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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth & Trust

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At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

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The fight for the Chagos

Mauritius wins another round

Britain is yet to concede defeat, and so the struggle for the Chagos between Mauritius and UK goes on!



This map appeared on the front page of the first issue of Mauritius News in November 1983 in an article on Diego Garcia

And so, it has been established once again that the Chagos Archipelago, made of some 64 islands and islets that include Diego Garcia, is part of the Mauritian overseas territory. Well, it can be said that Mauritius has scored another victory against Great Britain in the struggle for the Chagos Archipelago as ruled by the UN's International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in January.

PM Pravind Jugnauth has been telling Britain to push off the Archipelago which it is controlling illegally and contrary to United Nations resolutions in favour of Mauritius's sovereignty claim. But Britain is turning a deaf ear to all judgments even in defiance of the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) a year ago. With a Trump-like character as Boris Johnson at the head of government in Britain, the defiance may last a very long time.

Mauritius's distant neighbour in the Indian Ocean, The Republic of the Maldives, has been trying to make capital out of the dispute between Britain and Mauritius over the Chagos by trying to claim more territorial waters in the vicinity of the Chagos because it is situated closer to the Archipelago than Mauritius. The ITLOS ruling makes mincemeat of the Maldives' nefarious intention. The country will have to negotiate with Mauritius and all decisions will likely be reached via ITLOS.

Britain will have to realise, sooner or later, that the era of colonialism has long gone. It may cling to the South Atlantic Falkland Islands (Malvinas for Argentina) which is claimed by Argentina itself. It may cling to Gibraltar which is located in the south of Spain and claimed by Spain, but in the Indian Ocean its jurisdiction will have to be surrendered in the long run.

It may be remembered that former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn had intimated as far back as 2015 that a Labour government under him would return the Chagos to Mauritius. Now Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lisa Nandy, has written to the British PM to come to terms with the decisions of the international jurisdictions in favour of the sovereignty claim of Mauritius.

It would be interesting to know what sort of advice Boris Johnson's half-Mauritian Attorney General, Mrs Suella Braverman, member of the Cabinet, is giving to the Prime Minister. She could advise him that now that Britain's sovereignty claim has once more been declared null and void, there is no reason why the new U.S. President, Joe Biden, may not open negotiations direct with Mauritius for a new lease of the Chagos. The Mauritian PM is favourable to such an idea. On the other hand, the 20-year Anglo-American lease of the Chagos Archipelago signed by Britain in 2016 is not valid because this lease is similar to a situation where someone sells a house that does not belong to him. The sale documents in such an instance are considered as fraudulent.

Which court can rule on the validity of the lease granted to the US by Britain?

Kung Shee Fat Choy

The 2021 Chinese New Year which begins on February 12 is marked by a public holiday in Mauritius. In the Chinese zodiac this year will be under the influence of the OX (More on Page 3)

The mother of Tommy Fury is of Mauritian descent



Chantal Fury visiting her son Tommy on the set of ITV's very popular *Love Island* programme

Readers may have followed the story on Twitter, and learn from some newspapers' articles that the mother of Tommy Fury is of Mauritian parentage. Our UK-based correspondent, Yvonne Persand-Goder, tells us more about it on Page 2

SAJ explique 'so cas' lor RadioPlus (Voir Page 2)

When Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) decided it was time for him to leave at the helm of the Mauritius Government as PM in January 2017 the premiership responsibilities devolved on his son, the then leader of the MSM (Mouvement Socialiste Militant), the ruling party in a coalition.

The transfer of power was done in the same way that it was done in the UK when Labour PM Tony Blair relinquished power and was succeeded by the next in command who was Gordon Brown. And likewise when Conservative PM David Cameron left office he was succeeded by Theresa May without any general election to choose the next PM.

At the time of the transfer of power in Mauritius in 2017 there was a big outcry from the Opposition and from the press. Papa/Piti (father to son), they call it, as if it was a family inheritance. Now there is allegation that the son forced the father out of office to take over power.

Everyone who has seen the interview on TV will agree that 90-year-old SAJ is a spent force as a politician and there is no way he could have carried on any further. In his wisdom he decided that it was time for him to move over and to leave the affairs of Government in the hands of someone much younger. Had he not done so he would be blamed for staying for too long in spite of his old age and his failing health, to which he himself confessed in an interview to RadioPlus. As the present PM said recently, whatever you do the Opposition and the press find fault with it because they are bent on destroying the Government.

See report on SAJ interview on Page 2

Pierre Louis

Commemoration on February 1 of the abolition of slavery in Mauritius in 1835

It was national day-off in Mauritius for the nation to ponder over the sufferings of human beings brought in chains during the previous centuries, (stacked like cattle in the hold of ships), from neighbouring Madagascar and Africa to provide slave labour on the white masters' plantations of the island without any remuneration. Slavery was a crime against humanity. (See Page 3 for more)



Greetings from Australia

We regret that the message below from Eddy Abraham was not included among the other messages in the January issue

The Overseas Mauritian Gazette, what a great move Peter, about your intention to publish an issue of Overseas Mauritian Gazette at the end of the year.

It is a great idea in order to fill the gap that has been going for a long time, since the end of Mauritius News. Hope this issue will be followed by permanent ones. I know that it is not easy, but knowing your willingness Peter and your dedication to Mauritian media, this could be a permanent replacement for Mauritius News, that you have published for so many years. I know that you "leave no stones unturned"



Eddy Abraham

I don't reveal anything new to the readers about the catastrophe of COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. It has destroyed the entire humanity. Let's hope that 2021 will be a prosperous year and that the humanity that has suffered so much, can look forward to successful positive achievements.

A positive achievement that has happened for Mauritians in Australia, was a research project for the International Mauritian Diaspora. Mauritians were interviewed by ZOOM about their achievements since their settlement in their new adopted country. Mauritians in Canada and in the United Kingdom, were also interviewed for the research project. A report will be sent to the Mauritian Government in due course.

Another positive note I want to share, is the release of a new CD by Mauritian Jean-Noel Pierre in Melbourne. The CD is "Père Laval LE PELERIN DE LA PAIX". Jean-Noel Pierre is a musician and a composer of liturgical songs. He is also the Choir Leader in a Catholic Parish Church in Melbourne.

The CD contains songs in French, Creole and English. Could that CD on Blessed Father Laval, the Apostle of Mauritius, be a blessing in disguise for the positivity of things to come in 2021? May He and the others above bring peace, joy, success and blessings to the humanity, so that the sufferings of 2020 be replaced by prosperity to the world.

This is my wish to you Peter and to the readers of this new edition.

Eddy Abraham.

Cultural Mauritius

Cavadee Festival celebrated on January 28

The religious celebration of the Thai-poosam Cavadee was observed in Mauritius in all the Tamil temples (kovils), in town and villages, and even on mountains like Montagne Corpe de Garde at Quatre Bornes and the Colline Monneron in Port Louis.



Devotee carrying cavadee to temple

A devotee bearing the cavadee is usually accompanied by relatives making up lengthy procession from a gathering point walking barefeet some five miles+ to the temple.

The cavadee made of wood and decorated with leaves and flowers is borne as a form of penance or contrition by the pilgrim or to show gratitude to the Tamil God Muruga following a promise made for relief from a serious health problem, and even for examinations success by young people.

See Picture of Colline Monneron Tamil Temple on Page 3

Sir Anerood Jugnauth's interview with RadioPlus

"The defeated Opposition parties never accepted that they lost. Some of them behave like pyromaniac who want to destabilise the government and wrest power for which they are trying to set the country ablaze with the support of agitators. They want to create a situation of civil unrest similar to that of 1999 following the death of Kaya."

Former Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ), gave a joint RadioPlus and MBCtv interview in January to answer questions on the present situation in Mauritius and to express his views.

Well, SAJ had a comfortable thought for Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and his government for keeping Covid-19 under control while the world is on its knees.

"The Prime Minister has shown great wisdom in dealing with the pandemic in Mauritius for which the population of Mauritius must be grateful and for the enormous task undertaken," said SAJ.

The former PM took the opportunity to express his thanks to the frontliners. On the other hand, thanks to the help extended by the government there has been no job loss, he said.



SAJ as shown on MBCTV

As regards the economy of Mauritius SAJ expressed the view that the world economy was in the doldrum, *"we need national solidarity to face the economic situation,"* he told RadioPlus. He said that the country had a strong leadership in Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and this had been shown by the measures taken by the government. *"The PM sacrifices body and soul for the welfare of the people,"* said SAJ.

SAJ appealed to the partners of the Mauritian economy to understand that according to the prevailing conditions, the national interest should be their prime consideration.

SAJ had a special thought for those in employment without whom prosperity cannot be created. *"The keyword is innovation leaving the past behind. New technology and human resources can help to meet the challenges ahead."*

According to SAJ the alleged fraud at the last General Election never took place. *"The defeated Opposition parties never accepted that they lost. Some of them behave like pyromaniacs who want to destabilise the government and wrest power for which they are trying to set the country ablaze with the support of agitators. They want to create a situation of civil unrest similar to that of 1999 following the death of Kaya."*

His advice is that the nation should put their trust in the country's institutions which he himself had always respected. *"I have never said anything wrong against the judiciary,"* he told the interviewer.

As regards the controversy surrounding the Commerce Minister Yogida Sawmynaden, SAJ pointed out to the fact that the principle of the presumption of innocence is in force in Mauritius within the legal system. The allegations are being investigated by a court. If the findings are against the minister, then he should be sacked. In the meantime the political leaders should not incite the people, argued SAJ.

Police were in full force in Port Louis when Sawmynaden attended court for the first time on January 7 to prevent disturbances by the large gathering of activists around the tribunal. *"The police did their job to maintain order. No one suffered any damage, how can the police be blamed,"* asked SAJ. *"There are lawyers who behave like mob leaders inciting people to riot,"* he said. *"Law and order will always be triumphant, in Mauritius"* was his verdict.

To a question from RadioPlus about the proposed mass meeting of the Opposition parties to bring together all their supporters prior the opening of Parliament, SAJ said that they were free to do so but police must ensure they do not go on the rampage.

SAJ had a very harsh word for former Good Governance Minister Roshi Bhadain who had allegedly been saying that Pravind Jugnauth forced his father to leave the office of PM for him to take over. *"I decided to leave on my own freewill. I felt that I would no longer be up to scratch to carry on because of my health."* (Ed note: SAJ was 87 years' old when he left office in 2017. Former PM and Governor-General Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam died in 1985 at the age of 85)

In conclusion, SAJ told RadioPlus that Mauritius needed solidarity, unity and peace to move forward. *My advice is when provoked don't give way to provocations. People must work to produce. Without production no wealth is generated to make the cake bigger."*

"If I had a message for my colleagues of the Bar, I would ask them to behave in a manner worthy of the profession. Lawyers should not act as mobsters. It is important that the Bar Council should play its role fully."

"I appeal to everyone to act responsibly. The country should not give way to the fire-setters and we should unite to face the challenge of the pandemic."

See More drama in Mauritian politics on Page 4

Cyril Louis

Vaccines Donation from India



H.E. Mrs Nandini Singla, new Indian High Commissioner, giving a box of covid vaccines to Mauritian PM, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, on January 22 in the presence of Health Minister Kailesh Jagutpal (left).

Mauritius benefited of a donation of 100,000 Covyshield vaccines from India in January in the sub-continent's goodwill gesture towards its friendly neighbours in the Indian Ocean.

Vaccine consignments were also sent free of charge to the Seychelles, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives and Myanmar. A vaccines donation was also been made to Bangladesh in India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbour.

World Boxing Heavyweight Champion Tyson Fury's step-mother Chantal is of Mauritian stock

But Chantal is actually the mother of Tyson's half-brother Tommy Fury, a professional boxer also



Photo ITV. Copyright Shutterstock

The world is preparing for the exciting boxing tournament between current **World Boxing Council's** Heavy Weight Champion Tyson Fury, and **World Boxing Organisation's** current Heavy Weight Champion Anthony Joshua. However, both champions represent the UK. This is an inspiring time for British boxing and the Brits in general.

In the process of contracts being finalised and with the current UK Covid restrictions, it looks like this fight may take place in Asia or the Middle East. It would be great if they could consider Mauritius as a possible host which would be a first for Mauritius. But this is wishful thinking. Moreover, it is a costly undertaking which Mauritius may still wish to consider for the future. For the forthcoming championship it seems Saudi Arabia and Qatar are the front-runners as possible venue if Britain is locked down.

The Tyson Fury 'Gypsy King' v Anthony Joshua 'AJ' fight is reportedly expected to rack up £200 million with each boxer bagging at least £80 million. One can feel the eagerness of both wanting to get back into the ring.

Amongst much anticipation for this fight, we look into Tommy Fury, the half-brother of Tyson Fury. Tommy Fury born Thomas Fury in Salford, Manchester, 1999 to John Fury (same father as Tyson Fury) and to Chantal, his mother of Mauritian descent. Tommy, too, is in the boxing industry and he appeared in the fifth episode of the ITV popular series 'Love Island'. Tommy's mother who has to some extent stayed out of the limelight visited her son on the set when parents were welcomed by the producers.

Despite the fact Tommy's mother, simply known as Chantal, has remained out of the public eye, we can exclusively reveal that she originates from the Mauritian 'Gunga family'. Chantal Gunga was born also in Salford, Manchester, to Mauritian father Devraj Gunga, a qualified nurse, and mother Barbara Johnson (any relation of Boris Johnson?)

Chantal Gunga, aged 45, once an aspiring chef, won a Liverpool competition in 2012 out of over a 100 applicants. Subsequently, she was invited to cook for celebrity chef Marco Pierre White at his MPW Steakhouse located in the Hotel Indigo, Liverpool.

Marco Pierre described Chantal as excelling in her chosen menu of Lancashire rarebit with chutney, a steak dish and a winning dessert of pineapple upside down cake.

Yvonne Goder

Ed. Note: Google Tommy Fury for more images of the world-renown boxer.

To all lovers, young and not so young, wishing you



Death of Sir Captain Tom Moore mourned throughout the Kingdom



How did the 100-year old Captain contract the virus when he was totally confined at home?

Happy Chinese Lunar year It's the Year of the OX

The Chinese zodiacal calendar says this new lunar year that begins on February 12 will be governed by the sign of the OX. What sort of individuals are those born under this sign?



Looking at the OX one can imagine what sort of characteristics would anyone born under this sign inherit.

The horns are indications of a personality who can fight for himself. On the other hand, because they are the beasts of burden on whom farmers rely to plough the field, ox natives are hard working people. They can be relied upon to work from dawn to dusk without any sign of fatigue. Personalities born under this sign are reliable people on whom the family can depend for support in time of need.

People born under this sign are described as intellectually alert and mentally strong, and are likely to succeed in all their endeavours. Among them are leaders who will direct the herd to good pastures.

It takes a lot to enrage the ox that is grazing peacefully in the field but when provoked like in a fight they too can see red and can dash forward and charge without consideration to anybody or their own safety. So it is much better not to antagonise an ox character, someone born under its sign. Generally speaking, Ox people get on pretty well with those of their environment.

Because of their strong 'enclosure', literally and figuratively, an ox enjoys employment that encourages confrontation. Oh yes, in court of law they will stand hard and fast, confronting witnesses after witnesses to defend a client or to convict a guilty party depending on where they stand. In business be careful of the ox. He is very cunning with good perceptive to succeed.

Because of their strong constitution the ox can sail through life without major ailments. Those governed by this sign can cause animosity among colleagues at work because they never take time off sick. With a strong ruminant stomach to digest the hardest leaves, The ox people rarely suffer from any trouble with their internal body system. In spite of the fact that oxen work so hard they are not run down easily in life.

2021 is the year of the pandemic and Oxen will plough through in spite of all disasters around. They will face the challenge ahead with greater fortitude than the other star signs of the zodiac. The 'pandemic will not divert them from their responsibilities whether at home, at school/college or university or at work. They are characters who are endowed with a certain amount of luck that enables them to stand up to any tricky situation and to make the best of it.

Oxen often find it hard to thrive in a relationship. They can be opinionated and wish to be winners all the time. This sort of attitude does not make them welcome in situations that demand a measure of Give and Take. It's impossible for them to comply with other people's diktat.

The Ox personality can be elegant and dresses up to impress society. However, the ox is known as an animal that has been castrated to reduce its violence. So it is believed that ox characters are rather subdued in the presence of the opposite sex. They can be faithful in marriage and will not deceive a partner.

Nadia Sin Fai Lam (Australia)

What the slaves did for Mauritius?

Commemoration of the abolition of slavery is definitely an occasion to remind us of the sadness and tragedy of the inhuman treatment of people of different colour in an age gone by.

But as a young lady historian pointed out recently it is also an occasion to remember the contributions of those enslaved people in the build-up of Mauritius to pave the way for the solid foundation and prosperity of the island. As an example, they were also used in the construction work among other chores. As a reminder she pointed out that Government House in Port Louis was built with their sweat.

Poets have also sung their praises. Read in the next column the beautiful poem of Charles Baudelaire entitled La Dame Créole.

Slavery in Mauritius

A reminder of the slavery era that prevailed in Mauritius over four centuries ago

Mauritius has been a slave society from the beginning of its colonisation. The Dutch who colonised Mauritius in 1598 brought in slaves from the East Indies and from Madagascar to help Dutch colonists in the development of the island.

The French colonised the island in 1715, and in 1722 the French East India Company transferred a few families from the island of Bourbon (now Reunion island) to Isle de France (Now Mauritius). Those French families were accompanied by their slaves. They were given land for plantation and more slaves were introduced for the development of their land.

The East India Company had the monopoly of the slave trade and in the first half of the 18th century, the slaves were obtained from the West African coast. The nearby island of Madagascar also supplied a great number of slaves. When Labourdonnais began the construction of Port Louis, he introduced slaves from India and Bengal.



GPO postage stamp commemorating abolition of slavery

In 1765 when the French East India Company passed under the administration of the French Government, the colonists with the consent of the French Government took over the importation of slaves and developed the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa.

However, in Europe there was a mounting attack against the institution of slavery. A feeling of sympathy for slaves was already widespread, but it was England that led the way for the abolition of the institution of slavery. Among the staunch Apostles of abolitionism were William Wilberforce, the famous politician and philanthropist, Thomas Clarkson, writer, and John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Society.

In 1787, a Society for the abolition of the slave trade was instituted in England and opposition to slavery became inextricably tied up with religious revivalism led by the Quakers.

In the face of mounting attack, the British Parliament could not ignore the inhumanity of the slave trade and conditions of life of the slaves on plantations. Accordingly William Pitt, the then Prime Minister presented and carried through both the House of Lords and the House of Commons a motion for the gradual abolition in 1792.

In 1807 an Order in Council was issued forbidding the shipping of slaves in British colonies and in 1808, slave trade was prohibited in British colonies.

When in 1810, Isle de France was occupied the British armies slave trade became a felony liable to the penalty of transportation (to exile) and slaves could be introduced in Mauritius only by illegal means. For the planters in Mauritius, it was a period of mounting economic and social difficulties. Yet the campaign for the emancipation of the slaves accelerated.

In 1823, Buxon presented a motion for the amelioration of the condition of life of slaves on plantation. In 1833, Lord Stanley presented a plan in Parliament relative to the amount of compensation to be given to slave owners after the liberation of slaves. A period of apprenticeship was also fixed for the liberated slaves.

The Emancipation Bill was passed in the House of Commons in July 1833 and slavery was abolished through the British Empire in 1835.

Source: GPO pamphlet accompanying First Day Cover

A une Dame Créole Charles Baudelaire

Recueil : "Les Fleurs du Mal"



Au pays parfumé que le soleil caresse,
J'ai connu, sous un dais d'arbres tout empourprés
Et de palmiers d'où pleut sur les yeux la paresse,
Une dame créole aux charmes ignorés.
Son teint est pâle et chaud ; la brune enchanteresse
A dans le cou des airs noblement maniérés ;

Grande et svelte en marchant comme une chasserresse,
Son sourire est tranquille et ses yeux assurés.
Si vous alliez, Madame, au vrai pays de gloire,
Sur les bords de la Seine ou de la verte Loire,
Belle digne d'orner les antiques manoirs,
Vous feriez, à l'abri des ombreuses retraites,
Germer mille sonnets dans le coeur des poètes,
Que vos grands yeux rendraient plus soumis que vos noirs.

A quel pays Baudelaire se réfère-t-il? Réunion ou Maurice?

A jewel of Tamil temple architecture on Colline Monneron, Port Louis



Picture: MOG

This is certainly a piece of very colourful and attractive construction on the side of Colline Monneron facing Tranquebar with access from Route Chateau d'Eau.

The side of the hill, like all similar location, is rather steepy and the temple (or kovil in Tamil) itself is quite a distance from the street pavement which is far down below.

Access to the kovil is not too easy. May be it would be encouraging to the worshippers if more steps were available. The possibility of such a project was talked privately to an expatriate and her immediate reaction was "Is there need for more kovils in Mauritius?"

In this spirit it may be asked if there is need for the Colline Monneron Kovil? The fact is that there are only three kovils in Port Louis. There is the Sockalingum Meenatchee Amma Kovil (known as Kaylasson) close to Abercrombie at the entrance of Port Louis from the north, there is the Kalliamman Kovil at the Bell Village entrance of Port Louis from the south, and there is one almost near the Town Centre close to the Albion Docks. They are all miles away from the localities of many worshippers who wish to go the temple for prayers as often as possible. The distance is a great deterrent.

The Tamils living at Vallée Pitot, near the Champ de Mars and in the area of Tranquebar felt the need of a kovil nearer to their residence. So this need gave rise to a prayer-site closer to their residence with no intention of affecting attendance at the other kovils. The Colline Monneron temple that bears the name of Shree Bala Dhandayudapanee Swamy Thirukkivil was built in 1997 under their management of the Vallée Pitot Tamil Cultural Circle located in the vicinity of the Champ de Mars in Port Louis.

We understand that on top of the steps there is also plan for an asphalted lane from bottom to top to be made available, of which this online publication, MOG, has been made aware. It is clear that a fund-raising exercise may be recommendable.

MOG is of the opinion that it is up to the Management Committee to initiate action for such a fund-raising exercise to be put in place with the approval of the appropriate local authority and the police. MOG will surely try to help.



Photo: MOG

The top of the Kovil seen on the Monneron Hill, behind the G.M. Atchia State Secondary School located at the foot of the hill, and the Tombeau Malartic (left, looks like a black pillar) on the Champ de Mars itself.

An outline on the hill, from the kovil front down, can be detected indicating the lane that is being used for access from the Chateau d'Eau Road (down below) leading to Tranquebar.



Photo: MOG

The kovil on the Monneron Hill is seen from Sir William Newton Street, with the harbour further down the road and Church Street further up leading to the Champ de Mars

Exit Nando Bodha as Foreign Affairs Minister and MSM Secretary-General



Photo Mauritius News Archives

Nando Bodha at press conference in London as Tourism Minister with his long-time friend Karl Mootoosamy by his side.

Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM) Secretary-General and Foreign Affairs Minister Nando Bodha has resigned from his party and the Government.

In a press release following his resignation, Nando Bodha states the reason of his departure and tells of his future plan. He expresses the view that the situation in the country has become extremely dangerous in the face of great challenges. The culture and the management of the MSM no longer conform to the values and principles which characterise his political views. As for his future course of action he has made it known that he will carry on the fight with a new vision.

The fact that Nando has resigned from his ministerial job and as MSM Secretary-General is evidence that he no longer feels comfortable within the party of which he has been a member since its foundation in 1983. He is by profession a lawyer and was a senior member of the MSM, and having held several ministerial appointments since 2003, couldn't he have been made Deputy PM in the new government? There are also two posts of Vice-PM which have eluded him. In his press release he says that the PM barricades himself by numerous advisers whom one must go through in order to have contact with the PM.

Former PM and MSM leader SAJ stated that Nando Bodha had fallen victim to an invitation from MMM leader Paul Bérenger that if he leaves the MSM he would help him to become PM. According to SAJ, Paul Bérenger made a similar promise in the past to Ashok Jugnauth (SAJ's brother), and Madan Dooloo, both lawyers, to leave the MSM and they would become PM with his help. Both did leave and they are still waiting to become PM, said SAJ. Was Nando Bodha really influenced by the MMM leader? In a statement on lexpress.mu he said he was not.

MSM ticket

PM Pravind Jugnauth urged Nando Bodha 'to return the MSM ticket' which he obtained to stand for election in the constituency Vacoas-Floréal where Bodha claims he still has support. Nando Bodha will inevitably have to cross the floor as he can no longer sit on the Government 'benches' in the National Assembly.

The departure of Nando Bodha from the MSM has caused both sadness and consternation among members of the party. The former leader and PM, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, said it was the greatest sadness of his life that Nando Bodha who had been with him since 1983 should have resigned without even talking to him first. He had a harsh word for him, the same he had for ex Good Governance Minister, Roshi Bhadain.

The group of political leaders notably of the Labour Party, PMSD, MMM, Reform Party together with the new activist movement under the banner of The Avengers, in opposition to the present Government, have expressed their satisfaction at the resignation of Nando Bodha and the hope that he would join them. He will inevitably be now on the Opposition side in Parliament.

At a *rassemblement* on January 31, Avengers leader Rama Valayden had invited Nando Bodha to come and join the fold; From declarations to Week-End, we read that for Labour leader, Arvin Boollell, it was a well programmed and inevitable resignation; for MMM leader Paul Bérenger it's the beginning of the end of the Jugnauth Government and of the MSM itself; for PMSD leader Xavier Duval it's inevitable that other resignations will follow.

Wishful thinking from one paper: Who is next? For another one *La fin d'un certain MSM* is one of its headlines.

Apart from the fact that politics is a dangerous game and even a dirty one as described by a former politician, politics is good sport in Mauritius and is probably the national pastime. Everyone talks about it and it's fodder for the social media and the expatriates.

Pierre Louis

Editor's Note:

Is it a matter of *reculer pour mieux sauter*? If Nando Bodha has real prime-ministerial ambition, he may be inclined to create his own political party especially as there is speculation that others will follow and opt out of the MSM soon. They may join him,

With his own party, other political leaders may wish to join forces with him and instead of him joining them.

With his journalist background, he may with his friend Karl Mootoosamy, also a former journalist, could help Nando Bodha's *nouveau projet de société*. Well, what is it that *nouveau projet de société* which he mentions in his press release and in his *l'express* interview?

It may be possible that he did want to meet with SAJ before bidding goodbye to the party because he did not want anybody to talk him out of his already-made decision..

P.C.

Titbits from Mauritius

by Ahmad Macky



UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG GRADUATES

There is a general discontent among University graduates where just over 7000 of them have no jobs and stay at home. On the other hand, certain youngsters unqualified are given white collar jobs within the public service. Such a discrimination is contested by many people who have asked the Authority to review the Public Service Commission general procedure on recruitment.

MAURITIUS ON THE EU BLACK LIST

For quite some time now Mauritius has been on the EU black list and will continue to stay on the list. Mauritius has been identified as "a high risk third country with strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter financing terrorism"

In spite of strong lobbies on the part of the government, Mauritius has failed in its effort to convince the EU that it should be removed from the Black List.

DISCONTENT

There is much discontent in Mauritius that various institutions are not up to scratch: The Police Force, The Finance Service Commission, The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, The State Trading Corporation, The Tourism Sector, The Civil Aviation, The Education Authority, The Fishing Industry are among the sectors that are causing concern. It is believed that the Mauritian Economy with unemployment of over 52,000 people and the closing down of small business enterprises are in serious trouble.

To make matters worse, it is felt foreign investors are no longer interested in Mauritius. Some are leaving Mauritius for the African Continent.

GENERAL POLITICAL UNREST

For the past few months Mauritius has been the stage of massive demonstrations involving the diaspora across the world. The population marched on the streets to protest against the government on various alleged issues such as repression, discrimination, nepotism, redundancies and general discontent on social matters. The latest march took place through the capital of Port Louis February 13.

A group of barristers calling themselves Avengers are taking the government to task for alleged injustice and crimes where dead bodies of civil servants and political activists were found here and there.

The group of barristers are representing, in a private prosecution, a woman whose husband was killed in suspicious circumstances. The case is still going on.

MAURITIUS COMES TOP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONA VIRUS

Mauritius is one of the rare countries to achieve success in combating the corona virus pandemic due to the vigilant action of the government in taking precautionary measures to close the country's borders in the nick of time despite frivolous critics from the Opposition.

Our short lockdown confinement from March to July last year and the evening curfew after 8.00pm had been very beneficial to the country and the people. To date the number of positive cases under treatment stand at some 50 with a total of 10 deaths so far.

India has given Mauritius a stock of 100,000 corona virus vaccines, many Mauritians are availing themselves of the opportunity to be vaccinated.

The government of Mauritius is doing its utmost to make the country a free corona virus zone.

The death toll still remain 10 since its outset last year and no more casualties so far.

Compared with other countries that have been seriously affected, Mauritius comes out top in the fight to combat this virus as it is the country least affected with only 10 deaths out of a population of 1.3 million people.

There are still discussions at the government level that if all come back to normal, Mauritian borders will be opening by June 2021. The government is very optimistic that things will go better with the vaccination.

ILLTREATMENT OF ABANDONED CHILDREN IN IRELAND



An Inquiry has found that 9000 babies, toddlers and young children died of illtreatment and negligence in Ireland between 1922 and 1998 in children's homes run by the Catholic Church. How cruel could SOME of those Sisters of Mercy be! They were frustrated and heartless women under the ecclesiastical robes. Such a scene as depicted above breaks your heart.

Poem for a President

“The Hill We Climb”

*Composed and Read by Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman
Submitted to MOG by Amourda-valli Naga Pillay (USA)*

The poem was read by its young author on Capitol Hill
on the occasion of the inauguration of the new
US President Joe Biden on January 20, 2021

When day comes we ask ourselves
Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry,
A sea we must wade.
We braved the belly of the beast;
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace.
And the norms and notions of what just is
Isn't always justice.
And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.
Somehow we do it;
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
A nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.
We, the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny black girl descended from slaves
And raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president,
Only to find herself reciting for one.
And yes we are far from polished, far from pristine,
But that doesn't mean we aren't striving to form a union that is perfect.
We are striving to forge a union with purpose,
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and
conditions of man.
And so we lift our gaze not to what stands between us,
But what stands before us.
We close the divide, because we know to put our future first,
We must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms
So we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew,
That even as we hurt, we hoped,
That even as we tired, we tried,
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious—
Not because we will never again know defeat
But because we will never again sow division.
Scripture tells us to envision
That everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree,
And no one shall make them afraid.



If we're to live up to our own time,
then victory won't lie in the blade but in all the bridges we've made.
That is the promised glade,
The hill we climb if only we dare it.
Because being American is more than a pride we inherit,
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it,
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
And this effort very nearly succeeded,
But while democracy can be periodically delayed
It can never be permanently defeated.
In this truth, in this faith we trust,
For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.
This is the era of just redemption.
We feared at its inception.
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour,
But within it we found the power
To author a new chapter,
To offer hope and laughter,
To ourselves sow. While once we asked:
How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert: How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
We will not march back to what was,
But move to what shall be,
A country that is bruised but whole,
Benevolent but bold,
Fierce and free.
We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation
Because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next
generation.
Our blunders become their burdens
But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might and might with right,
Then love becomes our legacy
And change our children's birthright.
So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.
With every breath of my bronze pounded chest,
We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
We will rise from the golden hills of the West.
We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first
realized revolution.
We will rise from the lakeland cities of the Midwestern states.
We will rise from the sunbaked South.
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
In every known nook of our nation,
In every corner called our country,
Our people, diverse and beautiful,
Will emerge battered and beautiful.
When day comes we step out of the shade,
Aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it.

Snow, Snow and Snow in Europe and even in Japan



**Mala Darling
enjoying the
snowdrift
outside her
house in
Putnoe,
Bedford.**



**This is the
scene outside
the apartment
of Michael
Marain in
Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire.
He is locked-in
during the
lockdown**



**Elichi,
husband of
Mylene,
shovelling
snow in front
of their house
at Sapparo
on Hokkaido
island,
Japan**



**This picture of
a Vilnius
suburb,
Lithuania, looks
like a
Christmas card.
It has been sent
to us by Ruta
Wilfrid whose
first home is in
Vilnius and
second home,
South London.**

If it's too hot for you where you are and you need the aircon, elsewhere
it's too cold they need the heating indoors. Blankets of snow cover
many places this time in February.
A friend's funeral was held on February 8 at Croydon Cemetery in the
snowdrift. It's nature's revenge on mortals.

Another Government Casualty

Commerce Minister Sawmnyaden steps down



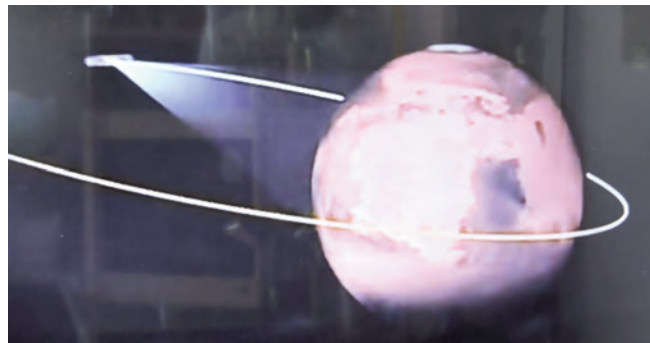
Commerce Minister Yogida Sawmynaden submitted his resignation to the President of the Republic as Minister of Commerce on February 10.

Owing to the pressure from court actions against him and investigation of alleged fraud, h

nsibilities adequately. He told a press conference that he had decided to step down to come back stronger.

As a matter of fact, he considers himself to be on sabbatical leave. As a lawyer by profession, he'll now be able to devote more time to prepare for his court defence against the false allegations, he said.

Star Wars



The United Arab Emirates country has successfully placed its first space probe around the red planet, Mars.

The space race is really on and will become more and more competitive with, of course, the Americans and the Russians miles ahead. China and India are vying with each other to pitch their tent on the moon.

It is inevitable that men will carry all their prejudices with them in the colonisation of other planets, and the wars in space will become a reality.

After six million years of living together on Planet Earth men have not been able to learn to coexist in peace. The bloodshed still goes on. there are spots on our planet which are yet to reach civilisation in many respects. People are still doing things like in the dark ages of humanity.

Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jayshankar's visit to Mauritius



During his four-day visit to Mauritius this month (February), the Indian Minister will visit the New Supreme Court building, the ENT hospital, followed by a ride on the year-old light railway, Metro Express from Rose Hill to Port Louis.

Why does the minister want to see these specific structures in the country? It's because they have been built with Indian money. He wants to know on behalf of his country whether the money has been put to good use especially as rumours of civil unrest and riots are reaching the Indian capital. Well, the visiting minister will surely be satisfied that Mauritius means business.

Some News Headlines picked up from Mauritian papers

Place any headline on your search engine and click to read the news items

Comparution du ministre Sawmynaden : l'artillerie lourde déployée à Port-Louis

[Fil rouge] Comparution de Yogida Sawmynaden: véhicules de guerre dans une capitale barricadée.

Boolell: «Ramgoolam devra quitter la scène...» Par Axcél Chenney

Paul Bérenger : "Maurice est devenue une île de la peur"

Bruneau Laurette, Linion Sitwayen : « Enn ramifikasyon politiko-mafia pe diriz pei »

(Échiquier politique) À Petit-Raffray, hier - Bérenger: « MSM pe fini nou pei ek nou dan mari dife »

Me Yousuf Mohamed (Senior Counsel) : « Mr Kistnen had to be silenced. Who got him... »

DIFE DAN LAKWIZINN : Yogida Sawmynaden forcé de soumettre sa demission 11 Fév

Affaire Kistnen: Roshi Bhadain déplore un système mafieux à quatre niveaux

Après sa démission: Nando Bodha rencontre le leader de l'opposition

Fuite d'un suspect : « Mo finn sove pou al fer St Valentin », explique le fugitive

« Ce n'est plus la ville que je connaissais »: pourquoi des Hongkongais décident de partir

Bruneau Laurette: «Mo pa pé mars ar Ramgoolam ou Bérenger. Mo pé mars ar ban sitoyen»

Me Rama Valayden, avocat, leader des Avengers: Le gouvernement veut ma peau

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(b) two plots of 30 perches each.

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The perfect woman

The man who is married to a woman as described below must consider himself very lucky to have an angel at home.

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Christiane's funeral



Christiane Saide of Wallington, Surrey, died of Covid-19 on January 11. Her funeral took place on February 8 at the local Bandon Hill Cemetery.

Above is the funeral ceremony taking place at her parish church of St Mary's Catholic Church of Croydon, where she was a well-known personality among the parishioners. She was an active member of the choir, always present.

By her grave (below) immense sorrow was expressed by mourners in their tribute to her. Her death was still a shock to relatives and friends, and even to the officiating priest.

Christiane was a sincere friend of mine and I am deeply affected by her death that occurred after a sudden and short, but very painful, illness.

Below at the Bandon Hill Cemetery, it's a scene of great desolation after Christiane has been laid to rest in her grave, with snow all around.

Her son Johann, an only child, is on the left. on the other side of the grave is unconsolable husband Guy, bent under the grief of the loss of a dear wife and an inseparable companion.

May your soul rest in peace, Christiane. There is a time for everything under heaven: A time to come and a time to go, sadly.

With the Deepest Sympathy and immense sadness!

P.C.



The West Croydon Cemetery ground covered with a blanket of snow

Some Headlines picked up from International Media

Place any headline on your search
engine and click to read
the news items

Europe’s biggest fish market like a ghost town due to Brexit – industry head

EU has been able to make 'quantum leap' without UK, Brussels’ ambassador

Trump was brought down by his own vicious rhetoric – but the damage he’s done to America will be hard to undo

Theresa May attacks Boris Johnson for 'abandoning moral leadership'

Priti Patel says government should have closed borders last March to stop coronavirus

Michel Barnier warns there is still a risk of more Brexits in the future

'The problem is Putin': protesters throng Russia's streets to support jailed Navalny

'We will not accept this': EU attacks Boris Johnson after losing full diplomatic status in UK

Airport arrivals 'face £1,500 hotel bill' under incoming England COVID quarantine rules

'We did everything we could': Boris Johnson 'deeply sorry' as UK COVID death toll passes 100,000

How the UK's vaccine gamble paid off – and the EU left itself without a leg to stand on

Two gay men in Indonesia publicly caned 77 times each after vigilantes broke into their flat

'We reopened too fast': WHO warns European leaders against false sense of security

Should Mauritius have the picture of a Dodo on its national flag?



Obituary

Peter Emmanuel Galliot (1952 - 2021).



Peter was born in Port Louis and spent his formative years in London.

He was the first of seven children. His father Lewis, was a police officer and his mother Josephine, a

homemaker.

After he married Isabelle they moved to France.

Peter was handsome, charming and had the courage to follow his own ideals.

After his divorce he remained good friends with Isabelle and was her most fervent fan when she became Mayor of Marolles (Loir-et-Cher) in 2020. He leaves behind a son, Benjamin and grandson Diego.

He passed away on January 24, 2021

Our deepest condolences to all the family in France and his siblings. Jacqueline, Francine, Solange, Colette, Christian and Marie-claire.

The guest book of Peter Galliot is now available.
www.inmemori.com Peter Galliot

WHO rep’s faux pas

The representative of the World Health Organisation in Mauritius, Dr L. Mosungu, could not contain himself when he heard an Opposition figure saying that the Mauritius PM should have vaccinated himself first to show his trust in the vaccines donated to Mauritius by India.

Dr Mosungo observed in public that if Ministers should vaccinate themselves there would not be enough for the frontliners. India had made a donation of 100,000 vaccines to Mauritius early in January. The moment that the WHO rep was heard to say what he thought of the Opposition figure’s remarks about the vaccine, everyone knew he had put his foot in it. But then it was too much for him though it was not his place to comment.

His apologies seem to have been accepted since no one is insisting on his removal from Mauritius as a follow-up the initial reaction.



La Cuisine or Pillow Talk

We learn from MSM defectors that a lot of decisions are cooked in the Prime Minister’s kitchen. They know, they were there.

Some people prefer to think there is a lot of **pillow** talks going on as well. Only married people know anything about this sort of language.

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MOG Cuisine

Rougaille

Rougaille is another of these Creole dishes that find favour with the Mauritian housewife. The reason is to be found in the fact that it is easily cooked, very well appreciated, very digestible and it serves nicely with boiled rice.

The word itself is supposed to derived from the combined two words ‘roux d’ail’ (garlic turned/cooked brown), in the same way that vindaille is supposed to derive from vin d’ail (garlic wine).

The important element in the rougaille is the tomato (pomme d’amour/love apple). The tomato in Mauritius is usually more tasty than the tomato in Europe.

It is interesting to note that at sister island of La Réunion (formerly Bourbon) they use the word ‘rougaille’ for what we call ‘chatini pomme d’amour’ (tomato chutney). They call chutney what we call rougaille.

(Basically our tomato chutney is made of uncooked tomatoes or very lightly grilled)

Ingredients

3 finely chopped onions
1 tbs of motar-grounded ginger and garlic
Some salt and pepper
1 tbs of tomato paste
250 gms of red tomatoes
1 pinch of ground red chilly powder
For a hot rougaille, use 4 long peppers (slit lengthwise)
Thyme and parsley (1 bunch)
Oil

Preparation

Put you’re the tomatoes into scalding water, peel and fork them.

The seeds can also be taken out. A food homogeniser can turn the tomatoes into a paste without any seeds and skin.

Cooking

Pour two twists of oil in a wok.

When oil is very hot, brown together the pepper and the red chilly powder.

Add the ground ginger and garlic – stirring continuously, put in the onions and fry until brown;

Put in 1 spoonful of tomato paste, stirring continuously for 30 seconds, put in the thyme without its stems, stir for 2 seconds adding the green peppers, brown for 10 seconds.

Add the crushed tomatoes and stir for 10 seconds, cover with wooden lid and leave on moderate heat for 10 seconds and leave on moderate heat for 5 minutes. Uncover, add some hot water and chopped parsley.

Stir for 10 seconds and the rougaille sauce is ready.

From Guy Felix’s recipe book “Genuine Cuisine of Mauritius”, Editions de l’Océan Indien. Reproduced with permission.

First published in Mauritius News Issue of May 2003

Was US President Trump really enamoured of Russian President Putin?



According to a former KGB agent Yuri Shvets, defected to the United States the Russians have been cultivating Donald Trump for over 30 years.

Trump’s love of Russia’s President Vladimir Putin seems to bear this out.

It is often wondred what a character like Senator Joseph McCarthy of the 1950s would have made of the President’s sympathy for Putin.

McCarthy saw ‘reds’ everywhere and many Americans were brought down falsely accused by their enemies during the mccarthyism era. Even an innocent figure like world renown actor Charlie Chaplin was accused of being a commie and had to flee the States.

Image posted on our facebook

Vishnu Sooboodoo tells us of his recent trip to Bermuda

Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory in the North Atlantic Ocean known for its pink-sand beaches such as Elbow Beach and Horseshoe Bay. Its massive Royal Naval Dockyard complex combines modern attractions like the interactive Dolphin Quest with maritime history at the National Museum of Bermuda.



Hamilton - The Capital

The island has a distinctive blend of British and American culture, which can be found in the capital, Hamilton. Bermuda is made up of a series of islands that is in the shape of a prawn. Bermuda has always been associated with the Bermuda Triangle. It is a section of the North Atlantic Ocean off North America in which more



Like being at Flic-en-Flac

than 50 ships and 20 airplanes are said to have mysteriously disappeared. The area, whose boundaries are not universally



The two-seater

agreed upon, has a vaguely triangular shape. I have been very fortunate to have been able to visit Bermuda twice a year for the past 7 years. My son who is a qualified actuary has been based there working for an insurance company. He has now made his home in this beautiful with his family. They earned very good salaries to cope with the high cost of living.

When I first explored Bermuda, it struck me how similar it is with Mauritius. The environment, the roads and greenery reminds me of Mauritius of 30 years ago. You can travel from one side of the island to the furthest point in 30 minutes. Due to the high cost of living, the majority of Bermudians tend to own a motorbike instead of a car. There are a number of beautiful beaches at various points of the island such as Elbow Beach and Horseshoe. What is unique about the beaches is the fine pink sands, so soft and clean. Sometimes when I am on these beaches, I closed my eyes and I think I am at Flic en Flac. (See photo)

It is one of the most expensive places to visit. There is a high import duty on all items that come into the country. And since it's a small island that imports most things, the cost of the import duty is built into the sales price. That discourages competition in a big way and consequently does increase prices. The price for a sliced loaf of bread starts from \$6 and a medium size chicken will be around \$25. The cheapest bottle of red wine will be \$30 and a couple of pints of lager will cost you about \$22.

On my first visit, I was reminded at the airport that there is an etiquette to follow whilst visiting Bermuda. It is one of the most friendly places that I have visited. So Bermudians will greet you on the streets with "Good Morning", " Hope you are having a nice Day". So I have to consciously remind myself to make similar exchanges when I am out and about.

Whenever I go on holidays, I tend to hire a car to explore the place. However, Bermuda does not have car rental companies, they encourage the visitors to use their public transport instead. They have cabs and an efficient bus service where the drivers are more than willing to spend time asking you about your destinations and to advise you when you reach there. Bermudians tend to have a laid-back and relaxed attitude. They have just introduced a 2-seater vehicle with no windows that you can hire for \$100 per day. (See photo)

The houses in Bermuda are unique as they tend to be one-storey buildings painted in sharp colours i.e. pink, blue, yellow and green. One of the most visual impressions I have of Bermuda is all the white roofs that occupy all these

houses. Drinking water has been a concern ever since human habitation began in Bermuda. The roofs are fashioned in step-like sloped surfaces with gutter ridges funnelling water toward pipes leading to an underground tank. 50% of all the potable water consumed in Bermuda comes from their roofs. The white roofs also keep their homes cooler during the hotter months. (see photo)

The quality of life for families in Bermuda is excellent. Since the place is so small, everything is reachable within a



Pink Houses - White roofs

short time. For example, my son finishes work at 5 pm, reaches home at 5.20 pm and is on the beach with his children in another 15 minutes. If this was London, he would not be home before 7 pm due to traffic congestion and poor public transport.

There are some pitfalls like no family and friends nearby. I am very fortunate as my son tends to visit us twice a year and we travel there too. When I left Mauritius, I could not return to see my parents for 5 years due to financial constraints. I have not met any other Mauritians in Bermuda except a chef from Phoenix who has been there for over 20 years.

I would strongly recommend a visit to Bermuda if the opportunity arises. It is unique in many ways with its pink sand beaches, its greenery, botanical gardens and its views over the Atlantic Oceans.

Vishnu Sooboodoo,
Carshalton, Surrey

Editor's note: Bermuda, in spite of its swallowing TRIANGLE, seems to be an idyllic and peaceful island from what we gather from Vishnu Sooboodoo's article. What sort of population and government has the country got? Have they caught the marching fever yet?

Japan News from Mylene Earthquake

A newscaster learned of the earthquake that hit Japan on February 13 while reading the news on TV. Fearing the worst she had to wear a helmet. It was a strong quake, 7.3 in magnitude, that caused building to shake and land to slide. Fortunately, there was no dead but some 50 people were injured.



Mask v/s Brief
Some people would not wear a mask because, they say, it is not hygienic



This is one of those viral jokes on the internet shared by thousands. It has been picked up by MOG rep in Japan.

New products manufactured in Japan

Fanbrella



Yes, it is a fan built in an umbrella. We may thus shelter from the sun and at the same time cooling ourselves. This product will definitely be welcomed Mauritius during the summer when the temperature can reach up to 37° in some localities.



This the way they now enjoying their cheesecakes, in liquid format. Just drink from the small jar as dessert after a meal. The cake available in other shapes as well.

Square and rectangular cooking pans with handles



This is another novelty the Japanese have put on market, the square and rectangular pans suitable for small 'menage'

Pictures from Amazon.com where products are available

Donald Trump is not burnt out yet



The Democrats thought they could send him there, behind the walls, by impeaching him a second time. But he has proved to be a hard nut to crack. Some think he is a nut all the same.

Trump is still kicking and believes he holds the 'trump card' to come back in four years' time, back to the Capitol which his supporters apparently tried to destroy on Jan 6, 2021 with his alleged encouragement. Four years is a long time in politics. Will he have burnt himself out by then by constantly tweeting? Will he carry on gaffing to the distress of his supporters? His chilling warning will be always remembered: We shall never give in; we shall never go back; we shall never surrender! Donald Trump is now a very ambiguous figure of history. Books will be written about him. Feature films will be made about him. College and university students will study and dissect his character to understand his mentality which is definitely complex. He is a fascinating subject to study and discuss in classrooms and debate clubs. Carry On Donald!

Joseph Ramsancar

The Marching Era

The whole world is marching

Mauritus ne peut pas être en reste

In Russia, people are marching for liberation of dissident Navalny, In France, les Gilets Jaunes march through the streets of Paris against numerous grievances, in Hong Kong



Protest march in Myanmar

they march against Chinese domination, In India against 'communal' discrimination and against farming law, in Belarus against election fraud by the sitting President who does not want to move, in Algeria against imprisonment of a journalist and against the suppression of free speech, in Tunisia against corruption and police brutality, in Myanmar against army rule, in the Netherlands against confinement, in America in support of Trump.

Well, in face of all this, a well-advanced country like Mauritius cannot be outdone. The wrecking of the Japanese



Protest march in Port Louis on 13.2.21

vessel MV Wakashio and the oil-spill off the south coast of Mauritius in July last was the opportunity for the start of the marching season initiated by Bruneau Laurette, martial art and maritime expert, who expressed discontent of the Mauritius Government handling of the wreck. He blamed the government of negligence and inefficiency.



Bruneau Laurette on the scene at Port Louis march on 13,02,21

Mr Laurette, known as a social worker, suddenly became also known as an activist. He organised the first march in the capital of Port Louis in August last which assembled a large crowd. Well publicised by the local press and on social media network, Laurette's August 2020 protest march gathered a large crowd of people in Port Louis. A few expatriates did gather outside the Mauritius High Commission in London and few tried to march to the Mauritian Embassy in Paris.

It must be admitted since the August last march the movement of Bruneau Laurette has been gathering momentum to the point that other political movement has joined him to stage protest against the government. Their main complaint is about corruption in various forms. Rama Valayden, a former Labour Party minister, has expressed sympathy for the Laurette movement to bring down the



A symbolical coffin for whom?
BLD for Bour li dehors (kick him out)

government elected with a comfortable majority in November 2019 (14 months ago).

Mr Valayden has baptised his group the Avengers to avenge the nation of the harms done to the country in those 14 months that the Alliance Government of MSM and Muvman Libérateur has been in power. Apparently, the present government has done more harm to the country than the other parties on the Opposition, namely the MMM, PMSD and Labour Party had done when they were in government or at the helm.

Protest March – February 13

The protest march of February 13 organised by the political parties making up the parliamentary opposition (Labour,

MMM, PMSD) with the support of the Reform Party attracted a very large crowd, though less than half of the August 2020 demonstration.

According to one estimate some 25,000 people were marching on February 13, including Bruneau Laurette, outgoing Foreign Affairs Minister Nando Bodha, former MSM political figures Ashok Jugnauth, Armoogum Parsooramen, and Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, ex-President of the Republic.

If out of a voting population of 950,000 electors only 25,000 people were demonstrating, it is not impertinent to ask what happens to the silent majority. They are simply watching the drama unfolding.

Corruption is today a word that is being used in every country of the world. In France many previous political figures have been indicted on corruption charges and the current one is Nicolas Sarkozy.



Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, the target man for the coffin on the left?

Every single political party that has been in power in Mauritius has been tarnished with the brush of corruption. It is something that people, like it or not, have to live with. On a BBC Panorama programme concerning the sale of the British-made Roll Royce Engines to China and India, it was stated that officials in those countries were allegedly bribed by the British to buy the product for their aviation industry. The BBC presenter concluded the programme saying corruption is the lubricant that makes machinery work.. Tomorrow, others will march against the new government. Protest marches have now become part of the culture of the Mauritian people.

Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth has qualified Opposition leaders who organised the demonstration as a bunch of frustrated politicians who want to take control of the government. He has told them that his government has a mandate of five years. He will not go to the people before the end of the mandate. They will have to wait, and it will be up to the people, then, to decide who will run the country.

It could well be that leaders of so many political on the opposition leaguely to bring down the PM could be making of him a more popular figure in the eyes of the people. This sort of thing has happened in the past where even bad publicity helps to build up the image of a person.

P.C.

Nando Bodha explains his departure from party and government

Among the various reasons Nando Bodha gave in a video on his F/B account for his departure from his party, the MSM, and the government the main one is that access to the PM is very difficult even for ministers owing to the fact the PM is barricaded by an army of frontline advisers through whom everyone has to go.



Nando Bodha

The fact is that this is now the way that Prime Ministers in a Westminster-style of Government operate. It all started in the 1960s by British PM of the time, Sir Harold Wilson who for the first time appointed advisers to the various ministries to brief him on the work and performance of their respective ministries. Since then there has been complaint from ministers of problems to meet and discuss direct with the PM.

The current British PM Boris Johnson is not indifferent to this practice. He even appointed a chief adviser among the advisers in Dominic Cummings who caused havoc among the government ministers who expressed displeasure at his attitude towards them.

Cummings had his own favourite among the Cabinet members and had the willing ear of the PM. In the end Cummings had to go to the relief of Ministers and the even the country at large.

So the breed of advisers are here or stay, and this may as well enter manuals on the British Constitution if it is not there already.



Dominic Cummings

A Common Front to bring down the Gouvernement of Pravind Jugnauth



The organisers of the Saturday, February 13th protest march in Port Louis met beforehand to tell the media of the purpose of the march.

From left to right in the picture above: Roshi Bhadain, leader of the newly-formed Reform Party; Xavier Duval, leader of the PMSD; Paul Bérenger, leader of the MMM; Navin Ramgoolam, extra-parliamentary leader of the Labour Party; Arvin Boolell, Parliamentary leader of the Labour Party; Bruneau Laurette, Leader of the Organisation Citoyenne and two of his supporters. According to one of the above group, outgoing Foreign Minister Nando Bodha could not make it to be present at this briefing.

Speaking in turn every one of the leaders invited the people of Mauritius of every hue to join the February 13 march to get rid of the present government.

Navin Ramgoolam said the one goal of the march is to request the resignation of the government who is doing a lot of harm to the country. Paul Bérenger said that for the first time the united opposition parties and the organisations citoyennes are collaborating to set up a committee to decide on how to change Mauritius. Xavier Duval said that there would be more resignations from the ranks of the MSM and invite Muvman Libérateur leader Ivan Collendavelloo to resign from the ruling alliance government. Roshi Bhadain said that the Jugnauth government could not go on, people are dying in the country controlled by the Mafia. For Bruneau Laurette the citizens are suffering too much. "Our fight of today is for the children of tomorrow," he said.

Absent from the above panel is Rama Valayden, leader of the group "Avengers".

Already there is dissension as to who will be the next PM among so many leaders.

To an interviewer, MSM leader and present PM, Pravind Jugnauth, said that he was not afraid of the lot.

He called them a crab basket (panier crabe) full of frustrated characters. "I am concentrating on my job to run the country and I'll continue to do so. I will not engage in cheap talk," he told the interviewer



PM Pravind Jugnauth

P.C.

To Let / A Louer

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This palm tree on a Chagos beach was growing towards the sea when it changed its mind and started to move towards heaven, instead, as most trees do!



How does one live with a mountain of snow in front of one's house for days? A compatriot living in Japan has to.

Vaccines roll out, they call it



The first Mauritians to be injected against the Covid-19 earlier in February were the frontliners namely in the medical profession.

Above is a doctor being among the first to be vaccinated as observed by clapping Health Minister Kaliesh Jagatpal



What have I done? Is R. Giuliani, a Trump lawyer, remorseful?



A sunset scene sent to us by late Christian Saide before she succumbed to the deadly virus in January. Was it premonition that the sun was setting on her life as well, one may ask.