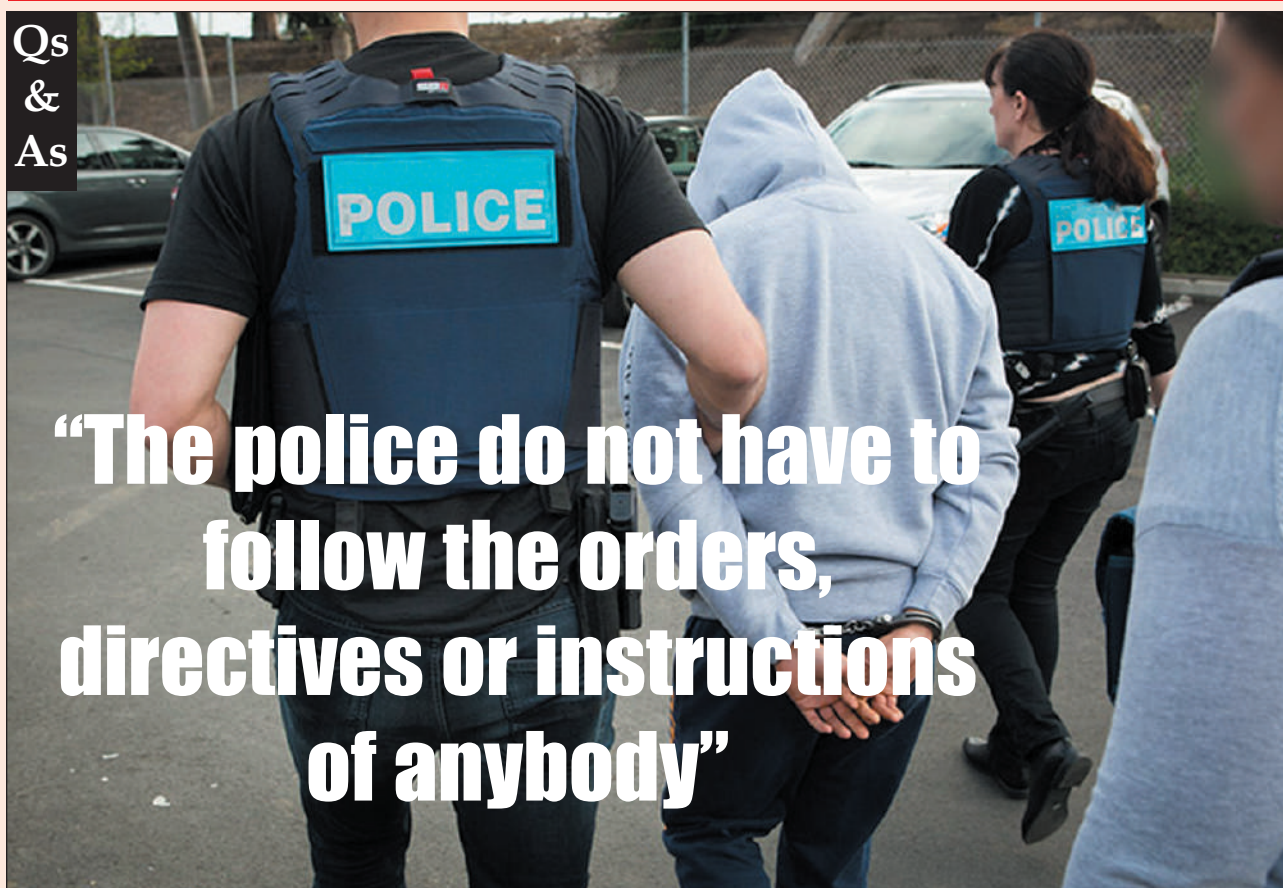


MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions." -- Dalai Lama

Qs
&
As



"The police do not have to follow the orders, directives or instructions of anybody"

* 'A person may be deprived of his liberty upon reasonable suspicion of his having committed, or being about to commit, a criminal offence. The all-important words are reasonable suspicion'

By Lex ✉ See Page 5

Opinion



Singapore's HEC

The best image the country can and does project is one of competent authorities handling exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, even when health structures and personnel are overstretched

By Jan Arden ✉ See Page 3

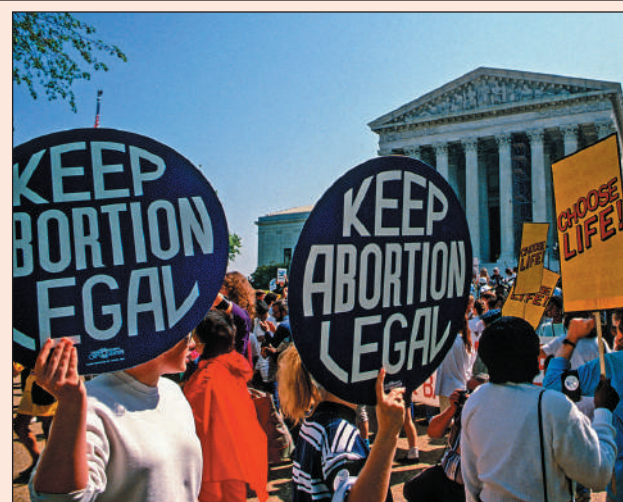
Interview: Dr DeorajCaussy, Independent Epidemiologist

Covid situation in Mauritius



"Will we pay a health price at the expense of economic gains? Only time will tell"

✉ See Page 8-9



Abortion Wars, Texas Law and Roe v. Wade

The Supreme Court stands ready to turn the clock back

By Anil Madan ✉ See Page 4

The Epidemic: For a More Humane Approach

No mother, no grandmother, no family should be made to face the cruel and inhuman way in which the death of the 15-month old baby Keira has been handled by the authorities. Judging by the avalanche of comments on social media and the reactions of many individuals who have learnt about the sad and tragic death of baby Keira, it would not be an exaggeration to state most Mauritians have been traumatised by this tragic episode and cried in silence with the mother and the grandmother. No pain or sorrow can equal that of a mother and a grandmother, not to speak of the family, who have been denied the possibility of seeing their baby's face at the time of her final departure, and under such harrowing circumstances.

Can any sanitary protocol be so inhumane?

Several times in the course of this ongoing pandemic this paper has flagged the need to adopt a more humanitarian approach in both the management of these cases, especially those who have had to be admitted and the unfortunate ones who fall victim to the disease. One of the most publicized cases was that of a man whose wife died from the disease, and she was carried from a quarantine centre to the cemetery in an opaque body bag. Not only could he not have a last look at her face but he wasn't even able to conduct a minimum of funeral rites properly, adding even more to the pain of the loss of a loved one, which only his tears could show to the external world.

We think it is time to say to the authorities: enough is enough.

A WHO pdf document for the 'Infection prevention and control for the safe management of a dead person' (from Covid-19) is introduced on 4 Sep 2020 as follows: 'All measures should respect the **dignity** of the **dead** including avoiding hasty **disposal** of the body of a person who has **died** of **Covid-19**.'

Both the WHO document and one from the ECDC (European Centre for Disease

Prevention and Control) underline the necessity of respecting the cultural and religious traditions of the bereaved, both cremations and burial being accepted modes, and giving due respect to the dignity of the deceased. There are ample details given of all the safe sanitary measures that can allow this to happen, based on scientifically known evidence about the spread of the virus. There are techniques to sterilize the body bags, and in the case of the baby, we are forced to ask why from such a bag her body could not have been safely transferred to the transparent glass coffin that the family had got prepared? A combination of scientific knowledge, commonsense and above all **humaneness** on the part of all the handling personnel concerned would have avoided so much of additional and unnecessary distress and sorrow to the grieving family.

All this shows that there may be big policy decisions taken, but there is a failure of communication such that things are not happening at the operational level. There seems to be a failure of leadership at all levels. And this is also the case as regards the follow-up of post-vaccine surveillance, as evidenced in the case of 20-year old Vinness Magon post his second dose of vaccine. Is there a standing 'response unit' at each regional hospital where such a person could have reported in person directly instead of going from one general practitioner to the other before ending up in hospital when it was too late? This is all the more important because the data about the virus are changing so fast and so often that it is impossible for all but those directly concerned – and hence the suggestion of a dedicated 'response unit' – to keep abreast and to give the proper advice and appropriate treatment. Besides, there is no pick-up when the so-called hot lines are called.

Revised guidelines with a heavy dose of humanness embedded in them are an imperious necessity, and long overdue, especially that now we are in full-blown epidemic stage, and there's likely to be more deaths.

The Conversation

9/11 did not change the world – it was already on the path to decades of conflict

It was the day the US realised it was fighting a different kind of war.



Devastation: Ground Zero the day after the 9/11 attacks on New York. Pic - Alamy Stock Photo

The September 11 attacks in New York and Washington were visceral in their impact. In less than three hours, the twin towers of the World Trade Center were reduced to a mountain of twisted metal and rubble, killing more than 2,700 people, while hundreds more were killed at the Pentagon. All three were destroyed by men armed with nothing more than parcel knives hijacking fuel-laden passenger aircraft.

America was under attack. It came not long after George W. Bush had formed his new administration with highly influential neoconservatives and assertive realists at the Pentagon and State Department, as well as in the White House itself. All were determined to see the vision of a "new American century" fulfilled – a neoliberal free market world rooted in US experience and guided by its post-cold war progress as the world's sole economic and military superpower.

At the time, commentators compared the attack to Pearl Harbor, but the effect of 9/11 was much greater. Pearl Harbor had been an attack by the naval forces of a state already in great tension with the United States. It was against a military base in the pre-television age and away from the continental United States. The 9/11 attack was a much greater shock, and if war with Japan was a consequence of Pearl Harbor, then there would be war after 9/11 even if the perpetrators and those behind them were scarcely known to the American public.

The vision of the new American century had to be secured and force of arms was the way to do it, initially against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

A few people argued against war at the time, seeing it as a trap to suck the US into an Afghanistan occupation instead of treating 9/11 as an act of appalling mass criminality, but their voices did not count.

The first "war on terror" – against al-Qaida and the Taliban – started within a month, lasted barely two months and seemed an immediate success. It was followed by Bush's State of the Union address in January 2002 declaring an extended war against what Bush referred to as an "axis of evil" of rogue states intent on supporting terror and developing weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq was the priority, with Iran and North Korea in the frame. The Iraq War started in March 2003 and was apparently over by May 1, when Bush gave his "mission accomplished" speech from the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford

● Cont. on page 11

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Singapore's HEC

The best image the country can and does project is one of competent authorities handling exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, even when health structures and personnel are overstretched

Jan Arden

Despite a full population vaccination rate of 80%, Singapore, sometimes used as our benchmark, is in the midst of handling a troubling spike of the highly infective Delta variant, where cases have doubled these past few days to more than 1,200 a week. But at least Singaporeans can remain confident and proud that their official and medical centres of information dissemination are not trying to hide the facts, molest the statistics or protect a purported image of the country. The best image the country can and does project is one of competent authorities handling exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, empathy with patients and distraught families, even when health structures and personnel are overstretched, and honesty with the population or those intending to travel there.

The local media there abounds with refreshingly frank and responsible discussions of the background to and the future of government public health decisions in Covid-19 management with due regard to balancing public health with the Singapore economy that needs to keep revving up in gear. There are few or no controversies due to this cardinal value-set of honesty, empathy and competence (HEC) but also, I suspect, because the island-nation knows it can and should count on the country's best brains irrespective of religious, ethnic or party-political affiliations at all times and even more during the various Asian pandemics which it may be exposed to, including this one.

"We do not know what other surprises are going to come in the future. And since we do not know, and this is a formidable virus, we don't let down our guard," said Professor Leo Yee Sin, executive director of the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) last week to a *Straits Times* question whether the Covid virus will have to be considered and treated as a normal seasonal flu with annual vaccines.

To rebound on a rhetorical question of Dr Arvin Boolell in last Sunday's *Week-End* issue, there is no doubt that the Singapore's pandemic response would most certainly not have been confided to a gastrointestinal specialist and a retired generalist giving "expert" opinion and directions to a Minister who seems to have given up the pretense of being in control of

the pandemic's surge locally. We all know that basically Singapore rarely needs outside experts, and when they do, it is to draw as much benefit as possible for their local counterparts. After decades of such deliberate human build-up policies, Singapore Inc has matured in the enviable position to provide international consultancy services, respected expert opinion and provide tailor-made turn-key projects when called upon around the world.

We need only recall how many major projects they have been involved with here from N'Tan Associates tasked for financial and audit assignments, through the National Identity card and the light-rail tramway project. As for us, we nowadays import "experts" by the bushels it seems. Aside from the retired Dr Gaud lording it in Health, haven't we witnessed "experts" in road accidents and prevention, ship salvagers and other "experts" hovering over the MV Wakashio disaster, experts for our roads and traffic management, maybe soon for our sports? I recall the days last century when informed circles and media demanded that all foreign "experts" were only to be entertained on the condition that the authorities made necessary arrangements for one or more local counterpart(s) to accompany and learn first-hand during the process.

When did that policy phase itself out as a national imperative for conscious planned development of our human capacities, we can't say for sure, except perhaps rising government affluence and the ability to pay required sums without squirms, has turned us into a host country for "experts" of every description with a dubious value addition to the net worth of our human capital. That, to Singaporeans, is the essence of patriotism with which they have been inculcated since independence and which guides their actions on various fronts, particularly to ensure greater communal harmony and equilibrium. Can we really buck the trend with what a learned external observer once called our Bihari style of politics?

Too many hats?

Our Agriculture Minister was tasked with the commissioning of a World Bank (WB) study concerning the future of the Sugar Industry shortly after the general elections of 2019. That study has been concluded and handed over to



People older than 70 wait in an observation area after getting a COVID-19 jab at a vaccination centre in Singapore - Pic: Edgar Su/ Reuters]

"We all know that basically Singapore rarely needs outside experts, and when they do, it is to draw as much benefit as possible for their local counterparts. After decades of such deliberate human build-up policies, Singapore Inc has matured in the enviable position to provide international consultancy services, respected expert opinion and provide tailor-made turn-key projects when called upon around the world. We need only recall how many major projects they have been involved with here from N'Tan Associates tasked for financial and audit assignments, through the National Identity card and the light-rail tramway project. As for us, we nowadays import "experts" by the bushels it seems..."

the authorities in July 2021. It will not be made public decided the Minister as he felt people would "misinterpret the Report" and it needed deeper study of all implications and any recommendations, including, we understand, those concerning bagasse pricing, a Biomass and a Bio-ethanol framework. That government should take its time to review the future of a vital and historically sensitive industry with multiple levels of impact, should not be unnatural, particularly with regard to any decision-making that government may propose, but to withhold dissemination from all stakeholders, analysts and observers for a publicly-funded WB Report, leaves room for some questions about government's motives and intentions.

That is not the only hat the Hon Minister wears, since he has also been the occasional spokesperson of government in its weekly briefings from 2020 onwards, more noticeably when he stoutly defended on airwaves the controversial "all claims waiver" form before people could get vaccinated. Or, when, with equal vigour he defended the amendment to the ICTA arsenal to introduce "annoyance", real or likely, to be an arrestable offense, something the Supreme Court has made mince-meat of. Or again, when he was even more forceful recently in the aftermath of the controversial four-year long Britam Commission of Enquiry Report, announ-

cing immediate police, ICAC investigations and an appeal to the World Bank-UN Office on Drugs and Crime' Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative.

With such a disposition and track record, it is little wonder that the Hon Minister of several hats, has been promoted to the rank of Secretary-General of the party in power, as reported in the press. While the recipient was beaming with obvious pleasure at such recognition, many were left wondering which hat was being decorated thus - the Minister of Agriculture, the chief Legal Adviser of government and Attorney-General or the senior party spokesperson at weekly press briefings.

Since we are proclaimed to be in the Westminster model, many may raise eyebrows if it was the country's Attorney-General that would consider it a fitting promotion and occupation to be a political party activist and organizer. Whatever the broad talents Hon Gobin brings within government and the MSM, to avoid any misinterpretations, the post of Secretary-General might have been more appropriate for a Minister with another portfolio than that of Attorney-General. Besides, farmers, small-cane producers, vegetable growers and animal breeders could be entitled to a full-time Minister. So, would the challenges facing the cane-sugar economy and its sustainable future.



Anil Madan

Abortion Wars, Texas Law and Roe v. Wade

The Supreme Court stands ready to turn the clock back

In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States declared in the famous and oft-cited case *Roe v. Wade*, that a State may not enact an absolute prohibition on abortion. A woman has a constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy before viability.

The Supreme Court of Mexico has just declared that criminalizing abortion is unconstitutional. It is ironic that, to paraphrase Neil Armstrong, as Mexico's judiciary takes one small step by judges to give womankind a giant leap into the 21st Century, we have five US Supreme Court judges stepping backwards over the puddles to antediluvian times and not enjoining the effectiveness of the Texas law that impedes and negates the constitutional rights of women.

In *Roe v. Wade*, at the same time as the Court declared that the right to terminate a pregnancy may not be impeded by undue interference from a State, it also balanced the interests of the State in limiting abortions after fetal viability and protecting the health of the mother and the unborn fetus.

Since then, right-wing America spurred on by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and assorted fundamentalist and Evangelical Christian cohorts, has gone nuts and started a modern-day Crusade against abortion. Right-wing politicians, seeing an opportunity to exploit an imaginary war against liberalism and the left, pounced and an issue that might otherwise have been of little consequence, has become a major political force in American life. Candidates for public office at the federal level, whether for President, Senator or Congressional Representative and at every local and municipal level, often shape their messages around a staked-out position on abortion.

Indeed, if there is any one single issue that has transformed the federal judiciary and the US Supreme Court into political footballs, it is abortion. When Republican Senator Mitch McConnell was the Majority Leader in the Senate, he refused to even meet with President Obama's nominee (Merrick Garland who is now the US Attorney General in the Biden Administration) to replace Justice Scalia, much less give him a hearing on his nomination. Despite the cynical abandonment of his duty, McConnell found solace and support in the fact that his position was essentially an anti-abortion one.

McConnell correctly calculated that he might have a Republican President in office to nominate judges more appealing to the right-wingers in his party. As it turned out, President Trump was elected and got to nominate three justices in total, a staggering number for any President to get in one term. This allowed the Supreme Court to tilt to a decided right-wing bias as six of the nine justices are fairly characterized as right-wing yahoos with Chief Justice Roberts being the occasional voice of reason, a welcome execution of his responsibility as CJ to maintain the institutional integrity of the court.

A woman's right to abortion

In the years since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, right-wing dominated legislatures in state after state have obsessed with trying to overturn the strictures of that Supreme Court decision. So far, every effort by a State to limit a woman's right to abortion has been rebuffed by the courts, and where cases have reached it, by the Supreme Court.



Pro-choice & pro-life advocates outside the Supreme Court in 1973 for Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Pic - Vanity Fair

Despite the fact that *Roe v. Wade* should be considered settled law, the right-wing legislators keep on trying to upend its ruling.

Recent developments suggest that the landscape has changed enough that *Roe v. Wade* may be in danger. The first and most obvious development is that the Supreme Court now has six judges considered "conservative" including three nominated by Trump. That alone would not be dispositive because the Supreme Court generally follows its previous precedents barring compelling reasons to overturn established law. This is known as the doctrine of *stare decisis* (to stand by things decided). If the justices were being intellectually honest, they would simply say *Roe v. Wade* is settled law and move on. Unfortunately, politics has invaded the judiciary.

Let me repeat that the underlying holding of *Roe v. Wade* has been upheld and reinforced by the Supreme Court. It is, as of this writing, the law of the land. In 1992, in the case of *Planned Parenthood of SE PA. v. Casey*, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who had been appointed by Ronald Reagan, wrote:

"It must be stated at the outset and with clarity that *Roe's* essential holding, the holding we reaffirm, has three parts.

"First is a recognition of the right of the woman to choose to have an abortion before viability and to obtain it without undue interference from the State. Before viability, the State's interests are not strong enough to support a prohibition of abortion or the imposition of a substantial obstacle to the woman's effective right to elect the procedure.

"Second is a confirmation of the State's power to restrict abortions after fetal viability, if the law contains exceptions for pregnancies which endanger the woman's life or health.

"And third is the principle that the State has legitimate interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the fetus that may become a child. These principles do not contradict one another; and we adhere to each."

Fetal heartbeat

In June 2020, Chief Justice Roberts writing a concurring opinion in the case of *June Medical Services LLC v. Russo*, wrote that the *Casey* case "reaffirmed 'the most central principle of *Roe v. Wade*,'" "a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy before viability."

So, here we are a little more than one year later and Texas has enacted a statute that makes abortion illegal at any time after a so-called fetal heartbeat has been detected. The law holds abortion providers (usually physi-

cians) liable if they fail to try to detect this so-called fetal heartbeat. In effect, this means that most abortions will not occur after the first six weeks of pregnancy, an interval during which most women don't even know if they are pregnant. The upshot is that Texas may have found a way to impinge on the constitutional right.

The question is whether the Texas statute is unconstitutional.

The words of Chief Justice Roberts merit attention because he dissented in the case of *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, a 2016 case involving a different attempt by Texas to deny the right to abortion. Nevertheless, Roberts explained that the doctrine of *stare decisis* is controlling. He wrote:

"In *Whole Woman's Health*, we quoted *Casey* in explaining that a statute which, while furthering a valid state interest has the effect of placing a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman's choice cannot be considered a permissible means of serving its legitimate ends."

He further explained: "We added that *unnecessary* health regulations impose an unconstitutional undue burden if they have the purpose or effect of presenting a substantial obstacle to a woman seeking an abortion." He concluded, "*Stare decisis* instructs us to treat like cases alike. The result in this case is controlled by our decision four years ago."

Well, not so much, the right-wing justices of the Supreme Court. The latest Texas statute, as noted, makes abortion unlawful after a so-called fetal heartbeat is detected. The Texas statute, however, prohibits state officials from enforcing its provisions.

Normally, such a provision would make the statute a nullity since there would be no enforcement mechanism for its violation.

However, the right-wing yahoos in the Texas legislature came up with a devious scheme. They have authorized members of the public to bring actions against abortion providers as well as anyone who aids or abets a woman in procuring an abortion. A successful suitor is entitled not only to recover his/her attorney fees, but also gets a \$10,000 bounty.

The Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote, with the right-wing yahoos ex Roberts, voting in favour, have refused to issue an injunction that would prohibit the Texas statute from taking effect.

Whereas it is true that the five-justice majority did this on procedural grounds, the practical effect is that many abortion clinics in Texas could go out of business and a HUGE disincentive for abortion providers will impede the provision of their services to women until the legal issues are resolved.

The situation now is hit or miss. A Texas state court judge has enjoined some anti-abortion groups from suing medical providers under the provisions of the new Texas law.

It is clear that Justice Clarence Thomas believes that *Roe v. Wade* was incorrectly decided and that there is no constitutional right to abortion, *stare decisis* be damned.

The position of the newest justice, Amy Coney Barrett is not known but like that of Gorsuch and Kavanaugh is presumed to be hostile. So also, Justice Alito.

The Supreme Court stands ready to turn the clock back.

Cheerz...
Bwana

"The police do not have to follow the orders, directives or instructions of anybody"

* 'A person may be deprived of his liberty upon reasonable suspicion of his having committed, or being about to commit, a criminal offence. The all-important words are reasonable suspicion'

The police have large powers of arrest and detention, but such temporary deprivation of individual rights should be governed by fair internal Police operating procedures and obviously circumscribed by our Constitution, our laws and the jurisprudence around their interpretation. It is of particular importance that our Police Force prevents perceptions of arbitrariness, toeing government desiderata or following orders, directives or instructions of anybody including politicians. Lex opines below on these matters.

By LEX

* Barrister Akil Bissessur alleged in reply to a question put to him by *Sunday Times*, dated 5 Sep 2021, that he had requested the police to conduct an inquiry to check the veracity of his allegations against Mauritius Telecom's CEO before they decide to put him under arrest. Would it have been perfectly in order if the police had proceeded to arrest him?

Mr Bissessur is right.

In 1989, late Judge Robert Ahnee and former Supreme Court Judge Vinod Boolell ruled that 'a police officer effecting an arrest must take into consideration the totality of the circumstances including the explanations of the suspect and the motive of the declarant.

'We feel that whatever suspicion the police may harbour against the suspect should be weighed against any factors which tell in favour of the suspect. A total neglect of the explanations that the suspect may have to offer may well lead to the conclusion that the suspicion is not reasonable.'

* It appears that, in response to Mr Bissessur request for a proper inquiry into his allegations, the police put forward the argument that it sufficed that the Mauritius Telecom's CEO felt that those allegations had caused him prejudice ('s'était senti préjudicé') for the police to take the necessary action in those circumstances. How do you react to that?

In 2015, the Supreme Court of India observed: 'Every expression used [in the law] is nebulous in meaning. What may be offensive to one may not be offensive to another. What may cause annoyance or

inconvenience to one may not cause annoyance or inconvenience to another... Information that may be grossly offensive or which causes annoyance or inconvenience are undefined terms which take into the net a very large amount of protected and innocent speech.'

In 2019 the Kenya High Court ruled that a similar provision to ours was couched in such broad and unclear terms thereby making it subject to the arbitrary and subjective interpretation by the police or the prosecution.

* From a legal perspective, is there any defining difference between prejudice and annoyance?

It is difficult to say. In 2015 the Indian Supreme Court considered a similar provision of our ICTA law and ruled in a 100-page judgment that the law was "vague in its entirety" and in violation of existing free speech laws.

* As regards annoyance, there is the important ruling of Justices D. Chan Kan Cheong and K.D. Gunesh-Balaghee in the matter *Seegum J v The State of Mauritius*, which found that Section 46(h)(ii) of the ICTA Act ("as it stood at the time of the commission of the present offences", that is in 2012), in relation to the offence of using an information and communication service for the purpose of causing annoyance, for which Vinod Seegum was prosecuted, "unconstitutional", and "in breach of the principle of legality implied under section 10(4) of the Constitution". Would Mr Bissessur have been charged with the same offence as Mr Seegum in spite of the Court's ruling?

If he is so charged, he can ask the lower court to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an opinion. Or the lower court itself can follow the ruling of Judges Chan and Gunness-Balaghee to throw the case out if there is a prosecution.

* What are the legal grounds for police arrests and detention?

The police must have reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed. In other cases the police can arrest somebody if he breaches his condition of release on bail or does not comply with a probation or community service order imposed by a court.

* We have witnessed a new pattern in the conduct of the police which is to rush in to arrest an individual on a mere complaint of a minister or a government sympathiser?

The police have wide powers of arrest.



In exercising these powers, they should not be at the beck and call of anybody and least of all the government of the day or individual members of the government. They do not have to follow the orders, directives or instructions of anybody including politicians.

Section 71 (4) of the Constitution clearly provides that the Commissioner of Police shall not, in the exercise of his responsibilities and powers with respect to the use and operational control of the force, be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

The only exception to this is general directions of policy with respect to the maintenance of public safety and public order that may be given to the Commissioner by the Prime Minister.

* One of the tactics that the police use to keep someone in detention is to oppose his release when the person is taken before the magistrate? Why is that so?

This is a very interesting question. When arrests are done without any solid legal basis, the only way out for the police is to oppose release either conditionally or unconditionally. If the police know that the arrest is hardly justified, they would oppose release for any reason so that they can keep the arrestee in detention as a punishment or a warning' especially if the arrest is politically motivated. It is a form of harassment.

* We understand that illegal detention occurs when people are arbitrarily arrested or imprisoned without charge or trial for an indefinite amount of time. But are there not circumstances when it is necessary for the police to proceed with preventive arrests and detentions?

The police can arrest somebody to prevent disorderly conduct or a breach of the peace. This would be a sort of preventive measures. But, in general, arrest as a preventive measure is not allowed except in a period of public emergency.

* Given the increasing complexity of different crimes and hardened criminals

out there, shouldn't the police be allowed some leeway in tackling crime?

Even the worst of criminals is entitled to a fair treatment. The Nazis committed a lot of atrocities during the Second World War and yet they were given a fair trial. Many were convicted and sentenced to death but some were acquitted. We cannot apply different standards in the treatment of offenders.

* If police arrests and detention are not in all circumstances against the law, what would constitute unlawful detention and imprisonment?

Under section 5(1) (e) of the Constitution, a person may be deprived of his liberty upon reasonable suspicion of his having committed, or being about to commit, a criminal offence. The all-important words are reasonable suspicion.

As far back as 1989, late Judge Robert Ahnee and former Judge Vinod Boolell explained what reasonable suspicion mean. This is what the judges said:

'...the basis of the involvement of the suspect must reveal more than a mere hunch on the part of the police, and this whether the arresting officer of his own volition harbours suspicion towards the suspect or whether it is provoked by a witness or an informant. Were it otherwise, any citizen of this country might run the risk of falling a prey to blackmailers or those who can be made to level charges against anybody according to their whims or caprices.'

If there were no basis for the arrest and detention, it will be unlawful.

* What are the rights of a detained person?

When the police arrest an individual, they have to inform him of the reason for his arrest. This is a constitutional obligation placed on the shoulders of the police. They have to explain in clear language to the arrestee why he is being deprived of his freedom. This obligation does not depend on the whim of a police officer but is a constitutional requirement.

Section 5 (2) of the Constitution provides: 'Any person who is arrested or detained shall be informed as soon as reasonably practicable, in a language that he understands, of the reasons for his arrest or detention.'

Under the Constitution any person who is arrested or detained and who is not released, shall be afforded reasonable facilities to consult a legal representative of his own choice and shall be brought without undue delay before a court of law. The police can refuse access to a lawyer if they can clearly establish that the presence of the lawyer will hinder the investigation. They need to have solid evidence to justify denial of access to a lawyer.

* Can you sue for unlawful arrest and detainment and obtain some form of compensation?

Yes certainly. That will be a tort and a civil action would be possible.

WHO envoy warns of increasing risk of Covid variants evading vaccines



WHO envoy David Nabarro said that he worries about the threat rising as the Covid-19-causing virus continues to spread. Pic - images.livemint.com

Variants that can eventually evade Covid vaccines are increasingly likely with vast parts of the world unprotected, and rich countries should hold back on booster doses until others catch up, according to a special envoy to the WHO.

"Variants that can beat the protection offered by vaccines are bound to emerge all over the world in the coming months and years," David Nabarro, the WHO envoy, said in an interview Monday with Bloomberg Television.

Nabarro issued the warning as some countries such as the UK prepare to give an extra dose to people already vaccinated. With thousands of Covid deaths occurring each day 20 months into the pandemic, health advocates are urging governments and manufacturers to take action to narrow a glaring gap in access to shots, reports Hindustan Times.

The envoy called for prioritising global needs over national agendas. Rich countries could use up all the manufacturing capacity for their booster programs, leaving minimal supplies for the rest of the planet, he said. The WHO has said that while in most instances the variants of concern lead to a reduction in vaccine effectiveness of varying degrees, the shots mostly retain their ability to protect against severe disease. Nabarro said he worries about the threat rising as the virus continues to spread.

"This world is struggling with a dangerous virus that is constantly evolving and new variants are emerging, and there will be more," he said. "I think this virus is most definitely here to stay for the foreseeable future."

Justin Trudeau denies asking Jody Wilson-Raybould to lie in SNC-Lavalin case

A controversy that dogged Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2019 returned to prominence on Saturday as Jody Wilson-Raybould, a former attorney general in his first government, accused him of asking her to "lie" to cover up for a brewing scandal.

Wilson-Raybould, who was AG and justice minister in Trudeau's first cabinet in 2015, made the allegation in her forthcoming memoir, 'Indian In the Cabinet: Speaking Truth to Power', to be published on Tuesday.

In the excerpts carried by the daily Globe and Mail, Wilson-Raybould recounted meetings with Justin Trudeau early 2019 as controversy swirled over an article in the same newspaper that "inappropriate" pressure was being brought upon her to allow Quebec-based firm SNC-Lavalin to cut a deal over an investigation into the bribery of Libyan officials being undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

In the excerpt, she writes, "In that moment, I knew he wanted me to lie - to attest that what had occurred had not occurred. Lie to protect a Crown government acting badly; a political party; a leader who was not taking responsibility."

Justin Trudeau immediately denied the charge while campaigning in the Greater Toronto Area, as he said, "I did not want her to lie. I would never do that. I would never ask her that. That is simply not true."



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during an election campaign tour in Quebec. Jody Wilson-Raybould made the allegation against him over the SNC-Lavalin case in her upcoming book. Pic - toronto.citynews.ca

Jody Wilson-Raybould's memoir was originally scheduled for publication in October, but the date was advanced and the book will become available six days before the snap elections on September 20, reports Anirudh Bhattacharyya of Hindustan Times.

Later, testifying before a House of Commons justice committee, she said, "I experienced a consistent and sustained effort by many people within the government to seek to politically interfere in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion in my role as the attorney general of Canada."

Trudeau, at that time, denied those allegations and said he "completely disagrees" with her version of events. However, those developments led to the departure of Trudeau's closest aide in the PMO,

principal secretary Gerald Butts.

Trudeau was admonished on the matter by Canada's ethics commissioner Mario Dion. In a report on the SNC-Lavalin affair in August 2019, he noted, "The prime minister, directly and through his senior officials, used various means to exert influence over Ms Wilson-Raybould."

Trudeau denied those charges as well, stating, "The commissioner took the strong view that all contact with the attorney general on this issue was improper. I disagree with that conclusion, especially when so many people's jobs were at stake."

Trudeau's argument for the company was that it was a major Canadian multinational and a large employer in Quebec and legal action against it would jeopardise its operations.

FBI releases newly declassified record on September 11 attacks

The FBI late Saturday released a newly declassified 16-page document related to logistical support provided to two of the Saudi hijackers in the run-up to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The document describes contacts the hijackers had with Saudi associates in the US but offers no evidence the Saudi government was complicit in the plot, reports PTI.

Biden had encountered pressure in recent weeks from victims' families, who have long sought the records as they pursue a lawsuit in New York alleging that senior Saudi officials were complicit in the attacks.

The Saudi government has long denied any involvement. The Saudi Embassy in Washington said Wednesday that it supported the full declassification of all records as a way to "end the baseless allegations against the Kingdom once and for all."

Biden last week ordered the

Justice Department and other agencies to conduct a declassification review of investigative documents and release what they can over the next six months.

The heavily redacted record released Saturday describes a 2015 interview with a person who was applying for US citizenship and years earlier had repeated contacts with Saudi nationals who investigators said provided "significant logistical support" to several of the hijackers.

The documents are being released at a politically delicate time for the US and Saudi Arabia, two nations that have forged a strategic -- if difficult -- alliance, particularly on counterterrorism matters. The Biden administration in February released an intelligence assessment implicating Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the 2018 killing of US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi but drew criticism from Democrats for

avoiding a direct punishment of the crown prince himself.

Regarding September 11, there has been speculation of official involvement since shortly after the attacks, when it was revealed that 15 of the 19 attackers were Saudis. Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaida at the time, was from a prominent family in the kingdom.

The US investigated some Saudi diplomats and others with Saudi government ties who knew hijackers after they arrived in the US, according to documents that have already been declassified.

Still, the 9/11 Commission report found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" the attacks that al-Qaida masterminded. But the commission also noted "the likelihood" that Saudi government-sponsored charities did.

*Contd on page 7

Japan detects suspected China submarine near southern island



The submarine on Sunday morning was heading west in the East China Sea. Pic - Reuters

Japan detected a submarine believed to be Chinese off a southern Japanese island, the defense ministry said Sunday, heightening Japan's caution levels in the East

China Sea as China increases its military activities.

The submarine remained submerged, but the ministry said in a state-

ment that it believes the submarine is Chinese because a Chinese Luyang III-class guided missile destroyer is near the submarine.

The submarine moved northwest off the eastern coast of the Amamiyoshima Island, about 700 kilometers (420 miles) northeast of the disputed East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but also claimed by Beijing, the ministry said.

The submarine on Sunday morning was heading west in the East China Sea, reports AP.

Neither the submarine or the ship entered Japanese territorial water. Under international law, submarines passing off the coast of another country are required to surface and show a national flag inside territorial waters.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force sent three reconnaissance aircraft and two destroyers to the area for early warning and information gathering to ana-

lyze China's intentions.

A submarine believed to be Chinese also was spotted in the area in June 2020.

China has defended its maritime activities and says it has the right to defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

Japan, alarmed by China's growing naval activities in the East and South China seas, has been stepping up defense in the country's southwestern regions and islands north of the disputed islands.

Tokyo says it opposes China's unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the region, and regularly protests the Chinese coast guard's growing presence near the disputed islands. Japanese officials say Chinese vessels routinely violate Japanese territorial waters around the islands, sometimes threatening fishing boats.



Even before the Taliban's seizure of Kabul last month, half the population – or 18 million people – was dependent on aid. Pic - JRT Post

UN seeks to raise \$600 million for Afghanistan amid growing humanitarian crisis

UN chief Antonio Guterres will convene a high-level humanitarian conference on Monday in an attempt to raise more than \$600 million for Afghanistan amid the growing crisis in the war-torn nation. The country was thrown into turmoil after the Taliban seized power in a military takeover following the US drawdown in August.

Even before the Taliban's seizure of Kabul last month, half the population of Afghanistan—or 18 million people—was dependent on aid. The figure looks set to increase due to drought, shortages of cash and food, with the United Nations officials warning about an impending crisis since the US withdrew its troops from the country, reports Hindustan Times.

The US pullout also led to an abrupt end of billions of dollars in foreign donations, leading to an increase in pressure on the UN and its humanitarian programmes in

Afghanistan.

The conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, will be attended by top officials of the world body. It will also see participation from the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer, as well as dozens of government representatives including German foreign minister Heiko Maas.

According to a survey by the UN World Food Programme in August and September, 93 per cent of the 1,600 Afghans polled were not consuming sufficient foods, mostly because they could not get access to cash to pay for it. "It's now a race against time and the snow to deliver life-saving assistance to the Afghan people who need it most. We are quite literally begging and borrowing to avoid food stocks running out," Anthea Webb, deputy regional director of the World Food Programme, said earlier.

Taliban spokesperson divulges how he fooled US-Afghan forces

When Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid addressed a press conference in person after the Taliban captured Afghanistan, many media personalities expressed disbelief as they used to think that Zabiullah is a made-up name and not a real person.

The same perception helped Zabiullah stay right under the nose of the US and the Afghan forces in Kabul for years. It is his secret recce that might have given an edge to the Taliban against the Afghanistan army, the Taliban leader has proudly admitted in an exclusive interview with The Express Tribune.

"I lived in Kabul for a long time, right under everyone's noses. I roamed the width and breadth of the country. I also managed to have first-hand access to the frontlines, where the Taliban carried out their actions, and up to date information. It was quite puzzling for our adversaries," Mujahid told.

Mujahid told that he escaped so many times from the US and Afghan national forces that they started believing that Zabiullah Mujahid is just a ghost, a made-up character, and not a real person, reports Poulomi Ghosh of Hindustan Times.

The 43-year-old Taliban leader said he



Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid has said that this is his real name. Pic - www.tbsnews.net

never left Afghanistan. He had travelled to many places to attend seminaries, even to Pakistan, but never thought of leaving the country forever, despite being under the constant man-hunt of the US and the Afghan forces.

The US forces used to pay local people a good amount of money to know about his whereabouts but he somehow managed to escape their radar, the spokesperson added.

About the popular perception about his 'non-existence', he confirmed that Zabiullah is his actual name. "Mujahid, however, is something my seniors in the Tehreek started calling me," he said.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Dr Deoraj Caussy, Independent Epidemiologist

Covid situation in Mauritius

“Will we pay a health price at the expense of economic gains? Only time will tell”



Dr Deoraj Caussy currently practises as an Independent Epidemiologist (Integrated Epidemiology Solution at drdeorajcaussy.com), after a long career working in various laboratories, including with the US Centers for Disease Control. He joined WHO as an epidemiologist and retired as Regional Epidemiologist in Asia, based in India. In this interview he gives his views on the current spate of the pandemic globally and in Mauritius, and says that there are a lot of uncertainties about various aspects such as the end of the pandemic, whether it will become endemic, the likely origin, the responses to the infection amongst others. He emphasizes that strategies and protocols must be based on and re-aligned as required according to scientific evidence.

Mauritius Times: We are now over one and a half years into the Covid pandemic, and it continues to spread in successive waves. Can you sum up the current global situation?

Dr Caussy: The global situation is a mirror reflecting each country's political will, technical expertise, the degree of preparedness and ability to respond to an emergency. Countries from Asia like Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan had lived the first pandemic of SARS in 2003 and were proactive in their degree of preparedness and prompt in their response. This was also observed in countries like New Zealand and Australia that live under constant threat of Asian epidemics.

Other countries like UK and US, which rank amongst the top in the world for the degree of pandemic preparedness by WHO International Health Regulations, flawed badly because of lack of political will and by trivializing the severity of the virus, and paid a heavy death toll. Other nations fall in between either because of lack of preparedness, political will or inadequate infrastructure and a fragile health system or a combination thereof.

*** It has made a comeback, almost with a revenge, in countries such as Israel and Singapore which were among the first to successfully control it initially. How do you explain this?**

We must differentiate between different types of infections, asymptomatic and symptomatic and their associated types of illness. Typically, in a population about 30-40% of the infections are asymptomatic and for the remaining that show symptoms the disease may range from mild, moderate to severe forms requiring hospitalization. It is incorrect to look at raw numbers without analyzing them by subgroups of age or types of infection.

A person who is asymptomatic has a subclinical infection and a person with symptoms may have a mild form of the infection resembling influenza-like symptoms. We cannot lump them all in the same category, this is where an inch of real and not pseudo-epidemiology comes into play! In reality, we are looking at two different scenarios in each country.

*** Do you think there will be an end to the pandemic?**

Pandemic is by definition a global epidemic; as long as there are hotbeds of active infections in one part of the world, the risk is high for the other parts of the world. History bears witness that pandemics have made and unmade empires, and caused wars to be lost.

At this point we only have couple of years of observation and scientific data on the coronavirus, its mode of transmission, its health and socio-economic impacts and ways to control it. In all honesty, it would be premature to extrapolate with certainty. My own hunch is that the end of the pandemic is not looming in the near future, it would be an unprecedented miracle of science if this were to occur.

*** Some say it can become endemic, others that it may become like the influenza which surfaces annual-**

“Variants are always a source of concern in vaccine efficacy; the sudden emergence of a variant can destroy a vaccine strategy. Luckily, to date the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines are showing protective effects against all hitherto identified variants of concerns, as supported by the British cohort study...”

ly in the winter months. What is the difference between these two scenarios, and which one do you estimate is more likely in case of Covid-19?

Endemicity means the virus cannot be eradicated, it will always be present at a given level in the communities and will require constant control measures. Influenza shows a periodicity of infection, it comes back every year with a minor mutation but then it periodically undergoes drastic mutation resulting in the emergence of a novel virus with pandemic potential.

Again, it is too soon to say which form Covid-19 will take. Therefore, we must always be prepared for the unknown that can take us by surprise; some may have wishful thinking that it will behave like influenza, but no one has the answer with certainty today. It is a trillion-dollar question!

*** What is the latest regarding the origins of the Covid-19 coronavirus? Will this matter be finally settled? What are the implications if there is no definitive conclusion?**

This is a hotly contested debate. Basically, there are two competing theories: animal origin or laboratory escape. It is difficult to corroborate either of these theories. While the animal origin theory has credence, as many viruses are of zoonotic origin, it does not eliminate the fact that a virus of animal origin could have been further modified in a laboratory and escaped from the laboratory.

WHO bears full responsibility for messing up the investigation of the origin of the virus at the beginning stage. Instead of exercising its power vested by the International Health Regulations, WHO played politics and lip service to China by failing to declare the virus a public health emergency of International Concern or with pandemic potential. The first WHO mission to China had nothing but praise for the way China had handled the epidemic. Investigating the origin one year later is like looking for a needle in a haystack. So, you take your pick.

*** What's your assessment of the Covid situation in the country presently? Have we tamed the beast or are the persisting uncertainties about the virus hampering progress?**

In Mauritius, we are in a full-blown epidemic with no respite in sight and the situation calls for extreme vigilance and precaution. We are crossing the Rubicon, we hear of Covid-associated mortality frequently, we cannot let our guard down. I urge everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to fulfill their civic duties and observe the rules of social distancing by wearing masks and not to be mis-inspired by persons who have downplayed the importance of this virus and who have set wrong examples by not practising what they advocate.

We can derive lots of information by looking at the frequency and patterns of the disease over a time period, just like a picture can paint a thousand words, an art that is acquired by experience and not by pretending. When we examine such a graph, provided courtesy of John Hopkins University (See Figure 1: Epidemic Curve of Covid-19 in Mauritius), we see some sad and eyebrow-raising flagrant, disconcerting facts:

● Cont. on page 9

'For real protection against Covid-19, we need to protect 100% of the population and that is no small feat for any government'

● Cont. from page 8

(1) the virus has been lingering 2020 and it never really disappeared, despite the fact that we boasted to have rid the virus and attained a Covid-free or Covid safe state; (2) there is no peak yet, which implies that the epidemic is propagating and our means to control it are ineffective; (3) there are significantly higher deaths in the current waves despite our claims that we have perfected the clinical management and our boasting of implementing the most up-to-date protocol, and (4) we made glaring mistakes in managing the epidemic by not intervening at the critical moments and by ignoring sound scientific advice.

cially the vulnerable ones, are fully protected through vaccination, education, and provision of adequate medical care for those who get the disease. In these countries, the health systems have been revamped to ensure proper surveillance, monitoring and provision to cope with surge capacities. They have also taken steps to reduce mortality by providing prompt and appropriate medical care.

Are we at this level in Mauritius? Will we pay a health price at the expense of economic gains? Only time will tell.

*** There is also the issue of the efficacy of the different vaccines being administered in the country against the variants that would have reached the country. What's your take on that?**

There is a plethora of vaccines in the global market, and we have been tardy in choosing and procuring the right vaccine since we placed an over-reliance of the WHO Covax facility that ended up being a tragic disaster for Africa and Latin America. We have not been spared either as our vaccine supplies are varied - while some have undergone rigorous scientific testing, others are still awaiting international approval. It stands to reason that the efficacy of the vaccines will reflect the types of vaccine we use.

Variants are always a source of concern in vaccine efficacy; the sudden emergence of a variant can destroy a vaccine strategy. Luckily, to date the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines are showing protective effects against all hitherto identified variants of concerns, as supported by the British cohort study. This is a fast-emerging field, and we cannot etch our strategies in glass; we must be flexible to incorporate new knowledge in designing our control strategies.

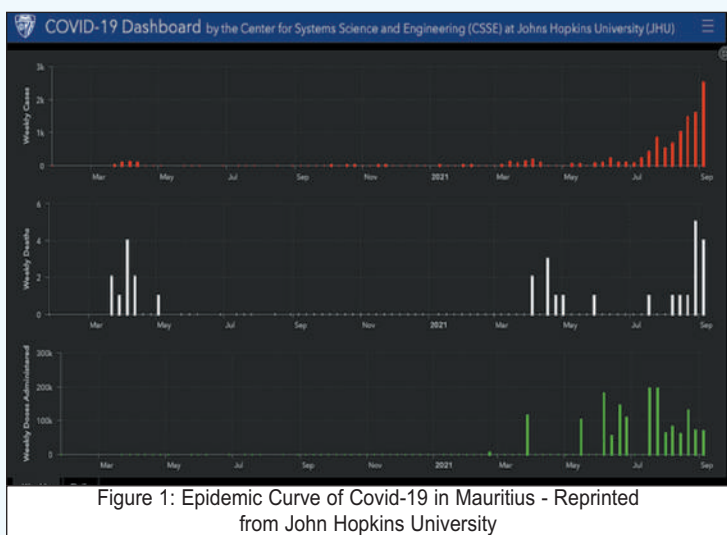
*** In view of the appearance of the variants of the coronavirus here, would it suffice to have 60%-70% of the population fully vaccinated for us to reach the herd immunity that is presently thought necessary to cope with the pandemic?**

Herd immunity is an outdated, archaic theory that has no place in controlling Covid-19. Herd immunity theory holds for a disease with a single causative agent that does not undergo mutation, but this is far from true for Covid-19. For real protection against Covid-19, we need to protect 100% of the population and that is no small feat for any government.

If that is not possible, then one should strategically immunize the most vulnerable population first; unfortunately, this was not adopted in the initial vaccination phase locally. We missed a golden window of opportunity to protect the most vulnerable groups and we can all bear witness to the sad and tragic results now.

*** In the UK, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation met last Thursday to examine interim results from the Cov-Boost study, which looked at the "impact of one of seven different vaccines as a third dose, on top of either the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccines". Do you think Covid vaccine booster shots**

"For real protection against Covid-19, we need to protect 100% of the population and that is no small feat for any government. If that is not possible, then one should strategically immunize the most vulnerable population first; unfortunately, this was not adopted in the initial vaccination phase locally. We missed a golden window of opportunity to protect the most vulnerable groups and we can all bear witness to the sad and tragic results now..."



Most likely explanations of the current outbreaks are that the vaccine coverage is inadequate and non-pharmaceutical measures like wearing masks, avoiding crowds, and keeping a social distance need to be revisited to fix the deficiencies. Sadly enough, many of these complications could have been averted had we been proactive from the beginning and listened to the voice of science rather than adopt a dogmatic, tunnel vision policy of excluding, slandering, and discrediting it.



"It is too soon to say which form Covid-19 will take. Therefore, we must always be prepared for the unknown that can take us by surprise; some may have wishful thinking that it will behave like influenza, but no one has the answer with certainty today. It is a trillion-dollar question!"

*** Government is proposing to reopen our borders to fully vaccinated international travellers, in particular tourists, with no restrictions as from 1st October. From a scientific perspective and on the basis of what's happening elsewhere, how do you view this decision?**

It is a delicate and tricky act to balance the health risk to economic benefit ratio since health and economic development are interrelated: a healthy nation is a productive nation and conversely a productive nation is a healthy nation.

Many governments around the world have taken this bold step of opening the borders but they have erred on the side of caution. Consider countries like France, UK, or Canada - they have ensured that their population, espe-

necessary in the local context?

Again, we are skating on thin ice! We do not have all the information we need. In precautionary principle, we err to protect lives and livelihoods and not solely for economic gains. Many diseases like pulmonary pneumococcus infection or varicella zoster require a booster dose in the elderly and those with immunological deficiencies. So, administering a third booster dose, under recommendation of an independent panel of experts, would be a prudent strategy to undertake.

*** Finally, there have been complaints and criticisms about the way the dead are being disposed of, particularly regarding the respective intimate families being denied the possibility of seeing their loved ones or attendance at the funerals, conduct of last rites, etc. Do you have any suggestions that would meet both public health safety criteria and the wishes of the**

"In Mauritius, we are in a full-blown epidemic with no respite in sight and the situation calls for extreme vigilance and precaution. We are crossing the Rubicon, we hear of Covid-associated mortality frequently, we cannot let our guard down. I urge everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to fulfill their civic duties and observe the rules of social distancing by wearing masks and not to be mis-inspired by persons who have downplayed the importance of this virus..."

grieving families?

Death is the final stage of parting and every culture and religion have their beliefs and rituals that permit them to cope with the grief.

I personally as a virologist and an epidemiologist, have serious reservations about the infectivity of dead bodies from SARS-CoV-2 virus that is predominantly, if not exclusively, transmitted by air or droplets. A dead person does not breathe and is not spewing loads of virus in the air. The Covid virus is not found in swarming number on the body. So, the risk of transmission is minimal if one observes the elementary principles of public health. Now for a virus like Ebola it is a very different situation because the virus is found on the body of the dead person and is transmissible during performance of rituals. Covid-19 is not Ebola!

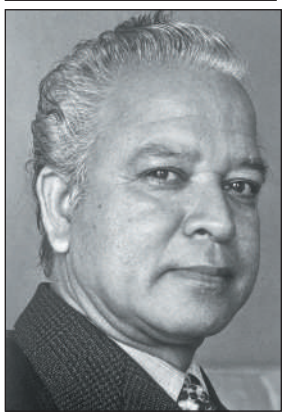
Paradoxically, with proper training and education, we have been able to reduce the risk of transmitting Ebola during burial to the extent that the bereaved families can participate. Both the international and local authorities should take a serious look at this by conducting a meta-analysis of the existing evidence to formulate an evidence-based policy that strikes the balance between socio-cultural needs and public health protection.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 172

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 22 November 1957

• *Eloquence flourished most in Rome when public affairs were in the worst condition. -- Montaigne*

Somduth Bhuckory

The Education Bill

The Education Bill received its first reading at the meeting of the Legislative Council last Tuesday. To show its scope and bearing we can't help quoting the following from the Bill itself: "To promote education in the Colony, and to consolidate and amend the law relating to education, the supervision and control of schools, the teaching therein, and for purposes connected therewith."

We had been hearing about the revision of the Education Code for a long time. Those interested in the educational problems of our island will at least know now what the government intends doing. After going through the Bill, we feel that it will not meet with general approval - some will criticize it for selfish ends while others for sound principles.

The Bill is divided into five parts the contents of which are clearly set out in the "Statement of objects and reasons". Part I is preliminary: It defines certain words used in the Bill. Part II deals with the establishment of the Department of Education and an Advisory Board on Education and with the recognition of Education Authorities. It is the old Education Committee that will become the new advisory Board. Part III contains something new. It deals with the registration of schools, managers and teachers and the certification of teachers. Part IV refers to the award of scholarships and grants-in-aid. Part V provides for the closing of schools in cases of emergency, and compulsory attendance at school when practicable.

We hasten to deal with the innovation introduced in the proposed legislation, namely, the control and inspection of schools. "Every school shall be registered," says the Bill in one section, and "The Director or any officer of his Department authorized by him in writing, may, with or without notice, visit any school," in another. The definition of school is given as follows: "Any assembly of not less than ten pupils for the purpose of receiving regular full-time or part-time instruction, and includes vernacular schools and night schools."

There is a strong case for the control of private secondary schools, usually called colleges, which have sprung up lately and which number about seventy-five. We have already advocated their control. But we think that at this stage it would be better to leave out the vernacular schools which in the face of adverse circumstances are doing so much to foster literacy in the oriental languages.

* * *

Next, we want to deal with scholarships. Let us first of all see what scholarships the government proposes to give.

There are the English Scholarships, six in number, to be awarded every year and the winners of which will be called laureates. Then there are the Junior Scholarships. These will be awarded every year to pupils of primary schools and secondary schools and their number must not exceed one hundred and twenty in any one year. Senior

Scholarships not exceeding six are intended for candidates of the Cambridge Oversea School Certificate examination.

Leaving aside the English and the Senior Scholarships there is a lot to be said on the Junior Scholarships. At present 70 such scholarships are being awarded every year - 40 to boys and 20 to girls of primary schools, and 10 to pupils of non-primary schools. They are awarded on the results of a special examination, the Junior Scholarship Examination. And there is only a very small number of schools where scholarship classes are held.

The increase in the number of scholarships will be welcomed by everybody, specially if it could take effect as from this year. But as a general rule to distribution of the scholarships is not fair and equitable. We therefore suggest the following:

(a) That the Junior Scholarship Examination be abolished and the scholarships be awarded on the results of the VI Standard examination. By allowing scholarship classes to be held in a few schools only, the government puts the pupils of schools where such classes are in-existent in a disadvantageous position. This official scandal must stop.

(b) That the scholarships be awarded on a regional basis. Let every district have its quota of scholarships.

(c) That no scholarship be given to pupils of non-primary schools. It's wasting good public money on the children of well-to-do families who do not need scholarships to pursue their secondary education.

* * *

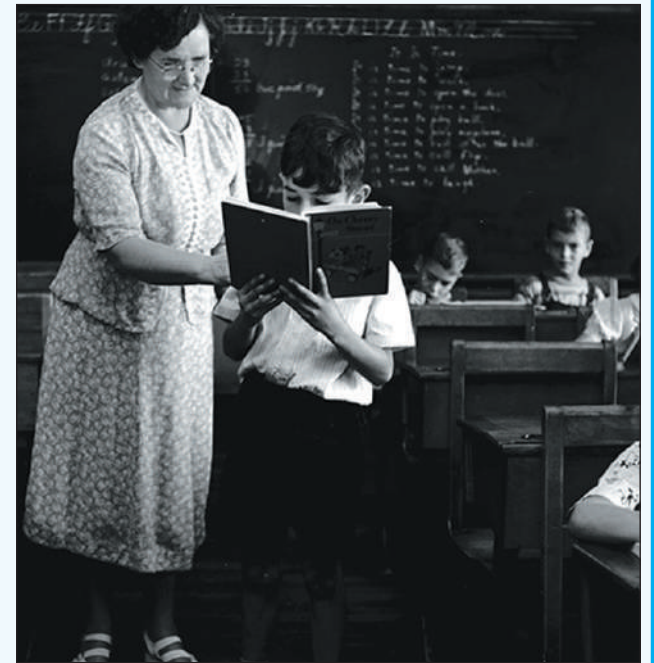
Lastly, we should like to dwell upon the question of languages. The Bill as a whole does not tackle this problem boldly. The Gordian knot remains to be cut.

About medium of instruction and teaching of languages, the Bill has the following:

"(1) In the lower classes of Government and aided primary schools up to and including Standard III, any one language may be employed as the medium of instruction, being a language which in the opinion of the Director is most suitable for the pupils.

(2) In Standards IV, V and VI of the Government and aided primary schools the medium of instruction shall be English, and conversations between teacher and pupils shall be carried on in English: provided that lessons in any other language taught in the school shall be carried through the medium of the language.

(3) The Director may make provision for the teaching of languages other than English which are current in the Colony, and



for their study in any Government and aided primary school, and may require an Education Authority to make arrangements for such teaching in any of the primary schools under its control."

It is stated that one of the main duties of the Director of Education will be to ensure "the more effective teaching of English and the spread of the English Language in the Colony". Better late than never.

The Bill seems to suggest that English will be paid a particular attention and all the other languages will be on the same level. No special mention of French is made. Too good to be true, isn't it?

To qualify for the Junior Scholarship Examination, a pupil must have obtained a pass in English, French and Arithmetic scoring a certain percentage marks. The subjects for the Junior Scholarship Examination are not given as the subjects for the English Scholarship examination. But is there any doubt that French will remain as a compulsory subject?

We have said many a time French should become an optional language. We have also emphasized the need of paying more attention to the Oriental languages. Will the new legislation leave these two aspects of our language problem in a fluid state?

1956-2021

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9/11 did not change the world – it was already on the path to decades of conflict

● Cont. from page 2

That was the high point of the entire US-led “war on terror”. Afghanistan was the first disaster, with the Taliban moving back into rural areas within two to three years and going on to fight the US and its allies for 20 years before taking back control last month.

In Iraq, even though the insurgents appeared defeated by 2009 and the US could withdraw its forces two years later, Islamic State (IS) rose phoenix-like from the ashes. That led to the third conflict, the intense 2014-18 air war across northern Iraq and Syria, fought by the US, the UK, France and others, killing tens of thousands of IS supporters and several thousand civilians.

Even after the collapse of its caliphate in Iraq and Syria, IS arose once again like the proverbial phoenix, spreading its influence as far afield as the Saharan Sahel, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bangladesh, southern Thailand, the Philippines, back in Iraq and Syria once more and even Afghanistan. The spread across the Sahel was aided by the collapse of security in Libya, the 2011 NATO-led intervention being the fourth of the west’s failed wars in barely 20 years.

In the face of these bitter failures, we have two linked questions: was 9/11 the beginning of decades of a new world disorder? And where do we go from here?

9/11 in context

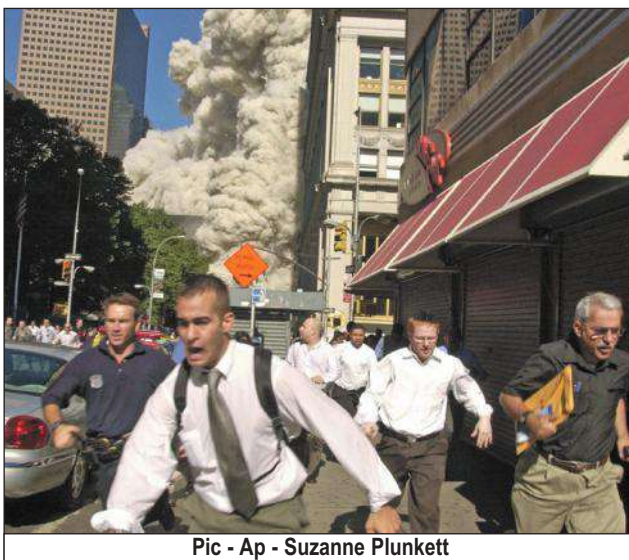
It is natural to see the single event of 9/11 as turning traditional military postures on their heads, but that is misleading. There were already changes afoot, as two very different events in February 1993, eight years before the attacks, had shown all too well.

First, incoming US president, Bill Clinton, had appointed James Woolsey as the new director of the CIA. Asked at his Senate confirmation hearing how he would characterise the end of the cold war, he replied that the US had slain the dragon (the Soviet Union) but now faced a jungle full of poisonous snakes.

During the 1990s, and very much in line with Woolsey’s phrase, the US military moved from a cold war posture to preparing for small wars in far-off places. There was more emphasis on long-range air strike systems, amphibious forces, carrier battle groups and special forces. By the time Bush was elected in November 2000, the US was far more prepared to tame the jungle.

Second, the US military and most analysts around the world missed the significance of a new phenomenon, the rapidly improving ability of the weak to take up arms against the strong. Yet the signs were already there. On February 26 1993, not long after Woolsey had talked of a jungle full of snakes, an Islamist paramilitary group attempted to destroy the World Trade Center with a massive truck bomb placed in the underground car park of the North Tower. The plan was to collapse it over the adjoining Vista Hotel and the South Tower, destroying the entire complex and killing upwards of 30,000 people.

The attack failed – though six people died – and the significance of the attack was largely missed even though there were many other indicators of weakness in the 1990s. In December 1994, an Algerian paramilitary group tried to crash an Airbus passenger jet on Paris, an attack foiled by French special forces during a refuelling stop at Marseilles. A month later a bombing by the LTTE of the Central Bank in Colombo, Sri Lanka devastated much of the central business district of Colombo, killing over 80 and injuring more than 1,400 people.



Pic - Ap - Suzanne Plunkett

A decade before the first World Trade Center attacks, 241 Marines had been killed in a single bombing in Beirut (another 58 French paratroopers were killed by a second bomb in their barrack) and between 1993 and 2001 there were attacks in the Middle East and East Africa including the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, an attack on the USS Cole in Aden Harbour and the bombing of US diplomatic missions in Tanzania and Kenya.

The 9/11 attacks did not change the world. They were further steps along a well-signed path leading to two decades of conflict, four failed wars and no clear end in sight.

What now?

That long path, though, has from the start had within it one fundamental flaw. If we are to make sense of wider global trends in insecurity, we have to recognise that in all the analysis around the 9/11 anniversary there lies the belief that the main security concern must be with an extreme version of Islam. It may seem a reasonable mistake, given the impact of the wars, but it still misses the point. The war on terror is better seen as one part of a global trend which goes well beyond a single religious tradition – a slow but steady move towards revolts from the margins.

In writing my book, *Losing Control*, in the late 1990s – a couple of years before 9/11 – I put it this way:

What should be expected is that new social movements will develop that are essentially anti-elite in nature and will draw their support from people, especially men, on the margins. In different contexts and circumstances, they may have their roots in political ideologies, religious beliefs, ethnic, nationalist or cultural identities, or a complex combination of several of these.

They may be focused on individuals or groups, but the most common feature is an opposition to existing centres of power ... What can be said is that, on present trends, anti-elite action will be a core feature of the next 30 years – not so much a clash of civilisations, more an age of insurgencies.

This stemmed from the view that the primary factors in global insecurity were a combination of increasing socioeconomic divisions and environmental limits to growth coupled with a security strategy rooted in preserving the status quo. Woolsey’s “jungle full of snakes” could be seen as a consequence of this, but there would be military responses available to keep the lid on problems – “liddism” in short.

More than two decades down the road, socioeconomic divisions have worsened, the concentration of wealth has reached levels best described as obscene and has even increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, itself leading to food shortages and increased poverty.

Meanwhile climate change is now with us, is accelerating towards climate breakdown with, once again, the greatest impact on marginalised societies. It therefore makes sense to see 9/11 primarily as an early and grievous manifestation of the weak taking up arms against the strong, and that military response in the current global security environment woefully misses the point.

At the very least there is an urgent need to rethink what we mean by security, and time is getting short to do that.

Paul Rogers,

Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

65 years ago, *Mauritius Times* was founded with a resolve to fight for justice and fairness and the advancement of the public good. It has never deviated from this principle no matter how daunting the challenges and how costly the price it has had to pay at different times of our history.

We are determined not to abandon this line of action, which is the cardinal principle of our *raison-d'être*. This is what has given *Mauritius Times* a unique standing in the local publishing world.

Our production circumstances have changed since last year with the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown, and we have had to move to the digital platform. We have since March 2020 freely circulated the paper via WhatsApp and by email, besides making it available on our website.

However, with print journalism in Mauritius and across the world struggling to keep afloat due to falling advertising revenues and the wide availability of free sources of information, it is crucially important for the *Mauritius Times* to still meet its cost of production for it to survive and prosper.

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 65 years. We can only continue doing it with the support of our readers.

We hope you'll continue to support the paper by taking a subscription or by making a recurring donation through a Standing Order to our not-for-profit Foundation. Our future will be secure with the support of our readers and well-wishers.

The Editorial Team

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China is on course to build the best cars in the world

China used to only make Soviet cars under licence. Now it's taking on Tesla

Europeans and other western nations have dominated automotive excellence for over a century. Whether it is the satisfying thud of the door closing on a Volkswagen from Wolfsburg, or the beauty of a Ferrari from Modena, these brands are iconic - and very lucrative for their manufacturers. When we think of reliability, the Germans, and latterly the Japanese, have had it sewn up. But if you rest on your laurels, an upstart will soon be chasing at your heels.

The Chinese are not exactly upstarts in the traditional sense: it's more than a decade since they surpassed America to become the most prolific car-makers in the world. But despite reaching that milestone in 2008, China's cars were still mostly clones of cheap western vehicles.

Now, however, China is arguably producing the best cars in the world, and on track to dominate auto manufacturing. How did this happen, and will the west be able to regain its crown?

Advantage, Beijing

The centre of excellence in car manufacturing moved from Europe at the turn of the 1900s to the US with the growth of Detroit as the world's auto powerhouse. The 1980s and 1990s saw Japan and South Korea surge ahead, only for Europe to rise again in the early noughties as Volkswagen duelled Toyota to be number-one manufacturer by output.

Each continent has added its own flavour along the way, from innovation in safety in Europe to volume production in the US to lean manufacturing in Japan. It was Toyota's manufacturing systems that saved German-owned Porsche when it was facing dire business conditions in the 1990s, for instance.

China has gradually built its auto-making capabilities during these different eras. It originally began making Soviet-designed utility vehicles under licence in the 1950s, before its state-owned companies reached similar arrangements in joint ventures with western manufacturers like General Motors and Volkswagen in the 1980s. This produced cars that were far better designed and more sophisticated, and soon China's roads were becoming choked with western clones.

But if that steadily elevated China to number-one world carmaker by output, it can now go one better. The goal for any automotive nation is to produce vehicles of outstanding quality at the lowest possible price, simultaneously delighting the owner with innovative features and good design.

Vehicle quality is both about simple reliability and also what we would describe as build quality: how well the vehicle is finished, the uniformity of the paint finish, how well the different panels on the body



The Nio eT electric sedan being unveiled in Shanghai. Xinhua/Alamy

align, and even - as Volkswagen made famous - the sound the doors make when they close.

Japanese and Korean vehicles have dominated reliability, while build quality has been the preserve of the Germans for mass-manufactured cars, and British names like Rolls-Royce and Bentley at the luxury end (ironically both are owned by the Germans).

China is now a major threat on both fronts, having had the advantage of maturing most recently: as each new nation learns to produce vehicles at scale, they benefit from all the learning and technical developments that have gone before. Incumbent nations would have to start from the ground up to unlock these benefits, which is an enormous upheaval and expense. Many US car plants were built in the 1950s or even before, for instance.

China is also well placed to build cars for the right price. It still pays relatively low wages and has millions of skilled workers steeped in the nation's strong manufacturing culture. Skilled workers are vital to reducing automotive costs because they make vehicles that need fewer adjustments or rebuilds.

China also has excellent shipping links, with many auto factories close to Shanghai, the world's largest shipping port. This includes Tesla's gigafactory, one of the largest facilities in the world, capable of producing around 2,000 cars daily. Getting the product out, shipped and with the customer quickly reduces costs because manufacturers get paid sooner. Also crucially important is China's huge components supply-chain, which is already a large exporter of car parts to other nations. This all adds up to huge economies of scale that don't exist anywhere else, and are difficult to replicate.

Changing of the guard

Admittedly, some Chinese vehicles in the past decade have not had the design or performance expected by western buy-

ers, so have not sold in enough volumes in Europe to worry the establishment. Yet this is changing rapidly. Start-ups like Polestar (owned by Volvo) are building vehicles that combine excellent build quality and the safety features, design and performance that western buyers demand. Sales of the Polestar 2 electric SUV have actually outpaced the Tesla Model 3 in Sweden and Norway at times, albeit the Model 3 is still the bigger seller overall.

Comparing vehicles that are built both in the west and China is particularly illuminating. Tesla's Model 3 and Model Y cars are both built in the US and China, and owners in Europe have reported that the Chinese versions are better. I hear that their all-important panel gaps are tighter, and fewer trips to the repair shop are required.

Polestar and Tesla both have very modern factories and are fully electric. Both are designed in the west, as is BMW's iX3, another fully electric SUV built in China for export back to Europe. Like Polestar and Tesla, the iX3 is taking advantage of China's supply chain in EV batteries, among other things.

Yet Chinese-designed and built vehi-

cles are not far behind in their design (if not equal), and starting to invade European markets. Xpeng is one Chinese start-up that only produces electric vehicles. Having sold well in China, it is making its first moves into Europe via Norway with its G3 model. Reviews of this compact SUV by the established auto press have been good. Meanwhile, Nio is another Chinese manufacturer making great strides in becoming a global name in pure electric vehicles.

It is early days for these entirely Chinese-designed cars to take on the establishment, and there is always the possibility that geopolitics upsets progress, but it finally seems that all the ingredients are there. The next revolution in automotive is replacing petrol and diesel vehicles with electric. With all of China's advantages, it could yet lead this shift, and finally become the home of the best cars in the world.

By Tom Stacey,

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The Simple Joy of Learning on the Job

-- Marc Zao-Sanders and
Catalina Schveninger

Much of the joy has been snuffed out of learning. Schools, workplaces, and their associated compliance drills make a series of mandatory demands from near the start of our lives to near the end. Worse still, we associate those experiences with arbitrary pass/fail cut-offs and sinister, official consequences. And much of the \$million spent on corporate learning is wasted. This is a sad situation.

Yet, we all know the thrill that learning can bring: teaching yourself a new skill via a YouTube video; enjoying your first joke in a foreign language; hearing a child read her first full sentence out loud; the confidence that comes with a jujitsu brown belt; the youthful, infectious enthusiasm of a 90-year-old learner.

The spark of learning joy is real and useful. So how can we bring more of it into our professional lives?

Where is the joy?

Let's take an important moment - amidst the current gloom and grief - to appreciate the joy of learning. In fact, there are several activities associated with learning that can spark such joy. We've drawn from some of Canadian educator Allen Tough's work in the below.

First, there is that wonderful, ineffable feeling of learning itself. For many, a number of conscious experiences converge at the point of learning. There is an illumination of the unknown, as beams of light fall on hidden secrets and treasures. There's the awareness of a new capability and the freedom and independence that may bring - the power to deal better with the big, uncertain world. In our brains, we seek rewards via dopaminergic pathways, while in our minds we enjoy a rush of curiosity or a feeling of flow.

Second, learning often brings with it an immediate-term achievement. The rendering of your first line of Python code; your lifelike pencil drawing; your functioning, validated forecast model in Excel; picking up a handful of Google search operators to reap rewards every single day. Note that such hard, tangible results tend to be more difficult to find when it comes to learning soft skills.

Third, there's the opportunity to apply what you're learning in the real world. This is the living proof of your new power, when hopeful awareness becomes fruitful demonstration. Don't wait for the real world to present the perfect opportunity to apply your learning: bend your real-world working needs to what you've just learned and reduce the lag from learning something to applying it. Consider Deborah, the head of data science at a start-up in London. Her parents couldn't afford the university fees in her native



South Africa so she taught herself everything from Visual Basic Programming and SQL back in 2000 to Python and Google Big Data Analytics more recently. She blocks four hours of study on Udemy every Sunday and applies, as a rule, at least some of her newly acquired skills on real-life projects at work the following week.

Fourth, you can find joy when you reflect on what you've learned. Reviewing what you've learned, how you've applied it, and how you might yet apply it, can bring a more subdued but longer-lasting kind of joy. This may be accompanied by the notion of enhanced status and a feeling of personal pride.

Finally, sharing your learning can bring great joy. As a social species, we do this naturally and prolifically: 38% of content shared online is informational or educational.

So, be clear on what sparks learning joy for you. Develop the meta-cognitive skills and habits to notice when those sparks of joy occur. Which of the five activities described above do you get the most from? Dig deeper: What formats? Whose materials? Which situations?

Consider the case of Eduardo, a FutureLearn student and customer service rep working for a large telecommunications company in Spain. He learned on the job how to train chatbots and write scripts for the most common customer complaints. While the introduction of chatbots in call centres puts human jobs at risk, Eduardo found that learning a new skill kept him motivated and gave him hope for future career opportunities.

Harness joy for your career

We all need to find ways to bring more joy into our work lives. Start by taking back control of what you read. Have an open mind about what useful learning content even is. MOOCs aren't just about work skills; they also cover life skills. This is true of TED talks too: just one of the 25 most popular TED talks is business related. We'd encourage you to think more widely still, drawing your

learning experiences from the rich tapestry of life: films, conversations, museums, advertising campaigns, speeches, even Twitter handles. Keep track of past and future learning with a to-learn list.

Adaptable learners are in high demand. The world's leading CEOs are publicly asserting the importance of learning and skills in a constantly evolving global economy. Satya Nadella, Microsoft's CEO, said: "We want to be not a 'know-it-all' but a 'learn-it-all' organization." In a recent annual letter to shareholders, Jeff Bezos emphasized high standards and teachable skills. Elon Musk has a well-developed idea of how to build knowledge: ensure that your basic, structural understanding is sound, so the information and knowledge you acquire has a firm basis and a good place to go.

Many of the hallmarks of modern working life point to an increased opportunity and obligation to learn continuously. The phenomena of remote and flexible work, T-shaped careers (combining breadth of knowledge and experience with world-class skill in one discipline), lateral career moves and side hustles have been growing rapidly for few years; they are all likely to be get a huge additional boost as working practices change as a result of Covid-19.

Indeed, far-sighted employers enable employees (especially high-performers) to bend the job to a desired skill set, rather than the other way around. Unfortunately, corporate learning and development departments have not, for the most part, been designed to support this dynamic, multi-dimensional economy. Ultimately, the responsibility for filling these gaps therefore falls to you, and quite possibly to you alone.

Marc Zao-Sanders is CEO and co-founder of filtered.com, a company that blends consultancy with technology to lift capabilities and drive business change. Catalina Schveninger is the Chief People Officer of FutureLearn, a digital education platform with over 10 million users, founded by The Open University.

Work Smarter

Take These Steps to Reduce Burnout

If you're feeling burned out right now, you're not alone. The good news is that you can do something about it. First, seek out support from a good friend, family member, therapist, or coach. It's hard to make decisions when you're exhausted, so find someone who can challenge your thinking and give you another perspective. They might even help you identify patterns in your behavior.

Next, get clarity on your priorities. You may need to delegate or say no to projects that don't serve you in the long run. Finally, prioritize healthy eating, exercise, and sleep. Schedule in lunch breaks and stop your workday at a reasonable time. Use all of your vacation time. And examine your work environment.

Burnout is often a result of a mismatch between demands of the job and available resources. If possible, and ideally in partnership with your manager, review the structure of your role and make adjustments to your workload.

This tip is adapted from "5 Steps for Women to Combat Burnout," by Ellen Keithline Byrne -- Harvard Business Review

Explain why you're asking your team to do something

When people know why they're being asked to do something, they're much more likely to do it. So next time you're preparing to deliver an important message to your team, make sure you're clear on the "why" behind it.

Start by asking yourself a few "what" questions, such as: What are the stakes? What will the future look like if we get this done?

Next, figure out how to clearly articulate your reasoning. Think about what action you're asking your team to take, and then follow it with a clear, well-practiced explanation. For example: We need to improve our hiring practices, because our current process isn't attracting a diverse enough pool of candidates. And be prepared to answer follow-up questions and explain the process that led to the decision.

You'll be more persuasive if you share ideas that you considered, explored, tested, and then abandoned. This level of transparency will keep your team motivated to pursue the task at hand.

This tip is adapted from "Good Leadership Is About Communicating 'Why'," by Nancy Duarte -- Harvard Business Review

Environmental impact of bottled water up to 3,500 times higher than tap water

The consumption of bottled water has been increasing sharply in the last years on a global scale. According to previous research, this trend can be partly explained by subjective factors like risk perception, taste, odour, lack of trust in public tap water quality and marketing by bottled water companies. A new study, led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), was aimed at providing objective data about three different water consumption choices: bottled water, tap water and filtered tap water.

Environmental and health impacts are usually assessed separately due to the different methodologies applied and resulting outcomes. Environmental impacts can be estimated with a methodology called Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), while the consequences in human health are estimated with an approach called Health Impact Assessment (HIA). This study has tried to overcome this methodological barrier for the first time by combining LCA and HIA in the same analysis.

Since tap water quality might differ between cities or countries, the research team focused in the city of Barcelona, due to the robustness of available data. Results showed that if the whole population of Barcelona decided to shift to bottled water, the production required would take



Bottled drinking water is a massive threat to the environment, caution experts. Pic - Medindia

a toll of 1.43 species lost per year and cost of 83.9 million USD per year due to extraction of raw materials. This is approximately 1,400 times more impact in ecosystems and 3,500 times higher cost of resource extraction compared to the scenario where the whole population would shift to tap water.

"Tap water quality has increased substantially in Barcelona since the incorporation of advanced treatments over the last

years. However, this considerable improvement has not been mirrored by an increase in tap water consumption, which suggests that water consumption could be motivated by subjective factors other than quality," says Cristina Villanueva, ISGlobal researcher and first author of the study.

"One of this subjective factors is the perceived presence of chemical compounds in tap water. While it is true that tap water may contain trihalomethanes (THM)

derived from the disinfection process and that THMs are associated with bladder cancer, our study shows that due to the high quality of the tap water in Barcelona, the risk for health is small, especially when we take into account the overall impacts of bottled water," adds Cristina Villanueva.

In this sense, the results estimate that a complete shift to tap water would increase the overall number of years of life lost in the city of Barcelona to 309 (which equals approximately on average 2 hours of lost life expectancy if borne equally by all residents of Barcelona). Adding domestic filtration to tap water would reduce that risk considerably, lowering the total number of years of life lost to 36.

"Tap water is a better option than bottled water, because bottled water generates a wider range of impacts," says Cathryn Tonne, ISGlobal researcher and last author of the study. "The use of domestic filters, in addition to improving the taste and odour of tap water, can reduce substantially THMs levels in some cases. For this reason, filtered tap water is a good alternative," she adds. However, the authors acknowledge that domestic filtering devices require an adequate maintenance for a proper performance and to avoid microbial proliferation.



Why do we cry?

Crying is something everyone does sometimes -- an expert in the history of emotions explains why people cry to express their feelings

As you know, crying is something everyone does sometimes. Sometimes we get teary because our bodies are trying to clean a bit of dirt out of our eyes. But that's not really crying, is it? Crying has something to do with our emotions.

There's a connection between the part of our brain that feels emotions, and the ducts in our eyes where tears come out - so when we have a big feeling, we cry.

Doctors of medicine could tell you more about that. But I'm a doctor of another subject - the history of emotions. I learn about why people cry for different reasons, and it's my job to compare today with a long time ago.

Most kids cry when they're feeling sad, whether they're boys or girls. But once those kids become teenagers, boys seem to cry less often than girls do. This isn't because boys have different brains or tear ducts than girls. It's mostly because many boys think crying is a bit embarrassing.

Maybe they've been told boys don't cry, or teased by their friends if they cry at school.

In fact, it is very normal for boys to cry. And crying hasn't always been seen as embarrassing or uncool.

The history of crying

About 500 years ago in England, crying was seen as really cool! One of the most famous stories at the time was about King Arthur.

He was a great hero, and a lot of boys wanted to be like him. According to books and poems written at the time, King Arthur cried a lot. Crying showed everybody he had very strong, true feelings. Back then, people thought this made him a great man, and the lords and ladies in his court cried in public too.

Crying around the world

Why we cry can also depend on where we live, and what our family is like.

If you live in a country where it's normal to express a lot of feelings in public, such



as America, you are more likely to cry about things.

If you live in a country where people don't usually make a big show of how they feel, you probably won't cry as much, even if you're feeling sad on the inside.

For example, in Japan, for a long time people tried not to cry. But lately in Japan, people are changing their minds about crying. Books and movies that are very sad are becoming popular. There are even crying clubs, where you can watch a sad movie with other people, have a good cry, and go home feeling better because you let out a lot of big feelings!

The same goes for families: if everyone

at your house likes to share how they're feeling, and isn't embarrassed about crying or laughing or shouting or dancing, then you'll probably cry whenever you feel like it.

But if the people in your family don't usually show how they feel, then you will also learn to keep your feelings inside and not let them show by crying.

We cry to show our feelings

As you can see in these examples, crying isn't just something we do by ourselves. Quite often, crying is a way for us to show other people how we feel.

When you cry, your parents, teachers or friends know that you're having a big feeling. Then they can help you feel better with a hug, or a talk about your feelings.

So why do we cry?

Well, partly because our bodies are made that way. But also because crying is how people around us show their feelings, and we learn to show our feelings the same way. Crying helps us share and care.

And I think that's a wonderful thing.

Carly Osborn, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Adelaide

Awkward situations that occur in every new relationship

Getting into a new relationship is quite an exciting affair. With all the 'firsts' like the first time holding hands, first time hugging, first time going on a trip, etc., comes the feeling of excitement and thrill. Though the start of a new relationship is the "honeymoon" period, there are many awkward situations too that are bound to happen. Here are some awkward situations that happen in every new relationship.

The accidental insult

When you are first getting to know someone, there is a lot you don't know about them. It is easy to insult something that they are passionate about - football, paintings, plays. Unfortunately, there is not much you can do to get yourself out of this situation.

The first time you do "it"

First-time sex with someone is usually really awkward. You don't know what he likes yet. He doesn't know what you like yet. With the confusion, there is also the added pressure of the first time. Between the confusion, pressure, and insecurity, it is usually a much more awkward time than a good time.

Meeting each other's parents

What's more awkward than meeting the people who gave birth to the person you're sleeping with? They are watching and judging everything you do. As a new relationship drifts into a more serious phase, this is something

you will have to experience and it's a pretty awkward experience.

The ex-conversation

You can avoid it, but it will surely come up. Envisioning a guy you are into being with anyone else in the world is painful. It can make you insane, but it is a necessary conversation. But in order to be in a relationship with someone, you kind of have to know his past.

When you are dating someone new, there is always that strange moment when you realize that you didn't know something important. It may be his birthday or that she is allergic to peanuts. Whatever the case, it will be a huge reminder that no matter how intimate you are, you still don't know everything about each other.

Your first real disagreement

This is a test that not all new relationships pass. The first real disagreement shows you just how strong or weak your relationship is. The thing about this first fight is that it's actually really awkward.

The "what are we" conversation

Everyone dreads this conversation and everything about it is awkward. The first issue is bringing the subject up. If you are the one bringing it up, you are usually the one who wants to be in an exclusive relationship. The second huge issue is figuring out what page you are both on.



Health & diet guide

How Caffeine Affects Your Body



Caffeine boosts your energy and mood and makes you more alert. That can sometimes be helpful, especially in the morning or when you're trying to work. Though your body doesn't store it, caffeine can affect you for up to 6 hours after you swallow it. But more is not always better. Too much can push you over the line from alert to jittery and anxious.

Interferes with sleep: Too much caffeine can make it hard to nod off when you go to bed at night. Even moderate amounts can cause insomnia in some people, especially if you have it too close to bedtime. The effects may be worse as you age. Avoid caffeine in the afternoon and evening if you notice it affects your sleep. And remember, it's not just in tea

and coffee. It's also in chocolate, energy drinks, and other prepackaged foods and drinks.

Raises heart rate: Caffeine is a stimulant and may cause your heart to beat a little faster as it wakes you up. For most folks that's not a problem. But if you have too much caffeine or you're overly sensitive, your pulse may go up too much or stay high too long. It may even feel like your heart beats in a weird rhythm, sometimes called heart palpitations. Some people say it feels as if their ticker skips a beat.

Causes a headache: If you have caffeine every day, whether in a pill, energy bar, or cup of coffee, you build up tolerance. Then, without your daily dose, you

might get a "rebound" headache. It may be worse if you quit caffeine completely and all at once. You'll find your head will feel better if you reduce caffeine a little at a time.

Makes you pee: Caffeine is a diuretic, which means it can make you pee more. Around 300 milligrams of caffeine -- the amount in three cups of coffee -- is enough to do it if you're not used to it. Water loss is minor and is unlikely to cause dehydration as long as you are otherwise healthy. The diuretic effect can fade if you get the same regular daily dose of caffeine because you build up tolerance.

Boosts sports performance: If you do "endurance" sports, like running, biking, or swimming, caffeine might help you go faster and with less muscle pain. It seems to work best in a non-liquid form, like a pill, taken about an hour before you exercise so that your body can absorb it completely. Around 200 to 400 milligrams (2 to 4 cups of coffee) should do it.

Helps you recover from a workout: Some studies show that caffeine can help your body recover more quickly after hard exercise by making and restocking a stored form of fuel called glycogen. It seems to do this best if you combine it with carbohydrates, like in certain sports gels, sports bars, and drinks. Just take care not to overdo the caffeine, which could have the opposite effect on recovery or performance if it interferes with your sleep.

Raises blood pressure: Though the reason isn't clear, caffeine can spike your blood pressure for a short while and some-

times over the long term as well. It could be that it blocks a hormone that keeps your arteries wide and pressure down. Or it might cause your body to release more adrenaline, a hormone that raises blood pressure.

Protects against disease: Caffeine seems to help prevent gallstones and inflammation, among other medical problems. Some studies show that regular caffeine might help keep away certain neurological diseases, like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy. More research is needed.

Affects menopause: Women pass through menopause around age 50, a phase that brings an end to their monthly cycle. Caffeine can worsen the sudden body heat and sweats, known as hot flashes, that often happen at this time of life. The symptoms can go on for 10 years or more. Your doctor may be able to help you with hormone therapy if they get in the way of your everyday routine.

How much caffeine is too much? It depends on your weight, diet, medications, and overall health. Up to about 400 milligrams of caffeine a day is OK for most healthy adults. Over 600 milligrams daily is probably too much. But some people are just more sensitive to it. If you notice stomach problems, headaches, muscle twitches, or heart palpitations, it might be time to cut back. Talk to your doctor about how much is safe if you're pregnant or have heart trouble.



He thinks I am God'

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out more about the young man. The father invites the fiancé to his study to find out more about him.

"So what are your plans?" the father asks.

"I am a Bible scholar," the young man replies.

"A Bible scholar, huh," the father says. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice home for my daughter to live in, as she is used to having?"

The young man replies, "I will study and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, which she deserves?" asks the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies and God will provide for us," replies the young man.

The conversation proceeds in this manner, which each question the father asks, the young man replies that God will provide.

Later, the mother asks, "How did the conversation go?"

The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is that he

thinks I am God."

The Mauritian devil

A man dies and goes to hell. There he finds that there is a different hell for each country.

He goes to the German hell and asks, "What do they do there?"

He is told, "First they put you in an electric chair for an hour. Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the German devil comes in and



Two friends talking :
 - yesterday I split up with my girlfriend 😞
 - What happened, you were doing so well together.
 - You were talking a shower together and she said Darling 😍, let's do something really bad
 - So what...?
 - So I spilled shampoo to her

beats you for the rest of the day."

The man doesn't like it, so he moves on and checks out the American hell, the Russian hell and hells of other countries. He finds that they're all more or less the same as the German hell.

Then he comes to the Mauritian hell and finds that there is a long queue of people waiting to get in.

Amazed, he asks, "What do they do here?"

He told, "First they put you in an electric chair for an hour. Then they lay you on a bed of nails for another hour. Then the Mauritian devil comes in and beats you for the rest of the day."

"But that is exactly the same as all the other hells; so why are so many people waiting to get in here?" wonders the man.

He is told, "Because the maintenance here is so bad that the electric chair does not work. Someone has stolen all the nails from the bed, and the Mauritian devil is a former government servant, so he just comes, signs the attendance register and then goes to the canteen!"

Little Johnny goes to buy a horse

Little Johnny attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest.

After a few minutes, Johnny asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?"

His father replied, "Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy."

Johnny, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom."

Funny country song titles

Here's a list of 25 funny country song titles:

1. Get Your Tongue Outta My Mouth Cause I'm Kissing You Good-bye.
2. If I Can't Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two On You.
3. I Sold A Car To A Guy Who Stole My Girl, But It Don't Run So We're Even.
4. Mama Get A Hammer (There's A Fly On Daddy's Head).
5. If The Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me.
6. She's Actin' Single and I'm Drinkin' Doubles.
7. How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away.
8. I Keep Forgettin' I Forgot About You.
9. I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well.
10. I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim's Gettin' Better.
11. I Wouldn't Take Her To A Dog Fight, Cause I'm Afraid She'd Win.

Relocating

A coffin maker was on his way to deliver one of his coffins one night when his car broke down.

Trying not to be late, he put the coffin on his head and began heading to his destination.

Some policemen saw him and wanted to make some easy money off him so they asked him:

"Hey, what are you carrying and where are you going?"

The man replied: "I did not like where I was buried so I am relocating."

All the policemen fainted...

That's Life

What a destiny !

During the Second World War, a soldier obtained a leave allowing him to return to his home, and as soon as he reached the street near his house, he saw a parked military truck loaded with corpses and knew that the enemy had bombed his city.

The truck was carrying dozens of dead bodies and was preparing to transport them to a mass grave.

The soldier stood in front of the piled-up corpses to take his last look at them and noticed that a shoe on a woman's foot looked like a shoe he had previously bought for his wife.

He went to his house in a hurry to check on her, but he quickly retreated and went back to the truck again to check the body and found his wife!!

After his shock, the soldier did not want his wife to be buried in a mass grave, so he asked to be pulled from the truck in preparation for a proper burial.

During the transfer, it was found that she was still breathing slowly and with difficulty, so he carried her to the hospital, where the necessary first aid was given to her and she regained life again !!!

Years after this incident and the end of the war, the wife who was almost buried alive became pregnant and gave birth to a boy named... Vladimir Putin.

He is the current President of Russia!

The 8 Monkeys

This is reportedly based on an actual experiment conducted in the U.K.

Put eight monkeys in a room. In the middle of the room is a ladder, leading to a bunch of bananas hanging from a hook on the ceiling.

Each time a monkey tries to climb the ladder, all the monkeys are sprayed with ice water, which makes them miserable. Soon enough, whenever a monkey attempts to climb the ladder, all of the other monkeys, not wanting to be sprayed, set upon him and beat him up. Soon,

A very serious fight was going on between Husband and Wife...

Husband said (In anger):
 "I resign from the post of your Husband..."

Wife:
 "Okay but, You'll have to stay till I don't get any other alternative...!"



none of the eight monkeys ever attempts to climb the ladder.

One of the original monkeys is then removed, and a new monkey is put in the room. Seeing the bananas and the ladder, he wonders why none of the other monkeys are doing the obvious. But undaunted, he immediately begins to climb the ladder.

All the other monkeys fall upon him and beat him silly. He has no idea why.

However, he no longer attempts to climb the ladder.

A second original monkey is removed and replaced. The newcomer again attempts to climb the ladder, but all the other monkeys hammer the crap out of him.

This includes the previous new monkey, who, grateful that he's not at the receiving end this time, participates in the beating because all the other monkeys are doing it. However, he has no idea why he's attacking the new monkey.

One by one, all the original monkeys are replaced. Eight new monkeys are now in the room. None of them have ever been sprayed by ice water. None of them attempt to climb the ladder. All of them will enthusiastically beat up any new monkey who tries, without having any idea why.

And that is how traditions, religions and systems get established and followed.

Think twice before following a tradition, religion or system blindly.. it would make more sense if you get your own understanding to it...

CINE 12

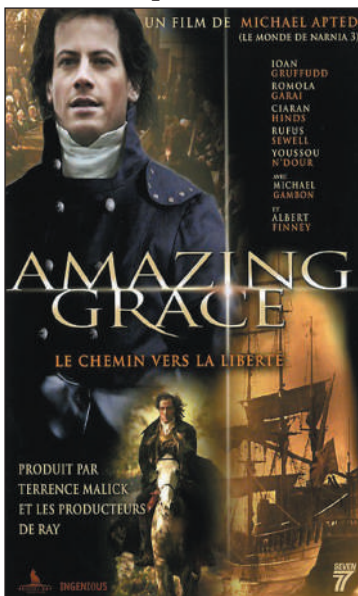
Mardi 14 septembre - 21.10



MBC 1



MBC 2



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
06.30 Local: Crime Watch 09.45 Local Prod: Passerelles 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: Green Touch 14.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida... 14.45 D.Anime: Twirlywoos 15.08 D.Anime: Petit Creux 15.30 D.Anime: Wishfart 16.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully... 17.10 Serial: Dark Oracle 17.35 Mag: Women Who Changed... 17.40 Mag: Sur Mesure 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.40 Local Prod: Generations J 21.15 Film: Resident Evil	07.00 DDI Live 08.00 Educational Prod: Grade 3 10.15 Educational Prod: Grade 4 12.30 Film: MAI Star: Asha Bhosle, Padmini Kolhapure, Ram Kapoor 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.04 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.28 Serial: Aatish 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Dr. Qin 18.30 Local: Abhay Charan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Programme In Tamil 20.30 Film: Anjaana Star: Rajendra Kumar, Babita...	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.52 Mag: In Good Shape 07.34 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.00 Doc: Calypso Rose 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8 14.55 Mag: Global 3000 15.47 Doc: Craft Chocolate: Sinful 16.30 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.59 Doc: L'Art Et La Matiere 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.45 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Local: News (English) 21.17 Doc: Sky Heroes 21.42 Mag: Close Up 22.08 Local: Klip Seleksion 22.50 Doc: Mafia On The High Sea 23.32 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto And Mobility show	00.21 Film: Dead Men 03.18 Serial: Chicago Med 03.57 Film: Pressure 05.24 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.44 Film: Flawless 09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Chicago Med 12.00 Film: Pressure 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.12 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: Flawless 16.39 Serial: When Calls The Heart 17.22 Serial: S.W.A.T 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T 21.15 Film: The Stolen 22.48 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Gang Starring Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Kumar Gaurav, Jaaved Jaffrey, Juhi Chawla 12.04 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 12.24 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke 12.48 / 20.32 Mere Sai 13.09 / 21.09 - Agnipheera 13.14 / 21.24 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.53 / 21.59 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.10 Serial: Maharakshak 14.53 / 22.25 - Sethji 15.21 Film: Laila Majnu Star: Avinash Tiwary, Tripti Dimri 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron... 19.17 Bhakharwadi
06.30 Local: Generations J 09.30 Local Prod: Moments Forts... 11.00 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: Green Touch 13.05 Local: Groov'in 14.15 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 14.40 D.Anime: Twirlywoos 14.53 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.26 D.Anime: Wishfart 15.40 D.Anime: Dragons: Par-Dela 17.10 Serial: Dark Oracle 17.38 Mag: Sur Mesure 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Ayush 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Local: MBC Production 21.15 Film: Legionnaire 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: Satrangee Parachute Star: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain, Lilliput, RupaliGanguly 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.23 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Aatish 16.47 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.28 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: Dr. Qin 18.30 Local: Abhay Charan 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.34 Film: Shyamchi Shala 21.58 DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.49 Mag: Magnifique 08.15 Doc: Builders Of The Future 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 8 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 5 14.00 Doc: Sky Heroes 14.29 Mag: Close Up 14.55 Local: Klip Seleksion 16.19 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.18 Mag: Vous Et Nous 18.45 MFDC I Am Better-Short 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.47 Les Montagnes Du Monde 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 MFDC I am Better-Short 21.17 Doc: Black Is The Colour 21.58 Mag: Business Africa 22.36 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.02 Doc: 9/11 - The Unheeded...	01.26 Film: The Stolen 03.00 Serial: Chicago Med 03.41 Film: 55 Steps 05.29 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.11 Serial: S.W.A.T 06.56 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 09.10 Serial: When Calls The Heart 09.52 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Chicago Med 11.41 Film: 55 Steps 13.34 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.46 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 16.37 Serial: When Calls The Heart 17.23 Serial: S.W.A.T 18.08 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Billions 21.15 Film: Alvarez Kelly 23.08 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Laila Majnu Star: Avinash Tiwary, Tripti Dimri 12.04 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 12.24 / 20.26 - Chupke Chupke 12.44 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad.. 13.10 / 20.46 - Agnipheera 13.26 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.49 / 21.50 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.11 / 22.15 - Maharakshak 14.54 / 21.46 - Sethji 15.21 Film: Dus Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron... 19.15 Bhakharwadi 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 20.05 Serial: Redha Krishna
06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Fee Main 07.15 D.Anime: Fam Rakonte 10.56 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.55 Local: Le Rendez-Vous 14.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 14.50 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.03 D.Anime: The Deep 15.25 D.Anime: Wishfart 15.56 D.Anime: Humpty Dumpty 17.05 Serial: Dark Oracle 17.35 Mag: Sur Mesure 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Ishq Vishk Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Shenaz Treasury	07.00 DDI Live 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: Mrityudand 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.27 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raagangal 16.32 Serial: Aatish 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.29 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.00 Serial: Dr. Qin 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.32 Local: Evasion 21.14 Film: Amazubg Grace Stars: Loan Gruffudd, Albert Finney, Michael Gambon	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.19 Doc: Garden Party 07.48 Les Montagnes Du Monde 08.31 Doc: Zenith 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5 14.03 Doc: Black Is The Colour 15.21 Mag: Focus On Europe 16.32 Mag: Motorweek 16.58 Mag: Vous Et Nous 17.25 Mag: Arts.21 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.34 Mag: Shift - Living In The... 19.00 Student Prog Grade 7 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 MFDC I am Better - Short Film Competition 2021 21.38 Doc: 360 Geo 22.30 Doc: The Children of 9/11	03.20 Serial: Chicago Med 04.01 Film: Alvarez Kelly 05.39 Tele: Muneca Brava 07.02 Film: Legionnaires 09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart 09.52 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Chicago Med 12.00 Film: Alvarez Kelly 13.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Legionnaires 16.29 Serial: When Calls The Heart 17.20 Serial: Unforgotten 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Billions 21.17 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 22.14 Film: The Breed Avec: Michelle Rodriguez, Taryn Manning, Oliver Hudson	08.00 Film: Dus Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan 12.05 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 12.22 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke 12.48 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.07 / 21.09 - Agnipheera 13.28 / 21.24 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.48 / 21.50 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.14 / 22.15 Maharakshak 14.55 / 21.46 - Sethji 15.20 Film: Alag Starring: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi



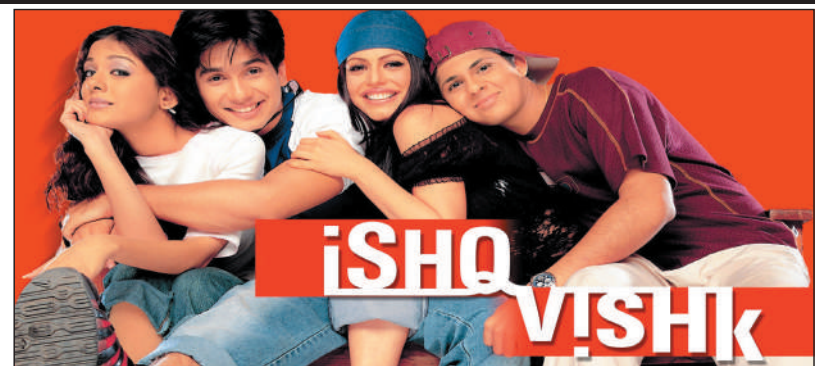
Jeudi 16 septembre - 15.20

Star: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza



Jeudi 16 septembre - 20.30

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Shenaz Treasury



Big Names, Big Gains?

The Ronaldo effect: what big players mean for the business goals of clubs like Manchester United



Ronaldo in 2008. Glory days again? EPA-EFE

The prodigal son returns. In the last few days of a frenzied football transfer window, Manchester United pulled off a dream signing, welcoming Cristiano Ronaldo back to his former club.

Excitement over his return to the Premier League is high - and with good reason. There are only a handful of sports stars on the planet who can generate this kind of global interest.

But how does a player of Ronaldo's professional stature affect the business side of a major football club? Where are the key financial wins generated by sporting superstars?

In football transfer fee terms, Ronaldo returns to United with a relatively cheap price tag. He has signed a two-year contract (with the option to extend) for an initial fee of £12.86 million and the potential for an additional £6.85 million in performance related bonuses.

This is primarily down to his age. At 36, he is approaching the end of his playing career, and the fee reflects this, even though his performance level remains high. That performance factor is reflected in his salary, which is set to be around £385,000 per week

Adding these numbers together crudely shows a total cost to Manchester United in the region of £60 million. The club have also shown shrewd business tactics by managing to spread the payment over five years.

In return, United hope Ronaldo's skill will enhance the club's chances on the pitch. But the bigger picture is the commercial edge he can bring.

Certainly the power of his personal brand (he is widely known as "CR7" after his initials and preferred player number) -

notwithstanding the ongoing civil lawsuit against him for allegations of rape, which he denies (criminal charges were ruled out) - instantly extends the club's international reach and appeal.

Ronaldo currently boasts half a billion followers across social media, compared to Manchester United's 140 million, and the announcement of his signing sparked 12.5 million likes on Instagram. Converting this reach into cash is critical.

A numbers game



Ronaldo has already increased United's shirt sales to a record breaking amount. But it is Adidas which will see the initial benefit, with the German kit manufacturer paying a license fee to reproduce the famous red shirts. That said, United's current deal with Adidas is already football's biggest, and the Ronaldo effect should allow the club's executives to push up the price when it comes to renewal.

United's broader business operations should also see a significant boost. Sponsors will be falling over themselves to partner with United, and it is possible the club could make an additional £30m in commercial arrangements in the next couple of

years.

And while exact numbers are difficult to predict, we can look to Ronaldo's last club, Juventus, for a guide. The Portuguese moved there from Real Madrid in 2018, and the next two years show considerable commercial growth for the Italian club.

Of course, that's not all down to Ronaldo, but he certainly helped. While he was in the squad, Juventus renegotiated deals with Adidas and Jeep, and signed a new one with Konami in Japan who cited the "Ronaldo effect" as a major reason behind the partnership.

Manchester United meanwhile already generate significant value from commercial deals and Ronaldo will help boost those numbers. The team and the player have been described as "match made in heaven", with the share price of the club jumping before Ronaldo had even kicked a ball back in Manchester.

Longer-term gains can be expected in the next couple of years, and if he helps the club to win trophies, the numbers could be mind boggling. Those numbers will no doubt be studied by the top European clubs as they desperately look for the next Ronaldo and Messi, encapsulated by Real Madrid's recent failed attempt to land Kylian Mbappe from Paris Saint-Germain. (Expect him to be the next big move in January 2022.)

The football industry in general is concerned about a changing market where the relationship between the game and young people appears to be deteriorating. Recent research found that 40% of respondents in seven countries (including England, Poland and Brazil) aged 16-24 had no interest in football, sparking fears of a "missing generation" of fans.

As a result, clubs are searching for new ways to engage. Anything that extends the reach in younger age groups is of huge interest to club owners, so Ronaldo's social media presence is yet another box ticked.

The attachment between fans and a favourite player is also of increasing importance, particularly in emerging markets. In India for example, nearly a third of fans say that allegiance to a player influences their support for a club.

For Manchester United, there is clearly money to be made from the return of CR7. The club will gain new fans and new deals - and if he scores goals and wins matches, maybe even a shiny new trophy.

By Dan Plumley & Rob Wilson,
Sheffield Hallam University

Obituary

Remembrance - Ah Feeti - Guardian/Mother of Chinese Pagoda



In loving memory of Ah Feeti (Ah Pak, guardian/mother) of Chinese Pagoda, Magon Street, Port-Louis.

Blessings to late Ah Feeti (Ah Pak) for your courage in raising me, for mustering divine strength in the face of adversity. I have never doubted the mutual love and respect that we have between us shared, despite the physical distance.

Ah Pak, you taught me not to be fooled by someone's appearance, their beauty or ugliness, age, wealth or poverty, niceness or meanness, and to recognize that there is goodness and integrity in us all, no matter how deeply buried it is.

Ah Pak, you often told me that, once we recognize Buddha's spark in others, we blow on it and strengthen it.

Ah Pak, you also taught me that all objects, be they animate or inanimate, need blessing.

Buddha has created them and so it is up to us to strengthen them and feed them so that they can fulfill Buddha's purposes.

Ah Pak, you taught me that when we give blessings, we strengthen life in the same way as when we water the plants we are feeding life.

Ah Pak, you were a nun of many blessings. You blessed life and provided nourishment for the soul.

Death is the end of a lifetime, but not the end of our relationship.

My heart is filled with loving memories of my relationship with you.

RIP and we love you forever.

Drs Stephanie, Jeremy and Justin Chitpin and family would like to thank François Woo and his team; and all the worshippers for your sympathies, kindness and generosity in this difficult time.