

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning". — Albert Einstein



Interview: Sameer Sharma, Chartered
Alternative Investment Analyst &
Certified Financial Risk Manager

«Mauritius is already in a hole

and the longer we avoid
making the tough decisions,
the more bitter the pill shall
eventually be»

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Matters of the Moment

Courting Disaster

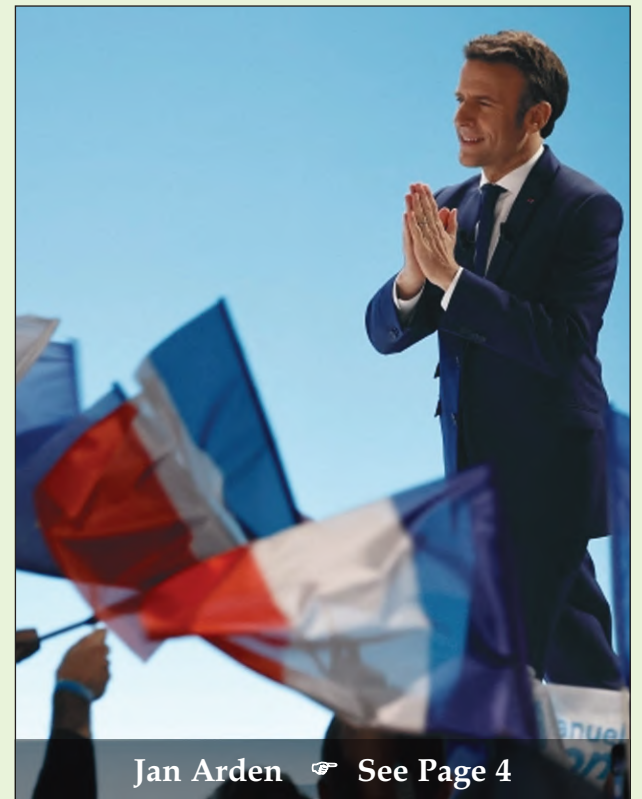


This is not the time for budgetary largesse or freebies at public expense to all and sundry the country can ill-afford from strapped public finances

By Mrinal Roy ☞ See Page 3

Opinion

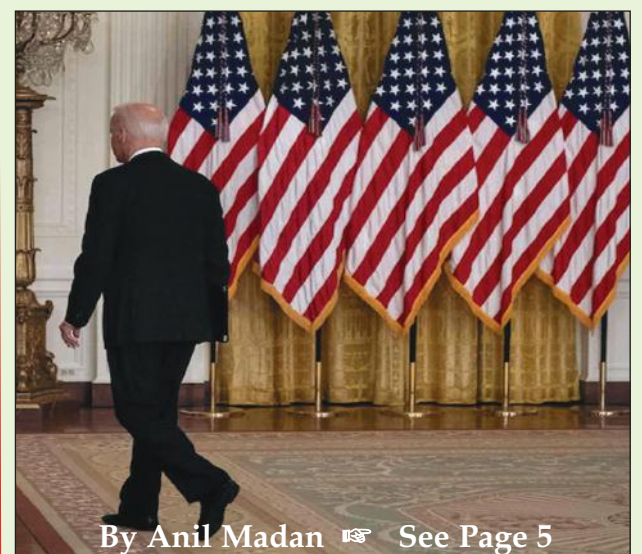
Of Western Values, French Elections and Pakistan



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The American Era is Far from Over

America's challenge now more than ever
before is to reassert itself in the world in
a meaningful and constructive way



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Public Discontent

In our daily lives, we hear a lot of words that may sound or are indeed offensive in nature but often they are said in good-humoured banter and more often we may choose to ignore them or respond in kind. In cases where a person intentionally uses abusive or offensive words in order to humiliate a person or provoke him, he may fall foul of the law and, if there is a complaint, could be prosecuted for committing an offence under the criminal law in force in the country. For their part, politicians are known to be sensitive to public opinion, but they are usually reluctant to take action against offenders, who might have 'insulted' them verbally or in print, due either to social media blowback and further ridicule or to unintended political consequences such action could produce. Senior politicians in particular would have developed a sufficiently thick skin to handle the inevitable barbs of a free press and also of their constituents, and they would usually take in their stride such 'insults' like 'gopia', 'sinois nef', etc., for instance, which in any case are regularly traded in our own National Assembly and MPs reprimanded by the Speaker when he is not busy looking the other way.

The earlier police arrests of some 30 protesters at Bambous-Virieux, provisionally charged for 'Obstructing Public Road', who have had to put up with water shortage for at least two months without any convenient, even temporary, resolution of their hardship in view, was a very poor public response to genuine grievances and miseries. It could soon prove counter-productive, alienating further sections of the population confronted with their own problems during the rainy season. The incidents at Chemin Grenier and lately at Plaine Magnien Village Council involving Ministers and councillors and local citizens, in both cases for reason of continuing floodings in these areas during heavy downpours, smack of a growing susceptibility in government quarters to demonstrations and protests by affected citizens calling for redress of their real grievances.

This week's arrest of a social worker, who would have allegedly 'insulted' the Mayor of Vacoas-Phoenix through the popular term 'gopia' (dunce, idiot) at a live Radio One programme, where the PPS of Manhattan fame was also present, is further illustration, if needed, of such inopportune susceptibilities. On Sunday, a small group of youngsters holding banners peacefully that politicians should avoid socio-religious functions at Camp Diable, were again booked and charged. It may be useful to point out here that popular resentment had meantime shot through the roof with what has been termed the "Dubay jalsa" event where the MOF and the PM authorised some thirteen Ministers and their plane-loads of accompanying civil servants and advisors in tow, to jet allegedly first-class with per diems to the Dubai Expo, without any convincing explanations or costs of their escapades from a stretched public purse even when queried in the National Assembly.

Such blithe obliviousness to the plight of ordinary Mauritians could only alienate the population.

On the other hand, the subsequent police arrests, provisional charges and overnight jail slapped on some protesters, probably on instructions from higher quarters, speak of a dangerous susceptibility to any kind of opposition and protests to government actions, inactions or failures. It is dangerous because it smacks of a tendency to resort to repressive tactics to quell any form of opposition. Whether this hides a growing anxiety within government spheres of an impending economic crisis and consequent adverse social consequences is not known. But in all likelihood the National Security Services would know the feeling in all streets and bazaars, in struggling small shops and would hear the daily complaints of the elderly struggling with prices in supermarkets or private pharmacies, which had lately the cheek, if not audacity, to propose an "advisory fee" to consumers. In any case, the proclamation of the President of the Republic, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, to extend for a second consecutive year the life of Municipal and Village Councils for reasons of Covid-19 epidemic and quarantine does not sound convincing.

All around the world, video clips have shown political leaders being heckled and taunted at public gatherings without police forces or secret services jumping at the throats of such compatriots and hardly ever any prosecution for democratic expressions, even when fuelled by some anger or resentment at those in higher spheres. In an island besieged by weekly acts of theft, larceny, violence, drug abuse, pilferage of planters produce, not to mention a gloomy economic horizon with soaring public debts and repeated allegations of fraud if not corruption, one would have thought the higher echelons of the Police Force might have more pressing matters to attend to.

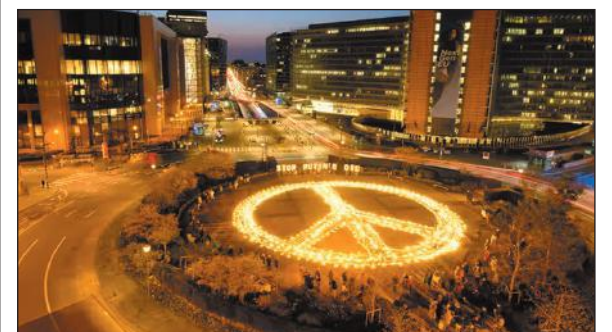
As for the government, it should be attending to those more pressing issues in light of the economic storm the world and this country is going into, as highlighted by independent economists in the columns of this paper and elsewhere than have protesters with genuine grievances arrested on what appears to be flimsy charges. Even if repressive tactics like arrests, detentions and prosecutions help governments, especially autocratic ones, survive in power, at times they may prove to be political missteps that may trigger deeper and wider public discontent and reactions. We have known two historical instances where the discontent had taken such massive proportions that the ruling party or alliance was wiped out by a clean sheet 60-0.

Circumstances may no longer be the same and certainly the ruling dispensation still has time to course-correct, but this needs a major shake-up in its current governing philosophy.

The Conversation

Most wars don't end with a peace deal

Why do peace talks fail? A negotiation expert answers five questions about the slim chances for a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine



Some African leaders have not forgiven NATO for the ouster and death of Libya's Gaddafi. Photo by Eric Feferberg/AFP via Getty Images

Ukraine and Russia have held intermittent peace talks since the end of February 2022, just days after Russia first launched a war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin squashed hope of an imminent peace deal on April 12 when he said that the talks "have again returned to a dead-end situation for us."

Ukraine maintains that the discussions are still "taking place," even as the "negotiations are extremely difficult," according to Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak.

But as former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin once said, "You don't make peace with friends. You make it with very unsavoury enemies."

Peace talks are always a complex mix of strategic calculation and human emotion.

In my 20 years of experience working on peace-building programs and researching peace and conflict, I've learned that it's important to pay attention to both factors to understand why talks may – or may not – succeed.

How often do peace talks fail, and why?

Most of the time.

Between 1946 and 2005, only 39 of 288 conflicts, or 13.5%, ended in a peace agreement, according to a research initiative at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. The others ended in victory for one side, or an end to fighting without a peace agreement or a victory.

But even when warring parties fail to reach a peace agreement, talks can reduce civilian casualties through temporary cease-fires or the establishment of humanitarian corridors to deliver supplies or evacuate civilians.

There is also evidence that even failed peace agreements reduce the intensity of future conflict.

Andrew Blum, University of San Diego

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Mrinal Roy

Courting Disaster

This is not the time for budgetary largesse or freebies at public expense to all and sundry the country can ill-afford from strapped public finances

The economic fundamentals of the country are deteriorating. The political situation is in disarray. Inflation is in double digits. The purchasing power of people is continuously eroding. The current escalating prices of groceries and essential existential needs due to the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee is having dire consequences on the livelihoods of people and in particular some 47.8% of the country's employees earning up to Rs 15,000 per month and those struggling to make both ends meet from their basic pension.

Public debt, which was already on the rise even before the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, stood at a whopping Rs 421.977 billion i.e., 94.3% of GDP in September 2021. It was slightly lower at Rs 413.726 billion in December 2021. The trade deficit, which was Rs 133.081 billion in 2021, is forecast to reach a new peak of some Rs 160 billion in 2022 and exceed 30% of GDP this year.

An endless array of costly botched decisions have added to the woes of the country. Rs 4.7 billion had to be paid from public funds to settle the liability towards Betamax following the Privy Council ruling against government. There are also legitimate interrogations about the cost effectiveness of the costly Safe City project, the cost overruns on the Bagatelle Dam or the Cote d'Or National Sports Complex projects, the emergency government procurement tenders to source medicines and equipment to fight the Covid pandemic from a nondescript array of suppliers, the absence of transparency and accountability of major government expenditures and disbursements from Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) funds as well as the wastage of public funds annually highlighted by the Audit report, etc. These have cost billions of Rupees of public funds which could have been put to more productive use for the common good. It is an indictment of the government decision-making process and governance.

Writing on the wall

The writing has been on the wall for quite some time. The current economic model is not sustainable. Independent commentators have been raising concern about the vulnerability, fragility and short-sightedness of an economic model so heavily dependent on tourism and high-end real estate development as well as the patent lack of competitiveness and level of value addition of the key sectors of the economy. The policy framework and the style of governance have further undermined the country's prospects.

The January 2022 World Bank Mauritius Systematic Country Diagnostic report is quite explicit. It affirms that:

'The decline in competitiveness continued in most sectors and innovation through investment in non-traditional sectors remained subdued. Between 2009 and 2019, exports dropped from 57 to 40 percent of GDP. This includes tourism, where before Covid-19 Mauritius showed

solid growth but still performed below regional competitors, as well as apparel and business services, where Mauritius' export growth was negative. Generally, Mauritius lost significant export volume in traditional products but was unable to scale up more complex new exports at a sufficient scale to compensate the decline. Subsidies and other state assistance continue to disproportionately support established sectors such as textiles, sugar and real estate rather than innovation and discovery. Such measures impede incentives for economic diversification towards higher value-added activities.'

It adds: 'Real estate accounted for nearly half of private investment in the period 2015-19, while investment in tourism, retail, manufacturing and agriculture all declined. Half of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows during the 2015-19 period representing about 4 percent of GDP



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stemmed from the sale of high-end real estate occupied mostly by foreign residents.' The 2021 figures show that Gross Direct Investment flows into real estate activities including IRS/RES/IHS/PDS/SCS 1 represented more than 65% of Direct Investment flows whereas investment in manufacturing was a paltry 1.5%.

What are the real benefits of these income flows for the country and Mauritius at large bearing in mind the plethora of generous tax benefits blithely granted by government to the sector at public expense? Is this one-sided outcome what the oft-touted government-private sector partnership is all about?

Budget ritual

Despite this appalling state of affairs, the government continues to bury its head in the sand. This is epitomized by the current budget exercise. In accordance with a well-oiled and highly publicised annual ritual, the Minister of Finance meets economic actors and stakeholders from diverse sectors, trade unions and representatives of associations and civil society and receives their shopping list of demands, financial support measures, moratoriums, waivers, tax rebates, etc. The Minister declared last week that he had so far received 700 proposals and counting.

Subsidies and other state assistance remain the overriding driver and cornerstone of a tenuous economic lifeline.

For example, the tourism and hospitality sector has made a series of demands to sustain the sector including asking that the remaining Covid-19 sanitary controls and restrictions in force till June be fully relaxed despite the recent surge in cases in the country and rising infections caused by new Omicron variants in Europe, from where most of our tourists come from. Who will bear the responsibility of any collateral casualties?

All lives matter. Economic imperatives and fixations about balance sheet cannot put at risk people's lives. Surely tourists feel safer if basic sanitary protective protocols remain in place. Expediting the process or watering down Covid-19 safety norms could backfire.

The sector has also asked for a moratorium to defer the repayment of their substantial banking loans of some Rs 53.4 billion as at end February 2022 by a year, a 50% rebate on their land lease rental for this year, a review of tax rules to extend the period to set off losses against taxes from five to 10 years, a review of the cost of travel for both airline and tourists and more competitive air fares as well as an air connectivity expansion strategy, etc. In contrast to the array of benefits requested and the cost reductions sought from other partners of the industry, there have been no concomitant measures to sharpen the competitiveness

of their hotel accommodation package offer, which is the key factor which determines tourist arrivals in an age of online booking. There are also no cogent measures to preserve employment in the hotels against the threat of loss of employees to better-paid jobs on cruise ships.

Addressing current concerns

The budget exercise must therefore be a well-thought-out response to address the many current challenges faced by the people and country bearing in mind the level of budget revenues, in order to put the economy on a robust growth path. These challenges *inter alia* include the erosion of purchasing power, rising unemployment rate, sluggish economic growth, deteriorating competitiveness, an outdated economic model, the quality of healthcare (despite a budget of Rs14.5 billion) bearing in mind the ageing population, widening inequality and climate change threats.

Government must also bear in mind that the International Monetary Fund has unequivocally asked the Bank of Mauritius to 'refrain from providing direct financing to the government and engaging in quasi-fiscal activities and advised reforming the Bank of Mauritius law, including to pre-empt further exceptional transfers to the government.'

This is not therefore the time for budgetary largesse or freebies at public expense to all and sundry the country can ill-afford from strapped public finances.

Change tack

There is above all an urgent need to overhaul our economic model in partnership with foreign investors and seasoned entrepreneurs having the business acumen, expertise and track record required to move the economy towards high value-added activities and upmarket services in a wide range of carefully identified sectors in principally the services sectors which boost growth, employment, living standards, bridge inequality and have (in contrast to real estate development) a potent multiplier effect on the economy at large.

The present situation cannot go on. The status quo and the current state of governance in the country is tantamount to courting disaster. It is therefore imperative to urgently change tack for the good of people and country.

Of Western Values, French Elections and Pakistan

Jan Arden

As the horrifying war in Ukraine continues to drag on, we have made the point here, as often expressed elsewhere: *The West should not apologize for the fact that it is a community of democratic spaces, defined by rules and values. But that in itself imposes a heavy responsibility to behave like one.*

Over the years, EU governments have subsumed that their foreign policy is all about good intentions, which others should take at face value. Let us leave aside that, having plundered much of colonial riches and enrolled the world in their 20th century wars, they now generously provide "aid" to uplift scarred economies and countries. But those mindful of legitimacy and international norms point to numerous cases where double standards irrigate contemporary Western policy, particularly in the Anglo-Saxon world.

Of course, the US and EU governments will never indict themselves for double standards, hypocrisy and transgressions of international law, either in their military interventions in Africa, former Yugoslavia or in the Middle East. In our region, undoubtedly, the EU has been a major sustained contributor to our economic development, if only through stabilized sugar prices, preferential market access for our budding textile industries or through tourism inflows.

Now, more than ever perhaps, we need the West and other regional powers like India as stabilizing forces in our immediate spheres and in the Indian Ocean. But we cannot fail to ask whether the high moral ground of "democratic rules and values" in international relations, which we too cherish, are being upheld by the continued Anglo-Saxon imperial dismissal of the Chagos resolutions at the UN General Assembly and the continued British Indian Ocean Territory illegality?

Western democratic values which the vast majority of Mauritians share, or the moral high ground cannot be simply subsumed and have to be demonstrably clear and consistent over time and regions.

* * *

French elections

As recently as in 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron had called for 'a new architecture based on trust and security in Europe', perhaps as a counterpoint to US and NATO-led expansionist drive aiming to rope all Russian border states into a nuclear encirclement policy. That increasing "good neighbourliness", expanding trade opportunities and the immense dependence of Western Europe on Russian gas and energy pipelines, would be more effective approaches to tame the "grizzly bear" and keep war out of European soils, have been a recurring theme of Gaullian foreign policy and, we may add, a reciprocated one by Russia since the 1990s.

Both the French and Russian appeals failed to elicit EU consensus as the way forward, partly because several, including the newly-admitted former Eastern bloc countries, shared a different view of their uncomfortable Russian proximity and desired greater, not less of the NATO-US umbrella. The NATO hawks and generals have some responsibility in dragging Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky out of his depth and pushing Putin's Russia one bridge too far.

Whether Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians are all sub-groups of a single Caucasian civilization or not, we cannot say but clearly this view finds comfort with two sets

of countries: those with important Orthodox Catholic populations (e.g. Greece or Serbia) and far-right movements/parties in Western Europe, including in Austria, France, Germany and Italy. Marine Le Pen, now France's far-right challenger to President Macron in round two of French presidential elections, has been repeatedly dogged by accusations of secret Putin funding and sympathies. Eric Zemmour, while at one time racing Marine Le Pen to the 2nd round challenger spot, saw his candidacy explode in mid-air, largely thanks to his similar dubious Russian funding sources, a rather narrow thematic (immigration and French national identity at threat) that offered only confusing solutions to complex migratory issues and some totally insensitive remarks on welcoming Ukrainian refugees or not.

In the meantime, the Le Pen team had selected their ground carefully and, undeterred by the Ukraine crisis, stuck to their guns about protecting the country, the economy and the weaker sections of society, those most battered in the aftermath of the pandemic and the Ukraine conflict. The President found himself in her populist firing range when he was already being lambasted as a "Président des riches" by the left's most articulate debater, Jean-Luc Melenchon. The latter and his radical left proposals earned a very commendable third place at almost 22% of first round voters and he could easily have displaced Le Pen for challenger spot had minor parties (PS, Les Verts, others) kept out of the fray or even backed his candidacy.

As for Marine Le Pen, she will continue to try and straddle leftist economic populism with right-wing cultural and national identity policies, and will now be hard at work over the intervening fortnight to seduce both Valérie Pécresse and Eric Zemmour electors on the broad right and Jean-Luc Melenchon electors on the left. The double Macron-Le Pen race for those who abstained and for those electors who eluded them and a widely awaited TV



French Elections. Pic - Financial Times

debate between the two punchers will undoubtedly prove determinant in what many may consider as an uninspiring remake of the 2017 elections, albeit a closer contest, but one that could lead to the same outcome, as France chooses its President on 24th April. Current polls indicate President Macron winning at some 52-54% of voter support, but he will take nothing for granted in what will be a far closer tussle than in 2017 when Marine Le Pen, flailing in the telecast debate, ended up scoring barely 34%.

Both contenders today, with the added bonus of experience, have to weigh and sometimes negotiate the support of personalities and parties without tying themselves too much, but such give-and-take is normal for alliances and seat sharing towards the legislative elections to follow in the steps of the Presidential. In that respect, a sitting President with a reasonably structured party and presence at local levels, has obviously some advantage over his opponent. Both the 24th April mandate and the legislative elections to follow rapidly, will therefore determine the incoming President's actual control over the country's major policy orientations, both internal and external, for the next five years.

Pakistan: What now?

We cannot escape the high drama that held most Pakistanis grasping their TV and internet seats or rushing onto the streets as the Opposition forces to PM Imran Khan had the latter cornered with a no-confidence motion that looked to have secured the necessary numbers for a historic first ouster by a democratic vote as per its Constitutional provisions. The successive attempts by the cricketer turned politician to avoid such a calamitous fate were in the end to no avail and the ax fell in a midnight vote on Sunday in its National Parliament.

PM Khan was properly ousted, the younger brother of former PM Nawaz Sharif, Shebaz, was elected as PM and on Monday took his oath. He takes over a country that is tottering on financial bankruptcy, relying on foreign loans from one willing

source to repay interests on another, and that has remained in the IMF grey list for several years, making loans from international banking institutions costlier and trickier.

The former PM Khan had once estimated that the country harboured some 40,000 terrorists and affiliates, mostly cajoled by the Army deep state, which he was therefore thoroughly incapable or unwilling to take to task. By all standards, Khan was prone to the most unexpected foreign affairs gaffes, like trying to bite the Saudi hand that fed him a lifeline, or attempting a showdown with the Army chief Bajwa, who is reported to have brought him to office after ejecting Nawaz Sharif.

As for Imran Khan jetting off to Moscow on the day of Putin's invasion or the hilarious conspiracy based on what sounds as a simple

diplomatic cable, dozens of which are probably received every week in Islamabad, they would certainly not attract international conspiracies to eject a PM who was heading for a historic ouster in his own Parliament. After all, whatever politicians tend to say there, all foreign capitals know the real power lies with the Army and its powerful secret service which can sabotage any move to normalize relations say with India without its indispensable nod.

The political status quo also has immense benefits for the Army's budget and annual arms purchases, which are totally outside the scope of parliamentary scrutiny. The question then is how much inflection within those parameters can a PM, whether Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan or Shebaz Sharif now, wield for India to take seriously overtures from the Pakistani political brass, even when well-meaning. In that limited sense, *Naya* or *Purana* makes no difference.

The American Era is Far from Over

America's challenge now more than ever before is to reassert itself in the world in a meaningful and constructive way



Anil Madan

The chaos and mismanagement of the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan sent the fraternity of "experts" in foreign affairs, a gaggle of speculating pundits into a frenzy. Some saw it as redolent of the defeat of a superpower, others as a sure sign that the America era, the American century, yea even the American Empire was done. To some extent, this was understandable. Indeed, America seemed to be retreating, running away from its commitment and self-assumed responsibility to preserve Democracy, and abandoning its mission whatever that mission may have been if ever there was a mission.

Even today, there are many commentators who posit that Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine may be attributed in large measure to his perception that America is weakened and disengaged. The adage that power fills a vacuum comes to mind.

I suggest that these views have no validity and reflect a misreading of history and a jump to conclusions based on misconstruction of former President Trump's statements about America's role in the world. He was, as we know, not the most articulate of men and tended to speak in incomplete sentences, in sound bites if you will.

A new American isolationism

The notion that Trump was orchestrating a new American isolationism was prompted by his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which he repeated to the world what he had been saying to his domestic audiences, that he was about America first and ending engagement in wars around the world. He vowed that the US would exit Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

A more careful reading of his 2017 speech and his later speeches to the UN General Assembly suggests that although he was intent on withdrawing American forces from the specific engagements mentioned, in other respects his focus was on more about what he perceived to be fairness in trade and economics than in isolationism. Thus, in his first speech, rather than any notion of withdrawal from the world stage, Trump seemed to promise a forceful, even belligerent stance when it came to ensuring that China honored its agreement to keep Hong Kong autonomous and to rein in Russia's belligerence in Crimea and Ukraine. He vowed to maintain the sovereignty of nations and decried China's incursions in the South China Sea. As well, he railed against North Korea, Iran, Syria, Venezuela, and Cuba, promising to deal with those transgressors as well as with ISIS and the problems of the Middle East.

Trump's lament about NATO was not only that he mistakenly - as it turns out - thought the organization was obsolete in that its focus should be on terrorism rather than Russia, but also that the European members of NATO should increase their defense spending. The burden of bearing the bulk of NATO's costs was unfair to the US, he said. True, at one time, he did threaten that the US would withdraw from NATO, but at other times he

bragged that his actions had strengthened NATO. And presciently, he did complain that Germany's dependence on Russia for a significant share of its energy needs left it vulnerable.

It was not a huge surprise that Trump somewhat readily agreed to withdraw American forces from Afghanistan. But whereas it is true that Trump seemed to be playing tug-of-war with himself and was naive in the extreme to assume that the Afghani government would remain viable without the backing of American troops, and the Taliban would be a progressive and accommodating successor regime, it is a mistake to treat Trump's agreement to withdraw forces and President Biden's actual disengagement from Afghanistan — chaotic and disorganized as it was — as some sort of American retreat from involvement in world affairs or a relinquishment of America's sphere of influence. To the contrary, America's challenge now more than ever before is to reassert itself in the world in a meaningful and constructive way. The alternative is too dangerous. And the dangers inherent in America's potential disengagement will keep the nation deeply immersed in world affairs no matter how many committed isolationists may lurk in the shadows.

Events in Afghanistan soon made it clear that a superpower can seldom just walk away. Even as America tried to disengage from Afghanistan, it could not ignore the chorus of calls reminding it of its responsibility-to-be-responsible about its withdrawal. First came calls to aid Afghans who had served American forces in various capacities, and then to aid Afghan civilians fleeing their own country. Now, the pressure to ease sanctions and release monies for humanitarian purposes continues to mount.

The rallying force

Russia's buildup of its forces on Ukraine's border even more forcefully brought home the reality that the US could not simply disengage from the rest of the world. President Biden's efforts to rally NATO countries and, indeed, all nations to condemn Putin's invasion and enforce sanctions, reflect the fact that the US remains the rallying force when it comes to international security matters.

Within ten days after Putin's invasion of Ukraine began, Robert Gates, the former Director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense under both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama, declared in a *Washington*



Arrival of the 'Post-American Era'? Pic - CHINA US Focus

“It is true that there are many in America who want to reduce defense spending and see a new isolationism as a necessary precondition to focusing on domestic issues, a rebuilding of America itself. But self-indulgence is a luxury that is not a realistic option. The global challenges that America faces will not go away. The question is whether America's leaders still believe that what happens around the world matters to the future of this country and its people...”

Post op-ed piece that this event “has ended Americans' 30-year holiday from history.” He sees China and Russia threatening the international order that has kept the peace among great powers for seven decades.

Gates is no isolationist. Rather than retrenchment, he urges that “a new American strategy must recognize that we face a global struggle of indeterminate duration against two great powers that share authoritarianism at home and hostility to the United States.”

Gates suggests that America's alliances and the power inherent in acting together represent a crucial non-military strategy to dealing with these threats. At the same time, he underscores that Putin's invasion of Ukraine reminds us of the importance of military power. He advocates a larger, more advanced military, with enhanced technologies and greater air power and an increased military presence in Europe and Asia.

It is true that there are many in America who want to reduce defense spending and see a new isolationism as a necessary precondition to focusing on domestic issues, a rebuilding of America itself.

But self-indulgence is a luxury that is not a realistic option. The global challenges that America faces will not go away.

The question is whether America's leaders still believe that what happens around the world matters to the future of this country and its people. Since its founding, that belief has guided America's policies. There is little reason to abandon it now.

The notion that America is retreating on the world stage is illusory.

Cheer...
Bwana



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

'Our Planet, Our Health'

Our Planet, Our Health. Pic - Department of Zoology, University of Oxford

The theme for this year's World Health Day, 7 April, is 'Our Planet, Our Health,' chosen 'in the face of the current pandemic, a polluted planet, and an increasing incidence of diseases.' The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), one of the six regional arms of the WHO, poses the challenges humanity faces thus:

- Are we able to reimagine a world where clean air, water and food are available to all?
- Where economies are focused on health and well-being?
- Where cities are livable, and people have control over their health and the health of the planet?

Is this reimagined world a mere dream, or is it achievable? The Covid pandemic is in its third year with no foreseeable end soon because of the unpredictable emergence of variants and subvariants. The pollution of our planet goes unabated despite the efforts being pursued to control it. As for diseases, as soon as we have gained some degree of control over one, another seems to be lurking round the corner (AH1N1, Ebola, Zika, Covid), or an old one surfaces again in countries where it had been controlled (pockets of tuberculosis in the US, UK) or becomes resistant to drugs. Overall, though, the increasing incidence of diseases is real as, again, Covid has shown – according to Worldometer, with nearly 600 million cases and over 6 million deaths worldwide to date. The same applies to the non-infectious or non-communicable diseases also known as the NCDs, the rise of which globally has been called an epidemic.

The most fundamental lesson that the pandemic has taught us is how precious is the gift of life, as the death toll mounted, causing unbearable pain and irreplaceable loss for those whose loved ones fell victim in such a short span of time. The question that we must ask ourselves in light of the challenges framed by PAHO is: are we prepared, or preparing ourselves, to address them so as to ensure a better future for our country and our children?

The slogan 'Our Planet, Our Health' is a powerful reminder that our world is interconnected or, to use the buzz word nowadays, we are all part of an 'ecosystem' – whatever we do whether at individual or collective level affects everyone else. We all have experience of this at the level of the most basic ecosystem of society, the family, our own to start with. Extend this to the whole world, and we get what the Indian sages or rishis thousands of years ago recognized as '*vasu-daiva kutumbakam*' – 'the whole world is one family.' Alas, we have not acted on this wisdom consistently, constantly warring with each other, and bringing about so much of avoidable suffering and misery. The current war in Ukraine is a brutally conspicuous illustration of what happens when we forget the ecosystem.

Precisely because of the ecosystem, the whole world is being impacted by the climate change phenomenon, which the UN's International Panel for Climate Change has indubitably established as being the result of human activities. This therefore gives us an opportunity to bring about betterment by revisiting our activities so as not to harm our health and our planet. Since as a small country our influence at planet level may not be consequential, we could focus on what we can do locally. There are things that can be done at individual level, but for a larger impact it is the state, the larger organizations and coporates that must assume the responsibility.

Let us take the first challenge of clean air, water and food. We are lucky that the frequent rains and winds that we get help to wash down and drive away atmospheric pollutants, and the abundant sunshine also helps to purify the air. Many years ago, when I was at the Victoria Hospital, a plastic surgeon from the UK came on a visit; his specialty was the repair of cleft lip and palate (commonly known as hare-lip and hole or *trou* in the palate). As we were doing a round in the children's ward, where there was a case of

cleft lip that I had operated, he asked me what was the incidence of infection after surgery that occurred. I informed him that in general it was low, but specifically for my cleft lip cases, it was nil. 'No wonder,' he commented, 'all the bugs get blown away through the open windows that you have in the wards!' In the colder climes windows have to be kept closed and the microbes remain inside.

While we can boast that we have had clean water in the island delivered to taps for many years now, and this has reduced the incidence of infectious diseases, we have at the same not been able to resolve the problem of access to all through an efficient distribution system, with leaky pipes being largely responsible and as yet not replaced. Besides, the problem of water supply in some regions becomes acute when there are torrential rains with flooding, or periods of drought during summer. Hygiene and sanitation are compromised as a result, with the potential to give rise to infection and disease.

At such times the concept of the ecosystem becomes only too real, for example as we are experiencing now, what with the investment of vegetable growers literally having gone to water, as so many have testified: one spent Rs 60,000 in planting an acre of coriander that has been completely drowned in the

recent torrential rains. The same story applies for all other vegetables, their unavailability being felt acutely, both because of production issues and the inevitable phenomenal increase in prices. It goes without saying that those at the lower end of the social ladder are the ones that suffer most, and this inevitably affects adversely their nutritional and thus health status.

To this must be added the supply chain problems that have resulted in delays, interruptions, and cost increases as regards items that are not locally produced, such as oil, rice, flour – again demonstrating our vulnerability to what happens globally since we are dependent on external sources for many of our needs. Again, that is bound to impact nutrition and health status, and overall well-being, the second of the set of challenges identified by PAHO.

That the economy still remains focused on profit, not health and well-being, is evidenced by the rise of NCDs which are causally linked to industrial farming and food manufacturing practices, as processed food has been established to be harmful to the body, along with 'coca-colonisation' which refers to the overconsumption of carbonated drinks. Further, it is the GDP that is still the favoured metric for assessing how the economy is doing. Only the kingdom of Bhutan has innovated by devising an index of happiness instead as the metric. Unless more countries shift to doing this, we may have a long wait before the economy re-orientates itself. And of course, that has implications for pollution as well.

Have our cities become more livable? The vehicular congestion in them especially at peak hours and over weekends probably give us the answer!

This is but a sample of the myriad factors that are impacting our lives, alas mostly adversely. What can, should we do to start getting an upper hand on them? Something for all of us to ponder seriously.



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Declaration of Assets by Magistrates and Judges

“What is nonsensical is to have these assets kept and monitored by ICAC”

Declaration of assets by public officials is a powerful tool to deter illicit enrichment and combating corrupt practices says the World Bank and our own Act of Parliament. However some key issues arise: (i) should those declarations be made publicly available? (ii) is ICAC the right institution, alternatively which structure should safekeep those declarations? and (iii) should the judiciary be exempt from such a provision? There are no standard solutions as contexts differ and Lex shares his views below.

LEX

* According to the World Bank, more than 150 countries have introduced asset disclosure requirements for their public officials. This would suggest that assets declarations are considered to be effective in preventing corruption, detecting illicit enrichment and conflicts of interests. Is that indeed the case?

Asset declarations of public officials are a powerful tool to prevent corruption, detect illicit enrichment and conflicts of interests.

Two Ukrainian journalists Dmytro Kotlyar and Laura Pop Ukrainska, writing in 2016, expressed the view as follows: “Public disclosure of the private assets of public officials and family members does not clash with the rights to privacy and data protection. Both rights are not absolute and can be restricted provided there is a basis in law and a legitimate public interest justifies the restriction. Prevention of corruption and exposing unexplained wealth of officials are serious and legitimate public interests.”

Surely this is a powerful argument to justify the concept of declaration of assets.

In a case decided by the European Court of Justice in 2005, the Court rejected the complaint of a local council member in Poland who refused to submit his asset declaration claiming that the obligation to disclose details concerning his financial situation and property portfolio imposed by legislation was in breach of Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights on privacy.

* Assets declarations, which can inform us about the financial stakes of government officials that could impact their decisions are usually not available for public consultation. One would have thought that the need for transparency and account-

“Under the Prevention of Corruption Act, a person may refuse to answer a question put to him or refuse to furnish information, documents, records or statements where the answer to the question or the production of the document or class of documents might tend to incriminate him. So, by declaring his assets, the person may unwittingly be providing any information or document which could incriminate him...”

ability should have trumped confidentiality issues. What's your take on that?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gives the following guidelines: “While there is a global trend towards greater disclosure, striking the right balance between public disclosure and protection of privacy remains a subject of debate. There are strong reasons for disclosing, at least partially, data of political officials, such as MPs. Politicians should be prepared to provide explanations regarding the disclosed information, if there are any serious concerns raised in the media or by civil society.”

Concerning the lower-level public officials, the right degree of public disclosure should be determined on the basis of a careful weighing of various considerations, such as domestic traditions, perceptions of corruption in a given country, possible safety concerns, and other dangers.

In a small country like Mauritius where bigotry reigns supreme, one should be careful before releasing to the public a declaration of assets.

* The World Bank for its part considers that ‘transparency conflicts with the privacy and data protection rights of the declarants and related persons... In some contexts, this can affect their security and become a barrier to the entry of some professionals into public service...’. It goes on to suggest that ‘policy makers therefore have to find a balanced solution that takes account of these competing interests’. That sounds reasonable, isn't it?

According to the World Bank, “public access to declarations generates some controversy and resistance. There is no straightforward answer to this issue. How to strike a balance between public access to information and the right to privacy of filers — and how to address concerns in some jurisdictions about security risks — is a challenge faced by most systems.”

There should be a rational balance between the need to make public declarations of assets where peeping Toms are waiting to prey on their potential victims and the need to ensure the security of the person whose



“Parliament is supreme to pass any law so long as the law is not unconstitutional. Parliament may argue that a law requiring judges to declare their assets is in the public interest, and that a transparent judiciary is justifiable in a democratic society. There are examples in the past where judges have filed cases before the Supreme Court; this was not regarded as an attack against parliamentary sovereignty...”

assets are thrown out to the public. The question may arise whether our public is mature enough to understand the need for public disclosure. In addition, there is no guarantee that politicians will not exploit the declarations of assets held by their opponents. These are some of the factors that need to be considered in the local context.

* It's the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) that has been vested with the power to monitor the assets and liabilities of any declarant (members of the National Assembly/Rodrigues Regional Assembly, Mayors and Councillors of municipal councils, Chairpersons and Chief Executives of State-owned enterprises and statutory bodies, advisers and officers employed on a contractual basis in ministries) for the purpose of detecting and investigating corruption and money laundering offences or illicit enrichment. ICAC is the competent institution to do that in light of its mandate as prescribed by the law?

Most independent observers will take the view that ICAC is not the proper institution to be the custodian of the asset declarations of public officials and members of the National Assembly. It would have been much more logical to establish a special body for public officials under the aegis of the Public Service Commission. And a special committee in Parliament for Members of the National Assembly.

● Cont. on page 8

'Compelling judges to declare their assets to ICAC would place them under the executive authority of ICAC'

● Cont. from page 7

As it is, ICAC will be judge and party in the sense that it will be the custodian of the declarations and at the same time it will have the power to investigate. Under the Prevention of Corruption Act, a person may refuse to answer a question put to him or refuse to furnish information, documents, records or statements where the answer to the question or the production of the document or class of documents might tend to incriminate him. So, by declaring his assets, the person may unwittingly be providing any information or document which could incriminate him.

* The ICAC has, in its 2020-21 annual report, expressed the view that "judicial officers... should be subject to the obligations under the Declaration of Assets Act in order not to defeat the purpose of the Act". In fact, the Declaration of Assets (Amendment) Act 2019, proclaimed in August 2019, removed the obligation on judicial officers to make a declaration under Act. Does that removal make any sense?

Such a blanket statement without a deep and serious study is simply nonsense and very dangerous for the independence of the judiciary. Do not forget that there is an unwritten constitutional provision or conventions that guarantees the separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. As some lawyers have stated, compelling judges to declare their assets to ICAC would place them under the executive authority of ICAC.

* Some lawyers have indeed taken issue with the ICAC's view as tantamount to placing the Judiciary under the thumb of the Executive, which would thereby undermine its independence. According to the lawyers' reasoning, it's the independence of the Judiciary that should trump the need for transparency and accountability, right?

The Constitution guarantees an independent judiciary. It is not so much compelling judges to declare their assets that is objectionable. What is nonsensical is to have these assets kept and monitored by ICAC. And the lawyers are absolutely right.

* One suggestion from a member of the Bar is that the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC), which promotes and nominates judicial officers, is better placed to play an effective oversight role as regards the assets of Magistrates and Judges rather than the ICAC. But that does not seem to be the mandate of the JLSC?



“There should be a rational balance between the need to make public declarations of assets where peeping Toms are waiting to prey on their potential victims and the need to ensure the security of the person whose assets are thrown out to the public. The question may arise whether our public is mature enough to understand the need for public disclosure...”

No. Parliament is supreme to pass any law so long as the law is not unconstitutional. Parliament may argue that a law requiring judges to declare their assets is in the public interest, and that a transparent judiciary is justifiable in a democratic society.

There are examples in the past where judges have filed cases before the Supreme Court; this was not regarded as an attack against parliamentary sovereignty if that sovereignty is the law of the land. I would rather talk of constitutional sovereignty.

* In a recent publication of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank and UNODC – 'Getting the Full Picture on Public Officials: A How-To Guide for Effective Financial Disclosure' - new data is being presented suggesting that in more than

No. the mandate of the JLSC is to appoint magistrates and officers of the State Law Office and to make recommendation for the appointment of judges. The JLSC also has the power to take or advise disciplinary action against members of the judiciary.

Though it is not the mandate of the JLSC to be the custodian of the declaration of assets of the judges, a special department of the Supreme Court could be the custodian of the declaration of assets of judges if ever there is such an obligation on them to make such a declaration.

* What if the government decides to bring back the obligation for judicial officers to declare their assets, and the latter collectively decide not to comply with the law? What could be the consequences of such an action?

If the law is such that judges and magistrates should declare their assets, they should do so to a body within the judiciary. If it is otherwise, judges would know what to do.

But if it is a comprehensive and rational law that does not imperil the independence and integrity of the judiciary judges would comply with the law.

* Would such an action put in question the principle of parliamentary sovereignty in the sense that it's the legislative body that has absolute sovereignty and is supreme over all other government institutions, including executive or judicial bodies?

half of the 161 countries covered by the study, judges and prosecutors are required to disclose their income, assets and other relevant interests and activities. In the case of Supreme Court Justices this applies already in almost 60 per cent of countries. The issue seems to be gaining traction in many jurisdictions. How do you react to that?

It all depends to whom the declaration is done. Why did the 2018 government amend the Declaration of Assets Act to remove judicial officers from the list of persons that were required to submit a declaration?

Making the declaration is not sinister in itself; it would be the modalities accompanying the obligation to declare.

To Our Readers

Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

67 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 pandemic, 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.

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 67 years.

We are so grateful that our voice and readership extend far beyond our actual subscription base of loyal well-wishers. But we now need to expand that base of readers who value our independence and commitment to continue improving the paper and reach new audiences.

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'Partygate': Boris Johnson likely to receive more fines, minister resigns

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is under increasing pressure to resign after he and Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Cabinet, were fined by the Metropolitan Police for violating Covid-19 related rules at a time when the nation was under a strict lockdown, reports Hindustan Times. Both Johnson and Sunak defied rules by attending large indoor gatherings, including on June 19, 2020, on the occasion of the former's 56th birthday. The episode has been dubbed 'partygate' by the British press.

Here are some latest developments in 'partygate' scandal:

(1.) According to *The Guardian*, the Conservative Party leader is likely to receive three more fines for lockdown



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Pic- i.inews.co.uk

breaches. These would be for events that are yet to be fully investigated by the police, the report said.

(2.) Johnson, however, refused to demit office, as he instead offered an apology. "I understand the anger that many feel that I, myself, fell short when it came to observing the very rules which the

government I lead had introduced to protect the public. And I accept in all sincerity that people had the right to expect better. And now I feel an even greater sense of obligation to deliver on the priorities of the British people," the premier said late Tuesday.

(3.) On Wednesday, David Wolfson, the minister for justice, resigned over the episode, criticising the 57-year-old leader for 'repeated rule-breaking and breaches of criminal law in the Downing Street.' Johnson is the first sitting British PM to have broken a law.

(4.) Transport minister Grant Shapps, on the other hand, jumped to Johnson's defence. "I'm not saying that he isn't a flawed individual. We're all flawed in different ways. But the question is, did some-

body set out to do these things with malice?" he told *Sky News*.

Britain's food banks 'close to breaking point' amid rapid rise in poverty

A group of more than 550 food banks across Britain have warned Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak that they are close to "breaking point" from an unsustainable surge in demand during the cost of living crisis, reports *The Independent*.

Soaring energy bills, rising food costs and the national insurance hike are pushing a growing number of families to the brink, with demand for help at some food banks doubling since the final months of 2021.

The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) has written to the chancellor urging him to take immediate action to reduce "rapidly rising" poverty and hunger, in a letter seen by *The Independent*.

Sri Lanka seeks India's help to secure bridge financing amid economic crisis

Sri Lanka has sought India's assistance in garnering international support to secure bridge financing as it enters negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout programme to cope with the island nation's worst economic crisis in decades, according to a statement from the Sri Lankan high commission.

The issue of India's support for securing both bridge financing and the economic adjustment programme with IMF figured when Sri Lanka's high commissioner Milinda Moragoda met finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Sri Lanka declared it would default on its external debt pending a bailout from IMF.

The move was attributed to the country's critically low foreign exchange reserves. This was the first time Sri Lanka has announced a debt default since its independence in 1948.

In addition to reviewing bilateral economic cooperation, Moragoda and Sitharaman discussed how India can assist Sri Lanka in getting international support to secure bridge financing and the IMF economic adjustment programme itself, through both bilateral and multilateral partners, said the statement from the Sri Lankan high commission.

They also explored the possibility of enhancing and



Sri Lanka's high commissioner Milinda Moragoda met finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Wednesday. Pic - HT

restructuring some of the assistance already provided by India in the form of credits for essential commodities and fuel, as well as balance of payment support.

Moragoda and Sitharaman observed that the assistance provided by India so far "could form part of the bridging finance required by Sri Lanka until the economic adjustment programme with the IMF would be negotiated", the statement said.

Sitharaman expressed her concern over the humanitarian cost of the economic crisis and said "India would

stand by Sri Lanka to overcome its challenges". Moragoda thanked her for her personal interest in supporting Sri Lanka at this difficult time.

The process of negotiating a bailout with the Washington-based IMF is expected to take at least six months, if not more. In the interim, the Sri Lankan government will have to work out a bridge financing arrangement to take care of its immediate needs.

India has so far provided Sri Lanka financial aid worth almost \$2.5 billion, including a \$500-million line of credit in February for fuel purchases and another \$1-billion line of credit in March for buying food, medicines and other essential items. India has provided a currency swap of \$400 million under the Saarc facility and deferred the payment of \$515 million to the Asian Clearing Union.

On Tuesday, 11,000 tonne rice supplied by India under the line of credit reached Colombo.

The economic crisis in the country of 22 million people has resulted in regular blackouts and shortages of food and fuel. The government has banned the import of non-essential items to conserve foreign currency reserves. The economic crisis has also triggered public demonstrations, with protestors demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Biden or Harris to visit Ukraine? US likely to send 'top-level' official: Reports

The United States is considering sending a 'top-level' official to Ukraine to meet the war-torn nation's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, reports have emerged, also stating that US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are among the candidates under consideration to visit the east European nation.

However, the reports also noted that it is more likely that Secretary of State Antony Blinken or Lloyd Austin, the Defence Secretary, will be tasked with visiting Ukraine; the conflict is yet to come to an end.

These reports come at a time when several European heads of state and government heads have gone to Ukrainian capital



US President Kamala Harris and Vice President. Pic - AP

Kyiv to meet President Zelensky. Last Friday, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen was in the city, while a day later, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the visitor. However, while the former made a scheduled trip, the latter arrived on an impromptu one.

Biden, on his part, made a four-day emergency visit to Europe late last month to discuss the crisis with the NATO and the European Union. During that same visit, the Democrat also went to Poland, Ukraine's neighbour, which has taken in thousands of refugees from the country.

* Contd on page 10

Biden announces \$800 million military aid for Ukraine: What it means for Russia

US President Joe Biden announced an \$800 million military aid package for Ukraine on Wednesday as international prosecutors declared the war-torn Western ally a "crime scene" amid fears of a massive revamped Russian assault.

The announcement came with the Russian military threatening to strike Ukraine's command centers in the capital Kyiv if Ukrainian troops continue to attack Russian territory.

"We are seeing Ukrainian troops' attempts to carry out sabotage and strike Russian territory. If such cases continue, the Russian armed forces will strike decision-making centers, including in Kyiv," the Russian defense ministry said in a statement.

The warning sparked alarm in Ukraine's largest city, as Moscow was believed to be refocusing its war aims -- withdrawing from Kyiv after failing to capture it and shifting attention to the south and east.

Biden has accused President Vladimir Putin of genocide -- a claim dismissed as "unacceptable" by the Kremlin -- as Russia comes under increasing scrutiny



US President Joe Biden. Pic - AP

over atrocities discovered in towns since abandoned by its forces.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau backed Biden but France and Germany declined to follow suit, drawing the ire of Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelensky, who denounced French leader Emmanuel Macron's stance as "very painful for us."

The Pentagon says it has been looking to provide Ukraine with weapons that would "give them a little more range and distance," with Kyiv girding for a huge escalation of violence in the eastern Donbas region.

The new US shipment will include armored personnel carriers, helicopters and some of the heavier equipment Washington had previously refused to send to Ukraine for fear of escalating the conflict

with nuclear-armed Russia.

Before announcing the aid, Biden spoke to Zelensky for about an hour, the White House said, pledging "to provide Ukraine with the capabilities to defend itself."

Ukraine war - Day 50 Update



The Russian Navy's guided missile cruiser Moskva sails back into a harbour after tracking NATO warships in the Black Sea, in the port of Sevastopol, Crimea November 16, 2021. Pic - Reuters

As the Ukraine war enters the 50th day, a Russian naval ship in the Black Sea - leading the assault - was "seriously damaged" in an explosion. "As a result of a fire, ammunition detonated on the Moskva missile cruiser. The ship was seriously damaged," the Russian defence ministry was quoted as saying in reports, adding that the cause of the fire was being investigated. The crew had to be evacuated. This happened as Moscow was reported to be threatening to strike Kyiv's command centres.

Here are seven updates on the Ukraine war:

1. "Neptune missiles guarding the Black Sea, caused very serious damage to the Russian ship. Glory to Ukraine!" Maksym Marchenko, governor of the Ukrainian city of Odessa, wrote on Telegram, news agency AFP reported. But Ukraine presidential advisor Oleksiy Arestovych, according to an AP report, said "we don't understand what happened". The ship had a strength of 510 crew members.

2. "Without additional weaponry, this war will become an endless bloodbath, spreading misery, suffering, and destruction. Mariupol, Bucha, Kramatorsk -- the

list will be continued. Nobody will stop Russia except Ukraine with heavy weapons," he said in another post.

3. In a statement reported by news agency AP, the United Nations said more than 40,000 people have left the war-hit nation in the last 24 hours.

4. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said a "global ceasefire doesn't seem possible", indicating the UN is still waiting for answers from Russia to proposals for evacuation and aid. "That was our appeal for humanitarian reasons, but it doesn't seem possible," said Guterres, according to AFP.

5. Around 19,800 Russian personnel have been killed in 50 days of war, according to Kyiv.

6. The arrest of a pro-Putin ally, Viktor Medvedchuk, is the latest flashpoint between the two countries. He is said to be one of the richest people in Ukraine and Zelensky has proposed his release in exchange of people from his country held in Russia.

7. The presidents of four countries on Russia's doorstep - Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - visited Ukraine on Wednesday and underscored their sup-

Bolsonaro faces stiff questioning over Brazilian army's Viagra purchase

Opponents of the Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, are demanding answers after the revelation that the country's armed forces had splashed out on tens of thousands of impotence pills, reports The Guardian.

"We must understand why the Bolsonaro administration is spending public money on buying such large quantities of Viagra," the lawmaker Elias Vaz declared after Brazilian media reported the seemingly unorthodox acquisitions on Monday.

The navy and air force -- which between them had reportedly bought more than 30,000 pills -- offered an innocent explanation: the drug was supposedly being used to treat pulmonary hypertension.

However, many were unconvinced. A report in the O Globo newspaper suggested the dosages that had been bought were generally used to treat penises, not blood pressure.

Rio congressman Marcelo Freixo said he would ask the public prosecutor to investigate the erectile "outrage". "The Bolsonaro administration dallied over buying Covid vaccines but approved the overpriced purchase of 35,000 Viagra pills for the armed forces," Freixo complained on Twitter.

The president of the Worker's party (PT), Gleisi Hoffman, slammed the "criminal spending spree" and accused Bolsonaro of destroying the military's credibility.

Ciro Gomes, a centre-left politician who hopes to challenge Bolsonaro in October's presidential election, said: "Unless they're able to prove they're developing some kind of secret weapon --

capable of revolutionizing the international arms industry -- it'll be tough to justify the purchase of 35,000 units of an erectile dysfunction drug," Gomes opined.

Bolsonaro, 67, is a former army captain and paratrooper who has packed his cabinet with military men and repeatedly hinted that he would be prepared to lead a military "intervention" against Brazil's democratic institutions. Last year Bolsonaro ordered what critics called a "banana republic-style" military parade outside his presidential palace in an apparent attempt to project strength and intimidate foes.



Political observers called the military's "Viagra binge" an embarrassment to a populist president who frequently boasts about his supposed virility, referring to himself as "imbrochável". The word roughly translates into English as "unfloppable" or "flaccid-proof".

Sameer Sharma, Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst & Certified Financial Risk Manager

“Mauritius is already in a hole

and the longer we avoid making the tough decisions, the more bitter the pill shall eventually be”

Sameer Sharma is a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst & Certified Financial Risk Manager and we have asked for his views regarding our macro-economic situation and related concerns, particularly with the Sri Lankan collapse in mind. The independence, credibility and role of the BOM and its subsidiary MIC in handling our monetary reserves and currency depreciation comes under the scanner but so do the sustainability of our public debt situation and the pursuance of policies that are not up to the alarming situation of the country. Nepotism and favouritism at all levels have compounded matters and our guest minces no words to slam the consequences at policy level or the resulting dismal perspectives for our youth.



Mauritius Times: Many local businessmen and traders one comes across with these days are of the view that they do not see how we shall be able to avoid going the Sri Lanka way; their worst fear is that in the wake of economic and financial chaos that, they think, is bound to ensue, it will be pretty bad on the social front. Does this sound too alarmist an outlook?

Sameer Sharma: We are not yet in such a sorry state. Mauritius is a much smaller country than Sri Lanka and benefits from large foreign exchange flows through the offshore banking system relative to the size of its economy. It has a moderately better balance of payment situation than Sri Lanka and, given its size, it is an easier fix if we put the right people in the right places as soon as possible and also understand that we need to be more competitive and live within our means.

That said, like Sri Lanka, public debt in Mauritius is now above 100% of GDP, and its current account deficit of Mauritius is very high just like in Sri Lanka. Both Sri Lanka and Mauritius have unsustainable public debt profiles and have had to resort to central bank financing of the fiscal deficit via what is known as helicopter money. Both countries seem to have preferred central bank money printing vs engaging in meaningful wasteful spending cuts, better targeted fiscal support, proper private sector debt restructuring and asset sales and significant public sector structural reforms.

In the case of Mauritius, the central bank has increasingly resorted to off-balance sheet foreign borrowings which totalled more than Rs 35bn in December as per the latest external debt stock statistics. Including these off-balance sheet liabilities would mean that, unlike in Sri Lanka, the net worth of the Bank of

Mauritius is certainly already negative. The economic capital of the BOM was already very weak before these off-balance sheet adjustments relative to the risks it has to cover.

Our Finance Minister has also recently stated in Parliament that net international reserves when you exclude commercial bank foreign currency deposits held at the central bank and the increasing foreign borrowings by the Bank of Mauritius stand at a mere USD 4.1 billion vs the official gross amount of close USD 8 billion.

This also means that between December 2021 and now, the Bank of Mauritius has resorted to more foreign loans. The foreign debt stock of the government in general has likely risen further.

From a reserve adequacy standpoint, Mauritius on its own right has rising external vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the deteriorating balance sheet of the central bank is a rising financial stability risk requiring significant recapitalization which will increase public debt. I know that there are some policy makers who want to make us believe that we are Singapore and that all this debt does not matter, but we should be worried about the sustainability of our current credit rating because our debt metrics are worse than similar rated peers.

By my calculations, we are talking about the need to inject three times more capital into the Bank of Mauritius than it currently has given the myriad of risks on its balance sheet inclusive of the risks from the MIC which would lead to a significant increase in public debt if we want to ever have a functional and credible central bank

“If you look at economic policies and where the focus of policy making is, Mauritius is becoming a country for the old, by the old and for the rich, especially the luxury villa buying foreigners. We hardly rank well in the African venture capital start-up and Fintech spaces. Our labour force, including the large pool of accountants working in the offshore sector, are ill-prepared for the fact that artificial intelligence can already do much of what they do...”

again. In a rising inflation environment, the worst idea on earth would be for the central bank to bloat the level of its economic capital via a reliance on Rupee depreciation. That is a recipe for increased wealth inequality and social tensions.

It is encouraging that on the 13th of April, the Bank of Mauritius sold some USD 200M at Rs 42.90 post the depreciation we saw after Friday's USD 25M intervention. This is likely being funded by the increased foreign borrowings which go to international reserves and the Rs 5.8bn decrease in the outstanding value of BOM monetary policy instruments last week which offsets the decline in economic capital when the central bank sells dollars and the currency appreciates. As long as the central bank is not meaningfully recapitalized, the market will continue to accumulate and hoard dollars because it will anticipate that such big moves cannot be sustained especially when US interest rates are going higher up.

● Cont. on page 12

'The youth should spend more time explaining to their parents why the way they vote matters and why meritocracy matters'

• Cont. from page 11

*** Are you suggesting that we are already stuck in a hole, and no matter whether the war in Ukraine escalates or not, we will still remain in troubled waters?**

The global economy is slowing as Covid-driven fiscal stimulus effects cool off. The current Chinese Covid lockdowns and the Russia/Ukraine conflict are equivalent to a negative supply-side shock to the global economy. The risk of stagflation for about two to three quarters in Europe in particular is rising. Still high inflation pressures in the United States are also very likely to make the US Federal Reserve increase rates more aggressively than they planned to last year.

In an environment of slowing global growth, rising inflation and rising US interest rates, import dependent, highly indebted and weakly competitive emerging and frontier market economies are at greater risk of a more meaningful slowdown to their growth rates and to further currency weaknesses. The risk of a European stagflationary shock infecting such markets is high.

Inflation pressures, which are increasingly supply-side driven globally, will only start to cool off later in the year but will remain at elevated levels when compared to pre-pandemic levels thereafter.

Mauritius is one example of a weak frontier economy. Growth in Mauritius, which was engaged in a modest and uneven recovery, will start to slow again post the second quarter of the year as 2020- and 2021-driven base effects wane. Inflation pressures locally will remain high. The central bank's weak capital position means that there is little it will be able to do beyond some large one-time foreign exchange interventions, some limited cash reserve ratio increases which will then allow it to increase local interest rates in order to partially offset the expected rise in the differential between US short-term treasury bill rates and Mauritius short-term treasury bill rates.

The Bank of Mauritius will only be able to slow down the pace of depreciation in the hope that global inflation has enough time to cool off as global growth slows and supply-side disruptions get fixed. This is a tricky and risky bet.

In many ways the Bank of Mauritius is behind the curve and is stuck with choosing between maintaining the current dovish monetary policy approach which will lead to more inflation and inevitable depreciation and becoming more hawkish post recapitalization and stabilising the currency and longer-term inflation expectations at the expense of less growth when it is already slowing. Remember that budget revenues depend more on inflation today as well. It is about choosing the least bad option and that is the latter's quandary.

On the fiscal side, the government with the current public debt situation has run out of ammo and will also not be able to rely on the central bank as it did last year although there is still Rs 43 billion of MIC money left. With a central bank with negative net worth - when you include off-balance sheet foreign liabilities and given a lack of a credible and quantifiable monetary policy framework -



“We need to push the private sector to make more use of capital markets including the equity markets, asset sales at realistic prices closer to fundamentals vs what the valuers have put on paper on the balance sheet and remove the notion that the government is here to bail them out or keep real interest rates low for long...”

“The government with the current public debt situation has run out of ammo and will also not be able to rely on the central bank as it did last year although there is still Rs 43 billion of MIC money left. With a central bank with negative net worth - when you include off-balance sheet foreign liabilities and given a lack of a credible and quantifiable monetary policy framework - monetary policy is severely constrained...”

monetary policy is severely constrained. One way a country can reduce debt is by allowing inflation to remain at levels which are high enough to reduce the real value of the debt. When inflation is so high however, the cost benefit do not make sense.

Fiscal policy is constrained given already high debt

levels and high levels of private debt also stifle domestic private investment. The patrimonial non-financial private sector is allergic to majority shareholder equity dilutions, asset sales or structural reforms and is still dependent on inflation and low interest rates in order to deflate its high debt to free cash flow ratios.

Mauritius is already in a hole and the longer we avoid making the tough decisions we needed to have made yesterday, the more bitter the pill shall eventually be. We are in a situation where the central bank needs to be recapitalized and be made much more independent than it is today. We have more barristers and accountants on its board and Monetary Policy Committee than experts on monetary policy.

Monetary policy is highly constrained and the market understands that with net reserves of USD 4.1 billion and rising external liabilities the central bank does not have a lot of ammunition to increase rates significantly or to sustain large foreign exchange sales. When a central bank starts to publish media releases with titles like “largest foreign exchange sales ever”, you know that this is more about the politics and that the market will look past this and focus on the Bank of Mauritius balance sheet impacts in order to gauge the quantum of ammunition left. The market has evolved over the years and the central bank must realize that the level of its economic capital matters more than its press release titles.

*** Even if the hostilities were to be brought to an end in Ukraine in weeks ahead, there is a larger battle that has been engaged against the dominance of the US dollar in trade and finance and to dislodge it as the world's reserve currency. If uncertainty and greater instability will continue to prevail, what would be the consequences on the world economy and on small economies like ours?**

The coming demise of the dollar is quite exaggerated. The reality is that US capital markets are deep and very liquid and even now the dollar is gaining strength because investors, including the Chinese, are wanting more of it, especially when US interest rates are rising and when US companies have solid balance sheets and large pools of cash.

The Chinese capital markets are not very deep and do not have the same level of transparency as that of the US. Such things matter to international reserves managers and sovereign wealth fund managers.

That said, the freezing of the Bank of Russia's international reserves assets by the Americans and Europeans will have some longer-term consequences because holding dollars and euros is no longer as risk-free given that they can also freeze your assets. We are likely going to continue to move towards a world of competing global currencies - be it the US dollar which will remain dominant albeit less so than before, apolitical digital assets like bitcoin, the Chinese yuan, the Canadian and Austrian dollars, the Swiss franc, Norwegian krone and some strong East Asian currencies like the Japanese yen and Korean won.

• Cont. on page 13

'It is important for the Prime Minister, who wields significant power in Mauritius, to rethink about key posts in his Cabinet and in key institutions'

● Cont. from page 12

*** Do you get the feeling in the meantime that the government is telling the truth about the current economic predicament to the people, and that it has a credible plan to dig us out of the hole we find ourselves in after years of neglect, according to most economists, and lack of necessary structural reforms?**

The truth is out there for anyone who wishes to take their heads out of the sand. I am very worried about the near-term economic outlook let alone the longer-term outlook which smells of secular stagnation.

The continued multi-decade decline of the rupee exchange rate is also hard to miss. The balance sheet of the central bank is severely compromised, amateurism in the MIC is a major risk factor, the large conglomerates are back to business as usual while the government has too much debt for a low tax jurisdiction to afford and sustain. This setup won't end well for us if we don't make major changes soon. It is important for the Prime Minister, who wields significant power in Mauritius, to rethink about key posts in his Cabinet and in key institutions. Competence matters and on the economics side at least he is not well-surrounded.



“Growth in Mauritius, which was engaged in a modest and uneven recovery, will start to slow again post the second quarter of the year as 2020- and 2021-driven base effects wane. Inflation pressures locally will remain high. The central bank's weak capital position means that there is little it will be able to do beyond some large one-time foreign exchange interventions, some limited cash reserve ratio increases...”

*** What more can the government do given that it has used up most of the reserves of the BOM (as well as most of the funds of the MIC) and those of many parastatal bodies such as the CEB, MPA, STC and FSC and in light of its narrow room for manoeuvre with high debt and rising debt servicing?**

Let us not ignore the high levels of corporate and household debt which is also close to 100% of GDP. First, we need to have the right people in the right places in key areas of policy making and in key institutions. Amateurish, 'yes-manism' and a preference for loyalty to the Prime Minister over merit is costing the country dearly.

The government needs to bite the bullet and engage in significant structural reforms of the economy which includes not just reforming the public sector but putting more pressure on the private sector to change its ways as well. We need to push the private sector to make more

use of capital markets including the equity markets, asset sales at realistic prices closer to fundamentals vs what the valuers have put on paper on the balance sheet and remove the notion that the government is here to bail them out or keep real interest rates low for long.

We need to revamp the Competition Commission and counter oligopolistic tendencies as pointed out by the World Bank itself. We need more fair and open competition.

We need to link a large portion of salaries of key public officials and nominees to clearly defined KPIs; we need to be open to privatization of state companies in order to increase efficiency and raise much needed funds.,

We need to re capitalize the central bank in the tens of billions despite what it will do to public debt. We need to look to commercial banks which have benefited from lower loan loss provisions, higher foreign revenues translated in Rupees given depreciation and balance sheet cleansing from MIC risk transfers to help partially foot the bill.

We need to completely revamp the MIC and take it out of the balance sheet of the central bank. We need to see better risk-sharing between the state, commercial banks and the central bank than it is currently the case. There is still at least half of the MUR 80 bn in MIC left to spend but unless we make major changes to this entity, this can be more of a liability than an asset. Having people with relevant experience and with successful track record in the field of investments matters.

We need to revamp the Bank of Mauritius Act, board and Monetary Policy Committee. We need to hire globally if we do not have specialized skills locally. The worst thing we can do at this stage is to replace the current lot of pretend experts with other pretend experts.

We also need wasteful spending cuts, more targeted spending including in pensions given ageing demographics and high levels of unfunded liabilities - all in a low interest rate environment. We need to diversify away from our reliance on real estate which has a low growth multiplier. It also seems that beyond turning Mauritius into a giant retirement home for foreigners and selling high-end villas, strategically we lack ideas. We need to reprioritize spending towards education, focusing on quality, collaborative work and creativity given the quality of our workforce as the digital era will not be forgiving to us.

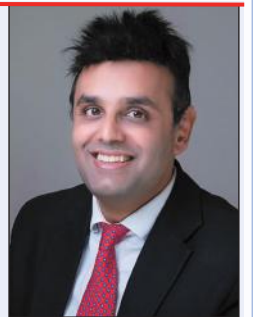
We need to be more open to immigration and create the right kind of venture cap funding ecosystem which will encourage young African and Indian start-ups to move here.

*** Will the measures you have just mentioned be adequate to contain the crisis?**

We need to fix the central bank first, cut wasteful spending and offer targeted relief to the poor. A more solid central bank with a clearly defined and quantifiable inflation target will bring back medium-term price and financial stability. At the same time, it will push the public and private sectors to rely less on easy money and make the necessary structural reforms.

*** In light of the higher cost of living with the prices**

“The deteriorating balance sheet of the central bank is a rising financial stability risk requiring significant recapitalization which will increase public debt. I know that there are some policy makers who want to make us believe that we are Singapore and that all this debt does not matter, but we should be worried about the sustainability of our current credit rating because our debt metrics are worse than similar rated peers...”



of essential commodities and petrol going up and negatively impacting the poor and the middle class, how could the government support these latter categories of people in that case?

Bank of Mauritius Act needs to be amended to make it more independent and it is high time that we have a clearly defined and quantifiable monetary policy framework. Price stability over the medium-term is good for everyone.

We need to break down the population into income quartiles, better understand how their cost of living has increased and offer targeted spending on the weakest quartiles and even deciles if the quartile volume is too large and unaffordable.

*** We started off with the worst fears of businessmen and traders. On the other hand, it would seem that an increasing number of our young people are rather pessimistic about their future here, and many are looking at migration as an alternative option. What would you tell the young?**

Bluntly put, there is no future in this country so long as meritocracy remain secondary to nepotism and favouritism.

Furthermore, if you look at economic policies and where the focus of policy making is, Mauritius is becoming a country for the old, by the old and for the rich, especially the luxury villa buying foreigners. We hardly rank well in the African venture capital start-up and Fintech spaces. Our labour force, including the large pool of accountants working in the offshore sector, are ill-prepared for the fact that artificial intelligence can already do much of what they do. We won't need so many accountants as we used to and this is already happening globally.

Some will say that with the development of the metaverse, greater opportunities and flexibilities in remote work in general will be beneficial because where one lives physically will become less important. We need to be careful. The metaverse will be open to the world, but it will also be much more competitive. That's not something our system is good at fostering. Perhaps the youth should spend more time explaining to their parents why the way they vote matters and why meritocracy matters.

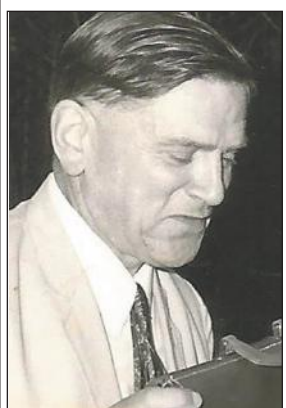
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 188

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 14 March, 1958

- *We should not investigate facts by the light of arguments, but arguments by the light of facts; for the facts were not put together to fit the arguments, but the arguments to fit the facts. — Myson of Chenae*



Peter Ibbotson

An Evening with the Students Union

On February 28 the Mauritius Students Union heard a talk from Mr J. Anderson, founder of the Anderson Scholarship, on a subject which the chairman, Mr Biltsoo, described — very truly as “controversial” — “Are the ties between Mauritius and Great Britain real or artificial?”

Mr Anderson did not like the words real or artificial, preferring “natural or created”. A natural tie, he explained, was a tie of blood or culture; a created tie was an economic tie. Once the tie between Mauritius and Great Britain arose out of the conquest of 1810, the Anglo-Mauritian tie is basically created, not natural as are the ties of blood with France, India and China. The government and legal system of Mauritius are examples of the tie with Great Britain, though the legal system shows also ties with France. The government of Mauritius started with autocratic control from Great Britain and is developing into a democratic party system of government. The departments of administration are modelled on the British Civil Service pattern. However, the number of Mauritians introduced into the upper ranks has increased and will go on increasing; the present holders of the upper posts represent all sections of the community. The same applies to the law and the judiciary. In 1810 the Code Napoleon was adopted by the British conquerors, but since then all amendments have been from the English pattern: company law, the law of bankruptcy, many labour laws, criminal procedure and the law of evidence. The members of the judiciary are drawn from all main sections of the community — Franco-Mauritian, Indo-Mauritian and Moslem. Notaries are modelled on the French system, barristers on the British. In the lower courts, French or Creole is the common language, in the superior courts, English.

In the field of education, English dominates the scene. Secondary schools prepare for School Certificates. These are British examinations; there is no preparation for the baccalaureate. For success to higher education, English is essential; Mauritians come to England, not to France, for higher education. Parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, said Mr Anderson, have been willingly accepted by most Mauritians. These conceptions extend throughout the whole British Commonwealth and, basically, to the USA. These concepts represent a major tie between Mauritius and Britain.

The small British community in Mauritius forms only a small tie between the two countries. After the governmental link, the most important tie is the economic one. Since 1914, the bulk of sugar exports have been to the UK. The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement guarantees a market and a price for Mauritian sugar for at least another eight years. Mauritius' quota is 495,000 tons, and 3/4 of this comes to the UK. The fact of being a party to the Agreement links Mauritius closely to the other parties thereto (e.g., the West Indies, Australia and India) as well as the UK.

Another economic factor is that Mauritius is a member of the sterling area, and 40% of world trade is conducted in sterling. And British loans and grants to Mauritius, whether CD & W. grants or outside the scheme, help to forge the link more strongly.

Economically, the most important link is with the UK; this, declared Mr Anderson, is an “incontrovertible fact”. And no one can dispute the fact that the Anglo-Mauritian ties (political as well as economic) are by now well and strongly established. They are *created* ties, admittedly, not natural ties, but they are none the less firm. And if the natural ties of blood and culture were regarded as conflicting with the created Anglo-Mauritian tie, they might well become disruptive. If the ties with India or France were developed to the detriment of the ties with Great Britain, the economic tie would suffer since both France and India have alternative sugar supplies; so that the economy of Mauritius would suffer. Although however Mauritius depends economically on Great Britain, there is no reason why the blood ties with France and India should not be fostered. It would, for example, be absurd for anyone who has had contact with the culture of France (one of the greatest in the world, said Mr Anderson) to abandon it. Yet fostering blood ties must not be to the detriment of the economic tie.

A number of questions followed. A South African asked if the economic ties with Great Britain were stronger or weaker than the cultural ties with France, India and China; he was told that all kinds of ties should be fostered and the answer to this question was one which each person must decide for himself. Another questioner said that created ties were rational but natural ties were emotional; could therefore the rational tie supersede the emotional? This, said Mr Anderson amid laughter, led us into the realms of metaphysics. Emotions were all very well, but we all have to earn our livings and the economic (hence rational) ties of Mauritius are all with Great Britain.

A slight brush between Mr Biltsoo and a would-be questioner (Mr Seeneevassen) marred the evening and caused momentary resentment. Mr Anderson had offered to receive questions in French as well as in English and to answer in French if required. Mr Seeneevassen, trying to take advantage of this offer, was putting a question in French when he was prevented from so doing by Mr Biltsoo on the grounds that “some people here don't understand it,” Mr Seeneevassen protested but Mr Biltsoo was adamant, so the question went unasked. This ruling of Mr Biltsoo's was, I must confess, surprising in view of Mr Anderson's offer; and I feel it was most unfortunate.

Mr Anderson's talk had been preceded by a short film, in colour, of Mauritius made by Air France as a means to attract tourists to the island. Entitled “Mauritius, a Pattern for Paradise”, it had as incidental music Jacques Cantin singing segas; and we saw, in silhouette against a sunset sky, a sega being danced by a small group of Creole lobster fishermen. Most of the tourist attractions were included; stag-hunting, racing, riding, fishing, motoring, and parties. The commentator said that a progressive administration developed the sugar industry after the French took over



Port Louis - Central Market in the 1960s. Pic - Vintage Mauritius

the island; but we saw few pictures having anything to do with the industry apart from ships being loaded with sacks of sugar in Port Louis harbour. We did see quite a few shots of tea-pickers, though as well as a short but comprehensive survey of operations in aloe growing, harvesting and processing. There were many pictures of trees and flowers (especially the flamboyant trees) and of the Botanical Gardens. “The Park Hotel,” declared the commentator, “is typical of the good living which is enjoyed in Mauritius.” We heard too of “gracious and settled homes” where “people enjoy entertaining” — this was accompanied by pictures of whites.

So too were references to night-life and parties; while pictures of beach scenes and fishing included numbers of scantily-clad white (under their deep tan) girls whose main enjoyment — judging by the names which cropped up once or twice — seemed to be drinking Coca-cola or Pepsi-cola. The Chinese, Moslems and Hindus were presented mainly in scenes of traditional customs — e.g., a procession of Hindus to a fire-walking ceremony; we also saw the fire-walkers doing their stuff. More beach scenes drew from the commentator the remark: “When in Mauritius, do as the Mauritians do — relax in the sun”.

And after this very glamorised presentation of Mauritius, the film ended with the commentator saying that in Mauritius there is a saying “The good Lord made this island first, Paradise afterwards”. There was, thought the commentator, perhaps a deal of truth in this!

As a means of attracting tourists, the film is no doubt most successful; Air France planes figure prominently. (Impartially, Air France allows us a glimpse of a Quantas plane as well). But as a film about the real Mauritius, it is nowhere. We see a handful of Creole lobster fishermen, some Hindu women tea-pickers, coloured people engaged in cutting and preparing aloe, and some Hindu fire-walkers. Otherwise, all the people are white — deep-sea fishing, yachting, sailing, water-skiing, lounging on the beach, dancing, drinking, motoring, “living graciously”, supervising the development of the new Mauritius, and so on.

Thus, a false impression of the inhabitants is given; and nothing is allowed on the screen (e.g., Cassis, Belle Village, Roche Bois, the Central Market) which would destroy the tourists' illusion of an island paradise, fringed with filao, where life is carefree and the people happy.

Most wars don't end with a peace deal



Russia and Ukraine held a round of face-to-face peace talks, which ultimately failed, in Turkey in March 2022. Xinhua via Getty Images

● Cont. from page 2

How useful can peace talks be when warring parties are still fighting?

Very.

Peace talks can create a foundation for an eventual agreement to end conflict. They can also reduce harm to communities.

In my experience, cease-fire negotiations are often undertaken during a spike in violence. This violence can give impetus to reduce fighting in the future.

If warring parties agree to a cease-fire, and stick to that agreement, casualties on both sides can be avoided. They can also create an initial foundation of trust that can ease the way to more difficult negotiations.

The Nuba Mountains cease-fire agreement in Sudan, for instance, is credited with helping to build trust that allowed broader, and more meaningful, north-south peace talks to take place, starting in 2002.

Narrow agreements that help end violence and save lives may also be achievable. During the 2008-2009 Gaza war, for instance, while there was no agreement for a cease-fire, Israel did open a humanitarian corridor to allow lifesaving aid to be delivered to civilians.

Crucially, peace talks during war are not something warring parties do as an alternative to fighting. It is a strategy, used alongside fighting, to achieve one's goals.

What are the greatest problems faced in peace talks?

There are many.

The biggest challenge to peace talks is conflict-related violence, and the anger and mistrust it creates between different warring parties. Negotiators must sit across from those they believe have killed their sons and daughters.

Violence in the Ukraine war has been pervasive and widespread, affecting soldiers and civilians alike. In Ukraine, more than 1,842 civilians have been killed by Russian forces, according to UN estimates. The actual number of dead civilians is likely far higher.

This means that there must be compelling, strategic reasons to negotiate.

More often than not, however, one side believes it is winning and doesn't have an incentive to negotiate. In Afghanistan, for instance, the Taliban pulled out of peace talks in 2021 as they were making significant military gains and the United States had announced it

would withdraw troops.

What brings negotiators to the peace table?

A stalemate that hurts both sides can bring different parties to the table.

Both sides realize they are being harmed by the status quo but also know that they cannot defeat the other side militarily. Negotiations are then a logical way forward.

Once at the table, the negotiators, often supported by neutral mediators, work to arrive at some

version of a solution whereby they both feel they have won something. A core goal is to craft agreements that create a kind of mutual gain.

Negotiators must not only reach an agreement but also sell that agreement to a community that is angry, traumatized and grieving.

This is just one reason that it's important to include all kinds of people, including women, community organizers and different ethnic leaders, in peace talks. Their inclusion means that public acceptance of the peace deal grows as the negotiations proceed.

But the most common model – as in the case of Ukraine and Russian talks – is still for a few elite men to negotiate an agreement, and only then do they try to sell it to key constituencies back home. Authoritarians even need support for peace agreements, even if it is just from the military to avoid a coup.

Can you count on good faith from other participants during peace talks?

No.

Peace negotiators need to build some kind of working relationship just to organize peace talks. These relationships, though, do not guarantee those at peace talks will negotiate in good faith. In South Sudan, for instance, peace negotiators were accused of participating just so they could stay for weeks at a time in luxury hotels.

In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad was often accused of engaging in peace talks as a public relations strategy, or to allow his military to regroup before their next attack on civilians.

Good-faith negotiations happen only when it is in the best interests of the parties to reach an agreement.

Russia, meanwhile, has been accused of poisoning two senior Ukrainian peace negotiators, as well as Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, during a round of talks concerning the Ukraine war in March.

This violence violates old diplomatic customs that guide peace talks, including that peace envoys will remain safe.

Russia's alleged violation of these customs will make it all the more difficult for peace talks between Russia and Ukraine to reach a successful outcome. The talks will likely be long and arduous and require smaller, confidence-building steps before the war will end.

Andrew Blum, Executive Director and Professor of Practice at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice Kroc School, University of San Diego

Obituary

Jacques Rivet, CEO of *Le Mauricien* Group



Jacques Raoul Rivet, CEO of the press group *Le Mauricien*, passed away peacefully among his close relatives at his Trou aux Biches residence on Sunday last 10th April 2022 at the age of 81. No sooner had the sad news become known, that tributes from many quarters poured in, for a lifetime of 60 years at the helm of the group he took over upon the demise of his father, Raoul Rivet, had left lasting marks on many both inside the Saint Georges Street Group and outside, as the period was quite challenging for a nation in the making and the profession in general.

We wish to place on record here our appreciation of the man's human qualities, his family values, his integrity, his empathy and generosity of spirit and his undoubted contributions to the wider press for, even if we did not always share the same views over those turbulent periods, debates and exchanges were always genuinely courteous and respectful.

Jacques Rivet joined the *St Esprit* in the early fifties, where according to his own account, he benefited from the rigorous discipline of the Irish fathers and the lectures of such teachers as de Robillard (History), Clovis Vellin (Geography), Maurice Lesage (Greek and Latin) and Raymond Rivet (Chemistry and Physics). As was wont in that private secondary college, sports became a large part of his personal development and, when at seventeen, he had to abandon his studies to enter the *Mauricien* under the stewardship of Jean Delaitre, his first article concerned the local football league situation. His sports and athletics interests were constant throughout his life, golfing becoming a cherished one later.

Starting in the *Mauricien* to help his mother, Jacques Rivet interested himself in all aspects of the newspaper operations including accounts and administration, a passion for photography and was driven by innovation, such as new titles (notably *Week-End* weekly to accommodate those who could not find space in the daily, *Turf Mag*, *Scope*...), modern typesetting and the first quality offset press planned for launch in 1978 the month that a destructive fire erupted and raged in the St Georges building. While all the archives were destroyed and much damage done, the new offset press was saved.

Although the *Mauricien* had an editorial line against independence (the alternative of some association with the UK was neither credible nor fleshed out), Jacques Rivet would contend that, shortly after the decisive elections of 1967, he had argued for reunion of the two factions in the larger interests of the country's social cohesion and national development. The quest for financial and editorial independence remained a cornerstone of his legacy at the Group.

We extend here our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and all those who have been close to this towering personality in the local press.

Fatigue after Covid is way more than just feeling tired

Fatigue can drag for weeks, even when the infection is gone, and sleep doesn't fix it. But there are simple steps you can take to ride it out



Natasha Yates
Assistant Professor, General Practice, Bond University

People are often surprised by how fatigued they are during a Covid infection.

Fatigue is more than being worn out or sleepy. It's an excessive tiredness that persists despite resting or good sleep. It's likely a result of our body's strong immune response to the virus.

But in some people the fatigue drags on even when the infection is gone. This can be debilitating and frustrating. Simply resting more makes no difference.

Here's what we know about post-Covid fatigue, and what can help.

Fatigue or tiredness? What's the difference?

The term fatigue can mean different things to different people. Some people mean their muscles are easily weakened. Walking to the mailbox feels like they have run a marathon. Others describe a generalised exhaustion, whether they are moving or not. People can experience physical, mental or emotional fatigue, or any combination of these.

The difference between tiredness and fatigue is this: tiredness can get better with enough rest, while fatigue persists even if someone is sleeping and resting more than ever.

How big a problem is this?

Because there is no agreed definition of post-Covid fatigue, it is impossible to give exact numbers of how many people experience it.

Estimates vary considerably worldwide. One review of 21 studies found 13-33% of people were fatigued 16-20 weeks after their symptoms started. This is a worryingly widespread problem.

When should I see my doctor?

There are many potential causes of fatigue. Even before the pandemic, fatigue was one of the most common reasons to see a doctor.

Most serious causes can be ruled out when your doctor asks about your symptoms and examines you. Sometimes your doctor will investigate further, perhaps by

ordering blood tests.

Symptoms that should raise particular concern include fevers, unexplained weight loss, unusual bleeding or bruising, pain (anywhere) that wakes you from sleep, or drenching night sweats.

If your fatigue is getting worse rather than better, or you cannot care for yourself properly, you really should seek medical care.

Is it like long Covid?

Early in the pandemic, we realised some patients had a cluster of debilitating symptoms that dragged on for months, which we now call long Covid.

Some 85% of long Covid patients experience fatigue, making it one of the most common long Covid symptoms.

However, people with long Covid have a range of other symptoms, such as "brain fog", headaches and muscle aches. Patients with long Covid therefore experience more than fatigue, and sometimes don't have fatigue at all.

Is this like chronic fatigue syndrome?

We knew about chronic fatigue syndrome, otherwise known as myalgic encephalomyelitis, well before Covid.

This often develops after a viral infection (for instance after infection with Epstein-Barr virus). So, understandably, there has been concern around the coronavirus potentially triggering chronic fatigue syndrome.

There are striking similarities between chronic fatigue syndrome and long Covid. Both involve debilitating fatigue, brain fog and/or muscle aches.

But at this stage, researchers are still untangling any link between post-Covid fatigue, long Covid and chronic fatigue syndrome.

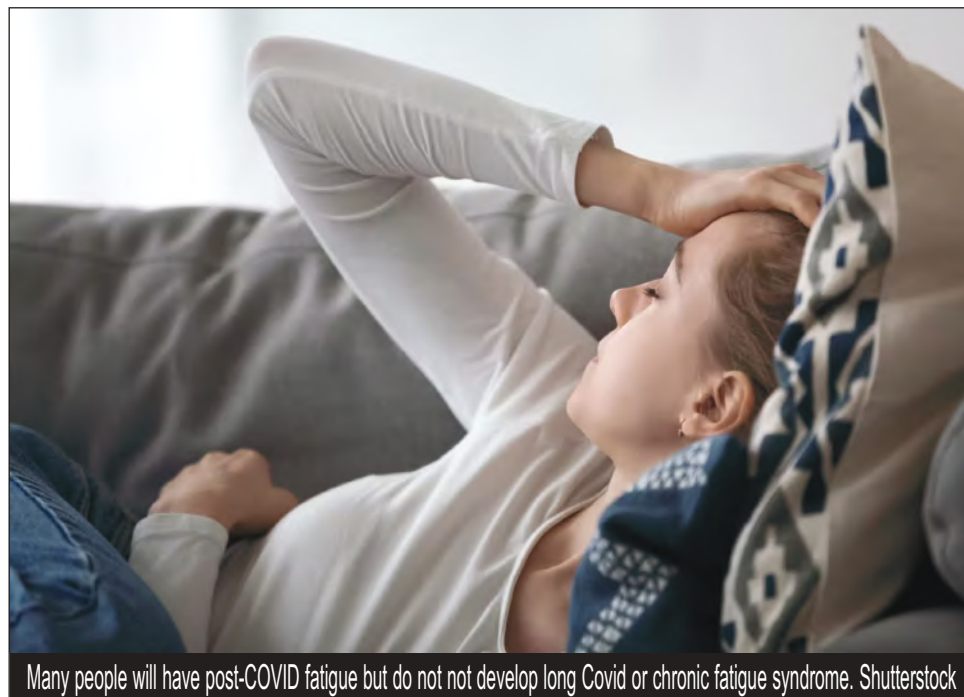
For now, we know many people will have post-Covid fatigue but thankfully do not go on to develop long Covid or chronic fatigue syndrome.

What helps me manage my fatigue?

Expect you or a loved one may develop post-Covid fatigue, regardless of how unwell you or they were during the actual infection.

Vaccines help reduce the risk of post-Covid fatigue by lowering the chance of catching Covid in the first place. Vaccinated people who do catch Covid are less likely to report fatigue and are less likely to develop long Covid.

However, vaccination is not 100% protective and there are plenty of fully vaccinated people who go on to develop longer term fatigue.



Many people will have post-COVID fatigue but do not develop long Covid or chronic fatigue syndrome. Shutterstock

The evidence for what helps you recover from post-Covid fatigue is in its infancy. However, a few things do help:

- 1. Pace yourself:** Adjust the return to normal activities to your energy levels. Choose your priorities and focus on what you can do rather than what you can't
- 2. Return to exercise gradually:** A gradual return to exercise may help your recovery, but you may need some support about how to manage or avoid fatigue afterwards. Some therapists – occupational therapists, physiotherapists and exercise physiologists – specialise in this. So, ask your doctor for a recommendation
- 3. Prioritise sleep:** Rather than feeling guilty about sleeping so much, remind yourself that while you sleep, your body conserves energy and heals. Disrupted sleep patterns are an unfortunate COVID symptom. Having a strict bedtime, while also resting when you feel tired during the day, is important
- 4. Eat a range of nutritious foods:** Loss of smell, taste and appetite from Covid can make this tricky. However, try to view food as a way

of fuelling your body with both energy and the micronutrients it needs to heal. Be careful not to spend a fortune on unproven "remedies" that often look good in small studies, but more robust research finds make little difference

5. Monitor your fatigue: Keep a diary to monitor your fatigue, and look for a gradual improvement. You will have good days and bad days, but over all, there should be a slow trajectory towards recovery. If you are going backwards, get input from a health professional, such as your DOCTOR.

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Home

Motor car **car** **Lorries**

Research proves benefit of vaccination after recovery from Covid-19

When our immune system comes into contact with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, it fights back and produces antibodies. A similar immune response is triggered by Corona vaccines. However, there is still little data available on the strength and durability of immune protection.

A team led by Prof Carsten Watzl from the Leibniz Research Centre (IfADo), in cooperation with the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology (MPI) and the Klinikum Dortmund, has now been able to detect high levels of neutralising antibodies in test persons even 300 days after a coronavirus infection with the original variant of the coronavirus.

And what's more: after complete vaccination, the recovered probands showed antibody levels about 5 times higher than those vaccinated without prior infection. This would provide much better protection against a severe course of the disease in the event of a new infection with other coronavirus variants.

Our immune protection is provided by two systems working hand in hand. When infected with a virus, the immune system reacts by producing antibodies that can prevent the virus from infecting further cells. At the same time, so-called T-killer cells can recognise the foreign virus components and thus kill already infected cells. During the immune reaction, the antibodies constantly improve and are finally tailor-made for the pathogen. The amount of these neutralising antibodies indicates how well a new infection can be fought off by the body.

"When the corona pandemic broke out, we as immunologists were of course interested in how our immune system defends itself against the corona virus. That's why, together with our colleagues from the Max Planck Institute and the Dortmund Hospital, we developed a reliable test system to detect neutralising antibodies," IfADo Director Carsten Watzl says. In order to be able to fish antibodies out of the blood in a targeted manner, you need an appropriate bait. One of the main targets of the immune system is the spike protein, which is used by the virus to bind to human cells and then infect them.

"We have been able to produce a part of this protein, or more precisely the area that docks with the cell, in high purity in the test tube," reports Jan-Erik Hoffmann, head of protein production at the MPI Dortmund.

With this exact copy and blood samples from the "Klinikum Dortmund" the researchers at IfADo were able to develop a reliable and meaningful detection system for coronavirus antibodies. The scientists used this system to perform a study with about 140 volunteers from a Dortmund health facility with several documented cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020)

Effective amounts of neutralising antibodies against the spike protein could be detected in almost all of the subjects tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. And even after 300 days, the antibody levels had hardly decreased in three out of four subjects. However, test persons were infected with the original variant of the coronavirus and



neutralising antibodies against the original spike protein were measured. As we know, the virus has now evolved in such a way that immunity to the original virus currently offers significantly less protection. Therefore, the researchers also investigated the effect of vaccination with the vaccines from AstraZeneca and BioNTech on the immune system. The astonishing result: After complete vaccination, recovered test persons developed up to five times more neutralising antibodies than vaccinated persons without prior infection. This should also provide better protection against current variants.



How does our DNA relate to our personality and appearance?

Understanding your genes is a great way to understand certain things about yourself — yet, who we are is determined by so much more than just DNA.

Our body is made up of trillions of cells, each of which has a nucleus that holds our DNA.

Our DNA is made up of more than 20,000 genes. You can think of genes as the the instructions which help decide what we look like, how our bodies work and even our personalities.

We get half our genes from our biological mother and the other half from our father. That's why we don't look exactly like our parents, but we may look a bit like them — and may also think and act similarly to them.

That said, each of us still has a unique collection of genes overall. That means no two people carry exactly the same genes, not even brothers and sisters. And that's why each of us has a unique appearance and personality.

What do our genes decide?

Our genes help explain many parts of our appearance, like how tall we are and the colour of our eyes.

They also have a hand in our other skills, such as how fast we can run, how good we are at solving problems, and whether we enjoy talking to new people (rather than if we feel shy).

By studying a person's genes, scientists can tell whether that person is more likely to have blue or brown eyes, without even seeing them.

They may also be able to tell that person how likely they are to develop certain medical conditions later in life, such as cancer or myopia (when you can't see far-



off objects as clearly).

Not everything is determined by genes and DNA

Although genes are important, they're not the only reason for why we look, think, feel and act as we do — or why we're more likely to have certain diseases. While some traits such as eye colour are mainly determined by our genes, an eye injury can change someone's eye colour.

Our habits, such as how much we eat and exercise, also have a big impact on who we are and what we look like. If you eat too much junk, you'll probably get chubby and start running slower, regardless of the genes your parents gave you.

Our environment at home, school and/or work play a key role in shaping us, too. Take myopia. Before the discovery of the more than 400 genes for myopia, scientists noticed children are at least three times more likely to be myopic if either one or both parents are. They realised if someone has trouble seeing

far-off objects, there's a decent chance this is related to genetics.

At the same time, however, there is currently a surge in myopia happening around the world, with more people becoming myopic even though their parents are not!

Researchers discovered our environments and habits play a huge role in myopia development. For instance, they found myopia (and the need to wear glasses) is more likely to happen among people living in cities rather than the country, and those who spend less time outdoors.

The way we perceive colour is also influenced by both our genes and environment. You might remember the social media trend of #thedress that went viral back in 2015.

The world was torn over whether the dress (below) is actually blue and black, or white and gold. Researchers later found the way we see colour in this dress is 34% related to our genes and 66% linked to environmental factors.

Genes and personality

"Personality" describes the relatively stable ways in which people think, feel and act. And again, genes do a pretty good job of explaining why some people are more outgoing and energetic, while others tend to be more moody and anxious.

Our genes also help explain how smart we are. But one surprising finding is our

genes have more of an effect on us as we age. Among children, about 40% of the differences in intelligence scores are explained by genes. In young adults, this increases to about 60%, even though it's the same genes that continue to affect intelligence.

This is most likely because our genes can impact which environments we prefer, and adults often act on their preferences.

For example, most adults do not get told when to go to bed at night! And adults who enjoy learning new things can choose to spend their time in libraries and art museums, or taking classes. In other words, adults can choose the environments and activities that best express their genes.

The future is in your hands

You can think of your genes as a way to understand yourself — but not as a way to make decisions. For example, just because someone's parents may not have been able to go to university, they themselves can if they study hard.

Or, a person's parents may be overweight, but that doesn't mean they have to be. They can still join a sprint team if they're willing to put in the effort.

Even though your DNA and genes shape a lot of your personality and appearance, remember: they do not determine your life story.

Samantha Lee, David Mackey & Serena Wee

The University of Western Australia

LAUGHTER is the best medicine The Samurai Contest

In need of a chief new samurai, the Emperor calls together all samurai masters.

After a huge and glorious tournament, just three champions are left: a Chinese samurai, a Japanese and a Jewish samurai.

In one final test, the emperor asks the trio to prove their swordsmanship.

Immediately, the Chinese samurai steps forward, unsheathes his mighty sword and it scythes through the air with a whoosh. The onlookers gasp as a single

fly fall into the floor, sliced in two.

The Japanese samurai is not impressed, wielding his own shiny blade, he also clefs the air, and with a quick swish another fly falls - this time in four, precise parts. The crowd goes wild.

Finally, it's the turn of the Jewish samurai, smiling, he pulls out his sword as another fly buzzes past, and there a flurry of thrusts, the fly however glides happily away and out in the air.

"Shame on you, you failed the test," grumbles the emperor.

"True," says the Jewish samurai, "but circumcision is not meant to kill."

* * *

Buy One - Get One Free

He was very sick.

His friends took him to the hospital.

He was admitted and the doctor

advised him to run a series of tests including HIV to ascertain what the problem was.

Malaria and typhoid tests came back positive that same day.

While they were expecting the other test results, the doctor started treating malaria and typhoid.

As he was recovering very fast, the HIV test result came and it was also positive.

The doctor broke the news to him. He was devastated and broken.

Within hours, all his body systems broke down. He couldn't eat and he couldn't sleep. Within one week, he emaciated seriously to the extent he couldn't walk by himself again.

Then something dramatic happened after two weeks. The lab discovered that they made a mistake with the results.

They had swapped his sample with another person's own.

He is HIV - negative.

The doctor got the news and summon the courage to break the news to the patient.

Doctor: Sir, we are sorry

Patient: For what doctor?

Doctor: There was a mistake with your blood sample submitted for the HIV test.

Patient: What do you mean doctor?

Doctor: They discovered you are HIV - negative.

Patient: What! Are you serious, doctor?

Doctor: Yes sir! We are very sorry.

The guy that couldn't walk for days, jumped out of the bed and started running around the ward in excitement.

Life Talk

The Black Telephone

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others.

When I was a young boy, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighbourhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbour. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy.

I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlour and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlour and held it to my ear.

"Information, please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head.

A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear.

"Information."

"I hurt my finger..." I wailed into the phone; the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the



Oakridge, Oregon. Town telephone switchboard [Library of Congress. LC-USF34-073111-D]

question.

"Nobody's home but me," I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?" the voice asked.

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer, and it hurts."

"Can you open the icebox?" she asked.

I said I could.

"Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my maths.

She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died.

I called, "Information Please," and told her the sad story. She listened, and then said things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Wayne, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in."

Somehow, I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone, "Information Please."

"Information," said in the now familiar voice.

"How do I spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much.

"Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me.

Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialled my hometown operator and said, "Information Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well.

"Information."

I hadn't planned this, but I heard

myself saying,

"Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft-spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed, "So it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?"

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your call meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years, and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister.

"Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle.

A different voice answered, "Information."

I asked for Sally.

"Are you a friend?" she said.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up, she said,

"Wait a minute, did you say your name was Wayne?"

"Yes," I answered.

Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. "Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean."

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

Story by Paul Villard. Originally published June 1966 Readers Digest

Seven things every daughter wants her father to say

Even though the world isn't an easy place for men because of factors such as patriarchy and toxic masculinity that chronically weigh men down, it is even more difficult for women to find a place for themselves. Fathers play an important role in shaping their daughters' lives and the women they grow up to be. They teach them resilience, independence and strength but it may not always be conveyed in the best manner. Knowing how to say the right things in the right way is one of the most important things that help strengthen relationships and build better bonds. So here are a few things that every daughter needs to hear from her father.

* Embrace and claim

Raising a daughter who understands



that no matter what the society says, it is important for them to fully embrace and claim themselves. Not limiting oneself and saying out loud what one loves about themselves is not bragging or anything negative in the least.

* You always look beautiful

Giving compliments when your daughter dresses up is important. However, making her realize that she is beautiful and every little thing that she does for herself enhances how she looks. Being

dressed in pyjamas, working all night on a thesis should also be appreciated. Telling her that she is beautiful, irrespective of her outfit or make-up, is one of the most important things that will add to her self-confidence and help her look beyond stereotypical standards of beauty set up by the society.

* Anger is natural and you are allowed to express it

While anger is mostly associated with negativity, it is demonised when women express it. By the time a girl turns ten, she is taught that expressing anger would not make her look good and isn't very 'feminine'. However, it is important for fathers to do away with these stereotypes and normalize the expression of intense emotions like anger which is only human, irrespective of one's gender.

* Help me out

Telling your daughter to claim her power and be a girl boss can sound like empty advice that isn't backed by any action. Telling your daughter to be a leader and making her do so are two different things. Asking for help, advice and opinions on important matters will streng-

then their sense of self and also add to self-worth. However, ensure that asking for advice is followed by following the advice properly so that she knows that her words actually hold value.

* I support and value women

Believing in your daughter is not enough. It is equally important for her to know that you believe in women and support them wholeheartedly. Your opinions about women's strength will greatly influence your daughter and instill in her the same beliefs. Make sure that you start conversations about equal pay for women and how it is an anachronistic practice that does not deserve a place in the present-day scenario.

* You are more than your looks

Even though a lot of us end up telling each other that looks don't matter, it is far from the reality. In the real world, especially among teens and young adults, looks play an important role in determining the way an individual is treated. Telling your daughter that she is more than her looks will reaffirm her faith in the often-heard phrase and will also encourage a positive self-image.

Becoming a better you

These small habits might really be sabotaging you

Many of us may be feeling a desire to boost our personal productivity, even if it's just a little bit. And your morning routine can be a great place to start. With that in mind, here are some common mistakes people make in the morning that hamper productivity as reported by Catherine Pearson of HuffPost, and what to do instead:

Forcing yourself to wake up early: The notion that you have to be an early bird in order to get a lot done simply isn't true, said Chris Bailey, author of 'The Productivity Project'. "We tend to beat ourselves up about the time we wake up," he said — but we're "all wired differently."

A person who wakes up at 10 a.m. can absolutely be as productive as a person who wakes up at 5 a.m.; what matters is how "deliberately" they act once they're awake.

So if your schedule allows, play around with your wake time a bit and see what feels best, says Bailey. You might find you're able to get more done throughout the day if you sneak a few more ZZZs.

Starting your day in 'reactive mode'

Graham Allcott, founder of Think Productive and author of 'How to be a Productivity Ninja', says the biggest productivity buster is starting the day in "reactive mode" rather than "proactive mode."

Many of us wake up and immediately check our phones, but that puts us in "reactive mode," he explained. By contrast, a more proactive start to the morning would involve spending some time thinking about your priorities for the day, running through your calendar and to-do



list, and making a plan.

This doesn't mean going through your messages. "An email inbox is not a to-do list," states Allcott. "In fact, it's a list of everybody else's priorities, not yours."

"The biggest mistake people make is starting their days without a clear plan for what they intend to do," says Laura Vanderkam, author of 'Off the Clock: Feel Less Busy While Getting More Done'.

Not getting dressed

"Getting dressed properly helps," Allcott says. "There's a thing in psychology called 'enclothed cognition' which shows us that the brain performs differently if you're wearing a suit, and you get better intelligence scores if you're wearing a scientist's lab coat — even if you're not a scientist."

Preliminary studies do suggest that getting dressed can have a real influence on a person's attention levels, in large part

because of the symbolism of it all.

Skippping breakfast and am hydration

"Breakfast is a huge part of a successful morning routine because it provides you with the energy that you need to focus on whatever it is that you have going on in the rest of the day," said Stephanie Nelson, a registered dietician.

Nelson recommends something "balanced with protein and carbs," but says you should really be realistic about what you've actually got time for — and keep it simple. Nelson, for example, likes making herself protein pancakes for breakfast, but a much simpler choice might be, say, a piece of toast with some peanut butter.

Also, hydrate, says Erica Zellner, a health coach. "Hydration plays an important role in our ability to concentrate and be productive. Our brains are strongly influenced by our hydration status," she

said. "Studies have shown that even mild dehydration, as little as a 1% dip in hydration status, can impair mood, memory, concentration and executive function."

Just getting in the habit of downing a glass of H₂O first thing in the morning can be a good starting point.

Doing too much multitasking

When you're trying to whip through a long to-do list, it's tempting to juggle. (It's also unavoidable if you're balancing work, child care and other responsibilities.) But to the extent it is possible, you should aim to "monotask," says Zellner.

"Multitasking reduces productivity by up to 40% and can have negative long-term effects on the brain," she explains. She urges her clients to focus on one thing for a given period of time, which has the added bonus of potentially putting them in a state of flow.

Not prepping the night before

At the end of a long day, the last thing anyone wants to do is plan for the next. But experts say it can make a big difference in productivity and might ultimately buy you more downtime.

"I recommend that at the end of each work day, people list out their must-dos for the next day. It's basically about deciding when can you do the tasks that must be done by the end of the day?" says Vanderkam.

Another key part of preparing for the next day?

"Quality sleep," says Zellner. "A 2016 study confirmed that sleep deprivation will impair a process known as selective attention, or the ability to focus on specific information when other things are occurring around you. This means that a poor night of sleep will hinder your ability to monotask and be productive."

Ananya Khare: I play negative characters with a lot of fun

Ananya Khare is a well-known face of the television industry. Now she will be part of the new show 'Gud Se Meetha Ishq'.

The actress who is often praised for her negative role will be seen portraying a mother in the show. It is going to be different from what she has done so far, reports IANS.

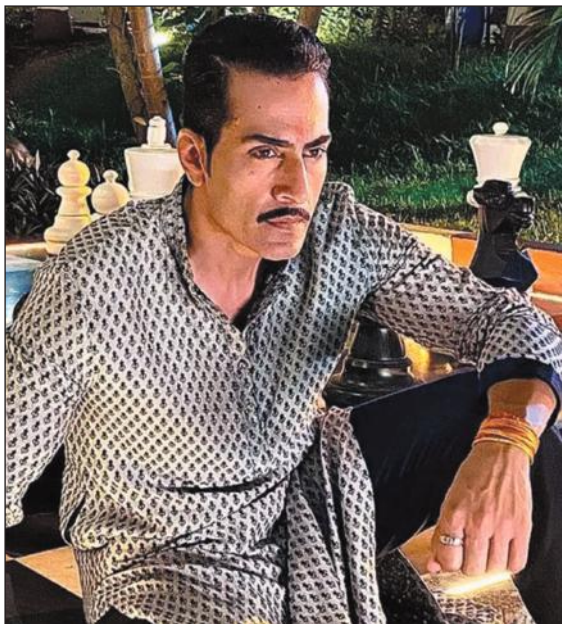
She has always been typecast for negative shade characters.

Ananya responded: "I don't think at all that I am being typecast, even today I will do negative characters with a lot of fun. Each character is a character in itself. It comes with a new storyline which means a lot to me in character and acting. I still welcome comic, serious, positive or any other kind of roles with open arms and I would love to do all kinds of characters going forward."



She further added: "The special child of this character has always been close to me, whose mental progress is slow. Since I have taught such children in the US for almost 8 years as a teacher. In this sense, one such special child, Pari's mother, portraying something alike is very different in itself and I am very happy about this character."

Sudhanshu Pandey talks about moving from films to TV: 'It's Not Luxurious'



In a recent interview, Sudhanshu Pandey talked about *Anupamaa* being his first daily show ever and shared his experience.

Sudhanshu Pandey is currently playing the role of Vanraj Shah in the popular show *Anupamaa*. Prior to this, the actor has worked in several films including *Singh Is King*, *Mardaani 2* and *Singham* among others. However, in a recent interview, Sudhanshu talked about *Anupamaa* being his first daily show ever and shared his experience.

"*Anupama* is my first daily show ever. I have never worked in any other daily show before. For friends, I have made a few appearances on some shows, but haven't worked full time in any of them. I wasn't ready to get into daily soaps for the longest time because I was doing films. Later, I did a few web shows after which I took up this TV show *Anupama*," Sudhanshu Pandey told Etimes.

He also talked about how he landed for the role of Vanraj Shah and revealed that working for television isn't as 'luxurious' as films. The actor further

explained that long working hours in television, make the job tough. "I had met producer Rajan Shahi at an award show. He is an old friend of mine. I told him I would be interested in working on a TV show if the role was really good. A couple of months later, he called me for *Anupama*, but before that he prepared me for around a month regarding the working style of television. The long working hours... I realised it's not going to be luxurious like films. It will be tough," Sudhanshu added.

Adding on the same, Sudhanshu Pandey explained, "It's a daily fight and rush with time, content, deadlines and I fell in love with this rush. I enjoy my work and which is why I don't feel it's tiring or monotonous."

Apart from this, Sudhanshu Pandey also talked about playing a negative role on-screen and said that he is happy to make people believe his character is real. "I am enjoying this while it lasts. I feel that I am successful in making the audience believe that the character I play is real and not fictional. I am happy about that," he said.

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YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Trust your intuition early this week. Wonderful and unexpected events can bring new hope. You can create what you can imagine. Believe in your dreams. Midweek is positive for any sort of business or career ambitions. People will be interested in what you think.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 19, 23, 24, 25, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your creative energies are running high early this coming week. Focus on work midweek. Discussions and information exchange will be productive. It may be time to make a choice. Get out and have fun. It is an ideal time to visit friends.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 20, 24, 25, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

This is a time for brilliant ideas. Friends can be especially inspirational. It is also a positive time for customer service businesses. A serious and practical energy means you can make wonderful progress.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 21, 25, 26, 31

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You may alienate people with your grumbling early this week. Avoid impulsively taking on any new plan or project. You will find yourself overextended. Financial matters demand attention. Be sure you have enough money saved for an emergency.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 17, 20, 26, 33

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Having your way can be tricky. You may have to compromise more than you would like. It is likely you will find support from an unexpected source. Freely share your needs, plans, and passions. Do not gamble or take unnecessary risks at week's end.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 14, 17, 20, 31

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

There may be so much going on that you have problems staying organized. Self-discipline and perseverance are your best weapons. But things must be kept in balance. A relaxing bath, massage, or beauty treatment could improve your spirits.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 18, 25, 30, 32

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This is a high-energy week. Complicated business negotiations will go well. Take steps to improve your financial position. Thursday brings an opportunity to change things at home. It may be a chance to save money and clean things up at the same time.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 21, 23, 27, 31, 40

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You may have to take the lead to make changes at work. Sometimes a difficult situation will change if you simply do nothing, but this is not your style. People admire your open and honest nature. You may be able to help mend a family problem simply by speaking your mind.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 19, 20, 24, 36

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

This is the week to make necessary changes around the house. It could be the beginning of remodelling plans, a good cleaning, or even a possible move. Don't hesitate to ask for help. Be conservative with your money.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 22, 27, 30, 31, 39

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You may startle your family with a sudden or unexpected move this week. It may be something you have wanted to do for a long time. If it involves money, ask the advice of experts. Problems at work should not be taken seriously; things will be changing.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 21, 31, 34

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Monday is best for attacking any unfinished business. The weekend brings the potential for a very romantic meeting with someone special. Also make plans that include your inner circle of friends. Outdoor activities can be surprisingly pleasant on Sunday.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 15, 20, 25, 26

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Expect the unexpected early this coming week. Turn your heart to more spiritual concerns. Music, gentle friends, and good fun are possible. Get out with friends this weekend. A positive and expansive energy gives rise to good ideas and future plans.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 15, 17, 26, 32



Imtiaz Ali: 'Ranbir and Alia are the purest form of actors that I have seen in my life'

The countdown to the most awaited big Bollywood wedding has begun. Ranbir Kapoor will soon tie the knot with Alia Bhatt. Both Ranbir and Alia are looked upon as two of the finest actors of this generation, making this union all the more special. Times of India approached Imtiaz Ali to talk about this merger of two powerhouse talents. The director, after all, has given the actors their career-defining films — *Highway* with Alia and *Rockstar* and *Tamasha* with Ranbir.

When asked about the couple and their upcoming marriage, the director said, "Amongst the actors that I

Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor to Saira Banu-Dilip Kumar...

Bollywood celebs who dated or married their crush

When it comes to finding love, some Bollywood celebs have had a love story that started off as a crush but with positive manifestations, it soared high to dating and finally getting married. They have been lucky in making their dreams come true by finding their soulmate in their crush, reports IndiaTV News.

We have witnessed some of the celebrities childhood crushes transforming into beautiful bonds of marriage and courtship. If you are thinking it has been a very modern Bollywood 'thing' then let's take you back to the early 1960's when a young Saira Banu met her first crush Dilip Kumar. Despite the age gap of 22 years, Saira could manage to win his heart and the couple got married in the year 1966 when Saira was 22 and Dilip was

44. The iconic couple stayed together till the veteran actor breathed last on July 7, 2021.

Another most admired couple Anil Kapoor and Sunita Kapoor's love story proves that your true determination can bring you closer to your soulmate. The 'Ram Laxman' actor fell in love with Sunita the moment he heard her voice and finally when he met her, he was reassured in his heart. Sunita was with the actor through thick and thin. After dating for eleven long years the couple tied the knot.

Varun Dhawan married the love of his life Natasha Dalal in January last year in a grand wedding. But do you know, before that Natasha had declined Varun's wedding proposal several times. Varun was head over heels in love with

Natasha since their school days. It was years later when Natasha reciprocated the same to the actor. Obviously after his continuous efforts.

Vicky Kaushal's love for actress Katrina Kaif came out to be known to the world when he was awestruck to know that Katrina had expressed her desire to work with Vicky in *Koffee With Karan*. He then confessed that he had a crush on the actress. Years later we saw the beautiful actress walking down the aisle for Vicky as her husband.

Now, its time for Alia Bhatt's dream to come true. The actress has time and again revealed that she met Ranbir when she was just 11 and had a huge crush on him ever since. She even revealed that she would stare at his pictures when she was a teenager.

have worked with, there is no one more similar than Ranbir and Alia. To be alike as actors, you have to be alike as people as well. You need to be aligned in thought, and that's the case with these two."

He recalled, "Even before Ranbir and Alia got friendly with each other, there was a kind of affinity I saw in

both of them because they were so alike. I have had the privilege of working with Alia and Ranbir, and I can say that there are no actors like these two. The fact that Ranbir and Alia are together, gives me immense happiness and pleasure. They are the purest form of actors that I have seen in my life."

Ajay Devgn on daughter Nysa's Bollywood debut:

'Anything can change anytime with the children. I don't know'

Ajay Devgn and Kajol's daughter Nysa Devgn has never failed to grab people's attention. Earlier this year, a picture of her on celebrity designer Manish Malhotra's Instagram fuelled speculation about her Bollywood debut.

Over the past couple of years, her dance videos from her school have often surfaced on social media platforms, where she enjoys a large following. The videos proved that she has inherited some skills from her actor parents. However, Ajay Devgn, in an interview, has put the speculations about his daughter's Bollywood debut to rest. He said that Nysa currently has no interest in the film industry. The star-kid is currently studying International Hospitality at Switzerland's Glion Institute of Higher Education, reports Indian Express.

In an interview with 'Film Companion', Ajay Devgn was asked about Nysa and how he feels about the new generation of actors. In response, the *Runway 34* actor said, "Forget my daughter... I don't know if she wants to come into this line because till this moment she's shown



disinterest." However, he added, "Anything can change anytime with the children. I don't know. She is abroad, studying right now."

Talking about the new generation of actors, Ajay said they are well-prepared and know what they are doing. He said that sometimes, they 'perform better than you.' "The newer generation is well prepared as they know how to speak, how to behave, how to handle social media and everything else. Our problem is that

we have to kind of compete with them to stay relevant," he chuckled.

Ajay Devgn completed 30 years in Bollywood this year. In January, he penned a post in which he spoke about facing brutal rejections and people's criticisms. He ended the note with, "Always be true, always be you!" The actor-filmmaker is currently busy promoting his directorial venture *Runway 34*. The film also stars Rakul Preet Singh and Amitabh Bachchan.

Cinema Sirsa

Castel – Tel Nos – 6867356 / 6971613 / 59119396 / 57069330

TAMIL MOVIE BEAST (featuring Thalapathy Vijay)

Friday 15 April 2022 - 13:15
Saturday 16 April 2022 - 20:15
Sunday 17 April 2022 - 16:15
Monday 18 April 2022 - 13:15
Friday 19 April 2022 - 20:15



HINDI MOVIE KASHMIR FILES

Friday 15 April 2022 - 20:15
Saturday 16 April 2022 to
Sunday 17 April 2022 - 13:15
Monday 18 April 2022 - 20:15
Tuesday 19 April 2022 - 13:15



NOTICE FOR BUILDING & LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

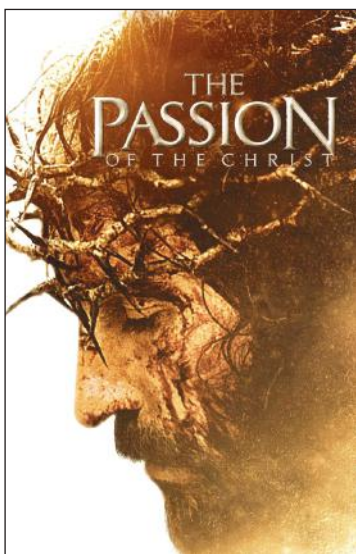
Take notice that INVOS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY LTD will apply to the District Council of Flacq for a Building and Land Use Permit for converting part of an existing building into Manufacturer of structural metal products (e.g., doors, frames, shutters, metal frameworks) and for installation of industrial engines 1. Miter saw 15AMP, 2. Angle Grinder 2100watt, 3. Air compressor (5.5HP, 4.045KW) at Belle Vue Road, Laventure.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days from the date of this publication.

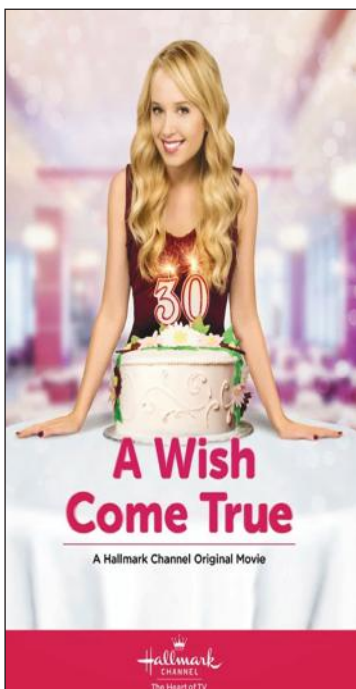
Date: 15.04.2022



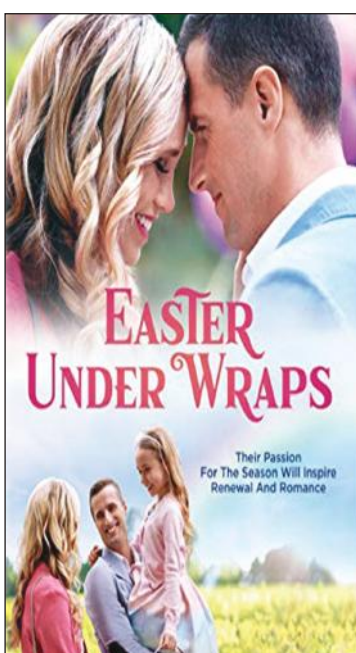
vendredi 15 avril - 21.15



samedi 16 avril - 21.00



dimanche 17 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



vendredi 15 avril

samedi 16 avril

dimanche 17 avril

lundi 18 avril

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines
09.00 Doc: Nu Rasinn
10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.20 Local: Focus
14.41 D.Anime: The Twisted...
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.34 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.32 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
17.05 Doc: Books
17.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planets
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 Local: Tou Korek
21.55 Serial: Madam Secretary
23.20 Le Journal
23.56 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
11.18 Serial: Tawaan
12.00 Film: Joshi Ki Kamble
13.55 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.47 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.10 Local: Urdu Programme - Noor-E-Iman
22.05 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.25 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.51 Doc: La Route De La Soie
10.25 Doc: Sri Lanka
12.18 Mag: Shift
13.46 Doc: La Route De La Soie
14.14 Doc: Van Gogh
16.21 Doc: Sir Lanka
17.49 Doc: Paradis Perdue
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.47 Mag: World Stories
20.05 Doc: Tresors Oublies De...
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
21.36 Doc: Volcano Stories
22.50 Doc: One Way Ticket
23.40 Doc: Paradis Perdue
00.23 Mag: World Stories
00.35 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.31 Mag: Our Voices
01.03 Mag: Euromaxx

Cine 12

01.21 Film: Red Dog: True Blue
03.31 Film: Finding Altamira
04.58 Tele: Marimar
05.18 Tele: Rubi
05.49 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
12.00 Film: Finding Altamira
13.31 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Red Dog: True Blue
16.40 Serial: 19-2
17.23 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Zoo
21.15 Film: The Passion Of The Christ

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Safari
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.55 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Naya Khooon
Starring: Govinda, Mandakini
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.38 Bhakharwadi
20.08 Siddhi Vinayak
20.38 Radha Krishna

06.02 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz...
06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
09.35 Serial: Nowhere Boys
10.00 Au Pays Des Merveilles
10.30 Serial: Creeped Out
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
15.20 D.Anime: Word Party
15.34 Film: Here Comes Peter...
16.46 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: A Wish Come True
Avec: Megan Park, Benjamin...
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Raviir, The Marshsal
Star: Rishy, Rati Agnihotri, Ramnita Chaudhry
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.46 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Film: Bhagwan Samaye
Sansar Main
Stars: Ashish Kumar, Abhi Bhattacharya
17.21 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
21.00 Film: The Body
Starring Rishi Kapoor, Emraan Hashmi, Vedhika, Sobhita Dhulipala

06.00 Doc: Paradis Perdue
06.42 Mag: World Famous Writers
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.40 Doc: Tresors Oublies De...
10.22 Doc: One Way Ticket
12.33 Mag: Euromaxx
13.28 Doc: World Heritage
13.33 Doc: Les Mysteres Du Nil
14.30 Student Support Prog...
17.29 Mag: Premier League...
18.02 English Premier League: Manchester United Vs Norwich City
19.30 Mag: Saladeria
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.50 Doc: Hotels
21.42 Doc: Global Drinks
22.34 Doc: Starting Strong
23.17 Doc: Sweet Magic
23.22 Mag: Happiness Is On The...

01.55 Film: Eaten By Lions
03.26 Serial: Seal Team
04.07 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
04.51 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
05.33 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.16 Serial: Zoo
08.30 Serial: The Night Shift
09.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.40 Film: Easten By Lions
12.15 Serial: Seal Team
13.30 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.29 Serial: Zoo
17.05 Film: Bobby Et Les Chasseurs De Fantomes
18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.40 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Zoo
21.15 Film: Barabbas
Avec Anthony Quinn, Vittorio Gassman, Silvana Mangano,

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.35 Motu Patlu
10.47 Siddhi Vinayak
12.18 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.13 Anupamaa
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Yeh Majhdhaar
Star: Salman Khan, Manisha Koirala, Rahul Roy
21.16 Serial: Namah
21.21 Serial: Naagin Season 3
22.04 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.02 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz...
06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.50 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
08.20 Film: Here Comes Peter...
09.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys: Battle...
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
11.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto
13.20 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.20 D.Anime: Word Party
15.33 Film: Jesus A Kingdom...
17.05 Doc: Books - The Greatest
17.20 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production: Groov'in
21.15 Film: Grace And Goliath
Avec: Emy Aneke, Tommy Bowe, Maria Brashier

07.00 Film: Nanu Ki Jaanu
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
11.45 Serial: Surya Pura
12.06 Film: Good Newwz
14.07 DDI Magazine
15.20 Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Nareesh Eswar...
16.30 Local: Yaadein
16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas Hai
20.46 Serial: CID
21.29 Serial: Naagin Season 2
Starring: Mouni Roy, Karanvir Bohra

06.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
07.02 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.28 Mag: Check In
09.36 Doc: Global Drinks
10.35 Doc: Starting Strong
11.16 Doc: Sweet Magic
11.21 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
11.50 En Direct De La Place Saint Pierre: Messe Du Dimanche De Paques
14.38 Doc: Global Drinks
15.31 Doc: Starting Strong
17.33 Doc: Sweet Magic
18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
20.01 Doc: Planet Home
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Expedition Kachgar
21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie
22.09 Doc: Abbas By Abbas
22.52 Doc: China's Cities

02.12 Film: Bobby et Les Chasseurs De Fantomes
03.25 Serial: Dynasty 2
04.14 Film: A Wish Come True
05.36 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.25 Serial: Zoo
07.07 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.00 Serial: The Night Shift
09.40 Film: A Wish Come True
11.05 Film: Bobby Et Les Chasseurs De Fantomes
12.24 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.20 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Zoo
17.53 Serial: Dynasty 2
18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
19.12 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Under Pressure
21.15 Film: Easter Under Wraps

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.24 Bhakharwadi
03.53 Anupamaa
05.52 Pavitra Rishta
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.03 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.00 Agnihera
16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Excuse Me
Starring: Sahil Joshi, Sharmen joshi, Sonali Joshi
21.00 Naagin Season 3
21.43 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.40 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
01.26 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein

06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.00 Local Prod: Zafan Nou Zil
07.55 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
09.00 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
09.30 Film: Jesus A Kingdon...
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Act...
11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.13 Prod: Groov'in
15.33 Film: Pierre Lapin
17.05 Doc: Books
17.10 Serial: Hi Opie!
17.31 Mag: Kid's Planets
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
18.55 Serial: Mere Sai
19.30 Le Journal
20.40 MBC Production
21.10 Film: Phantom Thread
Avec: Daniel Day-Lewis, Vicky Krieps

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Kundali Khagya
12.00 Film: Zahreelay
Stars: Jeetendra, Sanjay Dutt, Chunky Pandey, Juhi Chawla
14.13 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.30 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
17.03 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.43 Vandhal Sridevi
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Radha Krishna
20.29 Film: Nuvvu Thopuraa - Telugu
Starring: Sudhakar Komakula, Nitya Shetty
22.46 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Tree Stories
06.55 Mag: The Inside Story
07.24 Mag: Arts.21
08.26 Doc: World Heritage
11.14 Doc: Sweet Magic
15.03 Doc: Abbas By Abbas
15.46 Doc: China's Cities
16.33 Doc: Tree Stories
17.32 Mag: The Inside Story
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
19.00 Doc: Persons
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.45 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
23.41 Doc: The Expanding Desert
00.37 Mag: The 77 Percent
01.03 Doc: Persons
01.06 Mag: Africa
01.35 Mag: In Good Shape
02.05 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
02.30 Documentary
03.22 Mag: Global 3000

02.09 Film: Easter Under Wraps
04.08 Film: Grace And Goliath
05.38 Tele: Marimar
06.00 Tele: Rubi
06.24 Serial: Under Pressure
07.47 Film: Easter Under Wraps
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
12.00 Film: Grace And Goliath
13.35 Tele: Marimar
13.56 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Easter Under Wraps
16.43 Serial: Under Pressure
18.08 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.29 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana
20.30 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
21.15 Film: The Last Boy
23.03 Tele: Rubi

08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.47 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.21 Film: Genius
Starring: Utkarsh Sharma, Ishitha Chauhan, Mithun Chakraborty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna



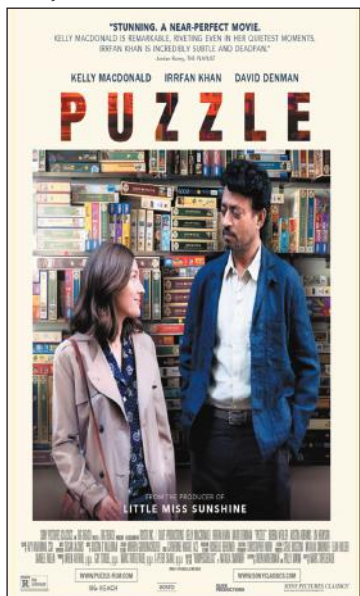
mardi 19 avril - 21.10



mercredi 20 avril - 21.15



jeudi 21 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 19 avril

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig
07.30 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.00 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
10.25 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
10.40 Local: Viens Découvrir
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
12.00 Le Journal
12.20 Autour Des Valeurs...
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Prod: Komiko
15.20 D.Anime: Word Party
15.32 Film: Fantastica
17.05 Serial: Hi Opie!
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Dylan Dog
Stars: Brandon Routh, Anita Briem, Sam Huntington

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Aadmi Sadak Ka
Starring: Shatrughan Sinha, Asit Sen
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Jurmana
Starring R. Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
09.42 Mag: Washington Forum
10.25 Doc: The Expanding Desert
14.36 Mag: Washington Forum
15.46 Doc: The Expanding Desert
16.41 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
19.03 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Doc: Persons
20.30 Live: News
20.45 Doc: Castles
21.40 Doc: Les Grand Mythes
22.08 Mag: Close Up
22.32 Local: Rodrig
23.14 Doc: The Untold Story Of...
23.54 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
00.20 Mag: Healthy Living
00.35 Mag: Red Carpet

Cine 12

00.46 Film: Phantom Thread
03.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
03.31 Film: The Last Boy
05.19 Tele: Rubi
05.46 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
06.25 Film: Phantom Thread
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
11.49 Film: The Last Boy
13.30 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Phantom Thread
16.48 Serial: 19-2
17.32 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
18.14 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
21.15 Film: Predestination
Avec: Ethan Hawke, Sarah Snook...

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Genius
Cast: Utkarsh Sharma, Ishitha Chauhan, Mithun Chakraborty
11.26 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna
11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera
13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.56 / 23.07 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.53 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.28 Film: Ishqedarriyaan
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.30 Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 20 avril

07.15 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
07.30 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.09 D.Anime: Gon
08.20 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
10.15 MBC Prod: Rodrig Prog
10.25 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.00 Prod: Komiko
15.20 D.Anime: Word Party
15.35 Film: I Heart Shakey
17.10 Serial: Hi Opie!
17.30 Mag: Kid's Planet
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: An Emma Fielding Mystery
Starring: Courtney Thorne-Smith, James Tupper

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Inkaar
Starring Vinod Khanna, Vidya Sinha, Shreeram Lagoo
14.00 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Chhoti Bheem
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Programme In Marathi
21.00 Film: Mission Thunderbolt
Star: Jonathan Stierwald, Michael Wai-Man Chan, Steve Daw

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living
06.56 Mag: Check In
08.19 Doc: Castles
09.43 Mag: Close Up
15.40 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
17.37 Mag: Made In Germany
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.35 Doc: Persons
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Castles
21.40 Les Montagnes Du Monde
22.49 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.15 Doc: The Fall Of The Ussr
23.57 Mag: Motorweek
00.38 Mag: Vous Et Nous
01.05 Doc: Persons
00.52 Mag: Arts.21
01.18 Mag: The Inside Story
01.43 Doc: Skuld

01.28 Film: Red Dog
03.38 Film: Predestination
05.07 Tele: Marimar
05.56 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges
06.38 Film: Red Dog
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
11.46 Film: Predestination
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Red Dog
16.42 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.36 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
18.18 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.30 Serial: Superstore
20.30 Serial: Billions
21.27 Film: Mackenna's Gold
With: Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif, Telly Savalas

07.00 Film: Ishqedarriyaan
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera
13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.51 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.47 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Humlaa
Starring Dharmendra, Anil Kapoor, Kimi Katkar
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.00 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa

jeudi 21 avril

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
06.59 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
07.35 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.26 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
10.30 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.22 Prod: Komiko
15.35 Film: SMURFS
17.05 Doc: Books
17.10 Serial: Hi Opie!
17.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.23 Film: Superstar
Starring Kunal Khemu, Tulip Joshi, Zafar Karachiwala, Sanjay Dutt

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Jawani Diwani
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.27 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.48 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.59 Local: Profil
21.14 Film: Puzzle
With Kelly Macdonald, Irrfan Khan, David Denman, Bubba Weiler...

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.52 Doc: Persons
08.14 Doc: Castles
10.13 Mag: Focus On Europe
12.00 Local: Vous Et Nous
13.14 Doc: Skuld
13.40 Doc: Castles
15.39 Mag: Focus On Europe
16.05 Doc: The Fall Of The USSR
17.06 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7
19.30 World Famous Writers
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.48 Doc: Castles
21.40 Doc: Snapshots
22.07 Doc: Guinea-Bissau
23.31 Doc: Be Afraid
00.14 Mag: Eco India
00.53 Mag: Red Carpet

01.58 Film: An Emma Fielding...
03.22 Serial: Heroes Reborn
04.02 Film: Mackenna's Gold
05.48 Tele: Marimar
06.12 Tele: Rubi
07.34 Film: An Emma Fielding...
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Last Resort
11.41 Film: Mackenna's Gold
13.36 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: An Emma Fielding...
16.30 Serial: 19-2
17.21 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.36 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages...
20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue

07.00 Film: Humlaa
Starring Dharmendra, Anil Kapoor, Kimi Katkar
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.54 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.30 Film: Daava
Star: Naseeruddin Shah, Akshay Kumar, Raveena...
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.29 Bhakharwadi



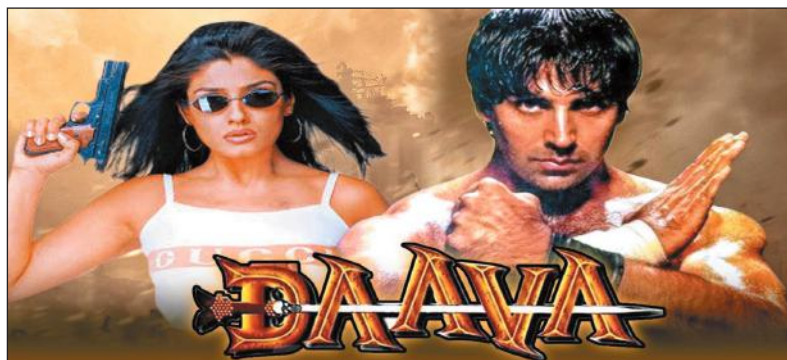
Jeudi 21 avril - 15.30

Star: Naseeruddin Shah, Akshay Kumar, Raveena...



Jeudi 21 avril - 20.45

Stars: Kunal Khemu, Tulip Joshi, Zafar Karachiwala, Sanjay Dutt



Question de principe



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Jusqu'à preuve du contraire, il semble bien que tout acte de vol des données informatiques et téléphoniques relève de la cybercriminalité, et est punissable par la loi. C'est sans aucune gêne qu'une conversation téléphonique entre une élue des de l'opposition et une autre du rang du gouvernement a été interceptée et rendue public dans les colonnes de la presse.

Est-ce que l'élue de l'opposition s'insurgerait contre cet acte illégal de mise sur écoute dont elle a été l'objet ? Et quid du journal qui publie allègrement ce genre d'information sans dévoiler la source ni condamner l'acte d'interception ?

Si tant est qu'on veuille encore accorder le bénéfice du doute quant à l'intention même de ce qui est un acte répréhensible dans la course à faire le buzz, c'est qu'on s'accroche à croire qu'un certain principe dicte la ligne à ne pas franchir dans le métier.

Que nenni ! En pleine pandémie en 2020, empiéree par la marée noire du Wakashio, on a vu surgir sur les ondes de la radio un expert maritime sans diplôme et, dans la mêlée, s'est érigé en meneur de protestation de rue. La surexcitation sur les ondes battait son plein.

La parole relâchée et sans complexe derrière le micro laissait libre cours au déchaînement du public à critiquer, à condamner et à juger avec un brin de moquerie partagé par tous et chacun avec un manque de retenue totale lorsque les

autorités sont prises pour cibles.

Sans faire l'avocat de qui que ce soit, on s'est dit que si on prend une telle liberté à tourner en dérision les élus du peuple, il faut aussi que les auteurs de ces moqueries acceptent d'être à leur tour objet de raillerie légère des auditeurs : la liberté et le pouvoir illusoire du micro ne sont garants d'aucun privilège d'infailibilité.

Eh bien, voilà que non. Ceux qui se moquent des autres voient d'un mauvais œil d'être moqués à leur tour, et leur clique est vite venue à leur rescousse en se livrant à des représailles, à un cyber harcèlement par tous les moyens dans le confort de l'anonymat. Ce faisant, ils ont dévoilé l'autre visage que celui des grands principes qu'ils exigent des autres, celui de l'intolérance et des petites mesquineries, des petites vengeances dans un esprit de compétition et de rapport de force pour étaler leur capacité de nuisance à quiconque ose les remettre en question.

Petit pays, petites gens, ces paroles répétées comme un leitmotiv par le personnage qui se morfond dans son salon parisien avant d'envisager le voyage de retour dans le roman *Ritournelle de la faim* de Le Clézio nous reviennent à l'esprit, à chaque constat de cet esprit de vengeance et de nuisance à autrui. L'égo gonflé à bloc n'est pas le monopole des mâles ! Quand la gent féminine s'y met, c'est une véritable furie...

Petites vengeances

Les adeptes les plus acharnés des petites vengeances n'ont aucun scrupule à trouver le compte en banque ou toute autre transaction de leur cible. Et la jouissance dans l'intrusion des données des autres ne s'arrête pas à un acte de voyeurisme. Ils envoient un petit message ou un signe pour signaler leur méfait.

Cela fait des années que la question de confidentialité des données bancaires, avant même l'ère de l'internet sur le téléphone portable, devrait attirer l'attention des autorités.

En réalité, il suffirait qu'un employé de banque se porte complice et, sans scrupules, il irait jusqu'à imprimer le relevé

bancaire qu'une personne mal intentionnée lui demande. C'est ahurissant. Aucune gêne, aucun principe.

Il serait temps que les autorités se penchent sur la protection des données et le professionnalisme de leurs employés. On a bien l'impression que ce type de voyoucratie est bien répandu. Que ce soit les forces de l'ordre ou les représentants de la loi, il semblerait que les petits arrangements soient devenus un fonctionnement normal dans une petite société où tout le monde se connaît ou presque.

La cyber guerre a ceci de particulier : elle protège l'anonymat des auteurs, leur permet de faire la leçon aux autres dans les écrits et les interviews, et pour d'autres, de s'afficher tout sourire en costume et cravate devant les caméras.

Débauchage politique

Quant au débauchage des élus des partis adverses, la pratique est tellement bien ancrée dans les mœurs politiques que rien n'étonne les gens de la rue. Le but est de mettre à nu le roi d'en face jusqu'à le rendre insignifiant dans son dénuement le plus abouti. Chez les bleus, le coq de la basse-cour peut encore pavoiser tant que ses plumes sont peu attrayantes, ou alors, certains coquelets restent droit dans leurs bottes, et se pousseront des cocoricos en se hissant de leur propre gré sur le toit le moment venu.

Le débauchage devient monnaie courante même dans les grandes démocraties, sauf à la Chambre des Communes dans la brume londonienne où il reste quelques principes et il n'est pas si aisé de trahir sans s'attirer la foudre du public.

A Maurice, en l'absence d'une idéologie claire qui démarque les uns des autres partis, il y a la manière de gouverner, et quand même, quelques principes qui persistent chez les uns, et les mesures sociales fortes qui font pencher le public pour tel parti.

En fin de compte, pour les citoyens qui peinent à joindre les deux bouts, et les autres qui se soucient d'étoffer leur compte bancaire, c'est le pouvoir d'achat qui prime le jour du grand choix des gouvernants...



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Choosing True Connections

By always using our cell phones, texting and surfing the Internet, we actually become less connected and more distracted.

We are often lured by the promise of new technologies to make our lives easier and help connect us to others. While they do so in many ways, they also present each of us with opportunities to make new choices about how we spend our time and invest our energy. Most gadgets are generally meant to improve the quality of our lives, but it is when we spend too much time with them that they actually do the opposite. By always using our cell phones, playing video games, and surfing the Internet, we actually become less connected and more distracted. By becoming aware of these tendencies, we harness the power to overcome them and make better choices for ourselves and our families.

Once we decide to consciously put our gadgets to work for us, we become masters of our time. We can give our full attention to whatever we are doing and not let phones and other distractions take the place of human contact. Each of us has the ability to consciously choose to be more present in our lives. We can decide at any time to leave our gadgets behind and become aware of the sights and sounds around us in order to expand our awareness and be fully present in our bodies and our surroundings.

When we use our discernment about how we invest our personal energy, we can be sure that we choose only the best for ourselves and those we love. Our gadgets can be useful tools for our journey in the material world, but we must not forget that we are spiritual beings having a human experience and that means interacting with people on a personal level. Choices that enliven us and help us feel connected to our world and our loved ones always deserve our full attention and presence of mind, body, and spirit.