

L'Union
fait
La Force



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

Highland House, 165 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1NE
Tel: 0773 907 2105 (WhatsApp) Email: mauritianoverseasgazette@yahoo.com
Website: <http://mauritianoverseasgazette.com>



Vol 2021 No 6

Editor: Peter Chellen

At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

A totally independent platform

MOG dedicates to Sir Anerood Jugnauth these
(modified) lines from Rudyard Kipling poem:
IF

He talked with crowds and kept his virtue
He walked with world leaders but did not lose the common touch
Neither foes nor loving friends could hurt him
All men counted with him . . .

The passing of a Giant in our own era

*The man who fashioned modern-day
Mauritius is gone*



Sir Anerood Jugnauth, 91, known popularly as SAJ, who passed away in the evening of Thursday, June 3, 2021, following a short illness was given a national farewell by the country on Saturday, June 4, a send-off worthy of the life of a national hero. His cremation took place at the Pamplemousses Botanical Garden. The country's mourning extended over two days.

From Thursday evening throughout Friday to Saturday, the national broadcasting corporation, The MBC TV, dedicated all its programmes to retrace and review the political career of the deceased personality.

SAJ was rather an enigmatic figure in the sense though people seem to have dissected his personality to pierce the mystery of his character the speculation still goes on. He was a man who was both loved and regarded as unfriendly. He was loved by his partisans but criticised by others. He was certainly a *franc-parler* who stood no nonsense but a man who got things done. These are traits of his character that generally come out from all analysis.

One trait that stood out was that he was a humble man. He had an abrasive attitude that sometimes came to the fore, an attitude that he himself acknowledged in a TV interview as a bit too forceful when he spoke of his outburst in dealing with certain situations to state or defend his case. Stating his case with vehemence had been a talent inherited from his legal professional era.

So, it depends on which side of the political spectrum one stands to view the political career of the Grandt *Tribun*.

SAJ was a *fils du sol* who made good a life dedicated to the service to his country for over half a century. His achievements and performance can be compared with that of former PM and President Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam who passed away in 1995 at the age of 85 and who is to this day regarded as *Le Père de la Nation*. SAJ is regarded by friends and adversaries as *Father of Modern Mauritius*. The economic achievements of present-day Mauritius have been ascribed to his visions and tenacity in his delivery while at the helm. SAJ had been PM for an aggregate period of 16 years and in between President of Mauritius for nine years. He seemed to be a tireless man in the discharge of his responsibilities to defend the interests of his country and promote the welfare of the people.

He shone at home as much as on the international stage having been received royally by Presidents and Prime Ministers in Africa, Arabia, Europe, and America. As for India he was almost a *fils du sol*, a country which bestowed upon the highest distinction and even proclaimed a day of national mourning in the country on the day of his funeral, a rather unusual honour accorded to a foreign personality.

SAJ is now part of the history of Mauritius, a period that those living today are the witnesses. How will he be judged by History? Importantly, how is he judged today by us?

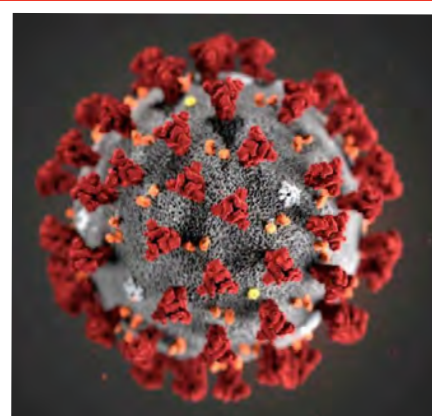
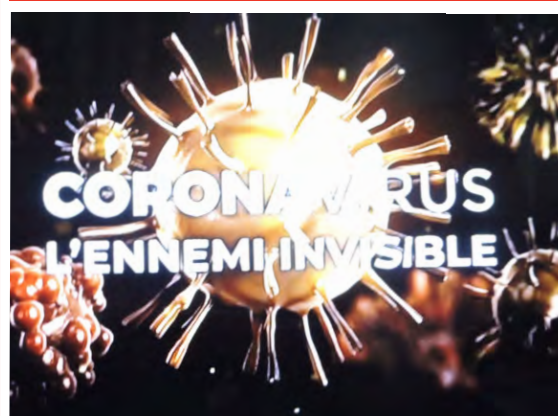
The sum total of Sir Anerood Jugnauth: A humble person who achieved greatness but who, all the same, had his downsides. I have had the honour of meeting SAJ on several occasions in London, I wish to end this tribute by an amusing statement someone made to me: The U.S. has Hollywood, India has Bollywood, Mauritius has Anerood.

He was a star. See page 8 for more

Peter Chellen

Note: The comments on Page 2 in answer to a Facebook post was written before the passing of SAJ

Let's fight Corona



We must stay vigilant to keep it out
of our body!

They want to destroy me, says Rama Valayden



Rama Valayden was arrested in the early hours of Sunday, May 17, and taken in for police questioning following an unauthorised gathering which he organised in sympathy with the cause of the Palestinians. It was in the wind that he would be arrested for illegally organising the gathering and in contravention of the current sanitary restriction. Effectively, it has been reported that police called at his place at 2am on Sunday, May 17.

Valayden's arrest caused a great *tollé* in the press, among a section of the population and all the elements of the Opposition. Even some lawyers came forcefully against such a police action to arrest someone at his residence at 2 o'clock in the morning in the presence of his family. "You don't take this sort of action" said senior counsel Yousouf Mohamed for such an offence, and even Yatin Varma, President of the Bar Council allegedly thought that the police action was excessive.

DCP Janki who was responsible for the arrest claimed that he received a call from Rama Valayden to come for his arrest as he was ready for the police investigation. It was 2am on Sunday 17. Rama Valayden told the press that he never made such a request to the police.

The Bar Council instituted its own investigation and Rama Valayden's lawyer told the inquiry that it was he who phoned DCP Janki to come and fetch his client as he was ready to talk. It was 2am on Sunday 17.

The case is now being investigated by the DPP.

Rama, Valayden, Justice Minister in a former Labour government has set himself up as the champion of certain causes. On the other hand, the target of his action is for an alternative government. The present government is too autocratic, according to him and the Opposition.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on TV that no one was above the law and everyone should answer for his action.

Cyril Louis

Sawmynaden wins second round after the first one



The *private* prosecution lodged by Mrs Kistnen against former government Minister Yogi Sawmynaden was thrown out of court on May 27.

According to the DPP, no case was established by Mrs Kistnen's Counsel, Rama Valayden, that the former government minister employed a bogus Constituency Clerk for whom payment was made out of government funds.

The DPP had also previously found no cause to sue the former Minister in a *public* investigation.

Mrs Kistnen's husband was an electoral agent for Mr Sawmynaden and his burnt body was found in a sugarcane field.

Mrs Kistnen alleges that her name was falsely used by Mr Sawmynaden as his Constituency Clerk.

According to press report, lawyer Valayden proposes to enter a fresh plea against Mr Sawmynaden in a new private prosecution for forgery.

Mr Sawmynaden has told press that he was being harassed by the lawyer who instigates Mrs Kistnen to find cause to sue him.

The third round is in the offing.

Father of Mauritius Industrialization

An Observation

The Facebook post in the next column, purported to be from a well-known person, is reproduced *fac simile* below, as it has been picked up from the public domain.

Two points from this post must be brought up for examination. Firstly, nowhere have we seen any claim from Sir Anerood Jugnauth personally or from his MSM Party about his being the Father of the Industrialisation of Mauritius. But he has been saying that when the MSM came to power in 1983 he did “relance” the ailing free zone. Above all, he vehemently claims paternity of the first economic miracle of Mauritius achieved as Prime Minister together with Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Finance Minister, from 1983 onwards.

The second point stated in the post is that the period of prosperity in the 1970s propelled by Professor Lim Fat, Jean Ah Chuen was to last 30 years.

The situation in the 1970s was dreadful because of high unemployment in a country with one of the highest birthrate in the world.

In 1969, a year after independence appeared on the political scene of the country a young man in the person of Paul Bérenger, fresh from his university studies, who galvanised the younger generation to change the political spectrum of the newly-born nation under his new party, the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM). He got himself involved in the trade-union movement to win the support of dock workers ousting the then union leader, Eliezer François, by certain alleged manoeuvring.

At that time there was great discontent in the country which had given rise to the riot of 1967. The fear of Hindu domination after Independence was instilled in the mind of the people of the country and many sold their properties cheap only to pay the fare to emigrate, mainly to Australia rather than to experience life in Mauritius under the Hindu hegemony as propagated by the prophets of doom, today hailed as heroes.

Unemployed Mauritians, on their own initiatives, left the country in droves to seek better prospects in England, France, Belgium, Switzerland and even Canada. This is the period that the Facebook post below calls the period of prosperity!

But the fact was that the MMM of Paul Bérenger was all the time gathering momentum. At the 1976 General Election the MMM took a good number of seats from the ruling Labour Party and at the 1982 polls they wiped out the Labour Party and the PMSD completely scooping all the 60 seats of the National Assembly. Under such circumstances how can anybody say that the 1970s was a period of prosperity that was to last 30 years?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth was PM from 1982 to 1996, i.e. for 14 years. Is it unjustifiable if the man claims the paternity of the economic recovery of Mauritius? The recovery actually took place under his watch during those 14 years. He came back in 2000 and again in 2014 and stayed at the helm until he got tired of the job, mainly owing to the age factor and passed the reins to the next in command within the MSM who happened to be Jugnauth The Younger.

However, there is no doubt that the Export Processing Zone (La Zone Franche, as it was called then) proposed by Professor Lim Fat in 1970 (in emulation of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew’s vision and diligence in Singapore) and supported by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam’s Labour Government was to bear fruits over the years on which successive governments built up.

Based on the way the economy of Mauritius was going prior to independence, LSE Professors Richard Titmuss and Brian Abel-Smith predicted a chaotic situation for the island in their report “Social Policies and Population Growth in Mauritius”. In their projection they forecasted that the population of Mauritius would reach nearly 3 million souls by 2002. By wise management since 1983, the disaster was averted by the incumbent Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth. It is sometimes necessary to give credit where credit is due.

The post picked up from Facebook

THE HISTORY TRUTH

Since the clock needs to be put back on time... I just read a story distorting post. I claim Anerood Jugnauth was never the father of Mauritius industrialization. Here's why:

After independence Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam-SSR brought in (in 1968) two great brains to identify problems and propose solutions. It's Professor Richard Titmuss and JE Meade. Titmuss proposes birth control to prevent unbridled population growth and endless misery, and Meade proposes the creation of small alternative industries. The SSR Government started there. And then we had an Economical Planning Unit! (created in May 1970 with Nijhavan) Those who want to know more can go to the newspapers of the time!

But he is a son of the ground, Professor Edouard Lim Fat who comes with the idea of the Export Free Zone himself exploring the free zones of Asia, Taiwan, among others and Puerto Rico's. Mr. Jose Poncini was in the game and worked in the diamonds! Lim Fat is lecturing (Nov. 1969), on this topic at the University of Mauritius and is noticed by SSR calling on him.

The following year the Export Processing Zone Act was passed. The free zone is created with capital and expertise of Hong Kong's industrialists. And it was Minister Jean Ah Chuen who invited them to come and settle down with us and share their know-how!

Economic development begins with Mauritius entering the ECE made possible thanks to General De Gaulle who, at the request of SSR (Jan. 1969) convinced European countries and African countries (Kinshasa, Ocam) to accept us, first our sugar that would no longer have buyers with the end of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement and then accept our products manufactured by the free zone.

While MMM was striking and messing with a view to taking power, SSR was negotiating with the European Economic Community, the current European Union! The MMM of Berengger and Jugnauth were against the Free Zone, against entry into the EC and against tourism. What were they suggesting instead? Nothing! they had no plans, no idea how to move the country forward. And for tourism, two giants who worked together: Ga ètan Duval and Régis Fanchette.

That's the truth. Immediately after the signing of Lomé I and Sucre Protocol (28 February 1975) European markets opened up to Mauritian products in the free zone and also to sugar above all, which sometimes obtained four times the world price, prosperity began for Mauritius and lasted nearly three decades. until recently. Don't forget the 3 to 12 months or more of gratuities paid in the sugar sector so many currencies entered the country!

Here we must pay tribute to Sir Satcam Boolell, Sir Leckraz Teeluck, Sir Guy Sauzier and Raymond Chasle behind this magnificent achievement!

By the way, there is the testimony of former minister of MMM, Kader Bhayat who held his head in Berengger who wanted to delete subsidies on rice and flour. He says: SSR has traced everything. He paved the way, we just had to follow him. By the way, this is what the Jugnauth Government has done from 1983!

In the 1980 s, Hong Kong people fearing for their future with the opening of the UK and PRC negotiations (Ms Thatcher-and Deng Xiaoping (September). 1982) on Hong Kong's return to China, became scared and therefore returned to invest in Mauritius, a country they knew well, after benefiting from his tax holidays, 15 years ago when they arrived for the first time in the 70 s...

Don't let us tell stories about Anerood Jugnauth's role on industrialization let alone Maurice's development and success! It was two men: Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and General de Gaulle who put Mauritius on the path to the development of prosperity that followed. Let the younger generations not forget it!

Dispossession of the Palestinians of their homes

It was wrong of the Nazis during World War II to dispossess the Jews of Europe of their properties in an attempt to exterminate them.



Today it is wrong of the Jews to disposses and to take the homes of the Palestinians in their own country in an attempt to exteminate them.

The Jews are settlers in Palestine, which was carved by colonial British rulers to give them a home when they fled the Nazi persecution in the 1940s.

The Jews now want the whole of Palestine for themselves on the grounds that their sacred book mentions that their god in biblican times gave them domination over a land known as Israel that existed in that part of the world.

It is worth mentioning that their sacred book says that Methusalem of Israel who lived for **900 years** fathered a son when he was **176 years old**, and that women were turned into salt because they disobeyed the commands of their god.

However, whatever be the origin of Israel, this country is a reality, which the Palestinians have to accept. On the other extremists like Netanyahu should not encourage the encroachment of Palestinian lands to make room for the Jews. They have taken enough so far. It would appear that the Jews now need lebensraum just as the Nazis demanded.

The answer to stopping the violence on both sides is a two-state solution as preconised by U.S. President Joe Biden. Who is listening?

Nadia Ramjan (UK)

ICTA Consultation Paper

To a Parliamentary Question from Opposition leader Xavier Duval on May 25 regarding the Consultation Paper issued by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth replied “I am informed by the ICTA that social media platforms are being increasingly used by some subscribers as a means of propagating inappropriate/abusive/racial/violent contents causing irreparable prejudice to some categories of the population and also jeopardising the social fabric of the country.

Well, the Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) has itself received via the internet the mail below which may, in no way, please members of some other communities



The above slogan was carried on a banner during an illegal car rallye along the motorway in support of the cause of the Palestinians.

Mauritius Revenue Authority VAT Remittances



The above clip from a Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) advert encourages members of the public, as shoppers, to insist on proper receipts from shopkeepers and traders for goods purchased.

The advert states that if proper receipts are issued traders are compelled, as applicable, to remit to the MRA the 15% VAT deducted from their purchasers.

There may quite a few traders who try to escape the VAT remittance, but it should not be the client’s burden to insist on a receipt. When receipts are not issued clients may have an opportunity to haggle for a discount.

It’s should be the MRA’s responsibility to ensure that VAT deductions are actually remitted to the Authority. Perhaps spot checks may have to be put in place, but this would mean extra costs for the Authority. Perhaps the deficit is insignificant and that’s why a cheaper option is for clients’ cooperation.

Virtuel, malheureusement pas Actuel



Is Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam now in favour of Right to Vote be extended to overseas Mauritians?

As Prime Minister, to a question from Mauritius News in 1996 at press conference at the Mauritius High Commission in London his answer his answer was an emphatic NO.

Mauritius enters the space age



Mir Sat 1, first small Mauritian satellite, is scheduled to be launched into space on June 1 from U.S. space centre NASA.

The nanosatellite will be transported on a space missile Space X-CR22 to be in turn connected to the International Space Station and subsequently placed into orbit.

Once in orbit the two built-in antenna will extend from the satellite’s sides that provide the wings effect.

Mir Sat 1 is destined for communications and observation purposes.

Sky is no longer the limit for Mauritius. Bientôt la lune, and all!

British News

by Nadarajen Ramanjooloo

New British High Commissioner for Mauritius



The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces that Ms Charlotte Pierre has been appointed British High Commissioner to Mauritius to succeed Mr Keith Allan who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.

Ms Pierre who is married to Paul Norris will take up her appointment in August.

It may be noted that the FCO uses the title Ms with the maiden name of the new High Commissioner instead of her married name of Mrs Norris.

Mauritians are not familiar with the appellation Ms. It is to be wondered how she will be called: Miss Pierre or Mrs Norris. Fortunately, the formal address of 'Your Excellency' offers no problem.

Johnson, the three-time husband *He did it again!*



To use an English expression, it may be said that Prime Minister Boris Johnson made an honest woman of his living-in partner Carrie Symonds on May 29 at a secret ceremony just like they used to do in Churches elsewhere at 4 o'clock in the morning.

The man literally tasted the 'fruit of the loom' on two previous occasions and fathered some five children who became the victims of broken marriages. (*Nothing to do with Psalm 127:3*). The children are now grown-ups and could have been called as witnesses to the father's third wedding.

It has often been said that there should be pre-nuptial agreements as to the duration of a marriage on a sort of contract basis. Once the contract runs out couples may part (before death doth so). Couple who feel they still can enjoy one another may seek an extension of the contract for a further length of time. Otherwise it's purely and simply Quit. Thus there won't be any need for divorce proceedings and for payment to divorce lawyers, which can be expensive. This is a good way to save money to pay for next wedding, though money should be no problem for someone born with a golden spoon in his mouth.

The French say "*Jamais Deux sans Trois*". The man has been married twice before and in keeping with the *dicton* he has married a third time. He has been divorced twice before . . .

Questions have been asked as to how could a divorced man marry in a Catholic church. Perhaps Fr Daniel Humphreys who officiated may provide the answer. But It must be admitted that was no ordinary divorced man.

What a role model for the nation!

A disgraceful interview

The way that former BBC journalist Martin Bashir obtained the interview with Princess Diana in 1995 has been described by Lord John Dixon in his report as *devious and dishonest*.

Bashir himself now confesses that he falsified documents which he presented to Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, to induce her to grant the interview. Yet the BBC man argues that he did nothing wrong.

When I saw the TV interview in 1995 I thought the man was very *antipathique*. I was far from being wrong. He used forgery and deception to achieve his ends.

Princess Diana was a victim of his machinations. "*A bad man*", Prince William calls him.



Mayor of London's renewed plea

Sadiq Khan was returned to City Hall as London's Chief Eecutive for another three years at the May 8 poll.

Mr Khan's Message of Thanks to Londoners prior to his taking office on his second term

Dear Londoner,

I want to say a huge thank you. I'm truly humbled to have the opportunity to serve you and this incredible city for another three years.

Whether you voted for me or not, I firmly believe in the principle of democracy and I intend to continue being a Mayor for all Londoners—working hard to improve the lives of every single person in our city, regardless of your borough or background, race or religion, postcode or political affiliation.

This is my promise to you: to deliver a brighter future for London and to stand up for London. And to make sure that this city—the greatest city in the world—comes roaring back to life after this pandemic.

I'm confident that together, we will be able to get our city back on its feet, our economy firing on all cylinders again, and our businesses scaling new heights—growing, innovating and creating the well-paid and high-quality jobs that Londoners badly need and deserve.



Mayor Sadiq Khan delivered inauguration speech at the Globe



In his opening speech, Mr Khan was thankful to Londoners for the trust placed in him to continue to lead 'the greatest city on earth'.

"I promise to strain every sinew to build a better and brighter future for London after the dark days of the pandemic, to create a greener, a fairer and safer city where all Londoners get the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential . . .

"I wish to be a mayor for all Londoners and working to improve the lives of every single person in the City," were the commitments he made in his address.

Opening of Parliament on May 11



Queen's Speech from the Throne

The Queen's address can be summed up in the Government's priority to deliver a recovery from the pandemic to make the UK stronger, healthier and more prosperous than before.

Royal Mail will issue on June 24 a set of four commemorative stamps in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh

The set will comprise
Second Class Stamp
First Class Stamp,
£1.70 Stamp
and
£2.55 stamp.



Rodrigues News

By Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin



Confusion over Quarantine and Air Mauritius Flights

Population of Rodrigues held in suspense over conflicting statements regarding the quarantine protocol and resumption of commercial flights to Rodrigues from Mauritius.

Rodrigues has been Covid free since the start of the Covid pandemic. Each time there has been a covid outbreak in Mauritius the authorities have introduced strict protocols to try to prevent the virus infections spreading to Rodrigues. Most significantly the airport has been closed and no flights except medical and emergency flights have been allowed.

the weekend of 9th to 10th May about 30 new cases were registered on the island.

Stunning Announcement in Rodrigues –Quarantine Protocol suspended!

On Saturday May 8th evening on the MBC Rodrigues TV 'zournal', the population of Rodrigues was stunned when it was announced that this quarantine scheme had apparently been suspended forthwith and that the Rodriguans still stranded in Mauritius should not prepare themselves for

subject on Monday, but on the MBC TV Rodrigues 'Zournal' on Tuesday 11th May the main items of news was that, at the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Session of that day the Chief Commissioner confirmed that the quarantine protocol for the stranded Rodriguans in Mauritius was no longer suspended but that two more groups would be quarantined and then flown back to Rodrigues during the Month of May, and that furthermore, commercial flights would not be permitted to start again until the spread of the virus in Mauritius had diminished.



In July 2020, Mauritius appeared to be Covid safe with no new local infections in the Community. Flights from Mauritius were restarted and Rodrigues became a popular holiday spot for Mauritians. The Tourist trade in Rodrigues flourished albeit with visitors to the island coming in = only from Mauritius.

When a new outbreak of infections were reported in Mauritius in March this year, Mauritius went into lockdown again, and Rodrigues was again faced with its airport closed.

Unfortunately this left several hundred Rodriguan citizens stranded in Mauritius unable to get back to their homes and jobs and families.

A quarantine protocol scheme was agreed between the Rodrigues and Mauritian respective authorities to enable these 450 or so Rodriguans in Mauritius to return in groups of about 60 at a time. They were contacted individually and allocated to a quarantine centre in Mauritius where they would spend 14 days under observation and, after PCR negative tests, would be flown to Rodrigues and stay for 7 days in a quarantine centre in Rodrigues.

The first 200 or so benefited from this scheme and the rest were waiting to be informed when they would be contacted for their turn.

Meanwhile in Mauritius, the numbers of new positive cases and new infections increased substantially, and in 48 hours over

their turn in the quarantine scheme. (although the same information, it was noted was NOT, included in the MBC TV 'Journal' in Mauritius.)

Rodrigues was buzzing with rumors for the next few days.

Air Mauritius to re-start flights to Rodrigues on June 1st !

A visit to the Air Mauritius website 'book your flight' showed clearly that flights from Mauritius to Rodrigues and *vice versa* that flights were open for bookings as from June 1st.

On Monday 10th May the population of Rodrigues was in still a quandary and it was the 'talk of the town' as to how flights could be planned and the airport made operational with the quarantine protocol suspended just when Mauritius was faced with a dramatic significant rise in cases of positive Covid infections with more cases being reported every day.

Most of the population of Rodrigues have not yet been vaccinated, as insufficient supplies of Anti-Covid vaccines have been sent to Rodrigues to vaccinate the whole population, and only the elderly and 'front-line' workers have had their jabs so far.

Big Surprise on Tuesday 11th May.

There were no announcements on the

This, said the Chief Commissioner, had been agreed with the Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth who, incidentally, is also the Minister for Rodrigues).

So, the question is- what exactly happened??

What is the story behind this apparent 'U' turn in events?

Why the decision to suspend the quarantine protocol for Rodrigues and then re-introduce it again two days afterwards?

Who made the decisions? Was it the government in Mauritius or the Rodrigues Regional Assembly?

Had there been a serious rift between Port Louis and Port Mathurin on the subject?

Who made a decision to re-start commercial flights between Mauritius and Rodrigues on June 1st allowing Air Mauritius to offer bookings on the Book your flight engine on their website?

Was the estimated and continual cost of the quarantine and repatriation scheme an issue which caused it to be 'suspended'? (Compare that to the cost to the government if the virus HAD spread to Rodrigues before everyone eligible had been vaccinated.)

Pertinent Questions.

Strong Earthquake in the Indian Ocean near Rodrigues

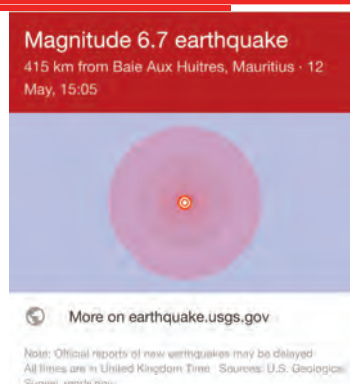
On Wednesday May 12th evening at about 6 pm a strong 6.6 Scale Earthquake occurred in the Indian Ocean about 200 miles to the North East of Rodrigues.

However there were no indications of it having any effect on the island. No one reported any sensations associated with an earthquake. There were also no reports of any waves or changes in sea levels around the island.

P.D.

Editor's Note:

The U.S. image on the right indicates that the quake took place at Baie aux Huitres, which is in Rodrigues.



The unfolding Saga of the Airport in Rodrigues.

Everybody, except people who own and sail their own ocean going boats, must arrive by Air at the airport in Rodrigues. At present there is no service to the island for passengers by sea.

At the moment of writing the Airport is closed to all flights apart from repatriation flights and medical flights.

Some History

The Airport opened for flights in 1972. The site at Plaine Corail was chosen and developed. The very first flight was a medical emergency flight for a well-known trading family in Rodrigues who managed to get hold of a private Piper Aztec to evacuate one of their family members to hospital in Mauritius.

operated seasonal flights direct from both St.Denis and St.Pierre in La Reunion using ATR-72's as has Air Mauritius.

What does the future hold?

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly it must be said has proceeded with less than great enthusiasm or urgency ('not a priority' was the phrase quoted) at the start for a further development of the capacity of the Airport to accommodate larger capacity aircraft, such as the favoured A319. Air Mauritius had apparently already expressed their wish to unify their Aircraft type portfolio.

However despite this, plans have gone ahead for such a development.



Commemorative stamp featuring the Piper Navajo plane

Air Mauritius started regular flights a few months later using a Piper Navajo Aircraft which was leased from a company in Madagascar.

The Airfield was originally grass but soon a paved hard surface runway was put down on the site at Plaine Corail, which was chosen as the best sited piece of flat land on the island.

The first runway was a short 900 mtrs or so but adequate for the Aircraft in use at that time i.e. Piper, De Havilland Twin Otter, HS748 (Air Reunion) and the ATR42 which was introduced by Air Mauritius in 1987.

In 2002, with the extension of the runway to its maximum at the present site, Air Mauritius was able to introduce the ATR-72-500 aircraft on the route providing up to 68 seats per flight

A new terminal building was opened in 2013, and further improved and extended in 2018.

As well as Air Mauritius the airport has also seen flights from a competing private company (an IBL project) called Catovair using a Raytheon Beechcraft 1900D and sometimes a Saab 340 (not

Various propositions for runway improvement were made and in comparing costs it was first proposed to extend the present runway out into the lagoon on stilts. But further investigations and discussion concluded that this was not advised from an engineering and environmental point of view.

So another proposal, but more expensive to construct, was drawn up to construct a completely new runway almost parallel with the present one nearer to the seashore, but on raised land and with extended taxiways providing a route to the existing terminal Building.

This plan has now been approved and the villagers of the village of St.Marie which lay in the path of the proposed new runway are being re-located.

However, although the plans have been laid and the financing approved on paper with various development agencies including the E.U. and the AFD, the Covid 19 pandemic and outbreak in Mauritius has, inevitably, so it seems, put the plans on hold.

Air Mauritius is also not in a position to add its views on the subject, as it is now iadministration and its future fleet plans uncertain.

Although the Airport extension plans cite the new facilities as being planned for the usage of the Airbus



Commemorative stamp featuring Twin Otter plane

to be confused with the Airbus A340!)

This service did not operate for very long and a proposed but never realized local Rodriguan Airline called Solitaire joined the fray.

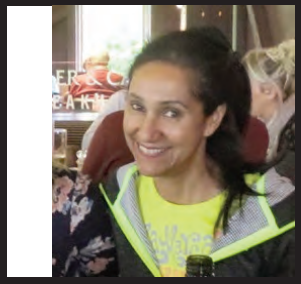
Air Austral of La Reunion has

A320neo and the Airbus A321neo, Air Mauritius does not have either of these aircraft in its former fleet, only two A 319's.

It seems it will be some time before the planned runway and associated infrastructure developments will be started.

Notes from Japan

by Mylene



Colourful fish on land

Sushi, noodles, tempura spring to mind when we think of Japanese food, but what about sweet treats?

Have you heard of tai-yaki? Here, Masao Kudo, a retired graphic designer tells us more about this fish-shaped cake, traditionally filled with various sweet fillings such as red bean paste or custard. (He decided to take this popular snack that has been eaten in Japan since the last century and shake things up a bit.)

Masao Kudo explains that 'Tai-yaki, literally translated means, baked sea bream. In Japan this fish is associated with celebrations and good luck. So it's a popular treat.'

A special batter is poured into a fish-shaped mould and cooked on both sides until golden-brown. This all changed three years ago when he and his wife, Takako opened Taikichi, a taiyaki café.

'A delicious moment is a happy time. That is our concept. So, I decided to create the fish in an array of 12 colours and 21 different flavours. They range from pink to purple, orange to green with distinctive flavours such as green tea, red potato,



sweet chestnut and black sesame. It's a collaboration of colour and taste.'

Happy, is a keyword associated with the sea bream, or red snapper as it is known in the USA. Tai, rhymes with the word, omede-tai which is the Japanese word for joyous occasions. In a nation fond of fish, it is not surprising tai is also dedicated to one of the Seven Lucky Gods, Ebisu.

'I like to say that I make happy fish instead of fish. I love what I do and that makes me happy,' Masao Kudo mentions on his site.

After The Great East Japan Earthquake

The massive earthquake that rocked Japan and triggered a tsunami that erased entire towns off the map in March 2011 also sparked a major nuclear disaster.

The huge waves knocked out the emergency generators at the Fukushima nuclear power plant and 150,000 people had to be evacuate, many never to return to their hometown. Fukushima is located about 137 miles north-east of Tokyo.

During the last ten years, 1.25 million tons of radioactive water has been treated and 're-purified.' Recently Japan announced that this wastewater, which meets with regulatory standards, will be released into the Pacific Ocean within the next two years.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 'considers the disposal options as technically feasible and in line with international practice.'

The US agrees stating Japan 'appears to have adopted an approach in accordance with globally accepted nuclear safety standards.'

China, Taiwan, South Korea, Friends of the Earth Japan,



Green Peace, local fishermen and many environmental groups have voiced their opposition.

Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso in response said the treated water is safe to drink. Lijian Zhao the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman asked him to personally prove it. To date, Aso has not taken Zhao up on the challenge.

The Olympics - Two Camps

The IOC. PM Yoshihide Suga. The USA, Sponsors, plus many athletes (vaccinated and not vaccinated) in one camp profess the Olympics and Paralympics will take place.

In the other camp, Health experts at home and abroad have raised concerns. They suggest plans to hold the event should be reconsidered so as not to ignore scientific imperative.

Editor's Note: A third camp must perhaps be mentioned: 80% of Japanese are against the event, it is being reported.

Latest news: In spite of all the controversy, the show will go on, it has been announced.

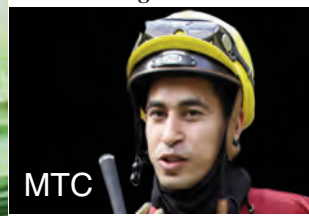


Olympic Flame carried by land and by sea, but event still uncertain

The Champ de Mars Tragedy of Saturday, May 16



Nooresh Juglall MBC TV



MTC

This picture shows the moment when 29 year-old Champion jockey Nooresh Juglall at the back went down with his horse **Rule of the Night** in the seventh race of the first day of the local racing season on May 16.

Rule of the Night almost collided with **Golden Tractor**, ridden by Benedict Woodworth, which tripped and collapsed at the very difficult bend where riders have to position their mounts in line for the finish ahead.

Seen from a distant one wonders how do the jockeys manage to keep their horses clear of one another when racing ferociously at

every bend at a racecourse which may at times look rather narrow. The horses seem to be too close for comfort.

Juglall was an experienced rider having scored 97 wins in Mauritius, Singapore, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and Qatar. He was Mauritius Champion Jockey in 2019 and 2020.

Nooresh Juglall was married with two very young children.

The whole of Mauritius expressed great sadness about this tragic accident and the loss of such a young and promising life.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is conducting an investigation if only to avoid a recurrence of such a Champ de Mars tragedy

Birthdays in May from Facebook

Sameer Sobany
Friday, 28 May 2021

Kamini Aubeeluck
Raiad Gurreeboo
26 May 2021

Jean Eric Wong Cheong
Roroxana Chanteuse
Friday, 14 May 2021

Ibrahim Woubouda
Monday, 24 May 2021

Léi Depari
31 May 2021

Janisha Pem
18 May



Forte Croissance Economique des Pays d'Afrique



RAPPORT FMI
PLUS FORTE CROISSANCE EN AFRIQUE SUBSAHARIENNE EN 2021

| | |
|----------|------|
| KENYA | 7,6% |
| BOTSWANA | 7,5% |
| NIGER | 6,9% |
| MAURICE | 6,6% |
| UGANDA | 6,3% |

Budget 2021-22

Objectifs du Budget national pour la prochaine année financière (21-22) qui sera présenté à l'Assemblée Nationale le 11 juin se résument en 4 points:

Reprise
Résilience
Inclusif
Développement durable

African Stock Exchange



At a mock launch of the Exchange on may 3, the Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance, Mr Mahen Kumar Seeruttun stated that the AFRINEX Limited represents a new platform that would enable Mauritius to further develop the financial services sector. He emphasised that the AFRINEX Limited is a public-private partnership set up with the encouragement of the Government of Mauritius along with technological and skill expertise from Bombay Stock Exchange. This sophisticated platform, he added, will provide more visibility of Mauritius on the international front and will help to redynamise the sector amid the COVID-19.

Data Technological Park



The Data Technological Park (DTP) under construction at Côte d'Or will cover an area of 64 hectares of land (about 158 acres/arpents, several times the size of the Champ de Mars in Port Louis).

The project is meant to enable Mauritius to rank among the Super Connected countries in the digital age. "With the DTA we lay the foundation of a modern economy based on Data Exchanges which is a major advance step requiring the creation of Research Institutes and Universities well versed in technologies that will train our young people to face the demands of the modern age", says PM Pravind Jugnauth.

For Finance Minister Renganaden Padayachy the DTP project will enable the launch of the next step of the Mauritian economy which will comprise a Medical Hub, a Pharmaceutical Hub and the Hightech facilities that will encourage local and foreign investments. It is believed such a project could be considered as an answer to a silicon valley.

My visit to the Birla Laxmi Narayan Temple



The Birla Laxmi Narayan Temple in Jaipur, Rajasthan, is made of white marble and dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi. Its design and structure are awe inspiring. Even a non religious person will find peace here. The biggest surprise is the sculptural representation of all religious figures on top of those from

Hindu Mythology. There are three domes representing the three main religions: Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. Figures of Confucius, Buddha, Jesus, St Anthony and others are engraved in the walls. The grounds are covered with beautiful flowers. There is a hedge of small chilli trees all the way along the path leading to the temple. This

place is for people of all faiths. Unfortunately, photo-taking inside the temple is not allowed. People from different faiths and different nationalities just sit inside meditating or admiring the beauty of the place.

Devinia Sookia (USA)

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(WhatsApp).
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Faut-il exercer un contrôle sur les réseaux sociaux?



Les réseaux sociaux, terreau de la radicalisation !
A en juger par cette photo de la télévision française les réseaux sociaux sont responsables de pas mal de maux dans le pays!
Faut-il que l'état exerce un controle sur eux?

Life experience of a Welshman in Slovenia

We welcome Tim Wade to our columns. Tim who was originally from Wales had Mauritian connections in that country. They may wish to know of his way of life in his adopted environment. On the other hand, readers may wish to acquaint themselves with that part of the world where Slovenia is situated as he gives us some description of the local colour.

I live and work on my small farm in central Europe, right on the border of Hungary and Slovenia. I moved here six years ago from Wales after fulfilling my life-long dream to have my own farm. I searched for quite a long time to find somewhere affordable and perfect for me, finally I found beautiful little farm right on the border of Slovenia and Hungary.



The house that Tim built

Over the last six years I have been renovating the land, built a new house and a workshop for my creative woodworking. It's a good place for farming, with a good mixed climate of Mediterranean, alpine, and continental. There are short sharp winters, then warming up in the spring, with a good balance of rain and sunshine throughout the year, giving the four seasons. I have named my farm 'Glascoed' which means green bank.



Produce of the land for Tim's kitchen

I am up early every morning to take my dog Lucky for her long walk around Glascoed to



Tim and Lucky

check the boundary of the farm and woodland. May is the most eventful month of the year in the farming and gardener's calendar, everything springs out so fast, I have to observe the changes as I work hard to catch up with everything that



Dandelions picked for herbal tea

appears so fast. May is the month of flowers, every lane is margined with the white beauty of wild parsley and stitchwort. Germander speedwell and ground-ivy spill their blue on the hedge side banks, the smell of wild garlic, the great celandine has



Creative woodwork

opened its yellow petals and should stay in bloom until the swallows depart. Buttercups, dandelions, silverweed, birdsfoot and horse throw their gold across the land. Over the meadows of wild strawberry, and clover, fly butterfly and bees which are getting ready for the last blossom of the spring, the sweet-smelling Acacia, and the bees from the three hundred hives on the next two farms will work flat out to produce the best tasting honey. From the woodland the cuckoo's call, usually singing in D or D sharp. The wild Chanterelle and button top mushrooms are nearly ready to pick. The smooth



King size edible mushrooms

snakes and slow worms glisten in sun catching bugs in the orchard. I can just hear my late grandmother, who lived on a farm in Somerset, say: "a swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay" and "Water in May brings bread through all the year" At long last there's some much-needed rain, which has been falling constantly for the week, but not too heavily. All the very low IBC water tanks, irrigation ponds and underground rain water harvesting tanks are now full. The land is happy and so am I! I'm remembering the days when I lived in Wales, I'd yearn for a break from the weeks of continuous rain. Now I dream of the rain! There's been a drought in central Europe this winter and early spring. Here they say "Rain in

May is Gold" because it brings a good harvest for the corn.

I work daily in my vegetable garden, I'm already eating the produce of my hard work: asparagus, spinach, globe artichoke, garlic, radish, lettuce, spring onions, spring cauliflower, rhubarb, and strawberries. I've been planting lots of flowers around the house, and have made some raised flower beds, beautiful hanging baskets and window boxes which are full of flowers. I have taken lemon trees outside, now there's no chance of frost.

I am busy on several jobs including grass cutting which is the never-ending story, using my tractor & flail mower, and by hand with a scythe, it's hard work as there are seven acres to cut. I have been thinking of keeping goats to eat the grass, so I can produce milk for cheese. My local priest has offered to give his four Holy goats!

When I am grass cutting, I need to dress up well to protect myself from the ticks. Tick-borne infections are getting bad throughout Europe in recent years. I have been inoculated against Lyme's disease, but I am constantly removing the little ticks from my dog Lucky.

I collect the long firewood logs with the tractor and trailer, cutting it to length, splitting and stacking in circular stacks to dry, chipping the branch wood for mulching, and a few interesting looking logs for my creative work. I won't ever be short of firewood!

I am putting up stock proof fencing all around the farm to stop the deer and wild boars entering. There seem to be less stags than before, but a lot of more wild boars, which do a lot of damage to the productive land. Some of the fencing near the entrance is decorative wooden post and rail, but the rest is wire fencing with a top strand of solar powered electric fence.

This year I invested in a petrol-powered post hole borer machine. (A giant auger drill) to make the holes in the ground, rather than the back-breaking task of digging by hand.



Tying the grape vines in an enclosure

If there's time left in the day I go to my workshop to do some creative woodworking, then relax in the evenings sitting on the terrace for dinner, with a glass of my own wine. It feels a world away from this terrible pandemic!

Tim



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1st Floor, 463 - 465 Brixton Road, London SW9 8HL

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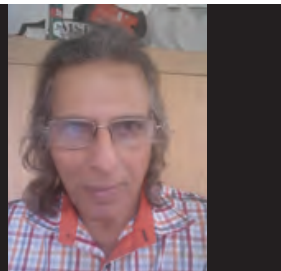
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AND WALES**

TITBITS FROM MAURITIUS

BY AHMAD MACKY



SIR ANEROOD JUGNAUTH'S DEMISE: TWO DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING PROCLAIMED IN MAURITIUS

One of the last of the Mohicans has gone. SAJ politician, 6th time Prime Minister, 2 times President of the Republic of Mauritius and his last appearance with his lawyer black robe at the Internal Court of Justice at La Hague to defend Chagos, has sadly passed away at the age of 91 on Thursday the 3rd June, 2021 at the Darne Clinic where he was admitted emergently for treatment.

Notwithstanding the strict protocol regulation and restriction of movements in public due to Covid-19, many people were seen all along the roads and avenues where the mortuary convoy of SAJ passed by.

Flowers were thrown on the mortuary convoy carrying SAJ body by thousands of mourners lining the streets, roads, towns and other avenues.

SAJ was cremated at the Pamplemousses Botanical Garden next to the samadi of SSR, Father of the Nation on Saturday 5th June 2021 at 2.00pm. Two days of national mourning with the national flag at half mast were proclaimed. Many visitors also went to Clarisse House to sign the book of condolences.

BUDGET DAY 2021-2022 WAS ON 11TH JUNE 2021

The Association of "Hoteliers" and "Restaurants" of Mauritius and the Tourism Sector will meet this Friday the 11th June to hear the Budget speech 2021-22 of Finance Minister Renganaden Padayachy.

They want to be re-assured on the calendar as discussed

regarding the opening of the borders promised by Minister of Tourism, Steven Obegadoo, to the effect that the herd immunity against Covid-19 to attain the maximum figure of 60% people being vaccinated by this September 2021.

On the other hand, the conclusion of the watershed meeting on the future of our Air Line Company, Air Mauritius (under voluntary administration) will happen this very month. However, there is little chance that this budget will pronounce on the subject of Rs 9 billion regarding the new airline.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CIVIL SERVANTS COLLEGE AT REDUIT TRIANGLE

A new civil servants college will be constructed at Reduit Triangle for the training and formation of civil servants.

Only Mauritian Companies registered with the Construction and Industry Development Board (CIDB), plus Joint-Ventures Mauritian with Indian Companies operating in Mauritius, registered with the CIDB, can tender for the construction of the College.

This project, financed by a grant from the Indian government, consists of the construction of an academic block of 3 storeys plus two storeys that will be devoted to other services.

The college will occupy a space of 3734 square meter and will be fenced with a gate post that will be also erected or installed.

The construction will include an auditorium. Minister for Civil Service, Vikram Hurdoyal, initiator of this project, explains that the college will benefit civil servants from various departments. Hurdoyal said: "the government has decided to construct a civil service college which will provide necessary infrastructure for the development of

Human Resource of different governmental organizations in the country. The project will comprise the setting up of an appropriate physical infrastructure incorporating the academic sections and associated facilities to constitute a high class, fully functional civil service.

JUDICIAL INQUIRY ON THE DEATH OF KISTNEN RESUMES AFTER 3 MONTHS

After a period of 3 months, the judicial inquiry into the mystery death of the ex-activist MSM, Soopramanien Kistnen has resumed at the Moka magistrate court. His half-burnt body was found on the 1st October, 2020, in a sugar canefield at Telfair, Moka.

This judicial inquiry is presided by Magistrate Vidya Mungroo-Jugernauth. The DPP office is represented by legist Azam Neerooa.

On Monday 7th June 2021, ex-Minister of Trade and Industry, Yogida Sawminaden who was revoked recently from his portfolio, attended the Moka Magistrate Court with an escort of police officers in order to answer questions of both the DPP and lawyers working on the Kistnen case.

JUDICIARY:

10 NEW MAGISTRATES TOOK THE OATH

Ten new magistrates nominated by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission took the oath on Tuesday the 1st June 2021 before the Chief Justice Asraf Caunhye. They will be posted to different tribunals across the country.

The Judicial and Legal Service Commission has also nominated 30 State Counsels of whom 16 will be affected to the DPP (Director of Public Prosecution) Department. The other 14 will be posted to the office of the Attorney General.

Adieu SAJ



The sum total of a fruitful existence: At the age of 91, Sir Anerood Jugnauth was consumed by life. He gave so much of himself to his public commitments that such undertakings took its toll and in the end the bell tolled for him. That *Marche Funèbre de Chopin* executed by the Mauritius Police Band was a fitting accompaniment on his final parting from his present demeure at La Caverne to his next one in the heavens, a firm believer that he was.

Here, during his passage on earth his compatriots in appreciation of his *dévouement* have said that he was a Man of Vision who could see far ahead of his time and did his job with faith and fidelity. He did not talk much but he did simply deliver. Of all things he achieved for what will SAJ be remembered? For one thing he made Mauritius a republic to be fully responsible for its own destiny with a Mauritian Head of State. This in itself is a great step forward in the country's constitutional development, which is now complete.



The beginning of a great adventure through life

His firm belief was that the total decolonialisation of Mauritius could only be realised when Britain would have relinquished its hold over the Chagos Archipelago. His tenacity to defend and promote the cause of the Chagossians is another landmark for which he will be remembered. The decision to give a form of self-government to Rodrigues was a boldness for which the Rodriguans are and will always be grateful. They need to erect a monument in his honour to bear witness to this act to favour their emancipation and the development of their island into a mini-state.

The Architect

But above all, he will be remembered as the architect of modern Mauritius and the father of the first Economic Miracle. The industrialisation process of the country was given a boost by the revival of the Export Processing Zone that took Mauritius from a monocrop economy to an industrialised country.

Sugar being no longer the main earner of the country, tourism being down the world over, to forestall any shortfall from the manufacturing industry vocation, SAJ launched Mauritius into the digital age. Realising that the future of the world is in high-tech he conceived the idea of turning Mauritius into a cyber island converting the sugarcane fields of the Ebene area into a smart city with the construction of the Cybertower. The digitalisation of Mauritius will be another achievement for which he will be remembered.

'Li enne vrai Rambo' said innocently a member of the public watching the funeral cortege passing by in his area. Generally, Sir Anerood Jugnauth did portray an austere figure barely sporting a smile on his face. He was austere: he was no drinker, no smoker and no womaniser. He was a faithful husband, a devoted and first-class educator to his children.

The Builder

Sir Anerood was a builder, apart from building the future of Mauritius, he builds a solid political party to take control of the sound future of Mauritius. According to Sir Binod Bacha on TV he used political donations to erect the multi-storey

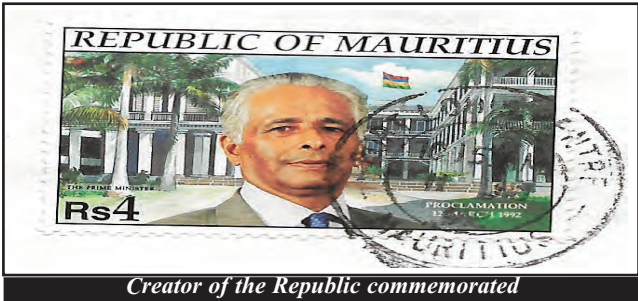
As Editor of Mauritius News I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Anerood on a few occasions in London. I found his humility disarming. He even agreed once to come for an interview at our place at Hendon, North West London, as shown in the far right picture below.



Sun Trust building in Port Louis for his party.

He was a man exercising strict self-discipline and a disciplinarian. He was a good loser in the true sense of the word. He was always philosophical about losing an election and he never criticised anybody for his defeat nor did ask for a recount nor resorted to court action on ground of trickery.

When the time came for him to leave centre stage of politics he said that he had accomplished his mission. "I had a race to



run, the race is over, I have to stop running," he said jokingly. But the fact was that SAJ did run the extra mile: From PM he took the mantle of President of the Republic for nine years. From office of the President he came back as PM and from PM he went to sit on the front bench as a Minister (Mentor in the style of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew). By George, in spite of all his seriousness he must have had some fun out of it all. When it was all over, and the last drop almost drained out of his system, he said the job was done and was gone.



The last journey

The Villager

Sir Anerood was a village boy, and he kept much of the village aura around him. When he was criticised for his language he said "I am from a village and that's the way I speak."

Sir Anerood Jugnauth agreed to say that whatever he accomplished he did accomplish with inputs from other people, namely from his ministerial colleagues, civil servants and party members. "I could not do it all by myself," he once said. As the saying goes, behind every successful man there is a backing woman. Sir Anerood had tremendous support from his wife Sarojini. Lady Jugnauth was herself a wage-earner at one time who started a career as a teacher and ended up as a Schools Inspector, according to our information. Jointly, they built a fortune.



A sad and painful moment for a son

There have been some speculations especially from the social media as to his wealth. If he could build a tower for his party, surely he could build up for his family - being a teetotaler, a non-smoker and no squandering womaniser. By wise investments he could have picked up a few bits of dividend, here and there, through a period of over sixty years of joint-earnings.



Vel Kadresen

Behind every successful man there is a woman. She is here in front to support the man.



Sir Anerood with Lady Sarojini Jugnauth. Yes, it has been a long journey and they made it together, they can say.

The Man of The Year

On two occasions, London publication Mauritius News nominated Sir Anerood Jugnauth as *Man of The Year*.

In 2014, after his General Election victory, Mauritius News carried a headline from "From Zero to Hero". Hero, because against all the odds SAJ defeated the Labour-MMM alliance. Zero, because he had himself confessed in a television interview during the electoral campaign that he believed the Labour - MMM alliance could win all the National Assembly seats by 60-0 (Sixty against Zero).



No Jug Jug

The motto of the Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) is that this publication is an independent platform with allegiance to no political party. For the 32 years that I edited Mauritius News (1983 to 2015) we have been very objective in our delivery and this is the line that MOG follows: to give credit where credit is due. Recently, because we happened to defend a certain point of view, one Facebooker called us 'Jug Jug'. Whatever the Facebook chap had in mind we are no 'jug jug'. Using our right, we may refrain from publishing certain items that may cause offence, controversy or libel.

To all those who mourn the passing of Sir Anerood Jugnauth the Mauritian Overseas Gazette presents its deepest sympathy.

Some pictures courtesy of MBC TV

P.C.

THE FUTURE OF AGALEGA: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF INDIA TOWARDS THIS ISLAND?



By Ahmad Macky

There is a public perception that India wants to militarily occupy Agalega for its own strategic interests in the same way as the USA occupies Diego Garcia. Past governments always had the tendencies to mortgage or to sell the ‘family silver’ in an attempt to make up for their extravagance and mismanage-ment.

After going through what has been published in the foreign press, especially in India, one is left spell-bound, reinforcing that public perception.

According to a recent article in ‘The Indian Express’, India is actually doing a survey as to use Agalega as a Surveillance Base for the Great Peninsula. This base will be situated in the atoll of the islet that India hired sometimes ago from Mauritius. This press report specifies that though the Mauritian government never says a word about this matter, many sources reveal and affirm that progress is still being made on this project.

“The Indian Express” makes it clear that this Base of Surveillance will be complementary similar to the one installed by India at Madagascar. Besides, in its issue of July 18, last year ‘La Lettre de L’Océan Indien” mentions that the Station or Base of Surveillance of the Indian Radar started operating from the beginning of July in the north of Madagascar.

The Mauritian authorities said that they are not aware of a similar Indian project on Agalega. “Never heard such a thing” said the Prime Minister Office. “As far as we know, there is nothing of the sort. If there were a project we would have known, or be made aware of it” said a spokesman from the Outer Island Development Cooperation, responsible for the welfare of Agalega..

At the Mauritian Foreign Affairs Ministry, no comment made in thja regard. The same silence applies at the High Commission of India where no one says a word about such an Indian Project on Agalega. “We don’t wish to comment on a press article of any kind” was the diplomatic reply from the High Commission Office.

Last November, another Indian paper namely ‘The Times of India’ mentioned that proposed concession in favour of the Great Peninsula existed. The paper even mentoned that a lease was to be given to India on Agalega for Tourism and Agricultural purposes “or for another strategic objective”. “The Times of India” took great consideration to specify that “the offer made by Mauritius” is still under

discussion.

Up to now the government of Mauritius, namely the Prime Minister, Office, has always denied that such a project existed. The Prime Minister has also denied this matter at the National Assembly. But the fact remains that foreign press, particularly Indian newspapers are still reporting about the progress of this project. Is there something being cooked-up behind back of the people?

A large section of the population are of the opinion that the government is selling Agalega to India in the same manner that Diego Garcia was allegedly sold to the British.

The Indian government has also realized an hydrographic survey to determine which would be the best location in Agalega to facilitate mooring. Such an exercise, according to the government, has never been made in Mauritius and would have cost between Rs 40 and Rs 100 million. “India has done it free for us” declared a spokeswoman from the Foreign Affairs Minsitry. “The Indian government has also expressed its desire to present a plan to develop some activities of economic nature on Agalega” we have been told.

There is another project similar to the atoll one. Arcon, a South African Company has submitted a big project for the construction of a village resort in Agalega consisting 60 villas, 20 luxury apartments and 1 private clinic namely, a plastic surgery. This investment is about Rs 8.1 billion.

A delegation from Arcon was in Mauritius sometimes ago to ensure a follow-up of this project. The dossier is under consideration by the Ministry of Housing & Lands.

There is confusion. A deliberate confusion! It is about time that both the government of India and the government of Mauritius come out with clean hands. Both India and Mauritius are supposed to be democracies. Therefore we expect the two governments to make clear statements to the world about their intention concerning Agalega.

We don’t want to convert that peaceful region to vulnerable one. We should not forget that countries like China, Pakistan, Iran, South Africa and others would not stand with folded arms as helpless spectators. The reaction will no doubt create a cold war in this otherwise peaceful region.

International Headlines

Google the headlines below to read the article

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- *China plays down 'leaked documents' showing it discussed weaponising coronavirus in 2015*
- **Boris Johnson Under Investigation Over Lavish Holiday To Caribbean• Parliamentary standards commissioner confirms she is investigating the PM over who paid for his trip to Mustique with Carrie Symonds.**
- *Israël : la démonstration de force du Hamas*
- **Coup d’arrêt démographique en Chine Le nombre d’habitants devrait décliner, de 1,4 milliard à 732 millions en 2100**
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- **Jerusalem: the politics behind the latest explosion of violence in the Holy City**
- *L’Inde se dote d’une base militaire géante sur un minuscule îlot*
- **Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds married in secret wedding ceremony at Westminster Cathedral**
- *King’s College London forced to apologise after staff outrage over Prince Philip email*
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Headlines Mauritius

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- “L’UE à toujours été aux côtes de Maurice”**
- Sept blessés dans un accident impliquant trois véhicules*
- XLD: Une haute de la taxe prevue**
- Dr Joomaye: «Confiant d’atteindre l’immunité collective à fin juillet»*
- (Covid-19) Impacts socio-économiques de la 2ème vague : Des conséquences plus graves**
- Plus de Rs 200 millions d’héroïnes saisis chez un jardinier à Baie du Tombeau*
- Saisie de 3,12 kg d’héroïne valant 46,8 millions de roupies à bord du cargo «MSC Ivana» au port**
- Saisie d’héroïne valant Rs 217 M*
- Les Drs Aumeer et Gujadhur plaident pour un nouveau lockdown**
- Attaques Israéliennes contre les Palestiniens: Le PMSD condamne*
- Navin Ramgoolam : « Provocation inacceptable !*
- Mozilla et Google s’unissent contre les réglementations proposées par l’ICTA**
- Le président du groupe SBM: Nous avons d’ores et déjà pris les mesures nécessaires pour soutenir la relance»*
- **No agreement between Mauritius and India to set up a military base in Agalega »**
- L’avocat est-il devenu gênant? l’express*
- Me Yousouf Mohamed: Du jamais vu dans l’histore . . .**
- Agaléga : « Tout document concernant Agaléga doit être rendu public », souhaite Arvin Boolell*
- Budget 21/22 : « Les chiffres présentés seront contraire à la réalité », prévient XLD**
- COVID-19 : le marché central en passe d’être fermé à la suite de cas positifs parmi les marchands*

MOG Cuisine

Rasson

10 to 12 servings

Rasson is the Mauritian version of the Indian soup Rassam, a thin fiery, hot-lentil (peas) based consommé

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

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

Ingredients

- 1 lb yellow split peas (dholl)
- 1 lb brède songe
- 4 tbs oil
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 3 tbs ripe tamarind pulp
- 1 teaspoon crushed garlic
- 8 whole dried chillies
- 8 curry leaves
- 2 tbs chopped parsley
- 1 tbs fresh coriander
- 1 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme leaves
- 1 or 2 whole cloves
- 1 teaspoon crushed small aniseed
- 2 tbs turmeric
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 12 cups water (3 litres)

Method

Boil the dholl until creamy soft. Mix into a puree, and pass through a strainer. {keep aside}
Cook the brède songe until tender, and mash with a fork or in a food processor
Heat the oil in a large saucepan or stock pot, add the onions and sautee until brown. Add the dholl, the brède songe and the tamarind. Let it cook for 5 minutes. Add 1 cup of water and the spices, stirring well until the mixture is homogeneous.
Bring to boil and cook for a few minutes before adding the rest of the water. Simmer, covered for one hour.

Serve hot and enjoy.

Extract from the ‘Exotic Cuisines of Mauritius’ by Philippe Lenoir and Raymond de Ravel (translated by Maryse de Broglio-Sand). Published by Editions de l’Océan Indien (EoI) –

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