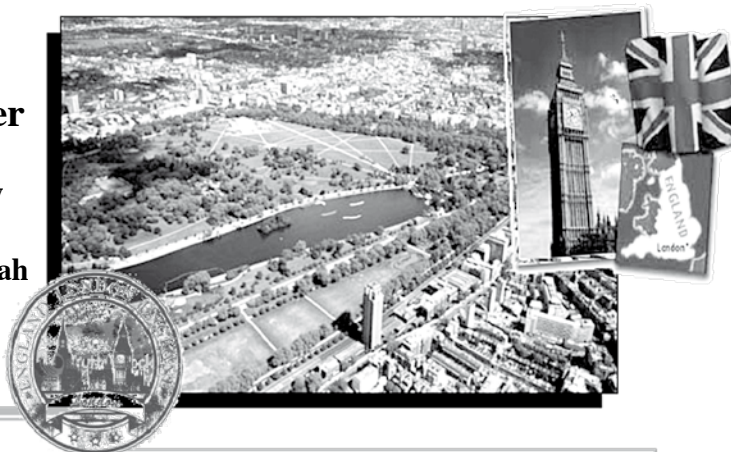




## Hyde Park Corner

—  
A Miscellany-At-Law  
and A Potpourri —  
compiled by S. Balajarah



### Legendary Chinese judge still the rage

**KAIFENG (China):** Touring the former court where China's most famous judge Bao Gong once ruled, businessman Shen Baokui laments that today's magistrates, poorly trained and often corrupt, are not more like him.

"Nowadays judges can be bribed for 500,000 yuan, you can buy the law," said Shen, a 52-year-old vegetable wholesaler from northeast Heilongjiang Province.

"Bao Gong was the cleanest judge in China. The Central government should learn from the spirit of Bao Gong."

Nearly a millennium after the legendary judge's death, Bao has resurfaced as something of a folk hero — his life has been depicted in television dramas and comic books, and what was his courtroom is now a major tourist attraction.

It could be a sign of the times.

Respected for upholding justice and punishing corrupt officials, no matter how high-ranking, Bao's popularity is skyrocketing as the country's 1.3 billion people are searching for fairness, clean governance and social equality. — AFP

### Be selective on gag orders, says judge

**LONDON:** British court injunctions banning the media from reporting that the rich and famous have won gagging orders should only be granted where strictly necessary, a judicial report said yesterday. Newspaper and broadcasters who may be silenced by such bans should also be informed beforehand, said senior judge David Neuberger. — AFP



### Car lover's great sex drive

**LONDON:** A man who claims to have had sex with 1,000 cars has defended his "romantic" feelings towards vehicles. Edward Smith, who lives with his current "girlfriend" — a white Volkswagen Beetle named Vanilla, insisted that he was not "sick" and had no desire to change his ways. — Daily Telegraph



### Indian judge ordered to go back to school (New Sunday Times, 7 January 2008)

**NEW DELHI:** The High Court justices here, annoyed with lower court judges who issue problematic rulings, have decided to send one of them back to law school.

In an order issued on Friday, judge R.K. Tiwari was told to return for a three-month refresher course after issuing an arrest warrant in defiance of a previous High Court ruling.

"Since Tiwari does not have even elementary knowledge of the criminal law and procedure it would be appropriate that he undergoes a refresher course at Delhi Judicial Academy," Justice V.B. Gupta wrote.

The move comes after a series of high-profile cases that have been overturned by the High Court or the national Supreme Court, citing lack of legal understanding by lower court judges.

One was a recent arrest warrant issued by a low court judge against Hollywood actor Richard Gere for publicly kissing an actress — alleged in contravention of India's obscenity laws.

Also, Tiwari had ordered police to detain a landlord in a case where his tenant had failed to pay the power company, despite a previous High Court ruling that the landlord could not be responsible.

Gupta ordered that the head of the law school personally submit a report on Tiwari's progress after three months.

The back-to-school order drew mixed reactions from legal community.

Former federal law minister Ram Jethmalani praised the move, saying innovative steps were needed to improve the quality of legal rulings.

Other, however, said the order compromised the freedom of the judiciary to exercise their own judgment.

"Lower court judges can't be scared this way."

"The judge had no business to give such an order," Supreme Court advocate Harish Salve said. "I think this is most humiliating for the judge." — AP

**THE Jaipur Leg** or the Jaipur Foot is a rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations, produced by Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahyata Samiti (BMVSS, jaipurfoot.org), an NGO founded by social entrepreneur and Magsaysay award winner Devendra Raj Mehta in the 1960s.

The leg was originally made in 1969 for victims of landmine explosions. Designed in and named after the beautiful Indian city of Jaipur, the prosthetic leg was crafted to be inexpensive, water-resistant, and quick to manufacture and fit. The foot is fitted free of cost by BMVSS to deserving candidates after they are examined by a panel of doctors. The NGO runs on donations.

The limb is so efficient that after it is fitted, a person can walk normally without the need for a stick or support, and even run, ride a bicycle and climb a tree. Most patients go back after their fitting to work in the fields, factories, shops and offices.

BMVSS has also collaborated with the Indian Space Organisation, the country's premier scientific body, to make a foot from polyurethane – a material used in rockets and satellites. Polyurethane is a breakthrough material that has augmented the durability and convenience of artificial limbs.

Because of total contact sockets, the Jaipur limb has a very comfortable stump-socks interface. To get the best alignment, BMVSS has married two different alignment systems: wall frame from Endolite Prosthetics, a British company, and a laser alignment system from Otto Bock Prosthetics, a German outfit. (*The Star*, 29-5-2011)

### The power of truth

TRUTH is a great power. Great men have over time proved that truth will prevail in the end.

Those with truth will display good manners and not try to prove that they are right with force.

The more we deepen our values and beliefs about that which is true, the more they sink into our conscious awareness and the more our life will improve.

Truth is nourishment for the soul. The moment it gets deprived, our spiritual system will begin to wear down.

The soul holds onto the body, people and material things. These, however, will lead the soul deeper spiritual bankruptcy. Through this, the soul loses its power and starts to make mistakes.

Therefore, we need to be careful in what we believe in. Truth can make us dance and experience happiness.

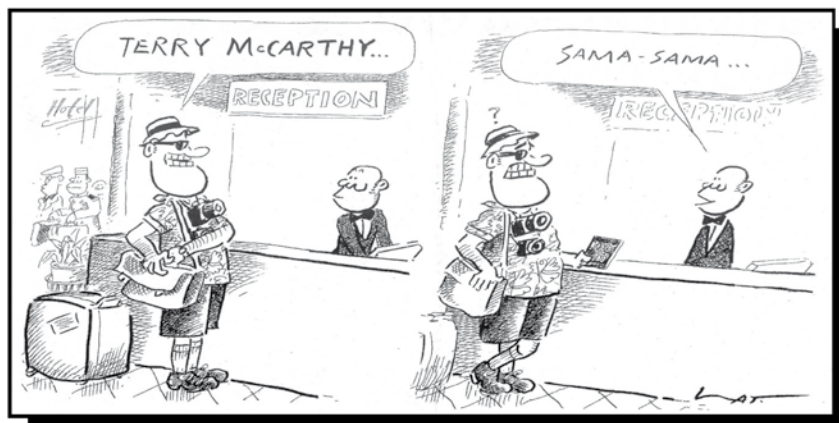
Every moment that I make should be based on the truth that I have discovered in others and I will find others taking benefit from my words. Words spoken from the heart are always effective. Others experience sweetness when words are filled with the power of truth.

#### Thought for reflection:

Truth, like the sun, can never remain hidden.

- By Bridget Menezes (author of *Self-Empowerment*)

Truth *wins*  
**Out**



### 60-storey house just for one family

MUMBAI: India's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, is planning a palace in the heart of the city with helipad, health club, hanging gardens and six floors of car parking.

This 60-storey house is for just one family.

His wife, mother and three children will live there with him, looked after by 600 live-in staff.

Construction has already started on what will eventually be a 175m tower and planners are aiming to complete it in September 2008.

Earlier this year, Forbes rated Ambani as the richest resident Indian with a net worth of US\$20.1 billion (RM68b).

He came 14th in Forbes' 2007 worldwide rankings.

Currently, he is chairman of petroleum major Reliance Industries Ltd, which is India's largest private sector company.

The building, already worth £500 million (RM3.3 b), could start a rush on skyscrapers. - DM (*New Straits Times*, 3-6-2007)



### YOUNG AT HEART OF POWER

- Edward VI became King in 1547 at the age of 9
- William Pitt the Younger became Prime Minister in 1783, at the age 24
- John F. Kennedy, at 43, is still the youngest person to have been elected US president
- Roosevelt Skerritt, of Dominica, 31, is the world's youngest prime minister
- King Mswati III of Swaziland is the world's youngest reigning king. He was crowned in 1986, aged 18

(*New Straits Times*, 12-11-2005)





## A wee bit on Johore ...

"The richest of Malaya's rulers was also the most fiercely independent: Sultan Ibrahim of Johore. Ibrahim, who ruled from 1895 until 1959, a reign exceeding even Queen Victoria's, was slow to take direction. This created all sorts of problems for the British advisers, one of whom was our good friend Winstedt. But in 1932, the sultan met his match: a Scotswoman whom he made his wife and who, in turn, made him miserable.

The marriage lasted but a few years and then the sultan married again. His bride this time was Marcella Mendl, a twenty-five-year-old Romanian whom he met in London's Grosvenor House, where he had a suite, in October 1940 during an air raid. The sultan, as impetuous as ever, proposed on the spot, and the couple married two weeks later in Caxton Register Office.

Interviewed before the wedding, the sultan refused to discuss his previous marriage. 'I prefer to forget the past,' he said. 'It is for the future that I want to live. I fell in love directly I met Miss Mendl. We are going to be very happy.' Miss Mendl, described as highly educated and able to speak five languages, shared his optimism. A day after meeting the sultan, she said, she had introduced him to her mother, and the three had got along so well, they had had dinner together every night "



## Fish Chips & Brits : Whether it be wrapped in paper or served piping hot on a plate, the great British dish is still going strong.

"You get some great fish and chips from the Magpie Café," says an elderly Yorkshireman down by the harbourside.

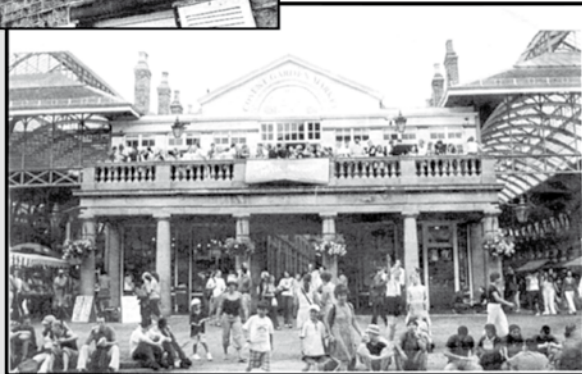
It's just after 11am and a small cluster of people are gathering outside the gleaming white building of the Magpie Café that overlooks the harbour on Pier Road revelling in its reputation as the place to go to enjoy some of the best fish and chips in the north of England.

"We are very traditional at the Magpie and still use beef fat for frying like many other chip-ies in the north."

It is 150 years since the first fish and chip shop was established in London, it's comforting to know that the unbeatable combination of fish and chips is still flourishing and resisting the challenge of the Chinese, the Indian, the pizza shop and the burger bar.



- Andrew Marshall,  
Weekenders, 21-5-2011



## Bargains at the Pearly Gates

A TAXI driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the **Malaysian** taximan, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven. A preacher is next in line behind the taximan and has been watching these proceedings with interest.

He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says: "Okay, we'll let you in, but take that cloth robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is astonished and replies: "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that **Malaysian** taxi driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely I rate higher than a taximan."

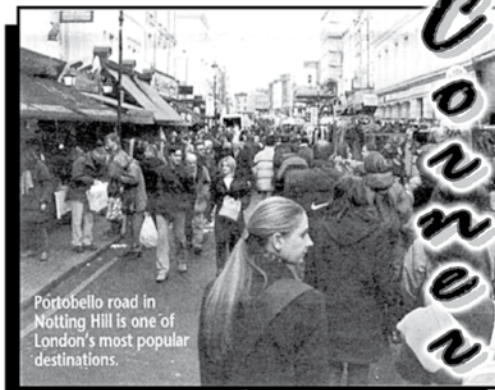
St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the taxi driver drove his taxi, people prayed."



Hy



de Park



Portobello road in Notting Hill is one of London's most popular destinations.

Con

*Suffian F.J. Held*

# THE TITULAR ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP, KUALA LUMPUR v. Chairman, KLANG TOWN COUNCIL

[F.C. (Suffian, Gill and Ong Hock Sim F.JJ.) May 4, 1972]  
[Kuala Lumpur - Federal Court Civil Appeal  
No. 120 of 1971]

*Local Government - Rating - Land holding comprised of church, parochial house and parish hall - Exclusively used for the advancement of religion, education and charity - Whether property exempt from payment of rates - Town Boards Enactment (F.M.S. Cap. 137) s. 33.*

*Practice and Procedure - Jurisdiction - Appeal from High Court - Town Boards Enactment (F.M.S. Cap. 137), s. 44(i).*

This was an appeal from a decision of the High Court, affirming a decision of the Klang Town Council, to levy rates on church property of which the registered proprietor is the appellant.

The appellant contended that this holding was exempted from payment of rates under section 33 of the Town Boards Enactment.

The Town Council made their decision under the Town Boards Enactment (Cap. 137). In accordance with section 44 of the Enactment, the appellant appealed to the High Court, which decided in favour of the respondent.

The appellant further appealed to the Federal Court.  
**Suffian F.J. Held,**  
striking out the appeal:

We ordered the appellant to pay costs which we assessed at only \$100 in view of his special character.

*Appeal struck off.*



*Tun Mohamed Suffian*

## The Original Computer

This made me laugh out loud...  
(try explaining this to your grand-kids!)



Memory was something you lost with age  
An application was for employment  
A program was a TV show  
A cursor used profanity

A keyboard was a piano  
A web was a spider's home  
A virus was the flu  
A CD was a bank account

A hard drive was a long trip on the road  
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived

And if you had a 3.5 inch floppy.



You just hoped nobody ever found out!?!

## COR BLYME LUV !!

### Schoolgirl rakes in RM30,000 by selling body (*The Star*, 24-6-2011)

A SECONDARY school student made RM30,000 during the year-end school break last year by prostituting herself, China Press reported.

It said the student from Kuala Lumpur charged customers RM250 to RM800 each so that she could indulge in luxury items.

"I have sex at least five times a day. However, I take a week's break each month," she told the paper.

The girl said she was cutting down on her sexual services this year as she wanted to prepare for the SPM examinations.

According to the daily, the girl was among many students who used Facebook to earn money through sex and buy luxury items they covet and one even said she had listed her sex service on a website to earn money to buy an iPhone.

Most of them were from Johor Baru, Malacca, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

Customers are asked to pay up to RM300 per session and RM600 if the customer wanted an overnight sex session.

The paper reported that the girls charged RM3,000 if their customers

### Judges who don't know local laws well (*New Straits Times*, 29-6-2011)

**GEORGE TOWN:** Constitutional law expert Shad Saleem Faruqi has expressed shock that a person can be called to the Bar or be appointed as judge without studying local laws.

Shad Saleem said the current practice enabled one to be called or appointed without undergoing a "bridging course" or studying the Malaysian Constitution.

"Almost 90 per cent of all superior court judges and most of the senior members of the Bar are trained abroad.

"They are not familiar with Malaysian constitutional jurisprudence and often evade constitutional issues," Shad Saleem said yesterday at the International Conference on Decolonising Universities, jointly organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia and Citizens International.

He was speaking on "Western Intellectual Imperialism in Malaysian Legal Education" on the second day of the three-day conference, which began on Monday.

He noted that the country's judges often quoted from the unwritten English constitution and reject the ones from countries like India or constitutional law matters.

On a related matter, he said legal education, apart from being just a study of rules and procedures, must also involve service to the society.

Among the ways he proposed were: redesigning the curriculum to provide for mandatory faculty and student involvement in legal aid and advice clinics; a clinical legal education course involving field work to examine how the law actually works in the society; and the formulating and conducting of tailor-made, short-term courses for targeted groups.