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Mauritian Overseas Gazette

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A magazine - not a newspaper

Views expressed by contributors are their own

Diabetes and Vascular Centre inaugurated at Floreal Mediclinic

A new Diabetes and Vascular Centre was inaugurated on 15 June at Floreal Mediclinic, marking a significant step towards enhancing specialised healthcare services for patients living with diabetes and vascular diseases in Mauritius.

The opening ceremony was held in presence of the Minister of Health and Wellness, Mr Anil Kumar Bachoo. The Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, Dr (Mrs) Jyoti Jeetun, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Mahendra Gondeea as well as other personalities were present.

The Centre has been established to provide comprehensive and integrated care through a multidisciplinary approach encompassing the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes and vascular conditions. The initiative aims to improve patient outcomes and reduce complications associated with non-communicable diseases.

In a statement, Minister Bachoo recalled that provisions had been made in the Budget 2024–2025 for the establishment of specialised diabetes centres across the regional hospitals in Mauritius. He highlighted that diabetes remains a major public health concern, affecting approximately 20 per cent of the population. He further noted that around 700 amputations are performed annually due to diabetes-related complications, a figure he described as alarming for a small island nation. The Minister pointed out that three Diabetes and Vascular Centres are already operational at Sir Anerood Jugnauth Hospital, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital and Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital. With the inauguration of the Floreal Mediclinic facility, the number of centres has now increased



to four. He further announced that a fifth centre is expected to be inaugurated shortly in the vicinity of Rose Belle Hospital.

Minister Bachoo expressed confidence that the network of

specialised centres would strengthen the management of diabetes and vascular diseases, contribute to reducing the number of amputations, and improve the quality of life of patients in Mauritius.

GIS

Commonwealth Lawyers Association

From Me Yatin Varma's Facebook Page

Today, in my capacity as Secretary of the Mauritius Bar Council, I had the privilege of meeting Steven Thiru, President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, together with fellow members of the Mauritius Bar Council, at the seat of the Council.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for a frank and constructive exchange on a range of issues affecting the legal profession both in Mauritius and across the Commonwealth. We discussed the importance of maintaining the independence of the Bar and the legal profession, which remains a cornerstone of the rule of law and the proper administration of justice.

Particular attention was also given to contemporary challenges facing lawyers, including the rapid growth of

social media and artificial intelligence. While these developments offer significant opportunities for greater access to legal information and enhanced efficiency in legal practice, they also raise important questions relating to professional ethics, confidentiality, misinformation, reputation management, and the preservation of professional standards.

Our discussions further touched upon the recent international support for the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (Luxembourg Convention), a landmark treaty designed to protect lawyers from undue interference, threats, intimidation, harassment, and violence in the discharge of their professional duties. The Convention represents a significant step forward in



Me Yatin Varma (second from left to right) Secretary of the Mauritius Bar Council

strengthening protections for legal practitioners and safeguarding the independence of the profession.

We were particularly honoured that the Mauritius Bar Council was invited to consider joining the Commonwealth Lawyers Association as a member organisation. Such an affiliation would further strengthen ties with the wider Commonwealth legal community and create valuable op-

portunities for collaboration, professional development, and the exchange of best practices.

The meeting was both enriching and inspiring. It reaffirmed the importance of a strong, independent, and forward-looking legal profession capable of adapting to emerging challenges while remaining steadfast in its commitment to justice, ethics, and the rule of law.



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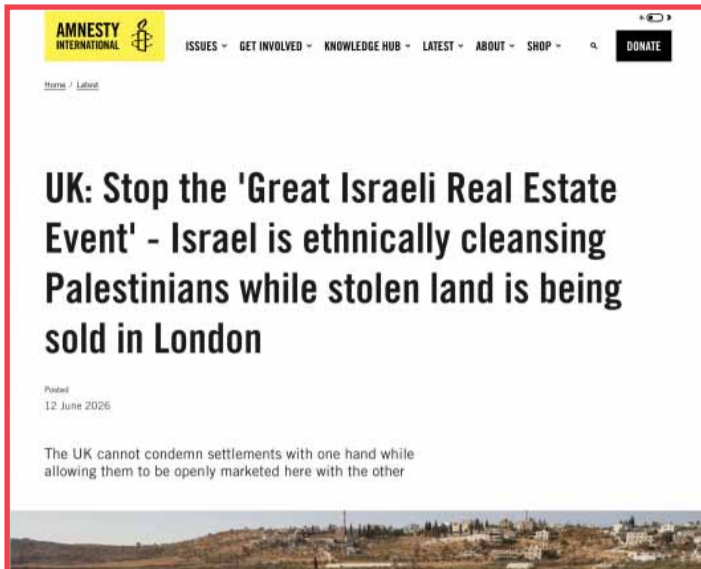
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Israel is Selling Stolen Palestinian Lands at Auction in London

What is Creator doing in his Heaven?



Amnesty International UK is demanding the UK government stop a real estate event scheduled to take place in London on 14 June that includes companies openly advertising the sale of land in Israeli settlements in the illegally occupied West Bank, and to initiate an investigation into the organisers.

The 'Great Israeli Real Estate Event' is a travelling roadshow that has held events across North America and is now coming to London. It comes as a new Amnesty report published this week lays bare Israel's state-led ethnic cleansing campaign in the West Bank – documenting the displacement of at least 5,910 Palestinian Bedouin and herding community members since 2023, the demolition of over 3,400 homes and structures in Area C, and an unprecedented surge in state-backed settler violence and land grabs.

Land Grab: True or False?

Is this happening in the 21st Century?

What it must have been during the dark ages, when man first emerged out of the jungle one million years ago, when man was cannibalistic for want food! Even NOW, in the 21st Century, man is still devouring man in a certain part of the world. They do so with the blessing of their god, they say.

North London MP Jeremy Corbyn Outraged

Pictures Featured on the Internet



In a podcast, Islington MP Jeremy Corbyn warned people in Britain of the auctioning of the properties stolen in Gaza and the West Bank by the invaders.

The MP emphasized that it is illegal for lands confiscated in Palestine to be sold in another country. He exhorts his compatriots to expose the illegality of this sale and to say NO to the transaction in London.

Unfortunately, Mr Corbyn's exhortation will fall on deaf ears. Too good an opportunity for the interested parties to miss.



European Cultural Heritage Festival

We thank Michel Marain of Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) for the lovely pictures of the annual European Heritage Festival in his locality.

Many European countries were represented among whom Latvia, Ukraine, Spain and Lithuania.

Europe's cultural heritage is a rich and diverse mosaic of cultural and creative expressions, an inheritance from previous generations of Europeans and a legacy for those to come. It includes natural, built and archaeological sites, museums, monuments, artworks, historic cities, literary, musical and audiovisual works, and the knowledge, practices and traditions of European citizens.

While policy in this area is primarily the responsibility of Member States, regional and local authorities - the EU is committed to safeguarding and enhancing Europe's cultural heritage

WEST KIRBY WELCOMES AUTHOR T. M. LOGAN AS PART OF THE NATIONAL CRIME READING MONTH

From Mylene



West Kirby, Merseyside, is a seaside town located on the north-west tip of the Wirral Peninsula, where the River Dee meets the Irish Sea.

Every June, Wirral Libraries hosts National Crime Reading month, inviting crime writers to talk about their books. This year's programme also included a special talk on the history of forensic toxicology and how Agatha Christie used poison in her novels, along with a range of other activities.



Author T. M. Logan

I happened to be in West Kirby on 2 June, the same day that T. M. Logan, the multi-million-selling thriller writer and four-time Sunday Times bestselling author of *The Holiday*, *The Catch*, *Trust Me* and *The Daughter*, was at West Kirby Library to talk about his writing career and his latest thriller, *The Weekend*.

I have to admit I had neither read any of his books nor seen the television adaptations of

The *Holiday* starring Jill Halfpenny, or *The Catch*, starring Jason Watkins, both a four-part series for Channel 5. However, as an avid reader and someone who loves writing, I bought a ticket to his talk.

As I entered, refreshments were being offered and Logan himself was already mingling with the audience and chatting with attendees. The people I spoke to were devoted fans and had bought copies of his books to be signed after the Q & A session. When I asked which of his novels was their favourite, they couldn't choose because they loved them all equally. That must be a wonderful compliment for any author.

Interestingly, when Logan was asked the same question, he also found it difficult to pick a favourite, saying that he liked each book for different reasons.

Before becoming a full-time novelist, T.M.Logan worked in journalism and communications. He was a reporter and education correspondent on the Nottingham Evening Post before moving to London to work as a reporter for the Daily Mail. Later, he became a press officer and eventually Deputy Director of Communications at the University of Nottingham.

Like many aspiring authors, he wrote in whatever spare time he could find.

His family has been a constant source of inspiration. Logan explained that the idea for *The Holiday* came from his wife's annual holidays with three close friends. It made him think about lifelong friendships and what might



Mylene with Mr T.M. Logan

cause one friend to betray the others. That question became the seed for the psychological thriller that followed.

One piece of advice he offered aspiring writers was to find a good literary agent. A good agent does far more than pitch books to publishers. They assess manuscripts, negotiate contracts, seek out opportunities and sell translation, audiobooks, television and film rights. Most importantly, they protect their client's interests.

He also stressed the importance of perseverance. Rejection, he said, is part and parcel of becoming a novelist. His determination paid off, and he is now one of the UK's most successful thriller writers.

After the talk, I bought a copy of *Lies*. I found it very readable, very relatable, with a story that quickly draws the reader in. It makes great poolside reading.

WEST KIRBY

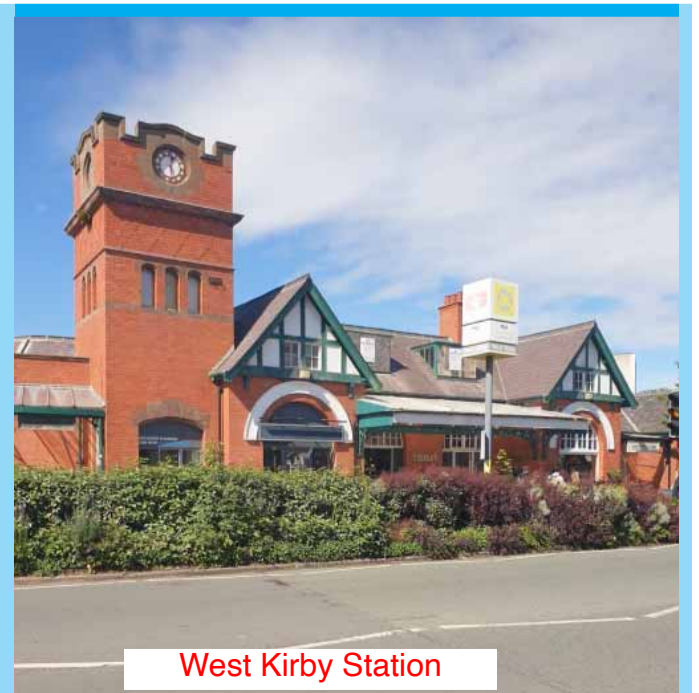
Originally a small fishing and farming village, West Kirby changed dramatically when the railway arrived in the late nineteenth century, turning it into a popular seaside resort.

Many of the town's buildings date from Victorian and Edwardian periods, including elegant villas and former boarding houses built to accommodate visitors seeking fresh sea air on the Wirral coast.

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West Kirby Promenade



West Kirby Station

From Page 4

WEST KIRBY

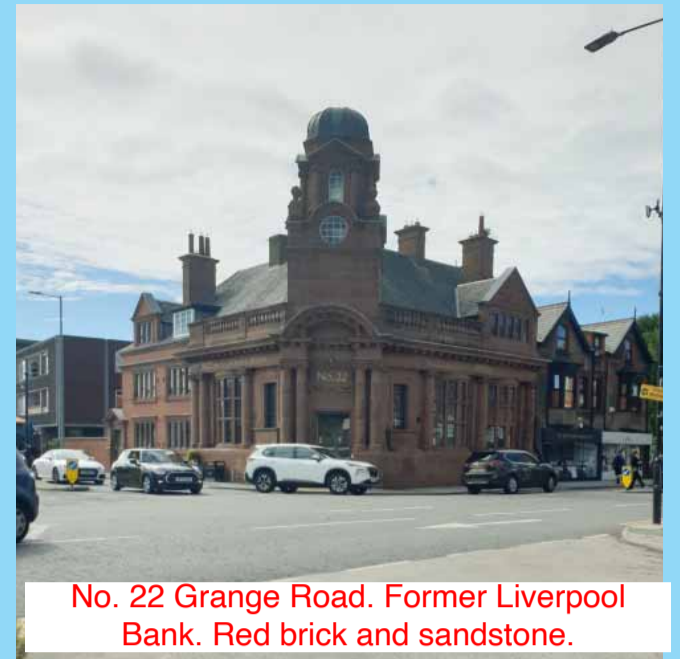
Today, the town centre blends historic buildings with more modern developments. The waterfront overlooks the Dee Estuary and the famous Marine Lake, a popular spot for sailing, windsurfing and walking.

Because West Kirby is exposed to winds blowing in from the Irish Sea, it felt surprisingly chilly, even on this sunny day in June.

Pictures of this article:
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West Kirby Hight Street



No. 22 Grange Road. Former Liverpool Bank. Red brick and sandstone.

Point de Vue d'Éliézer François

DU JAMAIS VU

"Deux femmes aux commandes de la capitale, c'est une première," vient de déclarer l'Adjointe au maire de Port-Louis.



Oui, Cristelle Pondard comme Maire et Mehzabeen Caramtali comme Adjointe au maire à la Municipalité de Port-Louis, c'est du jamais-vu. Non seulement dans la capitale, mais dans toute l'île Maurice.



Mehzabeen
Caramtali,
Adjointe
Maire

D'emblée, je me permets de les féliciter et leur souhaiter bonne chance pour une meilleure administration de la capitale.

Ayant été moi-même un Conseiller Municipal (non payé) pendant plus d'une décennie, et ayant réclamé constamment la révocation des édiles pour la mauvaise administration durant ces dernières années, je leur dit, Bon Courage!

J'en profite pour leur faire une petite suggestion dans leur lourde tâche, et j'espère de tout coeur qu'elles réussiront là où les hommes ont échoué.

En voici la suggestion: - une petite marche à pieds de moins de deux kilomètres, commençant avec le marché de Plaine Verte jus qu'au Champ de Mars pour une constatation de visu.

Pour commencer, elles verront

- (1) l'état du marché,
- (2) Le pont de Paris,
- (3) l'arrêt d'autobus en face de la banque MCB (N de la R: SSR street),
- (4) juste après, une bonne rue qui est complètement bloquée par des marchands ambulants, alors qu'elle aurait pu être ouverte à la circulation, même à sens unique, pour décongestionner la route principale Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, l'ancienne rue Desforges.

Plus loin, elles pourront voir

- (5) la Grande Horloge à l'entrée de la Municipalité de Port-Louis,
- (6) la bibliothèque Rémy Ollier,
- (7) le théâtre de Port-Louis en perpétuelle rénovation, et finalement
- (8) le Bouquet qui représente le Champ de Mars.

Mais, avant de commencer leur petite marche, "les deux femmes ont commandes de la capitale," pourront aussi visiter 4 Toilettes Non-Payantes dans le jardin de La Plaine verte, tandis qu'au Marché Central et au jardin de la Compagnie, les Toilettes sont Payantes, même pour les Seniors et les Pensionnés de vieillesse. Pourquoi cette discrimination? Toilettes Publiques Payantes dans les Marchés et les Places Publiques, c'est du jamais-vu à travers le monde.

Éliézer François JP



Cristelle
Pondard,
Maire

Note de la Rédaction:

Eh bien, La Mairesse, en prenant charge de ses responsabilités comme la Première Citoyenne de la Cité de Port-Louis, a déclaré à la Presse qu'elle était consciente de la lourde tâche qui l'attendait.

Sa première bataille sera contre les rats qui ont élu domicile au Bazar Central. Il faut lui souhaiter Bonne Chance. C'est une bataille que livrent tous les grands marchés de toutes les capitales du monde entier.

En ce qui concerne "l'arrêt d'autobus en face de la banque MCB," M. François parle de celui de l'ancienne rue Desforges (maintenant SSR Street). La circulation est, en effet, affectée par le bus qui s'y arrête fréquemment pour, principalement, prendre des passagers.

Les marchands de trottoir sont des nuisances surtout pour les piétons. Ils ont converti cette partie de la rue Desforges en un marché. Ils sont politiquement influent. Personne n'ose les faire bouger, bien moins nos deux bonnes dames. Le Théâtre de Port-Louis n'a plus sa raison d'être. Il n'y a pas de parking aux alentours pour les habitués. Ce théâtre était réputé aux temps jadis pour son acoustique. Un

chanteur pouvait, à voix nue, se faire entendre de l'auditorium devant la scène aux derniers gradins du balcon près du plafond (appelé "poulailler"). Aujourd'hui avec les microphones et haut-parleurs, l'acoustique naturelle est chose du passé. Aussi, on n'apprécie plus le théâtre lyrique et le bel canto à Maurice. Que faire de cet Eléphant Blanc qu'est le Théâtre de Port-Louis? Il nous faut maintenant reconnaître que le Caudan Arts Centre est aujourd'hui le lieu de prédilection pour les amusements populaires, concerts etc.

La Grande Horloge de Port-Louis n'y est plus depuis quelques années. On l'a retirée quand on a réalisé que la structure était devenue dangereuse avec le temps. Vont-ils la remplacer ou pas? La nouvelle nous le dira.

La ville Port-Louis est presque dépeuplée. Il n'y a presque plus de résidents pour justifier une bibliothèque publique digne d'une cité comme nous l'avions du temps de M. France Grancourt ou de M. Edouard Maunick comme 'librarian'. On peut même se demander où se trouve l'ancienne bibliothèque attachée au Musée de Port-Louis?

Les Toilettes Publiques étaient payantes dans le temps - "to spend a penny". Il fallait mettre un "penny" dans le Coin

Slot de la porte pour pouvoir entrer dans une toilette en Angleterre. Les WCs au Caudan et au Jardin de la Compagnie sont payants. Mais il y a des "attendants" pour le maintien et la propreté de ces lieux d'aisance. A Plaine Verte, c'est gratuit, mais ces latrines sont dans un état piteux et l'odeur du lieu est nauséabonde. C'est dangereux avec toutes ces épidémies en cours.

M. François parle du bouquet qu'est le Champ de Mars. Une partie du Champ de Mars est en effet une poubelle où on se débarrasse détritiques de toute sorte, même occasionnellement des vieux matelas. Le kiosque est un dortoir pour certains sans-logis. On peut se demander comment font-ils pour leurs besoins.

Et ce fameux pont de Paris où se trouve-t-il? On dit que c'est une partie du pont de la rue Barbeau traversant rue Desforges. Les marchands de Kebabs et autres grillades font bon commerce là où on a comblé. Mais l'hygiène est risquée. Une grande inondation peut causer beaucoup de dégâts et même occasionner perte de vie. Là encore, qui osera 'toucher un poil' de ces opérateurs du lieu.