

MAURITIUS TIMES

• One of the keys to ensuring accountability is to have civil servants who witness fraud, waste and abuse to blow the whistle. -- Byron Dorgan

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Pension Reform: Lessons from the UK's Welfare Cuts

The recent dramatic U-turn by the Labour government in the UK regarding its proposed Personal Independence Payment (PIP) reforms offers a potent and timely lesson for democratic societies struggling with the seemingly intractable problem of budgetary constraints and precarious public finances. PIP is a UK benefit that helps people aged 16 to State Pension age with extra costs due to a long-term illness or disability. What began as a confident move to prune the welfare state, touted as a necessary step towards fiscal stability, ended in a humiliating climbdown, revealing the enduring strength of public sentiment and the formidable power of internal party dissent when core welfare principles are perceived to be under attack.

In the face of forecast savings of £4.8 billion, Chancellor Rachel Reeves' ambition to rein in welfare spending was met with a robust and multi-faceted backlash. This wasn't merely a political spat; it was a societal assertion of values, demonstrating that for many, particularly in the UK, the welfare state is not a dispensable luxury but an integral part of the social fabric, a promise of security and dignity for its most vulnerable citizens.

The very notion of "anti-social measures" — as the public and press are free to label them in a democracy — immediately sets a high bar for any government seeking to dismantle or significantly curtail welfare provisions. When measures are seen to disproportionately impact vulnerable individuals or those in precarious situations, the moral compass of a society is tested. The proposed PIP changes, which would have restricted eligibility and effectively cut benefits for hundreds of thousands, were widely condemned by disability charities and advocacy groups as "cruel" and "unjust." Their arguments resonated deeply with the public, with polls indicating a staggering 75% belief that such cuts were indeed cruel, a sentiment consistent across all demographics and political leanings.

This powerful public rejection underscores a fundamental truth: the "welfare state" in many democratic nations has evolved beyond a mere collection of economic policies. It embodies a social contract, a collective agreement that society has a responsibility to protect those unable to protect themselves and vulnerable members of society. Attempts to break this contract are often met with fierce resistance because they challenge deeply held beliefs about fairness and compassion.

Beyond public opinion, the Labour government also faced an unexpected and significant internal rebellion. Despite a considerable working majority, 49 Labour MPs defied the party whip, marking the largest



Pic - Top FM

revolt of Sir Keir Starmer's premiership. This internal dissent highlights that even within a governing party, there can be a powerful ideological commitment to welfare principles that transcends electoral expediency or fiscal targets. For these rebel MPs, the proposed cuts likely represented a betrayal of the very values that drew them into the Labour Party, demonstrating that the pursuit of a balanced budget cannot always override core party principles.

The handling of the reforms itself offers several lessons. Critics consistently described the Bill as "rushed," "poorly thought-out," and lacking in genuine consultation. Effective policymaking in a democracy demands more than simply announcing a new direction. It requires comprehensive impact assessments, meaningful engagement with those directly affected, and a transparent process that builds trust. The British government's failure to adequately consult with disabled people and their representative organizations, and to publish a thorough human rights impact assessment, severely undermined the legitimacy of their proposals. When reforms are perceived as being imposed from above without genuine listening, the seeds of opposition are quickly sown.

The British media, too, played a crucial role in shaping the narrative. While some outlets might traditionally lean towards austerity arguments, the sheer weight of expert and lived experience testimony, amplified by dedicated advocacy groups, ensured that the human cost of the proposed cuts remained front and centre. This allowed the public to see beyond abstract fiscal numbers and connect with the tangible impact on real lives, further strengthening the resolve against the reforms.

This unfolding events in the UK finds a

striking parallel in the current situation in Mauritius, where the government is grappling with strong protests over proposed pension reforms. Like the UK, Mauritius faces demographic shifts and the challenge of sustaining its universal old-age pension. The Mauritian government has put forth plans to progressively increase the eligibility age for the universal old-age pension from 60 to 65 years. This move, framed as essential for long-term fiscal sustainability, is generating significant public outcry.

Mauritius's old-age pension, established as a universal right in 1957, is deeply embedded in the nation's social contract. For many Mauritians, particularly those in the informal sector or those who have spent their lives in unpaid care work, the universal old-age pension is a vital lifeline, not merely a supplementary income. Protesters argue that raising the retirement age to 65 would inflict undue hardship on those who, often due to physically demanding jobs or lack of formal employment, are unable to continue working into their mid-sixties. The argument that people are living longer, while true, often overlooks the quality of life and the physical toll of certain professions.

The demographic imperative for extending pensionable ages is undeniable, yet the political and social challenges remain immense. Governments face the unenviable task of balancing financial sustainability with social equity and public acceptance. Mauritius' current struggles with pension reform highlight this global problem: how to manage strong public opposition while building a sustainable system for the future. While raising the eligibility age for the universal old-age pension might help fix government's finances and address the sustainability of the pension system, its ultimate success depends on thoughtful implementation, particularly by engaging the pub-

lic and allowing exceptions for vulnerable groups. Neither our dire financial straits nor Moody's ratings can be dismissed, and no reform will get unanimous consent, but the way forward is to find without undue delay a consensus that is acceptable for government and key stakeholders.

At the time of writing, the final Cabinet decision regarding the initially announced pension reform measures is still pending. Crucially, significant decisions are expected today, driven by the widespread protests. The government is under immense pressure to reconsider or at least amend its proposals, and the parallels with the Starmer government's PIP debacle are striking. Indeed, the Mauritian experience, much like the British, highlights that social security systems, particularly pensions, transcend their role as mere economic instruments to become deeply symbolic pillars of societal solidarity.

The government will need to proceed with the pension reform — there is no doubt about that. But the pension system has to be rationalised to ensure its sustainability, and the government should know where the money is for ensuring its funding—the IPPs, the MIC loans to the "distressed corporates" and corporate cronies of the previous government, amongst others. Seeking alternative solutions is imperative: just as a wealth tax was mooted in the UK as an alternative to PIP cuts, Mauritius might need to explore a broader range of revenue-generating measures, or indeed, other forms of expenditure rationalization, before resorting to changes that impact the most vulnerable segments of its population.

The British Labour government's retreat on PIP reforms is not just a story of political embarrassment; it is a powerful affirmation of democratic principles at work. It demonstrates that in societies where citizens and the press are truly free to speak out, the collective will to protect fundamental social provisions can, and often does, triumph over technocrats' calls for austerity.

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Prakash Neerohoo

Public sector management

The Role of Advisors in Public Administration

Allowing advisors to benefit financially or concentrate corporate control through their appointments, despite a pool of qualified individuals, would be suspicious and violate good governance standards

Last week in Parliament, the Prime Minister made a statement on the functions of advisors in government. He revealed some very disturbing facts about the functions and privileges (emoluments and fringe benefits) of advisors in government and the broader public sector. With reference to the situation under the previous government, he revealed some dubious practices that involved influence peddling, political patronage, cronyism and waste of public funds.

The PM's statement gives rise to some crucial questions:

- What is the specific role of advisors in the public sector?
- Are advisors appointed based on merit (professional qualifications and experience) or according to some other criteria such as party affiliation, personal friendship or family relationship?
- Are advisors political staff appointed to implement the ruling party's program or are they independent experts providing neutral, evidence-based advice to government?

Context

In Mauritius, there is no law that governs the recruitment of advisors in ministries and the broader public sector (parastatal bodies and public enterprises). Advisors are usually selected by ministers or CEOs of public sector organisations, and their conditions of employment are defined in a contract that remains private and confidential. Information about the emoluments of advisors in ministries is only disclosed in Parliament when there is a question from an MP. Government cannot refuse disclosure in this case because the advisors' emoluments are paid from public funds. However, Parliament does not have access to information on the emoluments of advisors recruited by State-owned enterprises (e.g., SBM, Air Mauritius Ltd.) although they may be political appointees because these corporate entities fall outside parliamentary scrutiny.

Under the previous government, there were four categories of advisors as described by the PM:

- Special Advisors.
- Senior Advisors.
- Advisors on Information Matters.
- Advisors on Public Relations.

The previous government employed a significant number of advisors whose quali-



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“We can identify certain individuals with some competence (e.g., economists) who served different Ministers of Finance under successive governments. Their permanency in advisory positions led to conflicting policy advice over the years from one minister to another. For example, they could propose one policy prescription under one minister and reverse it under another minister. The same economic experts who helped in underestimating public debt and overestimating GDP under the previous government have now revised their estimates under the new government...”

fications and experience were kept secret. We don't know whether they were competent enough for the jobs assigned to them. While some Senior Advisors or Special Advisors were well known for having served successive governments (e.g. Dev Manraj in the Ministry of Finance and Bhinod Bacha in the PMO), others kept a low profile. In the latter category, we can identify certain individuals with some competence (e.g.,

economists) who served different Ministers of Finance under successive governments. Their permanency in advisory positions led to conflicting policy advice over the years from one minister to another. For example, they could propose one policy prescription under one minister and reverse it under another minister.

The same economic experts who helped in underestimating public debt and overestimating GDP under the previous government have now revised their estimates under the new government. Is not evidence-based research and policy advice the norm in finance and economics? We would hope so.

Revolving door

When it comes to Information Advisors or Public Relations Advisors, they are clearly political staff, whose role is to disseminate information, develop public relations and promote the minister's image in the media. Over the years, a revolving door has developed between the media outlets (newspapers and private radios) and the government in power. It has become fashionable for all ministers to appoint a press attaché

(Information Advisor) once they assume office and, in most cases, the appointees come from the media. It makes one wonder how independent those political appointees were when they were working in the media.

Why do all ministers need an Information Advisor when there is a department called “Government Information Services” (GIS) whose role is precisely to disseminate information on official ministry activities? Besides, I see the GIS is more active now than under the previous government. By the way, we should note that the online information published by the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) on ongoing enquiries is commendable. It looks objective and fair. I presume it's all done by regular staff.

In principle, advisors are appointed by government in some ministries to provide advice on specific matters in line with their technical competence and skills. They are subject matter experts and not all-rounders (i.e. a jack of all trades). Therefore, they are expected to hold only one advisory position.

Moonlighting

The Prime Minister revealed that some advisors under the previous government were holding multiple positions. In addition to their “home position” (i.e., where they were initially appointed), they were sitting on multiple boards of public bodies or enterprises covering different economic activities. For example, one Special Advisor earning a basic pay of Rs 162, 250 per month was chairing the boards of multiple corporate bodies, namely the Mauritius Revenue Authority, SBM (Holdings) Ltd, Mauritius Telecom, Multi-Carrier (Mauritius) Ltd and Metro Express Ltd. He also sat on the boards of directors of other corporate entities: SBM Africa Holdings Ltd, SBM Bank (Kenya) Ltd, Mauritius Duty-Free Paradise Co. Ltd, and Rodrigues Duty-Free Paradise Co. Ltd.

The PM mentioned two other cases where one person held multiple positions. Which begs the question: did all those advisors have the technical competence and skills required to understand and manage the files belonging to all those corporations with different missions and activities? What is more disturbing is that those advisors were earning fees (director's fees or advisor's fees) from each of the corporations for their services so that their fees for moonlighting exceeded their basic pay.

The logical question that arises is: did those corporations instruct the advisors to report all the fees they collected on their income tax returns together with their basic pay? The government should refer their names to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) for an enquiry on tax compliance to detect any possible tax avoidance or evasion. Their basic pay as we know is subject to PAYE deductions. The reporting of director's fees is a voluntary tax compliance obligation. It is also necessary for the FCC to look at the declaration of assets filed by senior public officers under section 8 of the Declaration of Assets Act 2018 at every interval of five years from 2014 to 2024.

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ELGAR HANDBOOKS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Crime in Mauritius

“Harsher punishments not only do not prevent crime but may actually have the opposite effect”

Opposition Member of Parliament Adrien Duval recently put a direct question to the Prime Minister, seeking crucial information on murders and violent deaths in Mauritius since November 2024. The prevalence of crime and violent deaths is, undeniably, a grave concern for all citizens, transcending political affiliations. It's an issue that demands serious, multifaceted attention from every quarter. To delve into the intricate layers of this critical challenge facing the nation, we turn to Lex for a detailed examination of its various facets, exploring common perceptions, underlying causes, and potential solutions.

LEX

* In many societies, including Mauritius, there's a common public perception that if crime rates are rising, it must be because the existing laws aren't sufficiently severe — “*la loi pas bon!*” as it's popularly expressed locally. This often leads to calls for harsher penalties including the death penalty and stricter enforcement. Is this an oversimplification of the complex issue of crime and its prevention?

According to criminal justice experts, it's easy to think that the threat of punishment will simply dissuade someone from doing the wrong thing. But it turns out that deterring would-be criminals by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences is more myth than reality.

Law Professor David Brown takes the following view: “I call it sentencing's dirty secret because it's just assumed that there is deterrence... but what the research shows is that the system has little to no deterrent effect.”

The overall view of criminal justice experts is that harsher punishments, such as longer prison sentences, not only do not prevent crime but may actually have the opposite effect.

*** Is there, however, a direct and proven causal relationship between the severity of laws and the crime rate? And between the application of the death penalty and falling crime rate?**

The view has been expressed that sending an individual convicted of a crime to prison isn't a very effective way to deter crime. Prisons are good for punishing criminals and keeping them off the street, but prison sentences, particularly long sentences, are unlikely to deter future crimes. Prisons actually may have the opposite effect: inmates learn more effective crime strategies from each other.

The death penalty is just the ultimate punishment that can be inflicted on a criminal. There is no conclusive proof that the

death penalty deters criminals. In many countries that still retain the death penalty, the crime rate has not been reduced significantly.

* A multidisciplinary study would undoubtedly shed light on the true drivers behind the rising crime rate. However, it appears the proliferation of drugs is having a notable impact on murders and violent crimes, particularly those committed against close family members by addicts desperately trying to extract money for their drugs. Do you consider this issue to be one of the primary urgent challenges to public safety in Mauritius?

There is no doubt that many horrendous crimes are a direct result of drug abuse; a strong and undeniable relationship exists between the two. Individuals struggling with addiction often commit crimes, ranging from petty theft to more serious offenses, primarily to finance their drug habits. This desperate pursuit of funds to feed addiction inflicts significant damage upon society, impacting victims and communities alike.

Moreover, a concerning number of criminal acts are committed by individuals who are under the influence of drugs at the time, impairing their judgment and often escalating the severity of their actions. Beyond crimes committed for drugs, the illicit trade of substances itself, known as drug trafficking, constitutes a massive criminal enterprise, fostering violence, corruption, and instability. This creates a vicious cycle where drug abuse fuels criminal activity, which in turn perpetuates addiction and further social decay.

*** While many crimes are resolved quickly, a few cases persist without any resolution. The police often attribute these unresolved cases to their complexity. Is there truly a category of inherently more complex crimes, or does this explanation conceal other reasons for their non-resolution?**

Some criminal cases take a long time to



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“Independent oversight bodies play a crucial role in holding police accountable by providing independent review of their actions, investigating complaints, and promoting transparency within law enforcement. They are instrumental in building public trust, identifying areas for improvement in police policies and procedures, and ultimately contributing to a more just and effective criminal justice system. In Mauritius, however, there is currently no truly independent oversight body for the police...”

resolve due to a variety of factors, including the complexity of the case, the amount of evidence to be gathered and reviewed, the availability of witnesses, and the workload of the police. The more intricate the case and the more resources required for investigation and prosecution, the longer it will take to reach a conclusion.

It must be noted, however, that in some instances, the police may take what appears to be an easier route. This might involve concluding that no foul play occurred, as seen in the Kistnen case, or extracting a confession from a suspect or habitual criminal and subsequently accusing them of the crime. In the unresolved Dantier case, for example, a suspect ‘confessed’ to the murder, but DNA evidence later cleared him.

*** How could transparency and accountability be strengthened regarding investigations into unresolved crimes, particularly those involving the so-called complex cases?**

A live investigation cannot be conducted in the public eye; revealing intricacies and steps would indeed compromise cases and very likely prevent their resolution.

Transparency in criminal investigations has its inherent limits.

*** It's clear that the police cannot be everywhere 24/7, and no law, on its own, can prevent all crimes. Given these limitations, how can police action and legislation be optimized for more effective crime prevention?**

The police should actively employ preventive measures to deter and reduce crime. Indeed, prevention is often far more effective and efficient than merely reacting to crimes after they occur. Proactive policing strategies can significantly enhance community safety, improve the quality of life for residents, and ultimately reduce the long-term societal costs associated with criminal activity.

To achieve this, police forces can implement various preventive approaches, including robust community policing initiatives, strategically targeted patrols, and focused interventions in identified crime hot spots. These strategies collectively aim to deter potential offenders, increase the perceived likelihood of apprehension, and thereby foster a greater sense of public safety and security.

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'There's no conclusive proof that the death penalty deters criminals.'

In fact, many countries that still use capital punishment haven't seen a significant reduction in their crime rates'

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* Given reports of declining public trust in the police in Mauritius, linked to perceptions of corruption, favouritism, and excessive force from Afrobarometer's surveys, for instance, what concrete steps can be taken to rebuild confidence between law enforcement agencies and the community?



“Prisons are good for punishing criminals and keeping them off the street, but prison sentences, particularly long sentences, are unlikely to deter future crimes. Prisons actually may have the opposite effect: inmates learn more effective crime strategies from each other. The death penalty is just the ultimate punishment that can be inflicted on a criminal. There is no conclusive proof that the death penalty deters criminals...”

Building trust between the police and citizens is crucial for effective policing and a safe community. This can be achieved through various strategies, including community policing, transparency, accountability, and positive interactions.

The police should not use their powers to terrorize or intimidate citizens. Instead, they are paid to serve the public and must not be subservient to any hidden agenda or undue influence.

* Beyond internal reforms, what role can independent oversight bodies play in addressing allegations of police misconduct and ensuring accountability, especially in cases that remain unresolved?

Independent oversight bodies play a crucial role in holding police accountable by providing independent review of their actions, investigating complaints, and promoting transparency within law enforcement. They are instrumental in building public trust, identifying areas for improvement in police policies and procedures, and ultimately contributing to a more just and effective criminal justice system.

In Mauritius, however, there is currently no truly independent oversight body for the police in the comprehensive sense described. While the Police Complaints Commission exists, it could potentially fulfil the role of a robust oversight body, provided its legislative mandate is significantly amended to grant it the necessary powers and independence.

* There is the view that the certainty and swiftness of punishment, coupled with comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of crime, might help better to bring the crime rate down. How are we doing

as regards the elements of certainty and swiftness of punishment?

When punishment is swiftly administered – meaning it follows quickly after the commission of a crime – it is generally considered more effective in deterring future offenses. This efficacy stems from the clearer and more immediate connection the offender perceives between their actions and the resulting consequences.

Unfortunately, in Mauritius, investigations often unfold over extended periods, leading to significant delays. Consequently, the crucial element of swiftness in punishment is often lost, undermining its potential deterrent effect.

* The proliferation of synthetic drugs is mentioned earlier as a significant driver of violent crime. What are the underlying socio-economic factors that make vulnerable populations, particularly youth, susceptible to drug addiction and involvement in drug-related crime?

Drugs unequivocally represent a source of easy and substantial profit for criminal enterprises. Organized criminal networks adeptly leverage the immense profits generated from the production, trafficking, and distribution of synthetic drugs to meticulously fund and expand their broader criminal operations. This illicit financing directly contributes to per-

petuating destructive cycles of violence and instability within society.

According to international studies, governments and international organizations have consistently sought to adopt a multifaceted approach to counter this threat, combining robust law enforcement efforts with essential public health initiatives. While some of these efforts have indeed yielded positive results, particularly those rooted in public health strategies, a significant amount of work remains. The challenge persists in effectively combating drug traffickers, who operate through highly sophisticated global networks.

* Beyond law enforcement, what long-term societal investments – in education, employment, mental health services, and social support – are crucial to address the root causes of crime and prevent future generations from falling into cycles of addiction and criminality?

It should not be believed that only individuals, whether young or old, from broken homes or impoverished backgrounds fall prey to drugs. In reality, many youngsters initially experiment with drugs or are simply tempted by peers. Once they fall into the trap, the nefarious cycle of addiction swiftly sets in.

Education can undoubtedly play a key role in drug prevention, but the precise form this education should take requires careful consideration. Schools alone cannot bear this responsibility; families must be actively involved, and the authorities have a crucial role to play. All these efforts represent a complex and necessarily long-term process.

LEX

Opinion

Public sector management The Role of Advisors in Public Administration

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Equal opportunity

The appointment of one advisor to multiple positions goes against the principle of equal opportunity for all. If one person is holding five advisory positions in addition to their home position, it's five opportunities denied to other people who may be competent to assume those jobs. The country has no shortage of qualified people to assume higher responsibilities. If the intent was to allow those advisors to make more money than they were getting from one job, it would sound very suspicious. If they were trusted by the powers that be to control so many corporate bodies, it would show a concentration of powers in the hands of one person that is contrary to good governance standards, namely the requirement of having different office bearers in different positions to avoid conflicts of interest.

The present government has promised not to allow this practice of moonlighting to continue except in rare cases where it wants to exercise close monitoring of activities. It is critical that two strategic positions in different organisations are not held by the same person to provide them with different perspectives in management. For instance, I don't understand why the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius should chair the Financial Services Commission (FSC) when they are two bodies with different missions. The BOM and FSC should operate independently from each other, as is the case in other countries, to avoid conflicts of interest. There is no lack of financial experts in Mauritius to manage the FSC.

Separation of powers

A parliamentary democracy is based on the separation of powers between institutions and the clear delimitation of roles and responsibilities for each institution in line with its statutory mandate. When these boundaries are blurred, we get into conflicts of interests such as the one where the Bank of Mauritius set up a subsidiary (Mauritius Investment Corporation) to lend money to or invest in private companies under the political directives of a government, regardless of corporate credit worthiness or economic viability.

In a functioning parliamentary democracy, there should be a clear line of demarcation between political staff (advisors) and civil servants. The former cannot give instructions to the latter. Civil servants are accountable to their heads of department who answer to elected ministers. Unelected advisors cannot call the shots behind the scenes. It is a travesty of democracy to allow a few political nominees give instructions to civil servants and even ministers in the name of a higher authority. That's what the previous government did by surrendering power to unelected people and it was rightly kicked out.

In some Anglo-Saxon countries, there are clear guidelines to delimit the roles and responsibilities of political staff (hired by a political party) as opposed to those of permanent civil servants (hired under a Public Service Employment Act).

Political staff, also known as ministerial staff, play a crucial role in supporting elected officials, particularly ministers, in their duties. They provide a partisan perspective, sometimes acting as a bridge between the political and administrative arms of government. This includes tasks like crafting communications, managing relationships with various external stakeholders, and offering political advice on policy matters. While political staff play a vital role, they are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the civil service and cannot direct civil servants. They are expected to adhere to ethical guidelines and avoid partisan activities that could impair the integrity of their office.

Prakash Neerohoo



Anil Madan

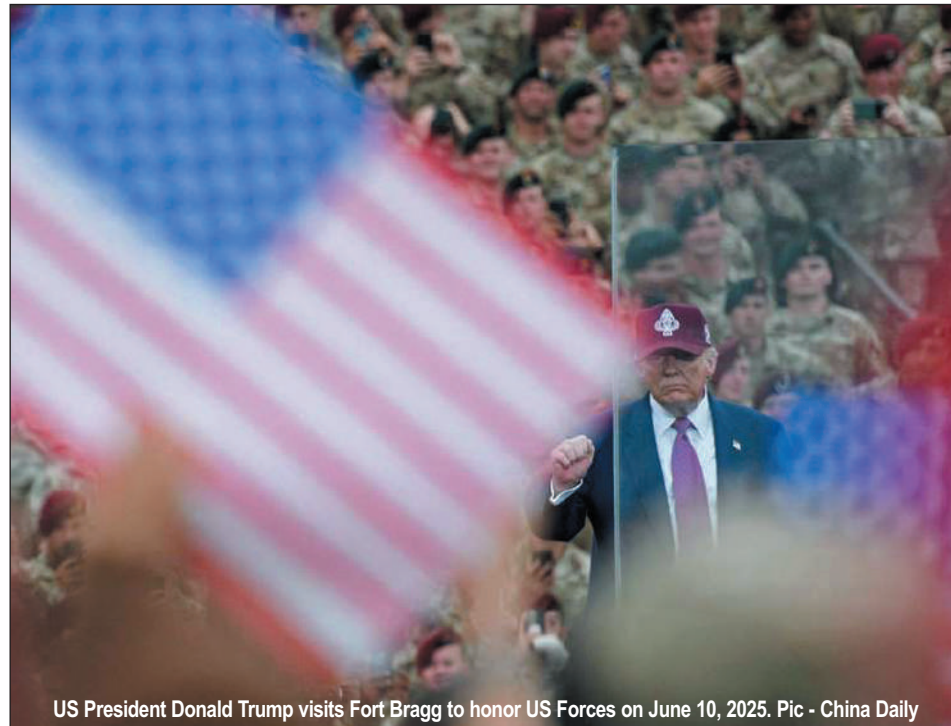
The End of American Soft Power; The Resurgence of American Hard Power

On March 1, 2025, Associated Press (AP) reported that the Trump administration had eliminated more than 90% of foreign aid contracts and cut some \$60 billion in funding. These decisions, AP stated, left millions of people without access to life-saving care. Some 10,000 contracts with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) were terminated. Letters from the administration said that the programs were being defunded "for convenience and the interests of the US government."

The list of abandoned programs is long, and it is difficult to pick out a representative sample without feeling that one should have mentioned a deserving cause that has suffered the misfortune of neglect. With that in mind, these cuts have affected healthcare for Afghan women, independent journalism in El Salvador, landmine harvesting in Cambodia, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, vaccination and anti-malaria programs, contraception, cancer prevention, nutrition programs, sex and drug trafficking. So far, there is no explanation of how these cuts serve the convenience and interests of the US government. Don't hold your breath waiting for one.

This is a remarkable change in America's exercise of soft power. The conventional wisdom is that such programs bring an immense flood of appreciation for America's outreach to the less fortunate across the world. And the hope is that such appreciation will breed goodwill. Well, perhaps not always, and that sense among some Americans that the USA's efforts are not appreciated, may help to explain why some are willing to terminate these initiatives. That there is no congruence between justifying their views and the notion that the best reasons for charity and kindness do not include an expectation of reward merely confirms that logic plays no part in such emotions.

On February 28, 2025, with barely enough time for a 40-day flood to have receded following Trump's second inauguration, there was the confrontation at the White House when Trump and Vice President Vance pounced on Ukrainian President Zelensky. A commentator for *The Hill* wrote that these events generated a sense of shock and dread, "a feeling that something terribly wrong and irreversible had just happened to America." That commentator's observation that the event "appeared to be a calculated decision by America's commander in chief to berate and humiliate a strategic partner at war with a foreign invader" suggested that America was abandoning not only soft power but also backing away on the world stage from



US President Donald Trump visits Fort Bragg to honor US Forces on June 10, 2025. Pic - China Daily

the use of its hard power. After all, if the US wasn't willing to support even indirectly, an ally under attack, perhaps the European members of NATO and Britain should be legitimately concerned that America was no longer going to be a player on the world stage, at least not when it comes to Russian aggression.

Just two weeks earlier, Trump said: "Taiwan took our chip business away. We had Intel, we had these great companies that did so well. It was taken from us. And we want that business back. We want it back in the United States." And there was the threat that the US would not come to Taiwan's aid in the event of a Chinese takeover.

It seemed that an American withdrawal from the world stage was happening right before our eyes.

Indeed, one commentator wrote that Trump's actions, including his tariff war, were emboldening Chinese hardliners to push to accelerate the timeframe for unification with Taiwan, suggesting that these hardliners see Trump's chaotic foreign policy as a golden opportunity for China to regain control of Taiwan.

Trump has never seemed a pacifist, but his calls for a ceasefire in Ukraine, a ceasefire in Gaza, a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, his deal with the Houthis, and his call for a ceasefire in Congo, suggested a reluctance to project American force. Indeed, his repeated statements that he would not get America involved in another war seemed to solidify the notion that America had a president recalcitrant about using its military might.

Then things changed. Trump ordered B-2 Stealth bombers to strike Iran's nuclear

“Trump has shown not only that America still has formidable force at its disposal, but also a President willing to use it. This should come as no surprise. American presidents have the option to use massive force. Inevitably, during most presidencies, the opportunity to “pull the trigger” comes along. Few can resist. Every president since Eisenhower, not actively involved in an ongoing war, has deployed US forces in combat. Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon in Vietnam, Ford in his brief tenure with the Mayaguez incident, Carter and Iran, Reagan who withdrew from Lebanon but felt compelled to take action against Grenada, George H.W. Bush with the Gulf War, Clinton with Bosnia and Syria, George W. Bush in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama ditto, Biden in Ukraine, and now Trump in Iran...”

facilities with bunker buster bombs. As I have previously written, the full extent of the damage to and setback of Iran's nuclear program remains to be determined.

Here was a President not just projecting America's power, but willing to use it. Just this past week, Chris Buckley, a *New York Times* writer commented that Trump's decision to attack Iran "introduces another complication for China's leaders trying to fathom how he might handle conflict over Taiwan." Unquestionably, as I have previously written, Trump has shown not only that America still has formidable force at its disposal, but also a President willing to use it. This should

come as no surprise. American presidents have the option to use massive force. Inevitably, during most presidencies, the opportunity to "pull the trigger" comes along. Few can resist. Every president since Eisenhower, not actively involved in an ongoing war, has deployed US forces in combat. Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon in Vietnam, Ford in his brief tenure with the Mayaguez incident, Carter and Iran, Reagan who withdrew from Lebanon but felt compelled to take action against Grenada, George H.W. Bush with the Gulf War, Clinton with Bosnia and Syria, George W. Bush in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama ditto, Biden in Ukraine, and now Trump in Iran.

Walter Russel Mead, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, called Trump's attack on Iran, "the boldest use of American power since George W. Bush launched his shock-and-awe campaign against Saddam Hussein in 2003." Mead includes the pithy assessment that "American presidents have blundered across the region, losing trillions of dollars and thousands of lives in one ill-judged escapade after another. These costly failures alienated a generation of Americans, fueling populist isolationism on the right and socialist anti-Americanism on the left."

At first blush, one might have expected that attacking Iran would prove to be another blunder. But not so far. Yes, we must keep in mind that Iran could retaliate.

But a strange calm has arrived. Israel and Iran have agreed to a ceasefire. The surprising thing is that although neither seems to have had anything to gain from continuing hostilities, such a consideration has never in the past deterred either from adventurism. So, was it Trump who brought the ceasefire about? It sure looks that way.

And now we have talk of an Israel-Hamas ceasefire. That may well never happen, but the subject of a ceasefire keeps coming up. This suggests an ongoing negotiation, perhaps just the indirect one, but both Israel and Hamas seem to confirm that it is happening.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's semiconductor giant has announced plans to build a massive chip fabrication plant in the US and China called on the US to use its influence with Israel to bring about a ceasefire with Iran.

Tunku Varadarajan writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, extolled Mead's writing and pointed out that Mead's observation that: "Just when the conventional wisdom that America was in terminal decline had congealed into place," he says, "the airstrikes suggest that American power remains unique in world affairs."

☞ Cont. on page 14

Par A. Bartleby

Les Chagos et la Chambre des Lords: L'épreuve d'une institution britannique

Au lendemain du débat houleux sur l'archipel des Chagos, qui a mis en lumière les divisions profondes au sein de la Chambre des Lords, l'attention se tourne une fois de plus vers cette institution unique du système parlementaire britannique. Souvent méconnue en dehors du Royaume-Uni, et notamment à Maurice où son rôle a été questionné dans le contexte de l'accord sur les Chagos, la Chambre des Lords incarne un mélange fascinant de tradition et de modernisation, et sa pertinence dans le monde d'aujourd'hui est un sujet de débat constant.

La Chambre des Lords est la seconde chambre du Parlement du Royaume-Uni, œuvrant aux côtés de la Chambre des communes élue. Sa caractéristique la plus distinctive est que ses membres ne sont pas élus par le public. La majorité d'entre eux sont des pairs à vie, nommés pour la durée de leur existence en reconnaissance de leur expertise et de leurs contributions dans des domaines variés tels que la science, les arts, les affaires, le droit ou la politique. À cela s'ajoute un nombre restreint de pairs héréditaires (dont le droit de siéger a été considérablement réduit par la réforme de 1999) et les Lords Spirituels, c'est-à-dire les évêques supérieurs de l'Église d'Angleterre.

Un héritage féodal, non colonial

Iest crucial de comprendre que la Chambre des Lords n'est pas, comme certains pourraient le penser, un vestige direct du passé colonial britannique. Ses origines remontent bien plus loin, au XIe siècle, une époque où l'Empire britannique n'existait pas encore sous sa forme reconnaissable. Elle a évolué à partir du "Grand Conseil" qui conseillait les monarques médiévaux, composé alors principalement de nobles puissants et de hauts dignitaires du clergé. Son existence et sa structure étaient donc solidement établies des siècles avant l'expansion coloniale.

Le rôle principal de la Chambre des Lords a toujours été la gouvernance intérieure du Royaume-Uni. Elle est chargée d'examiner attentivement la législation, de débattre des politiques gouvernementales et de demander des comptes au pouvoir exé-



La Chambre des Lords a été le théâtre, le lundi 30 juin, d'un débat passionné et divisé concernant la ratification de l'accord de souveraineté entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos. P - TopFM

cutif. Bien que de nombreux membres, notamment les pairs héréditaires, aient sans doute bénéficié des richesses et de l'influence générées par l'Empire, l'institution elle-même n'a jamais été conçue comme un outil d'administration ou d'expansion coloniale directe. L'administration coloniale était généralement assurée par des gouverneurs, des législatures coloniales et le *Colonial Office* à Londres.

Au fil du temps, la Chambre des Lords a connu d'importantes réformes. Les plus notables sont celles du XXe siècle qui ont considérablement réduit le pouvoir des pairs héréditaires. La loi sur la Chambre des Lords de 1999, par exemple, a supprimé le droit automatique de la plupart des pairs héréditaires de siéger et de voter, faisant pencher la balance en faveur des pairs à vie, nommés pour leur mérite et leur expertise. Cette évolution a éloigné l'institution de ses racines purement aristocratiques pour la rapprocher d'un modèle plus méritocratique, même si le débat sur une Chambre des Lords entièrement élue reste vif.

Sa signification et sa pertinence aujourd'hui

Dans le monde actuel, le rôle de la Chambre des Lords est principalement celui d'une chambre de révision et de "think tank"

législatif. Elle apporte une expertise précieuse grâce à la diversité de ses membres, qui incluent d'anciens hauts fonctionnaires, des universitaires renommés, des chefs d'entreprise et des personnalités du monde artistique et scientifique. Elle a la capacité de:

- **Examiner minutieusement la législation:** Les projets de loi adoptés par la Chambre des communes sont examinés en détail par les Lords qui peuvent proposer des amendements. Cela permet d'affiner la législation et de corriger des lacunes.

- **Mener des enquêtes approfondies:** Les comités de la Chambre des Lords produisent des rapports influents sur des sujets variés, contribuant au débat public et à l'élaboration des politiques.

- **Demander des comptes au gouvernement:** Les Lords peuvent interpellier les ministres et organiser des débats sur des questions d'actualité.

Le pouvoir de la Chambre des Lords face aux accords internationaux: Le cas Chagos

Pour Maurice, la question cruciale qui s'est posée, c'était de savoir si la Chambre des Lords aurait pu bloquer l'accord sur les Chagos. La réponse est nuancée.

- Si la Chambre des Lords a le pouvoir de retarder l'adoption d'un projet de loi

(généralement jusqu'à un an), son pouvoir de blocage total est très limité, surtout face à la volonté de la Chambre des communes sur les questions législatives majeures.

- Concernant la ratification des traités internationaux, son rôle est principalement celui de consultation et d'examen. Elle peut soulever des préoccupations, exiger des éclaircissements et même exprimer une forte désapprobation, comme on l'a vu avec le vote serré sur les Chagos.

En effet, la Chambre des Lords a été le théâtre, le lundi 30 juin, d'un débat passionné et divisé concernant la ratification de l'accord de souveraineté entre le Royaume-Uni et Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos. Deux motions distinctes, l'une présentée par le conservateur Lord Callanan et l'autre par le libéral-démocrate Lord Purvis of Tweed, ont mis en lumière les profondes divisions et interrogations entourant ce traité lourd de conséquences stratégiques, juridiques, financières et humaines.

Le vote sur la motion de Lord Callanan, qui visait à bloquer la ratification, a révélé des opinions partagées: 185 voix pour (content) contre 205 voix contre (not content), démontrant la complexité et la sensibilité du dossier.

Ce qu'il faut aussi savoir, c'est que la Chambre des Lords ne peut généralement pas empêcher le gouvernement britannique de ratifier un traité qui relève de ses prérogatives exécutives, à moins que des lois spécifiques ne lui confèrent un tel pouvoir.

En somme, la Chambre des Lords, avec ses traditions séculaires et son composition unique, demeure une composante essentielle du système parlementaire britannique. Si son influence a évolué, elle continue d'exercer un rôle de contre-pouvoir et d'expertise, contribuant à la qualité du processus législatif et au débat démocratique, même si sa capacité à bloquer des décisions gouvernementales majeures, notamment sur les traités, reste circonscrite.

Les îles Falkland: La détermination argentine ravivée par un regain de soutien international

La revendication de longue date de l'Argentine sur les îles Falkland (Malouines) a connu un regain d'intensité suite à d'importantes démonstrations de soutien international et la décision britannique concernant l'archipel des Chagos. Buenos Aires a réaffirmé sa détermination à «récupérer pleinement la souveraineté» sur ces îles de l'Atlantique Sud.

Le président argentin, Javier Milei, a tonné «Les Malouines sont argentines» sur la plateforme X, célébrant le soutien «unanime» de l'Organisation des États Américains (OEA) à ses revendications territoriales, survenu juste après une nouvelle résolution de l'ONU. L'OEA, qui rassemble les 35 États indépendants des Amériques, a exhorté le Royaume-Uni à reprendre les négociations dans

le différend de souveraineté.

Une vague de soutien diplomatique

Cette marque de soutien de l'OEA fait suite à une résolution adoptée le 18 juin par le Comité Spécial de la Décolonisation des Nations Unies, qui a également appelé à la reprise des pourparlers entre les deux nations concernant ce "territoire britannique d'outre-mer". Le Comité a exhorté le Royaume-Uni et l'Argentine à trouver une solution pacifique et définitive au différend de souveraineté.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères argentin, Gerardo Werthein, a salué chaleureusement l'appui de l'ONU et de l'OEA. Il a souligné que «juin a été un mois important pour notre pays concernant la question des Malouines», grâce à



La guerre des Malouines de 1982, qui a fait des centaines de victimes, reste une cicatrice historique pour l'Argentine et le Royaume-Uni

la résolution unanime de l'ONU et à la nouvelle déclaration officielle de l'OEA par acclamation.

☞ Suite en page 8

Les îles Falkland: La détermination argentine ravivée par un regain de soutien international

☞ Suite de la page 7

Werthein a remercié tous les pays ayant accompagné l'Argentine et a mis en avant le travail des équipes argentines aux Nations Unies et au sein de l'OEA. «Ces avancées réaffirment la ferme détermination du gouvernement argentin à progresser, avec conviction et diplomatie, vers la pleine récupération de la souveraineté sur les Malouines, la Géorgie du Sud, les îles Sandwich du Sud et les zones maritimes environnantes.»

Le précédent des îles Chagos et la riposte britannique

Ce regain d'optimisme argentin intervient alors que l'Argentine a également salué la décision britannique concernant les Chagos. Suite à la décision de la Grande-Bretagne en octobre dernier de céder la souveraineté des îles Chagos à Maurice, la ministre des Affaires étrangères argentine, Diana Mondino, avait alors déclaré que cette décision marquait «la fin de pratiques dépassées» et était un «pas dans la bonne direction». Pour Buenos Aires, cela semble créer un précédent qui pourrait s'appliquer aux Malouines.

Cependant, la position du Royaume-Uni reste ferme



40 ans après, le Royaume-Uni commémore sobrement la «libération» des Malouines.
P - liberte-algerie.com

concernant les îles Falkland. En novembre dernier, le ministre des Forces armées du Royaume-Uni, Luke Polard, a visité les Malouines pour le Jour du Souvenir, réaf-

firmant le soutien total du gouvernement britannique aux insulaires. Il a déclaré que «l'engagement du Royaume-Uni envers la sécurité et la prospérité économique des îles Falkland est plus fort que jamais – de la protection de la faune incroyable de la région à la défense du droit à l'autodétermination des îles». Ce sont en effet les mêmes arguments que le gouvernement britannique a utilisé pour résister aux initiatives du gouvernement mauricien visant à récupérer la souveraineté de Maurice sur les Chagos.

La gouverneure des Falkland, Alison Blake, avait également envoyé le 4 octobre 2024 un message aux résidents le jour de l'accord sur les Chagos, les rassurant sur l'«engagement indéfectible» du Royaume-Uni et soulignant que le contexte historique des deux territoires était «très différent».

La guerre des Malouines de 1982, qui a fait des centaines de victimes, reste une cicatrice historique pour les deux nations. Tandis que l'Argentine s'appuie sur le soutien international et les récents développements, le Royaume-Uni maintient sa position en s'appuyant sur le principe de l'autodétermination des habitants des îles. La question de la souveraineté sur les îles Falkland reste donc un point de tension persistant sur la scène diplomatique internationale.

La deuxième réunion de la commission mixte franco-malgache, tenue à Paris le lundi 30 juin 2025, n'a pas permis de faire avancer le différend cinquantenaire qui oppose Paris et Antananarivo concernant les Îles Éparses. Selon RFI, loin de trouver une solution, la rencontre a surtout mis en lumière la persistance du litige entre les deux parties.

En effet, Madagascar continue de réclamer avec fermeté la restitution des Îles Éparses et rejette catégoriquement toute proposition de cogestion avec la France tant que Paris ne reconnaît pas la souveraineté malgache sur ces micro-territoires inhabités du canal du Mozambique. Cette position inébranlable a dominé les échanges, empêchant toute avancée notable. À ce jour, la France n'a pas encore commenté les demandes formulées par Madagascar.

La délégation malgache était pourtant arrivée dans la capitale française avec une liste de revendications précises. Outre la restitution des îles, Antananarivo a explicitement demandé la suspension de toute décision unilatérale de la France sur ces territoires tant qu'une solution concertée n'est pas trouvée.

Des enjeux multiples et des leviers potentiels

Au-delà de la souveraineté, les demandes malgaches couvrent plusieurs aspects cruciaux. La délégation a réclamé une indemnisation pour les dommages et pertes économiques subis durant les années où Madagascar n'a pu exercer sa souveraineté, bien qu'aucun montant n'ait été communiqué. Elle a également insisté sur la possibilité pour les pêcheurs malgaches d'exploiter les ressources halieutiques dans les eaux avoisinantes. De plus, Madagascar souhaite que ses chercheurs puissent participer aux travaux scientifiques concernant les Îles Éparses et accéder aux données disponibles à leur sujet.

Toutes ces requêtes sont pour l'heure en attente d'une réponse. Cela n'a cependant pas empêché Madagascar d'annoncer un troisième cycle de négociations, dont la date et le lieu restent à déterminer sur la Grande Île. Face à cette lenteur, l'analyste politique Serge Zafimahova suggère que les autorités malgaches disposent d'autres leviers juridiques pour tenter d'obtenir la restitution des Îles Éparses. Il évoque la possibilité de saisir la Cour internationale de justice (CIJ), à l'instar de l'île Maurice pour les îles Chagos, ou

Îles Éparses: Nouvel échec des discussions franco-malgaches

de porter l'affaire devant le Comité spécial de la décolonisation des Nations unies. M. Zafimahova penche personnellement pour «aller au contentieux si on ne veut pas en être au même point dans 50 ans», soulignant l'urgence d'une action décisive.

Un héritage colonial stratégique et contesté

Ces îlots, dispersés dans l'océan Indien, sont revendiqués par Madagascar mais administrés par la France depuis l'époque coloniale, représentant l'un des derniers vestiges de l'empire français dans la région. Historiquement, toutes ces îles faisaient partie de Madagascar, sous domination française de 1896 à 1960. Leur séparation, intervenue juste avant l'indépendance de Madagascar, est fermement contestée par Antananarivo, d'autant que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a, par deux résolutions non contraignantes en 1979 et 1980, appelé à leur retour, jugeant la scission illégale.

L'enjeu de ces îles dépasse largement leur petite taille. Elles revêtent une importance stratégique, écologique et symbolique considérable, offrant à la France le contrôle sur de vastes zones maritimes riches en ressources. Chaque île permet à Paris d'exercer sa souveraineté sur 200 milles nautiques d'eaux environnantes, lui conférant la maîtrise de plus de la moitié du canal du Mozambique, une voie mari-time essentielle pour le commerce mondial. Ce canal re-gorge également d'importantes réserves d'hydrocarbures, le faisant surnommer la «nouvelle mer du Nord», et de zones de pêche abondantes.

La question de la souveraineté est un point d'honneur national à Madagascar, symbole de fierté post-coloniale. C'est dans ce contexte que la visite du président Macron à Madagascar en avril 2025 avait remis en lumière ce différend persistant, souvent qualifié d'héritage inachevé de la



Îles Éparses: la visite du président français fait réagir à Madagascar. P - RFI

décolonisation.

Les Îles Éparses – Tromelin, Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa et Bassas da India – sont parsemées à travers le canal du Mozambique entre Madagascar et la côte africaine, habitées principalement par quelques scientifiques et du personnel militaire français.

Le différend sur la souveraineté persiste depuis l'indépendance de Madagascar en 1960. Bien que les Îles Éparses aient été administrativement rattachées à Madagascar à partir de 1895, la France les a placées sous son autorité directe en 1960, arguant qu'elles ne faisaient pas partie de l'accord d'indépendance. Madagascar maintient que les frontières coloniales de son territoire auraient dû rester inchangées.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 14

The Paternity of Prosperity

A Socratic Inquiry into Economic Miracles

In the bustling Agora of ancient Athens, far removed from modern political squabbles yet surprisingly relevant, Socrates - the venerable philosopher, perpetually questioning, with a twinkle in his eye - once again corners the pragmatic businessman Cephalus - a successful Athenian businessman, fond of comfort, practicality, and the occasional well-aged amphora of wine. Their seemingly casual encounter quickly spirals into a profound philosophical inquiry. Sparked by a contemporary political declaration from a distant land of "economic miracles," Socrates challenges the very notion of singular "fatherhood" for complex societal achievements, dissecting the interplay of vision, sustenance, and political rhetoric in the tapestry of prosperity.

Plutonix

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus! My dear friend, you glide through the Agora, no doubt on your way to some magnificent transaction or perhaps to count your many olives.

Cephalus: (Sighing dramatically, a practised art) Socrates, must you always appear just as I contemplate a moment of productive solitude? My olives, as you so delicately put it, do not count themselves. What pressing philosophical quandary plagues you today that requires my humble, *practical* mind? Is it the nature of the Good, or merely a quantifiable measure of virtue?

Socrates: Oh, something far more intriguing, Cephalus, and surprisingly... *paternal*. I was recently privy to a most peculiar pronouncement, made in a far-off land of sugar cane and sapphire seas, regarding an "economic miracle."

Cephalus: (Raising an eyebrow) An economic miracle, you say? Ah, then it must involve a great deal of commerce, industriousness, and undoubtedly, shrewd investment. I am listening, old friend. This sounds promising, unlike your usual forays into the murky depths of abstract concepts.

Socrates: Indeed. The tale comes from a leader named Ramgoolam, who, in a public forum, declared another man, Bérenger, to be the "true father of the economic miracle" in their nation, citing certain "difficult decisions" made long ago.

Cephalus: (Nodding sagely) "Difficult decisions," you say? Splendid! That's the mark of a true leader, Socrates. Taking the hard road. Visionary! No doubt Bérenger laid the groundwork, planted the seeds, and others, later, merely reaped the harvest. A commendable recognition, I must say. Shows a certain humility in Ramgoolam, does it not?

Socrates: Humility, perhaps. Or... something else. For Bérenger, it is said, conceded that a later group, the MSM, "reaped the fruits of his efforts." So, we have a father, and then, apparently, a group of fruit-harvesters.

Cephalus: (Chuckling) Well, that's just politics, Socrates! One man builds the vineyard, another drinks the wine. It's the way of the world. What's the philosophical knot here? Are you suddenly questioning the very concept of harvesting?

Socrates: Not the act of harvesting, my dear Cephalus, but the *paternity* of the prosperity. Can an "economic miracle" truly have a single father? And what constitutes this



fatherhood? Is it the one who plants the seed, or the one who diligently waters it for decades, or the one who finally brings the plump grapes to the market?

Cephalus: (Waving a dismissive hand) Oh, come now, Socrates. In business, it's quite clear. The one with the initial capital, the brilliant idea, the strategic vision - *that's* the father of the enterprise. The others are merely employees, managers, or, if they're lucky, inheritors. It's a matter of cause and effect! Bérenger made the "difficult decisions," therefore, the miracle is his offspring. Q.E.D. Case closed.

Socrates: Q.E.D., you say? How delightfully definitive. But tell me, Cephalus, if a man plants a fig tree, and then immediately leaves the city forever, never tending to it, and another man comes along, waters it, prunes it, protects it from pests for forty years, and finally reaps a bountiful harvest, who is the "father" of those figs? The planter, or the tender?

Cephalus: (Frowning, rubbing his chin) Hmm. A trickier fig than most, Socrates. One could say the planter is the *originator*, but the tender is certainly the *sustainer*. Without the planter, no fig. Without the tender, no harvest. Perhaps they are... co-parents? A joint venture in fig-fatherhood.

Socrates: "Co-parents"! An interesting biological concept for an economic miracle. So, if an economic miracle is like a strong, healthy fig tree, nurtured over decades, can we truly attribute its robust fruit to a single decision made in a single year, however "difficult" it might have been? Does a single difficult decision automatically guarantee a flourishing economy, irrespective of all subsequent decisions, global winds, and the general diligence of the populace?

Cephalus: (Shifting uncomfortably) Well, of course not, Socrates. The market is a fickle beast. One must adapt, innovate, remain competitive. Even the most brilliant initial strategy can be undone by poor execution or unforeseen circumstances. So, yes, the *sustenance* is crucial. But the initial *spark*, the *foundational difficult decision* - that's still paramount, wouldn't you agree? A house needs an architect before it needs carpenters.

Socrates: Indeed, an architect is vital for a house. But if the architect draws magnificent plans, and then a series of incompetent builders, corrupt material suppliers, and indifferent occupants follow, will the house truly be "magnificent" when completed, and shall we still praise the architect without reservation? Or if the house stands for fifty years, and then an earthquake, and then a meticulous restoration occurs, who is credited with its current resilience? The original architect, the restorers, or perhaps even the earthquake for providing the ultimate test?

Cephalus: (Spluttering slightly into his beard) An earthquake, Socrates? Now you're just being facetious! One credits the builders, and the current occupants for maintaining it! The architect, perhaps, gets credit for the *design*, but the *survival* is a different matter.

Socrates: Precisely! So, when a politician, in a public speech, declares another to be the "true father" of a long-term economic flourishing, are they acting as dispassionate historians, meticulously tracing cause and effect over decades, accounting for every tremor and every careful repair? Or are their pronouncements perhaps... influenced by the prevailing winds of the political Agora?

Cephalus: (Clearing his throat) Ah, now we get to the heart of the matter. Yes, Socrates, one must always view political pronouncements with a healthy dose of scepticism. They are, shall we say, *strategic* utterances. To praise an ally, perhaps to mend fences, or even to subtly rewrite history to suit a current narrative. My cousin, who dabbles in public speaking, once told me that a good speech is never about truth, but about *persuasion*.

Socrates: "Persuasion," you say? So, the paternity of an economic miracle can be, shall we say, *persuaded* into existence for political gain? As if a father could be declared by popular vote, rather than by nature?

Cephalus: (Waving his hands in exasperation) Look, Socrates, it's simply about giving credit where credit is *convenient*. In the heat of debate, leaders make pronouncements. It reinforces alliances, strengthens messages. It's the grease that keeps the political cart moving.

Socrates: So, the "truth" of paternity, in this context, is less about an objective biological fact and more about a fluid, politically expedient narrative?

Cephalus: (Muttering) Well, when you put it like that, it sounds rather cynical. But yes, often. Who has the time, in the midst of running a nation, to conduct a rigorous historical inquiry into every economic boom? They need to make a point, and they make it.

Socrates: And who, then, should be the true adjudicators of such paternity? Should the task of definitively naming the "father" of an economic miracle, or any significant societal achievement, be left to the politicians themselves, engaged as they are in the immediate struggle for power and influence?

Cephalus: (Shuddering) Perish the thought! No, no. Not the politicians. They're too busy, too... *interested*. One needs distance. A detached perspective.

Socrates: Like a historian, perhaps? One who waits for the dust to settle, for the passions to cool, for all the hidden scrolls to be declassified after, say, fifty years?

Cephalus: (Eyes widening) Fifty years! By the gods, Socrates, that's an eternity! My business deals would be dust by then. Who would remember who did what?

Socrates: Ah, but that is precisely the point, is it not? The very passage of time allows for a broader perspective, unclouded by the emotions or the political agendas of the moment. It allows for access to varied sources - not just the public pronouncements, but the private memos, the dissenting opinions, the long-term data. It allows for a more *objective* assessment, insofar as objectivity is possible for mortals.

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Pakistan intensifies US defence ties after recent tensions

Pakistan appears to be making concerted efforts to bolster its defence cooperation with the United States. This drive is highlighted by recent high-profile visits from its top military leadership, coming shortly after a period of heightened regional tensions.

Just days after a notable luncheon between Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and President Donald Trump, the Chief of the Air Staff, Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, embarked on an official visit to the US. This marks the first visit by a serving Pakistan Air Force (PAF) chief in decades, signaling a significant push by Pakistan to deepen military engagements.

New avenues for cooperation

The PAF has hailed Sidhu's visit as a "strategic milestone" for the defence partnership. In the US, the Air Chief met with key figures including US Air Force Chief of Staff General David W. Elon and US Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Kelly L. Seybolt. Both

Trump To Meet Pak Army Chief Asim Munir Over Lunch



Donald Trump to meet Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir. Pic - DNA

nations reportedly agreed on "new avenues" for bilateral military cooperation, with discussions focusing on establishing high-level military ties, enhancing collaboration on mutual interests, and expanding joint training and technology exchange.

Sidhu also engaged with prominent members of the US Congress, including Mike Turner, Rich McCormick, and Bill Heizenga. The PAF stated this "historic visit not

only reaffirmed the PAF's commitment to promoting regional and global peace, but also laid the foundation for institutional cooperation, strategic dialogue, and joint operations between the PAF and the US Air Force."

Munir's precedent-setting visit

Sidhu's trip follows closely on the heels of Army Chief Asim Munir's visit to the US. This move was particularly significant as it occurred weeks after the India-Pakistan conflict, during which Trump claimed to have brokered a ceasefire. Munir reportedly had a private lunch with Trump at the White House, an uncommon occurrence as US presidents rarely host foreign military leaders in such a setting. While specifics of their conversation remain undisclosed, Trump praised Munir for his role in "preventing the escalation of tensions" between India and Pakistan. New Delhi, however, has consistently denied Trump's involvement, asserting the truce was a result of bilateral talks.

These back-to-back high-level visits underscore Pakistan's determined efforts to fortify its strategic alliance with the US amidst evolving regional dynamics.

Ukraine boosts domestic drone production amid fluctuating US aid



A manufacturer demonstrates a Ukrainian-made drone at a Ukraine Defense Innovations exhibition for military clients at an undisclosed location in Ukraine on April 11. Pic - AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced a significant agreement on Thursday with American company Swift Beat for the joint production of drones, calling it a "crystal clear priority" for Ukraine's defense. This partnership aims to produce "hundreds of thousands" of drones this year alone, with plans for a substantial increase in output next year.

This Ukrainian-American collaboration will encompass a range of drone types, including interceptors to neutralize enemy drones and missiles, quadcopters for reconnaissance and fire adjustment, and long-range strike drones. Zelensky emphasized that this ramped-up production is vital for achieving Ukraine's defense objectives and safeguarding Ukrainian lives. Swift Beat, founded by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, already has a significant presence in Ukraine, specializing in AI-powered autonomous drones and actively collaborating with Ukrainian engineers and military officials for testing.

The agreement comes as Ukraine

actively seeks to diversify and strengthen its domestic defense industry. President Zelensky revealed that Kyiv is also in talks with Denmark, Norway, Germany, Canada, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom to establish further joint production initiatives. Ukraine even intends to begin exporting weapon production technologies by this summer, signaling a broader strategic shift towards self-sufficiency.

However, this positive development in drone production is juxtaposed with recent reports regarding US military assistance. Just two days prior to Zelensky's announcement, deliveries of air-defense interceptors and other weapons intended for Ukraine were reportedly halted by the United States. Citing Trump administration officials, the Wall Street Journal reported that this decision reflects a "loosening commitment" from Washington to aiding Kyiv's fight against Russia. White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly stated the decision was made to "put America's interests first" following a Pentagon review of US military assistance. The shipments, which included Patriot air-defense interceptors, air-to-air missiles, Hellfire missiles, artillery rounds, and Stinger missiles, were reportedly stopped while in Poland.

While Ukraine forges ahead with strengthening its own defense capabilities through partnerships and domestic production, the fluctuating nature of external aid underscores the complex and uncertain international dynamics impacting the ongoing conflict.

Kate Middleton reveals post-cancer recovery challenges: "The phase afterwards is really difficult"

Months after announcing her remission following abdominal surgery and a subsequent cancer diagnosis in early 2024, Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, has opened up about the profound difficulties of life after active cancer treatment. Her recent candid remarks, reported by The Daily Beast and Hindustan Times, shed light on the personal toll of her health battle and the ongoing process of finding a "new normal."



Kate Middleton discusses the emotional challenges of her cancer recovery, emphasizing the difficulty of adjusting post-treatment. Pic - Vanity Fair

"You're not necessarily under the clinical team any longer, but you're not able to function normally at home as you perhaps once used to. And actually, someone to help talk you through that, show you and guide you through that sort of phase that comes after treatment, I think is really valuable."

She emphasized that recovery is not a linear process. "You have to find your new normal and that takes time... and it's a roller-coaster, it's not smooth, like you expect it to be. The reality is you go through hard times."

Recalibrating Life and Priorities

Kate concluded her chemotherapy in September 2024 and confirmed her remission in January 2025. Her recent garden visit was framed by her office as an opportunity to "celebrate the incredible healing power of nature and raise awareness of the important role that spending time in nature plays in bringing us joy and supporting our mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing."

Insiders suggest that the Princess is undergoing a fundamental reassessment of her life. "Kate is recalibrating her entire life, her entire work-life balance," a source told The Daily Beast, adding that "Ascot was a wakeup call, not a one-off." The source indicated that the past few years have been "horrific" for Kate, citing the public comments made by Prince Harry, relentless speculation about her and Prince William, the passing of the Queen, King Charles's cancer diagnosis (which led them to consider taking on more responsibilities), and ultimately, her own cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"It's all taken its toll, and if she needs more time to recover, William will fight tooth and nail to see she is given it," the source concluded, underscoring the immense personal challenges the Princess has faced and the priority now being given to her recovery and well-being.

During a hospital garden visit on Wednesday, her first public appearance since an unexpected withdrawal from Royal Ascot in June, Kate did not directly address her Ascot absence, which reportedly caused "a real sense of panic" within the palace. However, she spoke broadly about the challenges of post-treatment recovery. "You put on a sort of brave face, stoicism through treatment. Treatment's done, then it's like, 'I can crack on, get back to normal,' but actually, the phase afterwards is really, really difficult," she explained.

Finding a "New Normal" Takes Time

The Princess highlighted the lack of immediate support once clinical treatment ends, even as daily life remains far from normal.



Starlink on track for India launch

India is close to greenlighting the launch of Elon Musk's Starlink in the country, even as it intensifies a legal battle against the billionaire's social media platform X. Musk's satellite internet company has been trying for years to break into India's large and lucrative market, and in March signed deals with two top Indian telecoms firms to enter the country. With New Delhi reportedly clearing most regulatory hurdles, Starlink could launch within months, NDTV reported. Musk's X, meanwhile, is locked in a bitter dispute with the Indian government over content removal requests: The clash escalated Tuesday after lawyers for the site accused authorities of allowing "every Tom, Dick, and Harry" to issue takedown orders.

Manufacturing slumps on trade uncertainty

Much of Asia's manufacturing sector slumped as it entered the second half of 2025, reflecting uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's tariffs. Southeast Asia — a critical region for firms looking to diversify away from China — saw its downturn in factory activity deepen, while tech powerhouses Taiwan and South Korea reported declines in output and sales, S&P Global data showed. India bucked the trend, suggesting it has benefited from a shift in demand away from other export hubs, The Wall Street Journal wrote. Trump's duties also slowed US manufacturing in June, as businesses grappled with uncertainty just before Washington's tariff reprieve expires on July 9.

Mexico cracks down on fuel theft

Mexican authorities arrested 32 people accused of fuel theft, which has in recent years taken a huge toll on the country's economy. The crime ring operated with the help of government authorities, Reforma reported. More than a quarter of Mexico's cars are thought to run on stolen fuel, much of it sold by cartels. This year, authorities confiscated a ship carrying 250,000 barrels of fuel, underscoring the sophistication of cartels' transnational operation. Mexico is dotted with thousands of clandestine fuel stations and refineries, which make up for the market shortfall created by a government refinery that runs at 30% capacity. Authorities are "totally blind and incompetent or complicit," an expert told the Financial Times.

Cities eye maggots for food waste

Municipalities in Australia, Kenya, and Lithuania are turning to maggots to dispose of food waste. Vilnius uses fly larvae to process all 3,000 tons of food waste the city produces each year. The company that does it uses the larvae for proteins in animal feed or industry, and their manure for fertilizer. Smaller programs are underway in Mombasa and Sydney, and other countries are interested: Food waste collection will become mandatory in England from next year, meaning local authorities will have to find ways of dealing with millions of tons of waste. Maggots are much more efficient at breaking down food waste than existing methods: In sufficient numbers, fly larvae can destroy a 16" pizza in under two hours.

Across The World

Iran's nuclear potential

The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, stated that Iran could produce enriched uranium within "months," contradicting US President Donald Trump's assertion that Tehran's nuclear program was "obliterated." Grossi's remarks echoed earlier US assessments and European intelligence suggesting Iran's nuclear ambitions were set back by merely months — senior Iranian officials also reportedly said the US strikes weren't as destructive as they'd expected. While the American attack in June 2025 may have stalled Iran's near-term ability to make a bomb, some of the targeted facilities might not have existed if Trump hadn't abandoned an earlier nuclear deal in his first term, experts told The New York Times.



Trump said Friday he would consider bombing Iran again if Tehran enriched uranium to worrisome levels, despite the fact that Iran is already enriching to 60%, significantly beyond the 3.67% permitted under the JCPOA.

US trade deadline looms



World powers are scrambling to secure trade deals with the US before President Donald Trump's pause on his "Liberation Day" tariffs ends July 9. India's trade team has extended its stay in Washington, while new fractures have emerged within the European Union: Germany wants Brussels to strike a deal fast, but France wants the EU to take a firmer stance. It appears increasingly unlikely that US negotiators will agree dozens of deals within 10 days. "The idea that uncertainty will be resolved early this summer appears to be completely dead," one expert told CNN. Compounding the uncertainty is Washington's unpredictable approach to trade relations; Trump on Friday abruptly terminated talks with Canada, shortly after announcing a new agreement with China.

Central banks' warning

The world's "central bank of central banks" warned about the rising possibility of fresh outbreaks of inflation. The Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements noted in a new report that consumers across the globe expect steep price increases in the next year — and that because of the lasting effect of COVID-era inflation, those predictions now risk becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. "When it comes to inflation expectations, it's once bitten, twice shy," a BIS official said. The report gives clues to central bankers' thinking as they cautiously trim interest rates amid subsiding inflation. Washington's trade war adds to the volatility: Rising protectionism is eroding the global economic order, the BIS' chief said, creating a "new era of heightened uncertainty and unpredictability."

China doubles down on promoting yuan

China is devising more ways for foreign institutions to use the yuan, as international confidence in the US dollar falters. The moves aim at challenging the greenback, experts said, even as the USD remains by far the world's predominant currency, despite the USD index falling more than 9% this year, while the offshore yuan has strengthened more than 2% against the dollar.

US removes 'revenge tax'

Treasury Secretary Bessent said the US would no longer seek to impose retaliatory taxes on countries that tax US tech giants after resolution was achieved in G7 talks. Bessent now says he has struck a G7 agreement to instead recognise the US's own minimum tax regime on US investments in foreign companies ("GILTI"), which is between 10.5-13.125%. The US will also resume trade talks with Canada after Ottawa scrapped its digital services tax targeting US tech firms.



US same-sex marriages

The number of married same-sex couples in the US has doubled in the 10 years since the Supreme Court instituted marriage equality across the nation. Same-sex unions were performed and recognized in 36 states before Obergefell v. Hodges changed the law in 2015. Then, there were 390,000 same-sex married couples; now there are more than 800,000. Public opinion has shifted, too. In 1995, just 27% of Americans believed gay people should be able to marry; now, 68% do, according to Gallup, although that represents a slight dip in support since 2023. Progress is not smooth, The Washington Post noted: This year, some officials have suggested Obergefell should be overturned, and the number of same-sex weddings has also dropped.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 310

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 5 August, 1960

• He that seeks others to beguile, is oft o'ertaken in his own wile. — Proverb



Peter Ibbotson

Portuguese Africa

The brutality of Portuguese colonialism is well attested by independent writers who have visited these black spots

There has been a lot of childish talk and thought about the tragedy of Congo. Imperialists and colonialists have used it as an excuse to attack the whole idea of colonial emancipation; they say "Look

at what happens when you give independence to the Africans - rioting and disorders. You can't trust the Africans. They're not ready for independence, they are children who must be told what to do."

Thus runs the illogical talk of the imperialists. They ignore the fact that the Congo tragedy was the logical outcome of years of Belgian dictatorship and denial of civil rights and liberties. They ignore the fact that the Belgians had never begun to educate the Congolese for political power but had retained all power in the hands of a few thousand expatriate Europeans. They ignore the fact that Belgium, while making a show of granting political independence to the Congo Republic, was nevertheless determined somehow to retain her stranglehold economic power over the wealthy metaliferous Katanga province.

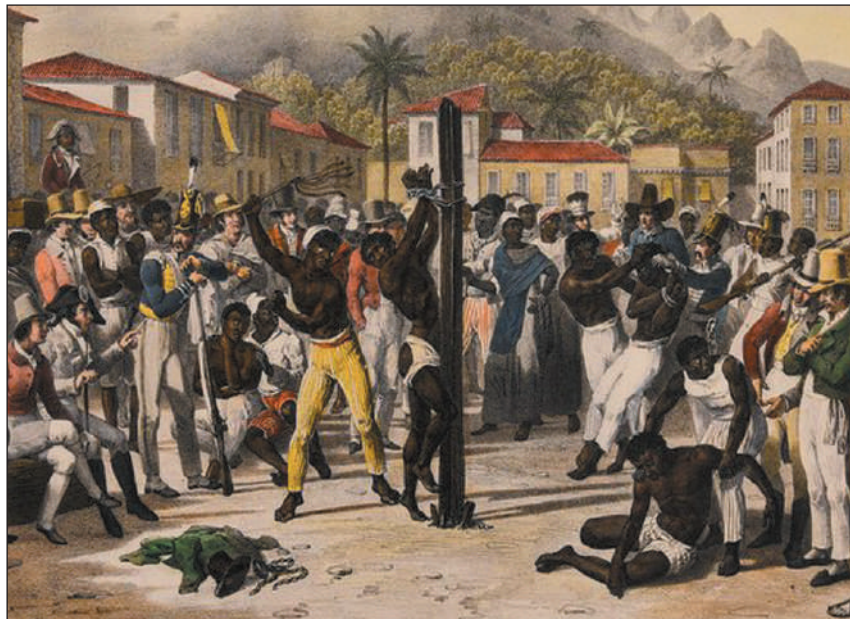
What is needed in the Congo is not cheap unthinking gibes from the imperialists, but people of goodwill, presumably under UN auspices, who will do the job which the Belgians, during years of brutal dictatorship, cynically refused ever to begin — the job of providing the administrators and technicians who will, under a free Congolese Government, teach the Congolese how to run their own affairs. And they must teach all the Congolese; there is no room in the Congo for an independent Katanga.

For an independent Katanga means the perpetuation of colonialism; Belgian economic colonialism in place of Belgian political colonialism. An independent Katanga would be no more independent than the 'banana' republics of Central America.

But the Congo is not the only tragic spot in Africa where colonialism is rampant. Worse is the situation in the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea, Sao Tomé, and Cape Verde. In Angola, for example, 57 nationalist leaders are being tried in a street military court at Luanda. In June 52, Angolans, mostly civil servants and railway workers, were arrested in parts of central Angola. The well-known poet and doctor. Agostinho Neto, was arrested and flogged (in front of his family and neighbours) by the chief of the Portuguese Gestapo in Angola as well as by the assistant chief.

Father Joaquim da Rocha Pinto de Andrade, Chancellor of the Archbishopric of Luanda and the only Angolan graduate in theology at the University of Rome, has been arrested and deported to Portugal. The police have been raiding African houses in and around Luanda and other towns; every radio set that was found was smashed over the head of its owner. Indiscriminate beatings and shooting in the air have helped to spread terror in the villages. Extra troops have been sent from Portugal, and more are on the way; Portuguese settlers have been armed.

This is just a sample of the atrocities and brutalities to which the peoples of the Portuguese colonies are regularly



Punishment of a slave, picture by Mauricio Rugendas (circa 1830). Pic - Public domain

subjected. A further sample: on August 3, 1959, Portuguese troops shot dead 50 African workers at Bissau. In memory of these workers the second All-African Peoples' Conference (held at Tunis) decided to commemorate August 3 as the Portuguese Colonies Independence Day. On that day, anti-colonialists all over the world have the opportunity to show their solidarity with the nationalist movements in all Portuguese colonies, in India as well as in Africa.

The brutality of Portuguese colonialism is well attested by independent writers who have visited these black spots in the last few years. Peter Ritner, in *The Death of Africa* (New York, 1960), says: "Portuguese Africa is one of the worst governed areas of the world." Professor Marvin Harris, an American anthropologist, says in his *Portugal's African Wards* (New York, 1958), "What makes Mozambique an unknown land is the silence of her African people. Overwhelmingly illiterate, carefully insulated against provocative news from abroad, subject to corporal punishment and deportation at the whim of the European authorities, their thoughts are never expressed, their real voice unheard."

Basil Davidson, in *The African Awakening* (London, 1955) has this to say, "In 1954, official figures in Angola showed 379,000 forced workers (none being in native industry or agriculture) and another 400,000 voluntary workers... the Government makes universal use of forced labour for its own needs..."

The year before, Alexander Campbell had said in *The Heart of Africa*, "Any adult male African may be compelled by Portuguese law to work for a white master for at least six months of every year... The same fate awaits Africans who fail to pay their poll taxes." Finally, in *Inside Africa*, John Gunther wrote (also in 1955), "The worst thing about Portuguese Africa is forced labour. Not only does this still exist; the Portuguese authorities admit that it exists... and condone it. It is not quite - but almost — a form of slavery. The man becomes a chattel." He earlier points out that Portuguese Africa is ruled as Portugal itself is ruled: by authoritarian methods, with press censorship, secret police, rigged elections, and all the other trappings of dictatorship.

The people of Portuguese Africa are a bedevilled and well-nigh forgotten people. 50 years ago, English writers such as Nevins and Cadbury drew attention to the evils of Portuguese rule in her African colonies; and nothing since has been done to improve the fate of the peoples of those colonies. Potentially the colonies are economically rich; and some of the natural wealth is exploited by Portuguese companies who, however, condemn their African employees to exist in a subhuman state of squalor and misery.

The total population of Portuguese Africa is 11 million. For these 11 million people, there are only 380 doctors! Cape Verde is best off, with one doctor to 10,000 people. In Angola, which is better off than Guinea or Mozambique, there is one hospital for every 280,000 people, one doctor to every 20,000 people, and one nurse and 30 hospital beds for every 10,000 people. 99 per cent of the people are illiterate; areas as large as Portugal have no schools at all. Only about one child in 100 attends school! There is a Roman Catholic monopoly of education for the Africans; African education is virtually confined to the primary schools. A few persistent Africans do make an extraordinary effort to complete secondary education, and a mere handful manage to achieve a university

education; at present, about 100 Africans are attending Portuguese universities (there are none in the colonies) — 100 out of a total population of 11 millions! Nearly all primary school teachers, and all secondary school teachers, are Europeans; except that in Cape Verde a few Africans teach in secondary schools.

Portugal does not accept the principle of self-determination for the people of her colonies (which she terms 'overseas provinces' in order to keep out United Nations Commissions of Enquiry. She denies the right of all peoples to choose their own destiny; she denies the capability of the Africans to govern themselves or to contribute to human progress as independent and sovereign nations. The Fascist Salazar Government, maintained in office by all the trappings which Hitler used to such evil ends, is not yet apparently aware of the most important political reality of the present age: the end of colonialism. It keeps alive the spirit of anti-democracy and colonialism; it does not hesitate to use the weapon of terror and torture against people whose only 'crime' - if crime it be - is the desire for freedom. There are savage concentration camps; in the last few years a relentless campaign has been waged against the African patriots, a campaign in which there have been persecutions, deportations, tortures, and massacres of innocent persons.

But there has recently been formed an organisation linking together the various national independence movements. This organisation depends on the support and sympathy of individuals and other nationalist organisations all over the world; that is why I have written at length about the position in Portuguese Africa. Everyone in Mauritius who has at heart the cause of independence will be with the people of the Portuguese colonies in their struggle for freedom from the dictatorial oppression of Salazar and his secret police; everyone will be with me in extending to the Africans of Portuguese Africa the wish and hope that their domination by Portugal will soon be over, and that their appeals for help in their struggle will not fall on deaf ears among the governments of the world and at UNO.

Îles Éparses: Nouvel échec des discussions franco-malgaches



Déclaration depuis l'Île Glorieuse, haut-lieu de la biodiversité Emmanuel Macron. - Pic youtube.com

☞ Suite en page 7

Des tentatives de résolution bilatérales en 1990 et 2016 ont échoué. Une nouvelle impulsion en mai 2019, avec l'annonce d'une volonté de coopération, a été entravée par la visite du président Macron à Grande Glorieuse où sa déclaration "Ceci est la France" a irrité Antananarivo. La commission conjointe formée par la suite pour trouver un arrangement de gestion partagée a progressé lentement. La situation est d'autant plus complexe que la Russie soutient la revendication de Madagascar, ainsi que celle des Comores sur

Mayotte.

Afin de maintenir de bonnes relations avec le président malgache Andry Rajoelina, Emmanuel Macron devrait insister sur la relance de cette commission conjointe. Au-delà de la souveraineté, les discussions ont également porté sur la coopération économique, la France s'étant engagée à soutenir des projets de développement à Madagascar.

La revendication mauricienne sur Tromelin

Indépendamment des revendications de Madagascar, Maurice revendique la souveraineté sur l'île de Tromelin. Cette île, l'une des Îles Éparses, se trouve au nord-est de Madagascar et est également l'objet d'un litige territorial qui complique davantage le statut de ces territoires. Pour Maurice, cette revendication s'appuie sur des arguments historiques et géographiques, considérant que l'île aurait dû être rattachée à son territoire lors de son indépendance du Royaume-Uni en 1968, arguant qu'elle faisait partie intégrante de ses dépendances coloniales.

Ce désaccord triple la complexité des négociations en cours, car la France doit gérer non seulement la pression de Madagascar, mais aussi celle de Maurice, qui cherche à récupérer ce qu'elle considère comme faisant partie de son patrimoine national et de sa zone économique exclusive.

Le Dalaï-Lama à 90 ans: Une bataille de succession pour l'avenir du Tibet

Alors que le Dalaï-Lama, chef spirituel vénéré du bouddhisme tibétain, célèbre ses 90 ans le 6 juillet, les inquiétudes concernant sa succession ne cessent de croître. Son âge avancé et son rôle emblématique dans la lutte tibétaine placent la question de son successeur au centre d'une confrontation géopolitique et religieuse majeure.

Depuis son exil en Inde en 1959, le Dalaï-Lama a été le visage de la quête d'autonomie du Tibet – une démarche que le Parti communiste chinois (PCC) qualifie systématiquement de séparatisme et considère comme une menace à son intégrité territoriale.

Le PCC a déjà clairement indiqué son intention d'intervenir dans ce processus. Il est largement attendu qu'il nomme sa propre réincarnation "Beijing-backed" à la mort du Dalaï-Lama, reproduisant ainsi le scénario observé avec le Panchen-Lama, dont la version choisie par Pékin est la seule reconnue en Chine. Cependant, dans une démarche sans précédent et audacieuse, l'actuel Dalaï-Lama a annoncé son intention de désigner lui-même son successeur. Cette initiative vise à anticiper et assurer la continuité d'une lignée spirituelle authentique, libre de toute influence politique extérieure.



Depuis son exil en Inde en 1959, le Dalaï-Lama a été le visage de la quête d'autonomie du Tibet. P - NPR

Contrôle contre autodétermination: Deux visions irréconciliables

En installant un successeur complotant, le gouvernement chinois espère neutraliser définitivement le mouvement d'indépendance tibétain et consolider son autorité sur la région. Cette stratégie vise à assimiler la culture et la religion tibétaines dans le cadre du contrôle centralisé chinois, éradiquant toute forme de dissidence ou de particularisme.

À l'inverse, pour les Tibétains en exil, dont beaucoup résident à Dharamsala en Inde, le plan du Dalaï-Lama est perçu comme une bouée de sauvetage essentielle. Ils espèrent qu'il protégera leur religion et leur identité culturelle de tout contrôle étranger.

"C'est plus qu'une simple question

spirituelle, c'est une question de notre liberté de décider de notre avenir sans peur ni contrôle étranger", exprime Yonten, un Tibétain vivant en Europe, articulant le sentiment profond d'une communauté luttant pour sa survie culturelle et politique.

Une confrontation imminente: Le spectre de deux Dalaï-Lamas rivaux

Le PCC a déjà rejeté catégoriquement l'idée d'honorer le choix du Dalaï-Lama actuel, déclarant que seul le gouvernement chinois a l'autorité de reconnaître une réincarnation. Cette position intransigeante prépare le terrain pour un avenir marqué par l'existence de deux Dalaï-Lamas rivaux: l'un choisi par le chef spirituel actuel et la communauté en exil, et l'autre désigné et soutenu par Pékin.

Avec aucune des deux parties semblant prête à faire des compromis, cette bataille de succession imminente aura des répercussions profondes et durables sur l'avenir du Tibet, menaçant de diviser encore davantage une communauté déjà fragmentée par des décennies d'exil et d'oppression.

L'enjeu est immense: il s'agit non seulement de la survie d'une tradition religieuse millénaire, mais aussi de l'autodétermination d'un peuple.

A. Bartleby

The End of American Soft Power; The Resurgence of American Hard Power



☞ Cont. from page 6

Varadarajan summarizes Mead's analysis suggesting that it identified four distinct American approaches to foreign policy, which he called Hamiltonian, Wilsonian, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian. "Hamiltonians regard a strong alliance between government and big business as 'the key to effective action abroad.'" Wilsonians believe that the US has both "a moral obligation and an important national interest" in spreading democratic values throughout the world."

Trump is, of course, a Jacksonian at heart, believing that the security and well-being of the American people is paramount. Some might argue that Trump's definition of "the American people" does not encompass diversity, equity, and inclusion. But however, he defines his American diaspora (albeit localized in the US and not spread around the world) it is THEIR welfare that he espouses.

As Varadarajan explains Mead's thinking, a Jacksonian holds that the US "should not seek out foreign quarrels, but when the US or its allies are attacked or threatened or even insulted, they can become very energized, like a hive of bees. If the hive is attacked, they will sting with everything they've got."

So, Trump has felt threatened by Iran and justifiably feels that Iran has sponsored attacks on America and its interests. This approach is similar to his threats against all who would cross him on the domestic scene at home.

With so much going on, we might well ask if there is a master plan and what is going on behind the scenes? Is Trump pursuing some coherent policy that will bring peace to the world, and win him a Nobel Peace Prize, or is this just another incoherent jumble akin to one of his rambling speeches at a campaign rally which have come to be known as his "weave?"

Perhaps it is all transactional. The rare earth minerals deal with China, mining rights for American in Congo as part of a ceasefire deal with Rwanda, a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza (without mention of his fabled Riviera of the Middle East), allowing China to purchase Iranian oil notwithstanding sanctions on Iran speak to this. But how do we explain Trump's refusal to send more defensive missile interceptors to Ukraine even after a rare earth mining deal was agreed with that country? Given all his talk about achieving ceasefires, his failing with Putin in Ukraine is singular. There is no rational explanation.

As with all things Trump, the broad strokes tell one story, the tiny brush strokes of detail are often unfinished or altogether absent. Will a giant painting with peace as its theme be enough, or are the details necessary to fill in before the warring nations see that they are part of the bigger picture? Can Trump paint a bigger picture?

Cheerz...
Bwana

Readers' Response



US college bans transgender athletes following swimming furor. Pic - France 24

Identity Politics, Economic Injustice, and the Erosion of Moderation

The University of Pennsylvania is set to ban transgender athletes, a decision stemming from the controversy surrounding swimmer Lia Thomas. Power often proves intoxicating and corrupting, leading to a reckless disregard for those perceived as a threat to deeply held beliefs and interests. We've seen the immense and rapid influence gained by movements like #MeToo and, especially, Cancel Culture, primarily through social media. This has ruined the careers and lives of public figures, including those who dared to publicly challenge hard-line "woke" ideology and its resulting government policies.

I've long held that humankind, both individually and collectively, struggles with moderation. Yet, while the social and political pendulum can swing to extremes, such significant shifts are to be expected in response to historical social injustices, including those

endured by the transgender community.

A similar pendulum-swing effect might have occurred in Western neoliberal democracies in response to prolonged and immense economic injustices. However, this has largely been prevented by the formidable obstacle of virtual corporatist and significant power/money interests.

During major demonstrations against economic injustices, the police and military could—and likely would—claim they had to "bust heads" (to use political terminology) to prioritize maintaining law and order. With a complacent, if not compliant, corporate news media dominating nearly all news outlets, absurdly unjust inequities and inequalities can persist.

Frank Sterle Jr.
White Rock, B.C.
Canada

Ministerial Advisors & The Blurry Lines

There's been a lot of debate recently about the number of advisors appointed by previous governments, the criteria for selecting them, and their exact role. The answers to these important questions often depend on the specific context, and even what that individual advisor's job entails. As a former civil service official who has worked under different administrations, I can tell you it's rarely a clear-cut "either/or" situation. Generally speaking, you'll find two main types of advisors within government.

These advisors - admittedly not all - are typically aligned with the ruling party's agenda. Their main job is to help the government achieve its political goals and deliver on election promises. They often have personal connections to politicians, perhaps through campaign work, long-standing relationships with ministers, or shared ideological beliefs. Their advice tends to focus on feasibility and political impact, considering not only how effective a policy might be, but also its public reception and how well it fits with the party's platform.

There are also generally chosen for their expertise. Their primary qualification is deep knowledge, a strong research background, or extensive practical experience in a specific field, like

economics, public health, etc. They're expected to be objective, meaning their role is to offer analysis and recommendations based on data and best practices, without letting political implications sway them. Their advice focuses on effectiveness and long-term outcomes, aiming for the most efficient or impactful solution to a problem, often looking beyond immediate political cycles. Sometimes, career civil servants within government departments also fall into this category when providing policy advice.

The truth is, the reality often exists in a grey area. Even highly independent experts might be selected by a political government, and their advice could be selectively used or interpreted to fit a political narrative. Conversely, many political staff possess significant expertise themselves and are genuinely striving for the best outcomes, even if they operate within political constraints.

The ideal scenario for effective governance usually involves a healthy tension and collaboration between both types of advisors. Politically aligned advisors understand the public's mandate, while independent experts provide a robust, factual foundation for decision-making.

S.K.M.
Port Louis

Military Bases and National Sovereignty in Mauritius and Sweden

One reason why I have, for some years, been interested in moving to Mauritius (myself and perhaps also my business) is that I have seen Mauritius as a possible model for a peaceful country. You seem to have avoided both civil wars and participation in foreign wars, so far.

However, I have now read that the extended territory of Mauritius will most likely include the military base on Diego Garcia, perhaps even hosting nuclear weapons at times, and that the Chagossians will most likely not be able to return to their former homes in the foreseeable future. This makes me incredibly sad, especially after living through how my home country, Sweden, has changed from a peaceful country with much respect for human rights to the opposite.

The risk seems to be increasing that both countries — Sweden and Mauritius — would be willing to partici-

pate even in a possible nuclear holocaust (at least by providing bases). If it does not come to that extreme, both our countries seem to have voluntarily given up an important part of democracy. If the military in a country is not under the democratic control of its people, can you truly say that you have a working democracy?

For example, if President Trump decides to launch further attacks against Iran, this may, in the near future, include aircraft taking off from Mauritian territory (Diego Garcia), but the people of Mauritius will not have anything to say about this. In the past, the US has also been able to do anything on Diego Garcia, including suspected torture, but the important difference is that soon this may happen under your watch.

In a similar way, if Trump decides to put military pressure on our neighbour Denmark regarding Greenland, Trump may use US military forces based in

Sweden according to our "Defence Cooperation Agreement," and the Swedish people will not have anything to say about this. Our own military is even becoming an "escort service" for the US, having to provide assistance to the US. Sweden has already sent people to be tortured, in cooperation with the US. It is also unclear who will be responsible for cleaning up toxic remnants from their military activity, etc. In the case of Sweden, we will be bound by the agreement with the U.S. for at least the next ten years, and we don't get paid any lease or rent for US bases.

As I understand, the agreement that Mauritius has signed (but hopefully not ratified) with the UK is for a much longer time period, but Mauritius will receive substantial "blood" money for Diego Garcia. I hope you realize in time that no deal with the UK about Chagos is better than your existing bad deal. You should have justice on your side, to stand up for all the Chagossians' right to return, to continue being a role model for peace, and to keep democracy for all your territory.

Sven Ruin
Engineer and Author
Sweden

The Paternity of Prosperity

A Socratic Inquiry into Economic Miracles



P - business.mega.mu

Cont. from page 9

And crucially, it allows us to see the *long-term consequences* of those initial “difficult decisions.” For a seed planted in 1982 might only truly bear its full, complex fruit many decades later, revealing unforeseen benefits or drawbacks.

Cephalus: (Pondering, then a slow nod) You have a point, old friend. It’s like judging a young wine. You can taste its potential, perhaps even its initial quality, but you can’t truly know its greatness, or its eventual sourness, until years have passed, until it has aged in the cellar and truly matured. And a politician, like a hasty sommelier, might declare a vintage magnificent before its time, for the sake of a quick sale.

Socrates: A delightful analogy, Cephalus! So, while politicians and citizens and journalists may comment on the wine

in the bottle today, perhaps the definitive judgment on the true *paternity* of the vintage, and its ultimate quality, should be reserved for those with the patience, the tools, and the necessary distance: the historians. For they, unlike the politicians, are not trying to sell the wine; they are trying to understand its true origins and its long-term legacy.

Cephalus: (Smiling faintly) Perhaps, Socrates. Perhaps. Though I still prefer to trust my own palate on a good wine, regardless of what the ancient historians might one day say. Now, if you’ll excuse me, all this talk of paternity has made me rather thirsty. I believe there’s a particularly well-aged amphora with my name on it...

Socrates: (Chuckling, watching Cephalus depart) Indeed, my friend. And may its parentage be beyond all dispute. Though I suspect, in the grand scheme of things, even the finest wine is a product of many influences – the soil, the sun, the vine, the vintner, and perhaps, a few timely difficult decisions about fermentation. And to declare a single “father”... that would be a humorous simplification, would it not?

Plutonix

As Cephalus departs for his well-earned wine, the Socratic inquiry leaves us with a compelling thought: the “paternity” of economic prosperity is rarely, if ever, a straightforward matter of a single decision or individual. Instead, it’s a complex tapestry woven from initial vision, sustained effort, countless unseen contributions, and the unpredictable currents of time. Perhaps, as Socrates suggests, it is only with historical distance that we can truly discern the myriad influences shaping a nation’s fortune.

Mauritius Times

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YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 – DEC 21

This is your week for movement. Travel, take a course, say yes to something spontaneous. Momentum builds fast — ride the wave. An old friend or mentor may reappear with news.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 17, 20, 27, 38
Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 19

A work shift or new responsibility proves you’re ready for more. Step up, but don’t forget balance. Midweek brings emotional fulfilment through family or romance.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 16, 23, 31, 39
AQUARIUS JAN 20 – FEB 18

Inspiration hits early in the week — don’t ignore that urge to create, share, or start something new. A team effort brings results. A nostalgic message or visit opens your heart.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 18, 26, 32, 35
PISCES FEB 19 – MAR 20

Your intuition is high — use it to create, express, or heal. A new source of income or surprise opportunity may arrive from an unexpected direction. Trust your instincts.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 10, 13, 19, 28, 37

ARIES MAR 21 – APR 19

The pace picks up quickly, especially at work. Bold moves and confident choices win you praise, but don’t overpromise what you can’t deliver. Midweek brings emotional rewards — a heartfelt talk or romantic connection strengthens your bond.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 14, 22, 33, 36
TAURUS APR 20 – MAY 20

You’re easily drained by unnecessary conflict. Take a step back and seek calm. Nature, solitude, or gentle routines bring healing. A wise financial decision on Friday helps you feel grounded again.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 16, 21, 27, 38
GEMINI MAY 21 – JUN 20

Conversations flow and your ideas click with others. This is a great week for clearing misunderstandings, pitching new ideas, and launching creative projects. A bold, spontaneous move pays off.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 11, 17, 20, 29, 35
CANCER JUN 21 – JUL 22

Your home, body, and heart need attention. A loved one’s small gesture restores trust. Self-care is not optional. By the weekend, energy improves,

and clarity returns about what truly matters.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 12, 18, 31, 37
LEO JUL 23 – AUG 22

Recognition comes your way — don’t brush it off. Whether in your career or personal life, confidence attracts admiration. Romance gets a jolt of excitement. Go ahead, indulge a little.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 19, 23, 26, 39
VIRGO AUG 23 – SEP 22

This week calls for planning. Budgeting, scheduling, or clearing clutter brings relief. A family concern may resolve quietly, and a learning opportunity or helpful connection shows up by Friday.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 14, 24, 28, 40
LIBRA SEP 23 – OCT 22

Your words soothe and mend. Be the diplomat, but also stand up for your desires. Midweek could spark a romantic surprise or creative collaboration. Enjoy the lightness that follows.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 15, 25, 30, 34
SCORPIO OCT 23 – NOV 21

Secrets or hidden motives may emerge. Trust your gut — it’s rarely wrong. Release past resentments and watch energy return. A financial or emotional renewal is within reach.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 11, 22, 29, 36



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

COMMUNIQUE

NON PAIEMENT DES FACTURES D’ÉLECTRICITÉ

Le Central Electricity Board (CEB) tient à rappeler à ses abonnés qu’une facture non réglée dans le délai de la date limite de paiement peut entraîner une interruption de la fourniture d’électricité à tout moment.

Après l’interruption, les abonnés concernés devront régler toutes les factures impayées, ainsi que les frais de reconnexion, avant que le service ne soit rétabli.

Le CEB se voit contraint de procéder régulièrement à des débranchements en cas de non-paiement des factures. Les abonnés sont priés de respecter les délais de paiement afin d’éviter ces désagréments.

La Direction

Why it's good to be nostalgic: You may have more close friends

People who are more prone to nostalgia tend to have more close friends and invest greater effort in maintaining relationships, according to a new study published in *Cognition and Emotion*.

Researchers from the University at Buffalo and Kyoto University studied nearly 1,500 people across the U.S. and Europe. Their findings reinforce previous research linking close relationships to better mental health, greater life satisfaction, and even longer lifespans.

The study included three experiments:

• **Experiment 1:** U.S. undergraduates were surveyed about their level of nostalgia and the strength of their friendships. Those who frequently experienced nostal-

gia reported an average of seven very close relationships and placed higher value on maintaining them.

• **Experiment 2:** A broader sample of U.S. adults (average age 40) completed the same survey and a personality test. Again, nostalgic individuals had more close friends -- on average, five very close and 14 other important relationships -- and put more effort into sustaining them. This remained true regardless of personality traits like extraversion.

• **Experiment 3:** Using data from the Dutch LISS panel over seven years, researchers found that participants became more nostalgic over time. Those with high or medium nostalgia maintained



their close relationships, while those with low nostalgia saw an 18% decline in their close social ties.

Lead researcher Kuan-Ju Huang noted, "People who feel nostalgic more often and value those memories are more

aware of their important relationships and the need to nurture them. This means these friendships may be more likely to last, even as our lives and responsibilities change."

Huang also shared personal insights, recalling how nostalgic music and videos provided comfort during his time as an international PhD student in Japan during the Covid pandemic. He added that while young adults and older adults both experience high levels of nostalgia, the reasons differ: life transitions versus reflections on loss and a limited future.

The study's limitations include not differentiating between types of relationships and focusing only on two countries.



If people stopped having babies, how long would it be before humans were all gone?

Even though there are 8 billion people on Earth today, a catastrophe could send that number much lower within a few decades.

Very few people live beyond a century. So, if no one had babies anymore, there would probably be no humans left on Earth within 100 years. But first, the population would shrink as older folks died and no one was being born.

Even if all births were to suddenly cease, this decline would start slowly.

Eventually there would not be enough young people coming of age to do essential work, causing societies throughout the world to quickly fall apart. Some of these breakdowns would be in humanity's ability to produce food, provide health care and do everything else we all rely on.

Food would become scarce even though there would be fewer people to feed.

As an anthropology professor who has spent his career studying human behavior, biology and cultures, I readily admit that this would not be a pretty picture. Eventually, civilization would crumble. It's likely that there would not be many people left within 70 or 80 years, rather than 100, due to shortages of food, clean water, prescription drugs and everything else that you can easily buy today and need to survive.

Sudden change could follow a catastrophe

To be sure, an abrupt halt in births is highly unlikely unless there's a global catastrophe. Here's one potential scenario, which writer Kurt Vonnegut explored in his novel "Galapagos": A highly contagious disease could render all people of reproductive age infertile -- meaning that no one would be capable of having babies anymore.

Another possibility might be a nuclear war that no one survives -- a topic that's been explored in many scary movies and books.



When the population plunges, it can get pretty lonely. Sean Gallup/Getty Images

A lot of these works are science fiction involving a lot of space travel. Others seek to predict a less fanciful Earth-bound future where people can no longer reproduce easily, causing collective despair and the loss of personal freedom for those who are capable of having babies.

Two of my favorite books along these lines are "The Handmaid's Tale," by Canadian writer Margaret Atwood, and "The Children of Men," by British writer P.D. James. They are dystopian stories, meaning that they take place in an unpleasant future with a great deal of human suffering and disorder. And both have become the basis of television series and movies.

In the 1960s and 1970s, many people also worried that there would be too many people on Earth, which would cause different kinds of catastrophes. Those scenarios also became the focus of dystopian books and movies.

Heading toward 10 billion people

To be sure, the number of people in the world is still growing, even though the pace of that growth has slowed down. Experts who study population changes predict that the total will peak at 10 billion in the 2080s, up from 8 billion today and 4 billion in 1974.

The U.S. population currently stands at 342 million. That's about 200 million more people than were here when I was born in the 1930s. This is a lot of people, but both worldwide and in the U.S. these numbers could gradually fall if more people die than are born.

About 3.6 million babies were born in the U.S. in 2024, down from 4.1 million in 2004. Meanwhile, about 3.3 million people died in 2022, up from 2.4 million 20 years earlier.

One thing that will be important as these patterns change is whether there's a manageable balance between young people and older people. That's because the young often are the engine of society. They tend to be the ones to implement new ideas and produce everything we use.

Also, many older people need help from younger people with basic activities, like cooking and getting dressed. And a wide range of jobs are more appropriate for people under 65 rather than those who have reached the typical age for retirement.

Declining birth rates

In many countries, women are having fewer children throughout their reproductive lives than used to be the case. That reduction is the most stark in several countries, including India and South Korea.

The declines in birth rates occurring today are largely caused by people choosing not to have any children or as many as their parents did. That kind of population decline can be kept manageable through immigration from other countries, but cultural and political concerns often stop that from happening.

At the same time, many men are becoming less able to father children due

to fertility problems. If that situation gets much worse, it could contribute to a steep decline in population.

Neanderthals went extinct

Our species, Homo sapiens, has been around for at least 200,000 years. That's a long time, but like all animals on Earth we are at risk of becoming extinct.

Consider what happened to the Neanderthals, a close relative of Homo sapiens. They first appeared at least 400,000 years ago. Our modern human ancestors overlapped for a while with the Neanderthals, who gradually declined to become extinct about 40,000 years ago.

Some scientists have found evidence that modern humans were more successful at reproducing our numbers than the Neanderthal people. This occurred when Homo sapiens became more successful at providing food for their families and also having more babies than the Neanderthals.

If humans were to go extinct, it could open up opportunities for other animals to flourish on Earth. On the other hand, it would be sad for humans to go away because we would lose all of the great achievements people have made, including in the arts and science.

In my view, we need to take certain steps to ensure that we have a long future on our own planet. These include controlling climate change and avoiding wars. Also, we need to appreciate the fact that having a wide array of animals and plants makes the planet healthy for all creatures, including our own species.

Michael A. Little

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of
Anthropology, Binghamton University,
State University of New York



Father to Daughter: Get Married on Twitter!

Daughter's message to Dad:

"Daddy, I'm coming home to get married soon, so get your cheque book ready! As you know, I'm in Australia, he's in the US. We met on a dating site, became friends on Facebook, chatted for hours on WhatsApp. He proposed on Skype. We've had a two-month relationship through Viber. Now I need your blessing, good wishes... and a big wedding!"

Lots of love,
Lilly."

Dad's reply:

"Dear Lilly,

Wow! Amazing! Really cool!

I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, register your wedding gifts on Amazon, and pay for everything via PayPal.

And when you get tired of him... sell him on eBay!

Lots of love,
Dad."

* * *

Rye Bread

A man walks into a restaurant and sees a sign:

"£500 if we can't fill your order!"

When the waitress arrives, he says,

"I'll have an elephant's tail on rye bread."

Without blinking, she heads to the kitchen.

Soon, there's a commotion behind the scenes.

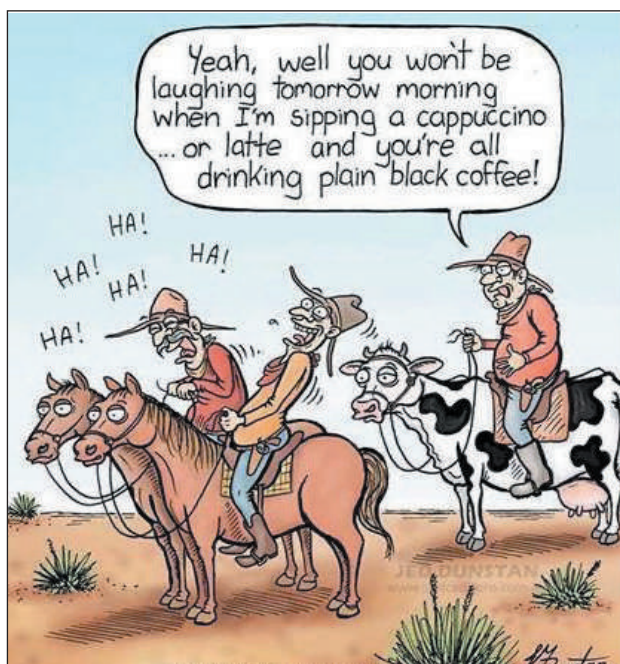
The owner storms over, slaps £500 in cash on the table, and says,

"You got us this time... but just so you know — this is the first time in 10 years we've run out of rye bread!"

* * *

Husband Wanted

A woman in her 70s decided it was finally time to get married.



She placed an ad in the newspaper:

"Husband wanted: Must not beat me, must not walk all over me, must still be good in bed."

She got plenty of responses, but none seemed right. Just as she was about to give up, the doorbell rang.

She opened the door to find a man in a wheelchair — with no arms or legs.

"Can I help you?" she asked.

He smiled and said, "I'm here about your ad — your perfect husband!"

"You must be joking," she laughed.

"Think about it," he said. "I have no arms, so I can't beat you. I have no legs, so I can't walk all over you."

She squinted. "But are you still good in bed?"

He leaned back, grinned, and said, "I rang the doorbell, didn't I?"

* * *

Looking for Portugal

A boy came home from school, disappointed because he got a zero on his geography exam.

"The teacher gave me a zero because I couldn't answer a question about Portugal," he said.

His mother asked, "What was the question?"

"Where is Portugal?"

"That idiot teacher! I'm going to call the principal. But first, let's find where Portugal is."

She pulled out a map of the state — no Portugal.

Then a map of the region — still no Portugal.

Then a map of the city — nothing.

"I swear, Portugal can't be far. The maid is from Portugal and she comes here every day on her bicycle!"

* * *

Presidential Misunderstanding

Health Secretary in a briefing to President Joe Biden: "Sir, in Chennai, India, 36 Tamilians have died due to the coronavirus."

Biden is silent. His lips quiver. His hands tremble. His eyes swell with emotion. He is unable to speak.

The Health Secretary is stunned. He never imagined this news would affect the President so deeply.

After a long pause, in a trembling voice, Biden asks: "So... how many millions are there in one Tamillion?"

* * *

Mechanic vs. Surgeon

An engineer was dismantling a motorcycle engine when a famous heart surgeon walked into his garage.

The engineer said: "Doctor, look at this engine. I

opened its heart, took the valves out, fixed them, and put them back. So why do I get paid so little, and you earn so much?"

The doctor smiled and replied: "Try doing all that while the engine is running."

The engineer smiled back and whispered: "I can take any dead engine and make it run again... Can you?"

* * *

The Golf Curse

A priest and a lawyer are playing golf.

The lawyer isn't having a good day. When he misses an easy putt, he mutters, "Damn, missed."

A few minutes later, after another poor shot, he grumbles again, "Damn, missed."

In fact, after every bad stroke, he fumes, "Damn, missed!"

Finally, after ten holes, the priest loses patience.

"If you don't stop using such language," he warns, "the Lord will strike you down!"

Just then, there's a dazzling flash of lightning -- and the priest is fried to a crisp. As the smoke clears, a deep voice from the heavens says:

"Damn, missed."

* * *

Missing the Point

A husband sends a text to his wife.

"Honey, I got hit by a car outside of the office. Tina brought me to the hospital. They have been taking tests and doing x-rays. The blow to my head is very strong, maybe serious. Also, I have 3 broken ribs, a broken arm, a compound fracture on my left leg and they may have to amputate the right foot."

Wife's Response: "Who is Tina?"

* * *

Swimming with Surprises

A tourist was fishing off the coast of Florida when his boat capsized.

He could swim, but was terrified of alligators, so he clung to the overturned boat.

Spotting an elderly man on the shore, he shouted, "Are there any alligators around here?"

"No, not for years!" the man called back.

Relieved, the tourist began swimming toward the shore.

Halfway there, the old man shouted again, "Watch out for the sharks though -- they're hungry now that there are no alligators!"



Stray Thoughts

Never fall for words alone

When choosing a partner, don't be swayed by charm, looks, or sweet words. Pay attention to their heart.

Choose someone whose kindness isn't a performance for others but a true reflection of who they are -- someone whose love extends not only to you but to the people you care about. Find the one who makes you feel safe, valued, and deeply seen. Someone who never makes you question your worth or beg for their attention. Someone who treats your heart as something precious -- not because you're fragile, but because they understand how rare genuine love truly is.

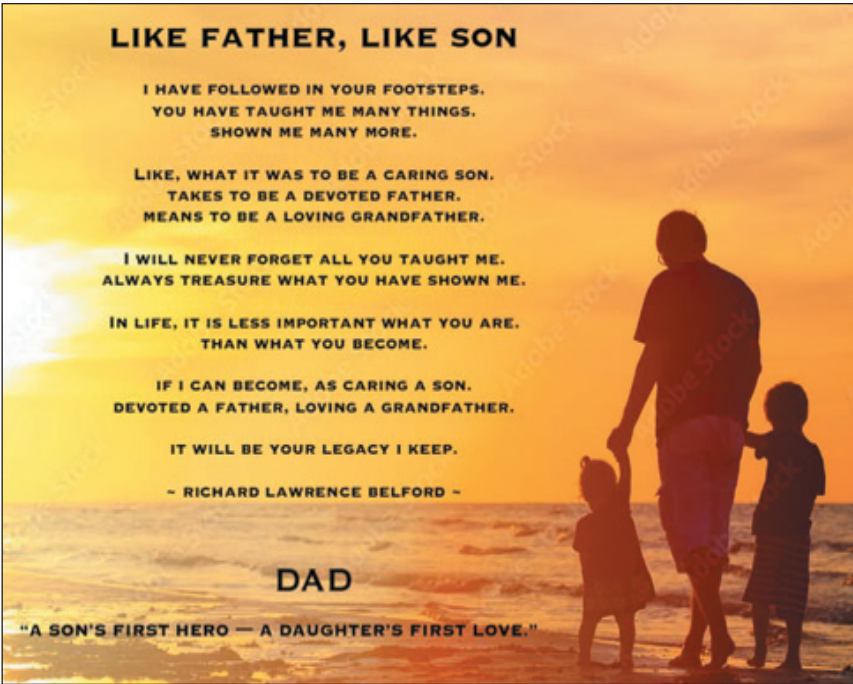
Be with the person who notices the small things: how you like your coffee, the songs you hum, the way you sigh after a long day. The one who texts you on busy days just to say, "You crossed my mind, and I miss you."

Choose the one who shows up -- not just in sunshine, but in storms. The one who listens to understand, not just to reply. Who holds your hand in public and defends you in private. Whose "I love you" isn't routine but is proven in the way they speak to you when they're angry, how they care for your heart when they're tired, and how they fight with you -- not against you -- when things get hard.

Never fall for words alone. Words are easy; actions reveal truth. Don't stay with someone who makes you feel alone in the relationship, who promises the world but delivers uncertainty. You deserve a love that feels like home -- not confusion. A love that is gentle, real, present -- and that reminds you every day why you never settled for less.

Abasode Beatrice

To all the fathers we so often forget



To all the worthy dads out there... means we must one day part.

To the silent warriors who bear the weight of the world on their shoulders, who shed tears in secret but smile in strength to uplift their families -- your quiet courage does not go unnoticed.

If there were a word greater than "thank you," I would use it to express the depth of my gratitude.

To you, Dad -- gone too soon.

My warrior. My pillar. My guide. My strength. My endless source of inspiration.

I would have given all the gold in the world for you to stay with us just a little longer. But alas, being human

Stay blessed -- for everything.

Bedia Wahy Aset

We, too, will one day become memories

During a lecture on epic poetry - like the Mahābhārata and Iliad -- in my first year of college, my professor said:

"When the whole world dies, when even brick and mortar are destroyed, memory survives. It lives on in generations to come. And literature carries that memory. All your geography, your economics, your psychology -- they're all built

upon the memory of humankind, passed down through generations. These epic poems and works of literature we are studying are here to remind us that we, too, will one day become memories. So let us strive to be good ones."

And I think a piece of that lecture will stay with me wherever I go.

Silicxnn

Let them go...

You can't hold on to people who no longer wish to stay.

No matter how deeply you loved them, if they choose to leave, let them go -- truly and sincerely -- with a warm smile and an open, accepting heart.

Don't be angry. Don't grow resentful. Everyone has the right to choose their own life and path.

No matter how much you wish someone would stay, sometimes you must accept that they were never meant to walk your entire journey with you -- even if they remain forever in your heart.

Let them go -- for your own peace, gently and calmly.

Wish them well. And don't distort the love you once felt. It was real. It was beautiful. Let it remain so.

And keep walking your path --

Who knows what the future holds for you?

Metanoia

Don't be so hard on yourself

We fall into the routines of life, striving to make names for ourselves -- to land the jobs we want, to earn the promotions we desire. We do our best just to survive.

But in the process, we forget there is more than simply getting by.

And when we remember, it can feel overwhelming -- crippling even -- and we want to escape. So we turn to our TVs and phones, seeking relief for that hidden wound.

Life is happening all around you while you spend time trying to figure it all out.

And through it all, we're often far too hard on ourselves.

Don't be.

There are incredible things coming your way.

Anonymous

You will be happy again

You know how, in winter it gets so cold that you think you'll never feel warm again, and in summer it gets so hot you think you'll never feel cold again?

I think that's how feelings work.

When you're sad, it feels like you'll never be happy again. And when you're happy, it feels like sadness will never return.

But just like the seasons, you will feel warm again, you will feel cold again, you will feel sad again -- and most importantly, you will be happy again.

Eccedentesia

Wisdom from Africa

Even the best cooking pot will not produce food. Meaning: Tools are useless without action or effort.

You learn how to cut down trees by cutting them down. Meaning: Experience comes through doing, not just observing.

A bird will always use another bird's feathers to feather its nest. Meaning: We often benefit from the contributions of others.

A child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth. Meaning: Neglected individuals may become destructive to gain attention.

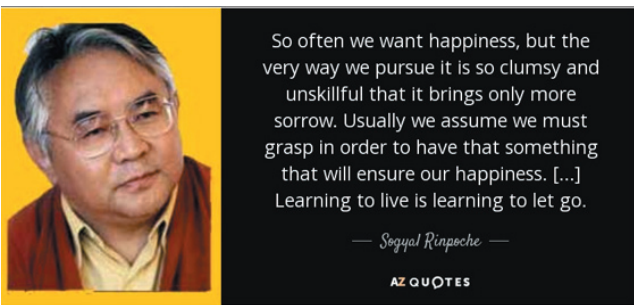
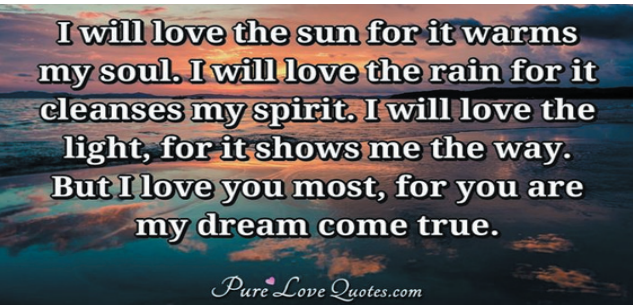
Rain does not fall on one roof alone. Meaning: Hardship comes to everyone at some point.

He who learns, teaches. Meaning: Knowledge should be shared, not hoarded.

No matter how long the night, the day is sure to come. Meaning: All difficult times will eventually pass.

The teeth and the tongue may come into conflict, but they stay together. Meaning: Close relationships may have disagreements, but they endure.

You do not teach the paths of the forest to an old gorilla. Meaning: Don't attempt to teach the experienced what they already know.



Romantic relationships: Which type are you in?

There's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to romantic love. Every relationship is shaped by personality, life stage, emotional needs, and shared goals. From harmonious, independent partnerships to intense, unpredictable bonds, love takes many forms. Understanding which type you're in can strengthen your connection -- or highlight areas for growth.

Here are some distinct types of romantic relationships, including two that are often overlooked but deeply relevant. Which one feels familiar?

1. Happy and Independent

In this relationship, both partners are content in their individual lives and choose to be together without becoming overly entangled. They may live separately, maintain different social circles, and pursue separate goals. Yet their emotional connection is strong, built on mutual respect and healthy communication. For these couples, love is a complement, not a dependency.

2. Happy and Consolidated

These couples have grown together emotionally and practically, often merging their lives -- living together, sharing aspirations, and operating as a team. Their bond is stable, secure, and grounded in trust. Even with deep connection, both retain a sense of self. Conflicts are managed constructively, and appreciation flows freely. This is the relationship many aspire to build over time.

3. Exploratory

Exciting but uncertain, exploratory relationships often occur in the early stages of dating. The couple is still discovering their compatibility, boundaries, and communication styles. Misunderstandings are common, and emo-



tions can swing wildly. Driven by chemistry and curiosity, this type of relationship is a valuable learning phase that may evolve -- or end.

4. Stuck

These relationships persist despite emotional disconnect. Couples may stay together due to fear of loneliness, financial dependency, or emotional inertia. Conversations become strained, affection fades, and the partnership feels like going through the motions. It takes honest reflection and courage to either rebuild or walk away from this dynamic.

5. High Intensity

Marked by deep chemistry and dramatic highs and lows, these relationships can be both passionate and volatile. Breakups and reconciliations are frequent. While the emotional bond is strong, the instability can be exhausting. Over time, if patterns remain unresolved, it may become a destructive cycle that hinders personal growth and peace.

6. Long-Distance Loyalists

Despite geographical separation, these couples stay committed and emotionally connected. Trust, clear communication, and shared long-term goals keep the bond alive. Technology helps bridge the physical gap, while emotional effort sustains the relationship. While challenging, long-distance love often cultivates resilience and deep emotional intimacy.

7. Healing Together

These couples meet during transformational or difficult life phases -- be it loss, heartbreak, or trauma. Their relationship becomes a safe, nurturing space where both can heal. Built on empathy, patience, and openness, this bond can evolve into one of the most meaningful forms of love, where pain becomes purpose, and connection becomes healing.

Final Thought

No type is inherently "right" or "wrong" -- each relationship has its own rhythm, challenges, and rewards. What matters is how it feels, how it supports growth, and whether both partners feel seen, valued, and safe.

Let me know if you'd like this version tailored for social posts, reels, or an infographic.

Health & Body Care

Soothing the Itch: Everyday Tips for Eczema Relief

From choosing the right creams to the best clothes to wear, here's how to help ease the irritation and itchiness.

Eczema, a common condition that causes dry, itchy, and inflamed skin, can significantly impact daily life. While there isn't a cure, effectively managing symptoms is key to finding relief and improving skin health. This article by medically reviewed by Zilpah Sheikh, MD, writing for WebMD and based on medical insights, offers practical tips you can incorporate into your daily routine to soothe your eczema and minimize flare-ups.

Gentle Cleansing and Hydration: The Foundation of Care

How you wash your skin is a crucial first step. Opt for short, lukewarm (never hot) baths or showers daily. Harsh soaps can strip your skin of its natural oils, exacerbating dryness. Instead, choose a gentle, fragrance-free cleanser and avoid scrubbing your skin vigorously. Pat your skin lightly dry after washing, leaving it slightly damp. This is the prime time to lock in moisture. Within a precious three-minute window, apply a generous layer of moisturizer to seal in hydration. For added relief from itching, consider incorporating an oatmeal bath into your routine.

Resist the Scratch: Soothing the Itch Without Harm

The urge to scratch itchy skin can be intense with eczema, but giving in only worsens the problem. Scratching can break the skin, creating open pathways for infection. Instead of scratching, try applying a cold compress, a cool moisturizer, or a soothing gel to the affected area. If nighttime scratching is a habit, consider wearing light gloves to bed as a physical barrier.

Topical Treatments: Creams and Ointments for Inflammation

Topical steroid creams and ointments are frequently prescribed to reduce the inflammation associated with eczema. Over-the-counter hydrocortisone can be a starting point, but your doctor may prescribe stronger formulations if needed. Topical immunomodulators (TIMs) are another class of prescription creams that ease skin inflammation and can be used for longer periods than steroids. In some cases, your doctor might also suggest creams containing ingredients like coal tar or anthralin.

Beyond Creams: Other Treatment Options

Oral antihistamine pills, available both over the counter and by prescription, can help alleviate eczema-related itching. Be aware that some antihistamines can cause drowsiness, making nighttime use preferable. If bacterial infections develop



due to broken skin, your doctor may prescribe antibiotic creams or pills. For individuals whose eczema is triggered by allergies, allergy shots or tablets might be recommended. In cases of severe eczema, ultraviolet light treatments, steroid pills, or injections of biologic medicines can be considered.

Managing Stress: A Holistic Approach

Stress is a known eczema trigger. Finding healthy ways to manage stress is an important part of your overall care plan. Explore stress-reducing activities like exercise, meditation, or dedicating time to your favourite hobbies. For immediate relief during stressful moments, practice calming breathing techniques.

Temperature Awareness: Keeping Cool and Comfortable

Extreme temperatures can irritate

eczema-prone skin. Becoming overheated can lead to sweating, which can be itchy and uncomfortable. Conversely, heated indoor environments during winter often have low humidity, which can dry out the skin and cause itching. When sleeping, use lighter blankets to prevent overheating. After exercising, take a short, lukewarm shower to remove sweat.

Sun Protection: Shielding Sensitive Skin

Sunburn can make eczema significantly worse. Protect your skin by always wearing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher when outdoors. Sunscreens formulated for the face are often less irritating and can be used on the entire body. Products containing zinc oxide or titanium oxide may also be gentler on sensitive skin.

Living well with eczema involves a consistent and mindful approach to skin-care and lifestyle. By incorporating these everyday tips into your routine, you can effectively manage your symptoms, reduce flare-ups, and find greater comfort in your skin.

This article provides general information and should not be considered medical advice. Always consult with a qualified healthcare professional for diagnosis and treatment of eczema.

Bollywood: Seven Blockbusters Set to Ignite Screens in Late 2025

As Bollywood continues its vibrant resurgence, the second half of 2025 promises an exhilarating line-up of cinematic releases designed to captivate audiences and dominate conversations. From intense gangster thrillers and high-octane spy sagas to cross-cultural romances and unique supernatural comedies, these seven highly anticipated films are poised to deliver a blockbuster experience.

Here's a look at the movies set to light up the box office from July onwards as reported by Filmibeat:

Maalik – July 11, 2025

Kicking off the latter half of the year is **Maalik**, a gritty Hindi-language gangster thriller directed by Pulkit. Starring Rajkumar Rao in a powerful portrayal of a ruthless underworld kingpin, the film is set against the violent backdrop of 1988 Allahabad. The ensemble cast also features Prosenjit Chatterjee as his mentor, Manushi Chhillar as Vidya, and notable appearances by Huma Qureshi, Medha Shankr, Anshumaan Pushkar, and Swanand Kirkire. Originally slated for a June release, it hits cinemas on July 11.

Son of Sardaar 2 – July 25, 2025

Get ready for high-energy action and comedy with **Son of Sardaar 2**, hitting screens on July 25. This sequel sees Ajay Devgn reprising his role as Jassi, in a film



directed by Vijay Kumar Arora. The cast is bolstered by Mrunal Thakur, Sanjay Dutt, Ravi Kishan, Neeru Bajwa, Kubbra Sait, and marks the poignant final screen appearance of the late Mukul Dev.

Param Sundari – July 25, 2025

Also arriving on July 25 is **Param Sundari**, a romantic comedy helmed by Tushar Jalota. Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor star as the titular Param and Sundari in a charming cross-cultural love story. Produced by Maddock Films, the movie explores a vibrant "North meets South" dynamic amidst Kerala's picturesque backdrops, with filming wrapping in February 2025.

Dhadak 2 – August 1, 2025

Dharma and Zee present **Dhadak 2**, a Hindi romantic-drama directed by Shazia Iqbal, scheduled for August 1. Starring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri, this film serves as a spiritual sequel. Inspired by the Tamil social drama *Pariyerum Perumal*, it bravely tackles complex

themes of caste, class, and forbidden love, promising a compelling narrative.

War 2 – August 14, 2025

The highly anticipated **War 2** is set to explode onto screens on August 14, coinciding with India's Independence Day. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, this high-octane sequel in YRF's Spy Universe brings back Hrithik Roshan as Major Kabir Dhaliwal and marks the much-awaited Hindi debut of Jr NTR, appearing as either Agent Vikram or the antagonist. Kiara Advani also joins the star-studded cast in what promises to be an explosive showdown, teased to fans in May 2025.

Tere Ishq Mein – November 28, 2025

From the acclaimed team behind *Raanjhanaa*, Aanand L. Rai directs **Tere Ishq Mein**, a Hindi-Tamil romantic drama slated for a worldwide release on November 28. The film stars Dhanush as Shankar and Kriti Sanon as Mukti, promising an emotionally intense love saga backed by the legendary music of A.R. Rahman and lyrics by Irshad Kamil. Filming for this bilingual project concluded in early July 2025.

Thama – Diwali 2025

Rounding out the year's major releases is **Thama**, a unique supernatural romantic comedy expected during Diwali 2025. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, this film stars Ayushmann Khurrana as a historian-turned-vampire and Rashmika Mandanna. Blending vampire mythology with humor and romance, the story unfolds across present-day Delhi and the ancient Vijayanagara Empire, featuring veteran actors Paresh Rawal and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in key roles.

Shanaya Kapoor's Pre-Debut Comments Spark "Struggle" Debate Online

As Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor, gears up for her Bollywood debut in *Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan*, her recent remarks about her "journey" and "set-backs" have ignited a spirited discussion, and some sharp criticism, on social media platforms, particularly Reddit, reports Hindustan Times

Kapoor, who is set to star alongside Vikrant Massey in the film, spoke with Bollywood Hungama about her path into the industry. She acknowledged facing criticism due to her existing fame, stating, "Whatever my journey has been till now, it's taught me a lot. Whatever the fame or the pressure, with fame comes comments and criticism. I've taken it in a positive way, as feedback and learnt from it, grown from it." She further added, "I am who I am today because of my parents. They've brought me up in a certain way. Yes, my environment has been this, but I don't think I want it any other way because I'm confident today of who I am."

The actress, who was initially slated to debut with Karan Johar's *Bedhadak* (a project announced a few years ago with no updates since 2023), reflected on the last few years as a "journey of its own." She expressed satisfaction with how things have turned out, asserting that "learning about the setbacks, unpredictability of our industry has made me value my work a lot more." Crucially, Kapoor also conceded that she had "it much easier compared to others" in the



industry.

Despite this acknowledgment, a clip of her interview shared on Reddit quickly drew skepticism. Users questioned her narrative of a "journey" or "struggles," with one comment sarcastically asking, "Like, what journey? What struggles??" Other reactions ranged from "Delulu is the solulu" to more pointed remarks like, "The only journey she's been on is from her living room to the film set," and "She is in her own delusional world." The comments reflect a common sentiment regarding the perceived advantages of "star kids" in Bollywood.

Shanaya Kapoor's debut film, *Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan*, will be released in theatres on July 11, 2025. Presented by Zee Studios and Mini Films, it is produced by Mansi Bagla, Varun Bagla, and Open Window Films, and directed by Santosh Singh, with a script by Mansi Bagla.

Govinda confirms Bollywood comeback with 'Duniyadari'

Veteran actor Govinda is officially set for his much-anticipated return to Bollywood with the film *Duniyadari*. After a noticeable break from the big screen, the beloved 90s star has begun work on the project, treating his eager fanbase to a sneak peek from behind the scenes, reports Money Control.

On Wednesday, Govinda took to Instagram, sharing a video of himself in dance rehearsals. The clip showcases the actor's signature ease and grace as he performs what appears to be a key step from an upcoming song. His caption simply read, "Doing rehearsal for my forthcoming film *Duniyadari*." This glimpse has amplified excitement among fans, especially since his last major film appearance was in 2019's *Rangeela Raja*.

Govinda's return to the big screen has been eagerly awaited. Known for his



impeccable comic timing, unmatched dance moves, and charismatic screen presence, his comeback has generated a wave of excitement among audiences who grew up watching his iconic performances.

Chitrangda Singh on pay parity and age in Bollywood: 'Change Takes Time'

Actress **Chitrangda Singh** has shared her perspective on the evolving conversations around pay parity and expanding roles for women over 40 in Bollywood. The *Housefull 5* star acknowledged that while the industry is still catching up, "a lot

has changed gradually, and real change takes time." She highlighted actors like Rani Mukerji, Vidya Balan, Kriti Sanon, and Tabu for redefining female roles. On equal pay, Chitrangda noted that compensation is increasingly tied to an actor's box office draw. She emphasized that the variety of work for mature women is expanding rather than shrinking, citing **Kareena Kapoor** as an example of an actress doing "some of the most interesting work right now." Chitrangda's most recent appearance was in *Housefull 5*, released on June 6.



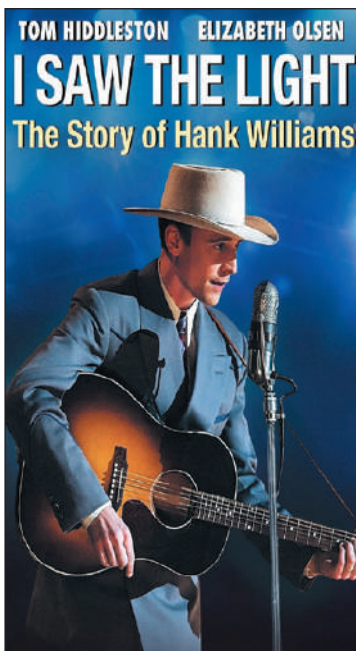
Vendredi 4 Juillet - 20.30



Samedi 5 Juillet - 21.15



Dimanche 6 Juillet - 21.45



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 4 Juillet

MBC 1

05.25 Serial: Terra Nostra
08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Patch Adams
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
14.00 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Living To Love
17.22 Doc: Not About Music
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: For The Love Of The Game
22.20 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
00.13 Serial: Alex Rider

MBC 2

09.29 Local: Le Mag
10.25 Local: Saver Lokal
10.56 Local: Glwar Dantan
11.30 Local: Arsiv MBC
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
13.05 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou ...
13.31 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
15.06 Local: Le Challenge
15.30 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
16.26 Local: Metie
17.00 Local: La Sosiete
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
20.30 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
21.30 Local: La Sosiete
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: En Forme
23.29 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
23.50 Devdas Backstage...

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Cinema Ki Duniya
08.00 Local: Amrit Vani
10.00 Local: Ramayan
11.35 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Shravan Kumar
Starring: Nalini Chaunkar, Anant Kumar
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Local: Tribute To Pankaj Udhass
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
21.00 Film: Bandhan Tooté Na
Cast: Manoj Tiwari, Rani Mukherjee
23.50 Serial: Mere Sai
00.42 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Healing Gardens
07.19 Mag: Tomorrow Today
10.03 Doc: The Lives Of The Amish
11.12 Mag: Eco India
11.42 Doc: Healing Gardens
12.07 Doc: Little Gourmet
11.12 Mag: Eco India
14.25 Serial: Giant: Baby Einstein
14.53 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.16 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.20 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
15.30 D.Anime: Raindow Rangers
16.12 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
16.23 D.Anime: Earth To Luna
16.45 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
17.09 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Doc: Une Femme A La Tete De Dior
19.00 Other: Student Support...
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Doree
15.30 Film: Cocktail
Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Diana Penty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dharam Patni
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.25 Shrimad Ramayan
20.55 Anupamaa
21.25 Mere Sai
21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.23 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.00 Serial: Mahabharat
23.23 Film: Cocktail
Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Diana Penty

samedi 5 Juillet

04.10 Serial: Blue Lights
05.12 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.27 Tele: L'Heritiere
06.50 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.30 Serial: Under Pressure
08.08 Serial: Elementary
08.55 Serial: Heartland
09.38 Serial: Blue Lights
10.41 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.32 Tele: L'Heritiere
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Barbarita
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: For The Love Of The Game
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Local: Deba Klima
21.15 Film: Kingsman: Services Secrets
22.45 Serial: The Last Kingdom

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.20 Local: Tous Egaux
06.44 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanan
08.10 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
09.31 Local: La Sosiete
10.30 Local: J'ai Faim
11.00 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
12.00 Local: Palette
13.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025
22.00 Rodrig: Rod'Art
22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
23.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel
23.53 Local: Sineas Moris
00.18 Local: Metie

05.00 Film: Bandhan Tooté Na
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.22 Tribute To Pankaj Udhass
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
Cast: John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez
18.10 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
21.00 Film: Race
Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Akshaye Khanna, Bipasha Basu
23.07 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.33 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
23.48 Local: Virasat

06.00 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
06.43 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
08.02 D.Anime: Fireman Sam
09.06 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
09.09 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
09.59 D.Anime: Patamuse
10.08 Serial: The Avatars
12.52 Doc: Natural Wonders
14.38 Serial: Giant: Baby Einstein
15.02 D.Anime: Jungle Book
16.10 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
16.35 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.56 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
17.21 D. Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
18.56 Doc: Little Gourmet
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.53 Tele: Living To Love
22.22 Doc: Healing Gardens
22.44 Doc: Greek Islands

08.00 Dharam Patni
10.15 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.10 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Rangeela



With: Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff
20.53 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein

dimanche 6 Juillet

03.34 Tele: Living To Love
04.20 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
05.25 Tele: L'Heritiere
05.50 Film: Kingsman: Services...
07.51 Serial: Blue Lights
08.50 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
10.45 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Serial: L'Heritiere
12.34 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
14.30 Mag: Video Killed The Radio...
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Kingsman: Services...
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Radha Krishna
18.32 Serial: Sa Re Ga MA Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince
20.45 Film: The Descendants
22.35 Serial: Blue Lights
23.32 Le Journal
00.07 Entre Justice et Vengeance

06.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
06.45 Emotion En Avant Plan
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
08.51 Local: Artizan
09.04 Les Petits Genies
10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.05 Local: Generations J
13.05 Local: Music Tour 2025
14.00 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
15.00 Finals Of ESU Spelling Bee Competition
17.00 Local: Deba Klima
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.00 Local: Les Klips
21.00 Local: Kouchou
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.32 Local: Arsiv MBC

08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
09.07 Local: Virasat
10.30 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan
Cast: Salman Khan, Pooja Hegde, Venkatesh Daggubati
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
16.00 Local: Virasat
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
20.31 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.15 Serial: Naagin
22.57 Sajjanwa Baira Ho Gaille...
23.44 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
00.23 Humni Ke Sitare
00.52 Local: Tohar Rashi

06.00 D.Anime: Raindow Rangers
09.03 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
09.45 Serial: Paddles!
10.55 Mag: In Good Shape
11.21 Doc: Country Dreams
11.52 Doc: Afrimaxx
12.32 Doc: Healing Gardens
13.33 Doc: Life On Us
14.30 D.Anime: Giant: Baby...
15.54 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
16.24 D.Anime: Earth To Luna
16.48 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.
18.00 Visionary Garden's
18.30 Doc: Going Beyond
19.22 Doc: Little Gourmet
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: L'Heritiere
21.45 Film: I Saw The Light
Cast: Tom Hiddleston, Elizabeth Olsen
23.48 Doc: Birds-Beyond

00.25 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.23 Udaariyaan
04.41 Anupamaa
06.36 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
07.43 Serial: Tenali Rama
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.15 Rajaa Betaa
14.00 Doree
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.30 Film: Heyy Babyy
Cast: Akshay Kumar · Arush Mehra, Fardeen Khan, Ali Haider, Riteish Deshmukh, Tanmay Joglekar, Vidya Balan, Isha Sahni, Juanna Sanghvi
20.49 Tenali Rama
21.00 Mahabharat
21.45 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs

lundi 7 Juillet

04.08 Tele: L'Heritiere
04.28 Tele: La Desalmada
05.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
07.23 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani
08.19 Tele: L'Heritiere
08.41 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: The Descendants
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Live: Grand Titre
20.10 Serial: Quantico
21.00 Serial: Elementary
21.46 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

09.10 Local: En Toute Intimite
09.50 Local: Clin D'Oeil
10.30 Local: Plat Du Chef
11.04 Rodrig: Les Klips
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.59 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin
16.00 Local: Les Klips
16.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Tous Egaux
20.15 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
20.45 National Mathematics
21.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.30 Local: 19 Minutes
22.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
23.40 Local: Itinerer Moris
23.53 Rodrig: Kot Nou
00.13 Local: En Toute Intimite
00.38 Local: En Forme

05.00 Live: DDI Live
06.59 Sadhguru Speaks
08.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
08.28 Local: Tohar Rashi
09.40 Sajjanwa Baira Ho Gaille Hamar
10.06 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Ghar ek Mandir
Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Shashi Kapoor
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
15.50 Kundali Bhagya
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Balika Badhu
Cast: Sachin Pigaonkar, Rajni Sharma

06.25 Doc: Going Beyond
08.49 Doc: Birds-Beyond Flight...
09.31 Doc: PFAS-Poisoned For...
11.00 Doc: Caribbean Cruise On...
11.26 Doc: Visionary Gardens
11.53 Doc: Going Beyond
12.50 Doc: Little Gourmet
13.21 Doc: Natural Wonders
14.30 D.Anime: Giant: Baby...
14.58 D.Anime: Jungle Book
15.20 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.25 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
15.36 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
17.14 Serial: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere
20.30 Live: News
21.06 Film: La Caravane De Feu
22.48 Mag: Tomorrow Today
23.14 Doc: The Kanazawa Railway..

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Doree
15.25 Film: Dosti Ke Side Effects
Starring: Aleena Chouhan, Reena Daniel, Bilal Qureshi



18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan

MBC 1
Mardi 8 Juillet - 21.05



CINE 12
Mercredi 9 Juillet - 21.05



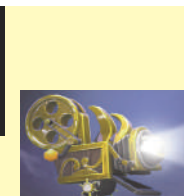
BTV
Mercredi 9 Juillet - 21.08



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 8 juillet 04.28 Tele: La Desalmada 05.25 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 07.51 Serial: Quantico 08.55 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.47 Film: La Caravance De Feu 11.28 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 13.45 Tele: La Desalmada 15.30 Film: The Quake 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Mamma Mia 21.58 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 22.43 Tele: Lying Heart 23.06 Mag: Video Killed...	mardi 8 juillet 09.14 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.29 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.22 National Mathematics 12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.56 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 14.15 Local: Coin Jardin 14.30 Local: Tous Egaux 16.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 17.00 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.04 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig 19.42 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.40 Local: Priorite Sante 21.15 Local: Le Mag 22.36 Local: Profil 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Rencontre 23.32 Local: Music Tour	mardi 8 juillet 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Ram Tera Desh Cast: Hema Malini, Ashok Kumar, Vijayendra Ghatge 15.00 Samachar 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 15.50 Serial: Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Hira Aur Patthar Cast: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Shabana Azmi 23.02 Serial: Mere Sai 23.59 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	mardi 8 juillet 06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 07.56 Mag: Travel 08.13 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.39 Doc: The Kanazawa Railway... 09.09 Doc: Hitler's Reich 10.44 Mag: Carnet De Sante 11.29 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.33 Mag: In Good Shape 14.58 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 15.20 D.Anime: Early Learning 16.52 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 17.40 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Mag: Rev 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: Global US 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.53 Tele: Seref Meselesi 22.18 Mag: Business Africa 22.48 Doc: The Sacred Birches... 23.33 Mag: Euromaxx	mardi 8 juillet 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Dhuntaaraa Cast: Zaidan Khan, Mradul Ojha, Muskaan Ojha 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.24 Mere Sai 21.56 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.52 Mahabharat 23.23 Film: Dhuntaaraa Cast: Zaidan Khan, Mradul Ojha, Muskaan Ojha
mercredi 9 juillet 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.22 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions 08.11 Tele: L'Heritiere 09.27 Film: L'Homme De La Sierra 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.21 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 13.40 Tele: La Desalmada 14.10 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait... 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Tele: Seref Meselesi 17.00 Mag: Video Killed 17.30 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 21.05 Serial: The Lazarus Project 21.54 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 22.39 Doc: Lying Heart	mercredi 9 juillet 09.09 Local: Le Mag 10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.45 Local: Saver Lokal 11.15 Local: Viens Decouvrir 11.30 Local: Le Petits Genies 12.00 Local: Couleur Marine 12.30 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.19 Local: Evasion 15.00 Local: Deba Klima 16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.45 Local: En Forme 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Grand Titre 23.40 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.55 Fashion Fx & Lifestyle	mercredi 9 juillet 06.59 Mag: Wellness Watch 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 10.00 Dharam Patni 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Do Phool Cast: Ashok Kumar, Vinod Mehra, Aruna Irani 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.58 Serial: Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Yatra 19.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 20.16 Local: Kaam Daam 21.00 Film: Charwaha Babu Cast: Virendra Kumar, Akansha Gilani, Arun Bakshi 23.20 Serial: Mere Sai 00.16 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.39 Local: Yatra 01.05 Local: Kala	mercredi 9 juillet 06.00 Mag: Rev 07.51 Doc: Natural Wonders 08.25 Doc: The Sacred Birches Of... 09.07 Mag: Euromaxx 09.33 Doc: Begret: Why Brexit... 11.01 Mag: REV 11.27 Mag: Shift 13.02 Doc: Business Africa 14.59 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 15.25 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 16.50 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 17.13 D.Anime: Action Kidz 17.25 Doc: Asiatique 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Business Beyond 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.30 Doc: Visionary Gardens 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 21.05 Film: LBJ/The President 22.42 Mag: Close Up 23.08 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.34 A Construction Revolution	mercredi 9 juillet 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Chaar Din Ki Chandni Cast: Kulraj Randhawa, Tusshar Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.25 Mere Sai 21.57 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Chaar Din Ki Chandni Cast: Kulraj Randhawa, Tusshar Kapoor
jeudi 10 juillet 05.03 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 06.00 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.11 Tele: L'Heritiere 08.33 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.35 Film: The President: Lyndon B. Johnson 11.30 Tele: Lying Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 13.45 Tele: La Desalmada 14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance 15.30 Film: Night School 17.15 Tele: Lying Heart 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.30 Le Journal Televisé 20.10 Film: RA.ONE Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, Armaan Verma	jeudi 10 juillet 09.10 Local: Agir Ensemble 10.30 Local: Les Klips 11.30 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Exceptionnelles 12.29 Local: En Toute Intimite 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel 14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc 15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 16.28 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.00 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 19.05 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.33 Local: Metie 20.45 Local: Encounter 21.10 Local: Ce Soir Avec Vince 21.25 Local: Le Mag 22.37 Local: Metie 23.07 La Journee Sous Le Regard	jeudi 10 juillet 07.00 Mag: Eco India 08.00 Local: Yatra 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Maa Beti Cast: S. Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri, Sharmila Tagore 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Live From Pailles Arya Samaj Shrawani... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.03 MBC Prod Thursday 20.35 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nanlala 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai 22.48 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.10 Local: Amrit Vani 23.22 Local: Bhajan Sandhya	jeudi 10 juillet 06.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 07.39 Mag: Close Up 08.35 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.18 Doc: Moscow's Hunger... 11.10 Mag: Afrimaxx 11.51 Mag: Planet A 12.42 Mag: Close Up 13.54 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For A... 14.30 D.Anime: Giant 14.56 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 15.21 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 16.45 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Doc: Healing Gardens 18.50 Doc: Little Gourmet 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: L'Heritiere 20.50 Serial: Les Têtes Brûlées 22.21 Doc: ORCA Interaction 23.03 Doc: A Gold Rush In Space 23.46 Doc: Sudan: A Hospital...	jeudi 10 juillet 14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.30 Film: Chintuji Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.24 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Chintuji Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa



Jeudi 10 Juillet - 15.30

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa



Jeudi 10 Juillet - 20.10

Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal, Armaan Verma





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

“Lundi au soleil”..., chantait jadis le pétulant Claude François accompagné de ses Claudettes dans une ambiance électrique sur scène.

La belle saison s’est invitée depuis quelques semaines. Cela permet de ranger au fond du tiroir les plaintes adres-sées au soleil et ses rayons brûlants; le bon peuple rouspète à ce propos pendant tout l’été; la capitale de cette île est comparée sans ambages à l’enfer pendant les mois d’été qui s’éternisent chaque année.

La sécheresse était vécue comme une malédiction depuis le début de l’été dernier avec en prime des réservoirs asséchés. Bah ! Les mauvais souvenirs sont vite chassés. La terre gorgée d’eau attire toute la gratitude du peuple débordant de bienveillance envers la Terre Mère nourricière. Il ne manque plus qu’une fête païenne pour célébrer, comme les Celtes le font pour le solstice d’hiver et le passage à l’été, ce répit tant attendu. Le Holi, marquant, entre autres, la saison des récoltes, est déjà loin derrière nous. Il a fallu s’accommoder d’un accoutrement hivernal: parapluies, pulls, bonnets et chaussettes donnent un air de grand froid venu des contrées lointaines.

Loin d’être des présences polluantes, les escargots et les tangles (porc épics) ont décidé de prendre l’air comme le veut la loi de la Nature; libres sans avoir à solliciter l’autorisation d’un(e) quelconque chef(fe) de tribu dont le rôle est limité à débiter une bavardage constant à défaut de pouvoir dicter le mouvement des autres bêtes par des diktats hargneux.

Sous leur plume, les chasseurs de tangles d’aujourd’hui ont endossé le costume de chasseurs de marrons d’une autre époque. Un rôle décomplexé. Ces jours-ci en Inde, les lions affamés et décharnés délaissent leur trône royal dans la forêt pour rôder dans les villes, ce qui leur convient par nécessité car la gloire est éphémère.

Profitant de la terre encore humide, les escargots se laissent glisser entre les plantes tandis que les tangles ont regagné les pénates avec leurs petits et sortiront quand bon leur semble comme des bêtes libres.

— Ah! le soleil est revenu, il fait beau aujourd’hui, se réjouit Lise, une dame qui reprend sa marche matinale.

Le soleil, le soleil! Les Égyptiens de l’Antiquité avaient peur que le Soleil ne se lève plus. L’obscurité permanente. Imaginez la catastrophe!

— Ah ben, oui! lui répondis-je, chacun vague à ses occupations en ce début de semaine.

— Et comment! fit-elle, un week-end avec tout le monde à la maison, les ados avachis avec leur téléphone, le mari devant la télé, et le plus jeune accroché à votre jupe... Ouf! J’aime bien retrouver la maison vide le lundi.

Mère au foyer avec femme de ménage pour assumer les corvées, et disposant de pas mal de temps libre dans la journée, elle



est ravie de bien occuper son temps en dehors du foyer. Nous sommes tous bien d’accord que c’est un privilège. La peinture est une passion qui occupe ses heures libres entre création et visite des expositions.

Lundi cordonnier, c’est aussi le jour des maçons et autres gros bras du secteur de la construction. Qu’ils en profitent ! La plage de Mont Choisy respire depuis quelques jours. Désertée par les habitués, la plage retrouve une sérénité; tourterelles et pigeons picotent çà et là librement, sereins et moineaux emportent dans leur bec des brindilles vers les branches haut perchées des filaos.

Les nuages épars se meuvent discrètement dans le ciel. Un homme d’un certain âge au nom de Vassen nous salue et aussitôt vide son sac.

— Vous savez, j’entends dire toutes sortes de choses. Je touche déjà la pension et je travaille de temps à autre. On dit que nous allons être contrôlés. Et là, j’ai accepté un travail de gardien pour six ou sept mois sur un chantier où quelqu’un du village de Triolet construit une maison.

Son regard interrogateur attend une réponse de notre part. Lise hausse les épaules.

— Je ne sais pas, cela ne concernera pas tout le monde peut-être.

— Moi, je m’inquiète parce qu’on ne peut pas vivre avec Rs 15,000, ronchonne Vassen avant de reprendre son chemin vers la boutique.

Ayant vécu quelques années en France, Lise remarque que là-bas tout est légiféré, et même trop, créant un système rigide. Le 1er Mai, jour chômé presque sacré, doit être respecté à la lettre par la plupart des métiers sous peines sévères. Cette année, un boulanger qui a quand même défié l’injonction suprême a ouvert son commerce et s’est vu infliger une amende colossale de 85,000 euros. Puni pour avoir travaillé! C’est le monde à l’envers.

— À Singapour, je renchéris, les gens de 70 ans et plus prennent de petits boulots à temps partiel pour arrondir leur fin de mois. On les voit débarrasser les tables dans les restaurants.

— Et certainement aussi pour échapper à la solitude dont souffrent les personnes âgées, ajoute Lise.

Sans doute.

Les PDG des multinationales, riches

d’une expérience inégalée et passionnante, ne reçoivent d’ordre de personne pour continuer d’agir au sein de leur société ou se retirer des affaires.

La rigidité des lois régissant l’emploi freine la productivité et le dynamisme d’un commerce. Lise tenait un commerce en France, elle en connaît les tours et les détours. Il est interdit à quiconque, un proche ou un ami, de vous donner un coup de main de temps à autre. Et pourtant, certaines personnes d’origine étrangère, Vietnamiens, Chinois, Maghrébins et autres, arrivent à passer entre les mailles du filet et s’enrichissent bien en travaillant en famille sans déclarer leur emploi.

À La Réunion, il se trouve des gens pour dénoncer à la police les commerçants qui se font aider par quelqu’un de leur famille. On marche sur la tête ! Par certains aspects, la France est l’exemple d’un système communisme réussi qui ferait pâlir les deux puissants héritiers d’une idéologie suffocante. Réussi car, sous prétexte d’égalité, chacun est pris sous les ailes maternelles de la mère patrie avec aides sociales en abondance. Mais aussi un système abusé par ceux qui trouvent normal que le travail des autres devrait prendre en charge leurs divers besoins. Pénalisant pour ceux qui ont le bonheur de bien mener leur barque et d’avoir récolté une certaine réussite mais se trouvent taxés au maximum.

Et en période de crise, n’en parlons pas! Il suffit de brandir les deux marottes qui font recette depuis des lustres: taxer davantage ou réduire les dépenses publiques. Perçu comme des décisions faisant preuve de grand courage, c’est, en réalité, souvent dicté par la panique face au FMI et autres parrains de la bonne conduite.

— On n’arrête pas de refaire le monde, constate Lise.

— Ce n’est pas inutile. On y va chacun avec nos “il n’y a qu’à, il faut qu’on...” exigé par les classiques qui servent de marotte. Mais la parole compte, les mots font peur aux potentats de divers acabits, je rajoute. Parfois il n’y a pas de “faut qu’on”, il y a que des vrais...

— Pardi! Prenons du bon temps en ce début de semaine sous la grisaille ensoleillée qu’annonce ce lundi au soleil. Lèche-vitrine des galeries d’art et expositions de peinture à Port-Louis et ailleurs, suggère Lise.

Excellente idée!

Tree of Knowledge



As our ancestors once did, we can honour the cycles of the moon with rituals that help connect us to a more natural life



The moon waxes and wanes in the night sky, always following the same cyclical pattern, lighting the darkness with its luminous glow. It has been this way as long as the Earth has been here. The same moon grew from dark to light and back again, catching the eyes of our grandparents, our great grandparents, and those at the beginning of humanity. The moon guided our ancestors in the planting, sowing, and reaping of their crops, and we can be inspired to observe and honour these same cycles today with simple rituals that help connect us to the natural ebb and flow of life energy.

Dark moons and new moons represent polar moments. When the moon is dark, we might take time to meditate on that emptiness. Think of the bare, fertile ground before seeds take root. We can journal, exploring and writing down new plans and ideas that present themselves and keep them in a moon journal. Looking back over a year of dark moons, you may be amazed to see which seeds have blossomed. While full moons symbolize completion and fulfilment, the realization of the seed, and they are times of celebration. They are a great time to gather friends and family to partake in a communal feast acknowledging the apex of another monthly cycle. Your full moon journal might track the full moons of an entire year with a recounting of the gathering — the menu, the guest list, and any other observations you feel inspired to make.

Honouring the dark and full moons with these simple rituals brings our year into a new kind of focus. As we acknowledge the flow of the moon’s cycles, we become more comfortable with the changing nature of our earthly lives, making our peace with each phase and with the shifting from emptiness to fullness and back again. We strengthen our connection to the universe in which we live and find peace in both emptiness and fullness, each of which are natural and necessary — two sides of the same moon.