

MAURITIUS

TIMES

• “Truth never damages a cause that is just”. -- Mahatma Gandhi

Interview: Dr Roukaya Kasenally,
Social Activist and Democracy Scholar

**“Political leaders
who are morally and
ethically driven
are key to the change
we all want to see”**



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**Maradona: why
the English can't
let go of the Hand
of God and Latin
Americans love it**

Attending to Burning National Problems

All over the world, common to all elected governments is that by the time they are in mid-term, their popularity dips in the polls. What happens next is that, since they cannot yet be voted out, the people express their frustration or anger when local or regional elections are held by voting for the opposition parties. The reason is simple: the ruling party is labouring to fulfil the promises that were part of the rhetoric at election time, and with only so much time remaining to complete the mandate, the people realise that all their expectations are unlikely to be met.

While it is a fact that citizens have some legitimate expectations, campaigning politicians add some more of their own to the citizens' basket, which has an enhancing effect on their existing ones. And then the onus is on the incoming government to give effect to what has been promised, since it remains the 'indispensable conduit of access to such state resources as taxation revenues, law-making powers and policing'.

In December 2014 we Mauritians decided to change from one political alliance to another, on the assumption that it was a shift to another kind of politics, implying an alternative, better way of doing things and of running the affairs of State for the benefit of its citizens. Initially, actions taken that were loudly and widely publicised gave the general impression that this in fact was the case. And we were confident enough that the same mindset would be sustained throughout the mandate. We had seen how in the past every incoming regime swept with a new broom, only for the old ways to surreptitiously make a comeback again – but surely, we told ourselves, this time it would be different?

Whether it is savvy spin-doctoring or people's perception that things had changed for the better, the outgoing regime was re-elected in November 2019. Beefed up, it promised even more goodies, encountered head-on (as all other countries did too) the unfolding Covid-19 pandemic, and gained what it could claim as a measure of success in its control.

And then the worms started crawling out of the woodwork with procurement and other scandals being exposed. The latest is the Angus Road saga which seems to be so polarizing attention that the government risks being paralysed as regards more pressing national issues, and it is time that they became the focus of concern and action by government, and by civil society too.

Citizens require some assurance from both the public and private sectors, and civil society too on several counts, amongst others:

- That there are adequate systems and structures to ensure the running of institutions in all transparency, objectivity and with accountability;
- There will be absolutely no political interference in the running of these institutions, including threats that may silence officers into submission;
- That awards of contracts will be made on the basis of objective criteria that will be strictly adhered to, and that there will be no arm-twisting to suit lobbies or cronies;

- That banks will safeguard our money, and not siphon it elsewhere locally or abroad; that judicious use will be made of taxpayers' money;
- That the lawyer or attorney will not take us on a spin and truly and honestly fight our case and obtain justice, rather than compromise in tacit collusion with the counterparts;
- That the civil servant that we face across the table or the window will not sabotage us through rigid procedures and delaying tactics;
- That the media will not dabble in sensationalism and 'fake news' but instead provide us with the real news, will verify facts before presenting them as information written in stone, will not conduct trials and make judgements but instead leave that to the law courts, will not falsely accuse and tarnish a person's good name and relegate any rectification to the smallest print in the most remote corner of a newspaper;
- That the health professionals will look at us as human beings in distress who need support and due treatment, and not burden us with unnecessary and costly investigations. That they will not prescribe treatment that will be worse than the disease, and that they will inject compassion in the care which is our due;
- That patients will not pressurize doctors to do unnecessary X-rays, scans, blood tests because their friends or relatives have had these done too;
- That patients will await their turn and not jump the queue when they come to hospital or health centre, in the same manner as they follow the rules in other places, such as the bank or the post office;
- That teachers will teach with passion and interest post-Zoom during confinement, that students **and their parents** will be respectful of their teachers and accept the need for discipline and order in the schools and colleges. That the 'ministry' will not tolerate indiscipline and side with pupils who have political connections?
- That parents will fully assume their role and responsibility as regards the behaviour of their wards, and that they will not bully the teachers or principals – and that too in front of the unruly student – who are doing their level best to inculcate values and impart education that will prepare their wards for life;
- That priests will not exploit the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of people who are seeking solace, and that they will refrain from paedophilia or sexual exploitation of women who come to seek succour in prayers;
- That the law and order situation will change for the better.

The clock is ticking: Year 1 has just passed, and as the village election results have shown, the countdown has already begun! - for the people and their elected representatives. Will the latter provide the needed oversight and initiate the steps to meet the citizens' just expectations as pledged? Let us hope that we will start getting the answers before it is too late.

The Conversation

COVID vaccines will be here soon – in the meantime, here's how to stay resilient

Five coping strategies to boost your resilience to see you through the final phases of the pandemic

With several COVID vaccines closing in on regulatory approval, we can start to imagine a future after this pandemic. But health experts have warned people not to get too excited. The World Health Organization predicts that Europe will face at least six more difficult months, and it is clear that there is still a long road ahead.



So, while there are good reasons to be hopeful about the future, it is also clear that more resilience is called for, especially as pandemic fatigue sets in. Photo - Ramiro Pianarosa/Unsplash

So while there are good reasons to be hopeful about the future, it is also clear that more resilience is called for, especially as pandemic fatigue sets in.

Resilience is the ability to cope with the normal stress of life as well as being able to bounce back from crises. It's an important tool to help us deal with COVID and its implications.

Resilience research is well-established and spans around five decades, with studies ranging from understanding how people deal with ordinary adversities to the impact of traumatic events. Studies suggest that resilience can support our wellbeing. It can also help us deal with stress, burnout and emotional fatigue.

On the whole, it seems that many people have found ways to cope with COVID and the control measures designed to minimise its impact.

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Death and Violence in the Line of Duty

It is not enough for the national conscience to be jolted – it is primarily the political conscience that must be shaken out of its laggardness



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The sad and tragic loss of Woman Police Officer Dimple Raghuo in horrifying circumstances has shocked the national conscience. Stepping towards a gate to stop a speeding car that was on a drug mission, she was swept under it as the driver speeded up to ram through the gate, rolling her down and dragging her for a distance of 500 metres.

By all accounts, this was an exemplary officer who was held in high esteem.

She was devoted to her work, and equally devoted to her family of seven sisters, one of whom had already passed away through illness. They had been orphaned some years earlier of both parents. According to her two unmarried sisters, she was the 'man-around-the-house' for them: she took responsibility for everything after the passing of their parents, and that was over and above her professional responsibilities as a member of the Anti-Drug & Smuggling Unit (ADSU).

She was only 38 years old, with many more years of a fulfilling career awaiting her. What an irony that she should be called for this controlled operation by ADSU on a day when she was off-duty, and then to lose her life so dreadfully while in action. This is an existential dilemma for which we each have to find our own answers.

The country had yet to recover from the no less brutal death of two-year old Ayaan at the hands of his stepfather. Each incident in its own way was related to drugs, a spreading epidemic which demands an 'urgency of action' on the part of the national authorities, as the editorial in the last issue of this paper reminded us. For such action to occur and be effective, it is not enough for the national conscience to be jolted – it is primarily the political conscience that must be shaken out of its laggardness and take the drastic decisions that the circumstances demand.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has not spared health workers. Worldwide nearly 7000 of them, front liners belonging to all categories but more so doctors and nurses, have died. While the majority have succumbed to the virus, sadly a number of them were deaths by suicide, the result of unbearable stress or depression as they watched colleagues they were caring for slipping away under their very eyes, also gone at relatively young ages. We too had to mourn the loss of Dr Bruno Cheong, carried away in the line of duty as he caught the virus from Zero patient who was responsible for spreading the disease in Mauritius...”



“Dimple Raghuo was only 38 years old, with many more years of a fulfilling career awaiting her. What an irony that she should be called for this controlled operation by ADSU on a day when she was off-duty, and then to lose her life so dreadfully while in action. The country had yet to recover from the no less brutal death of two-year old Ayaan at the hands of his stepfather. Each incident in its own way was related to drugs, a spreading epidemic which demands an 'urgency of action' on the part of the national authorities. For such action to occur and be effective, it is not enough for the national conscience to be jolted – it is primarily the political conscience that must be shaken out of its laggardness...”

tances demand.

There are a few occupations that are particularly at high risk of death and violence in the line of duty, and clearly the more exposed and visible the nature of the job, the higher will be the risk. In any country, it is almost axiomatic that policemen and soldiers who are in the frontline face the highest risk, especially of death. They do indeed deserve our gratitude, though I must concede that police brutality is an issue that needs tackling too.

Unnecessary death is indeed terrible, but violence too can leave serious sequelae. Many years ago an officer who was involved in an encounter with a notorious drug criminal happened to fall down a ravine in the process. He spent several months in hospital and afterwards consulted me with chronic back problems. After some time, this 40-plus father of two young children decided to call it quits and changed profession. He had deemed that the constant risks and dangers he was exposed to were not worth it for health and family.

The same criminal had also once assaulted a doctor in the Casualty Department at Victoria Hospital, and unfortunately that was not the first incident of its kind in our Casualty Departments. The incident at Victoria Hospital happened because of the indifference of the Ministry of Health (MOH) to such attacks in Casualty that have kept recurring. In the early 1990s in view of their frequency the Mauritius Medical Association wrote to the MOH, seeking an appointment to discuss the issue and

to make some practical suggestions for dealing with the situation.

Typical of the MOH, that letter was never even so much as acknowledged. In other countries too doctors face physical assaults, and in Mauritius there is in addition verbal violence too, which can degenerate. Some drug addicts have been known to threaten Casualty Officers, especially at night, demanding that they be prescribed shots of pethidine, and cite their high level political connections. With the worsening drugs problem, one must expect an increase of such incidents as time goes by, and for which the authorities had better be prepared so as to protect the staff – and also send strong signals

to those who are out to ruin the country and damage its services.

The Covid-19 pandemic has not spared health workers. Worldwide nearly 7000 of them, front liners belonging to all categories but more so doctors and nurses, have died. While the majority have succumbed to the virus, sadly a number of them were deaths by suicide, the result of unbearable stress or depression as they watched colleagues they were caring for slipping away under their very eyes, also gone at relatively young ages. We too had to mourn the loss of Dr Bruno Cheong, carried away in the line of duty as he caught the virus from Zero patient who was responsible for spreading the disease in Mauritius.

Overall, and in all countries, not enough is done to protect officers performing their duty in good faith. More often than not, the problem is politicized instead of concrete political action being taken by means of effective policies clearly spelt out and implemented. Political correctness vis-à-vis perpetrators leaves potential victims vulnerable to predation and aggression. While society can raise its voice, it is the decision makers who must fulfill their duty of protection of the citizens by directing their attention and their energies to where these are needed, rather than diluting them in pursuits that do not serve the public interest.

When it comes to election fraud claims, watch what the lawyers do, not what the politicians say



Steven Mulroy
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Why Trump's election fraud claims aren't showing up in his lawsuits challenging the results

There seems to be a real disconnect between the claims of widespread fraud, a stolen election and illegal voting made by President Donald Trump and his allies and the actual claims formally made by his lawyers in court.

Both Trump in his Twitter feed and White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany in her press conferences

have made allegations of broad-based election fraud. But under questioning from judges in Arizona and Pennsylvania, Trump's lawyers have backed away from actually asserting fraud. Despite Trump's allegations to the contrary, his lawyers have acknowledged that they are not claiming that dead people voted or that occasional computer glitches were part of a deliberate conspiracy.

In one of several Pennsylvania cases, Trump attorneys actually signed a legal document in which they stated,

"Petitioners do not allege, and there is no evidence of, any fraud in connection with the challenged ballots; Petitioners do not allege, and there is no evidence of, any misconduct in connection with the challenged ballots; Petitioners do not allege, and there is no evidence of, any impropriety in connection with the challenged ballots; Petitioners do not allege, and there is no evidence of, any undue influence committed with respect to the challenged ballots."

The attorney backpedaling is not surprising.

It's one thing to speculate via tweet, but quite another for an attorney, who is an officer of the court, to make representations to a judge. Trump's lawyers are constrained in what they can assert by three major restrictions that apply to lawyers: professional ethics, rules of civil procedure and rules of evidence.

Legal ethics apply

As members of the bar association – the state entity that grants attorneys their license to practice law – lawyers have a professional ethics obligation "not to abuse legal procedure" by filing "frivolous" claims. Rule 3.1 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, some version of which applies in all states, forbids a lawyer from bringing a claim or argument "unless there is a basis in law and fact for doing so that is not frivolous."

The bar requires lawyers to "inform themselves about the facts of their clients' cases and the applicable law" and "determine that they can make good faith arguments" supporting their clients' positions.

At least outside the context of criminal defense, lawyers must be able to honestly represent to the court that they have a basis for believing they have a path to



Rudy Giuliani, lawyer for President Donald Trump, speaks during a news conference about lawsuits related to the presidential election results in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 19, 2020.
Sarah Silbiger/The Washington Post—Getty Images

getting relief either based on existing law or "a good faith argument for an extension, modification or reversal of existing law."

Violating this requirement could expose the lawyer to sanctions from the state bar, which could range from a reprimand to a fine to a license suspension. More practically, it can erode courts' confidence in the lawyer's reliability and damage the lawyer's professional reputation.

"As an election law scholar and practitioner, I believe that perhaps the most compelling rule keeping lawyers cautious is the practical consideration that making unsubstantiated claims of fraud is not only unethical but also a waste of time. Eventually — and, under the accelerated time frame of these cases, that means pretty quickly — the lawyers are going to have to present actual evidence to judges. Without such evidence, judges will dismiss the claim..."

In Trump's case, this means his attorneys can only say the election was stolen if they know of actual, credible reports of systematic fraud.

Sanctions can be imposed

Formal disciplinary administrative proceedings against lawyers by the bar for this kind of misconduct are rare. But less rare are motions by opposing parties for sanctions under a different rule.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 allows an opposing party to move for sanctions against a lawyer who files a frivolous claim or makes a frivolous argument. Most states have an analogous rule for their courts.

Rule 11 provides that when making a claim before the court, the attorney certifies, "after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances," that:

1. it's not being made for an improper purpose, such as to harass or delay;
2. the claims are warranted by existing law or a nonfrivolous argument for a change in the law; and
3. the factual assertions have evidence to support them, or will likely have such support after a reasonable opportunity for investigation and discovery.

For example, if a corporation's lawyer files an antitrust complaint that she knows to be a stretch, just to block a rival's merger deal and give her client time to complete its own merger deal first, that would be a violation of Rule 11.

The rule allows any opposing party to ask for sanctions, or for the court to order sanctions on its own initiative. Frequently, such

sanctions include paying the other side's attorney fees for having to do the work to oppose the

Put up or shut up

As an election law scholar and practitioner, I believe that perhaps the most compelling rule keeping lawyers cautious is the practical consideration that making unsubstantiated claims of fraud is not only unethical but also a waste of time.

Eventually — and, under the accelerated time frame of these cases, that means pretty quickly — the lawyers are going to have to present actual evidence to judges. Without such evidence, judges will dismiss the claim.

And a lawyer making fraud claims without evidence runs the risk that an impatient judge might dismiss an entire case, even if other, legitimate claims are being made.

When it comes to the election fraud claims, watch what the lawyers do, not what the politicians say.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT STAFF ASSOCIATION

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Wednesday 30th December 2020 at 7th Floor, CSK Building, Cnr Emmanuel Anquetile and Remy Ollier Streets, Port Louis at 12.00 hrs.

AGENDA

1. Welcome address
2. Reading and approval of last AGM
3. Matters Arising thereon
4. President's report
5. Treasurer's report (2018)
6. Amendments of Rules
7. Appointment of two Auditors
8. Election of six managing Committee members
9. AOB President

Secretary

Britons to plant trees to mark Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on throne

Britons will be encouraged to plant trees to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70th anniversary on the throne as part of a plan to create a greener country in honour of her seven decades of service, reports Reuters.

The 94-year-old, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, is due to mark her Platinum Jubilee in February 2022.

The British government is planning a four-day celebration that summer, featuring an extra day's public holiday, with tree planting to be a feature of the milestone, according to an announcement on Sunday.

Named "The Queen's Green Canopy," the charity-backed project will encourage communities, schools, councils and landowners to plant native trees to help the environment and make



The Queen planting a tree during a visit to Salvesen Gardens, a disabled veterans housing development in Edinburgh in 2015. Photo - www.dailymail.co.uk

local areas greener.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the health crisis and pandemic had reminded people of the importance of nature and green spaces and that trees could transform communities as well as tackling climate change.

Elizabeth, who is also the world's current oldest and longest-reigning monarch, became queen on Feb. 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI.

The British royal family have been vocal campaigners on a host of environmental issues, with Elizabeth's son Prince Charles speaking out for decades about the impact of climate change and the importance of conservation, and her grandson Prince William also taking up the mantle.

Pope Francis installs new cardinals, including first African-American

Pope Francis on Saturday installed 13 new cardinals, including the first African-American to hold the high rank, further expanding the pontiff's impact on the group that will one day elect his successor.

Instead of the usual thousands, only 10 guests per cardinal were allowed in St. Peter's Basilica as the pope gave the men their ring and traditional red hat, known as a biretta, reports Reuters.



Wilton D. Gregory receives his biretta as he is appointed cardinal by Pope Francis. Photo - media3.s-nbcnews.com

Nine of the 13 are under 80 and eligible under Church law to enter a secret conclave to choose the next pope from among themselves after Francis dies or resigns.

It was Francis' seventh consistory since his election in 2013. He has now appointed 57% of the 128 cardinal electors, most of whom share his vision of a more inclusive and outward-looking Church.

Thus far, he has appointed 18 cardinals from mostly far-flung countries that never had one, nearly all of them from the developing world. In Saturday's consistory, Brunei and Rwanda got their first cardi-

nals.

While Europe still has the largest share of cardinal electors, with 41%, it is down from 52% in 2013 when Francis became the first Latin-American pope.

With each consistory, Francis has increased the chances that his successor will be another non-European, having beefed up the Church in places where it is either a tiny minority or where it is growing faster than in the stagnant West.

The nine new electors come from Italy, Malta, Rwanda, the United States, the Philippines, Chile, Brunei and Mexico.

In his homily, Francis told the men to keep their eyes on God, avoid all forms of corruption, and not succumb to a "worldly spirit" that can accompany the prestige and power of their new rank.

Wilton Gregory, the 72-year-old archbishop of Washington, D.C., becomes the first African-American cardinal at a time the United States is examining race relations after a spate of police killings of unarmed Black people.

Gregory made headlines in June when he blasted President Donald Trump's visit to a Catholic shrine in Washington, after police and soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to clear protesters so Trump could be photographed in front of a historic Washington church holding a Bible.

Gregory said he found it "baffling and reprehensible that any Catholic facility would allow itself to be so egregiously misused and manipulated".

Singapore woman who had Covid gives birth to baby with antibodies



The baby was born this month without COVID-19 but with the virus antibodies.

Photo - ia.tmgrup.com.tr

A Singaporean woman, who was infected with the novel coronavirus in March when she was pregnant, has given birth to a baby with antibodies against the virus, offering a new clue as to whether the infection can be transferred from mother to child, reports Reuters.

The baby was born this month without Covid-19 but with the virus antibodies, the Straits Times newspaper reported on Sunday, citing the mother.

"My doctor suspects I have transferred my Covid-19 antibodies to him during my pregnancy," Celine Ng-Chan told the paper.

Ng-Chan had been mildly ill from the disease and was discharged from hospital after two-and-a-half weeks, the Straits Times said.

Ng-Chan and the National University Hospital (NUH), where she gave birth, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The World Health Organisation says it is not yet known whether a pregnant woman with Covid-19 can pass the virus to her foetus or baby during pregnancy or delivery.

To date, the active virus has not been found in samples of fluid around the baby in the womb or in breast milk.

Doctors in China have reported the detection and decline over time of Covid-19 antibodies in babies born to women with the coronavirus disease, according to an article published in October in the journal 'Emerging Infectious Diseases'.

Transmission of the new coronavirus from mothers to newborns is rare, doctors from New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center reported in October in 'JAMA Pediatrics'.

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Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was travelling in convoy north of Tehran on Friday when he was shot by a remote-controlled machine gun. Photo Daily Mail

Assassinated Iranian nuclear scientist shot with remote-controlled machine gun

The Iranian nuclear scientist assassinated east of Tehran was shot by a remote-controlled machine gun operating out of another car, the semi-official Fars News Agency said Sunday.

With top Iranian officials blaming Israel, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and others have promised revenge for the Friday killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was the country's chief nuclear scientist, reports CNN.

There were conflicting accounts from Iranian news agencies about how the attack unfolded.

The Fars News report said Fakhrizadeh was travelling with his wife in a bulletproof car, alongside three security personnel vehicles, when he heard what sounded like bullets hitting a vehicle, and he exited the car to determine what had happened.

When he got out, a remote-controlled machine gun opened fire from a Nissan stopped about 150 meters (164 yards) from Fakhrizadeh's car, the agency said.

Fakhrizadeh was hit at least three times, according to Fars News. His bodyguard was also shot. Following the gunfire, the Nissan exploded, the news agency reported, adding the attack lasted three minutes.

The semi-official Iranian Students News Agency also reported Fakhrizadeh's car was hit by gunfire, followed by an explosion and more gunfire. ISNA cited Iranian Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami as its source.

Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, compared the assassination to the killing of Qasem Soleimani, the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. Soleimani, the leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' Quds Force, was killed in a US drone strike earlier this year in Iraq.

"Undoubtedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will give a calculated and decisive answer to the criminals who took Martyr Fakhrizadeh," Kharrazi was quoted as saying.

Fakhrizadeh was the head of the research center of new technology in the elite Revolutionary Guards and was a leading figure in Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on the international community "to end their shameful double standards" and "condemn this act of state terror." He added that the attack showed "serious indications of Israeli role."

US President-elect Joe Biden will let health experts decide who will get a Covid-19 vaccine in the country first, according to Dr Celine Gounder, a member of his coronavirus advisory board.

Since the risk for Covid-19 can vary among different groups of people, prioritisation for a vaccine will be tricky, and Biden will leave those decisions to health experts, the Indian-American infectious disease physician said.

It is expected that there will likely be a limited supply of coronavirus vaccine doses available immediately after a vaccine is authorised by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"Other than health care workers, others who will be first in line to get it will be people who do have chronic underlying medical conditions who are older, as well as communities of colour who have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic," Gounder told CNN on Friday.

The country's death count since the pandemic's start is now more than 264,000. And nearly another 60,000 people could lose their lives over the next three weeks, according to an ensemble forecast published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week.

Indian-American health expert on Biden's plan for vaccine distribution



"Now among those groups is where it starts to get a little bit more contentious," she added. "How do you prioritise between the 85-year-old woman in a nursing home, versus the 65-year-old African American -- especially when that 65-year-old may

be as just as high-risk of significant disease?"

The CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) will recommend groups to receive the vaccine first.

China's manufacturing accelerates in November



China's manufacturing activity accelerated in November as its rebound from the pandemic gained strength, a survey showed Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. Photo - theindependent.com

China's manufacturing activity accelerated in November as its rebound from the pandemic gained strength, a survey showed Monday, while the United States and Europe

struggled with rising infections and renewed controls on business.

Business conditions have largely returned to normal since the ruling Communist Party declared the out-

break that began in southwestern China under control in March.

Factories, stores and offices have reopened, though restrictions on visitors entering the country remain. Retail spending, auto sales, factory output and other activity have rebounded to above pre-pandemic levels.

"The pace of economic growth picked up in November on the back of a broad-based improvement in both services and manufacturing," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

In November, an indicator of factory production rose to 54.7 from October's 53.9, the National Bureau of Statistics and the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing reported. The new orders index rose 1.1 points to 53.9.

The measure of new exports rose to 51.5 from the previous month's 51.0.

Chinese exporters have benefited from the relatively early reopening of their economy and demand for masks and other medical supplies. They are taking market share from foreign competitors that still face anti-virus restrictions.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Dr Roukaya Kasenally, Social Activist and Democracy Scholar

“Political leaders who are morally and ethically driven are key to the change we all want to see”

In today's interview, Roukaya Kasenally, a democracy scholar and an Associate Professor in Media and Political Systems at the University of Mauritius, dissects the several aspects of dysfunction in our democracy, and argues for more transparent financing of political parties, genuine separation of powers so that the check and balance system actually works and pleads for institutional strengthening by nominating or appointing the right persons in the right places by a mechanism which can neutralize to some extent at least the phenomenon of political patronage and protection.

Besides holding the position of CEO of the African Media Initiative, Roukaya Kasenally is currently the Chair of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa and a board member of the West Africa Democracy Radio.

She has authored/co-authored a number of publications on media and democratic systems.

She holds a PhD from the University of Sheffield.



Mauritius Times: If we go by the assessments of different international agencies on the governance and democratic credentials of this country, Mauritius would be doing much better than most countries on the African continent and even elsewhere. As a democracy scholar, do you find the glass half empty or half full?

Dr Roukaya Kasenally: Before answering your question, it is perhaps important to offer a global overview as to the state of democracy. For the last five years, we are experiencing a constant decline in democracy across the world. Today, we have more authoritarian regimes than actual democracies.

In fact, recent reports released by the V-Dem Institute or the EIU Democracy Index shed light on this worrisome trend and on what democracy scholars such as Larry Diamond and Francis Fukuyama have termed as a leap in democratic deficiency across the world. No doubt, we are living in difficult times and there is an urgent need to create greater understanding and clarity as to what democracy means and how it can serve the citizens in their quest for more just and equal societies.

In the case of Mauritius, a fair bit of my scholarly work has focused at deconstructing what I refer to as the 'picture perfect' Mauritian democratic model. The various democratic tables of leagues do systematically position Mauritius as the number one democracy to be emulated in Africa. My concern with such a classification, however, is that it merely skims on the surface, offering just a score point as opposed to a more in-depth analysis as to the actual functioning of democracy. For me there is an urgent need to spend one's energy on the quality of democracy as

opposed to a point score.

In fact, the problem that we face in Mauritius is for too long we have cultivated a highly romanticised version of Mauritius - be it its democracy or the miracle economic model. A number of countries in Africa are doing much better than us - the case of Rwanda when it comes to, for example, gender representation in parliament (incidentally the highest in the world). So for me there is still a lot of work to be done as democracy is a project that is in constant construction.

*** What do you consider could constitute a threat to our democracy, and how should it be addressed?**

“We are aware that across the world journalists are persecuted and tortured for the work they do. In the case of Mauritius, although we have an existing battery of laws that can potentially reign in the media, namely sedition and defamation, we have rarely seen journalists behind bars. However, it is not the current battery of laws that I am concerned with but more with what self-censorship can make journalists do or not do...”

The fact that we have espoused a highly romanticised version of the Mauritius democratic model and often beat our chests that we are number one in Africa have contributed to a sense of complacency. Complacency in turn encourages stagnation and does not augur well for any society.

For the last 20 years we have been discussing/debating electoral reform but to no avail. We have had the Sachs Report, the Carcassonne Report, the Sithanen Recommendations as well as a number of Select Committees but still continue to contest each general election with the First Past The Post (FPTP) and Best Loser System inherited from our colonial period. On numerous occasions we have witnessed the clear limitations of the FPTP and BLS which have promoted a 'winner takes all' syndrome and an 'over-focus' on identity politics.

“Politics is not the problem; it is the manner in which it is practised. In the case of Mauritius, we are acutely aware that we need to modernise our electoral system by ensuring fairness and representation, that we need to democratise the manner in which leaders are elected or nominated within political parties and that democracy is not merely voting every five years...”

There are multiple threats to our democracy and this to a great extent is exhibited by the manner in which politics is conducted - fuelled by the presence of big money and the growing influence of socio-cultural lobbies that invite themselves into the conduct of politics on the island. These two features have contributed to creating a highly polarised and exclusionary way of doing politics and by extension has considerably harmed (and continues to harm) our democracy.

*** There is also the issue of political financing. State financing may not necessarily put an end to political donations from individuals and private companies, and politicians may wish to have access to both. There seems to be no one best model available to ensure a level playing field, isn't it? Do you think there's one we could have followed? What terms? Which model we should emulate, etc.?**

One of the biggest threats to our democracy is the advent of big money and its ability to easily crowd out smaller parties and candidates that have less connected networks. In fact, big money causes an unlevel playing field and often taints the democratic process.

A research report commissioned by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (of which a colleague and I were the authors) on the 'Cost of Parliamentary Politics in Mauritius' was recently released.

☞ Cont. on page 8

'One of the biggest threats to our democracy is the advent of big money and its ability to easily crowd out smaller parties and candidates'

☞ Cont. from page 7

It highlights the sad reality that money is a necessity for those contesting an election as campaigns are getting more and more expensive and that party ideology and loyalty have been replaced by clientelism and 'what is in it for me'.

Political party funding has been an integral part of the discussions on electoral reform, but we have not been able to move an iota on this. The latest offering was the 'Political Financing Bill' (2019) which failed to receive the required three-quarter majority in Parliament to become law. My understanding is that we cannot dissociate party funding from party electoral expenses as they go hand in hand. Currently, there is a big gap between the ceiling of expenses allowed by law and what is actually spent during a campaign by a candidate. Most candidates duly swear an affidavit and file their returns to the Electoral Commission Office (ECO) confirming that they have not gone beyond the imposed ceiling but we all know the sums spent are ten-fold or more!

Perhaps the most important steps that could allow for a more inclusive model would be to make the registration of political parties mandatory (not only during an election) as well as strengthen the role and responsibility of the ECO and Electoral Supervisory Commission (ESC).

*** As regards political donations, the question that arises is whether large donations secure greater access to and influence politicians to bestow illegitimate favours or adopt policies that go against the public interest. What's your take on that?**

The problem with political donations is the opacity in which they are laced and there is no doubt that money or other forms of resources are given with the tacit expectation of getting something in return.

In recent years we have heard of the candid disclosure of certain politicians of the money bags that have transited through their hands. We have witnessed concrete examples be it the Sun Trust building or the money found in the coffers of Navin Ramgoolam. What is worrying is the growing trend towards what can be referred to as a practice of non-accountability among elites in Mauritius where there is a clear collusion of interests between the business and political world.

In fact, a forthcoming book (out in March 2021) on 'Elites and the Politics of Accountability in Africa' where my colleague and I were responsible for the chapter on Mauritius speaks volumes on this culture of collusion which can no doubt be to the detriment of the citizen. That is why it is so important to ensure a vibrant civil society and an engaged

“In the case of the executive, we note an accelerated trend of what can be called an over-bulging executive with 23 Ministers and 10 Parliamentary Private Secretaries. Currently, out of 42 MPs elected for the ruling party, 33 of them are in the executive making the oversight function of the legislature extremely weak. Currently, the judiciary is the one that is still the flag bearer of perceived independence and credibility...”



citizenry that are is able to ensure and call to order this type of lop-sided relation, and that institutions function and expose political patronage and favours to small and closed groups with proximity to those in power. We have seen a number of initiatives come from the African continent - I specifically refer to the public inquiry on state capture in South Africa.

*** However corporate proximity to political power may not have always been detrimental to the public interest as during the post-independence years when the process of economic diversification had to be engaged, or when it was sought to rein in economic concentration with support given to new players like BAI, Gamma Civic, etc. What do you think?**

As we try to shed light on this issue, it is important that we debunk what is meant by public interest. We at times have the tendency to use it in a catch-all manner and thus dilute what it is really supposed to mean - in the interest of all citizens and for the common good.

Indeed you are right to emphasis on the contributory role of the private sector in the building phase of post-independent Mauritius, and this has been highlighted by num-

ber of scholars such as Deborah Brautigam and Sheila Bunwaree.

What is clear in the case of Mauritius is that we have on one side the traditional elites emanating from pre-colonialism and those who constitute the post-independence elites. There has at times been a great level of animosity against what is often referred to as the five big Franco-Mauritian families and the need to redistribute wealth in a more inclusive manner. In 2005, following the electoral win by the Labour Party, there was the 'democratisation of the economy' project that was put to execution but unfortunately it was more buzz and fluff although the intention might have been genuine.

For me, as mentioned earlier, it is the growing collusion between business and political elites (be they traditional or new elites), and also the unbridled levels of political patronage where contracts are at times tailor-made to fit those close to those in power that is the main level of concern and needs to be urgently addressed. The question that I often ask myself is - who bats for the people?

*** On the other hand, the separation of powers seems to be functioning properly with each of the branches of government - the legislative, executive and judicial - exercising its core functions. Is that indeed the case or is there an issue with the checks and balances?**

All textbooks that refer to Mauritius speak about the separation of powers and that this acts as the cornerstone of Mauritian democracy. Over the last two decades, as a democracy scholar I have noted the slow but constant frittering away of two of these three core institutions - the executive and the legislative.

In the case of the legislature which is supposed to act as the horizon form of accountability of the executive - it is unable to live up to its duty to reign in the executive. Members of Parliament despite being elected to represent their constituents are more concerned in pleasing their political leaders and towing the party line. It would be correct to say that what we are witnessing today in the legislature has brought that institution to an unprecedented low. Yet the legislature is fundamental to the functioning of a democracy.

In the case of the executive, we note an accelerated trend of what can be called an over-bulging executive with 23 Ministers and 10 Parliamentary Private Secretaries. Currently, out of 42 MPs elected for the ruling party, 33 of them are in the executive making the oversight function of the legislature extremely weak.

Currently, the judiciary is the one that is still the flag bearer of perceived independence and credibility. However, one should not discount the other forms of checks and balances in a society, commonly referred to as the fourth estate (media) and the fifth estate (the citizen).

*** The DPP has been dragged in the Press-ICAC tussle in the Angus Road controversy, but there appears to be a "bataille à distance" engaged between ICAC and the DPP's Office. Does this help good governance in the country and by extension our democracy itself?**

In a democracy matters often get messy as this is the very nature of contestation, protest and even controversy.

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“It is the growing collusion between business and political elites (be they traditional or new elites), and also the unbridled levels of political patronage where contracts are at times tailor-made to fit those close to those in power that is the main level of concern and needs to be urgently addressed. The question that I often ask myself is - who bats for the people?”

'What is worrying is the growing trend towards a practice of non-accountability among elites

where there is a clear collusion of interests between the business and political world'

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Most of the respected democracy scholars emphasise the importance and functioning of core institutions to ensure democracy's resilience. No doubt we still remember President Obama's statement during his inaugural visit to Africa in 2008 - when he stated that Africa does not need strongmen but needs strong institutions.

What I am trying to say here is that when an institution fails to work as it should -- especially one that is supposed to promote accountability and transparency - then it might be deemed 'legitimate' to drag it into the public sphere to get answers in the name of public interest.

*** Speaking of the anti-corruption agency, ICAC's inexplicable turnaround in the MedPoint case as much as the list of affairs where it is yet to be known where its inquiries stand has thrown doubt on the institution itself. What do you make out of this? Do we have a problem with the appointment procedures and criteria for some of the key posts in the country and which may not be serving our democracy well?**

What President Obama said about the need for strong institutions and not strongmen speaks to this point.

In the last two decades political patronage has done much disservice to the credibility and integrity of many of our institutions. We are all aware how flawed and biased the appointment/nomination process



“In recent years we have heard of the candid disclosure of certain politicians of the money bags that have transited through their hands. We have witnessed concrete examples be it the Sun Trust building or the money found in the coffers of Navin Ramgoolam.

What is worrying is the growing trend towards what can be referred to as a practice of non-accountability among elites in Mauritius...”

“The problem that we face in Mauritius is for too long we have cultivated a highly romanticised version of Mauritius - be it its democracy or the miracle economic model. A number of countries in Africa are doing much better than us - the case of Rwanda when it comes to, for example, gender representation in parliament...”

is and how dangerous when people who have no or little knowledge or skills or those who are politically very close to those in power are put into position of responsibility.

Recently there has been some discussion on setting up a cross parliamentary committee for the appointment and nomination of those in key positions. This will allow for a bipartisan consensus and re-establish the so important check and balance concept.

*** On the other hand, there are also the issues of democratisation of political parties, limitation of prime ministerial term, constitutional reform and Second Republic, more engagement of civil society, Right to Information, etc. 'Vaste**

chantier', but there does not seem to be a beginning of reform. Is politics the problem?

No, politics is not the problem; it is the manner in which it is practised. At the heart of progress is the constant need to review, update and change. In the case of Mauritius, we are acutely aware that we need to modernise our electoral system by ensuring fairness and representation, that we need to democratise the manner in which leaders are elected or nominated within political parties and that democracy is not merely voting every five years.

Therefore, there is the need for all the different stakeholders to be more involved in the consolidation of democracy. For me

this is necessary if we want to make our democracy more meaningful and relevant to the lives of people. That is why voters' education, accountable and transparent political parties, and political leaders who are morally and ethically driven are key to the change we all want to see.

*** In the matter of Angus Road, it's the Prime Minister who has been targeted by the press, and that for many weeks now. There have been threats of legal action against the press, but no journalist has been put behind bars - at least to date. What does it say for our society and the democratic climate in the country?**

The media is a key feature of any democracy and those who can speak truth to power help to ensure that matters are exposed in the public space.

Having said this, we are aware that across the world journalists are persecuted and tortured for the work they do or the inconvenient truths they expose. In the case of Mauritius, although we have an existing battery of laws that can potentially reign in the media, namely sedition and defamation, we have rarely seen journalists behind bars.

However, it is not the current battery of laws that I am concerned with but more with what self-censorship can make journalists do or not do. Legal action and when one brandishes mega sums, there might somewhere somehow be self-censorship of journalists and certain media houses. Now this is even more pernicious for democracy than anything else.

COVID vaccines will be here soon – in the meantime, here's how to stay resilient

☞ Cont. from page 2

For example, a recent survey found that 64% of people in the UK were managing their stress in the face of the pandemic.

Resilience can be seen as a set of skills that supports our ability to deal with difficult situations. This is the approach taken by the Penn Resilience Program, from the University of Pennsylvania, which is based on a set of validated skills: self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, self-efficacy and connection.

Self-awareness is the ability to hit the pause button and notice what is going on for us – our feelings, thoughts and behaviour. But noticing is not enough. What do we do when we notice things that aren't helpful?

That is where self-regulation comes in. This is when we are able to change the course of our reactions and exert control over what happens next for us, in terms of our thoughts, emotions and reactions.

Optimism, which can affect our well-being, is when we believe that positive things will happen in the future.

Mental agility is the ability to see the same event from different perspectives.

Once we add the recognition of our talents and strengths, in other words, our sense of self-efficacy, our levels of resilience can be higher.

Finally, being part of a support network, people who “have our back”, also helps us keep going.

Five tips

Think of a bouncing ball. The amount of bounce decreases every time the ball hits the ground. This is the same with resilience. After experiencing adversity for an extended period, particularly if it causes us chronic stress, your internal resources can get depleted. Here are five coping strategies that can replenish those reserves and boost your resilience to see you through the final

phases of this pandemic.

1. Be kinder to yourself. Self-compassion will boost your wellbeing and therefore your resilience. For example, rather than reprimanding yourself for procrastinating, you could understand the reluctance to start a new task as a sign that you need a break. In the current circumstances, be more flexible and forgiving to yourselves and others.

2. Focus on what has worked. Now that you can see a possible way out of this pandemic, you can focus on what has worked well for you in the past. Rather than worrying about your ability to sustain yourself for another six months, you could acknowledge that you have made it through eight months already. Appreciating yourself and others can boost your ability to be resilient.

3. Look after your physical health. If it's possible for you to undertake regular exercise, that will be of benefit psychologically, too. The effect is heightened if you can do

your exercise (walking or running, for example) in nature. Take care of what you eat and drink, and avoid excess – especially when it comes to alcohol.

4. Maintain relationships. Having supportive relationships is important for resilience. Stay connected to family and friends, even if only online.

5. Find time to relax. Facing constant challenge is tiring. One way to rebuild your resilience is by allowing yourself time to relax and do something you enjoy. For example, dedicate time for reading, watching TV or playing video games. Half an hour a day of downtime can make a big difference to your wellbeing and your resilience.

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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

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To our Ministers: Power is no blessing in itself, except when it is used to protect the innocent. -- Jonathan Swift

The Disintegration of Parti Mauricien

Peter Ibbotson

The Parti Mauricien (PM) is in a bad way. It will soon have more ex-members than present members, and we may well see the formation of an *Association d'anciens membres du Parti Mauricien*! Originally founded to include members of all races and colour and creeds, the Parti is gradually losing its Moslem members, its coloured members, and its Chinese.

The Parti never had a positive policy. It was founded for the negative purpose of combating an imaginary evil, the so-called evil of Hindu hegemony. To this end, the PM recruited disaffected elements from all communities, trying to play off one against the other. But gradually the coloured and Hindu and Moslem members of the PM have come and begun to realise the real game that the Parti is trying to play. The real aim of the PM is to keep the control - economic and political - of Mauritius in the hands of a closed clique.

Former allies of the Parti have been sacrificed when their usefulness has been outworn. The former secretary-general, a coloured man, departed very brusquely. Now Hon. Mohamed has been deserted by his one-time allies and has, it is reported, quit the PM. He, as leader of the Moslem community, has been betrayed by the PM; originally, the Moslems were pictured, by the PM, as the allies of the PM against the so-called Hindu hegemony. All the PM wanted, of course, was the Moslem vote in the Port Louis and other municipal and Legislative Council elections. In the Port Louis election, the Moslem vote certainly helped the Franco-Mauritians: they had only 160 members on the electoral register, but managed to have 4 members elected to the Municipal Council. Large-scale eye washing was resorted to in order to try and make it appear that the PM really was the party for all races and communities. In reality, only the ragtag and bobtail of the coloured and Hindu communities adhered to the reactionaries' cause, and the Moslems were duped into giving the PM their support.

Divide and rule was the policy traditionally associated with ancient Rome. It is the policy attempted to be followed by the Parti Mauricien and its agents, just as it was the policy of the ill-fated Ralliement. The small-scale riot at Chemin Grenier, like the very recent disturbance at Savanne, was the result of inter-racial hatred deliberately fostered by agents provocateurs. On May 1, someone pla-

carded Port Louis with a notice suggesting to Indo-Mauritians that their misfortunes were due in part to the better fortunes of the coloured people. Letters to the press from a gentleman who has certainly gone out into the political wilderness since he stopped teaching are full of innuendoes designed to set Moslem against both Coloured and Hindu. Few people can take another paper seriously but its existence is symptomatic of the racial cancer which afflicts Mauritians society. Ralliement leaders are regularly writing in it, peddling the line of "divide and rule". The value set upon it by the Ralliement, dreadful though the paper may be, is shown by the monthly subsidy which it receives Rs 350, I am reliably informed.

As a policy, the slogan "divide and rule" has been successfully employed by various colonial powers for centuries. In South Africa, until very recently the reactionaries, whether Nationalist or United Party, were able to play off the Africans against the Indians, and the Coloured against both. Recent Nationalist ventures further into the realms of the inhuman policy of apartheid, a policy which has inspired much of the propaganda of the Parti Mauricien and its allies, have at last begun to drive the Africans, the Indians and the Coloured together to make common cause against the oppressors. A South African Liberal Party has at last been formed, the first political organisation in the history of South Africa based on the ideal of racial partnership. It seeks to create a common society for black and white.

In Mauritius, the Labour Party seeks to create a common society for all races: coloured, Chinese, British, Franco-Mauritians, and Indo-Mauritians whether Moslem, Hindu or what-have-you. The Labour Party seeks to create a Mauritian citizenship, untrammelled by racial, reli-

Le Renard et Le Bouc



The Muslim community stands today at the political cross-roads. This important section of the Mauritian community has up to now played second fiddle and used as a ladder by others. This cartoon which we published in our issue of 14th Sept. 1956 vividly showed the tragedy which had befallen the Muslim community at the last municipal elections.

Ralliement wants to perpetuate the division of the population into racial groups. It wants to perpetuate the division of the population into religious groups. The more divisions it can foster, and the more inter-racial tension that its agents can foster, the easier it will be for the closed clique to retain its stranglehold on the life, social and political and economic, of Mauritius.

But the Parti is slowly disintegrating. Lacking any coherent and positive policy, this was inevitable. And gradually the people are learning the truth about the opportunism of the PM and its leaders. Hon. Mohamed's eyes have been opened; *La Voix d'Islam* did well the other day to appeal for a leader of the Moslems in Mauritius who would lead the Moslems with no thought in mind other than the well-being of his co-religionists. As the PM disintegrates, the position of the Labour Party - the only real multi-racial political organisation in Mauritius - becomes stronger.

And the people of Mauritius can help to make it stronger still; by rallying to its support, by becoming members, by joining their trade unions, and by never losing an opportunity to demonstrate the emptiness and hollowness of the Parti Mauricien's so-called policies and propaganda.

gious or communal prefix. The Labour Party wants people to say "I am a Mauritian"; not "I am an Indo-Mauritian" or "I am a Franco-Mauritian" or "I am a Sino-Mauritian" or "I am a Creole". But the

members, by joining their trade unions, and by never losing an opportunity to demonstrate the emptiness and hollowness of the Parti Mauricien's so-called policies and propaganda.





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1956-2020



Matthew Brown

Professor in Latin American History, University of Bristol

The death of the greatest player in the history of the game of Association Football, Diego Armando Maradona, on November 25 produced an outpouring of grief and nostalgia around the world. He was such an important figure in his native Argentina that the president declared three days of mourning.

In England, though many have praised his skill and achievements, his death has provided the opportunity to dig up the old humbug about the Hand of God goal at the 1986 World Cup, which involved Maradona's fist essentially knocking the ball into England's goal. For some, even in death, Maradona was still the cheat who could not be forgiven. Yet, it was precisely his refusal to recognise the presumed superiority of the Englishmen flailing before him that gave joy to millions world-wide.

The inability of a few in England to move on from that goal speaks to the historical processes that underpin Britain's relationship with Latin America, which in my research I have characterised as a combination of "culture, capital and commerce that formed an informal empire" from the mid-19th to the early 20th century.

Football as war

The problem is that "football was created in England, but perfected in South America", as the historian Brenda Elsey has written.

We saw this when Peru's Teófilo Cubillas punctured Scottish dreams in 1978 and in Maradona's performance in 1986. Then there was Brazilian Ronaldinho's lob that left English goalkeeper David Seaman questioning gravity and the universe itself at the 2002 World Cup. Britain's relationships with South

Maradona: why the English can't let go of the Hand of God and Latin Americans love it

In England, the continuing anger that Maradona "got away with it" comes out of the ashes of empire



The moment of the Hand of God Goal, 1986. Wikimedia

America have been defined more by football than by anything else.

The Hand of God goal and "Goal of the Century," which came minutes later in the same game, brought joy and spiritual uplift to so many people in Latin America. It represented a "cosmic" rupture in the universal order of things (to quote the classic commentary on the match by Victor Hugo Morales) which up-ended English assumptions of superiority that had been accepted by some elites across the continent. This was particularly the case in Argentina, where English-speaking communities had reached into the hundreds of thousands by the 1980s.

The depth of feeling that accompanies Maradona's death speaks to the abiding sense that he was somehow responsible for a moment that has acquired spiritual meaning for the way it broke historical patterns.

In his autobiography 'Yo Soy El Diego' (I Am The Diego), Maradona reflected on

the World Cup victory over England, which happened in the wake of the war over the Falklands/Malvinas.

Somehow we blamed the English players for everything that had happened, for everything that the Argentinian people had suffered. I know that it sounds crazy but that's the way we felt. The feeling was stronger than us: we were defending our flag, the dead kids, the survivors.

Sport, in these terms, had become a surrogate for warfare, an opportunity for the defeated to inflict pain on the victors

America.

Maradona and masculinity

As many have noted since Maradona's death, he left a trail of destruction in his wake. He can be seen as a victim of some of the people who surrounded him, as well as the maker of much of that destruction. The drugs, revolutionary politics, domestic abuse and emotional outbursts, which are the most visible parts of the media narrative, fit snugly into the British stereotype of the combustible Latin American firebrand.

Yet as Argentinian scholars like Eduardo Archetti and Pablo Alabarces pointed out, football and masculinity were wrapped up together over a century ago. This combination makes Maradona the



Photo - edition.cnn.com

through whatever means possible. In addition to the Malvinas/Falklands conflict, this sentiment was shaped by the strong British influence on Argentinian economic and cultural life.

Argentinian nationalism was marked in different ways by the British construction of the railways, as well as the 1890s Baring Bank crisis that nearly bankrupted Argentina and left Britain relatively unscathed. There was also the Harrods luxury shop in Buenos Aires, the polo clubs and the substantial British community in the city and in the pampas (fertile flatlands surrounding Buenos Aires).

In England, the continuing anger that Maradona "got away with it" comes out of the ashes of empire. With historical perspective, we can see the British refusal to relinquish the Falklands/Malvinas in 1982 in its refusal to accept the loss of the match, and subsequently, as part of a reluctance to step back from two centuries of imperial engagement with Latin

stand-out figure of a football culture that gloried in the humiliation of the opponent. It saw defeat as a result of feminine weakness while also marvelling at the artistic beauty of the footballer's body in flight and the perfect arc of the ball as it nestled into the top corner.

As the writer Ayelén Pujol has observed, Maradona's achievements and his rebellions were an inspiration to millions of marginalized citizens; including the women footballers who today strive to transform the football establishment in their own ways.

With the current prohibition of fans in stadiums due to coronavirus, we are ever more anxious for legends and heroes who will unite us. We long for community and public spaces where we can share moments of joy and sadness together. Diego Maradona was central to many of those moments in the past, and his life will remain a key reference point in the history of the world as a result.

Recently self-employed? Six tips from experts on how to protect your wellbeing

Being self-employed can bring a whole heap of benefits - but if you've been forced into it during the pandemic, it can be scary

Through choice or by necessity, some of us are becoming self-employed for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic. Evidence from multiple countries suggests that self-employed workers are one of the groups hardest hit by the pandemic. Support offered by governments varies.

Yet, for some, self-employment may represent the only way of earning a living and remaining active in the labour market. The self-employed are a diverse group that includes everyone from independent consultants, hairdressers and dog walkers, to executive producers and part-time delivery drivers.

What can those transitioning to self-employment do to protect their wellbeing? We've got six tips.

1. Protect boundaries

For self-employed people, boundaries can be blurry. This includes those between work and the rest of life, working for different clients, and working on personal business and on clients' businesses. This can be caused by the income insecurity inherent in self-employed work, clients' expectations for availability around the clock or renegotiation of agreed work, which creates complications in competing demands.

Long working hours and difficulty in disengaging from work contribute to potential conflicts between work and family and burnout. However, research suggests that learning to say no and protect boundaries creates room to rest and recharge. It helps with taking on new opportunities, improving performance (by focusing on only one task at a time), and having a life and identity outside of work.

There are several things that can be helpful: turning off wifi, deleting the email app from your phone, and scheduling all tasks - including family time and leisure - in addition to making an effort to be mindfully present with loved ones.

2. Learn



Self-employed people have more responsibilities and less support than employees. They are in charge of every aspect of their business, without access to admin and sales teams, databases, stationary and so on, which can be stressful. To manage this stress, self-employed people can learn the ins and outs of their business through enrolling in free online courses tailored to them, or using the knowledge of peers and mentors.

Additionally, research shows that finding and using personal strengths can reduce stress, while boosting productivity and wellbeing. Indeed, learning itself is a route toward wellbeing.

3. Understand potential unknowns

Self-employed workers face many insecurities, such as variable workloads, changing client demands, cash flow issues and insecure incomes. These cause fear and uncertainty and take up valuable mental and emotional resources.

Not knowing whether work will be available in three months or whether a client will pay on time aren't only scary on their own, but also bring the possibility of experiencing pain and loss if everything crumbles and impacts loved ones.

People can learn how to build emergency funds, manage slow paying clients, and develop a growth mindset to cope with unexpected challenges.

4. Nurture relationships

Self-employment is often a lonely journey because others may not understand what the role involves. There are no formal co-workers around, and making time to socialise can be challenging. Loneliness is detrimental to wellbeing, with associated risks that exceed the danger of smoking 15 cigarettes per day.

Nurturing relationships is essential and self-employed workers can develop positive relationships a number of ways. Sending thank you letters to clients, seeking out and working with mentors and peers, and prioritising time to connect with family, friends, and significant others all help create meaningful connections.

5. Give up unhealthy pressure

Self-employed people put unhealthy pressures on themselves. It can be easy to compare ourselves to highly visible entrepreneurs and feel guilt, shame and disappointment from not meeting personal expectations. While these self-imposed pressures can have, to some extent, a

motivational effect to work harder, they also act as stressors and impair wellbeing.

Such unhealthy pressures might also make it more difficult to open up, express vulnerability, and seek support because of fear that this may be perceived as a weakness. Acknowledging the multiple reasons why something may not be going well and practising self-compassion is a simple, yet powerful technique.

6. Establish routines

While self-employed people have greater autonomy and flexibility than employees, they also lack the structure and support of organisations. This unique combination of working conditions makes it more difficult to remain motivated, to avoid stress and to manage time, creating a spiral of negative emotions that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, impairing performance through procrastination.

One way to cope with this challenge is by establishing routines. In addition to reducing some of the negative emotions and improving productivity, routines can promote a sense of wellbeing and meaning. Routines can also make it easier to incorporate the steps mentioned previously into daily or weekly schedules, including time to look after oneself, not just the business.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a difficult time to become self-employed. But when the challenges inherent in this type of work are addressed, self-employment can actually contribute to wellbeing. It can create flexibility, autonomy, a sense of meaning, and opportunities to be creative and express one's values.

Like all change, this transition will likely require time and self-compassion. But in the long term, self-employment can be sustainable and rewarding, provided we look after ourselves.

**Andreana Drencheva,
Kristin Hildenbrand & Mike Duffy Jr.,
University of Sheffield**

Why mental confusion beyond 60?

-- Arnaldo Liechtenstein, Physician

Whenver I teach clinical medicine to students in the fourth year of medicine, I ask the following question:

What are the causes of mental confusion in the elderly?

Some offer: "Tumors in the head". Others suggest: "Early symptoms of Alzheimer's".

With each rejection of their answers, their responses dry up.

And they are even more open-mouthed when I list the three most common causes: uncontrolled diabetes; urinary infection, and dehydration.

It may sound like a joke, but it isn't. People over 60 constantly stop feeling thirsty and consequently stop

drinking fluids.

When no one is around to remind them to drink fluids, they quickly dehydrate. Dehydration is severe and affects the entire body. It may cause abrupt mental confusion, a drop-in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), coma and even death.

This habit of forgetting to drink fluids begins at age 60, when we have just over 50% of the water we should have in our bodies. People over 60 have a lower water reserve. This is part of the natural aging process.

But there are more complications. Although they are dehydrated, they don't feel like drinking water, because their internal balance mechanisms do not work very well.

Conclusion: People over 60 years old dehydrate easily, not only because they have a smaller water supply, but also because they do not feel the lack of

water in the body.

Although people over 60 may look healthy, the performance of reactions and chemical functions can damage their entire body. So here are two alerts:

1. Get into the habit of drinking liquids. Liquids include water, juices, teas, coconut water, milk, soups, and water-rich fruits, such as watermelon, melon, peaches and pineapple; orange and tangerine also work.

The important thing is that, every two hours, you must drink some liquid. Remember this!

2. Alert for family members: constantly offer fluids to people over 60. At the same time, observe them. If you realize that they are rejecting liquids and, from one day to the next, they are irritable, breathless or display a lack of attention, these are almost certainly recurrent symptoms of dehydration.

Arnaldo Liechtenstein (46), physician, is a general practitioner at Hospital das Clínicas and a collaborating professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo (USP).



**LAUGHTER
IS THE
BEST
MEDICINE**

How Bedroom Smells After Marriage

First 3 years...

Perfumes, Flowers, Chocolate, Fruits.

After 3 years...

Baby Powder, Johnson's Cream and Lotions, Baby Oils.

After 15 years...

Tiger balm, Axe oil, Methyl Salicylate Ointment, Vicks.

After 40 years...

Spiritual books, watching TV alone.

Four stages of marriage:

Mad for each other,
Made for each other,
Mad at each other,
Mad because of each other.

What's Marriage?

Answer: Marriage is the 7th sense of humans, that destroys all the six senses and makes the person non sense..!

Definition of happy couple

HE does what SHE wants

SHE does what SHE wants.

Wife: Dear, this computer is not working as per my command...

Husband: Exactly darling! It's a computer, not a husband!

"Laughing at your own mistakes can lengthen your life."

-- Shakespeare

"Laughing at your wife's mistakes, can shorten your life!"

-- Shakespeare's wife



Pfizer & Pepsi to Merge

This will no doubt put Coca Cola out of business in the near future!

The Pfizer Corporation announced today that Viagra will soon be available in liquid form and this new product will be marketed by Pepsi as a power beverage suitable for use as a mixer.

It will now be possible for a man to literally pour himself a stiff one.

Obviously we can no longer call this a soft drink, and it gives new meaning to the names of cocktails, highballs and just a good old-fashioned stiff drink.

Pepsi will market the new concoction by the name of: MOUNT & DO.

Thought for the day: There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research.

This means that by 2025, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs, huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.



The drunk men are always very alert... Before crossing the road they look left and right for cars and bikes, then they look up for aeroplanes and then down for bombs, they look back for kidnappers and after that they hold the bottle tight and walk zigzag to avoid bullets...

Mariée à Dieu

Suite à une crise cardiaque, un homme subit une chirurgie à cœur ouvert.

Il se réveille après l'opération et se trouve soigné par des religieuses dans un hôpital catholique

Comme il retrouvait ses esprits, une religieuse lui demande comment il allait payer ses soins.

Elle lui demande s'il a une assurance maladie.

Il répond d'une petite voix encore faible: "Pas d'assurance maladie."

Elle lui demande: "Avez-vous de l'argent à la banque ?"

Il répond: "Pas d'argent à la banque."

Elle poursuit: "Avez-vous un membre de votre famille qui peut vous aider ?"

Il dit: "Je n'ai qu'une sœur, vieille-fille, qui est religieuse dans un couvent."

La sœur se fâche et lui dit: "Les religieuses ne sont pas des vieilles-filles, elles sont mariées à Dieu! "

Et le patient de lui répondre: "Alors envoyez la facture à mon beau frère."

Food for Thought

Living in fear?

I have been wearing a mask every time I leave home (which I do only if essential) since March. I'm not sure why being considerate to others for the common good is now being mocked by some who are calling it "living in fear", but it needs to stop!!!... When I wear a mask over my nose and mouth in public and in the stores/supermarkets/pharmacies/offices, I want you to know the following:

- I'm educated enough to know that I could be asymptomatic and still give you the virus.
- No, I don't "live in fear" of the virus; I just want to be part of the solution, not the problem.
- I don't feel like the "government controls me". I feel like I'm an adult contributing to the security in our society and I want to teach others the same.
- If we could all live with the consideration of others in mind, the whole world would be a much better place.
- Wearing a mask doesn't make me weak, scared, stupid or even "controlled". It makes me caring and responsible.
- When you think about your appearance, discomfort, or other people's opinion of you, imagine a loved one - a child, father, mother, grandparent, aunt, uncle or even a stranger - placed on a ventilator, alone without you or any family member allowed at their bedside... Ask yourself if you could have helped them a little by wearing a mask.

Let us drive away coronavirus together and collectively.

Inspirational

The Sun and the Cave

One day the sun and a cave struck up a conversation. The sun had trouble understanding what "dark" meant and the cave didn't quite get the hang of "light and clear" so they decided to change places.

The cave went up to the sun and said, "Ah, I see, this is beyond wonderful. Now come down and see where I have been living."

The sun went down to the cave and said, "Gee, I don't see any difference."

When the sun went down, it took its light along and even the darkest corners were illuminated. That's why the sun couldn't see any difference.

I love one of the quotes from an old book that said: "The enlightened ones can never be sent to hell or pushed into darkness. They carry their heaven on their shoulders all the time."

We thought that heaven is a place where we are supposed to go; perhaps it was a state of mind we were supposed to achieve.

If you are full of darkness within, full of negativity, fear and doubt, you become a cave unknowingly. It's a hell within and no matter how much you accumulate, you still remain hollow.

If you are illuminated like the sun, then the darkness of the cave would not matter. You could be in the worse of circumstances; you'll still be able to find a blessing somewhere.

You'll be carrying your heaven with you.

Career planning

4 Habits of People Who Are Always Learning New Skills



Having worked in HR at a large banking corporation and in strategic HR consulting, I've seen the effects of learning and development on career mobility -- and what leads people to let it fall by the wayside. Over time, working with users as well as learning experts, I've found that four crucial habits can make a tremendous difference.

Focus on emerging skills. With so many learning options available these days, people are often tempted to simply go to Google, type in some general search terms, and start one of the first courses that pops up. That's a waste of time.

Job requirements are quickly evolving. To ensure relevance, you need to focus on learning the latest emerging skills. You can do this in a couple of ways.

First, track what skills the leaders in your industry are hiring for. Look at recent job postings from the top companies, and see which qualifications keep popping up. Second, reach out to people in your network or on LinkedIn who have the job you want. If you want to know what sales skills and technologies are becoming most important, talk to some high-level salespeople. Ask them what they're having to learn to keep succeeding at their work and what skills they think someone needs to acquire in order to become a viable candidate.

You may feel intimidated about reaching out. But I've found that most of the time, people are happy to share this information.

They want to see more and more capable

candidates filling jobs and staying on top of trends.

As you get a sense of the most important skills to learn, ask these experts whether they can recommend specific online courses with practical value. Also take a close look at course descriptions to find content that will be useful on the job rather than provide mostly academic insight. For instance, you might seek out instructors who are leading experts in your industry or content created in conjunction with companies that you admire.

Get synchronous. In this era, micro-learning -- engaging with online learning tools when and where it's convenient -- is becoming a much larger part of the training and development scene. This has its benefits, including freedom, convenience, and digestible content.

But there's also a downside. These asynchronous experiences are often solitary. And without at least some real-time interaction, whether in person or online, many students lose motivation. Researchers have found that "the sense of isolation" for some online learners "may make the difference between a successful and an unsuccessful online learning environment."

They call for more synchronous experiences. Others have also identified interaction and collaboration as critical factors in fruitful learning.

In my work, I've consistently seen that when online students sign up for a live course, in which they interact with a

professor and one another at a set time at least once a week, they stick with it longer and learn more. Often, these kinds of programs offer materials you can work on individually. But the camaraderie can serve as a huge motivator, as can the desire not to fall behind the group.

When a live course isn't available, I encourage learners to find a "synchronous cohort" -- a friend or acquaintance with similar learning goals. Make a pact to do online learning together weekly. You can learn a lot from hearing each other's questions and explaining things to each other as you come to understand them, since the act of teaching can improve content understanding, recall, and application.

Implement learning immediately. Research shows that performing the tasks you've learned is crucial, because "enactment enhances memory by serving as an elaborative encoding strategy."

This is part of the problem many engineers face when looking for jobs straight out of college: They've been stuck in "theory land," with little experience putting what they've learned into practice. You can run into the same issue with online learning.

For example, I could spend weeks watching videos on how to set up a distributed computing system. But if I don't go to Amazon Web Services and deploy it -- soon -- I'll forget much of what I learned.

So whatever field you're studying, find opportunities to use your new skills. (In addition to increasing "stickiness," this also gives you a chance to discover unforeseen challenges.) Depending on the skill, you might participate in a collaborative project at work, for instance, or set up your own project on a small scale at home. Or you could find an online simulation that is similar to the real experience.

Set a golden benchmark. Just like runners in a marathon, online learners need to have a clear goal in order to stay focused.

A return on investment (in terms of time and money spent) is hard to gauge in the near term. But those who persevere generally, have their eye on a larger prize -- a new job, a promotion, or the chance to lead a project. I encourage people to determine a specific career objective and keep it front of mind as they learn.

Of course, that benchmark will change as you develop. Learning is a career-long process. After you achieve one big goal, set your sights on the next one. That's how you make learning a part of your normal routine. The more you do that, the less likely you are to stop.

Mike Kehoe -
Harvard Business Review

5 types of people most likely to cheat



Are you one of them?

According to 'Psychology Today', there are people who are predisposed to cheating. While infidelity is often a choice, for these people you could argue that it's in their nature. These are the people most likely to cheat according to the publication.

1. Heavy social media users

Research from Cyberpsychology shows that the more often a person uses social media, the more likely they are to have relationship conflicts culminating in breakups or cheating.

2. Someone who has already cheated

Statistically a person who has cheated in a previous relationship is likely to cheat in their next relationship, according to a study done by the University of South Alabama.

3. Wealthier men

Men armed with money and power are more likely to cheat.

4. Women who aren't financially well off

Studies have shown that women who aren't well-to-do made up more percentages of people who cheat than women who were more financially stable.

5. Partners who are suddenly more physically affectionate

Due to the increased sexual activity, a partner who was previously complacent may be cheating if they are suddenly over-affectionate. With an increased sex drive, there is a higher need for intimacy.

Bollywood Roundup: Sushmita Sen at 45, Sanya Malhotra. and more...



Sushmita Sen: I am a proud 45

Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen recently shared a workout video on Instagram to assert that she is a proud 45.

The actress had celebrated turning 45 on Nov 19, and in the video she can be seen working out to increase her core strength. The actress balances with her head downwards and her feet up in the air.

"I AM a proud 45! #birthdaytradition #corestrength #corebeliefs #holdingpower #unshakeable."

"You guys have been one of my greatest source of emotional strength for over 2 & a half decades and counting... reminding me often, HOW big a blessing life is & just how endless are its potential!! I want you to always remember, your unconditional love & kindness enriches my life & empowers me to be a better person!! Keep spreading the goodness...me & this world needs people like you!!! #salute #respect #love #gratitude #yourstruly #duggadugga I LOVE YOU GUYS!" the actress captioned the video.

Meanwhile, Sushmita's daughter Renee Sen is all set to make her debut as an actress with the short film, *Suttabaazi*. Directed by Kabeer Khurana, the film tells the story of a 19-year-old named Diya, played by Renee, who is a clandestine smoker and is stuck with her nagging parents during lockdown.

Sanya Malhotra describes her 'long day of work'

Bollywood actress Sanya Malhotra had a long day at work and describes how it went in a new post on social media.

Sanya posted a video on Instagram, where she is seen dancing on a song from the film *"Darr"*. She is seen shaking a leg on the number *"Tu mere samne"*.

The actress purposely shared the line "Toot Gayi Toot Ke Maein Choor Ho Gayi" from the number to describe how her day went like.

On the picture, she wrote: "After a long day of work."

Sanya has started preparations for the upcoming film *"Pagglait"* directed by Umesh Bist. It also stars Shruti Sharma, Ashutosh Rana and Raghuraj Yadav.

The film tells the tale of a girl who discovers her purpose and identity amidst looming questions about love and belonging in the neo-modern small-town India.

Taapsee Pannu shares recipe to burn fat

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu recently shared the recipe to a drink that helps burn fat. She calls it her exotic sunset drink.

"My exotic sunset drink! Coz when @munmun.Ganeriwal plans my meals no meal on the menu can be just an ordinary one. This fat-burning powerhouse of a drink has raw, unfiltered Apple Cider Vinegar with the mother. Along with it are fenugreek (methi), turmeric, and ginger," Taapsee wrote on Instagram.

"Turmeric and ginger are powerful inflammation-fighting agents so instead of going for pills, it helps to combat the pain and inflammation in muscles caused by my tough athletic training. Talk about being natural and exotic!" she added.

The actress has started shooting for her upcoming film *Rashmi Rocket*, which casts her as a runner from the Rann of Kutch who fights for her identity and becomes an athlete. Actor Priyanshu Painyuli will be seen playing Taapsee's husband in the film helmed by Akarsh Khurana.

Apart from *Rashmi Rocket*, Taapsee will also be seen in *Shabaash Mithu* and *Haseen Dillruba*.

Sonakshi Sinha 'felt cute' in her new pic

Sonakshi Sinha has shared a new picture on social media but it is her caption that catches the eye.

In her new Instagram image, Sonakshi looks stunning in an ethnic attire paired with silver jewellery.

"Felt cute. Wont delete later," Sonakshi wrote as the caption.

Sonakshi recently shared a throwback picture from her shooting days for the film *"Force 2"*.

The actress will next be seen in *Bhuj: The Pride of India* alongside Ajay Devgn. The period drama looks back at the story of 300 women of Madhapar village in Gujarat's Kutch district, who played a pivotal role in helping India win the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Kajol wants to give Teacher of the Year award to Covid-19

Kajol wants to give the Teacher of the Year award to the Covid-19 pandemic, she expressed recently.

"Teacher of the year award goes to COVID- 19," wrote Kajol on Instagram Story. The actress also explained why she wants to confer the award to the pandemic.

"Taught us what life is about, simplicity and spirituality plus uncertainty," wrote the actress, who often takes to social media to share words of wisdom for her fans and followers.

On the work front, Kajol is all set to enter the digital space with *"Tribhanga"*, a drama set in Mumbai.

The OTT film will weave a complex story of a family while going back and forth through three generations, from the late 1980s to present day. The film, directed and written by actress Renuka Shahane, also stars Tanvi Azmi and Mithila Palkar.

Tara Sutaria and the 'sweetness of doing nothing'

Tara Sutaria tastes the sweetness of doing nothing in her new post on social media.

Tara posted a picture on Instagram that has her flaunting her perfect skin in a white tank top.

"The sweetness of doing nothing," she captioned the selfie. Tara is currently in the Maldives with rumoured beau Aadar Jain.

Tara and Aadar were first linked after they made an appearance at Malaika Arora's party last year, and then at Amitabh Bachchan's Diwali party in 2019. They also reportedly celebrated New Year in London together.

In August, Tara penned a birthday wish for Aadar. Calling Aadar her favourite person, Tara wrote on Instagram: "Ever thine, ever mine, ever ours! Happy Birthday to my favourite person @aadar-jain."

On the work front, Aadar, who made his Bollywood debut in 2017 with *"Qaidi Band"*, will next be seen in *"Hello Charlie"*. Tara has *"Tadap"* and *"Ek Villain 2"* coming up. *"Tadap"* is Milan Luthria's remake of the Telugu hit *"RX 100"*.

Vaani Kapoor: Akshay Kumar can ace any genre

Vaani Kapoor, who will share screen space with Akshay Kumar in the upcoming film *Bell Bottom*, says Bollywood superstar Akshay can pull off any role in any genre with utmost ease.

"For me, Akshay sir is a superstar in every possible way. He is such an enthralling actor and I am only grateful to be sharing screen space with him. He is so fascinating as an actor. He can pull off action, comedy, romance, thriller, and be the best in everything," Vaani said.

She added: "Akshay Kumar can ace any genre! He is so talented and experienced and one can only observe and learn from him all the time."

On sharing screen space with Akshay, Vaani said: "The experience has been so lovely. He couldn't have been kinder and more wonderful than he was. He is somebody who is very friendly on set. I am someone who would otherwise go back to my hotel room and not interact too much because I like being in my own space. But he is someone who ensured that we all sat together and have lunches/dinners and got to know each other and be involved like a close-knit family."

Vaani says she cherishes this aspect a lot, about shooting for the film.

Cinema Sirsa - Castel



Wednesday 2 Dec to Wednesday 9 Dec 2020
10:15 -- 13:15 -- 16:15 -- 20:15

Naagin 5's Surbhi Chandna declares Mouni Roy is a 'better' Naagin than her

Naagin 5 actress Surbhi Chandna aka Bani feels not her, but Mouni Roy is the 'best' Naagin as she showers praises on her. She also stated that no one can beat Mouni when it comes to the supernatural drama series, reports Pinkvilla.

Surbhi Chandna is 'nailing' her character as Bani aka Aadi Naagin in *Naagin 5*. The show's viewers have time and again applauded Surbhi's acting skills and performance and lauded her for her efforts. However, recently, Surbhi confessed that she feels Mouni Roy is a 'better Naagin' than her.

It all happened when Surbhi went live on Instagram to interact and get chatty with her fans. During a live session, a user claimed that Mouni was a better Naagin than Surbhi. To which Surbhi politely agreed, and showered praises on Mouni.

Surbhi expressed, 'There is never going to be another thought to that. Mouni Roy was an incredible Naagin and will always be. I totally agree with you that Mouni is better than me. I don't think anyone else will ever be able to beat her in this.'

Surbhi's loving words for Mouni have been winning hearts, and fans are going gaga over her honesty. Earlier, Mouni had also expressed that *Naagin* is the 'closest thing to her heart.' She had revealed that she received a lot of love from fans for playing Shivanya Ritik Singh in the first installment of *Naagin*, and is grateful to be



a part of the show. Mouni was the first Naagin (shape-shifting serpent) of Ekta Kapoor's supernatural thriller series opposite Arjun Bijlani, Adaa Khan, and Sudha Chandran in the leads. Mouni has been a part of *Naagin 1*, *Naagin 2* and did a small cameo in *Naagin 3*.

Meanwhile, *Naagin 5* stars Sharad Malhotra (Veer) and Mohit Sehgal (Jay) in the lead roles. Fans are loving Bani and Veer's chemistry in the show. Surbhi and Sharad also won the Best Actress, Best Actor at Dadasaheb Phalke Awards 2020 for *Naagin 5* recently.

'Kundali Bhagya' - Anisha Hinduja tests positive for COVID-19



Television actress Anisha Hinduja, who's at the moment seen as Rakhi Luthra in Ekta Kapoor's hit show '*Kundali Bhagya*', has examined positive for Covid-19. Anisha, whereas speaking to an entertainment portal, revealed that she has put herself below house quarantine after testing positive for the virus.

The actress, who performs the function of Dheeraj Dhoopar's on-screen mom in '*Kundali Bhagya*', mentioned that she underwent a Covid-19 test after catching chilly. She added that she is asymptomatic and hopes to get well shortly.

"Well, after having somewhat chilly I made a decision to get myself examined

as I've my mom who's a senior citizen residing together with us. I didn't wish to take an opportunity therefore obtained examined. Sadly, the studies turned out to be positive nevertheless I'm asymptomatic and below house quarantine. It's already been seven to eight days. But I'm certain I'll get better very shortly," Anisha instructed Tellychakkar.

On the skilled entrance, the proficient actress has also featured in reveals like '*Ishqbaaz*', '*Annu ki Ho Gayi Wah Bhai Wah*' and '*Mohi*'.

Anisha's '*Kundali Bhagya*' co-star Sanjay Gagnani had examined positive for coronavirus last month. He resumed shooting for the show after recovering from the virus.

Several fashionable TV celebs together with Gurmeet Choudhary, Debina Bonnerjee, Ssharad Malhotra, Parth Samthaan, Mohena Kumari Singh, Shrenu Parikh and Rajesh Kumar had examined positive for Covid-19. The likes of Ssharad Malhotra, Rajesh Kumar, Gurmeet Choudhary have resumed shooting for his or her respective tasks after recovering from the virus.

Talking about '*Kundali Bhagya*', the present monitor of the show is specializing in Karan (Dheeraj Dhoopar) and Preeta's (Shraddha Arya) post-wedding rituals. The show, which is the spin-off of '*Kumkum Bhagya*', was launched in 2017. It enjoys a big fan following, all because of the scorching chemistry between the leads.

Sumona Chakravarti's net worth on rise from 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' to 'Kapil Sharma Show'

Sumona Chakravarti is one of the most celebrated actors in the Hindi film and television industry. Here's a look at Sumona Chakravarti's net worth details



Sumona Chakravarti is an Indian actor, who began her acting career at the age of 11 with Aamir Khan and Manisha Koirala starrer *Mann* in the year 1999. She rose to fame with her impeccable role as Natasha in *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain*, 2011. She has come a long way ever since then. Here's a look at Sumona's net worth in 2020 as reported by Republic World.

Sumona Chakravarti's net worth in 2020

As per reports, Sumona Chakravarti's

net worth is estimated to be somewhere around \$4 million. Her net worth reportedly saw an upsurge when she starred in the 2012 film, *Barfi!* opposite Priyanka Chopra and Ranbir Kapoor. She also appeared in the films, *Aakhari Decision*, *Kick*, *Phir Se* among others. All her films were well received by the audience.

Sumona rose to fame when she appeared with Kapil Sharma in *Kahani Comedy Circus Ki* and the duo emerged as the winners of the show. She charmed the audience with her indelible acting initially on *Comedy Nights With Kapil*. After which, she then went on to impress masses with her appearance in *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

Sumona's shows

Amid her appearance in *The Kapil Sharma Show*, Sumona Chakravarti has also done two travel shows. Her show namely *Dubai Diaries* in 2016 received much attention from the audience. In it, she was the host. Moreover, Sumona was also seen in the show titled, *Swiss Made Adventures*. She went in as a participant seeking the adventurous side of Switzerland.

She is also known for her roles in the television shows titled, *Kasambh Se*, *Detective Doll*, *Kasturi* among others. Sumona's role in *Neer Bhare Tere Naina Devi*, *Sapno Se Bhare Naina*, *Horror Nights*, *Khotey Sikkey*, *Ek Thhi Naayka*, *Yeh Hai Aashiqui* among others also did well with fans.



Mardi 1 Dec - 21.05

Dark Tourist

Avec: Melanie Griffith, Pruitt Taylor
Vince, Michael Cudlitz



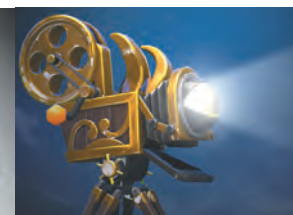
Mercredi 2 Dec - 21.15

Xenophobia



Jeudi 3 Dec - 21.21

Avec: Glenn Morshower, Shadrack
Anderson III, Susan Blakely



MBC 1

07.00 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie
07.39 D.Anime: Little Spirou
08.37 D.Anime: Mega Man
09.50 Magazine: Origami
10.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Local: Elle - No10
13.50 Local: Proze Dime
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.41 D.Anime: Robot Trains
15.32 D.Anime: Yakari
17.05 D.Anime: Dragons
17.30 Serial: Backstage
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Priorite Sante
20.40 Local: MBC Prod
21.05 Film: Dark Tourist
22.52 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
10.43 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha
12.04 Film: Duniya
Starring: Dev Anand,
Vijayanthimala
14.35 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.32 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.50 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Watan Ke Rakhwale
Starring: M. Chakraborty,
Sridevi, Sunil Dutt
23.00 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.26 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.00 Mag: Voa Connected
08.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
08.46 Doc: 360 GEO
10.04 Mag: Washington Forum
11.19 Mag: Eco@Africa
11.58 Mag: World Stories
12.09 Mag: Voa Connected
12.37 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.42 Mag: In Good Shape
13.08 Doc: Amazing Gardens
14.06 Doc: 360 GEO
14.55 Doc: Global 3000
15.21 Mag: Washington Forum
16.32 Mag: Eco@Africa
17.23 Mag: Voa Connected
18.27 Doc: Beneath The Waves
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.34 Mag: Made In Germany
20.05 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut

Cine 12

01.32 Film: Night Wolf
02.58 Serial: Chicago Med
03.38 Serial: Island Doctor
05.06 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.40 Film: Storm Et La Lettre De...
09.00 Serial: Incorporated
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Serial: Island Doctor
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.48 Film: Storm Et La Lettre De...
16.40 Serial: Incorporated
17.23 Serial: S.W.A.T
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.10 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
21.15 Film: Philadelphia
22.47 Tele: Totalement Diva
00.07 Serial: Incorporated

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Mai
11.55 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.23 / 20.11 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.44 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Sanjivani
13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.52 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.12 / 21.59 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.32 / 22.25 -
Ikyawann
15.30 Film: Mr White Mr Black
Starring: Sunil Shetty, Arshad
Warsi and Sadashiv
Amrapurkar
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka

mardi 1 decembre

mercredi 2 decembre

jeudi 3 decembre

06.30 Local: Sur Prise
07.00 D. Anime: Teenie Weenie
09.50 Magazine: Origami
12.00 Le Journal
12.50 Local: Urban Gardens
13.50 Local: Tous Egaux
14.05 Local: Priorite Sante
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.40 D.Anime: Robot Trains
15.10 D.Anime: The Hive
15.40 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
16.03 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune...
16.30 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
16.52 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
17.05 D.Anime: Dragons: Par-Dela
17.30 Serial: Backstage
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.15 Prod: Lottotech
21.15 Film: Xenophobia
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Serial: Pyar Ka Dard Meetha
11.16 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Devdas
Stars: Dilip Kumar,
Vijayanthimala, Suchitra
Sen, Motilal
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...
15.44 Mooga Manasulu
16.10 Apoorva Raagangal
16.30 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.53 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke
17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Programme In Marathi
21.00 Film: The Dragon's Snake...
Starring: Dragon Lee, Yuen Qiu, Gam
Kel-Chu

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
06.26 Doc: Beneath The Waves
06.52 Mag: Check In
07.18 Mag: Urban Gardens
07.51 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut
08.42 Doc: David Hockney
10.06 Doc: Atatürk
11.33 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
12.25 Mag: Check In
12.51 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.59 Mag: Made In Germany
13.25 Doc: Garden Party
14.16 Doc: David Hockney
15.07 Mag: Close Up
16.16 Doc: Inside The Real Saudi
17.27 Doc: Beneath The Wave
17.53 Doc: Japon 2019
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.29 Doc: Diving At The Limit
20.05 Mag: Tendence XXI
20.29 Mag: Vue D'en Haut
21.00 Local: News (English)

00.26 Mag: Hollywood On Set
01.12 Film: Philadelphia
03.12 Serial: Chicago Med
03.52 Film: SOX: A Family's Best...
05.15 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.09 Serial: S.W.A.T
06.49 Film: All She Wishes
08.30 Mag: Hollywood Best Film
09.00 Serial: Incorporated
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Film: Brush With Danger
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.45 Film: All She Wishes
16.45 Serial: Incorporated
17.27 Serial: S.W.A.T
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Seal Team
21.15 Serial: Island Doctor

08.00 Film: Mr White Mr Black
12.04 / 20.06 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.23 / 20.26 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.46 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Sanjivani
13.31 / 21.31 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal..
14.36 / 22.25 - Ikyawann
15.25 Film: Sauda
Starring: Sumeet Saigal,
Neelam, Vikas Bhatta
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
19.13 Mere Angne Mein
19.35 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya..
20.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
20.28 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
09.50 Mag: Origami
10.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
11.10 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Local: RDV Muzikal
13.55 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
15.03 D.Anime: The Hive
15.25 D.Anime: Les Triples
15.48 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
16.03 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune...
16.30 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Jamai Raja
18.55 Local: Chaa Dham Tirth...
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: Andhadhun
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
12.05 Film: Swarg Narak
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar,
Jeetendra
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes
15.24 Honaar Soon Mee Hya
Gharchi
15.43 Mooga Manasulu
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal
16.29 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.51 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Local: Amrit Vaani
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da
Devi Maiya
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
21.00 Film: Death Fighter
Starring: Matt Mullins, Don
Wilson, Cynthia Rothrock

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.25 Doc: Diving At The Limit
06.52 Mag: Arts.21
07.18 Doc: Urban Gardens
08.42 Doc: Zenith
11.39 Doc: Diving At The Limit
12.05 Mag: Arts.21
12.31 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.43 Doc: Garden Party
13.56 Doc: Zenith
16.27 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Shift
19.05 Mag: Border Crossing
19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.05 Doc: Portraits Of Marie...
21.10 Local: News (English)
21.10 Doc: 360 GEO
22.29 Doc: Africa Rising
23.11 Doc: Dark Eden
23.51 Mag: Eco India

00.20 Serial: Seal Team
01.26 Film: Island Doctor
02.56 Serial: Chicago Med
05.04 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.03 Serial: Seal Team
06.45 Serial: Island Doctor
09.00 Serial: Incorporated
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tant Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Serial: Sherlock
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.48 Serial: Island Doctor
16.40 Serial: Incorporated
17.23 Serial: Seal Team
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Seal Team
21.21 Film: Grizzly Park
22.46 Tel: Totalement Diva

08.00 Film: Sauda
12.03 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Sanjivani
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ke
14.36 / 22.25 -
Ikyawann
15.20 Film: Naam Hai Akira
Starring: Sonakshi Sinha,
Konkona Sen Sharma, Anurag
Kashyap, Rose J Kaur
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
19.12 Mere Angne Mein



Jeudi 3 Dec - 15.20

Stars: Sonakshi Sinha, Konkona Sen
Sharma, Anurag Kashyap, Rose J Kaur



Jeudi 3 Dec - 20.20

Stars: Tabu, Ayushmann Khurrana,
Radhika Apte



Breakfast With Bwana

Trump's Futile Challenges



Anil Madan

Donald Trump's first interview today Sunday, November 29th, with Fox News talk show host Maria Bartiromo was an incoherent rambling mess. In the past, I have written about the incoherent coherence of Donald Trump -- if you pay attention, through the incomplete sentences, you get the gist of what he is trying to say.

Today, with Bartiromo shamelessly egging him on, we saw yet another example of how Trump talks to himself, and repeats and repeats as if trying to convince himself, whatever narrative of the moment he has sold or is trying to sell, to himself.

His conspiracy theories starting with birtherism directed at Obama, or the anticipatory notion that mail-in balloting is inherently fraudulent, or today's pronouncement that there is "no way" that Biden got 80 million votes absent fraud, all require that sort of self-convincing prattle.

Today, the main thrust of his comments was that the election was fraudulent. His proof, if it can be called proof, is simply the aforementioned claim that there is "no way" that Biden got 80 million votes. If there was a thread of logic here, it is that Biden could not have gotten more votes from Blacks than Obama got.

The irony here is that Trump sees nothing amiss about the fact that he got 74 million votes, 11 million more this time than in 2016 even though he allowed that his campaign had hoped to get 68-69 million. In other words, a bigger voter turnout should have produced a bonanza for Trump but not made much of a difference to Biden who couldn't have done this without fraud.

This conclusory notion, a suspicious whiff of fraud in the air, is the best case that Trump and his campaign have put forth. A second-best argument is that the swing states either improperly allowed mail-in voting and all such votes should be set aside, or that based on allegations of irregularities -- mostly imaginary -- the courts should throw out the votes and let the legislature select the electors who will cast the decisive vote for the state. In states with Republican-controlled legislatures, this tactic is designed to swing the election to Trump.

These baseless arguments and tactics bordering on the frivolous, will not work. Already, case after case has been dis-



President Donald Trump and the Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo. Photo - Fox News

missed by courts in many states. There are two principal reasons why these tactics will not work.

Yesterday the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed with prejudice (meaning it is the end of the case) a suit brought by a Republican legislator and others trying to overturn the election in that state. Justice Wecht wrote a concurring opinion that explains why both theories will fail.

First, he noted that it is well-settled that to annul an election "requires proof of fraud or other unlawful practices of such magnitude and so interwoven with the casting and counting of the votes as to obviously deprive the election returns of all validity."

Second, "there is no basis in law by which the courts may grant Petitioners' request to ignore the results of an election and recommit the choice to the General Assembly to substitute its preferred slate of electors for the one chosen by a majority of Pennsylvania's voters. The United States Constitution's Presidential Electors Clause commands that 'each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress.'

"Conspicuously absent from the Election Code are any mechanisms by which to circumvent these procedures so as to permit the General Assembly to substitute its preferred slate of electors for that 'elected by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth.'"

Justice Wecht pointed out that any such attempt would require a new law. But the United States Congress has declared that each State's method "for its final determination of any controversy or contest concerning the appointment of all or any of the electors of such State must have been established by laws enacted prior to the

day fixed for the appointment of the electors" -- i.e., before November 3, 2020. Accordingly, to persist in seeking to overturn the result of any election by legislative putsch is a fool's errand -- and an arguably unconstitutional one at that.

He concluded by stating: "It is not our role to lend legitimacy to such transparent and untimely efforts to subvert the will of Pennsylvania voters. 13 Courts should not decide elections when the will of the voters is clear."

The Trump campaign had also joined in a suit brought in *federal* court in Pennsylvania. In that case, Judge Brann, a Republican-sponsored judicial nominee and a member of the right-wing Federalist Society, dismissed the case (here too with prejudice) because it lacked merit. The judge noted that "this Court has been presented with strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations, unpled in the operative complaint and unsupported by evidence."

On appeal to the federal court of appeals, the Trump campaign found its case summarily dismissed. Of significant note was this statement by the court: "Lawyer Rudolph Giuliani stressed, the Campaign 'doesn't plead fraud. This is not a fraud case.'"

Another problem addressed by Judge Brann is that the Trump campaign and various Republican challengers are trying to get the courts to discard the votes of millions of Americans. Their arguments relate to alleged procedural irregularities but they have no evidence that votes were fraudulent or do not express the preferences of 154 million voters who chose either Biden or Trump. Where some Republican voters allege that their votes were not counted, they don't seek to have their votes included in the total count, but rather to deprive others of the value of *their* votes.

In short, concededly without evidence of fraud, and relying on procedural gimmicks, Trump has no chance.

A Modern-Day Hazardous Crossing
The Delaware

Joe Biden likes to say that he is from the sticks -- Middle-Class Joe, so to speak -- an image difficult for a politician who wears a suit and tie every day to sustain. And that's been going on since 1973 when he was elected to the Senate. Since then he has, of course, been Vice President, and now President-elect.

But when Joe crossed the River Styx, a tributary of the Sticks-on-the-Boondocks on the road to perdition, it seems that he apparently didn't manage to soak entirely, his foot. And we have a modern-day Achilles' heel.

Greek mythology tells us that Paris shot Achilles in the heel with an arrow. Joe has intemperately meddled with Fate and threatened to revisit an encounter with Paris and the Climate Accords. We know not whether Pocahontas Warren, poised with bow and arrow, is just quivering to take a shot.

Will we then see a Kamala-Pocahontas duo, an Indian fest, dot plus feather, with a bit of BLM thrown in for good measure?

Joe has recently crossed into Delaware, presumably from Washington, D.C. This evokes memories of George Washington crossing the Delaware. George went on to Trenton for an encounter with the Hessians.

Joe goes into the presidency limping.

A fitting metaphor for America.

Cheerz...

Bwana



Joe Biden leaving the Delaware Humane Association with his German shepherd, Major. Photo - AP

WILMINGTON, DEL. -- President-elect Joe Biden fractured his foot while playing with one of his dogs, according to his doctor.

Biden suffered the injury on Saturday and visited an orthopedist at Delaware Orthopaedic Specialists in Newark, Delaware, for an examination Sunday afternoon, his office said. A subsequent CT scan "confirmed hairline (small) fractures of President-elect Biden's lateral and intermediate cuneiform bones, which are in the mid-foot," according to a statement from his doctor, Kevin O'Connor. (Associated Press)