

**L'Union
fait
La Force**



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

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At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

Editor: Peter Chellen (Former Editor of Mauritius News 1983 - 2015)

A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

The Memory and Legacy of the Girmityas are Pillars of our National Heritage, says PM



The Coolies and their descendants doing the back-breaking job on the sugar plantations

The painful labour on the plantations was first done by the slaves brought to the island by the French settlers who would themselves not do such arduous work. In Europe, to this day, farming is done by the white people themselves. This is an area which has not been entrusted to migrants because land ownership is the core of their attachment to their motherland. But once settled in Mauritius, the people of French origin who owned the agricultural land and the sugar mills brought free labour from Africa to do the back-breaking job on the plantations.

When slavery was proscribed under British colonisation of Mauritius, the emancipated Africans did not want to continue to work on the plantations which they associated with their past enslaving conditions. They wanted to become, as some of their more fortunate fellow slaves, manual workers like carpenters, blacksmith, masons, electricians etc. Some were even recruited in the local police and were given uniforms, but had to go barefeet as shoes were not available for them then.

Once the emancipated Africans refused to work on the plantations of Mauritius, the British rulers had a big problem on their hands. Before long they turned to India to import cheap labour. Indian labourers, known as coolies, were encouraged or even tricked to come to Mauritius to work on the plantations. By George, they came in numbers to constitute today the largest section of the Mauritian population.

This present situation begs two important questions: (a) who is responsible for the fact the Indo-Mauritian community is the largest constituent of the population of Mauritius? and (2) what would have happened to the economy of Mauritius if the coolies did not come to work on the plantations? If we talk of malaise in Mauritius it must be borne in mind that the descendants of the coolies cannot be held responsible

for it. This sort of reasoning must be taught and debated in educational institutions of the country to dissipate any misunderstanding and racial slur.

On the occasion of the annual commemoration of the arrival of the indentured labourers from India on November 2, Prime Pravind Kumar Jugnauth laid emphasis on the major contribution of the coolies (Girmityas) to the prosperity of Mauritius. Sugar was for nearly a century- and-a-half the mainstay of the economy of the island.

One Indo-Mauritian political figure who was the first to fight for the cause of Indian labourers to improve their lot was Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. "In 1935 he returned to Mauritius after completing his medical studies in London and Seewoosagur worked to improve the living and working conditions of the bulk of the island's population which consisted of the descendants of indentured Indian laborers and enslaved Africans." *Extract from Wikipedia.*

P.C.



The majestic statue of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on the Port Louis Waterfront

The Girmityas Legacy

Government considers the memory and legacy of the girmityas (indentured Indian labourers) in Mauritius as being one of the pillars of our national heritage along with the Le Morne Cultural Landscape and the history of the slaves, said the Prime Minister, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, at the launching of activities of GOPIO International at

Water's Edge Banquet Hall, in Ilot.

The Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr Alan Ganoo, the Attorney General, Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mr Maneesh Gobin, the Minister of Labour, Human Resource Devel-

opment and Training, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection, Mr Soodesh Satkam Callichurn, the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Mrs Nandini Singla, the president of GOPIO International, Mr Mookhesswur Choonee, and other personalities were present. The Prime Minister was offered a book by Mr Anand Mulloo, as well as a Souvenir Shield, on that occasion.

To Page 2



PM Pravind Jugnauth

From Page One

GOPIO, recalled Prime Minister Jugnauth in his address, was set up about 30 years ago and has grown to become an international organisation that is playing an increasingly important role today and contributes in increased interactions between Indian communities outside India thus promoting the common culture and heritage of people of Indian origin.

For him, the links between our connected communities are built around our Indian roots and traditions. We share values that India

tion and contribute in passing on heritage from one generation to the next with great success. **GOPIO also celebrates**

the Aapravasi Divas each year on 02 November at the site where the first batch of indentured labourers who came to Mauritius were sent to work, he recalled.

Such commemorations, he opined, help to keep alive the memory and legacy of the girmitiyas as the indentured labourers who worked in the sugarcane fields were known. To pay tribute to the girmitiyas Government decided in 2001 to proclaim the 02 November as a public holiday. It was on a 2nd of Novem-

was held in July 2021 to kick-off the project and brought together countries that have experienced the mi-

every country of the world and what is interesting is we are also the country with the largest number of migrants going out of India every year, she said.



Descendants of indentured labourers in above picture and in that on the right re-enact the arrival of the first Indian migrants to Mauritius in the 1830s

has always stood for: peace, pluralism, progress and universal brotherhood, he emphasised.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Indian Government for organising every year the Pravasi Bharati Divas, an annual convention that brings together people of the global Indian Diaspora and provides a platform to keep alive our cultural and historical legacy. In Mauritius, the Government has always ensured that the necessary support is given to each group to enable to preserve and promote their ancestral and cultural languages, he pointed out.

Mauritius, underscored Mr Jugnauth, is fortunate to be a multicultural country where citizens share many common values such as solidarity and mutual respect. Throughout the years we have been able to uphold the spirit of brotherhood and forge national unity out of our diversity, he indicated.

The Prime Minister moreover expressed appreciation to GOPIO for organising festivals and events that focus on cultural and social promo-

ber 1834 that 36 Indian immigrant pioneers reached the Mauritian shores at the place we now call Aapravasi Ghat, said the Prime Minister.

The values and culture that these men, women and children carried with them when they left their homes to work in sugarcane estates in Mauritius need to be preserved for the benefit of future generations, he stressed.

Immigrants, said the Prime Minister, experienced the bitterness of indentured servitude but showed remarkable moral strength to adapt to the rigours of the plantation regime. They achieved advancements socially, economically and politically in a relatively short period of time, he observed. Their perseverance and hard work can inspire and motivate all the citizens of our country, he highlighted.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the remarkable work being done to set up an indentured labour route project which will complement the slave route project.

An inter-ministerial virtual meeting



gration of indentured labour in the 19th and mid 20th centuries, he pointed out. The project was presented to the UNESCO in October 2014.

The objective of the indentured labour route project is to establish a network of persons and institutions that will disseminate knowledge about the indentured system as well as the history and culture of its descendants, he said. That route will strive to contribute in nation-building and create a greater understanding amongst peoples and societies across the indentured Diaspora, he added.

As the population of most countries continues to decline the workforce of the world will come from that one country which has the biggest demographic dividend in the world today that is India, she underscored.

As for Mr Choonee, he retraced the history of indentured labourers in Mauritius who discovered their new homeland in dire and inhuman circumstances and toiled day and night with sheer hard work and with discipline and tolerance they adapted to their new surroundings while preserving their cultural and religious rituals, traditions, foods and spices and festivals.



A modern-day Indian sugarcane planter tidying his field himself. The industry suffers from a shortage of sugarcane cutters and is now forced to make use of machines to do the job. It may be said that the industry has come full circle

For her part, the Indian High Commissioner, highlighted that GOPIO is the biggest Diaspora organisation of the whole world and was set up in the United States in 1989.

The Indian Diaspora is the largest Diaspora in the world and there are more than 30 million people living in nearly

GOPIO International is a non-partisan Global Organisation engaged in the promotion of the Non-Resident Indians and of the People of Indian Origin and its focus lies on the their socio-cultural and economic development, in the spirit of 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam: the world is one family'.

Source: GIS

Book Review by Prega Vencatasawmy

BEHIND ENEMY LINES WITH THE SAS THE STORY OF AMÉDÉE MAINGARD - SOE AGENT

PAUL McCUE (210 PAGES)

This book, published in 2007, written superbly by Paul McCue, commissioned by the Alain Antelm, nephew, and with the tacit support of the Maingard family

In 1939, young Mauritian Amédée Maingard (known as Dédé) studying in London volunteered to join the British Army. As he was a British subject and, impelled by his strong historical and ancestral attachment to France, he decided, after a difficult spell in the infantry, to become part of the Special Operations Executive, (SOE), the brainchild of Winston Churchill in order 'to set Europe ablaze'.

This book charts Dédé's journey in the army and his subsequent military decorations, not to mention his massive contribution to the Mauritian tourist industry and his expertise towards the birth of Air Mauritius.

According to one note, Dédé received or organised 55 dropping operations and similar other records, 125 landings or supply drops, involving 4000 containers and packages in France. He was an extremely intelligent, very competent, and very fit in the army.

He proved himself capable to cope extremely well under duress and on the battlefield, conducting clandestine raids. He worked hard until he became Major Amédée Maingard DSO at the end of the war. Bilingual and at ease in English and French, especially during his posting in France. He was liked and appreciated by his superiors.

The book also mentions two other Mauritians who joined the SOE with Dédé, Jean Larcher and Marcel Rousset, decorated with the military cross before returning to Mauritius. Incidentally, he was made Chevalier de la légion d'honneur by France for service rendered and in recognition for his bravery.

Equally, another Mauritian, Marcel Rousset, qualified radio operator, dropped in France in 1943 was unfortunately captured by the Gestapo in Paris but evaded. Later, after liberation, was awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre avec Palme.

I had the good fortune to scrutinize his military dossier at the archives and, believe me, Amédée Maingard had a very impressive record as a soldier in the British army and also in defeating the Nazis while collaborating with French resistance, driven by his love for the land of his ancestors!

He was decorated by both the British and French governments.

Returning to Mauritius, Maingard was instrumental in developing our Tourist Industry, still in its infancy, and the taking off (excuse the pun !) of Air Mauritius - which grew from strength to strength in becoming the envy of many countries!

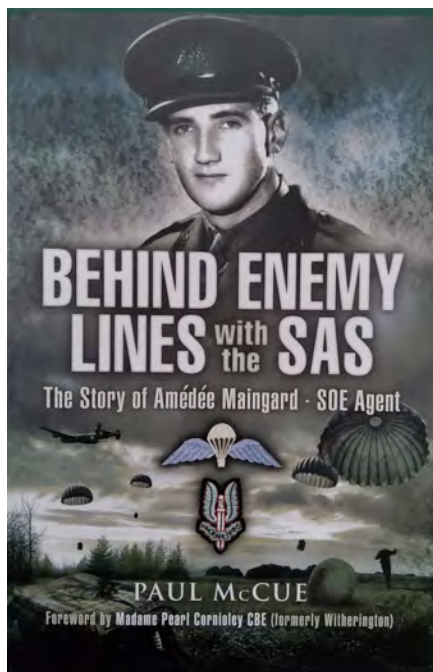
When Dédé died in 1981, the Times of London inserted this obituary note:

7 February 1981, Maurice Southgate, a colleague in the army wrote "He was swift, moving and calm tempered, high spirited, but never sullen, a splendid friend and a deadly enemy "

I have also read the book of Jan Maingard, Samuel, which attests his brave and heroic contribution in the army with copious amount of photos and letters.

Therefore, every Mauritian should be proud and feel patriotic towards Amédée Maingard for what he achieved and making Mauritius well known to others.

We salute ce fils du sol !



Book launch of Behind Eenemy Lines

Behind Enemy Lines was launched at the Waterstone's bookshop in Clapham Junction, South London, in 2007, and I had the pleasure of having my copy signed by author Paul McCue.

In his review of Behind Enemy Lines in the previous column, Prega Vencatasawmy makes mention of Amédée Maingard's expertise towards the birth of Air Mauritius.

As a matter of fact, as we have stated before, Amédée Maingard was the founder of Air Mauritius in 1967 on an initiative of the then Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam (SSR).

A man of great vision for the future of Mauritius SSR envisaged in 1967 to provide Mauritius with a national airline.

Such a project was considered as far-fetched by many Mauritians especially by the right-wing element of the country bashing the government on the eve of the island's accession to independence.

But SSR knew what he wanted. The 1960s may be known as the Charter Flights era providing cheaper flights to Mauritius from the UK. Mauritians newly-settled in the UK wanted to come home for their holidays, especially the thousands who had gone for nurse training and to join the NHS as nurses.

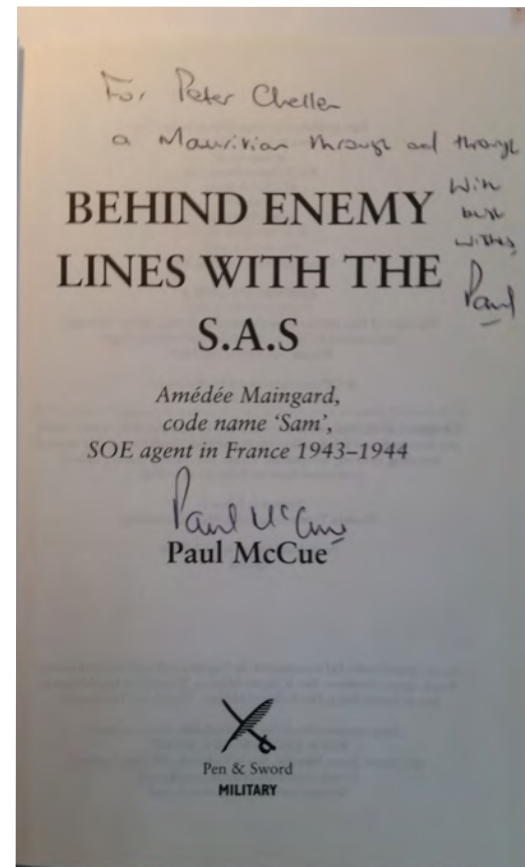
There was at least one charter flight, and at times even two, every week. Landing permits issued by the Ministry of Works and Internal Columniations headed by Sir Harold Walter needed the blessing of PM SIR to whom the expatriates appealed all the time. The charter flights had become so lucrative that voluntary organisations were springing up like mushrooms in the UK with reps in Mauritius to request the special landing permit from the Mauritius Government.

Such requests were causing a lot of headache not only to the Mauritius Government but also to the airlines operating on the Mauritius route, like Air France, BOAC (now BA), Alitalia, Lufthansa etc. Air France and BA were represented by Rogers & Co as their General Sales Agent. Those airlines saw their regular flights to Mauritius greatly affected by those cheaper flights. Expatriates were coming to London from France, Italy and Germany to catch the charter flights at Gatwick and Stansted to go to Mauritius.

It was then that SSR thought of having an airline for Mauritius. Many thought it was neither feasible nor viable and laughed at the ludicrous idea.

In 1967, Mauritius was still a British country and would be independent in March 1968. The island relied solely on sugar revenue that was inflated by guaranteed British patronage. Those against independence were creating political tensions in the country and race riots exploded in January 1968, three months before independence celebration.

It was under these circumstances that colonial Mauritius created a national airline in 1967. But SSR and his Government



could not do it by themselves. For help, SSR had the audacity to turn to his chum at Rogers & Co: Louis Pierre Rene "Amédée" Maingard de la Ville-ès-Offrans. The name itself tells us that Amédée Maingard belonged to one of the oldest families among the original French settlers with immense wealth. The Maingards were among the major shareholders of Rogers.

Amédée Maingard listened to SSR and said Why Not? He wanted to name the airline "Air Maurice", but a small travel agency run by the Davis brothers, charter flights operators themselves, had already appropriated the name. Mr Maingard and SSR had to settle for the appellation of Air Mauritius for the national carrier that became a renowned world airline.

Air Mauritius has several times obtained international recognition as the Leading Indian Ocean Airline. Even in the wake of the pandemic the airline received the trophy of the World Travel Award Winner 2021 at the World Travel Market in London.



**SSR found a listening ear from
Amédée Maingard**

Asda Drivers Chaos

By Yvonne Goder-Persand



Over the years, it has emerged people have been complaining over Asda drivers crashing into either their homes for example their fences and walls as well as their parked cars.

This seems to be an ongoing increasing problem in the past 5 years that you may find yourself involved in this nightmare predicament completely of no fault of your own and there is not much protection. It appears even Home Insurance is useless in this situation.

Asda's own insurance and legal team are making a mess out of these valid claims which should be straightforward.

From statista.com that reports on the UK supermarket statistics it shows Asda as being the UK's third largest supermarket by sales just behind Sainsbury's in second place and Tesco's in first.

Tesco the largest UK supermarket has around 27% market share, Sainsburys is around 15%, Asda just under 15%, Morrison's at around 10%, Aldi in fifth place around 8%, The Co-operative (Co-op) just over 6%, Lidl at 6%, Waitrose at 5%, M & S Food around 3% and Iceland just over 2%. These are just rough estimates taken from May 2021. For exact percentages please resort to the website.

Therefore, it is expected that Asda treats these claims seriously as the third largest supermarket in the UK.

Due to the pandemic, maybe more customers are ordering online especially those deemed as vulnerable. Maybe this is the reason for more home deliveries equalling more crashes. It maybe Asda drivers are working longer hours, under more pressure to deliver food more quickly, hiring less qualified drivers or Asda not providing adequate training.

Whatever, the reason behind all these cases being reported, as the third largest UK supermarket, they are expected to deal with these cases more professionally and promptly. This behaviour is uncalled for and quite shocking. It is also odd their drivers are crashing into so many stationary objects.

The last few years, there has been an growing amount of complaints with Asda drivers and how they are dealing with these cases with delays and lack of communication. It is believed Asda's insurance previously were Gallagher Bassett and they are now using insurance company DAC Beachcroft.

On Twitter @Cakes_in_Essex reports on 22nd July, 2021 'I've been waiting a year my house has been damaged by an Asda van, 2 useless companies dealing with my claim now passed to Asda and again no response. I've got damp

Third-Party Administrator that are outsourced by insurance companies to deal with claims such as these for example.

On 13/10/2021, @ClashMagazine Twitter wrote 'So...@ASDA crashed into CLASH van & drove off leaving no contact info. We tracked down registration plate & driver ourselves - Asda offered £25 voucher? Vehicle a mess & ASDA insurance @DACBeachcroft do not return calls. What should we do & what should we spend £25 voucher on?'

We hope these cases are resolved soon. These are definitely interesting cases. We can



Parked Van that Asda driver said to have hit

only recommend some useful contacts.

Useful contacts:

BBC Watchdog:

Email: watchdog@bbc.co.uk

Twitter: @BBCWatchdog

Post: Watchdog, 1st Floor, BBC Dock House, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2LH

C4 (Channel 4) Dispatches:

Call or text: +44 (0)7393 558 101

Email: c4investigations@itn.co.uk

Post: Investigations Team, Channel 4 News (ITN), 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8XZ

Contact your local MP:

<https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>



A wall Asda driver reported to have crashed into

Since 2017, Aldi overtook the Co-Op to take fifth place in the UK supermarket shares whilst Lidl overtook Waitrose to become 7th. It is also appearing Lidl will soon overtake the Co-Op to gain 6th place. Tesco's, Sainsburys, Asda and Morrison's are known as the big four supermarket retailers in the UK making around 70% of sales.

in my house. And my house looks shocking. Good luck getting anywhere!

This was a response to @marthas228 '...Started the claim with @gbtpa and moved to @DACBeachcroft and not a dicky bird, wonder if @AsdaServiceTeam knows what a complete sham it is.' @gbtpa is Gallagher Bassett TPA. TPA is an abbreviation for a

karen @marthas228 · 4 Jun
@Cakes_in_Essex yep! Started the claim with @gbtpa and moved to @DACBeachcroft and not a dicky bird, wonder if @AsdaServiceTeam knows what a complete sham it is!

Melie melie @Cake... · 4 Jun
Replying to @marthas228 and @DACBeachcroft

I am so stressed out! Especially when not our fault! Was yea an Asda claim too?

Social media complaints

Mauritian conmen/woman receive prison sentence in UK

In our Issue No 8 we highlighted the case of three UK Mauritians, two males, Sandeeren (Jason) Mareemootoo, and André Allen Vincatassin, and one female Marie Yiliana Hengari who were convicted at the Snaresbrook Crown Court for swindling, kidnapping and sequestering an elderly Mauritian lady, 83-years-old Mrs Anodin, formerly of Forest Gate, East London.

According to alleged information, Mrs Anodin had the misfortune of giving free accommodation to Mareemootoo in return for some care and who took control of her bank account and debit card. It is said that Mareemootoo paraded Mrs Anodin as his mother/grandmother.

Leading a grand lifestyle, Mareemootoo over a period time had allegedly swindled Mrs Anodin of all her savings and income. According to allegations, with the help of alleged accomplices, Yiliana Hengari (Mareemootoo's partner) and Allen Vincatassin, President of the UK Chagos Council based at Crawley, some 50 miles from London, Mareemootoo fraudulently sold the house of Mrs Anodin at Forestgate, worth several thousands pounds and pocketed the money.

Homeless Mrs Anodin was taken by the swindlers to be sequestered at Crawley. *Le pot aux roses* was discovered when Mrs Anodin's son in Mauritius, not receiving any information from her mother, came to England to find out what was happening.

He obtained help and support from Bushan Deepchand of Lambeth Solicitors who took up the case, free of charge. The trio were convicted by the Crown Court of fraud, intention to defraud, abuse of confidence and sequestration. Mareemootoo has been sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment, Vincatassin to 4 years and Hengari to 3 years.

Mrs Anodin passed away in Mauritius in June last. While she is gone, the criminals will still have their lives ahead of them. Have they got any leftover to enjoy later?

Lambeth Solicitors contemplate further action

In his facebook account, Bushan Deepchand of Lambeth Solicitors writes: *The bank may have failed in their duty of care towards Mrs Anodin by failing to protect her from suspicious, fraudulent or unusual transactions. The bank maintain a profile for each client and knows how their account are being run. If anything suspicious arises they should trigger preventive measures to limit the damages which they have failed to do in her case.*

This is the beginning of another chapter in the quest for a justice for Mrs Anodin



André Allen Vincatassin
President of the UK Chagos Council



Mother & Son ?

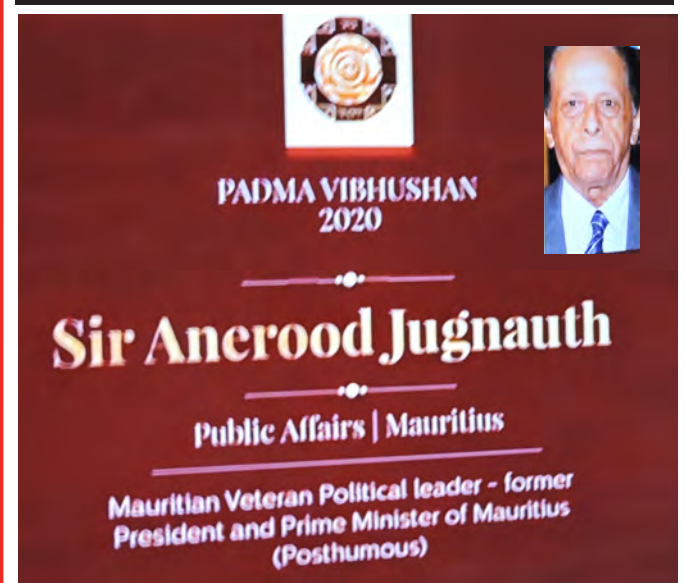
Fake Virus Alarm on Facebook



Two Mauritian nationals disguised as nurses staged a show on Facebook to create the false impression that the Covid situation is alarming in Mauritius and beyond control. Police have arrested the bloke below i.c.w. this offence



India makes posthumous Award to SAJ



Lady Sarojini Jugnauth receiving the Award from Indian President Ram Nath Kovind on behalf of her late husband

The Rodrigues Newsletter

*From Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin*



Rodrigues is an island in the Indian Ocean about 350 miles to the East of Mauritius. It is roughly 13 miles long and 3 miles wide, and the population about 41,000.

Until October 2021 there had been no cases of Covid-19 on Rodrigues

As I write, this the Island is facing some tough choices, all related to the situation dictated by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In October the Quarantine protocol in place for all arrivals on the repatriation flights was changed from 14 days in quarantine in Mauritius prior to flight to Rodrigues, to 7 days quarantine in Rodrigues (with no quarantine prior to flight).

Almost immediately Covid positive cases were reported among those who had arrived from Mauritius under this new protocol and up to 10 of these folks were admitted to a new and specialized facility set up on the island for this purpose to receive treatment.

As I write, we are informed that 6 of those taken ill with Covid after arriving in Rodrigues are still there.

Up to now, there have been no reported cases of Covid infections apart from those who arrived from Mauritius on the repatriation flights in October.

A deadline of November 1 had been set for the opening of the Border with Mauritius. But after this bad experience, doubts began to circulate widely on the island as to the wisdom of this restart to commercial flights,

and so, after reflection and consultation, the date is now November 15th.

The reason given is, firstly, that the Covid situation in Mauritius does not seem to be improving with many more deaths and infections every day, and secondly, the possible spread of a 'Delta' variant there.

Meanwhile two more repatriation flights under the new protocol are due here on Saturday 6th November.

Not everyone is happy, and for many of the population and those in the unenviable position of making the decisions, the question is, what to do for the best?

Open up and bear the consequences of a probable spread of the Virus on the Island, or stay isolated and see part of the Island's economy in suspense.

Not all of the population has been vaccinated. Teenagers are soon to be included in a vaccination programme when the ordered Pfizer Vaccine gets here in November.

There has been no programme to start a third jab for the most vulnerable, or a booster jab for others.

The Islands Medical Services, good but basic, are only now having to be adapted to the needs of a pandemic.

Rodrigues has a developing tourism Industry, which is at a standstill at the moment, and the government is trying to employ those affected with alternative

work.

This whole situation of course affects us greatly at Care-Co. We have 18 people with disabilities on the Payroll, and at the moment we are dependent on gifts and CSR grants to pay their wages.

The income from sales has all but completely dried up. No sales and no work, even though up to now we have made every effort to keep going.

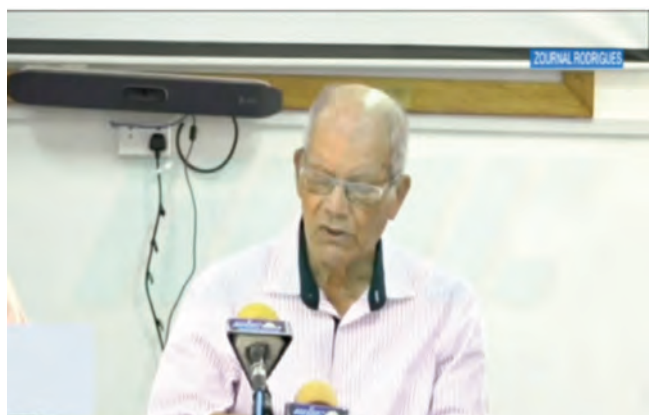
Our GPL Centre for children with disabilities observes all the Health Protocols in force, and the situation there is as normal as possible.

On Thursday October 28th all the children (62) and teachers (8) went for an excursion in a hired bus (sponsored by the Commission for Education).

Firstly we went to the Wildlife Project at Grande Montagne where there is a vast conservation programme in force to re-introduce indigenous plants and trees and now with Tortoises introduced from the Francois Leguat Nature Reserve who have done a remarkable job in setting up the Tortoise Reserve there. We finished the trip at a very nice restaurant.

Such trips and excursions would be a real risk if the Virus starts to spread on Rodrigues.

We send our greetings to all who receive this NEWS and trust you are all dealing with the Covid related situations and getting prepared for the Christmas and New Year festivities. 2021-22.



Rodrigues Commissioner Serge Clair confirming the resumption of flights from Mauritius to be effective from November 15 instead of November 1.

All arriving passengers from Mauritius will have to be in confinement for a period of seven days in Rodrigues at their own expense.

The government will bear the confinement cost of those in need.

Bazar Rodriq



Rodrigues Market is a favourite place of attraction for overseas visitors. Various sanitary measures are being put in place to prevent the spreading of Covid-19. There will be only one entrance and one exit. All visitors will wear masks, hand-sanitised, and forbidden to move in groups.

From Prega Vencatasawmy's F/B Posts

WHO IS SCARED OF CULTURE? A SCIENTIFIC THEORY OF CULTURE

By Raymond Chasle

Raymond Chasle had begun legitimizing the need for a culture theory by demonstrating that the currents of thought that went through philosophy and science hindered the emergence of a unified conception of culture.

Raymond Chasle was born on July 18, 1930 and died on March 24, 1996, in Mauritius during his stay in his native island.

Dean of OAU and ACP ambassadors in Brussels, Raymond Chasle was the main ACP negotiator of the cultural and social cooperation component of the Lomé Convention.

The depth of his poetry, his writer and polemist skills, helped to base the fame of this great Southern diplomat whose global culture embraced the entire field of human activities.



Who was Raymond Chasle?

Raymond Chasle was without any doubt the Father of Mauritius Diplomatic Service

Raymond Chasle, a graduate in French, began his academic career as an Education Officer at the Royal College Curepipe.

He was subsequently seconded for duty to what was known then as the Secretariat, Government House, in Port Louis to be the Establishment Secretary, in charge of the all government employees of the country. In colonial days, the Establishment Secretary was the actual Head of the Mauritius Civil Service, next in rank to English expatriate Ffreebairn Simpson, the Secretary to the Cabinet.

In August 1964, four years before the island's independence, the British Government knowing that Mauritius was heading towards independence, posted Raymond Chasle to London to set up the Mauritius Commission (Not a High Commission yet) for training of staff in diplomatic practice to pave the way for a fully-fledged Diplomatic Service by the time would be independent in the next four years. By this very gesture, it can be argued that Britain was fully conscious of the fact Mauritius was on the way to total independence, whether the Chagos would be retained or not by Britain. It may also be argued that since independence for Mauritius was a matter-of-fact in the course of time, there was no need for SSR to sell the Chagos Archipelago for independence, on which books have been written by one and all to prove the contrary.

On Independence Day on March 14, 1968, Mauritius became an independent country and Mauritius's London diplomatic office attained the High Commission status.

Mission accomplie for Raymond Chasle in London. He was transferred to Paris to set up the Mauritius Embassy in France and subsequently to Brussels to set up the Mauritius Embassy in Belgium with accreditation to the EEC. Mr Chasle's negotiations with the EEC for the country's sugar protocol is simply legendary.

Raymond Chasle never received any decoration for his outstanding service to Mauritius and abroad. The Ministry of External Affairs was yet to be created. The High Commission etc were under the control of the Prime Minister's Office. In those days, the Mauritius Civil Service was rife with jealousy and back-stabbing. There were those at home, close to SSR, who were vying for the PM's favour, did a lot to bring Raymond Chasle into disfavour. It can be said they did succeed and it's not surprising that he received no recognition when any Tom, Dick and Harry could get an MBE then.

In the same breath, we may mention Dr Kissoonsingh Hazareesingh, Private Secretary to SSR, who was never decorated.

Dr Hazareesingh may be regarded as the most outstanding Mauritian civil servant of all times: From Labour Commissioner at the Labour Department he moved over to set up the Social Welfare Department as its first Commissioner on the same premises at Immigration Square. He moved over to SILWF building at Edith Cavell Street to create the Central Information Office (CIO) as its first Director. He became the first director of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) at Moka, and was instrumental in the creation of the Editions de l'Océan Indien at Rose Hill. Dr Hazareesingh was an outstanding innovator as a Civil Servant. He ended his career as the Private Secretary to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Why was he never decorated? The same dark forces were at work to bring him down.

Mauritius taken off the Grey List of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Mauritius takes great comfort in the fact that it has been taken off the Grey List of Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The country has proved to the investigators that it is a reliable financial centre which complies with all the requirements to prevent money laundering and international financial frauds by local and foreign investors. Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth is confident that Mauritius will equally be removed from the European Union Black List.

Mauritius was put on the list by FATF in February 2020, and that had a significant impact on its credibility as a prudent and compliant jurisdiction
by Ashley Coutinho | Mumbai

The inclusion in the grey list may have created a negative perception towards Mauritius globally, said experts

Mauritius has been taken off the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards, while acknowledging the progress the island nation had made in its fight against money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT) in the past few months.

FATF has retained Pakistan in the grey list, saying the country had made good progress in tackling most of the action plans, but needs to further demonstrate that investigations are being pursued against senior leaders of terror groups and organised criminals are being prevented from profiteering.

Mauritius was put on the list by FATF in February 2020, and that had a significant impact on its credibility as a prudent and compliant jurisdiction. This list is often referred to as the "grey list". Jurisdictions under increased monitoring actively work with the FATF to address strategic deficiencies.

Subsequently, the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, included Mauritius in its revised list of high-risk countries with strategic deficiencies in their AML/CFT frameworks.

The inclusion in the grey list may have created a negative perception towards Mauritius globally, said experts.

"The exit will reinvigorate the global business sector and enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of Mauritius as a domicile of choice for cross-border investments into Asia and Africa," said Rama Sithanen, chairman of Sanne Mauritius. "It will now pave the way for the EU and the UK to take Mauritius off their list of high-risk countries."

Mauritius' whitelisting would be a boon for several investment funds, especially India dedicated ones. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had rejected a few applications for NBFC licences last year as the investments were routed through Mauritius. At present, any FPI from Mauritius can only acquire voting rights of an NBFC not exceeding 20 per cent of the total shareholding.

"Most custodian banks, pursuant to the inclusion of Mauritius in the FATF grey list, had put the country as 'high risk'. The threshold for the determination of the UBO was fixed at 10 per cent. This is most likely going to be done away with but the call is still with the custodians," said Anand Singh, co-founder, Wilson Financial Services.

Some of the large limited partners, or LPs, had expressed concern on investing in a fund that is domiciled in an FATF grey listed country. "The whitelisting would significantly boost the investment morale of such funds,"

Soon after its inclusion in the grey list, one of the large foreign custodians operating in India had put a halt on trades from Mauritius, raising concerns that all fresh registrations and purchases routed through Mauritius would be stopped.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), however, later clarified that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from Mauritius would remain eligible for registration, but with increased monitoring.

Lecture by Professor Philippe Sands on Chagos Archipelago: The Last British Colony in Africa at the Charles Telfair Campus, in Moka

The initiative is a joint collaboration of the Prime Minister's Office and the Charles Telfair Centre.

Representatives from the public and private sectors, Non-governmental Organisations, the academia and students, attended the lecture. Mauritius' Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, and the Head of the Charles Telfair Centre, Dr Myriam Blin, were present on the occasion.

The lecture focused on the history of the Chagos Archipelago, the forceful deportation of its population and the legal proceedings undertaken to fight against United Kingdom's unlawful occupation of the Islands.

During the lecture, Professor Philippe Sands also presented the testimony of a deported Chagossian and dwelt on the right of return of all Chagossians to their native land.

In a statement, Mr. Philippe Sands expressed optimism as regards the unfolding of matters for Mauritius as regards its fight for its complete decolonisation and attaining sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

According to him, it is clear that Mauritius from a legal point of view, namely as per the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) along with the rulings of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and United Nations General Assembly, has full sovereignty over the Islands.

He remarked that on the diplomatic and political fronts, Mauritius benefits

from the support of most countries, to the exception of two important countries, namely the UK and US, which so far have not recognised the legal reality.

Furthermore, he opined that it is the time for all Mauritians to recognise that colonialism has ended and that Mauritius has attained success as an independent country, which he emphasised, is a matter of pride.

All Mauritian citizens should remain united against the big nations which is a way to ascertain that colonisation is over and that they will gain sovereignty over the country's complete territory, said Professor Philippe Sands.

He also spoke about the key issue that concerns the young generation regarding the Chagos Archipelago, that is the environment and fight against climate change.

On that score, he lauded Government's reiteration of its firm determination to ensure the environmental protection of the Islands.

In her opening address, the Head of the Charles Telfair Centre, Dr Myriam Blin, underlined that it is an honour for the institution to host this lecture and that as a knowledge platform it aims to bring together diverse contributors from various backgrounds to discuss key issues pertinent to Mauritius and the region.

She asserted that the Charles Telfair Centre provides a platform which is non-partisan, multidisciplinary and has established itself as a reference for thought-provoking, reliable and diverse



knowledge. The geopolitics of the Indian ocean and the sustainable management of the Indian ocean lie at the heart of our key themes, she pointed out.

As for Mauritius' Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, he underlined that the Chagos issue is of national interest. He stated that there is a general consensus among all political parties, that Mauritius has to keep going so that it exercises full sovereignty over the Islands.

He spoke of the different stages the country went through to bring the matter to the UN General Assembly, so that Mauritius won votes of 94 against 15, to ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the Chagos Archipelago.

He recalled that Mr. Sands is a professor of law at University College London and also the lead counsel for Mauritius on the ICJ case.

Source: GIS

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The Disappearing Chrysanthemum Throne

by Mylene From Japan



On 26 October Princess Mako, the niece of Emperor Naruhito married her fiancé, Kei Komuro. There was no fanfare, no traditional ceremonies, neither will she accept the one-off payment granted to royals who leave the imperial household.

Her four-year engagement to Kei, a commoner, was embroiled in scandal, public protest and uncalled for scrutiny from the tabloids.

Her wedding has again shone a light on the archaic and backward-looking Imperial House of Japan. Under Japanese law, when a princess marries a commoner she is permanently excluded from the Imperial household and so are her children. On the other hand, women who marry a royal automatically become accepted members of the family.

It hasn't always been the case that only males can succeed. In the past women have sat on the Chrysanthemum Throne, the last to do so was Empress Go-Momozono, who abdicated in 1771. During the Meiji Restoration (1868 - 1889) a time of renewal and reform Japan decided to adopt the Prussian model of Imperial Succession. Under this rule, princesses were excluded from inheriting the throne.

This means would-be-emperors are few and far between. The current Emperor (61) has an only daughter, Princess Aiko. His brother Prince Akishino (55) is next to succeed him followed by his only son Prince Hisahito of Akishino (15). The third in line is 85year old, Prince Hitachi who can be ruled out because of his great age. Hardly a long list.

If the Chrysanthemum Throne is to continue, the law has to change to allow women the right to succession.

As for the newly-wed Mrs Komuro, she has left the only home she has ever known, never to return. As soon as official documents are in place she will start a new life in New York with her husband.

— o — o —

What is National Westminster Bank thinking?

Nat West is offering 24/7 video chat to their customers.

Imagine: You could discuss getting a mortgage or taking out a loan at 2 a.m.

Of course, you have to book in advance. I can only think of bored insomniacs taking them up on their offer.

Pandemic sanitary measures re-enforced

Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth announced on TV that sanitary measures already in place will be firmly applied and penalties imposed by the authorities from 12 November to 7 December.

This action on the part of the authorities has been proved necessary owing to the increase in the number of people affected by the Coronavirus during the last few days from November 1, especially during the long weekend holidays. There has been a serious attitude of carelessness on the part of a large number of people, especially regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing.

New measures to be rigorously observed are educational establishments at all levels will be closed and courses will be available online. Seaside picnics will no longer be allowed. Group activities of not more than 50 persons, including weddings etc.



Chrysanthemum Throne

World Travel Market 2021



wtm
LONDON



Mauritius Stand (or Platform more like it) at the 2021 World Travel Market (WTM)

The World Travel Market 2021 was held at the usual venue, ExCel London, from November 1 to 3.

It was very much a low-key exhibition this year compared the grand scale participation of past exhibitions prior to the pandemic. The exhibition did not even take place last year and the venue was turned into a quarantine quarters catering for Covid-19 cases.

There have been numerous cancellations by exhibitors this year. Many big countries like Australia and New Zealand did not take part and closer to us neither The Seychelles nor La Reunion was there.



Mauritius had a stand where few tour operators and hotel reps were available to market their products.

Present at the Mauritius stand were officials from the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) Nilen Vencadasamy, Chairman, (pictured left) and Arvind Bundhun, Director (pictured right).

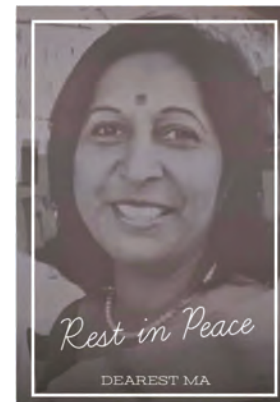
P.C.



In spite of all the setbacks, grounded and In & Out of Administration, the national airline won the World Travel Award 2021 at the World Travel Market



Obituary



Mrs Chandranee Buckhory (born Boolell) passed away in Port Louis on 28 October 2021 at the age of 87. Mrs Buckhory was the mother of Sanjay from whose Facebook post above picture is picked up.

I was well acquainted with Mrs Buckhory as our paths did cross at some stage in the Civil Service.

Through the London-based Mauritius News I had dealings with her when she was at the MGTO.

I met her again a few years ago at the Gayasing Ashram in Port Louis where she devoted some time to the disabled and elderly inmates.

Mrs Buckhory was a soft-spoken person indicating compassion.

P.C.

Recent Deaths announcement in Mauritius

Sooneeta Jugroo (born Bundhoo) (64) passed away on 06.07.21
Chandane Buckhory (born Boolell) (87), Port Louis on >>>
Rody Denis Fidèle (22), Port Louis on 04.10.21
Mrs Selvon Sylvie Ponisamy (born Naranayan) 05.08.21
Chit Dukhira (83) - 20.09.21
Amoodalingum (Ambou) Patten (95) - 19.09.2, Port Louis
Mrs Koy-Youne Cheong San sang (born Sew Fu Wing) (91) - 16.10.21 - Port Louis
Mme Marie Marguerite Nicole Carmagnole - 09.10.21 - Quatre Bornes
Henry Edward Toolsy (Tino) (90) - 09.10.21
Harrydeo (Prem) Raddhoa (72) - 01.10.21
Shri Vishnu Dawon (Amanath) (67) 26.09.21 - Vieux Grand Port
Retnon (Tamby) Pyneandee (88) - 10.08.21 - Moka
Sylvain Michel (97) - 28.09.21 - Perth, Australia
Claude Lo Shun Sing (74) - 25.09.21
Mrs Praveena Roay (Pin) (66) 20.10.21

IS MAURITIUS ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT?



By
Ahmad Macky

This article from Ahmad Macky was first published in the Sunday Times (Mauritius) in April 2018 under his signature.

To what extent can we say its contents are still valid three years later?

Although it is nearly 54 years since Mauritius gained Independence, we are still very much a dependent nation in many ways. This is seen more starkly in the economic sphere where all Finance Ministers in the past made a beeline to the World Bank for aid at the drop of a hat. Cartoonists had a field day portraying them with the begging bowl.

Needless to say that these aids were with strings attached and although the country was able to stay afloat the debt burden continued to accumulate. The vicious circle kept continuing until we used to be neck deep in debt during quite sometimes now. So in a way although the British left us they did not let go of their economic grip on the country and kept dictating to us in all spheres including governance.

True, we may have broken the shackles somewhat in the post 60 era where the country strove to assert itself vis-à-vis our colonial masters who until then had a stranglehold of not only the economy but all other facets of national life.

But even then they succeeded in making inroads into our affairs notably the economy particularly under right wing regimes who pandered to the west. Geo-politics too played its parts in the West dictating terms to small countries like Mauritius particularly during the height of the Cold War. All our governments of the past had little option but to cave into the demands imposed by the West in order to keep the country economically afloat.

Lending agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF who were acting on behalf of the West were imposing harsh conditions that not only held the country in the economic grip of the western powers but also forced it to compromise on matters of sovereignty as well. Are we forever going to be dependent on western aid and genuflect before mandarins of the World Bank? Are we economically independent? These are the questions our economists should reflect on ?.

The questions many people still keep asking are: Are we going to be perennially at the mercy of the western lending institutions or are we going to break out of the shackles? We should now start looking for regional assistance that is shorn off conditions that impinge on sovereignty. Mauritius could find itself on the brink of bankruptcy after the effect of brexit if our government adopts an attitude of “laissez aller” or “laissez faire” on our economy.

The emergence of countries such as India and China as economic super powers could well act as a countervailing force to this dominance of the West in the economies of small countries such as Mauritius. The large-scale development assistance that has been coming from China and India are signs that we can extricate ourselves from this western dominance.

Our government is trying hard to steer the economy in a new direction in an endeavour to break out of the fetters that bound us to the West all these years. The new Ministry of Good Governance seems to be a white elephant and is far from being an asset to make Mauritius prosper financially against our massive debts and our poor economy. So our country is still a long way to reach an economic miracle. No wonder why Mauritius finds itself on the EEC Black list.

Mauritius has got certain mechanism of exchange straightaway with 39 jurisdictions, essentially with the principal commercial partnership. New agreements are in the process of negotiation with new countries to elongate the list. **AHMAD MACKY**

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- We now have a prime minister who thinks melting ice caps provide 'opportunities' – just let that sink in
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It's war between Britain and France again

It's The Fish War

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, worried that the British people may be deprived of their national dish of Fish & Chips, has decided by himself that the French should no longer be allowed to fish within the British territorial waters in defiance of the Brexit agreement which he himself cooked up and signed.

And so, it's war again between France and England. The two nations have been at war during centuries in the past. Even a girl like Jeanne d'Arc had to take arms to defend her country against their invasion during the 100-years war in the 15th century. We thought that it was all over with the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 when Guillaume le Conquerant (William the Conqueror) became King of England. No Sir, there will never be peace between the two nations for as long as there are characters like Johnson to stir it up.

At the end of World War II, it was Sir Winston Churchill who recommended the creation of an association of European nations to avoid any further war. Churchill,

however, recommended that Germany be excluded, but France argued that there could be no European Council without Germany. On the other hand, attempts have been made in the past to prevent European war through the Concert of Europe, and to prevent war between France and England through the L'Entente Cordiale. Can another such attempt be successful this time?

When the European countries France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg met in Rome in 1957 to sign the treaty to create the Common Market, known as the European Economic Community (EEC), and later the European Union (EU), Britain was not part of it.

And yet Britain went on its knees for the next two decades begging admission to the EEC. In 1967 French President Charle de Gaulle bluntly said a final NON to UK membership. It was in 1973 that Prime Minister Edward Heath, under French President Georges Pompidou, succeeded to get Britain in. Heath was considered as a 'Wet' by the Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher, who succeeded

him five years later.

There have always been the Pro-Europe and the Anti-Europe elements among the Conservatives. The Anti-Europe element wanted to leave the Union and they managed to obtain a feeble majority to do so through a referendum in 2016. It took them four years of negotiations to leave for good (or for bad) in December 2020.

The pro-Europe elements among the Conservatives still believe that Britain should be part of Europe. The President of the European Movement, former Defence Secretary, Michael Hasletine, says at a lecture at the University of Nottingham that the next generation of Britishers will successfully seek to rejoin the Union.

An edited version of Mr Hasletine's lecture appeared in The Independent on November 3 and we feel that it should be widely shared. We trust that The Independent will not object that we share, hereunder, the article in our online publication.

P.C.

The Independent

The next generation will reject Brexit and the way it diminished our country – Europe will welcome us back

Michael Heseltine, Wed, 3 November 2021

Ted Heath's legacy, self-evidently, is centered around our European relationship, and it is not fanciful to suggest that his legacy has been shattered beyond recognition.

We have had "control" now for two years but, more significantly, five and a half years have passed since the EU referendum – more than enough time to plan that bonfire of controls that were said to be so damaging to our economy.

A central promise of Boris Johnson's 2019 election campaign was that electing him would enable the government to "get Brexit done". One can be forgiven now for wondering if Johnson had any idea what lay in store, as we remember the queues for petrol, are warned to buy early for Christmas, view the gaps in the supermarket shelves, wait in queues in doctors' surgeries, beg builders to spare someone to fix a leaking tap or broken window, read that well over a million European workers have gone home, and see the containers stacked up at Felixstowe.

Covid would have stretched the capabilities of any government to the extreme, but nothing reveals the nature of the relative impacts on our economy more than the assessment last week by the Office for Budget Responsibility that the long-term effects of Brexit were twice as damaging as those of Covid.

The attempt by George Eustice, secretary of state for the environment, food and rural affairs, to dismiss these findings as "old hat" fell rather flat when Nick Robinson on the Today programme pointed out that they had only been published the day before. It is important to remember that Brexit was conceived, designed and secured before the word Covid ever entered our vocabulary.

The campaign to leave the European Union was deeply divisive. It played on people's anxieties, fanned their resentments, conjured up memories of an imperial independence long since past. Specifically, it focused on several long-standing grievances. Sweeping aside the fact that many British fishermen had sold the quotas allocated to them in 1973 to European fleets, the idea of taking back control of our seas was targeted at our fishing industry. I quote the verdict of the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations: "The flags flying over our vessels had a slogan, 'Fishing, No Sell Out'. Those flags now seem prescient because that's what happened."

The common agricultural policy has been a long-standing target for the Eurosceptics. I must declare an interest here. My company has extensive agricultural and horticultural interests. Liz Truss has negotiated deals with Australia and New Zealand that, unlike virtually every other trade deal negotiated as a consequence of Brexit, are new as opposed to simply rollovers. They have a common factor: they are being phased in over a significant period of time. I have been in politics a long time; I know what that means. Someone is going to get hurt. Kick the hurt down the road, and hope it will be lost to sight in the details of an agricultural horizon still shrouded in uncertainty.

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I turn now to the effect of Brexit on the United Kingdom. We are greater together than ever we could be apart. I come from South Wales. It will always be my home. My eyes fill as the choirs sing. It never occurred to me that Wales should split from the United Kingdom. It is one of the most perverse aspects of Brexit that the very arguments its advocates used to separate from Europe are those the nationalists use to divide the United Kingdom. Brexit fuels separatism. Can anyone today claim that the United Kingdom, its monarchy and its constitution are more secure now that we have got back control?

I deplore the prospect of an independent Scotland. Its people have made such a significant contribution to what we are. The human giants in academia, engineering and culture are part of British culture. As a young schoolboy I made models of the tanks of the Black Watch fighting in the deserts of north Africa. Our defence is their defence. Brexit has handed Nicola Sturgeon one more potent weapon.

The Northern Irish situation is fragile. Debate rages about the creation and implementation of a border within the United Kingdom that we were told no prime minister could contemplate. What the government signed and what its ministers said are incompatible. There is one uncomfortable explanation: Brexit was more important than the truth. Britain's word matters, and is a key to our reputation across the world. People must believe that what we sign, we will deliver.

Huge numbers of Europeans have chosen to return to their over-regulated, too-centralised, Brussels-

dominated, sclerotic economies, leaving us with glaring holes in both our public services and the private sector. The prime minister advocates a high-wage, high-productivity economy – without explaining that the high productivity has to precede the high wages. This failure has made him the shop steward for every inflationary wage claim that will, over the coming months, lead to growing inflation, rising interest rates and falling living standards. Not quite the dividend Brexit promised. The City of London had established itself as the pre-eminent European financial centre before Brexit was a serious feature on the political agenda. Under the terms of the single market, its position was unassailable. The Brexit negotiations did not cover these crucial service industries, and companies are now forced to anticipate what discriminatory measures Europeans will adopt to shift part of this lucrative business to the continent.

In an article in the Insurance Journal it is claimed that 440 relocations have been decided, with 135 destined for Dublin, followed by Paris with 102. The prizes are obvious and we should expect to see persistent attempts to undermine our market leadership. There will be those who accuse our former partners of being cheats and worse, ignoring all the while that our talk of creating a "Singapore on Thames", slashing taxes and tearing up regulations, was designed to achieve precisely that outcome at their expense.

This brings me to another of the easy targets of the Brexiteers: regulations, coupled with images of anonymous officials in Brussels. The market knows no morality. Left to its own devices it is a jungle. Everyone for themselves. Civilisation depends on the constraints imposed by politicians to protect the weak, impose standards, and frustrate criminals.

Regulations are often intrusive and detailed, but that is because long experience has taught the officials who design them that there is a small percentage of the population with clever lawyers looking for loopholes they can exploit.

Last week it was revealed that we have the dirtiest beaches in Europe because we allow the discharge of raw sewage onto them. A group of Conservative MPs forced the government's hand. Regulations will follow. If all those facile claims for deregulation had had any validity, the chimneys of Whitehall should today be belching white smoke. At least our environment benefits from its absence.

Too much of the Remain campaign made the mistake of concentrating on detailed threats that were then all lumped together under "Project Fear" by its opponents. The argument that attracted too little attention was that which concerned the extraordinary achievements of the European Community in changing the course of the continent's history. Debate, negotiation and compromise became the essence of political behaviour. Three wars in 75 years gave birth to the founding vision that it must never happen again, and led to three-quarters of a century of peace. Twenty-seven nations sharing sovereignty, each with their own liberal democratic accountability as a condition of community membership, have turned their backs on centuries of bloodshed. Their shared political endeavour has levelled up the condition of their people and preserved the countryside.

A political entity with the resources to compete with the superpowers of the United States, China, and, shortly, India, opens horizons that would be denied to those of us dependent on national resources alone. A British voice at its heart, speaking for generations of young people about the social, commercial, cultural and environmental world of tomorrow. That was Ted's legacy.

For what purpose did we throw it all away? Does Britain stand taller in the world today? Should we not have listened to President Obama when he warned that in seeking a trade deal we would be at the back of the queue? Our relations with China are clouded by understandable disagreements. European politicians are at the wrong end of name-calling in a war of words that anyone who deals in business knows has to be overcome in order to clinch a deal. Across the world there is incomprehension at what we have done. At home there is a growing understanding that we were deceived.

I have not mentioned Nigel Farage, but I want to allow him the last quotation. "In a 52-48 referendum, this would be unfinished business by a long way." Thinking he was about to lose, he was preparing for the fight ahead. The last opinion poll I saw showed that this narrow Brexit vote has been replaced by a 10-point lead for those who took the opposite view. I agree, therefore, that it is unfinished business. It will take time. It will require energy and leadership.

There is a lesson to be learnt from the Brexiteers: they never gave up. Our purpose is clear. We must restore Britain's position in the corridors of European power. That is our natural home, and where our history lies. Any vision of our future must be built around the realities of world power. We have so much to contribute: our tolerance and fair-mindedness; a political sophistication that has converted colonies into the Commonwealth; a reputation of trust, as reliable friends. We will play our part more effectively by sharing the power and sovereignty of modern Europe.

Every Conservative prime minister for whom I have worked, since Winston Churchill himself, has understood this. Ted Heath gave substance to the words. It is sad beyond measure that this government, by contrast, will bequeath to our younger generation an empty chair, voiceless, devoid of influence over European affairs. They will come to reject such a diminished role for our country. Europe will welcome them back.

This is an edited version of Michael Heseltine's Edward Heath Lecture at the University of Nottingham

Michael Heseltine is president of the European Movement and a former defence secretary

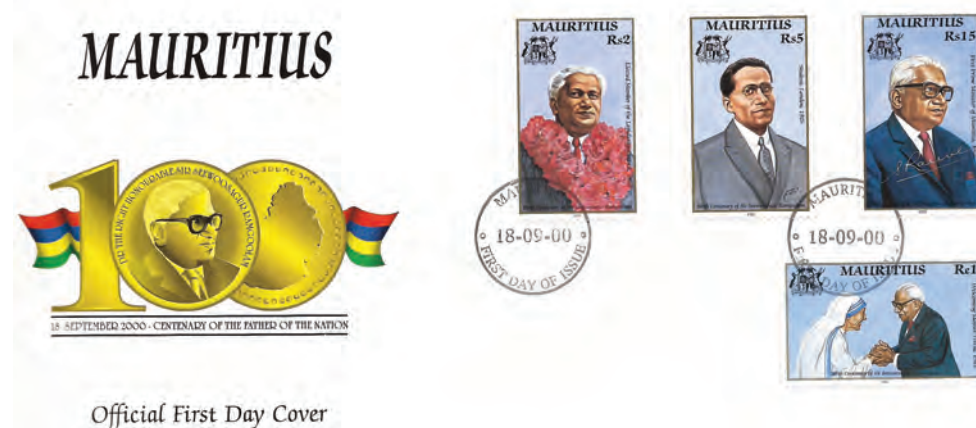
Stamps of Mauritius

Commeration of the Life of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

The First Day Cover (FDC) below was issued by The Mauritius Posts on 18 September 2000 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Birth of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, (SSR) First PM of Mauritius, who passed away in 1985.

We reproduce the FDC in this issue as, on November 2, Mauritius commemorated the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers to Mauritius 187 years ago.

As stated in a Wikipedia text "In 1935 Seewoosagur returned to Mauritius after completing his medical studies in London and he worked to improve the living and working conditions of the bulk of the island's population which consisted of the descendants of indentured Indian laborers and enslaved Africans."



The life of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam spans over almost a century and has been dedicated to the welfare of the Mauritian population at large with particular attention to the downtrodden sections of the working class.

Born on 18 September 1900 at Belle-Rive, a small village 3 kilometres from Olivia in the East of the island, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, "Kewal" for his parents and village friends, had already a dream for his country. As a boy he had witnessed the sufferings of the labourers in the village, and pledged to his friends that once he became "Governor" he would see to it that every opportunity be given to the working class for their emancipation.

This pledge has been the guiding principle throughout his career, either as a doctor, politician or statesman. He knew at the outset that education would open the doors of knowledge and that inability to read and write would restrict him in his search for knowledge.

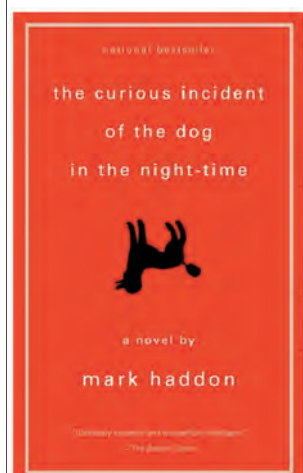
After his primary schooling in Bel Air, he was admitted to the royal College of Curepipe for his secondary education. He left Mauritius for London in 1920 to study medicine. He spent 14 years in England studying and working at the same time to fulfil his ambition of caring for the downtrodden of the population of Mauritius. He returned to Mauritius in 1935 and started his medical practice at Desforges Street in Port Louis.

During his student days, he participated in various social and political activities inspired by the Fabian Society. His mastery of literary works by English and French authors spurred his humanism which guided him throughout his lifetime. His close association with the Fabian Society sharpened his political motivation and immediately upon his return to Mauritius, he joined forces with local politicians to militate for the uplift of the less fortunate segments of society.

Nominated to represent the Hindu Community in the Legislative Assembly in 1940, his numerous interventions in the Council for the betterment of living conditions of the labourers gave him the required leverage to ask for reforms in the electoral system of Mauritius.

Known as the Father of the Nation Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam has throughout his political career from 1940 to 1982 been closely associated with the significant emancipation of the people of Mauritius and has led the struggle for independence. He inspired free health care, free secondary education, liberal labour laws, free university education, national pensions, unity among different cultures, pragmatic foreign policy, and many other economic, social and cultural activities.

GOOD READS



Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

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226 pages,
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Original Title
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Setting
Swindon, England (United Kingdom, 1999), London,

Characters
Christopher John Francis Boone, Toby, Siobhan

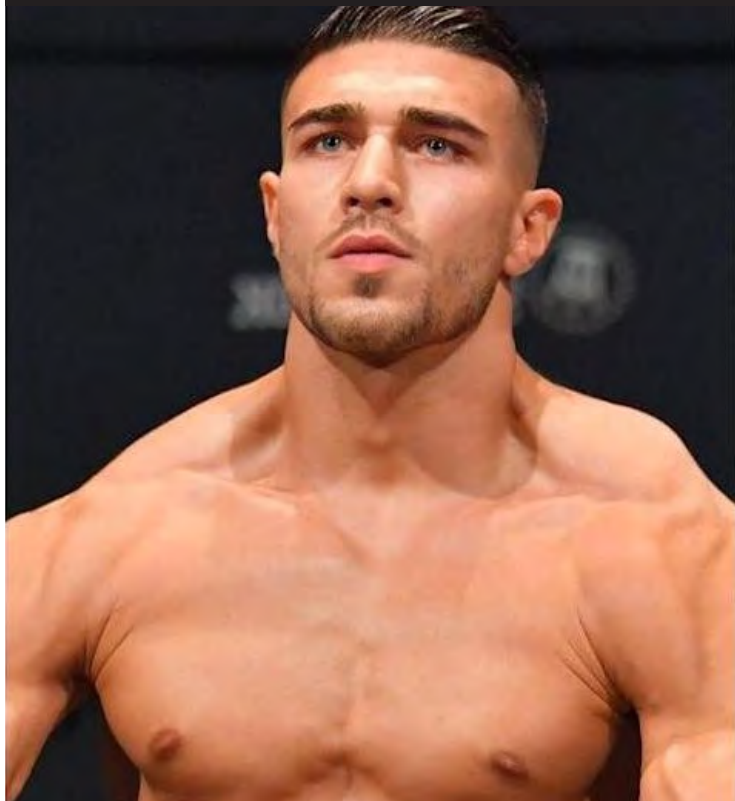
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- Antoinette Berthelot : « Je remercie le Bon Samaritain qui nous a offert un

Boxer Tommy Fury of Mauritian parentage is expected to be in the ring soon



It is reported that the next encounter of Tommy Fury will be versus Jake Paul for a £1m stake. It is forecasted that the match will take place at Las Vegas but no definite date.

Tommy's half-brother, Tyson Fury, World Heavy-weight Champion will be his ring mate. As stated in our February 2021 edition, Tommy's mother is Mauritian-born Chantal Gunga who used to work as an NHS nurse. She married John Fury of the Irish Travellers clan, and their son Tommy was born 22 years ago.

With such good looks Tommy made a name for himself on British TV. He was runner-up in the ITV2's Love Island competition in 2019

If world Champion Tyson Fury and his half-brother, professional boxer Tommy, were the guests of the Mauritius Government it could a great publicity for the island's tourism industry.

GLASGOW COP 26



An accolade from a World Leader on the international stage

According to young Climate Activist Greta Thunberg, COP 26 was a lot of Bla Bla Bla and Greenwashing.

A lot of 'hot air' and 'wind' from the likes of Boris Johnson, that was added to the methane emanating from cows and human beings - to infect Planet Earth with more gas and carbon dioxide, creating the Green House effect.

ABBA REUNITED FOR MAY 2022 LONDON CONCERT



ABBA of the 1970s

After over 40 years of the group's break-up, the ABBA four have decided to re-group for a London appearance in 2022.

Is the ABBA magic still there and can they bring back the enchantment of the 1970s?

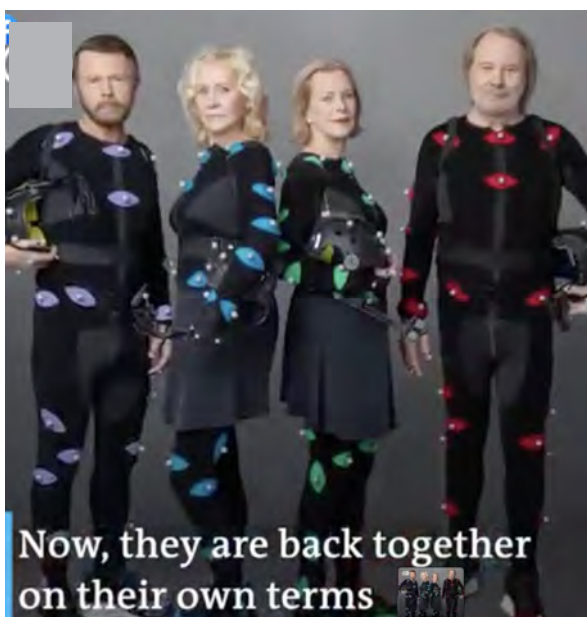
It may well be that there has not been a group that endears themselves to their fans and the public for so long in the pop world. Even the Beatles faded away after their break-up in the 1970s but not ABBA. The pop-loving public never seemed to have enough of their presence and their music in spite of all adverse criticism that originally came their way. They survived it all.

The question is why ABBA and their music are everlasting. To begin with, it may be said that every single song was a hit. The music is a mixture of sadness and joy. The lyrics strike a chord every time and the melody is simply sweet and mesmerising.

Every fan has had their favourite song and their favourite girl between Agnetha and Frida. To my mind, Agnetha took the palm. Why? It may be said that it was a combination of many factors. First and foremost there may be some truth in the saying that Gentlemen prefer blondes".

As the Blonde Girl, Agnetha stood out, not as a Marilyn Monroe type, but as a sort of mixture of the East and the West melancholic sadness that can be detected in her rendering of an ABBA melody. I am transported when I hear the SOS melody which she sang so beautifully and with immense sadness written by husband Bjorn of the group while they were contemplating divorce. One can imagine the strength of the emotion when Agnetha sang SOS.

Bjorn and Agnetha, Benny and Frida have all aged to be grand parents. It's a great risk to come back on stage for the reunion. There is no doubt that the fans will be there to welcome them. The fans have aged too! What a Reunion!



Now, they are back together on their own terms

ABBA of the 2020s

Picture from ABBA Meta post

ASTEROID



Travelling through space this asteroid has recently missed Planet Earth in its trajectory. Being somewhat small in size it would not have caused much *dégât* even if it did hit Earth.

It is said that 60 million years ago (a long time from yesterday) one large asteroid collided with Earth destroying all life on the planet, namely the dinosaurs.

Of the millions of immense mountains circulating the asteroid belts in space it is believed that one such mountain will come this way sooner or later to destroy all life and bigotry on earth once more! Man's defence will prove inadequate. *"Ni Ruse, Ni Prière et Sourd à tout Sanglot rien . . . will stop it coming.* This is probably one of the best ways that humanity can be made wholesome . . . afterwards, devoid of all bigotry.



Reform Party leader Roshi Bhadain praying at the spot in Telfair, Moka, where the body of Soopramanien Kistnen is supposed to have been found.

As part of the Opposition, What could he be praying for !!!



MMM leader Paul Bérenger, an element of the Parliamentary Opposition taking flowers to the same "bloody" spot where Kistnen was allegedly murdered.