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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
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Trust

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VOL 2022 No 27

At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

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Mylene's note from Japan

ABE-SAN FAREWELL (1954 - 2022)

Following closely on the heels of the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II comes the state burial of Japan's ex-prime minister, Shinzo Abe.



The service was held at Nippon Budokan in Tokyo on Tuesday, September 27.

At least 4,300 people from more than 200 nations and regions were there. Among them were Kamala Harris, the vice president of the US; Theresa May, the former prime minister of the UK; and three representatives from Taiwan. Some people might have thought this was a dig at China, but two days later, both countries commemorated 50 years of improved Sino-Japanese relations.

The send-off

The line of mourners outside Budokan was more than 3km long. People of all ages, from the young to the elderly, most of whom were dressed in black and all carrying flowers, came to pay their respects for one last time.

Inside the arena, a portrait of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hung above the stage, surrounded by a sea of green, white, and yellow flowers. There was a 19-gun salute as Abe's wife, Akie, brought in the ashes of her late husband. The former leader's voice could be heard throughout the arena as a memorial video played about the nation's strengths and hopes for its future.

Funeral Diplomacy

The decision to hold this ceremony has not been plain sailing for Prime Minister Kishida. In his defence he said that it

would be a chance for 'funeral diplomacy.' This phrase may be new to some people, but it can be traced back to the 17th century Algonkians of Canada, who celebrated the Feast of the Dead.

It just means a gathering of world leaders coming together to pay their respect to a prominent figure who has died.

It is true that the occasion brought luminaries from around the world to Tokyo and PM Kishida did meet with leaders of 38 countries, but none of them were summit-level leaders or G7 members.

Emperor Naruhito did his part by meeting with seven heads of state. The presidents of Vietnam, Togo, Comoros, Palau and Sri Lanka, as well as the king of Jordan and the emir of Qatar.

Mourners and Protesters

Abe was Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

Many Japanese thought he was a remarkable politician who put Japan back on the map as a major world power.

He helped form the Quad, which is an alliance between the US, Japan, India, and Australia. He also promoted closer ties with Australia and India,

No one is doubting his accomplishments, but the opposition has pointed out that the decision to have a state funeral was made quickly without input from the judiciary, the legislature or the leaders of other parties. Protesters want to know why the government is paying for everything? Previously, the cost was split between the state and the person's political party.

Days after his assassination, Abe was cremated at a private funeral at a Tokyo temple. Many people don't understand why there has to be two farewells.

The Aftermath

As the 20,000 officers who were brought in as security go to back to their desks or beats, as the dignitaries go back to their home countries, Tokyo returns to the hustle and bustle of normal city life; but, there are still questions about the relationship between politicians and The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (widely known as the Moonies).

Tetsuya Yamagami who was arrested for the murder of Abe blamed his action on the religious group. He claimed his mother gave the family fortune to the church which left them broke.

Even though Abe was not a member of this religious movement, both his grandfather and father had close ties with the former chairman of the group.

Shinzo Abe has now been laid to rest. The last word goes to PM Fumio Kishida:

'Mr. Abe held the heavy responsibility as prime minister of Japan, guiding the country in a difficult domestic and international environment with his outstanding leadership and ability to execute.'

News, News, News... Mauritius in September

By Pearlshka Burrin

Quo vadis, Dr Navin Ramgoolam?

During the Labour Party Congress held beginning of September Navin Ramgoolam was acclaimed as the sole challenger of Pravind Jugnauth. The issue: who of the two will win the primeministership after 2024 general election?

The Labour Party congress brought together Navin Ramgoolam's supporters and sympathizers at the Trianon Convention Centre. There and then Navin Ramgoolam presented himself as an essential element to snatch power from the hands of Pravind Jugnauth. However, less than 48 hours later, Ramgoolam received a cold shower after a judgement on appeal to the Supreme Court. This body retained the 18 points put forward by the DPP's office to challenge the acquittal of Navin Ramgoolam in the 'Navin's coffers' saga. The acquittal was pronounced by the intermediary Court in November 2019.

Queen's demise after record 70 years of reign

Queen Elizabeth II, was Head of State of Mauritius until the island became a Republic in 1992. She died at the age of 96 on September 8 after an exceptional reign of 70 years. Less than 48 hours later the crowd cheered the accession to royalty of Prince Charles who thus became Charles III and his wife Camilla queen consort. The coronation took place at St James Palace in front of which thousands of Britons had gathered to cheer Charles III: "God save the King".

The first words spoken by Charles III: "I will strive to serve with loyalty, respect, love..." Those words reassured public opinion in United Kingdom. They feared Charles would not be able to fill the void left by the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Charles' quote crosses the covers of The Independent, Guardian, Financial Times as tabloid The Sun wrote:

"Charles, with his moving speech, gave us every confidence that he will fulfill this role with wisdom, skill and compassion. We sometimes feared that he was a militant king, a risk for the future of our monarchy. But not anymore."

The Queen's death came 50 years after her official visit to Mauritius with her husband Prince Philip. The first sentence she uttered on her arrival on March 24, 1972, aboard the royal yacht Britannia: "Hello Mauritius!" The stay of the royal couple lasted until Sunday, March 26.

An eyesore of a botanical garden!

The authorities are struggling to beautify our environment. On the other hand, the contractor who is responsible for the maintenance of the Jardin des Pamplemousses is believed to have neglected his job. The water lily ponds have become 'infamous backwaters, while heaps of leaves and branches have littered the ground for months.'

This criminal neglect has earned us most negative testimonials from tourists on TripAdvisor. "I visited the site in July 2007. It

was a beautiful floral botanical garden. I revisited it in August 2022 and it was a total disappointment. It is no longer maintained and has lost its luster. There are no longer any flowers and the famous giant water lilies are in poor condition. We do not recommend this visit and hope that the site will be taken over". (A Belgian tourist)

"It is a magnificent garden with rare species, but seems abandoned. What are the authorities doing to restore the image of this unique place? Why put turtles and deer in captivity there if you don't treat them with dignity?" (A French tourist)

Is this how we will attract more than a million tourists while the authorities are doing everything to make this happen? What a sacrilege done to this place where the samadhis of SSR, the Father of the Nation, and of SAJ, the Father of economic development are!

Former President of the Republic pilloried by inquiry report

Reacting to the report of the Caunhye commission of inquiry, Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, the former President of the Republic describes it as "Intellectually dishonest", yet this report nailed her to the pillory.

She was accused of usurpation of powers conferred on the Council of Ministers. She appointed a Commission of Inquiry on 16 March 2016 with the chairmanship attributed to Sir Hamid Moollan, KC. Something she was not empowered to do.

This was only one of the strong points of the findings of the commission of inquiry which also retained the fact that the former head of state did not act as guarantor of the Constitution, the supreme law of the Republic and that it has committed no less than six offences under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption of ACT (POCA).

DPM Anwar Husnoo interim Prime Minister

Nice reward for Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Husnoo who took over as interim Prime Minister from Friday September 16. PM Pravind Jugnauth, his deputy Steven Obeegadoo and Deputy Prime Minister Leela Devi Dookhum-Luchoomun were all on mission abroad.

During a dinner organized at Cutchee Maiman Hall in Trianon by the Muslim Social Welfare Brotherhood society, the acting Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to Pravind Jugnauth. The latter, he said, had made him a Deputy Prime Minister despite his defeat in the 2019 legislative elections. : "My morale was at zero after this disappointment because I had the feeling of having accomplished my duty. After being selected in the list of best losers, I was obviously going to settle for the function of a simple MLA but the PM surprised me by naming me DPM. Proof that Allah is great and I now hold the interim supreme position."

Pravind Jugnauth meets Liz Truss at UN headquarters

During his visit to New York at the United Nations headquarters, Pravind Jugnauth met his British counterpart Liz Truss. Following this meeting 10 Downing Street drew this press release:

"The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Jugnauth welcomed recent steps to strengthen to strengthen UK- Mauritius relationship, including through the new Security Dialogue and Strategic Trade Partnership. The leaders had a useful discussion about the future of the British Indian Ocean Territory, covering the ongoing dispute over sovereignty. They also agreed on the importance of like-minded democracies working together to uphold freedom around the world."

Port Louis, however, regretted London's obstinacy in talking about BIOT and invited the former colonizing power to "close this dark chapter of history involving the last colony in Africa and the last colony it (United Kingdom)

ever created."

More news in a nutshell...

Roshi Badhain slashes traditional parties

Roshi Badhain asserted in an interview to Week-End that "The old parties look to the past, the Reform Party to the future!" He then made two observations. The first observation challenged the idea that Mauritians vote according to 'electoral realities'. "Do you think that Mauritians are primitives who vote according to who they are instead of what is good for them, their children, their country?" The second observation: "The Prime Minister must represent ALL Mauritians, not just the voters of a community and certain constituencies."

Baby Tobias born on board taxi!

Baby Tobias could not wait for arrival in maternity. He was born on Thursday August 25, 2022 in a taxi ... in front of the doors of the Jeetoo hospital. This is an event that the mother Natacha Rose is not about to forget. A novel would naturally bear the title: "Mom, I'm coming by taxi". Natacha Rose is adamant: "In any case, I won't tell him about his delivery. If Tobias asks me, maybe yes, but otherwise nothing!"

How to get 1.4 million tourists?

Players in the tourism industry and public authorities have set targets for 1.4 million tourists. Jocelyn Kwok, CEO of AHRIM, says that this is feasible on two conditions. First, improve air connectivity, which implies a substantial increase in airplane seats. Second, work hard to increase air links with Germany, Dubai and India.

Boxer Richarno Colin on top of Africa

After missing gold at the Commonwealth Games (he came back with a beautiful silver medal), Richarno Colin was merciless at the finals of the African Champions in Mozambique. He defeated the Algerian Yahia Abdelli by stoppage of the referee in the first round. He won gold and the African crown in boxing. But luck was not on the side of Merven Clair who fell on points in the final against Moroccan Hamza El Barbari in the under 71 kg category.

Mauritians value national identity

Two sociological studies, conducted independently by Straconsult Afrobarometer and ICW Blast in concert with the IBL conglomerate, reveal a common point, that four out of five Mauritians (80%) are proud of their national identity: "Mauritians value national identity and express high levels of trust and confidence." This is definitely beneficial for the country which is about to celebrate 55 years of independence next year.

Sudden resurgence of road accidents

The country deplores a sudden resurgence of road accidents which claimed the lives of six people in five days (a cyclist, a pedestrian and two motorcyclists among the victims). Those accidents are attributed to drivers' incivility and indiscipline on the roads. Alain Jeannot, president of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), compared the situation in Singapore and Mauritius: "In Singapore, the car fleet has some one million vehicles against approximately 650,000 in Mauritius. However, there, the number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants is nine times lower than that of Mauritius!"