2020 Summer Olympic Games

The 2020 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 - August 8, 2021, while the Paralympic Games are scheduled to be held also in Tokyo, from August 25 - September 6, 2021. The games were postponed due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. The ancient Olympic Games began in Olympia, Greece in 776 BC. It took place every four years until AD 393. The Games were held in honor of Zeus, the Greek god. At the first Games, athletes competed in only one running event held on a single day. However, over the years, other events were added, and the Games eventually expanded to five days.

Pierre de Coubertin, originally **Pierre de Frédy**, (born January 1, 1863, Paris, France - died September 2, 1937, Geneva, Switzerland), French educator who played a central role in the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896, after nearly 1,500 years of abeyance is considered as the founder of modern Olympics Games. He was a founding member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and served as its president from 1896 to 1925. Coubertin's extraordinary energies, his quest for cultural symbolism, his social and political connections, and his willingness to exhaust his fortune in pursuit of his ambitions were critical to launching the Olympic movement. At the 1889 Universal Exhibition in Paris, Coubertin launched a series of congresses on physical education and international sports that coincided with inspiring new archaeological finds from Olympia. His public call for an Olympic revival at one of these congresses in 1892 fell on deaf ears, but he persevered, and in 1894 a second Sorbonne congress resolved to hold an international Olympic Games in Athens.

The modern **Olympic Games** or **Olympics** are leading international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of athletes from around the world participate in a variety of competitions. The Olympic Games are considered the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating. The Olympic Games are normally held every four years, alternating between the Summer and Winter Olympics every two years in the four-year period. The **Olympic motto** is "*hendiatris Citius, Altius, Fortius*," which is Latin for *"faster, higher, stronger."* It was proposed Mr. Coubertin upon the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. The **creed**, or guiding principle, of the modern Olympic Games is a quote by Baron de Coubertin: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

New Protocol Team Member

Ms. Hellen C. Thompson assumed her new position as Administrative Secretary to the Director of Protocol & International Affairs Division on July 12, 2021. Prior to joining the Division, she served in the following capacities: Director of Meeting Planning, Sheraton Miami Airport Hotel; Meeting Planner for Mayfair Hotel & Spa, Hilton Bentley Miami Beach Hotel, and Doubletree by Hilton Hotel; Event Services Manager, Hilton Miami Airport Hotel and Administrative Assistant & Notary, Zayas Bazan Law Firm.

She is a Certified Administrative & Personal Assistant and Certified Wedding Consultant. She obtained an Associate of Arts degree from Miami Dade College. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.

Contact: 305-876-7142; HThompson@Maimi-Airport.com.

The Protocol School of Washington®

We cordially invite interested parties to the *Protocol Officer Training ™* - a five-day comprehensive course hosted by **The Protocol School of Washington ®** at the Miami International Airport Hotel Conference Room, from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2021. The course provides expert instruction, guided exercises, and coaching in the fundamentals of operational protocol.

Click here for course overview, costs, and registration link.

The 2021 Olympic Summer Games were originally scheduled to start on July 24, 2020. However, the Covid-19 global pandemic happened. According to the International Olympics Committee (IOC), 206 nations and more than 11,000 athletes are expected to participate in the Tokyo Olympics - featuring a record 33 sports and 339 medal events in 42 venues.

We extend our most heartfelt and sincerest condolences for the loss of life, property, pets, etc., in the Surfside condo collapse on June 24, 2021. The world-class search and rescue team have been incredible in carefully removing rubble, caring for victims and recovering items, animals, and people trapped in the debris. In addition to the human members, there are dogs trained to detect living and deceased victims in the rubble. The history of search and rescue dogs is provided on page 2.

We take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Honorable Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Acting Consul General of Israel in Miami. We also welcome Ms. Hellen C. Thompson, Admin. Secretary, to the Protocol team.

Lastly, we salute all nations celebrating their independence and national days in July and August. Enjoy your summer vacation as we take a short break in August, but we shall return in September. As always, please be safe!

Inside this issue

A Brief History of Search and Rescue Dogs

The dog, Canis lupus familiaris, was the first species tamed by man, and this bond goes back more than 15,000 years. Although scientists have been unable to determine with certainty when dogs started to separate from wolves, many believe that it occurred 16,000 years ago in Southeastern Asia. Additional evidence suggests that around 15,000 years ago, early dogs moved out of Southern and Central Asia, dispersing around the world with migrating humans. In 1914, DNA analysis of a right mandible found in Oberkassel, Germany, made the Bonn-Oberkassel dog the first undisputed example of a dog. Archeological evidence showed that the dog was buried with two humans approximately 14,220 years ago.

Today, dogs are found all over the world, and their bond with humans has never been stronger. They are not only our companions; they also provide emotional support and physical assistance. Specialized training has made working dogs invaluable members of the law enforcement and military communities as they help search for explosives, drugs, and evidence. One of their most important tasks is locating missing people, and they and their handlers are often called upon during natural and man-made disasters to help find survivors and victims.

Search and rescue dogs are trained to detect human breath, while cadaver dogs will hone in on human remains. Studies have shown that dogs are able to detect even the faintest smells because their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than ours. They can detect some odors in parts per trillion. Dog-cognition researcher Alexandra Horowitz provides the following example. Humans might notice that a teaspoon of sugar was added to their coffee, while a dog could detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water, the equivalent of two Olympic-sized pools. Dogs possess up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, while humans have approximately 6 million. Proportionally speaking, the area in a dog's brain devoted to analyzing smells is 40 times greater than the corresponding area in the human brain.

The forerunner of modern search dogs is the St. Bernard. In 980, St. Bernard of Menthon built a Monastery and Hospice at the summit of the Great St. Bernard Pass as a refuge for travelers and pilgrims. Due to the altitude and weather, travelers often became lost or were buried by avalanches, and the monks would search for them. During the 17th Century, the dog breed now known as the St. Bernard was introduced at the hospice. The monks soon realized that the dogs' unerring sense of direction and ability to detect lost or buried humans, made them valuable guides.

Although St. Bernards were the first rescue dogs, modern search and rescue dogs developed independently of them. During World War I, the Red Cross trained dogs to locate injured soldiers on the battlefield. After a dog located an avalanche survivor during the winter of 1937/38, four Alsatians were trained as avalanche dogs and presented to the Swiss Army. Dogs continued to be valuable members of search and rescue teams during the London Blitz by locating victims buried in the rubble. After the end of World War II, the idea of using these "rubble search dogs" spread from England to other countries.

In 1972, the "Swiss Association of Disaster Dogs" released a guide on how to train dogs to locate survivors and victims of disasters. As more and more dogs were used to locate the missing and deceased after natural disasters such as the earthquakes in Rumania (1977) and Algeria (1980), and man-made disaster such as Lockerbie (1988) and 9/11 (2001), public awareness of the importance of the dogs increased. Today, specialized search dogs and their handlers are an integral part of many searches and rescue, as well as search and recovery teams.

COVID-19 Testing Sites @ MIA

On-site COVID-19 testing at Miami International Airport is now available to passengers, employees, and visitors at two convenient locations, just in time before the summer travel season begins. **The Central Terminal facility, operated by Communitel and Family Rehab, Inc.** and located at MIA's Concourse E ground level median in front of Door #11, provides Antigen and Rapid PCR tests with results within 15 minutes and PCR tests with results within 40 minutes. The facility is open daily 24 hours a day for walk-ins and scheduled appointments. For testing costs or to schedule an appointment, call **305-869-1161**. Customers will receive a written test result, or results can be emailed upon request.

MIA's South Terminal testing facility, operated by Nomi Health and located near the Concourse H TSA Checkpoint on the departures level at Door #20, provides Antigen, PCR, and Rapid PCR tests daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for walk-ins and scheduled appointments. PCR test results are provided within 24 hours, Rapid PCR test results within one hour with an oral swab, and Antigen results are available within 15 minutes. Notifications and results are provided to customers via text and/or email. For testing costs or to schedule an appointment, visit the Nomi Health website or call **(305) 280-0694**; **toll free at (833) 685-0700.** At both facilities, there is no age requirement but patients under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounts for MIA employees who present an airport ID are available. Test costs range from $79 to $179. To find out the COVID-19 testing requirements by country, visit the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Travel Centre.

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

New Acting Consul General of Israel in Miami

Mr. Maor Elbaz-Starinsky was recently appointed Acting Consul General (CG designate) of Israel in Miami. A career diplomat since 2006, he will be building partnerships and coalitions for Israel with the people and governments of Florida, Kansas, Missouri, and Puerto Rico. He plans to focus on strengthening relations in the areas of politics, innovation and technology, trade and business, tourism, media, and culture. He looks forward to working together with the large and influential Jewish and Israeli communities in Florida and promote interfaith cooperation and combating Antisemitism and racism.

For the last four years Mr. Maor headed the Training departments of the Foreign Ministry. He was responsible for the professional training, mid-career enrichment, and job retraining for the Ministry's 1,200 employees. He was recognized by the Ministry with an Award of Excellence, whereby he developed a new process for recruiting and training the prestigious Diplomatic Cadet class each year.

As a member of the Strategic Affairs Division, he represented Israel at various international forums and conferences. In particular, he was involved in discussions related to Arms Control at international organizations. He also served as a Policy Adviser to the Israeli Delegation to the European Union and NATO and was responsible for regional strategic security and NATO related issues.

Mr. Maor's first posting was as the Deputy Ambassador at the Embassy of Israel in Nairobi, accredited to Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, and the Seychelles Islands. During his tenure there, he became acquainted with Africa and was responsible for many of the important aid projects Israel was involved with and managed issues connected with security, agriculture, trade, and culture. He was commander of the Paratroopers in the IDF service.

He holds a masters of arts degree with distinction, in Conflict Management and Resolution from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He also attended a master's degree program in immunology at the Graduate School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. He obtained a bachelor of arts degree in Biology from the Department of Biology at Tel Aviv University, where he ran projects in Marine and Molecular Biology.

Mr. Maor is an avid runner - he completed two marathons – Paris Marathon and Midnight Sun Marathon in Northern Norway, a scuba diver and marine enthusiast. He is joined in Miami by his wife – a Doctor for Genetics, expert in Forensic Science in Israel's National Police and their five children.

Surfside Condo Collapse

On June 24, 2021, at approximately 1:25 AM (EST), the Champlain Towers South, a 12-story beachfront condo in the Miami suburb of Surfside partially collapsed. We express our condolence to those who lost their loved ones in the Condo collapse. If you are planning to donate, here are some tips to ensure your money reaches the hands of those in need. Ensure the charity is registered and eligible to solicit in the state of Florida by visiting FDACS.gov/ConsumerServices and clicking Check-A -Charity. You should also be on the lookout for deceptive individuals operating an online fundraising campaign, such as a phony GoFundMe account. If you are interested in donating, below are some reputable organizations that are currently helping those affected by the Surfside tragedy:

American Red Cross
The American Red Cross is helping displaced residents find shelter and is providing them with food. The organization is also providing emotional support to victims of the condo collapse. Click here to donate.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami is collecting financial donations to assist those affected by the partial collapse of the Champlain condominiums, in Surfside, FL. Donations are being collected through the Catholic Charities website. Click here to go directly to the page and choose Disaster Relief from the dropdown menu.

Support Surfside
The Miami Heat and several local organizations have launched a hardship fund for the victims: supportsurfside.org.

Surfside Building Collapse Victim Fund
In response to this tragedy, Neighbors 4 Neighbors is setting up Surfside Building Collapse Fund. The goal of this fund will be to assist the victims in the long term with unforeseen costs and things not covered by insurance. They will work with the City of Surfside and F.R.I.E.N.D. Miami-Dade's Long Term Disaster Recovery Group to best help those affected by this tragedy.
Click here to donate.

United Way: Operation Helping Hands
The international network of local nonprofits is raising money to provide short- and long-term support to people affected by the building collapse. Operation Helping Hands is accepting donations online here. To join the organization's emergency response volunteers team, check out their website here for more information.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JULY)

July 1, 1867 – Canada: With the passage of the British North America Act, the four separate colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada were united into the Dominion of Canada. Initially, the day was known as Dominion Day, but on October 27, 1982, it was officially changed to Canada Day.

July 1, 1960 – Somalia: On June 26, 1960, British Somaliland gained its independence from the United Kingdom, and on July 1, 1960, Italian Somaliland became independent from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship. Simultaneously to gaining independence, Italian Somaliland merged with British Somaliland to form the Somali Republic on July 1, 1960.

July 1, 1962 – Burundi: Burundi gained independence from the Belgium-administered UN trusteeship.

July 1, 1962 – Rwanda: Just like its southern neighbor Burundi, Rwanda gained independence from the Belgium-administered UN trusteeship on July 1, 1962.

July 3, 1944 – Belarus: After a public referendum in 1996, Belarus's Independence Day was moved to July 3 to commemorate the day in 1944 that Minsk was liberated from German occupation.

July 4, 1776 – United States: The United States declared independence from Great Britain.

July 5, 1811 – Venezuela: On this day, Venezuela gained independence from Spain.

July 5, 1962 – Algeria: Algeria gained independence from France.

July 5, 1975 – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde): In December 1974, an agreement was signed between Portugal and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde that established a transitional government in Cabo Verde. On July 5, 1975, the newly elected National Popular Assembly declared Cabo Verde's independence from Portugal.

July 6, 1964 – Malawi: Malawi gained independence from the United Kingdom. Since 1966, Independence Day is also known as Republic Day.

July 6, 1975 – Comoros: The Island of Comoros gained independence from France.

July 7, 1978 – Solomon Islands: Marks the day the Solomon Islands gained their independence from the UK.

July 9, 1816 – Argentina: On Revolution Day, May 25, 1810, the Primera Junta, Argentina's first independent government was formed, and on July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán formally declared independence from Spain.

July 9, 2011 – South Sudan: The world's newest country, South Sudan, gained its independence from Sudan on July 9, 2011.

July 10, 1973 – The Bahamas: After 325 years of British rule, The Bahamas became a free and sovereign nation.

July 12, 1975 – Sao Tome and Principe: Marks the day Sao Tome and Principe gained independence from Portugal.

July 12, 1979 – Kiribati: Kiribati gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 14, 1789 – France: France's National Day, la Fête Nationale or le Quatorze Juillet, is celebrated annually on July 14 and commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

July 19, 1949 – Laos: The Franco-Lao General Convention granted Laos limited self-government and independence with the French Union. The Franco-Lao Treaty signed on October 22, 1953, recognized Laos's full independence.

July 20, 1810 – Colombia: Colombian Independence is celebrated annually on July 20. On this day in 1810, a group of patriots asked Spanish merchant Joaquín Gonzalez Llorente for a flower vase. His refusal was enough to ignite simmering passions and stir the residents of Bogotá into protesting Spanish rule. This forced the Viceroy to decree limited independence. Once independence became permanent, Colombia gained its freedom from Spain.

July 21, 1831 – Belgium: Belgian Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 21. On this day in 1831, Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian constitution and became Leopold I, first King of the Belgians. His vow marked the beginning of an independent Belgium under a constitutional monarchy and parliament.

July 23, 1952 – Egypt: Revolution Day, Egypt's National Day, commemorates the military-led revolution that began on July 23, 1952, and led to the proclamation of the Egyptian Republic on June 18, 1953.

July 26, 1847 – Liberia: Unlike other African countries, Liberia did not fall under European colonial rule. In the early 19th century, the United States began sending freed slaves and other people of color to Liberia to establish settlements. On July 26, 1847, the settlers declared independence from the United States and established Africa's first republic.

July 26, 1965 – The Maldives: The Maldives gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

July 28, 1821 – Peru: Peru's Independence Day, also known as Fiestas Patrias, is celebrated annually on July 28th. It commemorates the liberation of Peru from Spain by José de San Martin. On July 29th, the establishment of the Republic of Peru is celebrated.

July 30, 1980 – Vanuatu: The island nation achieved its independence from France and the United Kingdom on July 30, 1980.

August 1, 1291 – Switzerland: The Swiss Confederation was founded on August 1, 1291. Since 1891, August 1 is celebrated as Swiss National Day.

August 1, 1960 – Benin: On this day, Benin achieved independence from France.

August 3, 1960 – Niger: While the Republic of Niger was founded on December 18, 1958, Niger gained formal independence from France on August 3, 1960.

August 5, 1960 – Burkina Faso: Upper Volta achieved independence from France. On August 4, 1984, the country was renamed Burkina Faso.

August 6, 1825 – Bolivia: Bolivia gained its independence from Spain on August 6, 1825.

August 6, 1962 – Jamaica became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth.

August 7, 1960 – Côte d'Ivoire: The country achieved full independence from France.

August 8, 1949 – Bhutan: Although Bhutan had been a unified kingdom since 1907, the Treaty of Friendship with India, signed on August 8, 1949, maintained Bhutanese independence.

August 9, 1965 – Singapore: On September 16, 1963, Singapore merged with Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak to become part of Malaysia, ending 144 years of British rule. Since this union was fraught with internal friction, Singapore separated from Malaysia as an independent, sovereign nation on August 9, 1965.

August 11, 1960 – Chad: Chad became an autonomous republic within the French Community in November 1958. After further restructuring, complete independence was attained on August 11, 1960.

August 13, 1960 – Central African Republic: The French colony Ubangi-Shari, renamed the Central African Republic, was granted independence on August 13, 1960.

August 14, 1947 – Pakistan: In 1947, after the Indian Independence Act was passed by the British Parliament, British India was partitioned into two new independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was the first of the two to gain independence on August 14, 1947.

August 15, 1947 – India: After the British Parliament had passed the Indian Independence Act, and Pakistan had gained independence on August 14, India became an independent, democratic nation at 12:02 AM on August 15, 1947.

August 15, 1945 – North Korea: On this day, North Korea gained independence from Japan.

August 15, 1945 – South Korea: National Liberation Day is celebrated annually and commemorates the day 35 years of Japanese occupation and colonial rule ended on the Korean Peninsula.

August 15, 1960 – Republic of the Congo: The former French region of Middle Congo achieved independence.

August 15, 1971 – Bahrain: Bahrain gained independence from the United Kingdom.

August 16, 1960 – Cyprus: On this day, Cyprus gained independence from the United Kingdom. Independence Day celebrations were moved to October 1, to avoid summer heat and the tourist season.

August 17, 1945 – Indonesia: Indonesia declared independence from the Netherlands. After an armed struggle against Dutch forces, the United States of Indonesia achieved formal independence on December 27, 1949.

August 17, 1960 – Gabon: Gabon achieved independence from France.

August 19, 1919 – Afghanistan: After the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan and Britain signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi on August 8, 1919. As a result, the British relinquished control over Afghan foreign affairs and recognized Afghanistan's independence. On August 19, 1919, Emir Amanullah Khan declared "independence" from British influence.

August 25, 1825 – Uruguay: After Uruguay had gained independence from Spain in 1811, it was annexed by Brazil. On August 25, 1825, Uruguay regained its independence from Brazil.

August 27, 1991 – Moldova: On this day, Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union. It was formally recognized on March 2, 1992, when it gained membership in the United Nations.

August 30, 1991 – Azerbaijan: Declared independence from the Soviet Union.

August 31, 1957 – Malaysia: On this date, Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman read the Declaration of Independence of Malaysia from British imperial rule.

August 31, 1962 – Trinidad and Tobago: At midnight on August 30, 1962, the Union Jack was lowered, and the Trinidad and Tobago flag was raised for the first time, signaling independence from Great Britain.

August 31, 1991 – Kyrgyzstan: The Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union.