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Gary & Martha Rampersaud are proud owners of the rejuvenated Calypso Hut 1. See display on Page 11.



The Indo-Caribbean Golden Age Association held Holi celebrations on March 17 at the Agincourt Recreation Centre in Scarborough, where over 120 members sang Chowntals and thoroughly enjoyed themselves with coloured powder. Story and photos on Page 5.



One Love Table's leader, Habeeb Alli (fourth from right), with volunteers and special guests at the group's Ramadan Interfaith Gala, which was held in Etobicoke on March 16; fifth from the left is Dr Munir El-Kassem, who delivered the inspiring keynote address at the Iftar event. More photos on Page 11.

'We should not allow a child to go hungry'

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – In a show of support and a hearty display of one love, attendees at One Love Table's Ramadan Interfaith Gala reached out generously to the call made by keynote speaker, Dr Munir El-Kassem to aid families and children in need.

The Ramadan event took place at the Panemonte Banquet Hall in Etobicoke on the evening of March 16.

In his elucidating and uplifting keynote address, among other things, El-Kassem spoke to the need to alleviate hunger

in our community while citing and commending the good work being done by the registered not-for-profit group, One Love Table.

This organisation is led by the industrious and energised Habeeb Alli, who is well-regarded in our thriving community for his spiritual and social work. He is also an Imam and a chaplain.

In his passionate and inspirational call to the gathering, and to our wider community, to support the humanitarian

See Page 11: Humanitarianism

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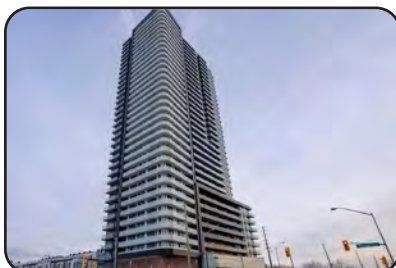
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Mike Yorke (right) and Patrick Crabbe

Timber Talks series hold Indigenous Collaboration

By Dhevin Indar

Vaughan – The ongoing Timber Talks series saw the March 6 session focusing on Indigenous collaboration.

This latest series of talks is sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in partnership with the College of Carpenters and Allied Trades.

It is being organised by the Carpenters' Regional Council's Mike Yorke.

At the March 6 event, a panel session featured Ivan LaRoche, from the UBC Prairie Arctic Regional Council; Valerie Vanderwyk, from the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario; Patrick Chouinard, who is with Element5; and Kyara Wendling, an intern architect from Smoke Architecture, which is an Indigenous-led, all-women firm based in Hamilton.

Also contributing to the session were speakers Michael Palak and Patrick Crabbe.

As Crabbe informed the session, "The potential of mass timber is astronomical". He said his group tested about 23 trailer loads of lumber, which works out to 65 pieces, only to find out that it was incredibly strong.

Consequently, this versatile material can produce Mass Timber products that have the capacity to reshape cities, and can increase Canada's affordable housing supply, he stated.

He also pointed to the opportunities that have now opened up in Nova Scotia, adding there was need for a growth in infrastructure for Indigenous communities in that location.

By creating partnerships, we are maximising the use of forest resources, he declared.

Meanwhile, Palak said he believed there can be harmony, a



Panelists at the Indigenous Collaboration (from left) are Ivan LaRoche, UBC Prairie Arctic Regional Council; Valerie Vanderwyk, Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario; Patrick Chouinard, Element5; and Kyara Wendling of Smoke Architecture.



Michael Palak (Photos by Dhevin Indar)

balance with the environment, prosperity, and economic gains through Indigenous collaboration and partnerships.

Building for the long-term remains key, he declared. At the same time, he noted that the construction of structures that are good for both the environment and for people would also be beneficial.

And Kyara Wendling told the audience that partnerships are important because we need the support of our ancestors to maintain and sustain the land. At the same time, she also highlighted a number of mass timber projects that her firm is working on via Indigenous collaboration.

Woodbine Banquet Hall holds Open House April 7

Woodbine Banquet and Convention Hall will be holding its Open House on April 7 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Its management has extended the invitation to the members of the community planning a big event to visit and discover the "magic" at the banquet and convention hall. Attendees are invited to explore the elegantly decorated spaces, "with each corner telling a story of love and celebration".

Also, visitors planning an event can connect with elite vendors, from florists to photographers, and can indulge in delectable samples from the hall's catering services as a foretaste of the quality for the forthcoming feast on that big, special day.

Walnut Foundation holds 3rd 'PSA Detect and Protect' day

Toronto – The Walnut Foundation will hold its third travelling prostate cancer screening day, 'PSA Detect and Protect', on April 6 at Durham Community Health Centre in Oshawa.

Working together with its partners Princess Margaret Hospital, Taibu Community Health Centre, and Durham Community Health Centre, TWF's travelling screening clinic will take place at the Durham Community Health Centre, 115 Grassmere Avenue in Oshawa.

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood testing will be performed at the centre at no cost for men 40 years and older.

There is also the option for a free haircut, massage, and refreshments. It takes place between 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Email info@thewalnutfoundation.com for more information. Also, [click here to register](#).

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

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

The first clinic took place at Taibu Community Health Centre, with the second held at The Jamaican Canadian Centre. As TWF reports, both events were well-received and executed, and the impacted patients are currently being followed up on by their medical provider, and at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

TWF has also requested that information about the screening day be shared among networks, and for the community's proactive support for its latest effort.

"Speak to the leaders, influencers, activists, and family members of Black men age 40+ in the area who do not have a medical provider; have not had a PSA Blood test in 12 months; or who do not qualify for a free PSA Blood test via OHIP," TWF said.

According to the research, Black populations have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer. See display ad on Page 16.

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Top players (left to right) Daniel, Kiran, and Russell



Titan Cup grand champions Special Forces



Team Spicy's Shiva (left) and Carly with the cup



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Players from Couva Boyz



Special Forces' team captain Nicky (left) with Shawna



New Yorker Michael with Russell

'Special Forces' win Titan cup

A successful conclusion to the 2024 Titan Cup All Fours championship last weekend saw the winning team, Special Forces, taking away the coveted Titan trophy and \$10,500 in prize money.

The tournament was held at the Nitro Arena in Brampton under the kind patronage of Daniel Gildharry from Metro Infrastructure.

In what was a party atmosphere reminiscent of a Trinidad and Tobago "weekend lime", 15 teams filled the area to the sound of exclamations of delight and triumph as players catapulted upwards to slam winning cards down hard on the tables.

The tournament saw Canadian players challenged by visiting "professional" players, who journeyed to the GTA from Trinidad and Tobago and New York. Among the teams was the renowned NY battalion, Best Cutters, led by the versatile and personable Michael Yearwood.

Taking second place in the robust weekend event was team Spicy, led by Shiva Nandlal from Radica's Hot and Spicy Restaurant in Brampton. Team Spicy held their own to end the robust weekend in second place with \$6,500 in prize money.

The final matches took the fraternising into the very wee hours of the highly-energised weekend, and way past the bedtimes of many of the players. It concluded a weekend of camaraderie, good food that included Platinum Tap and Grill's authentic fish and provision soup, great DJ music, energising tassa drumming, and much laughter among the participants.

The next All Fours tournament is "carded" for April in Scarborough. The May event should see about 30 teams participating, with another in June, where 35 teams are expected to compete in what promises to be similarly energised and highly sociable weekend "limes" flavoured with Caribbean goodness.

Thinking about joining up an All Fours team in the GTA? Call Russell Lutchman at 416-428-6894 for details.

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Celebrating Holi last weekend were (from left to right) ICGAA's Karna Persaud, Shaw Jaundoo, Leila Daljit, Anjuli Shiwraj, and Soorajnie Jaundoo

ICGAA holds Holi celebration

Indo-Caribbean Golden Age Association members celebrated Holi on March 17 at the Agincourt Recreation Centre in Scarborough.

Over 120 members attended. The event saw members singing Chawtals and playing Jhals, and were accompanied by talented drummer Rohan Rajkumar.

The drumming accompaniment added tremendously to participants getting in the Phagwah mood, and playing with the colourful powders.

Dances were performed by students from Anjuli Arts, who impressed the audience with their talent, grace, and beautiful and colourful costumes.

A delicious and enjoyable dinner was sponsored by Leonard and Lalita Sanicharan.

Afterwards, members took to the dance floor for the rest of the evening to the accompaniment of talented musician David Singh, and singers Angie Pitamber, Johnny Gani, Chanu Kunji, Sadhana, and Ronald Rampersaud. Needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all.



Happy Holi 2024





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Editorial

A holy time

We are presently immersed in an auspicious and holy time, with our thriving community now participating in several religious observances, celebrations, and festivals.

At this time, our Muslim community is fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, which will conclude with the joyous celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr in April.

Our Hindu community recently observed Shivratri, and our faithful are presently singing Chhotaal, and preparing many different coloured powders for the upcoming celebration of Holi, also known as Pagwah.

Then following the joyful festival of colours, come April will see our Hindu community observing Navratri.

And for the many Christian faithful in our community, the observance of Lent started on Ash Wednesday, which was on February 14, and will end come March 29 with Good Friday, and the glorious Easter weekend and its uplifting celebration of the renewal of hope and life.

It is such that the overlapping of celebrations, observances, and festivities is surely making this time of year auspicious and holy, with positive feelings of renewal and rejuvenation emerging alongside the change of weather with the end of winter, and the welcome and imminent arrival of spring.

To appreciate the positive takeaways that are now warming our community, we must note there are a few eternal and over-arching motifs that are inherent in this special time of religiosity and overlapping celebrations among our faiths.

We are all feeling the lift in our steps in the renewal of life from the cold days of winter, and with the arrival of spring and its many and resplendent colours; and in the cleansing and rejuvenation via fasting, additional prayers, and renewed commitment to our faith in the reading of our religious texts.

We cite the good example now being practiced by the Muslim faithful in our community, and further abroad.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and holds immense significance for Muslims throughout the world.

It is also the month when the *Holy Qu'ran* was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) for the benefit of mankind.

Ramadan is also recognised for its call to the fast, which is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam; the other four pillars are faith, prayer, charity, and the pilgrimage.

Fasting is prescribed for Muslims in the *Holy Qu'ran* (Chapter 2:183), where it states, "O ye who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that ye may learn self-restraint."

As is well-known globally, Ramadan is recognised for the commitment by its faithful to self-restraint and self-discipline. It is the time when fasting Muslims abstain from food, drink, and marital relations from dawn to sunset. The fast is maintained diligently with that time, when it is broken in the evening with a meal, or a drink of water.

While the self-discipline of abstinence from food and water teaches vital lessons about thirst and hunger, at the same time the practice brings the faithful closer to Allah, as there are positive and uplifting corollary takeaways to be gained from dedicated commitment to the fast.

For those who participate with dedication and steadfastness, the reward for such virtues is the emergence of improved and more devoted individuals, who are imbued with the teachings of Islam, and its emphasis on righteous conduct and practices.

A concomitant commitment to additional prayers, and reading the entire *Holy Qu'ran*, are also contributory to the acquisition of cleansing and positive life values.

It is understood that with increased devotion, self-discipline, and self-improvement through prayers and acts of generosity, that these practices would ripple beyond Ramadan; that the faithful will embrace the lessons from this sacred time and integrate them into their daily lives.

We take this opportunity to extend greetings as we observe and recommend these holy and celebratory practices in our thriving community.

Need for awareness when in community spaces

The general principle is to not mix religion and politics. It is advisable to steer away from these topics in public discourse. However, this piece will defy this advice.

Religion and politics are central to the lives of many. It is hard to escape the influences of both, and difficult to avoid the impact they have on the lives of many.

Religion may be a personal choice, but it provides guidance to many, and it establishes community through congregation. But the influence of religion isn't limited to only the faithful. Even those who are not Christian benefit from the religious holiday on Good Friday.

We can't avoid politics, as it is ever-present in our lives, regardless whether we choose to understand it or not. From taxes to services, politics defines the state we live in.

However, it is inevitable that religion and politics would eventually overlap. These powerful entities, which can be divisive, are bound to interconnect.

As we enter the holy period for many religions, this crossover becomes ever more evident. This time of the year, Muslims, Hindus, and Christians (major religions in our Indo-Caribbean community) will hold significant religious observances.

The Muslim community just started the holy month of Ramadan, and will conclude with Eid al-Fitr in early April. Hindus recently observed Shivratri, are now celebrating Holi (Pagwah), and will then observe Navratri in early April. Many in the Christian community, now observing Lent, will celebrate Easter at the end of the month.

With large congregations at places of worship, that is an ideal space for politicians to interact, listen, and campaign with people in the community. As we attend our mosques, mandirs, and churches, it is likely that religious services will be paused for commentary by an elected official.

Full disclosure: I worked in politics for many years. Serving as a campaign manager during elections or as a political staffer, I know firsthand what the benefits are when a politician visits a place of worship with a large congregation.

More importantly, these visits are a vital opportunity for politicians to learn. Listening to members of the community is an important requirement for any elected official.

I welcome the opportunity for politicians to enter a place of worship and leverage the opportunity within large gatherings. In fact, in multicultural Canada, we should expect our political leaders to embrace the diversity they represent, and to experience the culture and community.



Ryan Singh

However, as places of worship open their doors to politicians as a sign of respect for their leadership in the community, that respect must be mutual. And that respect begins with attire.

Attending a mandir, or entering any place of worship in any capacity, including as a campaign manager to a politician, I know that following cultural norms of dress is a sign of respect.

I was astonished to see photos of a senior Canadian politician entering a Hindu mandir in blue denim jeans. This wasn't a sign of disrespect, but perhaps a sign of laziness and poor political staffing.

I would never attend a place of worship of any religion wearing blue denim during a deeply religious service. Nor would I advise any politician I worked with to do so.

Entering a place of worship during an auspicious period can be very sensitive, but wearing respectable clothing is a polite gesture that demonstrates respect.

I will admit this rule is easier for male than for female politicians. Male politicians can wear their dress pants and shirt, even remove the tie, and still be in suitable attire for a place of worship.

Female politicians face more challenges. I've had many conversations with several female politicians on their expectations on attire when attending a place of worship; and in general, which is a topic for another article.

I would be remiss if I do not mention Ontario's 25th Premier Kathleen Wynne. I had the privilege to work in Wynne's government, on her campaigns, and attending events.

Wynne was a politician who not only understood the importance of respectable wear in a place of worship, but she was also an example of how politicians should conduct themselves when attending a religious event.

I've always admired her attention to cultural appropriateness – representing the diverse riding of Don Valley West had a positive influence on her outlook. In the bigger picture, for a province as diverse as ours, she understood the value of respect when entering a place of worship.

Such demonstration of respect is definitely a first step to ensure building a meaningful connection with that community.

The message to elected officials and politicians is to be mindful when you visit a place of worship. No one is expecting you to understand the religious practices or cultural norms. However, appropriate attire is a signal of respect for that community.

Also, be mindful that your actions, and your attire, can influence the perception of you by many who are meeting a politician for the first time.

Understanding bigger picture in taking photographs

When it is not manipulated, the narrative inside the frame of a photograph should mostly be, and should ideally remain etched as a true capture of a moment in time. But it is no longer so nowadays.

I have always been fascinated by that moment of capture, which in itself are fractions of seconds in our mechanical world that are permanently rendered via the camera's rapid shutter speed into an image that freezes its subjects in time and space.

Photographs fascinate me for its simultaneity within different worlds. For example, to view a photograph from the late 1800s in Victorian England is to engage with a couple that is staring stonily through the lens into the future, and right into the eyes of the modern-day viewer.

Typically, portraits of a highly-coifed couple dressed in their Sunday best back then captured the husband sitting in comfort, smug with ease and self-importance, and in total control of his world; while his dear wife stood submissively behind, a picture of a phlegmatic woman with a cold smile, both hands anchoring her to the reference point of the husband's chair.

The simultaneity that I speak to lies within and outside the frame in two co-existent worlds: one, where the husband and wife exist eternally in the etched image following the phosphorous flash; and their retention in my world today, where I gaze at their corporeal bodies over 100 years later in my real time, long after they have been rendered into dust.

What complexities lie buried like the dead via photography, which like headstones on a grave mark and recall at the same time lives once lived for our remote and vicarious gaze; and what responsibility and accountability we have to future eyes, which will gaze upon us after we too have been rendered.

Such is our responsibility when we tap on the screen of a smartphone, or depress the button to trigger the mechanics of a camera's shutter as we take millions of photographs today.

This is why I find photographs as the portraits of Victorian couples so fascinating. Not only are the portraits themselves curious on the surface, but I also enjoy dipping my eyes beneath to explore narratives of power relations, such as the realism in the disconnect between the smug husband and his oppressed wife, which flows like an eternal current across the frames.

I also find these earlier photographs to be truer representa-

tions of power relations back then, in what was a time before the narratives within the frames could be tweaked, touched-up, and tampered with, as began occurring later with the march of technology in the economical reproducibility of film and a pair of scissors; and in the last few decades, with dynamic, too-user-friendly photo-editing software as Photoshop, and the proliferation of desktop publishing and billions of smart phones.

I recall neighbourhood squabbles with family that later escalated into remarkable episodes of divisive "bad blood" among relatives. This was back in my boyhood days, when an empty cereal box with a taped-on, discarded bathroom tissue roll for lens saw many enjoyable hours of make-believe "photo take-outing".

The disagreements among relatives later mushroomed into open nuclear warfare, where spontaneous roadside "cussfests" occurred that resulted in total annihilation expressed as public declarations of erasure: "I done with all of you. You hear mih! I don't even want to see your shadow cross my gap!"

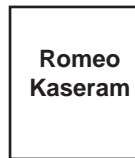
Other major internecine conflicts among relatives, which sometimes occurred following the reading of a will, or the uneven apportioning of land and other assets among favourites, often led to unbridgeable rifts. These divisions widened even further with growing attrition, despite numerous family gatherings, and failed interventions by religious leaders who unsuccessfully invoked the peacemaking of the *panchayat*.

Following the conflicts, a journey back in time into the images of the warring parties via repositories that were photograph albums often exhumed innumerable surprises of erasure.

Turn the pages of the photograph album and here a photograph would be minus a subject; and there another photograph would present excisions and erasures in more subjects clipped out of family birthday gatherings, weddings, and funerals.

And so, revealed to a heavy heart and leaden hands turning the silky pages would be narratives of erasure, with many of the photographs in the album jagged and irregular from the chop, chop, chopping of the scissors' blades, the family now like a jigsaw puzzle with pieces inexorably scattered and missing, and so inevitably doomed to remain incomplete.

Did I say that with so much advancement with photographs today, there is still a lot missing from the bigger picture?



Romeo Kaseram

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



Logies in Guyana circa 1890s

Monar recalled 'lived experiences'

Dear Editor,

The passing of Rooplall Monar (1945-2024) brings us almost to the end of the line of those who wrote about the Indians on the sugar plantations as a "lived experience".

He was born in one of the 101 logies of Lusignan on the East Coast Demerara, and in 1953 moved to the new housing scheme in neighbouring Annandale. This was established during the early 1950s when the sugar planters decided to move all workers out of the logies that had originally adjoined sugar factories.

Monar's poems, short stories, and novels deal first with life in the logies (Backdam People; Jhanjat) and then with the housing scheme (High House and Radio). Possibly in Lusignan, as in the 94 logies of Uitvlugt with which I am familiar, there were a smattering of African Guyanese in addition to a "Bajan Quarter" that housed immigrants from the small islands in the early 1920s.

It was a critical period of Guyanese history and Monar brings to life in the cadences of the Creolese patois the Indians spoke, three decades after Indentureship had ended. In 1947, there were 1,247 logies in the 11 "grinding estates" housing some 76,000 men, women, and children.

The logies ranged from cottages housing two families, which had been introduced after the 1930s, to holdovers from the days of slavery and early Indentureship that housed up to ten families in 10 by 14 rooms. While living conditions had gradually been improved with, for instance, malaria eliminated by DDT spraying between 1945-1951, and wells supplying water, which had previously been obtained from open, germ-laden canals, the densely-packed logies presented unique solidarities and challenges.

In 1943, Dr Cheddi Jagan had launched his political career to improve the lot of sugar workers and serendipitously, the reformist-oriented Chairman-to-be of the largest sugar conglomerate Bookers, Jock Campbell – who had first been exposed to the life on the logies during the Great Depression of the 1930s – shared that goal.

The latter confessed that Jagan's agitation helped him immeasurably to convince his board on the need for amelioration – including housing. During the Depression conditions had deteriorated considerably, and agitation across the Caribbean had brought down a Royal Commission in 1938 to investigate.

The MPCA sugar worker trade union had been formed in 1937 by Ayube Edun and the Commission was in Guyana taking evidence when a strike at Leonora resulted in four workers being killed. The Commission recommended several wide-ranging reforms that included housing.

In 1947, a levy was imposed on all sugar exports and a portion was assigned to a Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, out of which house lots were prepared in neighbouring areas, dubbed "extra-nuclear housing schemes", of which Annandale was to accommodate 558 houses.

The scheme was modelled after one in Britain, and included "dispensaries" and Community Centres to provide recreational activities to workers and their families. Typically, a \$1,000 loan was supposed to construct and paint a 20 by 20 house with a kitchen on a 50 by 90 house lot. There was yard-space for a kitchen garden and "fowl" pens, but not cow pens that were common in the logies.

Monar's "High House and Radio" refers to the new houses being constructed

on stilts to address the endemic flooding in the logies, where the early ones had mud floors, or at best with the rooms one foot off the ground.

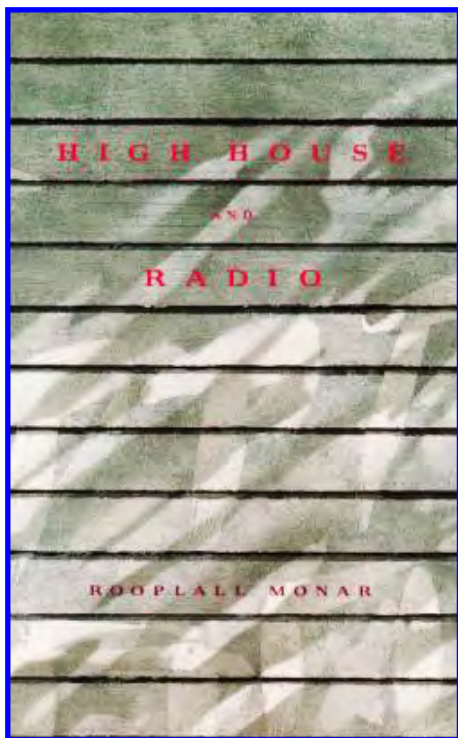
Rats and termites were endemic, with no privacy between families since the walls did not reach the roof. The "radio" was the first of new status symbols, which brought playback songs into the "high houses" from Indian movies that had arrived in the late 1930s.

In 1937, an Arya Samaj missionary had arrived in Guyana and he precipitated wide-ranging changes in traditional Hindu practices in the logies. The same year a Muslim missionary arrived.

In 1948, a strike at Enmore – where workers from Lusignan were employed – protested a change in working conditions and five workers were shot and killed. It was mere fortuity that those particular workers were from the logies of Enmore and Enterprise/Non Paniel, but they would have been known personally by the Lusignan workers. However, they would have participated in the funeral procession to Georgetown that was led by Dr Jagan and other labour leaders.

It was a time of ferment and agitation in the logies that needs the Monar oeuvre to be extended to give a fuller picture of the times that were a changin'.

Ravi Dev, Guyana, via email.



Monar's High House and Radio

Dear Hamilton Green: 'What is done cannot be undone'

Dear Editor,

After being excoriated in the press for several days following his outburst at the 101st birth anniversary celebration of the late President Forbes Burnham, when he said, among other things, "... I say we should keep rigging to save us from these devils, these bastards, these demons that we have", Hamilton Green has since issued an apology.

In my view, this apology is meaningless. As the British Governor Sir Richard Luyt said after the looting, burning down of several businesses, and the beatings of Indo-Guyanese in Georgetown on February 16, 1962, a day that became known as Black Friday, "What is done cannot be undone".

It is said that "a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still". We know that after the APNU+AFC coalition lost the 2020 elections, he stated that then President David Granger should disregard the Constitution and hold on to power. When his statement became public, he claimed a "slip of the tongue".

Well, now Hamilton Green has finally come clean with his outburst. The mouth simply states what the brain thinks. Guyanese know the saying from their elders, "Mouth open story jump out".

In paying homage to Burnham, Green said, "It was Burnham's wisdom which got him into office in 1964". The late President was one of Guyana's most brilliant sons. However, it was the US administrations of Kennedy and Johnson that got him into office in 1964, and helped in rigging subsequent elections to keep him in power.

He was identified by the US (Schlesinger to Kennedy, June 21, 1962 "...I have little doubt that an independent British Guiana under Burnham... would cause us many fewer problems than an independent British Guiana under Jagan"); he followed their advice (US Consul General to State Department, November 5, 1964) – "...Burnham assured me

categorically" that:

- 1) He would not recognise the USSR;
- 2) He would not recognise or associate in any way with the Castro regime;
- 3) He would cut off all trade with Cuba if asked to do so, provided that the US arranged an equally good market for British Guiana's rice; and they pressured the UK into supporting him.

Not only did Burnham follow the dictates of the US, but he also demonstrated an embarrassing degree of sycophancy for an anti-colonial leader, as can be seen in the Letter from the Ambassador to Guyana (Carlson) to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (Gordon), August 4, 1966.

"...I thought you would be interested in the Prime Minister's (Burnham's) brief confidential summary to me of the topics discussed with the President privately... Burnham raised the subject of Viet Nam, apparently indicating support of the United States and expressing wonder as to how the Communists always seem to get away with their case before much of the world".


It should be noted that US involvement in the Vietnam War was highly unpopular worldwide, and even in the US. Ultimately it ended the political career of President Lyndon Johnson.

While in power, Burnham behaved like the foolish man of the Bible, Matthew 7:26-27, "who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

Had Burnham followed the path of the wise man and built his house on rocks, then there would have been no need for Green's call "to save us from these devils, these bastards, these demons that we have".

Green seems to have forgotten that "what goes around comes around".

Harry Hergash, Toronto, via email.



GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

What to do with inherited property in Guyana

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

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

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

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

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

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

Current TT electricity rates heading to be the highest in the Caribbean

Dear Editor,

Guyana's government is securing a loan to construct a gas-to-energy project, which will accomplish two things that will significantly benefit the Guyanese people.

According to Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo, it will reduce electricity rates by 50 percent, and it will also create jobs and increase foreign investments.

Looking ahead to the future, once the transition to gas project is completed, it will catalyse Guyana's goal of becoming a green energy State.

Meanwhile, in Trinidad and Tobago, the Regulated Industries Commission has proposed increasing 2024 electricity rates to between 15-64 percent for residential customers, 37-51 percent

for small businesses, and ten to 12 percent for large companies, which will come with many citizens already struggling with high utility rates and the overall cost of living.

Imagine that! The poorest people will get the greatest rate hike, and the billionaires the least.

Extrapolating from the proposed decreased rate of 50 percent, as stated by the Guyanese government, and the proposed increases here in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana's lowest rate – now (TT) \$0.32 per KWH – will drop to \$0.16.

Meanwhile, the new Trinidad and Tobago residential rate will increase on average by 39.4 percent, from \$0.32 per KWH to \$0.44.

Therefore, a household in Trinidad and Tobago paying \$200

monthly for electricity could see their bill increased to \$278.

That increase will make Trinidad and Tobago the country with the highest electricity rate in the Caribbean; and place Guyana in the range with the lowest rate.

Guyana's government is using its resources to benefit all citizens directly, regardless of income or class, by building an infrastructure that helps the entire nation.

So the question is why is Trinidad and Tobago focused on providing maximum benefits to wealthy corporations that already make billions in profits, instead of assisting the average citizen?

Since Trinidad and Tobago already uses gas to power our electric generators, why did we not see the savings redound for the average residential bill?

Instead of going down, our utility rates always go in the opposite direction. We can do better than Guyana to help our citizens – if your current electric bill is \$400 every two months, which is \$200 monthly, then we should half the monthly rate and make it \$100 for all residential customers whose income is less than \$20,000.

Beleaguered Trinidad and Tobago can no longer afford to have the increased cost of living drive us further into poverty with property tax, utility rates, gas, and food prices. All Trinidad and Tobago's government does is tax and spend, which does nothing to help, and everything to hurt us.

The two major parties are hell-bent on dragging us down to mendicant status. Isn't it time for a new paradigm, since the PNM and the UNC have failed us?

Rex Chookolingo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Challenging times in TT need mature responses

Dear Editor,

We are now in March and it has not been a great month for the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

When we look at the actions and statements made by a few government ministers, it is difficult to remember all they have done due to their infrequent interactions with the public.

March has been a strange month. We read the headlines, and are aware of the disturbing events that occurred in Valsayn, at the Marabella North Secondary School, about the allegations within the SSA, and others.

If there was ever a time to observe how our government reacts under fire, it would be now. It is precisely in times like this that nationals look to the government for reassurance and guidance, and for them to tell us that it is working on solutions to the problems that we are facing as a nation.

Instead, what we are seeing from the government is nothing but inadequate responses.

In the past three weeks, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has blamed our music for the crime situation; then Education Minister Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly blamed parents for violence in

schools, despite there being stronger narratives that suggest the national crime situation has a greater impact on school violence than parents simply "not disciplining their children".

Then Social Development Minister Donna Cox blamed Valsayn residents for not reporting suspicious activities in their neighbourhoods, despite several residents saying they did and were ignored; that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Children's Authority did not take their reports seriously.

It appears that criticising the public and not taking responsibility, and being immature when it comes to resolving issues, are clearly common among all government members. It is a new level of disrespect, one that Trinidad and Tobago has not seen before from a prior administration.

I ask that as nationals of Trinidad and Tobago that we all behave like adults and take responsibility and accountability for our actions; that we all set actual plans in place to address all of these national concerns.

If not, then general elections next year promise to be interesting for all of us.

Stevon Jaggasar, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



Keith Rowley



Donna Cox

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Taking stock - Guyana's slumping Stock Exchange comes under scrutiny

Part 1 of 2

Guyana's slumping stock exchange has come under scrutiny for a wide range of improprieties and inefficiencies, among them price fixing, front-running, archaic trade execution capabilities, the failure of public companies trading on the exchange to be listed, and most important, inadequate regulatory supervision and controls.

In early February, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo announced that the government would be willing to fund improvements to the privately-owned Guyana Stock Exchange, while criticising its management for running the operations with the same technology it has used since its inception more than 20 years ago.

Incidentally, the GSE was established in 1993 in accordance with the objectives of the IMF's Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy, with the aim of encouraging and/or supporting

the private sector to raise local financing for investment. At that point in time the country was overburdened by debt, and its recovery was being supervised by the IMF.

Jagdeo told the local press that though the GSE is private, the government has been providing it with "tens of millions" of dollars annually, and is prepared to provide it with more funds to support its modernisation.

He also acknowledged the importance of the stock exchange in raising financing, and was ready to work with the private sector to improve the secondary market.

"Given that we want to have this happen, we're prepared to work with the stock exchange and the private sector and everyone else to modernise it; and if it requires money we will put in the resources too," he added.

Ironically, this is not the first time that the government has announced plans to modernise the country's securities infrastructure. In 2018, the government announced it recognised that the legal and regulatory framework governing the operations of the securities sector has not kept pace with developments with global best practices.

As a result, it planned to introduce a modern and comprehensive legislative framework to improve the regulatory regime, enhance investor protection, and strengthen cross-border supervision and cooperation among financial regulators in order to reduce systemic risk.

This, it said, will involve rewriting the Securities Industry Act (SIA) by the Guyana Securities Council to address the following areas:

- Improved licensing regimes for self-regulatory organisations, securities exchanges, and securities intermediaries;
- Extension of regulatory authority over the entire securities marketplace, includ-

ing quotation and trade reporting systems and alternative trading schemes;

- Institution of a licensing regime for collective investment schemes;
- Establishment of a Central Securities Depository to record and maintain securities and register the transfer of ownership of securities; and,
- Conferral on the regulator (to be renamed the Securities Commission) of such powers and duties as would enable it to promote the orderly development of the securities market, and to protect the integrity of the market from abuse.

Although some headway has been made in other areas, it is evident that changes have not been made to the operations of the GSE, which remains private. By modernising the GSE and its regulatory regime, the country's stock market can become a tradable market for investors globally.

Jagdeo also criticised companies trading on the exchange for failing to be listed in order to avoid enhanced scrutiny and regular publishing of the accounts.

"Even now, the public companies are not listed on the exchange because when you list on the exchange, there is a greater level of scrutiny over your accounts when you list on the exchange," he said.

The public companies, which are privately-owned, include Banks DIH Limited; Caribbean Containers; Citizens Bank; Demerara Bank; Demerara Distillers Limited; Demerara Tobacco Company; Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Limited; Guyana Stock Feeds Inc; J.P. Santos and Company Limited; Property Holdings Inc; Republic Bank Guyana Limited; Rupununi Development Company Limited; and Sterling Products Limited.

Of these companies, only eight are actively traded, among them Banks DIH (DIH); Demerara Distilleries Limited (DDL); Demerara Bank Limited (DBL); Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Limited (GBTI); Citizens Bank Incorporated (CBI); Republic Banks (Guyana) Limited (RBL); Demerara Tobacco Limited (DTC); and Sterling Products Limited (SPL).

Jagdeo said the GSE should ask existing companies to list on the exchange, noting that though they are public, they are currently operating more like private companies. He suggested that if the companies were listed on the GSE, then the shares would be "more reflective of the (companies) fundamentals", such as growth, increased profits, and higher price earning ratio. As a result, share prices would better reflect these parameters.

Typically, listing is a precondition to trading on an established stock exchange. In Guyana's case, trade facilitation has taken place, resulting in price fixing and front-running, wherein

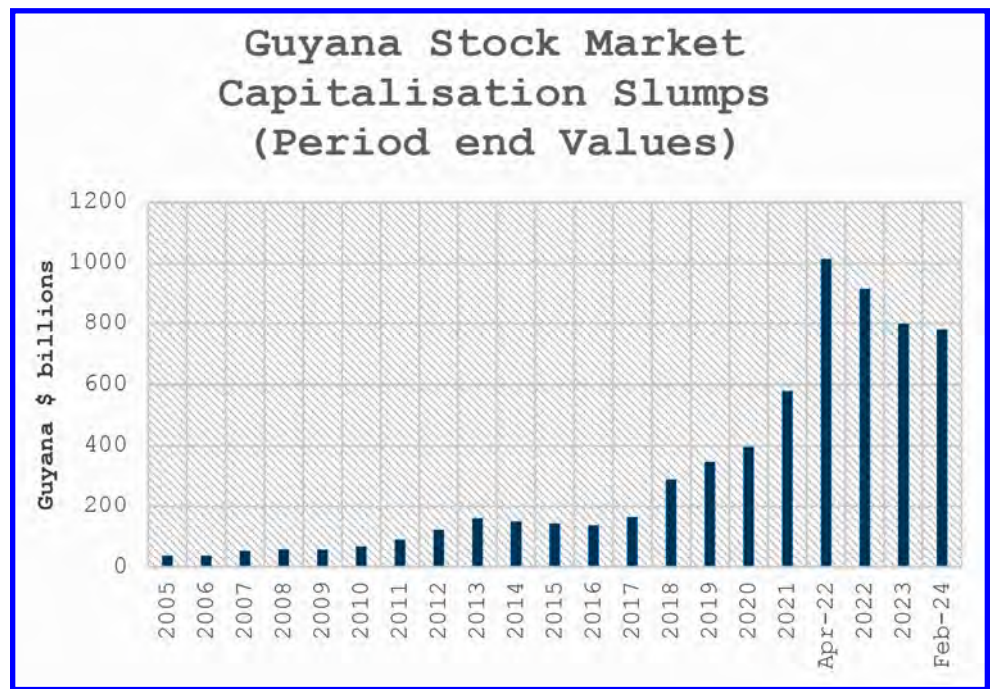
share prices for traded securities have fallen dramatically. After soaring from \$580.1 billion at the end of 2021 to \$915.4 billion at the end of 2022, the market cap of the exchange has declined to \$780.4 billion at the end of March 2024. It had previously reached a high of \$1,014.4 trillion at the end of April 2022.



Dwarka Lakhan



Bharrat Jagdeo



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On any stock exchange, listing should come with reporting and disclosure requirements, which companies in Guyana avoid by not being listed, making them less transparent.

In addition, companies must pay stipulated fees to remain listed. Obviously, these requirements would place additional costs on the companies currently being traded, but are essential in terms of investor protection and corporate accountability.

Ever since the GSE has come under scrutiny,

share prices for traded securities have fallen dramatically. After soaring from \$580.1 billion at the end of 2021 to \$915.4 billion at the end of 2022, the market cap of the exchange has declined to \$780.4 billion at the end of March 2024. It had previously reached a high of \$1,014.4 trillion at the end of April 2022.

Disclosure: The writer owns securities mentioned in this article.

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.

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Guyana Consulate holds meet and greet with visiting Benn, Bharrat

By Dhevin Indar

Toronto – The Consulate General of Guyana in Toronto hosted a meet and greet session on March 4 with visiting Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, and Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat in attendance.

Both officials were in Toronto for the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada 2024 convention, which took place in Toronto from March 3 to March 6.

The meet and greet session at the Consulate General was chaired by High Commissioner of Guyana to Canada, Keith George. Also present at the session was Mark Berman, High Commissioner for Canada in Guyana.

Also in attendance were Mani Singh, Honorary Consul at the Guyana Consulate General; members of staff at the Consulate; the Guyana delegation for PDAC; Rochelle Parasram, CEO of the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce; Tony Harris, CEO of e-Magic; and a wide cross-section of the diaspora and friends of Guyana.

Both government ministers delivered a thorough overview of Guyana's rapid development, responded to questions from members of the diaspora, engaged on issues of interest and concern, and spoke on how the diaspora could actively contribute to the nation-building process in the homeland.

High Commissioner George opened the session saying, "They're talking about us". He was referring to investors, commentators, analysts, and economists, who are talking about Guyana and its positive, unfolding potential.

As the gathering was told, Guyana's GDP in 2024 will grow by 26.6 percent, with George noting that from 2024 to 2028, it is projected to grow by 20 percent.

In his address, Berman declared to the gathering's delight that he now has closer relationships in Guyana than with his homeland of Scotland.

He also indicated that his office was available to assist those interested in investing in Guyana.

In his address, Benn noted that Guyana is now the "fastest growing economy in the world", which he added was a remarkable achievement in such a short space of time.

And it is growth that is being built on a strong foundation, which has come about with Guyana securing its democracy, he stated. Also, Guyana is being led by a very capable and energised President Dr Irfaan Ali.



As Benn noted, Guyana is also seeing strong infrastructural growth with new hospitals, hotels, and schools being built.

He added that Guyana is also seeking to be a "diversified" economy, and not dependent on one resource. As he declared, Guyana must also develop its rice, sugar, and mining industries.

Also excited about the developments now taking place in Guyana, Bharrat pointed to new opportunities in the nations that were investing in the homeland, among them the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Bharrat also noted that Guyana is continuing its work to improve the education system, and that there were many emerging employment opportunities for Guyanese in the mining sector, particularly in a gold project that has the potential to create over 1,000 jobs.

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Humanitarianism and care qualities driving One Love Table's outreach

From Page 1

endeavours that are being undertaken by One Love Table, El-Kassem declared, among other things, "We should not allow a child to go hungry!"

He also spoke to the need to have faith and knowledge translated into action, saying, "We need to enjoin patience and love; what brought us together are not only to socialise, or for dinner. We need to do something for 2024. We need to do something together as an interfaith group."

El-Kassem also cited Alli's commitment and indefatigable energy, which working in tandem, are driving the humanitarianism and care at One Love Table.

Locating Alli in the gathering, El-Kassem called out to him to

slow down his fast-burn for a brief moment. At the same time, he commended Alli for his dynamism and drive.

And in typical fashion, Alli returned a vigorous response, invoking a metaphor of synchronicity and unison by enjoining the supportive gathering at the auspicious Ramadan event to become an empathetic collective, saying, "If you want to see energy, get us going as one person!"

One Love Family Services is located in Toronto, and aims to provide culturally appropriate food hampers to families and students in need via pickup at its Arrow Road, North York location; or delivered to sites across the GTA by a cadre of committed volunteers.

The group prides itself on its practices of inclusivity and

respect, and is committed to its mission to provide families in need in Toronto with groceries to last a month across all religions, genders, and ethnicities.

Its motto is, 'Love has no barriers', with its vision being, 'To help alleviate poverty in families across Canada. To uphold the dignity of those whom we serve!'

Last year One Love Table prepared and distributed over 7,100 hampers. So far for this year, the group has distributed close to 2,000 hampers.

This year's Ramadan Interfaith Gala saw attendance of One Love's team of dedicated volunteers, well-wishers, spiritual leaders, donors, and many more participants.

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Trinidad and Tobago's *Galleon's Passage*

Company for regional ferry service set up in Georgetown

Georgetown – The company responsible for the new ferry service among Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago has been incorporated in Georgetown, the government of Guyana confirmed last week.

In a report by the *Caribbean Media Corporation*, Guyana's Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Anil Nandlall said the company, Cari Cargo Inc, will support the venture to facilitate the easier movement of goods and people among the three countries. He added that the company has directors from all three countries.

In confirming the move, Nandlall said, "The company that will carry out this venture has been incorporated in Guyana. The three countries are executing a pilot, and once it is successful, the intent is to expand it across the region."

Nandlall made the statement during his weekly *Issues in the News* programme, which was broadcast in Guyana on March 12.

The Trinidad and Tobago-owned vessel *Galleon's Passage* will be used to ply the route as regional countries have identified both sea and air transportation as a major constraint facing Caricom.

The regional body has set itself a target of reducing its multi-billion-US-dollar food import bill by 25 percent by 2025.

In 2022, Caricom approached the United Arab Emirates for funding to establish this intra-regional ferry service with the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank being

tasked with ironing out a proposed roadmap study for a fast ferry service, with an initial focus on trade among Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and Barbados.

Last month, a team of technical officials began visiting the three Caricom countries to inspect port infrastructure as efforts continued to launch a standard transportation ferry system.

Technical officers and other stakeholders met in Port-of-Spain in February to discuss the inter-regional ferry system, and highlighted each country's position and perspective.

Ensuring proper systems are implemented, an inspection of the *Galleon's Passage* in Port-of-Spain was conducted by ministers and technical officials.

The inspection was followed by discussions that centred on the other areas of importance to the proposal for the common transportation system. Among these are plant quarantine, including sanitary and phytosanitary matters and immigration, and customs for the movement of people and goods for trade.

A system for pre-clearance was also proposed for implementation, a government statement said then.

"A target date not exceeding two months was agreed to by all participants to complete the work of pre-clearance procedures for immigration, customs, and plant quarantine. The team agreed to work constantly to make the ferry service a reality as soon as possible," the statement added.

Caribbean records increase in tourist visits

Bridgetown – The regional tourism sector recorded increased visitor arrivals last year, with an estimated 14.3 percent international visitors coming to the Caribbean, the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organisation has reported.

Additionally, the CTO noted the growth in visitors to the region is a continuation in the trend that is indicating a positive recovery in the sector, the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported last week.

In releasing its *Caribbean Tourism Performance Review 2023* last week, CTO Secretary General Dona Regis-Prosper attributed the positive outcome to sustained demand for outbound travel from the US, which is the Caribbean's main source market. Also supporting the growth was enhanced tourism-related infrastructure within the destinations, Regis-Prosper stated.

The improvement was also due to the fulfillment of strategic marketing initiatives, and augmented airlift capacity between the region and its source markets, she noted.

Regis-Prosper said the recovery of global tourism has been resilient, despite variability in

the regional performances, with the Caribbean surpassing pre-Covid-19 pandemic arrivals by a modest 0.8 percent, outperforming most of the main global regions in terms of recovery.

"Based on preliminary data provided so far by the destinations in the Caribbean, tourist visits were approximately 32.2 million, about four million more than in 2022," she said.

Regis-Prosper also noted the data showed that each month's arrivals exceeded those of 2022, thus establishing a continuous growth trend over the past 33 months, with tourism steadily climbing back to pre-pandemic levels.

According to Regis-Prosper, arrival levels among Caribbean destinations either significantly recovered, or moderately exceeded the benchmark numbers of 2019. Eleven destinations performed better than in 2019, she added.

These destinations were Anguilla, Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Maarten, Turks & Caicos Islands, and US Virgin Islands – which performed better than in 2019.



Dona Regis-Prosper



Ask Jay...

Please send your questions to TheBrij@TheBrij.com or call: 416-418-2745

ELECTRICITY IS USEFUL, BUT DANGEROUS

Electricity is essential, but unlike water or gas, you can't see or smell it, making it risky when people attempt electrical installations without professional help. In some cases, contractors hired for home renovations may need to have more expertise in electrical work, creating potential dangers that go unnoticed.

In Ontario, the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) oversees electrical safety, ensuring that installations are up to code. Homeowners must prioritise electrical safety by engaging certified electricians, and requesting ESA inspections, preventing hidden risks that could lead to severe issues like electrical fires and deaths.

If you're getting any electrical work done in your home, filing a request with the ESA and having an ESA inspector review the work is essential. Once everything is good and approved, the ESA will give you a certificate saying everything is safe. This certificate is vital for insurance and peace of mind.

If you're buying a house, ask if the sellers have an ESA inspection, and before the sale is final, ask the lawyer to request the ESA records for the home. If there are no records, once you're the owner, do an electrical safety check as soon as possible.

Currently, LED pot lights are trendy, and many homeowners do the installation themselves, or use unlicensed contractors to save on cost. The ESA has found many defects with these jobs, which can be dangerous – like getting severe shocks or electrical fires.

Doing electrical work without an ESA permit or a licensed contractor can result in your insurance company denying your claim if something happens. An excellent way to know if a contractor is licensed is by checking if they have an ESA number on their business cards or website.

Homes built between the mid-1960s and 1970s may have aluminum wiring, and some insurers may need to provide coverage for homes with aluminum wiring. Aluminum wiring is safe when installed correctly. However, when connected to copper, it can oxidise and break, creating a fire hazard. Since most electrical outlets and switches have copper, connections can pose a problem in the future.

With the earth's temperature rising, we can experience more flash floods, and if the water level in the basement rises above an electrical outlet, then stepping into the water can result in electrocution. Avoid having drop cords plugged into an electrical socket and run across the floor because it can become a deadly weapon in a flood. If, in the event of a flood, the water level is above the sockets, then please do not step in the water. Inform the utility company immediately so they can turn off the electricity from the home.

It's better to be safe than sorry. Now is a great time to discard worn-out extension cords. Extension cords used inside a home should only be a temporary fix, and it is best to hire an electrician to install more receptacles. If you use extension cords, keep them away from heat, oil, water, and children. Avoid using extension cords to connect to an appliance near water sources such as sinks, toilets, and showers. If the cord has three prongs, do not break off the ground prong to fit into the electrical socket, and avoid plugging many appliances into a single receptacle because this can cause overheating.

Surging or flickering lights in a home are a sign of a loose connection, and that is a fire hazard. If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or a fuse blows often, this would indicate that the circuit is drawing too much current. You can disconnect some of the electrical items from that circuit, and if the problem continues, get a licensed electrician to correct the problem.

Could you imagine living without electricity? We are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of reliable electricity, but we must be careful because it can harm us. If you have never had an electrical safety inspection done, then prioritise this. For a few hundred dollars, you can buy peace of mind.

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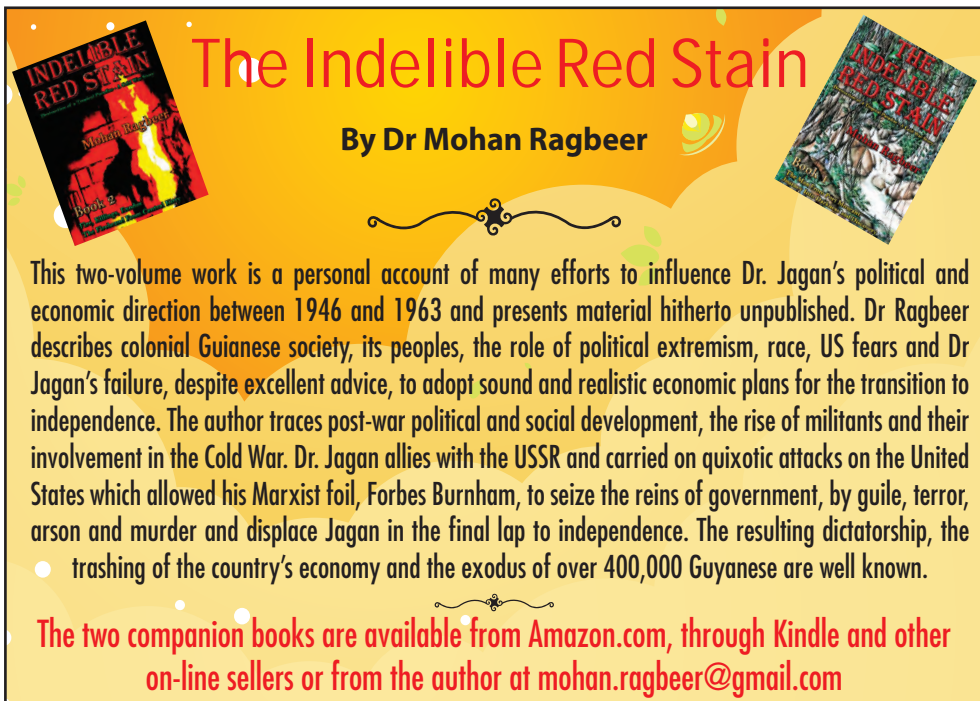


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The Indelible Red Stain

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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Canada's International Masters Cricket Over-60 players returned from Chennai, India earlier this month. The team competed in the IMC World Cup Tournament that saw Australia's Over-60 team defeating England to take the international championship. Australia beat England by eight wickets in what was an easy chase of the 214 total put on the board by the English batters. The visiting teams left goodwill gestures for their hosts at their departure, with the Canadian Over-60 players leaving gifts of cash for their Chennai physiotherapist, the liaison, and their reliable and dependant bus driver. *Photos by Russell Lutchman*



May this Easter bring renewed
Hope, peace and love.

Happy Easter!



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Queens Book Fair celebrates Black History Month 2024 in style!

By Dhanpaul Narine

The Queens Book Fair and Literary Festival Inc celebrated the 2024 edition of Black History Month in style! The event was held in the Richmond Hill Branch of the Queens Library in New York, and attracted a diverse audience. It included teachers, doctors, attorneys, pastors, educators, students, and others.

The library is in the heart of the immigrant community in Queens, New York. The program was moderated by Lourdeth Ferguson, who was outstanding.

The proceedings began with this writer calling for a minute of silence for two members of the Queens Book Fair who left us for heaven. They are Reverend Seopaul Singh and Priyadarshini Marcia Gordon. Both were valued members that read from their works at the Book Fair, and they would be sorely missed.

This writer, who is the Director of the Queens Book Fair, formally welcomed all to what was the sixth Black History Month observances since the Book Fair was formed. The purpose of the Book Fair is to promote literacy in Queens, and since its inception, it has done so with distinction.

He explained that Black History is American History, and it should be taught every day in schools. How can one ignore the struggles of peoples to escape the wrath of slavery? How can discrimination against minorities be ignored?

The struggles of Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Dr Martin Luther King, and others, are an important part of American and world history. People need to know about it, and to connect it with their struggles.

The first speaker was Ariana Narine, who spoke about the struggles of Harriet Tubman and asked that her sacrifice be recognised by those in government and by students.



Reverend Kerry Rogers of Sojourner Truth AME Zion Church called for the community to wear their ethnicity as “a badge of honour”. He said that social media is trying to infiltrate our minds and cause us to see the world in their way. This should be rejected, and we should revert to the values of our parents if we are to make progress.

We must stand up and proudly declare who we are, and he did a homage to some of the great writers and advocates that called for peace. He referred to the Caribbean, where all peoples would come together, irrespective of religion, to work for unity.

Arthur Jackson is an educator in New York. He made a wonderful contribution by paying tribute to his dad Benjamin Perry, who served in the military.

Perry, and his colleagues, thought they would be welcomed home after the World War II, and would be treated as equals. However, to their dismay, they were called all sorts of derogatory names, including the N-word, and were told that “they should have stayed in the Philippine jungle”. He stated that Black vet-

In top photo, a section of the audience at the 2024 observances of Black History Month at the Queens Book Fair; above, panel members (l-r) Dr Melanie Basant, Mayor Albert Juczynski, Arthur Jackson, Lourdeth Ferguson

erans were not able to take advantage of the benefits because they faced “rampant racism”.

Jackson made a powerful case for tolerance and appreciation for other cultures. He stated that his father Benjamin Warren Perry persevered and served his country in the US Post Office with honour and pride, “wearing the responsibility of being a Black man in a country that rejected him”.

Jackson gave the audience things to ponder, such as the role of the Japanese in World War II. He also said that Black History is not a month. He understands the sacrifice and contributions of Blacks. He lived through the hate in South Carolina when his family experienced discrimination first hand. Despite the hate, Jackson has risen, through hard work, and is an educator in

the New York City education system.

Jackson was followed by students Briana and Darren Singh, who spoke about the importance of Black inventions, and the resistance of Rosa Parks to the laws of the day.

It was time for Nayana Chetram to take the stage. This brilliant young lady held everyone’s attention, as she recited a poem from memory about the need for mutual respect and tolerance. She was followed by her sister Rohana, who also spoke about the need for inclusion.

Albert Juczynski is the former Mayor of Schenectady in New York. In 2002, he decided that revitalisation for his city lay in the hands of Guyanese. Today, there are around 67,000 persons that are resident in Schenectady, out of which 15,000 are Guyanese. They form the single largest ethnic group in the city.

Mayor Al, as he was popularly called, treated all ethnic groups with respect. He recalled that he would visit the homes of Afro-Americans and chat with them, and ask them to suggest ways and means to improve the city. It was part of the policy for inclusion, and it worked well under his leadership.

The final speaker was Dr Melanie Basant, a medical doctor in a local hospital. She said she was so impressed with the work of the Queens Book Fair that she would readily counsel and mentor others so they could reach their true potential.

The Director of the Queens Book Fair thanked all for participating, including Ashook Ramsaran for donating the programs, and Davina Singh for making a brilliant flyer to advertise the program. Thanks are extended to the parents for their support, and to Queens Library, Richmond Hill Branch, for their space.

The next program of the Queens Book Fair is on April 27, 2024, when the topic will be *Celebrating Women*. All are invited. Contact doclse007@aol.com for more information.

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Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre's tour heads to Grenada August 12-24

By Shalima Mohammed
Special to Indo-Caribbean World

The Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre is thrilled to organise another enjoyable and educational tour this year. It is the ICC's third annual non-profit tour, and it will take place from August 14 to August 22 in Grenada, in what will be a celebration of the Spice Island's diversity, culture, and history. Some participants in this year's event may want to arrive a couple of days earlier to see Grenada's Carnival.

These ICC Indian Diaspora Country Tours are intended to bring people in the Indian diaspora physically together to all former colonies where ships bearing Indentured Indian immigrants docked.

Belmont Estate

The first ship, named the *Maidstone*, departed from Calcutta on January 27, 1857, and arrived three months later on May 1 at Irwin's Bay, St Patrick, Grenada. It is believed that the arrivals were first taken to Belmont Estate as a holding area, and were then distributed to about 15 plantations in St Patrick.

Interestingly, Belmont Estate was later owned by a descendant of Indian Indentured labourers, Nobert Nyack and Lyriss Nyack. It is now owned and managed by their grand-daughter, attorney Shadel Nyack-Compton.

Belmont Estate is active in the promotion of Indo-Grenadian history and heritage. Each year on Indian Arrival Day, the estate hosts an extravagant event offering authentic Indian cuisine and Indian cultural entertainment.

Visitors on the tour will explore the prestigious US St George's University. They will also experience the True Blue Bay Resort Street Food Festival, which has many themes at nights, along with a live local band and Grenadian food vendors serving a variety of Caribbean cuisine.

Visitors will also enjoy great Indian food at the Punjabi Restaurant near the airport. Each dish is tasty and good-sized.

Maidstone Road

In 2009, the government of Grenada announced that Boucherie Road, which leads to the site of the arrival of the *Maidstone*, would be officially renamed Maidstone Road to honour the arrival of Indians in Grenada. The renaming was officially done in a ceremony at La Fortune Junction, St Patrick.

Governor General Sir Carlyle Glean unveiled a granite plaque commemorating the arrival of the first Indians in Grenada. The plaque bears the inscription, "On 1st May 1857, in this bay, the sailing vessel *Maidstone* anchored and landed 287 passengers, having left India three months earlier, with 304 passengers. Between the years 1857 and 1890, other ships anchored in this and other bays, bringing a total of 3,200 persons from India to work as agricultural indentured labourers in Grenada. This monument is dedicated to those who became the genesis of the Indo-Grenadian population of our nation."

A bust statue of Mahatma Gandhi overlooks Sauteurs Bay in Grenada, where East Indians arrived 171 years ago. It has been installed on the grounds of a secondary school overlooking the area where Indian descendants landed.

St George's City Tour

Visitors will take a stroll through the charming streets of St George's, the island's capital, to see the colonial architecture, bustling markets, variety of shops, and waterfront restaurants. The Grand Anse Craft and Spice Market is nestled along the iconic Grand Anse Beach, with shops brimming with an array of arts and crafts, custom-made jewelry, leather items, vibrant textiles, and locally-produced aromatic spices such as nutmeg, cinnamon, and cocoa. Visitors will also indulge their sweet tooth at the House of Chocolate.

The Union Community Complex

In 2021, the government of India funded the construction of the Union Community Centre in the Parish of St Marks at a cost of approximately (US) \$611,000. Visitors will spend some time cooking and playing at the multi-purpose facility built for educational, sporting, cultural, and social events.

The tour will include stops at iconic landmarks such as the historic Fort George. Visitors will also sail across to Carriacou Island, where they will explore pristine beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and a laid-back atmosphere that captures the essence of Grenada's natural beauty.

On the Island, our tour participants will participate in a Raksha Bandhan ceremony, in which biological and adopted sisters will tie the coloured string, rakhi, around the wrists of their brothers.

Visitors will also experience the spiritual harmony of Grenada at St Andrew's Kirk Presbyterian Church, a mosque, and a mandir.

How to Join the ICC Tour

Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to explore



Heritage plaque near the Indian Arrival site





the heart, soul, and spirit of Grenada. To reserve your spot for the third annual non-profit ICC Tour, contact Shalima Mohammed @ shalimamd@gmail.com; or WhatsApp +1-868-329-705. Limited flights and hotel rooms are available because of Carnival celebrations.



Students visit Mahatma Gandhi's bust

View the unedited [YouTube recording of the 192nd edition of the launch of the tour here](#).


Click on the [link to indicate interest in joining our tour](#), which takes place August 14 to August 22. Register on or before April 15, 2024.








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Celebrating Rooplall Monar - son of Guyana's cultural, literary landscape

Rooplall Monar
1945-March 4, 2024
By Janet Naidu

The recent passing of Guyanese novelist, short story writer and poet, Rooplall Monar, brings us to a deep space of consciousness as we remember him – a son of Guyana's cultural and literary landscape.

Born in a logie at Lusignan on the East Coast of Demerara, he soon moved with his parents to Annandale Village. It is this rural landscape that informs his writings, and where his narratives reflect an era that continue to move us today, which is life on the sugar plantations.

Monar evoked first-hand experiences in his writings. He started to write in the 1960s during the turbulent times in Guyana, particularly in the sugar estate when workers went on strike.

His prize-winning poem, *The Creole Gang*, which appeared in several publications, reflects the estate workers' sufferings in the cane fields, and include his parents, who were also sugarcane workers.

Monar continued to write, with his first collection of poetry, *Meanings* published in 1972. During this time, he became part of the Messenger group of writers, poets, artists and dramatists, which was founded by Rajkumari Singh, a writer, poet, and a playwright.

His epic poem, *Moongaza*, was published in Singh's publication, *Heritage* (1973), and was dramatised as part of a program, produced and choreographed by dancer Gora Singh, and stage managed by Henry Mootoo (also an acclaimed artistic director), to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of Indian Immigration to Guyana.

Written in the Creole language, the poem reflects an important aspect of Guyana's cultural folklore.

One can imagine the stillness of night hearing these lines:

*Two a'clock ah manin
moonlight shine*



Rooplall Monar

*daag bark
'Bow wow wow'
fram de ole loco-line....*

Memba granmudda dem peep / Moongaza in dem logie

Monar's contribution to Guyanese literature is also recognised in his short stories and novels. His first collection of stories, *Backdam People* (1985), was written entirely in Creole, with great humour and touching moments that reflected life on the sugar estates in the mid-1940s; this lifestyle continued across the decades, and also influenced his writings.

His writings also reflect the class system, moving from the logie on the estate to life in the village with a house.

Among his writings, one collection of his short stories, *High House and Radio* (1994), also written in Creole, explores a significant experience of people making the transition of moving from one lifestyle to starting a new one. It is a move – from the logie to a house in a village, including access to radio and the social changes encountered, be these experiences ethnic, political, or religious.

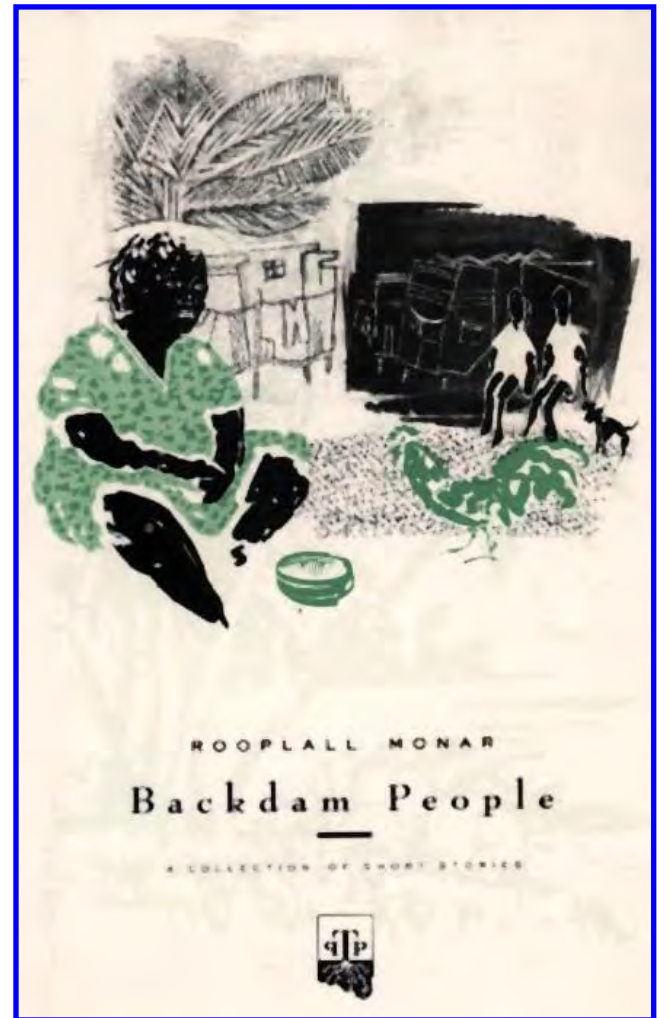
It would have been challenging for people to integrate into new ways of living while aspiring for improvements in their lives at a turbulent time in Guyana.

Monar observed the challenges of moving from the poor living conditions in logies to moving up in life to houses in the housing scheme, where people now had an opportunity to build a life for themselves, but not necessarily without its accompanying social problems.

His imagination, interwoven this reality poured out creatively to re-create everyday conversations and experiences of people who were living their day-to-day lives.

I met Monar through the Messenger group in 1973. He was passionately engaged about life in Guyana. It was a passion that transcended into his poetry and stories – whether he was in the middle of producing a new narrative; or a story that was yet to be written.

As we honour the memory and legacy of Rooplall Monar, a poet, short story writer and novelist, let us recognise him as a literary icon of Guyana.



His rich Guyanese Creole writings, and his exploration of Indo-Guyanese experiences of sugar estate workers in the early part of the 20th century are an intrinsic part of our Guyanese history and culture.

It is fitting to acknowledge that he has made a significant contribution to Guyana's literary and cultural heritage.

After another year of work and much discussion of dreams and feelings, they returned to the island and stayed at a resort. A search for Mathilda was futile. No one knew anyone by that name. After a couple of days of scouring the taxi stands, they spotted the taxi and driver who took them up the mountain.

Tom and Katie met on an online dating site. Tom moved to Katie's city at the other end of the country and eagerly accepted her offer to move into her apartment after six months of long-distance correspondence. Katie found a job for him at the factory where she was employed as an assembly-line worker.

Tom and Katie had a lot in common, including being born on the same day. Even though they had different skin tones, their resemblance was uncanny. Many people who met them for the first time thought that they were twins from multiracial parents.

To celebrate their first anniversary of meeting each other, Katie suggested a romantic seven-island Caribbean cruise.

When they arrived at one of the islands, they browsed around the tourist market, looking for souvenirs. An elderly woman wearing a white head tie and a tie-dyed long dress with a brightly-coloured necklace and armbands made of beads approached them with some brochures about a landmark with a dark past.

The woman, who called herself Mathilda, seemed to sense that both Tom and Katie loved visiting museums to discover replicas of historic sites and explore different cultures around the world. The young couple enthusiastically accepted Mathilda's offer of a guided tour of the historic site. The motherly interaction with Mathilda disarmed them, causing them to accept the offer without thinking of the risk of putting their lives in the hands of a total stranger on an island that they knew had elements of danger.

Mathilda hailed a taxi and took them deep into a mountainous jungle. At the end of the road, they climbed into gondola cars on a walking trail that ended at a massive estate home with the rusted iron-carved name Callaghan House over a large corroded and dilapidated gate at the entrance.

The property had a clear view of the ocean on all sides, right to the horizon. The guide explained that the original occupants of the home were Irish plantation owners named Caragh and Connor Callaghan. After living on the island for almost three decades, the childless couple had died at the hands of pirates, who wanted to use the home as a lookout to plunder merchant ships passing through the Caribbean Sea on their way to Europe with precious commodities from the colonies.

Mathilda pointed to a large portrait on the wall and explained that it was a painting commissioned by the lady of the home in the prime of her life. The oil painting gave Katie goosebumps. She held on to Tom with trembling fingers. He glanced at her with concern in his eyes. He asked her if the thinner air because of the mountain's height had made her dizzy.

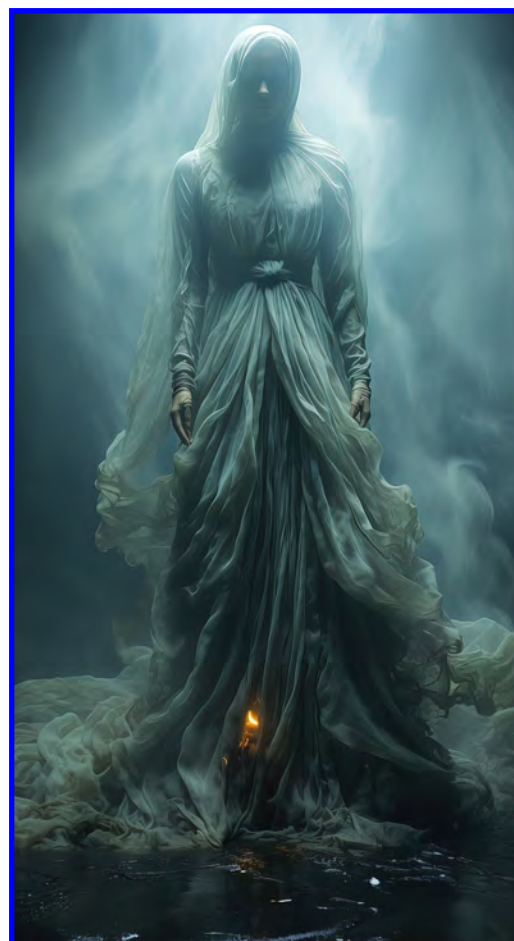
The Supernatural The Return

She told him that the painting had done something to her but she did not know why. She told Tom that she had seen this same colonial home in dreams and was familiar with its layout as if she had been there before. Tom mentioned that he too sensed some connection to the place but had no clue why he felt this way.

When the ship left port for the next island, they stood against the rail on the upper deck to stare at the broken structure that they were sure had once stood as a stately home for passengers on passing ocean-going liners to gaze at its majesty. They both had a similar unspoken thought. They had to return to find out why they felt such nostalgia toward the home.

At the end of the cruise, they returned home and researched the island and the stately home. They found out that the Irish couple owned plantations on the lower mainland and hired a local manager to run the operations while they enjoyed their home in the mountains. Katie and Tom read about the tragedy, but further details were elusive. Their only hope to find out why they felt so connected to the home would require a return trip to the location. They were sure that a week on the island would give them sufficient time to delve into the history of the mansion.

They started their journey into their past by registering with a website that traced ancestry using DNA. The mystery of their resemblance deepened but they felt relieved when they found out that Katie's bloodline originated in West Africa and Tom's family tree started in Eastern Europe. They had no blood ties.



Mathilda entertained the couple with local dancing and singing. Lying in Tom's arms, Katie gazed at her portrait. They had returned home.

Kamil
Ali



Govt reduces domestic property tax

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago last week slashed its proposed domestic property tax by one percent. The move came in the wake of complaints and anomalies that developed in administration of the tax, said Minister of Finance, Colm Imbert.

The announcement was made in Parliament last Friday during the tabling of the Property Tax Amendment Act 2024.

Said Imbert: “The government has taken stock of the various issues raised in the public domain regarding the valuation of residential properties, and as a responsible government... decided to take appropriate action to alleviate the concerns as the new system is being rolled out,” Imbert told the Parliament.

Among other things, the new bill proposes to reduce the rate of residential property tax from three percent to two percent of the annual rental value.

“This represents an effective reduction in property tax by 33 percent,” Imbert said.

Also, the time in which owners will have to lodge objections to the valuations they receive has been extended from 30 days to six months.

According to Imbert, to date, 801 people had already paid their property tax totalling (TT) \$1,030,864.55.

These homeowners will be issued with new tax notices at the new rate of two percent, and be refunded, Imbert stated.

Now that the bill is before Parliament, Imbert said he has asked the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance to make a request to the Board of Inland Revenue to

cease the collection of property tax until the new rate of residential property tax is in effect.

“We expect that these measures will go a long way in addressing the teething issues currently being faced, and we also undertake to take all necessary and future legislative and operational measures needed to ensure that property tax is implemented equitably across Trinidad and Tobago,” Imbert stated.

He also spoke to the notices that had been posted on the doors of some Regional Revenue Collection offices last week that stated property tax payments had been suspended until further notice.

These notices were not authorised, and should not have been put up, particularly in light of the fact that the Property Tax Amendment Act is not yet law, he stated.

“My investigations have revealed that some of the staff in the [Board of Inland Revenue], after becoming aware of the provisions on the amendment bill, took it upon themselves to do this, with apparent good intentions, but without authorisation, and without my knowledge or consent,” Imbert declared.

He added, “However, this is not the way that a Cabinet decision should be communicated to the public, especially on a matter as sensitive as this. I am disappointed that this procedural lapse occurred, and it is my hope and expectation that the public servants involved will learn from this mistake.”

He also apologised, saying: “On behalf of the government, I wish to express my deep regret to all those who were inconvenienced.”



Colm Imbert

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Questions on increased borrowing ceiling

Port-of-Spain – The Opposition is not being fooled by the Trinidad and Tobago government’s attempt to increase the borrowing ceiling by a further (TT) \$10 billion, leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar said last week.

She claimed that the move to increase the ceiling is meant to facilitate the PNM’s election finances.

At the time, Persad-Bissessar was responding to Finance Minister Colm Imbert’s proposal to increase the borrowing limit from \$65 billion to \$75 billion.

Persad-Bissessar questioned why the government wanted to increase the borrowing limit yet again.

“This is the fourth time you are coming to raise the ceiling. In 2015, in 2020, in 2021 and again now. Over the past eight-and-a-half years, this government has increased the debt ceiling by \$45 billion,” she stated.

She added, “This is a 151 percent increase. Where is that money going? There are other debt ceilings. There has been an increase in the statutory limit from \$25 billion to \$45 billion.”

While she admitted that her government under the People’s Partnership had also increased borrowing by \$30 billion, Persad-Bissessar said the country could “touch, see and feel” the projects which her administration had achieved.

She then outlined a range of projects that was built under the Partnership with the borrowed money. Persad-Bissessar also questioned whether the borrowed money was for the benefit of the elite.

“Give us ideas on what this money will be used for. What projects?” she asked.

She noted that over \$300 billion has already been spent. The government must explain how this money was spent, she demanded.

“Anytime a general election is around, you raise the borrowing ceiling. It took 47 years between 1964 to 2011 – a total of 14 govern-

ments to reach the debt ceiling of \$30 billion. But in eight-and-a-half years, this government has increased it by 45 billion. That is a dangerous gamble with our nation’s future,” she said.

She said under Development loans, the PNM increased the borrowing ceiling from \$30 billion to \$45 billion.

“Under the External Loans Act, this government increased the ceiling from \$15 billion to \$30 billion, and an increase in statutory limit under the Guarantee of Loans Act from \$25 billion to \$45 billion, and again, another increase for Development loans,” she said.

Additionally, “We are not fooled by the fact you telling us you will not borrow the \$10 billion. You will borrow it!”

She also said there was nothing tangible to show after the government had spent \$500 billion.

“We are a nation under siege by criminals, people get shot while they having a bath, while they driving. It’s like a war zone we are in after all these billions have been spent,” she said.

She also said over 50 percent of the population does not have an adequate water supply.

“People have to keep their children at home and not send them to school because we have no water to bathe or cook. Still, in the hospitals, we have people sleeping on trolleys and corridors. The quality of life has worsened. People cannot access basic surgeries and hospitals are like virtual killing fields. Children are being forced into churches and mosques because there are not enough schools, and people are protesting for better roads because of rural neglect,” she said.

Responding to questions, Imbert revealed that for the quarter ending in December 2023, the total Central Government external debt was (US) \$5.184 billion, while the total external debt of state enterprises and other State agencies was (US) \$2.105 billion. He also said the total debt to GDP ratio was 70.8 percent, and external debt to GDP was 18 percent.



Kamla Persad-Bissessar



Phagwa celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago

Water usage sees change in Phagwa play

Port-of-Spain – The harsh dry season now underway and resultant water restrictions have led a Hindu organisation in Trinidad and Tobago to make changes in its celebration of Phagwa with the addition of flower petals to the mix of colours.

Hindu Prachar Kendra president Geeta Ramsingh told the media last week that her institution is committed to ensuring it did not “break the rules and laws of the land”, and are now supplementing the throwing of traditional coloured powder with the petals of flowers.

According to Ramsingh, “phool wali holi”, or the celebration of Phagwa using flowers, was first observed last year.

This innovation evolved from non-contact Covid-19 restrictions, and a shift to less usage of liquid aber, she said.

However, she added that while the petals are not a replacement for the aber, it was an addition to the aber and gulaal [coloured powder] play associated with Phagwa celebrations.

“Last year, we had a smaller celebration... we had phool wali holi [which] means we played with flower petals. So, because it is bou-

gainvillea season, we asked people to harvest from their community bougainvillea petals. We had [many] bags of bougainvillea petals. It was beautiful,” she said.

Additionally, “And we also had gulaal. So we just played with that because of water crisis again. And it is the same thing that is happening again. So in our planning now, this is something we are also considering to limit the play with the liquid aber, because the powder... is easier to wash off. So those are genuine concerns we have.”

Ramsingh said the Kendra Phagwa Festival, hosted by the Hindu Prachar Kendra, started in 1992. Among the activities is “Ranga Barase” [the shower of colours], where chowtals are sung and community dancing is encouraged, she added.

In the past overhead pipes and sprinkler systems were connected to tanks of aber that created the effect of “people dancing in the rain”, she said.

However, due to the present situation, this feature has been adjusted to accommodate the government’s restrictions on water, she said.

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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

CID tops earning's list for 1956 Golden Age of Indian Cinema

By Vidur Dindayal

Celebrating superb films released in 1956 of the Golden age of Indian Movies, *C.I.D.* tops the list of ten highest grossing films, according to the estimate on Box Office India's website.

The others were *Ek Hi Raasta*, *Chori Chori*, *Basant Bahar*, *New Delhi*, *Raj Hath*, *Bhai Bhai*, *Toofan Aur Diya*, *Funtoosh*, and *Inspector*.

It has been a pleasure reflecting on rich memories of seeing the films in my early years, backed with details sourced from *Wikipedia*, and songs from *YouTube*.

C.I.D., the crime thriller is one of the Bollywood's best, and stars Dev Anand, Shakila, Johnny Walker, K.N. Singh, Kum Kum, Mehmood, and Waheeda Rehman. It was Waheeda Rehman's screen debut.

Its story is about a newspaper editor who is wounded when about to expose the underworld links of a rich man. He tells Inspector Shekhar (Dev Anand) about the underworld threat. Rekha (Shakila) and Shekhar have a romantic relationship.

Music director was O.P. Nayyar. Lyrics were by Majrooh Sultanpuri and Jan Nisar Akhtar. Of the six songs in the movie *Aankhon Hi Aankhon Mein* by Geet Dutt and Rafi, *Leke Pehla Pehla* by Shamshad Begum, Asha Bhosle, and Rafi, and *Yeh Hai Bombay Meri Jaan* by Rafi & Geeta Dutt, are popular to this day. It seems the tune of *Yeh Hai Bombay Meri Jaan* was based on the American folk song *Oh My Darling, Clementine*.

Dev Anand and Guru Dutt were friends when they struggled to get into films. In better times Guru Dutt produced *C.I.D.* and Dev Anand was the hero.

Guru Dutt had spotted Waheeda Rehman in a Telugu movie, and gave her a role in *C.I.D.* to prepare her for her role in *Pyaasa*.

C.I.D. was a huge commercial success. Guru Dutt gifted Director Raj Khosla a foreign car after the success.

Filmfare wrote *C.I.D.* was a sleek entertainer, interspersed with good songs, and the film's highpoint was O.P. Nayyar's music.

I was a student in Delhi University when the movie was released. I saw it with friends. We cycled to the 'T-ah-ta' (Theatre) in a suburb, some miles from our college.

Ek Hi Raasta, produced and directed by B.R. Chopra, starred Sunil Dutt, Meena Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Daisy Irani, and Jeevan.

Chopra formed B.R. Films in 1955, and *Ek Hi Raasta* was the first film produced by this company.

The movie is about a happily married couple Amar and Malti, and their son Raja. Amar was working for Prakash, a rich man. Amar was murdered by a thief. Prakash took pity on Malti, and eventually married her. Malti's son Raja rejected Prakash as stepfather.

The music director, Hemanta Kumar, also sang few of the songs himself, one of which was *Chali Gori Pi Se Milan Ko Chali*.

Of the eight songs I like *Sanware Salone Aaye Din Bahaar Ke* sung by Hemanta Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar. Meena Kumari and Sunil Dutt are so young. It is enjoyable to see them riding a two seater bike with Daisy Irani.

Meena Kumari's dance to *Chali Gori Pi Se Milan Ko Chali*, sung by Hemanta Kumar, is enjoyable.

Chori Chori, an all-round entertainer, stars Nargis, Raj Kapoor, Pran, Gope, Bhagwan, David, Johnny Walker, and Mukri.

This was the last film of Nargis and Kapoor together as leads. This film was an AVM production, and their first film to contain sequences in colour.

Music direction was by Jaikishan Dayabhai Panchal and Shankarsingh Raghuvanshi, well-known as Shankar-Jaikishan, with lyrics by Hasrat Jaipuri and Shailendra. Popular romantic songs included *Aaja Sanam*, *Yeh Raat Bheegi Bheegi*, and *Jahan Mein Jati Hoon* in the voices of Lata Mangeshkar and Manna Dey, and the comedy number *Sawa Lakh Ki Lottery*, by Lata Mangeshkar and Rafi.

Basant Bahar had nine outstanding songs. Music composition was by Shankar-Jaikishan with lyrics by Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri.

I am captivated by Nimmi's two songs *Nain Mile Chain Kahaan*, and *Main Piya Teri Tu Maane Ya Na Maane*. The



two dance numbers are entertaining: *Ja Ja Re Ja Balamva* and *Kar Gaya Re Kar Gaya Mujh Pe Jadoo*. *Sur Na Sake* by Bharat Bhooshan is enjoyable.

Gopal Joshi (Bharat Bhushan) is singing a raga. His father, Narsin Joshi (Om Prakash), scolds him for singing, and wants him to become an astrologer. His neighbour Malaya, the son of the royal musician is not as good a singer as Gopal. There is a music competition. Gopal meets and falls for Gopi (Nimmi). Gopal eventually sings in front of the king.

Basant Bahar received a National Film Award – a Certificate of Merit for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

New Delhi, a comedy starring Vyjayanthimala and Kishore Kumar is about a Punjabi boy and Tamil girl who fall in love with each other, but unfortunately were separated by their families.

Vijayanthimala was the perfect match for Kishore Kumar. She excels in the two main dances – the Bharatnatayam number, and the Bhangra folk dance. Kishore Kumar is brilliant as a comic, actor, and singer.

All the songs were successful, especially Kishore Kumar's *Nakhrewali*.

Raj Hath, meaning 'Royal Stubbornness', is a romantic fantasy drama produced and directed by Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Sohrab Modi. It starred Madhubala, Pradeep Kumar, Tun Tun, Sohrab Modi, and Ulhas. It is historical with the elaborate setting you would expect of old royalty.

The story revolves around two neighbouring empires with long standing mutual enmity. Their children turn their rivalry into love. The king of Jagmer, Maharaja Daljeet (Sohrab Modi), sends a proposal to the king of Sultanpur, for his daughter, Raja Beti (Madhubala) to marry Kumar (Pradeep Kumar), son of the king of Sultanpur (Ulhas).

The proposal was rejected, but at the end the kings overlooked past rivalries, and agreed to the marriage.

Sohrab Modi is a highly revered senior of Bollywood. He was a member of the tenth Berlin International Film Festival. Along with directing and producing, he played a significant acting role in the film. Music was by Shankar-Jaikishan, who were both honoured with the Padma Shri award by the government of India.

Rafi's partnership with Shankar-Jaikishan was among the most famous in the Hindi film industry. The song *Aaye Bahaar Ban Ke* was one of the hit songs of the partnership. I like this song very much, as well as *Mere Sapne Me Anan Re Sajna*, and the dance number *Naache Ang Ang Ang Tere Ang*, which is sung by Lata Mangeshkar. The lyrics for the songs were written by Hasrat Jaipuri and Shailendra, who were described by Gulzar as being the best lyricists in the Indian film industry.

Bhai-Bhai, the drama directed by M.V. Raman for A.V.M.

Productions, starred Ashok Kumar and Kishore Kumar (real-life brothers) as the two brothers; Nirupa Roy as Ashok Kumar's wife; Shyama as the 'seductress'; and co-stars – Nimmi, Om Prakash, and David and Daisy Irani.

The story is of two brothers, with the younger brother running away from home at an early age. The older brother gets entangled with another woman, leaving his wife and child at home.

Music director was Madan Mohan, with lyrics by Rajendra Krishan. The film had 12 songs – including seven Lata Mangeshkar solos, a duet with Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar, a song by Kishore Kumar, a song by Mohammed Rafi, and a song by Asha Bhosle.

My favourite song *Ae Dil Mujhe Bata De*, sung by Geeta Dutt, became one of Madan Mohan's earliest hits.

Bhai Bhai was the second movie I saw in India, when I went there to study. It was in Agra of Taj Mahal. This was in 1956.

Toofan Aur Deeya, an inspirational story, starring Nanda, Rajendra Kumar, and Ulhas, is about a boy Sadanand and his sister Nandini who try to live with honour after their father died poor. This is after partition, and the struggles to survive in new surroundings.

Music is by Vasant Desai, and lyrics by Bharat Vyas. Among its nine songs, the title song *Nirbal Ki Ladai Balwaan*, sung by Manna Dey, recurs several times during the film. It reminds that with faith you can cope with any of life's problems.

Muraliya Baje Ri sung by Lata Mangeshkar is familiar. *Aankhon Mein Aankhen* and *Dil Tumne Liya* sung by Shamshad Begum are beautiful dance numbers.

Funtoosh stars Dev Anand, Sheila Ramani, K.N. Singh, and Mehmood. It is produced by Navketan Films, a company started in 1949 by actor-director and producer Dev Anand and his elder brother Chetan Anand.

The story is about Ram, who goes crazy after the death of his mother and sister. Once released from mental hospital, he meets Kirorilal, who insures him and wants him dead for the money. However, Ram ends up marrying his daughter.

The music was composed by Sachin Dev Burman, and was an instant hit. He was assisted by his 17 year old son R.D. Burman, who composed the tune of hit song *Ae Mere Topi Palat Ke Aa*, which is sung by Kishore Kumar. The lyrics were by Sahir Ludhianvi.

The song *Dukhi Man Mere* by Kishore Kumar was tops at Binaca Geet Mala. Other hits were *Woh Dekhe To Unki Inayat* and *Hamen Aaj Koi Na Chhediyao*, both by Kishore Kumar and Asha Bhosle, and *Denewala Jab bhi Deta* by Kishore Kumar.

The songs strengthened the bond among S.D. Burman, Dev Anand, and Kishore Kumar.

Inspector is a thriller starring Ashok Kumar, Geeta Bali, Pran, K.N. Singh, Mehmood, and Achla Sachdev.

Thakur Mahendra Singh's adopted son's father is Badri (K.N. Singh). Thakur's wife gets her own child. A murder was committed. Badri placed the dead body in Varsha's (Geeta Bali) car. Inspector Shyam (Ashok Kumar) investigated, and was surprised to see his beloved entangled in this case.

Music director was the famous Hemant Kumar, with lyrics by S.H. Bihari. Of the nine songs, dance numbers *Bada Mushkil Hai Daaman Bachana* and *Dekho Kaisi Suhani Ghadi* were sung by Asha Bhosle, and *Phoolon Ke Haar Le Lo* by Hemant Kumar.

There were lots more releases in 1956 beside the ten top grossing movies above. I remember these with music by C. Ramchandra: *26 January*, *Devta* and *Shatranj*. Hemant Kumar – *Anjaan*, *Bandhan*, *Durgesh Nandini* and *Hamara Watan*. Chitragupta: *Basant Panchami*, *Insaaf*, and *Zindagi Ke Mele*.

O.P. Nayyar: *Chhoo Mantar*, *Hum Sab Chor Hain*, *Shrimati* 420.

Shankar-Jaikishan: *Halaku*, *Kismet Ka Khel*, *Madan Mohan*, *Mem Sahib*, and *Pocket Maar*.

Others movies were: *Aan Baan*, *Ayodhyapati*, *Diwali Ki Raat*, *Hatim Tai*, *Jagte Raho*, *Paisa Hi Paisa*, *Raj Rani Meera*, *Rangeen Raten*, and *Sati Ansuya*.

Jaldeep with Mala Sinha and Achala Sachdev was a Best Children's Film at the International Venice Film Festival of 1957. It was awarded All India Certificate for Merit as the Best Children's Film – State Awards for Film, in 1960.

Glowing praise from Azmi, Tendulkar for Rao's *Laapataa Ladies*

Growing appreciation for Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* last week found its latest fan in veteran actress Shabana Azmi.

In her social media appreciation for the movie, Azmi praised Kiran Rao for creating *Laapataa Ladies*, which she described as a "gem" and "delightful". At the same time, she urged moviegoers to support the movie.

Azmi also praised the movie's cast, stating, "What a delightful film # Kiran Rao's #*Laapataa Ladies* is so well-written with authentic atmosphere and lovely performances by the cast with #Ravi Kishan topping them all. The audience was laughing and clapping. Kudos to Kiran Rao. Please go and watch the film now. Such little gems must be patronised by audiences."

The movie was also positively reviewed on social media by former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.

In his glowing tribute, Tendulkar stated on X, formerly Twitter, "A big-hearted fable set in small-town India that speaks to one at so many levels. I loved *Laapataa Ladies* for its delightful story, powerhouse performances and the subtlety with which it delivered important social messages so cleverly, without overt preaching. A must-watch for everyone, and trust me, you will laugh, cry and rejoice with the characters as they find their destinies in the movie. A big congratulations to my friends Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan!"

Laapataa Ladies is Rao's directorial debut, and is backed by her ex-husband Aamir Khan's production house.

It has also received glowing praise from other celebrities as Sidharth Malhotra and Radhika Apte.

Said Malhotra: "Sometimes you need to get lost to find yourself in more than many ways... This gem of a film story by Biplab Goswami, brilliant screenplay and dialogues by Sneha Desai with additional dialogues by Divyanidhi Sharma say so much in lines and scenes that hit home."

He added, "Kiran Rao is a master craftsmanship in bringing out performances and nuances by one and all take a bow. Sparsh Shrivastava, Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta and the icing on the cake is Ravi Kishan, he is so so good. The casting by Romil Casting is top class. Many congratulations to Aamir Khan Productions, Jio Studios and Kiran Rao."

Radhika Apte stated, "This film is just so wonderful and heartwarming and honest and funny and sweet and kind. It's a gem that you mustn't, mustn't miss."



Laapataa Ladies was released March 1 to a warm reception

A special screening was held ahead of *Laapataa Ladies*' release that saw filmmaker Karan Johar as one of the attendees. It was later released on March 1.

Said Johar afterwards on Instagram: "I can say with complete assurance that at the end of 2024, when we look back at the year this gem of a gorgeous film will be hailed as one of the best films of the year. Kiran Rao directs this soulful and stirring satire with the ease of a *bona fide* veteran."

Johar continued, "Addressing potent issues with humour, oodles of charm and superlative performances *Laapataa Ladies* made me smile, laugh, tear up and then applaud the mastery of the filmmaker and writers of the film!!!!... Congratulations to the entire ensemble of actors... the solid technicians... The brilliant writing team and Kiran Rao for giving us a gift of a film! And props to Aamir Khan Productions for always raising the cinematic bar with excellence."

Laapataa Ladies stars Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, and Sparsh Shrivastava in leading roles. The movie also features Ravi Kishan, Chhaya Kadam, Durgesh Kumar, Satendra Soni, and Hemant Soni.

It is collectively backed by Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao, and Jyoti Deshpande.

The movie is set in 2001 rural India, and is about two young brides who get separated from their husbands during a train journey, and what takes place after Ravi Kishan, a police officer, takes it upon himself to probe the case.

Laapataa Ladies premiered at the Toronto International Film

Festival in September 2023, and received a standing ovation.

Last month Rao spoke about what makes the story set in 2001 still relatable and relevant. Talking about the casting of the film, and working with new as well as established names, Rao told ANI, "We both felt, Aamir and I, that if the actors are completely new to this, who fit this character perfectly, then [the audience] will believe this world in some way, and you will understand this world. You won't think: how is this possible? You know, you will start flowing with this story. So, because of Aamir's faith and sharp planning and design casting happened."

Actress Pratibha Ranta spoke to the *Hindustan Times* about the intricacies of her character Jaya, her takeaways from the movie.

Ranta grew up in Shimla, but noted she could relate to her role as the traditionally veiled wife Jaya.

As she stated, "She stands up for herself when no one does, and is steadfast in her conviction. What's not to relate?"

Also, she credited her work on television in *Qurbaan Hua* and *Aadha Ishq* for helping her with the role.

Said Ranta: "TV helped me be on my toes; it was like going to acting school."

She also commended the script, which she said was so good that she could visualise Jaya without issues.

"She was written so well, so much thought was put into her and I could see that on paper. When I read a scene, I could visualise how she would be. That's quite rare, for it to not feel forced," she said.

Additionally, "I also found similarities between her story and my life. My family wanted me to pursue something else, but I knew I wanted to be an actor. I came from Shimla to Mumbai to follow my dreams. Much like her, I have always been adamant about being in charge of my own life. I knew in my gut that I could be her."

She also revealed she was so busy promoting the film she never found the time to feel nervous about her big-screen debut.

"I was so busy that I could not process the feeling of making my debut. I've been waiting for this for a long time now. But when the film's premiere happened in February and there was such good energy all around, I knew we did well. Girls today tell me they relate to my role. They tell me they, like that Jaya, have the strength to break the norms. It feels good," she declared.

Ramadan Mubarak!

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Sammy confident of WI ahead of T20 World Cup

White-ball coach Darren Sammy has praised the strength of the West Indies' batting ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup, but at the same time told the *Caribbean Media Corporation* that adjustments were needed in the bowling department.

He added that doing so would make the side a truly formidable unit for the tournament, which will take place in June.

West Indies captured all three of the series they contested last year against heavyweights South Africa, India and England, winning eight of the 13 T20 Internationals.

And while West Indies were defeated by Australia in a three-match series Down Under last month, Sammy said the team's batting had continued to impress.

"The way my batters batted, I think it's the first time a team had scored over 200 three consecutive times, whether batting first or chasing, and it speaks volumes of the power that we have in that squad," Sammy said.

Additionally, "Obviously we need to tinker and work on some different bowling roles and that myself, James Franklin and the captain [Rovman Powell] have been speaking to various persons that we want to execute different roles. I've been speaking and working diligently with our analysts looking at grounds, different venues we're going to have [for the T20 World Cup] and the different dimensions and different conditions in the surface, and making sure we have the right personnel to fill in those key roles."

West Indies ended on 202 in pursuit of 214 in Hobart, and then gathered 207 in the second T20 International in Adelaide, after the Aussies piled up 241.

In the Perth finale, West Indies stormed to 220 batting first, to beat Australia by 37 runs and salvage some pride from the series.



Darren Sammy

As joint hosts, West Indies enter the T20 World Cup from June 1-29 as one of the favourites, and will do battle in Group C with New Zealand, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, and minnows Uganda.

Sammy said preparations for the showpiece were already intense, with plenty of work being undertaken behind the scenes.

"The preparation both on and off the field is going good," he said.

Sammy was appointed to the lead role last year, and is a two-time former World Cup-winning captain. He played over 200 international matches for the West Indies, famously captained the Caribbean team to T20 World Cup success on two occasions after epic victories over Sri Lanka and England in 2012 and 2016 respectively.

On both occasions, the West Indies team looked down and out in the final, but remarkable game-changing performances from players as Carlos Brathwaite and Marlon Samuels dramatically got the team over the line.

Said Sammy: "Leading up closer to the World Cup, I think a few of my boys will be in the IPL playing. We have a series probably just before the World Cup - three matches against South Africa - so building up to that, we'll be ready. And again, we're at home, we know the conditions, it's not about adapting. It's just about making sure we execute well when the day comes."

West Indies won the 2012 T20 World Cup in Colombo and repeated the success four years later in India.

However, they have suffered massive disappointments in the last two events - failing to get out of the group stage of the 2021 edition, and then missing out on qualifying for the group stage a year later in Australia.



Mitchell Marsh

Marsh to helm Aussies in T20

An endorsement from Andrew McDonald, head coach of the Australian men's national team, means Mitchell Marsh is the likely candidate to lead the team in the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the US.

McDonald is part of the Australian selection panel, along with chairman George Bailey and Tony Dodemaide, and was expected to send a formal recommendation to Cricket Australia for Marsh to take charge as T20I skipper.

"I think all roads will lead to Mitch, so just got to get that ticked off in certain areas. We're happy and comfortable with the way he has been able to operate with that T20 team. We think he is the leader for the World Cup, and I think that will just be a matter of due course," said McDonald.

Since Aaron Finch's retirement, Marsh has led the T20I setup in eight games from 2023.



Mike Proctor

SA's top all rounder Mike Proctor dies at 77

South Africa cricketer Mike Proctor died on February 17 following complications after heart surgery. He was 77 years old.

As the cricket website *Cricbuzz* reported, Proctor was an all rounder, scoring a 21,936 runs that included 48 centuries. He took 1,417 wickets at 19.53, with 70 five-wicket hauls from 401 first class games.

He was considered among South Africa's top cricketers. However, his career coincided with South Africa's sporting isolation in the 1970s and 1980s due to the country's apartheid practices. It meant he made seven Test match appearances, all against Australia.

With his high-quality seam bowling off the 'wrong foot', Proctor took 41 wickets from those seven games, at an average of 15.02. He also averaged 34.83 with the bat in the second of his two series against Australia.

Proctor's best was reserved for Gloucestershire, where he played as an overseas player for 13 years with great success. Struggling in 1969, the county went to second place with Proctor taking over 100 wickets.

During those sessions when he was in form with the bat, Proctor maximised the flow by scoring hundreds regularly, with a record of six consecutive centuries in first class cricket for Rhodesia in 1970, and four first class tons for Gloucestershire in 1971. He was named among Wisden's five cricketers of the year in 1970.

He also achieved the rare feat of taking two hat-tricks in two games in 1979 for Gloucestershire. He led the side between 1977 and 1981, and captained the team to the Benson & Hedges cup in 1977. His popularity was evident from the nickname for his county, which was Proctershire.

After his playing days, Proctor became a match referee. It was a position where controversy followed him, and was the referee at the Oval in 2006 when Pakistan forfeited the Test after the umpires penalised the side for ball tampering.

He was also the referee at Sydney in 2008, when he banned Indian off spinner Harbhajan Singh for three matches on charges of racism, a decision which was later overturned. He stepped down from the post in 2008 to become South Africa's convener of selectors.

Pant showed remarkable resilience, will to recover, says surgeon

A severely injured Rishabh Pant showed remarkable resilience and mental strength following the trauma of the horrifying car crash in 2022, persevering through a frustrating recovery process on the road to regaining fitness, his medical staff told *NDTV* last week.

Pant returns to the game in the IPL on March 23 as captain of Delhi Capitals against Punjab Kings in Mohali.

Last week, following news of his return, he told the Indian media, "I feel very close to normal".

It has been 15 months since he suffered multiple injuries in the vehicular crash. For his recovery, he was in the hands of Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, Director, Centre for Sports Medicine, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai, as well as staff at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

Last week Pardiwala recalled the challenging journey to recovery that Pant faced.

"As surgeons and as doctors, it's very important for us to inform our patients, their family, and all the stakeholders of the actual status of the injury. Rishabh's mother was with him.



Pant's vehicle following the crash



Rishabh Pant

She was very concerned whether he would ever be able to walk again," Pardiwala said.

He added, "I told her, 'This is such a critical injury, and we will definitely aim for him to get back to competitive cricket. But that's going to be a long-drawn process.'"

Pardiwala said he was astonished when he noted Pant's confidence as he entered the recovery phase.

"When I told Rishabh 18 months, he said, 'Okay, I am going to show you I can do it in 12 months,'" Pardiwala recalled.

Pant remained focused throughout the entire recovery period, *NDTV* reported.

"When I started walking without crutches, that was a high point. Then started jogging a little bit, that was a high for me;

then started batting; then started keeping. I took joy in everything," he said.

But each of those baby steps had to be taken with care due to the complexities involved.

Pant suffered a complex knee injury, Pardiwala said. Also, the trauma following the accident, and Pant's frustration at being away from the cricket field both had to be dealt with in an effective manner.

"For any surgeon, knee dislocation is one of the worst injuries because everything breaks. You need to get back the stability, you need to get back the shock absorption capability," he said.

Additionally, "For any trauma, there is a period of shock, and there is always an aspect of mental health. On a particular day, you are perfectly normal, you are a superstar and you are celebrated across the world. But a week later, you can't do what a normal person does. That's when the frustration sets in. So, that was a difficult period for Rishabh. We had to support him through that phase."

Dhananjay Kaushik, the NCA physiotherapist, said he too was amazed at Pant's positive attitude.

"None of the ligaments [on Pant's injured right knee] were spared during that accident... I think if there is anyone who could make a comeback, it is Rishabh Pant," said Kaushik.

Also, Nishanta Bordoloi, the strength and conditioning coach at NCA, said the whole episode left Pant a transformed human being.

"He is now respecting life, as a whole, more," he stated.



Members of the Scotland Women's cricket team celebrate the fall of a wicket

Women face racism, toxicity in Scotland cricket

Women in Scottish cricket face a toxic environment along with a high degree of prejudice, a new report has found.

As the *British Broadcasting Corporation* and other international media outlets reported earlier this month, the report commissioned by Cricket Scotland found that sexism to be very much alive in the sport, and that antiquated views are still prevalent.

Trudy Lindblade, chief executive officer of Cricket Scotland, described the findings as a "damning indictment". She took over as chief executive officer last October.

A previous 2022 report found the then leadership of the sport in Scotland to be "institutionally racist", the *BBC* also reported.

Lindblade said behaviour took place that was "disrespectful, demeaning, and deeply concerning" towards women.

The latest assessment was undertaken by independent firm McKinney HR, and was compiled after various interviews with current players and staff members.

Among other things, the report found evidence that over the years women have been treated differently from their male counterparts, and that specific needs of women are often dismissed or not considered.

Also, that sexism is very much in evidence within the cricket game in Scotland. The examples show a high degree of prejudice and discrimination towards both female staff and players.

It also found no evidence to suggest that there are current examples of misogyny, which is described as a hatred of women.

Meanwhile, root causes leading to sexism were identified, including the make-up of committees, embedded male behaviours, and under-representation of female game officials.

Said Lindblade: "It is evident that Cricket Scotland allowed behaviours to take place that were disrespectful, demeaning, and deeply concerning, and that these were allowed to continue for a significant period. This is completely unacceptable, and I wholeheartedly apologise to every single person who was affected and let down by the governing body."

Aussie Ellyse Perry takes 6-wicket record WPL haul

Australia all rounder Ellyse Perry took away figures of 6-15 from four overs for Royal Challengers Bangalore in a seven-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians, the performance putting her out front as the first player to take a six-wicket haul in a Women's Premier League match.

She put her name into the record books with a productive bowling performance against Mumbai Indians in the WPL match on March 5 in a brilliant spell that dismantled the Mumbai batting line-up at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

She is also the first player in either men's or women's cricket to score 100 runs, and record six-wicket hauls in all three formats of the game.

Perry's six wickets saw Mumbai bowled out for 113, which Bangalore chased down with five overs to spare. She also top scored with the bat for Bangalore with 40 runs off 38 balls as they ended 115-3.

Batting first, Mumbai Indians were sitting comfortably on 65-1 before Perry tore into their batting line-up from number two to seven. Her performance set Mumbai adrift with 82-7.

She added the report highlighted that the organisation had a lot of work to do, and pledged to make the sport "welcoming and safe for all women and girls".

Lindblade said some of the report's recommendations had already been acted upon. Also, that a new strategy for dealing with the problem would be released soon.

Speaking with *BBC Radio's Good Morning Scotland* programme, she noted that Cricket Scotland now had a robust disciplinary and complaints process in place, and urged anyone affected to become involved.

"There has been a significant change in leadership and personnel. We have to be patient, but that is okay, because we know where we want to go," she stated.

Also, "Everybody wants to move past this time that we're going through. It has been a really difficult time, whether you're an employee playing on the weekends, or whether you're a member of a club or a committee. Everybody is ready to look forward, and we all want to do that together."

The report made nine recommendations for Scottish Cricket to implement, including increased investment in the women's game, establishing a process to call out sexism and discrimination in the sport, and creating a "clear and transparent process" for complaints.

The new study comes less than two years after Cricket Scotland's governance and leadership were found to be "institutionally racist".

An inquiry by funding body SportScotland also concluded that those who raised issues were ignored or sidelined, and a culture of "racially aggravated micro-aggression" was allowed to develop. The review highlighted 448 examples that demonstrated institutional racism.

An anonymous survey was carried out as part of the review, with 62 percent of those who responded saying they had experienced, seen, or had reported to them incidents of racism, inequalities, or discrimination.

Four of her six wickets were from bowling the batter out, with the other two lbw dismissals. Among her conquests were England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, and New Zealand all rounder Amelia Kerr.

In response, Bangalore initially struggled after falling to 39-3 with Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Molineux, and Sophie Devine all dismissed cheaply.

However, a 76-run partnership off 53 balls between Perry and wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh helped secure a comfortable victory.

The previous bowling record in the WPL was set in 2023, the competition's first year, by South Africa all rounder Marizanne Kapp, who took 5-15 for Delhi Capitals against Gujarat Giants.



Ellyse Perry

Cricket Schedule

(Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Friday March 22, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 1, Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, 9:30 AM

Saturday March 23, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 2, Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, 9:30 AM

Sunday March 24, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 3, Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, 9:30 AM

Monday March 25, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 4, Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, 9:30 AM

Tuesday March 26, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 5, Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium, Sylhet, 9:30 AM

Saturday March 30, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024,
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 1, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 9:30 AM

Sunday March 31, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 2, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 9:30 AM

Monday April 1, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 3, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 9:30 AM

Tuesday April 2, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, 2nd Test, Day 4, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram, 9:30 AM

Wednesday April 3, 2024

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh, 2024
Bangladesh vs SL, 2nd Test, Day 5, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Sta., Chattogram, 9:30 AM

Friday April 12, 2024

ACC Mens T20I Premier Cup, 2024
UAE vs Kuwait, 2nd Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
Oman vs Bahrain, 1st Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
Nepal vs Malaysia, 3rd Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM
Hong Kong vs Qatar, 4th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM

Saturday April 13, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
Kuwait vs Cambodia, 5th Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
UAE vs Bahrain, 6th Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
Nepal vs Qatar, 7th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM
Malaysia vs Saudi Arabia, 8th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM

Sunday April 14, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
Oman vs Cambodia, 9th Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
Hong Kong vs Saudi Arabia, 10th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM

Monday April 15, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
Nepal vs Hong Kong, 11th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
Malaysia vs Qatar, 12th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 10:00 AM
United Arab Emirates vs Oman, 13th Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM
Kuwait vs Bahrain, 14th Match, Group B, AI Amerat Cricket Ground, AI Amerat, 2:30 PM

Tuesday April 16, 2024

ACC Men's T20I Premier Cup, 2024
Qatar vs Saudi Arabia, 15th Match, Group A, AI Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 1), AI Amerat, 10:00 AM



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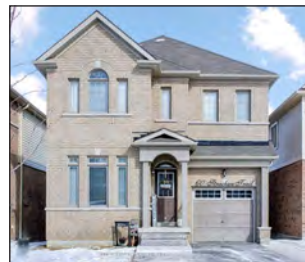
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Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

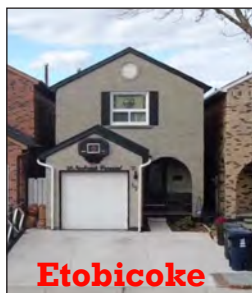
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