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Our Community Is Thriving!



Toronto Carnival 2024 held its official launch at Scarborough Town Centre on June 15. At the event were Trinidad and Tobago Consul General's Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsabag-Mannette (left), and George Maharaj, calypso connoisseur and renowned musicophile. More launch photos on Page 10. Ticket Gateway photo

Energised diaspora awaits VP Jagdeo's visit

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – The Guyanese diaspora in the GTA ramped up its celebratory mood this week after a number of successful events marking Guyana's 58th anniversary of Independence with news that Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo would be visiting Toronto later this week.

As part of the visit, Jagdeo would be the guest of honour at a diaspora and business meeting, which will take place on June 23 at the Pearson Convention Centre in Brampton. Starting time for the event is 2 p.m.

More information is available by calling the Guyana Consulate in Toronto at 416-494-6040, Extensions 23 or 25.

Speaking with Indo-Caribbean World last week, Honorary Consul at the Consulate General in Toronto, Mani Singh, confirmed that Jagdeo would be in Toronto later this week. He also indicated that Jagdeo would be meeting with members of the business community and with the diaspora early next week.

"Vice President Jagdeo will be attending an outreach to meet with both the business community, and with the diaspora, on June 23," Singh confirmed.

He added, "The diaspora is especially invited to attend this event, which will take place at the Pearson Convention Center."

The Pearson Convention Center is located at 2638



Justin Trudeau



Ruby Sahota



Shafqat Ali

Growing support fuels TWF's goal

Toronto – The growing momentum fueling The Walnut Foundation's commitment to raising awareness about prostate cancer was noted recently when its 'Walk the Path' walkathon saw a record turnout, welcome support from different levels of government, and the group moving closer to its fund-raising goal.

In a release following the event, TWF's president Anthony Henry expressed gratitude for the widespread community and governmental support, and to the many donors driving the

group's accompanying fund-raiser.

"[TWF would] like to thank you for making it out bright and early on June 1 to participate in our tenth annual Walk-the-Path Walkathon. It was our biggest and most successful event ever, with more than 400 friends, families, and civic leaders – at city, provincial, and federal levels – in attendance, ready to walk and cheer us on," he declared.

He also indicated that the group's fund-raiser

See Page 5: Support growing

Steeles Avenue in Brampton.

Also among the events Jagdeo would be attending is the Guyana 58th Anniversary Festival, which takes place on June 22 at the Malvern Family Resource Centre in Scarborough.

Jagdeo's visit tops off what has been a pulsating and vibrant celebratory few weeks that have seen the Guyanese community across the GTA energetically engaged in numerous events to mark this nation's 58th anniversary of Independence.

Starting in May, the end of the month saw the diaspora celebrating "58 glorious years since Guyana gained its Independence", a release from the Guyana Consulate and the One Guyana Forum noted.

It added that "this historic and memorable occasion was celebrated by Guyanese, friends of Guyana, and members of the diaspora, with numerous formalities and festivities".

Among the events opening the batting for Independence celebrations was a festive T-20 cricket match that took place on May 25

between the Guyana Consulate team and the Toronto Police Cricket Club. In what was an arresting display of cricketing skills, the event saw the Guyana Consulate XI firmly locking up victory against the police team in what was a rainy, yet enjoyable match.

And in what was another first-time event, the Guyana Consulate in Toronto hosted a flag-raising ceremony at

See Page 14: Niagara lit up



Bharrat Jagdeo

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Campbell appointed President of Local 27

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – The Carpenter's Union Local 27 earlier this month made an historical move upwards on its corporate ladder when Chris Campbell was appointed president of the 142-year-old organisation.

Campbell began working his way up the ladder over three decades ago as an apprentice, climbing upwards to journeyman, supervisor, instructor, and into yet another first, to become Director of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion department at the Carpenters Regional Council.

Now as President of Local 27, Campbell is the first Black leader to take the helm of the thriving union that started out on its journey on April 18, 1882. Today, it is one of the most influential labour organisations in Canada, and represents over 10,000 members in the GTA.

"It is an honour to serve as President, representing all members of the Carpenters Union Local 27. I am eager to continue fostering growth and strengthening the relationships among our membership, executive board, representatives, and administrative staff," Campbell told *Indo-Caribbean World* earlier this week.

He added, "I am proud to be the first Black President of the Carpenters Union in Ontario, marking an historic moment in our 140-year history. Thirty-five years ago, I walked through the doors of our Union at the 64 Signet Drive office as a first-year apprentice. My journey to the presidency has been one of commitment, sacrifice, and perseverance."

Campbell also extended "heartfelt gratitude to the membership, my family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and the leadership of the Canadian District Carpenters Union for their unwavering support".



Chris Campbell

His appointment to the top position was greeted with elation by his peers and hard-working stalwarts in the community.

Among them was Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director of the Toronto Community Benefits Network.

Said Powell, "I am extremely proud of Chris. He has been a mentor; an advisor; and President on the Board of Directors at TCBN. He cares about our community; about every one; and has a special place among us as a leader, and an inspirational person."

Powell also shared a TCBN document citing Campbell for his magnanimity and commitment. As it declared, "Since 2014, when Toronto Community Benefits was incorporated and signatory to the Community Benefits Framework for the building of the Eglinton Crosstown project... Campbell has initiated, led, and participated in countless initiatives that reflect the best practices of the Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion benchmarks."

It added, "Year over year, his work has engaged his colleagues, and inspired the leadership within his union to do more, and to do things differently, to ensure that Black, Indigenous, and other racialised youth and adults, including women and newcomers, know about, are prepared for, and access employment and apprenticeships."

Director of Building Up, Obioma Dike, was also elated with Campbell's appointment, saying, "He has been a strong ally; is motivational; and an inspiration for Building Up's apprentices."

She added, "He is always there when you need him. He has opened the doors at Local 27 for members of our program to join the trades, and who are now on their way to becoming journeymen. I am very proud, and wish him the best!"

See Editorial on Page 6.



Ashram youths with Swami Bhajananandaji (fourth, right) at the sacred event

Ram Lalla Yatra makes Canadian visit at Pranav

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, along with its chapter in Canada, came together to organise the Shri Ram Rath Yatra, with the objective to forge connections among over 1,000 Hindu temples across the US and Canada.

Spanning approximately 60 days, the yatra will weave through the expansive territories of both nations, making stops at over 850 temples in the US and 150 in Canada, covering a distance of over 16,000 miles, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of Canada said in a press release.

On May 26 the Ram Lalla Yatra made its Canadian visit to the Sevashram Sangha Inc (Pranav), where Swami Bhajananandaji Maharaj and his devotees extended a warm welcome with the divine chants of Maha Mantra, along with a procession of tassa drums.

The yatra aims to unify the various Hindu worship centres spread across these vast lands, encompassing a wide array of traditions (Sampradayas) within Hindu Dharma.

Further, it seeks to disseminate the sacred Akshat, Prasad, and blessings from Ram Lalla's grand 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony, which was conducted in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on



Devotees gather outside the welcoming murti

January 22 this year.

In a statement, the American and Canadian chapters of Vishwa Hindu Parishad said, "The Rath (chariot), involve three distinct vehicles, each adorned with the Shri Ram Lalla motif. There's one Rath designated for the US and two for Canada. Each Rath carries the murtis of Hindu deities, featuring Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Lord Lakshman, and Lord Hanuman, and, of course, the sacred Akshat and Prasad from the Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha ceremony in Ayodhya."



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MP Khera launches federal govt’s latest Anti-Racism Strategy

Ottawa – The federal government moved yet again to strengthen federal leadership against racism and discrimination earlier this month when it unveiled [Canada’s new Anti-Racism Strategy: Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028](#).

The landmark initiative was unveiled on June 8 by MP Kamal Khera for Brampton West; she is also Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities in Ottawa.

“Diversity is at the heart of what it means to be Canadian. From coast to coast to coast, Canadians of different backgrounds and lived experiences, races, and religions enrich our communities and shape our country. If diversity in Canada is a fact, inclusion is a shared responsibility and equity is the law,” Khera said.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also spoke to the government’s initiative with the Strategy, saying, “We can work to build a better future, with diverse communities and inclusive spaces. [This is] why in 2019 we launched *Building a Foundation for Change: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy*. In partnership with communities across the country, the strategy was a landmark initiative to build a fairer Canada. We took action to combat online hate, address disinformation, and create meaningful partnerships with Indigenous Peoples. It’s time to take another step forward.”

He added, “With *Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy: Changing Systems, Transforming Lives, 2024–2028*, we’re putting forward an ambitious, comprehensive plan to make Canada more diverse, inclusive, and prosperous. That means encouraging voices with different experiences to lead, and ensuring those voices are reflected in federal policies, programs, and services.”

He also declared, “We want the federal government to reflect the Canada it serves – because the more voices and perspectives we have at the table, the better the decision making.”

A release from Ottawa following the unveiling of the Strategy noted that since 2015, the government of Canada has “been strongly committed to diversity and inclusion, aiming to make Canada – and the world – a better place”.

However, it added that despite the progress made, “racism remains an unacceptable reality for far too many people in Canada”.

And speaking to the unveiling of the initiative, it declared, “This Strategy is part of the government of Canada’s plan to build a better, fairer, and more inclusive country for every generation of Canadians, by ensuring that everyone can reach their full potential. It aims to deliver concrete and measurable outcomes in key priority areas.”

Included in these outcomes in the key priority areas are promoting economic, social, and cultural empowerment; advancing racial equity in immigration, health and housing systems; and driving justice, law enforcement, intelligence and public safety systems reform.

It also aims to utilise international engagement to inform advancement on racial equity and inclusion at home.

As Khera noted, “Since the launch of Canada’s last Anti-Racism Strategy, the world has experienced several tragically impactful events, resulting in devastating consequences, including right here in Canada. While diversity is a fact in Canada, inclusion is a choice. Through this new Anti-Racism Strategy, our government is taking decisive action to strengthen federal coordination in combating racism within our institutions, and to support key initiatives undertaken by local community

organisations across the country.”

She added, “In doing so, we are not just standing up against racism; we are standing up for all individuals who live in Canada. This Strategy represents a roadmap for a brighter tomorrow, starting today, for all of us to be part of the solution.”

Among the tragic and impactful events cited by Khera were the deadly Islamophobic terrorist attack on a Canadian Muslim family in London, Ontario in June 2021, and the murder of George Floyd in the US.

The release also noted that racism and discrimination continue to be barriers to inclusion for Indigenous peoples and Black, racialised, and religious minority communities, preventing them from fully participating in Canadian society and the economy, while undermining the nation’s shared values.

It added, “Canada’s new Anti-Racism Strategy is a \$110.4 million investment aimed at driving action in employment, justice and law enforcement, housing, healthcare and immigration systems. It encompasses over 70 federal initiatives designed to ensure federal policies, programs and services reflect the Canada it serves, while also working in partnership with communities by investing over \$70 million in local initiatives across the country.”

The Strategy also builds on the endorsement of a second UN International Decade for People of African Descent, and historic investments totalling up to \$872 million within communities through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, the

Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund, and other initiatives focused on Black communities, it stated.

“Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy has been developed in concert with racialised communities. This transformative strategy will empower Canadians long impacted by systemic racism and discrimination. It was developed through extensive consultations. It’s an evergreen strategy. It will continue to adapt to the needs of racialised Canadians,” said Sameer Zuberi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities.

Canada’s first anti-racism *Strategy, Building a Foundation for Change: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022*, had a total investment of nearly \$100 million, including \$70 million to support community organisations across Canada addressing issues of anti-racism and multiculturalism.

It served all people living in Canada by addressing racism and discrimination in their various forms, with a strong focus on community-based projects.

The new Strategy builds on the foundation set with the first Strategy in 2019–2022. It covers over 70 federal initiatives and takes a more comprehensive approach to eliminating systemic racism and discrimination in Canada.

Budget 2022 provided \$85 million over four years, starting in 2022–2023, to the Department of Canadian Heritage to support the work to launch the new Anti-Racism Strategy and a national action plan on combatting hate.

Out of this \$85 million, approximately \$70 million was allocated over three fiscal years (2023–2026) in grants and contributions.

Also, in 2018, Canada endorsed the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, which runs from 2015 to 2024. On February 7, 2024, Trudeau announced an extension until 2028 of the government’s efforts within these frameworks, to promote equality, empower Black Canadians, and strengthen their leadership in business, social justice, and community.



In photos, MP Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities during unveiling of the new Anti-Racism Strategy initiative. FB photos





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In photos, participants, government officials, municipal and city supporters, and TWF's organisers at the June 1 walkathon. Photos by Simon R. Samuel

Support growing for TWF's work

From Page 1

was moving closer to its goal.

"We are thrilled to share that we have raised nearly \$80,000 of our \$100,000 target. These funds are vital in our continued fight against prostate cancer," Henry stated.

The walkathon took place at the Etobicoke Creek Trail, and saw resounding and exponential growth from the year before in the number of supporters. While there were over 250 participants in 2023, this year saw over 400 attendees at the event.

While the support at the community level for the walkathon and fund-raiser was reassuring, and indicative that TWF's messaging about prostate cancer was working, at the same time it also received acknowledgement and direct participation from the different levels of government.

Ottawa was among the levels of government that reached out to TWF, with a message from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with on-the-ground support from two government ministers from Brampton.

On the ground that day with TWF's organisers and participants at the walkathon were Brampton North's MP Ruby Sahota, and Brampton Centre's MP Shafqat Ali.

In his message to the group, PM Trudeau declared that it was "with great honour that I send my best wishes to The Walnut Foundation in support of Prostate Cancer Awareness in the Black community".

He added, "[TWF] truly makes a difference in its community to create a safe and comfortable space for men to discuss their health and wellness, especially with prostate cancer. Nobody should feel shame about managing their health and getting the medical help they need."

Trudeau further noted that he was inspired by events as TWF's walkathon, which "show the spirit and strength of grassroots community organising and activism in Canada".

"To the Walnut Foundation, as well as everyone involved here, your efforts are making an impact to save lives, and that is worthy of the utmost praise. I cannot thank you enough for coming together in support of this cause," he concluded.

Present at the walkathon on the morning of June 1 was Brampton North's MP Sahota, who later posted an inspiring and supportive message via her Instagram account.

"The tenth Anniversary of [TWF] Walk-the-Path Fund-raising Walkathon is a powerful reminder of the importance of prostate cancer awareness, especially within the Black community."

She added, "[TWF's] efforts contribute to

prostate cancer research, support for men with prostate cancer, assistance for families affected by prostate cancer, advocacy for improved access to free PSA testing, and scholarships for Black students studying oncology at the University of Toronto."

Brampton Centre's MP Ali was also a notable attendant at the walkathon, an avid participant during the warm-up exercises, and an inspirational presence among the hundreds of participants.

In his message marking the event that celebrated TWF's admirable community effort, Ali stated in his Instagram account, "Today, I joined [TWF's] Walk-The-Path walkathon. This walkathon aims to raise awareness about prostate cancer. This disease impacts so many, but together we can make a difference. Early detection saves lives, and events like these help spread crucial information and support research. Let's keep walking towards a cure!"

As the troubling data indicate, and as the TWF notes on its website, Black men in our community are 76 percent more likely to get prostate cancer, and are 2.2 times more likely to die from the disease.

"But we're fighting on multiple fronts, creating awareness about the heightened risk of prostate cancer in our community, and improving the health and well-being of those on their prostate cancer journey," Henry noted in the group's statement.

He also indicated that the monies from the fund-raiser enable the TWF to develop and launch a new advocacy and awareness campaign. This campaign "will help us spread the message to Black men about the importance of early prostate cancer screening beginning at age 40", he stated.

Also, the funds would go to building "our capacity as an organisation to become the leading source of information and support about prostate cancer for Black men, not just in the Greater Toronto, area but across the country.

As well, it would go towards establishing "a new endowment at Toronto Metropolitan University Medical School in Brampton (scheduled to open in 2025), and provide scholarships to Black medical students while we continue to invest in the University of Toronto, Temerty Faculty of Medicine endowment for students".

TWF's release concluded with gratitude, stating, "You are the reason we are able to make a positive difference in the community. Your contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve, and we couldn't be more grateful."



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Editorial

Well done, Chris!

We extend our Caribbean community's appreciation and congratulations to Chris Campbell, who earlier this month made history in Canada when he was appointed President of the Carpenter's Union Local 27.

The move made him the first Black leader to take the helm of one of the most influential labour organisations in Canada. A thriving union today representing over 10,000 members in the GTA, Local 27 recently celebrated its 142nd anniversary on April 18.

"It is an honour to serve as President, representing all members of the Carpenters Union Local 27. I am eager to continue fostering growth and strengthening the relationships among our membership, executive board, representatives, and administrative staff," Campbell said.

He also declared, "I am proud to be the first Black President of the Carpenters Union in Ontario, marking an historic moment in our 140-year history. Thirty-five years ago, I walked through the doors of our Union at the 64 Signet Drive office as a first-year apprentice. My journey to the presidency has been one of commitment, sacrifice, and perseverance."

As a young carpenter, Campbell began working his way up the ladder over three decades ago as an apprentice, climbing up the rungs to become a journeyman, supervisor, instructor, and then in another first, to be appointed as Director of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion department at the Carpenters Regional Council.

And so, fittingly, Campbell also took the opportunity to extend his sincere and "heartfelt gratitude to the membership, my family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and the leadership of the Canadian District Carpenters Union for their unwavering support" across the three decades.

He now resides on the top rung of a trade union with a rich and venerable history. As its website notes, "Through the first half of the 20th century, Local 27 focused on many initiatives that members today may not realise."

Among those initiatives many of us today take for granted was Local 27 working for the implementation of an eight hour work day; for the removal of child labour from job sites; for its mandating employers to provide breaks and clean working conditions; and the union creating opportunities for members to have a voice.

It adds, "While job protection and fair wages have been the focus... from its inception, Local 27 today continues to advocate for strong wages and safe work environments, which have allowed members of the Carpenters Union to be the most productive workers involved in construction."

In the span of the 14 decades of the union's existence since its inception in 1882, Local 27 has today grown in strength and numbers, while its membership have contributed to the construction of many of Toronto's most iconic structures.

As Campbell noted with gratitude, his journey to the presidency was supported by the membership, family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and the union's leadership. This support was notably evidenced in the elation from our community following announcement of his appointment.

Among his elated colleagues and community stalwarts was Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director of the Toronto Community Benefits Network.

Stating that Campbell was an indefatigable mentor within the TCBN, she added, "He cares about our community; about every one; has a special place among us as a leader; and is an inspirational person."

She also recalled Campbell's work within Local 27 in engaging his colleagues, and inspiring them and the union's leadership "to do more, and to do things differently, to ensure that Black, Indigenous and other racialised youth and adults, including women and newcomers, know about, are prepared for, and access employment and apprenticeships".

Director at Building Up, Obioma Dike, similarly echoed Powell, declaring that Campbell was "a strong ally... motivational, and an inspiration for Building Up's apprentices".

In the light of such acclaim and eminence, we are confident Campbell will continue the good work he is already accomplishing in his thriving union. Well done, Chris!

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication.
Letters to be published will be edited where necessary.
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Understanding National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada is marked on June 21 each year. It is a day designated to the recognition of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities of Canada – the original keepers of these lands.

The actualisation of National Indigenous Peoples Day is fairly recent. In 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the renaming of this day as National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. The concept of a day to recognise Canada's Indigenous Peoples was established over two decades ago.

In consultation with Indigenous organisations, the Canadian government decided on June 21, the summer solstice, to mark this significant day.

In the northern hemisphere, the longest day and shortest night, the summer solstice happens between June 20 and June 22. The summer solstice is of cultural significance for many cultures around the world. June 21 was originally selected in 1996 for National Aboriginal Day.

The summer solstice has special significance for Indigenous Peoples, who have gathered on this day for centuries to welcome the arrival of warm weather with ceremonies, traditional practices, and displays of art.

In 1996, the Governor General at the time, Romeo Leblanc, announced the creation of National Aboriginal Day; this was in response to many consultations and statements issued by various Indigenous groups, including the Assembly of First Nations, the Sacred Assembly, and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal peoples.

The recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada is relevant to all non-Indigenous Canadians, as we are all immigrants to these lands. We must ensure we not only pay homage to the People who were here before us, but that as new settlers we play a role in reconciliation, and also do not further the damages that were done by colonialism.

As with all non-Indigenous persons, Indo-Caribbean Canadians are newcomers to this land, and we must do our part to address and end racism and discrimination against Indigenous persons, and to actively contribute to the well-being and inclusion of all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.

Our ancestral story of mistreatment, abuse, exploitation, and erasure of culture is part of the corrosive history of colonialism.

We have heard the stories of ancestors who were kidnapped, tricked, and lured onto ships and then taken to toil in the fields.



Ryan Singh

Part of these stories include illness, abuse, and even death. Our ancestors were treated as property, and with no dignity.

Hearing the stories about the ancestors of our Indigenous peers should make us absolute in our empathy.

We must confront the horrific mistakes of the past, learn from them, and work to right past and current wrongs. We should have a day like today to reflect on the pain of the pain and the path forward.

We must identify and be part of the **reconciliation** that is needed.

We must understand the legacy of Indigenous Peoples, and work to preserve and celebrate it.

We all have a role to play in advancing reconciliation, each in our way. Together we must strive for a better future, where Indigenous human rights – including the right to self-determination, language, to tradition, and to land – are recognized, valued, and respected.

This year on National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association will be releasing our organisation's land acknowledgement statement.

We intend to ensure that we pay respect to the People, lands, and waters that we call home.

Through an extensive process, we carefully delved into our history as colonised peoples, and built a document that addresses our present and previous interactions with Indigenous People here in Canada and across the Caribbean.

Land acknowledgements are intended as an act of respect for the history of the land and water the people who were the original keepers, and those who, more often than not, were displaced by acts of violence.

These statements bear thanks, gratitude, and an acknowledgement of the relationship between First Peoples and the land that continues to the present day. It is a demonstration that we have begun a process to think about what colonialism means to us as settlers, and the role we play in ensuring that we end the ongoing impacts of colonialism.

We encourage Canada's Indo-Caribbean community to take the time to learn more about the past of Indigenous People, hear their stories, and experience their culture.

Take a moment to review our land acknowledgement statement, share with others, and learn so we can ensure that the legacy of Indigenous Peoples is honoured, and that we leverage National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada to amplify the voices of Indigenous People.

Welcoming the rest, timelessness that come with fishing

Here's another of my golden oldies fished out from the current of waters that have since flowed away from my errant youthfulness.

It was a remarkable flashback, the moment hanging in the air the way lightning sears an image in the eye, so it resonates inside the timelessness occupying the liminal space between the flash and approaching thunder. I stood entranced inside the moment, transfixed by the crack in the firmament brought by this sudden leap of imagination.

The trigger for the flashback was in the moment when a stranger, who carrying a length of thin, dried bamboo out of Home Depot, tapped it on the solid floor as if for soundness, the crack of its response invoking a similar timeless resonance that lingered inside the noiselessness of the storefront door as it swished open.

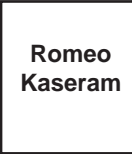
The stranger then walked away, carrying the bamboo rod on the shoulder so it did not appear to be a walking-stick, or a cane; instead, it seemed to be a fishing pole.

Both the bamboo pole and its stranger headed into the carpark. In the distance, above a windbreak line of oak trees, the city line rose upwards, its towering buildings looking down wearing the white, judicial wigs of clouds; just beyond man and pole, vehicles buzzed endlessly and non-stop, whizzing by on the constant that was a four-lane city roadway.

Perhaps the stranger was on a fishing expedition; yet the bamboo pole was not meant to be a fishing rod. Imagination then took over, assessing the possibilities – maybe it was headed for a large flower pot, to be buried into potting soil constituted with measured teaspoonfuls of laboratory-mixed plant food, there to support with the finality of verisimilitude a simulation of the tropics.

Maybe an expensive plant would be bound to it, wound and held in place with camouflaged-green wire simulating the wreathing rootedness of vines. Or maybe the plant finding this favour of presentation was an expensive orchid, transplanted to the north from its rainforest ecosystem, uprooted from its nutritive rot somewhere close to the equator.

Despite so much precarity ahead for the cane, or walking stick, or trellis-support that was this dried, price-tagged length of bamboo brought from the tropics into a metropolis space, still my mind sought fertility. It continued drawing out from its rootedness to my past, where I began recalling an unsupervised



young boy growing up back home, the adults in the house called away by a day's work to the cane fields.

It was in this tropical space, where to venture out on foot – not beyond a four-lane roadway buzzing with the constant of mobility in vehicular traffic – but to instead cross a rugged, dirt-road track, and then to wind through grasses taller than an adventurous and curious boy.

Here grasshoppers lifted out from the warp and woof of grasslands as if shot out of spring traps; here birds called to each other in coded warbling; and where the rustling ahead, and the dipping and bowing of the seeded stalks as in prayer, warned of either a snake fleeing ahead, or a mongoose in fluid pursuit.

The objective in that moment was to arrive unimpeded, and not pursued by an annoyed caregiver, then to enter the sanctuary of a bamboo grove.

Here in the mottled light the swish of the grass was replaced by the friction of bamboos rubbing shoulders in camaraderie, the winding of the wind through the thickets a mix of moaning, susurrations, and music of the spheres. And at my feet, as the wind died down, emerged the therapy of water stumbling over pebbles, sometimes beckoning with airy splashes like fingertips.

Here were ready-made fishing poles jutting out of lengthy bamboo-vertebrae, the rods naturally lathed down from the thickness of the handle of a broom to the width of a pencil, each length handily tapered.


Wound into its fibres was the elasticity of greenery, the test for durability and limberness being to bend it so a circle was formed, the tip effortlessly touching the heel. There was fastening to be done, the tip bent into a half-circle to receive a length of string tied to a bent safety pin for a hook. Bait and plop, and the world beyond the bamboos then quickly swam out of reach.

It mattered not that the fish were street-wise, avoiding the bait with the cynicism of the well-fed; it mattered not the string swam away and among the rocks, where the effort to retrieve it returned a straightened-out pin.

What mattered was detachment from the world, and reattachment to the timelessness that comes with fishing.

However, there was always a price to pay for a fishing expedition, the unit of currency being the rod itself, which morphing into a rod of correction, was never spared by an adult annoyed at leaving the containing warmth of a hammock behind.



**RE/GUYANA**

GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

Prescriptive Title Explained

By Kal Juman-Yassin

Guyana's laws allow a person residing in or in possession of a property to claim ownership after 12 years if they can prove the paper owner has abandoned it. The law originated to allow Guyanese to claim ownership of land historically owned by overseas colonial entities, and has allowed for both the legitimate and fraudulent transfer of property ownership to occur.

In some cases, overseas Guyanese property owners have deliberately allowed their relatives to claim ownership with their consent. Property owners who intend to retain and pass on assets to their heirs need to actively engage in the administration of their properties to avoid losing it to an unchallenged prescriptive rights claim.

The process would include filing an application with an updated survey, interviewing and obtaining statements from witnesses, preparing an Affidavit, and serving a Petition to the neighbouring occupiers of the land in support of the Claim.

The applicant would then be required to file an advertisement of the Petition in the *Official Gazette*, and a daily newspaper for three consecutive Saturdays. After these steps, the applicant would then appear in court and obtain the grant where there is no opposition, and then files to become the owner of the property by Transport, Certificate, or Title of a Lease.

Any person can file an opposition to the grant of a Petition by filing and serving an Opposition, which would trigger a court trial to determine whether the Opposition should be upheld or dismissed.

Challenging the court's ruling years after can be difficult unless proof of fraud can be adequately demonstrated. If the property has subsequently been sold to another party, then the property is likely irretrievably lost.

The lesson for every overseas owner of Guyanese property is to ensure that the property is effectively administered and managed. Owners should ensure they pay the rates and taxes, have an up-to-date rental agreement with their tenants, and visit the property at least once per year. Don't assume everything is fine; check up on your property today.

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 go to our free online property risk assessment.](#)



Irfaan Ali



Michel-Rolph Trouillot



Brinsley Samaroo

Hope remains to ‘unsilence’ history

Dear Editor,

The letter, *The significance of May in Guyana's history is still unknown to many* (Indo-Caribbean World, June 5) by Dr Gary Girdhari conjures up a familiar ring, one reminiscent of what we have consistently been encouraging for decades. I echoed similar sentiments at a recent book launch at Texila University.

Girdhari, who must be credited with single-handedly producing the *Guyana Journal* out of Queens, New York, for many years, ought to know that Indian writers and leaders themselves were guilty perpetrators and purveyors of this historical abnormality, contributing to what Haitian anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot deemed as “silencing the past”.

It is partially accurate to lodge the blame for this historical anomaly at the bosom of “the deliberate policy during colonial times and the inherent skewed education syllabus”.

But it is patently condescending, if not hypocritical, to submit that “Indo-Guyanese, benignly and shamefully do not know their history” without equally acknowledging the contributory role that individuals and contemporary organisations have played in silencing the history of Indians.

By individuals, I am referring specifically to Indians, some of whom express discomfort when publicly addressing their Indianness in a plural, multicultural society.

In our contemporary world, Marxist ideology and Marxism-Leninism have co-opted the political (and to some extent, the social and intellectual) space, by negating legitimate appreciation for ethnic and cultural sentiments, frowning upon such organisations and individuals.

Expressing pride in one’s unique cultural and historical experiences was considered antithetical to the promise of the creation of a united working class. Indian leaders and intellectuals were busy advocating for universal causes, but ignored the reality of what was happening within their own communities.

The late UWI Professor Dr Brinsley Samaroo, for instance, a pioneering giant in Indian history, departed briefly from academia when he became an elected member of the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives.

He was fully cognisant of the transgressions of the Desiré Delano Bouterse government in Suriname, rigged elections under the Burnham dictatorship, and discrimination against Indians in his own country.

Yet, there was no willingness on the part of some of our scholars, whose careers were built on the study of Indian history, to engage in a “Rodney moment” by “grounding” and empathising with the people they were writing about.

In Guyana, those who have consistently supported a progressive Marxist/Soviet radical agenda have contributed towards the silencing of Indian history, as well as the voices of those who were so inclined.

Still, the handful of pretentious champions of Marxist ideology in Guyana continue to defend Marxist praxis, but conveniently avoid any discussions of its historical domestic consequences and impact on our society.

It is remarkable that no singular independent national organisation exists today that seeks to articulate and advance the interests of Indians, or that there is no museum (not even a virtual one!), which is dedicated to the preservation of artifacts from the historical past.

To his credit, Guyana’s President Dr Irfaan Ali expressed commitment to have the Indentured records digitised, and he has impressed upon the visiting Gladstones the necessity of including Indentureship in the growing calls for reparations.

Preliminary studies, and anecdotal evidence suggest that three major problems facing the Indian community today – alcoholism, suicide and gendered violence – may have direct links to the historical Indenture experience.

Girdhari has invoked a reference to the expulsion of Indians in Wismar by sharing a link to the report of the Commission of Inquiry, which was launched “to inquire into the recent disturbances which took place at Wismar, Christianburg and Mackenzie in the Demerara River, to investigate the conduct of the security forces during the said disturbances and to determine the number of deaths and the extent of injury, loss and damage suffered in the said disturbances, and to report thereon” (Seal #161/1964, Sep 28, 1964).

The details contained in the COI pale in comparison to the lived experiences of the Wismar refugees who are still among us. Ironically, Independence (a date to which Cheddi Jagan objected) was organised and celebrated in Linden this year, with not even a passing reference to Wismar 1964. Who then bears the burden of this “shame”?

If our leaders were keen on educating Indians about their history, we might have known that during the 1924 Ruimveldt massacre, one of two Indian women killed (“Beeput” and “Jasodia”) was as a result of bullets from the rapid-fire water-cooled British-invented Vickers machine gun that penetrated the wall of her house, piercing her body, killing her as she quietly nursed her infant child.

That woman, one of the 13 individuals killed during the Ruimveldt massacre, was a relative of a Wismar “refugee” who was forced to flee her home, in pregnancy, as the rest of the family was under siege and their General Store in Christiansburg was set ablaze.

Yet, a frequent *Stabroek News* blogger, Fuad Rahaman (March 31, 2022), echoing a similar narrative of Janet Jagan (a proud Jew, as she indicated in an interview with David Dabydeen), could audaciously write: “The tragic events that took place in Wismar in 1964... must be forgotten”. The history of Indians must continue to be silenced.

Undoubtedly, race relations, particularly among a younger generation of Guyanese, has evolved with its complex intricacies – perhaps in a positive way.

It has slowly metamorphosed from its extreme binary nature due to the decay in historical memory, changing demographics, social integration, and fear of the societal costs imposed by inflamed primordial sentiments.

Race relations may be less conflictual than it was, compared to the 1960s (though memory warriors like David Hinds, Henry Jeffrey, and so on, seek to convince us otherwise).

There is still hope of ‘unsilencing’ a long tradition of the history of Indians, as well as the history of others, which will amplify celebration of our Guyanese cultural mosaic.

Indians do not need to hold their breath until May 2025 to experience another intellectual epiphany of their history.

Baytoram Ramharack, New York, via email.

TT needs change of leaders, policies

Dear Editor,

I call upon the government of Trinidad and Tobago to implement effective measures to combat poverty and recognise it as a grave injustice against the people of our nation.

Poverty must be proclaimed a crime against the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The government has a responsibility to bring poverty to an end for all citizens, especially the common man who suffers the most.

After nine years under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and the PNM, it is evident that the government has been unable to effectively address this critical issue. Therefore, I urge them to step aside, call an early general election, and allow a new administration to take charge.

I believe that a government led by Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the UNC can provide the necessary leadership and policies to eradicate poverty in our country. Under her leadership as Prime Minister, the UNC would wage a comprehensive war against poverty, injustice, inequality, and crime.

Among the recommendations on what Persad-Bissessar should do are strengthening the social safety net. She should enhance social welfare programmes to ensure that the most vulnerable populations receive adequate support. This includes increasing financial assistance, access to healthcare, and affordable housing.

Also, focus on job creation and economic opportunities. The government should develop and promote job creation initiatives, focusing on industries that have the potential for growth and sustainability. This will provide meaning-

ful employment opportunities, especially for the youth and marginalised communities.

Education and skills’ development are also needed. Investing in education and vocational training programmes would equip nationals with the skills needed to participate in the modern economy. Education is a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty, and should be accessible to all.

Also, there should be access to affordable healthcare. What needs to be done is to ensure that healthcare services are accessible and affordable for all nationals. Good health is a fundamental right and a crucial aspect of economic and social well-being.

There is also need for community development projects. Support should be given to community-driven projects that address local needs, and empower residents to take charge of their development. Community involvement is key to creating sustainable and impactful change.

And then there is combating crime. The government should implement robust crime-prevention strategies, including enhanced policing, community engagement and rehabilitation programmes. Reducing crime is essential to creating a safe and stable environment for economic and social development.

By taking these steps, Persad-Bissessar and the UNC can make significant progress in the fight against poverty, and create a fairer, more equitable society for all citizens. It is time for a change that prioritises the well-being and prosperity of our nation.

Curtis A. OBrady, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



Kamla Persad-Bissessar

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Sanctions on 3 Guyanese as US moves on corruption

US sanctions on three Guyanese have laid bare evidence of massive corruption in Guyana. The sanctions were apparently more than two years in the making, although government officials appear to have been caught by surprise by the US action.

The fact that the US did not share any information with the Guyana government prior to executing the sanctions also indicates a lack of confidence in their Guyanese counterpart to deal discreetly with sensitive information about criminal activity involving its citizens. This slap in the face should serve as a warning that the US is aware of systemic flaws in dealing with corruption in Guyana.

More importantly, the US claims that the sanctioned individuals were enabled by Guyanese officials.

The truth is the country has had a history of cover-ups or failure to take appropriate action following the discovery of corrupt practices. Despite numerous allegations of corruption and fraud in past years under both the PPP/Civic and APNU+AFC governments, an infinitesimal number of charges have been laid, or cases brought to trial.

Evidently, the US took more than two and a half years to accumulate what Nicole Theriot, US Ambassador to Guyana called a "preponderance of evidence," prior to imposing sanctions.

The sanctions, which were announced in a June 11, 2024 press release by the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, were against members of one of Guyana's wealthiest families, Nazar Mohamed and his son, Azruddin Mohamed, their company, Mohamed's Enterprise, and a Guyanese government official, Mae Thomas, for their roles in public corruption in Guyana.

Additionally, OFAC designated two other entities, Hadi's World and Team Mohamed's Racing Team, for being owned or controlled by Mohamed's Enterprise and Azruddin, respectively. These individuals and entities were sanctioned pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13818, which targets perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption around the world.

According to the press release, "Today's action underscores our commitment to holding accountable those who seek to exploit Guyana's underdeveloped gold sector for personal gain," said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson.

He added, "Treasury, in close coordination with our partners in US law enforcement, will continue to take action to safeguard the US financial system from abuse by corrupt actors."

These actions were conducted in coordination with Homeland Security Investigations, New York Organised Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Strike Force, Diplomatic Security Service, Customs and Border Protection Office of Intelligence – New York Operations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Miami Field Office, with assistance from HSI Miami, CBP Miami and New York Field Offices, New York City Police Department Intelligence Bureau, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

OFAC stated that the Mohameds abused Guyana's highly fractured gold industry in which small-scale gold mining operations hold a majority share of the country's gold production. These small, family-owned businesses have informal relationships with larger purchasers and traders like Mohamed's Enterprise. Once mined, Guyanese gold is sold and traded throughout international markets, including the US, Canada, the UAE, and the EU.

Long considered a serious but largely ignored crime, gold smuggling has been ranked as one of the highest money laundering risks in Guyana. According to the country's *Second Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing National Risk Assessment* report, the estimated value of the proceeds generated from smuggling, including gold smuggling, is (US) \$2.2 billion, compared to drug trafficking at a mere (US) \$13.4 million, and tax evasion at (US) \$10.4 million.

It is estimated that as much 60 percent of all gold production goes unreported. A significant portion of such production is believed to be illegally funnelled through the country's porous borders, and supports a range of illegal activities, including money laundering, tax evasion, and the drug trade.

In providing a background on the Mohameds, OFAC said Nazar Mohamed founded Mohamed's Enterprise in Guyana before expanding to the US as a moneychanger, and transitioned into gold trading, growing Mohamed's Enterprise into

one of Guyana's largest gold exporters. In time, Azruddin Mohamed ultimately took over Mohamed's Enterprise, which also now does business as Confidential Cambio.

According to the report, Azruddin and Mohamed's Enterprise allegedly evaded Guyana's tax on gold exports and defrauded the Guyanese government of tax revenues by under-declaring their gold exports to Guyanese authorities. Between 2019 and



Dwarka Lakhan

2023, Mohamed's Enterprise omitted more than ten thousand kilograms of gold from import and export declarations, and avoided paying more than (US) \$50 million in duty taxes to the government of Guyana.

It claimed that Mohamed's Enterprise bribed customs officials to falsify import and export documents, as well as to facilitate illicit gold shipments. It paid bribes to Guyanese government officials to ensure the undisrupted flow of inbound and outbound personnel that move currency and other items on behalf of Azruddin and Mohamed's Enterprise.

In addition, the report stated that to conceal their illegal activity and operate with impunity, Azruddin and Mohamed's Enterprise have engaged in extensive bribery schemes involving government officials in Guyana. This included providing direct and recurring bribery payments to Guyanese government officials to ensure favourable treatment in criminal or civil matters that would otherwise suggest their involvement in illegal criminal activity. In return, corrupt officials received cash and gifts for incidents that are overlooked.

Additionally, Mohamed's Enterprise has paid bribes to corrupt Guyanese government officials to facilitate the award of government contracts. One such official, Mae Thomas, was the Permanent Secretary to Guyana's Minister of Home Affairs from October 2020 through August 2023, and is the current Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

OFAC explained that a corrupt Permanent Secretary could manipulate procurement processes to suit their preferred bidder by providing inside information at the early stages of evaluation. Access to a Permanent Secretary of any Ministry could afford contractors insights into upcoming projects and bid values. Permanent Secretaries can act as the legal authority to sign contracts on behalf of their ministry.

While she was Permanent Secretary to Guyana's Minister of Home Affairs, Thomas used her position to offer benefits to Mohamed's Enterprise and Azruddin, among others, in exchange for cash payments and high-value gifts. Thomas misused her position to influence the award of official contract bids and the approval processes for weapons permits and passports on behalf of Mohamed's Enterprise.

In April, 2023, Thomas had her US visa revoked at the Miami International Airport as she was transiting to China. She was forced to return to Guyana via the UK.

As a result, OFAC has designated Azruddin and Mohamed's Enterprise for being persons who have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of corruption, including the misappropriation of State assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts, or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery, that is conducted by a foreign person.

OFAC has also designated Nazar as being a foreign person who is, or has been a leader or official of Mohamed's Enterprise, an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13818, as a result of activities related to Nazar's tenure.

In addition, OFAC has designated Team Mohamed's Racing Team for being owned or controlled by, or for having acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Azruddin; and Hadi's World for being owned or controlled by, or for having acted or purported to act for, or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, Mohamed's Enterprise.

OFAC designated Thomas for being a foreign person who is a current or former government official, or a person acting for or on behalf of such an official, who is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of State assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts, or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery.

As a result of the sanctions, all property and interests in property of the designated persons described above that are

in the US, or in the possession or control of US persons are blocked, and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, individually, or in the aggregate, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons, are also blocked.

Unless authorised by a general or specific license issued by OFAC, or exempt, OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all transactions by US persons or within (or transiting) the US that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons.

In addition, financial institutions and other persons that engage in certain transactions or activities with the sanctioned entities and individuals may expose themselves to sanctions, or be subject to an enforcement action. The prohibitions include the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any designated person, or the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Incidentally, the Guyana government should have been aware of the impending sanctions. On July 14, 2023, a *Reuters* Special Report claimed that US government officials repeatedly warned Exxon Mobil to avoid doing business with the Mohameds, who face a US investigation on suspicions of money laundering, drug trafficking, and gold smuggling, based on information provided by five people with knowledge of the matter, and two intelligence reports seen by *Reuters*.

The Texas-based oil giant ignored the advice, which was delivered during meetings in late 2021 and early 2022, and cut a deal to build a (US) \$300 million onshore logistics base with a consortium that included the two Mohameds. Exxon announced the contract award in April 2022. The Mohameds subsequently withdrew from the contract.

The *Reuters* report elaborated that the Mohameds are being investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and other US agencies on suspicions of smuggling Colombian cocaine and illegally mined Venezuelan gold to the US, Europe, and the Middle East, according to the five sources with knowledge of the probe. The Mohameds were also suspected of laundering money for drug traffickers and criminals, including sanctioned Russian nationals operating in the region, according to one of the intelligence reports.

The report claimed that the Mohameds have close ties with Guyana's president and some cabinet members, according to one of the US Intelligence reports and three sources with knowledge of their relationships.

It added that the Mohameds' close government ties make them an important power broker, an influential force that international companies could face if they want to do business in the burgeoning oil nation, based on a US Intelligence report.

The report also stated that Nazar Mohamed, has long been close to the family of Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali, who came to power in 2020. One of the intelligence reports reviewed by *Reuters* said the Mohameds donated heavily to Ali's 2020 presidential campaign, and provided logistical support. The Mohameds have since regularly attended government-sponsored events, including an overseas trade mission.

A spokesperson for Ali did not address questions about his relationship with the Mohameds, but said in a statement that the president is not aware of any US criminal investigations into the Mohameds' activities. Nazar Mohamed, in his statement, said he and his son "do not have any political influence that could be helpful to Exxon Mobil" in securing approvals and permits to drill off Guyana's coast.

Following the *Reuters* report, the Mohameds denied any wrongdoing. "I have been unfairly targeted," Nazar Mohamed told *Reuters*. In February 2023, Azruddin Mohamed publicly disclosed criminal allegations, posting an angry message on *Facebook* to tens of thousands of followers saying the company was being falsely accused of drug trafficking and other crimes by someone talking to "foreign law enforcement".

In a statement to *Reuters* last year, Nazar Mohamed said that speaking for himself, his son, and their businesses, that they had committed no crimes, and were not aware of any US investigation into their activities, or any discussion of US sanctions against them.

"The accusations you mention are false and defamatory," the statement said.

Whether the government of Guyana or the Mohameds saw the sanctions coming is anybody's guess. The Mohameds have a right to appeal, just as Azruddin did and won following the seizure of his Ferrari in the US for being acquired with illegal proceeds.

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.



It was a vibrant and festive event last Sunday when the official launch of the Toronto Caribbean Carnival for 2024 took place. The event was held at the Scarborough Town Centre, and marked the beginning of the carnival season in the GTA. In attendance were federal, provincial, and municipal government officials, and hundreds of fans. The launch venue also saw performers, activities, and lots of entertainment, among these being masqueraders with previews of costumes, calypsonians and musicians, tasty Caribbean foods, and many more items that highlighted the creativity and celebratory milieu for which the Caribbean is well-known. In photos are moments that marked the launch, and which hold the promise of the big summer event that will be taking place come early August. *Ticket Gateway photos.*



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Top Trinidad and Tobago entertainers were at centre stage over the weekend to dish out Trinidad and Tobago and Caribbean flavours of entertainment at the Superstars Annual Father's Day celebration. The event took place on June 15 at the Mirage Banquet Hall in Etobicoke. Entertaining the audience were Trinidad and Tobago comedian Kenneth Supersad and Canada's own Marc Trinidad, Fatman George, and Jay Martin. The dance floor was also in play when Trinidad and Tobago's Crazy took the microphone to entertain the crowd with his energetic soca music. Reggae also featured on the musical menu, with a tribute to the late, great Bob Marley by Lazo, and performances by Drastic & Shyann Bailey. Toronto's versatile band, Moses Revolution, also kept the dance floor busy. *Photos courtesy Ticket Gateway.*



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Saplings are ready for planting in a re-forestation project in Brazil

World Bank initiates outcome bond

Washington — The World Bank last week mandated HSBC to structure a new outcome bond to address reforestation efforts in the Brazilian Amazon region.

This principal protected outcome bond, with an expected nominal amount of approximately \$200 million, will support the World Bank’s sustainable development activities.

At the same time, the bond will also be mobilising private capital from the foregone coupon payments to support the financing of reforestation projects in Brazil with positive climate and development co-benefits.

“The World Bank continues to pursue innovative ways to finance sustainable development, and outcome bonds are a perfect illustration of this commitment. We are excited to unveil plans to expand our suite of outcome bonds, aligning investors’ financial returns with measurable and impactful outcomes in the fight against climate change,” said Jorge Familiar, Vice President and Treasurer of the World Bank.

The World Bank Amazon Reforestation Outcome Bond is designed to provide up-front financing for reforestation initiatives selected by Mombak, a company based in Brazil, and which specialises in large-scale reforestation projects in the Amazon.

A portion of the bond’s targeted return will be linked to the value of carbon credits generated by these projects. An amount equal to a portion of the coupons that normally would be paid by the World Bank will instead finance the restoration of deforested and degraded lands.

Investment returns on the bond are linked to the value of carbon credits generated by these projects. The successful implementation of this outcome bond would represent another innovative method introduced by the World Bank for its mission to eradicate extreme pov-

erty and boost shared prosperity on a livable planet.

The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) is an international organisation. Created in 1944, it is the original member of the World Bank Group, and operates as a global development cooperative owned by 189 nations.

It provides loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and other creditworthy countries to support the Sustainable Development Goals, to end extreme poverty, and promote shared prosperity. It also provides leadership to coordinate regional and global responses to development challenges.

The World Bank has been issuing sustainable development bonds in the international capital markets for over 70 years to fund programs and activities that achieve a positive impact.

Mombak’s mission is to rebuild the forests of the Amazon by developing high-integrity carbon removal projects, reforesting degraded Brazilian pastureland using native and bio-diverse tree species. The additional carbon removed from the atmosphere by these projects generates high-quality carbon removal credits sold via spot market sales and offtake agreements.

The deal is intended to support Mombak’s ability to re-establish around 25 forests in deforested areas of the Brazilian Amazon biome. These forests will contain at least 30 million trees of more than 100 native Brazilian species, including several species threatened with extinction.

The forests will cover an area of around 70,000 acres, and will generate hundreds of direct and indirect jobs in marginalised Amazon communities.

Caribbean’s coastal areas face weather threats

New York – Tens of millions of people living in low-elevation coastal areas in Latin America and the Caribbean are facing the consequences of extreme weather events that threaten their lives and livelihoods and the hospitals they depend on, a new study by UNFPA, the UN Population Fund, reported late last month.

Using satellite imagery, geospatial data, and population estimates, UNFPA identified coastal communities most exposed to hazards, such as hurricanes and other storms that are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change.

The aftermath of extreme weather events often leads to widespread flooding that destroys homes, businesses, and disrupts essential services including health care.

Women and girls are often disproportionately impacted – displaced from their communities and safe spaces, and unable to access family planning services, safe birthing, or protection from gender-based violence.

Data analysis by UNFPA reveals an estimated 41 million people – or six percent of people in the Latin America and Caribbean Region – who live in coastal areas are exposed to life-threatening storms and flooding.

The analysis also indicates that 1,448 hos-

pitals vital to maternal health and family planning are located in low-elevation coastal areas more prone to natural hazards.

As it states, in Aruba and Cayman Islands, Suriname, Bahamas, Guyana, over 80 percent of hospitals are in low-lying coastal areas.

Also, elsewhere in the Caribbean and Latin America, the countries with the highest number of hospitals in low-lying coastal areas are Brazil with 519 (7.2 percent) facilities, Mexico with 159 (5.4 percent) facilities, Haiti with 133 (ten percent) facilities, and Ecuador with 130 (11.9 percent) facilities.

“Climate change impacts women and girls the hardest and exacerbates existing inequalities. Millions of poor and vulnerable women and girls, who are the least responsible for the climate crisis, pay a heavy price when climate-related disasters strike and disrupt essential health and protection services as well as livelihoods,” said UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem.

She added, “We need scaled up and targeted investments that safeguard their rights and strengthen their ability to adapt.”

UNFPA launched its data at the Small Island Developing States conference in Antigua and Barbuda, which took place late last month.



Ask Jay...

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TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FOR SPRING: EXPERT TIPS TO CAPTURE HEARTS AND SELL WITH STYLE!

Spring and early summer, typically the peak seasons for selling homes, are now experiencing a significant shift. The market is evolving rapidly, with April seeing a surge in available properties, which continued into May as buyer enthusiasm started to wane. The impact of higher interest rates is now more pronounced, leading to fewer buyers qualifying for mortgages. As a result, the once-heated bidding atmosphere has cooled, compelling sellers to adjust prices to attract buyers. In this current market scenario, where supply is outpacing demand, sellers must adapt their strategies immediately. Here are some expert recommendations for navigating this declining market.

Recognising that buyers are often guided by emotions, it is crucial to initiate the home transformation process by enhancing the home’s curb appeal. With the onset of warmer weather lawns come to life, presenting an ideal opportunity to spruce up the exterior. Start by thoroughly cleaning the driveway, doors, and windows. Clear the patio and deck of any clutter, such as unsightly garbage bins and unused items. Adding flowers and shrubs can enhance the outdoor space’s charm. Updating worn or outdated outdoor light fixtures and applying a fresh coat of caulking around doors and windows can convey a sense of diligent maintenance. But more importantly, creating an inviting BBQ area with a patio set can evoke feelings of leisure and enjoyment, painting a vivid picture of this property’s potential for buyers.

One of the most universally appealing aspects of a home is its spaciousness, making it crucial to prioritise maximising space within your property. Start by decluttering and removing any bulky, unnecessary furniture. Remember, a home is not a storage unit; many sellers make the mistake of storing excess furniture and items in the garage. If necessary, consider renting a storage unit. By creating a more open and airy environment, you’re making your home more appealing to potential buyers and allowing them to envision their own lives within the space.

Let the light flood in by ditching heavy curtains and embracing natural sunlight. For homes nestled against a serene ravine, unveil those windows facing the ravine to subtly enhance the home’s allure. Spring brings the perfect opportunity for a thorough house cleaning. A fresh coat of neutral paint and contemporary light fixtures can metamorphose any lacklustre room into a radiant gem.

Drawing from my experience as a realtor, I’ve observed that when women fall for a home, their partners are often quick to follow suit. Keeping this in mind, let us approach the house from a female perspective. The kitchen, usually dubbed the heart of the home, deserves special attention. Clearing countertops to create a sense of space is critical. A charming coffee maker, a selection of cookbooks, and a bottle of wine can set a delightful ambiance. If the home boasts appliances, ensure they gleam with a thorough cleaning. Aging kitchen appliances? Consider an upgrade to breathe new life into the space. A bowl of fresh fruits pleases the senses and adds a dash of visual appeal. Remember, our brains crave pleasant sensations to guide logical, emotional decisions; after all, people tend to buy with their hearts before justifying with their minds.

A dingy, unkempt bathroom can cast doubts in potential buyers’ minds. Bid farewell to bathroom mats and give the fan a thorough cleaning. Now is the opportune moment for decluttering and maximising counter and cabinet space. Brighten the washroom with fresh grout, a luminous light fixture, and crisp new shower curtains.

Take down family photos to create a more neutral atmosphere. You want visitors to feel at ease, not intruding on someone else’s space. A fresh coat of paint on the walls is a good start, but adding a tasteful nature painting can enhance the appeal. Keep closets organised and slightly open to give the impression of spaciousness, which buyers always appreciate. Add a mirror on the wall of a small room to give the illusion of more space.

Brighten things up by turning on all the lights and baking cookies before each show. Give potential buyers the chance to explore the house independently; the longer they stay, the more likely they will fall in love with it.

A well-maintained property, a knowledgeable realtor, effective online marketing, and a fair asking price will attract buyers. Your home will stand out against the competition, resulting in a quicker sale.

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The Indelible Red Stain
By Dr Mohan Ragbeer



This two-volume work is a personal account of many efforts to influence Dr. Jagan's political and economic direction between 1946 and 1963 and presents material hitherto unpublished. Dr Ragbeer describes colonial Guianese society, its peoples, the role of political extremism, race, US fears and Dr Jagan's failure, despite excellent advice, to adopt sound and realistic economic plans for the transition to independence. The author traces post-war political and social development, the rise of militants and their involvement in the Cold War. Dr. Jagan allies with the USSR and carried on quixotic attacks on the United States which allowed his Marxist foil, Forbes Burnham, to seize the reins of government, by guile, terror, arson and murder and displace Jagan in the final lap to independence. The resulting dictatorship, the trashing of the country's economy and the exodus of over 400,000 Guyanese are well known.

The two companion books are available from Amazon.com, through Kindle and other on-line sellers or from the author at mohan.ragbeer@gmail.com



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In photo above, MP Shaun Chen (second, left) with Shiv Persaud (left), Mahesh Ramdeo (second, right), and Jamaal Myers at right. Photos by Bobby Ramlagan

Niagara lit up with Golden Arrowhead

From Page 1

Queen's Park. Among the attendees were dignitaries and diplomatic members representing other Caribbean nations here in Toronto.

Additionally, the Toronto Consulate also hosted another flag-raising ceremony at the Scarborough Civic Center, where more than 200 diaspora members, dignitaries, and guests commemorated Guyana's Independence anniversary.

The flag-raising was later topped off at Niagara Falls, where the vibrant colours of Guyana's Golden Arrowhead were splashed on the nightscape of the cascading falls. This resplendent display was viewed by world dignitaries based in Ottawa, who attended as special invitees at a grand reception that was hosted by Guyana's High Commission in Ottawa.

This celebration was followed by another lavish celebration, where Guyanese and many prominent guests marked the Independence anniversary with a "sumptuous and wonderful dinner and gala", the release stated.

This event was organised by the Guyana Independence Festival Committee, under the auspices of the Guyana Consulate, and was held at the St Peter and Paul Banquet Hall in Scarborough on June 8.

The evening saw attendance by Keith George, Guyana's High Commissioner in Ottawa; Honorary Consul Singh; Grace Joseph, acting Consul General; and the hard-working team of consular members in Toronto.

Also in attendance were Shaun Chen, Member of Parliament for Scarborough North; Jamaal Myers, Councillor for Scarborough North, and current Chair of the TTC; Gerry Hopkin, Consul General for Grenada; Mohamed Osman Ali and Mrs Bibi Shariman Ali, parents of Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali; and many leaders and members of Guyana diaspora organisations in the GTA.

Host of the evening was Reverend Dr Kwame Gilbert from the Kingdom Community International Church.

And notable among the special guests was Bishop Juan Edghill, Guyana's Minister of Public Works, who was also the keynote speaker for the evening.

Speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World* last week, Chairman of the Guyana Independence Festival Committee, Malcolm Cho-Kee, praised Edghill for delivering a well-crafted, informative, and elucidating keynote address.

"Bishop Edghill did not try to sell Guyana. Instead, he highlighted some of the features to expect when visiting Guyana. He has a different way of looking at things. He gently told us about all the nice things about Guyana," Cho-Kee said.

He also noted that Edghill's delivery was sprinkled with humour, while facetiously adding, "In an event like this, one must watch the speaking time when handing the microphone to a preacher and a politician... he was both!"

Edghill's keynote address was also commended for its poignancy and on-target delivery in the release from the Consulate and the OGF.

As it noted, Edghill spoke to "the richness of our Guyanese culture, our unique diversity and oneness, and our blessings of being a country with six beautiful peoples living in peace, love, and harmony, celebrating and respecting each other's multiplicity, and showing the world a united front... a vision of a 'One Guyana'..." as envisioned and promoted by Guyana's President Ali.

Also speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World* last week was administrator with the One Guyana Forum, Sharon Chandar, who praised Edghill's delivery at a church event that took place in Toronto, where he displayed "a powerful presence.... [was] very charismatic, and engaged the diaspora in a ... captivating way".

Cho-Kee also commented on the energy that was noticeable on the night of June 8, saying, "[The Festival Committee] knew the evening would have been successful. But we did not expect it would hit such a magnitude..."

He said the evening saw approximately 300 guests in attendance, adding that attendees were treated to a sumptuous meal and pulsating entertainment.

As the release noted, the evening's entertainment was "electrifying", and was provided by the Kunjaz Steel Ensemble, five-time winners of the Guyana's Panorama Steel Pan Awards, along with talented dancers from the National Dance School, also visiting from Guyana.

Special recognition was also given to trumpeter Jan Morgan, Kenton Wyatt from Kendrums Music Academy, and to Ameer Alli.

Cho-Kee also spoke to the discernible and obvious diversity and inclusiveness that were notable at the gala. At the same time he also noted the success of the event, stating it could not have been accomplished without the dedication and industry from the many team players who all contributed to putting together all of the celebratory events.

He also cited the exceptional work by the High Commission in Ottawa.

"High Commissioner George was very supportive; he kept us together. Many, many thanks to him," Cho-Kee said.

And speaking to the upcoming Guyana 58th Anniversary Festival, Cho-Kee extended the invitation to the diaspora to attend yet another celebratory event.

Said Cho-Kee, "The Guyana Festival is coming up, and we are fortunate to have the presence of Vice President Jagdeo. It is free, and is the Festival Committee's way of giving back to the community."

This event takes place at the Malvern Family Resource Centre, 90 Little Road in Scarborough on June 22, and includes softball cricket, soccer games, DJ music, Guyanese artistes, entertainment, and of course, food booths. The interfaith service and opening ceremonies begin at noon.

Corporate sponsors for the event are Geranium, Caribbean Airlines, Kee Plus Realty, Highpower, Norman Sue Bakery, Joe Jaglall Real Estate, Victor's Collection Agency, and the One Guyana Forum.



Queens Book Fair celebrates women, marks Indo-Caribbean Heritage

By Dhanpaul Narine

The Queens Book Fair and Literary Festival Inc held two important events recently. The first took place in April to celebrate women, and then two months later, Indo-Caribbean Heritage was celebrated. Eminent pediatrician Dr Veronica Wiltshire moderated the women's event with a calm and charming efficiency. Her son Ethan Wiltshire began the proceedings with a musical interlude, playing pieces on the cello from Josh Groban and Bach.

The program saw a wide cross-section of the community assemble at the Queens Library to discuss, observe, and celebrate the achievements of women. Dr Wiltshire said that women experience a lot of challenges and struggles, and the idea was to meet and to learn from each other.

The first speaker was Arthur Jackson from the Department of Education, New York City. He called for people to come together and influence the politicians to devise policies to lift up the community. He invited his eighth-grade students to express their views on the subject. Jonathan Collado acknowledged the presence of his mother and called for women to be treated with respect. Xander Martinez said his mom is his world, and that she is supportive of his ambition.

Nathaniel Richards said his mom is the most caring person he knows, and that everyone should treat their mom with love and respect. Daniel Alvarez spoke highly of his aunt, who is always there for him, despite the difficult times. A dynamic young lady, Gabriella Bolt spoke of her hero, and how notable African American women helped to bring about change.

As is usual at the Book Fairs, there was participation from the young people in the community. The main topic of the day was a discussion about domestic violence. Arianna Vee spoke from the heart about her own experience, and it was moving and captivating. She was followed by Sebens Sankar and Devika George, respectively, who reinforced the fact that in matters of domestic violence, it is important that the authorities be notified.

No one should suffer in silence. There is help and one should seek it. These women were applauded for having the courage to stand up and to make a difference. Arianna Vee has entered a beauty contest and is expected to do well. She has the support of her community.

In early June, the Queens Book Fair celebrated Indo-Caribbean heritage. This was moderated by journalist Tracy Khan, who did a wonderful job. As is commonly known, the



State Senator Joe Addabbo (centre in photo above) awarded proclamations to Dr Basdeo Mangru and Sherry Alfredo; at left, Ethan Wiltshire played the cello



Sherry Algreto hails from Trinidad and Tobago. She has dedicated her life to community service. She is the first Indo-Caribbean woman to head a community board in New York City. One of the main events of the meeting was the presentation of proclamations to Dr Mangru and Sherry Algreto by State Senator, Joe Addabbo.

Senator Addabbo praised the Queens Book Fair for bringing together a diverse crowd to celebrate the written and spoken word. He spoke highly of the contributions of the two honorees, a fact that was reinforced by Jaya Dhanraj, grand-daughter of Dr Mangru, and Emily Algreto, Sherry's daughter.

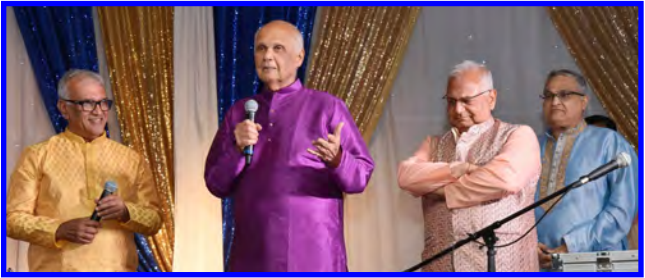
There were a number of notable personalities in attendance that included the former Mayor of Schenectady Albert Jurczynski; Moses Bhagwan, former Guyanese politician; Ralph Tamesh, president of the Indo-Caribbean Federation; and Pastor Jean Bhanmattie. Also, Imran Ali Ahmad; Hiram Rampersaud; Faiuze Ali; Annie Mohan; Vishnu Mahadeo; and photographer Alex Ramdhoon, who took the pictures. Ashook Ramsaran, consultant to the Queens Book Fair, arranged for various citations to be presented, and he also spoke eloquently about the Indo-Caribbean contribution to the community.

The students excelled as usual. Ariana Narine spoke about the need to know more about Indo-Caribbean history, while Amelia Persaud read a poem about immigrants in America. Damon Persaud did a report on the late Dr Cheddi Jagan; his sister Samara looked at life in America. Shanette Rossan called for tolerance and respect in Guyana. Melissa Deokie read a poem on Ma getting up early help cut the canes; while Maya and Malia Hardwar reminded us about the contributions of Mahadai Das. Maya read *They Came in Ships* by Das.

Karissa Jagbeer writes her own poems and speeches and leaves us wanting more, and Ray Mangru read an inspirational poem calling for peace. Rani Persaud added grace to the occasion, reading beautifully about love and peace, and Lionel Narine read about the importance of being 'us'.

A highlight from the young presenters came from Sebastian Singh who read brilliantly from Guyanese history, and he called for unity in Guyana.

The next event is on August 3, 2024 when we will explore the magic of poetry, prose, and passion.



A sold out audience was treated to the golden voices of Pt Neil Dev Persad, Pt Narad Gosine, Pt Hardat Ashwar, and Pt Rajeev Persaud when the Radha Krishna held its Bhakti Sangeet 2 mega concert last weekend in Etobicoke. Also entertaining the audience were musicians on the tabla, harmonium, and a young player who performed brilliant fretwork on the electric guitar. Radha Krishna's senior youth group ensemble also thrilled the audience. The concert was a fund-raiser for the new Radha Krishna mandir, which is being built in Cambridge. The evening also saw touching expressions of gratitude by the mandir to its main sponsors, among whom were Omesh Jewellery Designs, Lotus Funeral and Cremation Centre, Pro-tek Services, and Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre. *Photos by Kiran Panchal*



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TT author Hosein’s Hungry Ghosts wins 2024 Walter Scott Prize

Trinidad and Tobago novelist and short story writer Kevin Jared Hosein has won the 2024 Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction for his latest novel *Hungry Ghosts*.

Hosein took home the £25,000 first prize at the Borders Book Festival in Melrose on June 13.

The novel tells the story of marginalised Hindu communities in Trinidad during the 1940s. As Hosein described his winning text, it is a narrative in the time when British colonial rule was loosening and Trinidad was starting to be reborn.

The judging panel included broadcasters Kirsty Wark and James Naughtie, and was chaired by writer Elizabeth Laird. Together, they described the narrative as “richly imaginative, urgent, and compelling”.

Hosein lives in Trinidad and Tobago and has been a secondary school biology teacher for over a decade. He has also written two previous novels, and won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2018.

Speaking ahead of attending the prize-giving ceremony in the Scottish Borders, Hosein told the British media that it was “truly a privilege” to be shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize.

He received the £25,000 prize money at the Borders Book Festival in Melrose from the Walter Scott’s great-great-great-grandson, Matthew Maxwell Scott, a trustee of his ancestor’s residence, Abbotsford.

The trust also manages the prize, and is supported by Hawthornden Foundation, the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust, and the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry in honour of Elizabeth Buccleuch.

The modern-day Scott said of his ancestor, “As Scott was the inspiration for the genre of historical fiction, we hope this year’s



Author Hosein (right) is congratulated by Scott at the prize-giving on June 13

nominees and winner can inspire many more authors in their writing careers. Those of us involved in preserving Abbotsford and Scott’s legacy could not be prouder to associate ourselves with this wonderful prize and its supremely gifted recipients.”

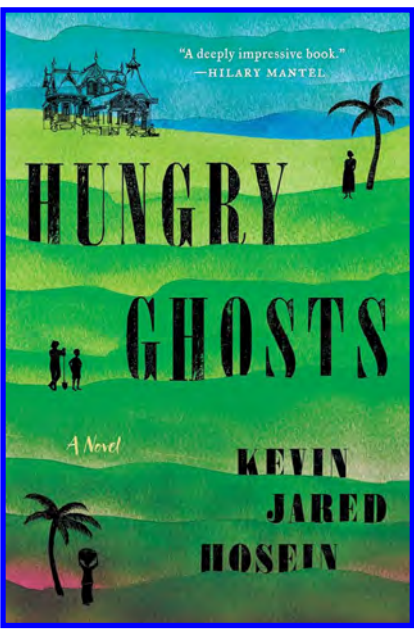
The Walter Scott Prize is one of the UK’s major literary awards, with previous winners including Sebastian Barry, Robert Harris, Andrea Levy, and Hilary Mantel.

It was founded in 2009, and is open to novels published in the previous year in the UK, Ireland, or the Commonwealth, and set at least 60 years ago as an echo of the subtitle of Scott’s most famous work, *Waverley*, “‘Tis 60 years since”. The books must also be written in English.

In its comments, the judging panel stated that Hosein triumphed “with a many-layered tale woven with the dexterity and alchemy of the true story-teller”.

It added that the novel plunges the reader into the turbulence of precarious lives struggling to flourish amid the vivid natural lushness of 1940s Trinidad.

Hosein collected his prize at a ceremony on June 13. It was held at the Borders Book Festival in Melrose, Scottish Borders.



As he stated, it was “a privilege to be shortlisted and to have Trinidad and Tobago... represented on such an impressive stage”.

He also added, “Moreover, I feel like I am accomplishing the dreams of my ancestors when they first crossed those dark seas from India almost two centuries ago.”

The prize-giving event was in itself an historic moment, the media in Trinidad and Tobago reported earlier this week.

As the Trinidad and Tobago *Newsday* noted, Hosein himself is a descendant from Indo-Caribbean Indentured ancestors, and that his most recent success came via a legacy held and maintained by a descendant of Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), and the Dukes of Buccleuch, with whom Scott had a close family relationship.

Maxwell Scott is a trustee of his ancestor’s residence, Abbotsford, with an independent trust managing the prize.

A news release in the UK on June 13 noted that Abbotsford is Scott’s “romance in stone”, and that it was built on the proceeds of books, and is filled with a love of storytelling.

The Duke of Buccleuch is also a sponsor of the Young Walter Scott Prize, a creative writing prize for 11 to 19 year-olds that encourages the exploration of historical writing and research.

The Walter Scott Prize 2024 also saw the following novels on its shortlist that included Hosein’s winning *Hungry Ghosts*: *The New Life* by Tom Crewe; *My Father’s House*, by Joseph O’Connor; *In the Upper Country*, by Kai Thomas; *Absolutely and Forever*, by Rose Tremain; and *The House of Doors* by Tan Twan Eng.

“We visit the afterlife, or whatever you perceive death to be, as tourists every time we sleep.” The guest speaker, invited by the faculty of Philosophy, used his index finger to push his round wire-rimmed glasses up the bridge of his nose. His lips curled between his white bushy mustache and beard and the crows-feet at the sides of his eyes deepened.

“We make practice runs into the afterlife when we enter the parallel universe every time we dream, which is every time we sleep. We may remember them in whole or in part, or not at all.”

He cleared his throat and stared at the students in the pin-drop silence for half a minute, while each student glanced back and forth between their thin short presenter with a slight bend in his back, and the bed standing in the corner of the stage. The white linen sheet draped over the bed looked eerie in the dimmed yellow light of the arts and drama theatre, which the university used for the lecture because of its stage and seating capacity. University staff and students were given an open invitation to the presentation by the world-renowned philosopher, Doctor Koenig Salter.

“I slept through the night last night without dreaming.” The student at the back of the class attracted all eyes. Heads spun around to the front to see the professor’s reaction to the insolence.

“Thank you for volunteering.” Doctor Salter shaded his eyes from the spotlight above him to catch a glimpse of the offending heckler. “Come on down and help me with my experiment.” He grinned. “Skeptics make the best subjects.”

“Okay.” After hesitating for a few seconds, all eyes on the interrupter forced him to accept the philosopher’s challenge. He got up and made his way down to the stage where the doctor waited to shake his hand with a smile.

“Pleased to meet you, Mr...” Doctor Salter shook his subject’s hand when he arrived on the stage and waited for him to say his name.

“Kimble, Tom Kimble.” Tom’s face glowed red and his lips

The Supernatural Dreamscape

twitched, but he mirrored the doctor’s smile while the audience clapped.

“Welcome, Tom.” Doctor Salter waited for everyone to settle back down. “Please be quiet while we conduct this experiment.” He spoke respectfully to the onlookers. “Tom will demonstrate to us that dreams are real in a virtual world.”

He led Tom to the bed and asked him to lie on it. The doctor stepped aside while a technician appeared from behind the stage with a helmet that he placed on Tom’s head. He hooked up a dozen wires extending from the helmet to a cable attached to the Jumbotron screen at the back of the stage. Once the connections were complete, the technician disappeared once more behind the stage. Doctor Salter placed Tom under hypnosis with the instructions to sleep as he normally does at home without outside stimuli. Again, he reminded his audience that complete silence was necessary for the experiment to work.

“You are about to witness the ‘ghost’ effect.” The doctor raised his hands and made imaginary quotation marks with his index and middle fingers while he whispered into the mike pinned to the lapel of his suit jacket. Within minutes, the screen came alive. It showed the theatre and its occupants from above. “He’s floating above us.” Doctor Salter pointed to the ceiling.

In an instant, the screen went blank, and a white dot appeared in the centre. The screen zoomed in until the entire screen turned white, but the journey into the dot continued until objects started to come into focus as Tom floated above them.



“What are you doing here?” Tom’s eerie scream echoed around the theatre. Everyone gasped. “You’re dead! You are not supposed to be here!”

“I am where I belong, Tom.” An old lady with white unkempt hair wrapped in a white shroud with her arms crossed at her chest spoke to her grandson. Her eyes were closed, and she had a stern look on her face. “You are a ghost in my world of the dead as I would become if I invaded your world of the living?” Her eyes popped open, and she glared at him with white eyeballs before the screen went black and the piercing sound of a crying newborn filled the theatre.

“Help me.” Tom’s voice boomed and bounced off every wall, silencing the baby’s screams into total silence.

“That was not his grandmother.” Doctor Salter chuckled. “That was him in a previous existence living on in the parallel universe. We always leave an indelible stamp of ourselves with the physical appearance we carry to our deathbed.” He glanced at Tom and whispered, “The baby is his failed attempt at rebirth. He died with his mother in childbirth as an unborn infant. This is the reason for the reddish-black screen. He never saw the light of day.”

The screen moved to a different scene. Tom’s eyes popped above water in what appeared to be a swamp, alive with creature activities and vegetation, both dead and alive. He tasted the water and paid attention to the vibrations around him. He looped himself and dived under. His already poor vision was further hampered by the murky orange water in his search for food.

A movement among the rotten leaves at the bottom of the swamp caught his attention. He zeroed in on an eel and swooped in to make the kill, but realised too late that he had sunk his teeth into an electric eel. The high voltage shuddered his body and left him lifeless. The lesson learned was too late because he never re-emerged as a snake.

“Ever experienced *déjà vu*?” Doctor Slater’s question caused a lot of heads to nod. “That is a latent memory of a previous visit to the parallel universe.” When he released Tom from hypnosis, terror was written all over his face. The netherworld intertwined with sleep left him as shaken as the audience.

Rowley comments on UNC’s elections

Port-of-Spain – Describing the UNC internal elections’ campaign as one filled with “animosity” and “invective”, Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley wondered why someone would enter the contest given such a challenging landscape.

The UNC’s internal elections’ took place on June 14, and was later described by leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar as a “bruising” and “battering” campaign.

At the time, Rowley was addressing supporters as he wrapped up a political meeting in Moruga, south Trinidad, ahead of a by-election that took place on Monday.

Weighing in on the notable turbulence in the opposition party, Rowley described it as a “UNC bacchanal”, and wondered why anyone would want to contest the internal elections, given the level of animosity that emerged.

“Have you all seen, where you in a party, the party has elections, you decide to run for the election, and immediately that generates the worst kind of hatred and invective, and insult, and expulsion from the leader?” Rowley asked.

He added, “I still can’t figure out why would anybody want to be in that situation. If that is what it was going to be, what did you call the election for?”

The UNC concluded its National Executive internal election on June 14. However, as the media have noted, it was a bitter campaign from the start.

Following the election, Persad-Bissessar

described it as “the lowest” she had seen in her years as political leader of the UNC.

The campaign started off with some members of the UNC challenging the leadership, and who later emerged as the ‘United Patriots’.

Meanwhile, Rowley appeared to smooth over his own experience of divisiveness, animosity, and turbulence when he recalled challenging then Political Leader Patrick Manning in 1996 following the PNM’s defeat at the polls in 1995.

As that challenge unfolded back then, Rowley had called for Manning to resign, and he ended up losing the battle for the leadership of the PNM.

However, as he recalled it last weekend, he said after his defeat he had called a press conference and said, “The election is over. The party has elected a leader. The leader can count on my full support”.

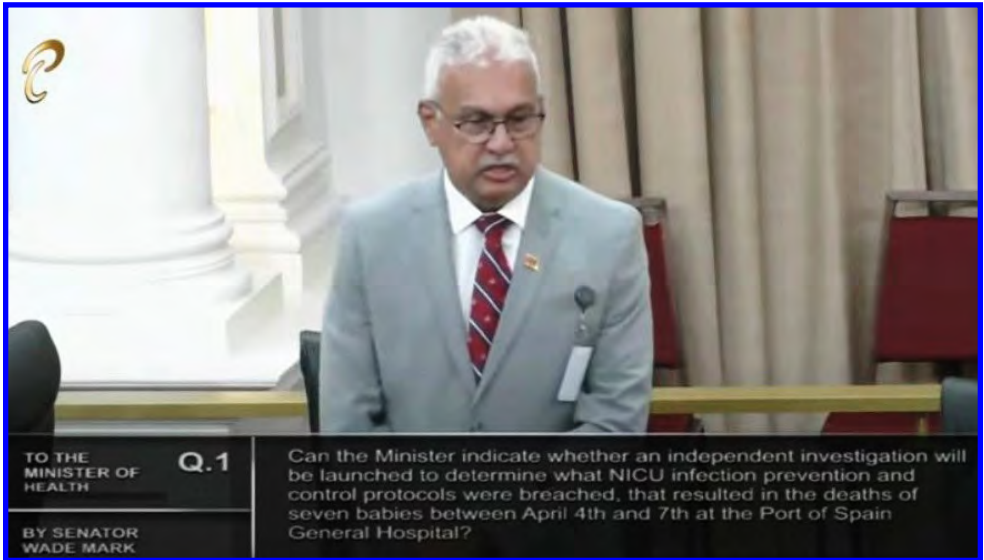
As he recalled, he then went on to fight to get Patrick Manning and the PNM back into power.

However, as the media reported, fact checking of its archives indicate the campaign was not as rosy as Rowley recalled last weekend. It added that many supporters still believe the animosity within the PNM has resonated since.

Meanwhile, speaking about the UNC over the weekend, Rowley said, “So when I’m watching what is going on now in a party that said they want to run the country, put God out your thoughts, and put them so, in charge of the country. If they behaving so outside of government, you could imagine what they would do in government?”



Keith Rowley



Deyalsingh reports on the investigation into the deaths of the seven babies at the PoSGH’s NICU during the Urgent Questions’ segment in Parliament on April 16

Deyalsingh awaits PAHO report on babies’ deaths

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago’s Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh last week revealed that he remains keen to get answers from PAHO regarding the probe into the deaths of seven babies at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital earlier this year.

The PAHO probe came following the deaths of seven babies between April 4 to April 9 at the PoSGH’s NICU.

Last week Deyalsingh indicated he was still waiting on a date from PAHO on when he will receive the report.

“They haven’t given me a firm date as yet,” he told journalists in Port-of-Spain.

A three-member team from PAHO began an independent investigation two weeks after the deaths.

The PAHO members are Professor Dr Nalini Singh, a paediatrician from the Global Health and Epidemiology department at George Washington University; Dr Grisel Rodriguez, a clinical microbiologist, Head of Microbiology, Centro de Asistencia Medica Soriano; and Dr Gillian Birchwood, a newborn intensive care specialist and head of the Neonatal Care Intensive Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados.

Days later, the team completed its investigation at the NICU, and met with ministry officials. It also met with officials at the North West Regional Health Authority for a debriefing following the five-day investigative period.

Deyalsingh said the report will be made public as soon as he gets a date.

“I want answers too,” he stated.

Among the parents who lost their babies were Shaniya Raymond-Adams and Kerron Charles, who lost their baby Kae’ Jhene Kerniah Charles; Chirese Moore-Beckles and Rondell Beckles, who lost Crystell Precious Miracle; and Danyelle Samaroo and Avinash Chatergoon, who lost Aarya Raya Chatergoon.

Also among the parents were Jodie Molino and Travis Molino, who lost baby Esme Molino; Shaquille Harry and Kadeem Williams, whose baby Romani Williams died; and Natasha Samuel and Brent Wilson, who lost their newborn Skiye Samuel.

Following the deaths, more parents then came forward saying they too had lost newborns. Along with the other parents, they too have claimed that negligence by staff at PoSGH NICU, and at two other regional health authorities, led to the deaths of their children.



Ministry of National Security’s Permanent Secretary Natasha Barrow (left to right), Minister Hinds, USAID’s Mervyn Farroe, and US Ambassador Bond

US gives govt report on TT’s gangs

Port-of-Spain – A new study by the US Agency for International Development on crime and criminality in Trinidad and Tobago will play a crucial role in formulating strategies to combat criminal gangs in the country, Minister of National Security Fitzgerald Hinds said last week.

Hinds made the statement after he was presented with the USAID Criminal Dynamics Study for Trinidad and Tobago, along with its key findings.

According to a media release last week from the National Security Ministry, the comprehensive study offers critical insights, and recommendations necessary for developing effective strategies to combat gang-related activities.

It added that last week’s meeting saw Hinds in discussions with US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Candace Bond and USAID representatives.

The ministry statement said the event provided an opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago and the US to strengthen their collaboration on shared crime and security concerns.

It also noted that Ambassador Bond expressed optimism the study would illuminate the root causes of gang activities in Trinidad and Tobago, and aid in the implementation of interventions designed to counter, disrupt, and dismantle gangs.

At the meeting, Ambassador Bond emphasised the importance of the US’ ongoing partnership with Trinidad and Tobago, particularly through initiatives like the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, recognising the Caribbean as the US’ “Third Border”.

During the meeting, Mervyn Farroe, USAID’s Regional Representative for the Eastern and Southern Caribbean, reiterated its commitment to collaborating with the Ministry of National Security to address crime and violence, particularly through research supporting policy development.

Hinds welcomed the study, expressing gratitude to USAID and Ambassador Bond for their support in Trinidad and Tobago’s fight against crime. He also underscored the importance of violence intervention programmes to bolster community resilience against crime and gangs.

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Persad-Bissessar's Star Team defeats Paray's United Patriots

Port-of-Spain – The campaign undertaken by the defeated United Patriots slate and overall tonality of the UNC's internal elections as the worst she ever witnessed, Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar has said.

She made the comments at her Siparia constituency office in Penal on June 15 during the announcement of preliminary results.

However, she did speak to positivity in the party moving forward, noting that following the elections' results, the UNC now had a committed National Executive in place.

"I am overwhelmed because the love and support of the UNC have been tremendous..." she stated.

However, she did touch on the tenor of the campaign in the lead-up to the voting on June 15, describing it as bruising, battering, and gruelling.

"It was a campaign that was rooted in dishonesty from the first day. You will remember that the [United Patriots] came out and told you that we were not going to hold this internal election," she recalled.

She added, "So from day one, the other team started with a lie, with dishonesty, and the campaign continued."

She also recalled historical polls, noting she had participated in six internal elections since being elected to the leadership in 2010.

And so, in hindsight, "This has been the worst, and that is why the UNC membership rejected by a landslide that kind of campaign [by the UP]," she declared.

According to the preliminary results available earlier this week, it appears the Persad-Bissessar-endorsed Star Team had trounced Mayaro MP Rushton Paray's UP by a significant number of votes. The indicators were that Star Team slate won by an overwhelming majority.

Meanwhile, the win by the Star Team did not surprise political analysts Dr Windford James and Dr Indira Rampersad.

According to James, the results did not come as a shock to him, as he did not think the



Persad-Bissessar (second, left) with UNC's Star Team members after their win

UP team was organised in a way that would command support from the UNC base.

"The UP probably thought that the grievances within the party would have helped turn the electorate away from the Star team. They were living in a fool's paradise," he said.

He added that all the anger and self-righteousness the UP presented to the public in their quest to overthrow the team that supported political leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar had been defused.

James also questioned Paray's statements indicating his team was willing to work with the newly-elected national executive.

"Is he helping voluntarily? Is he waiting to be called? Is he going to Kamla and make peace with her? The mechanics of that we do not know just yet. These are difficult results for the UP because the team thought they had it in the bag," James stated.

Rampersad said she had predicted the outcome, as the Persad-Bissessar slate has always been difficult to unseat.

She added that it would be interesting to see how Paray wanted to work with Persad-Bissessar whose comments after the win was it has been the worst campaign, and it had left behind scars after a gruelling internal battle.

Rampersad also wondered how the UP team is expected to work with an executive that they ran against, and a leader who endorsed that executive.

"I think it is easier said than done to think that you can put everything behind you and work together. That may be in the best interest of the party, but a lot of things were said on the platform. The question is whether those words can be forgotten as they move forward," Rampersad said.

She added, "You cannot say you want to work with the party, and then on the other

hand you are undermining the party. That has to be seen in actions and not words, so the commitment must come from the heart and soul, and if they are prepared to do that to win the next General Elections, then it is certainly possible."

Among the results were Star Team candidates Senator Jearlean John, Oropouche East MP Dr Roodal Moonilal, and Pointe-a-Pierre MP David Lee, who easily defeated UP's Paray, Tabaguite MP Anita Haynes-Alleyne, and Cumuto/Manzanilla MP Dr Rai Ragbir for the three deputy political leader positions.

Coming in with the lowest number of votes was the sole independent candidate for the deputy political leader position, businessman Robert Amar, with 426 votes.

John garnered 13,083 votes, Lee was showing 12,734 votes, and Moonilal had received 13,256 votes.

Earlier this week, Paray's ongoing vote count was at 4,043, while Haynes-Alleyne had acquired 3,780 votes, with Ragbir acquiring 3,279.

Battling for the position of party chairman were the Star Team's Oropouche West MP Dave Tancoo and attorney Larry Lalla for the UP. Tancoo received 13,228 votes in the preliminary results, while Lalla had 3,895 votes.

The position of deputy chairman was fought by UP's Germaine Abdulla and the Star Team's Hamlyn Jailal. Abdulla gained 4,019 votes, while Jailal showed up with 13,250 votes.

The Star Team's majority over the UP continued in other categories, including for positions in Tobago. Aiming for the position of Policy and Strategy Officer were Barataria/San Juan MP Saddam Hosein for the Star Team, and attorney Kiel Taklalsingh for UP. With 13,426 votes, Hosein easily ran past Taklalsingh's haul of 4,054 votes.

Lawyers call for new SC committee

Port-of-Spain – An independent committee should be implemented to handle the appointment of Senior Counsel, the Association of Southern Lawyers said earlier this week.

The call from the ASL was made after 13 lawyers were awarded the title at a ceremony on June 17 at President's House.

In a media release on June 17, the association said the State should pass legislation to establish a senior counsel committee to avoid the perception of political interference in the award of silk.

It noted on multiple occasions attorneys who are career politicians were elevated to Senior Counsel.

"It is prudent to have an independent panel to review the applications made, and to recommend appointments based on merit, so as not to cause the reasonable person to draw the conclusions that appointments were made based on political patronage, whilst neglecting to recognise members of the Bar who were deserving of such an elevation," the statement declared.

It added that senior attorneys with decades of practice who were involved in landmark judgments are being overlooked continuously without reason, while others appointed to the rank of Senior Counsel have less experience and skill.

The ASL also pointed out that the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago produced a report in 2015 that proposed the procedure and criteria for appointing Senior Counsel, along with recommendations for the obligations of the persons appointed to the rank.

LATT's membership in its 2015 annual

general meeting agreed the award of Senior Counsel should be granted by the President on the recommendation of an independent panel comprising the Chief Justice, Attorney General, three Supreme Court judges, and three Senior Counsels appointed by LATT.

Attorney General Reginald Armour, SC, was LATT's president at the time, while Faris Al-Rawi was the AG.

The membership also agreed LATT will formulate a policy regarding the qualifications and requirements for the award of silk, the procedure for application, the procedure to be adopted in considering candidates, the regulations and disciplinary process to guide the conduct of those awarded silk, and the circumstances and procedure for its recall.


In its release, the ASL said, "Despite numerous efforts being made by the previous presidents of LATT to persuade the government to accept and implement the recommendations of the Silk Report, no changes have been made."

It maintained the establishment of an independent panel chaired by the Chief Justice to make recommendations for the appointment of silk would achieve greater transparency and accountability in the process.


"The time is ripe for change. The current system allows for dubious aspersions to be cast by the public on award of Senior Counsel being made based on nepotism, political patronage, and political bias, as opposed to the award being made purely on merit based on the recommendations of an independent panel," it stated.



Faris Al-Rawi



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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Movies, songs remain memorable today from the 1940-1960 era

By Vidur Dindayal
I enjoy listening to old Hindi film songs. Some were very popular and some memorable. They are from movies dating back from the 1940s to the late 1960s.

On the radio in Guyana, firstly it was ZFY Radio then Radio Demerara, on Indian Hour programmes, which featured Hindi film songs. Then the announcer would often state, “This song is by Shamhad Begum; or by Geeta Dutt; or Lata Mangeshkar”, and so on. That time, of course, I did not know what these singers looked like.

Thanks to Wikipedia and YouTube for the information in this piece.

Anari starring Raj Kapoor, Nutan, Motilal, and Lalita Pawar, is a lovely film to watch. It was the highest-grossing film of 1959 with the Box Office India declaring it a Super Hit.

The story is about Raj Kumar (Raj Kapoor) a painter who is unable to earn a living. He finds a wallet containing money and returns it to the owner, Mr Ramnath (Motilal), who then employs him to work in his office. Raj meets Ramnath’s maidservant Asha (Nutan). They fall in love with each other.

The music was by Shankar Jaikishan, and lyrics by Hasrat Jaipuri and Shailendra. Singers were Lata Mangeshkar, Mukesh, and Manna Dey. All the songs are entertaining. Dil Ki Nazar Se is a romantic song in a canoe in the river. Nineteen Fifty Six is a lively number with dancers. Ban Ke Panchhi is a happy song with girls riding cycles.

Anari (Naive) won many Best Filmfare Awards in 1960: Best Actor – Raj Kapoor; Best Music Director – Shankar Jaikishan; Best Supporting Actress – Lalita Pawar; Best Lyricist – Shailendra; and Best Male Playback Singer – Mukesh. It was also awarded the 1959 President’s Silver Medal for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

Paigham (Message) directed by S.S. Vasan, and starring Dilip Kumar, Vijayanthimala, Raaj Kumar, Pandari Bai, B. Saroja Devi, Motilal, and Johnny Walker, was the second highest-grossing film of 1959. This was the first time Dilip Kumar and Raaj Kumar appeared in a film together.

A widowed lady lives with her two sons, Ram (Raaj Kumar) and Ratan (Dilip), Ram’s wife and her children. Ram works in a mill and Ratan is studying engineering. Ratan returns, he is offered a job at the mill, and falls in love with Manju (Vijaylakshmi). He also heads a workers union. The brothers are on opposite sides.

Music was by C. Ramchandra, and lyrics by Kavi Pradeep. Singers were Manna Dey, Asha Bhonsle, Mohammed Rafi, and Suman Kalyanpur. All the songs are entertaining.

Yahi Paigham Hamara is touching with brothers embracing, workers collecting pay, with Motilal behind the counter dispensing the pay. Main Kyun Na Nachoon Aaj is a lively dance song. Hum Rang Rangeeli Yauwan is very enjoyable with seven girls in car, five sitting on top of the backrest of the back seat, and two in front driving in the open road.

Navrang (Nine Colours) is beautiful, and was written and directed by V. Shantaram. It was the third highest grossing film of 1959.

V. Shantaram, a celebrated name in Indian cinema, best known for films Dr Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani (1946) and Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje (1955), was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Navrang was filmed in the Rajkamal Kalamandir studio he created in 1942.

Navrang stars the superb actor Mahipal as Divakar, dancer Sandhya as Jamuna/Mohini. Diwakar’s wife is unpleasant to him because he lives in a fantasy world.

He is constantly imagining his wife Jamuna as Mohini, being nice singing and dancing with him. Jamuna is told that she is lucky to have a husband who loves her so much. She patches up with her husband.

Music is by C. Ramchandra. Among the 12 entertaining songs were singer Mahendra Kapoor’s singing debut song Aadha Hai Chandramaa Raat Aadhi, with lead actress Sandhya dancing with seven goblets on her head. This film is noted for its dance sequences with Sandhya.

Dhool Ka Phool (Flower of Dust) stars Rajendra Kumar, Mala Sinha, Ashok Kumar, Nanda, Leela Chitnis, Jeevan, and Manmohan Krishna.

The film was fourth highest grosser of the year, and declared a Super Hit by the box office.



Anari



Dhool Ka Phool



Paigham



Chhoti Bahen

The story revolves around a Muslim man Abdul Rasheed, who is bringing up a Hindu child. It featured the classic song Too Hindu Banega Na Musalman Banega, Insaan Ki Aulaad Hai, Insaan Banega on Manmohan Krishna. He won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Meena (Mala Sinha) and Mahesh Kapoor (Rajendra Kumar), who are in love. Meena becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son. Mahesh disowns Meena and her child. Meena leaves the child in a forest. Abdul Rasheed (Manmohan Krishna) sees the child and raises the child. He tells Mahesh how he found the child. Mahesh admits his fault.

Music was by N. Dutta, with lyrics by Sahir Ludhianvi. Singers were Mohammed Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Mahendra Kapoor, and Sudha Malhotra. There were eight entertaining songs.

Goonj Uthi Shehnai (The Call of the Shehnai) starring Rajendra Kumar, Ameeta, Anita Guha, and I.S. Johar, was the fifth highest grosser of the year, and declared a Hit at the Box Office India. It was the first big hit for actor Rajendra Kumar.

The story of a Shehnai player is captivating. It features Shehnai recitals by maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan, a musical duet between him and Sitar player, Abdul Halim Jaffar Khan, and music from Harikesh Pushpapathan, and classical vocals by Amir Khan.

Music is by Vasant Desai. Singers were Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Geeta Dutt, and Kishore Kumar. Among nine enjoyable songs are most popular hits: Jivan Men Piya Tera Sath Rahe; Tere Sur Aur Mere Geet; Dil Ka Khilona Hai Toot Gaya; dance number Haule Haule Ghoonghat Pat Khole; and Aankhiyan Bhool Gayi Hain Sona with girls dancing near a river.

Dil Deke Dekho (Try Giving Your Heart) made history. This was listed sixth as the year’s top grossers and a super hit.

Beside Tumsa Nahi Dekha’s success, Shammi Kapoor had not yet made a name for himself. Dil Deke Dekho was modern, a big hit, and gave Shammi Kapoor a new image as a comedic, dancing hero. Also, Asha Parekh, a former child actress, made her film debut as heroine. The film was released on her 17th birthday.

The story is about Neeta, an heiress, being wooed by three young men, but in the end falls in love with Raja. But Raja’s identity is questioned. His own mother denies him. Raja has to prove himself.

The music director was Usha Khanna, and this was her first film, with the lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri. The songs are memorable. Usha Khanna has an O.P. Nayyar touch. Singers were Asha Bhonsle, and Mohammed Rafi.

All the songs are lively and entertaining, mainly with main singers accompanied by dancers in the open outdoor, making it a visual treat.

Sujata starring Nutan, Sunil Dutt, Shashikala, Lalita Pawar, and Sulochana, explored caste problems. Sujata was listed seventh of the year’s highest grossers.

A Brahmin couple brings up an orphaned child, Sujata. The mother, Charu, was unhappy with Sujata when she learnt she

was an untouchable. Charu had a serious accident. She needed transfusion of a rare group blood. Sujata’s blood matches. Charu realises that her life was saved by Sujata.

S.D. Burman is music director, with lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri. Singers are S.D. Burman, Talat Mahmood, Asha Bhosle, Geeta Dutt, and Mohammed Rafi. All the seven songs are enjoyable. Tum Jeeo Hazaaron Saal, and Bachpan Ke Din Bhi Kya Din are especially happy songs.

Sujata won the Filmfare Awards for Best Movie – Bimal Roy; Best Director – Bimal Roy; Best Actress – Nutan; and Best Story – Subodh Ghosh. It received the National Film Awards (1959) All India Certificate of Merit for the Third Best Feature Film.

Chhoti Bahen (Younger Sister), stars Nanda in the title role, with Balraj Sahni and Rehman as her brothers, and Shyama. It is eighth in the year’s top grossers.

Chhoti Bahen was a super hit in Guyana. It is the story of a girl in a poor family whose life was turned upside down when she became blind. Her marriage was cancelled. Her elder brother remained single to look after her. Her other brother gets married, and lives well and turns his back on his blind sister.

Music was composed by Shankar-Jaikishan, with lyrics by Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri. Singers were Lata Mangeshkar, Mukesh, Subir Sen, Asha Bhonsle, and Manna Dey. Out

of the eight enjoyable songs, Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan was the most popular and memorable song. So were Main Rickshawala and Main Rangeela Pyar Ka Rahi.

The movie received these nominations for Filmfare Awards: Best film; Best Director – Prasad; Best Supporting Actor – Mehmood; Best Music Director – Shankar-Jaikishan; Best Playback Singer – Lata Mangeshkar for the song Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko.

Do Ustad (Two Masters) starring Mukhtar, Raj Kapoor, and Madhubala, came ninth in the year’s list of highest grossers. It ran in theatres for more than 25 weeks, becoming a silver jubilee hit. The criminal Jagannath when asked to say anything in his defence, relates his story in a flashback. He became a seasoned criminal. His wife, totally unaware of his profession, is told the real identity of her husband. Meantime she gets a son. Jagannath does not know he has a son. Jagannath goes to jail and the film ends.

The music of Do Ustad was composed by O.P. Nayyar, with lyrics by Qamar Jalalabadi. Singers are Mohammed Rafi, Asha Bhosle, and Shamshad Begum. All the eight songs are very enjoyable to watch with singing and beautiful dancing.

Chirag Kahan Roshni Kahan (Where Is The lamp? Where Is The Light?) stars Rajendra Kumar, Meena Kumari, Honey Irani, and Madan Puri. It was tenth in the year’s list of highest grossers.

Before giving birth to her child, Ratna (Meena Kumari) loses her husband, and eventually gives birth to a dead child. Dr Anand’s (Rajendra Kumar) wife also gives birth to a baby and then she dies. Ratna’s condition is critical. Dr Anand gives his baby boy to her. Eventually, Ratna gets married to Dr Anand.

Music was by Ravi. Singers were Mohammed Rafi, Lata Mageshkar, and Suman Kalyanpur.

The film received two nominations at the 1960 Filmfare Awards: Best Actress – Meena Kumari; and Best Story – Dhruva Chatterjee.

Among non-top ten grosser movies of 1959, are Kali Topi Laal Rumal, starring Chandrashekhar, Shakila, Agha, Mukri, K.N. Singh, and Kumkum, with music by Chitragupta and lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri. Chitragupta’s music has that special quality of being lively. There are four beautiful dance numbers to enjoy.

Kaagaz Ke Phool (Paper Flowers) is produced and directed by Guru Dutt, who also played the lead role, with Waheeda Rehman. The first Indian film in CinemaScope, it is regarded as a cult classic. Music was composed by S.D. Burman, with lyrics by Kaifi Azmi and Shailendra. This movie is a part of the syllabus in many film schools.

The song San San San Woh Chali Hawa is a happy song by a group in a car. Dekhi Zamane Ki Yaari is a reflective song. The most memorable for song is Waqt Ne Kiya Kya. The scene is a dark room with light streaming in at the singer.

Love Marriage, starring Dev Anand, Mala Sinha, and Suresh, has lots of enjoyable songs. The music is of Shankar Jaikishan with lyrics by Hasrat Jaipuri and Shailendra.

Earnings by stars must be realistic: Aaryan

Kartik Aaryan has recently been speaking out about being an actor who thinks about the profit of his producers, the *Indian Express* reported last week. Aaryan's comments were first reported by the outlet, *Film Companion*.

At this time he is getting ready for the release of *Chandu Champion*, which is directed by Kabir Khan. According to the *Indian Express* report, Aaryan does not mind taking a pay cut, or reducing his salary, as long as it benefits everyone involved in the making of the film.

"I have been very conscious about it that my producers or anybody associated with my film has to earn," he told *Film Companion* in a recent interview.

In the recent months, conversations have been circulating about superstars who charge crores and crores [one crore = \$160,000 in Canadian currency] per film, their fees then causing disruptions to the budget of the movie, and hence the quality of the production.

Aaryan expanded on his position on taking a pay cut, saying, "If a star is getting that value of a revenue from digital rights, satellite rights, or from theatrical business... if that adds up, I think there is the scope of getting some kind of fees, but if it doesn't, then you have to lower your price."

He also stressed the importance of fairness, adding, "I don't work with the mindset *saari duniya mein kuch ho, main toh kamaunga* [Whatever happens to the rest, I must earn]. It can't be like I'm the only one who is earning. My producers and directors are aware of this, and I am sure that a lot of actors are also doing that. It is good for the larger eco-system. Apart from the reviews, we also need box-office numbers. *Main hamesha apni fee kam karne ko ready rehta hoon* [I am always ready to reduce my fee]."

He noted, "Because there are lots and lots of people involved in the film and *sabke ghar chalne hai, sabke gharpe kaam hona chhaiye* [everyone should earn their livelihood]. Day and night, everybody's working so hard. So everyone needs some kind of profitability."

Aaryan also spoke to the financial dynamics in movie-making and acting in an interview with *PTI*, saying, "There are so many rights of a film when it releases. So you get an 'X' amount of money out of it. If your star value and the entire project's value gives profit to the entire team, then I think the math adds

up. If it doesn't, then you have to, you should take a cut... It's a healthy discussion."

As was reported, Aaryan decided to forego his fee while working on *Shehzada*, when the movie began facing a financial crunch.

Also, in another interview, he told *Showsha* he was given a producer credit for the film. "I got a producer credit in the film because I let go of my fee. I did this when no one was talking about these things. Because they were falling short of finances, I let go off my remuneration. No one writes this about stars. It is not just me, a lot of stars do this, and a lot bigger things. There is a simple mathematics. From directors, actors, to producers, everyone wants their films to work. No one wants to load their films. I don't think anyone thinks, 'No, no, I will charge what I want to, film *jaaye bhaad mein* [The film be damned],'" he declared.

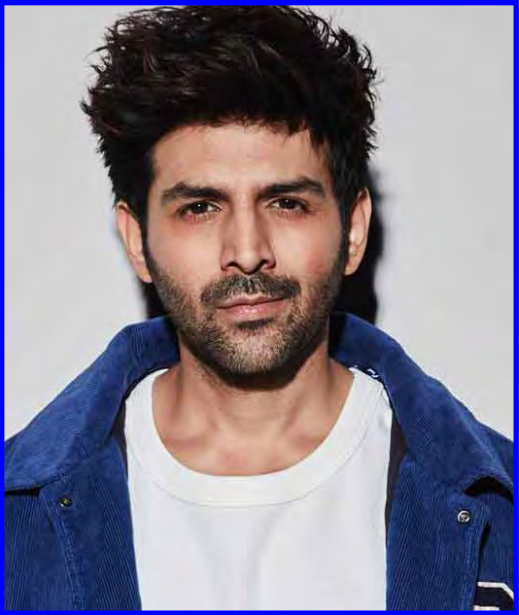
And speaking to his experience as an outsider in the industry, Aaryan also addressed his feelings of isolation, since he has not made any friends in Bollywood.

"It does get lonely and I have felt lonely a lot of times. I have had a lot of buddies in school and college, who have moved to different countries for work, so it gets lonely for me. I don't have anyone here," he revealed.

Additionally, "Friday to Friday *yahan* relationships change *hoti rehti hai* [Relationships change on Fridays in this industry] because friendships keep changing. It is also due to the nature of our work, where we keep working with different people every time, unlike in conventional jobs where you go to the same office every day for years. When I came into the industry, I didn't know anyone, and it is difficult to be pally with a lot of people, you know. It gets lonely and tough, but I have no complaints because I have come to terms with the fact that I am not here to make friends – I am here to work."

Aaryan also finds company with his family and old friends, even though they might not fully grasp the industry's challenges, he noted.

"So sometimes, you are just left with yourself. You can't discuss everything with your family. So you're left with yourself, and you get into the shell. But I am living my dreams, and I don't want to complain about these petty things. I have no complaints."



Kartik Aaryan



Karan Johar

Big star fees hurting film economy: Johar

Exorbitant fees being paid to movie stars are harming the health of India's film economy, film-maker Karan Johar told *The Indian Express* last week.

Meanwhile, he stated rising entourage costs were not the biggest worry for producers, since it can still be controlled.

Known for producing big scale movies, Johar added it is high time actors "review" their remuneration.

As *The Indian Express* noted, it has been extensively reported how exorbitant star fees and outrageous demands of actors and their entourage have dented the film business, causing budgets to balloon, and overlapping into less remuneration for artistes in other departments.

Make up personnel, hairdressers, stylists, and other crew members are typically part of a big star's entourage.

As Johar noted, high star fees are not always "viable", making it difficult to finance a movie.

Said Johar: "The entourage cost is the least of our worry. It is the main remuneration of the actors that has to be looked into. It is very critical for all the actors to understand exactly how the times are, how the climate of our movies are, how tough and difficult it is to manoeuvre through making a motion picture of any magnitude or size."

He added, "It is very difficult, there are so many costs – the [Publicity and Advertising] costs and if the above the line cost, which is what comes from the actors, is not viable, then it becomes important to mount a film. Every single movie star today has to review what they're asking for."

He stated that often there would be certain producers paying exorbitant fee to actors just so their films are made, but the practice will eventually "cause a lot of damage to the entire system".

He also noted, "[Actors] can take all the entourage they want, that is not the problem. While it is adding to our costs, the real issue is the mothership cost. They have to look at that. There can be back-end deals, percentage of profits, slabs of box office as per performance-based remuneration. All that is possible, but every actor has to look within because a lot of them are not really in touch with reality."

Various film producer bodies and heads of the biggest talent management agencies in Bollywood began the first round of meetings earlier this month to tackle the menace of entourage cost and star fee, which has severely burdened productions, and forced everyone, except the lead stars, to take a huge pay cut.

Johar's comments came in the wake of the massive failure of his *Jugjugg Jeeyo*. As the *National Herald* in India reported in 2022, the marital comedy made a big dent in Karan's pocket, and turned into a major financial liability after the producer paid top fees to its actors.

Since then, Johar and many other top producers, among them Sajid Nadiadwala, Ritesh Sidhwani, and Aditya Chopra, have been requesting that their actors take a voluntary pay cut.

As the *National Herald* reported, one producer stated, "It is the domino effect: you pay Varun Dhawan what he wants, then you pay Anil Kapoor the same..."

And further, according one trade insider, only Kartik Aaryan was offered a pay hike.

"His producers Bhushan Kumar and Murad Khetani offered Kartik Aaryan a substantial pay hike for *Bhool Bhulaiya 3*. When he declined the offer, arguing that the recession demands him to play down his rising fortunes, Kumar presented him with an expensive car as token of appreciation."

The *National Herald* also quoted another unnamed industry insider saying, "Meanwhile, all other A-listers are sailing in the same leaky boat, and it is time for them to get off their high horses and knock off a few zeroes from their pay cheques."

Chopra reveals being replaced by younger actor

Tisca Chopra recently spoke about the bias of India's film industry for "young and beautiful actors" and recalled an incident where she was replaced by an actor whom she described as "someone younger".

Chopra made the statement in an interview with *Galatta Plus*, and which was reported by the Indian entertainment media, among them *The Indian Express* and *NDTV*.

In the interview, Chopra spoke about the incident, saying that it took place less than a week before the shoot started.

"In 2016, there was a particular director who strung me along for a bit of time. We started doing prep, costumes, lines, and everything. About four days before the shoot, he said they were going with someone younger. Then he tried to fob it off by saying it is the call of the producers. But I could see that it was just... I didn't want to hear that anymore."

Chopra was 43 years old in 2016. She also spoke about the bias of the industry towards "young and beautiful actors".

As she stated, "By that time, I also got a sense of the fact that there were things going on in my head that I had been ignoring for some time. I've had the benefit of working with wonderful directors and learning from them by watching their process and imbibing that. If youth and beauty are the only two things that are attractive in a particular market... my insides rebelled against that. If they are interested only in young and beautiful, it's a very sad world we're living in."

Chopra is known for films like *Taare Zameen Par*, *Khushiyaan*,

Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji, *Highway*, and others. She has also worked in the series *Hostages Season 1*, and in the British series *Beecham House*. She made her debut as a director with the short film *Rubaru*.

In addition to her acting career, Chopra has achieved substantial acclaim as a writer-director, co-authoring two short films and directing another, *The Indian Express* reported last week.

As the publication noted, Chopra also recalled how and when she decided to become a creator and bankrolled the short film *Chutney*.

"I had been doing this piece called *Chutney* at Prithvi Theatre, Mumbai. It was based on Bhisham Sahni's story. It too had morphed into something else by that time in my head. So, I narrated that to a few, very close people, and we came up with the story and wrote it. The protagonist was neither good-looking nor young. Nor did she have any other privileges. She was not well-spoken, and didn't have a male heir or a child. And yet, she controls the narrative in that story," Chopra said.

She is well-known as an actress, film producer, and an author, and has been in nearly 45 films. Her father was a school principal, and she started out in theatre. However, despite her non-film background, she has made a mark for herself in the industry.

Chopra was last seen in director Homi Adajania's mystery thriller film *Murder Mubarak*, where she shared the screen with Pankaj Tripathi, Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Varma, Karisma Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia, and Sanjay Kapoor.



Tisca Chopra

The groups and fixtures for the Super 8 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 are confirmed with both co-hosts West Indies and the USA in the second stage. Eight teams are now in the battle for a place in the semi-finals. The Super 8 qualifiers are:

Group A: India and USA
Group B: Australia and England
Group C: West Indies and Afghanistan
Group D: South Africa and Bangladesh

The eight teams are now divided into two groups:
Group A: India, Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh
Group B: USA, England, West Indies, South Africa

Four of the Super 8 qualifiers have previously won the World Cup: India, England, West Indies, and Australia.

Super 8 matches will be played in four West Indies venues: Antigua and Barbuda (four matches); Barbados (three matches); Saint Lucia (three matches); and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (two matches).

Each team will play every other team in its group once, with the top two sides in each group qualifying for the semi-finals, to be played in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana on June 26 and June 27, respectively.

The Super Eight stage starts today in Antigua between USA and South Africa. Then later today West Indies take on old rivals England in Saint Lucia.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024							
Points Table (as of June 18)							
Group A: USA; CAN; IND; IRE: PAK							
Group B: AUS; ENG; NAM; OMA; SCOT							
Group C: AFG; NZ; PNG; UGA; WI							
Group D: BAN; NEP; NED; SA; SL							
GROUP A							
TEAM	M	W	L	T	N/R	PT	NRR
IND	4	3	0	0	1	7	1.137
USA	4	2	1	0	1	5	0.127
PAK	4	2	2	0	0	4	0.294
CAN	4	1	2	0	1	3	-0.493
IRE	4	0	3	0	1	1	-1.293
GROUP B							
AUS	4	4	0	0	0	8	2.791
ENG	4	2	1	0	1	5	3.611
SCOT	4	2	1	0	1	5	1.255
NAM	4	1	3	0	0	2	-2.585
OMAN	4	0	4	0	0	0	-3.062
GROUP C							
WI	4	4	0	0	0	8	3.275
AFG	4	3	1	0	0	6	1.835
NZ	4	2	2	0	0	4	0.415
UGA	4	1	3	0	0	2	-4.510
PNG	4	0	4	0	0	0	-1.268
GROUP D							
SA	4	4	0	0	0	8	0.470
BAN	4	3	1	0	0	6	0.616
SL	4	1	2	0	1	3	0.863
NED	4	1	3	0	0	2	-1.358
NEP	4	0	3	0	1	1	-0.542

ICC Men's T20 WC 2024	
Upcoming matches - (All times local)	
SUPER EIGHT MATCHES	
Match #41	Wed, 19 Jun; SA vs USA
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 10:30 am	
Match #42	Wed, 19 Jun; WI vs ENG
Venue: Gros Islet, St Lucia; Start 8:30 pm	
Match #43	Thu 20 Jun; AFG vs IND
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 10:30 am	
Match #44	Thu, 20 Jun; AUS vs BAN
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 8:30 pm	
Match #45	Fri, 21 Jun; ENG vs SA
Venue: Gros Islet, St Lucia; Start 10:30 am	
Match #46	Fri, 21 Jun; WI vs USA
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 8:30 pm	
Match #47	Sat, 22 Jun; BAN vs IND
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 10:30 am	
Match #48	Sat, 22 Jun; AFG vs AUS
Venue: Kingstown, St Vincent; Start 8:30 pm	
Match #49	Sun, 23 Jun; ENG vs USA
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 10:30 am	
Match #50	Sun, 23 Jun; WI vs SA
Venue: North Sound, Antigua; Start 8:30 pm	
Match #51	Mon, 24 Jun; AUS vs IND
Venue: Gros Islet, St Lucia; Start 10:30 am	
Match #52	Mon, 24 Jun; AFG vs BAN
Venue: Kingstown, St Vincent; Start 8:30 pm	
SEMI FINAL 1: Wed, 26 Jun; TBA vs TBA	
Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad; Start 8:30 pm	
SEMI FINAL 2: Thu, 27 Jun; TBA vs TBA	
Venue: Providence, Guyana; Start 10:30 am	
FINAL: Sat, 29 Jun; TBA vs TBA	
Venue: Bridgetown, Barbados; Start 10:30 am	

BCCI at interview stage for new head coach

While the complete list of candidates remains unknown at this time for India's head coach position, the online website *Cricbuzz* reported yesterday it was likely that Gautam Gambhir and W.V. Raman had interviews with the Cricket Advisory Committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The interviews were conducted online yesterday, with Gambhir appearing online before the committee. The cricket website also reported it is believed Raman had an interview with CAC members Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjpe.

However, what *Cricbuzz* did know is while the complete list of candidates remains uncertain, it was clear that Gambhir was not the only candidate for the head coach role.

Gambhir recently mentored the Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL trophy, and is believed to be the favourite for the position. The role became available after present head coach, Rahul Dravid, confirmed he would not continue coaching the national team following completion of the ICC T20 World Cup, which is now in its Super 8 stage in the Caribbean.

As the media in India, and abroad, have reported, it appears that Gambhir expressed interest in serving the country as head coach, stating recently that there is no greater honour.

"I would love to coach the Indian team. There is no bigger honour than coaching your national team. You are representing 140 crore [one crore = ten million] Indians and more across the globe as well and when you represent India, how can it get bigger than that? It is not me that will help India win the World Cup, it is 140 crore Indians who will help India win the World Cup," he said in Abu Dhabi recently.



Gautam Gambhir

He added, "If everyone starts praying for us and we start playing and representing them, India will win the World Cup. The most important thing is to be fearless."

According to media reports circulating earlier this week, it was believed that the interviews with prospective head coach candidates are continuing today.

And according to sources, in addition to the head coach interviews, the CAC will also complete interviews for the Senior Selector position, which the BCCI had advertised some time ago.

The BCCI needs one selector, ideally, from the North Zone, with the new candidate replacing Salil Ankola, who is the second candidate from the West Zone after Chairman Ajit Agarkar. An announcement about the new head coach, and the new North Zone selector, is expected soon.

Meanwhile, reports have also indicated there are strong suggestions that Gambhir has reached out to Jonty Rhodes about his interest in joining the support staff under his leadership in the Indian team. The gesture came from Gambhir, and not the BCCI, *Cricbuzz* noted.

If Rhodes is picked, then as head coach Gambhir is entitled to have the support staff of his choice.

Both men worked together at Lucknow Super Giants franchise in the IPL for two years before Gambhir left to join KKR for the last season.

Rhodes is South African, and has extensive coaching experience with South Africa's national side, and many other IPL franchises, among them Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings, and Lucknow Super Giants. It is believed he is considering Gambhir's proposal, and has reached out to the LSG management to ascertain if the franchise is willing to release him.

Pooran launches WI into 2nd phase of T20 tournament

West Indies entered the Super 8 phase of the ICC T20 World Cup with a supersized effort on Monday after Nicholas Pooran hit a stunning 98 against Afghanistan in the closing moments of the first stage of the tournament.

Afghanistan entered the game on Monday undefeated until West Indies dispatched that confidence back to the pavilion with a 104-run victory, setting up a statement win as they entered into the Super 8 stage of the tournament.

Pooran's exhilarating knock saw West Indies accumulating 218-5 against Afghanistan, the highest score in the T20 tournament so far.

So prolific was the West Indies at the wicket that they were 85-1 after five overs, after accumulating 36 runs coming in the fourth over. That total included three sixes from Pooran's bat, a no-ball, and five wides, and equalled the

record for the most expensive over in the Men's T20s.

Pooran's mighty work with the bat saw him run out in the dying stages of the final over during a desperate dash back to keep the strike so he could get to three figures.

Afghanistan's turn with the bat then saw West Indies continuing their dominance of the match with Akeal Hosein having Rahmanullah Gurbaz caught for a three-ball duck in a wicket maiden to start the chase.

Afghanistan were finally bowled out for 114 in 16.2 overs.

Obed McCoy took three wickets, with spinners Akeal and Gudakesh Motie acquiring two apiece.

The T20 tournament is now into its second phase starting today with eight teams battling across two groups to secure a semi-final place.

West Indies are playing England later today in St Lucia.



Nicholas Pooran

CAL continues its support for Cricket Carnival Guyana

Port-of-Spain – Caribbean Airlines Limited announced earlier this week it will continue with its support as the Official Airline for Cricket Carnival Guyana 2024, its second consecutive year in the partnership.

In a statement, the air carrier said it is committed to fostering connections across the Caribbean, not only for people, but also for the rich cultural heritage that binds the region together.

Cricket Carnival Guyana is scheduled from September 19 to October 6 this year, with the following events taking place: the Berbice Chutney Show on September 20; Brunch in the Country on September 22; the One Guyana Concert, which takes place on September 25; and Pan On The Beach on October 3.

"Caribbean Airlines is more than just a carrier; we are a connecting medium in the region, bridging not only destinations, but also the diverse cultures and traditions that make the Caribbean unique," said Garvin Medera, CAL's CEO.

He added, "Our continued support for Cricket Carnival Guyana exemplifies our commitment to the cultural and social



fabric of our communities. We are proud to play a role in bringing people together to celebrate our shared heritage and passion for cricket."

Also commenting on CAL's renewed commitment to cricket in Guyana was Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce in Guyana.

Said Walrond: "Caribbean Airlines' continued support as the official airline for Cricket Carnival significantly enhances the quality and success of this major event, and it speaks volumes about the power and potential of collaboration between the corporate and entertainment sectors."

Additionally, "[CAL's] backing is a testament to the confidence the airline has in the potential of this event, and in Guyana's vibrant tourism sector. As we continue to grow and develop Cricket Carnival, we are optimistic that Caribbean Airlines will remain a steadfast partner in this journey."

CAL has served Guyana and the region consistently since its inception in 2007.

CWI, FairBreak Foundation to promote women's cricket

A new partnership to promote and support women's cricket in the region was announced last week between Cricket West Indies and FairBreak Foundation.

Along with FairBreak invitational T20 tournaments, the announcement stated that FairBreak has now created a new foundation that will use donations to support grassroots women and girls cricket programmes across the Caribbean.

FairBreak Global is dedicated to promoting gender equality through women's invitational T20 tournaments.

The group has successfully hosted two International Cricket Council-sanctioned tournaments to date, one in Dubai in 2022, and another in Hong Kong last year.

In a media release announcing the move earlier this month, CWI's CEO Johnny Grave stated, "We are pleased and enthusiastic to be the first ICC Full Member board to partner with FairBreak. One of the new strategic objectives of CWI has been to achieve parity between women and men in cricket by 2027.

He added, "...[We] believe that this partnership will allow us to showcase the talent and potential of female cricketers in the West Indies, while promoting inclusivity and gender equality within the sport."



Rogers (right) with Grave

It was also announced that FairBreak CEO Cheryl Rogers is anticipating the relationship.

"We are delighted to partner with CWI and bring the support of FairBreak to the communities of the Caribbean," Rogers said.

She added, "It has been my pleasure to bring FairBreak up to a new level for women's cricket.

Our aspiration is to partner with cricket boards and charities to uplift community cricket, as well as create new pathways into the women's professional game."

Rogers also noted: "The new FairBreak team and their commitment to the highest standards of safety and governance, are setting a gold standard for the environment in which we invite players to play. Our tournaments will now be held in the best stadiums in the world, including the West Indies. A truly unique opportunity."

FairBreak's commitment to the West Indies includes investment in grassroots cricket programmes that will benefit and inspire future generations of women's cricketers throughout the region.

Its commitment also includes engaging local coaches, match officials, and other support personnel in upcoming FairBreak Invitational T20 tournaments planned for the future.

Guyanese-born Gudakesh Motie ICC Men's Player of the Month

Guyanese-born Gudakesh Motie has been awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2024, the achievement marking yet another significant achievement for West Indies cricket this year, a Cricket West Indies statement declared last week.

The accolade follows Hayley Matthews' award in May as ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2024, and Shamar Joseph's win in January, showcasing the exceptional talent within our teams, the statement added.

As the statement declared, "Motie's performances throughout May were pivotal, particularly during the home series against South Africa, where he took eight wickets at an impressive average of 8.50. His efforts were instrumental in securing a 3-0 series victory for West Indies. Additionally, Motie's form has continued into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, where he has taken five wickets at an average of 11."

CWI President Dr Kishore Shallow also expressed his pride and congratulations, stating: "Gudakesh has shown tremendous skill and dedication, and this award is a well-deserved recognition for his efforts. His performances have been instrumental in our recent successes, and have brought great pride to our team and fans."

Shallow also highlighted the broader impact of such achievements on West Indies cricket.

"Awards like these not only celebrate individual excellence but also inspire the entire cricketing community in the Caribbean. Gudakesh's success is a testament to the hard work and potential within our team," he declared.



Gudakesh Motie

Reflecting on the earlier success of Shamar Joseph, Shallow commented, "Having three players win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award in the same year is a significant milestone for West Indies cricket. It speaks volumes about the talent and determination of our players."

Motie faced stiff competition from Pakistan left-arm fast bowler, Shaheen Afridi, and Ireland batsman, Lorcan Tucker, for the monthly award.

"It means a lot to me, and I am very happy to win this award," he said in an ICC news release.

He added, "It's very encouraging. I have put in a lot of work during this season, and I am happy that I am seeing the rewards now."

After enjoying success in three T20 Internationals against South Africa in Jamaica, he continued to shine during the World Cup, with his three wickets against New Zealand in Trinidad helping to take the team in the Super 8 games that are now underway.

Said Motie: "Playing in a World Cup means a lot to me, and playing at home in front of our fans and knowing the conditions is also special," he said.

To climb to the top in May, Motie took eight wickets across the three matches against the South Africans at a tidy average of 8.50.

"The standout performance for me during the series against South Africa was the first game, where I took three for 25. The third wicket that [day] was my favourite," he recalled.

Then he bowled Bjorn Fortuin for a first-ball duck with a delivery that drifted in towards leg-stump, and which turned away sharply after touchdown to then hit the top of the off-stump.

Upcoming Cricket Tours

New Zealand women in England (June-July 2024)

India in Zimbabwe (July 2024)

West Indies in England (July 2024)

Namibia & Oman in Scotland (July 2024)

Zimbabwe in Ireland (July 2024)

South Africa in West Indies (July-August 2024)

Sri Lanka women in Ireland (August 2024)

Sri Lanka in England (August-September 2024)

England women in Ireland (September 2024)

Australia in England (September 2024)

Ireland vs South Africa (in UAE) (Sept.-October 2024)

ICC Women's T20 World Cup (Oct. 2024, Bangladesh)

England in West Indies (October-November 2024)

Pakistan in Australia (November 2024)

Bangladesh in West Indies

(November-December 2024)

India in Australia

(November 2024-January 2025)

England women in South Africa

(November-December 2024)

Sri Lanka in South Africa

(November-December 2024)

England in New Zealand

(November-December 2024)

Pakistan in South Africa

(December 2024-January 2025)

Women's Ashes: England in Australia (January-February 2025)

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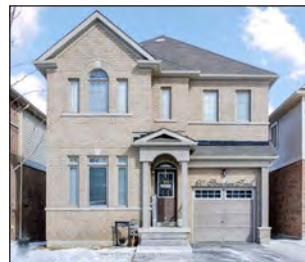
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Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

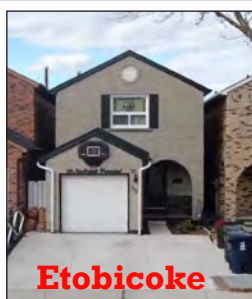
Location! Location! Location! Step into the world of modern elegance with this exquisite 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home for lease in one of Pickering's new vibrant neighbourhoods. This unit boasts an updated, open-concept living space, perfect for entertaining and relaxation. The kitchen shines with stainless 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.



**FOR ALL YOUR
INSURANCE NEEDS**

- LIFE • MORTGAGE
- DISABILITY
- TRAVEL • VISITOR
- CRITICAL ILLNESS
- SUPER VISA
- RESP & RRSP
- INVESTMENT

**If you fail to plan, then
you're planning to fail.**

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.



LEASED

**SOLD FOR \$160K
OVER ASKING!**

\$949,000

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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