

**L'Union
fait
La Force**

Mauritian Overseas Gazette

**Unity
is
Strength**

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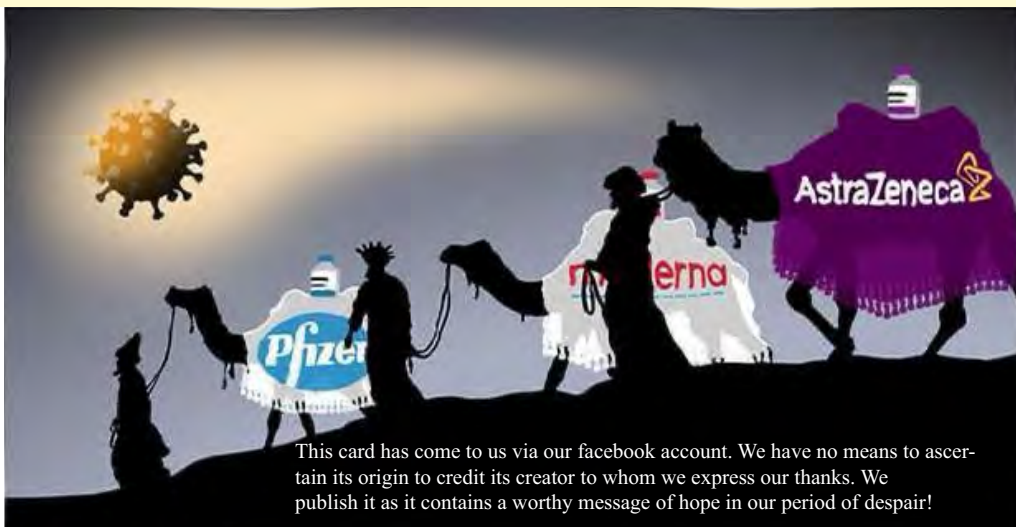
At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

Issue No 0003

January 2021

2021

*Hope for the world
The vaccines are here!*



This card has come to us via our facebook account. We have no means to ascertain its origin to credit its creator to whom we express our thanks. We publish it as it contains a worthy message of hope in our period of despair!

*The Gifts that Christmas 2020 brought to the world.
The rollout has begun and the whole world will soon benefit.*

Two Decades and One

Already two decades have elapsed since the world celebrated the New Millennium in 2000. There was a bit of controversy then as to whether the year 2000 was rather the end of the previous millennium or the beginning of the present one. No year does really start with Year Zero.

2020 is gone and we can say that 2021 is the first year of the new decade. This new decade is already affected by a bug that is causing havoc throughout

humanity. It's the Covid-19 that is gnawing at nations throughout the world.

Well, we may also remember that another bug was expected to assail the New Millennium in 2000. For over two years before, it was predicted that a Computer Bug was to make all computers in the world useless because softwares would be turned on their heads no longer knowing what was what. As a result of a built-in clock the computer programmes throughout the world would crash. Fortunately, nothing actually happened.

No warning was given then about smart phones, because

they had not become, as yet, as smart as they are today. In their infancy a mobile phone was as big and rectangular as a construction red brick. The world had not gone nano yet. Today, even newborns have mobiles and even tablets in their prams.

What sort of year 2021 will be? We can say that it is starting on the wrong foot with countries like England on their knees. In England, the forecast is that situation will get worse as the year progresses. Yet, it is also predicted that the virus will be brought under control thanks to the numerous vaccines in production. We have to hope for the best.

P.C

PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth's New Year's Address to the Nation

In his New Year message delivered on 1 January the PM PKJ laid stress on the fact that he had at heart the wellbeing and the health of the nation.

The health and well-being of the nation is his primary concern in keeping the frontiers of Mauritius closed to visitors from other countries.

The PM praised the resilience and discipline of the nation which helped the country to face and manage the pandemic. "288 days after the first case in Mauritius was diagnosed we are able to celebrate within our families to welcome the New Year, he said in his message.

He said "we achieved this thanks to the action we took to close our frontiers in time" it is clear that if we did not close the frontiers and impose the 14-day sanitary confinement we would not be able to be together today to celebrate. We only have to look at what is happening in other countries. The British PM has been compelled to forbid Christmas and New Year celebrations in London and other parts of the country. Our country is proud of the way the government has managed the pandemic." He bestowed praise on the Health Minister, his staff and all the frontlines showering care on the nation.

He also talked of the nightmare of the Wakashio shipwreck experienced by the whole country. "I have set up a court of investigation to find out what actually happened. Everyone will have to bear their responsibilities, local and overseas. Most coastal regions of the South have reopened and the government has been providing financial support to families affected by the disaster."

"As I say, my priority is the health and welfare of the nation. The safety of the people is very important but there can be no welfare without safety," The PM was very praiseworthy of the police for their hard work in ensuring compliance with sanitary measures during confinement while at the same time



doing their other jobs like the war on illegal drugs that caused the death of young woman constable Dimple Raghoo. He vowed that no criminal, whatever his connection, would escape justice.

"To face any challenge, the younger generation must be trained to become more resilient, enterprising and productive," the PM pointed out. He is fully confident that the young people will contribute to the progress of the country and this has been demonstrated by the number of young candidates for the Village Council elections.

The PM welcomed 2021 positively as Mauritius is well ahead in tackling the pandemic and managing the economy. "The economy is picking up in spite of the crisis experienced by the country and the world. He pointed out that there has been an increase of 10% in the export sector compared to last year's figures for the same period. He wanted to assure the hotel industry and the Mauritius tourism severely affected by Covid-19 that the Government would do its best to bring gradual normality to those sectors.

"Orders for vaccines have been placed to ensure vaccination of at least 60% of the population as soon as possible. The sanitary measures will allow Mauritius to open up to the world step by step."

The PM appealed to the nation for unity. "Our people are our strength. We have been able to face many challenges together as a result of our unity. Together, we are stronger. My Government will be with you for the next four years and we shall continue to work with conviction and discipline for the welfare and prosperity of everyone.

Cyril Louis

Revival of the overseas publication

Through Mauritius News (MN) we served the overseas Mauritian community in the UK from 1983 to 2015. We even appealed to the HO to remove Mauritians from the jaws of deportation. Our issue No 6's front page (1984) carried a picture of a young Mauritian mother facing deport-

However, we must admit that MN was more relevant to the previous generation when the internet and all its paraphernalia were still something far off and even in their infancy and when the younger ones were themselves infants. Yet, we gradually got into the new technology moving into the computer age that revolutionised the media world. We had our first website in 1997 when such a medium as a platform was still unknown in Mauritius itself.

ation from Britain when we joined the Greenwich Asian Women's Group campaigning for her to remain in the UK with her baby daughter. The campaign was successful. 37 years later, how is the family faring!

MN did a lot of good for the UK Mauritian com-

MN was in fact the first Mauritian newspaper to be published overseas in 1983 notably in the UK, first in an A4 format and subsequently as a tabloid in full colour.

The publication went on the net in 1997 at www.mauritiusnews.co.uk, a first for a Mauritian publication of any sort. The paper was a trading name of the Mauritius Publishing Company Co Ltd (MPCL) incorporated at Companies House in London. (See a few back copies at www.mauritiusnewsonline.com)

Thus, Mauritius News did move with its time and even today we realise that we have to adapt. After the sale of the MPCL we have been trying to make use of our 32 years of publishing experience among our overseas community in the UK and on the continent.

We first published the **UK Mauritian Gazette** both as a hard copy and as an online publication. See it at www.ukmauritian-gazette.com

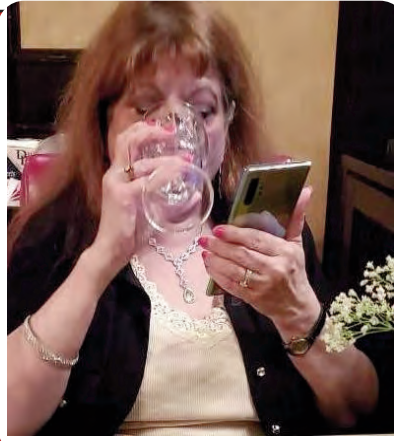
We soon realised that in this day and

munity in those 32 years of its existence. We provided employment, training and work experience among other welfare attention. Hard to believe, we even provided free accommodation to needy students at 583 Wandsworth Rd, London SW8 until the publication was sold in 2015.

age it is more relevant to consider (in the first instance) a purely online publication which will be at the service of Mauritian expatriates residing in various countries, generally. And so was born, last year, the Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) hosted by GoDaddy at www.mauritianoverseasgazette.com. The MOG is a trade name of the Mauritian Enterprises (UK) which has been incorporated at Companies House in London.

(Continued on Page 2)

Messages from well-wishers



As a regular ex-contributor of Mauritius News from 1983 to 2015 it was a pleasure and honour to be part of the team enlightening the Mauritian community in UK and across the world.

Sadly Mauritius News went out of publication like so many with the disappearance of news in print and the advent of internet and social media.

However, nobody can deny how much fun it was to have a community paper full of community events and news about Mauritius and the Mauritian community.

Even after Mauritius News went out of publication Mauritians in UK and elsewhere still remembered me and my columns. Many fb friends still remember me and express their sadness of not having a community paper like Mauritius News anymore.

Well, now, the Mauritian Overseas Gazette is online. Hope Mauritians will have the same interest in this e-paper just like they once had for Mauritius News.

I wish the Mauritian Overseas Gazette success and its editor Peter Chelsea all the best.

Let's hope that this publication will unite all Mauritians just like Mauritius News used to.

I also take this opportunity to wish all Mauritians across the globe a Happy New Year. May 2021 be a better year for us all.

Devinia Sookia, California, USA

Minna-san, konnichi wa!

I'm so happy to welcome The Mauritian Overseas Gazette during this holiday season.

This year has seen the disappearance of many businesses and publications which is why The Gazette is a shining beacon of good cheer, one that will bring us together in this age of staying apart.

Be prepared for a unique paper that will satisfy on a visual and brainy level, one that will strike a balance between young and old and bridge the gap between countries. How cool is that.

As for me, after work on Christmas Day, I will eat KFC (yes, the Colonel Sanders kind) drink a hot saki and eat a soft fluffy Christmas sponge cake topped with whipped cream and strawberries, just like everyone else in Japan.

So, Kampai!

A Happy and Blessed 2021 to all!

Mylene, Sapporo Capital of Hokkaido, Japan

Note: Japanese expressions demystified:

Minna-san = everyone. **Konnichi was** = hello

Kampai! = A toast, Empty your glass!



My dear fellow citizens of the diaspora, I am glad to share Peter Chellen's desire to create a digital paper MOG (Mauritian Overseas Gazette) to help you keep in touch with your motherland, wherever you are in the world.

As a close collaborator of the late Mauritius News of Peter, which served the Mauritian diaspora for 32 years, I can testify to the fact that that publication did indeed bear high the Mauritian flag and kept generations of Mauritians in the world abreast of events in Mauritius and the other islands of the Republic. MOG will just do that in a new format. Have your support for it.

Happy New Year to Peter Chellen and Good Luck to MOG and its potential readership for whom I pray for the best.

**B. Burrin,
Phoenix, Mauritius**



Planting a tree among many others now in Rodrigues.

My message to worldwide readers is Stand Strong and Hope for a Better 2021.

Here, in Rodrigues, life is much as it is every year at this time. Port Mathurin is HOT, STORMY (a TD developing to the North of us), BUSY, NOISY and CROWDED.

As in Mauritius we are Covid safe.

I send my greetings to anyone who might remember me from days gone by in the UK, and then in Mauritius, and

As much as possible,

Let us pray for a much better 2021.

Paul Draper, Port Mathurin, Rodrigues

Revival of the overseas publication *(Continued from Page One)*

MOG and the New Media

Of course, Mauritians of all age groups are availing themselves of the use of new media especially Facebook. But Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) offers a common platform for all at home and abroad in the UK, France, Belgium, Switzerland and elsewhere on the continent, in Australia, Canada, USA etc. They will only have to access <www.mauritianoverseasgazette.com> and they will be on the platform.

Our revival in a new format may be slow while going

through the teething problems but once on the go we'll move as fast we can.

Our primary aim is to bear in mind the Mauritians living overseas and their offspring. Considering that Mauritians emigrated since the 1940, especially when many Mauritian demobbed soldiers preferred to go to the mother country, England, and Mauritian students since then remaining in the UK after their studies, we can have an idea what sort of roots we have planted elsewhere for several decades.

Of course, those expatriates will be less inclined to wish to know what Jugnauth, Bérenger, Duval, Boolell, Ramgoolam and the likes are up to. For that, they can follow news on Facebook and other mediums. But bits of news from here and elsewhere will likely to be more digestible than lengthy features. Short and sharp headlines with some comments may do the trick as well.

The old Mauritius News, as a community paper, had

no political affinities and we found it more appealing in being neutral. But we did not just sit on the fence and watch the world go round. We did just what we thought. Some readers were even worried for us when they felt our comments were too risky. And that took place under whichever government was in power. MN has seen a few of these governments between 1983 and 2015 especially as under every government there were allegations of scandals on which we commented. MN gave credit where credit was due and tell people off where and when it was necessary. The Mauritian Overseas Gazette will have the same vocation: Independent!

And so, off we go! We wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2021.

Hopefully, it will be better with all the vaccines in store.

January 2021

Peter Chellen

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Greetings from well-wishers

Continued from Page 2

To readers in Mauritius, UK and around the World

What a year!

I hope God gives you peace and eases the pain in your heart:

If you are suffering financially, or being affected financially or in any other way, we can still be thankful to the NHS for their hard work and be thankful to hospitals all around the World.

If you work in the NHS or hospitals and feel let down, have lost someone through the stretched NHS or any hospital and feel let down.

Every human life is of value and if you feel like you lost someone because you feel their life was not valued, I hope you have some peace knowing God values their life. Like he values yours.

May your burden be lighter and may truth & justice prevail.

Stay true and you will hopefully overcome sadness and get to see better days.

When you are positive but feel drained, Keep fighting and do not give up

We wish the whole world a better 2021

*Yvonne Goder (Master of Law (LLM))
Harlow, Essex, England*



Yvonne with hubby Ashvin

It is a great pleasure for me to be associated with the launching of the MAURITIAN OVERSEAS GAZETTE (MOG).

I have no doubt that readers online will in due course find its contents very informative.

This publication intends to give an insight of the various activities of Mauritian Diaspora across the World.

Let us hope the Mauritian Overseas will unite all Mauritians across the World on a common platform

I avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate all those associated with this new online publication especially our indefatigable Peter Chellen. At the same time I wish a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 2021 to all friends, not forgetting the distant Facebook friends.

Ahmad Macky, (Bel Air, Mauritius)
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), LSJ (Lon)



A message from the editor

Well, Here, we are again on the editorial ground, an activity which is not without its hazards in making up stories, i.e. not in the sense of fabricating news, but of writing and shaping up articles. One of the pitfalls is the problem of typo, i.e. typographical error rather than absolute mistakes.

In its 1983 annual edition, the Guinness Book of Records stated that the record for the most misprints contained in a newspaper article was held by The Times about the visit of Pope John Paul II to the UK in 1982. According to the Records Book, there were several misprints in one single paragraph of the article and the word Pope, even in the headline, was written as POP.

Typos are frequent in print and publicity, and we have recently seen during a football match a banner advert displaying the word 'Mauritus' with a missing i. In spite of the fact that internauts had a field day about this discovery one may ask whether the image of Mauritius as a tourist destination has really been tarnished. But this is not the point. The point is

that such things, i.e. typos do happen, and the Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG) will have to face it when it happens. Even the national press in Mauritius is no stranger to the transposition of headlines to the wrong article and we have frequently seen journalists apologising for criticising the wrong contributors of newspaper articles.

Errare humanum est, blunders are also committed through verbal deliveries. If misprints may ironically be known as pearls or gems, in oral communications they are sometimes referred to as clangers or *boulettes* in French. President of the Seychelles, on an official visit to Mauritius recently, at a dinner in his honour, replying to a toast addressed the Prime Minister of Mauritius as President of the Seychelles. He caught himself up immediately and made a joke about it to carry on with his speech.

Well clangers, I have dropped a few, myself, in my time of life. I remember when at one of our Mauritian open-air festivals on Clapham Common I addressed the then Mayor of Lambeth (where was located Mauritius News office), as the Mayor of Southwark, the neighbouring borough where I used to

reside. I only realised my blunder after event.

I can tell more of this sort of lapsus and the more recent one was when at a lunch at a Chinese restaurant in Port Louis among a few people I said that Mr X was a member of a British institution when in fact he was not and could not be for several obvious reasons. I meant to say that Mr X was known to many members of that British institution. Well, the *boulette* was gone, too bad. What a fool, the other diners must have said among themselves!

As a parody of Mark Twain, it may be said that it is better to remain quiet and let other people think you are a fool that to open your mouth and confirm it. On the other hand, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, former PM and Governor-General of Mauritius, once said at a Labour public meeting "*People who do not do anything who never make mistakes*". At an office where I used to work a female colleague would frequently tell me <Peter, you have a missed a golden opportunity of keeping quiet." I must have frequently put my foot in it. Foot and mouth what a disease!

This has been my *mea culpa* but more importantly it's an apology for future misprints or even *boulettes* that may occur in our new publication or my communications.

Peter Chellen,
January 2021

Brexit Consumed and Consumated

It was Sir Winston Churchill, a mighty and influential Conservative, who in the wake of World War II advocated for an association of leading European countries to avoid the occurrence another world. However, SWC was of the opinion that the club should exclude Germany, but French President Charles de Gaulle was adamant that Germany's membership was essential.

Yet, when the Group of Six Nations signed the Treaty of Rome to form the European Economic Community (EEC or the Common Market) in 1957 Britain was not among the six countries.

The irony was that later when Britain wanted to join the EEC in 1963, Charles de Gaulle was against the membership of Britain. Charles de Gaulle said a great NO again in 1967. He was against the membership of Britain on the ground that the country was too subservient to America which would not be in the interest of Europe.

In the face of what takes place today under an ultra-Conservative like Johnson with a Russian Christian name as Boris, it can be said that de Gaulle was right in his prediction that *La Perfide*

Albion could not be trusted though it must be remembered that it was the American and British troops who liberated France from German occupation. It may also be remembered that de Gaulle himself sought refuge to London when he fled France from the German invaders during the war to create the Free French movement. He broadcasted from the BBC to the French nation in June 1940.

When their application to join the EEC was turned down a second time in 1967 the British went on their knees to seek approval and it would be another Conservative, Edward Heath, who finally took Britain into the market in 1973. Already in 1974 the new Labour Government declared its hostility to the terms of Britain's adhesion.

There have been considerable wrangling since then until Boris Johnson seals the break of UK from Europe this month. What the future holds for Britain now that Boris Johnson is taking the country into the wilderness, no one can say for sure. But Johnson and his Conservatives acolytes believe that the future will be rosy for Britain.

Britain will be able to go begging with a bowl in hand seeking trade relations with every country of the world including those of the European Union individually.

The irony again is that while Britain will no longer be part of Europe the new American administration under Joe Biden as the next President will seek closer link with Europe.

Brexit is done and the isolation of Britain has begun. It took Britain 10 years, from 1963 to 1973, to gain admission to the European Union. It has taken Boris Johnson just one year and a half since he became leader of the Conservatives to complete the *fossé* between Britain and Europe that began with the Referendum over four years ago.

See Page 6 for headlines about Johnson's great Brexit achievement.

Nadarajen Ramanjooloo (UK)



More head scratch ahead

240 Years of Chinese Presence in Mauritius



On December 2, the New Chinese foundation, with the assistance of the Mauritius Post, issued a commemorative envelope to mark the 240th anniversary of the arrival of the Chinese migrants to Mauritius.



The information card in the commemorative envelope provides very enlightened information on the presence of the immigrants from China within the Mauritian kaleidoscope of nations who make up the Mauritian society of today. We read:

“Established in 2018, the New China Town Foundation, a non-profit organisation whose aim is to preserve, revive and reinvent Chinatown in Port Louis and to perpetuate our cultural legacy, is commemorating the 240th anniversary of the arrival of the Chinese migrants to Mauritius.

In the 1780s, thousands of voluntary migrants set sail for Port Louis from Guangzhou on board of British, French and Danish ships, with the hope of a better life and future abroad for their families. The earliest migrants were mostly Cantonese speaking. However, the majority of Chinese who came to Mauritius were from Meixian and Hakka speaking.

Hard-working and courageous, the Chinese adapted quickly to Mauritius and opened shops ‘la boutik sinois’ all over the island. Over the years of perseverance, determination, meticulous work and savings, the Chinese managed to provide for higher education for their children who eventually hold key positions in Mauritius in the fields of economy, politics and business, in public and private sectors as well as in sports and culture.

It was after the British took over that the Chinese really settled in Mauritius and established Chinatown as centre for commerce, culture and meeting friends. The Chinese were then merely traders and created the micro credit system via the ‘carnet la Boutik’ and most importantly, they practised among themselves a cash flow provision system called ‘Cid’ which enabled traders to have quick money to invest

and develop their business. This ‘parallel banking’ totally relied on trust among themselves. Since then, Sino-Mauritians have marked their contribution in the becoming and development of the Mauritian society. They played a predominant role in the industrialisation process through the manufacturing sector with the export processing zones and also contributed in developing Mauritius as a financial centre. Although Sino-Mauritians are a minority, they are actively present in almost all sectors of the economy.

Nowadays, the Chinese population is decreasing*, but Sino-Mauritians can be proud of the achievements of their elders. The portrait of late Sir Molin Jean Ah Chuen on the 25-rupee bank note in 1998 as well as on a postage stamp issued in 2011 are tangible recognition of the contribution of Sino-Mauritians in the development of our country.

All Mauritians are proud of their Chinatown, and as they used to say “Mauritius without Chinatown is not Mauritius”.

Source: The New Chinatown Foundation

** Editor's note: The Chinese population has been decreasing in Mauritius because numerous young people of the community have been emigrating to Canada. Over the years members of the other communities also have been emigrating to various countries maintaining the population of Mauritius at a sort of stable figure of one million plus. According to an economic survey done in the 1950s by Professor Titmus of the LSE the population of Mauritius should be over 2,000,000 by now.*

The Metro Express of Mauritius is one year old

Metro Express also known as the Light Rail or Métro Léger, was great novelty when it was introduced in Mauritius on 18 December 2019 for a population not accustomed to the railways, heavy or light.

The old railway network, owned by the Mauritius government was abandoned in the 1950s when this mode of transport had become financially a heavy burden on the economy. With a population of barely 600,000 people, then, the travelling public preferred the buses to move from place to place for whatever reasons. In those days, only a handful of students would travel by train to schools or colleges out of their localities.

Today it's another story with a population of over 1,300,000 people the bus service has to cater for an ever-increasing travelling work force throughout the island. The service is bursting at the seams. Children of all age groups are moving about so much so that the authorities have to provide free bus service at some time of the day for their conveyance. Taking also into consideration the fact that senior citizens may now board buses at will and free of charge at any time of the day there have been demands for the restoration of the railways which was agreed by the previous

Labour Government. According to press reports the system was meant to be managed and run under the control of a particular individual. The new Government saw the administration of the light railway in different light and the Metro Express Ltd (MEL) was purposely incorporated.

On 20 December 2020, a year after opening to the public, The MEL reports that over three million passengers (nearly as many as three times the population of Mauritius), have travelled by the light rail since its introduction to the Mauritius scene. The metro has been a success and will extend from Curepipe via Vacoas, Quatre Bornes to connect with the existing operation from Rose Hill down to Port Louis.

By the time the population will have reached 2 million plus, there could be a network extending from many areas to Port Louis. Could there ever be an extension from Port Louis to the airport. A rather farfetched idea in 2020. This reminds us of the extension of the Piccadilly Line extending to all five terminals of London Airport at Heathrow. Until this extension to the terminals was implemented, travellers had to catch the coach at the Victoria Terminal to travel to the airport to catch the plane for various destinations.

First Day Cover

The Mauritius Post issued a First Day Cover (FDC) on 18 December 2019 to commemorate the inauguration of the Metro Express (ME) in Mauritius for the connection from Port Louis to Rose Hill.



The information sheet in the FDC states: “The light rail project embodies the government vision of a modern Mauritius. It will connect the densely populated corridor of Curepipe to Port Louis via a 26-milometre railway line, with 19 stations, 2 of which will be state-of-the-art elevated stations and 6 major interchanges (immigration, Victoria, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, and Curepipe).

Besides the construction of stations, the scope of the project includes the construction of viaducts and bridges, track works (with substantial ballastless tracks including plinth, imbedded grass tracks), direct current (DC) electric tractions system, ticketing and passenger information systems, integration with road traffic through advanced signalling systems, procurement of rolling stock (light rail vehicles) from Construcciones y Auxiliarios de Ferrocarriles (CAF), Spain, and the construction of depots with maintenance equipment.”

Le Coup de Grace for Britain in Europe



If the union of Britain with Europe was achieved thanks to a vision of Sir Winston Churchill following World War II (See Page 2) the break-up of this Union has been achieved thanks to the machinations of Boris Johnson, who dares comparing himself to the tribune.

Johnson had a dream. He was 9 years' old when Britain joined the European Union and from his childhood he dreamt of Downing Street to make Britain Great again without Europe. For this, he would undo what the elders had done, to void the European connection. Well, he has done it. *Mission accomplie!*

Since his student days at Balliol College, Oxford, this element

proved himself to be quite a character according to alumni among whom was a Mauritian undergraduate. Johnson was known for his eurosceptic views

During his days as a Journalist with various Conservative papers, he was able to give free reins to his ability as a manipulator. His later campaign to secure the YES vote for the Brexit Referendum in 2016 was anything but truthful. 48% of the people of Britain voted against Brexit. Today, it is estimated that over half of the British people would vote against breaking away from the EU. (See Page 7 for headlines about his integrity as PM)

His dream was to weaken Europe just as his American counterpart across the Atlantic wanted to, to the delight of Russia not displeased at a diminished Europe.

Nadarajen Ramanjooloo (UK)

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The Big Deal of Boris Johnson seen by others

Headlines picked up from the net

This Brexit deal does not bring real sovereignty – whatever Boris Johnson wants you to believe
Femi Oluwole, The Independent - 25 December 2020

Mixed reactions after UK and EU reach £668 billion trade deal
April Roach, The Evening Standard, 24 December 2020

Bluff and brinksmanship: How Britain got a Brexit trade deal done
John Chalmers, Elizabeth Piper and Gabriela Baczynska
REUTERS 24 December 2020

Boris Johnson ‘sacrificed’ Britain’s fishing industry to get deal with EU, fishermen *says Jon Stone,*
The independent 24 December 2020

Boris Johnson has 'got Brexit done'. With a deal that will please no one
Martin Kettle, The Guardian Thu, 24 December 2020

Boris Johnson is claiming victory in the Brexit negotiations, but the rest of the UK has lost
INDEPENDENT 24 December 2020

Video Labour: Trade deal not what the government promised

'My deal was better': Theresa May delivers withering 4-minute takedown of Boris Johnson’s Brexit agreement
Jimmy Nsubuga, METRO 30 December 2020,

Brexit a product of ‘lies and false promises’, Macron says in New Year’s message
Yahoo News, Andrew Woodcock, January 2021

Brexit: Boris Johnson’s EU trade deal branded worst UK negotiation in at least 40 years
Andrew Woodcock, Yahoo News, 31 December 2020

Why Brexit Still Isn't 'Done' – Despite Boris Johnson's Deal
Arj Singh, Deputy Political Editor, HuffPost UK, 2 January 2021,

Ignore what Boris Johnson says – the British public has never given its consent to this damaging Brexit deal
Femi Oluwole, The Independent
Fri, 1 January 2021, 7:52 pm GMT+4

From N.R. (UK)

2021 Horoscope or Horror Scope

The 21st century was hailed as the Century of Peace. Yet, two decades into it there are still strifes almost on all parts of the globe. There are conflicts among people for various reasons from primitive territorial claims to the new fangle credos created by men themselves a few centuries ago when the fact is that Planet Earth has existed without such for billions of years and men himself have been on earth for only a few millions of years, yet without any belief to fight for at the outset.

However, primitive men used to exterminate one another and so do modern men. And all that is made worse by natural disasters and calamities like tempests and hurricanes, bush fires and earthquakes, and diseases and epidemics on a worldwide scale.

It must not be forgotten that life exists on this ball, we call planet earth, that sprang from fire and has since been cooling down, but still turning on itself and going round and round in space. That life can exist on this ball is a miracle. But we cannot expect everything to be perfect here. It is in this imperfect world that we spend our existence from birth to death.

It is in this context that man always wants to predict what would be his fate in the course of his existence and more specifically the new year ahead. They look for signs of the future in their crystal balls, some in religious books, but many try to find signs in the stars to tell him “which grain will grow and which will not”. Has he ever succeeded? Some charlatans did but even the luminaries like the prophets did not attempt to predict the future.

Well, we do not have to be a genius to say that 2021 is likely to be somewhat of a disaster, i.e. a disaster that began in the course of the previous year that is likely to get worse and worse. The Corona virus is propagating and is even mutating into various formats becoming more and more furious. That is for the year ahead. As for individuals born under whatever sign, if there is no employment there is no employment. Our lucky star will not change that. As for the disease, the virus is just waiting to tackle individuals who want to challenge its potential without protection. The standard drill is sanitising, mask wearing, social distancing, confinement, quarantine and restricted border crossing. It would appear that if men should not travel the virus does. It is moving from country to country at an alarming rate.

It is pointless to look at the sky, the fault lies not in our stars but in ourselves, to talk like the Bard.

Under whichever zodiacal sign we were born, the main concern of most individuals in 2021 will be how to fend for oneself and one’s family. Financial security will be of paramount importance for everyone.

Traumatic conditions will be experienced even by those in employment because conditions acerbated by prevalent economic conditions will be the challenge. So however difficult the situation one may have to face the truth is that one should not give up but “*mange ar li*,” as they say in Mauritius. If you don’t lose your head, you are more likely to move ahead.

For the year ahead, it will be as much a matter of taking the plunge because every opportunity offers also some risk. Without a portion of risk there is likely to be no headway.

Rama Chinegadoo

Mauritius Public Holidays 2021

New Year's Day	1–2 Jan
Thaipusam	Thu, 28 Jan
Commemoration Abolition Slavery-	Mon, 1 Feb
Lunar New Year	Fri, 12 Feb
Maha Shivratri	Thu, 11 Mar
Mauritian National Day	Fri, 12 Mar
Labour Day	Sat, 1 May
Eid al-Fitr	Likely 12–13 May*
Ganesh Chaturthi	Likely Fri, 10 Sep
All Saints' Day	Mon, 1 Nov
Commemoration of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers	Tue, 2 Nov
Christmas Day	Sat, 25 Dec

* Starts / ends in the evening

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Happy Birthday Vishnu



Escaping from the wintry days of Surrey, Vishnu Sooboodoo has been spending Christmas and the New Year with his family in Bermuda, more especially to celebrate his 65th.

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Socialising in lockdown?



Marla & Angus Darling of Bedford had to attend the wedding of a friend in spite of the lockdown. They were witnesses who had to sign the register at the Registry Office.

A Prayer from America via Facebook



Cherokee Prayer
Ga lu lo hi gi ni du da
Sky our grandfather
Nu da wa gi ni li si
Moon our grandmother
E lo hi gi ne tse
Earth our Mother
Ga li e li ga
I am thankful
Si gi ni ge yu
We love each other
O sa li he li ga
We are grateful

A true American whose people lost their lands to migrants like the ancestors of Trump from Scotland. Our ‘cantry’, says the man!

Could there be any truth in these headlines featured on the Internet?

The lies, falsehoods and misrepresentations of Boris Johnson ... boris-johnson-lies.com

Lies told by Boris Johnson and his government. Let's get Brexit done and take ... Matt Hancock aide “whacked” About

In Boris Johnson's long history of lies, the Marcus Rashford ...www.theguardian.com › commentisfree › jun › boris-Jun 21, 2020 — Johnson was sacked from his positions as vice-party chairman and shadow arts minister of the Tory party in 2004 after assuring then leader ...

It's not just Boris Johnson's lying. It's that the media let him get ... www.theguardian.com › commentisfree › nov › Nov 18, 2019 — These lies point to a systemic dishonesty within Johnson's campaigning machine . His party deliberately doctored footage of the shadow Brexit ..

Boris Johnson's top ten lies in his first year as prime ministerwww.theneweuropean.co.uk › brexit-news › boris-john Aug 13, 2020 — Think of spots and leopards. Boris Johnson became prime minister having been sacked twice from other jobs for telling lies – in 1988 from the Boris Johnson's smirk as he lies is the most honest thing about ... www.independent.co.uk › voices › boris-johnson-

Dec 12, 2020 — He was lying then. He is lying now. He knows the “Australian-style deal” is an absurd term, invented by him as a verbal place holder for no deal ...

Boris Johnson: The most infamous lies and untruths by the ... www.independent.co.uk › UK › UK Politics

The made-up quote. Boris Johnson was sacked from his job at The Times newspaper over allegations he ... May 25, 2019

Boris Johnson is now trapped in a corner by his own lies | The www.thenational.scot › news › 18939474.boris-johnso...

Dec 11, 2020 — Unfortunately for the people and businesses of the UK, Johnson has been locked into a corner by the lies he told to win a referendum ...

Boris Johnson Lies (@Johnson_Lies) | Twitter twitter.com › johnson_lies

The latest Tweets from Boris Johnson Lies (@Johnson_Lies). A dossier of the lies, falsehoods and misrepresentations of Boris Johnson and his government.

10 lies from Boris Johnson's LBC interview - Liberal Democrats www.libdems.org.uk › boris-johnson-lbc-lies

Nov 30, 2019 — 10 lies from Boris Johnson's LBC interview. Whether it was on nurses, hospitals or Brexit, Johnson spent an hour lying through his teeth.

Boris Johnson's Coronavirus Lies Are Killing Britons theintercept.com › 2020/04/30 › boris-johnsons-corona...

Boris Johnson keeps lying because he knows he'll get away ...www.newstatesman.com › politics › 2020/06 › boris-jo...

Boris Johnson's lie about Sadiq Khan is revealing in more ... www.newstatesman.com › devolution › 2020/10 › bori...

Oct 21, 2020 — DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/AFP via Getty Images. Sadiq Khan and Boris Johnsontake part in a vigil at the

The Labour Party - Boris Johnson's lies. | Facebook www.facebook.com › ... › Videos › Boris Johnson's lies.

Johnson's bleak house Britain - Mint www.livemint.com › ... › Johnson's bleak house Britain

Will Boris Johnson's lies ever catch up with him? – LabourList <labourlist.org › 2020/07 › will-boris-johnsons-lies-

Jul 30, 2020 — In this particular instance of Tory deception, the Office for Statistic Regulation has concluded that Boris Johnson repeatedly made “incorrect” ...

Damian Johnson's heart lies at Jenkins Independent ... www.kentuckyteacher.org › Features

The Decline and Fall of British Lying - Foreign Policy foreignpolicy.com › 2020/05/29 › cummings-boris-joh...

Boris Johnson's lies are tearing our country apart. This election is your chance to stop him.

Nadarajen Ramanjooloo (UK)

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



Obituary

Christiane Saide

It is with an immense sadness that we have learned of the passing of Christaine Saide of Wallington, Surrey, aged 70, a victim of the Corona Virus. She contracted the disease just after Christmas, which she had celebrated with husband, son and grand-daughter.



Little did the little gathering know that it was to be the last Christmas they would spend together and that the ‘bien portante’ Christiane would within a few days be struk by the killer virus. She passed away at the St Helier Hospital on January 11 after a few days of intensive care far from all members of the family. She could not be visited by anyone owing to the confinement in force.

Christiane was the soul of the Père Laval Benevolent Society (UK)’s choir and of her local church in Croydon. A devout Catholic she used to sing Schubert’s Ave Maria at friends’ weddings. Singing the song with son Yohann playing the violin her melodious voice would intensify the solemnity of a funeral mass and would bring tears to the eyes of many during the ceremony. A voice that is to be heard no more.

The demise has been so swift that it is still very diffilcult to take it in by all those who knew Christiane as a socially very active person. She has left a big void behind her.

In Christiane’s passing, I lose a very dear and sincere friend. Her ever smiling face still haunts me.

To the inconsolable husband Guy, Son Yohann, granddaughter Paisely, and all those who mourn her death we offer our deepest sympathy.

Peter Chellen
Mauritian Overseas Gazette (UK)

Which witch is the witch?

Outgoing President Trump complains that his impeachment is the greatest witch-hunt in the history of his country. But the question is whether there is, actually, a witch to hunt.

Is it The witch of the East or The witch of the West? Like the hordes of flying monkeys of The Wizard of Oz, the supporters of the American witch swarmed on the Capitol in a frenzied attack on January 6. They scaled walls and penetrated the building to defile the sanctuary of Democracy.

For many Americans, for this organised attack on the Capitol, the punishment is capital to set an example not only to the locals but also to the world at large.

The Democrats want the self-confessed witch out of office before his term.

K. Lingum (Canada)



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Recipe Tipik Mauricien

Crab Bouillon

Ingredients:

Crabs (cleaned,washed and cut)
1 onion (sliced)
1 tbs ground ginger and garlic
Few curry leaves
6 garlic cloves (peeled and chopped)
2 fresh tomatoes (crushed)
4 green chillies (chopped)
1 lime
Salt to taste
3 tbs chopped coriander leaves

Instructions:

Heat oil in a large saucepan
Add onions, curry leaves, garlic cloves and ground garlic and ginger
Then add the crabs and keep stirring
Leave on low heat until the crabs change colour
After few minutes the crabs will become red
Then add tomatoes and stir well until tomatoes are cooked
Then add enough water and salt to taste
Leave on low heat for At least 15 minutes
Then add coriander leaves
And remove from heat
And squeeze the lime juice and serve with a nice and hot tomato chutney.

Recipe for tomato chutney

2 fresh tomatoes (chopped)
1 onion (finely chopped)
4 green chillies(chopped)
2 tbs chopped coriander leaves
Salt to taste
Mix all ingredients and add lime juice (optional)

Amravadee Chellen (Watford, UK)

Would Mauritius have been better off as a British colony?

Very often I come across fellow compatriots who believe that Mauritius would be better off if the island was linked to Great Britain as La Réunion is an overseas department of France. One argument is that Mauritius would still be British and Mauritians would be allowed entry to the UK without restriction.

It is a very simplistic reasoning to believe that such a situation could arise because our sister-island of La Réunion is an Overseas Department of France.

The British Empire of which Mauritius was part had become an anachronism. The Empire no longer existed several decades ago (though there are people still receiving decorations as Members of the non-existent British Empire (from GBE to MBE) within the British Commonwealth. Yes, Mauritius, under British rule. was part of the British Empire. But as far back as 1947 since the loss of India, the Jewel in the British Crown, Britain had decided to grant independence to all foreign countries under its wings. One by one the countries were being released from the mother-country’s apron spring. Mauritius was to follow in the same vein and constitutional talks took place in London in this connection.

That Mauritius was to be independent was inevitable whether the island wanted it or not. The Labour Party under SSR was totally in favour of independence. But alleged fear of Hindu domination (Hégémonie Hindoue) after independence was expressed by the Opposition Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) and inflamed by a section of the media. It is almost on this point that the PMSD was against independence. Its new leader, Gaetan Duval, wanted, instead of independence, an association with Britain on a similar basis as sister-island of La Réunion with France. But Britain would hear none of it.

So there is nothing new about the idea of Association of Mauritius with Britain. Such a campaign was tried in the 1960s during talks with the mother-country for constitutional development.

What can be said of Mauritius since independence in 1968? The country has, by leaps and bounds, moved forward to prosperity graduating from a monocrop economy (i.e. an economy depending solely on sugar production) to become a Newly Industrialised Country (NIC) and an important financial centre in the Indian Ocean with tourism as a high earner.

What can be said of our sister-island located 120 miles from us? According to France’s ‘L’Observatoire des Inégalités’ report published in November last “La Réunion est le département le plus pauvre de France” (Réunion is the poorest of the departments of France).

Mauritius is today a prosperous republic standing on its own feet while Reunion still depends on France for its survival. This should be the answer to those who believe that Mauritius should have remained a British colony.

P.C.