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Our Community Is Thriving!



A dance number by talented young ladies at Brampton's Triveni Mandir during Navratri observances last week was invaded by the tiniest of interruptions from a youngster readying the adults for aarti; the auspiciousness (and cuteness) of the moment was not lost to Pandit Dhanraj (top, far right photo). *More on Page 4. Photos by Romeo Kaseram*

Law conference to focus on elder abuse

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – In an iteration of its pioneering and successful outreach to the community last year, a second initiative by the Laxmi Sabha Voice of the Vedas, Vishnu Mandir, and a supportive cadre of luminaries from the legal fraternity will see the hosting of another *The Law and You* conference, which will take place on May 4.

The lawyerly event will be held at Vishnu Mandir, located at 8640 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, from 10:00 a.m. to noon that day. And yet again, this year the conference will be moderated by community stalwart, Dhaman Kissoon, who is a lawyer, and an Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Law at Queen's University.

Participants in this year's conference from the legal fraternity will see attendance by Justice Sonia Khemani, who is a judge at the Ontario Court of Justice. Also participating are Anjali Ranjan, Assistant Crown Attorney in Toronto; Rangila Sengupta, a defense lawyer in Brampton; and Christeena Lucknauth, an insurance defense lawyer.

This year the conference is themed, *Protecting our Elders – (Elder Abuse) and Legal Education*.

And yet again this year the model from last year's conference will be retained with its two-part structure. In 2023 its first part focused on domestic violence before moving on to its second substantive and enriching component, which was

the highly-successful information session that saw the gathered lawyerly eminences guiding students who were seeking to enter the legal fraternity.

The dual structure approach will be retained this year, Kissoon told *Indo-Caribbean World* last week, with the first part once again focused on deep-rooted and troubling societal issues impacting our community.

Following this exploration, the second component would then see the eminent practitioners of the legal craft sharing their wisdom, experience, and worldviews with potential and upcoming lawyers.

Speaking to the first component of this year's conference, Kissoon declared it was a prevalent and impactful theme that has dire implications for our community.

"Like ostriches, we bury our heads in the sand when it comes to elder abuse in our community," he said.

With his direct exposure to both the legal side and its overlapping with law enforcement, Kissoon spoke to two serious and troubling examples where elder abuse within the community were discovered, and fortunately acted upon with alacrity and judicial intervention.

In one case involving a deceased senior from our community, the timely intervention by the authorities prevented what would have been the fraudulent appropriation of an entire estate.

That intervention by the authorities resulted in detection

See Page 9: Conference focuses



Dhaman Kissoon

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The Caribbean Consular Corps in Canada held a farewell dinner and reception on April 12 to honour two departing members of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps, former Honorary Consul, Brenda Foreman of St Kitts and Nevis (seventh from right), and former Honorary Consul Dawne Francois of Grenada (centre, sixth from left). Both diplomatic posts now have new representatives. Attending the event were the heads of the Caribbean Consulates, among them Trinidad and Tobago's Acting Consul General, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette (fourth from left), and Honorary Consul Mani Singh from the Consulate General for Guyana in Toronto (at left in photo).



The Walnut Foundation's recent PSA screening event was co-sponsored by the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Durham Community Health Centre, and Taibu Community Health Centre. In photo, left to right, are Simon Samuel, TWF co-founder; Anthony Henry, TWF President; Ivan Dawns, co-chair 'Walk The Path Walkathon 2024', TWF/Political Director IUPAT; MPP Patrice Barnes (Ajax); MP Ryan Turnbull (Whitby); Linden King, TWF (Fundraising); Frances Garwe, CEO, DCHC; Ken Noel, TWF, Executive Director; and Phillip Johnson, Manager, TCHC.

Walnut Foundation holds successful PSA screening event

The Walnut Foundation held its third travelling prostate cancer screening day clinic, *PSA Detect and Protect*, at the Durham Community Health Centre on April 6.

Following the event, TWF president, Anthony Henry, described it as an excellent day of engagement, education, and learning.

The initiative saw 81 men qualifying to be tested. Follow up from the results are to be done in the coming weeks, Henry stated.

He added, "Our intent is to continue engaging with attendees over the weeks, months, and years ahead as a way of encouraging more proactive health practices, and better health outcomes in this population."

According to the research, Black populations have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer.

TWF has been very active since its inception in deploying peer to peer support and education around prostate cancer. Over the past few months the group has engaged various stake-

holders in hosting prostate cancer screening days in select Black communities.

The first clinic took place at Taibu Community Health Centre, with the second at The Jamaican Canadian Centre, and third clinic, which was held at the DCHC in Oshawa.

As noted, all three events were well-received and executed, with impacted patients now being followed up by medical providers and at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Last week Henry also extended thanks to the third event's host, DCHC. In expressing the TWF's thanks, Henry noted that DCHC opened up its facilities and resources to help make the April 6 event a success.

TWF also extended its gratitude to the Taibu Community Health Centre for its continuous engagement, funding, and resources that were directed to the initiative.

And Henry also thanked the event's main sponsor, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, for managing the screening and follow-up process.

VCC to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month on May 4

Markham – The Vedic Cultural Centre will host its 26th Annual South Asian Heritage Month program in observance of the 186th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indians in Guyana on May 4.

The event will take place at the Vedic Cultural Centre, which is located at 4345-14th Avenue in Markham.

The theme of this year's program is *A Fractal Journey of Indians in the Diaspora*, with India at the centre, and the countries to which immigrants traveled to at the periphery.

The three-tiered program will feature an interactive exhibition of artifacts and memorabilia, which starts at 3:30 p.m.

It will be followed by a stage show with a dance drama entitled *Ghar Se Dur Ghar Ki Kahanee – A Home Away From Home*,

which is presented by Panwar Music and Dance Academy, starting at 6:30 p.m.

And there would be the launch of a commemorative magazine. Hard copies of the magazine will be distributed free, with an online edition also available.

The dance drama was scripted by the VCC's Rabi Nath, and will be directed by Vishali Panwar.

Also making a special appearance will be Chef Dev, who will be promoting his cook book *Mad Love*.

Federal, provincial, and municipal dignitaries, and Consulate officials, will be in attendance. Admission to the event is free, and there will be a cash, ethnic food booth.

For more information call **Adit Kumar at 647-866-1926**.

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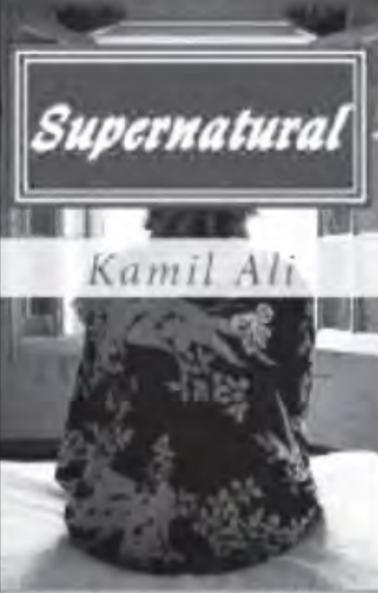
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In its commitment to building inclusiveness and togetherness, the One Guyana Forum (Canada) was instrumental in the sponsorship of a Navratri Pooja and Dinner, which was held at the Triveni Mandir in Brampton. The well-attended event saw Triveni's religious leader, Pandit Dr Yudhishtir Dhanrajh conducting an inspiring and elucidating pooja. He later described the event as "a true testament... to [Guyana's] diversity, inclusivity, and tolerance". Also attending the sacred event was IMO's President, Brother Omar Farouk, who noted that in the context of One Guyana, the event was testament to the collective commitment "to building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous society for all". In photos are a few memorable moments from the auspicious Navratri evening that took place on April 12.



Cricket Canada, TD Bank in sponsorship move to grow Canadian game

Toronto – Canadian cricket hit a major boundary earlier this month when **Cricket Canada** and **TD Bank Group** announced a new sponsorship that would see the banking group supporting the growth and development of the game locally.

The move brings together two well-known organisations that are committed to the future growth of cricket, as well as supporting new community engagement initiatives.

Through the sponsorship, TD will be the official bank of Cricket Canada's National Teams, while at the same time helping to build Canada's vibrant cricket-loving community. The sponsorship will help Cricket Canada enhance grassroots development programs, and to improve access to national teams and players for young fans and enthusiasts.

TD is the sixth largest bank in North America by assets, and serves over 27.5 million customers in four key businesses operating in a number of locations in financial centres around the globe.

It also ranks among the world's leading online financial services firms, with more than 17 million active online and mobile customers.

"We are thrilled to welcome TD as the Official Bank of Cricket Canada," said Rashpal Bajwa, President of Cricket Canada.

He added, "This is more than a sponsorship; it represents another significant step forward for our organisation and the entire cricket community in Canada. With TD's support, we are confident in our ability to enhance the cricketing experience for our National Teams, players and fans across the country, while also driving the growth and development of the sport at all levels."

Cricket Canada is the official governing body for the sport of cricket in Canada, overseeing and promoting the development of the game at all levels.

With its focus on inclusivity and excellence, Cricket Canada is dedicated to fostering a vibrant cricketing community and achieving success on the international stage.

It is also recognised by the International



Cricket Council, the government of Canada and the Canadian Olympic Committee.

As part of the new sponsorship, TD will be prominently featured on the official kits and training gear for Canada's National Teams. This includes new custom kits that are being designed for the Men's National Team's highly anticipated first appearance at the ICC 2024 Cricket World Cup in June.

TD will also be an official sponsor of Cricket Canada's National Women's Team in 2025.

"TD is excited to become the official bank of Cricket Canada," said Tyrrell Schmidt, Chief Marketing Officer.

Schmidt added, "It's our privilege to be included on the official kits and training gear for the National Teams. We're proud that the athletes representing Canadian cricket will wear the TD brand in this unique reflection of our exciting new sponsorship. This is an opportunity for us to join the community and cricketers of all ages in their passion and enthusiasm for the game, and help Cricket Canada create more milestones together."

The agreement between Cricket Canada and TD also extends beyond the cricket pitch, with TD's sponsorship helping support Cricket Canada's exploration of programs focused on enhancing the game's accessibility, popularity, and engagement with players and fans across

Canada.

"We are thrilled to work with Cricket Canada, to fuel the expansion of cricket in Canada," said Sona Mehta, Executive Vice President, Real Estate Secured Lending, Everyday Banking, Saving and Investing at TD.

Mehta added, "At TD, we believe in the power of sports to bring people and communities together. We're so proud to support National Cricket Teams, and to help Cricket Canada build for the future as it supports grassroots teams across the country. We look forward to helping Cricket Canada create memorable experiences for fans and players alike."

TD shares Cricket Canada's vision for helping to empower communities and foster inclusivity through sports.

This sponsorship underscores TD's ongoing commitment to supporting diverse communities and helping to create meaningful connections with Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

"The partnership between Cricket Canada and TD not only signifies a significant milestone in Canadian cricket, but also promises a future filled with innovation, growth, and opportunity. Together, Cricket Canada and TD are poised to elevate the sport to new heights, and make a lasting impact on the cricketing landscape in Canada," said Rahul Srinivasan, CEO of Boundaries North.

The 2024 cricket calendar represents a landmark year for Cricket Canada, with the Men's National Team set to participate in several global events.

The pinnacle of the year will be Canada's first appearance at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with the team's matches being played in Dallas, New York, and in Florida.

The year rounds out with matches scheduled against The Netherlands, the US, Oman, and Nepal in August and September.



Participants and attendees at the recently concluded HF health conference

Hindu Federation focuses on health, well-being

Mississauga – An informative and highly relevant Hindu Federation's Hindu Health Conference was held on April 6 that covered topics ranging from high blood pressure to autism, pregnancy and women's health, with attendees receiving insights from various experts in their respective fields. The event was hosted by the Mississauga Ram Mandir.

Among the many impactful contributions was by Dr Rahul Chanchalani, whose discussion underscored the importance of awareness and advocacy in addressing health issues, a release from Ram Mandir noted.

Dr Chanchalani spoke about high blood pressure and its impact on the South Asian community, and highlighted the role of genetics. Another significant point that emerged out of the discussion was the need for blood pressure machines for children, particularly in the role these instruments play in early detection and intervention.

Further enriching the conference with their expertise on autism, women's health, and population research were Dr Sandi Azab, Dipika Desai, Dr Sujane Kandasamy, Dr Sonia Anand, and Dr Russ de Souza from McMaster University. Making a guest appearance at the event was MP Anita Anand.

"Dr Sonia Anand's anecdotes about her family's health experiences, and her insights into nutrition and disease prevention, further added a personal touch to the discussions," the release noted.

It added that her forthcoming book, a valuable resource for those interested in learning more about South Asian health issues, [can be subscribed for free here](#).

"While the conference provided a platform

for both education and interaction, at the same time it also allowed attendees to engage directly with experts and gain valuable insights into various health-related topics," the release stated.

It added that HF holds the values of health and well-being in high regard, recognising both elements as integral elements of its objectives. Also, the HF is steadfast in its commitment to foster events and initiatives that contribute to the physical, mental, and spiritual wellness of the community.

"As part of this commitment, HF is pleased to announce its continued collaboration with the esteemed team of doctors from McMaster for future health conferences. These conferences, to be hosted by the HF's membership temples, will serve as platforms for education, dialogue, and empowerment in matters of health and wellness. By bringing together experts from McMaster and community members, the aim is to facilitate meaningful discussions and provide valuable insights into maintaining a healthy lifestyle," it stated.

By prioritising health and well-being, HF believes it will not only enrich the lives of individuals but also strengthen the fabric of the community. Through such initiatives, it aims to create a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

Ram Mandir will be hosting health and well-being events on a monthly basis. These events will serve as opportunities for community members to come together, learn, and engage in practices that promote holistic health.

"Stay tuned for updates on upcoming events, and let the journey towards enhanced health and well-being continue, both individually and collectively," the release concluded.



Dr Sonia Anand (left to right), Pandit Roopnauth Sharma, and MP Anita Anand

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Editorial

Our turbulent world

One reliable yardstick to measure the turbulence now inhabiting our globe is to scrutinise advisories from the world's governments that are issued to nationals traveling abroad into regions wracked by war and crime.

For example, earlier this month, the government of Canada upgraded its travel advisories to Israel and the West Bank, instructing Canadians to avoid all travel amid escalating tensions in that war-torn region. Before its most recent escalation to a stronger advisory, our government had warned Canadians to "avoid non-essential travel" to the region.

However, earlier this month, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly wrote on X, formerly *Twitter*, stating, "With a heightened risk of attacks on Israeli territory, the regional security situation remains highly volatile & could escalate without notice."

Other nations have also been issuing similar advisories to its nationals about traveling to this part of our now turbulent world; among these nations are India, France, Poland, and Russia, and others.

It is thus understandable that ongoing and escalating warfare in tumultuous regions of the world is the trigger for nations to issue researched and credible advisories to warn its nationals who are planning to travel abroad.

As noted on its [travel website](#), the government of Canada's Travel Advice and Advisories section helps the traveler to make informed decisions, and to travel safely while outside Canada. We are also advised to check the site often for updates on destinations since safety and security conditions may change.

It is also notable that these advisories do not only apply to regions of the world that are undergoing the extreme trauma of internecine warfare.

As difficult as it is to fathom, it is regrettable that homelands in our Caribbean region are also sites that trigger safety advisories from our Canadian government.

It is notable for our diaspora here in the GTA that recently, on March 28, our government issued an updated travel advisory for Trinidad and Tobago urging the exercise of a high degree of caution due to violent crime.

In its latest update, the government warned that "[violent] crime, including armed robberies, assaults and sexual assault, occurs frequently on the island of Trinidad, especially in the capital, Port-of-Spain". The warning also stated that tourists have been targeted; also, there have been increased incidents of kidnapping for ransom since 2018.

It also noted, "Cruise ship passengers should be very careful when walking around the docks in Port-of-Spain. Shootings, kidnappings, and other gang- and drug-related violence also occur. There is a risk of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing, bag-snatching and thefts from cars, occurs."

Additionally, it advised travellers to avoid deserted beaches and isolated areas after dark, adding granular details about keeping from harm and violent attacks.

Among these details were, "Don't walk alone at night. Don't carry large amounts of cash or show signs of affluence. Ensure that your belongings, including your passport and other travel documents, are secure at all times. Never leave personal belongings, such as money, credit cards, cell phones and other electronics, unattended, especially on beaches. If possible, stay in hotels or villas with guards and security cameras. Criminals target foreigners."

Visitors were also cautioned to remain highly vigilant in areas such as Laventille, Beetham Gardens, Sea Lots, Corcorite, Carenage, Morvant, Queen's Park Savannah, among other unsafe spaces.

Regarding driving, the advisory warned that criminals target vehicles, and assault and rob victims.

"Drive with windows closed and doors locked, since thefts can occur at traffic lights or in slow-moving traffic. Gangs have followed cars leaving Trinidad's Piarco International Airport to rob travellers at their destination," the advisory warned.

We are beset by many woes in a turbulent world; we say to traveling members in our community, please be safe.

A tribute: Sent to better our world, Sherrie did

Saturday, April 13, 2024, began as a gloomy, grey, and rainy day. The overcast skies threw darkness onto the streets below. However, just after midday, the clouds parted and a beautiful blue sky emerged that was filled with sunlight.

The day took a turn from darkness to light; from despair to joy; and from depression to happiness.

However, despite the turn towards the light, sadness was still cast upon many, as family and friends said goodbye to Sherrie Mohamed.

Sherrie was a Clinical Social Worker/Psychotherapist with well over a decade of experience. On April 9, she lost her brave battle with cancer, and we lost a remarkable human being.

I met Sherrie in early 2021. Amid the pandemic, I had recently launched the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association. Through this work, I was constantly introduced to leaders from our community, remarkable individuals who sought to serve their community in a variety of ways.

Through this vast network, I connected with an *Instagram* account, *Therapy with Sherrie*.

I was immediately drawn to her work on mental health, and the thoughtfulness she brought with it. However, I was mostly captivated by her approach to wellness as an Indo-Caribbean person.

Sherrie was a young Indo-Caribbean woman who boldly articulated mental wellness and compassion. She understood the neglect many Indo-Caribbean people had felt, and she was leading the work to heal anyone with whom she engaged.

In my first interaction with Sherrie, I asked her to take part in a virtual panel focused on mental health issues in the Indo-Caribbean community. Her response captured exactly who she was as a person.

"Absolutely! As an Indo-Caribbean therapist, I attract a lot of Indo-Caribbean clients. There's so much trauma in our community and misunderstandings/stigma about mental health. I'm honoured to be a part of this panel and support in any way I can."

Sherrie's immediate response was, 'Yes'. She was one of the few who understood our community; but more importantly, she was prepared to help her community.

I was fortunate to interview Sherrie in two virtual panels, and I truly received an enlightening perspective on mental wellness, and how our history and ancestry as a community have impacted our current mental and physical well-being.

Sherrie delved into how the legacy of indentureship impact-



Ryan Singh

ed on our ancestors, and how that inter-generational trauma was carried onwards into my generation. She brought this understanding to her work, and in many ways she was uniquely equipped to serve the Indo-Caribbean community.

I was enlightened by this knowledge, but was I comforted to have this perspective shared with me; and learning more about who I was as a person, and the community I came from through the lens of well-being.

As we remained connected, I continued to learn from her. And she would continue to check in with me.

Each time we connected, before we got to the business, she would ask, "How are you doing?" Also, "Are you taking breaks?"

This was just who she was as a person. Sherrie was willing to share her knowledge and talents with the world, and she deeply cared about each person she met.

Despite not formally being a patient of Sherrie, it was honestly assuring to have a person who asked how I was, and who reminded me to take a break from the world. We were not close friends, just professional encounters, but she truly had compassion for everyone with whom she interacted.

Sherrie and I met just once in person. It was purely accidental. Sitting at a booth next to me at a local Caribbean event, she said, "You're not going to say, 'Hi?'"

We spent a great deal of time talking about well-being in the Caribbean community. In each text message exchange, or conversation I had with Sherrie, it was evident who she was.

Sherrie was a genuine human being; she was the very best of us. She was passionate about her work, but that passion was driven by a truly authentic sense of helping those around her.

She was sent on a mission to make the world better; and she did. Each time I interacted with her, I understood the importance of our mental wellness, and why as an Indo-Caribbean man that I should prioritise this health. She left this impact on many around her.

The day of Sherrie's funeral was a gloomy, grey, and rainy day. However, throughout her funeral service, the brightness of the sun emerged.

To the people Sherrie touched, those in need of help, and many facing despair, she was the sunshine that emerged from the clouds. Sherrie was the brightness and hope to all she touched. We have truly lost a gem in our community. Those among us who knew Sherrie were truly touched by a gift from above. Rest in peace, Sherrie.

Arc of a memory recalls losing a windball windfall

Acquisition of a used tennis ball, also known as a "windball", with a bit of bounce left in it when I was growing up back home quickly saw the entire neighbourhood of boys becoming magnetised.

Perhaps it was telepathy, or a slight shift in how the universe was falling away and outwards, but said possession of the tennis ball quickly attracted all the neighbourhood boys, who arriving *en masse* at our front gate with cricket bats in hand, and a dented, rusty can for a wicket, forcefully demanded that it be handed over promptly, forthwith, with acquiescence, and absolutely zero resistance.

Or else. These mean boys then clamoured at our front gate, shaking it firmly, not to attract attention of the residents within, but to create a ruckus enough to make the newly-emerged non-milk-teeth in my mouth rattle over their premeditated blackmail creeping into the house and clawing awake my parents from their afternoon siesta.

"Give us that windball, or we will beat this tin-can with the bat and wake them up," said the more insistent, muscular, and belligerent young man among my peers, my early nemesis holding the bat to the side of the can with menace and readiness.

He then pointed the tip of the bat to the opened Demerara window at the back of our house. Within the old man's gentle snoring was an indication he was motionless in the depths of peaceful sleep, and was as content as a shark beset by the somnolence of digestion after a feeding frenzy.

And that he would be highly displeased if suddenly awakened, either by a mosquito strumming on the higher-pitched strings in its wings; or worse, by the cacophonous din of a large tin being maliciously belaboured like an out-of-tune bass tassa drum with one of the flat sides of a homemade cricket bat.

Now in my days back home, it was not easy acquiring a tennis ball with so much potential in its bounce. It was such that our state and stature in life in the villages most of the times saw us having to "make do". This was a mantra in both the adults' and children's world when I was a boy growing up in the homeland.

So it was that conversations among adults sometimes went like this: "We out of flour with that latest dumpling run, and can't afford to buy any right now. Until then, I grating cassava and drying it for flour. It will have to 'make do' until 'he' gets

paid this coming fortnight."

Falling into a similar adult pattern of organic utility within indigence, as children we too had to "make do". Until a tennis ball came along, we had to "make do" with the embryonic-small coconuts that did not hold the centre on the tree, and which occasionally fell away from incipient bunches.

Most of these immature coconuts were the size of a tennis ball; and it was thusly used, either to kick around, the texture of granite resulting in many woes to toes. Or were tossed to batsmen using "make do" cricket bats that were fashioned from the fleshy lengths of coconut branches.

Why in my time a tennis ball was called a "windball" is still beyond me. A search in Lise Winer's *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago* locates "windball" without any significant notation on its etymological origins. Whatever its word-history, acquiring a "windball" was in itself a windfall.

How said coveted and highly-desirable windball-windfall came to be in my possession was purely through luck, serendipity, and thievery. Noting the sentry at the gate for one of the colonial houses nearby was in a doze following his hefty lunch, I had opportunistically wandered through.

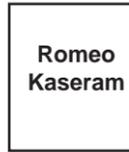
The objective was to explore the promise in the fruit trees in the distance; however, my peregrination through what the villagers always described with awe and dread as "The Yard" first took me past the tennis court.

And there, outside its tall and inaccessible wire netting were abandoned tennis balls ripening in the grass, its green soft and tempting as fruits, awaiting grasping and opportunistic fingers.

Applying my faulty logic of purloining fruit to the tennis balls, I reasoned one out a healthy bunch would not be missed, despite the nagging from the creeping shadow of crime, punishment, and perdition.

Or worse, the old man discovering that I had crossed over the boundary of our impoverished state and stature of life in the village, into the pristine, manicured, and luxurious living quarters of the agents representing our oppressive, colonial empire.

I yielded my windfall, my oppressors trooping off as I looked through the imprisoning wire of our front gate. Moments later the windball was lost, its unfamiliar bounce off the bat lofting it in an arc, and inextricably into a knotted clump of bamboos.



Romeo Kaseram

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication. Letters to be published will be edited where necessary. Publisher: Harry Ramkhelawan Editor: Romeo Kaseram Columnists/Writers: Frank Birbalsingh, Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydorn, Adit Kumar, Dwarka Laxhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Harry Persaud, Arti Panday, Mohan Ragbeer, William Doyle-Marshall. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com

BBC's line of questioning overthrown as Ali lays bare Sackur's straw man

Dear Editor,

For those too young to have experienced colonialism, and who have lived in Guyana most of their lives and have no understanding of what the term 'white privilege' means, the BBC's *Hard Talk: On the Road, Guyana* is a must watch, for it paints a picture and reveals as much about the painters as their subject.

"We are in Guyana, a country of extraordinary ecosystems and vast resource potential; the question is: 'Which comes first?'" With this opener, host Stephen Sackur sets off to investigate Guyana.

To be blunt, this premise is a classic 'straw man' – Guyana is not faced with a choice. We are producing oil hundreds of kilometres offshore, and it has no impact on any ecosystem in Guyana.

Sackur visits Smith's Creek and makes a straight-faced statement, "It takes two hours of paddling by canoe to find drinkable water". Even a simpleton knows that no community in Guyana could survive if they had to go two hours by canoe for water. Hint: the answer is in the name "Creek"; it begs the question of Sackur's motivation.

Sackur spoke to various people during this piece, and it is instructive to examine these interactions and their settings.

Conservationist Annette Arjoon is interviewed on the remote, picturesque Shell Beach; Sackur interviewed Guyana's President Irfaan Ali in a well-appointed room (State House). Leader of the Opposition Aubrey Norton is spoken to in an area of Sophia with ramshackle houses (Sophia runs the gamut of development); and wealthy socialite/activist Vanda Radzik is hosted for a friendly chat (of equals) on the seawall. Sackur fully exploits each setting to illustrate his narrative.

The conservationist was treated with kindness, and was asked about a possible oil spill and its effects on an area so remote that most Guyanese have never visited it. Arjoon understandably paints a gloomy picture for the area in the oil spill scenario (however unlikely).

There were no technical questions, such as if the current flows would even take oil onto those shores, just a setup for Arjoon to put her face on the doomsday poster.

For her part, Arjoon inexplicably fails to mention benefits derived from Guyana's ground-breaking Low Carbon Development Strategy, and the related Norwegian grants, or the recent sale of Carbon Credits.

The entire *Hard Talk* episode fails to mention Guyana's LCDS and its leadership in environment and conservation thought and action.

Ali made the Guyanese (and all former colonised) proud with his forceful defense of Guyana's right to exploit and convert this nation's resources into tangibles for the people. He was informative, firm, and brooked no nonsense.

When Sackur ventured, "According to experts, more than two billion tons of carbon will come from those sea beds and be released into the atmosphere", Ali cut him short.

Said Ali, "Let me stop you right there! Do you know that Guyana has a forest, forever, the size of England and Scotland combined? A forest that stores 19.5 gigatons of carbon? A forest that we have kept alive."



Stephen Sackur (left) and Guyana's President Irfaan Ali

Sackur then attempted to ask, "Does that give you the right..."

Again, Ali interrupted forcefully: "Does that give you the right to lecture us on climate change? I am going to lecture you on climate change, because we have kept this forest alive, a forest that stores 19.5 gigatons of carbon, that you enjoy, that the world enjoys, that you don't

pay us for, that you don't value, that you don't see a value in, that the people of Guyana has kept alive... we have the lowest deforestation rate in the world, and even with greatest exploration of the oil and gas we have now, we will still be Net Zero. Guyana will still be Net Zero!"

That reply by Guyana's Irfaan Ali made the developing world stand up and cheer. It was a seminal moment, where the centuries-old tradition of the British 'talking down' to colonials was shattered.

Comparisons have been made to India's Narendra Modi, and are not without basis. Guyana and the world have a new champion, and we are bursting with pride. It is the dawning of a new day – one where the sun has long set on the British Empire; or, as we say locally, "Dis time nah lang time".

It is from this high we must climb down to say "shame" on Aubrey Norton for his role as a willing participant in Sackur's portrayal of Afro-Guyanese as impoverished. Blinded by his desire to score political points, Norton is led like a sheep into an underdeveloped area in Sophia.

There he stands as an accomplice as Sackur says, "If we look at the shacks behind you now, it is obvious that there are many people in this country living without proper sanitation, clean water, and this in a country where the national income per capita is going to be an extraordinary (US) \$60,000 per year, so the inequality is going to become more and more and more obvious. How close to a dangerous level of anger and instability is that going to take Guyana?"

Of course, Norton falls easily for the infamous 'divide and rule' tactic of the Empire, and agrees with Sackur, while postulating, "Once we continue to accentuate poverty, it will destabilise the society".

To be pellucid, the residents of Sophia share in the same water supply as the rest of Georgetown, and every effort is being made to

give opportunities to all Guyanese. The examples are too numerous to list: the Local Content Legislation mandating jobs for Guyanese, technical schools, vocational training, government contracts for local work in every village, education at every level, and part-time employment are some of the highlights.

It was left to Sispro's Ayodele Dalgety-Dean to present a challenge to Sackur and Norton's portrayal of Afro-Guyanese.

Dalgety-Dean is one of four Afro-Guyanese women who have been able to pull together the resources to bid for and win two oil blocks, a remarkable feat for any Guyanese, regardless of gender or race.

"To me, it makes absolute sense that we explore and exploit our resources to build and develop our country; no one else is going to," Dalgety-Dean said.

She then went on to challenge the Western countries to halt their oil production to allow

Guyana to exploit its own if they are serious about production volumes. Sackur had no answer or follow-up question, and quickly moved on.

Wealthy socialite/civil society activist Vanda Radzik chatted with 'Stephen' on the seawall. Feet up and clad in splendid white linen, Radzik said she is not convinced of the sense in extracting more fossil fuels; however, when asked, she stopped short of demanding a full stop to oil production.

No doubt, Radzik realised the effect such an action would have on the income derived from her share of the Vieira Family Trust, which benefits enormously from land sales and leases from its Houston Estate holdings.

I am not the first activist to have a change of heart when it affects their bottom line directly [Laughing Out Loud].

The BBC's Sackur came to Guyana, a former British colony in the process of becoming one of the richest countries in the world; a country that was exploited by the British and left underdeveloped; yet that is never mentioned.

Sackur never talked about Guyana's game-changing LCDS, a world-class leading climate conservation initiative.

Instead, he came to paint a picture of a people in the developing world who won a lottery, and would, as a matter of course, squander the proceeds, and then descend into civil strife.

However, what the world saw was a country led by a visionary President, who is demonstrably confident in his administration's efforts on the environment and equitable development.

Sackur's straw man fallacy was laid bare, and the effort to exacerbate divisions in Guyanese society was transparent and hackneyed to the point of 'cringe'.

I venture that Sackur's depiction failed because, much like an amateur photographer, his 'white balance' was off.

Robin Singh, Guyana, via email.



Annette Arjoon



Ayodele Dalgety-Dean



Vanda Radzik



GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

What to do with inherited property in Guyana

Anyone who has inherited property in Guyana should act to ensure the property is effectively administered, all fees and taxes due to the Guyana Revenue Authority are paid, the grant of probate is obtained, and the property is transferred to the new owner. Failure to act in a timely manner introduces the opportunity for property fraud as it is known by more persons that a property owner has passed on and their heirs are absent.

The documents required for the probate process would include the death certificate, the will of the deceased, a list of assets, and a valuation of the inherited land at the date of the death. The probate process usually takes approximately 6-12 weeks, and is best managed by an experienced attorney who prepares the necessary documents, manages the submission process with the Guyana Revenue Authority, and determines the applicable process fees and taxes.

Once a certificate of payment is obtained from the GRA, the application for probate is prepared and filed by the attorney, and the execution of the will and the transfer of the property can proceed. The cost associated with the probate process and transfer of ownership can be estimated by the attorney managing the case, and would be based on several factors including the value of inherited property.

In cases where multiple heirs are involved, the proceeds from the sale of the property would be distributed according to the will, or upon collective agreement by the heirs. Where the objective is to sell the property, it is possible to plan the sales process to coincide with the probate process so that the property is transferred directly to the buyer.

Many are torn between selling their inherited property or keeping it in light of Guyana's rising economic fortunes. For those that don't need the money, consider retaining ownership. Many have modernised their ancestral homes in Guyana into shared vacation properties used by the entire extended family. Others have renovated and rented out their properties, and receive significant incomes. Hanging on and renovating Grandpa's old house in the village may be one of the smartest investment decisions you might make.

RE/Guyana is a property services company dedicated to making it easier for overseas property owners to administer, divest, acquire, and develop their real estate assets in Guyana. [Click here to visit RE/Guyana's website.](#)



Dr Vivian Rambihar (center) at the SWOF event with wife Perdita (left to right), and daughters Dr Vanessa Rambihar FMD; Dr Sherryn Rambihar, cardiologist; and Dr Nadira Rambihar physiatrist

Rambihar inducted to SWOF

Scarborough – Toronto cardiologist Dr Vivian Rambihar was inducted into the Scarborough Walk of Fame 2024 for Health and Science on April 10.

Rambihar is globally-renowned, and an adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. An author, and a global community activist for close to 50 years, he is also among the foremost global thinkers today, with pioneering contributions to medicine, science, and society.

He grew up in Guyana, and is a 1969 Guyana Scholar. He attended and taught mathematics at Queen’s College in Guyana, and came to Canada in 1970. Here he studied medicine at McMaster University after completing his BSc at the University of Toronto. He then trained in cardiology at McMaster University, and the University of Toronto.

In 1980 Rambihar started his cardiology practice in Scarborough. At the same time, he started his community engagement and health promotion, advocating for system and policy change to address the high rates of premature heart disease and diabetes, especially in the immigrant and South Asian community in Canada.

Rambihar is also a pioneer in chaos and complexity science, which he teaches to health professionals, and which he has been using for the promotion of health for the past three decades. Also, he advocates for its use in medicine and health, and for complex global crises, an idea that was validated by the 2021 Physics Nobel Prize as the science of climate change.

His book *Tsunami Chaos Global Heart - Using Complexity Science to Rethink and Make a Better World*, was written after the tsunami of 2004, and is available free online. It has been described as “a work of visionary intensity” by B.W. Powe, who is the author of *A Canada of Light*.

He re-wrote medicine from a chaos and complexity perspective, with his book *Chaos 2000: Making a New Medicine* responding to James Gleick’s 1987 text, *Chaos Making a New Science*.

Rambihar is also a pioneer in diversity and health, to which he has made global contributions since the 1990s. As the first South Asian community cardiologist in the emerging diversity of Toronto in 1980, with a large SA community, he identified and addressed significant disparities in health.

He was among the first in Canada to do research confirming and reporting such disparities in heart health, and to start advocacy and health promotion in Scarborough, across the GTA, and nationally for three decades. He also helped to establish the importance of immigrant health, ethnicity, and health, and gender differences in the changing demographics and emerging diversity of Toronto and Canada. He has also written editorials on diversity and health.

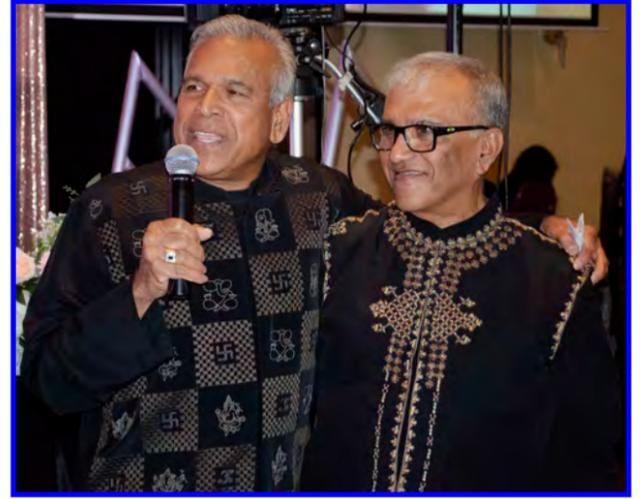
Rambihar brought these two ideas together for even possible greater impact in the future, proposing chaos and complexity thinking to transform DEI and community engagement, as well as medicine and health with an emerging literature.

DEI is complex and dynamic, with disparities amplified during the Covid-19 pandemic, and worse expected with climate change and other global crises.

Rambihar taps into his 30 years of experience using chaos and complexity for medicine, health, society, and diversity and health, to propose using it for global such crises, and for DEI and community engagement.

He advocates using this 21st century science for global crises in many posts to the medical journal, *The BMJ*, with a Letter to the Editor in 2023 proposing that all medical schools should teach chaos and complexity.

Since then increasing validation has emerged, such as with the editorial in January 2024, *Can J Family Medicine Family Medicine is Complexity Medicine*, and his previous Letter to the Editor, *Age of Complexity*, along with his books on the subject.



The support and enthusiasm for the ongoing construction of the new Radha Krishna mandir in Cambridge was palpable and touching when the community turned out by the hundreds for a festive and rejuvenating Vasant Ki Raat celebration on April 7. The event was an evening of fundraising, dinner, entertainment, and an opportunity for the mandir’s devotees, friends, and hundreds of supporters and well-wishers to socialise. The evening saw top musical performers on stage alongside the talented youths at the Radha Krishna Mandir and Cultural Centre. The performances were well-received by the appreciative and generous audience. For more information on helping with the mandir’s construction, contact Dwarka Persaud at 519-240-0870.



Guyana should ignore criticisms on increasing its oil production

Guyana's increasing oil production has come under intense scrutiny by global climate change watchdogs and certain self-righteous developed countries, which are more inclined to support the use of alternative energy for sustainability.

There is no doubt that the quest to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels has merits, but the reality is that oil production as well as consumption have been increasing globally, especially among some countries that are critical of Guyana's stance to continue to increase production. See accompanying chart that shows forecasted use of fossil fuels.

More importantly, Guyana is Net Zero in terms of carbon emissions, and is well ahead of its critics who claim to be champions of the environment.

A recent verbal exchange between the host of the BBC's *Hard Talk*, Stephen Sackur, and Guyana's President Irfaan Ali highlighted Guyana's position and the hypocritical agenda of its critics.

In countering a query from Sackur that Guyana's extraction of oil and gas will lead to more than two billion metric tonnes of carbon emissions from its coast, Ali asked: "Do you know that Guyana has a forest forever that is the size of England and Scotland combined? A forest that stores 19.5 Gigatons of carbon, a forest that we have kept alive?"

Sackur countered by asking whether that gives Guyana the right to extract oil and gas and release emissions.

Ali then responded, asking: "Does that give you the right to lecture us on climate change? I am going to lecture you on climate change because we have kept this forest alive. The [forest] stores 19.5 Gigatons of carbon that you enjoy, that the world enjoys, that you don't pay us for, that you don't value, that you don't see a value in, that the people of Guyana has kept alive."

He added: "Guess what? We have the lowest deforestation rate in the world. And guess what? Even with our greatest exploration of the oil and gas resource we have now, we will still be Net Zero. Guyana will still be Net Zero with all our exploration."

Incidentally, all of the largest oil companies in the world have plans to reduce carbon emissions, but none operate in an envi-

Exxon gets Whiptail licence

Georgetown – Guyana's government announced this week it has granted a petroleum production licence to ExxonMobil for its sixth offshore development, Whiptail. It said this (US) \$12.7 billion development will produce 250,000 barrels of oil daily, bringing daily production to 1.3 million by the end of 2027.

"Additionally, this development will include up to ten drill centres with 48 production and injection wells," the Ministry of Natural Resources said in a statement.

Construction is underway of Jaguar, the floating, production and offloading (FPSO) vessel identified for this development.

"This vessel joins the Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, and Prosperity FPSOs, which combined, are currently producing over half a million barrels of oil daily. Construction is also in progress for the Yellowtail and Uaru developments. Production for these projects is slated to commence in 2025 and 2026, respectively," the ministry's statement noted.

Additionally, "Notably, oil production from this sixth development will generate billions in revenue for Guyana, thereby supporting significant economic and social upliftment for the country and its citizens."

Meanwhile, in a separate statement from its US office, ExxonMobil said it has made a final investment decision for the Whiptail development in offshore Guyana, after receiving the required government and regulatory approvals.

It said Whiptail, the sixth project on the Stabroek block, is expected to add approximately 250,000 barrels of daily capacity by the end of 2027.

"Our sixth multi-billion-dollar project in Guyana will bring the country's production capacity to approximately 1.3 million barrels per day," said Liam Mallon, president of ExxonMobil Upstream Company.

He added, "Our unrivalled success in developing the Guyana resource at industry-leading pace, cost, and environmental performance is built on close collaboration with the government of Guyana, as well as our partners, suppliers, and contractors. The Stabroek block developments are among the lowest emissions intensity assets in ExxonMobil's upstream portfolio, and will provide the world with additional reliable energy supplies now and for years to come."

ronment similar to Guyana's. Plans are partially tied to earning carbon credits to offset emissions.

The fact that Guyana has entered into an arrangement to sell up to \$750 million in carbon credits to Hess Corporation by 2030 clearly shows that it has more carbon credits than it needs to meet Net Zero emissions goals.

While beneficial to Guyana, the whole carbon credit system is "kind of a scam". It simply allows polluters like Hess to buy credits to offset their emissions so that they can continue to pollute. That is what Western hypocrisy in the sector is all about.

In spite of Guyana's Net Zero position on sustainability, the US vetoed an Inter-American Development Bank (US) \$180 million loan to Guyana Shore Base Inc last year because its operations were dedicated to the oil and gas sector. The hypocrisy in the US move is evident because the US is both the world's largest producer and consumer of oil.

Though the US comes across as a bastion for sustainable development, it is not a signatory of either the Kyoto Protocol or the Paris Accord, which sets standards on sustainability.

Guyana, on the other hand, is a signatory.

Therefore, any pressure on Guyana by the US on the climate change front must be taken with a grain of salt.

During the BBC interview with Sackur, Ali accused the Western world of being hypocritical. He said that those who had destroyed the environment are now questioning Guyana, noting that this is the hypocrisy that exists in the world.

He noted too that the world, in the last 50 years, has lost 65 percent of all its biodiversity; however, Guyana has kept its biodiversity.

Then he asked Sackur: "Are you valuing it? Are you ready to pay for it? When is the developed world going to pay for it? Or are you in their pockets?"

There is no doubt that the use of renewables to replace oil has significant benefits over the long-term, but they come at a significantly higher cost, and with greater challenges over the long term. In fact, several developed countries have abandoned the use of renewables.

For instance, countries such as Germany, Spain, Canada, and the US have cut subsidies to renewable energy largely because they have created a heavy burden on government finances; they also weaken the potential for economies to grow, and undermine private and public investment in the energy sector.

At the same time, the production and consumption of fossil fuels have been rising in the wake of greater use of renewables. The relative rise in the use of renewables as a replacement for fossil fuels is, therefore, fraught with more half-truths than facts.

In promoting the use of alternative energy, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, Simon Stiell, highlighted the long-term environmental and financial benefits of fast-tracking its shift from oil and gas to solar and wind as energy sources.

He noted that the countries in the Caribbean are, to a large extent, still dependent on fossil fuels for their energy supply,

Conference focuses on elder abuse, inspiring students

From Page 1

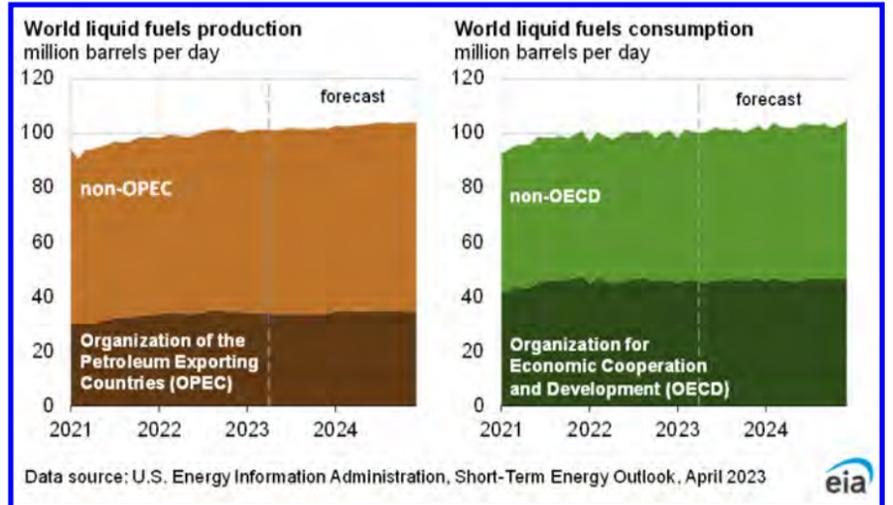
of the fraud, and the subsequent successful prosecution and imprisonment of the parties involved, Kissoon stated.

A second case of elder abuse saw judgement in favour of an impacted and oppressed senior, with the court assessing the evidence in favour of ownership for a matriarch after her property was unjustly assailed by a child.

"Also, what we are seeing, in addition to children, are people taking advantage of elders through scams, extortion, fraudulent telephone calls..." Kissoon stated.

Additionally, "The problem with our community is we are too proud, and ashamed to go to the police. Consequently, we are out of pocket by hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Kissoon also spoke to inherent, communal practices where elder abuse is evident, in cases where parents living with children lose their value as caregivers after the grandchildren are grown up and independent.



Dwarka Lakhan



Irfaan Ali



Simon Stiell

and stated that solar and wind are cheaper than ever before. He acknowledged that oil and gas could not be abandoned in the short-term, but said Caribbean nations should take urgent steps to move towards renewable energy sources.

However, the International Energy Association states that although renewable energy has great potential to reduce prices and dependence on fossil fuels in the short and long term, the cost for new solar Photovoltaic (PV) cells and wind installations have been increasing, reversing a decade-long cost reduction trend.

Arguably, natural gas, oil, and coal prices have risen much faster, and has therefore improved the competitiveness of renewable electricity. However, the question of how rapidly renewables can substitute fossil fuels hinges on several uncertainties, including demand and pricing.

In the case of Guyana, the country has a plan for supporting sustainable energy development, and has been actively engaged in developing solar power. The country has also embarked on developing a natural gas plant, and is also seeking to resuscitate plans for the Amaila Falls Hydroelectric Project, as well as develop other small hydro power plants.

The bottom line is that there is no broad acceptance of the whole concept of sustainability, resulting in different reactions by individuals and countries.

For instance, in March last year, Florida governor Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill barring State officials from investing public money to promote environmental, social, and governance goals, and prohibiting ESG bond sales. The law outlaws a popular way to fund renewable energy projects or lower debt costs for borrowers if they meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The truth is that regardless of the purported benefits of investing in alternative energy, they might not necessarily be in the best interest of investors' objectives. That leaves more questions than answers for believers in alternative energy.

The same goes for the push to electric vehicles, whose sales across North America have been declining, in spite of the environmental benefits.

Guyana is, therefore, in a good place when it comes to increasing oil production. It should stand its ground and not be swayed by criticisms about its increasing oil production.

Dwarka Lakhan, BA, MBA, FCSI, FICB is a Member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and an accomplished financial writer. His book, *Winning Ways, Real World Strategies to Help You Reimagine Your Practice*, is available on Amazon and on winningways101.com. He can be reached at dlakhan@rogers.com.

"The grandparents then become a substantial burden. They become useless, and money is then taken from them for rent, for example," he stated.

Commenting on the thinking behind the conference prioritising this troubling discussion as its first theme, Kissoon stated the focus on elder abuse in our community as the first thematic component was intentional, and while aimed at educating the event's attendees, it was simultaneously targeting the potential lawyers in the room.

"The first theme on elder abuse is strategic, and is intended to target the young people wanting to get into the profession" in order to make them aware of the depth and seriousness of the situation, he declared.

Admission to the conference is free. It is advisable to register, and this can be done via email: laxmisabha@vishnumandir.com. Or call Vishnu Mandir at 905-886-1724; or 416-879-8805. **Also, see display on Page 16.**



Woodbine Banquet Hall held its Open House on April 7 that featured the best of the best in hospitality, delicacies, and excellent service. The event saw vendors on site, and many visitors who were attended to by attentive staff members serving Woodbine's quality foods and savoury delicacies. Among the visitors was eminent lawyer and community builder, Dhaman Kissoon. An historical patron of Woodbine for Rotary, family, and charitable events, Kissoon described as excellent the quality, the fastidiousness to details, and Woodbine's dedication and support to the Caribbean community. In photo at top right, Kissoon is at right, with (left to right) Ashni Ramsammy, Gurdeep Dass, and Syed Marzuk.



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Poet, writer, and community leader Janet Naidu held the Toronto launch of her latest book of poems, *River Crossing*, on April 14. The event took place at the Island Junction Restaurant in Scarborough, and saw readings from the book by Peter Jailall, Ray Williams, Peter Deboran, and the award-winning poet herself. The launch was led by the expert guidance of Adit Kumar. *River Crossing* is Janet's fourth collection of poetry; it is preceded by *Winged Heart*, *Rainwater*, and *Sacred Silence*. Also attending the event were authors and poets from the Pakaraima Writers and Artists Association. In top photo, Janet (centre) with Peter Deboran (left to right), Adit Kumar, Peter Jailall, and Ray Williams.



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An impoverished settlement in Latin America

World Bank raises alarm - poor countries are becoming poorer

The World Bank stated in a report earlier this week that for the first time this century, half of the 75 poorest countries globally are seeing their income gap widen compared to the wealthiest nations.

The gap marks a significant historical reversal of development, the Caribbean and global media reported.

Among the impacted regions are eight countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the report noted.

According to the report, the differential between per capita income growth in the poorest countries and the richest has widened over the past five years.

“For the first time, we see there is no convergence. They’re getting poorer,” said Ayhan Kose, deputy chief economist for the World Bank and one of the report’s authors. Kose was speaking with *Reuters* at the time.

He added, “We see a very serious structural regression, a reversal in the world... that’s why we are ringing the alarm bells here.”

According to the report, the 75 countries eligible for grants and zero-interest loans from the World Bank’s International Development Association risk a lost decade of development without ambitious policy shifts and significant international aid.

Kose said growth in many IDA countries had already begun to taper off in these locations before the Covid-19 pandemic, but it would be just 3.4 percent in 2020-2024, the weakest half-decade of growth since the early 1990s.

Also, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, climate change, and increases in violence and conflict were factors that weighed heavily on the prospects of these impacted countries.

More than half of all IDA countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa; 14 are in East Asia, and eight are located in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thirty-one countries have per capita incomes of less than \$1,315 a year, and include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Haiti.

One in three IDA countries is poorer now

St Vincent toughens penalties for firearms

Kingstown – St Vincent and the Grenadines’ Parliament earlier this month approved legislation providing for stiffer penalties for some firearm-related offences.

It also created new offences, including trafficking in firearms, and the 3D printing of firearms.

In piloting the legislation, Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves said that while the penalties are not at the highest in the region, they have moved from “the middle range reflecting the public’s serious concern about gun crimes” and the consensus among legislators.

The revised legislation sees an increase from (EC) \$20,000 and seven years in prison to \$25,000 and ten years imprisonment, or both, the maximum sentence a magistrate can

impose on a person guilty of possession of an unlicensed firearm, or who forges or counterfeits any license or permit.

“This is not the first time in our law that the magistracy will have the authority to impose a sentence of up to ten years,” he said.

Gonsalves’ other portfolios include being the Minister of National Security and the Minister of Legal Affairs. He is also a lawyer.

“In recent times, particularly in relation to drug trafficking offences, for example, a magistrate can go to that level of penalty,” Gonsalves stated.

He added that with the stiffer penalty, a person is likely to end up with a four-year prison sentence, rather than 18 months after the sentencing guidelines are applied.

than on the eve of the pandemic. IDA countries account for 92 percent of the world’s people that lack access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Half of the countries are in debt distress, which means they cannot service debt, or are at high risk of being unable to do so.

And despite their young populations – a demographic boon at a time when populations were aging nearly everywhere else, rich natural resources and abundant solar-energy potential, private and government creditors had been backing away from them.

As *Reuters* reported, last week US Treasury Undersecretary Jay Shambaugh raised concerns about the worsening situation, warning China and other emerging official creditors against free-riding by curtailing loans to low-income countries just as the IMF or multilateral development banks poured in funds.

Almost 40 countries saw external public debt outflows in 2022, and the flows likely worsened in 2023, he said.

Kose said ambitious policies were needed to accelerate investment, including domestic efforts to strengthen fiscal, monetary, and financial policies and structural reforms to improve education and to increase domestic revenues.

He added, that significant financial support from the global community was also essential to making progress and lowering the risk of protracted stagnation.

At the same time, Kose noted that the World Bank hoped to drum up a robust replenishment of IDA funds by December.

It said stronger international coordination on climate change, debt restructurings, and measures supporting cross-border trade would also be crucial.

Indermit Gill, the World Bank’s chief economist, noted that China, India, and South Korea – now major economic powerhouses – had once been among the world’s poorest countries, but could tackle extreme poverty and raise living standards.

“The world cannot afford to turn its back on IDA countries,” he told *Reuters*.

impose on a person guilty of possession of an unlicensed firearm, or who forges or counterfeits any license or permit.



Ask Jay...

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BEWARE OF REAL ESTATE FRAUD: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COMMON SCAMS

Real estate fraud is a pervasive threat in today’s market, with scammers continuously devising new tactics to exploit unsuspecting homeowners and tenants. From identity theft to elaborate schemes promising quick wealth, individuals involved in real estate transactions must remain vigilant and take proactive measures to safeguard against potential fraud.

Here’s a concise overview of common types of real estate fraud, and practical tips on how to protect yourself:

1. Title Fraud occurs when a fraudster steals a homeowner’s identity and falsifies documents to transfer the property’s title into their name. Once they gain control, they can secure mortgages, sell the property, or extract cash without the owner’s knowledge. To mitigate the risk of title fraud, consider investing in title insurance, which provides coverage against fraudulent activities.
2. Power of Sale Rescue Scams are when fraudsters target homeowners facing imminent power of sale by promising to rescue their properties in exchange for upfront fees or the transfer of title. Be cautious of ads promising easy loans at low rates, and seek assistance from reputable mortgage brokers or lenders referred by trusted sources.
3. Mortgage Fraud involves providing false information or omitting crucial details on mortgage applications to secure approval. To prevent this, ensure all information provided on applications is accurate, and work with reputable lenders or mortgage brokers. Additionally, watch out for suspicious practices such as signing blank mortgage applications.
4. Rental Scams occur when the scammers pose as landlords and advertise properties they do not own for rent. They often lure tenants with attractive rental rates and demand upfront deposits or personal information. Protect yourself by verifying the ownership of rental properties before making any payments, and avoid sharing personal information with strangers without inspecting the property firsthand.
5. Get-rich-quick schemes are typical fraudsters’ schemes that entice individuals with promises of quick wealth through real estate investment schemes. Beware of unrealistic guarantees, and conduct thorough research before committing to investment opportunities. Verify the legitimacy of offers, and seek advice from trusted sources to avoid falling prey to pyramid schemes, or other fraudulent offers.
6. We buy houses; scams are common in GTA. They usually advertise that they would buy houses for cash, and when a desperate seller calls the number, the scammer convinces the homeowner to transfer the deed into their name with a promise to pay off the mortgage. Once the deed is signed, the scammer controls the property. The scammers know that the homeowner is facing financial hardships, and in most cases, cannot hire a lawyer. The best way to protect yourself is to delay the process and ask trusted people for advice.
7. Looking to buy in your neighbourhood scam is more recent, where the scammer would leave a note, text, or post signs stating that they hope to buy a home soon, and will pay cash. Once a homeowner calls, the scammer offers cash at a considerable discount. Most of these homes are in mature neighbourhoods where the homeowners are the original purchasers, and do not know the current value of their property. The scammer would then sell the contract to an investor for profit. Homeowners can protect themselves by using a realtor to represent them.
8. Another scam is when lenders advertise a low rate and give the borrower a commitment with many conditions, one being that there is a fee requirement to start the process, and that the fee is non-refundable if they choose not to proceed after a specific date. The client must usually read the mortgage commitment and fulfill all the conditions. If the borrower cannot meet the conditions, the lender will offer the client a mortgage at a higher interest rate. If the client declines, they will lose their deposit. If you are shopping for cheaper interest rates, look for reputable lenders.

In today’s fast-paced world, scammers leverage technology and psychological tactics to exploit vulnerabilities and defraud individuals. Seniors and financially distressed homeowners are particularly vulnerable targets. Exercise caution when dealing with unfamiliar parties, and seek advice from trusted contacts or reputable professionals before making decisions. A reputable realtor can provide valuable guidance in navigating the complexities of real estate transactions.

Protecting yourself from real estate fraud requires diligence and awareness of common scams. By staying informed and taking proactive steps, you can minimise the risk of falling victim to fraudulent activities in the real estate market.

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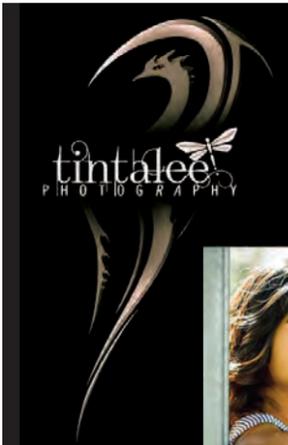


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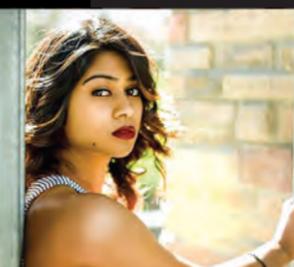


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The NYPD Police Band led the 2024 Phagwah Parade on Liberty Avenue



The Phagwah Social Justice Collective calling for justice for minorities

Sunshine, colour, and energy as NY holds 2024 Phagwah parade

By Dhanpaul Narine

Brilliant sunshine, beautiful floats, and a beaming Bunty combined to produce an incredible Phagwah Parade. The 2024 edition saw thousands, under a cloudless sky, and warm weather, walk down Liberty Avenue and into Phil Rizzuto (Smokey Oval Park) for a wonderful cultural program.

The Phagwah Parade Committee worked late into the hours to finalise the arrangements, and on the day, it came out to perfection. The starting point of the Parade saw a mixture of the traditional and a number of new additions.

The invocation dance by Manju Chan captured the essence of the occasion. It was followed by an address delivered by the principal of Richmond Hill High School, Tarek Alamarie. He was introduced by this writer.

Alamarie pointed out that his school was situated in the heart of the Indo-Caribbean community, and he was proud of its graduation rate of over 80 percent.

Assistant Principal Kevin Kunjbehari congratulated the Robotics team for winning the State competition, and singled out Tony Kistoo, the Robotics teacher, and his class, for their hard work. Both Kunjbehari and Kistoo are Guyanese members of staff.

Other newcomers were Attorney General Leticia James, who was happy to celebrate with the community.

Members of the Guyana Queen's College Association were also in attendance. They were represented by Jonathan Subrian, Vice President; Dr Karen Cole, Secretary; Shanette Rossan, Assistant Secretary; and member Raleigh Bruce.

Curtis Sliwa from the Guardian Angels was welcomed by many, and he reported positively on the parade the following day on his radio show on 770 AM. There was also a presentation made to the NYPD for their outstanding service.

The 2024 Phagwah Parade saw a total of 24 beautifully decorated floats making its way down Liberty Avenue and into Smokey Park. The music from the floats was captivating and reflected the significance of the occasion.

Then there were the banners that spoke to a variety of issues. They ranged from medical and wellness, to the importance of chanting and spirituality.

The most eye-catching of the banners was from the Phagwah Social Justice Collective, which called for respect for women, to believe survivors, and to protect Black and Brown LGBTQ asylum seekers.

Mohamed Q. Amin and his Coalition had one of the biggest groups on Liberty Avenue.

The floats turned into the park with onlookers packed on both sides of Liberty Avenue to

catch a glimpse of the proceedings. The NYPD marching band led the parade, followed by members of the Corrections Department, and local organisations.

One of the new floats in this year's parade was Six Stars Auto from Uncle Ron Singh in Liberty Avenue. This gentleman is known for his many contributions to charitable causes, and it was most pleasing to have him at the parade.

The young ladies from Trivedi Entertainment were a delight to behold on Liberty Avenue. The talented young ladies were Haley V. Persaud, Alycia Seepersad, Venita Dhanraj, Shaila Somnarain, and Korina Ramharrack.

The program in Smokey Oval Park was a delight for the purists. The favourites were there in full display.

Urvashie Kissoon thrilled all with her opening classical dance item, and her white outfit was most attractive in the sunshine.

Attorney General Leticia James was impressed with the crowd, and remarked that it was great to see Indo-Caribbean culture alive. She advised the crowd to get registered to vote, as voting mattered if there were to be changes for the better.

Queens Borough President, Donovan Richards, congratulated the organisers, and said that the parade "reflects the diversity of Queens, and that is what America is all about".

This paved the way for the performances from the mandirs that were up to a high standard. Apart from the dances, the singing was captivating, and when we thought that we had enough, two performances then left an indelible mark.

The first was from Bunty Singh, who left Guyana the night before the parade. He threw aside his jet lag to show why he is called a one-man band. Bunty sang and played the keyboard for over half of an hour, much to the delight of the crowd.

It was then time for a favourite to take over. Terry Gajraj combined wit and music to bring the crowd to its feet. But this year there was a difference.

Adrian Dutchin joined the entertainment, and sang his popular song *I am a Guyanese* that sent the audience singing and dancing, and flags waving. He teamed up with Terry Gajraj, and they both went into the crowd where they gave a superlative performance.

The program came to an end under bright sunshine, and with hundreds still present. The crowd was well-behaved, and thanks are extended to the various precincts of the NYPD for their selfless service, and to the many organisations that worked with the Phagwah Parade Committee over the months.

The year 2025 promises to be even better.



A section of the crowd at the NY Phagwah event

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UN's Simon Stiell issues dramatic warning on climate change countdown

Head of the United Nations climate agency Simon Stiell warned earlier this month that humanity has only two years left “to save the world” by making dramatic changes to its output of heat-trapping emissions.

Also, he declared there is even less time to act to get the finances behind such a massive undertaking.

Stiell is Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He delivered his dramatic statement in a speech at the Chatham House think tank in London on April 10, and which was intensively reported on by the international media.

In his speech, Stiell noted that with governments of the world facing a 2025 deadline for new and stronger plans to curb carbon pollution, nearly half of the world's populations are voting in elections this year, and that crucial global finance meetings are taking place later this month in Washington.

It was within this context where he appeared to cite global agency at the voter level, stating that while his “two year” warning sounded melodramatic, at the same time wider action within this timeframe was “essential”.

“We still have a chance to make greenhouse gas emissions tumble, with a new generation of national climate plans. But we need these stronger plans, now,” Stiell emphasised.

At the same time, he appeared to suggest that climate action is not just for powerful people to address, in what appeared to be a call to agency among voters who are participating in many national electoral events this year.

Said Stiell: “Who exactly has two years to save the world? The answer is every person on this planet. More and more people want climate action right across societies and political spectrums, in large part because they are feeling the impacts of the climate crisis in their everyday lives and their household budgets.”

Stiell appeared to state that it was not only governments, business leaders, and development banks that have two years to take action to avert far worse climate change as he issued his warning that global warming is slipping downwards on the agenda of many politicians.

This year is a bumper one for elections around the world. Voters are going to the polls in the US, India, and South Africa,



Simon Stiell

among others countries. In the light of these elections, Stiell warned that too often climate action was “slipping down cabinet agendas”.

As it appears, at this time politicians in the US, and far-right parties seeking gains in the EU's upcoming election, have all pushed back on climate policies as they court voters.

Meanwhile, scientists have said that halving climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is crucial to stop a rise in temperatures of more than 1.5 Celsius. Such a rise in temperature would unleash more extreme weather and heat.

Despite this warning, last year saw the world's energy-related CO2 emissions increasing to a record high. As it stands, current commitments to fight climate change would barely cut global emissions at all by 2030.

Also, levels of carbon dioxide and methane last year hit all-

time highs, with US government scientists calculating that the world's carbon dioxide emissions climbed by 1.1 percent. Last year was also the hottest year on record by far, global temperature monitoring groups such as European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, Berkeley Earth, and others reported.

If emissions of carbon dioxide and methane from the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas continue to rise, or do not head downwards sharply, Stiell said it “will further entrench the gross inequalities between the world's richest and poorest countries and communities” that are being worsened by climate change.

In the wake of these developments, Stiell said the next two years are going to be “essential in saving our planet”.

He added the Group of 20 leading economic powers, which together are responsible for 80 percent of global emissions, must take the lead with some urgency.

The main task for this year's UN climate negotiations in Baku, Azerbaijan, is for countries to agree a new target for climate finance. This would be used to support developing countries that are struggling to invest in making the shift from fossil fuels and fighting climate change.

Meanwhile, UN climate summits themselves appear to have become inundated, having swollen with attendees in recent years, with thousands of lobbyists and business representatives attending alongside the government delegations directly involved in the negotiations.

Nearly 84,000 people attended last year's COP-28 summit in Dubai, drawing criticism from campaigners after more than 2,000 fossil fuel lobbyists registered to attend.

Stiell said he would like to see future COP meetings reduced in size, while prioritising strong negotiation outcomes. He said he was in talks with Azerbaijan and Brazil, the countries that are hosting of the next two UN climate summits, about reducing the number of attendees.

He also called for more climate finance to be raised through debt relief, cheaper financing for poorer countries, new sources of international finance such as a tax on shipping emissions, and reforms at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

“Every day finance ministers, CEOs, investors, and climate bankers and development bankers, direct trillions of dollars. It's time to shift those dollars,” Stiell stated.

Hard to digest: Global waste in 2022 saw 1B meals thrown out a day

Households across all continents wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022, while 783 million people were affected by hunger, and a third of humanity faced food insecurity, the UN Environment Programme reported last month.

Food waste continues to hurt the global economy and fuel climate change, nature loss, and pollution. These were the key findings in a UNEP report, published on March 24 ahead of International Day of Zero Waste, which was observed on March 30.

The UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024 was co-authored with WRAP, a climate action NGO working around the globe to tackle the causes of the climate crisis, and to build a sustainable future. It was established in the UK in 2000, and now works in over 40 countries.

The report provides the most accurate global estimate on food waste at retail and consumer levels. It also provides guidance for countries on improving data collection, and recommends best practices in moving from measuring to reducing food waste.

In 2022 there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts), amounting to 132 kilograms per capita, and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.

Out of the total food wasted in 2022, 60 percent happened at the household level, with food services responsible for 28 percent, and retail 12 percent, the UNEP report noted.

“Food waste is a global tragedy. Millions will go hungry today as food is wasted across the world,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

Andersen added, “Not only is this a major development issue, but the impacts of such unnecessary waste are causing substantial costs to the climate and nature. The good news is we know if countries prioritise this issue, they can significantly reverse food loss and waste, reduce climate impacts and economic losses, and accelerate progress on global goals.”

Since 2021, there has been a strengthening of the data infrastructure, with more studies tracking food waste. Globally, the number of data points at the household level almost doubled. Nevertheless, many low- and middle-income countries continue to lack adequate systems for tracking progress to meet Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030, particularly in retail and food services.



Only four G20 countries (Australia, Japan, UK, the US) and the European Union have food waste estimates suitable for tracking progress to 2030. Canada and Saudi Arabia have suitable household estimates, with Brazil's estimate expected later this year.

In this context, the report serves as a practical guide for countries to consistently measure and report food waste.

The data confirm that food waste is not just a “rich country” problem, with levels of household food waste differing in observed average levels for high-income, upper-middle, and lower-middle-income countries by just seven kilograms per capita.

At the same time, hotter countries appear to generate more food waste per capita in households, potentially due to higher consumption of fresh foods, with substantial inedible parts and a lack of robust cold chains.

According to recent data, food loss and waste generate eight to ten percent of annual Global Greenhouse Gas emissions – almost five times that of the aviation sector – and significant biodiversity loss by taking up the equivalent of almost a third of the world's agricultural land.

The toll of both food loss and waste on the global economy is estimated at roughly (US) \$1 trillion.

Urban areas are expected to particularly benefit from efforts to strengthen food waste reduction and circularity. Rural areas generally waste less food, with greater diversion of food scraps

to pets, livestock, and home composting as likely explanations.

As of 2022, only 21 countries have included food loss and/or waste reduction in their National Climate Plans.

The 2025 NDCs revision process provides a key opportunity to raise climate ambition by integrating food loss and waste. The Food Waste Index Report underscores the urgency of addressing food waste at both individual and systemic levels.

Robust baselines and regular measurement are needed for countries to show changes over time. Thanks to implementation of policies and partnerships, countries such as Japan and the UK show that change at scale is possible, with reductions of 31 percent and 18 percent respectively.

“With the huge cost to the environment, society, and global economies caused by food waste, we need greater coordinated action across continents and supply chains. We support UNEP in calling for more G20 countries to measure food waste and work towards SDG12.3,” said Harriet Lamb, CEO of WRAP.

“This is critical to ensuring food feeds people, not landfills. Public-Private Partnerships are one key tool delivering results today, but they require support: whether philanthropic, business, or governmental, actors must rally behind programmes addressing the enormous impact wasting food has on food security, our climate, and our wallets.”

UNEP maintains tracking country-level progress to halve food waste by 2030, with a growing focus on solutions beyond measurement towards reduction. One such solution is systemic action through Public-Private Partnerships, which brings the public sector, private sector and non-government to work together, identify bottlenecks, co-develop solutions, and drive progress.

Appropriate financing can enable PPPs to deliver farm-to-fork reductions in food waste, drive down GHGs emissions and water stress, while sharing best practices and encouraging innovation for long-term, holistic change.

PPPs on food loss and waste are growing worldwide, including countries such as Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, and in the UK, where they have helped cut over a quarter of household food waste per capita from 2007-2018.



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Top Caribbean authors vie for 2024 OCM Bocas Prize for Literature

The One Caribbean Media Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature announced its 2024 winners for the poetry, fiction, and non-fiction categories earlier this month, with authors from the US Virgin Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica taking the top spots.

The awards are sponsored by OCM, which is the owner of the *Trinidad and Tobago Express* newspaper, TV6, and the OCM Radio Network.

The winners are writers Nicole Sealey, Kevin Jared Hosein, and Safiya Sinclair. The three authors will now compete for the overall prize, which is considered to be the most prestigious award for Caribbean writing, Bocas Lit Fest said in a statement earlier this month.

The OCM Bocas Prize is in its 14th consecutive year, and recognises the best books published annually by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship.

The poetry category was won by *The Ferguson Report: An Erasure*, which is authored by US Virgin Islands-born Nicole Sealey. Notably, an excerpt from Sealey's book previously won the 2021 Forward Prize for Best Single Poem, Bocas Lit Fest noted.

The Bocas Lit Fest statement added, "This formally innovative sequence reworks the official report of the US government's investigation into the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri."

As the judges noted, *The Ferguson Report* "takes as its painstaking charge a poetry of realignment".

Also, "It achieves, by visceral and ecstatic restraint, the poet's remarkable control of an incremental song culled from the unspoken yield of racial myths. Sealey's is the kind of looking and listening powerful enough to unearth an honest kind of speech from the façade and blurs of official record. These poems peel back the death mask of a perverse, spectral container where



Safiya Sinclair



Kevin Jared Narine



Nicole Sealey

an almost silent lyric grows, syllable by syllable, into a final, life-giving gasp."

St Lucia-born poet and the 2021 winner of the overall OCM Bocas Prize Canisia Lubrin chaired the poetry panel, and was joined by British poet and editor Kayo Chingonyi, and Jamaican poet Ann-Margaret Lim.

The novel *Hungry Ghosts* by Trinidadian Kevin Jared Hosein won the fiction category, which was described in the Bocas Lit Fest statement as "a compelling portrait of barrack life in 1940s Trinidad by a masterful storyteller".

Speaking to the text, the judges said, "Rendered in explosively lyrical prose, the ethnocultural landscape of its imagined world is at once historically illuminating and fraught with original spirit. Hosein paints the interior lives of his characters in ways that make this book one of the most powerful to come out of the Caribbean in recent times..."

The Bocas Lit Fest statement added, "Themes of grief, loss, power, and desire, in all their manifestations, are acutely observed and handled with a deft touch."

The fiction judges were chaired by Canada-based, Trinidad-born novelist Rabindranath Maharaj; he was joined by UK

literary agent Elise Dillsworth, and Jamaican novelist and academic Curdella Forbes.

How to Say Babylon: A Memoir by US-based Jamaican Safiya Sinclair, took the win in the non-fiction category. Sinclair previously won the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry with her debut publication, *Cannibal*.

In their remarks, the judges stated, "In a moving work of intense power, Safiya Sinclair writes with a novelist's sensibility demonstrating a remarkable command of narrative..."

They added, "It is a memoir that reminds us of the expansive possibilities of creative non-fiction, bringing to

fore with unforgettable poetic verve a voice that is fierce, courageous, deeply intelligent, and empathetic, its nerve endings vibrating out from a specific experience of Rastafarianism into the currents of the wider world."

Guyana-born, Canada-based scholar D. Alissa Trotz was chair of the non-fiction panel, and was joined by Trinidad and Tobago writer Andre Badoo, winner of the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction, and US-based Jamaican academic and *salon* editor Rachel Mordecai.

The overall winner of the 2024 OCM Bocas Prize will be chosen from the three winners, with the announcement made on April 27 during the 2024 NGC Bocas Lit Fest. The first place winner will receive (US) \$10,000, with the other category winners each receiving (US) \$3,000.

The three chairs of the genre panels now make up the final jury, and is joined by chief judge Edwidge Danticat, the acclaimed Haitian-American writer who won the OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction in 2011, and the OCM Bocas Prize for Fiction in 2020.

The festival runs from April 25-April 28 at the National Library, and other venues in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

The mouth-watering aroma from the kitchen set the digestive juices flowing. The dim lights and soft music evoked smiles from the couples scattered around the restaurant. After a clink of their glasses and a sip of their red wine to celebrate the anniversary of their first date, Linda stretched her arms full length on the table for two. Thomas slid his palms under hers and gazed into her eyes. His heart quivered. It was a big night.

Linda's eyes lit up when a band of three Mexican musicians with guitars appeared behind Thomas and serenaded her heart. One of them opened a ring box and presented it to Thomas. He plucked the ring out of the box and got on one knee. He held it between three fingers for Linda to fit her finger into it. The band sang a melodious tune in both Spanish and English called, "Quieres casarte conmigo... Will you marry me?"

Unable to speak with tears streaming down her cheek, she nodded and picked Thomas up off his knees and kissed him. Everyone laughed because Thomas still held the ring when he hugged her. They pulled apart when loud cheers from total strangers brought them back to reality. Linda stuck her finger out and Thomas slipped the perfectly-sized ring on her engagement finger. What the crowd did not know was that Linda only had a year to live. A tumour was growing without medical intervention due to its location in her brain.

They had met as orphans, and grew up as friends until their teens when they realised that they had fallen in love with each other. They dated throughout high school, but because they only had eyes for each other, they never had any close relationships outside of their own. With limited time available to them, they got married within a week of Thomas' proposal in a quiet ceremony without guests or a reception.

Nine months later, Linda gave birth to a charming baby girl who looked like a tiny version of herself, down to the colour and curls in her hair, and the freckles on her beautiful high cheekbones. Linda cried and told Thomas that she had gifted him herself as he had done for her throughout her sickness. Thomas had dedicated his life to Linda, and she was grateful.

The Supernatural A Second Chance



A silent mourner with his three-month-old Anabella in his arms let the tears flow freely. Thomas did not know what the future had in store for them, but he caressed Linda's forehead in her casket and solemnly swore to raise Anabella in a way that would make her proud.

True to his word, Thomas devoted his life to Anabella, and she did not disappoint him. She was a model child who returned Thomas' affections, and never grew tired of hearing the romantic tales and funny moments her parents shared.

With hard work and dedication, Thomas provided financial and moral support for Anabella to graduate as a veterinarian, thanks to her dad who taught her to love their two dogs and one cat that he had bought for her. Anabella also loved books about animals, and looked forward to family trips to zoos across the country during school breaks when she was in elementary and high school.

Knowing how much her dad loved the countryside where they had often vacationed, father and daughter worked double shifts for a few years to accumulate enough money for Thomas to retire early, and for Anabella to set up her veterinary practice on a plot of land in a farming community.

After dating a young farmer named Edward who took over from his parents, Anabella got married and moved her family and practice to the farm. Since her dad became good friends with her in-laws, she sold her plot and built a house on the acreage for Thomas next to the house Edward had built for his parents when they retired. Anabella and Edward lived in the main building where she set up her new office next to the office Edward used to manage the operations of the farm.

One day Anabella woke up at six in the morning to see her father-in-law returning home from his usual early morning walk with an older cow walking beside him. From a distance, they seemed to be communicating with each other. When Anabella went to the front gate to meet them, Edward followed her. He gave the cow a hug around her head and introduced her to Anabella as Missy.

While Missy licked Anabella's face and placed her head on Anabella's shoulder for a hug of her head, Edward told her that Missy was born on the farm when he was about three months old, but before he could finish his story, his mother called out to them to come over and have a hot breakfast on their patio. Thomas joined them to hear the story of Missy.

From the day of her birth, Missy was different than the other calves. She was always mischievous in a curious way, so they named her Missy. The cow learned to communicate with her family and became a pet rather than a worker on the farm. She wandered around freely, and her favourite pastime was playing with Edward as he was growing up. Also, she spent time at the school's playground fence for the children to come over and hug her head hanging over the fence. The teaching staff found that Missy's interaction with them and the children was like therapy that made their days happier.

Thomas' eyes became misty when they told him about Missy's personality. He turned away to wipe the tears streaming down his face when they told him of the date Missy was born. It was the same day that Linda had died. Missy placed her chin on the patio rail between Thomas and Anabella. She alternated gazes into their eyes with tears in her own.

Missy dedicated the rest of her life to Anabella's daughter, named Linda.

Kamil Ali



UNC insiders defend Persad-Bissessar from another internal salvo

Port-of-Spain – Opposition Whip David Lee and UNC’s chairman Davendranath Tancoo last week came to the defence of Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar following yet another challenge to her leadership of the party from within.

The latest salvo calling for a new UNC leader was fired late last week by Chaguanas West MP Dinesh Rambally, who advocated for timely internal elections while calling for accountability and transparency from the party leadership.

Rambally told the media that Opposition MPs rarely met before debating bills, or matters affecting the party as a whole. He also said that parliamentary debates on government policy that require in-depth analysis were often neglected with little or no coordination before debates.

Responding to Rambally’s call, Persad-Bissessar said there was no room for intolerance and extremism in the party, or in the country.

She added that the “public rants” by a few members only helped the current “oppressive



Dinesh Rambally



Kamla Persad-Bissessar



David Lee

government”.

Said Persad-Bissessar: “As leader, I represent all people equally and fairly. I cannot and will not be controlled by any individual or group to promote any singular agenda at the expense of other sections of society.”

Also criticising Rambally’s call, Tancoo said he had no problem with party members having differences of opinion. However, he noted that concerns should be raised within the party structure, “with an open mind, without the bit-

terness and misinformation”.

He also noted that would only happen if the point was to build the party and the nation, and comments were based on fact with the intent to provide a platform for truth and growth.

“One cannot purport to be fighting for democracy by attacking the demonstrated democratic rights of members of the UNC. The UNC political leader and the national executive have been elected by the majority in a democratic election to serve for a particular

timeframe, and in full compliance with the party’s constitution,” he said.

Also, “For a few persons to now make demands that the demonstrated will of the majority should be ignored because they feel they are better suited is illogical and contrary to the UNC’s constitution and values.”

Tancoo further stated that the timing was also suspicious with the general election and the election for political leader due next year, along with the party’s internal elections due in June. Thus the call for internal elections was a non-issue with officials making it clear the party would continue to abide by the constitution, he declared.

He added that it made no sense to say the party was unprepared for the general election, while demanding it stop preparations for it.

“Similarly, it is also illogical to claim to be fighting for the democratic freedom to express your view, while simultaneously attacking the membership of the UNC, who have a view opposed to yours. That itself is undemocratic.”

In his response, Lee described Persad-Bissessar as a “leader who leads from the ground”. He added she was the only leader who presented a holistic plan to defeat the anti-citizen agenda of the PNM.

He also pointed out that Persad-Bissessar’s leadership success was supported by the voting data, which show that the UNC has been acquiring ground from the PNM since 2021.

“As Chief Whip I can confirm that Kamla Persad-Bissessar has led the Opposition bench by always ensuring consensus, by always being inclusive, and more so, always ensuring that our members of parliament are fully prepared to fight the PNM’s attack on our citizens,” he stated.

Lee added, “From constantly working with our MPs to define our parliamentary positions for each debate based on the national interest, to even having her personal staff help our MPs with research, the Leader of the Opposition has led an alternative government that is ready to defeat the PNM.”

Debate opens up on case with CCJ vs Privy Council

Port-of-Spain – The call was made last week for a special convening of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago to determine a way forward on whether Trinidad and Tobago should adopt the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final appellate court

It was made by President of the Assembly of Southern Lawyers, Saira Lakhan.

Lakhan’s call was made in a statement following LATT’s President Lynette Seebaran-Suite advocating for the changeover.

In her statement, Seebaran-Suite called for Trinidad and Tobago to accede to the CCJ in honour of its first president and retired Chief Justice, the late Michael de la Bastide, who died on March 30.

Lakhan spoke in her capacity as leader of the ASL. She said Seebaran-Suite’s views did not reflect the association’s membership. Instead, she stated that any decision to replace the Privy Council with the CCJ should be made by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.



Saira Lakhan

The Privy Council is presently Trinidad and Tobago’s apex court.

Speaking at de la Bastide’s funeral on April 11, Seebaran-Suite advocated for the CCJ to replace the Privy Council. She also repeated the call on April 12 at a special joint sitting of the CCJ and the Court of Appeal of Trinidad and Tobago in de la Bastide’s honour. Her call was echoed by others attendees who expressed a similar sentiment.

“The best Trinidad and Tobago can do in his honour is to accede to the CCJ. He was the first president of the CCJ,” Seebaran-Suite said last week.

She also declared that was “a bit ludicrous” Trinidad and Tobago did not have the CCJ as its highest court. As she pointed out, the CCJ is located in Port-of-Spain, and Trinidad and Tobago has provided it with many eminent judges, including de la Bastide, and currently Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee and Justice Peter Jamadar.

Seebaran-Suite’s sentiment was first articulated by Attorney General Reginald Armour. As Armour had stated, a fitting honour for de la Bastide’s legacy would be to “complete” the latter’s dream of replacing the Privy Council with the CCJ.

However, in a statement on April 12, Lakhan said Seebaran-Suite’s comments were “unfortunate”, since they “may not be reflective of the general membership”.

She said Seebaran-Suite’s views gave the

“obvious impression” that the latter was speaking on behalf of LATT, since there was no disclaimer that her statements were her personal view, and not that of the association’s members. Lakhan is also a senior member of LATT.

She added, “Her statements were not endorsed, nor sanctioned by the council, nor the membership of the LATT. The issue of whether Trinidad and Tobago should adopt the CCJ as its final appellate court is a live issue to be determined by the membership of LATT, and not the president of the association.”

Lakhan said LATT’s records would show that in July 2015, a special general meeting was held to discuss the issue, and was “exceedingly well-attended”. However, a motion to adjourn the meeting was passed, and as a consequence, deliberations were put off.

That meeting was held in July 2015, and information was shared with members on arguments for and against the idea,

Lakhan said.

She said a symposium was then held in February 2016, which was attended by 65 members of the legal fraternity, including the Chief Justice and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

“Almost nine years have since elapsed, and LATT is yet to reconvene the adjourned special general meeting despite the membership being provided with a plethora of material and information,” Lakhan stated.

She also stated that on March 23, LATT’s members were invited to submit suggestions to the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform, and several of them shared their views on the abolishment of the Privy Council, while others are of the view the apex court should remain until a decision is made by the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

“Indeed, many of the leaders of the Bar in Trinidad and Tobago have publicly expressed this view over the years. Be that as it may, it is clear that there is a need for a consensus on this position from LATT’s general membership,” she said.

Additionally, “This is an important issue, which has far-reaching consequences not just to legal practitioners but to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.”

She also said it was important for the association to canvass the views of the legal fraternity before providing an “impartial outlook” on the issue.



Lynette Seebaran-Suite




The National Council of Indian Culture [NCIC]
in association with
The University of Trinidad and Tobago [UTT]

International Conference on
Taan Singing/Baithak Gaana
(Local Indian Classical Singing)
to be held at
The NCIC Hospitality Lounge
NCIC Nagar, 28-38, Narsaloo Ramaya Marg,
Endeavour, Chaguanas

on
Saturday 4th May, 2024 – Sunday 5th May, 2024
(Daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm)

Theme:
**Towards a vision for Taan Singing /
Baithak Gaana in the Girmitya Diaspora**

To register click on the link: <http://www.ncictt.com/taanconference>
For more information, please contact the NCIC office at
1-868-789-9101 / 1-868-381-1069
Email: office@ncictt.com

Parents of deceased babies file class action lawsuit against PoS Hospital

Port-of-Spain – A class action lawsuit for medical negligence was filed last week by the parents of the seven babies that died as a result of bacterial infections at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital.

Also, the pre-action protocol letter to the North-West Regional Health Authority claims the authority permitted another baby that was suffering from a “serious infection to be admitted without taking the necessary precautions to manage and minimise the risk of infection and transmission to other babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit”.

The action was dated April 12, and was sent by Freedom Law Chambers, which is led by Senior Counsel Anand Ramlogan.

The law firm delivered the pre-action protocol letter to the NWRHA’s chief executive officer late last week, and is representing the parents of the seven deceased babies: Shaniya Raymond-Adams, Natasha Samuel, Shaquille Harry, Danyelle Samaroo, Tinelle Saunders, Jodie Molino, and Shirese Moore-Beckles.

“We hereby give notice that we intend to file an unprecedented class action claim for medical negligence based on the mass death of seven innocent babies at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital,” the pre-action protocol letter stated. Additionally, “Our clients trusted the PoSGH to provide a competent and reasonable standard of care that would ensure the safe delivery of their babies to their ultimate detriment. They have all been struggling to cope with the devastating news of the tragic deaths that have occurred.”

The letter also declared that seven babies had died “as a result of the sheer medical negligence, incompetence, and substandard level of care provided by PoSGH”.

Also, “It is clear that these deaths were quietly swept under the carpet...” until they were exposed by the media.

The pre-action protocol letter also stated that while seven deaths were exposed by the media, the law firm was assessing the true impact and scale of the tragedy.

As it declared, several other parents are now in contact with the law firm, and they have related similar horror stories regarding their experience at the PoSGH, and the negligent

UNC wants independent probe into babies’ deaths

Port-of-Spain – An independent probe into the deaths of seven babies at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital is required to ensure there is no cover-up, the Opposition said late last week.

The demand was made by UNC’s Opposition Senator Wade Mark and Opposition MP Dr Lackram Bodeo, who both stressed the need for transparency.

At the same time, both officials called for the resignation of Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh.

Mark said the Health Ministry’s internal department should not investigate this incident on its own.

“[Therefore] we are... calling for the establishment of an independent, unbiased, and impartial investigation into the tragedy surrounding the deaths of these seven babies,” he demanded.

Additionally, “The blood of these innocent children is on the hands of the government, and, therefore, nothing less would be required than an independent, impartial, unbiased

death of their babies.

The lawyers also want to know the total number of babies that died at the institution beginning the top of this year.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute and the Pan American Health Organisation have been engaged to look into the deaths of the babies, Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh said last week.



Anand Ramlogan



Terrence Deyalsingh

At the same time, he indicated that the Ministry of Health is also conducting a separate investigation into the matter through the office of the Chief Medical Officer.

Deyalsingh made the announcement in Trinidad and Tobago’s Parliament last week.

He said it was with a “heavy heart” that he stood in the Chamber to confirm the “sad news” of the deaths.

“To the bereaved parents, please know that our thoughts are with you during this incredibly difficult time. We share in your grief and extend our deepest sympathies to you and your families,” Deyalsingh said.

He also advised the Parliament that as of April 7, no new infections were reported, and new admissions resumed starting April 10. The babies died at the top of the month.

He also assured the House that throughout this “challenging situation”, senior doctors and nurses were present and were providing care to the neonates. He also indicated that the parents were regularly updated on their babies’ condition.

“We recognised the emotional toll this has taken on the families, and all parents have been offered bereavement counselling by the NWRHA,” he revealed.

According to Deyalsingh, laboratory testing had revealed the presence of three different organisms known to pose significant risks to vulnerable neonates. Consequently, the NWRHA took steps to determine, through laboratory testing and risk source analysis, the origin of these organisms.

And as he noted, the NWRHA has always implemented stringent infection prevention and control practices that are standard in the NICU.

“Immediately upon recognising the seriousness of the situation, existing escalated protocols were initiated by the [NWRHA]. These included, *inter alia*, sanitisation and sterilisation,” he stated.

investigation.”

Bodeo is also a gynaecologist, and said he has delivered thousands of babies as he detailed the care required in treating babies in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

In an NICU there are sick neonates that are vulnerable to nosocomial infections, which are transmitted to the babies at times via poor conditions in the NICU, and sometimes via healthcare workers.

“These babies are very vulnerable because they have an immature immune system, they can be given broad spectrum antibiotics, they have frequent contact with healthcare workers,” he said.

Great care and precaution have to be taken at every stage to ensure a sterile environment, he said. Among the care factors are washing the hands, and proper sterilisation of every piece of equipment.

He questioned what NICU infection prevention and control protocols and practices were breached at the hospital.



Environmental damage from the spill in Tobago in early February

Govt probe ongoing into Tobago spill

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago is yet to determine ownership of the vessels that caused the environmental disaster two months ago off the coast of Cove Estate in Tobago, the local media and *Associated Press* reported late last week.

According to the reports, Trinidad and Tobago’s Energy Minister Stuart Young said the government’s Ministry of Works and Transport, with the Maritime Division, are still pursuing the exercise to determine ownership of the vessel.

He also revealed the government is utilising international resources, along with the Ministry of Foreign and Caricom Affairs.

Part of the ongoing investigation involves writing to various countries to ascertain, and to obtain documentation to support discovery of the ownership of the vessel, he added.

Young also spoke on the cost of clean-up operations, saying he was not in a position to provide a total at this time, since it was an ongoing operation. Expenses were being tabulated, which would then be taken to the Cabinet, he stated.

In response to questions in Parliament from Couva South MP Rudranath Indarsingh, Young said the latest estimate from the vessel itself indicated a total of 34,000 barrels of oil still remains on board.

“At present, approximately 20,000 barrels have been confirmed from the cargo tanks, which have been sounded and assessed, with the balance to be assessed pending favourable sea conditions,” Young revealed.

He also indicated that clean-up operations were still ongoing. Also, that onshore clean-up operations saw the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries engaging Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd providing technical support in managing the incident.

As he stated, Heritage activated its incident management, business support, and wildlife rescue teams that mobilised 47 persons and relevant equipment to support the oil spill response.

It focused on shoreline clean-up activities in eight areas from the Scarborough Waterfront to the Thompson River, including Wildlife, search, rescue and Rehabilitation, he detailed.



Stuart Young

Vedic Cultural Centre Commemorates the 186th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indians to the West

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2024
VENUE: VCC
 4345 - 14TH Avenue. Markham

LOWER HALL: EXHIBITS
3:30pm – 6:00pm

Sari Wrap, Mehndi, Costume Display, Ethnic Food Booth (Cash)

UPPER HALL - STAGE PROGRAM
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Play - Ghar Se Dur Ghar Ki Kahaanee
 A Fractal Journey of Indians in the Diaspora
 Script by Rabi Nauth
 Directed by Vaishali Panwar

ADMISSION FREE

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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Flag bearer Mother India a cinematic epic and an all-time legend

By Vidur Dindayal

Indian cinema golden age movies saw *Mother India* topping the list of highest earners in 1957.

Mother India is described as India's most revered film. It is a cinematic epic, a flag-bearer of Hindi cinema, and a legend in its own right. The movie was released amid fanfare, and had several high-profile screenings, including one in New Delhi, which was attended by the country's president and prime minister. Thanks to *Wikipedia* for details of these Golden Age movies.

Starring Nargis, Sunil Dutt, Rajendra Kumar, and Raaj Kumar, *Mother India* is the story of a poverty-stricken village woman named Radha (Nargis), who lost her husband, and struggles to raise her sons and survive against a cunning money-lender amidst many troubles.

Mother India is representative of India as a nation after Independence, with a strong sense of Indian nationalism. Its lead character represents Indian womanhood with high moral values, and what it means to be an Indian mother to society through self-sacrifice.

It was produced and directed by Mehboob Khan, with music by Naushad, who introduced Western classical and orchestral music to Hindi cinema.

Mother India won the All India Certificate of Merit for Best Feature Film, and the Filmfare Best Film Award for 1957. Nargis and Mehboob Khan won the Best Actress and Best Director awards respectively.

Nargis also won Best Actress Award at the 11th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. It also became the first Indian film to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

At the time, Nargis was 26 years old. She played the new wife, young single mother, and an aged mother of two sons. At the time she was the reigning queen of Hindi cinema.

Mother India was dubbed in several European languages for countries in the Eastern Bloc; for nations in Latin America; for the Arab world; the Middle East; Southeast Asia, and for countries in North Africa.

At the time of its release *Naya Daur* was the highest grossing Indian film ever. Later surpassed by *Mother India*, it remains one of the top ten highest-grossing Indian films of all time.

A powerful and vibrantly gripping picture, with a purposeful and distinctly impressive theme from beginning to end, *Naya Daur* was on one of the most ambitious and unusual subjects ventured in India, providing wholesome entertainment with a purpose, and a sense of mission.

Produced and directed by B.R. Chopra, *Naya Daur* stars Dilip Kumar, Vijayanthimala, and Ajit in lead roles, along with Jeevan, Johnny Walker, Chand Usmani, Manmohan Krishna, Leela Chitnis, and Daisy Irani.

The film narrates the story of best friends Shankar, a *ton-gawala* and woodcutter Krishna, in a poor village. They meet Rajni, and both fall in love with her. When they understood they both are in love with Rajni, they plan on deciding on who will marry her. Dilip Kumar's performance was utterly magnificent in every phase and mood.

Music was by the great O.P. Nayyar, with lyrics by Sahir Ludhianvi. Singers were Asha Bhosle, Mohammed Rafi, Shamshad Begum, and Balbir. There were nine songs in the movie. My best song is *Mangke Saath Tumhara*, sung by Dilip, and Vijay riding in a *tonga* in the open countryside enjoying their company and singing.

The other song I like is most memorable with Dilip and friend Ajit in the temple together singing *Aana Hai To Aa* before they fell out over Rajni.

Dilip Kumar won the Filmfare Award for Best Actor for the third time in a row, the award being his fourth overall. Best Music Director went to Nayyar, with Akhtar Mirza winning the award for Best story.

Pyaasa is one of Guru Dutt's finest films, and regarded as one of the greatest movies ever made. It frequently features on world cinemas' greatest films lists.

The theme of the film was unconventional. It received international acclaim in 1980s when it was first released in Europe, long after Guru Dutt died. Dutt and his later movies, including *Pyaasa*, have a large cult following.



Pyaasa has been screened to huge mass appeal the world over, including at the 72nd Venice International Film Festival held in Italy in September 2015.

Listed as among the greatest films ever made, *Pyaasa* was the only Hindi film to make it to the 100 Greatest Films of All Time list by *Time* magazine.

In 2013, to celebrate the centenary year of Indian cinema, *The Guardian* in the UK named *Pyaasa* as the Quintessential Indian Classic of 1950s decade. The British Film Institute named it the Greatest Musical of 1957.

With stars Guru Dutt, Waheeda Rehman, Mala Sinha, Rehman, Johnny Walker, Leela Mishra, Kumkum, Mehmood, and Tun Tun, *Pyaasa* is a romantic drama about a poet who rebels against the norms of society and grows cynical of the world.

Its director-producer-writer and star is Guru Dutt, and is based on a story idea written by Dutt sometime in 1947 or 1948; he was just 22 years old at the time.

Its soundtrack was referred to as the Best Music in Film. Boasting one of the best performances of S.D. Burman, Sahir Ludhianvi, Geeta Dutt, and Mohammed Rafi, the movie has ten songs.

I like all of them, particularly *Hum Aapki Aankhon Mein*, and the *Sar Jo Tera Chakraye*, composed by S.D. Burman's son, R.D. Burman, and sung by Johnny Walker in the film. It is an all-time favourite. *Ye Duniya Sagar* is about the story.

Do Anken Barah Haath was produced and directed by V. Shantaram, who was also the lead star. One of the classics of Hindi cinema the film, inspired by the story of an open prison experiment, it was ranked by *Times of India Movies* to be among the Top 25 Must See Bollywood Films.

During filming, V. Shantaram fought with a bull and was injured in an eye; however, his eyesight was not permanently affected.

The story is about a young jail warden Adinath (V. Shantaram), who rehabilitates six dangerous prisoners released on parole. He takes these notorious prisoners, makes them work on a dilapidated country farm, and rehabilitates them through hard work and kind guidance to eventually produce a great harvest.

It explains that if people focus their energy on a worthy cause, success is guaranteed. In the final scene, all six thieves became hardworking persons, and decided to live at that hut where they learnt all things.

Music was by Vasant Desai. The film is remembered for the song *Aye Maalik Tere Bande Hum*, sung by Lata Mangeshkar, and written by Bharat Vyas.

V. Shantaram won the National Film Awards 1957 for Best Feature Film; the 1958 Silver Bear at the eighth Berlin International Film Festival and in 1959; a Golden Globe Award in the Samuel Goldwyn International Film Award for best film produced outside of the US.

Tumsa Nahin Dekha, produced by Sashadhar Mukherjee, was written and directed by Nasir Hussain, of Filmistan Pvt. Ltd. He was also the writer for films such as *Munimji* and *Paying Guest*.

The film was conceived as a star vehicle for heroine Ameeta, and was a huge success. It made the then-struggling Shammi Kapoor an overnight sensation instead. In this film he developed his renowned individual look and youthful style.

Music is by O.P. Nayyar, with lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri. Singers were Asha Bhosle and Mohammed Rafi. There were six songs in this movie.

Tumsa Nahi Dehlha was performed twice, once by Rafi, and the other time by Asha Bhosle. All the songs were superb. It is really a joy to see both Ameeta and Shammi Kapoor looking so good, and entertainingly so.

The story was about Sardar Rajpal, who flees from his hometown, and to a new place, where he has an adopted daughter Meena. He asks his wife back in the hometown to send their son Shankar (Shammi Kapoor) so that he can employ him, and have him marry Meena (Ameeta).

Paying Guest is a romance drama directed by Subodh Mukherjee. The film stars Dev Anand and Nutan, along with Shubha Khote.

It is about an incompetent lawyer Ramesh (Dev Anand), who keeps getting evicted as a tenant due his failure to pay rent. He then dons the guise of an old man to gain entry in

a house as a tenant, and falls for the landlord's daughter Shanti (Nutan). Her best friend Chanchal (Shubha Khote) marries a famous barrister Dayal (Gajanan Jagirdar) for money, and who is of her father's age.

The soundtrack was popular, and was composed by S.D. Burman. Lyrics were written by Majrooh Sultanpuri.

Paying Guest was the second hit film of the team of Mukherjee, Hussain, Dev Anand, and S.D. Burman, who two years earlier made the successful film *Munimji*. Singers were Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, and Kishore Kumar. All the songs are quite enjoyable.

Spots number seven, eight, nine, and ten in the list of top earner movies released in 1957, were: *Asha*, a musical thriller with lead stars Kishore Kumar and Vyjayanthimala with music by C. Ramchandra.

Ek Saal, with leads Ashok Kumar and Madhubala, music by Ravi. A memorable song in the movie is *Sab Kuch Luta Ke Hosh Mein Aaye*.

Sharada, with lead stars Raj Kapoor, Meena Kumari, and Shyama. Shyama won Filmfare Best Supporting Actress Award and Raj Mehra won the Filmfare Best Supporting Actor Award. Shivaji Awdhut won Filmfare Best Editing Award. Music was by C. Ramchandra.

Musafir with lead stars Dilip Kumar and Suchitra Sen won the Certificate of Merit for the third best feature film at the Indian National Film Awards.

Among lots more movies released in 1957 were these that became very popular: *Ek Jhalak* with lead stars Pradeep Kumar and Vyjayanthimala, with the popular song *Aa Ja Zara Mere Dil Ke Sahaare*; *Miss Mary*, a comedy with lots of enjoyable songs, with lead stars Meena Kumari and Kishore Kumar; and *Bhabhi*, a gripping story, with lead stars Balraj Sahni, Nanda, Shyama, and Jagdeep.

There was also *Nau Do Gyarah*, a romance thriller, with leads Dev Anand and Kalpana Kartik; *Dekh Kabira Roya*, a comedy, with leads Anita Guha, Ameeta, and Anoop Kumar, with the famous song *Kaun Aaya Mere Man Ke Dware*, which is sung by Manna Dey.

There was *Gateway of India*, a thriller, with leads Madhubala, Bharat Bhushan, Pradeep Kumar, Anita Guha, Johnny Walker, and Bhagwan.

The music directors of these Golden ages movies were predominantly, O.P. Nayyar, Hemant Kumar, Chitragupta, and C. Ramchandra. Also, I was surprised to learn how Hemant Kumar was as prolific a music director as well as a wonderful singer.



Sanjay Dutt

Sanjay Dutt puts rumours to rest about entering Indian politics

Speculation that he was entering politics was put to rest last week when Sanjay Dutt confirmed he had no plans to join a political party, nor to contest for election.

Dutt shared the confirmation he was not entering politics in a post on X, formerly Twitter. The post was then reported via India's media houses.

Dutt also emphasised in the post that if he were to enter politics, then he would make the announcement himself.

The actor ended the speculations with his statement on X, writing, "I would like to put all rumours about me joining politics to rest. I am not joining any party or contesting elections. If I do decide to step into the political arena, then I will be the first one to announce it. Please refrain from believing what is being circulated in the news about me as of now."

Jeetendra marks his 82nd birthday with family

Veteran actor Jeetendra celebrated his 82nd birthday on April 7. As the *Hindustan Times* reported, in attendance at the special event were family members, among them son Tusshar Kapoor and daughter Ekta Kapoor, along with wife Shobha Kapoor, and grandchildren Lakshya Kapoor and Ravie Kapoor.

Photos and videos of the celebration were posted to social media by Tusshar, Ekta, and Jeetendra himself.

Tusshar's video on *Instagram* showed Jeetendra enjoying the moment with his grandchildren, both of whom he was indulging with birthday cake.

Tusshar wrote alongside with the video, "#happybirthday-toyou We like to keep it simple and candid, I think we all were also shying away from the camera today!"

Among the comments that followed were from Rakesh Roshan and Chunky Pandey, who both sent greetings.

Earlier, rumours had suggested that he might contest in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections as a Congress nominee from Karnal, Haryana.

Dutt's family has a significant political legacy, with his father having served the Congress-led Manmohan Singh government, and sister, Priya Dutt, holding an MP position.

According to the *Hindustan Times*, fan reaction saw Dutt being advised to not enter politics.

As *HT* noted, one fan wrote, "Don't join politics or any political party. You are a great actor & we want to see you as an actor the rest of the time. You are in our hearts as a great actor."

Another fan advised, "Pls don't join politics... It's worse for celebrities. Being your fan I request you are doing great in films pls avoid the election."

It seems Dutt has acquired a history of repeatedly denying his entry into the Indian political landscape.

As the *Free Press Journal* reported in 2019, he had denied

Meanwhile, Ekta Kapoor reminisced with throwback photos on her *Instagram* stories, sharing family moments, along with a nod to her father's legacy with a clip from *Hum To Tere Aashiq Hain*, a hit track from Jeetendra's 1967 movie *Farz*.

Jeetendra is synonymous with Bollywood excellence for an acting career that spanned over five decades.

His career is marked by unforgettable blockbusters, vibrant dance numbers, and powerful performances. It is also notable for his distinct manner of speaking, combined with a signature dance style.

Among his legacies in Indian movies is pioneering the concept of "dancing heroes" in the Indian film industry, which earned him the affectionate title, 'Jumping Jack of Bollywood'.

And among his notable performances are the graceful moves in *Mast Baharon Ka Main Aashiq* and the energy in *Taki Taki*. He is also recalled for his versatility and charm.

Maharashtra minister Mahadev Jankar's claim that he would join Rashtriya Samaj Paksha.

And in 2009, he was persuaded by a close friend to contest the Lok Sabha election as a Samajwadi Party candidate. However, he later withdrew. After this, he was appointed Samajwadi Party general secretary, but left the position in December 2010.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Dutt will reportedly be seen in *Hera Pheri 3* with Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, and Suniel Shetty. He also is in *Welcome to the Jungle* featuring Shetty, Disha Patani, Raveena Tandon, Lara Dutta, Jacqueline Fernandez, Paresh Rawal, Krushna Abhishek, Arshad Warsi, Daler Mehendi, Shreyas Talpade, Johnny Lever, and Rajpal Yadav, among others. *Welcome to the Jungle* is due to be released on December 20 this year.

In recent times, actors Kangana Ranaut and Govinda entered politics. Kangana will contest as a BJP candidate from Mandi, while Govinda joined Eknath Shinde's faction of Shiv Sena.



Jeetendra marked his 82nd with family members

Aside from his career, Jeetendra's is also renowned as the husband to producer Shobha Kapoor. Also, Ekta Kapoor is a prominent producer, while Tusshar Kapoor is an actor.

Kaif speaks out about taking fame at face value

The demands of physical appearance and public expectations are constant and haunting pressures, Katrina Kaif told the publication *Hello!* earlier this month. The interview was reported by the *Hindustan Times*.

In her admission, Kaif said she continues to experience the pressure of looking a certain way, and that she faces unrealistic and relentless beauty standards since joining the movie world with *Boom* in 2003.

She also revealed feeling anxiety over her looks before stepping out for an event, and how actor-husband Vicky Kaushal supports her during these episodes of self-doubt.

"I have often experienced the pressures of a certain standard of beauty, and the pressures to conform to that standard. I have found that to be often stifling and intimidating," she told *Hello!*

Additionally, "There will be a moment where I will be... fussing before I leave the house for an event or something. I'll end up finding something that I see, which is not to my liking, and I'm trying to fix it, whether it's a costume or hair or something. And then my husband will wryly remind me 'Aren't you the person who says, 'It's Kay to Be You?'"

Kaif's makeup brand, Kay Beauty, uses the tagline, 'It's Kay to Be You.'

She also noted, "It can be really, really confusing to retain and to maintain your sense of individuality, and know who you are, not who you are in comparison to what everyone else is doing or saying around you. I think what's really important for all of us, and this is something that I try to follow, is self-belief, clarity of thought, determination, and taking the time for us to understand our own thoughts and desires and goals. This is something that I'm still trying to navigate."

Kaif became an entrepreneur in 2019 when she turned her passion for makeup into a business venture. Kay Beauty has products for all age groups and skin tones, and has emerged as one of the most loved beauty brands online. According to a 2023 report by *Financial Express*, the company has an annual revenue of about \$12 million.

Kaif also discussed her emotional well-being, and revealed that she nourishes her soul through reading. As the *Indian Express* reported, Kaif sometimes reads books on philosophy. However, she noted that husband Kaushal is baffled when she reads these texts.

Said Kaif: "I read these books, not because I'm trying to speak out of knowledge or trying to gain knowledge, but because these books [on philosophy] are the only thing that calms and quiets the questions in my mind. My husband will often look at the book I'm reading and then he'll just look at me with a baffled expression on his face..."

She added that while she likes to spend time with philosophy, Kaushal does not need to do so. Instead, he is living his life "organically".

As she noted, "There are some people like my husband, who I honestly think don't need to read any of these books, and they authentically and organically live their life like that. I think that's beautiful."

Kaif was recently seen in Sriram Raghavan's *Merry Christmas*. She is scheduled to star in Farhan Akhtar's *Jee Le Zaraa* with Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt.

Kaushal was last seen in a cameo appearance in *Dunki*, and will soon be seen in Laxman Utekar's next production, which based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.



Katrina Kaif

Raveena Tandon speaks to patriarchy, competitiveness in Bollywood

Patriarchy remains prevalent today despite progressive laws and growing societal awareness, Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon said recently.

She also noted that it impacts on women who still face these challenges due to patriarchal behaviour in both their personal and professional circles.

Speaking to her role as lawyer Tavni Shukla in *Patna Shuklla*, she said, "Patriarchy is something that every woman has faced, and is still facing – be it at work or at home. *Patna Shuklla* is a journey of a woman commanded by patriarchy, and one who breaks away from it."

She added, "Tanvi doesn't see patriarchy as a challenge. She chases justice and breaks the glass ceiling of patriarchy along the way. I want the audience to take in Tanvi's courage, warmth, and determination, because no challenge will sustain for long then."

Patna Shuklla explores the education scam of fake roll numbers that affects the lives of thousands of earnest students in

India. She is among the few women to have successfully transitioned to more meaningful roles as these following her career.

Produced by Arbaaz Khan Productions and directed by Vivek Budakoti, the courtroom drama is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

Tandon has also recently spoken to the Indian film industry and its insecure and exploitative individuals. However, she spoke in the context of the industry's reputation being damaged due the focus on this unsavoury component.

She also noted she has been a victim of such unpleasant behaviour in her career.

Tandon has been vocal in the past about the industry's competitiveness, notably during the decades of the 1990s. She has also noted how impersonal Bollywood has now become, and how she is ahead of her time in some of the major roles that she has played.

"The atmosphere on set used to be so much fun. People

would be teasing each other about fights, affairs, revenge dramas... It used to be action-packed," she told *Rajshri Unplugged* during an interview.

Speaking to the challenges in a competitive film industry, she noted, "Some people are insecure, and they can't bear to see others succeed. They look for ways to pull others down. This could be via their relationships, via the groups they belong to, they could come at you via your boyfriends and girlfriends."

She added, "Our industry is undoubtedly competitive. But which industry isn't? It's the same in the world of politics and corporates. The only difference is that the film industry is written about because people want to consume gossip about famous people. Definitely, people indulge in politics here. It's happened to me as well."



Raveena Tandon

Pakistan's Amir, Imad out of retirement, now headed to New Zealand

Coming out of international retirement recently, pacer Mohammad Amir and all-rounder Imad Wasim have made the pick for the Pakistan's squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. The duo recently indicated they were available to be considered for selection ahead of the T20 World Cup to take place in June, the cricket website, *Cricbuzz* reported last week.

The Pakistan team is being led by Babar Azam, and has two uncapped batters in Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan in the lineup. Both players made the national team following their impressive performances in the recently concluded Pakistan Super League.

In a media release from the Pakistan Cricket Board, Khan said the following after he had been selected to the team: "I am deeply honoured to have been selected in the Pakistan squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. Breaking into such a formidable team like Pakistan is a testament to the dedication and effort I have put into my game. Now, my focus is



Mohammad Amir



Imad Wasim

on seizing this opportunity and solidifying my position within the team."

He added, "I am fully committed to continuing to work diligently and proving myself worthy of the trust placed in me by

the captain and selectors."

Senior team manager Wahab Riaz said selecting Wasim and Amir was easy. Riaz is a member of the Pakistan selection committee.

"The decision to include Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir was a straightforward one, given their availability for selection, and considering Haris Rauf's injury and Mohammad Nawaz's current form. Both Amir and Imad possess undeniable match-winning capabilities, and we trust they will consistently deliver strong performances to bolster the team's objectives," he said.

In the Pakistan squad for New Zealand T20Is are: Babar Azam (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohmmad Amir, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usama Mir, Usman Khan, Zaman Khan. Non-travelling reserves: Haseebullah, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, and Salman Ali Agha.



Jason Holder

Holder keeps firm grip on playing Test cricket

Former West Indies captain and all-rounder Jason Holder is likely to be in the line-up with newly-promoted Worcestershire for their first five matches of this year's County Championship.

Holder was West Indies Test captain from 2015 to 2020, and led the two-Test series against Australia in January. He has publicly stated a desire to continue playing red-ball cricket.

The likely stint with Worcester should be preparatory grounds for him making a possible comeback when West Indies tour England for three Tests come July.

Holder's only previous experience in county cricket was in 2019, when he performed an early season stint at Northamptonshire. Also, in that year, he became the first West Indies player to top the Test all-rounder rankings since Sir Garfield Sobers.

He was absent from the winning West Indies team that took an historic eight-run win at the Gabba in January. It was West Indies' first win in Australia since 1997.

As he had declared, the reason for his absence was the personal decision to prioritise 20-over cricket at the top of 2024, with a view to featuring at the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and US, which is coming up in June.

So far for the year, Holder spent January and February at UAE's ILT20, the Bangladesh Premier League, and had a stint in Australia for West Indies' 2-1 T20 series defeat.

His most recent appearance on the field has been for his home side in Barbados in two first-class fixtures earlier this month.

The announcement last December that he would not be on the flight with the Test squad to face Australia saw him telling the cricket website, *ESPNcricinfo* that his decision was not to be interpreted as "me turning my back on Test cricket".

At the same time, he added that he still wanted to be in the frame for the series against England and South Africa after the World Cup.

"I will do everything possible to make myself eligible for those Test series, and have spoken to the coach and selectors to reiterate that," he said.

Two of Holder's three Test hundreds have come against England, including an unbeaten double-century from No 8 in Bridgetown five years ago.

He was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year after leading the West Indies during their Covid-19 bio-bubble tour of England in the summer of 2020.

Key aims for summer 2025 Test target with Archer

England's managing director of England men's cricket, Rob Key is aiming for Jofra Archer to return to Test cricket come the summer of 2025 as he carefully manages the seamer's return from injury. It also appears that Key is likely to give Archer a turn with the ball during the upcoming T20 World Cup in June, the English and international media reported earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Archer is being carefully eased back into action in the light of his struggles with stress fractures in his elbow. His last Test for England was over three years ago in February 2021. However, he has since represented England in white-ball cricket, with his last outing during a T20 against Bangladesh last year.

Key's statements came earlier this month during an interview with *Sky Sports*. In it, he confirmed that Archer will not make the draw for England's red-ball summer in Test series matches against West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Said Key: "The whole plan with Jofra is he's going to play white-ball cricket for this summer and going into the winter. Then hopefully next summer, when we play India and then on

to the Ashes, we get him back for Test cricket. It's a slow process to get him back for all forms."

While Archer is not going to be involved in Test cricket for England, Key is aiming to have him available for this year's T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and US in June. Key is also hoping to target Archer for the T20 series against Pakistan in May.

"Jofra has been out with Sussex in India for pre-season and bowled quickly out there; he bowled really well," Key stated.

He added, "He has now gone back to the Caribbean where he's going to play a bit of club cricket, all about getting himself ready for that T20 World Cup. He'll hopefully play the Pakistan series, but it's always fingers crossed at the moment with Jofra. What we're going to do is take it slower [rather] than trying to go too quickly, so that we get him back for not just a short period but we get him for a long period."

Archer enjoyed an outstanding debut summer for England in 2019. However, elbow and back injuries have prevented further progress at the international level. He made just 14 England appearances in all formats since the start of 2021.



Jofra Archer

Pollard comes out batting for Hardik now struggling at the receiving end

It has not been a good start for Hardik Pandya as captain of the Mumbai Indians, the cricket website *Cricbuzz* reported earlier this week.

The booing from the crowd was predictable from the unresponsive pushback that emerged on social media when his captaincy was announced. Now add to his woes with the crowd his non-performance with the bat, scoring only 131 runs across six matches; then there is similarly dismal bowling, with only three wickets so far. It gets worse: in one of his final overs, M.S. Dhoni sent three consecutive Pandya deliveries into the stands.

Last week the Mumbai Indians were languishing third from bottom, with only two wins from six games.

Since then, batting coach Kieron Pollard has stepped up and thrown his support behind Pandya. In fact, he is so optimistic about Pandya that last week he stated he was looking forward to seeing "everyone sing his praises".

"I don't know if it will affect his confidence. He is a confident guy, he has been great around the group," Pollard said after MI lost to Chennai Super Kings.

He added, "In cricket, you have good days and bad days,



Kieron Pollard



Hardik Pandya

and I am seeing an individual who is working bloody hard to improve his skills and plying his trade. I hope very well deep down within my heart that when he comes out on top, I'll sit back and watch everyone sing his praises."

Meanwhile, commenting on the heavy pace of the criticism being sent down the pitch to Hardik at the receiving end, Pollard urged everyone to "stop nitpicking" individuals and let them be.

Said Pollard: "I am fed up of looking to pinpoint individuals. Cricket is a team game at the end of the day. This is an individual that is going to represent the country [soon], and all are going to cheer for him and want him to do well."

He added, "So it is high time we try to encourage and stop nitpicking, and see if we can get the best out of one of the great all-rounders India has produced. He can bat, bowl, and field, and has an X-factor about him."

Pollard also indicated he expected Hardik to evolve and get back to his best soon with the bat.

"As an individual you have to evolve. When you are young, you have youthful exuberance. You go out and do things in a certain manner. The older you get, accountability and responsibility kick in," he stated.

Also, "What I am seeing is the guy is evolving. We as individuals want to see certain things, but sometimes the game does not demand certain things and [you] are going to make mistakes as you go along; as we all have done. The individual has put in the work and hard work pays off. So, all of us will be singing his praises when time comes."



Sophie Molineux

CA puts Molineux back on the payroll

Cricket Australia last week recognised Sophie Molineux's successful return to international cricket with a central contract for the blockbuster 2024-2025 season that features a T20 World Cup, an ODI series against India, and the Women's Ashes.

Molineux was recalled to the Australian side for the one-off Test match in February against South Africa following an injury-plagued period that saw her lose her contract in 2022.

After a title-winning stint for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the WPL, she was selected for the recent tour of Bangladesh, where she played a key part in the team's T20 and ODI series sweeps in both formats.

On her return to the ODI fold in Mirpur, Molineux took 3-10 in a tidy and economical spell of bowling, while her performances in the 20-over format saw her named player of the series.

"We're really pleased to be able to offer [Molineux] a contract after her successful return to the side this summer," CA's head of performance and national selector Shawn Flegler said.

Flegler added, "She's shown a great deal of resilience to get back to full fitness, and she will play an important role next summer. We feel the list features a great deal of depth and a variety of skill sets that will come into play throughout the various series scheduled for 2024-2025, including the T20 World Cup and multi-format Ashes series."

There were no surprises on the list announced by CA. Former skipper Meg Lanning is the only player from last year not to have made this year's 17-strong list following her retirement. Between 15 and 18 players can be contracted, according to the MOU between CA and the players' union.

CWI women on board

Cricket West Indies last week announced it has appointed three women to the board as independent directors, with their tenure lasting for a one-year period ending in March 2025.

The women named as independent directors are Diann Campbell and Louise Victor-Frederick, who have joined as new appointees. Meanwhile, Debra Coryat-Patton, who served in the role from 2019 to 2021, has also returned as an independent director, the cricket website, *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

Campbell is a distinguished Jamaican cricket administrator with nearly three decades of experience. A CWI release stated that "[Campbell's] expertise in cricket administration, corporate governance, and organisational development will greatly benefit CWI's strategic initiatives".

Victor-Frederick is a seasoned branding and communications strategist from Saint Lucia, while Coryat-Patton will bring "invaluable legal expertise to the CWI Board", the CWI statement noted.

Players not awarded contracts as part of the initial squad of 17 can earn upgrades throughout the year by accruing 12 upgrade points. Players receive five points for a Test match, two for an ODI, and two for a T20 international.

Cricket Australia 2024-2025 contracted players: Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Grace Harris, Alyssa Healy, Jessica Jonassen, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Anabel Sutherland, Tayla Vlaeminck, Georgia Wareham.

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Wednesday April 17, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
Hong Kong vs Malaysia, 17th Match, Group A, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 10:00 AM

Nepal vs South Africa, 18th Match, Group A, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 10:00 AM

UAE vs Cambodia, 19th Match, Group B, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 2:30 PM

Oman vs Kuwait, 20th Match, Group B, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 2:30 PM

Thursday April 18, 2024

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2024
Pakistan vs New Zealand, 1st T20I, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 7:00 PM

Friday April 19, 2024

ACC Mens T20I Premier Cup, 2024
TBC vs TBC, 1st Semi Final (A1 v B2), Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 10:00 AM

TBC vs TBC, 2nd Semi Final (B1 v A2), Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 2:30 PM

Saturday April 20, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
TBC vs TBC, 3rd & 4th Place, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, 2:30 PM

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2024
Pakistan vs NZ, 2nd T20I, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 7:00 PM

Sunday April 21, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
TBC vs TBC, Final, Al Amerat Cricket Ground, Al Amerat, 2:30 PM
New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2024
Pakistan vs NZ, 3rd T20I, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 7:00 PM

Thursday April 25, 2024

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2024
Pakistan vs New Zealand, 4th T20I, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, 7:00 PM

Saturday April 27, 2024

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2024
Pakistan vs New Zealand, 5th T20I, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, 7:00 PM

Thursday May 2, 2024

ICC CWC League Two 2023-2027
Namibia vs Oman, 13th Match, Forthill, Dundee, 11:00 AM

Friday May 3, 2024

Zimbabwe tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe, 1st T20I, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 6:00 PM

Saturday May 4, 2024

ICC Cricket World Cup League Two 2023-2027
Scotland vs Namibia, 14th Match, Forthill, Dundee, 11:00 AM

Sunday May 5, 2024

Zimbabwe tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe, 2nd T20I, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 6:00 PM.

2024 CPL MATCH SCHEDULE

Fixtures for the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League were confirmed last week, with the tournament taking place from August 29 to October 6.

For the first time since 2019 the event will visit six host countries with matches set to take place in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, St Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago.

There will be 34 matches in total with each

of the six teams playing ten group matches. The knockout stages will take place in Guyana with the home team, the Guyana Amazon Warriors, looking to defend the title they won in 2023.

The tournament gets underway with the newest CPL franchise, the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons, hosting their nearest rivals the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots.

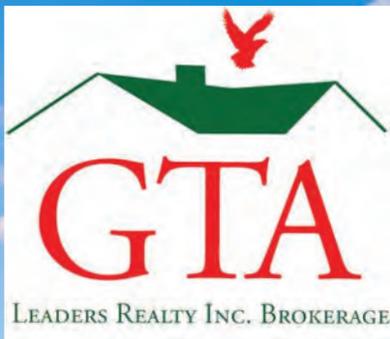
Also, the tournament will have two legs running concurrently with all six teams hosting

home matches.

Michael Hall, Tournament Operations Director for the Republic Bank CPL, said: "We are looking forward to getting underway in Antigua & Barbuda with matches back in the country for the first time in ten years. It is also very pleasing to be back having home matches for all six teams with the Biggest Party in Sport set to have an even wider footprint in 2024."

Men's Caribbean Premier League 2024 Fixtures

Date	Time	Teams	Venue
August 29	7 pm	Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua
August 30	7 pm	Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Guyana Amazon Warriors	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua
August 31	7 pm	St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Trinbago Knight Riders	Warner Park Sporting Complex, St Kitts
September 1	10 am	Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Barbados Royals	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua
September 1	7 pm	St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Saint Lucia Kings	Warner Park Sporting Complex, St Kitts
September 3	7 pm	Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Saint Lucia Kings	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua
September 4	7 pm	St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Guyana Amazon Warriors	Warner Park Sporting Complex, St Kitts
September 5	7 pm	Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs Trinbago Knight Riders	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua
September 6	7 pm	St Kitts & Nevis Patriots Barbados Royals	Warner Park Sporting Complex, St Kitts
September 7	7 pm	Saint Lucia Kings Guyana Amazon Warriors	Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia
September 8	10 am	St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons	Warner Park Sporting Complex, St Kitts
September 10	7 pm	Saint Lucia Kings vs Trinbago Knight Riders	Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia
September 11	7 pm	Barbados Royals vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons	Kensington Oval, Barbados
September 12	7 pm	Saint Lucia Kings vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots	Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia
September 13	7 pm	Barbados Royals vs Trinbago Knight Riders	Kensington Oval, Barbados
September 14	7 pm	Barbados Royals vs Guyana Amazon Warriors	Kensington Oval, Barbados
September 15	7 pm	Saint Lucia Kings vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons	Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia
September 17	7 pm	Barbados Royals vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots	Kensington Oval, Barbados
September 18	7 pm	Trinbago Knight Riders vs Guyana Amazon Warriors	Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad
September 19	7 pm	Trinbago Knight Riders vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons	Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad
September 20	7 pm	Guyana Amazon Warriors vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 21	10 am	Saint Lucia Kings vs Barbados Royals	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 21	7 pm	Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Antigua & Barbuda Falcons	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 22	10 am	Barbados Royals vs Saint Lucia Kings	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 22	7 pm	Trinbago Knight Riders vs St Kitts & Nevis Patriots	Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad
September 24	10 am	Trinbago Knight Riders vs Saint Lucia Kings	Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad
September 25	7 pm	Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Barbados Royals	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 27	7 pm	Trinbago Knight Riders vs Barbados Royals	Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad
September 28	10 am	Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Saint Lucia Kings	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
September 29	7 pm	Guyana Amazon Warriors vs Trinbago Knight Riders	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
October 1	7 pm	Eliminator - 3rd place vs 4th place	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
October 2	7 pm	Qualifier 1 - 1st place vs 2nd place	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
October 4	7 pm	Qualifier 2 - Winner of Eliminator vs Loser Qualifier 1	Guyana National Stadium, Providence
October 6	7 pm	Final - Winner Qualifier 1 vs Winner Qualifier 2	Guyana National Stadium, Providence



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Mississauga For Sale \$740,000

Location! Location!
Location! Welcome to this beautifully well-kept 3 bedroom townhouse in the highly sought after neighbourhood of Malton. Home features large living and good-sized dining room. Large kitchen with stainless steel appliances & granite countertops. Walkout to your fully-fenced private backyard. Upstairs features 3 good-sized bedrooms and updated bathroom. Lower level features recreation room with additional storage area and walkout to your private garage. Close proximity to highways, public transit, Go, Westwood Mall, schools, library, airport, park, and community centre.



Beeton For Sale \$1,139,000

Location! Location!
Location! Welcome to this lovely 4 bedroom, full brick home. This premium lot boasts a beautiful walk-out with patio, brand new glass façade deck above, both outdoor spaces providing an unobstructed view of the Beeton Creek. Hardwood throughout, freshly upgraded oak stairs with iron pickets, new light fixtures, open-concept kitchen with custom backsplash, quartz counters & breakfast bar, rough-in for central vac as well as three piece basement rough-in & an extended driveway.



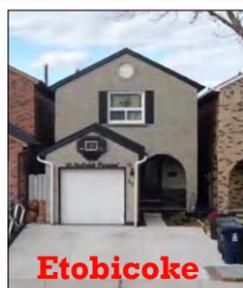
Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

Location! Location! Location! Step into the world of modern elegance with this exquisite 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home for lease in one of Pickering's new vibrant neighbourhoods. This unit boasts an updated, open-concept living space, perfect for entertaining and relaxation. The kitchen shines with stainless steel appliances and sleek design. Unit features beautiful wraparound balcony with extravagant views. Nestled in a desirable neighbourhood, this home provides unparalleled access to local schools, shopping, and entertainment options. The proximity to Pickering GO Station makes commuting a breeze, while Farm Boy and Pickering Town Centre are just a short walk away. Highway 401 access further enhances your connectivity to the greater Toronto area. Seize the opportunity to be part of this vibrant community. This brand-new unit is more than just a home; it's a gateway to a lifestyle of convenience, luxury, and charm! Don't miss out!!



For Sale \$999,900

Family Friendly Neighbourhood, Walking Distance To Schools & Parks. **SOLD \$350,100 OVER ASKING PRICE**



Etobicoke

Ajax For Sale \$949,000

Location! Location! Location! Welcome to this BRAND NEW, NEVER LIVED IN modern 3 story 3 bedroom 3 bathroom townhouse in a highly sought-after neighbourhood in Ajax. The main floor beckons with its open-concept design, guiding you to a spacious second floor featuring a generous kitchen and breakfast area that overlooks the combined living and dining room. This seamlessly flows to a walk-out balcony, the third floor features 2 adequately-sized bedrooms with a large primary bedroom with 4 piece ensuite.



Richmond & Jarvis Downtown Toronto Condo For Sale \$598,990

Location! Location! Location! Bright & spacious 1 bed 1 bath corner suite located in the rarely available prestigious French quarters. The residence features a functional open concept layout boasting 9' ceilings. The spacious living room seamlessly transitions to a breathtaking private balcony overlooking quiet courtyard. Building features world class amenities; spectacular roof top garden with BBQ, gym, party room, lounge/library suites. Steps from the St Lawrence Market, distillery, and financial district.



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Abdool Saheed
Financial Advisor
Cell: 416-731-7527

CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

Located at The Gore Road and Queen St E., CityPointe Heights is a new condominium community connected to three of the GTA's most beloved cities. Your favourite - and soon-to-be favourite - Brampton, Toronto, and Vaughan locations are very close to home. Discover two of the fastest growing cities in the Greater Toronto Area, and why with each passing year, they have more to offer.



Essa For Lease \$2,995

Beautiful 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms, 2 storey home located in the quiet neighbourhood of Angus. Minutes to Barrie. Open concept main floor w/ walkout to fenced backyard. Finished basement with rec room, full washroom & laundry area. Large driveway w/ 4 parking spots. Walking distance to trails & parks. Stainless steel apps, recently upgraded w/ pot-lights & led lighting & much more. All light fixtures, fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer & dryer, central air-conditioning, hot water tank, furnace, & garage door opener.



A Beautiful Open Concept Renovation - 3 bedroom, 4 washrooms, Detached Home in York. Huge Backyard. Conveniently Located Within Walking Distance To amenities and schools. Extremely Close Proximity to Public Transit! A Great Place to Call Home.

Narrative Condos

STARTING FROM LOW \$300s



It all begins at 7437 Kingston Road - a unique project set against the backdrop of both nature and the city. Located on Kingston Road, adjacent to Rouge and Port Union, The Narrative offers the perfect balance of nearby green space, a diverse and welcoming community, nearby amenities, and easy access to the heart of Toronto via the 401.



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