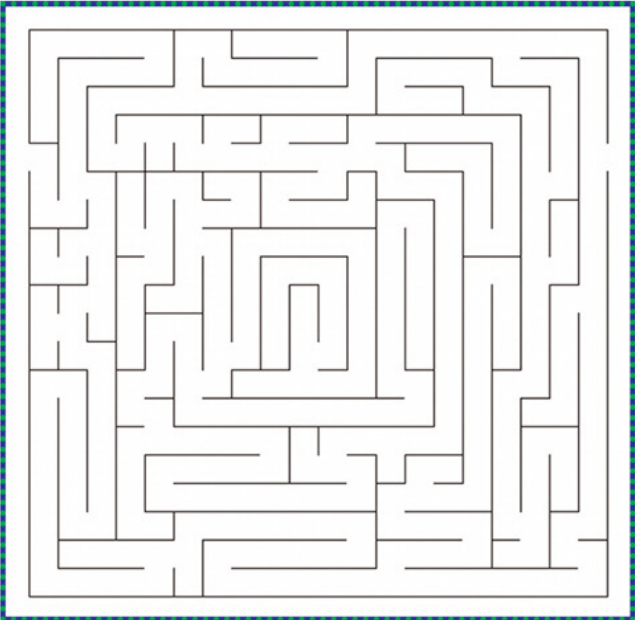
2. Messenger of the gods

5. Most beautiful of the goddesses

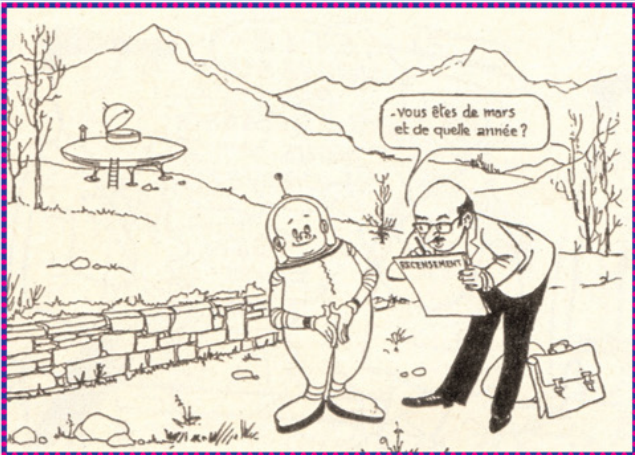
6. Ruler of the Underworld

7. Zeus's third wife

Find your way through the maze!



Astrologie?



Sudoku Corner

4			6			7		8
		1		5				
8		6			3		2	
				4				7
	1		2				4	
6				8				
	3		9			8		1
				3		6		
7		4			5			9

Humour

1. A bore is a man who spends so much time talking about himself that you can't talk about yourself.
2. Between a woman's 'yes' and 'no', I would not venture to stick a pin.
3. What's on your mind, if you'll forgive the overstatement.
4. Experience is the best of schoolmasters, only the school fees are heavy.
5. Since Eve ate apples, much depends on dinner.

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Who will win Miss Mauritius GB 2011 crown?



Obituary

Claire-Josée Laval-Lutzke



CLAIRE-JOSÉE LAVAL-LUTZKE died on September 10 2010 in Herrenberg, Germany. In deepest mourning: Her daughters Dominique and Marie-Claire Lutzke, her sisters Agnelle Laval-Parker, Maryse Woodley, Marlène Laval-Bernhard, Marie-France Schleer, and brothers Jocelyn, Gaetan and Neville Laval”.

Jayanta Nirsimloo born Dhorasoo

Jayanta Nirsimloo, born 2010 at the age of 76. Dhorasoo of Henrietta, Mourned by the Dhorasoo & Vacoas. Pydiah families. Passed away on 12 Nov

Death

The details published below are the only information supplied to us.

Jean Marc Julien LOURDE (31) - 17.1.10 - Beau Bassin  
Marie Eliana MARIE, born LAMOUR (55) - 17.11.10 - Cite La Cure  
Mamode Idriss MOWLAH (84) - 16.11.2010 - Port Louis  
Marie Elise Odette MANIQUE, born ROSETTE (85) - 16.11.2010 - Beau Bassin  
Louis ROMAIN (88) - 16.11.2010 - Quatre Bornes  
Purmillawtee BHUGWON (59) - 17.11.2010 - Pointe aux Cannoniers  
Joseph Claude AFFOCK (87) - 16.11.2010 - Curepipe  
Josée Désiré SOYFOO (45) - 16.11.2010 - Cite Valleeje  
Dinbundhoo Govindoo BARAH (86) - 16.11.2010 - Cluny  
Appalsamy VENKIAH (86) - 16.11.2010 - L'Amitie  
veuve Jeebasseea SEETOHUL, born SOUDAGUR (99) - 16.11.2010 - Trou d'Eau Douce  
Samlall DOOKHIT (84) - 16..11.2010 - Mahebourg  
Sunilduth HINGOO (50) - 16.11.2010 - Mahebourg  
Ramchanden Singh RUMON (58) - 16.11.2010 - Chemin Grenier  
Cassam TOORABALLY (68) - 16.11.2010 - Goodlands  
Rehman Fawzi ROSENALLY (36) - 16.11.2010 - Pailles  
Geeandeo BEESON (58) - 03.12.2010 - Bel Air  
Antoine Edwin CLEMENTINE (75) - 02.12.2010 - Rose-Hill  
Julien Steven Emmanuel BALLAGEE (24) - 02.12.2010 - Cap Malheureux  
Mahender TUPSY (51) - 02.12.2010 - Phoenix  
Hurryduth SHAM (65) - 02.12.2010 - Pointe aux Sables  
Paresram JORY (89) - 02.12.2010 - Hamlet  
veuve Chandraotee SOHUR (68) - 02.12.2010 - Nouvelle France  
Megnut DOOKANAICO (79) - 02.12.2010 - Petit Raffray  
Goramah MAKIAH, born GENDUDU (63) - 02.12.2010 - Quartier Militaire  
Bashir Ahmad CHITHANAL (48) - 02.12.2010 - Goodlands  
Roopun GOBURDHUN (55) - 02.12.2010 - Poudre D'Or  
Mamode SARIFAN (58) - 02.12.2010 - Pailles  
Abdool Wahed JAUMEER (85) - 02.12.2010 - Curepipe  
Rajwantee BUDDARU, born BABOO (58) - 02.12.2010 - Plaine Magnien  
Inoos ALLEAR (79) - 02.12.2010 - Beau-Bassin  
Gabriel Lewis Clency NAGAMAN (51) - 02 / 12 / 2010 - Mont Roches  
Roger Sylvio APOU (55) - 02.12.2010 - Beau Bassin  
Devi Seetamah AUCKLOO, born SOORIAH (48) - 01.12.2010 - Quatre Bornes  
Margarette Wilma Nicole FIN, born NIKAH (45) - 01.12.2010 - Pointe aux Sables  
Louis Sam CHETTIAR (41) - 01.12.2010 - Terre Rouge  
Joseph Stellio MASSON (56) - 01.12.2010 - Rose-Hill  
Michel Raymond COULON (72) - 01.12.2010 - L'Escalier  
Seewanlal GOPAUL (45) - 01.12.2010 - Riviere des Anguilles  
Germaine Edmonde MARIE (90) - 01.12.2010 - Riviere Seche  
Prema Devi DUSSAYA, born SEECHURN (46) - 01.12.2010 - Curepipe  
Indurdev GOPAUL (62) - 01.12.2010 - Triolet  
Santee ROOPCHUND (85) - 01.12.2010 - Vacoas  
Abdool Latiff MAMDEEN (73) - 01.12.2010 - Flacq

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Mauritian reminiscences

# The 1810 British takeover of Isle de France: the whys of a real walk-over

If the August 1810 French victory over the British at Grand Port in the south-east was a real feat, being the only naval battle won by the former over the latter during the Napoleonic era, the December 1810 British victory over the French in the land battles of the north-west very much resembled a walk-over. The French resistance was minimal and there was a number of reasons for this, the most important being the complete absence of support of the metropolis to the French colonies in the Mascarenes.

This fact as well as the means, privateering expeditions, used by Governor Decaen to ensure the survival of the abandoned Isle de France are emphasized in the enquiry carried out by the French authorities on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1810 capitulation: “On ne doit pas oublier que le capitaine général, privé depuis plusieurs années des secours de la métropole, avait porté tous ses soins à soutenir la marine et à l'accroître, parce que les prises qu'elle faisait pouvaient seules lui fournir les moyens d'alimenter et de soutenir la colonie.”(1) The underlined parts are Charles Giraudeau’s.

However, even with the support of the metropolis, the troops stationed in small colonies like Isle de France were limited in number to around 2000 soldiers. This proved to be a serious drawback when, following the November/December 1810 British invasion, the French had to fight forces which were five to ten times superior in number.

None other than Emperor Napoleon himself had a note inserted in the “*Moniteur Universel*” of 16 July 1811 to demonstrate that the British walk-over of December 1819 in Isle de France was not such a glorious feat, after all: “ *Au mois de février 1811, en réponse à un discours du Trône aux Communes qui exaltait les récents succès de l'Angleterre, l'Empereur avait fait insérer au Moniteur une note officielle, dont l'objet était de démontrer que, maîtres des mers, les Anglais devaient nécessairement s'emparer de nos petites colonies, dont les garnisons ne pouvaient être au plus que de 2000 hommes.*” (2)

The Emperor further argued: “*Plus nombreuses, elles (les garnisons) n'auraient pas pu subsister. Il était évident que 2000 hommes, à mille lieues de la patrie, ne résisteraient point lorsqu'ils deviendraient l'objet des attaques successives de 12 000 hommes. Cela est incontestable, et bien plus juste encore, si on pense que Decaen n'avait pas 2000 hommes et qu'il avait été attaqué par 20 000.*”(Idem) This why another pro-French historian, taking into consideration the far more superior British forces, could write: “ *Les Anglais (j'entends les historiens anglais qui cherchent à flatter l'amour-propre national) n'ont pas le droit d'être fiers de la conquête de l'Ile de France dans de telles conditions, après que, toujours, sur mer comme sur terre, ils ont été battus à armes égales.*”(3)

## The recourse to a formidable intelligence demobilizing the enemy

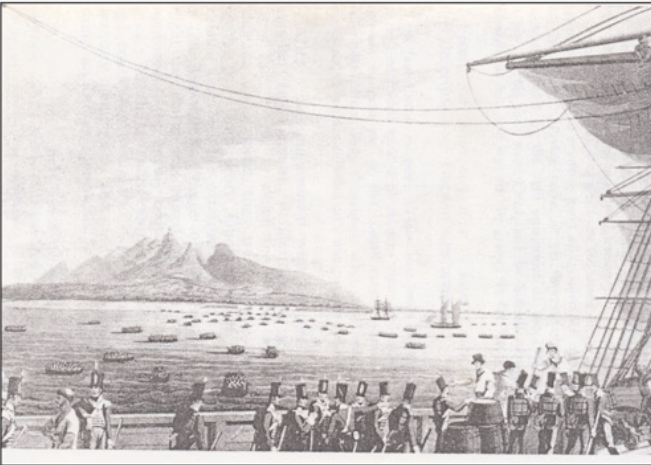
Another potent factor behind the victory of the British was the recourse to a formidable intelligence that caused defection (even encouraged treason) among the local population who was promised a better and happier life under a British government.

“*Mais ce qui a facilité leurs succès, ce fut cet espionnage continuel et sans vergogne qu'ils ont établi dans cette colonie. Enfin, il*

*faut que l'historien honnête ait le courage de le dire bien haut, la trahison leur a ouvert les voies ici comme ailleurs! Mon frère Prosper a découvert au British Museum un “plan d'attaque contre l'Ile de France” livré aux Anglais par un officier français, un sieur de Grand-Pré, en 1793. Il fut envoyé au gouverneur de l'Inde, le Marquis de Wellesley. Le traître se dissimule derrière des opinions anti-républicaines!”*

The French officer Ollier Grand-Pré manifestly belonged to this class of “*French royalists, who were said to detest the Bonapartists more than the British.*”(4) It is not strange then that “*royalists provided the use of their slaves to serve as guides and messengers for the British on shore.*”(Idem)

On the other hand, during the British naval blockade of Isle de France, slaves themselves came forward to provide information and intelligence to the potential invaders. And what about the proclamations distributed by the British to the local inhabitants?

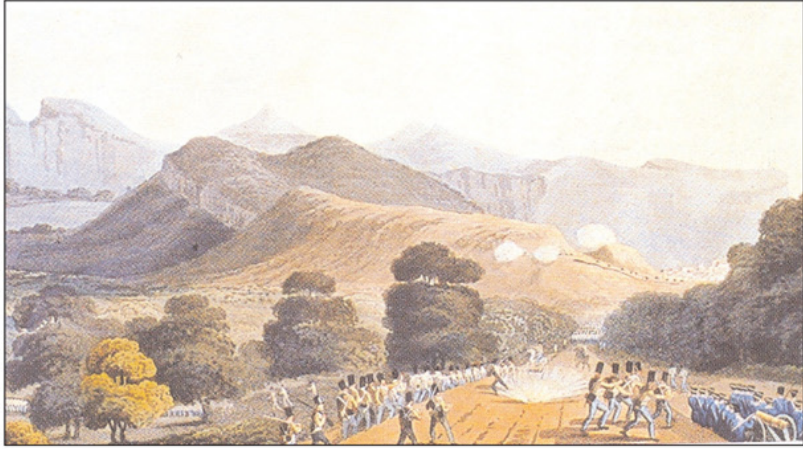


The British landing near Cap Malheureux on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1810. (Source: Eight Views of the Mauritius, R. Temple)  
Le débarquement des troupes britanniques près de Cap Malheureux le 29 novembre 1810. (Source: ‘Eight Views of the Mauritius, R. Temple)

resistance to the enemy forces. The first indication of the unwillingness of the French forces to wage frontal attacks against the British was given on the very first day of the landing when the French “*not desiring to wait our attack, on retiring from Fort Marlatic, blew up a portion of its works.*” (5) They then started the long retreat towards Port Louis. Skirmishes on the way, even those where Generals Decaen and Vandermaesen in persons and their troops were engaged, turned out in favour of the British although the latter too had some casualties.

Leaving Powder Mill, the British initiated the final and decisive phase of the attack with the occupation of Long Mountain by a battalion of Sepoys and the capture and destruction of the French batteries at Tombeau and Tortues bays, coupled with the approach of their warships, thus opening the way to the invasion of Port Louis by both the inland and the sea forces. The scene was set for General Decaen to capitulate, influenced in this by “*the timidity and the irresolution betrayed by the National Guards*” (Idem) which formed part of the French forces.

“*On n’est jamais mieux trahi que par les siens,*” goes the French proverb. This is proof conclusive enough that the British conquered the island not only on the ground of numerical and tactical superiority, but on account of the efficient



The British storm troops bombarded by the French from Batterie Dumas to prevent the former to invade Port Louis, but to no avail as the British soon overcame that last obstacle and subdued the French, constraining General Decaen to surrender. (Source: Eight Views of the Mauritius, R. Temple)

Les troupes d’assaut britanniques bombardant les Français à partir de la batterie Dumas pour les empêcher d’envahir Port-Louis, mais sans grand succès car les Britanniques finiront par surmonter ce dernier obstacle et vaincre les Français, contraignant le Général Decaen à la capitulation. (Source: ‘Eight Views of the Mauritius, R. Temple)

Can one imagine the disastrous demobilizing effect on the population of land-owners and slave-owners of such propagandas as “*The only views of Britain are Justice, Commerce and Plenty. Our Government is generous - it rewards the cultivator and the workman as well as the soldier and the sailor; the utmost value of their services without the least deduction; the French pay in paper and bills of exchange, and we pay in Spanish coin*” or “*Your own property of all kinds will be respected, you will have the full exercise of your religion and your religious establishments shall be maintained with all their privileges - your charitable institutions shall be respected -your laws and customs continued and honored.*”?(Idem)

## Irresolute French submerged by superior British forces

It is obvious that the French troops, inferior in number and probably informed about the damage caused to the morale of the local inhabitants by the British propaganda, would neither be able nor motivated to oppose any strong

psychological warfare they led on the local population and forces prior to the final onslaught.

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End-of-Year Greetings



My fellow Mauritian brothers and sisters,

It gives me immense pleasure to convey to you my best wishes and greetings on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year 2011.

Over the last year, I have been happy to note that thousands of our citizens who have settled in the UK continue to maintain very close ties with Mauritius and take much pride in its socio-economic development. Moreover, the Mauritian community in UK continues to contribute in a large way to strengthen the friendly relations between UK and Mauritius and make Mauritius better known through the various socio-cultural activities which are a colourful aspect of our

Christmas and New Year Message 2010  
from High Commissioner for Mauritius

H.E. Mr Abhimanu Kundasamy

Rainbow Nation.  
In this respect, and as 2010 draws to an end, I have a special message of appreciation for the various Mauritian Socio-Cultural Associations in the UK who continue to work relentlessly to promote and serve the interest of the country. I also express my deep appreciation to them for their unflinching support provided to me in the performance of my duties.

As you are all aware, 2010 has been marked by events of great national interest. Indeed it has been a year which has been marked by the general election in Mauritius with our Prime Minister, Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam being re-elected to power with a sweeping majority.

The election was also a plebiscite by the Mauritian population of the Prime Minister’s vision and socio-economic reform agenda at a time when the rest of the world is facing great financial turmoil. The population has clearly expressed its support for the pursuit of measures in the transformation of Mauritius into a more prosperous, modern and just society in order to realise a brighter future for all our citizens.

As in 2009, this past year has also been marked by economic challenges on a global scale. Indeed the cloud of profound uncertainty will still loom over the global economy for a while. The events have also exposed the vulnerability of the global economic and financial systems.

However, in Mauritius, the Government through sound management of the economy have ensured that the global economic shockwaves did not hit us with much severity. Nevertheless, we continue to be very watchful of the on-going global events and we continue to act very prudently.

Moreover as demonstrated in our recent budget, the Government is working hard to ensure that the economy becomes more structurally sound, competitive and resilient.

Finally allow me once again to wish you all and your family the very best wishes for the New Year.

Abhimanu Kundasamy  
High Commissioner

London, December 2010

Mauritius News wishes all readers, advertisers, contributors and supporters of Christian faith  
a Wonderful Christmas,  
and a Happy Sankranti to those of the Hindu religion.

A Prosperous Year 2011 to one and all!

A&M Travel  
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2011

Management & Staff of Imbel Travel  
send their warmest greetings to you over the festive season and wish you all a very Happy New Year 2011

Père Laval Benevolent Society (UK)  
Avec les meilleurs voeux pour la Noël et pour une Sainte Année 2011

All the very best for Christmas and the New Year 2011 from everyone at Sunset Travel

Paya Chetty Estate Agent  
Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year & a joyful Sankranti.  
Tel: 0208 8889 611/0786 154 4584

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all  
From Devinia Sookia and Family (USA)

A The Bristol Mauritian Association Wishes you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, a joyful Shankranti

With our best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas a prosperous New Year 2011 and a cheerful Sankranti from Raj Law Solicitors

Mauritius Tamil Maha Samgam (UK)  
Greetings for a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Peaceful Sankranti 2011

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and Joyful Sankranti  
From the Mauritius Hindu Association

Pere Laval Association UK  
Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2011  
Patience, Perseverance, Prevenance & Piete  
Charity Registration Number:1095599

Season’s Greetings from One World Express to all our customers and members of the community

Tous nos voeux de bonheur pour un Joyeux Noël et une Heureuse Année from Cambridge Nursing Home

Mauritian Christian Church  
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année 2011  
Pastor Steven Coordinator Saven tel: 07845 739 867

Mauritian Islamic Welfare Association (MIWA)  
wishes you a Happy Islamic New Year and a Prosperous New Year 2011

Cosmos Football Club  
Send good wishes for Christmas and the New year 2011 to all members, supporters and the community

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2011 and all the joy of Sankranti  
From Mauritius Hindu Association UK (Tooting)

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and a Happy Sankranti from Fone 2 management

London School of Law  
Wishes all readers a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a pleasant Sankranti 2011

Mauritius Bar & Restaurant  
www.mauritiusbar.com  
Tel: 0208 764 9879 / 07984 640073  
Wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

KBR Foreign Exchange  
Wishes everyone a Joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2011

We wish all our pilgrims and friends a joyous Christmas and peaceful New Year from Kensington Travel

From the Mauritius Football Competition (MFC) Greetings at Christmas time and New Year 2011

To all our Chogossian compatriots and Mauritian supporters we send our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2011 from the Chagossian Refugee Group UK

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 2011 from Supreme Glazing

ABM Solicitors wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011

The Anglo-Chinese Social Club conveys to all members their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year 2011

Access Logisites wishes all Mauritians a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2011 Happy Sankranti

Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML) convey their best wishes to all for a saintly Christmas and Happy New Year

Air Mauritius UK extends its greeting to all members of the community during this season of goodwill and cheers. May 2011 bring happiness to all!