

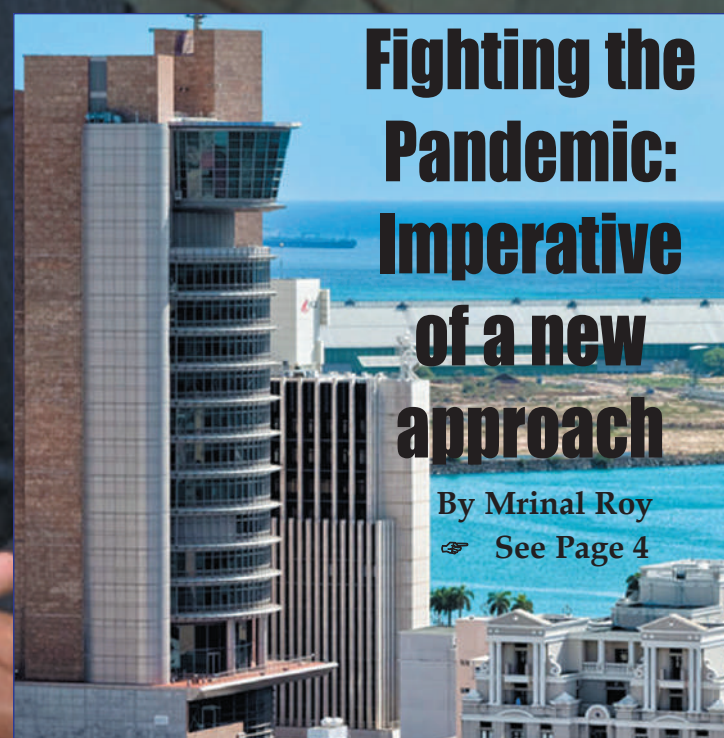
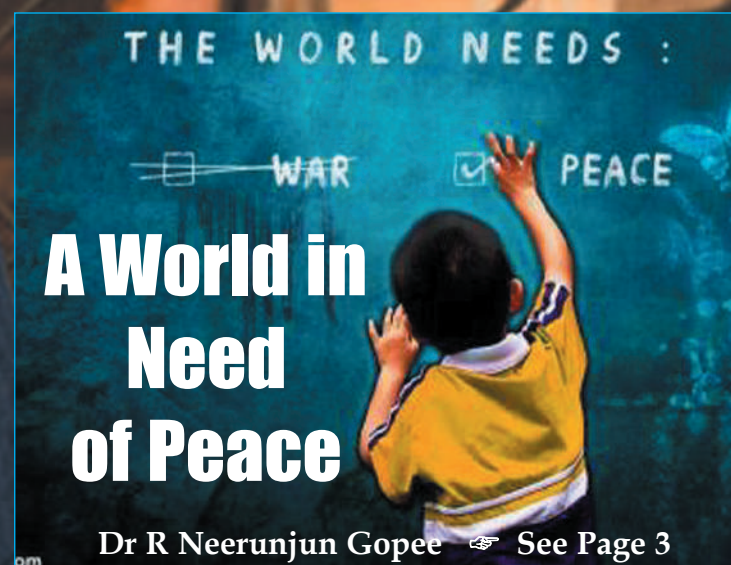
MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• "The people who wear their mask below the chin are the same people who wear seat belts from behind the seat." -- Sarvesh Jain

Interview - Dr Avinaash Munohur

“Nous ne voyons pas encore la vague de changement

que certains d'entre nous espèrent depuis un moment déjà”



Our Precarious Financial Situation

Our public debt has already exceeded 90% of GDP - 60% being considered acceptable and sustainable – and is probably coursing inexorably towards 100% as some analysts are apprehending. How did we reach here?

If it hadn't been for the pandemic, probably the public finances could have buffered the white elephant projects that the government had undertaken. But the pandemic, and the undercover business deals that it engendered, have hastened the piling up of our national debt. It is characteristic of any new regime to think that it is a know-all and is the broom that will sweep clean, and does not need any inputs or advice from outside or outsiders. Again, that is fair game under normal civilian circumstances. However, nothing has been normal since the WHO declared a Global Public Health Emergency and then an unfolding epidemic at the beginning of last year.

When government set up a bailout mechanism for the business sector, namely the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) at the Bank of Mauritius, experienced and knowledgeable citizens with the country's interest and image at heart had expressed themselves on the matter. Thus, in an interview to this paper at the time, former Minister of Finance Rama Sithanen had remarked: 'The Minister of Finance simply has no choice than to depend on the two reserves of the Central Bank... All countries are doing it - from the US and the UK to the EU and Japan. However he must be responsible and these must be included in a standalone and robust Act of Parliament with key safeguards, oversight, supervision and control... A Special Economic and Finance Committee of the National Assembly with the Minister of Finance as Chairperson and experienced MPs such as Paul Bérenger and Xavier Luc Duval (both former Ministers of Finance) and the leader of the Opposition as key members of that Committee during the next four years to oversee the use of these funds, its supervision and monitoring.'

Had this been done, the country could have been spared the quasi-lashing that it has received from the IMF, although the full report is yet to be made available. The recommendation to 'further improve the BoM credibility' means what it means, especially when the next recommendation is that that the BoM 'should relinquish ownership of the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC).' What has been the object of much concern and worry to even the layman is the secrecy that has shrouded its disbursements, as an article in the last issue of this paper highlighted: how much, to whom and under what terms should have been a self-evident imperative where our accumulated savings and reserves are being handed out at such levels, and which is in line with the observation made by Rama Sithanen.

It would be recalled that following the financial crisis of 2007/08, similar generous bailout packages were handed out to banks and businesses with no mechanism for monitoring and follow-up. Instead of the employees benefiting, it was the CEOs - of the banks in particular – who received golden handshakes! And locally one business venture in the IT sector saw its promoter simply vanish, leaving the authorities powerless to initiate any action to recover what had been advanced.

In light of what has happened both elsewhere and locally, the overriding objective remains the need to put in place proper safeguards and strict conditionalities to ensure that public money is used judiciously and channelled towards the public interest. Government assistance should serve three goals: (1) make sure people's basic needs are met, (2) make it possible to prevent economic collapse and speed up economic recovery post lockdown, and (3) use these funds to create positive change, and rebuild areas we previously neglected.

From an economic perspective, it is clearly more efficient to provide support only to the people and business sectors that really need it, or have lost income and would not be able to support themselves and, moreover, depending on the longer-term importance of these sectors to the people and the national economy.

On the other hand, like the IMF, the people too will await impatiently what measures the government proposes to take to reverse the debt burden and launch the economy towards recovery.

The Conversation

People gave up on flu pandemic measures a century ago when they tired of them – and paid a price

At the first hint the virus was receding, people pushed to get life back to normal. Unfortunately, another surge of the disease followed



Armistice Day celebrations on Nov. 11, 1918, worried public health experts as people crowded together in cities across the US AP Photo

As the Covid-19 pandemic enters its second year, many people want to know when life will go back to how it was before the coronavirus. History, of course, isn't an exact template for what the future holds. But the way Americans emerged from the earlier 1918 influenza pandemic could suggest what post-pandemic life will be like this time around.

Sick and tired, ready for pandemic's end

Like Covid-19, the 1918 influenza pandemic hit hard and fast, going from a handful of reported cases in a few cities to a nationwide outbreak within a few weeks. Many communities issued several rounds of various closure orders – corresponding to the ebbs and flows of their epidemics – in an attempt to keep the disease in check.

These social-distancing orders worked to reduce cases and deaths. Just as today, however, they often proved difficult to maintain. By the late autumn, just weeks after the social-distancing orders went into effect, the pandemic seemed to be coming to an end as the number of new infections declined.

People clamored to return to their normal lives. Businesses pressed officials to be allowed to reopen. Believing the pan-

demic was over, state and local authorities began rescinding public health edicts. The nation turned its efforts to addressing the devastation influenza had wrought.

For the friends, families and co-workers of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who had died, post-pandemic life was filled with sadness and grief. Many of those still recovering from their bouts with the malady required support and care as they recuperated.

At a time when there was no federal or state safety net, charitable organizations sprang into action to provide resources for families who had lost their breadwinners, or to take in the countless children left orphaned by the disease.

For the vast majority of Americans, though, life after the pandemic seemed to be a headlong rush to normalcy. Starved for weeks of their nights on the town, sporting events, religious services, classroom interactions and family gatherings, many were eager to return to their old lives.

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Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

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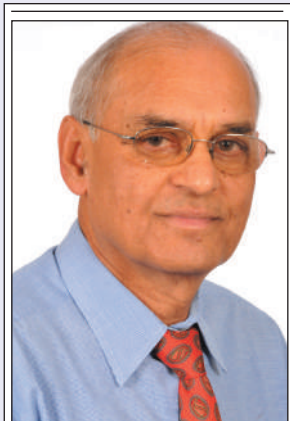


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A World in Need of Peace



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Einstein is often quoted as saying that 'I do not know what weapons World War III will be fought with, but I know what will be used in World War IV: sticks and stones'



There is a saying to the effect that 'if you desire peace, you must prepare for war.' This is the English version of the original saying which is in Latin, so I presume it must have been enunciated during the time of the Roman Empire. Which should not be surprising when we read about the epic wars of that era.

Whoever was the author of that adage must have had a good understanding of human nature or a knowledge of history up until that period, realized that human beings have always been fighting with each other, and anticipated that they will probably never cease to do so. Peace is ever elusive, and permanent peace either an unachievable ideal or a figment of our imagination given the fickleness of the human mind.

And we transpose this and judge others by our own yardstick, unable to conceive that beings other than ourselves could be peaceful by nature. Hence Star Wars or the War of the Worlds: the Martian Rover, though, has not yet found little or big green men somewhat resembling us on planet Mars armed with lasers and tasers directed at us the aliens. There is a project called SETI – Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence – that has been under way for a few decades now, but so far has it not found any evidence of extraterrestrial beings. If they exist and are more intelligent than us, they must have probably reckoned it's better not to have anything to do with these lower-brained and instinct-driven perpetually warring fellows!

Not only do we seem to prefer war-war to jaw-jaw, we make of everything a war: fight for peace, the war against injustice, the fight against Covid, the fight for human

“Preparing for war - but will this lead to peace? Doesn't look like it, because there are other hot spots around the world, especially in the Middle East, where conflicts are still reigning with no end in sight. And if they were to intensify other powers are without doubt going to be drawn in, increasing further the real risks of full scale war. A World War III is not to be excluded...”

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rights... We simply do not want another paradigm, one that would take us away from this terminology to one that would induce peace in our hearts.

Countries appear to have taken the saying cited above literally, for every nation is armed, and the military-industrial complex is a well-known phenomenon. Steven Pinker, psychologist-thinker of Harvard University in his 'The Better Angels of Our Nature' chronicled facts and figures to show that there has been a progressive decline in violence in the world, and is hopeful for the future by virtue of our presumed angelic nature.

However, violence always threatens to erupt. As it has done just a few days ago between Palestine and Israel, a non-ending episode which looks set to last for ever, meaning that Israel will ever have to be prepared for war, since it desires peace.

It is true that we haven't had another world war since the end of World War II, but with the superpower rivalry that is playing out with China and Russia on one side, the activities of the former in the South China Sea being viewed as provocation by the other side led by the USA, we are increasingly exposed to the genuine threat of World War III against the backdrop of or triggered by a trade war.

It shouldn't surprise, therefore that, several big powers are beefing up their armed forces to match the rise in size, scale and sophistication of the Chinese forces in expansion. Preparing for war - but will this lead to peace? Doesn't look like it, because there are other hot spots around the world, especially in the Middle East, where conflicts are still reigning with no end in sight. And if they were to intensify other powers are without doubt going to be

drawn in, increasing further the real risks of full scale war. A World War III is not to be excluded.

And it is not as if there has been no attempt to bring about a culture of peace. In fact, the United Nations has declared 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust (IYPT) to reaffirm the UN's role to settle disputes peacefully. IYPT 2021 was proclaimed in resolution A/RES/73/338 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 12, 2019, to reaffirm 'the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes and principles, and especially the commitment to settle disputes through peaceful means and the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,(...).'

The Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, by representatives of 50 countries worldwide, and the United Nations officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, as a reaction to the devastations of war. Maintaining international peace and security was then, and still is today, its central mission.

Despite more than 70 conflicts ongoing in 2021, the United Nations is still trying to prevent military conflict by applying several measures: Preventive diplomacy, Peace-keeping, Peacebuilding, Countering terrorism, Disarmament.

As the local WHO Representative in 2000, I was an active participant in the International Year for the Culture of Peace (IYCP) venture, an initiative of UNESCO in partnership with the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU). It emanated from a resolution of the General Assembly of the UN on the 'Declaration on a Culture of Peace', which began by reminding us that 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'. Further, the resolution proclaimed that 'governments, international organisations and civil society may be guided in their activity by its provisions to promote and strengthen a culture of peace in the new millennium'.

The manifesto of the IYCP encapsulated the six core values of: Respect All Life, Reject Violence, Share With Others, Listen To Understand, Preserve The Planet, Rediscover Solidarity which are found in the manifesto of the IYCP. All peace lovers round the world were canvassed to sign the manifesto, pledge themselves individually and collectively to abide by the values which are enshrined in it, and encourage as many as possible to sign up too so as to reach the goal of 75 million signatures globally. I think the goal set for Mauritius was one million signatures.

Opinion is divided as to how effective the International Year was, although it can be conceded that the impact of such events can only be discerned many years later. Two decades have passed, and we are still no closer to global, permanent peace than before.

Einstein is often quoted as saying that 'I do not know what weapons World War III will be fought with, but I know what will be used in World War IV: sticks and stones.'

It is presumed that what he meant was that nuclear weapons might be used in World War III, and this would lead to near-annihilation of the human race and the destruction of the planet. Leaving us with only stones and sticks to fight each other. If that too! – one could add, given that probably only ashes would be left!

Do we still want war? That is a question that only warmongers can answer – if not for themselves, at least for the sake of their children. They go to war because they feel their ideology is superior to that of others, who are therefore 'othered', or because they want to dominate by controlling all the resources available on the planet.

They are not willing to listen to other alternatives that propose peace. Its prospect will thus ever recede. Very sad indeed.

Fighting the Pandemic

Imperative of a new approach

This is not the time for governments to arrogantly act as if they have all the answers on how to manage and fight the pandemic on their own



Mrinal Roy

In the space of about a week, one infected case of Covid-19 in New-Grove has led to the infection of some 62 persons in various localities spread over different regions in the country. From information available it is evident that some have irresponsibly helped spread the coronavirus infection. This surge is a stark reminder that the virus is still very much present in the country and that it can quickly spin out of control if

we do not take every precaution to protect ourselves against the risk of Covid-19 infection by strictly abiding by hygienic and social distancing norms and properly wearing our masks. We therefore need to ensure that the Covid-19 situation does not get out of hand. In our uphill battle against the Covid-19 pandemic, every citizen must act responsibly to help break the chain of infection of coronavirus in the country.

This disquieting situation has necessitated massive contact tracing operations after each case detected in the community, thousands of PCR tests on the residents of the various affected localities to track down infected persons and quarantine those in contact with them. These necessary actions are adding to the country's whopping costs of managing the Covid-19 pandemic. We must commend the dedicated commitment of the contact tracing teams who are playing such a crucial role in our battle to contain and stem the spread of the virus, despite the patent and costly irresponsibility of some.

Many things have been learnt about the Covid-19 pandemic since its outbreak. For example, the golden rule to adopt if we want to break the chain of Covid-19



Pic - financialexpress.com

“This is not the time for governments to arrogantly act as if they have all the answers on how to manage and fight the pandemic on their own. We are in this battle together and it can only be won through concord and a common resolve by the nation to join our forces to overcome the Covid-19 crisis together...”

contamination in a small country like Mauritius is to impose a lockdown and not to lift the lockdown restrictions until there are no new cases of infection in the country from contact tracing and PCR testing during a period of at least three weeks. However strict rules to prevent gathering of people and ensure that people rigorously abide by hygienic and social distancing directives and wear masks must continue to apply.

Costly haste

The current surge in cases raises the burning question of whether the lockdown

“The current surge in cases raises the burning question of whether the lockdown restrictions have been hastily lifted. The upshot is that the country is far from being Covid free or Covid safe. People and the elderly in particular are scared of going out to cater for their essential needs owing to the presence of the virus in the country and large number of people and traffic thronging the streets...”

restrictions have been hastily lifted. The upshot is that the country is far from being Covid free or Covid safe. People and the elderly in particular are scared of going out to cater for their essential needs owing to the presence of the virus in the country and large number of people and traffic thronging the streets.

The detection of infected cases in far-flung locations such as the offices of private companies, the University or a secondary school is worrying. Is this what the new government mantra of ‘We need to learn to live with the Covid-19 virus means’? Is this the price to pay to boost economic activities and strapped government revenue?

Arbitrating in favour of the economy instead of the safety and health of people is fraught with potent risks.

The Covid-19 pandemic is the most daunting challenge faced by humanity since World War 11. For more than 16 months, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc in the world causing dire socio-economic and health fallouts with a death toll exceeding 3.3 million people. This is not the time for governments to arrogantly act as if they have all the answers on how to manage and fight the

pandemic on their own. We are in this battle together and it can only be won through concord and a common resolve by the nation to join our forces to overcome the Covid-19 crisis together. Every country must therefore mobilize its citizens, front liners, members and organizations of the civil society and required professionals to attain this common objective.

Signs of hope

There is therefore an urgent need for a new approach, a unity of purpose and a show of international solidarity if we are to win this battle against such a forbidding pandemic and hope to steer the world on a pathway towards a modicum of normality. The spontaneous show of solidarity by more than 40 countries which sent oxygen generating equipment, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, Covid-19 vaccines and consignments of critical medicines to help India fight against the current unprecedented surge of Covid-19 infection is a beacon of hope for the world in our common battle against the pandemic. Regrettably, in a world driven by the sensational rather than the altruistic, there is limited coverage of such laudable initiatives.

New mindset

We cannot win this war on our own. Sadly, the world is taking time to realize this simple truism. It is therefore flabbergasting that despite the US support for a temporary waiver of intellectual property rights to allow developing nations to produce Covid-19 vaccines created by pharmaceutical companies so as to significantly boost access to vaccines in the context of a pandemic and speed up Covid-19 vaccination in the world, there are still objections from the pharmaceutical industry and some countries in the EU. We need a new mindset. The request for a waiver tabled at the WTO by India and South Africa is now co-sponsored by 60 countries and has the support of 170 former heads of government and a wide range of Nobel laureates. Will good sense finally prevail?

Such a waiver will help boost up vaccine production in approved facilities in accordance with best practice norms and significantly increase access to vaccines in developing and poor countries across the world. More importantly, it will be a game changer as it will provide more clarity and visibility over the future outlook as the whole world increases its pace of vaccination towards herd immunity.

It is however equally important that the WHO, which has approved the Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Janssen's Johnson & Johnson and Sinopharm vaccines for emergency use, fast tracks the approval of other Covid-19 vaccines already in use in the world. This will help boost up vaccine supplies to meet enormous unsatisfied demand from countries across the world.

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Republicans oust Trump critic Liz Cheney from leadership

Eighteen months before crucial midterms and three years before the next presidential race, the Republican Party appears intent on punishing one of its own because she refuses to embrace Donald Trump's false claim that Democrats stole the 2020 election.

Republicans argue it's about unity, and that Cheney hammering on about Trump and what she calls his "dangerous and anti-democratic cult of personality" has done nothing to bring a fractured party together following a contentious election that left them in the political hinterland, reports AFP.

Cheney, a Wyoming conservative and the daughter of former vice president Dick Cheney, is expected to be removed from her role as the number three House Republican in a morning vote by the party's conference.

On Tuesday evening she delivered a defiant speech



US Representative Liz Cheney speaks to the media as she arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, US. Pic - www.aljazeera.com

on the House floor, warning her colleagues of the potential "unraveling of our democracy" as a former president continues to mislead millions of Americans and sow doubt about election integrity.

"Remaining silent and ignoring the lie emboldens the liar," Cheney told a nearly empty chamber.

"I will not participate in that. I will not sit back in silence as others lead our party down a path that abandons the rule of law, and joins the former president's crusade to undermine our democracy."

In a statement issued Wednesday morning before the vote, Trump said House Republicans "have a great opportunity today to rid themselves of a poor leader, a major Democrat talking point, a warmonger, and a person with absolutely no personality or heart."

"As a representative of the Great State of Wyoming, Liz Cheney is bad for our Country and bad for herself," the ex-president added.

UK to help vulnerable countries against cyber threat

Britain said on Wednesday it would invest 22 million pounds (\$31 million) to help vulnerable countries in Africa and the Indo-Pacific build up their cyber defences to prevent China, Russia and others from filling a cyberspace vacuum.

British foreign minister Dominic Raab said Britain and its partners needed to take action to ensure there was a cyberspace that was free, open and peaceful in the face of hostile states seeking to undermine democratic elections and turn the internet into a lawless space, reports Reuters.

"We've got to win the hearts and minds across the world in a much broader space for our positive vision of a cyberspace ... there for the benefit of the whole world," Raab said at an online security conference.



British foreign minister Dominic Raab said Britain and its partners needed to take action to ensure there was a cyberspace that was free, open and peaceful in the face of hostile states. Pic - Bloomberg

"Frankly, we've also got to prevent China, Russia and others from filling the multilateral vacuum. That means doing a lot more to support the poorest and most vulnerable countries who are most at risk."

Last month, Britain joined the United States in saying Russia's foreign intelligence service, known as the SVR, was responsible for the SolarWinds hack which led to the compromise of nine federal agencies and hundreds of private sector companies.

Britain's top cyber spy also warned in April that the West needed to act urgently to ensure China does not dominate important emerging technologies and gain control of the "global operating system".

Raab said Britain's investment would be used to support national cyber response teams, advise on mass online safety awareness campaigns and to collaborate with global police coordination agency Interpol to set up a new cyber operations hub in Africa.

This hub would operate across Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Rwanda to help fight cybercrime in the fast-growing economies, the foreign office said.

Over 1050 rockets, mortar shells fired from Gaza Strip since Monday



The Israel defence forces launched strikes on upwards of 500 targets in the Gaza Strip, aimed at Hamas personnel, weaponry and infrastructure. Pic - pbs.twimg.com

The Israeli Army on Wednesday said over 1050 rockets and mortar shells were fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel since the violence broke out on Monday evening.

Israel defence forces (IDF) spokesperson Hidai Zilberman said the Iron Dome air defence system had an interception rate between 85 and 90 per cent of rockets heading toward populated areas, The Times of Israel reported.

In response, the IDF launched strikes on upwards of 500 targets in the Gaza Strip, aimed at Hamas personnel, weaponry and infrastructure, Zilberman says.

The ongoing violence marks a dramatic escalation of tensions linked to the potential eviction of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem by Israeli settlers and access to one of the most sacred sites in the city, which is a key hub for Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

The confrontation intensified in recent days as Ramzan brought large crowds to

al-Aqsa and clashes broke out between Palestinians and Israeli police.

The protests spread to other Arab areas inside Israel. In the mixed Jewish-Arab city of Lod, Arab protesters threw stones and fireworks at passersby and police early Tuesday. And a man whose identity has not been disclosed opened fire on a group of Arab protesters carrying Palestinian flags, The Washington Post reported.

More than 1,100 Palestinians were injured in clashes with the Israeli military on May 7-10, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The security forces in Israel are bracing up for further violence. Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai ordered a "significant" bolstering of police presence in the city of Lod and a number of other locations after Public Security Minister Amir Ohana declared a state of emergency.

* Contd on page 6

UK's financial regulator launches inquiry into collapse of Greensill Capital

The UK's financial regulator has launched an inquiry into "potentially criminal" activities linked to the collapse of Greensill Capital, for which David Cameron worked as a senior adviser. The announcement came as a new dossier revealed how the former prime minister bombarded government ministers including Rishi Sunak, Michael Gove and Nadhim Zahawi - as well as officials at 10 Downing Street, the Treasury and Bank of England - with dozens of texts, WhatsApp messages, emails and phone calls over four months as he fought to get Greensill access to Covid-19 support.

Signing his messages "Dc" or "De", Mr Cameron branded the decision to exclude the firm from the Treasury's multibillion pound Covid Corporate Financing Facility "bonkers" and "nuts" and repeatedly pressed ministers and officials to meet with founder Lex Greensill. Mr Greensill denied his firm was a "fraud" or a "Ponzi scheme" as he was subjected to more than three hours of questioning by MPs on the House of Commons Treasury Committee, which is conducting one of



Pic - news.sky.com

eight inquiries, reports The Independent.

* * *

"British state murder"

The families of 10 people shot dead by the Army in west Belfast 50 years ago in one of the bloodiest atrocities of the Troubles have welcomed a ruling that their loved ones were "entirely innocent". The ruling also found they were not members of a paramilitary group, had no

weapons and did not pose a threat, a coroner has found.

Justice Siobhan Keegan delivered her findings into what became known locally as the Ballymurphy Massacre at the International Conference Centre in Belfast on Tuesday. There were jubilant scenes outside Belfast Coroner's Court as the families of those shot in August 1971 emerged to cheers from supporters. Northern Ireland's deputy first minister,

Michelle O'Neill, claimed it was "British state murder".

* * *

The end of social distancing soon

The public has been promised full details of "the end of social distancing" within three weeks, as a bullish Boris Johnson pressed the accelerator on a review into the lifting of all Covid-19 rules. As he confirmed step three of the roadmap - allowing indoor serving in pubs, cafes and restaurants in England as well as hugging between family members - the prime minister also dropped his strongest hint yet that almost all regulations will go next month, reports The Independent.

Mr Johnson said he expected to scrap the "one metre-plus rule" and that an announcement on "what we mean by the end of social distancing" would come this month, rather than making businesses wait until June. "You will hear a lot more by the end of this month about exactly what the world after 21 June is going to look like," he told a Downing Street press conference. "At the moment, I'm feeling very positive about it, but we've got to be guided by the data."

Japan extends state of emergency amid alarming spike in Covid-19 variants

The rapid spread of highly contagious variants of Covid-19 has prompted an extension of the current state of emergency in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and neighboring Hyogo prefecture until the end of May.

A third state of emergency in the capital was issued on April 25, targeting the Golden Week three-day national holiday. It was scheduled to end on May 11. However, a

fourth wave of infections shows no sign of abating, with the spread of infections exceeding the peak of the third wave late last year. Tokyo recorded a seven-day average of 637 new daily cases and the largest figure of 1,050 cases on May 1, reports The Diplomat.

The rapid spread of coronavirus in Osaka in early April forced local authorities to cancel the Osaka leg of the Olympic Torch relay. But one month on, local hospitals are overwhelmed, and for the first time all hospital



Japan extends state of emergency as Covid cases surges. Pic - The Guardian

beds designated for seriously ill patients are occupied.

The minister in charge of the country's Covid-19 response, Nishimura Yasutoshi, said Osaka was in a critical situation and warned Tokyo could face a similar scramble for hospital beds in the next two weeks unless the infection rate is brought down.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government fears the rapid spread of coronavirus is being driven by mutant strains. There are concerns that the original virus

will be replaced by the N501Y strain. In Tokyo 62 percent of 521 new daily cases reported on May 6 were of the N501Y strain and five cases of the Indian strain were also detected. Osaka is said to be battling the spread of the UK variant. At this stage, variants from South Africa, Brazil, and the Philippines have turned up in Japan. To make matters worse, the government has warned of the emergence of a "double mutant" variant that carries similar characteristics to the two strains currently raging in India.

Covid-19 testing scam hits Indonesian airport

Several employees from Indonesia's state-owned pharmaceutical company Kimia Farma have been arrested for allegedly washing and reselling Covid-19 nasal swab test kits. According to the police, an estimated 9000 passengers at the Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, North Sumatra, might have been tested with such kits, which were washed and reused.

The use of nasal swab testing kits has become routine for many nations throughout the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. The same is the procedure at the Kualanamu airport, where passengers had to test negative in the nasal swab test to board the flight, with an option for customers to be tested at the airport itself, using antigen rapid test kits supplied by Kimia Farma.

After a few complaints from passengers regarding false positive test results from the airport testing site, police sent in an undercover team to investigate, reported Detik, a local news outlet. After being swabbed and receiving a positive result, the undercover police notified the others, who then approached the testing area to do an inspection. During the inspection, it was revealed that the nasal testing kit had been recycled. According to the BBC, the police said that such a scandal had been going on at Kualanamu airport since December.

This incident comes to light a few days after give Kimia Farma employees were arrested for breaking health and consumer laws by conducting similar activities: washing nasal swab testing kits and repackaging them, and selling them. The motive for their action was simple financial gain, given that each nasal swab test costs 200,000 rupiah (\$14), which the employees got to collect by reusing the kits. Media reports estimate the profit from such a scandal to be around 1.6 billion rupiah (\$124,800). Since that incident, Kimia Farma has been firing any staff found to be involved in illegal activities and has vowed to tighten its internal measures.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

“Nous ne voyons pas encore la vague de changement que certains d'entre nous espèrent depuis un moment déjà”

Le monde est arrivé à un tournant et les structures traditionnelles politiques et économiques sont menacées par les disrupteurs. Ces derniers sont difficiles à cerner car leurs actions reposent sur des valeurs différentes, souvent radicalement opposées à celles des dirigeants actuels. L'environnement est donc très instable, et la pandémie ne fait qu'accentuer ce sentiment de fragilité à tous les niveaux de la société. Avinash Munohur, politologue, nous en parle.

Mauritius Times: Nous avons appris la semaine dernière que le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) a demandé à la Banque de Maurice (BOM) de se désengager de l'actionariat de la Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC), en réclamant que son financement passe par le processus budgétaire de l'État. Faut-il voir cela comme une mise en garde de la part du FMI envers la gestion des finances publiques à Maurice?

Dr Avinaash Munohur: Une institution comme le FMI, qui est le principal créancier du financement de la mondialisation ainsi que des programmes de développement et de soutiens économiques des États-nations, n'agit jamais de manière hâtive et inconsidérée. De ce fait, cette déclaration et cette demande sont à prendre très au sérieux.

Maintenant, il y a plusieurs interprétations possibles concernant les raisons de cette demande. Mais il est assez facile de comprendre que le fait qu'une banque centrale, dont le but est d'incarner la souveraineté monétaire d'un pays, transfère ses réserves dans une compagnie privée, donc en dehors de la visibilité et de la surveillance de l'exercice budgétaire publique - c'est le cas de la MIC - puisse grandement inquiéter le FMI.

Ces réserves sont des garanties vitales pour la résilience de notre économie et doivent être gérées avec la prudence la plus absolue. Voyons maintenant comment va réagir le Gouvernement.

*** Nous constatons l'accumulation des reculs par rapport à certains acquis historiques de notre pays. La liste noire de l'Union européenne, la rétrogradation du classement du secteur financier par Moody's, le fait d'être classé dans le "Top 10 Autocratizing Countries" par le V-Dem Institute. Quelles sont les conséquences de ces déclassements pour notre économie ?**

Le taux d'ouverture de l'économie mauricienne sur le monde a toujours été très important, oscillant par exemple entre 78% et 90% depuis une dizaine d'années. Ceci signifie que la construction de

l'économie mauricienne s'effectue grâce à la mondialisation, et que nous ne sommes absolument pas une économie insulaire.

Dans la pratique, nous voyons bien que nous sommes entièrement dépendants des flux de personnes, des flux de capitaux et des flux de marchandises.

L'industrie touristique, le secteur de l'immobilier de luxe (*Property Development Schemes* et *Smart Cities*), le secteur financier, l'offshore et nos exportations sont les vecteurs qui permettent aux *Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)* d'entrer dans les différents circuits de l'économie mauricienne et d'être ensuite redistribués.

C'est comme cela que nous avons financé l'expansion économique depuis le début des années 2000. Or, ce modèle de développement dépend grandement de la capacité de Maurice à attirer les FDI, ce qui en retour dépend entièrement de la réputation du pays. De ce fait, les récents déclassements ne sont pas des signes positifs pour nous, bien au contraire.

*** Et par delà les conséquences économiques ?**

Les conséquences économiques sont la partie quantifiable de phénomènes plus profonds qui se traduisent généralement dans une érosion de nos institutions et de nos biens communs, et dans un endettement qui risque de devenir de plus en plus incontrôlable.

De ce point de vue, je pense que nous sommes dans un moment historique. Ce que je veux dire par là, c'est qu'un système (certaines personnes diraient plutôt un paradigme) qui s'est constitué autour de la fin des années 1960, et qui s'est petit à petit transformé avec les différentes ouvertures sectorielles et avec le développement de l'État-providence est en train d'atteindre la fin de son cycle.

Les institutions de la solidarité, le système d'éducation publique, le système universel de santé et les dispositifs assurant la sécurité civile sont dans une crise de plus en plus palpable. Le consensus keynésien de la redistribution des revenus produits par le gros capital - que ce soit par les salaires ou les services publics - a de plus en plus de mal à remplir ses fonctions



“L'Alliance de l'Espoir: Il faudra voir comment tout cela va évoluer, mais je ne suis pas des petits accidents de parcours. Nous sommes encore très loin des élections générales, et la priorité d'un tel rassemblement est de justement de se confronter à ses contradictions afin de les résoudre et de permettre l'ouverture d'un espace politique renouvelé...”

sociales.

Ceci produira des inégalités de plus en plus marquées et profondes. Et bien évidemment, dans l'absolu, un pays qui se trouve dans une phase de contraction économique peut voir surgir des problèmes sociaux avec des réactions violentes, ce qui n'est jamais positif.

*** Donc, selon vous, notre démocratie va mal et ça ne risque pas de s'arranger...**

Il est devenu un lieu commun de dire que la démocratie va mal, que la démocratie vacille, que la démocratie a atteint un point de danger. Mais ce lieu commun n'est pas anodin.

Ce sentiment, qui ne se limite pas aux simples frontières mauriciennes, démontre également que des alliances historique-

ment stratégiques sont en train d'être défaits, à commencer par l'alliance du capitalisme avec le modèle de la social-démocratie.

De ce point de vue, certains grands intellectuels avaient raison quand ils parlaient de la Chine au début des années 2000. Ils disaient que ce qui faisait peur à l'Occident, ce n'était pas que le modèle autocratique chinois était une forme féodale et archaïque de lui-même, mais bien plutôt que la Chine représentait l'avenir même de l'Occident; "Occident" devant être compris, ici, comme la généralisation de la forme du gouvernement social-démocrate et de l'économie de marché au monde entier.

Mais par-delà la déclaration de ces lieux communs, nous devons également considérer sérieusement que nous sommes pris dans d'autres développements, ceux notamment liés aux nouvelles technologies et aux réseaux sociaux qui produisent d'autres rapports à la vérité. Et ceux-ci produisent parfois - souvent même - des rapports disruptifs à la vérité.

Or, la disruption - c'est-à-dire le bouleversement de l'ordre sociopolitique - est une réalité qui hante déjà nos systèmes politiques. Les phénomènes comme les "fake news", les théories du complot et les violences gratuites que nous voyons souvent sur les réseaux sociaux s'inscrivent directement dans cette logique de la disruption.

*** Est-ce que les propositions de l'ICTA, qui sont très polémiques, ne s'inscrivent pas dans un effort de contrôle de ce que vous nommez la disruption?**

Qu'il y ait besoin de poser des barrières et d'imposer des frontières sur les pratiques et les comportements sur les réseaux sociaux me semble être une évidence. Comme tout espace public, il doit y avoir des mécanismes de régulation qui encadrent les échanges et protègent les individus.

Mais la ligne est fine entre un encadrement et une régulation juste et avisée, et la transformation de l'espace virtuel en un lieu de contrôle et de surveillance.

Dans le cas de l'encadrement et de la régulation, nous sommes dans une démarche démocratique, respectueuse des libertés mais punitive des abus. Alors que dans le cas de la volonté de contrôle et de surveillance, nous sommes dans un basculement dangereux et inadmissible. Je pense qu'une majorité de Mauriciens ont le jugement et le discernement nécessaires afin de comprendre où nous mènent les propositions de l'ICTA.

'La pandémie actuelle justifie l'annulation des élections municipales.

Mais il s'agit aussi d'une aubaine inespérée pour le Gouvernement'



* Suite de la page 7

Mais, par-delà les propositions de l'ICTA, nous voyons se multiplier des formes juridiques de ce que l'on nomme l'état d'exception en droit, c'est-à-dire des formes de la pratique institutionnelle qui prennent pour appui une suspension des droits fondamentaux et constitutionnels.

Aujourd'hui, l'exemple qui fait office de référence reste le *Patriot Act* aux Etats-Unis. Certains amendements présents dans la *Covid Bill* sont des cas d'école de l'état d'exception.

*** Il est certain que la Covid-19 nous met en face d'une situation exceptionnelle, d'où peut-être aussi le développement exponentiel des situations d'états d'exception. Pensez-vous que ces tendances pourraient être inversées au sortir de cette crise?**

Dire qu'une tendance peut être inversée revient à dire que nous pouvons faire marche arrière, revenir vers des conditions précédentes. Or, je ne pense pas que nous sommes dans ce cas de figure.

Nous devons considérer que les développements actuels découlent directement de la mise en échec de la social-démocratie et de l'extension de la logique du marché à toutes les sphères de la gestion publique. De ce fait, il ne s'agit pas de revenir en arrière, en réaffirmant simplement les principes de la social-démocratie. Il s'agit bien plutôt d'inventer de nouvelles formes de la démocratie qui répondent aux défis actuels posés par les forces anti-démocratiques.

“En toute objectivité, la pandémie actuelle justifie, selon moi, l'annulation de ces élections. Mais cela ne doit pas nous détourner du fait qu'il s'agit d'une aubaine inespérée pour le Gouvernement. Il n'a plus l'obligation d'organiser une élection qui pourrait se transformer en vote sanction et donner la tendance pour les prochaines élections générales...”

Cette puissance de l'invention requiert un ensemble de choses qu'il faut réunir :

1. le déploiement d'une stratégie qui puisse poser des bases idéologiques solides quant à l'avenir du pays;
2. la définition d'un ensemble de tactiques permettant de construire cette stratégie;
3. l'essor d'une conscience commune; et
4. le développement d'une intelligence collective.

Ce qui me semble intéressant, c'est que notre pays est déjà passé par ce processus dans les années 1970. La génération qui a vécu cela passe peu à peu le relais à une autre génération, et il appartient à cette dernière de s'inspirer des *modus operandi* qui ont fonctionné dans le passé et de les appliquer, de la déployer même, en considérant nos problèmes actuels.

Et il n'appartient qu'à nous de trouver et de mobiliser les ressources intellectuelles, scientifiques, techniques, juridiques, économiques, sociales, culturelles et artistiques nécessaires afin de formuler des propositions capables de contrer les tendances destructrices actuelles.

Donc, pour répondre plus directement à votre question : non, ces tendances ne seront pas inversées... mais ces tendances doivent être contrées et doivent être mises en situation de défaites politiques.

*** L'annulation des élections municipales, même si elles sont justifiées par la pandémie, semble être un coup tactique de la part de la majorité gouvernementale afin de ne pas se soumettre à une élection qui pourrait bien donner la tendance pour les prochaines élections générales. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

En toute objectivité, la pandémie actuelle justifie, selon moi, l'annulation de ces élections. Mais cela ne doit pas nous détourner du fait qu'il s'agit d'une aubaine inespérée pour le Gouvernement. Il n'a plus l'obligation d'organiser une élection qui pourrait se transformer en vote sanction et donner la tendance pour les prochaines élections générales...

Ce dernier point me semble évident lorsque l'on constate que le Gouvernement propose un report des élections municipales pouvant aller jusqu'à deux ans alors que le comité responsable de la gestion de la pandémie a officiellement déclaré que nous avons des chances d'atteindre l'immunité collective d'ici juillet de cette année.

Si nous atteignons l'immunité collective d'ici juillet, pourquoi ne pas organiser les élections municipales en septembre ou en octobre ? Pourquoi attendre deux ans si

c'est vraiment le cas? Ça n'a pas de sens.

*** Par ailleurs, on parle souvent de faire de la politique autrement, ou même de refonder la politique. Nous voyons bien plutôt que les pratiques restent les mêmes, avec des tactiques électorales qui semblent bloquer toute possibilité d'évolution. Rien n'a changé, et le véritable changement n'est pas pour demain, non?**

Il est clair que nous ne voyons pas encore la vague de changement que certains d'entre nous espèrent depuis un moment déjà. Mais cela ne signifie pas qu'il n'y a pas de forces progressistes à l'œuvre au cœur même du corps social mauricien.

Je pense même que celui-ci est traversé d'une multitude de potentialités actuellement, et l'émergence de nouveaux mouvements politiques témoigne de ce fait.

Maintenant, il me semble que ces mouvements et ces tendances n'arrivent pas encore à s'accorder sur la formation d'un projet et d'un front commun. La raison principale à cela est que ce nouveau projet doit lui-même être produit.

De ce fait, il me semble que nous sommes bien plutôt dans une phase de réflexion que dans une phase d'action. Et nous nous devons de faire notre autocritique et de proposer de nouvelles idées avant même de prétendre pouvoir agir. Mais ce processus me semble être en marche - sans mauvais jeu de mots.

*** Comment se porte L'Alliance de l'Espoir, sans Navin Ramgoolam, selon vous? Il semble que cette alliance peine à s'imposer sur l'échiquier politique...**

Je ne crois pas que c'est le moment de tenter de mesurer maladroitement les scores électoraux dans une espèce de projection des perceptions politiques actuelles. Et je ne pense pas que l'objectif premier de l'Alliance de l'Espoir se trouve là.

Je crois bien plutôt que l'objectif immédiat de cette alliance est de produire une rupture avec les vieux réflexes partisans et d'aborder la chose politique d'un autre point de vue, en tentant une proposition différente. C'est ce qui explique que les inimitiés d'autrefois aient pu être mis de côté, ce qui ne va pas sans ses complications.

La nature même de cette alliance est de tenter de produire des synthèses par rapport à des antagonismes historiques, et cet impératif de la synthèse démontre en lui-même une volonté nouvelle.

Maintenant, il faudra voir comment tout cela va évoluer, mais je ne suis pas surpris des petits accidents de parcours. Nous sommes encore très loin des élections générales, et la priorité d'un tel rassemblement est de justement de se confronter à ses contradictions afin de les résoudre et de permettre l'ouverture d'un espace politique renouvelé...

Et, de ce point de vue, j'ai bien pris note de la remarque récente de Paul Bérenger qui disait clairement que "aujourd'hui nous sommes quatre, mais demain nous pourrions être cinq ou plus".

Donc, nous verrons comment cela évolue. Mais je trouve intéressant de voir cette volonté de casser les vieux réflexes, tout en sachant que chacun des partis présents dans cette alliance compte des groupes de jeunes compétents et qui sont à la manœuvre.

* Suite en page 9

L'Alliance de l'Espoir: 'Il faudra voir comment tout cela va évoluer, mais je ne suis pas surpris des petits accidents de parcours'

* Suite de la page 8

*** Immenses chantiers en face des partis de l'opposition, donc?**

Les partis politiques font face à une problématique double.

1. Ils doivent trouver les moyens de la modernisation de leurs structures et de la réinvention idéologique afin de répondre aux attentes des Mauriciens et produire des mobilisations nouvelles.
2. Cette capacité de réinvention et de production d'autres mobilisations passe par le fait d'introduire des nouvelles manières de penser à l'intérieur de leur appareil respectif.

Permettez-moi de formuler ce que je viens de dire d'une autre manière, avec des termes de la linguistique structuraliste. Il me semble que l'impératif est double puisqu'il doit y avoir convergence des "formes" et des "contenus" de l'expression politique. Les idées et la manière de les disséminer doivent correspondre et s'accorder, ce qui implique que si certains partis souhaitent pousser des idées nouvelles, alors ils doivent les disséminer en utilisant de nouvelles méthodologies et de nouveaux types de discours.

Peut-être que c'est justement l'ambition de l'Alliance de l'Espoir. Peut-être aussi que d'autres ensembles politiques s'attellent à cette démarche. Seul l'avenir dira quel parti ou quelle alliance aura le mieux saisi une part du réel politique actuel et aura su produire la rencontre des formes communicationnelles et des contenus idéels.

Pour ma part, je dois vous avouer être pris depuis quelques mois, depuis les dernières élections en réalité, dans une réflexion qui pourrait se traduire par la formule suivante : Que veut dire aujourd'hui -- dans les conditions économiques, institutionnelles, sociales, environnementales et culturelles actuelles - construire un monde en commun à Maurice?

Et je pense que nous avons fondamentalement douze grands chantiers où nous devons proposer d'autres politiques. Ces chantiers sont:

1. la question des biens communs dans un effort de renouvellement de l'espace public;
2. la conversion de notre secteur touristique en un tourisme vert et éco-responsable, répondant à la transformation même de l'industrie touristique;
3. une redéfinition des objectifs nationaux à atteindre à travers les secteurs de l'immobilier de luxe, de l'offshore et de la finance - secteurs qui servent plus pour l'instant les intérêts privés étrangers que nos intérêts communs nationaux;
4. repenser entièrement le secteur de l'agroalimentaire en misant sur l'agriculture locale et sur les "smart farms";
5. le développement responsable et écologique de nos ressources océaniques;
6. l'indépendance énergétique de Maurice dans un monde où les ressources vont de plus en plus se raréfier, sachant que l'économie politique des énergies renouvelables et dé-carbonisées nous permettent de vraiment rectifier des inégalités structurelles qui se sont constituées pendant la révolution industrielle sucrière à Maurice à partir du 18e siècle, et de faire éclore une autre infrastructure

"Nous ne voyons pas encore la vague de changement que certains d'entre nous espèrent depuis un moment déjà. Mais cela ne signifie pas qu'il n'y a pas de forces progressistes à l'œuvre au cœur même du corps social mauricien. Je pense même que celui-ci est traversé d'une multitude de potentialités actuellement, et l'émergence de nouveaux mouvements politiques témoigne de ce fait..."

énergétique sur laquelle pourra prendre appui d'autres rapports socio-politiques;

7. le renouvellement des institutions de l'État, en mettant l'accent sur une lutte sans merci contre la corruption - corruption qu'il faut comprendre comme étant toute aussi fiduciaire que communale;
8. l'automatisation du travail, de l'intelligence artificielle et des nouvelles technologies dans leurs capacités à accroître la productivité et à relancer l'appareil productif à Maurice;
9. la lutte contre l'insécurité, le crime, le trafic de drogue et développer la prévention. Investir dans la sécurité civile, la protection des citoyens et l'augmentation de nos capacités de réponses aux urgences sanitaires et sécuritaires, et le renouvellement des systèmes de solidarité.
10. la réforme de notre système éducatif afin qu'il soit mieux adapté aux défis actuels des transformations de l'emploi et de l'économie ; et investir massivement dans le développement des arts, du sport, de la culture, et tous les domaines qui participent pleinement à l'épanouissement des Mauriciens et à l'accroissement de leurs talents;
11. développer une autre approche de la construction de l'État - approche libérée du dogme néolibéral du moins d'État possible et du conservatisme keynésien d'un interventionnisme trop omnipotent;
12. lutter contre le racisme structurel et les discriminations institutionnelles sous toutes leurs formes, afin de mobiliser chaque Mauricien et chaque Mauricienne dans une économie pleinement participative et inclusive.

Il y a, dans ces douze grands chantiers - pour ne pas dire ces douze grands travaux - un nouveau monde qui n'attend que nous. Mais nous devons trouver le courage de la transformation et la lucidité de la lutte face aux antagonismes actuels.

*** La priorité mondiale - et donc nationale aussi - est la sortie de la pandémie, d'où les efforts considérables engagés pour la production et la vaccination comme la seule voie vers une amélioration. Mais avec la recrudescence des cas aux Seychelles, pays qui a tout misé sur la vaccination et la réouverture de son industrie touristique dans les meilleurs**



délais, est-ce que cette politique de réouverture par la vaccination n'a pas été mise en échec justement?

La vaccination a pour objectif de permettre aux individus de développer les anticorps nécessaires afin qu'ils puissent résister à une éventuelle contamination sans devoir être hospitalisés.

Ceci revient à dire que l'objectif premier de la vaccination n'est pas d'empêcher que le virus ne circule pas, mais bien plutôt d'empêcher que les services hospitaliers ne soient débordés par le nombre de cas critiques - comme c'est malheureusement le cas actuellement dans certaines régions de l'Inde.

De ce fait, nous verrons bien si le pari des Seychelles de jouer à fond la carte de la vaccination fonctionne ou pas... et le facteur qui nous permettra d'affirmer que les Seychelles ont réussi sera si, malgré une propagation importante du virus, les services hospitaliers et les lits en réanimation ne sont pas débordés et puissent continuer à absorber et guérir les cas critiques.

Si c'est vraiment le cas, alors les Seychelles auront démontré que le vaccin fonctionne, et cela pourra servir de modèle à Maurice afin d'accélérer sa politique de vaccination, ce qui permettra en retour une ouverture des frontières et un retour des touristes.

People gave up on flu pandemic measures a century ago when they tired of them – and paid a price

☛ Cont. from page 2

Taking their cues from officials who had – somewhat prematurely – declared an end to the pandemic, Americans overwhelmingly hurried to return to their pre-pandemic routines. They packed into movie theaters and dance halls, crowded in stores and shops, and gathered with friends and family.

Officials had warned the nation that cases and deaths likely would continue for months to come.

The burden of public health, however, now rested not on policy but rather on individual responsibility.

Predictably, the pandemic wore on, stretching into a third deadly wave that lasted through the spring of 1919, with a fourth wave hitting in the winter of 1920. Some officials blamed the resurgence on careless Americans. Others downplayed the new cases or turned their attention to more routine public health matters, including other diseases, restaurant inspections and sanitation.

Despite the persistence of the pandemic, influenza quickly became old news. Once a regular feature of front pages, reportage rapidly dwindled to small, sporadic clippings buried in the backs of the nation's newspapers. The nation carried on, inured to the toll the pandemic had taken and the deaths yet to come. People were largely unwilling to return to socially and economically disruptive public health measures.



No matter the era, aspects of daily life go on even during a pandemic. Chicago History Museum/Archive Photos via Getty Images

It's hard to hang in there

Our predecessors might be forgiven for not staying the course longer. First, the nation was eager to celebrate the recent end of World War I, an event that perhaps loomed larger in the lives of Americans than even the pandemic.

Second, death from disease was a much larger part of life in the early 20th century, and scourges such as diphtheria, measles, tuberculosis, typhoid, whooping cough, scarlet fever and pneumonia each routinely killed tens of thousands of

Americans every year. Moreover, neither the cause nor the epidemiology of influenza was well understood, and many experts remained unconvinced that social distancing measures had any measurable impact.

Finally, there were no effective flu vaccines to rescue the world from the ravages of the disease. In fact, the influenza virus would not be discovered for another 15 years, and a safe and effective vaccine was not available for the general population until 1945. Given the limited information they had and the tools at their disposal, Americans perhaps endured the public

health restrictions for as long as they reasonably could.

A century later, and a year into the Covid-19 pandemic, it is understandable that people now are all too eager to return to their old lives. The end of this pandemic inevitably will come, as it has with every previous one humankind has experienced.

If we have anything to learn from the history of the 1918 influenza pandemic, as well as our experience thus far with Covid-19, however, it is that a premature return to pre-pandemic life risks more cases and more deaths.

And today we have a much better understanding of virology and epidemiology. We know that social distancing and masking work to help save lives. Most critically, we have multiple safe and effective vaccines that are being deployed, with the pace of vaccinations increasingly weekly.

Sticking with all these coronavirus-fighting factors or easing off on them could mean the difference between a new disease surge and a quicker end to the pandemic. Covid-19 is much more transmissible than influenza, and several troubling SARS-CoV-2 variants are already spreading around the globe. The deadly third wave of influenza in 1919 shows what can happen when people prematurely relax their guard.

J. Alexander Navarro

Assistant Director of the Center for the History of Medicine, University of Michigan

This crazy world

The Ghost Media and the Donkey

A donkey was tied to a tree. One night a ghost cut the rope and released the donkey free.

The donkey went and destroyed the crops in an adjacent farmer's land. Infuriated, the farmer's wife shot the donkey and killed it.

The donkey's owner was devastated at the loss. In anger, he shot dead the farmer's wife.

Angered by his wife's death, the farmer took a sickle and killed the donkey's owner.

The wife of the donkey's owner got so angry that she and her sons set the farmer's house on fire.



Pic - twitter.com

The farmer, looking at his house turned into ashes, killed the wife and children of the donkey's owner.

Finally, when the farmer was

full of regret, he asked the ghost as to why did it kill them all?

The ghost replied, "I killed nobody. I just released a donkey that was tied to a rope. It is all of

you who released the devils within you which resulted into everything bad that occurred thereafter."

Today's media is like that that ghost. It keeps releasing donkeys on a daily basis. And people react and argue with each other, hurt each other, without having a second thought.

In the end, the media dodges all responsibilities. So, it's our responsibility not to react on every donkey released by the media but preserve our relationship with our friends, relatives and community.

* * *

The Disruptive Technology!

When TV came to my house, I forgot how to read books.

When the car came to my

doorstep, I forgot how to walk.

When I got the mobile in my hand, I forgot how to write letters.

When computer came to my house, I forgot spellings.

When the AC came to my house, I stopped going under the tree for cool breeze.

When I stayed in the city, I forgot the smell of mud.

By dealing with banks and cards, I forgot the value of money.

With the smell of perfume, I forgot the fragrance of fresh flowers.

With the coming of fast food, I forgot to cook traditional cuisines.

Always running around, I forgot how to stop.

And lastly when I got WhatsApp, I forgot how to talk?

IMF's Article IV Consultations - Calling a spade a spade

* Cont. from page 4

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Cemile Sancak undertook a virtual visit to Mauritius during April 19-May 7, 2021 to conduct the discussions for the 2021 Article IV Consultations. The IMF statement summarizing its findings and recommendation provides in contrast to the government rhetoric, a sobering snapshot of the state of the economy, its prospects and the corrective actions that need to be urgently taken, stripped of the government narrative and spin doctoring. The tenor of the concluding statement by the IMF relating to the tourism sector, the Mauritius Investment Corporation and the Bank of Mauritius Rs 60 billion support to the budget mirrors many of the comments made by independent commentators who have no political axe to grind but basically have the public interest and the larger interest of the country at heart.

Clear disavowal

In a clear disavowal and indictment of contested official policy, the IMF advised that 'the central bank law is being reformed, including to preempt further exceptional transfers to the government, in line with international best practices.'

(emphasis added). It also recommended that 'the central bank should relinquish ownership of the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), and financing of the MIC should be provided through the budgetary process.' This obviously means having the oversight of parliamentary scrutiny.

The IMF statement basically closes the tap of budgetary support by the central bank.

These actions comfort the outcry of the people at the total blackout and opacity which surround the spending details from the one-off Rs 60 billion lifeline received by government from the Bank of Mauritius to boost up strapped government revenue in order to grapple with the adverse fallouts of the Covid-19 crisis as well as the terms and conditions under which billions of Rupees are advanced by MIC out of public funds of Rs 80 billion to distressed private companies to bail them out. Are those calling the shots yet again bungling the opportunity of leveraging substantial bail out public funds to recast the ownership of prime assets in the country for the common good?

The IMF added that in the recovery phase, the 'authorities should accelerate

the long-term structural transformation to turn Mauritius into a sustainable and resilient economy built on education and technology.' Despite a substantial budget of some Rs 15 billion, the education sector has been unable to recast the thrust of the sector to meet the skills and technology-based qualifications required to adapt and upgrade the economy to meet the upmarket demand of a constantly evolving and technology-driven market.

Reality check

The IMF statement also provides a reality check on key economic fundamentals: 'The real GDP contracted by nearly 15 percent in 2020. The key macroeconomic challenge for Mauritius is to restore employment and growth despite the tourism sector remaining subdued at least through 2022.' The IMF projects growth to be about 5 percent in 2021, assuming some recovery in tourism. The IMF also judiciously cautions that 'there is uncertainty about tourism flows, which depend on the propensity to travel as the pandemic recedes as well as conditions in other countries.'

Commenting the public debt level, 'which is likely to exceed 90 percent of GDP in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis',

the IMF has recommended that 'the government should prepare plans for fiscal consolidation to stabilize debt in the medium term once Mauritius has firmly emerged from the pandemic to preserve fiscal sustainability and build buffers.' It must be said that the fiscal signals have been disconcerting since the outbreak with duty rebates granted on taxis and vehicles when there are already 589,228 vehicles registered in the country as at June 2020 and growing traffic congestion.

The IMF verdict is therefore a brutal wakeup call and an indictment of the standard of governance and the opacity shrouding spending largesse. It brings stricter accountability and rigour to the forthcoming budget exercise, cuts down wasteful prestige white elephants and will hopefully ensure cost effective expenditure in line with the development needs and broader social and environmental goals of the country.

This is easier said than done. The people must therefore continue to exercise a watchful oversight.

Mrinal Roy

Programme des Courses

1 LE GRAND PRIX DU CHAMP DE MARS 1450 m -- Valeur [0-20] -- 12h15

1 Internet Kid	VA	7-9-6-3-6	60(-3)	A.Roy	7	1200
2 Opague	G	0-0-0-5-7	60	Y.Emamdee	11	245
3 Yankee Force	RG	4-5-6-5-1	60	B.Bhaugerothee	2	250
4 Daredevil Aviator	SPN	4-4-7-9-11	59.5	D.Bheekary	5	2500
5 Minaloushe Venture	AS	R-5-4-4-3	59.5	P.K.Horil	3	2500
6 The Riddler	AH	4-6-10-7-2	59.5	S.Rama	8	700
7 Valerin	CD	3-1-3-4-2	59.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	1	600
8 Double Gratitude	RM	7-9-7-4-7	59	R.Joorawon	9	1600
9 Chap Trap	CR	6-9-7-6-7	58.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	10	2000
10 Xanthus	PM	4-4-6-2-8	58	R.K.Chumun	4	950
11 Real Vision [EA]	JMH	5-5-4-4-4	57.5	-----	6	-

2 THE LIQUID MOTION CUP 1400 m -- Valeur [0-26] -- 12h50

1 Fundraiser	P	0-0-0-7-A	60	K.Kalychurun	3	3000
2 Giratorio	VA	nouveau	60	B.Fayd'herbe	2	350
3 Sand Path	CD	7-6-3-6-2	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	10	330
4 The Gypsy King	SPN	nouveau	60	G.D.Aucharuz	1	1200
5 Volatile Energy	SN	6-9-5-5-1	60	D.Bheekary	8	1000
6 Winter Guard	AS	nouveau	60	R.Joorawon	6	600
7 Zenzero	SH	5-3-2-2-7	60	S.Rama	5	1500
8 Grey Again	RG	0-0-6-7-4	59	B.Bhaugerothee	9	1500
9 Crushing Force	JMH	0-0-0-0-1	57.5	T.Juglall	4	330
10 Seventh Express	G	3-8-4-3-3	57.5	S.Donohoe	7	1200

3 THE FULL CHARGE CUP 1400 m -- Valeur Benchmark 36 -- 13h25

1 Apollo Star	AS	3-4-1-2-2	60	R.Joorawon	6	1600
2 Memphis Mafia	RM	1-1-1-5-1	60	P.C.Orffer	1	370
3 Do Or Dare	JMH	1-2-8-1-1	59.5	T.Juglall	10	330
4 Badawee	SJ	4-5-7-5-8	59	B.Woodworth	9	2500
5 Double Games	VA	3-2-1-1-3	59	B.Fayd'herbe	7	330
6 Kingsman	P	R-R-4-4-7	59	K.Kalychurun	11	1600
7 Borya	G	10-6-4-7-6	58.5	S.Donohoe	5	1600
8 Rock Manor	CR	1-5-2-4-2	58.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	8	1600
9 Star Of Zeus	PM	5-4-3-1-6	58	P.K.Horil	2	1400
10 Zigi Zagi Zugi	SN	1-7-3-3-5	58	G.D.Aucharuz	3	450
11 Paddingtons luck[EA]	GR	4-4-2-7-2	58	-----	4	-

1ère Journée Samedi 15 mai 2021

4 THE LALL SEESURRUN CUP 1365 m -- Valeur Benchmark 41 -- 14h00

1 King Of Tara	VA	3-1-4-3-6	60	B.Fayd'herbe	8	340
2 Sea Dance	CD	0-4-2-6-4	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	6	330
3 Swagger Jagger	PM	nouveau	60	P.K.Horil	1	350
4 Carlas Mambo	SJ	5-2-1-1-5	59.5	B.Woodworth	3	1500
5 Candy Apple	GR	2-2-3-4-2	59	N.Juglall	7	270
6 Gunston	SH	6-7-7-5-4	59	S.Rama	5	1500
7 Jet Stream	AS	3-4-5-7-7	59	R.Joorawon	4	1600
8 Ernie	JMH	4-5-7-7-7	58.5	T.Juglall	2	2000

5 THE JASON ESPITALIER NOEL CUP 1400 m -- Valeur Benchmark 51 -- 14h35

1 Royal Italian	SN	nouveau	61	D.Bheekary	10	2500
2 Seattle Kid	CD	2-1-1-1-3	61(-4)	M.Sonaram	8	320
3 Silken Prince	SH	2-3-1/8-5	61	S.Rama	1	1200
4 Prince Of Venice	PM	nouveau	59.5	P.K.Horil	5	370
5 Sir Bernadini	P	7-3-4-7-1	59.5	K.Kalychurun	7	2500
6 The It Factor	CR	nouveau	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3	1400
7 Shadowing	AS	1-1-1-2-3	59	R.Joorawon	11	320
8 Afdeek	RM	4-6-3-2-5	58.5	P.C.Orffer	9	550
9 Liverpool Champ	GR	nouveau	58.5	N.Teeha	2	1200
10 Drop Kick	VA	0-0-5-7-8	57(-3)	A.Roy	4	1400
11 The Byzantine [EA]	JMH	4-5-8-5-6	55	-----	6	-

6 THE FANNY CUP 1450 m -- Valeur Benchmark 31 -- 15h10

1 Crazy Charlie	GR	0-0-R-1-3	60	N.Juglall	5	260
2 Carlton Heights	AS	8-3-4-1-9	59.5	R.Joorawon	7	650
3 River Thames	SJ	6-2-1-7-8	59.5	B.Woodworth	2	900
4 Thomas Henry	G	0-0-0-2-1	59.5	S.Donohoe	4	250
5 Well Connected	VA	2-5-3-10-9	59.5	B.Fayd'herbe	1	500
6 Adamo	SH	0-0-6-5/8	58.5	S.Rama	3	3000
7 Supreme Orator	CR	5-4-8-9-6	58(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	9	1200
8 West Coast Warrior	RG	3-6-3-3-3	58	B.Bhaugerothee	8	2000
9 Zodiac Jack	JMH	4-N-6-6-7	57.5	T.Juglall	6	1200

7 THE NOBLE SALUTE CUP 990 m -- Valeur G.3 -- 15h45

1 Rule The Night	GR	6-1-3-5-2	61	N.Juglall	6	300
2 Virtue	CR	2-1-1-2-4	57.5	N.S.Batchameah	1	300
3 Rob Roy	VA	6-1-1-1-3	53.5	B.Sooiful	5	570
4 Golden Tractor	SJ	nouveau	52	B.Woodworth	3	550
5 Kamadeva	RG	2-1-5-N-2	52	S.Rama	4	500
6 Quatro Five Six	PM	nouveau	52	P.K.Horil	2	2000

8 THE 'DEANAN DOYAL' CUP 990 m -- Valeur [0-25] -- 16h20

1 Coup For Lute	CD	nouveau	61.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	4	400
2 Hardwired	P	0-0-0-5-2	61	K.Kalychurun	1	230
3 Straight	JMH	1-3-2-2-4	61	T.Juglall	6	340
4 Duke Of York	RM	A-3-7-4-R	60.5	P.C.Orffer	3	350
5 Gordonstoun	SN	3-2-4-3-1	60	G.D.Aucharuz	7	750
6 Midnight Oracle	SPN	3-5-4-6-10	59.5	D.Bheekary	2	2200
7 Kings Empire	SH	4-6-R-3-1	56	S.Rama	5	2000

9 THE MANGALKHAN PLATE 1450 m -- Valeur Benchmark 31 -- 16h55

1 Why Wouldn't Yew	RM	1-6-4-3-7	61.5	P.C.Orffer	6	370
2 Copenhagen	VA	2-7-10-3-4	61	B.Fayd'herbe	4	290
3 Nimitz	SJ	0-0-0-5-6	61	B.Woodworth	9	800
4 Perfect Pursuit	SN	8-6-1-6-5	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	8	1600
5 Subtropical	SPN	6-8-4-6-9	60.5	K.Kalychurun	3	2700
6 Doublethink	RG	0-0-0-0-6	60	B.Bhaugerothee	2	360
7 G I Joe	PM	nouveau	59.5	P.K.Horil	7	500
8 Overdose	AS	6-4-5-4-2	59.5	R.Joorawon	1	1200
9 Starsky	CD	6-2-1-6-6	59(-4)	M.Sonaram	5	1600

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- Opague, Yankee Force, Valerin
 - Giratorio, Crushing Force, Sand Path
 - Double Games, Memphis Mafia, Zigi Zagi Zugi
 - Candy Apple, Sea Dance, King Of Tara
 - Shadowing, Seattle Kid, Prince Of Venice
 - Thomas Henry, Crazy Charlie, Well Connected
 - Virtue, Rule The Night, Rob Roy
 - Hardwired, Coup For Lute, Straight
 - Copenhagen, Why Wouldn't Yew, Doublethink

How much sleep do you really need?

Getting a good night's sleep on a regular basis can help you do well in school or at work. It might even make you better-looking.



Just like eating, drinking or breathing, sleep is an essential part of life.

In fact, all animals do it - with some interesting variations. A dolphin, for example, sleeps with one eye open and only half of its brain snoozing at a time. This is likely because dolphins need to be partly conscious to breathe while in the water. Zebras sometimes sleep standing up in case they need to wake up and quickly escape a predator. Bats sleep upside down.

When someone's asleep, it can look like they are turned "off" and not doing anything at all. But, that's not true. Your brain and body are active and doing important things while you sleep, like organizing nerve cells, regulating hormones, repairing cells and clearing out toxins.

Your brain is especially busy, helping you get lots of things done while you sleep. Among other things, it's processing memories, gaining creative insight and learning new skills.

Sleep helps you learn, grow and thrive, and all these processes take time.

That's why babies need 14 to 17 hours of sleep per day for the first three months of their lives - newborns are asleep way more than they are awake. Most school-aged kids need about 8 to 10 hours of sleep. Teens can aim for nine hours, which is what some adults need too. But seven or eight hours is enough for other grownups.

Recommended amount of sleep, by age group

Babies need as much as 17 hours of sleep every day. Adults should get at least seven hours.

Age	Recommended sleep
0-3 months	14-17 hours
4-11 months	12-15 hours
1-2 years	11-14 hours
2-5 years	10-13 hours
6-13 years	9-11 hours
14-17 years	8-10 hours
18-64 years	7-9 hours
64 years+	7-8 hours

Table: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: Sleep Foundation • Get the data

It's important to get not only enough sleep but also good-quality sleep. And you should try to sleep on a regular schedule by going to sleep and waking up around the same time each day - even on weekends.

Getting a good night's sleep can help you do well in school, at work and in sports. Sleep can also help with quickness and memory, which can help you with things like singing or playing a musical instrument.

Good sleep helps you look and feel refreshed. When people are asked to rate how attractive someone is, they tend to rate people who are well rested as more attractive. Getting enough hours of good-quality sleep can help you cope with stress and get along better with your friends.

If, like many people, you struggle with getting enough sleep, there are some tricks to help you get good sleep on a regular basis. You may find it helpful to set an ideal sleep schedule and try to stick to it each day. You can set alarms to help remind you when it's time to go to bed.

Use a wind-down routine for an hour before bedtime, to focus on keeping things relaxed and positive. You could include dimming lights, reading a fun book, and talking about the best parts of your day or just thinking about the day's highlights. Try to avoid scary movies or books and getting into arguments just before bedtime.

In the morning, think of something you are looking forward to that day and let the Sun or bright lights into your room to let your brain know it is time to be alert.

You'll know your sleep habits are working when you do not feel sleepy throughout the day and you wake up most days feeling refreshed. Just like being physically fit and eating a balanced diet, regularly getting a good night's sleep is a behaviour that takes practice and can pay off for a lifetime.

Dana McMakin,
Associate Professor of Psychology, Florida
International University



The Mentally Handicapped Persons Sports Federation Reg No 7183: Compliant members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the association on Saturday 29th May 2021 at 11 a.m.

AGENDA: (1) Welcome (2) Reading and approval of last AGM Minutes (3) President's Report (4) Treasurer's Report (5) Approval of Budget Estimates for the year 2021 -2022(6) Amendments of rules (7) A.O.B.

The Secretary.

Special Olympics



THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS Regn 6915: Compliant members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the association on Saturday 29th May 2021 at 09.30 hrs.

AGENDA: (1) Welcome (2) Reading and approval of last AGM Minutes (3) President's Report (4) Treasurer's Report (5) Approval of Budget Estimates for the year 2021 (6) A.O.B.

The Secretary





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1956-2020



About coincidences

Three men were at a bar discussing coincidences.

The first man said, "My wife was reading 'A Tale of Two Cities' and she gave birth to twins."

"That's funny," the second man remarked, "My wife was reading 'The Three Musketeers' and she gave birth to triplets."

The third man shouted, "Oh my, I have to rush home!"

When asked what the problem was, he exclaimed, "When I left the house, my wife was reading 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves!'"

Q: What do cheap hotels and designer jeans have in common?

A: No ballroom.

A guy walks into a bathroom, sits down, and notices three buttons in front of him marked, WW, WA, and ATR.

Curiosity gets the better of him so he decides to press WW. Suddenly, warm water sprays up his rear.

"Mmmm," he says to himself.

"That was good."

So he presses WA and a jet of warm air dries his backside.

"Mmmm. Nice!"

So finally, he can't resist pressing the ATR button.

The next thing he knows, he is waking up in a hospital ward just as the nurse is entering the room.

"Nurse, Nurse! Where am I? What happened?"

The nurse replies, "You must have missed the sign to not press the ATR button."

"What does ATR mean exactly?" says the guy.

"Automatic Tampon Remover. Your testicles are under your pillow."

Life's LESSONS

How I murdered my student

I was in class on that fateful Friday afternoon, teaching my students, when she raised her hand to ask a question.

I permitted her and she asked a rather too simple a question that I supposed she should have known the answer as I had already covered that topic the previous week.

"Will you sit down there with your Ugly face! Olodo!" was the only answer I gave her.

The whole class burst into laughter and she looked embarrassed.

I went on with my lesson but felt somewhat guilty over what I had said.

I finished my class and left. On Sunday, I went to Church. The preacher was talking about the tongue and its power.

He spoke about how you could bring others down by what you say.

I remembered what happened on Friday and felt guilty. I swore I was going to apologize to her on Monday when I got to the class.

On Monday afternoon, I went to the class but I didn't see her. I asked after her from her classmates but they didn't seem to know who I was talking about.

I then said I was looking for the person I insulted on Friday.

"Oh, that's Joy, Sir! She is not in class today," they answered.

"Who is her friend?" I asked. "Aisha," they chorused.

But Aisha was not in class either. Suddenly, a girl with a hijab walked in.

"That's Aisha, Sir" my students informed me.

"Where is your friend?" I asked her.

"Which one?" she replied without looking at my face.

"Joy!" I said.

The reply shocked me! "She is in the mortuary Sir."

"Mortuary? Doing what there?" I asked

"She died on Friday, Sir!" Aisha replied.

How come? I later found out that after my class on Friday, Joy was hit by a fast moving vehicle.

She was crossing the road absentmindedly, probably because of what I said.

"Her burial is on Saturday and you are invited, Sir." Aisha continued.

As I stood trying to overcome the shock, Aisha said amidst tears: "You killed my friend, Sir!"

She was right! I should be the murderer!

Some girls in the class were already crying! I didn't know what to say, whether to apologize to Joy's friend or Joy's ghost.

I submitted my resignation letter the next day.

Dear Lecturers and Teachers, please stop insulting your students! They are in school to learn from you. If they already know, they won't be in school!

Please mind what you say to other people. Are your words bringing life or death to the hearers?

This story is a must to read! it does not apply to lecturers and teachers only, but to all of us that come into contact with human beings - customers, students, daughters, parents, mates, friends and others!

Choose your words carefully so that you do not hurt anyone!

Avoir une femme jalouse



C'est pas facile. Elle peut t'appeler pour te demander: "Tu es où?"

Tu vas lui dire: "A l'église."

Elle est capable de te dire: "Passe moi Jésus..."

Didn't feel the pain when the vaccine needle pierced my arm.

But when the 25-year-old beautiful nurse told me: "Come after 28 days, Grandpa," I felt tremendous pain!!!

A fully nude British woman gets into a taxi.

The taxi driver, a Chinese, looks at her from top to bottom and from bottom to top repeatedly.

The woman asks, "Haven't you seen a naked woman before?"

The Chinese taxi driver says, "I no look you naked. I plenty frightened. I look and look. Where you keep money to pay me?"

Moral: You must be like the Chinese! You concentrate on your business, no matter what!

A man and a woman were travelling in a train.

Woman: 'Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.'

Man: 'Awww...! Are you single?'

Woman: 'No, I'm a dentist!'

Before sleeping know this...

One day Aryabhata sat at home and started counting the friends who are not afraid of their wives.

That's how he invented zero (0).

Years later, Ramanujan started counting the number of people who are afraid of their wives.

That's how "infinity" was invented.

Pour tuer le genie d'un lac, on fit venir trios experts: un Français, un Américain et un Mauricien...

Le génie leur dit: 'Vous allez jeter à tour de rôle un objet dans le lac. Si je le retrouve, celui qui l'a jeté mourra. Dans le cas contraire, c'est moi qui va mourir.'

Le Français jeta dans le lac une aiguille. Le génie la

retrouva et le Français mourut.

L'Américain y jeta une corde très courte et plus fine qu'un poil. Le génie la retrouva et il mourut aussi.

Le Mauricien à son tour jeta un objet dans le lac. Le génie plongea sous l'eau et chercha durant plus d'une heure sans rien trouver.

Avant de disparaître, il vint demander au Mauricien: 'Qu'est-ce que tu as jeté dans l'eau?'

Le Mauricien répondit: "Efferalgan."

Impact of Digitalization and automation... Lol!!!



Last month, a worldwide telephone survey was conducted by the UN.

The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about possible solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a complete failure because:

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

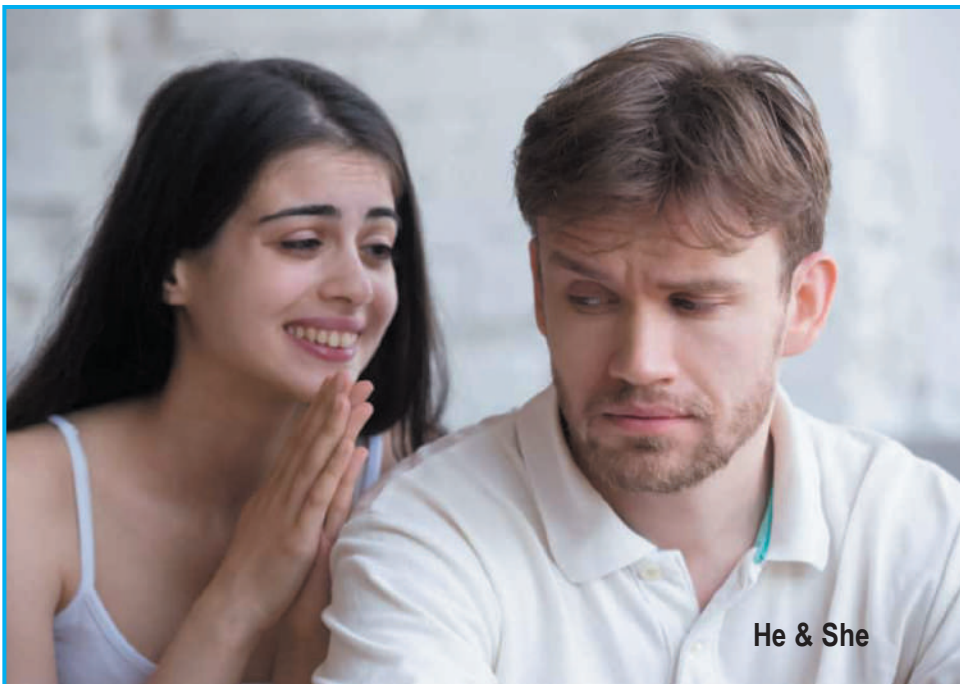
In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.

In the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

And in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada everyone hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent.



He & She

7 ways to make your boyfriend smile when he is mad at you

Fights and arguments in a relationship are a very common thing. Be it over the smallest of things or some serious issues, they are bound to happen when two people decide to share their lives with each other. No matter the reason behind a fight, what matters more is who takes the first step to apologize and make the other person laugh. Here is a look at 7 ways to make your boyfriend smile when he is mad at you.

Say sorry, and mean it

If you are the one who committed a mistake, then set aside your ego, and apologize to him. Make sure that you mean it. If your apology is genuine, then he will see that you realize your mistake, and you understand why he got mad.

Be extra sweet

Ask what you can do for him. Lower your voice when you talk to him. Prepare him some coffee or cold beverage. Be extra sweet, so he is left with no choice but to smile and forget about his anger.

Cook for him

You might have heard the line "The best way to a man's heart is through his stomach." So, why don't you cook his favourite food? You can also cook something that you haven't tried yet, and make him the first one to taste it. He might just forget his anger once he sees the mouth-watering dish you have prepared for him.

Compliment him

Sometimes, all you need to do is to say how cute and adorable he looks when he is mad. Your boyfriend can't help but smile when you shower him with simple but genuine compliments!

Crack some jokes

No matter how silly your jokes are, your boyfriend will still end up laughing and realize how charming you are. So, don't hesitate to make your boyfriend laugh even when he is mad at you at the moment.

Offer to do what he has always wanted

Has he been asking you to play a video game with him? Or, has he always wanted to take you to a cricket match? If so, ask him to do these things. The moment he enjoys doing those things with you, he will not keep bringing back the issue as to why he got mad at you.

Give him small surprises

Leave small notes saying how much you love him. Take him to his favourite store or restaurant. Throw small surprises for him to make him feel loved, giving him no more reason to get mad at you.

Appartement à louer - long terme



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5 herbs that can help you lose weight

Our pantry is packed with different kinds of herbs and spices, we just have to use them efficiently to boost the metabolism and speed up the fat-burning process. Some herbs can also help to fight cravings and prevent unhealthy munching. Here are 5 herbs that you must add to your diet when trying to shed kilos, as reported by Times of India.

Black pepper

Black pepper is a common household spice, derived from the dried fruit of *Piper nigrum*. This spice contains piperine, which is responsible for most of its health benefits. The thermogenic effect of the spice can help to enhance metabolic performance and prevent fat accumulation in



the body. It can also help you burn fat quickly and increase satiety. You can either chew black pepper directly or can make black pepper tea to reap the benefits of this spice.

Cayenne pepper

Popularly added to food to make it spicy, cayenne pepper can also help to boost your metabolism and increase the fat-burning process. This common spice gets its heat from a compound called capsaicin. This compound may also help to suppress your appetite and promote weight loss. According to a small study, taking capsaicin supplement increases the levels of fullness and decreases total calorie intake. You can add cayenne pepper to your food or consume 1 teaspoon of it before each meal.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon is an aromatic spice obtained from the inner bark of trees in the *Cinnamomum* genus. Rich in antioxidants, this spice can help to suppress hunger and prevent you from munching on unhealthy foods. This spice has also shown to reduce some of the bad effects of eating high-fat foods. Its effect on blood glucose levels can also help your body lose weight and maintain overall health. Sprinkle some

cinnamon on top of your oatmeal or cottage cheese to increase the fat-burning process.

Fenugreek seeds

Fenugreek seeds also known as Methi dana have a strong flavour and they belong to the legumes family. The yellow seeds contain 45 per cent fiber (mostly insoluble) that can help to slow the digestion process of carb and fat, making you feel fuller for a longer time. As per a small study carried out on 18 people, supplementing with 8 grams of fenugreek fiber daily increased satiety and reduced hunger. You can soak a teaspoon of fenugreek seeds in a glass of warm water overnight and drink it in the morning or add the seeds to your food.

Turmeric

Turmeric is a golden spice that gives a vibrant yellow colour to the food. But it is also loaded with anti-inflammation properties that can support your weight loss. Turmeric contains curcumin, an important

compound present in the yellow spice that is responsible for its potent health benefits. Curcumin is known for its fat-burning property that one might need to speed up the weight loss process. According to a review study, 1600 people revealed that curcumin intake can help to reduce weight and waist circumference.

Sanlam
Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

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Home

Motor car

car

Lorries

Govinda, Shah Rukh Khan to Amitabh Bachchan: Celebs who went from hero to zero to hero battling bankruptcy



the entire world was celebrating the new century, I was celebrating my disastrous fortune. There were no films, no money and no company." The veteran actor came out of bankruptcy when he was offered *Kaun Banega Crorepati*, and *Mohabbatein*.

Shah Rukh Khan

Shah Rukh Khan and his wife Gauri produced the science fiction superhero film *Ra.One* on a budget of Rs 1500M. But unfortunately, the film failed to make a mark at the box office. The actor wasn't left with much. Reportedly, SR Khan even signed blank cheques during the production of this film. However, he then quickly recovered from bankruptcy with *Don 2* and *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*.

Preity Zinta

Preity Zinta made her Bollywood comeback with *Ishq* in Paris in 2013, which was produced by her own production company. However, the film did not do well at the box office. The film's failure left her in a bad state financially. However, her close friend Salman Khan stepped in and helped her out of the situation.

Raj Kapoor

Mera Naam Joker, which was released in 1970, became an iconic film and fetched international acclamation for Raj Kapoor, but the film tanked at the box office. During a conversation with IANS, Rishi Kapoor recalled Raj Kapoor's passion for making films and said, "We were in severe problems. Then he made a film called *Bobby* with a new boy and a new girl, which was a huge risk after the failure of *Mera Naam Joker*. But it became super hit and that is when his friends and my uncles insisted that he buys a house."

Govinda

Govinda is one of the highly successful actors in Bollywood. He ruled the box office in the 90s and early 2000s. But his career soon came to end. He received no film offers for 3-4 years. He soon found himself in debt and even broke down in front of the press. The *Coolie No.1* actor made a comeback with *Partner*, which got him back on his feet.

Bollywood celebrities enjoy a massive fan following and lavish lifestyle. While they earn a hefty paycheque for their work in films, they also make investments in other business which sometimes backfires and ended up becoming almost bankrupt.

However, these Bollywood celebrities didn't let setbacks stand in their way for long. So here are some of the stars who took their misfortunes in a stride and recovered from them, as reported by ShriKrishna Iyer of Koimoi:

Amitabh Bachchan

Big B established Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL) in 1996 and by 1999 found itself in a financial mess. He then approached BIFR (Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction) to be rated as a sick company. The actor found himself officially bankrupt and all his properties were mortgaged. He also shared a post on his blog, "In the year 2000, when

Ramayan: Deepika Padukone & Kareena Kapoor in the run for Sita in this Hrithik Roshan & Mahesh Babu starrer?

Ever since Nitesh Tiwari announced that he would be recreating Ramayan on the silver screen, fans are eagerly waiting to hear all the details about it. It was recently reported that Hrithik Roshan would play Ravana and Mahesh Babu would be playing Ram in the film. But, the question that arose was who would be playing the female lead?

According to reports in Bollywood Life, both Kareena

Kapoor and Deepika Padukone are in the running to play the role of Sita in the big-ticket multi-starrer *Ramayan*. Bebo was earlier supposed to be a part of Karan Johar's mythological film *Takht*. Since the film is shelved now, the actress was particularly looking to play a mythological character. If she is the one who will play the lead, she will become the highest-paid actress since the budget of the film is

said to be huge.

Talking about Deepika Padukone, we have seen her playing mythological characters like Mastani in *Bajirao Mastani* and Padmavati in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmaavat*. She was also in the talks of doing Draupadi, her own production, but the film is now on the backburner. However, if she joins *Ramayan*, she will have to let go of *Draupadi* and vice versa.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your household may be endangered if you can't succeed in freeing it from the hold of a relative. Couples in difficulty may decide on a separation; singles, on the contrary, will have strong chances to cross someone with whom to construct or reconstruct their lives.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 13, 20, 21, 22

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

There'll be sudden changes in your projects and utterly remarkable strokes of luck. Your family life will bring you profound gratifications; your spouse will know how to encourage and support you; with your children, there'll be beautiful complicity.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 22, 30, 31

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

With your parents, especially if they are elderly, try not to be aggressive in words. You'll be surrounded with affection and happy to be amidst your beloved ones. Dazzling successes in your work, but it would be difficult to avert the jealousy of your colleagues.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 20, 21, 23, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Increased vitality, which will be at the origin of your greater self-confidence and your more optimistic vision of life. In your work, target your projects, avoid trying to do two things at once. In love, you'll be more expansive than usual.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 17, 24, 30, 31

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Heart wise, it will be necessary to have the courage to put an end to a union which proves inconvenient or which offers no possibility of an improvement. In your work, act instead of reacting.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 17, 30, 31, 36, 40

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Love should burst into your life, even if you decided to close the doors of your heart for good. Don't let yourself be tempted by business deals which promise great profits but which in actuality offer few guaranties.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 13, 12, 30, 31

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll be strongly tempted to conquer hearts, and you'll have many successes. You'll make important encounters which will allow you to exploit your hidden talents. Beware of overwork and stress, which might cause a health incident.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 21, 31, 33, 32

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll be over brimming with energy as well as good ideas. But beware of evaluation errors and misunderstandings of all kinds. Your finances will fare well, for expenses will quickly be compensated by money entries. Above all, don't lend money to one of your friends.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 12, 33, 36, 40

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You'll need some solitude and calm in order to see more clearly in yourself. Don't get into a difficult situation by spending too much. Think of having a more wholesome and better-balanced diet.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Don't take any risk this time, for a backlash is almost inevitable. In your relationships with others, be more flexible so as to avoid useless clashes. The financial field holds fruitful transactions for you, on condition that you be moderately ambitious.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 17, 20, 21, 39

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Show tactfulness; don't try to force people and things. You'll have great chances to taste amorous happiness; an excellent week to legalize one's sentimental relationships. You'll be well surrounded and receive moral support from your close ones.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 10, 14, 21, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

By learning to manage your priorities better, you'll achieve beautiful feats. Beware on the amorous plane: you'll see everything as rosy in spite of all common sense; disillusion will be rapid and painful.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 12, 18, 21

Shivya and Kinshuk - The best of friends, even though poles apart

The on-screen couple credits their ability to strike long conversations as something that made them connect instantly. Getting along like a house on fire, their pairing translates into steamy chemistry on screen. In a candid chat, Kinshuk Vaidya and Shivya Pathania of *Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka* talk to Sameena Razzaq of Asian Age about their journey so far, and what makes them click.

*** You are both very talkative by nature, so who gives up and listens instead?**

Kinshuk: She's definitely more talkative than I am, but when I start, I don't stop either, so it's mutual. It's usually complete chaos, as no one is willing to play the listener between us.

Shivya: I always talk and never give up on talking. He's the one who mostly listens.

*** Kinshuk, you're quite the prankster. Have you tried to pull one on Shivya?**

Kinshuk: There are so many I've tried; I don't know which one to talk about! It's like a daily dose for me now.

Shivya: There is not one single prank that can be highlighted. The one that upset me the most is when he said pack up *ho gaya*, and I took all my make up off, and was almost ready to go home. Right then, a crew member came and said, *Shot Ready Hai*. And I was so upset at Kinshuk that I yelled at him. I had to redo my make up and go for the shot, as well as bear the brunt with my director being upset about the shoot getting delayed.

*** Shivya makes you watch short films during breaks. How often have you had to sit through some movies you've hated watching?**

Kinshuk: It's actually Punjabi videos that I have to watch, willingly or unwillingly. Even though it's a torture, I bear it for her sake, because I'm a nice guy.

Shivya: I'm a big-time fan of Punjabi videos and songs, and I make sure Kinshuk also watches them. He actually doesn't have an option [giggles].

*** You guys are always spotted chilling together on sets. Does it raise any eyebrows?**

Kinshukj: It does, but it depends on people and how they want to see it. We became friends from day one, and we've maintained that.

Shivya: I've never cared about that, because people who want to talk will end up doing it. He's a dear friend, and will remain so.

*** How often do you have a difference of opinion?**

Kinshuk: Many a-times, but we come together on common grounds, mostly.

Shivya: We do have difference of thoughts, but never on any serious issues, so it's alright.



*** Don't you get bored of each other's company?**

Kinshuk: We're both such *mastikhor* people that every day we do something weird, so there's no question of getting bored.

Shivya: We're very impromptu in our actions and every day we have something or the other to talk, fight and discuss about.

*** Who is a better co-star between the two of you?**

Kinshuk: We both help each other give our best takes while filming for the show.

Shivya: We both make the jodi a hit pair, and that's what matters.

*** Is there any particular scene that's made its way to your heart so far?**

Kinshuk: There's this scene where my character breaks down while confessing my love to Saanchi (Shivya) on the show. It was an emotional scene and I gave it my best. I am glad people have loved it and appreciated the entire sequence.

Shivya: It was one of those initial episodes when Aryan (Kinshuk) expresses his love.

*** Is there any scene that's made you go, "I wish I could perform the scene once more"?**

Kinshuk: I feel like that for all the scenes I shoot. As an artist, I am never satisfied with my work and always want to improve.

Shivya: I believe in improving my acting skills each and every day.

*** What's the one thing that you like and dislike about each other?**

Kinshuk: Shivya is extremely bubbly and sweet. In fact, even when she is angry, she is sweet.

Shivya: Kinshuk is really calm and polite. In fact, he is the exact opposite of me.

*** What's your off-screen equation like?**

Kinshuk: We became friends much before we could even start shooting. Our bond stays the same today.

Shivya: We are friends and will continue to be friends all our lives.

*** Is there any interesting fan comment on your jodi that's caught your eye?**

Kinshuk: Once when I was visiting Jaipur, a fan came to me and asked when I was getting married to Shivya. The fan thought we were in a relationship off-screen as well! I thought this compliment means a lot since our chemistry is it shows how well we present ourselves onscreen.

Shivya: One of my fans on Instagram said that Kinshuk and I can never be separated by anyone. I think that comment was rather sweet.

*** Are there any secrets or habits that you would like to share about each other?**

Kinshuk: Good partners do not reveal each other's secrets!

Shivya: We have made a deal that we won't reveal each other's secrets. Let's spare each other from public embarrassment. (Laughs).

Rapid Fire

Your favourite corner on the sets

Kinshuk: Aryan's room!

Shivya: Aryan and Saanchi's room

Your favourite food on the sets

Kinshuk: I love the rasgullas.

Shivya: Rajma chawal.

Your favourite line on the sets

Kinshuk: "Kisi mahaan insaan ne kaha hai..."

Shivya: "Pata hai..."

Your stress buster on the sets

Kinshuk: Listening to music.

Shivya: My Punjabi music track list.



Vendredi 14 Mai - 21.15
The Lost Soldier



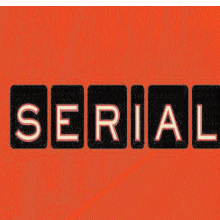
Samedi 15 Mai - 21.20

Venom

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed



Dimanche 16 Mai - 21.15



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 14 mai	07.00 Dessin Anime 10.35 Serial: Radio Free Roscoe 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.50 Mag: Urban Gardens 14.00 D.Anime: The Hive 14.41 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 14.53 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 15.04 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 15.30 Film: Angry Birds 17.00 Serial: Backstage 17.30 Live - Covid-19 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Prod: Lottery Vert Draw 20.30 Local: MBC Prod 21.20 Serial: Seal Team 23.00 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	10.00 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun 11.05 Serial: Zun Mureed 12.04 Film: Babu Bangaram Starring : Venkatesh,Nayanthar 14.18 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.34 Serial: Bava Maradallu 16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.36 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.56 Serial: Intihaan 17.01 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.35 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.05 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan 20.43 Local: Anjuman 21.08 Local: Urdu Programme 22.01 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.26 Mag: Shift 06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure 07.52 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 08.18 Doc: 360 GEO 09.56 Doc: The Race Of His Life 10.38 Doc: Printing Out The World 11.45 Mag: Sur Mesure 12.30 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 12.56 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 13.26 Doc: 360 GEO 15.46 Doc: Printing Out The World 16.15 Mag: Eco India 16.41 Mag: Shift 17.07 Mag: Border Crossing 17.33 Mag: Tomorrow Today 18.02 Doc: Manufacturing Ignora... 18.44 Mag: Arts And Culture 20.05 Mag: Future Mag 20.30 Local: News (English) 21.32 Doc: Oak Tree: Nature's...	01.49 Film: Freebird 03.18 Serial: Chicago Med 03.59 Film: A Kind Of Magic 05.22 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.46 Film: United 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.28 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.00 Serial: Chicago Med 12.00 Film: A Kind Of Magic 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: United 16.45 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.20 Serial: 19-2 18.05 Tele: Daneilla 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Reckoning 21.15 Film: The Lost Soldier 22.52 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Hindustani 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.30 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.51 / 20.32 - Agniphera 13.20 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.40 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.02 / 21.46 - Naagin S3 14.44 / 21.59 - Ikyawann 15.05 / 22.25 - Mere Sai - Shradha Aur Saburi 15.34 Film: Rock On 2 Starring: Albert Mawrie, Arjun Rampal, Farhan Akhtar, Shradha Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka 19.17 Serial: Bhakharwadi
samedi 15 mai	06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man 06.24 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe... 07.13 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 07.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 07.57 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 08.20 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 08.22 D.Anime: Martin Morning 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Daniella 14.40 D.Anime: The Hive 15.00 D.Anime: The Twisted Whisk 15.15 Film: Toys & Pets 16.46 Serial: Project MC 17.15 Local: Info En Langue 17.30 Live - Covid-19 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Dance 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous 21.20 Film: Venom 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 Film: Devdas 09.13 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy 10.11 Bade Acchelagte Hai 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.26 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.49 Serial: High School 13.11 Annakodiyum Ainthus Pengalum 13.37 Serial: Anu Pallavi 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Film: Chaand Kaa Tukdaa Starring: Sridevi,Salman Khan, Shatrughan Sinha 17.57 Mag: DDI Magazine 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.29 Serial: Bitti Business 21.00 Film: Shaapit Starring: Aditya Narayan,Shweta Agarwal, Shubh Joshi, Murl Sharma	06.00 Doc: Manufacturing Ignora... 06.55 Mag: Global 3000 07.27 Mag: Euromaxx 07.55 Doc: Wildlife Heroes 08.47 Doc: Oak Tree: Nature's... 09.39 Doc: Bhutan - Change... 11.07 Doc: Manufacturing Ignora... 12.00 Mag: Global 3000 12.26 Doc: Le Saviez-Vous? 13.01 Doc: Wildlife Heroes 13.53 Doc: Oak Tree: Nature's... 14.42 Doc: Bhutan 15.27 Student Support Prog... 19.31 Mag: Check In 20.05 Doc: Garden Party 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: 360 GEO 21.32 Doc: Destinations 21.45 Doc: SOS Animaux En... 22.37 Doc: The Loneliness Epi... 23.19 Doc: Gaming For Gold 00.02 Doc: Amazing Gardens	01.26 Film: The Lost Soldier 03.02 Serial: Dynasty 2 03.42 Film: Cassidy Red 05.13 Tele: Esmeraldas 05.53 Serial: Reckoning 06.35 Serial: Sherlock 08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer 09.20 Serial: The Enemy Within 09.55 Serial: 12 Monkeys 10.40 Film: The Lost Soldier 12.15 Serial: Dynasty 2 13.00 Serial: Chicago Med 15.05 Tele: Amanda 15.48 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set 17.00 Serial: Reckoning 17.45 Film: Super Miss 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Series: Reckoning 21.15 Film: Amazing Grace 23.13 Tele: Dulce Amor	04.05 Sanjivani 04.26 Radha Krishna 04.48 Agniphera 05.09 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 05.31 Zindagi Ki Mehek 05.55 Ikyawann 06.26 Mere Sai - Shradha Aur... 06.36 Bin Kuch Kahe 07.23 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka 08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek 09.47 Motu Patlu 10.01 Siddhi Vinayak 11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi 14.00 Sanjivani 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.30 Film: Bheja Fry 32 Star: Vinay Pathak, Kay Kay Menon, Minisha Lamba, Suresh Menon, Amol Gupte 20.34 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 21.17 Serial: Naagin
dimanche 16 mai	06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully... 06.24 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis A... 07.56 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 09.30 Mag: Future Mag 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Daniella 15.05 D.Anime: The Hive 15.35 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.47 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 16.10 Film: Alpha And Omega 8 17.00 Serial: Project MC 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Shradhanjali 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Groov'in 21.15 Film: City Of Ghosts Stars: Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natascha McElhone	07.00 Film: Bin Badal Barsaat Starring: Biswajeet, Asha Parekh and Mehmood 09.19 Serial: Bapu 10.00 Local Prod: Excerpts Of Shiv Abhishek 11.09 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa 12.00 Film: Awara Paagal Deewana Starring - TAKshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Aftab Shivdasani 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 15.45 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht 16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 17.00 Serial: Mahakali 17.42 Serial: Kisna 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..	06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens 06.26 Doc: A Poisoned Legacy 06.50 Doc: The World From Above 07.46 Doc: 360 GEO 08.37 Doc: Destination 10.29 Doc: Gaming For Gold 11.10 Doc: Amazing Gardens 11.38 Doc: A Poisoned Legacy 12.26 Mag: Check In 13.48 Doc: Destinations 17.37 Mag: Check In 18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI 18.35 Doc: Ville En Fête 20.05 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.40 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 21.32 Doc: Destination 21.45 Doc: Margherita 23.20 Doc: Stolen Soul 00.02 Mag: Tendance XXI 00.52 Doc: Garden Party	00.20 Serial: The Magicians 01.18 Film: Amazing Grace 03.58 Film: Venom 05.41 Tele: Esmeraldas 06.21 Serial: Reckoning 07.03 Film: Dominion 08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer 09.19 Film: Amazing Grace 11.16 Film: Super Miss 12.40 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 13.22 Serial: Chicago Med 15.25 Telenovela: Amanda 16.07 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.00 Serial: Reckoning 17.45 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 18.30 Serial: Supercopier 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor 21.15 Film: Rendel 23.00 Tele: Dulce Amor	00.40 Serial: Bhakharwadi 02.23 Sanjivani 04.14 Pavitra Rishta 05.43 Film: Bheja Fry 2 Starring: Vinay Pathak, Kay Menon, Minisha Lamba, Suresh Menon, Amol Gupte 07.48 Motu Patlu 08.00 Karn Sangini 09.46 Jaana Na Dil Se Door 11.29 Piya Albelva 13.19 Agniphera 15.41 Bin Kuch Kahe 17.35 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Fool N Final Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Ayesha Takia, Vivek Oberoi, Sunny Deol 20.48 Entertainment: Dance

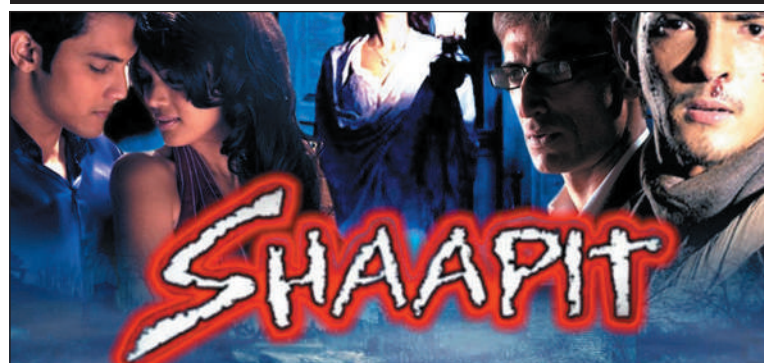
MBC 2 Samedi 15 Mai - 21.00

Stars: Aditya Narayan, Shweta Agarwal, Shubh Joshi, Murl



Dimanche 16 Mai - 18.30

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Ayesha Takia, Vivek Oberoi, Sunny Deol



Jerusalem: the politics behind the latest explosion of violence in the Holy City

Clashes in Jerusalem have led to rocket attacks and airstrikes in Gaza



Carlo Aldrovandi
Assistant Professor in
International Peace Studies,
Trinity College Dublin

The recent violence at the al-Aqsa mosque/Temple Mount area and in the Old City of Jerusalem has spiralled into something bigger and more dangerous. Clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian protesters at the weekend have left hundreds injured. Tensions rose further on Monday and Tuesday after Israeli airstrikes launched in retaliation for Hamas rocket attacks killed 35 people, including 12 children, in Gaza City.

This latest episode cannot be attributed to a single cause. It should rather be connected to a broader landscape of destabilising factors whose cumulative weight led to the current crisis after months of incubation.

A chain reaction was nevertheless triggered by ongoing attempts to evict Palestinian families living for generations in the east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. A legal battle is being waged between the Palestinian residents and Nahalat Shimon - a settler organisation tied to the Zionist movement in Israel which is trying to alter east Jerusalem's demographics in favour of a Jewish population.

Support towards the Sheikh Jarrah families instantly came from several Palestinian constituencies, including an unprecedented number of Arab citizens of Israel from Umm al-Fahm and Jaffa. At the same time, thousands started demonstrating at Damascus Gate which in recent weeks has become east Jerusalem's "Tahrir Square" - the centre of Egypt's 2011 "Arab Spring" revolution. Many of the protesters were Muslim worshippers who came together at the gate after having attended prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque.

It is worth noting that the crisis unfolded during the final days in the holy month of Ramadan: the climax of the Islamic calendar but also the most volatile time of the year in Jerusalem. On Friday



Israeli border police patrol the alleys of Jerusalem's Old City, May 11 2021. EPA-EFE/Atef Safadi

May 7 alone, some 200 Palestinians were seriously injured and many more were arrested following fierce confrontations with the Israeli police.

Israeli police were aggressive in their attempts to curb demonstrations, which soon backfired with an expansion of Palestinian protests across Jerusalem, the West Bank and many Arab villages in central and northern Israel.

Turmoil on both sides

Inability to contain violence in Jerusalem and other occupied territories is partly a result of internal issues with both the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government. On the Palestinian side, there is a power struggle taking place between Hamas and the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas deliberately heightened tension with Israel by firing rockets from Gaza as a propaganda strategy to build political capital at Abbas' expense. He, in turn, has postponed elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council for fear of losing ground against his Islamist rivals.

Israeli politics, meanwhile, has reached a debilitating impasse after four general elections failed to establish a workable government. This has had severe ramifications for the handling of the crisis.

And it's important not to underestimate - as Israel's security chiefs obviously have - the disastrous consequences that COVID-19 has had on east Jerusalem, leaving all too many young Palestinians unemployed and even more hopelessly alienated from their respective political leaderships. The young Palestinians demonstrating on the steps of Damascus Gate, the streets of the Old City and al-

Aqsa are not animated by their parents' ideologies, but mostly a sense of anger, revulsion and frustration.



Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem is one of Islam's holiest sites. REUTERS/Ammar Awad

Provocation and counter-provocation

With such soaring tensions and political dysfunction on both sides, the situation appeared likely to spin out of control during the flag march scheduled on Jerusalem Day. That event takes place annually to commemorate the reunification of Jerusalem by Israel after the six-day war in 1967.

In recent times, with the growing influence of the settler movement within

the Netanyahu government and Israeli society, the parade has become a cornerstone in the national consciousness of many religious Zionists. Every year, before reaching the celebrations at the Western Wall Plaza, hundreds of young Israelis make their way from Sheikh Jarrah, pause at Damascus Gate and then continue along Al-Wad street - the main artery in the Muslim Quarter in the Old City.

During the march, young Israelis wave their national flags defiantly and chant patriotic songs. Meanwhile Palestinians watch the procession from behind the security fences that the Israeli police forces put in place especially for the occasion.

The way this celebration cuts across their everyday spaces is felt by most Palestinians as a blatant provocation and a painful reminder of the humiliation Israel inflicted on their national aspirations in June 1967. Not only did the Six-Day War mean large-scale Palestinian dispossession, it also established Israeli control over al-Quds (Jerusalem's Arabic name) and al-Aqsa mosque, the third holiest site in Islam and a primary symbol of Palestinian identity.

On Sunday night thousands of Palestinians barricaded themselves in the mosque with stones and Molotov cocktails in anticipation of the Jerusalem Day Parade. According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, clashes between Israeli police forces and the demonstrators, which inevitably unfolded at al-Aqsa on Monday morning, left another 300 Palestinians wounded. That prompted an Israeli decision to prevent Jews from entering the al-Aqsa mosque/Temple Mount area during Jerusalem Day.

Sensing quite how dangerous it would be to allow a march to follow the route through some of the Palestinian population's most symbolically important spaces - and, with Jerusalem already on a knife edge - the Israeli authorities announced that the flag march could go ahead but rerouted its course away from the Damascus Gate and the Muslim Quarter. The Israeli High Court of Justice also deferred the hearings on the planned evictions of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah that had been scheduled for Jerusalem Day.

But these attempts to de-escalate appear to have been too little and too late. As we now know, Hamas made the decision to fire rockets at west Jerusalem and southern Israel, and the Israeli Defense Force retaliated with air strikes, killing 25 people. Once more, Jerusalem is ablaze, with potentially dire consequences for the stability of the whole region.