



# CANADIAN SUPERBILT SHUTTERS AND BLINDS



Providing smart motorized Window Coverings from Hunter Douglas, Altex/SunProject  
Provider of Hardwood Flooring. Visit our Showroom at 1571 The Queensway, Etobicoke, Ontario  
Beautifying homes one window at a time through light control and energy efficiency.

John Persaud, CEO B: (416) 201-0109 • C: (416) 239 2863 • sales@superbilt.com • www.superbilt.com



KEEPING ALIVE THE TIES THAT BIND

NOW IN OUR 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR: 1983 - 2023

# INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

Vol. 40 • No 16 • April 19, 2023 • Tel: 905-738-5005 • 312 Brownridge Dr. Thornhill, ON L4J 5X1 • indocaribbeanworld.com • indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com



The International Muslim Organisation of Toronto held a traditional Iftar, breaking of the fast, on April 2. Attending the event (left to right) were Guyana Consulate's Acting Consul General, Grace Joseph, Ontario's Premier Doug Ford, the Consulate's Nutana Singh, & IMO President Brother Omar Farouk. Guyana Consulate Facebook photo (See Page 3)



Ramadan is also a time for family, togetherness, & bonding; in photo, from left to right, are the owner of Amir Quality Meats Tony Aziz, with Alysha Aziz & Adam Aziz. They were guests at the One Love Family Services' Ramadan Interfaith Gala. See story & photos on Page 11

## Marathon effort on for Global Care's dialysis fund-raiser

By Romeo Kaseram  
LJI Reporter

Toronto – The invitation has once again been extended to the diaspora to engage in a more active lifestyle, and at the same time help raise funds for dialysis patients in Guyana by participating in the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

The offer was made last week by the Voice of Vedas Vishnu Mandir and its Global Care Outreach Program.

This is the second consecutive year that VM and Global Care Outreach are working with the eminent TWM. It is an international event that sees downtown Toronto overrun with as many as 25,000 participants on the day of the world-class event. This year's run takes place on October 15.

Part of the positive resonances that are rippling into this year's energy as planning gets underway for the 2023 event comes from the successful run last year, VM volunteer, and one of the event's many dedicated organisers, Roy Doobay, told *Indo-Caribbean World* last week.

Roy noted last year's event downtown was at times like a huge street party.

"The atmosphere on the day of the event saw the streets downtown lined with well-wishers and supporters who were playing music, ringing bells,



Dr Doobay (centre) with participants & volunteers at last year's marathon

shouting out words of encouragement... it was an incredible experience," Roy said.

He added that this energy and incredible support continue to resonate today, and is part of the motivation that is driving the organisers as they now put together VM's and Global Care's 2023 edition of the run.

"We are thrilled and honoured to be part of this incredible fund-raiser drive for a second consecutive year. This event not only encourages an active lifestyle, but it also provides us with an opportunity to narrate the incredible story that is the Guyana dialysis program," Roy said.

He added, "It also gives us an opportunity to raise funds to support those that cannot afford dialysis. Every dollar raised helps to save a life. All in all, it is your opportunity to do something for your well-being, while helping others in need."

Roy also stated that same as last year, "there is an option for everyone in this world class event".

The TWM presents three options for participants. There is the in-person full marathon – either running or walking 42 kilometers; an in-person half-marathon of 21 kilometres, running or walking; and an event that is five kilometres long.

And then there is the virtual option for full, half, or five kilometre participation. This can be done anywhere in the world between October 1-October 31 this year. It can be completed over several days, with participants accumulating the time spent for each day's walk or run, then posting the total online to the TWM system.

Last year's collective virtual and in-person effort together raised over \$200,000.

As Roy noted, the marathon operation at VM and Global Care Outreach is under the leadership of the temple's revered leader, Dr Budhendranauth

See Page 10: Marathon lifts

## LIFE INSURANCE



Paul Ram,  
Life & Investment Broker

### MONEY FREEDOM INC.

AGE	\$100,000 M/F	\$250,000 M/F
30	10.00/09.09	13.73/11.70
35	11.00/09.90	15.30/13.05
40	12.78/11.70	19.13/16.43
45	16.02/13.59	25.88/19.80
50	22.05/17.73	36.88/26.65
55	27.27/20.43	56.03/40.95
60	39.69/28.62	88.65/61.43
65	62.28/43.20	142.20/94.50

Also offered: \*Non Medical & Mortgage Insurance \*No Load Funds \*No Penalty RESP \*Critical Illness \*Universal Life \*Dental & Drug Plans \*Disability. (E&O)  
Companies represented: Assumption, BMO, Canada, Empire, Equitable, Foresters, Industrial Alliance, Manulife, RBC.

Instant quote online: [www.moneyfreedom.ca](http://www.moneyfreedom.ca)  
Tel: 416.414.2204



# ALI'S ROTI

\* Eat In or Take Out \* We also Cater

Specialising in West Indian Dishes - Trinidad Style Cooking

1446 Queen St. W. Toronto  
(1/2 Block East of Lansdowne,  
North side, W. of Dufferin)

Only HALAL Meat Served

Tel: 416-532-7701



# JAY BRIJPAUL

416-418-BRIJ (2745)



## Advance Selling System

- House matching services
- Mass email to prospective Buyers
- Targeted Social Media Advertising
- 3-D virtual tours
- Floor plans
- Live streaming
- Electronic Signature
- We take all precautions



**\$725,000**

### Close to Everything!

Beautiful 3 bdrm det home features cozy living space with gleaming vinyl & laminate flrs, fin bsmt, fully fenced yard & spacious b/yard deck, lge gas fireplace capable of heating the whole house! Close to transit, amenities, hwy & shopping. Quiet neighbourhood, perfect for investors or small family.



**\$749,900**

### Well Kept Home

Features large lot with 10-car driveway & double car garage with 220 volt outlet! About 25 mature fruit trees, large heated solarium, oversized kitchen & solarium-style dining room. Also, large rec room with wood burning stove & full washroom! The basement is finished with additional bedroom!



**\$649,900**

### Modern Gem!

Spacious home has open concept main floor with vaulted ceiling with beautiful LEDs. Modern kitchen complemented with beautiful quartz counters & stnls/steel appls. Dimmer switches, LED potlights, & mirrored closets in bdrms! All 3 wshrms upgraded. Basement has kitchenette, full wshrm, & space for a guest room or home office! Don't miss out!



**\$2,000,000**

### W-O-W

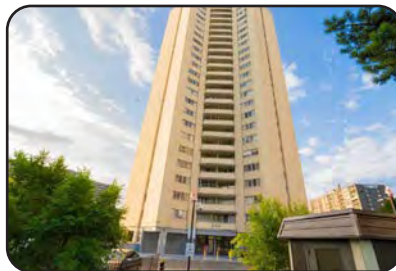
This home is on about 0.6 acre land. Features a 7-car garage/workshop with high ceilings, gas heating & 220 volts for welding + a 13' door for a truck. Ideal for a home business & a great property for redevelopment. Enjoy this sprawling 4 bedroom home while running your home-based business.



**\$889,000**

### Prime Location!

This lovely home is on a premium lot with a private driveway. It features two bedrooms on the main floor & two bedrooms on the upper level. The basement is finished with a rear entrance, kitchen, living room, & bedroom. Can't beat the location – only a 20-minute commute to downtown!



**\$349,900**

### Spacious Suite!

Roomy suite with a lovely view! Features an open concept living & dining room, a large balcony, laundry room & underground parking. Close to public transit, amenities, & highways. Great location!



**\$770,000**

### Charmingly Delightful!

This beautiful home boasts modernity & space! Nestled in a quiet neighbourhood, this carpet-free & freshly painted delight features ground floor laundry, a large master with a four-piece ensuite, & many more upgrades! A rare find indeed!



**For Lease \$2,250**

### Bright & Spacious!

This modern dwelling features LED lights, laminate floor, quartz counters, new appliances & central air. You will enjoy the large kitchen & modern washroom. Boasts plenty of natural light. Close to Hwy 400 & major plazas and schools. Tenant to pay their own gas, hydro, & 30 percent water.

**TheBrij.com**

**3500+ HOMES**

\* Sales mean both buyer and seller transactions from 1990 to 2016, Team Sales combined.

**Jay Brijpaul**, Broker, FRI

Direct: 416-418-2745 (BRIJ)

Office: 416-745-2300 ext 5292

96 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto M9W 1N7

**RE/MAX**

West Realty Inc. Brokerage  
Independently Owned and Operated

**The Brij Team**

**Anjie Brijpaul**, MA  
Broker

Office 416.745.2300

Fax 416-745-1952

anjiebrijpaul@gmail.com







In photos (above left) Mya Hosein displays the Trinidad & Tobago flag with Toronto Blue Jays' mascot Ace; & in right photo, Mya in full flight & about to make her pitch. *Supplied photos*

## Local student with T&T roots throws first Blue Jays pitch

**Toronto** – A young Trinidad and Tobago-Canadian student was earlier this month selected as the First Pitch Athlete for a Toronto Blue Jays Major League Baseball game. Fourteen-year-old Mya Hosein threw the pitch on April 13.

She is an honours student and recipient of the Ontario Principal's Council Leadership Award, and was nominated to participate in the Jays Care Leadership In Training programme by one of her former Public School teachers.

Hosein received the go-ahead because of her amazing work at Willows Walk's 'Public School Girls at Bat' programme, a release stated.

The release also noted, "LIT Girls Leadership provides youth with an exceptional opportunity to explore their passions and realise their strengths with other select young girls from across Canada."

It added, "After completing the programme, Mya & her family were contacted by The Jays Foundation and advised that, due to her outstanding performance in the programme, [she] had

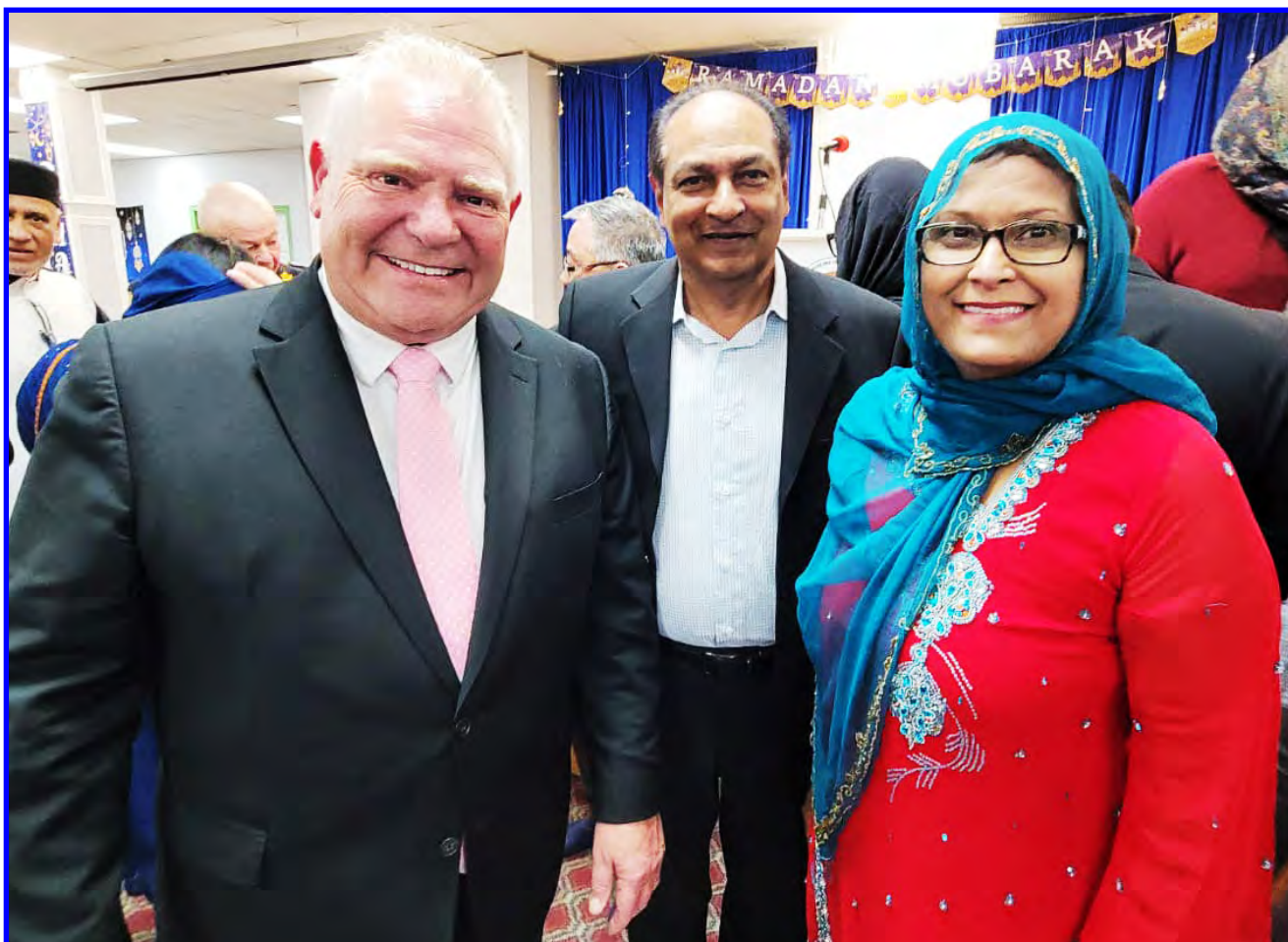
been selected out of all the students to be The First Pitch Athlete at The Toronto Blue Jays game..."

Said Hosein: "This experience was a great learning process on how to be an exceptional leader. My goal is to continue to have a positive impact on the community and future generations."

Hosein revealed she appreciated the privilege of meeting many other leaders in Canada during the program. As a result, she was exposed to other innovative and open-minded students wanting to learn more about leadership.

"It was remarkable having the chance to interact and encourage the current group of young leaders in the LIT program, and to be a mentor to the younger generation. Having the honour to do the first pitch was an overwhelming and incredible experience. The privilege just to step on the field made the experience even more surreal," she stated.

Additionally, "I am truly grateful to have had this opportunity with the Toronto Blue Jays & Jays Care Foundation."



The International Muslim Organisation of Toronto hosted a traditional breaking of the Ramadan fast, or Iftar, at its Rexdale headquarters in Toronto on April 2. It was attended by Ontario's Premier Doug Ford (left in photo), & active diaspora members Jerry Karamat (centre), & Waheeda Bacchus on the right. Also in attendance at the event were Chief of the Toronto Police Service, Myron Demkiw; Kaleed Rasheed, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery of Ontario; Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of Ontario; Grace Joseph, Acting Consul General at the Guyana Consulate General; Consulate staff; IMO members; & many members of the diaspora here in the GTA. *Guyana Consulate Facebook photo*

### DENTISTRY

**DR. NAR DALJEET**  
**DR. NIKHIL DALJEET**



*Ask us about our:*

- Dental Implants (from start to finish)
- Invisalign (Misaligned Teeth)
- Snore Guard

**DENTAL EMERGENCIES ALWAYS WELCOME**

*Servicing our community for over 30 years.*  
*Now two locations to serve you better*  
**2942 Finch Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario**  
 (At Victoria Park) Village Square Plaza (Ground Floor)  
**416-492-3077 • www.tddental.ca**

**Second Office Location:**  
**SmileVille Dental**  
 86 Ringwood Dr, Unit 23, Stouffville, ON L4A 1C3  
**Tel: 905-640-4600 • www.smilevilledental.ca**

### Book Giveaway For Supernatural



Please leave your email address at:  
[www.kamilali.ca/contact](http://www.kamilali.ca/contact)



Enter for a chance to win one of five copies of 'Supernatural - Volume 1' - A compilation of thirty-two tales from the popular newspaper series, 'Supernatural'. Collect your own personal autographed copy of Volume 1 and be the first to know when Volume 2 will become available. Good Luck!!!



**Kam Ali**

## VEDIC BOOKS

- Complete set of the Vedas
- The Upanishads
- Bhagavad Gita
- Ramayan
- Philosophy of Vedas
- Vedic Thoughts
- Vedic Vision - Sanskar Vidhi
- Quest - The Vedic Answers
- Vedic Marriage Ceremony
- Introduction to the Commentary on the Vedas
- Life & Teachings of Swami Dayanand
- Light of Truth
- Wisdom of the Rishies
- Gems of Vedic Wisdom
- Anand Gayatri Katha
- Daily Prayer
- Vedic Philosophy
- Whose Wealth?
- Mahabharata
- ... and many more

Call AVM Bookstore  
 416-805-2685 or 905-824-2685



# Carbon removal vital tool to hit long-term net-zero - Pembina

**Edmonton** – Although Canada can achieve its 2030 emissions target through conventional direct emissions reduction strategies, some forms of engineered Carbon Dioxide Removal will be needed to reach the country’s net-zero emissions target by 2050, according to a new report by the **Pembina Institute**, entitled, *Engineered Carbon Dioxide Removal in a Net-Zero Canada*.

Net-zero means the amount of greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere equals the amount we take out.

It is critical that Canada does all it can to make early, deep and sustained emissions reductions in industry, transportation, agriculture, and other sectors.

However, some emissions will be much harder than others to reduce to zero. About ten to 15 percent of today’s emissions fall under this difficult-to-decarbonise category.

“[*Engineered Carbon Dioxide Removal in a Net-Zero Canada*] serves as a much-needed primer to start a national conversation on the vast potential for carbon removal scale-up in Canada,” said Na’im Merchant, executive director of Carbon Removal Canada.”

Merchant added, “This report will be an important first step in establishing Canada as a global leader in the rapid and responsible deployment of this critical suite of technologies that will have an important role to play in meeting our climate goals and driving inclusive and equitable economic development.”

Carbon dioxide removal can address these leftover, difficult-to-avoid emissions indirectly, by removing an equal amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

It can also help us extract some of the legacy carbon that humanity released into the atmosphere in the past.

Said Carson Fong, analyst with the Pembina Institute, “We need to consider carbon dioxide



Rendering of a Carbon Capture Utilisation & Sequestration Industrial Cluster. Courtesy Third Way Think Tank



Rendering of Rural Direct Air Capture. Courtesy Third Way Think Tank

removal as a tool to prevent catastrophic climate change, but its potential cannot be a reason to slow down emissions reduction efforts. This would not only limit our efforts to reduce climate change impacts, but would also likely turn public perception against carbon dioxide removal.”

As Fong notes, the potential of CDR cannot be a reason to slow down emissions reduction efforts. This would not only damage efforts to reduce climate change impacts, but would also likely negatively impact public perception towards CDR.

However, investing in development and

testing now are important to ensure readiness for widespread use near the mid-century, when cheaper emission reduction opportunities have been fully implemented.

Several forms of engineered CDR are considered in this report. These technologies and techniques are at different stages of readiness.

Governments and policy makers should get involved to ensure the technologies are developed and used in a timely, responsible manner.

Both governments and policy makers need to, (1) support research and development that addresses risks, uncertainties and high costs of CDR; and (2) ensure we can credibly measure and verify CDR capture and storage.

Also, (3) generally, engage and educate communities that might be impacted by CDR development, and in particular, involve Indigenous communities to ensure their rights and interests are protected, and their consent is obtained; (4) create clear regulations to reduce investment uncertainty around CDR development; and, (5) support a business case for CDR, likely by recognising CDR in the federal and provincial carbon offset systems, to give projects access to reliable revenue to justify investment.

Said John Van Ham, senior director of Industrial Decarbonisation with the Pembina Institute, “Carbon dioxide removal could play a huge part in getting Canada to net-zero, but it needs to be implemented with careful and clearheaded oversight. This report provides policy-makers with a thorough grounding in the issues around this technology.”

The Pembina Institute advocates for a strong, science-based approach to climate policy, environmental protection, and energy development.

It is an independent and non-partisan charitable organisation founded and headquartered in Alberta.

## IMDADUL ISLAMIC JAMAAT EID DINNER

**Venue:** Imdadul Islamic Annex  
30 Lepage Court, Downsview  
(Keele, South of Finch)

**Date:** Saturday May 6, 2023  
4 pm-6 pm

**Admission: \$25**

Children Under the Age of 7 Years Free  
All Proceeds Go To The Annex

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
**416-636-0044 | 416-638-7021**  
**416-452-4437 | 416-910-8954**  
**Website: [www.imdadulcentre.org](http://www.imdadulcentre.org)**  
**E-Transfer: [imdaduljamat@gmail.com](mailto:imdaduljamat@gmail.com)**

**KISSOON  
& ASSOCIATES**  
Barristers and Solicitors

**Dhaman Kissoon's  
Areas of Practice:**

- CRIMINAL LAW
- IMMIGRATION LAW

**Lawyers available for:**

Family Law, Real Estate Law,  
Corporate Commercial Law,  
Personal Injury Law, Civil  
Litigation.

---

**8 Beamish Drive  
Toronto, Ontario, M9B 3P3**

**Tel: 416 234 1446. Ext.231  
Fax: 416-234-0154  
Email: [dkissoon@bellnet.ca](mailto:dkissoon@bellnet.ca)  
[www.kissoonlaw.ca](http://www.kissoonlaw.ca)**

Tel: 416-234-1446      8 Beamish Drive  
Fax: 416-234-0154      Toronto, Ontario M9B 3P3  
Email: [dkissoon@bellnet.ca](mailto:dkissoon@bellnet.ca)



# Eid events, celebrations around the GTA

The City of Brampton will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr on April 23 at Gage Park starting 2 p.m., and continuing to 5 p.m. The park is located at 45 Main Street S in Brampton.

The event is a free city-wide celebration to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, and will include an entertaining stage program, fun-filled family activities, free giveaways, and more. Halal food trucks and market vendors will be onsite.

“As we welcome the holy month of Ramadan, we wish the Muslim community a spiritual and rewarding month of fasting, abstinence, worship, and prayer,” said Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton.

Additionally, “The Muslim community is especially charitable during this month and so we celebrate the prosperity and strength of our community and City because of the contributions of the Muslim community. Brampton is such a rich mosaic of a City and I look forward to gathering with all after Ramadan to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr at Gage Park.”

Eid-ul-Fitr is a time to gather and celebrate with family, friends, and community.

To continue the spirit of giving back, attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or a new unwrapped toy in support of the local food bank and women’s shelter.

[Click here for more information about the City of Brampton event.](#)

In other events in Brampton, the Jean Augustine Secondary School will be hosting its annual Eid-ul-Fitr Event on April 25. The event is dedicated to celebrating Islamic culture and bringing students together with their community.

It takes place from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., and will feature speakers, performers, along with food trucks and vendors. [Click here for further information.](#)

Also, the Islamic Circle of North America, Mississauga will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr at the Palacio Event Centre at 3410 Semenyk Ct in Mississauga.

The event will take place on April 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. The venue can accommodate between 800-1,000 worshippers.

Eid salah will be performed by Sheikh Alaa Elsayed, followed



Patrick Brown

by Eid Kutba.

The event will also include sweets, balloons, popcorn, kids toys, and an ice cream truck. Eid salah will begin at 10:00 a.m.

It is recommended that worshippers arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start so everyone can be accommodated. Also, bring your own prayer mats. [Click here for updates on this event.](#)

Also in Mississauga, SeekersGuidance has extended an invitation to persons interested in its upcoming seminar, *Critical Issues Seminar on The True Eid: The Art of Gratitude & Rejoicing.*

This enlightening and uplifting discussion will be conducted by renowned scholars Shaykh Abd al-Rahman al-Kharsa and Shaykh Faraz Rabbani.

It will explore the spiritual dimensions of Eid-ul-Fitr and the importance of expressing gratitude and rejoicing in our daily lives. It is a wonderful opportunity for community members to gather to deepen the understanding of the important holiday that is Eid-ul-Fitr.

Local singers will also perform traditional *nasheed* songs to add to the celebratory atmosphere of the event. A free lunch will be provided to all attendees. The seminar takes place on April 29 at SeekersGuidance Canada, located at 220 Britannia Road E in Mississauga. [Visit here for more information.](#)

And the Women’s Mosque of Canada will mark its Fifth Year Anniversary and Eid-ul-Fitr celebration on April 23 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. It extends the invitation to all for the special yearly celebration to share the group’s accomplishments and milestones from the last five years, and to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr together as a community.

The event is open to everyone, and the venue is at the Centre for Social Innovation – Spadina, located at 192 Spadina Avenue in Toronto. Delicious food and drinks will also be served.

An exciting program is also being planned for the day. All ticket fees will be used as donations towards the mosque’s two funds: the Hardship Fund, and the General Operating Fund. [Click here for more information;](#) or email the Women’s Mosque at [info@womensmoque.ca](mailto:info@womensmoque.ca).



Observance of the holy month of Ramadan is continuing across the globe, and will culminate with the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr on Friday. Here in Toronto, observances of the holy month are well underway at the Imdadul Islamic Centre, which is located at 126 Lepage Ct in North York. Among its ongoing Ramadan observances is its faithful gathering for the pre-dawn meal, or Suhoor, which is the last meal that is taken before the sun rises, & the day of fasting begins. The event is also a cultural & bonding moment for family members & friends. In the photo above, over 400 members gather to share the pre-dawn Suhoor meal at the Imdadul Islamic Centre earlier this week.

[www.qtrexinternational.com](http://www.qtrexinternational.com)

**SUPER SPECIAL**  
TO GEORGETOWN, TRINIDAD,  
KINGSTON OR MONTEGO BAY

**3 BARRELS**  
**\$100**  
(Barrels up to 30" tall)

Member of BBB

**HEAD OFFICE**  
**5185 Timberlea Blvd**  
**TEL: 905-290-1946**  
**TOLL FREE: 1-866-881-5433**

**Georgetown Office**  
**236-237 David St Kitty,**  
**Tel: 592-227-2969**

**DOOR TO GATE IN**  
**GUYANA - \$120**  
Areas not covered in Guyana:  
Parika Backdam, Linden, Inner  
Canje, Black Bush Polder, Beyond  
Skeldon, Mara and Cane Grove.

**Overseas Offices:**

**ANTIGUA:**  
Tel #268-462-4958  
Contact: Dunica

**DOMINICA**  
Tel #767-237-3737  
Contact: Geoff

**BARBADOS**  
Tel # 246-548-2891  
Contact: Anderson/Joel

**GRENADA**  
Tel #473-435-1545  
Contact: Valda

**KINGSTON, JAMAICA**  
Tel # 876-456-2944  
Contact: Kimberly

**MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA**  
Tel #876-294-1712  
#876-347-7939  
Contact: Sabrina

**ST. KITTS**  
Tel #869-465-5320  
Contact: Janice

**ST. LUCIA - CASTRIES**  
Tel#758-459-0675  
Contact: Spence

**ST. LUCIA - VIEUX FORT**  
TEL #758-454-5383  
Contact: Vacacie

**TRINIDAD**  
Tel #868-221-3905  
Contact: Paul

**ST. VINCENT**  
TEL #784-457-2547

**Our NEW YORK OFFICE is now opened at:**  
**Queens Logistics Centre**  
**186-10 Jamaica Ave,**  
**NY 11423**  
**Tel: 866-861-5933**

We're the first Canadian Shipper to cross the border. We guarantee service that's second to none. Our prices are the best in the business.

**Tractors to Guyana - from US \$1000**  
**Pick Up Trucks - from US \$1500**  
**Full Containers - from US \$3400**  
**Barrels - from US \$50**

**\* SPECIAL CARGO RATES \***

Destination	Reg Service	Express
Antigua	\$75/barrel	\$130
Dominica	\$75/barrel	\$130
Grenada	\$75/barrel	\$130
St Vincent	\$75/barrel	\$130
St Kitts	\$120/barrel	\$150
Barbados	\$75/barrel	\$130
St Lucia	\$75/barrel	\$130

**We also deliver empty barrels!**

**Regular Service: 4-6 weeks delivery • Express Service: 3-4 weeks delivery • We deliver empty barrels/crates in the GTA**



**Editorial**

**Caribbean crime**

**W**hile Caricom and the government of Trinidad and Tobago wrapped up its Regional Symposium addressing Crime and Violence as a Public Health Issue in Port-of-Spain earlier this week, it is worth remembering that these talks occurred among officials cruising at the 30,000-foot level, many of whom are protected by secret service agents and armed bodyguards seven days a week and 24 hours a day.

Meanwhile at ground level, it is incumbent on us to yet again deploy our mantra, much repeated in this space, to our diaspora visiting the Caribbean to remain cognisant of their environment, and to not draw attention to themselves with accoutrements of enrichment such as jewelry, or through exaggerated, accented actions.

Also, that we are to constantly cast a vigilant eye while outdoors in what are now too many precarious and predatory zones, which have become negatively and darkly iconic as sites of criminality in our homelands.

In fact, it would be an eye-opening reminder for members of the diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago, for example, to visit the [government of Canada's website and read its travel advisory](#); as well as for our diaspora in the US to visit their government's [website for its cautionary text about traveling to Port-of-Spain](#).

It is with growing alarm and anxiety that even from our distance abroad we are noting the rising precarity, foreboding, and alarming stresses that are consuming households in Trinidad and Tobago. Notable among the recent traumatic events have been the escalation in the number of home invasions by criminals, and the horrific intensity of the brutality that is being meted out to the victims.

In what was a malicious and violent attack during an invasion on the night of April 9 in a town just outside Port-of-Spain, graphic photographs were later published in Trinidad and Tobago's media showing a pattern of welts painfully acquired from a brutal whipping that had been applied by one of the criminals to a young victim's back.

Even as the images were shocking, at the same time it evoked a visceral and brutal past, where historically bodies in the Caribbean region were made compliant and docile through violence, physical pain, and fear of the lash.

Nationals of Trinidad and Tobago should not have to endure such fear and brutality; and notably, such criminal and violent potential for deployment of physical pain should not extend as fear to the diaspora abroad, with many among us traveling back-and-forth frequently, and even more of us maintaining legacy investments in family, friendships, property, and businesses in the homeland.

Perhaps it is a good thing that Caricom and the Trinidad and Tobago government met earlier this week to talk about regional crime. A show of unity of purpose could serve as a first layer to the Herculean task that is required to cleanse, or perhaps exorcise, nations such as Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and the others, of the criminal scourge that now appears to be as inexorable as a tsunami.

Perhaps Caricom's chairman, Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis, is on the right path when he urged more help for young Caribbean males who are vulnerable to becoming perpetrators or victims of crime. He made the statement during his opening remarks at the Caricom crime conference in Port-of-Spain on Monday.

Davis also invoked the metaphor of disease, noting that an "epidemic of violence" was gripping the region; it is "one that claims lives and generates fear and anger", he said.

But metaphors are balms; meanwhile, the real and measurable world was noted when Davis revealed disconcerting crime figures indicating a staggering 2022 homicide rate of 52.9 per 100,000 inhabitants for Jamaica; and further south, Trinidad and Tobago with a rate of 39.4 per 100,000; then there were The Bahamas, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, all recording homicide rates above 30 per 100,000. As Davis stated, these figures were "over five times the global average".

Surely, outlier status for homicides and criminality is not a good place for the Caribbean. It is an unhealthy place to inhabit – for nationals in the homelands, and for our diaspora that is becoming more and more apprehensive.

**How the sea links present trauma to the past**

**I**n my last column, I asked: "How can we be more than a cog in the wheel of capitalism and maximise our human possibility?" I want to revisit this question, but from a less optimistic angle.

A little over a year ago, in February 2022, four out of five divers died at Berth 6 in Pointe-a-Pierre, Trinidad. The four men – Kazim Ali Jr, Yusuf Henry, Fyzal Kurban, and Rishi Nagassar, as reported in the Trinidad and Tobago media, were sucked into an underwater oil pipeline.

Their bodies were recovered through a "water displacement process". One diver, Christopher Boodram, survived. Although, it was reported the others might have also survived had there been a timelier rescue mission by the State-owned Paria Fuel Trading Company.

Apparently, the last words heard from one of the divers were, "God will save us!"

Activist David Adulah has since accused the Trinidad and Tobago government of blatant disregard for human life.

Following this tragic incident, reporter Richard Charan wrote an article for the [Trinidad Express recounting a past incident at Berth 5 in 1985](#). Hauntingly, he described the events leading up to the death of Ramjohn Kurban, the father of Fyzal Kurban.

Ramjohn Kurban was the only man to survive a catastrophic explosion at Berth 5, Pointe-a-Pierre, which was caused by a hydrocarbon leak. However, he soon died after being returned to shore.

Several other bodies were found underwater including "the charred corpses of two offshore workers... arms around each other in an apparent embrace before flames consumed their bodies", as [Radhica De Silva wrote in the, Trinidad Guardian in 2022](#).

Shaheed Kurban, Fyzal's brother, recounted the sea being on fire for around 200 feet due to the hydrocarbon leak. The blaze was so large that Shaheed witnessed it while working on another offshore site over 24 miles away, as Charan reported in 2022. In the article, Shaheed is shown holding his brother's portrait.

How many repeating tragedies have our seas witnessed? First, enslavement, then Indentureship, now the oil and gas industry:

**Faster & faster we go into a time now without match**

**M**y uncle's unfailing memory still recalls today the story that he told me about the shopkeeper and the box of matches. Then we were growing up back home, with my uncle quite a few steps ahead of me in years in this marathon where we are now running faster, and even faster, sometimes at quite a clip downhill, but yet somehow remaining in place.

Perhaps it is now time for him to retire his story, since we are well into the era where we hardly use matches anymore. Similar to fountain pens, which will one day come to an insurmountable full stop and so be written out of history; or wrist watches, which will one day see its time in this world coming to an end hands down.

My grandmother never approved of what she described as my young uncle's "hot foot"; this meant she grew increasingly critical, and irritated, even as he was growing in years and curiosity. It saw him taking long absences, each longer in duration than the one before, as he ventured further out into a world that was beyond the tall walls of sugar canes that frowned down on our village.

He returned late at night from those faraway places, which in my youthful imagination were even further away than the two gigantic sugar factory chimneys in the distance, both of which were constantly belching black smoke. He entered the house silently, agilely on padded feet, his road-dusted shoes strategically left outside, easily lifting the back Demerara window and lithely stepping over the short adobe wall into the house with what were then his developing, lengthy, and bony legs.

In doing so, he avoided my grandmother's ire, her impulse always being to harangue him about his "wayward, skylarking ways". But it was from this "waywardness" that he brought back many tall stories, which when he whispered them to me beneath the range of my grandmother's watchful, feline hearing, lit up my imagination as if a match had been scratched on its powdered glass strip, and so flaring up, had then been tossed into a cranial pot of gasoline.

I was a young adult many decades later; then, while driving in the city one night, I was brought to a halt by a fast current of moviegoers flowing across the street. It was a moment of fluidity, where with the movie over, its hundreds of patrons were spilling out from the emergency side doors and the iron-latticed front gates of the cinema, flowing against the traffic on the narrow-pitched roadway.

One of the moviegoers stood out from the surge. I noted an inwardness to his eyes. It was as if his gaze had turned inwards, and in there, somewhere inside his febrile, saturated brain, he

the bodily sacrifices to the sea continue to amass.

When we speak of the oil and gas industry, and its role in national and regional economies, we tend to gloss over the risks associated with these industries.

We eagerly talk of revenue and progress, but do we name the sacrifices made by those who have suffered disabling injuries or even the loss of life?

We fail to remember their names and bodies in the litany of the afterlives of slavery and Indentureship. Yet we still live in the shadows of history where our labour, and our lives, are made

cheap.

These sacrifices to the narrative of development are part of what makes us "unavailable to [ourselves]... memoryless and tough with remembrances, heavy with lightness, aching with grins" as Dionne Brand wrote in her *Oral Ruttier* in her *A Map to the Door of No Return*.

I am thinking of that tragic incident from last year, because of another watery tragedy. On April 11, the [Associated Press reported local fishermen found a boat adrift](#), off the coast of Tobago, with the decomposing bodies of more than a dozen African men.

As the volume of refugees and migrants increase via irregular routes, there have been a number of offshore deaths. According to *AP News*, at least seven boats carrying dead bodies have washed up in the Caribbean region since 2021.

I remain haunted by the missing people, their bodies disappeared: sucked into pipelines, consumed by flames, bodies that never reach the shore. I think of the bodies that are never retrieved and returned to their families, or loved ones swallowed up by the sea, to become part of a deep archive.

The sea connects these newer untimely drownings to those of the past, and demand we extend our understanding of the afterlives of slavery and Indentureship to the modern-day geopolitical machinations that continue to exacerbate hardships, and the callous calculations that persist in the disregard of human life in service of labour.

Arrival Day is only a couple of weeks away, and I will continue to be haunted.



Nalini Mohabir



Romeo Kaseram

was re-running the reels and reels of film that had earlier been spooled out before him.

For a moment I thought he was replaying the movie inside his head, with its thousands of images flashing behind his eyes so that even his feet too had become wayward and distracted.

I thought that his gaze had been transported to another place; to another time; and into a faraway world. That he was no longer among us, and had been swept away by the movie's ineluctable and fast-paced current.

Such were my uncle's eyes when he narrated the stories to me that he had gathered from the world beyond our village that was daily being stifled behind its fortress of sugar canes. It was this world beyond that he longed to enter with his distracted eyes and his wayward legs.

However, to leave the fields behind, and a life forward where he would labour in vain in the futile vineyards of an impoverishing and extractive sugar industry, meant first tangling with my no-nonsense and rigid grandmother anxious over protecting her exploring sons from the depredations of the hostile world that was beyond; and a young grandson who had been put into her overwrought and overworked hands.

It was under the cover of this enveloping darkness that my uncle told me the story of the matchbox. He had found a job with a shopkeeper during one of his extended peregrinations beyond the boundary of the sugar factory's soot-spitting chimneys. It was among his tasks to extract one match from new boxes of matches, and in so doing, accumulate enough to fill up an empty box that was later sold to unwary customers.

"The moral of this story is a box of matches always comes short one match," he said.

Back then we had no tools to refine my uncle's discovery of this bitter nugget of experience. Much later, he would tell me this absence of ethics was the first of the many that remained in the sieve after he was done with his lifetime of sifting. Such is the way of this cheating world, he declared.

Among the first sounds I recall as I came to consciousness growing up back home is my grandmother attempting to exit the room noiselessly so she would not disturb her sleeping progeny. Exaggerated noiselessness in the makeshift kitchen saw her extracting pots and pans that muttered with irritation at being disturbed. My grandmother then prepped her *chulla*, sprinkled an offering of kerosene on the firewood, and struck a match.

I still hear its serpentine hiss rising in the cool damp; a phosphorous scent still lingers after the yellow flaring briefly lit the underside of the ceiling where threads of soot hang down. And my dear grandmother is no longer here; we are one match short.

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



# Mystery emerges in audit figures for Stabroek Block oil companies

Dear Editor,

The audit results for the oil companies operating in the Stabroek Block from 1999 to 2017 revealed a stunning (US) \$214 million in questionable expenses. The auditor's report was leaked two years after completion, which raises questions about why the government wasn't transparent with the Guyanese people, given the outrageous amount of money under question.

There is a larger figure that is a mystery, and it relates to the exemptions given to the oil companies and their related contractors for 2021.

It is tax season for many in America. Many individuals and companies are diligently preparing their taxes. The threat of an audit, when information does not reconcile, can result in months of stress dealing with the US tax agency, that is the Internal Revenue Service.

It is also tax season in Guyana from February

15, when employers submit data on employees' earnings, to the final deadline on April 30. The Guyana Revenue Authority is as diligent and competent as the IRS, but they do not possess the reach to deal with the biggest fish.

In 2021, Guyanese paid (US) \$206 million in personal income taxes while the IHS audit, completed that same year, exposed that foreign oil companies claimed (US) \$214 million in questionable expenses. The little fish are kept well in the net.

In June 2021, during a Guyana Extractives Industry Transparency conference, the Ministry of Natural Resources promised to release the Tax Certificates that Guyana issues

to the oil companies, [click here](#). To date this information has not been released. The oil companies do not pay profit taxes, but receive a tax certificate that they could use towards a foreign tax credit.

But there are other ways to make an educated guess about the taxes that the oil companies in the Stabroek Block should have paid, but did not for 2021.

On the Hess US website, information is disclosed about taxes that Hess paid in each country where it operates. For 2021, specifically for Guyana, the tax figure disclosed to the US Tax Authority (IRS) is (US) \$119 million in deferred income tax expense and no current tax expense, [see here](#).

We know Hess has a 30 percent share in the Stabroek Oil Block. Hence, a 100 percent of taxes would be (US) \$119m/0.3 which would total (US) \$397 million in taxes for the oil companies operating in the Stabroek Block. One should recall that this is (US) \$397 million that Guyana is forgoing in taxes to rich oil companies.

Now if we try to reconcile the (US) \$397 million tax figure with what the Guyana's Auditor General Report for 2021 disclosed, we have a material anomaly.

Guyana's Auditor General disclosed that the Oil & Gas sector had about (US) \$977 million in exemptions, see the (GYD) \$204 billion figure in the [table on page 72 here](#), an exchange rate of USD to GYD of \$208.5 was used.

If exemption for taxes on profit oil was estimated at (US) \$397 million, what is the

detailed breakdown of the other exemptions to the oil companies that total (US) \$580 million?

The 2021 EITI report due by the end of this year should help shed light on the mystery lying in the (US) \$977 million in exemptions to the oil companies. Specifically, section 4.1 of the EITI requirements, which is titled "Comprehensive disclosure of taxes and revenues," may help tease out the details in the 2021 EITI report for Guyana.

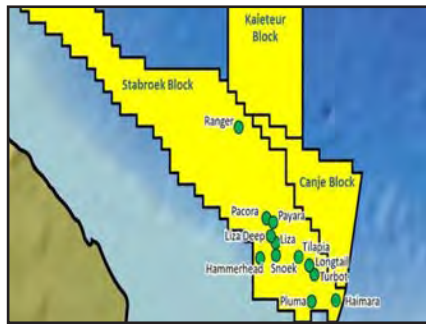
However, Guyana's EITI status is currently suspended as it missed the end of 2022 deadline for the 2020 EITI report, [see it here](#). Let's hope that Guyana can avoid an EITI de-listing, which may mean keeping this mystery in the dark from the Guyanese people.

Given the recent revelations about the (US) \$214 million in questionable charges that were revealed in the report by the international auditor, IHS Markit, it raises alarms about what may be hidden in the (US) \$977 million in exemptions given to the oil companies and their partners for 2021.

What is astounding is that Guyana only earned (US) \$409 million from oil in 2021, but gave away more than two times that amount in exemptions to the oil companies. This is yet another case of the Guyanese poor fattening the rich.

Or looking at it from another angle, the Bank of Guyana reported (US) \$206 million in personal income taxes for 2021. Guyana gave the oil companies (US) \$397 million in tax breaks on profit oil! Thus in 2021 we could have given every Guyanese worker a tax break; instead we gave the rich oil companies a tax holiday.

Alfred Bhulai, Andre Brandli, Janette Bulkan, Darsh Khushial, and Joe Persaud, [Oil & Gas Network](#), via email.



Stabroek Block



T&T Police Service officers conducting a road exercise

## Runaway crime as cops chase speedsters

Dear Editor,

The nerves of citizens are already frayed with the increasing number of home invasions, carjackings, shootings, and gun violence.

Many citizens are now considering applying for firearms and permission to have gated communities, while others are forming neighbourhood watch groups, and are even considering migration.

Some leaders are advocating a State of Emergency to curb the runaway crime rate that has enveloped the country.

What has been the response of the Commissioner of Police?

## T&T needs hardcore police intervention

Dear Editor,

The crime wave over the Easter weekend was not unexpected, as citizens braced themselves for an assault on their person and property at will, given that the government has thrown its hands up in the air and abandoned the safety of citizens.

While people were bawling for help, the police were checking drivers' documents.

Only last week ACP Winston Maharaj was trying to convince the nation that serious crime was down. Well, what happened over the Easter weekend, Officer Maharaj? Pickpocketing?

These news conferences that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service holds really irritate me, because it means a new crime wave will follow.

Almost as it was taken from scripture, this is the seventh year of unabated criminal activity, social discord, and runaway crime.

Meanwhile, all the PNM government has to show for it are neophyte, clueless ministers who gobble their ill-advised words almost as fast as they vomit them out.

So, I do not expect any seven-year recovery

In a rather novel initiative, even putting her prayer call on the back burner, the failing CoP instructed her understaffed and overworked force to concentrate on finding those scoundrels who break the speed limit.

She had the temerity to announce that over (TT) \$2 million were collected in speeding fines, but did not reveal how many bandits were caught fleeing the scene of their crimes. Way to go, Erla Harewood-Christopher!

Put your force on the highways and allow the vast number of citizens to be unprotected.

Milton Seebaran, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

to follow. Where we will end up in terms of a murder toll is anybody's guess.

Someone needs to retire the Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher and her gender narrative soon, since the people cannot last longer on her request for prayers.

The blitz we need is not vehicle licence and insurance checks on the way to Maracas. It is hardcore police intervention, the army included.

We have gone past the facade of youth clubs, of pony rides for budding bandits, and sweet talk for miscreants.

We are digging our own graves.

This government is obsessed with scapegoats and persecution, and do not see the marauding gangs pillaging the nation, because the ministers are protected in their Victorian lifestyles. But every day someone suffers a horrible fate of a robbery, a beating, a home invasion, a rape. If they are lucky, they survive.

All this government does is build a nasty seven-storey edifice with the goodwill of the people.

Linda S. Capildeo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

UNI-TNT PRESENTS  
OUR UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH

OLD Party SKOOL

DA INFAMOUS NIGEL B

SATURDAY APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> 2023  
CLASS START 9PM • \$20 ADV  
DOOR PRIZES • BUCKET SPECIALS

MUSIC BY NIGEL B - LIVE  
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST DJ DJ ARNEL

// TROPICAL NIGHTS RESTAURANT, 1154 MORNINGSIDE RD, SCAR //  
// DRESS IN SKOOL GEAR // 416-309-9754 // TICKETGATEWAY.COM/UNITNT //

facebook /UNITNTCHARITY



# Notable tension in plural societies with rise of Girmitiyas

Dear Editor,

Contrary to some recent comments, Indian Guyanese were shipped out from a British India that had been pillaged and looted (not coincidentally a Hindi word) with its native cottage industries, especially in textiles, destroyed to create millions of peasants as "surplus labour" that sought a "vent".

Irrespective of particular origins, they were Othered into "coolies": persons at the bottom of the social ladder to provide labour on plantations.

After the abolition of slavery, in an era of supposed "progress", they were subject to an "agreement" specifying the conditions of their labour. It is this agreement, which they pronounced "Girmit" that they defined themselves as "Girmitiyas – people of the agreement. This act of naming was their seminal act of signaling their appropriation of agency.

They knew it was a one-sided contract. But they "banded their belly" to fulfill their side of it because it opened more opportunities than in British-ravaged India. To which most chose not to return – confident that after they finished their Indentureship, they had the ability "to produce two blades of grass where there was but one".

They were labeled "docile" for "keeping their word", but when the planters broke theirs, they rebelled. These are shown by the number of court cases filed against Girmitiyas, and the number of strikes they staged even in the face of the "leaden argument".

Girmitiyas marked the transition from a world in which slave labour was abandoned, but the world of "free labour" had not yet been born. They were kept in that intermediate state of being neither slave, but certainly not freedmen. The transition was not for humanitarian reasons, as the colonisers would have it, but for the more prosaic reason of greater profits for



East Indian workers circa 1895 threshing & preparing rice

the Empire.

However, as immigrants escaping British generated landlessness, joblessness, famines and debt, they were determined to work their way up and out even when other groups balked. Their motto, as one scholar put it, became "*laboro ergo sum*" – "I am because I work".

Girmitiyas became the inaugural "Indian" since in the colonies it did not matter which region or rank from which one originated: they were all "coolies".

When a group is ostracised, it becomes more cohesive: solidity of the group is directly proportional to the impressed pressures. But

they became also less bogged down by the deadweight of caste, and so on.

From the moment they stepped into the Depot in Calcutta, and were handed those new clothes, they were liberated from the caste semiotics of clothes and how they were worn.

When Girmitiyas were shipped to the various Imperial colonies to work on the sugar plantations, in each case they encountered groups already there. The constant was the ruling Europeans who exercised total control through their laws, coercive forces, and hegemonic, discursive structures already deployed in India.

It is now a sociological truism that groups

placed in proximity with each other will engage in a "social comparison process".

While initially Girmitiyas were placed at the bottom of the social ladder, they inexorably elevated themselves because of the same derided culture that conferred the value of hard work. But it exacted its price in suicides, alcoholism, and domestic violence.

However, as Girmitiyas became the progressive, upwardly mobile group it created a negative sense of group worth for those displaced. In response, the latter claimed greater legitimacy to the national patrimony, through Christianity/westernisation, earlier arrival, or "greater suffering", and so on.

In the decolonisation, "democratising" wave, after WWII, these factors led to the present "politics of entitlement" against the background of Girmitiya unprotectedness.

While the British had ostentatiously arranged for a "Protector of Immigrants", which, with some notable exceptions took over from the "Protector of Slaves in the Amelioration Period", these operated more in the breach than not. It left a lasting legacy of Girmitiyas not expecting much justice from "law and order". But more insidious were the formation of armies and Police Forces staffed exclusively from non-Girmitiyas, that further exacerbated the tensions between these groups.

The State, however, is the property of all citizens that includes Girmitiyas and must be manned by what Hegel called a "universal class" representing all. In plural societies this demands that the groups be proportionally represented in them. If not, leaders from the dominant elements will always be tempted to seize power or demand partiality in political conflicts. Girmitiyas cannot accept the principle of opponents that "what we have is ours and what you have is negotiable".

Ravi Dev, Guyana, via email.



**HON. JUDY SGRO MP**  
HUMBER RIVER-BLACK CREEK

**Constituency Office**  
2201 Finch ave West Suite: 25  
Toronto, Ontario M9M 2Y9

416-744-1882  
Judy.sgro@parl.gc.ca  
www.judysrgo.ca

## RAMADAN MUBARAK!

May the blessings of Ramadan fill your life with peace, joy and prosperity.  
Eid Mubarak to you and your loved ones!



### Constituency Services

My office is here to help guide you through the process of dealing with the many different federal departments, programs, and services. Here are some services provided by my office.

- ❖ Employment Insurance Benefits (EI)
- ❖ Old Age Security (OAS)
- ❖ Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- ❖ Canada Child Plan (CCP)
- ❖ Canada Pension (CPP)
- ❖ Citizenship and Immigration applications
- ❖ Canada Revenue Agency
- ❖ Passport Canada
- ❖ Acquiring Canadian flags, Certificate, pins



# Caribbean food insecurity heading for crisis proportions

Food insecurity has reached crisis proportions in the Caribbean. Although this issue has been at the top of the regional agenda for several years now, conditions continue to get worse instead of better – raising concerns that sufficient attention is not being paid by regional leaders to alleviate it.

When addressing the Caribbean Association of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Staff, Caribbean Leader's Open Dialogue earlier this month, Guyana's President Irfaan Ali highlighted the "catastrophic implications of non-action or limited action" when it comes to food security within the Caribbean.

Ali, who has lead responsibility for agriculture in the Caribbean Community's Quasi Cabinet, called for an increase in production and productivity, and reminded participants that climate-resilient agriculture is necessary for sustainability.

Drawing attention to the severity of food insecurity, Ali observed that "if you look at some of the recent headlines on food security in the region, it's a really telling story".

He added, "It is important for us to know that if we don't take action now, and we don't make the necessary adjustments in our budgetary allocation for agriculture and food production and prioritise agriculture, we are going to face a catastrophe in the region."

Incidentally, according to a survey conducted by Caricom and the United Nations World Food Programme last year, it was estimated that 2.8 million people, or nearly 40 percent of the population in the English-speaking Caribbean, are food insecure.

That is 72 percent higher when compared to April 2020.

The results of the survey, according to Caricom, demonstrate deteriorating food consumption and diets with 25 percent of respondents eating less preferred foods, 30 percent skipping meals or eating less than usual, and five percent going an entire day without eating.

The regional body noted that high food prices continue to affect people's ability to afford a nutritious diet, with 93 percent of respondents reporting higher prices for food compared to 59 percent in April 2020. It stated that the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine is expected to create an even deeper impact on the cost of basic goods and services in the Caribbean.

Regis Chapman, WFP Representative and Country Director for the Caribbean Multi-Country Office added: "An import dependent region, the Caribbean continues to feel the socio-economic strain of Covid-19 which is now being compounded by the conflict in the Ukraine. With most Covid-19 assistance programmes having concluded, many families are expected to face an even greater challenge to meet their basic food and other essential needs in the months to come."

Chapman added, "In the short to medium term, it is increasing pressure on governments to identify solutions to ensure families can meet their essential needs. Innovation in agri-food systems and regional supply chains, coupled with continued support to the most vulnerable households, will be essential to

improving the resilience of regional food systems so that prices can be kept as stable as possible."

Another report by the United Nations, Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2022, found that the Latin American and Caribbean region has the highest cost for a healthy diet

compared to the rest of the world. It noted that 52 percent of the people in the Caribbean cannot afford a healthy diet.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Mario Lubetkin, FAO

Assistant Director and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean stated that "there is no individual policy that can solve this problem independently. National and regional coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened to respond to hunger and malnutrition."

As the region's largest food producer, Guyana is ideally positioned to fulfill the region's food demand. Long regarded as the "food bowl of the Caribbean", the country is now seeking to put the infrastructure in place to achieve this goal.

In recent years, Guyana increased its focus on agriculture, recognising that its potential to feed the Caribbean can only materialise if there is domestic as well as regional commitment to develop the largely neglected sector. As a result, it has been wooing its Caribbean counterparts, as well as international investors, to assist it with developing agriculture with the intent of achieving regional food security.

Ali has in the past bemoaned the fact that a number of Caricom member States was merely giving lip service to the need for a reduction in the regional food bill. He cited the need to dismantle non-tariff barriers such as laws, regulations, and procedures to the regional trade in agricultural produce and products.

Ironically, the record of solidarity among Caribbean governments in food production is far from reassuring. This is largely due to a myriad of factors, among them varying levels of wealth, geographic size, and population, and differing political configurations, foreign policies, trade relations, and national expectations.

Other constraints to agricultural development include the region's vulnerability to natural disasters caused by climate change, which has resulted in extensive damage to infrastructure, property and agricultural production. At the same time, food and nutrition insecurity has been aggravated by increasing rates of poverty in the region, coupled with high levels of income inequality.

For now, there is no doubt that there is ample commitment on "paper" to develop agriculture in the region, but success beyond the boardroom table has been fleeting. Past experience shows that there has been weak integration of implementation efforts across the region.

On the other hand, at a regional level, Caribbean countries have been largely focused on developing the more "glamorous" service sectors at the expense of "dirty" agriculture. Part of the reason is because tourism has been the mainstay of several of these economies.



Dwarka Lakhan



Irfaan Ali



Regis Chapman



Addressing the CAWI event, Ali stated that "if we are to achieve the 25 by 2025 target in a very conservative way, the investment from the public and private sector needed will be about (US) \$7.5 billion." He was referring to the region's plans to reduce food imports by 25 percent by 2025.

Currently, an average of about 60 percent of the region's food is imported, with imports as high as 80 percent in some countries. Even in Guyana, almost 50 percent of food is imported. The annual regional food import bill is in the range of (US) \$6 billion.

Ali urged international development institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to bolster their support for the region, noting that they can play a more active role in the implementation of policy initiatives to address food insecurity.

He said issues, such as labour shortages, climate change, and the development of new planting materials, require an aggressive, collaborative effort. In addition, countries have to find financing for infrastructure in an environment in which they are already saddled

with the heavy debt burden, the cost of climate adaptation, and the high cost of financing globally.

And in a scathing rebuke of the typical World Bank role, Ali said: "We don't want the World Bank to tell us that they are going to do studies. We have enough studies on the table. We have enough data. The development agencies need to get out of this initial reaction of being study-oriented organisations. I see a great role for the World Bank, but that must not be an evaluation role or a report production role. That role has to be one that fits into the solution."

Ali is right. The time for research, reports and boardroom meetings on food security in the region is long gone.

Dwarka Lakhan, BA, MBA, FCSI, FICB is a Member of the Canadian Association of Journalists, and an accomplished financial writer. His recently published 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](mailto:dlakhan@rogers.com).

FOR THE FIRST TIME TOGETHER ON ONE STAGE!

Radha Krishna Mandir  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# BHAKTI SANGEET

Mega Concert

PT. NEIL DEV PERSAD | PT. NARAD GOSINE | PT. HARDAT ASHWAR

Live in Toronto Canada  
SATURDAY APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> 2023  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM | SHOW BEGINS AT 6:00PM

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY

PT. DAJEEV PERSAUD | SANDAY MATADIN | PRIYA PERSAUD | ALEX MOHAN | DEVIN NAUTH | NATHAN KHAN | ADESH SAHADEO | NARESH DISEH LAKHAN | ANAND SEERAM | TAMESH DOOBAY

LIMITED SEATING FOOD ON SALE  
TICKETS ADULTS \$50  
KIDS \$20 AGES 5 TO 12

IT ALL TAKES PLACE INSIDE THE BEAUTIFUL  
SRINGERI BANQUET HALL  
80 BRYDON DR, ETOBICOKE, ON M9W 4N6

FOR TICKETS | INFO | SPONSORSHIP  
DWARKA 519-240-0870  
NALINI 519-578-3145  
JEAN 416-526-5780

STAY TUNED FOR MUCH MORE DETAILS AT  
BHAKTISANGEET.CA

BUY TICKETS ONLINE



# Marathon lifts activity level with fund-raising so no dialysis patient is left behind

From Page 1

Doobay.

Following the celebration of his 82nd birthday last year, Dr Doobay told *Indo-Caribbean World* being an octogenarian was no excuse for him to not lead his team of volunteers and participants on their virtual and in-person marathon trek.

Indicating that he was going to participate in the in-person event in downtown Toronto, he had declared, “I don’t know how to sit and quietly enjoy my old age. It’s only five kilometres. I walk five kilometres each day!”

Now close to both an upcoming birthday later this year, and his second marathon, Dr Doobay told *Indo-Caribbean World* last week that hitting the streets in downtown Toronto at a brisk walking pace in 2022 was “an incredible experience”.

“The atmosphere, the people, the camaraderie, people along the streets cheering you on; it was second to none,” Dr Doobay recalled.

Additionally, “I am proud to say today that last year I finished my first five kilometre Toronto Waterfront Marathon. And that while doing so, I raised funds to assist VOV’s dialysis program in Guyana. I look forward to doing so again this year,” Dr Doobay declared.

He also extended the call to the Caribbean and Canadian communities, and to the diaspora across the globe, saying, “Join me for my second consecutive year participating in the TWM. Doing so would not only increase your physical activity – at the same time you will be helping to care for those needing dialysis in Guyana.”

Along with Dr Doobay reprising his in-person involvement in the run this year are staffers at the Guyana Consulate General. In a statement issued earlier this week, it said, “The Consulate is excited and eager to once again team up with VoV to participate in the Toronto Waterfront Marathon run for Guyana dialysis. This is a triple benefit event: it raises Guyana’s profile during the expo; it raises money for a good cause; and helps participants stay active and encourages people to lead a healthy lifestyle for their well-being.”

The statement added, “This is for an amazing cause: it assists patients, who even with subsidy from the [Guyana] government still struggle to afford dialysis treatment due the number of sessions needed per week.”

Participants in last year’s virtual and in-person events also spoke to their positive experiences during the marathon.

Among them was Nan Sewkumar, who performed the virtual marathon. Said Sewkumar: “Self-care starts with you taking care of your mind, body, and soul. Why not use this momentum to make this world a better place by contributing to virtually raising funds, while taking care of yourself, and at the same time helping those in need?”

Indu and Parbhat Sood also participated in the virtual marathon. As they noted, “When we run for ourselves, we push our limits. But when we run for others, we push our hearts. Running a virtual marathon... is not just about achieving a personal goal; it is about making a difference in someone else’s life. Every step we take is a step towards hope, towards healing, and towards a brighter future for those in need.”

And in what remains a poignant testimony to the indomitable human spirit in the face of personal tribulation, in-person marathon

participant Nandini Doobay said: “Me fighting Stage 4 cancer does not take away from what others are going through. Although this walk/run is not related to my issues, it is related to humanity’s struggles at large. Serving humanity is one of the greatest, undiscovered joys, and I am extremely blessed and grateful that I was a part of this marathon.”

Also, Christina Ramnauth was a visiting participant, along with her family, who traveled north together for the in-person run. Speaking for ‘The New York Team’, Ramnauth declared the marathon was “a really rewarding experience”.

She added, “My immediate family and I participated in the race hoping to just have a family bonding experience while fund-raising for a great cause. The marathon provided us with much more! The entire course had loads of encouraging spectators and cheerleaders. Finishing the race with our family members and the Vishnu Mandir devotees is a memory we will cherish. We definitely look forward to the 2023 Marathon!”

And speaking on behalf of her participating family, Nanda Mohan declared that committing to the marathon triggered a complete re-boot of her fitness regimen.

Said Mohan: “For many years, I put my health on the back burner... The [TWM] was my very first marathon. Participating in this event motivated me to restart my fitness journey... It is the best feeling to know that while working on my own personal health and fitness goals, I have helped to generate awareness and funds to aid those in need of life-saving medical treatment.”

Mohan added, “I am now anxiously awaiting the 2023 [TWM]. I never dreamed I was capable of completing a five kilometre walk/run. I have already started my workouts, and communicating with family and friends to get them involved. I strongly encourage each of you to consider participating, or donating to the cause.”

Participant Danielle Reich also shared her positive outcome, saying her entry into the event was triggered by her father’s kidney complications. Noting the challenges ahead, Reich said she prepared both physically and mentally for the journey.

Said Reich: “[There were] so many emotions! I was scared, but also determined. I was excited, but also nervous. I had an overwhelming feeling of doubt.”

However, as she declared, “There were cheers; there were tears; and there were fears! But I did it! I completed my first half marathon! I ran it, and completed the race in two hours and 41 minutes... I ran my race at my pace, and I crossed the finish line with friends and family waiting to cheer on my accomplishment!”

She added, “I know this was my run, but [I was also] running for a purpose – raising money for Global Care Outreach... for dialysis care gave me purpose to cross the finish line. Thank you to all that supported me along this journey!”

Reich ran in a team of five participants. Their team was named Ohana, a Hawaiian word that translates into ‘family’ with an additional, profound resonance that no one gets left behind.

Reich’s team raised \$4,500 for the Global Care Outreach Program, helping to ensure that no dialysis patient in Guyana gets left behind.

**To register for the marathon, or to make a donation, kindly contact:**  
**Guyana Consulate**  
**Nutana 437-332-0962**  
**Global Care Outreach**  
**Radha 416-732-0604**  
**Janty 416-879-8805**  
**Parbhat 647-609-0321**  
**Roy 416-723-8879**



5K marathon participants get ready for the start of their event last year



VM’s runners signal their fund-raising intent wearing Run For Dialysis T-shirts

**Eid Mubarak**

May your Eid be filled with peace and happiness.

**Hon. Mary Ng, MP**  
**Markham-Thornhill**  
 16 Esna Park Drive, Unit 107, Markham ON L3R 5X1





One Love's President Habeeb Alli with three dedicated sisters Nazila, Halima, & Salima Haniff



Bash & Ajay Nandalall performing Qaseedas & Indian classical songs

## One Love Family Services' Ramadan Interfaith Gala

One Love Family Services held a Ramadan Interfaith Gala on April 7. The group is a registered not-for-profit organisation, which is located in Toronto. It aims to provide culturally appropriate food hampers to families and students in need through curb-side pickup, and through volunteers who make deliveries to clients across the GTA. One Love's mission is to provide families in need in Toronto, inclusive and respectful, with enough groceries to last a month, across all religious, gender, and race differences. 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!' The Ramadan Interfaith Gala event saw attendance of One Love's team of dedicated volunteers, well-wishers, spiritual leaders, donors, and many more participants. The event took place at the Jamaican Canadian Centre in North York. Among those in attendance were Acting Guyana Consul Grace Joseph; also attending were generous donor, Amir Quality Meats' owner Tony Aziz and family; Bash and Ajay Nandalall performed Qaseedas and Indian classical songs; Mani Singh brought greetings from the Hindu community; and Reverend Zenji Nio and Reverend Alexander Wilson.



One Love core volunteers, left to right: Walter Taylor, Shafeeya Nazeem, Hamza Khan, & Fawzi Wahab



From left are Alli, Dr Sherry Itwaru, & Andre Itwaru



From left to right in photo are Sherry Aziz from Amir Quality Meats, who are generous donors to One Love Family Service; President Habeeb Alli, Salma Aziz, & untiring & dedicated volunteers & organisers Hamza Khan & Ali Shaw



From left to right are Reverend Alexander Wilson, Reverend Zenji Nio, Mani Singh, Guyana Consulate's Acting Consul General Grace Joseph, Michael Lublin, Jerry Karamat, & Urvash Shiwasprasad

**SHIPPING WEEKLY TO:**  
ANTIGUA, ARUBA,  
BARBADOS, DOMINICA,  
GRENADA, GUYANA, JAMAICA,  
ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT,  
AND TRINIDAD

**R&S Cargo Express Inc.**  
Air Land Or Sea We Deliver For Less  
2715 Rena Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4T 3K1

**JUMBO BARRELS NOW AVAILABLE!**

**SPECIALS TO GUYANA**  
**SHIP EARLY FOR SUMMER**  
**PLEASE CALL FOR PRICES & SPECIAL RATES**  
**WE SHIP FOR LESS**  
**CHECK THE OTHERS AND COMPARE**

Shipping all personal and household items to your destination in 6 weeks or less!

VISITING GUYANA SOON?  
FOR AN ENJOYABLE STAY  
FURNISHED 2-BEDROOM SUITE  
ALL AMENITIES INCLUDED  
LOT 128 NEW ROAD,  
VREED-EN-HOOP  
WEST COAST  
DEMERARA GUYANA  
CONTACT:  
**416-738-8078**

**905-677-6400**  
rscargoexpress.ca rscargoexpressinc@yahoo.ca



## Tobago fish fight concerns take flight

Ongoing concerns over Barbados fishermen in Tobago's waters last week saw the All Tobago Fisherfolk Association seeking a meeting with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley. The group wants to discuss growing concerns over Barbadian fishermen catching flying fish in Tobago's waters.

Last week ATFA president Curtis Douglas told the Trinidad and Tobago media that Tobagonian fishermen are fed up with the situation, and want something to be done immediately.

The AFTA's move to seek a meeting with Mottley came after it wrote to Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley with its concerns.

Douglas said the ATFA was awaiting a response from Rowley. Meanwhile, it also initiated the call on Mottley to intervene.

"We want a conversation with the Prime Minister of Barbados," Douglas said.

He added, "Something must be done about this immediately. Bajans are fishing in our waters, making it difficult for us as entrepreneurs to make a living and feed our families. It puts us as at an unfair disadvantage."

He declared it was not a new situation, and has been ongoing for many years.

"We see them. We see them catching the fish. Some of our fishermen interact with the Bajans. This is something that is constant, and we just find enough is enough. We are not willing to give up anymore for the sake of tourism or Caricom."

In response to the Tobago fishermen's concern, Barbados Foreign Affairs Minister Kerrie Symmonds told the media in Barbados that unless the matter is raised through official diplomatic channels, the Barbados government would not be taking any action.

According to the *Barbados Nation* newspaper, Symmonds was quoted saying there had

not yet been any outreach from Trinidad and Tobago officials on the issue.

Said Symmonds: "To the best of my knowledge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Barbados has not been formally notified of anything in this regard. I certainly have no personal knowledge or information about any facts alleged, and in those circumstances, it would be most inappropriate to engage in speculation about the matter."

He added, "I'm not going to conduct the affairs of State via the informal channels of a newspaper report. Barbados does not do formal business in an informal way."

Also, Barbados' Minister of Environment and the Blue and Green Economy, Adrian Forde, told the *Barbados Nation* that he too was awaiting official notification on this issue.

Said Forde: "This issue has not been officially raised with the ministry so I am not commenting on something that nobody has officially raised with me. Trinidad fishermen can say something, Barbadian fishermen can say something, Vincentian fishermen can say something, but it has not been officially raised at this level."

Meanwhile, Barbados' Ambassador to Caricom, David Comissiong, also quoted in the *Barbados Nation*, assured that if there were an issue, then a proactive response would be taken.

"Truth be told, there has been no fishing dispute between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago from the time that I was appointed Caricom Ambassador," Comissiong said.

"So, the issue has not arisen over the last four and a half years. If something has now materialised, then I would have to take a look at it. I can't say much more than that, but if this issue has surfaced again, then we would have to deal with it proactively," he said.



Mia Mottley



David Comissiong

## St Vincent hooked deeply with Taiwan loans

St Vincent and the Grenadines currently owes Taiwan (EC) \$577.9 million (US \$214 million), a significant increase over the (EC) \$100 million tag of last September, Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves said last week.

As the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported, Gonsalves said the debt puts "a hook in the gill of anybody" with plans to break diplomatic relations with Taiwan. China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is among the few Caricom countries with diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The others are St Lucia, Belize, Haiti, and St Kitts-Nevis.

St Vincent and the Grenadines main opposition New Democratic Party announced in 2016 that if elected, then it would sever diplomatic ties with Taiwan, which were established on August 15, 1981.

However, so far political observers have noted the NDP has not formally announced a review of the policy, although public statements since have suggested the party might

have reconsidered its policy.

Observers also note that despite his public statements, Dr Godwin Friday feels that the party is saddled with the pro-China policy, and is seeking an appropriate time to announce that the NDP has reverted to its pro-Taiwan stance. Friday replaced Armin Eustace as NDP president and leader of the Opposition in 2017.

While in Opposition, Prime Minister Gonsalves had been a critic of the diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and had argued the case for establishing relations with China.

However, his government continues to maintain relations with Taiwan, stating doing so is based on principle. It has also accused the NDP of acting in a transactional manner regarding its pro-China policy.

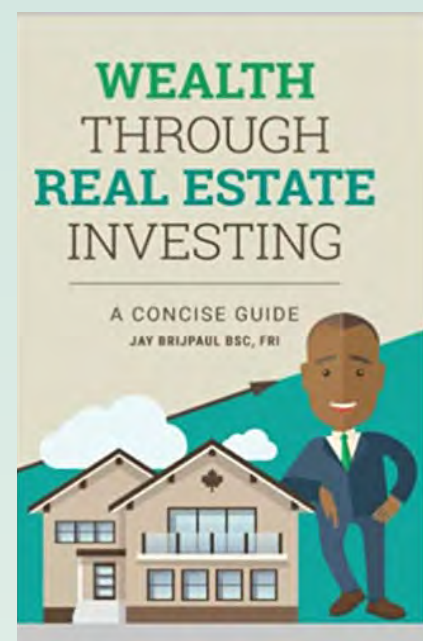
Speaking at a signing ceremony for an (EC) \$120 million loan from Taiwan earlier this month, Gonsalves said that the loan agreements that his government signed with Taipei include clauses that make all outstanding loans payable immediately if the island ends diplomatic relations with Taiwan.



Ralph Gonsalves

## WEALTH THROUGH REAL ESTATE INVESTING: A CONCISE GUIDE

JAY BRIJPAUL



Author Jay Brijpaul taps his vast experience & expertise in the industry to provide comprehensive coverage of

**What, How, When, Where & Why** to invest in Real Estate. This book will appeal to anyone interested in Real Estate Investing. Topics covered include:  
 • Why Real Estate • How To Create Wealth  
 • Managing Your Portfolio • Transitioning Your Portfolio  
 • Common Sense Approaches

"Real Estate investing – we have all contemplated it but have been dissuaded by lack of knowledge. Finally, here is a book that sets out comprehensively and practically – based on the author's extensive personal experience – the benefits and pitfalls of investing in Real Estate." — David Jebb, LLB, BSc. — Real Estate Lawyer

"The Brij Team has become one of the top performing teams in North America, achieving *The Elite Circle of Legends Hall of Fame* and the *Luminary of Distinction* awards — the highest awards a Realtor can receive with the RE/MAX organization. Jay is one of the most prolific performers in its 40-year history. *Wealth Through Real Estate Investing* is easy to read, understand and implement. I really like the way Jay puts theory into practice." — Frank Colatosti, CEO, RE/MAX West Realty Inc.

"Jay is one of the top professionals in the Real Estate realm. With over 30 years experience, he's navigated through every economic high and low, coming out winning every time. Jay's accumulated wisdom will give you the knowledge you need to achieve success." — Grant Browning, President/CEO, Toronto Caribbean News Inc.

"Jay Brijpaul has tapped his vast experience and expertise in the Real Estate industry and written *Wealth Through Real Estate Investing*." — Ken Puddicombe, CPA (retired Controller, Finance), author of *Racing With The Rain, Junta, and Down Independence Boulevard and Other Stories*.

"Real estate investment can seem complex for many individuals, but this book provides a simple step by step approach on what's needed to understand and navigate its constant changing world." — G. Chatwal, CPA, CA.

**CLICK ON AD TO GO TO AMAZON**  
 ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHARITY

## LAW OFFICE

### GENERAL PRACTICE

- Immigration Law
- Criminal Law
- Divorce & Family Law
- Notarisations, Affidavits
- Power of Attorney, Wills

**Chet Sharma**  
 B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B  
 Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

OFFICE

**416-285-1550**

Emergency:

**416-284-9191**

By Appointment Only

150 Lawson Road, Toronto, ON M1C 2J4







**MUNGOL SINGH**  
BARRISTER SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC

ROMA S. MUNGOL (SINGH)  
LL.B. - LONDON ENGLAND  
(SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES)

**SPECIALTY: FAMILY LAW**  
OTHER: CRIMINAL LAW | REAL ESTATE LAW | WILLS & ESTATES LAW

40 WESTMORE DRIVE, SUITE 202  
ETOBICOKE, ON M9V 4C2


(416) 745-SING (7464)  
FAX: (416) 745-1464  
ROMA@MUNGOLSINGH.CA



**Need a Dancer?**  
Birthdays, weddings, anniversaries,  
corporate events & more!  
For booking enquiries, DM me on Facebook  
or on my business page on  
Instagram @mbxo.dance



**Marisa Beekhoo**  
*Dancer of Footsteps Dance School*



**Better savings start here**

Lower your premiums when you insure both  
your car and home with us.

**Stop in, call or click to get a quote today.**

Sherry A Harrikissoon Ins Agcy Inc  
Sherry A Harrikissoon, Agent  
13311 Yonge St Unit 103  
Richmond Hill ON L4E 3L6  
905-773-9782



Certain conditions, limitations and exclusions may apply.  
Desjardins Insurance refers to Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company, underwriter of automobile and  
property insurance or Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company, underwriter of life insurance  
and living benefits products.  
Desjardins, Desjardins Insurance and related trademarks are trademarks of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du  
Québec, used under licence.



**YOUR COMMUNITY FACILITY OWNED AND OPERATED  
BY KAMAL BHARDWAJ, ONTARIO LICENCED SOUTH  
ASIAN FUNERAL DIRECTOR. WE ARE PROFESSIONAL,  
RESPECTFUL AND CARING.**

**Tel: 647-547-8188**  
info@lotusfuneralandcremation.com  
www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com

**Seating capacity for 500. Adaptable rooms for smaller  
funerals. Can accommodate larger gatherings.**

**121 City View Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9W 5A8**

Conveniently located to serve Toronto and areas west of the City  
including Etobicoke, Brampton, Bramalea and Mississauga.  
Cremations are done on the premises without leaving the  
building. Large gatherings can view start of cremations.  
Media available to broadcast proceedings.



Pre-arrangement plans available. Free executor  
support for Canada Pension Plan and Survivor  
Benefits. In-home services offered if desired.



# Theorising registers & scales to measure our happiness index

By Dhanpaul Narine

**W**e all want to be happy. The former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon defines happiness to mean, “working to end conflict, poverty and other unfortunate conditions in which so many of our fellow human beings live”.

In various UN studies on well-being, it was found that happy people live longer, they earn more and they are healthier, more productive and loyal. They also heal faster.

Happiness is like a shining star. It radiates and it has the properties to be contagious. Happy people want others to be happy like them. Some psychologists believe that your success and personal growth will multiply with age.

However, happiness is a relatively new field of study, and contrary to what some governments may be saying, well-being as a science is not a global oddity.

The idea of happiness has long featured in the world's religions, and many philosophers have spent years trying to explain how one can be happy. But it has remained elusive.

In 1787, a French Revolutionary leader said that happiness was a new idea in Europe. Two years later, the American Constitution stated that people had a number of inalienable rights, and among them were the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”.

One of the obvious problems with happiness is the ability to quantify the data. Some social scientists have looked at the economics of happiness in which statistics such as foreclosures, the impact of wars on the economy, and employment and inflation are examined. In order to arrive at some consensus, surveys are carried out across different income groups to find out how satisfied people are with their lives.

As we have seen, the idea of happiness has caught on in public policy and it has become part of the national agenda. Definitions vary; what some may regard as happy may differ in other places.

In India, a farmer with a tiny plot of land and eight children may be considered poor, but he may see himself as well off because his wealth lies in his children.

The business tycoon, on the other hand, may have all the outward comforts of life, but he can't sleep soundly because of security reasons, or because his investments appear to be on shaky economic grounds.

Bhutan is a Himalayan kingdom. In 1972, it tried a novel idea that has made waves across the world. The monarch, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, decided to move away from Gross National Product to Gross National Happiness. Bhutan, the King said, should spread wealth across the country, and at the same time, be in sync with nature.

The example of Bhutan has been taken up by other policy-makers, and is being discussed internationally.

The Gross National Happiness idea states that one has to think about people in broader terms.

“Material well-being is only one component. That doesn't ensure that you are at peace with your environment, and in harmony with each other,” says one observer.

By the year 2000, happiness had begun to feature prominently at the United Nations. It published a *World Happiness Report* in 2012, and the findings were most surprising. On a scale of zero to ten, it was found that the happiest country was Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, and the Netherlands. They scored 7.6 on the table.

The least happy countries are the poorest ones and many of them are to be found in Africa.

For example, Togo, Benin, the Central African Republic, and Sierra Leone have scores of 3.4, but it was not just poverty that



**King Jigme Singye Wangchuck**

made people unhappy.

There were other factors such as the absence of political freedom, strong social bonds, and corruption. At the individual level, there were considerations such as mental health, security in employment, and the support of the family.

In view of the politically unstable climate in some countries, national security ought to be on the list as well. It is said that mental health “is the biggest single factor affecting happiness in any country. But only 25 per cent of mentally ill persons get treatment for their condition in advanced countries and fewer in poorer countries”.

The other reasons for happiness are stable families and the involvement of parents in the lives of their children. What is striking in the UN survey is that in rich countries, women are happier than men, and it is mixed in poor countries.

In 2014, the UN Secretary General described the ecology of happiness to mean the three pillars of sustainable development. They include social, economic, and environmental well-being. Together, according to the UN, they define gross global happiness.

The comments of Bhutan's minister of education remain instructive. He says that although his country is poor, the people are happy. How is this possible?

According to Thakur Singh Powydel, “It is easy to mine the land and fish the seas and get rich. Yet we believe you cannot have a prosperous nation in the long run that does not conserve its natural environment, or talk of the well-being of its people, which is being borne out by what is happening to the outside world”.

What is happening needs careful attention. A Report from the British Aid Group Oxfam states that, “the share of the world's wealth is owned by the best-off one percent. This has increased from 44 percent in 2009 to 48 percent in 2014, while among the least well-off 80 percent currently own just 5.5 percent”. How can one be happy with this disparity?

There is no question that global inequality is growing fast, and despite the pronouncements at Davos, and elsewhere, no one seems to have the answer to redress the imbalances.

Thomas Piketty in his book *Capital* suggests that what we are seeing is a drift toward the 19th century when capital accumulation was paramount. In discussions on happiness, it was felt that the US with its resources would perhaps be in the top five countries.

But this is not the case, as the US is in the middle. Why is it necessary to study happiness since it is subjective? Economists prefer to focus on well-being, and they argue that while hedonic well-being can be measured, evaluative well-being is broader, since it deals



**Ban Ki-moon**

with how people think of their lives as a whole.

When these components are measured, a better picture of human welfare emerges. However, the task is to use the data to plan for the well-being of the nation. Can money buy happiness?

The answer is that money does matter because it presents more choices. If one accepts this argument, then the US should top the list. But there are other factors that need to be addressed, and they relate to stability, the quality of governance, education, and health.

Carol Graham argues that in the US there is insecurity as far as health care is concerned. According to one observer, there are extremes in the US about how happiness is perceived.

You have “very unhappy and very happy people”. One reason for this is that you may

have choices, but if there is insecurity, then well-being is affected.

The Scandinavian countries have done well in terms of personal security, but in the poor countries personal security is absent.

Money is important, but people should learn to live within their means, and when this happens the basis is there for contentment.

What about religion and happiness? There are many persons that read all kinds of self-help books searching for the panacea for happiness. They try all sorts of meditation, move to warmer climes, make new friends, and even sign up for courses at college.

But these seldom work, and people turn to religion to find happiness. Does religion make a person happy?

A 1990 study in Europe found that 86 percent of churchgoers reported that they were happy with life. There are two explanations for the relationship between happiness and religion. The first is social support. People are happier when they are around others.

They get comfort, especially the poor and elderly, and those with ill-health. Many houses of worship have a number of social programs, such as food pantries, health fairs, homework help for children, computer classes, language instruction, and programs that help to keep this sense of well-being together.

Then there is religion itself. The feeling that one is in contact with a higher Being can be a positive and intense religious experience. It can lead to long-lasting feelings of happiness.

If you don't have too much or too little, are in good health, feel secure, are involved in the lives of your family, like people, and are productive, the chances are you are content with your life.

You are happy. When you look in the mirror you will like what you see.

**Eid MUBARAK**

*Leah*  
**LEAH TAYLOR ROY**

Member of Parliament for  
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

✉ leah.taylorroy@parl.gc.ca  
🌐 www.leahtaylorroymp.ca



# Pandit Chuneall Narine: The People's Dharmacharya!

By Dhanpaul Narine

Welcome to the people's Dharmacharya. Pandit Chuneall Narine took to Hinduism at an early age, following in the footsteps of his Aja, or grandfather, Pandit Balkaran from Vergevoegen, East Bank Essequibo.

Pandit Balkaran left Calcutta and landed in the then British Guiana when he was six months old. Pandit Chuneall sat at the feet of his Aja and showed a brilliance for Hindu philosophy and teachings. He read his first Yagna when he was only nine years old, and has continued his role as a teacher and priest. He traveled all over Guyana to spread the teachings, while he excelled in academic studies at Zeeburg and Bishop's High Schools.

In one of his *yagnas* in the Corentyne area of Guyana, Pandit Ramlall held Pandit Chuneall on his shoulders and predicted that the young man would have a bright future.

Pandit Chuneall migrated to the US and became a member of the USA Pandits' Parishad. He was in the company of great luminaries in New York that included Dharmacharya Pandit Chandrica Persaud, Dharmacharya Pandit Arjune Doobay, Dharmacharya Pandit Hardowar Panday, Dharmacharya Omadat Maharaj, Dharmacharya Lilldharry Seerattan, Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall, and others.

Pandit Chuneall continued his mission in New York, and in 1997 he founded the Shri Trimurti Bhavan Inc. This mandir has become a shrine in the community, for its community service and religious teachings. It was described in the *New York Times* as a "thriving religious institution in Queens", and Pandit Chuneall was honoured by the United Nations that made him an Ambassador of Peace.

Today, Pandit Chuneall is in great demand all over the world. He is a permanent fixture at Ramayana in the Park in

New York, as well as in South Africa, Ghana, Botswana, his native Guyana, and North America, among other places.

Pandit Chuneall is an internationally recognised religious figure that stands for peace and mutual respect. He is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is a most fitting person to be the people's Dharmacharya, and one that will continue to propagate the great teachings of Hinduism.

The investiture ceremony as Dharmacharya took place at the Shri Trimurti Bhavan and attracted persons from all walks of life.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, and the first Hindu to hold office in New York, spoke of the contributions of the Shri Trimurti Bhavan and Pandit Chuneall. She pointed out that she found solace at the mandir during the dark days of the pandemic, and said that Pandit Chuneall would make an excellent Dharmacharya.

There were proclamations from Assemblywoman Rajkumar, State Senator Joe Addabbo, and Councilwoman Lyn Schulman who praised Pandit Chuneall for the work the mandir is doing.

Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City, sent his greetings, and also issued a proclamation that cited the contributions of Pandit Chuneall and the Shri Trimurti Bhavan.

The investiture ceremony was most moving as Pandit Tillackdharry Shivrattan outlined the duties of a Dharmacharya, and said that Pandit Chuneall has already been doing them for a number of years.

Mataji Chandrawatie Persaud, the wife of the late Dharmacharya Pandit Chandrica Persaud, placed the *phagree* on Pandit Chuneall as prayers were recited, led by Pandit Shivrattan. There was an outburst of applause and emotion as Pandit Chuneall was proclaimed Dharmacharya. Don Persaud said his father Pandit Chandrica Persaud had dreamed of this day.

In his speech, Dharmacharya Pandit Chuneall thanked the

Trimurti family for its support, the elected officials and other well-wishers.

Appreciation and thanks should be extended to Navin Phagu from Akash Vani media, Naidoo Veerapen, and Romeo Hitlall from the Federation of Hindu Mandirs, Herman Singh and Don Persaud from Ramayana in the Park, and Surujpaul and Val Singh from Top Notch Decorators. They all did amazingly well.

The Founder-Acharya of the Maharishi Dayananda Gurukul, Dr Satish Prakash, is one of our leading scholars. He knew Dharmacharya Pandit Chuneall as a young student. Dr Satishji has sent a most moving message that we are happy to reproduce.

He wrote: "Ever since I heard of the installation of Pandit Chuneall Narine as Dharmacharya of Sanatan Dharma in New York City, my mind immediately traveled back in time to the early 1970s when I first met him as a young high school student in Guyana. One could not help but be impressed with the personal qualities and skills of this innocent, handsome lad. In addition to being extremely well brought up, Chuneall stood out among his peers as an academically-inclined young man, excelling in class year after year. His personal demeanor and academic brilliance made him so loved by teachers and students that the school administration always selected him to come in front of the entire school assembly to make meaningful presentations, and, on many occasions, he combined his well-crafted short speeches with sweet, relevant Hindi songs."

He added, "Since then, I came to the strong conclusion that the youngster Chuneall would one day rise to the level of being an impressive scholar interpreting the tenets of Hinduism, for even in his mid-and late teenage years, he had already ascended the honored aasan-seat of the 'Vyaas' to preside over Sanatan Yajnas. His involvement in Sanatan rituals during years of residence in both Venezuela and New York City, and his subsequent lecture tours to Africa and other continents, have served to solidify the scholarly image that is attached to his name."

Also, "I highly commend Dharmacharya Pandit Chuneall Narine, and wish him success as he moves further on his chosen path in life. Satish Prakash, PhD, Founder-Acharya, Maharshi Dayananda Gurukul, New York and Guyana."



Dharmacharya Pandit Chuneall Narine

## Ramphal's Slippery Ochro exploration of duality, tension

Ramplal, Kennard: *Slippery Ochro*  
A review by Gowkarran Sukhdeo

Dr Kennard Ramphal's latest novel is an intriguing commentary in social psychology structured around an antagonist, the like of which seems to actually exist in every society – a smooth, slippery individual who possesses a pathologically manipulative characteristic that enables him to carve out a comfortable, cushy living off his close associates – a characteristic that lacks shame, social responsibility, and empathy for fellow humans.

Curiously, I must add that I came across such characters in a Master's psychology program, and in all the cases, found them to be of an above normal intelligent quotient. In short, they are smarter than, and can easily outsmart, the average citizen. For them, it is the end, not the means that matters. Their lifestyle, although latently non-violent, is not dissimilar to bullying. Bordering on criminality, it is a social parasitism, the practice of which is only successful to the extent that host members of society are either tolerant, long suffering, sympathetic, naïve, scared, or perhaps afraid to have their social reputation damaged.

Not just individuals, but sometimes a whole society can become the victim, especially if that society is rustic and somewhat remote and removed from the mainstream, as was Canal Number Two Polder at the time the novel is set, in the mid-20th century.

Ramphal's keen literary style pits an entire village of individuals possessing all the above 'weaknesses' against a single, indomitable arch-rival, appropriately nicknamed, Slippery Ochro.

But the practice of such villainy can only be successful with all the people some of the time, some of the people all the time, but never with all of the people all of the time.

Eventually they fall victim to their own constructs, they outsmart themselves. Thus, Ramphal's anagnorisis climaxes when Slippery Ochro's own weapon – his lawsuit, brought against another genuine village citizen and shopkeeper, Mr Prashad, whose most trivial remark Ochro twisted and blew up into a major defamation case, backfires in his face.

Immediately for Ochro, all things fell apart; the centre could not hold, and mere anarchy was loosed upon his world. But typical of such nomadic sneaks, Ochro and his wife

quickly fold their tent and stealthily creep away in the dark of night to set up practice in some other faraway, unsuspecting community.

As in his other works, Ramphal's fifth novel again harnesses real-life existing dualities, both in individual characters, as well as in society to render his images realistic. For instance, the chief antagonist, Slippery Ochro is himself a parody of R.L. Stevenson's, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, whose sweet talk only thinly covers some very dangerous intentions. He is as loathsome as he is likeable.

Multiple dualisms are also seen in the character of the victimised protagonist, Mr Mohabir. He is seen as an upright leader in the village, a man of social integrity: one who sits in, and makes decisions at the Village Panchayat; yet he cowers before Slippery Ochro, is afraid, hides behind his wife to make decisions, he shirks and procrastinates, appearing naïve at times, and, like most Indo-Guyanese, drinks to cover it all up.

There is even a dualism of good and evil as the man of integrity succumbs to the guiles of Ochro's wife, Phulmattie. Then he hides his adulterous secret. But the reader understands, pities him, might even forgive him. Because there is the prevailing duality whereby his most esteemed social strengths of kindness, affluence, and influence become the very weaknesses that Slippery exploits to the maximum.

Ironical, how in life, like the Biblical Samson, the very strengths we boast about can become the cause of our downfall. He is forgiven, he is human, like all of us who, according to Carl Jung, possess that "shadow archetype" that represents "the dark side" of our personalities, a tumultuous sub-world of our psyche where we store the most primitive, primordial parts of ourselves.

Thus, in the end, Ramphal exonerates Mohabir, and even his

wife, Dularie, for becoming a regular rum drinker, something only done in secret in such a cloistered Canal community. After all, it was not their calculated fault; it was Ochro and his wife, Phulmattie, who beguiled Dularie into becoming a regular rum drinker, and her husband, Mohabir, into an adulterer.

The reader cannot help admiring how Ramphal is enamoured with his umbilical Canal Polder, which he departed half a century ago, but in his mind remains the idyllic, independent hamlet, frozen in cultural patterns of the mid-century.

Even the vernacular is uniquely Canal Polder. It is not a simple thing to do in making a uniquely localised vernacular widely readable, an art Kennard has obviously mastered, of course making rich use of footnotes to aid the reader. Using local vernacular makes any story familiarly realistic and down-to-earth, which incidentally reminds me of Rooplall Monar, Peter Jailall, Brenda DoHarris, and Onya Kempadoo, Guyanese writers who have all been very successful in the use of localised dialects.

\*\*\*

Dr Kennard Ramphal is a retired education officer and anti-racist consultant with the East York Board of Education, Ontario. He migrated to Canada from Guyana in 1975. He is a former Captain in the Guyana Defence Force and was injured during the Rupununi rebellion in January 1969. He later served as Aide-de-camp to the first President of Guyana, Arthur Chung. Ramphal is from Canal Polder. He started teaching in the early 1960's at the Wales Canadian Mission School as a Pupil Teacher and left as Senior Master for cadetship to Sandhurst Military Academy.

\*\*\*

Gowkarran Sukhdeo is the winner of the Guyana Prize for Literature, 1998





SAVE THE DATE



VOV INVITES ALL STUDENTS & PARENTS TO

# The LAW and YOU CONFERENCE

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 22, 2023  
10 AM to 12 PM**

**VOV AUDITORIUM  
8640 Yonge St.  
Richmond Hill, Ont  
905.886.1724**

**PART 1  
CASE SCENARIO ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**PART 2  
LEGAL EDUCATION  
LAW SCHOOL**

## Conference Open to All

Facilitated by Panel of Law Professionals



Justice Sheila Ray



Michelle Johal  
Criminal Defence



Justice  
Sonia Khemani



Rashmi Kumar  
Asst. Crown Attorney



Dhaman Kissoon  
Moderator, Lawyer  
(Professor of Law)



Interested in a Law Career?  
You got an opportunity to speak with Law Professional at the conference

**Please Register for  
'The Law and You' Conference**

Register via the link  
available on our web site  
[www.vishnumandir.com](http://www.vishnumandir.com)

DETAILS AVAILABLE SOON  
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



## Diaspora Must-Read



As one of its contributing poets, Colleen Selvon-Rampersad notes in the Preface of *Oriental Poetry – Toward the Sun* that the collection holds a “[taste] of diverse flavours spiced with international contributions”. Selvon-Rampersad is a Trinidad and Tobago poet and author.

In this serene collection are the works of poets that Suraja M Roychowdhury describes in the Preface as “an enthusiastic, talented, supportive group of poets deeply in love with the Oriental poetic forms”. *The Yellow Moon Poets meet virtually on the website allpoetry.com* to write in Japanese poetic forms of haiku, tanka, haibun, tanka prose, sedoka, and so on. The group also writes in Arabic, Urdu, and Persian poetic forms, the ghazal, and in English.

Sarah’s blood turned cold when two-day old Joshua’s hysterical screams startled her out of a deep sleep. With his eyes turned up into his forehead, the newborn kicked and punched the air above his head. Sarah knocked over the monitor before her shaking fingers fumbled with it and switched it off. She remained still, but Martin continued to sleep with deep, slow breaths.

After a moment, she padded out of her bedroom and hurried into the baby’s nursery. His tears glistened in the nightlight’s ambience. He whined in his mom’s cradling arms and settled down for her to change his diaper and give him fresh, dry sleeping clothes. His eyes darted about the room during his breast-feeding, and he stiffened his body a few times, sending the hairs at the back of Sarah’s neck on end. A light fitful sleep forced Sarah to rock him, but he remained unsettled for another hour before her soft humming and swaying of the rocking chair drifted him off into a shallow slumber. After Sarah burped him, she continued to cuddle him for half an hour until his breathing deepened and his body went limp.

When she caught herself nodding off a few times, she laid him in his crib and tiptoed back to her room to crawl into bed.

When her baby’s fretting awoke her, she squinted at the clock and glanced at Martin’s empty side of the bed. The blank screen of the switched-off monitor made her relive the baby’s mysterious behaviour the previous night.

Her heart warmed when she followed the aroma of Martin’s aftershave into Joshua’s room. She smiled. Was she following the wake of her husband’s scent in the air or the goodbye kiss that he had placed on her lips while she was dead asleep?

After her morning routine with her newborn, Sarah played with him until he started fussing. She breast-fed him and settled him into his crib after a healthy burp. She brought the monitor to the kitchen where she had breakfast, and hand-washed his clothes before relaxing to catch updates on friends’ statuses and reading news updates on social media.

A chill ran through Sarah when Joshua jumped out of sleep



## Gampat explores domestic colonialism in Guyana

Ramesh Gampat’s *Domination by Region 4: Domestic Colonialism and Regionalization in Guyana* argues that Guyana presently operates a system of Domestic Colonialism. DM builds on institutions established during imperial colonialism, strengthened and expanded since Independence in 1966, and regionalisation, which balkanised the country into ten administrative regions.

Regionalisation is a flexible instrument that enables political and economic control, with one strengthening the other, further empowering Region 4 where the “metropole” is located, and enhancing the dependency of the nine satellite regions. Both political parties exploit regionalisation when in power, the PPP principally through financial strangulation and discrimination, the PNC and its various incarnations via political control. Regionalisation is the symbol of domestic colonialism.

PPP-I (last six years of its previous regime, 2009 to 2014) allocated an annual average of 11.1 percent of public funds to the regions, the APNU+AFC 14.1 percent from 2015 to 2020, and PPP-II, the current PPP administration, 12.5 percent during its first two years in office.

Over the 14 years from 2009 to 2022, the four largest agencies consumed 42.5 percent of total Central Government expenditure. Under PPP-I, these agencies spent 15 percentage points more on capital costs than they did under APNU+AFC. When the latter government was in office, these same agencies spent more than ten percentage points on the amorphous category “Other Charges.”

Such spending anomalies, as well as other varieties, are hard to explain because there were no functional enhancements or reach of coverage by these agencies.

Incredibly, over the 14-year period the Ministry of Finance, the largest agency for all but one year, spent 46.1 percent of what the Ministry of Public Works incurred on public

infrastructure for the entire country.

An important avenue of political patronage is the employment of contract and temporary workers, who are hired outside of the public service legislative framework. These workers comprised half of the MoF’s workforce over the 14-year period and the last six years of PPP-I; for the Ministry of Health, that figure is around 37.0 percent for both periods.

Employment patronage rose during APNU+AFC’s term of office, to 53.8 percent in the MoF and to 41.8 percent in the MoH.

Employment patronage at these two big agencies was lower during PPP-I than the six years of the APNU+AFC government.

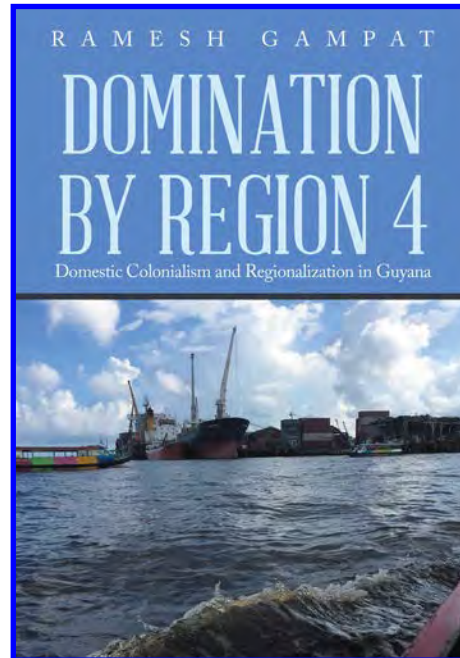
“Patronage employment” is considerably lower with the PPP-II than all other previous regimes. The strategic deviation is explained by the rise of three separate categories of low and unskilled workers, who account for 48.5 percent and 57.7 percent of workforce of the MoF and the MoH, respectively.

These figures are more than ten percentage points larger than those of all previous administrations. In effect, the PPP doles out patronage away from hiring outside of the public service legislative framework to hiring within

it. Not only has the PPP “legalised” patronage, it has also increased this significantly.

The author, Ramesh Gampat, is an economist who worked for about three decades with the United Nations Development Programme. He has written several books. The two most recent ones are *Guyana’s Great Economic Downswing, 1977-1990: Socio-Economic Impact of Co-operative Socialism* (2020); and, *Essays - Guyana: Economics, Politics and Demography* (2022).

Gampat has also published academic papers on inflation, poverty, international trade, human development, gender, and corruption.



## The Supernatural

## Souls in Dire Straits

and stared over his head with terrifying squeals. He punched and kicked like he did the night before.

“Joshua, mommy is here!” She shouted at the monitor and sprang up, knocking the chair over and sprinted to his rescue. She flung the door open and gasped when she thought, for a split second, that she spotted a shadow disappear into the wall at the head of Joshua’s crib.

Feeling sick to her stomach, Sarah snatched her hysterical baby up and retreated into her own room.

She slammed the door behind her before diving under the covers with her screaming baby clutched to her stomach. Her eyes darted around while she patted him. Her thumping heart settled when, comforted by his cocoon of maternal protection, his shrieks turned to whimpers.

Sarah’s breath cut every time she heard a sound outside of

her bedroom. They needed Martin. She glanced around and sighed. In her unnerving rush to protect Joshua, she had dropped the monitor and her cell phone with the ringer turned off on the kitchen table.

Her heart pounded at the thought of leaving the security of her bedroom to retrieve them. Opening the door for the ten second dash to the kitchen and back would leave her baby exposed to the evil that plagued him.

The buzzing of the vibrating phone on the kitchen table stopped her heart. She glanced at the clock. It was too early for Martin’s usual call at his morning break. She wondered who it was.

With her heart pounding, she tiptoed to the door with the sleeping Joshua in one arm. A deep breath steadied her nerves

when she turned the knob with a slow twist. The door lock’s metallic click in the

silence stopped her breath. She gasped at the loud creak of the hinges. Joshua sighed and settled back into sleep.

Sarah flung the bedroom door open and scurried to the kitchen, but the phone stopped buzzing. After grabbing it, she rushed back into the bedroom and shut the door with a soft thud. Joshua did not stir.

Once back on the bed, Sarah sat against the headboard with the phone. She had a missed call from Martin. She gasped when the phone buzzed in her hand. It was Martin again. Before he could say anything, she whispered the strange occurrences to him, but he tried to calm her when her words tripped over each other. She stopped talking and listened when she heard the urgency in Martin’s voice.

“Sarah! Get Joshua and keep him with you.”

“I have him with me,” she reassured.

“Good.” He took a deep breath. “A devious soul is haunting Joshua.”

“I believe that I saw something disappear into the wall over Joshua’s head.” Sarah’s throat tightened.

“Joshua’s screams woke me up this morning, but the monitor was off, so I rushed into his room.” Martin kept a calm, level voice. “I saw the entity too. It will not harm Joshua if you are around. Your closeness generates a shield that protects our baby’s soul.”

“Oh.”

“I left the monitor off for you to sleep-in. I opened the bedroom doors so you could hear him whenever he woke up, but I did some research when I came to work and had to call you right away.” He sighed. “SIDS or sudden infant death syndrome occurs when an evil spirit trying to hide from the bounty hunters of hell, forces its way into a baby’s body and ejects the baby’s soul back to the soul bank. Unfortunately, with no soul, the baby dies when the wicked entity is yanked out of the tiny body and returned to hell.”

“He’s gone.” A desperate ghostly scream gave Sarah goose bumps. “They have just caught him.”

“Kiss our baby for me.” Martin’s voice quivered.

Kamil Ali







In the aftermath of a brutal home invasion in Aranguez on the night of April 9, Rasheed Ghany picks up the pieces of a ransacked bedroom following a traumatising attack by robbers. Ghany, & a 15-year-old relative, were pistol-whipped, tortured, & physically beaten with a curtain rod by the criminals. During the attack Ghany's daughter reached out to a neighbourhood WhatsApp chat group for help after repeated attempts to call the police failed. Police later shot & killed one of the attackers, while five suspects were later apprehended.

## Hinds - police strengthening presence

**Port-of-Spain** – The increasing and worrisome incidence of home invasions in Trinidad and Tobago will see law enforcement strengthening its response to the problem, National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds said last week.

At the time, Hinds was responding to media questions on the surge in home invasions and other heightened criminal behaviour.

During his response last week, Hinds indicated he had held a meeting with Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher and the Chief of the Defence Staff.

According to Hinds, on the directive of Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley, law enforcement will be provided with more resources to “go further upstream in their efforts for home invasions”.

He also appealed to young criminals committing the crimes to take it down, and to look at lawful opportunities to earn money.

“As minister, as member of Parliament, as man, as citizen, I understand the severe trauma that victims suffer at the hands of home invaders,” Hinds said.

He referred to a case in north Trinidad earlier this month where a woman was attacked while in her front yard tending to her plants. As the reports indicate, the criminals forced her into her home and robbed her of jewelry and other valuables.

Said Hinds, “I had a meeting... with the Commissioner and the Chief of Defence Staff, and this matter was central to our discussions, the question of so-called home invasions, and we



Fitzgerald Hinds

understand full well the trauma and the stress, the pain and the abuse... the Commissioner outlined her plans and the Chief of Defence Staff outlined his plans in support of the Police Service in dealing with this.”

He said based on the strategic direct patrol systems, police were able to make arrests concerning the three home invasions that took place over the Easter weekend. Unfortunately there were reports of gunfire directed at the police, and the police returned fire, which resulted in three perpetrators dead, he added.

“I take the opportunity, therefore, to say to the young people of Trinidad and Tobago... this is no place that you have to behave like that to eke out a living. There are so many opportunities for training, for personal development, to become whatever you want to be in Trinidad and Tobago. You don't have to thief and rob and rape and plunder to be successful,”

Hinds said.

He added, “Ill-gotten gain can only bring pain to your victim, and ultimately to you. So I take the opportunity to call on the young men, the young people of Trinidad and Tobago and their girlfriends, their husbands, their family members and their parents who may know of some of their behaviours, to take it down, easy. You don't have to do that. You don't have to be preying on people.”

As Hinds noted, Trinidad and Tobago offers enough opportunities “for you to live comfortably doing otherwise”.

## T&T in top 10 for world's most criminal countries

**Port-of-Spain** – Trinidad and Tobago has been listed as Number 6 by the World of Statistics for being among the most criminal countries in the world.

The WOS is a global network of nearly 2,360 organisations worldwide that is committed to compiling statistics to increase public awareness.

Trinidad and Tobago also figured at Number 6 in the 2023 World Population Review of crime rate by countries that was released recently. The WPR is an independent US-based statistics agency without political affiliation.

As the WOS list of rankings of the world's most criminal countries noted, “On the list, Venezuela has been ranked top, followed by Papua New Guinea (2), Afghanistan (3), South Africa (4), Honduras (5), Trinidad and Tobago (6), Guyana (7), Syria (8), Somalia (9), and Jamaica (10), respectively”.

India was listed at the 77th spot, while the US and UK were ahead of India in the criminal ranking country. The US was at 55th, and the UK ranked at 65th place, the WOS revealed.

Meanwhile, the WPR's listing of the countries with the ten highest crime rates, expressed in per 100,000 people, globally were the following on the crime rate rating: Venezuela (83.76); Papua New Guinea (80.79); South Africa (76.86); Afghanistan (76.31); Honduras (74.54); Trinidad and Tobago (71.63); Guyana (68.74); El Salvador (67.79); Brazil (67.49); and Jamaica (67.42). Ranking lowest at 136 was Qatar, with a crime

rate of 12.13.

The WPR said the overall crime rate of a country is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crimes of any kind by the total population, then multiplying the result by 100,000 (because crime rate is typically reported as X number of crimes per 100,000 people).

It noted the overall US crime rate was 47.70, with the violent crime rate decreasing sharply over the past 25 years.

“Some of the world's lowest crime rates are seen in Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Japan, and New Zealand. Each of these countries has very effective law enforcement, and Denmark, Norway, and Japan have some of the most restrictive gun laws in the world,” WPR added.

Speaking to Trinidad and Tobago's placement, the WPR stated, “Trinidad and Tobago has the sixth-highest crime rate in the world. Trinidad and Tobago's government faces several challenges in its [effort] to reduce crime, such as bureaucratic resistance to change, the negative influence of gangs, drugs, economic recession, and an overburdened legal system. There is a great demand for illegal weapons as well, which drug trafficking and gang-related activities fuel.”

Additionally, “Trinidad and Tobago has a Level 2 travel advisory, meaning that travellers should exercise increased caution. Visitors are typically victims of pick-pocketing, assault, theft, and fraud.”

## T&T needs comfort, reassurance - Dottin

**Port-of-Spain** – A religious leader last week called on National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds and Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher to break their silence, and give comfort and assurance as crime tightens its grip on the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the major criminal episodes last week were brutal home invasions, deadly robberies, and a drive-by shooting on a highway.

As a result, Seventh-Day Adventist pastor Clive Dottin said no one feels safe anywhere. He added that nationals were no longer fleeing Trinidad and Tobago to seek better jobs elsewhere, but were instead trying to escape the criminal elements that are now taking over the country.

Dottin said as violent crime increases, families and business owners have been searching for safe places outside of the country. The time has now come for the relevant authorities to take back control of the country from the criminal elements, he declared.

“The authorities have to confront the criminal elements, the local mafia... and let them know that we will not allow them to win this battle in terms of crime,” he said.

Claiming he had received feedback from many concerned nationals following the brutal home invasions at Bejucal and Aranguez, Dottin said, “There is a level of fear in the society that is horrendous.”

Said Dottin, “My analysis as I travelled all over the country [last week] is that the criminal elements believe they are winning the battle, and they are prepared to continue intimidating. They have no respect for politicians. They have very little respect for the police. They don't care about people's families, and they are recruiting very young people.”

Additionally, “They have their underground training academies teaching young people how to shoot, and they feel they are large and in charge, and they believe they are about to win that battle to perpetrate crime across the country.”

Dottin called on Harewood-Christopher, along with the country's leaders, to give “assurances to the public and form a united front in terms of the government, church, national security institutions, and the Opposition.”

Said Dottin: “We need to show the criminal elements that we have courage, that we have faith in God, and we are prepared to confront them.”

He said we are losing the battle against crime by continuing to operate in silos. “[It] is time to unite,” he said.

Also, he stated the authorities must ensure there are positive activities for involvement by the nation's youth.

According to Dottin, he continues to field calls from senior nationals, who he said “are living in absolute fear in this country”.

He added that some homeowners have been imprisoning themselves in their own homes in fear of crime, while some business owners were readying themselves to leave Trinidad and Tobago.

Dottin urged communities to form neighbourhood watch groups, and to avoid putting themselves in places to become victims. It meant not staying out late, curtailing activities, and taking precautions to ensure properties are secured.

He also encouraged the nation to, “[have] faith in God. Have courage, pray without ceasing and you must be wise, do not take any unnecessary chances, be alert and vigilant.”



Clive Dottin



Erla Harewood-Christopher



## June outcome to latest Warner extradition move

**Port-of-Spain** – Former FIFA vice president and government minister Jack Warner will know the outcome of his latest legal challenge against extradition to the US in June. Warner is facing a multiplicity of corruption-related charges in the US.

Last week Chief Magistrate Maria Busby Earle-Caddle adjourned Warner's extradition hearing to June 26. Meanwhile, Warner's attorneys are expected to file responses to the State's reply to his application filed in February.

February's hearing was the first after extradition proceedings resumed following the Privy Council's ruling on Warner's challenge in November last year.

At that hearing, Warner's attorneys raised an issue related to the certificate of speciality, and asked that they be allowed to file submissions on the issue, which will have to be referred to the High Court for determination.

The argument that was raised relates to the arrangement between the US and Trinidad and Tobago for extradition. Speciality is a principle in international law where an extradited person can be prosecuted or sentenced in the requesting State only in relation to the offenses for which extradition was granted, and not for any other crime allegedly committed before the extradition took place.

On November 17, 2022, the Privy Council paved the way for the continuation of the extradition proceedings against Warner to the US to face a number of fraud-related charges. The London court held that the US's request for Warner's extradition was not unfair.

The proceedings in the local court had been stalled when Warner challenged the process by which the extradition proceedings against him were carried out. He was seeking to quash the Authority to Proceed signed by Trinidad and Tobago's Attorney General in September 2015.

This occurred after the US asked for Warner to be extradited to face some 29 charges relating to fraud, corruption, and money laundering. The request was made on July 24, 2015.

After the 2015 general election, then-Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi offered to allow Warner to make representations, but only on the condition the deadline for receipt of the ATP would be extended with his consent.

Warner refused to agree to the condition. His attorneys

argued he was neither given sufficient time to make representations, nor given disclosures of any evidence the US intended to use to secure his extradition.

The ATP gave the magistrate the green light to begin committal proceedings.

Attorneys for the State continue to press for the extradition hearings to proceed, insisting all their witnesses are available and were ready.

Warner is represented by Fyard Hosein, SC, Anil Maraj and Adam Hosein, while appearing for ASP Alleyne, who is acting on the request of the US, is represented by James Lewis, KC, Douglas Mendes, SC, Pamela Elder, SC, Ravi Rajcoomar, Netram Kowlessar and Chris Seelochan.

Warner had also challenged the legality of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, and the treaty signed between this country and the US.

Warner surrendered to Fraud Squad officers on May 27, 2015, after learning of a provisional warrant for his arrest.

After the ATP was signed giving the go-ahead for extradition proceedings to start, FIFA banned Warner from all football activities for life.

He and 13 other FIFA officials were indicted in the US. Warner was also head of Concacaf.

In the US charge sheet against him, Warner is accused of racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering, and bribery; and



**Jack Warner**

allegedly, from the early 1990s, he "began to leverage his influence and exploit his official positions for personal gain".

He also allegedly accepted a million-dollar bribe from South African officials in return for voting to award them the 2010 World Cup, and allegedly bribed officials with envelopes of cash.

## PSB arrests 9 officers in alleged extortion racket

**Port-of-Spain** – Nine officers from a specialised unit within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's Eastern Division were last week arrested by the Professional Standards Bureau.

The arrests came after the PSB completed an investigation into allegations from a business owner that he and other business owners were being extorted for money by a group of officers over some time.

The nine officers were initially detained at the Sangre Grande Police Station, where warrants of arrest were read to them by PSB officers. Searches were subsequently done at the officers' homes and lockers.

The arrested officers are expected to be charged with misbehaviour in public office.

According to media reports, the TTPS and Police Complaints Authority both began parallel probes after claims of an extortion racket involving officers were made in a social media post last month.

In a widely shared online video, a person claiming to be a retired police officer and a relative of a Sangre Grande businessman alleged that police officers had been collecting "tax" from illegal whe-whe operations and roulette machines in the Eastern Division. It is also alleged the officers were soliciting bribes.

According to the relative: "On a monthly basis, they will enter his business, and if not given the requested amount, they will then venture to take whatever money is in the register or elsewhere. He has reported this matter to the PSB since last year, accompanying it with this video and to date nothing has been done. He is also concerned that these very officers may plant illegal drugs on his premises and then hold him accountable for it, or physically harm him. These said officers were recorded demanding a bribe from a Chinese businessman."

The social media post included a telephone conversation where a caller, alleged to have been an IATF officer formerly stationed in the Eastern Division, is heard asking for (TT) \$30,000 for "the boys".

A voice on the other end of the line, reported to be a Chinese businessman, said the sum demanded was too high, and instead suggests the usual monthly \$10,000 will be paid.

Reports allege that an inspector and three constables were involved in the extortion racket, which has been operating since the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Other businessmen made similar allegations after the story was reported in the media.



**Senator Richie Sookhai takes the oath as Minister in the Ministry of Works & Transport last week, with President Christine Kangaloo (centre) & Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley (right) in attendance**

## Now Sookhai gets role in Ministry of Works

**Port-of-Spain** – Hours after being sworn in as a new Minister in the Ministry of Works and Transport, Richie Sookhai was being challenged by UNC MPs Rudy Indarsingh and Dave Tancoo to attend to infrastructural issues in their respective constituencies.

"[Sookhai] must break with his party's apparent policy of epic geographic discrimination," Tancoo said.

Meanwhile, following the ceremony, Sookhai promised to work with all stakeholders to help "put a handle on" the crime situation. His latest role came three months after being appointed a PNM senator in January, replacing then-Senate President Christine Kangaloo, who resigned to become President.

With his latest elevation in the government, Sookhai has given up his post as managing director of Sookhai's Diesel Services Ltd.

Sookhai also said he plans to serve the people. As he noted, transitioning from the business community into Works has given him the opportunity to serve the people in a different role and is "... something that could be meaningful".

Speaking to crime in Trinidad and Tobago, Sookhai said it had hit close to home with the murder of one of his neighbours.

Said Sookhai: "I take crime as a very serious issue. I understand the suffering of our people, especially how much it

impacts the business community. So, definitely, I'll be working together with everyone – all stakeholders – to help put a handle on the situation."

He added, "I understand the need and the plight of the people right now, and definitely, I can assure you the government is working assiduously to try and curb the crime situation – we're putting all hands on deck. Whatever role I'm given, I'm willing to serve in that capacity to the best of my ability."

Both Indarsingh and Tancoo said Sookhai had a lot of work ahead.

Said Indarsingh: "However, I don't expect it to happen. His appointment won't change Trinidad and Tobago's runaway crime, or infrastructure collapse."

Tancoo noted that Works' Minister Rohan Sinanan did not respond to requests for urgent remedial works against flooding.

Said Tancoo: "I'm challenging Minister Sookhai to break with his party's apparent policy of epic geographic discrimination, and uphold his oath of office to discharge duties without fear or favour, affection, or ill-will."

He added, "If he wants anyone to take him seriously, he would focus on expeditiously implementing critical remedial strategies to stop national infrastructural collapse, rather than just acting primarily as a prop for ministry photo opportunities."



# The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

## Pankaj & the joy of Rabindra Sangeet

By Vidur Dindayal

(Final of Two Parts on Pankaj Mullick)

The link with Tagore – Rabindra Sangeet – enriches my life. Rabindranath Tagore himself – the eminent poet, novelist, dramatist, essayist, story-writer, painter, philosopher, social reformer, educationist, linguist, grammarian, musician, and composer – has written over 2,000 songs, set to music, and has sung and recorded many of his songs.

Tagore was highly regarded internationally. As early as 1913, he was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. He was also awarded a Knighthood in 1915, but renounced it after the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Tagore was founder in 1921 of the University at Shantiniketan. I was lucky to be given a scholarship to attend this university in 1955, but could not do so for personal reasons.

Known as Vishwa Bharati, the University focuses on the arts, humanities, and nature, and for promoting breaking down barriers. Its classes are often held outside under the trees.

Located 160 kilometers from Kolkata, the university is in a small, peaceful town with a cultural atmosphere. Notable alumni include Nobel laureate economist Amartya

Sen, Oscar-winning filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Indian film star, the late Balraj Sahni, and former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

Pankaj Mullick's other great milestone was the creation of *Mahishashur Mardini*. Along with others he gave birth to this programme that has now become an inseparable part of Bengali culture. It began in 1932. It is aired every year at day-break on Mahalay morning. It has had an uninterrupted run since its beginning till today. Hugely popular, it had started up as a live performance but it has been broadcast in its recorded format since the late 1960s, and its popularity remains undiminished till today.

Pankaj's association with the cinema began as a conductor for the orchestra at the Chitra cinema hall that played live 'mood' music during the screening of two silent films *Chashar Meye* and *Chorkanta*, both films released in 1931.

Later in the same year, the film studio 'New Theatres' was launched, and Pankaj, along with Rai Chand Boral, composed music for the film *Dena Paona* in 1932, the first film produced by New Theatres, and also the first Bengali 'talkie'.

In 1933, Pankaj made his debut as an independent music director for a Hindi/Urdu film *Yahudi Ki Ladki*. He is one of the first to extensively use western musical forms and instruments like the piano and the accordion in composing music for Indian films. The imaginative use of background music to the film scenes is one of Pankaj's great contributions to music in Indian cinema.

In 1935, Pankaj, along with R.C. Boral, composed music for the New Theatres production *Bhagyachakra* (1935). The Hindi version was named *Dhoop Chhaon*. Directed by Nitin Bose, this film is generally considered the first to introduce playback singing in India. Before this, songs in Indian movies were sung live on-camera by the performers. They recorded the song beforehand and asked the performers to lip-synch during the real shoot. Thus history was made.

The song in Bengali was *Mora Pulak Jacchi* and its Hindi version was *Main Khush Hona Chahun*. Pankaj Mullick and R.C. Boral continued their collaboration and composed music for some of the most memorable films – many with Bengali and Hindi/Urdu versions in 1935, 1936, and 1937.

In the classic *Devdas* (1935) in Hindi, K.L. Saigal sang the immortal *Baalam Aaaye Baso* and *Dukh Ke Din Ab Beete Nahin*. In *Manzil* (1936), Pankaj sang *Sundar Nari Pritam Pyari*, a song also sung by Saigal.

Pankaj composed the music for the evergreen song, the lullaby *So Ja Rajkumari*, sung by Saigal in the Hindi film, *Zindagi* (1940).

Pankaj contributed in various capacities to Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, and Tamil language films for 38 years, starting in 1931.

He was the music director for artists like K.L. Saigal, S.D. Burman, Hemanta Mukherjee, Geeta Dutt, and Asha Bhosle. He acted with famous film actors like Saigal, P.C. Barua, and Kanan Devi.

In 1937, Pankaj was actor and singer in the film *Mukti*. Here, *Rabindra Sangeet* was used for the first time. *Mukti* became famous for one particular song *Diner Seshe*. This song was originally a poem written by Tagore. Pankaj had set it to tune, for which he had to obtain permission from Tagore himself.

Tagore not only gave permission, but also embraced Pankaj

and told him to go ahead and provide music to those writings of his, which he would not be able to convert into songs during his own lifetime. Pankaj was then 32 years of age. Tagore was 76.

When India gained Independence, its national anthem was *Jana Gana Mana*. This was composed by Tagore. The

Indian Prime Minister Jawarharlal Nehru requested Pankaj to sing and record the Indian National Anthem in a way that would set the parameters to be followed during the singing of the anthem by all Indians.

The recording of the National Anthem in the voice of Pankaj was then played across the nation at almost every public place to familiarise every Indian citizen with the anthem of their newly Independent country.

Pankaj discovered another calling, one that gave him deep satisfaction. In 1953 he was inducted into the Folk Entertainment Section of the Government of West Bengal, also known as Lok Ranjan Sakha. There he was Honorary Advisor, a post he held until 1968.

He propagated social awareness among the common people of the country by the medium he knew best – music. He adapted several music based productions, which the troops performed all over the country as well in foreign lands.

Pankaj was regarded as one of the founding fathers of Bangla Adhunik Gaan, a sub-genre of Bengali songs, still very much in vogue.

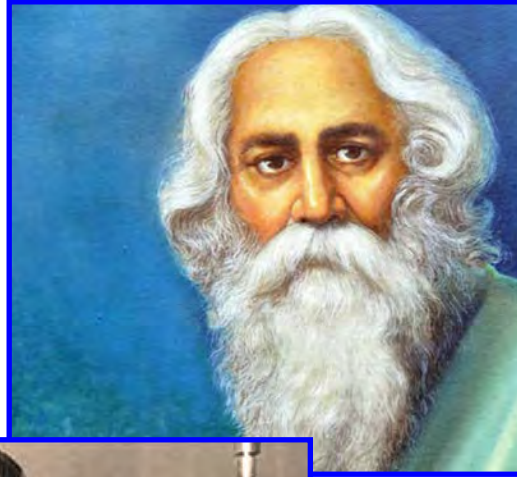
Setting standards as a recording artist of non-film songs, be they in Bengali, Hindi, or Urdu, Pankaj's songs covered varied genres including *geets* and *bhajans*. His non-film songs have enthralled millions with their wonderful melodies and lilting tunes.

Despite his gruelling schedules, Pankaj traversed the length and breadth of the country. During these shows he sang a variety of songs that sometimes included Bangla Adhunik Gaan, a genre he helped to revolutionise.

During the last stages of his life when he often looked back upon the musical journey of over seven long decades, and the multitude of honours and accolades he had received, he was proud of only one thing – that was his success in spreading the grandeur of *Rabindra Sangeet* among the common people. He was also quite thrilled that he had been able to take Tagore's offerings to the non-Bengali speaking audiences as well.

After regaling music lovers with his songs and compositions, Pankaj by all accounts a very humble person, left for his heavenly abode on the February 19, 1978. His passing marked the end of an era. Thousands of his admirers took to the road to bid him farewell.

I have enjoyed writing about Pankaj Mullick. Now I will listen to two songs – *Emono Dine Taare Bola Jay*, and *Diner Seshe Ghumer Deshe*. Please join me. Enjoy.



Above: Rabindranath Tagore whose songs Pankaj set to music; at centre, Pankaj; & at left is K.L. Saigal



French postcard showing arrival of 15th Ludhiana Sikhs in France during WWI. It reads, 'Gentlemen of India marching to chasten German hooligans'. *Wikipedia photo*

## The Sikh Soldier combats British ignorance on WWI

After two years of delays, strikes, and inflation, two filmmakers from Wolverhampton have finished production on a film that combats the ignorance of Indian soldiers' involvement in World War I for the British Empire.

*The Sikh Soldier*, a film which has taken three years to develop, follows a man's journey as he fights through The Great War in the British trenches, only to survive and have to face a further hell back in India.

Once home in India, the Sikh soldier is caught up in a massacre in the city of Amritsar, which happened 104 years ago on April 13.

In 1919 British Indian troops opened fire on at least 10,000 Sikh men, women, and children who were celebrating the holy festival of Vaisakhi in the city of Amritsar, killing hundreds and injuring thousands.

It received funding from the National Lottery and the police to increase historical and cultural awareness of hate crime directed towards Sikhs and other Indian minority groups.

Despite playing a significant role for the British Empire in WWI, many argue history and on-screen representation of the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers is being ignored.

Wolverhampton friends and co-directors Joseph Archer and Sky Cheema set off to change the trend of war films focusing around European territories like

Britain, France, and Germany by producing *The Sikh Soldier*.

Speaking to *ITV News Central*, Joseph Archer said: "It was important to make this film because me and Sky are very passionate about the history of WWI, and we're up-and-coming filmmakers, so we were thinking what is going to be our next project."

Archer added, "1917 had just come out, so we thought why don't we do a film where a Sikh soldier, an Indian soldier, is the lead fighting for the British Empire."

Sky Cheema added: "For me growing up, I wanted to do a presentation about WWI and what Indians did for the British, and my teacher took me to one side and said they didn't do very much."

Cheema added, "But now I've gotten old and wiser, and done a lot of research, I think the one thing for not just myself but younger generations for them to know why they're here, what happened, and the key role did they take in the war is good education."

*The Sikh Soldier* will be screened across the UK and the world this year at international film festivals.

- India provided the largest ever assembled force during WWI, with around 1.5 million Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu men being deployed during the conflict;
- As many as 74,0187 Indian soldiers died, 67,000 were wounded, and 10,000 were reported missing;
- Indian soldiers contributed to the European, Mediterranean, Mesopotamian, North African, and East African divisions and brigades;
- In Europe, they were one of the first fighters to enter the trenches and suffer the horrors from the first line of defence;
- According to the British Council, it wasn't just volunteer soldiers from India that the British benefited from, the country also supplied 170,000 animals, 3.7 million tonnes of supplies, jute for sandbags, and a large loan (the equivalent of about £2 billion today) to the British government.

Source: ITV News



## After serious health scare Sushmita is still all heart

Post-heart attack, Sushmita Sen resumes *Aarya 3* shoot in Jaipur, saying, "It is wonderful to be back". Sushmita landed in Jaipur on April 15, to resume the shoot of her upcoming series *Aarya 3*.

The last time Sushmita was in Rajasthan, she suffered a heart attack and the shoot had to be halted. She underwent angioplasty, and recuperated at her Mumbai home.



Sushmita Sen

Having recovered from the health scare, Sushmita returned to the sets of *Aarya 3*. In a live chat with her fans, the actress stated, "It was wonderful to be back". Also, that she had returned to shoot after "a lot of healing and exercising". Thanking fans for all their love and prayers, Sushmita added, "I am going to need all of that love which is infused with energy and encouragement."

Previously, Sushmita had opened up about her health scare and schooled her followers to not shun the gym. She said, "I know a lot of you will stop going to the gym and say, 'It did not help her', but that is not good. It did help me. I survived a very big heart attack. It was massive with 95 percent blockage in the main artery, I survived because I have kept an active lifestyle. I believe that for what it is worth, it was a phase and it passed. I am very lucky to be on the other side. It doesn't put fear in me, instead I now have a feeling of promise to look forward to something." A fitness enthusiast, Sushmita has slowly resumed her gym sessions.



Priyanka with mom Madhu

## Sacrificing mom Madhu behind Priyanka's success

Priyanka Chopra has come a long way in her career, and has been ticking off achievements across the world. But she would not have been an internationally renowned name had her mother, Madhu Chopra, not convinced her to participate in the Miss India beauty pageant. Madhu not only convinced Priyanka to take the plunge, but also had to convince the Chopra family, who were against Priyanka's participation in the competition that launched her career.

In an interview, Madhu recalled the conversations that took place in the Chopra household after Priyanka was selected for Miss India.

"When Priyanka had to go for Miss India, there was a huge debate at our house that when she is so good at studies why do you have to put distractions in her mind? Priyanka also got nervous because this was not her choice. We had sent her (for the competition) just for fun. She told me, 'Mom, I don't think I will be able to do that,'" she said.

This is when Madhu took charge and sat her daughter down. She told her that her regular life wasn't going anywhere, but the Miss India opportunity might not come again. It was then that Priyanka decided to give it a shot.

She told her mother, "I will give it my best." The 18-year-old did exactly that, and emerged as the runner-up of Miss India 2000, and went on to win Miss World 2000.

However, Madhu not only had to convince Priyanka but also had to persuade her husband's side of the family, who were 'overtly protective' of the women in the house.

Madhu shared, "Her maternal family had no objections, they also believed the same way as I did. But her paternal family had a lot of issues, 'Humaare ghar ki ladkiyan ye nahi karti hain' (Our girls don't do such things). My sister-in-law was from a conservative background and had three brothers who were in the army, and army men are overtly protective for their females, so they were very protective."

She added, "But again, I sat them down, and they put their things across and I put my reasoning across. Then my brother-in-law said, 'Ok, let her take the opportunity, but there is one condition, she will never go alone. Either you or her father will have to accompany her.'"

Madhu agreed and gave up her career as a doctor in the army. She added, "This was another compromise I made. I really wanted her not to miss the opportunity. They were like, 'Forget about your career, and go with Priyanka.' I didn't even think twice before leaving my career for her because I thought I had enjoyed my life, now if my company will help her build a good future, I will do that."

Priyanka and her mother remain inseparable, and are often seen together at events around the world.

### Ajax Crematorium & Visitation Centre



289-372-3300

www.acvc.info

384 Finley Avenue, Ajax, ON LIS 2E3

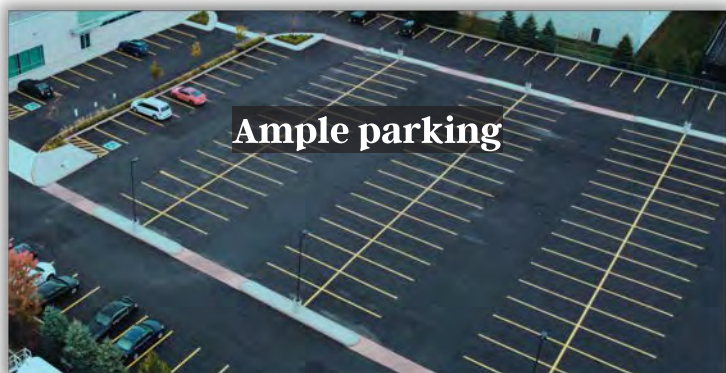
### Brampton Crematorium & Visitation Centre



905-458-2222

www.bcvc.info

30 Bramwin Court, Brampton, ON L6T 5G2



Ample parking



State of the art facilities

As the experts in funerals we can offer many options that fit your traditions, wishes and budget  
CALL US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BY PLANNING AHEAD

*Compassion - Care - Convenience*

Lock in funeral costs and protect against inflation and price increases

Make decisions now and protect your family from the emotional burdens of planning a funeral



## Pace, frequency of injuries for India's bowlers frustrating - Shastri

The pace, frequency, and recurring injuries that are keeping senior Indian bowlers off the field are "frustrating", former team captain, head coach, and now commentator Ravi Shastri told the cricket website *ESPNcricinfo* last week. The setbacks are also "unreal" and "ridiculous", he added.

At the time, Shastri was commenting on the latest injury that sidelined Deepak Chahar, who picked up a left hamstring injury after just one over, and pulled out of the Chennai Super Kings' IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

Said Shastri: "Let's put it this way: there are quite a few in the last three or four years who are permanent residents of the [National Cricket Academy]," Shastri said.

He added, "Soon, they'll get a resident permit there to walk in any time they want, which is not a good thing at all. It's unreal."

It was the second time in five months that Chahar left a game without finishing his four overs due to hamstring problems. In the second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur last December, he pulled out after bowling three overs. He then returned to the NCA in Bengaluru, which was his base for the majority of 2022 after he suffered a Grade 3 quadriceps tear last February.

A stiff back, which was diagnosed as a stress fracture, then delayed his comeback, frustrating both Chahar and the Indian team management. It led to Rohit Sharma saying that the team "can't afford guys coming in here half-fit and representing the country".

Chahar is not the only Indian quick to have been sidelined

for long periods due to recurring injuries. There are also Jasprit Bumrah, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Sen, Mohsin Khan, and Yash Dayal, who have all been out of action for varying stretches in recent months.

In Bumrah's case, he attempted a comeback more than once after his back injury before eventually undergoing surgery.

Shastri said that what bothered him the most was that most of these players' workloads were not too big, and despite being declared fit by the NCA medical team, they were still picking up injuries.

Said Shastri: "Make sure you get fit and come once and for all, because it's damn frustrating. Come on, you're not playing that much cricket to be injured again and again," Shastri said.

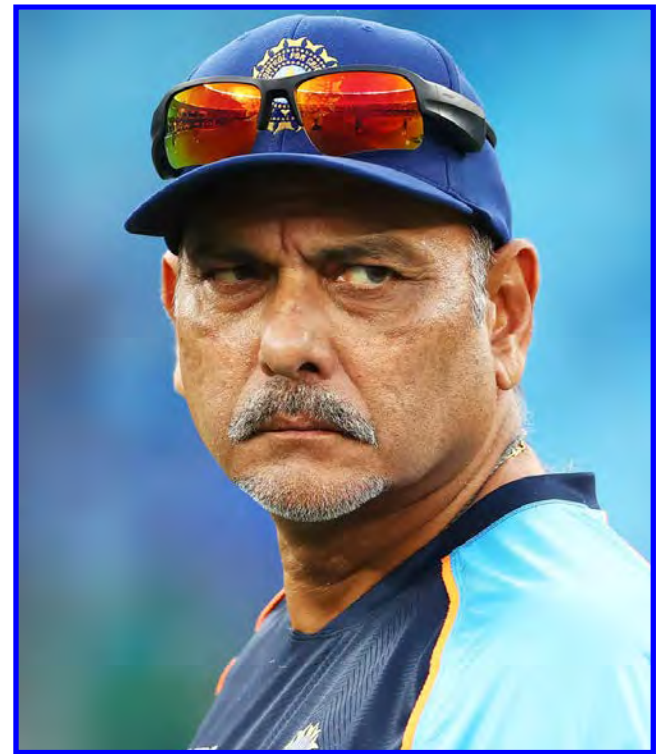
Additionally, "I mean, you can't play four matches on the trot? What are you going



Deepak Chahar

to the NCA for if you are going to come back and then three matches [later] you're back there? So make sure you get fit, and come once and for all because it is damn frustrating. Not just for the team, the players, the [Board of Control for Cricket in India], the captains of the various [IPL] franchises. It's annoying, to say the least."

Shastri said he understood what it meant to have a serious injury. However, he said he was now apprehensive when during the four-over stint and "someone touches his hamstring, or someone touches his groin. You start thinking what are these guys... what are they training? What's going on? And some of them don't play any other cricket in the year. It's just four overs



Ravi Shastri

[in the IPL]... three hours. The game is over."

Following the Mumbai Indians match, Super Kings said that Chahar would undergo further scans before a call is made on his participation in the remainder of the IPL.

Also, Chahar said recently it was never easy to come back from a major injury. In February, in a chat with [the *Press Trust of India*], he had declared himself "fully fit" and ready for the IPL.

"I had two big injuries. One was a stress fracture and one was a quad grade three tear. They are both very big injuries. You are out for months. Anyone who comes back after the injury, it takes time, especially for the fast bowlers," he said.

## Stokes plans to keep England's attack fires hot for upcoming Ashes



Ben Stokes

England do not plan to change their attacking strategy when they challenge Australia in the Ashes this summer, Ben Stokes said last week.

As the *British Broadcasting Corporation* reported, England have won ten out of 12 Test matches with both Stokes captaining the team and its coach Brendon McCullum playing a bold and fearless brand of cricket.

That approach includes trying to force a result even if it risks defeat – something that will continue against the Australians.

"I am not going to change anything just because it is the Ashes," Stokes told *Sky Sports*.

He added, "Every single game that I play in this Ashes is going to be to force a result, and that does not matter what the score is; what the situation is. It won't change. That wouldn't be being true to myself. Every player knows that the Ashes is where everything just ramps up a bit, from pressure to exposure, but we will stick to what we do."

Also, "I've been around long enough, so has [McCullum], and our senior players, to make sure those little things don't creep into the dressing room."

Stokes also indicated that he has asked the five Test venues to produce "fast, flat wickets" that will suit England's batters who play very aggressively, and look to score as quickly as possible to put the opposition under pressure.

"We have been clear with the ground staff around the country about what we want and they have been really good. We want fast, flat wickets because we want to score quickly and brings their guys in to the game too," Stokes said.

He added that the attacking approach extends to the bowlers too, with veteran pace duo Stuart Broad and James Anderson buying into the aggressive philosophy.

"Jimmy and Broady were protective of their economy rates and they hate going for runs – they like tying batters down and working them out, but now they have started to see it a bit differently," Stokes said.

He added, "Having those two, who are so skilful and have taken so many wickets between them, they now have that mentality, and it will do good for us going forward if Australia do start taking the attack back on us."

Stokes also noted he is now bowling "pain free" as he continues to manage a long-standing knee issue.

However, he added he will not take any risks with his fitness leading up to the Ashes.

He has played in 91 Tests and is now 31 years old. Last month he had an injection in his left knee before departing to represent the Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League.

He was initially expected to play as a specialist batter for the opening stages of the tournament, but was able to bowl one over against Lucknow Super Giants earlier this month.

Said Stokes, "It has been a very frustrating year trying to manage this knee problem and not bowling much. I have worked so hard over the last five weeks to get here. To be able to bowl pain-free... has been great."

He added, "Everything is going nicely, and I am taking it step by step and not rush things too much because my number one priority is making sure I can be the fourth seamer in the Ashes."

## Frocester officials in top flight after signing up West Indies' bowler Oshane Thomas

West Indies fast bowler Oshane Thomas joined Gloucestershire cricket club Frocester last week for the region's new league season, which gets under way next month.

Frocester described the signing of 26-year-old Thomas, who made his international debut in 2018, as a "huge coup" for the club on their return to the West of England Premier League Premier One, which takes in teams from Bristol, Somerset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire.

The club is based in the village of Frocester, with a population of 155, and is located at the foot of the Cotswolds, and just over 16 kilometres from county town of Gloucester. It won the Premier One title in 2007, 2014, and 2015.

Frocester were runners-up in 2016, and were promoted back to the top flight following relegation by being crowned champions of the tier-two Gloucestershire/Wiltshire Division last season.

Confirming the marquee signing, Ali Downey, Frocester's committee chairman, said: "It just makes me want to smile. It's a huge coup for our club to sign someone like Oshane, and we cannot wait for him to arrive. It fits in with how we run the club, and we want to ensure we give ourselves the best possible chance of competing back in Premier One."

Downey added, "It will benefit the whole club from top to bottom and hopefully the



Oshane Thomas

wider cricket community who can experience the club and everything it has to offer."

Thomas was a recipient of West Indies' Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2019. So far he has picked up 27 wickets in 20 ODIs, and 19 wickets in 20 T20Is.

However, he has not shown form and fitness recently, and has not played internationally in nearly two years.

Thomas represented the Rajasthan Royals in 2019 in the Indian Premier League, and was also with the franchise during the 2020 season in the United Arab Emirates, where he replaced England captain Ben Stokes.

He has also played for the Barbados Royals in the Caribbean Premier League, and recently Comilla Victorians in the Bangladesh Premier League.

Frocester open their season on May 6 with a trip to Bath, last season's champions, and 11 times winners since the competition's inception in 1999.





West Indies women celebrate the fall of a wicket

## Innings over as CWI sacks women's coach Walsh

Former West Indies' pacer bowler Courtney Walsh was earlier this month dismissed as head coach of the national women's cricket team, the media in the Caribbean have reported.

Walsh later criticised the timing and delivery of his dismissal that was used by CWI, telling the *Mason & Guest* cricket talk show in Barbados that the news of his sacking came out of the blue.

"I was surprised at the time when I was told; but it was a job, and I was employed until the end of last month when I was told the contract won't be renewed," he said.

He added, "The timing was very surprising. I would have much preferred to have known earlier, but that's not my call... I got a message to call [CWI director of cricket, Jimmy Adams]. I called him, and he told me the contract won't be renewed."

Walsh said he was in Antigua at the time when he was informed about the decision on March 30 by Adams.

Additionally, Walsh said he was also "disappointed to find out that the other coaches were not going to be reinstated as well".

Said Walsh: "I thought we were making some strides with the girls and the pool of players we had at the time. We suffered injuries to players at some crucial times, but we still fought through it, and I felt the coaches worked really hard in trying to get the best team we could on the park in tough times."

Also, "This was not the case, unfortunately; but I was proud of the work and the effort the guys put in, and the energy they tried to bring to the team under trying conditions. Our pool of players was very limited, and we did the best we could have done with what we had."

During his tenure, Walsh had to deal with the sudden retirement of world-rated all-rounder Deandra Dottin from international cricket. Dottin's exit was "a big loss", he said.

Then there was the absence of former captain Stafanie Taylor, due to injury.

"When we lost Deandra, we knew we lost a multi-dimensional player that could do everything. She could bat, bowl, and field, and that was a big loss. To add salt into the wound, we lost Stafanie Taylor in the home series against New Zealand [last October]," he said.

Walsh added, "In the ODIs, she made 51 and retired hurt [in the last match], but she could not play again for us until the World Cup, so you have lost two world-class batters that have been the backbone of the batting for a number of years."

Walsh also noted, "No one else came through in the regional tournaments, so the only other place that we could look was the Under-19 level at the World Cup for any emerging players, which is what we are trying to put in place now."

As the international media reported, the CWI's move to sack Walsh may have come in the wake of the absences of key play-

ers, and consequently, the women's team unable to fulfil expectations, and then failing to qualify for the knockout stages of the T20 World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

However, at the same time, the CWI's decision to not renew the contracts of both Walsh and the support team is part of a bigger overhaul, with a recruitment drive still underway for separate head coaches for the men's Test, and men's One Day, and the Twenty20 International sides.



Courtney Walsh

According to CWI, the decision to remove Walsh, Samuels, and Collymore followed "a review of the senior women's team performances and programme".

CWI said it will shortly start the process to recruit a successor to Walsh and his support staff.

The West Indies was beaten by England and India in its opening two matches, and finished third in its group despite wins against Ireland and Pakistan.

Walsh's tenure started in October 2020 following the exit of Gus Logie. Under Walsh's guidance, West Indies Women won only 11, lost 17, and tied two of 32 ODIs, and won only seven, lost 15, and tied one of 24 T20Is.

"The appraisal only six months ago, there was no indication that anything was going wrong, or we were not doing the best that we could," Walsh said.

A highlight during his stint was delivering home and away series wins against Pakistan, and a semi-final spot in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 in New Zealand.

However, his tenure was also marked by a transition in the team, with a number of senior players either retiring or taking breaks, such as long-serving off-spinner Anisa Mohammed leaving for what has been reported as self-imposed exile.

This was Walsh's first major coaching assignment at the international level, although the 60-year-old had previously worked with Bangladesh as its bowling coach, and as a talent scout and fast bowling coach in the IPL with the then Kings XI Punjab, now Punjab Kings.

"We are very grateful for the contribution of Courtney and his technical team over the past two and a half years, and we wish them all the best going forward. CWI remains committed to our international women's programme, and will now be focusing on recruiting a new Head Coach and technical support team. An interim technical support team will be put in place during the recruitment period," said CWI director of cricket, Jimmy Adams.

"Further information on the recruitment process will be provided in the coming weeks with the coaching roles being critical for the development of women's cricket in the West Indies," Adams added.

In his stellar career with the West Indies, Walsh sent down pace with a quick right arm, taking 519 wickets in 132 Tests, and 227 in 205 ODIs.

## Cricket Schedule

(ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Wednesday April 19, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 1st Test, Day 4, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Thursday April 20, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 1st Test, Day 5, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Monday April 24, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 2nd Test, Day 1, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Tuesday April 25, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 2nd Test, Day 2, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Wednesday April 26, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 2nd Test, Day 3, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2023

Pakistan vs New Zealand, 1st ODI, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, 2:30 PM

Thursday April 27, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 2nd Test, Day 4, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Friday April 28, 2023

Ireland tour of Sri Lanka, 2023

Sri Lanka vs Ireland, 2nd Test, Day 5, Galle International Stadium, Galle, 10:00 AM

Sunday May 7, 2023

New Zealand tour of Pakistan, 2023

Pakistan vs New Zealand, 5th ODI, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, 2:30 PM

Tuesday May 9, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh in England, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh, 1st ODI, County Ground, Chelmsford, 10:00 AM

Friday May 12, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh in England, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh, 2nd ODI, County Ground, Chelmsford, 10:00 AM

Sunday May 14, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh in England, 2023

Ireland vs Bangladesh, 3rd ODI, County Ground, Chelmsford, 10:45 AM

Friday May 26, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

Essex vs Ireland, 3-day Practice Match, Day 1, County Ground, Chelmsford, 11:00 AM

Saturday May 27, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

Essex vs Ireland, 3-day Practice Match, Day 2, County Ground, Chelmsford, 11:00 AM

Sunday May 28, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

Essex vs Ireland, 3-day Practice Match, Day 3, County Ground, Chelmsford, 11:00 AM

Thursday June 1, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

England vs Ireland, Only Test, Day 1, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM

Friday June 02, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

England vs Ireland, Only Test, Day 2, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM

Saturday June 03, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

England vs Ireland, Only Test, Day 3, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM

Sunday June 4, 2023

Ireland tour of England Only Test, 2023

England vs Ireland, Only Test, Day 4, Lord's, London, 11:00 AM

Wednesday June 7, 2023

ICC World Test Championship Final 2023

Australia vs India, Final, Day 1, Kennington Oval, London, 10:00 AM

Thursday June 8, 2023

ICC World Test Championship Final 2023

Australia vs India, Final, Day 2, Kennington Oval, London, 10:00 AM

Friday June 9, 2023

ICC World Test Championship Final 2023

Australia vs India, Final, Day 3, Kennington Oval, London, 10:00 AM





# GTA LEADERS REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

4300 Steeles Avenue West, Suite 26  
Vaughan ON, L4L 4C2

**Tel: 416-241-3337 Fax: 416-987-0056**

www.teamgtahomes.com  
gtaleaders@gmail.com



~ RESIDENTIAL · COMMERCIAL · INDUSTRIAL · INVESTMENT ~



**Abdool Saif Saheed**  
Sales Representative  
647-894-0764



**Abdool Saheed**  
Broker of Record/Owner  
416-731-7527



**Ralford Chatrie**  
Sales Representative  
416-806-1803



**Shawn Ambedkar**  
Broker  
437-235-7599

## Mississauga For Sale \$1,588,000

Location!  
Location! Pride of ownership move-in ready detached 4+1 spacious bdrms, 4 washrooms on quiet street. Freshly painted, 6 parking spaces, hardwood floors, LED lighting, W/O to an entertaining deck & beautiful landscaped backyard w/exquisite seasonal floral gardening. Sep entrance to newly reno open concept bsmt w/custom kitchen, quartz countertop, potlights, porcelain tiles, vinyl floor & much more. Close to major hwy's & all amenities. Walking distance to Square One.



## Oshawa For Sale \$824,900

Location! Location! Location!  
Fully reno. 3+1 bdrms, 2 full bthrm (+1 half bthrm) in family friendly neighbourhood in the lakeview area of Oshawa. Main flr has: hardwood floors thru-out, open concept w/upgraded ktchn w/ large eat-in island, granite countertops & all new S/S appls (2022). Open concept lvngrm flows seamlessly to private backyard w/ deck. Bsmt has engineered laminated flooring thru-out, large open concept lvng/rec. area, bdrms w/ private ensuite (2022), sep. laundry area w/brand new washer & dryer (2022). Upper flr has 3 large-sized bdrms w/full bath (2022), close to all amenities; walking distance to schools, parks, trails & shopping. Short drive to the beach. Don't miss opportunity to own one of the few detached homes in this neighbourhood.



## FOR SALE HALIBURTON \$584,999

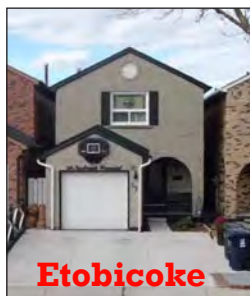
Welcome to one of highlands east, fully renovated (2010) three bedrooms all-season cottage with one full washroom, open concept dining/kitchen, & living area with wood fireplace & potlights. Relax on two huge decks and enjoy nature's beauty at your doorsteps. This spacious lot offers lots of parking spaces, 1 fully insulated natural pine bunkie, lots of storage spaces (5 sheds), and beautiful landscaping with a firepit. Steps to Tamarack lake for swimming, fishing, and canoeing. Minutes to the town of Gooderham.



## For Sale \$999,900

Family Friendly Neighbourhood, Walking Distance To Schools & Parks.

**SOLD \$350,100 OVER ASKING PRICE**



**Etobicoke**

## Oshawa For Sale \$719,990

Location! Location! Location! Beautiful raised semi in a highly sought after neighbourhood in Oshawa. The main floor features a large living combined w/ dining, 2 large bedrooms & 1 fully upgraded washroom. The kitchen features a large island with quartz countertops throughout. The lower floor features; the laundry room, a large recreation room, 1 full fully upgraded washroom & primary bedroom with lots of light! The washrooms features quartz countertops & upgraded fixtures! Huge driveway able to fit up to 3 cars. Close to all amenities, 401/412/407, shopping, places of worship, walking trails, parks & much more...



## Belmont Newcastle Starting @ \$800,000s

Belmont is a new townhouse & single family home development by Treasure Hill Homes currently in preconstruction at Given Road, Newcastle. Belmont has a total of 288 units. Belmont in Newcastle combines the best of luxury living & country charm. An expertly designed & spacious collection of town & single homes will be coming soon to a fantastic rural location just moments from the city. Newcastle is in the municipality of Clarington in Durham Region. Acclaimed as one of the most attractive small towns in the area, the community continues to develop while preserving its long-rooted history. This master-planned community is comprised of traditional & transitional designs. Experience a quaint village setting with homes constructed with lavish accents & fine details. With Treasure Hill's reputation for building quality homes, there is no other place to be besides right here. Contact us for More Info!!!



**FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS**

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

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

**Abdool Saheed**  
Financial Advisor  
Cell: 416-731-7527

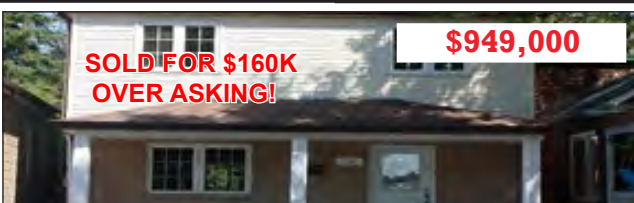
## CityPointe Heights starting @ High 400s

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



**Essa For Lease \$2,995**

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



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

## Narrative Condos

STARTING FROM LOW \$300s



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



647-852-7243  
**MORTGAGE**  
**1st, 2nd, & Refinance**  
**PROPOSAL/**  
**BANKRUPTCY**  
Make One Small Monthly Payment For All Your Debts  
**INCOME TAX SERVICES**  
Personal • Business  
Business Registration  
HST • Payroll • WSIB

**Abdool Saheed**  
C: 416-731-7527  
**Jason Saheed**  
C: 647-293-8397