

Budget 2003

Summing up the Budget debates in the National Assembly, Paul Béranger said he was proud that he was able to reduce the budget deficit and implement the Pay Research Bureau's recommendations for a general salary increase in the government service.

He also expressed his satisfaction that the Budget was welcomed by the population, generally.

Quoting economic growth figures, he said that Mauritius was doing well given the present world conditions, and when compared with the poor performance of Europe, India, Singapore and South Africa. Inflation rate has been significantly reduced, foreign exchange reserve is at a record level, unemployment and public debt are under control, and the most interesting thing is that it was a no-tax Budget, except the increased excise duties on cigarettes.

Overall he claims it is an ideal Budget to boost the economy, and he is very optimistic as regards the textile sector.

Béranger reminded the House of the prevailing situation when the coalition government came to power three years ago. "The nation was without a sense of direction, the population was gripped by uncertainties about the future, national unity was under threat, and public finances were in shambles."

Mr Béranger argued that the coalition government has provided leadership, restored law and order, instilled new hopes, fostered social cohesion, established fiscal discipline and brought the economy back on track.

The Opposition, on the other hand, argues that it is a Budget of 'continuity in failures'. Former Labour Finance Minister Manou Bheenick states that when Labour left office three years ago, savings were higher than at present, investments have declined under the present regime, unemployment is on the rise when the country was previously importing labour, public debts have gone up from 54 billion rupees under Labour to reach 111 billion rupees under the present government.

According to the former Finance Minister the 6% growth forecast by Béranger is unreal because the actual growth will be in the region of 4% while under Labour the average annual growth was around 5.8%.

With the textiles industry in crisis, it is feared that more jobs will be shed off the same way the sugar industry has been doing.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth talks textiles with President George Bush

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, who was in Washington on a high profile mission to save the island's textile industry, met US President George Bush to discuss various commercial issues affecting the two countries.

Jugnauth, who was accompanied by Textiles Minister Jayen Cuttaree, Information Technology Minister Pradeep Jeeha, and Foreign Affairs Minister Anil Gayan, also had a long discussions with American Trade Secretary Robert Zoelick.

During the Presidential meeting, also attended by Condoleezza Rice and Collin Powell, George Bush thanked Mauritius for the successful organisation and hosting of AGOA (African Growth Opportunity Act) summit, in January last, which he could not attend himself for security reasons.

Bilateral cooperation, access to non-agricultural market and war on terrorism were other issues on the agenda.

Jugnauth pleaded for an extension of AGOA till 2018. He also suggested that American businesses should be encouraged to invest in Africa. The Americans are willing to work together for better cooperation and mutual benefits.

After the meeting, Cuttaree and Jeeha went to New York to meet media magnate Rupert Murdoch to discuss the possibility of investments in Information Technology, Telecommunications and the printing industry.

Shaffick Hamuth

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Murder of Mauritian nurse was attributed to lack of security

The funeral of murdered male nurse Mamade Chattun took place on June 23.

This tragic incident could have been prevented had a previous report on the lack of security at the hospital been taken into consideration, the victim's brother told a BBC reporter. He said that the authorities should now act to prevent the recurrence of a similar crime at the hospital.

Mamade Chattun, a native of Mauritius, was murdered in his ward at the Springfield Hospital in South London on June 17 by a patient though colleagues rushed to his aid.

He succumbed to the multiple wounds he received from his aggressor.

34 years old Mamade leaves behind his wife and two young daughters. The authorities are waiting for the report on the investigation into the nurse's death which is being carried out.

Net foreign reserves decline

According to the Bank of Mauritius, the net foreign reserves of the island declined by Rs 427 million in March last.

In its latest bulletin available in May last, the Bank of Mauritius said this situation was due, among others, to the decline in the Bank's foreign currency assets by Rs 339 million.

Meanwhile, on the exchange rate front, the rupee appreciated against the US\$ from Rs 27.86 to Rs 27.67; against the Pound sterling from Rs 44.02 to Rs 43.53; the Japanese yen from Rs 23.50 to Rs 23.11 for 100 yens in April last.

However, it depreciated against the South African Rand from Rs 3.50 to Rs 3.66 and the Indian Rupee from Rs 59.60 to Rs 59.71.

The Bank said the Euro was stable and was exchanged at Rs 30.02.

Legislation against torture introduced soon

The Criminal Code will be amended to make of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment an offence.

Mauritius News has learnt that people found guilty of such an offence would be sentenced to a fine of Rs 50,000 and five years' imprisonment.

One official at the Justice Ministry said this amendment would give effect to article 2 (1) of the United Nations Convention against torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment.

"This amendment stipulates that whoever tries to obtain a confession or information from somebody else, punish him for things he committed or suspected to have committed, intimidate him or make him suffer physical and verbal assaults would be punished, according to that law", he said.

Race

Statement by Trevor Phillips at All-Party Parliamentary Group on Universities

Speaking at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Universities on Tuesday 17 June 2003, Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, Mr Phillips said:

"Research carried out in 2002 for the DfES shows that ethnic minority students are less likely to take out student loans and were amongst those most concerned about student debt. There is also evidence to suggest that graduates from ethnic minority groups earn less than their white counterparts with the same qualifications, potentially making them less well-placed to pay back debts accrued whilst at university."

"It is for this reason that the CRE raised its concerns about the impact of proposals for top-up fees in a letter to the Secretary of State for Education in December 2002. Under the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, some 43,000 public authorities - including central government departments have a duty to promote race equality and equality of opportunity in all their functions."

If the government is to meet its aims of widening participation in higher education and of eliminating discrimination in the workplace, it must consider the impact of its education policies on race equality. I therefore commend the DfES for carrying out this assessment and look forward to seeing the results."

New study shows impact of crime on Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee children

The impact of crime on young people from Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) communities in London was revealed in Young People, Big Issues, and in a new report being launched at a special summit hosted by Lee Jasper, Policy Director to the Mayor on Equalities and Policing.

The summit took place in City Hall on Saturday 14 June and was attended by 200 young people, senior policy makers, and practitioners within the field of community safety.

520 young people aged 8-14 years old across eight London boroughs took part in a consultation exercise undertaken by the Black Londoners Forum and the 1990 Trust on behalf of the Mayor of London. They included children from all walks of life, including those who might not traditionally be consulted about crime and other issues, such as children in care, those excluded from school and young offenders.

Mayor Ken Livingstone said: "Just under a quarter of all Londoners - 1.6m - are children under 16 years of age and over one third belong to a minority ethnic or refugee community. For many, crime and the fear of crime have an unnecessary impact on their lives. They are three times more likely to be victims of street crime than their white counterparts. But they are also disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system."

The consultation revealed that:

- Just over 30 per cent of those taking part in the study had direct experience of crime in the last 12 months
- Whilst 80 per cent had experienced bullying, they were not inclined to tell anyone for fear of further trouble
- Around 80 per cent had experienced racial abuse or verbal threats
- 10 per cent had been subjected to physical racist attack
- 70 per cent believed they were treated unfairly by the authorities

The report's recommendations include: greater support for young people at risk of victimisation, possibly through more visible policing and better liaison with schools; the introduction of more witness protection and confidential helplines for young people; and the possible creation of a youth council on crime prevention and safety.

The consultation was undertaken as a result of the 'Cracking Crime' conference, which took place in March last year and was jointly organised by the Mayor of London and the Government Office for London. The consultation has received wide-ranging support from the Metropolitan Police Service, the Metropolitan Police Authority, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, the Government Office for London, the Association of Local Government, the Commission for Racial Equality, London Probation Service and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Discrimination and inequality must be tackled by public services, says Mayor

A new report published this week by the Mayor of London underlines the extent of discrimination and inequality facing people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, as employees and as users of public services.

The report coincides with Black People Pushing Back the Boundaries II, the second Black public service worker conference organised by the Mayor. It brings together new and other recent data about issues affecting employment, including earnings, discrimination, union membership and disability; education; health and social services; housing; police and crime; and voting and public representation.

In the report the Mayor writes: "Race discrimination and race

inequality damage lives and mar the positive development of progress of London's Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Race discrimination restricts and curtails the energy, creativity and their right to fully participate and develop London's economy and public life."

Around 800,000 people from London's BME population are employed in London's industries, businesses and public services, around 24 per cent of London's workforce, with almost 200,000 working in the capital's public services.

The study shows that BME workers are concerned that, at work, they will be treated less fairly, actively discriminated against, or harassed by fellow workers or managers.

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Man demonstrates for Chinese tv programmes

A man of Chinese origin, Ah Sam Tsang Kwong Chip, demonstrated on June 4 outside the offices of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), in Port-Louis, asking for more television programmes on Chinese culture.

He said people of Chinese origin in Mauritius constitute 3 per cent of the population, equivalent to 60 hours' television programmes and good films.

"The MBC shows only poor Chinese films, mainly concerned with violence, while we have a historic culture", he added.

He said things should change at the MBC to increase news coverage in the Chinese language.

China to fund waste-water network

Mauritius and China signed an agreement on June 11 for the funding of a waste-water project in the Plaine Wilhems to the tune of Rs 412 million. This loan carries a 3 per cent interest yearly for a period of 15 years.

Public utilities minister Alan Ganoo said the project is part of a national waste-water programme initiated by the State in a bid to review the waste-water system in the island.

"This programme comprises of a 27 km long network, connected to more than 32,500 houses and cover

an area of 2,400 hectares. It would cost the sum of Rs 3.6 billion", he said.

He recalled that there have been several developments in this sector during the past years. This included sewerage works at Grand Bay, St-Martin and at Montagne Jacquot.

For his part, Chinese ambassador to Mauritius, Wang Fuyuan, said the two countries have good relations for the past 30 years and have collaborated in several fields that include education, politics, economy, culture and infrastructure.

Sugar production down to 570,000 tonnes this year

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, sugar production would reach 570,000 tonnes this year or 10.70% less than the figures for last year, but even less than the 2001 production when it reached 645,600 tonnes.

It said that this estimate was based on the production of some 5.4 million tonnes of canes and an extraction rate of 10.50 %.

The Chamber added that the growth period of canes this year was affected by cyclone Gerry in February last and by an excess of rains and a lack of sunshine.

"However, the final results for the 2003 crop would depend on climatic conditions that would prevail during the harvesting season", it said.

To recall that the harvesting season has officially started June 5 last at the Savannah factory in the south of the island.

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Mauritius News has learnt that people found guilty of such an offence would be sentenced to a fine of Rs 50,000 and five years' imprisonment.

One official at the Justice Ministry said this amendment would give effect to article 2 (1) of the United Nations Convention against torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment.

"This amendment stipulates that whoever tries to obtain a confession or information from somebody else, punish him for things he committed or suspected to have committed, intimidate him or make him suffer physical and verbal assaults would be punished, according to that law", he said.

PM wants African Court be based in Mauritius

Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth expressed the wish that the African Court of justice be located in Mauritius. He was speaking at the first ministerial conference on the justice protocol at Grand Bay on June 7 in the presence of numerous delegates from Africa, including the acting chairman of the African Union, Amara Essy.

He said Mauritius was waiting for the event with emotion, adding that a plot of land had already been identified near the cybercity under construction at Ebene, where the African Court could be set up.

Jugnauth also wished that the African Union to become the voice of the African continent.

For his part, Amara Essy said Mauritius possesses the required qualities to host the African court of justice.

"In my country, it is said one cannot give a cow to somebody who has never raised a chicken. Mauritius has showed, through its democratic management, that it has got all the necessary requirements for this Court", he said.

Mauritius News a statement of faith

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Mauritius News, the paper that gives the Mauritian community a voice in the UK.

Mauritius News, the paper for generations to come, Much depends on us for all this.

Difficult months ahead for Mauritian tourism, according to Minister

Tourism and leisure minister Nando Bodha said the coming months would be very difficult for tourism in the island «because of the bad prevailing economic situation in Europe.»

He emphasised that there were no air links towards South Asia for a few weeks now while the latest economic indicators showed a recession in Germany, Holland and a very weak growth rate in Great Britain and France.

"Such information obliges us to consolidate the regional market in La Réunion, Madagascar and South Africa", he said.

Bodha also announced a series of campaigns in Spain, Great Britain and Ireland in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) has spent a sum of Rs 124 million during the financial year 2001/02 for the promotion of the tourism industry abroad as compared to Rs 121 million last year.

The MTPA has defined a new approach in its communication strategy for the tourism sector because of international competition. This approach consists of positioning the island as a high quality tourist destination.

During financial year 2001/2002, Mauritius participated in 42 fairs and workshops abroad.

Tourists arrivals for march 2003

The effects of the recent war and the SARS epidemic were reflected in the tourist arrivals in recent months.

They indeed fell by 7 per cent, from 67,554 in March 2002 to 63,129 in March 2003. The European market, our main supplier of tourists, is in free-fall (9 per cent).

The arrivals from all the European countries are in decline with the exception of United Kingdom which continues to make well in spite of the difficult international conditions, with a light increase of 3 per cent. The percentage drop for other European countries are France (10 per cent), Germany (10 per cent), Italy (3 per cent), Netherlands (13 per cent), Sweden (27 per cent), and Switzerland (12 per cent).

On the regional market, decline of arrivals is less blatant (3 per cent) but the main markets of South Africa and Reunion register a slight decline, (10 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively).

The Indian market rose during the first quarter of this year by 26.4 per cent. Figures for the first quarter in 2003 showed that 181,538 tourists visited the island as compared to 181,659 during the same period last year.

Twelve new hotels to be built

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Paul Bérenger, announced on June 9 the construction of 12 new hotels in the coming years in Mauritius. He was speaking in Parliament on

Budget Day.

Four of these hotels would be built at Les Salines, at Rivière-Noire, and eight others at Bel-Ombre and Saint-Félix.

According to Bérenger, the growth rate in the tourism sector was good, which is a clear proof of the good health of this industry.

He said Mauritius was betting on its good image and safe destination to attract tourists.

"We have reached levels that are better than many other world destinations", he added.

Air Mauritius news

The national airline under new body of directors from end of June

Air Mauritius will be headed by a college of directors from the end of June comprising five executive directors recruited following an international call for applications.

The new directors appointed are are Mauritian nationals Rajah Indradev Buton and Sushil Baguant, Zambian Cornell Muleya

New bosses in Europe

Air Mauritius' director in Paris, Donald Payen, is the new boss for

from Air Botswana, Frenchman Pierre Darpoux from Air France, and Singaporean, Venkatarama Ramachandra.

These people would take part together with director-general Vinod Chidambaram in the deliberations of the board of administration of the company.

the airline's operations in Europe while Gérard Espitalier-Noël took charge of the airline's office in Paris from mid-May.

Mauritius lagoon overexploited, says Minister

According to Fisheries minister Sylvio Michel, fishermen are having difficulties to meet both ends because of overexploitation of the lagoon around the island.

Speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of a Fishing School at Pointe-aux-Sables, he said catches have been reduced to 4.3 kg only per fisherman daily.

As regards the Fishing School, the minister said the objective is to train and encourage fishermen to go

fishing out of the lagoon in order to improve their living conditions.

He said the construction of the school would cost around Rs 190 million and would be operational by April 2004.

"The School would also be used to sensitize people, mainly fishermen, students, teachers and the general public, on the importance of conserving and preserving marine environment marin", Michel said.

Non Government organisation asks for ban on alcohol advert

The National Agency for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Abuse (NATRESA) has asked for a ban on advertising of alcoholic products.

It said these products were doing lots of harm to individuals and society.

In a report to the government, members of NATRESA pleaded also for the ban to be extended to direct and indirect sponsorship of all events or projects linked with alcohol-producing factories.

"We base ourselves on facts and

figures indicating the consequences from excess of alcohol products on the individual, the family, society and the economy of the island, among others", they said.

According to NATRESA last year, 2,540 people were admitted to the different hospitals of the island because of alcoholism.

One study in the island has shown that in 1992, 66% of men and 28% of women were taking alcoholic drinks regularly.

All Vaish Congress support Paul Berenger as future PM

The All Vaish Congress (AVC) hosted a dinner at the Coco Beach Hotel in Belle Mare, to celebrate the nomination of Agriculture Minister Pravin Jugnauth to the position of Leader of the Mouvement Socialist Militant (MSM).

Paul Bérenger, who also attended the event, reiterated that it was not his ambition to become Prime Minister, but it would only be a matter of fate, in which he strongly believes. He added that even

Pravin Jugnauth may become Prime Minister if its in his destiny. He further guaranteed that, under his tenure of office as PM, each community would receive its fair share and that he would not tolerate any bashing against any community. National unity is his main concern and he is committed to nation building.

AVC president Balram Tacouri pledged his organisation's total support to Bérenger taking over as Prime Minister. He reminded the assistance that Hindus are generally peace loving people and that the All Vaish Congress believed in social harmony and national integration. In that context he fustigated an ex-Labour minister for making a comment which his members did not appreciate.

In fact, Mr Razack Peeroo, in a previous press statement, allegedly said that it was time to break the taboo that a non-Hindu cannot become Prime Minister in Mauritius. The AVC claimed that such taboo never existed, and that prime Ministers are not chosen by Hindus but by the general electorate. Pravin Jugnauth appealed to the assistance not to react to this incident in a way that would only increase tension.

The cybercity takes shape

At least 32 local and international companies have announced their intention to lease available space in the cybercity, presently under construction at Ebene.

Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth said that the cybercity, whose construction would be completed by December next, is the first step taken by the government to transform Mauritius into an «intelligent island.»

"The cybercity would house a multimedia zone, a business zone, where enterprises would do business in information technology and telecommunications, a knowledge for training and education in the field of ITC, a commercial centre, an administrative centre of an area of 16,000 square meters, a four-star hotel at a cost of Rs 240 million and also a residential block worth Rs 520 million", Jugnauth emphasised.

The residential block would be used for the accommodation of sportsmen and women for the next Indian Ocean games due in Mauritius August 29 to September 7 next.

National Commission for Human Rights criticize police

The National Commission for Human Rights (NHRC) has criticized the use of force and brutality by members of the police force in the island.

Amnesty International has recalled, in its report for last year, that at least three people have, in the course of 2002, accused the police of brutality.

"In spite of inquiries into these and on other cases, no police officer was prosecuted in Court", Amnesty International.

Call for go-slow in the sugar industry

The Common Front of the sugar industry has called upon all workers of the sector to stage a go-slow from the start of the harvest season this month.

Leaders of the front argued that the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association (MSPA) should apply immediately the final award of the Tribunal d'Arbitrage Permanent (TAP) published on May 16 and favourable to the industry's employees.

One of their leaders Pottaya Kuppan called upon Agriculture and Food Technology Minister Pravin Jugnauth to intervene in favour of the workers but the latter said "the government could not do so until the appeal made by the MSPA to the Supreme Court is cleared."

The TAP award includes the application of the 40-hour week on the basis of six days of work during the harvest season.

"If the government does not intervene and does not listen to the voice of the workers, we would call for a general strike in the industry from August 5", Kuppan said.

On his part, MSPA's director Patrice Legris hoped the workers would not do anything illegal. He argued that the final award of the TAP was against the strategic plan of the sugar industry initiated by the government and which called for a 40 per cent decrease in the costs of production of sugar in the island.

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British news

The change in the Elite class

In an article, The Economist states that public schools and Oxbridge no longer dominate the top jobs. Students from a small number of exclusive public schools and two elite universities have, for a long time, dominated the top jobs in politics, the judiciary, the civil service, business, the church, the arts and the military.

In 1992 the Economist looked at the educational background of holders of 100 top jobs and compared them with the information they had obtained in 1972 when they carried out a similar survey. They found that there was virtually no change in the numbers of top job holders who had been educated at public schools and at Oxford or Cambridge. However, ten years on, when a comparison was taken at the end of last year, there was a change in the pattern.

"There has now been a big drop in the proportion of top job holders who were educated at the old elite institutions". According to the Economist there are a few reasons for this trend: companies are larger and more multinational now. Hence, they are able to look further afield for talent instead of just a 'few city types' as was previously done. Another reason given is that people travel far more now so there is a greater number of foreigners in top positions.

The Economist also mentioned that a lot of the successful people surveyed went to grammar schools which were created to give intelligent children (whose parents could not afford the cost of public schools), a good education. The majority of those people also went to university in the 1960's and 1970's when there was a great expansion in the university system.

A large proportion of the better State schools hence decided to go private, increasing the gap between the 'rich and poor people's education'. As a result figures show that social mobility has decreased so children have less chance of being as successful as their parents. To combat this the government now pays universities to accept students from state schools.

The Economist argues that this is unjust, damaging to the university system and will not work in the long term, instead people need an education of greater quality at a younger age, not at 18.

Civil servants enjoy salary rise from July

According to figures published, the proposals range from 22.4 per cent to 31.2 per cent for teachers, from 22.7 per cent to 33.7 per cent for nurses and 16.7 per cent for manual workers.

As regards the implementation, the PRB has suggested that it be done in two stages: 75 per cent of the rise from next July and the rest from July 2004.

Apart from the rise in the salaries, all allowances have gone up by 20 per cent.

The PRB has also suggested the setting up of a voluntary retirement scheme for civil servants aged 50 or more.

Commenting on the revision, Tulsiraj Benyadin, chairman of the Federation of Civil Services Union (FCSU), said employees on the lowest level are always the losers.

He emphasised that the lowest level of salaries in the public sector stands at Rs 4,800 monthly and the highest - that of a Permanent Secretary - stands at Rs 52,000 monthly, giving a ratio of 1:11.

"Nothing has been done to reduce this gap", Benyadin said. He recalled having asked for a minimum salary of Rs 9,500 a month for civil servants.

Lycée La Bourdonnais is 50

The Lycée La Bourdonnais, a Mauritian institution under French convention, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

According to Henri de Chazal Sr, chairman of the board of the company, the Lycée La Bourdonnais, was created in 1953 by a group of French and Mauritian parents.

"At first it was very difficult with the British method that dominated the education sector as French was not well-known", he said. But with the help of expatriates that came to the island, the French system was adopted by many people.

The school started with some sixty pupils but today it has 989 pupils at secondary level and 786 at the primary level.

Blood donors club launched

At least 365 young Mauritians have registered themselves as members of Blood Donors Clubs launched early June throughout the island by the Blood Donors Association (BDA).

According to Subhanand Seegoolam, chairman of the BDA, the objective is to raise the awareness of the population, especially among the young people, to the need of giving one's blood.

"This is a big job", Seegoolam said, adding that the best blood donor is somebody who gives his

blood thrice yearly for free.

Meanwhile, at a blood donation activity at Ecole Hôtelière, in Ebène, Health Minister Ashok Jugnauth said his ministry was working on a programme to prevent a rupture in the stock of blood. He said only 3 per cent of the population donated their blood and added that a campaign by the Blood Bank enabled the collection of 32,171 pints of blood in 2001 and 18,000 pints in 2002, while in 1999, only 620 pints were collected.

South African woman arrested with 1.2 kg of heroin

A South African woman, aged 27, was arrested at the SSR international airport in early June with a parcel containing 1.2 kg of heroin with a market value of Rs 10 million.

She told the police that she was forced to work with some people. She, later, collaborated with the police in the arrest of two Mauritians.

Mauritian girl dies in Zimbabwe

Nineteen year-old Razaala Mansoor died in a private clinic in Zimbabwe, following a tooth extraction in the early morning of June 20.

According to her parents, the girl who was studying at the University of Newcastle, in Scotland was suffering from tooth ache when a doc-

tor advised her to get admitted to a private clinic for extraction. Razaala Mansoor was placed under general anesthesia and her ailing tooth extracted. But the girl entered into a profound coma where she stayed for ten hours before she died.

Catholic priests want justice for the poor

A group of Catholic priests have appealed to the government, especially to Deputy Prime Minister Paul Bérenger, to improve the lot of the poor, most of whom being from the Creole ethnic community.

The priests are Steve Babooram, Roger Cerveaux,

Jean Max Coowar, Patrick Fabien, Pierrot Friquin, Robert Jauffret, Jean-Maurice Labour, Pierre Piat, Alain Romaine and Jean Claude Veder.

"We are concerned by the attitude of the government towards different problems of society. It is only seeking electoral-

ist solutions to problems linked to job insecurity, education, housing, promiscuity and drug infiltration in several regions", they said.

They agreed that developing the infrastructure and the environment was good, "But other things should be done to take people out of poverty", they argued.

Little girl found abandoned in Quatre-Bornes

A four-year-old girl was found abandoned on June 16 at Résidence Kennedy, in Quatre-Bornes.

Police found a letter from the mother explaining the reasons why she abandoned the child.

The girl, in good health, was placed in a shelter under the Child Protection Unit of the Women's Rights ministry.

Prime minister warns youth against drugs

Prime minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth warned Mauritian youth against drugs that find their way not only to Mauritius but throughout the world.

Speaking at a function organised by the National Agency for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Abuse (NATRESA) in Quatre-Bornes, he said drug traffickers would not prosper without consumers. "We all agree that

hard drugs are the most dangerous and they constitute a danger to the young people", he emphasized. He recalled how the government dealt with the drug problem in 1985/1986.

"Unfortunately, drug traffickers always find their way to bring drugs into the country and now our school establishments are in danger", Jugnauth said

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784	Sat 28 Jun 03	1-10-17-23-29-35-36
783	Wed 25 Jun 03	2-6-7-23-27-30-21
782	Sat 21 Jun 03	12-20-36-39-44-45-49
781	Wed 18 Jun 03	16-18-26-32-38-40-27
780	Sat 14 Jun 03	3-12-29-37-43-46-11
779	Wed 11 Jun 03	9-13-22-39-48-49-14
778	Sat 07 Jun 03	2-5-6-17-18-30-29
777	Wed 04 Jun 03	7-20-27-40-43-49-12

**These results are obtainable from the National Lottery.
Mauritius News accepts no liability for any misprint.**

New legislation against torture and chemical warfare

Torture

Parliament endorsed legislation introduced by Justice minister Emmanuel Leung Shing making physical or moral torture perpetrated by a public officer an offence punished by a fine of not more than Rs 50 000 and a term of imprisonment not more than 5 years.

Leung Shing said with the introduction of the new law, Mauritius conforms itself with the provisions of the Convention against torture and other inhuman and cruel treatments.

He said the new legislation prohibits the infliction of physical and mental wounds against people in a bid to obtain a confession.

"Anybody found guilty of such an offence can no longer affirm having acted on the orders of his superiors", the minister declared. He added that the Courts in Mauritius would also hear cases that occurred outside the country provided that the victim or the accused is of Mauritian nationality.

Leung Shing stated that the new legislation would dissuade police officers from using physical force against suspects.

Chemical warfare

Mauritius has also adopted a law that sets the pace for the creation of a Mauritius National Chemical Weapons Authority whose responsibility would be to put into practice the recommendations on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

PM Anerood Jugnauth said Mauritius signed the convention on April 29, 1997. 151 countries have so far signed it.

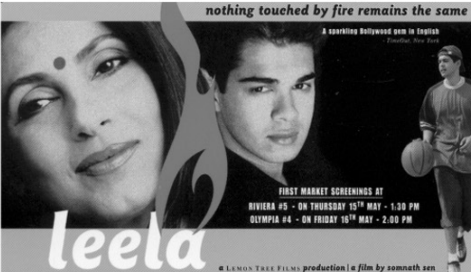
"This Convention prohibits the use of chemical weapons, their manufacture, sale and transfer in the world and favours the development of a chemical industry that would be helpful exclusively to humanity", he said.

Underlying the consequences of such weapons on victims, he said they are irreversible. «The number of deaths cannot be counted», Jugnauth added.

On his part, Deputy Prime minister Paul Bérenger said that the situation was very dangerous in the world as regards disarmament. According to him, arms of massive destruction are classified into three categories - chemical, nuclear and biological.

He said five countries possess nuclear weapons «officially» - United States, Russia, China, France and China. «They have pledged to reduce their production and eliminate them ultimately», Bérenger added. By adopting such a law, Bérenger said Mauritius was sending a positive message to the international community.

Festival de Cannes 2003
Présence du cinéma indien
Une actrice indienne dans le jury
de la Palme d'Or



Le jury 2003 de la compétition officielle du Festival International du Film de Cannes était composé de dix membres qui incluait la ravissante indienne aux yeux émeraude Aishwarya Rai.

Aishwarya Rai est née en 1973 à Mangalore au Karnataka. Elle a débuté sa carrière en tant que mannequin. Elle pose dans des films publicitaires notamment pour la marque «Pepsi». En 1994, elle est élue «Miss Monde». Elle tourne son premier film en 1997 «Iruvar» avec Mohan Lall. Elle enchaîne ensuite une vingtaine de tournages qui l'imposent réellement à Bollywood: Après «Aur pyar ho gay», ce sont «Taal» et le succès «Hum dil de chuke sanam», puis «Josh» et «Mohaabbatein». Elle obtient une véritable reconnaissance mondiale de star dans la méga-production bollywoodienne, «Devdas» sortie sur les écrans en début d'année. Elle est la première actrice indienne à figurer dans le prestigieux jury de CANNES.

Bien que il n'y a pas eu quelqu'un d'origine indienne dans le jury il y a des indiens qui ne sont pas nouveaux à Cannes. Murali Nair, de nationalité indienne, qui a été le réalisateur, le co-auteur du scénario et des dialogues et le producteur dans le film Arimpara, avait obtenu en 1999 'La Caméra d'Or' c'est à dire le prix de la meilleure première œuvre du Festival toutes sections confondues, avec «Marana Sinhasanam», «le trône de la mort». Ce qui lui a valu une réputation internationale.

Forte présence de l'Inde au
Marché du Film et de la
Musique

De nombreux stands indiens étaient installés cette année dans l'aire asiatique du M.I.F. (le Marché International du Film) au Palais des Festivals. Des compagnies de production de Mumbai principalement, proposaient aux acheteurs étrangers des projections privées les plus récentes dans les salles de l'Espace Riviera. Ils ont montré parmi d'autres films, Boom, Leela, Supari et Maa Durge.

La «National Film Development Corporation (N.F.D.C.) a présenté différents cinémas de l'Inde à l'image de la population multiple et sa diversité, où il y avait la possibilité de voir Oru Cheru Punchiri, Aamaar Bhuvan, Ekiti Nadir Nham.

MIDEM 2003

Plus tôt cette année, eut lieu à Cannes un autre festival: Le Marché International du Disque et de l'Edition Musicale (MIDEM). Au Stand de la Francophonie, l'île Maurice était représentée par (a) Studio Kapricorn que dirige Richard Hein, reconnu pour être le premier studio professionnel de l'île, (b) Imagine Communications et (c) Monacreations avec la présence des artistes Ralph et John Vital.

Il existe aussi un triple CD "Francophonie-MIDEM", une compilation de musiques de 44 artistes de pays francophones, produit à cette occasion par l'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie, en collaboration avec le Conseil Francophone de la Chanson (C.F.C.). La moitié des morceaux choisis est consacrée à l'Afrique, un quart à Haïti, le Liban, le Cap Vert. Le dernier quart sur le disque C est un volet destiné à l'Océan Indien.

Maurice en C9, "Cado" de Marianne Bothjohnsons tiré de l'album à paraître "Anonimous". Il paraît que cette grande chanteuse mauricienne a un timbre proche des voix de Gospel : "mon cado, la voi que to fine donne moi, pa pou reste san manzé". On remarque le rythme plus rapide du Ségam mauricien.

Egalement du Studio Kapricorn, en C10, "Zikredi" d'un chanteur de Roche-bois, la Cité Seggae (Ségam+Reggae) de Port -Louis.

Tian est repris en écho par son groupe: "Kiltur nou pays, enseign nou music, mo qualité la music. La music créole, pou nou ène loneur, pou nou ène kailtur, valeur nou kailtur, kailtur nou pays, la music ène dan mo le san". Le morceau reste le plus enlevé de tout l'album.

Lena Goel et
Gilles Berger (Cannes)

Chants Planétaires

nouveau titre (380 pages) de Jean Georges Prosper,
Docteur ès lettres,
édité chez L'Harmattan (France)

De son oeuvre l'auteur qui vit à Paris nous dit: l'ouvrage est écrit comme un roman dans une langue courante et pittoresque, et même teintée d'humour, avec bon nombre de références et des citations d'experts, de spécialistes, de sommités de France et d'ailleurs, dans une synthèse de ces trois domaines: Science/Religion/Poésie, et aussi Education/Culture/Communication...

Une oeuvre de brûlante actualité internationale, axée sur les thèmes de la Paix mondiale, la Solidarité planétaire et l'Action humanitaire.

Une approche nouvelle, originale, mettant en lumière les vraies racines (biologiques/hormonales)

L'auteur, Jean-Georges Prosper, écrivain et poète de langue française, est né à Port-Louis, Ile Maurice. Il est Docteur ès lettres et diplômé de pédagogie, Maître ès arts (Institut Catholique de Paris).

Docteur Prosper est aussi l'auteur de plusieurs autres ouvrages édités à Maurice et en France. Il est l'auteur de l'hymne national mauricien. Il a été décoré par Maurice, la France et le Sénégal.

Le livre, au prix de 25 euros l'exemplaire, est obtenu chez L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole-Polytechnique, 75005 Paris.

L'Harmattan nous fait savoir que les droits d'auteur du

présent ouvrage seront versés, en grande partie, à un Fonds spécial, sous l'égide de l'Aumonie des Mauriciens de France, et du Comité France-Maurice, en cette année du bicentenaire

du Bienheureux Père Laval (France 1803-Maurice 1863), aux fins d'implanter dans une banlieue de Paris, un 'Centre Père Laval de l'île Maurice', centre d'accueil humanitaire et socio-culturel.

Le centenaire de l'Académie
Malgache fêté à Paris



Dans la photo: M. Pierre-André Wiltzer, Ministre délégué à la Coopération et à la Francophonie à la droite du Président malgache, Marc Ravalomanana avec sa gauche son épouse

Le président malgache Marc Ravalomanana arriva en France pour sa première visite officielle qui devait durer 4 jours. A cette occasion, il est venu à l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer rue La Perouse à Paris pour la célébration du centenaire de l'Académie malgache. Une première avec une séance extraordinaire des deux académies, ce qui ne s'était jamais réalisé.

Étude
Pratique du français

20e leçon

Féminin des adjectifs

Exercice de révision

Donnez le féminin des adjectifs suivants:-
Malin, tendre, rieur, mineur, majeur, inquiet, magicien, bon, familier, voleur, orageux, roux. Gourmand, bon, aigre, beau, amer

Formation du pluriel dans les adjectifs

On forme le pluriel d'un adjectif en ajoutant la lettre s au singulier.
Exemple: Un enfant sage - des enfants sages
Note: les adjectifs terminés au singulier par s ou x ne changent pas au pluriel: un fruit frais, des fruits frais; un enfant peureux, des enfants peureux

Exercice:

Mettez au pluriel le devoir suivant:

Singulier

Le train rapide -
L'océan houleux -
le cheval jeune -
L'or précieux -
le papillon léger -
Le visage frais -
Le frais gazon -
L'oiseau chanteur -
L'ouvrier actif -
L'abeille active -

Pluriel

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Dictée:

Sous la dictée de quelqu'un, écrivez ces phrases suivantes:-
Le vent chaud et humide. Le serviteur matinal. La vague blanche et écumante. Le livre amusant et illustré. Le fruit doux et délicieux. La vallée profonde et agréable. l'herbe tendre et verte.

Exercice:

Maintenant, mettez la dictée ci-dessus au pluriel

Exercice:

Mettez au singulier le devoir suivant:-

Pluriel

Les vaisseaux puissants -
Les orages menaçants -
Les poupées naturelles et belles -
Les oeufs frais -
Les jeunes hiboux -
Les diamants précieux -
Les nuages noirs -
les oiseaux rares -
Les cheveux noirs, longs et soyeux -
Les coraux rouges -
Les ciels bleus et clairs -
Les parfums orientaux -
Les vins doux et délicieux -

Singulier

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Questionnaire: Comment forme-t-on le pluriel d'un adjectif?
Quel est le pluriel des adjectifs terminés au singulier par s ou par x?

D.B

L'eau pour tous avant
2015, selon le PM

Le Premier ministre, sir Anerood Jugnauth, a déclaré le 5 juin dernier que sa vision n'était pas seulement de fournir de l'eau potable à la population 24 heures sur 24, mais aussi d'assurer que tous les autres secteurs de l'île obtiennent cette ressource facilement pour leur développement.

Inaugurant une exposition sur l'eau au Domaine Les Pailles, sir Anerood s'est dit confiant que cet objectif serait atteint avant 2015

"compte tenu des investissements massifs" qui ont été effectués dans ce secteur.

Le PM a, ensuite parlé de la qualité de l'eau, la protection des lagons et des zones côtières de l'île. Il a rappelé que la préservation de l'environnement a été "au centre de tous nos préoccupations en vue de promouvoir la diversification de notre économie et le processus global du développement".

La coupe: Ouverture officielle

Lors de l'ouverture officielle de la coupe le 5 juin dernier à Deux Bras, le ministre de l'Agriculture et de la technologie alimentaire, Pravind Jugnauth, a souligné que l'industrie sucrière demeurerait pendant encore longtemps un des piliers de l'économie du pays.

Il a dit que la centralisation est une étape importante pour sauver

cette industrie, dont le protocole sucre est menacé sur le marché international.

De son côté, le président de la Chambre d'Agriculture de Maurice, Georges Leung Shing, a évoqué les défis auxquels fait face cette industrie, avant de rappeler qu'il faut réduire les coûts de production afin de rester compétitive.

Five arrested in
rape case

Five young men – Sachin Aubeeluck, Vikram Jagai (17 years), Soodesh Suttun, Nurutun Jankee and Vikash Munkoo, have been arrested by police during the weekend of June 29.

They have all confessed to having raped Sandra O'reilly on the night of

July 16, 2002 at La Vigie. They were all presented to Court the next day and remanded to police cell till July 8.

This case made the headlines last year after Miss O'reilly, a resident of Blue-Bay, reported to the police that she had been raped by two men who broke into her home, and later on the road of La Vigie by five other men after her two kidnappers left her on the road around midnight.



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The UK scene

European year of disabled people

Everyone can get involved in the scheme outlined below

Shape, a charity that provides access to art to disabled people among ethnic minorities

Volunteer scheme pays for tickets and fares to people accompanying ethnic disabled or elderly spectators to shows in the UK

Shape, the disability arts access charity which last year celebrated its 25th anniversary, is now aiming to make members of the minority ethnic community more aware of the services it offers.

Although 'Shape' is involved in a variety of activities including promoting deaf and disabled artists, the clearest way of measuring awareness is through the popular Ticket Scheme where 20,000 annual trips to the theatre and cinema are organised.

Disabled or elderly persons can obtain reduced-price tickets, and if desired, can have a trained voluntary escort to accompany them. The volunteer scheme has proved popular with companies who are looking for tangible and rewarding ways for the staff to become involved in community work and giving something back to society.

Steve Mannix, Shape's CEO said: "Given that this is European year of disabled people, and that next year the provision of the

Goods and Services section of the Disability Discrimination Act comes into force, it is more vital than ever that people realise that access to the arts and culture is a human right under the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Minority ethnic elderly and disabled people are more likely than others to be isolated and we know that only .05% of members of the reduced-price ticket scheme state that they are Black, Asian, or of Middle Eastern origin. So we have set ourselves a target of 10% over the next 3 years and hope to achieve 4% participation by 2004"

Jon Lockwood, Ticket Scheme Coordinator said: We'd also like to involve people in the volunteer scheme who may have language skills that could be of use escorting the disabled spectators - we pay for their tickets and travel expenses, so it's a chance to give of your time and still have fun. It would also be fantastic if minority ethnic companies would like to support us".

Further information from LVS on 020 7619 6160

The Republican Party predicts social unrest

Kadness Pillay, former Labour Minister now President of the Mouvement Republicain, spoke of his fears at a press meeting.

The MR warns of looming social crisis due to the failure of the present government to tackle social and economic problems.

Pillay says workers' morale is at

an all-time low in the police force and customs. Mass textiles redundancies will have further social and economic impact.

He criticised Industry Minister Jayen Cuttaree for being incapable of boosting the textiles sector. He also blames Paul Bérenger of dividing the nation on ethnic lines.

From the net

An appeal to philatelist

From: "John" <trojinv@bigpond.net.au>

To: editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk

Date: 27 Jun 2003,

IS there a website that will show the various cancellations known to have been used in Marituis.

John Stewart

Football quiz from Poland

Fans of Mauritius football may wish to provide the answers to Mr Platek if they know the answers to his questions

From: "piotr platek"<piotr.platek@katowice.agora.pl>

To: editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk

Date: 25 Jun 2003, 07:25:29 AM

Subject: request from Poland...

Dear Sirs,

My name is Piotr Platek. I am polish sports journalist of the biggest Polish daily. I am working on book about african football. I have big request to You. Answer me on these questions, please:

1. Who is the best player in Mauritius football history?
2. who is the best coach in Mauritius football history?
3. best success of Mauritius national team?
4. What is nickname of mauritius national team?

Every information will be priceless for me...

Thanks in advance,

best regards,

Piotr Platek

European Year of Disabled People

In the context of the European Year of Disabled People, we welcome the article below from the Mauritius branch of the Anglo-Mauritian Disability Link.

The Anglo-Mauritian Disability link was set up in London in 1999 by Cader Hosenally to bring relief to nationals in Mauritius and in this country who are unfortunate to suffer from one form disability or another.

Hari Padayachy, Secretary Mauritius Branch, Anglo-Mauritian Disability Link

Disability knows no nationality, ethnic origin or caste. It affects one and all without discrimination. It does not matter if a child is born in a rich family or in the slums of India. What is different is the quality of life that disabled children can have, dependent on their parents' financial means and the country they live in.

The attitude of parents to their child's disability is of crucial importance. We know of parents who feel ashamed of their child's disability to the point of hiding them in the house, even tying their legs to the table to stop them venturing outside - neighbours may not even be aware of the child's existence; on the other hand we have parents who will try and make the child lead as normal a life as possible: normal schooling, shopping trips, games and sports.

It is not easy at first for any parent to welcome disability in their family. Some will perceive it as a failure on their reproductive prowess - defective seedlings, to be crude; others view it as a punishment from God and will be forever asking the question: 'What did we do to deserve this?'; while others see it as a challenge: 'I have a disabled child, so what? I will research all available literature on the illness and I do not care what specialists may say, somewhere someone has the answers to help my child lead a fairly normal life'.

Some people may not want to be parents of a disabled child. Nowadays it is routine in Obstetric Clinic to check for potential disability in the foetus. Dependent on the level of disability or deformity, the Obstetrician may offer facilities for abortion following counselling. Other people may opt for abortion regardless of the level of disability. This choice is not available in every country as in some countries abortion is illegal. They will never know the pain and pleasures of raising such a child.

The label of disability itself differentiates the child from others. But it does not matter what word we use, very quickly the new word will have the same connotation in the child's mind as well as in the attitude of others. Every so often, to be politically correct, one has to refer to disability or even certain medical terminologies, using different phrases. No sooner we get used to the new terminology that it becomes politically incorrect and a new term is introduced - Why? Does that make the child suddenly, as by magic, recover skills that he

did not have previously?

In Mauritius, in recent years, we have made great strides in recognizing the rights of the individual, disabled or not. There is for example legislation regarding access for disabled people to public buildings, the right to a financial allowance, the emergence of various organisations to provide support, including special schooling, for disabled people. We all know, for decades now, the existence of the Lois Lagesse School for the Blind. We have a similar organisation for the deaf. Now we have a variety of Non Governmental Organisations, ONGs, with Government backing, which provide the additional support to the disabled. We have visiting specialists from abroad who give advice and practical assistance and help raise awareness.

Our attitude has changed over the years. I still remember calling my next door neighbour's kid 'cassepatté' because he walked in a funny way - he suffered from childhood Polio and never had any support in terms of physical rehabilitation. People forgot or never knew that his name was Henri. Now luckily, today's Henri will have quite a different lifestyle, where his physical disabilities would not hamper to a great extent his position in society.

But there is still a lot to be done in order to assist people with disability as well as their families. There is a need for all Mauritians to learn about the value of every person, disabled or not, provide support as may be required but above all adjust our thinking and behaviour so that we no longer treat the Henri of this world as 'Cassepatté'.

Anglo-Mauritian Disability Link

AMDLM(tius) was recently formed at the request of the London-based Organisation. We held our AGM on the 6th of April and currently we have an Executive Committee of 10 members with a current total membership of 25 members.

Different parts of Mauritius are well represented within the Committee. Our aims and objectives are similar to the London based org.

We aim to complement the other existing organisations to support disabled children and their parents.

We will welcome membership from Mauritians who are returning home after their studies abroad.

whole residential area in Albion. Police, the fire Brigade and ambulances had to be called and residents evacuated. People suffered from dizziness and breathing problem.

The incident claimed one life, as an asthmatic patient died after inhaling the gas. The cylinder was urgently handled and moved by experts to contain the leak. Initial enquiries revealed the cylinder might have belonged to the Waste Water Authority but was dumped on a bare land. Police is still investigating.

Disaster at Albion

A huge cylinder containing chlorine was the source of a disaster at Albion, on the west coast of Mauritius, which could have been more horrible. Thinking the cylinder was empty, two men had tried to saw it into pieces. The two men proposed to sell it as scrapped metal.

However, a strong smell leaked out and quickly spread through a

Missing boy: prank callers con mother

9 yr old Akmeez Aumeer, believed to have been kidnapped for ransom, is still unfound, despite a reward of Rs 100,000 promised by his family to anyone with information. However, money lured two men into conning his mother, Nazleen that they are

holding her son. They promised to release him against Rs 50,000. Nazleen left the money on a beach as requested but there were no sign of her son. She informed police who traced the culprits. The desperate mother still hopes to find him alive.

Textile crisis in Mauritius

Textile sector doomed unless Government acts

In an interview given to Week End, Mr Francois Woo, director of Compagnie Mauricienne de Textile (CMT) raised the alarm over the problems facing the textile sector.

According to Mr Woo, the government needs to act quickly to bail out this industry which employs 80,000. He added that conflicting statements by various ministers are causing confusions and the nation

is not being made aware of the real issues. Mauritius is struggling to cope with intense Asian competitors on the international market, while domestic costs of production are on the rise.

Port and container handling levies are too high, and textile factories pay more for water usage than agricultural entrepreneurs, a measure he termed discriminatory. M. woo calls for all partners to concert in the national interest

US market to bail out Summit Textiles

Summit Textiles is to make a thousand workers redundant as it cannot secure a US market for its textiles exports. Its chairman, Albert Tong from Hong Kong met Prime Minister Sir Aneerood Jugnauth in a last minute attempt to find a solution to the crisis in vain. Ten factories will close down. Ministers are working hard to save the company and preserve jobs.

Leisure Garments factory closes down with 2,600 job loss

Leisure Garments of Esquel group is to close down following years of losses. The group, which operates in eight countries, says this unit no longer fits in its new business plan.

However, the company has concerns for its employees and promises to abide by all legal and social obligations.

PM Jugnauth lobbies Bush on textiles

In the wake of the textile crisis in Mauritius, Prime Minister Sir Aneerood Jugnauth has written to the US President to seek an extension of AGOA to allow us to redress the situation.

Industry Minister Jayen Cuttaree said analysis at a Textiles Summit in Brussels showed that textiles on the world market would be dominated by India, Pakistan and China. The era when Mauritius could boast of cheap labour and guaranteed quotas to attract foreign investors is long gone. Global relocation is being taken place as big investors aim to retain competitiveness.

Since this article was written in early June PM Jugnauth has led a delegation to the US where textile discussion was on the agenda. The US visit is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Mega financial scandal

The disappearance of 850 million rupees from the Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)

Former manager Lesage's plea and the Chady cinema saga

Millions of rupees have been loaned by the MCB to various parties who claim to be bona fide borrowers, though it is a universally known fact that there is no loan without kick-back.

In an affidavit, former chief manager Robert Lesage, principal figure of the drama, denies allegations of fraud and incriminates several top management figures who, he maintains, cannot plead ignorance.

On the other hand, London expatriate businessman Teeren Appasamy has challenged Guy Noël, MCB General Manager to substantiate his claim that he (Appasamy) owns shares in the cinema companies of Ex-Labour MP Siddick Chady. The cinema company also has received loans from the MCB. The Registrar of Companies will have to enlighten the investigating Anti-Corruption Tribunal as to the ownership of the shares of the cinema company.

Corruption fatigue

Mauritians are now beginning to suffer from inquiries fatigue and wonder where will all that investigation land, especially as the dust seems to have settled on the other major scandals including the Delphis Bank scandal. What has happened of the Receiver/Manager?, one may wonder!

Interim govt report from PM Jugnauth

The Prime Minister Sir Aneerood Jugnauth is confident his government is honoring all promises made to the electorate. At a press conference attended by all Cabinet Ministers, Jugnauth presented the MSM-MMM coalition as a solid team that means business.

He reiterated that at only half way of its mandate, his government has successfully tackled law and order situation which, he claimed, degenerated seriously under his predecessor.

He cited economic figures to show how reforms implemented in various sectors are bearing fruits.

Succeeding him, Paul Berenger declared that he is very glad to work with Jugnauth and promised to continue the good work when he takes over.

San dilo, nou dan dife

San dilo, nou dan dife, meaning we are in big trouble without water, is the theme of a new awareness campaign launched by the Environment Minister, Rajesh Bhagwan. an exhibition is being hosted at the Domaine Les Pailles. Bhagwan says that the public realises the hardship of lack of water only during droughts and power cuts and stresses that we should be always concerned about the importance of water, and aim to cut down waste, recycle and store.

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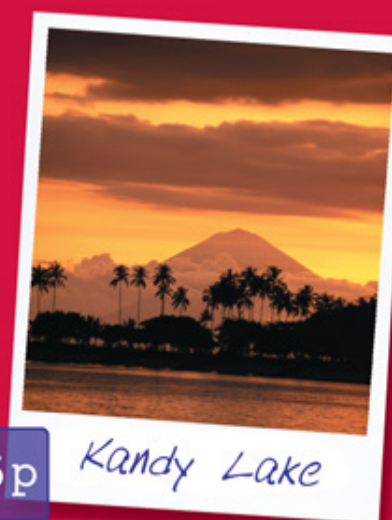
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Issue 190

YŪKI MÉI Chanteuse Japonaise

Wanting to bridge the gap between Japan and Mauritius

In conversation with
Mauritian-born
Mylene Oishi in
Japan

YŪKI MÉI loves French and loves singing. It therefore seems natural that her CD "Variétés françaises" and her concerts are designed in such a way as to appeal not only to an audience in Japan or in France, but also to all French-speaking people the world over, including Mauritius.

"Very little is known about Mauritius in Japan. Even though it is a resort island surrounded by the most beautiful sea, few Japanese have visited the island." The reason for this is that there is no direct flight to the island, and no package tours are available, creating thus a huge gulf between the two countries.

But, music has no barriers. "When I sing songs in both French and Japanese, I see this as a way of bridging the language barrier and bringing two worlds together - the French speaking and Japanese speaking worlds."

Singing from a broad range of musical genres, well-known to all Mauritians, such favourites as 'Au clair de la



lune' and 'La vie en rose',

YŪKI MÉI would like to bring Japan a little closer to Mauritius.

Born in Osaka, her love for French and for singing propelled her to go to France to study French after graduating from University. Singing at a local function in France made her realize the power music has on our emotional senses. It can make us feel happy, sad, romantic, warm, nostalgic: music stirs the strings of the heart.

"Recently I have discovered many wonderful things about Mauritius from the internet: its rich colourful history, past and present. It would make me unspeakably glad to go to Mauritius and sing. A bien-tot." Says YŪKI Méi.

No deterioration of law and order, says Béranger

The Deputy Prime Minister Paul Béranger said on June 27 in Parliament that there was no deterioration of law and order in the island. On the contrary, he said the crime trend has been on the decline year after year since 1999.

Béranger was replying to the Leader of the Opposition, Navin Ramgoolam, on the four cases of violence that had made four victims earlier, viz - a 20-year-old university student, Nadine Dantier, at Albion on June 25; a 43-year-old businessman called Raju Veeramah at SSR street, Port-Louis on the same day, a 9-year-old boy, Sunil Bhoyrub, at Ste-Croix June 17 and a 67-year-old man at Quatre-Bornes.

According to him, the figures in respect of murder, manslaughter, serious assault, rape and other sexual offences and serious larceny with violence and break-in stood at 3600 in 1999, 3461 in 2000, 2622 in 2001, 2611 in 2002 and 1149 from January to May 2003.

Béranger also recalled several measures p9poilce bas tekane to curb violent crimes.

These include: Round the clock police presence in built-up areas, door-to-door sensitization, intensification of preventive patrols by the Emergency Response Service (ERS), frequent road block operations, obligation for police to intervene within 15 minutes, active partnership with the population at large and advice to a wide cross-section of the population.

Japanese life insurances going bankrupt

More and more Japanese life insurances are going bust. The problem seems to be due to the fact that these insurances promised to pay high rates of interest, above which they can earn at a time of ultra-low interest rates and deflation. The industry's policy protection fund is also about to run out of money.

The government is not being as harsh as they should because the life insurers have their

money linked to major banks which are also experiencing some difficulty at the moment. This had led to the concern that bankruptcy within the life insurance industry could result in the bankruptcy of the banks.

The government is having to think carefully about how to proceed as from past experience it can end up emphasising the industry's problems even more to the customers.

A spiritual journey

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2003

organised by the Kensington Travel

Summer time is pilgrimage time to the shrine at the Holy Grotto of Lourdes. Thousands of Catholic pilgrims and of other faiths from around the world flock to this locality of south of France which to many is a once-in-a-lifetime journey.

Our contributor Marc Gregoire shares with MN readers his impressions of this spiritual experience to the holy grotto.



Lourdes in France is located in the foothills of the Pyrenées. It was near there, at Massabielle by a grotto on the bank of the River Gave de Pau that the Virgin Mary chose to appear to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Bernadette was a poor local peasant girl of 14 who spoke only her local dialect and suffered from asthma.

According to record, the apparition took place not once but seventeen times. It is said that on one occasion, the Lady said "I am the Immaculate Conception", an expression never used by anybody before and even unknown to the Church. It was in the end agreed that Bernadette was not educated enough to coin the expression by herself.

On her 9th appearance, on 25 February 1858, the Lady asked Bernadette: "Kneel down, kiss the ground and eat the grass." At that time, the area was covered with dry soil and grass only.

Bernadette pulled off the grass and scratched the earth with bare hands. Then she scrubbed her face with it. Her face became so dirty with mud and grass that many sceptics in the crowd laughed at her. Her disappointed parents took her away.

Some minutes later, at the very spot she had been digging, water sourced out to the surprise of those who stayed behind. It is said that immediately a blind man washed his eyes with that water. He got his sight back, and exclaimed: "I can see now".

Since that day, millions of pilgrims visit that place every year and collect gallons of water, but the source never runs dry. As a result, the Catholic authorities have consecrated the place as a perpetual adoration corner. Many changes have taken place, for example, churches have been built, a picturesque esplanade erected and the Immaculate Conception Basilica constructed.



The spring

The Basilica itself took 9 years to complete and was consecrated by Cardinal Gilbert, archbishop of Paris, on the 2nd of July 1876. However the grotto where the Virgin Mary made her appearance and the endless source of 'blessed' water have been preserved in their natural and original state to protect their authenticity. Indeed the grotto alone dominates the place, with the hill in the background, the River Gave on one side, and tall trees and flowers all over

the place. With the statue of Virgin Mary standing gloriously in the middle of the esplanade, and those of Ste Bernadette surrounded by her sheep, plus so many other statues of Saints, Popes, the vicinity is transposed into a refuge for meditation.

One marvels at the number of people who queue up, including those in push chairs, on clutches, waiting for their turn to pray in the grotto. After praying for a short while, the pilgrims then rubbed their hands on the rocks which pearl the eternal drops of 'holy' water. They passed their wet hands on their body. When my turn came I did the same. I thanked the Lord for giving me the opportunity to be there. Not everybody has that chance. In Gregoire's family, I am the only one.

I have never seen an underground sanctuary so immense and so sumptuous as the one in Lourdes which is situated not far from the grotto. It can accommodate 25,000 people. Its immensity axed on a style of canopy of heaven as ceiling is striking. For that passion week, all statues were covered in a mauve shroud. That gave a mourning look which forced everyone (even those who don't pray) to kneel down and bow in silence.

They have erected the altar in the middle of the sanctuary and set rows of benches around it. One aisle is reserved for the disabled people so that in their own push-chairs, they can follow the ceremony as well as other pilgrims. On that particular Good Friday, the long ceremony was performed by several Cardinals, Monsignors and a team of Clergymen.

In the evening, there were candle-lit processions followed by the adoration of the Cross in the sanctuary. The interior was packed full with torch bearers. I was lucky enough to secure a seat. When the musical rendering of the Ave Maria and Alleluia reached the highest pitch, the clergymen and laymen lifted up their torches and sang in tune with the high notes to fill the sanctuary with an atmosphere of impressionable reverence.

It was equally impressive inside the sanctuary. The reflection-display of the innumerable lights enlivened the ceiling like the constellation under the canopy of heaven. And in tune with the sound of music and the singers' voice, for a moment I thought I was in heaven.

An incredible but true event occurred on Sunday Easter. The time for the Holy Bath was fixed for 2 to 4 pm. From noon, people (old and young) were already joining up in by the sacred spring - men in one queue and women in another. My wife and I were compelled to join the queue at noon to secure a place in the front row. While in the queue, looking at the rainbow of nations assembled, I couldn't help thinking why people are so united in the Faith and yet so divided outside?

The spring is designed for only one per-

son at a time. It is a narrow basin. A volunteer of Lourdes asked me to undress. Willingly I did. A second covered me with a towel. A third requested me to pray and to ask for my grace discreetly. As soon as I finished Hail Mary prayer and soliciting the grace in my heart, the second volunteer removed the towel from me. I stepped into the water in Adam's suit. The water was icy cold.

Two other volunteers, one on each side of the spring, submerged me into the water up to the neck. Then quickly they pulled me out. Immediately after, an attendant offered me a glass of water. I washed my head with part of it and drank the rest. Then I kissed the feet of the statue of the Virgin Mary. As I proceeded to the dressing room to dry myself, I was surprised that I was already dry and I was not feeling the cold either. It was inexplicable. I got dressed, and on my way out, thanked the attendants for their courtesy. I felt like a feather in the wind.

I joined my group outside and everyone was talking about the bath experience. But I was not involved in the discussion. I was possessed by an odd emotion. Tears rolled down my cheeks. My wife felt uneasy and wanted to know what was wrong with me. Someone suggested she leave me alone for a while. My heart was becoming so heavy that I felt compelled to let go the overflow of tears.

I must state that for years I do not wash my hair with cold water, or drink cold water or walk without a cap, day and night. The reason is I suffer from an excess of liquid in the head due to a growing cyst in my brain. However, during that pilgrimage week, I did stay without hat in the night, I had cold bath and drunk fresh water. To my surprise I did not have any excess liquid to report. I enjoyed my time as anyone else in our group. We may call these facts what we like. I feel inadequate.

Before concluding, may I seize this opportunity to thank everyone who made our pilgrimage a success.

(a). Mr Steve Nesbitt, the Ace of Kensington Travel, London. His office-organisations are worthy of our praise and congratulations.

(b). Father Desmond, as our spiritual guide, was par Excellence up to the mark. His theory "laissez faire" punctuated with his prayers, songs and elocution boosted up the spirit of our group during the journey.

(c). The performance of Miss Aneta, an employee of Kensington Travel, acting as guide for the first time, was excellent. She had the knack to please and looked after every pilgrim of our group. We are grateful to her and shall be pleased to make the trip with her next Easter.

(d). And yes, what can I say about our driver, Stephen? He topped the bill. If there is a comparison to make, he can only be compared in the superlative: the most experienced driver, the best entertainer, and the nicest jolly fellow of us all. Stephen's smile and approach made us feel at home and his jokes kept us laughing all the way from London to Lourdes in the style of the old pilgrims from Southwark to Canterbury immortalised by Geoffrey Chaucer. He should have been on stage. Thanks to him, my Portuguese in-laws, Elizabeth, Manuel Laurencio and his wife Olga, and our companion Louise Regis, my wife and myself enjoyed a memorable pilgrimage to Lourdes. We shall be delighted to have Stephen driving us to Lourdes on the Easter trip of 2004.

Marc Grégoire

Mauritius News cuisine

Gâteaux Piment (Chilli Bites)

To make approximately 6 dozen

Ingredients:

1 lb of Dhol (Yellow split peas)
10 small hot chillies or 8 long chillies (those are milder)
(Use more or less according to taste)
Quarter lb onions or shallots or scallions (minced)
1 clove garlic (crushed)
1 sprig thyme and parsley (chopped)
Optional: a few leaves of coriander (cotomili)
1 pinch bicarbonate of soda
4 cups of oil for frying

Preparation:

Pick over the dhol, discarding any foreign particles, and soak them in water for about 6 hours. Then rinse and crush them in a food processor *or* - if you wish to do it the traditional way - use the *baba and the curry stone*!
Cut the chillies in thin rounds - or cut them in half: they will then be more visible to those who fear them.
Mixed the crushed dhol with the rest of the ingredients and season with salt and pepper.
According to Indian tradition chilli bites are shaped on a square piece of banana leaf - failing which, fashion them on the slightly moistened palm of your hand.
Make small patties, and if you wish, poke a hole in the centre - this activates the cooking!
Heat the oil in a *caraille*, wok, or deep saucepan - there should be enough for the chilli bites to float freely about.
Fry them until golden, and drain in a wire mesh spoon so the oil drips easily back into the pan.

*From "Exotic Cuisine of Mauritius"
by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel,
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Take Time

Submitted by hantoo ()

There is a time for everything under heaven

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It is the Fountain of Wisdom

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It is the Highway to Reverance

Take Time to be Friendly

It Is the Road to Happiness

Take Time to Laugh

It is the Music of the Soul

Take Time to Dream

It is Hitching your wagon to a Star

Take Time to Live

The alternative is dreadful!

Government committed to reform in wage determination, says Khushiram

Economic Development Minister Sushil Khushiram said the government was committed to fundamental reform in wage determination, which must be designed and implemented with the support and participation of all the stakeholders.

«Like Mauritius, many other countries seriously affected by the unfavourable circumstances of the world economy have taken drastic corrective measures. In 2002, Hong-Kong implemented pay cuts ranging from 1.6% to 4.4% across the different ranks of the civil service. This year, the civil servants in Hong Kong have agreed to another pay cut of 6%, to be implemented in two phases», he said.

According to the Minister, a review of the wage determination process is essential for greater rationality in macro-economic management.

«A uniform across the board wage increase that pays little or no heed to productivity growth, or to the differing market conditions between sectors, whether export or small and medium enterprises does not make economic sense», he said.

Your HOROSCOPE for July 2003 by Anna

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Things are taking time to progress and at the moment you feel like you should be relaxing and enjoying yourself. Maybe think about travelling, as this may offer you more choices for your career.

Your family life will be your main focus, so working hard on them will improve relationships. This month will be a good opportunity to finish any projects that are left outstanding.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20)

New ideas at home and at work will help you this month to reorganise your lifestyle. They will allow you to become more adventurous and experimental.

Making time for yourself, will give you the independence you have craved. Place more emphasis on communication, especially with colleagues at work. With relationships, friendship will play a major role. Be careful with whom you tell your personal information to as you may be too trusting.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

Spending money this month will be your major downfall. You may be spending on yourself, but will realise that bills have not yet been paid, leaving you in financial difficulty. Make decisions wisely and this can be prevented.

Plan your time and work well, as work life will run more smoothly. If you are planning to buy or rent a new house, be wary of signing papers immediately. If you have different options think about them all.

CANCER (June 21 - July 20)

You seem to be on a journey where your life is split into two. One half has ended and another is just beginning, this may be with a new job or an end to a relationship. Allowing yourself space will encourage you to take up more adventurous things.

Your career looks positive. Working hard and building new relationships will open more doors for you and allow you to venture further with your career.

LEO (July 21 - August 21)

Spending too much time on your work life and socialising with friends from work will have an effect on both your family life and personal relationships. Don't delay with payments as your finances may begin to build up.

Children will be important this month, whether that be your own or increasing your family. You will begin to value family life and want to spend more time with them. Make time for yourself and you will begin to enjoy a new social life.

VIRGO (August 22 - September 22)

New opportunities will come your way allowing you to grow and develop. This is a good time to teach yourself something new. This will enable you to take on more responsibility at work and you will be rewarded for your hard work.

Being busy with work may mean you miss someone important in your life. They are not very far away, so don't dismiss people who may be close to you at work for a relationship.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

You will be encouraged this month to take up a new hobby or sport. Learning something new will be beneficial to your career. You may enjoy interior design and take up decorating your own home or others.

Do not ignore advice even when it may be given in the wrong way. You may begin to take your hobby seriously and think about it as a career. Talk it over with close ones first as it may mean less income than before. Follow what you feel happy in and you will be rewarded.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 22)

With your social life, you will benefit from meeting others who are going to open new doors for you. You may find it difficult to express your ideas to people at first, but they will listen in time and see what you have to offer.

Your family life will change this month. Be patient with them and try to allow yourself more time to spend with them and relationships will begin to improve.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 20)

Conflict may be created with friends and with your partner, they begin to tell you how to control your finances. Take their advice, but do not let them make decisions for you.

You have many ideas about how to improve your relationship, take time out together and you will improve your quality time. Your career is important to you make strong decisions with precision.

CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19)

Your health and working life will get a boost, so don't put off starting new diet plans. You will be able to balance your finances well this month.

You may be too ambitious with a project at home that involved the whole family. Talk it through first or you may find you have more obstacles to face.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

When it comes to your family, you may be demanding too much, make sure you make time for them and relax.

Be wary of colleagues at work, they may be after your position and may take your ideas on board to help themselves. Your career will improve this month.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Save all the extra money you receive and you will see the benefits. Positive aspects to your life will improve your home and work life.

Be careful with finances as money may be a problem this month. Focus your attention on important family members as they may feel left out of your social life.

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Indian cinema

Film review by Sabina Narayanan

We welcome this contribution from younger reader Sabina who is a great fan of Indian films. She wishes, here, to share her pleasure of the Indian screen with readers who have a similar interest.

We certainly welcome contribution from other readers who may have a passion for other films as well. Contributions must original impressions of the contributors themselves.

Chalte Chalte

Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherjee, Jas Arora
Director: Aziz Mirza
Music: Jatin-Lalit, Aadesh Shrivastava
Lyrics: Javed Akhtar

Opposites attract? Raj Mathur (Shah Rukh Khan) owns a small transport company. He meets Priya (Rani Mukherjee) Greece-born fashion designer, literally by accident. He falls in love and so begins his pursuit of Priya and his determination to win her heart by following her to Athens, where her father has arranged for her to marry her childhood friend, Sameer (Jas Arora).

Raj has a bout of good luck as the plane he and Priya are on fails to land in Athens, leaving them on the beautiful Greek island of Mykonos. He uses this opportunity alone with Priya to woo and impress her with plenty of romantic clichés and comical moments along the way.

The first half of the film works at a steady pace. The scenes with comedian Johnny Lever as a homeless man with a dog as a companion are funny at times but still a little slow. The second half of the film puts the acting talents of Shah Rukh and Rani to the test as the newlywed couple. Their on-screen chemistry and talent shines through. Raj and Priya are as diverse as chalk and cheese. Raj is a self-made businessman who is impulsive, funny and lovable. Priya is rich and successful in her own right and the epitome of sophistication. The second half revolves around the trials and tribulations of the newly-married couple; personality clashes, jealousy, rivalry and trust. The final scenes will leave you laughing and crying.

The story is weak as we have seen this done so many times in films like *Akele Hum Akele Tum*, and more recently *Saathiya* (another Rani Mukherjee starrer). However Shah Rukh and Rani's performances are a delight. This is the best direction by far by Aziz Mirza. The music is above average, my personal favourite being 'Suno Na' which has captured the most beautiful parts of Athens and Mykonos.

Overall, *Chalte Chalte* is a must see film for all Shah Rukh and Rani fans, and of course the romantics at heart.



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 * All Saints Day - 1 November * Indentured Labour Day - 2 Nov
 * Eid-ul-Fitr - 25 or 26 Nov * Christmas - 25 December

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Mauritius Reminiscences

War memorials

by *Burty Burrun*

Last year the War Memorial or « Monument aux Morts » dominating the esplanade in front of the Royal College of Curepipe crossed her eighty year old mark. As a matter of fact, the memorial, an artistic creation of sculptor J.A. Stevenson, was unveiled in April 1922 by the then British Governor of the Colony, Sir Hesketh Bell.

The War Memorial of Curepipe was erected to pay homage to the courage and sacrifice of Mauritian soldiers who gave their lives in the First World War (1914-1918) for the cause of freedom. The Mauritian poet Robert Edward Hart writing in French explained that the memorial depicts « sous les traits d'un Tommy et d'un Poilu fraternellement réunis, les soldats que notre pays a donnés aux armées franco-anglaises. » It is formally written on this monument that it had been erected « to the glorious memo-



ry of Mauritians who in the Great War gave their lives for the cause of freedom and justice.» In the Botanical Garden of Pamplemousses a commemorative plaque recalls the victory of the Allies in the 1914-1918 conflict.

The Phoenix War Memorial

Another monument in the District of Plaines Wilhems stands as a memorial of Mauritian engagement in the bloodiest wars of the 20th century, World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945). This memorial, a stonework of octagonal shape, welcomes the visitors at the main entrance of the cemetery of Phoenix in the township of Vacoas-Phoenix.

The Phoenix War Memorial pays tribute to the soldiers of the Commonwealth who died as freedom fighters in the course of the two World Wars. A marble plate bears the names of seven Mauritian soldiers who fell on the battle-field in the course of the First World War. Those heroes were J.H. Melotte (1st class soldier), M. André, R. Boule, E. Couve and E. Descubes (ordinary soldiers), sergeant R. Chaperon and bomber M.N.A.G. Macquet. Furthermore, a vibrant tribute paid to victims of the Second World War, is inscribed on a slate-like plate:

A la mémoire des soldats et d'un aviateur des Forces
De Sa Majesté britanniques inhumés à l'île Maurice
Et à Diégo Garcia
Et commémorés ici avec leurs camarades de combat
Qui reposent au cimetière de Phoenix.
Leur gloire ne sera jamais effacée.



Above:
The "Monument aux Morts" in front of the Royal College of Curepipe.
Below:
War graves in the precinct of the Phoenix cemetery.



The air pilot named on the plate was M. Salomon of the Mauritius Volunteer Air Force. The other victims belonged to different bodies among which the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Service Corps, the Royal Pioneer Corps, the Royal Regiment of Indian Artillery, the East African Army Ordnance Corps and the Mauritius Regiment. At the top of the main gate of the Phoenix cemetery an inscription: "Commonwealth War Graves" reminds people of the grim and tragic facts of war, of a drama that has ever dogged human history.

Mauritian lady points finger at illegal Mauritian builder conning other compatriots

The story below is told by a victim's relative

We have all heard the age-old stories about builders: they never finish a job on time; before the work is completed they disappear from site with the owner's money, when they do a job they spend ridiculous amounts of time drinking tea or coffee and their prices are extortionate. For one Mauritian family in North London, these stories became a harsh reality.

The builder, who cannot be named for legal reasons, approached a Mauritian lady at her workplace bragged to be a major building contractor in Mauritius. He stated that he had worked on numerous properties there. He also claimed that a number of referees could confirm that he had actually built houses from scratch in both Mauritius and the UK.

The lady concerned, checked with the so-called referees in the UK who confirmed that he worked for them and that his workmanship was above average. So she asked the builder for a quotation for work she wanted done to her own house.

A price was agreed upon, which comprised stripping the floors of the corridor, installing a new flight of stairs, treating the wood, and varnishing both. The work was to commence a week later according to the builder's own schedule.

The day that work was due to start the builder turned up saying that he was unable to begin because he had not finished his other jobs. He then asked the lady for some money to buy materials for her job. As he did not have transport to pick up the materials from the suppliers, the lady asked her son to drive him to the building centre while thinking that it would be better that she bought the materials herself.

On top of other materials, the builder asked for an absurd amount of poly filler (putty) which he claimed he would need for the stairs. The family did not hesitate thinking that as a builder he knew what he required. The lady and the builder then settled on another day for the work to begin that same week.

The builder began work and at first he turned up on time, at 9am sharp. By then the lady had given him half of the construction cost as it was agreed. Within a few days, he asked her for more money claiming his wife was hassling him for it as she needed to do shopping.

She gave him an additional sum of two hundred pounds, which still left a balance four hundred and fifty to pay.

Before the work was completed, he even asked for the balance saying that it was his daughter's birthday and he needed to buy her presents. However, it got to a point where the builder no longer showed to complete work. They were desperate as they visitors coming from Mauritius. They had to beg him to finish the job.

The builder finally declared that the work was completed, three weeks later than agreed. When he left, the floors were still wet with varnish and he told the son that it didn't look that good because the flooring was still wet. Once it dried up it would look perfect. The son without consulting his mother paid him the rest of the money and the builder left.

By the time the lady came home from work, the varnish was dry but the finished work look horrible. The builder had used the polyfiller on the stairs and it looked like a 3-year-old's finger painting work. The lady was furious considering that she had wasted all this time and money, and the work was still sub-standard.

The owner later found out that the builder in question was in the UK on holiday with his wife and children and that it was illegal for him to be undertaking any work. When she tried to locate him, she realised that he had disappeared. He had left one of his bags at the owner's place as he could not retrieve it when the flooring was very wet. The son later opened the bag only to find nine tubes of polyfiller that the family had purchased for builder to do the work. It can only be deduced that he had asked for the absurd amount of the putty to stock himself for work elsewhere.

To this day the family still does not know where the builder is and if he is still working illegally conning other Mauritians. They had lost a lot of money because of his shoddy work. They had to find another person to finish the work properly.

I am writing this article on behalf of the family to warn the community of this cowboy of a builder.

A relative

(Name and address supplied but withheld on request)

Mauritian Christian Fellowship

A glimpse of eternity

MAN WHO FOUND
GOD IN MAURITIUS
THROUGH A LIFE
AND

DEATH EXPERIENCE

On a visit to Mauritius, Ian McCormack, from New Zealand, was stung by several poisonous Jelly Fish and left to die on the beach at Riviere Noire.

By the grace of God he was taken to Cauds Hospital in Quatre-Bornes. The doctors tried to save his life but to no avail. Ian "DIED" as a result of blood poisoning. Ian, who previously did not believe in God, had an amazing encounter in the spirit realm with Jesus Christ and miraculously came back to life.

If you would like to hear more of Ian McCormack's life and death experience in Mauritius, you are welcome to come and bring a friend to hear his inspiring testimony on the 14th September at 3pm, Streatham Baptist Church, Lewin Road, Streatham, London, SW16. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact:
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Values and lifestyles

At the beginning of this new millennium, we can look back at our past achievements and feel proud of the human race. There is nothing that has not been achieved, but in this mad race of Science and Technology, the real human being has lost his way. The lust for more and more has made man vicious. Greed has made him spiritually crippled and morally bankrupt.

The education of human values has been relegated to the backseat, and in most cases, has even been given a farewell. Today, we have forgotten the art of character building.

The loss of values in our lives has led to the downfall in all fields - be it political, economic, social or environmental. Values or virtues are seen as being a weakness or an obstacle to success when, in fact, they are the inner powers of every human being.

Humanity can take pride in its virtue as well as its ingenuity. Yet, with all its good, humanity is equally guilty of vice. With brothers seen as 'enemies', vital energy is being misdirected and the home of unity keeps shaking. As a result, humanity has not been able to sustain unity against its common enemies namely civil war, ethnic cleansing, poverty, hunger and violation of human rights.

I believe that it is this lack of attention to values such as ethical standards in national and international decision-making, which is at the heart of the controversies surrounding what is commonly referred to as 'globalisation'.

Globalisation has come to mean a certain view of the world, a certain set of attitudes, institutions and way of living which threatens to consume all others.

Yet, nowhere is the need for responsible engagement more urgent than in the fight against AIDS. 42 million people across the world, are now living with HIV.

The battle against AIDS won't be won without responsible actions by the international community. President Bush is right when he says that in an age of miraculous medicines, no person should have to hear the words "You've got AIDS. We can't help you. Go home and die".

In this post September 11 world, another human value which has come to the fore is human insecurity. Besides, there is also a greater sense of interconnectedness, what happens in one region has impacts on others. Today, we all agree that poverty anywhere is poverty everywhere.

The concepts of freedom and liberty have always fascinated human beings. However, freedom functions only when rights are balanced with responsibilities and choice is balanced with conscience.

Besides, there can never be absolute freedom, since absolute freedom means absolute chaos.

As Rousseau said: "We are born free, but we are everywhere in chains"...

We are presently at a crossroads of human civilisation - if not past it - when a re-evaluation of the whole past is critically needed. It is becoming more and more obvious that eternal values that have survived the tests of time, will be the anchor of humanity.

We have all bargained our principles and values for the sake of 'progress'. It's high time we get back to our roots...

Bargain of the Year

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Deaths

Every entry published below contains the only information made available to us.

Mauritius

Germain Comarmond 57yrs, 31.05.03. Toulouse, Beau-Bassin - Miss Suzanne Planel 53yrs, 03.06.03. - Wid Gerda Andre 75yrs, (thanks giving) 07.06.03 cathedrale Port-Louis. - Marie Jeanne Berthelot 76yrs, 26.05.03. Cassis.- Jean Germain Ollier Chaperon 78yrs, 04.06.03. Route Royale, Sottise, Grand-Baie. - Gerard Medwin Maingard 46yrs, 30.05.03 Beau-Bassin. Luc Pierre Ernest 25.05.03. Vacoas.- Wid. Berengere Mootoo 27.05.03. Floreal.- Rubina Sabapathsee 29yrs, 26.05.03. Port-Louis. Marie Sarone Nathalia Chamarondy 4yrs, 05.06.03. Eau-Coulee.- Haida L'Olive 27.05.03. Wid, Sew Foo Lun (born Chui Hong) 75yrs, 24.05.03. Port-Louis. Alain Cheung Kun Sang 23.05.03. Port-Louis.- Wid. Marie Solange Vellien 15.05.03 Pointe-aux-Sables. Deoduth Debeedin 68yrs, 30.05.03.- Heshika Oodunt 4yrs 29.05.03.- Hadeem Ramdoyal (Lallah) 21.05.03. Rajendraparsad Mohana-Naiko (Dilip) 53Yrs, 01.06.03. - Ghislaine Nicolas 28.05.03. Soopaya Wydeelingum 25.05.03. Terre-Coupee, Curepipe - George Harve Nelson Bassy 46yrs, 20.05.03. Baie du Tombeau.- Wid. Harold Gentil (born Louise Renee Marie-Therese Collard) 23.05.03. Beau-Bassin.- Phillippe Green 71yrs, 23.05.03.St Francois Xavier, Port-Louis.- Wid Edouard Pierre (born Mary Delalande) 80yrs, 26.05.03. Port-Louis.-Alain Cheung Kum Sang 52yrs, 23.05.03.Plaine-verte.- Phillippe Henry 64yrs, 12.05.03. Roches Brunes.- Parbateea Gopaul (born 26.12.07) 95yrs, 18.05.03.- Penianen Runghien 13.05.03. Stanley.- Patrick Angelo Molen 40yrs, 17.04.03. Vacoas.- M. Veeraymootoo Vencatasamy (Nadess) 77yrs, 13.05.03.Port-Louis.- Wid. Harry Davy (born) May Nemorin 15.05.03.- Marie Solange Vellien (born Dumaine)15.05.03.- Jacques Louis Jean 66yrs, 24.05.03. Beau-Bassin.- Jeevalingum Mootoosamy (Ben) 33yrs, 16.05.03.- Penianen Runghien 13.05.03. Stanley.- Soopaya Wydeelingum 79yrs, 27.05.3. Ave General de Gaulle, Eau-Coulee. Alain France Narain 54yrs, 09.06.03. Curepipe.- Manone Saminaden 27.5.03 Rose-Hill.- Ivan Rungadoo 36yrs, 08.06.03. - M. Germain Chaperon, 04.06.03. Grand- Baie.- Noel Phillippe Arsenius 01.06.03.Port-Louis.- Sylvie Astruc 06.06.03.Rose-Hill.- Christian Nicole 14.06.03. Mahebourg.- Louis Joseph Raymond Trompette 94yrs, 06.06.03. Rose-Hill.- Marc Andre Chaperon 08.06.03. St-Jean.- Marie Joseph Lelio Gobin 09.06.03. Port-Louis.- Wid Seeparsadsing Yaye Ramdhonee 88yrs, 15.05.03. Nilah Yencadoo 46yrs, 20.05.03. - Mooneswar Gunnasaya (Bisson) 60yrs, 04.06.03. -Mahadeo Arjoon 50yrs, 17.06.03.

Overseas

M. Canalasamy Coopamah (Camy) 84yrs, 27.05.03. ex dwellers Vacoas) Lewisham England.- Gerard Calen 52yrs, 23.05.03 Middlesex England.- Roland Lai Kit 57yrs, 22.05.03. Tottenham, London, England.- Cyril Kirsarkye 58yrs, 26.05.03.Tottenham, London England.- John Raymond Sydney Marion 90yrs, 19.05.03. Kent, England. Linda Delia - Lavictoire 43yrs, 10.05.03. Montreal, Canada. Roland D'Avoine 52yrs, 09.06.03. Perth, Australia.- Le Pere Jean Louis Molet 06.06.03. France. Wid Lucien Allier (born Jessie Renel Perth, Australia.- Pascal Gilberton 44yrs, 07.06.03. France.

Deaths announcement

Mr Parma Valaydon passed away on the June 1, 2003. He was aged 65 years old.
Mr Valaydon resided in Chelsea, London.

Mrs Marie Lavale Joson, born Hack, 76, died on 7.4.2003 at Candos Hospital after a sudden malaise.
She is mourned by all members of her family especially Mrs Marie Gopaul of Ilford.

Obituary

Mr. Serge Gerard Calen J.P.

"It is with much sadness and regret that we announce the death of Mr. Serge Gerard Calen J.P. 1950 - 2003.

He achieved much in his short lifetime, including successfully raising three children, supporting his parents in Mauritius, qualifying in nursing and social work, obtaining an MSc in 'Care, Policy and Management', and more recently completing his LLB.

As an employee, he was an inspiration to those he managed and to those who managed him. He also had a strong commitment to his "community" and gave considerable time to carry out his Magistrate responsibilities and serving on the Board of Visitors for the Prison Service.

He was a good husband and loving father and will be sadly missed by all. Rest in Peace. God Bless, *Gerard*.

New English expression: Sex up

We have heard this expression so much recently with regard to the WMD scandal that people have been asking what does 'Sex up' mean exactly.

And now they talk of the 'sexy dossier', how on earth can a dossier be sexy?

This sex business is being forced on the people by all the media, including the BBC.

In our last issue, we pointed out in the name of the new disease 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome' (Sars) the adjective severe and acute should have the same connotation. Why the two together then?

Rodrigues was an older British possession than Mauritius

Speaking at a reception on outer island of Rodrigues on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday, British High Commissioner to Mauritius said "The British arrived in August 1809 and it was here in Fort Duran (Port Mathurin) that they assembled their troops and ships to take first Reunion and then Mauritius in 1810. So Britain's links with Rodrigues are even older than they are with Mauritius."

And French department of La Réunion, Mauritius's sister island, also, was once a British colony!

The Additional Remuneration Bill adopted

Economic Development minister Sushil Khushiram presented the Additional Remuneration Bill 2003 on June 27 to provide for the payment of an additional remuneration to all employees of the private sector and to compensate them for an increase in the cost of living.

He said all employees earning basic salary of up to Rs 3,700 will be entitled to a full compensation of 5.1 per cent or Rs 120 and those drawing monthly basic wages and salaries above Rs 3700, the additional remuneration ranges from Rs 200 to Rs 250.

"For the additional remuneration provided, Government will have to disburse Rs 635 million and the private sector some Rs 1,060 million or a total of Rs 1,695 million», he said.

Khushiram further said that total government expenditure on the end-of year bonus 2003 is estimated at Rs 1,360 million while the private sector will spend some Rs 2,510 million on the 13th month wage.

More hotels under construction

There will be five new hotels in Mauritius with 865 rooms from November 2004, according to a development plan concerning the south of the island. Ten chalets will also be built in the same region as from August.

According to information collected by Mauritius News, one of the sites has been allocated to the Italian group called "Viaggi del Ventaglio." It will invest Rs 625 million in the construction of a 240-room hotel.

"This hotel will comprise four Executive suites, two restaurants,

Stamps of Mauritius



The commemorative issue of 18 June 2003 depicted the floweres of Mauritius. The set of four stamps comprises the The Trochetia boutoniana (Re1), The Trochetia Uniflora (Rs4), The Trochetia triflora (Rs7), and The Trochetia parviflora (Rs9).

Trochetia

The flora of Mauritius harbours many unique and beautiful species. The Trochetia is a genius of shrubs and small trees which have spectacular flowering. They are endemic to the Mascarene Islands and consist of six species out of which five are found in Mauritius and one in Réunion Island.

All species bear simple hermaphrodite white, pink or reddish flowers which are either single or clusters of three. Their preferred habitat is the windward exposed mountainous slopes. Specimen of Trochetia are found in the collection of the **Natural History Museum of Paris** and **Kew Gardens in the United Kingdom**. Hereunder is a brief description of each flower.

Trochetia boutoniana (Re1 stamp)

The Trochetia boutoniana is a magnificent shrub with reddish orange flowers reaching about 2 to 3 metres in height. It is confined to Le Morne Brabant Mountain and is classified as Critically Endangered Species. When Mauritius achieved the status of Republic on 12th March 1992, the Trochetia boutoniana was declared a National Flower. The flower was named after the famous French Botanist Louis Bouton. Adapted to dry condition, it commonly flowers from June to October.

Trochetia uniflora (Rs4)

The Trochetia uniflora is a well branched shrub which bears multiple dark pink, bell shaped flowers during the period of May to June. It can be found on Trois Mamelles, Le Pouce and Letard mountains. The uniflora is an endangered endemic Trochetia. One beautiful specimen is easily observed at the view point of the Black River Gorges.

Trochetia triflora (Rs7)

The Trochetia triflora is a short endemic tree reaching the height of 5 metres. It derives its name from triflora from its white, relatively large bell shaped flowers grouped in clusters of three. It occurs in high altitude humid forests; growing in exposed windward stations. It flowers from April to July and can be observed at Trou aux Cerfs, Grand Bassin, Piton Savanne and Piton de la Petite Rivière Noire.

Trochetia parviflora (Rs9)

The Trochetia parviflora is an endangered endemic shrub first spotted in 1794. In 1863 it was recorded at Montagne Ory for the last time by naturalist Ayres. The union for the Conservation of Nature declared the parviflora extinct. However, in April 2001 it was rediscovered on Corps de Garde Mountain. It bears pale pink bell shaped flowers facing upwards. It is now confined exclusively to Corps de Garde Mountain Nature Reserve. The Forestry Service is keeping close watch to perpetuate its survival through a scientifically elaborated propagation programme.

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one conference hall, one modern gym and a diving centre. The site covers 20 acres (arpents) and a 515-metre long beach", one official at the Tourism ministry said.

The second site has been allocated to a Mauritian group - Compagnie Sucrière de Bel Ombre/Veranda Group of Hotels/FAIL, on which two hotels with a total of 425 rooms will be built at a cost of Rs 1.4 billion.

The third site will be developed by Naiade Resorts. It will invest Rs 800 million in the construction of a hotel of 200 rooms and a few suites in front of a beach 272 metres long. The construction work is scheduled to next month.

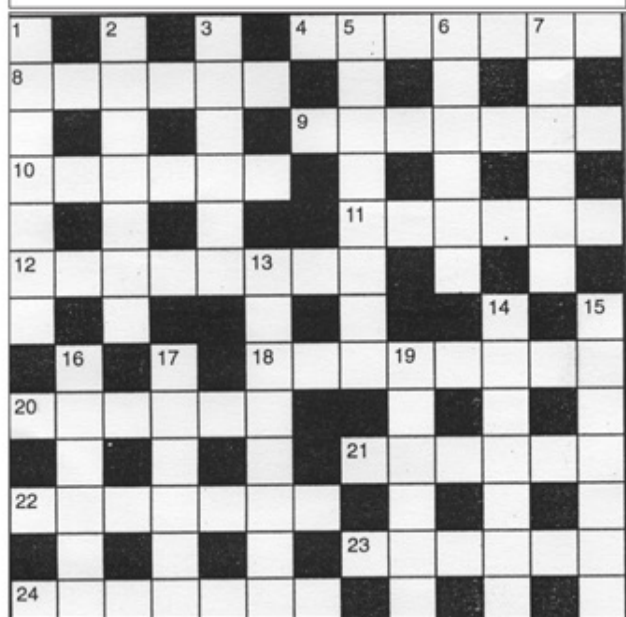
The fourth site will be developed by the international company "Four Seasons". It will build 120 villas at a cost of Rs 1 billion.

Businessman killed at SSR street in Port-Louis

A businessman by the name of Rajoo Veeramah, residing at Morcellement Raffray, Terre Rouge, was killed by unknown people outside the Providence teashop in Port-Louis around midnight on June 25.

It is reported that after the attack, Veeramah drove away but his car hit the wall of the mosque nearby. He was killed instantly.

Crossword No 1



ACROSS

4. Tropical refreshing fruit
8. Diminish
9. Become steeper
10. Famous singer
11. Dependent on something
12. Amazes
18. Inflammation of the spinal cord
20. A delicacy
21. From the same clan
22. Like the Iraqi information Minister
23. Relaxing drink
24. Like our train carriages

DOWN

1. Mauritian beach
2. Helps
3. Local language
5. Without Caste
6. Nymphs
7. UN body
13. Appoint
14. Reaches
15. Core
16. Common in Ramgoolam and Tony Blair
17. We all claim we are subject to it
19. Ideal place for this weather

Solutions in next issue

S. H.

Blue Marlin FC win F.A.’s hearing against Mauritius Football Competition organisers

Following Blue Marlin F.C.s disqualification from the 2002 Mauritius Football Competition on charges of having played two ineligible players, the matter was finally settled at a London Football Association hearing on the 6th May 2003.

The Football Association found in favour of Blue Marlin FC following the lodging of an appeal by the Club. The decision reached by the FA was that.....The Mauritius Football Competition, came to a decision which no reasonable organisation could have come to, by not accepting the clear and documented evidence to deny these allegations, which the Club had provided, thereby clearing Blue Marlin FC of any breaches at last years tournament. The Tournament had previously accepted the players concerned, as being of Mauritian origin.

The Tournaments case was completely dismissed by the FA. Neither was their case factual, credible or consistent.

The above ruling clearly demonstrates that in the absence of any breaches of Tournament rules, the Club were harshly and incorrectly disqualified from last year’s Tournament, and therefore should still be recognised as the 2002 Tournament Winners. This is clearly something the Tournament should now acknowledge to retain its integrity, respectability and credibility. Notwithstanding this, the very least which should now be incumbent upon the Tournament organisers is the issuing of an apology to Blue Marlin FC.

The Club has fought for over a year to finally clear its name and overturn this miscarriage, but now feels totally vindicated by this decision, with its reputation and good name restored. However there is still a great deal of resentment from within the Club towards the Competition, who acted in a far from impartial, arrogant and less than fair or competent manner through its manage-

ment of a completely inept investigation, where the guilt of the Club was never ever proven. This matter appears not to have been motivated by the quest to establish the truth or legitimacy behind these allegations, but moreover by the need for preservation of the Tournament Committee’s tainted credibility, once Blue Marlin FC were able to provide evidence and demonstrate that the two players concerned were clearly of Mauritian origin.

Serious questions should now be asked of the motives of the Tournament Committee, who encouraged this malicious slur campaign to tarnish the reputation and image, and undermine the Club, which has been the most successful in the Tournaments history. Ironically the end result of this matter is that it is the credibility of the Tournament organisers themselves, which has been undermined and called into question.

The Tournament should be a celebration of Mauritian Football and footballers. Unfortunately those who currently run the Competition appear to have lost sight of what should be a clear and overriding objective. As has been proved, these individuals have not been seen to act in the best interests of Anglo-Mauritian Football, instead choosing to indulge in their own self interests, self preservation, perceived importance, far and contemptibly above that of the spirit of fair play and beyond the extent to which any perceived authority should exist.

Surely such ignorant and arrogant behaviour does not act to promote or develop the beautiful game for our talented Mauritian teams and young footballers, and now is an appropriate time for the Tournament organisers to conduct a critical and honest self examination, if they are to continue to be involved in the future of our Mauritian Football in this country.

Blue Marlin FC

ASPL 2000 takes 6 goals in Egypt

Mauritian champions, Association sportive de Port-Louis 2000 (ASPL) suffered a severe defeat (0-6) in its match against the Egyptian team, Ismailia, played in front of 5,000 spectators in May 31 in Egypt. This match counted for the return leg of the 1/8 finals of the African Cup of Champions.

According to reports from Egypt, ASPL 2000 took a first goal at the 23rd minute of the game when Sayed Mohamed scored from a distance of 25 metres. Mauritian keeper Jean-François Ammoothoo could do nothing to save

his goal.

Ismailia scored five times during the second period, starting at the 46th minute of the game by Mohsen Mohamed. Malian striker Draman Traoré scored the 3rd goal of the match at the 58th minute, before Mohsen Mohamed scored a second goal at the 72nd minute.

Three minutes later, Traore scored his second goal to make it 5-0 and Ahmad Fathy concluded the festival by adding a last goal at the 80th minute of the game.

Fifteen days earlier in Mauritius, Ismailia won 1-0 over the Mauritian team.

French coach Patrick Parizon is replaced

French coach Patrick Parizon, in charge of the Mauritian football team, was sacked on June 13 after the Club M’s defeat (0-7) in a qualifier match for the African Cup of Nations 2004 against Egypt played a week earlier in Port Said.

At a meeting of the Council of ministers, it was decided to nominate three local coaches for the team

that is preparing for the next Indian Ocean Islands Games due in Mauritius August 29 to September 7 next.

The three new names are: Akbar Patel, present coach of «Maurice Espoir», Saoud Lallmahomed, ex-coach of several first division teams and Désiré L’Enclume, Mauritian keeper during the 1985 IOIG.

Beckham mania

In view of the craze that is going on, one of our younger readers, still a student, cannot resist the temptation to add her voice to the concern being expressed over Beckham’s departure to Spain.

The Mirror is even posting a special reporter to Spain to keep the paper informed of his every move.

Recently the Sun told readers that if the departure of Beckham was too much for them, they could receive counselling on a special hotline. The paper would even meet the cost of the call if they could not afford it.

True, most Beckham fans would have been upset by his departure but will have reconciled themselves to the fact that ‘life goes on’.

No doubt, Beckham is a fantastic player who, should be appreciated accordingly. And so, many fans may be calling the hotline because they are so distraught by his departure.

Beckham is idolised, by men, women, and children alike. Over

the years we have seen how children and adults have emulated his dress style and sometimes eccentric hair styles.

But looking upon him as a demigod and being distraught and hurt personally by his departure is going a bit too far. Yet, the media encourage this type of behaviour by constantly stuffing readers with information about everything he does and says; hence we forge some kind of connection with him which is not real.

It is always good for children in particular to have someone whom they respect and admire and in most cases aspire to be, but idolising people is not always constructive as the line between fantasy and reality can become blurred.

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The Seychelles experience

Reading of former Evening Standard editor Max Hasting’s trip to the Seychelles and of his father’s connection with the islands I

Earlier in the year, I had visited the Travel Show at Olympia, and looking vainly for a Mauritius stand I landed on the Seychelles one. Mauritius was not present. Yet, there seems to be a bit of a competitive ‘edge’ between the two remote Indian Ocean islands.

The Seychelles stand brought back memories of my trip to the islands a year ago. I have to say that those memories contained a very mixed bag of feelings. Yet, I wanted to give the Seychelles a chance to impress us.

The Blairs are keen fans of the ancient granite rock island, so I vented my curiosity to try out the island of Mahé. When we touched down at Seychelles International Airport after an 11hr flight, we got shuffled onto a people carrier to take us to Berjaya Bay Hotel.

On the way, I was struck by the amazing ability of the motorists who have to contend with such steep and narrow winding roads without causing any collisions. To me the roads looked more like death traps. Yet people managed.

The hotel service was more ‘laid back’ as if you had all the time in the world, non-comparable to the service we had experienced at the Maritim Hotel in Mauritius a year before in January 2001. Here, we had a taxi driver to act as our unofficial guide to some of the main tourist spots such as the National Park.

He pointed out the ruins where the slaves were once kept when they first came to the island. He even demonstrated how the native bled trees, by cutting the bark with a penknife. Later we stopped by the roadside to take a good look at Theresa Island and Silhouette Island clearly visible from the mainland of Mahé.

African Nations Cup Mauritius trashed by Egypt

Mauritius was severely defeated (0-7) in Port Said, Egypt, June 8 last, in front of 40 000 spectators, when it played against the national Egyptian team for a match in group 10 of the African Nations Cup 2004.

Egypt scored thrice in the first fifteen minutes of the game – from Ahmed Hossam on penalty at the 7th minute; Tarek El Saeed, three minutes later; and again Ahmed Hossam at the 14th minute to make the score 3-0.

Mauritian keeper Nicolas Doro was injured at the 40th minute and was replaced by Dhanraj Reegah.

Egypt scored four times in the second period - Gamal Hamza (4-0) at the 53rd minute, Hazen Emam at the 60th minute (5-0) and Ahmad Hassan made it to 6-0 at the 72nd minute, and 7-0 during added time.

The following players represented Mauritius: Nicolas Doro (Dhanraj Reegah, 40) – Henri Spéville, Cyril Mourgine, Sténio Adélaïde-Désiré Chattour, Steeve Content, Jerry Louis, Jimmy Cundasami, Steeve Curpenen, Robert Rateau and Kersley Appou.

MSA (UK) on tour in Mauritius in July

In two years, the Mauritius Sport Association one of the best Mauritian teams in the UK and Europe has won this year the following major cups:

In France they won the France Océan Indien Cup (28 teams took part), in England they won the Douglas Eyra Pre Season League Cup, in Belgium they won the Belgium Coast Cup, in London they came 8th among 15 teams who took part on the London

County Football League (considered to be a very good performance).

In Mauritius all the players and families will be staying at the Pearle Beach Hotel. Sixty people all together will be travelling to Mauritius for the MSA tour.

The tour is sponsored by Pearle Beach Hotel, Air Mauritius, Imbel Travel (main sponsor). They leave on the 5th July on Air Mauritius and will return at the end of July.

Matches scheduled to take place

Date	Opponent	Venue	Time
Thurs 10 July	Press Club	Q. Militaire	16.30
Sat 12 July	Faucon Flacq	Q. Militaire	15.30
Tues 15 July	Q.Bornes Sodnac	G. Rozemont	16.00
Sat 19 July	National Selection	Anjalay	15.30

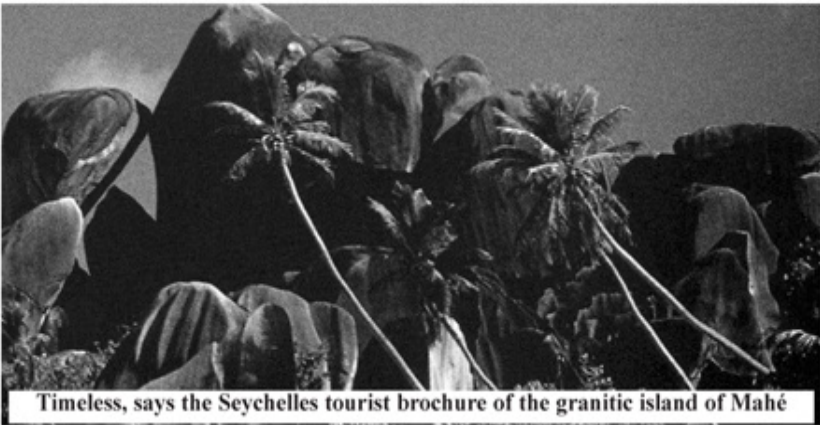
Jugnauth may soon resign?

It is speculated that Sir Anerood Jugnauth may retire next month from the National Assembly to allow the mandatory time for a by-election to be held in his constituency by the time he goes to Le Réduit.

Bur should he really resign now? Could not the election be held well after he will have been made President of Mauritius and Paul Bérenger is invested as PM.

In any case, Sir Anerood will have to resign from the Assembly and step down as PM. The question is when he is likely to do so.

thought I should jot down a few lines of my own little experience with this former dependency of Mauritius. The country was removed by the British from the jurisdiction of Mauritius exactly 100 hundred years ago, i.e. in 1903.



Victoria is so small that it didn’t look like we were walking through the capital of the country, its area covers only five square miles. Victoria’s most eye-catching feature is the Three Bird sculpture located on an entrance roundabout. I once read that it was created to symbolise the African, Asian and European influences on Seychelles’ heritage.

The climate of the Seychelles is cooler compared to the Tropical humidity of Mauritius. I often watched rapid movements of the clouds above the cliff tops.

To recompense for the lack of service from the hotel, we discovered a prized restaurant only a few miles away from our hotel. The Scala Restaurant at Bel Ombre is run by an Italian chef and serves international dishes in a dining room overlooking the ocean. ‘Fish’ pictures dominate the entrance. They are also extravagantly displayed inside the dining room under sparkling glass units. It made fish dishes even more tempting to customers. We particularly liked the intimate romantic atmosphere for couples like us.

Another big bone I have to pick with the Seychelles airport authorities is the unsuspecting airport tax to pay on departure which amounted to SR1,000. To call it expensive is an understatement. David felt angered, saying ‘its like trying to get out of prison’. We departed earlier than expected and planned to head further South to a big welcome in Mauritius. Due to the unforeseen pressures of being in a hotel not entirely to our liking, we breathed a sigh of relief as we boarded the Air Seychelles interconnecting flight to Mauritius.

Teresa Lloyd

In next issue, Teresa writes about her first trip to Mauritius

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