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Vol. 41 • No 22• July 24, 2024 • Tel: 905-738-5005 • 312 Brownridge Dr. Thornhill, ON L4J 5X1 • indocaribbeanworld.com • indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com

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Our Community Is Thriving!



Uni-TnT recently donated over \$30,000 in emergency items to victims of Hurricane Beryl in Grenada. Accepting the donation at Bedessee Imports Ltd were Consul General for Grenada Gerry Hopkins (centre); Acting Consul General for Trinidad and Tobago Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette (third from right); Tony Chankar (left to right), Mahadeo Sankar, Raymond Bedessee, President of Grenada Disaster Preparedness Toronto, Unison Joseph, and Carlos Maharaj. More on Page 10. Photo by Russell Lutchman



Three young masqueraders dressed in their resplendent Carnival costumes get ready for the energy of the Junior Carnival Parade 2024, which took place last weekend in Scarborough. More Toronto Carnival photos on Page 5. Photo by Hinano Beekhoo

Vishnu Mandir, guests celebrate Dr Doobay

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – It was an evening of cultural cohesion, evocative reminiscing, and warm appreciation when close to 450 well-wishers gathered at Vishnu Mandir to celebrate Dr Budhendraauth Doobay becoming a Member of the Order of Canada.

The event took place in the Peace Park on the temple grounds at Vishnu Mandir on July 18.

One of the key organisers of the program, Roy Doobay, told *Indo-Caribbean World* last week that the event and its corollary components of thanksgiving, engendering the spirit of camaraderie, and celebration of the prestigious Canadian award, all came together seamlessly to accomplish the vision that Dr Doobay had for the evening.

“The broad theme underlying the evening was to reflect the cultural harmony that is within the Peace Park,” Roy stated.

He added, “The Order of Canada is similarly broad in its outreach, and is focused on a wider motif of national and cultural harmony. This continuity was what Dr Doobay envisioned in what he wanted to accomplish that evening at the Peace Park.”

Attendance at the event revealed a similar and universal harmony. Among the attendees were many professionals,

dignitaries, volunteers, supporters, and well-wishers. As Roy indicated, the Peace Park was filled with doctors, businesspersons, many religious leaders from the different temples and denominations. There were representatives from the Hindu, Muslim, and Christian faiths. Also, representatives from the three levels of government.



Dr Doobay addresses guests at the Peace Park. KP Studio photo

“It was quite a diverse representation of guests that attended and filled the entire Peace Park,” Roy declared. And it was all happening in the place where the statue of Mahatma Gandhi occupies, and where his eternal legacy resides for a world in peace and harmony.

Among the main events that evening saw over 40 guests speaking to Dr Doobay’s life’s work, and his commitment to peace and harmony.

Among the speakers offering their congratulations was the City of Richmond Hill’s Mayor David West.

Thanking Dr Doobay for his selfless devotion and generosity, Mayor West stated, “I am very proud that you live in our community; that you have done so much great work right here.”

He also spoke to Dr Doobay’s leadership, saying, “You get things done in a compassionate and loving way.”

However, he also declared it was difficult to say no to Dr Doobay, and the work “that gets done with your leadership...”

See Page 16: Celebrating Dr Doobay

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Caribbean Consular Corps and government officials; in photo, right, Ramsubagh-Mannette

Toronto diplomats hold Caricom 51st flag raising

Toronto – The Caribbean Consular Corps at Toronto celebrated the 51st Anniversary of Caricom on July 3 with a flag raising ceremony that took place at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Queen’s Park.

The ceremony was chaired by the Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda, Ann-Marie Layne.

Consul General of Saint Lucia to Canada in Toronto Henry W. Mangal gave remarks, saluting the founding fathers of Caricom, outlining the group’s achievements, and proclaiming its global leadership on a number of major issues.

Ontario Legislative Assembly Representatives in attendance

were Patrice Barnes, Andrea Hazell, and Charmaine Williams, who all have Caribbean roots. They also congratulated Caricom, and pledged continued support for Caribbean causes within their mandates.

Caricom’s flag was hoisted by Acting Consul General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Toronto, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette.

Among the dignitaries at the momentous event were Honorary Consul for Guyana, Mani Singh, and Consul General for Grenada, Gerry Hopkins; Caricom nationals, and members of the diaspora here in the GTA.

Athena wins gold in Guyana

Canada’s colours were flying at the recently concluded International Karate Diagaku 4th World Cup after Canadian-born Athena Rycman won first-place gold in her Kata and Kumite competitions last week.

The competition among the top young karatekas took place at the National Gymnasium in Guyana from July 18-July 21.

Rycman’s parents are Guyanese-born, and the entire family made the trip to Georgetown from Scarborough for the world-class event.

The family was understandably thrilled with Athena’s success, with mom Asheena telling *Indo-Caribbean World* the result at the global level was a consequence of her daughter’s commitment, focus, and dedication.

“We are super-stoked with her success! Athena has loved karate from day one. For this competition she has been training intensively, and is very focused,” she declared.

Mom also revealed Athena is quite an all-rounder, with a similar focus on her academic studies.

The international event also featured teams from Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, China, host nation Guyana, and several other countries.

With support for the tournament from the Guyana government, delegates met with Guyana’s Prime Minister Mark Phillips, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Dean and Senior Lecturer of UG, Al Creighton, among others.



Gold medal winner Athena Rycman

Perruzza building healthy youth cycle in Jane-Finch area

Toronto – A team of ten Jane-Finch area youth assembled on July 20 to compete in a bike race with other youth from across Toronto. The team was led by City Councillor Anthony Perruzza, who is also an avid biker.

The event was part of a larger initiative organised by The Children’s Breakfast Clubs, where teams of children were led by members of The Toronto Police Service Divisions, Peel Regional Police Service. Councillor Perruzza led the Jane-Finch area team.

Along with team-work and community outreach, another objective was to give the youths an opportunity to participate in a Healthy Lifestyle program, bicycle safety program, and bike-build workshops.

Perruzza underscored the importance of opportunities such as these, saying, “Children are our future. The habits we instill

in them at a young age, they will carry with them into tomorrow. Programs such as these equip the younger generation with the tools and the impetus to take care of themselves, which benefits not only them, but society at large.”

He added, “I’d like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the Children’s Breakfast Clubs for their generosity in providing these children with this unforgettable experience. It will undoubtedly impact their lives in a significant way.”

Team Anthony Perruzza was incredibly excited to launch into the race, and the children were thankful for being given the bicycles they rode as part of the opportunity.

“I’m grateful that together we were able to give them this opportunity, and hopefully inspire them to have healthy futures,” Perruzza concluded.



Perruzza (second, right) and the team



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Minister Jones (left) is joined by MPP Cho (centre) at TAIBU CHC in Malvern, Scarborough; TAIBU CHC CEO Liben Gebremikael is at right

Govt invests \$14M for primary care

Scarborough – The Ontario government is investing over \$14 million to connect up to 49,000 people to primary care teams in Toronto. This is part of Ontario’s \$110 million investment to connect up to 328,000 people to primary care providers, bringing the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care.

On July 18, Raymond Cho, MPP for Scarborough North, joined by Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, as well as the Scarborough Caucus, made the announcement in Malvern, Scarborough.

This historic expansion of inter-professional primary care teams includes a designated investment of over \$2.8 million for Scarborough, going to two leading local community health centres: TAIBU Community Health Centre (\$1,478,000); and the Scarborough Centre for Health Communities (\$1,325,000).

“Scarborough is thrilled and thankful for this critical investment by our government to TAIBU and SCHC, who have been true pillars in keeping our community healthy,” said Cho.

He added, “This funding will enhance primary care services locally, ensuring that more residents can have access to primary care they need. It underscores our government’s commitment to bridging gaps in healthcare access and improving the well-being of Scarborough residents.”

Ontario currently leads the country with 90 percent of residents connected to a regular health care provider. As a next step to close the gap for people not connected to primary care, the province is supporting expanded inter-professional primary care teams across Ontario, bringing together healthcare providers under one roof to connect more people to the primary care services they need in their community.

Also speaking at the event, Jones stated, “Our government is making record investments to ensure that everyone that wants to have a primary care provider can connect to one.” She added, “While there is more work to do, giving hundreds of thousands of more Ontarians the opportunity to connect to primary care brings us that much closer to this goal.”

Inter-professional primary care teams connect people to a range of health professionals that work together under one roof, including doctors, nurse practitioners, registered and practical nurses, physiotherapists, social workers and dietitians, among others.

Timely access to primary care helps people stay healthier for longer with faster diagnosis and treatment, as well as more consistent support managing their day-to-day health while relieving pressures on emergency departments and walk-in clinics.

“TAIBU and our partners Rexdale and Black Creek Community Health Centres express our gratitude for this important investment by the Ontario government to the development and implementation of the Africentric – Interprofessional Primary Healthcare Team in Scarborough, the Northwest and Etobicoke,”

said Liben Gebremikael, CEO, TAIBU Community Health Centre.

He added, “Anti-Black racism is the root cause for the various disparities and inequities that Black communities face. This culturally appropriate service will enable Black, Francophone, and newcomer communities connect with primary healthcare and wrap around service that is aligned with the Ontario Health Equity Diversity Inclusion and Anti-Racism Framework and the Black Health Action Plan.”

In addition to other historic investments to expand medical school spots, and efforts to break down barriers so highly-skilled internationally-trained doctors can care for people in Ontario, Ministry of Health modelling shows that these initiatives will help connect up to 98 percent of people in Ontario to primary care in the next several years.

Since the launch of Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care one year ago, the government has been making steady progress to ensure the health care system has become better equipped to respond to the needs of patients, and provide them with the right care in the right place, faster access to services and access to an expanded health care workforce.

Said Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park: “I am proud that our government is investing nearly \$1.5 million into TAIBU Community Health Centre and over \$1.3 million into Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, as a part of our government’s historic expansion of interprofessional primary care teams. TAIBU and SCHC have a long track record in Scarborough, providing necessary care for residents in our community.”

Also, David Smith, MPP, Scarborough Centre, thanked the TAIBU Community Health Centre and the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities “for their steadfast approach in meeting the growing demands for primary care in Scarborough and beyond.”

He also expressed gratitude to Premier Doug Ford and Jones “for understanding the medical needs and investing the necessary funds to help families seeking this form of care.”

Smith added, “TAIBU and SCHC, as core organisations, have always been at the forefront of ensuring that residents of Scarborough can rely on these professional services to cope with their family needs and concerns.”

Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, also expressed excitement that TAIBU Community Health Centre and the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities were receiving “this critical funding ensuring that people will get access to the primary care services they need”

Said Babikian: “Under our government, with the leadership of Premier Doug Ford and Minister Sylvia Jones, Scarborough is no longer a forgotten part of Ontario, and we are making the necessary investments to improve healthcare here in Scarborough.”



MPP Cho gives opening remarks to welcome Minister Jones to TAIBU CHC



Minister Jones and the Scarborough Caucus present a symbolic cheque to TAIBU and its two partner organisations Rexdale and Black Creek CHCs



Minister Jones and the Scarborough Caucus present a symbolic cheque of \$1,325,000 to SCHC

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Toronto Caribbean Carnival's Junior Parade took place on July 20 in Scarborough, in an event that was energised with young masqueraders taking to the streets to showcase their colourful and creative costumes; of course, the event also resonated with Caribbean culture, music, dance, and its delectable cuisine. In photos, attending the event were national, provincial, and municipal leaders, along with many youngsters having a wonderful time in one big street party. *Photos by Hinano Beekhoo.*



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Editorial

Our sedentary epidemic

We frame the following exposition within the lamentation over our sedentary lifestyles and our modern-day predisposition for non-communicable diseases, which was so evocatively articulated in the editorial of the July 11 edition of *Stabroek News*, which is published in Guyana.

In late June the World Health Organisation produced troubling data indicating that 2022 research had found 31 percent of the world's adult population did not meet the recommended level of physical activity.

Concern over what is now well-known as *The Sedentary Epidemic*, and its link to cardiovascular diseases and climbing mortality rates, had led to a 2022 resolution at the 55th World Health Assembly calling on member states to collaborate with the WHO on a strategy for better health.

It would be a collaboration for development of "a global strategy on diet, physical activity, and health for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases..."

So it was according to the WHO's recommendation, based on scientific research and its emergent evidence, that adults should have at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity each week. And even further back in 2018, the WHO had developed a global action plan on physical activity, in which it was hoping would lead to a 15 percent reduction in inactivity by 2030.

As part of this plan, the WHO urged its member countries to introduce national policies to ensure roads have designated spaces for walking and cycling. Driving this recommendation was the thinking that these two modes of physical activity were very basic, and so would be affordable to persons at all levels of income.

Unfortunately, the WHO's expended energy to increase physical activity is yet to produce the expected results.

As *Stabroek News* noted, today's sedentary lifestyle can be traced back to the start of the Industrial Revolution. As the publication stated, "the invention of machines, and then rapid advances in the electric and automobile industries, soon led to the age of technology, and the beginning of people's fixation with screens".

Of course, long before today's iconic, and hypnotic, instrument of global distraction came along, namely our addiction to handheld electronic devices, we were already forsaking physical activity to sit for long hours in front of television screens.

And so it is that today we speak a new paradigm, namely, that 'Sitting is the new smoking', without appreciating the troubling layers that are implicit in this statement about personal choice, addiction, and attendant consequences of ill-health, notable in non-communicable diseases.

As *Stabroek News* declares in its editorial, "Most, if not all, individuals who spend endless hours glued to screens choose to have their meals right there. There is also ongoing snacking. The rotation from office chair to couch, in some instances, clocks ten to 12 hours a day, or more, hence the sedentary epidemic."

As we are all aware, scientific research has made the link with a sedentary lifestyle to cardiovascular diseases; an increased risk of obesity; developing Type 2 diabetes; and certain cancers, among them breast, colorectal, lung, prostate, endometrial, and ovarian. A link has also emerged in cognitive decline alongside physical inactivity.

Also, to be sedentary and middle-aged could lead to reduced medial temporal lobe thickness, which could heighten the likelihood of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

And then there is prolonged sitting, especially while looking down at screens, that can lead to neck and back pain, and deep vein thrombosis.

It is no wonder that ill-health as a consequence of physical inactivity now resides with the domain of epidemic proportions. In fact, according to the WHO, physical inactivity is now the fourth highest risk factor for mortality, and is associated with 3.2 million global deaths, as well as 32 million disabilities each year.

It is well within our community to not join these troubling figures. All it takes are 150 minutes of activity a week.

Carnival rooted in protest burning of sugar canes

Long and hot days, each concluding with late sunsets, the dog days of summer have arrived in Toronto. The brilliant (maybe excruciating) heat may bring a familiarity with the warm Caribbean climate; however, this is summer in Canada.

Despite the illusion of the Caribbean heat, the tropical-like weather is a prelude to a heavy injection of Caribbean culture into the city.

Amidst the peak of summer is one of the most celebrated and well-known festivals – the Toronto Caribbean Carnival (formerly known as Caribana).

From far and wide, visitors will soon arrive in our expansive city to partake in the largest festival of Caribbean culture outside of the Caribbean.

World-renowned, this festival is a display of Toronto's vibrant and thriving Caribbean community, and the diasporic roots many citizens have with the many nations of the Caribbean.

Down the Lakeshore, masqueraders will play mas, adorning elaborate costumes. Across the many music venues and fairgrounds (yes, rural fairgrounds have been adopted for events) the sounds of the Caribbean will be heard, including the talent of singers and musicians from the Caribbean and the diasporic community.

Unfortunately, amongst the cascade of the many fetes and celebrations, the establishment of Toronto Caribbean Carnival itself, and that of Carnival, is lost or masked.

Carnival in the Caribbean has a history steeped in outcomes of colonialism. The roots of this festival are tied to the oppression of the many who toiled in pain and agony.

Renditions of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago date back to the 1700s, when French colonisers brought their masquerades, balls, and celebrations leading up to Lent. Enslaved Africans, who were forbidden from attending, made their version of it as a sign of resistance.

These early variations were associated with a ritual called Cannes Brulees, which is French for "sugarcane burning". It was such that enslaved Africans set fire to sugar cane intended for sale, resisting plantation slavery through the destruction of its valuable export commodity, which was sugar.

In the most simplistic sense, the celebration as we know it today began as a protest against oppression.

Calypto songs that were sung were a device used to mock the enslavers, and to pass messages among enslaved people.



Ryan Singh

After Emancipation, former enslaved Africans celebrated culture through dance, music, and masquerade outfits that mocked their former masters.

Objects that resembled drums and sticks were used during Cannes Brulees to create music that was associated with the African roots of enslaved people. The music established connectivity with the performers, their ancestors, and the past spirits that guided and sustained them.

This music was an act of reclaiming cultural vitality, taking ownership of their culture, and enacting empowerment through these acts of rebellion.

Cannes Brulees would later become known as Canboulay, which today we call Carnival.

Carnival remains a joyous occasion, but is deep in the desire of enslaved people to be free, and emerged as a demonstration of liberation.

The first rendition of Carnival in Canada was introduced in 1967 as part of Canada's Centennial celebrations, suitably (and ironically) another celebration to recognise the nation's independence as a British colony.

The incorporation of a Caribbean-based parade into the celebration was symbolic of an anti-colonial movement, but also reflective of the changing diversity of a rapidly growing city.

In 1967, members of the Toronto Caribbean community established the Caribbean Cultural Committee.

The CCC organised Toronto's West Indian contribution at Expo '67 in Montreal, which included Carnival costumes donated by the government of Trinidad and Tobago. These same costumes were at Toronto's Caribana that same year.

The deep-rooted affair of carnival was not a grand fete, but an expression of hope and freedom.

As we partake in activities of all sorts in the weeks ahead, there is always an opportunity to leverage the moment, and realise that only in recent human history our ancestors did not share the same liberation.

As the world evolves, we must continue to take up space, ensuring that we do not rest with the *status quo*, but continue to demand that true freedom and liberty be achieved.

Enjoy the upcoming Toronto Caribbean Carnival as an evolution in the rights of people.

In the modern context, we must continue to "burn the sugarcane", as experienced in the Caribbean before, and push against oppression in all its forms.

Early parental lesson in life on the road not taken

When I was a young boy and growing up in the homeland I noted with a touch of impatience and gloom that the men in the village kept long beards and equally long hair.

My old man was among that group, but more in the red zone in the register of the unkempt; he maintained this lifestyle to my mother's eternal annoyance.

"Look at you with all that long, long hair! Just now you will start to look like Panditji when we go to the mandir!!"

Now it was without doubt that Panditji's flowing white beard and waist-length white hair tied in a pony-tail gave him the dignity and atmospheric of a respectable, sagely, and holy man. However, it was also well-known but unspoken among the adults that Panditji required help from two or three of our sturdier devotees to lift him back to the vertical after hours of sitting cross-legged on the floor during worship.

My old man, with his dishevelled shocks of pepper-and-salt, more pepper under the chin, and quite a distinguished salty-top, was himself similarly sagely enough to discern that my mother's reference to Panditji was less to do with crinosity, and more to do with my old man's personal care, lifestyle, and his vigilance, or lack thereof, over his voluminous intake of carbs.

Now many decades later, as I look with a reversed view to telescope down the decades, even then at my tender age, while I was unable to articulate it then, today I understand that objection to the old man's hirsute untidiness was metonymic self-improving commentary that flowed from my mother's mouth.

Put another way, it was my mother's nagging way of letting my old man know he should take better, holistic care of himself; and that he should set a better example for his wide-eyed and observant son.

"Grass does not grow on a bottle," my old man teased me one morning. I was looking gloomily into the mirror, contemplating the smooth, unbroken landscape under my chin; and my too-close-cropped hair, the length rigidly dictated by my helicoptering mother to the barber as he nervously gave me a "trim".

Perhaps it was following this mirror interaction when my old man had noted, after some reflection, that I was emulating the example he was setting in the discernible impatience at my youth. It was an impatience that was hard to miss, and which had emerged in my hopeful line of questioning about when I

would be allowed by the maternal-powers-that-be to grow a full beard and waist-length hair.

This interaction may have motivated my old man to lead me to take a different path. Or perhaps he came to his senses in that moment, and looking down the road, had foreseen more direct, unavoidable, and forceful interventions from the maternal-powers-that-be with him, should I begin to rebelliously follow his lead.

So it was with a heavy heart that my old man trudged up the hill, taking me along to the canopy of shade from the spreading and aged mango tree.

It was here where the itinerant barber rode in on his bicycle during his cycle of calls to the many different villages, for his monthly visit to our village floating in its sea of sugar canes.

The barber carried the tools of his trade in a dented and misshapen cardboard suitcase, which was strapped on with two similarly aged belts to a tray that sat above the back wheel, and directly behind the saddle.

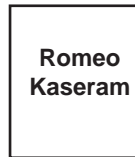
I recall both belts and the suitcase for its discoloration and patchy watermarks from many downpours that had caught him unsheltered while on the road.

Someone loaned him a rickety wooden chair. He leaned his bicycle against the mango tree, unpacked the contents of the suitcase on the dusty ground among the thick-raised and knee-knotted roots of the mango tree. He then sat down placidly on the unsteady chair sharpening his pointed scissors, stroking each lethal blade alternately with a fluid, downward motion with a whetstone worn down to a crescent from decades of use.

Business was not long in arriving. Soon the village's older men were plodding up the hill, heading directly into the shade. Waiting in turn for their "trim", they sat on haunches smoking dirty cigarettes that released a thick and acrid blue smoke, while engaging in playful laughter that revealed gaps among their nicotine-stained teeth.

It was into this hazy group of adults where my old man led me, but firmly holding onto my hand. Today, I understand the old man's solid grasp was to ensure I did not stray into the smoky haze, which was occasionally punctuated by scandalous laughter that triggered bouts of deep, hacking coughing fits.

"Take it all off; head and beard," he told the astonished barber when it came to my old man's turn. Silently, the smoke cleared in waves, a sign that a sea-change was coming to my old man.



Romeo Kaseram

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication. Letters to be published will be edited where necessary. Publisher: Harry Ramkhelawan Editor: Romeo Kaseram Columnists/Writers/Photographers: Vidur Dindayal, Bernard Heydorn, Dwarka Lakhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Ryan Singh, Nalini Mohabir, Ramesh Ramkalawan, Russell Lutchman. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com

INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

TT facing significant challenges

Dear Editor,

In recent years, Trinidad and Tobago has faced significant challenges under the leadership of Prime Minister Keith Rowley and the People's National Movement government.

As crime, poverty, and injustice continue to plague the nation, many citizens are left questioning the effectiveness of the current administration.

Crime: An Unyielding Menace – One of the most pressing issues is the alarming rise in crime.

Despite numerous promises and initiatives from the government, violent crime remains rampant. Communities across the nation live in fear, with the threat of violence becoming a daily reality.

The sense of safety that once characterised the nation has eroded, replaced by a pervasive anxiety that touches every corner of society. The government's inability to effectively address this issue has left many feeling vulnerable and abandoned.

Poverty: A Growing Crisis – Alongside the crime wave, poverty continues to deepen. Despite being an oil-rich nation, economic disparities have widened, leaving a significant portion of the population struggling to make ends meet.

Unemployment rates are high, and many families find it difficult to afford basic necessities. The social safety nets that should provide support in times of need are often insufficient, and the gap between the wealthy and the poor grows ever wider. For too many, the promise of prosperity remains an elusive dream.

Injustice: A Systemic Failure – Adding to these woes is a justice system that often seems biased and inefficient. Cases of wrongful arrests and prolonged detentions without trial highlight systemic issues that disproportionately

ately affect the marginalised.

Access to justice is not equally available to all, and many feel that the scales of justice are tipped against them. The slow pace of legal proceedings and the lack of accountability within the system exacerbate feelings of disenfranchisement and hopelessness.

Government Response: Words Versus Action – Prime Minister Keith Rowley and his administration have faced growing criticism for their handling of these crises. While the government has made numerous statements about tackling these issues, tangible results have been scarce.

Policies aimed at reducing crime, alleviating poverty, and reforming the justice system often fall short of their goals. This gap between rhetoric and reality has led to widespread disillusionment among the populace.

The Call for Change – The people of Trinidad and Tobago are resilient and resourceful, but they deserve more than resilience. They deserve a government that not only hears their cries, but acts decisively to address their concerns.

As the nation navigates these challenging times, the call for comprehensive and effective action becomes louder. The demand for a safer, more just, and more prosperous Trinidad and Tobago is not just a plea; it is a right.

In conclusion, the shadows of crime, poverty, and injustice loom large over Trinidad and Tobago under the current administration.

The government's response has been inadequate, leaving many citizens in a state of despair. It is imperative that real, meaningful change is pursued, ensuring that every citizen can live in safety, dignity, and hope.

Only then can the nation truly thrive.

Curtis Anthony O'Brady, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.



GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

What to do with inherited property in Guyana

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

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the City of Richmond Hill Mayor and Council, I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Doobay on his appointment to the Order of Canada.



It is with gratitude that I acknowledge his tremendous humanitarian efforts and the positive local and global impact of his work. Thank you Dr. Doobay for following your vision to create an inclusive and welcoming spiritual centre at the gateway to Richmond Hill.

Mayor David West



Imdadul's community outreach targets preventative health measures

By Sayem Khan

Youth Volunteer, Imdadul Islamic Centre
Special to Indo-Caribbean World

Did you know according to the Canadian Cancer Society data, prostate cancer is the most common cancer that is diagnosed among Canadian males? This form of cancer could affect any male at any time.

Recently in the news we have seen figures like the King of the United Kingdom, Charles III, undergoing surgery for prostate-related issues. Due to genetic predispositions, men who come from certain ethnic backgrounds, notably members of the Caribbean community, are at higher risk. Now just like other forms of cancer, early detection is extremely important.

One of the early ways to detect if prostate cancerous cells are present is by completing a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test. This test is simply a blood test, and takes only a few minutes to complete the entire procedure.

On July 13, eligible members who are more than 40 years old within our Imdadul community had an opportunity to get their PSA tests done.

Due to the ethnic backgrounds and genetic profiles, many members of the Imdadul community are at high risk. As per Ontario's Cancer Risk Reduction strategy, members of such profiles are highly encouraged to get their pre-screening done.

However, one of the barriers to men not taking the PSA test is it is not covered in OHIP, and is a paid test. Although it is a simple test, many people do not know the procedure. Also, there are always questions about the causes, the prognosis, and proper treatment of prostate-related issues.

The clinic at Imdadul provided a golden opportunity for these members to get their PSA tests done. At the same time, they had quality conversations with about 15 healthcare professionals that were present at the clinic.

In total about 35 members completed their PSA Prostate Cancer Screening tests, and about 50 members from all age groups had an opportunity to check their blood pressure.

Hypertension is another health issue that is increasingly becoming a major concern among Canadians. Unregulated blood pressure levels, and not periodically checking the blood pressure, could mean the risk of strokes.

Members of the Imdadul Jamaat sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of the dedicated healthcare profes-

sionals from the Princess Margaret Cancer Hospital (University Health Network), The Walnut Foundation, Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario, SickKids Hospital, and Black Creek Community Health Care Centre for their services.

The participants had quality time, and interactive conversations, with the physicians and health care professionals.

In the past, in collaboration with partners like the Black Creek Centre, the Imdadul mosque organised a series of well-attended vaccine clinics during the pandemic that played a critical role to keep a healthy community.

Furthermore, this event also took place during the Islamic month of Muharram. The Month of Muharram is the first Islamic month, and is a sacred month in the Islamic faith. A few major deeds to be performed include fasting and giving charity.

This blessed month started at Imdadul Mosque on the very first day of Muharram by facilitating a "Feed the Needy" program, which provides much-needed nutritious meals to less fortunate members of our society.

During the first ten days of Muharram, members were served Iftar snacks to break their fasts as well. Due to increasing food insecurity in our societies, we all know how necessary such initiatives truly are!

This is the hallmark of Imdadul mosque, many of the programs at Imdadul provide much-needed support to people of all walks of life. The PSA Screening clinic was open to people of all walks of life. Similarly, the "Feed The Needy" program also provided nutritious meals to citizens of this great city, irrespective of their identities.

If all the faith-based institutions continue to come together to serve humanity in such a manner, our society will be a better place to live!



Imdadul hosted a free PSA clinic on July 13 with support from The Walnut Foundation, the Black Creek Community Health Centre, and many other groups



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Total Guyana govt effort needed to combat gold smuggling

Second of Two Parts

To look into the problem, the Guyana Gold Board announced that it entered into talks with a German company, Argor-Heraeus in May 2021 to trace the origins of gold that is smuggled into Guyana, with the aim of preventing smuggling and the subsequent declaration of gold from other countries as legitimate domestic production. The results, if any, of the talks are unknown.

In 2020, the Gold Board had previously engaged Argor-Heraeus to support denials by the Guyana government that Venezuelan gold was being smuggled across the border and sold way below market price. It is suspected that Venezuelan gold is sold through Guyanese channels as a source of revenue for the country which is blacklisted by the developed world.

According to local media reports, Venezuelan gold is purchased by local miners, and eventually ends up at the Guyana Gold Board, or at licensed gold exporters as quantities presumably mined in Guyana, resulting in an overstatement of Guyana's annual gold declarations.

Apparently, there is no paper trail for gold miners to prove the source of the gold that they sell to the Guyana Gold Board, or intend to export. All that is apparently needed is proof that the person is a legitimate miner.

In 2020, allegations that one of Guyana's largest gold exporters, El Dorado Trading, was involved in filtering Venezuelan gold into the local market led to the Royal Canadian Mint suspending purchases of gold from the company.

In a letter dated August 19, 2020 to the Guyana Gold Board, the RCM stated that "the London Bullion Mark Association contacted the Mint to advise that a grievance has been filed via the Mineral Grievance Platform, connecting El Dorado to illegally sourced Venezuelan gold". As a result, the Mint suspended "any material from El Dorado coming into the Mint's supply chain effective immediately and until further notice." El Dorado is a client of the GGB, which sells gold to the RCM.

Chief Executive Officer of El Dorado Trading, Tamesh Jagmohan, then vehemently denied the claim in the local press stating: "Totally untrue! There is no trace, not the slightest... that Venezuelan gold is seeping into our supply chain."

To prove that it was not engaged in any illegal activities, the company claimed that it engaged a world-recognised auditor, BDO International, which is on the approved list of LBMA auditors. The results of the audit are not known. The company said that it has authorised BDO to share with its international business associates all information necessary in keeping with the Precious Metals Industry best practices supervised by the LBMA.

According to local press reports, concerns that Venezuelan gold was filtering into the local market in 2019, resulting in a depreciation of the Guyana dollar, was flagged by the Financial Intelligence Unit, which recommended that a high-level team be established to do a comprehensive review of the trading of gold.

The FIU also then sought to determine whether the elevated exchange rate for US\$ was being influenced by businesses involved in the gold trade/export. It also urged that action be taken against illegal cambios, and recommended that "a high-level team be established to complete a more comprehensive review of the gold trading and foreign exchange trading markets to better understand their inner workings and implications".

It is widely believed that some cambios are linked to illegal gold trading, the drug trade, and money laundering.

"An examination of the predicate offences for ML indicates that over the assessed period there were numerous investigations and charges; however, none resulted in 'parallel ML investigations', much less ML prosecutions. The true magnitude

of the amount of illegal proceeds these crimes generated was mostly estimated since adequate information was unavailable," the report stated.

The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism National Coordination Committee analysed 20 serious offences listed as predicate in the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

"Although there were only two convictions over the assessed period which resulted in the confiscation of (US) \$37,554, the estimated value

of the proceeds related to this offence stands at (US) \$2.2 billion," stated the NRA report.

The NRA noted that in 2017 it was reported that a major gold smuggling racket was unearthed through the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, which provided Guyana's authorities with a list of persons who had taken gold to the JFK Airport, New York, and declaring it there.

"The smuggling was made possible because Customs and other Gold Board documents were recycled along with seals. Hundreds of millions of dollars of profits were being made but little for Guyana. Considering these factors, smuggling including gold smuggling represents a High Threat of money laundering in Guyana," the report said.

The NRA report emphasised that the findings are based on statistical evidence of investigated and prosecuted cases, and on the value of proceeds confiscated, as well as estimated to have been generated from the crimes, while estimates are based mainly on media reports, and suspicious transaction reports filed with the Financial Intelligence Unit.

In the second half of 2019, the FIU set about to determine whether there was information to support the assumptions that USD traded through the illegal roadside cambios, and even legitimate cambios were being used to support illegal gold trade between Guyana and Venezuela during the period January 2018 to July 2019.

Another case that is believed to have links to mining, drugs, and money laundering is that of Guyanese, Shervington Lovell, who was arrested in Jamaica by US authorities in October 2018 on drug-related charges. Lovell's company had apparently invested more than \$1.2 billion in real estate, with \$766 million allegedly coming from a shell mining company.

Circumstantial evidence indicates that mining, money laundering, and drugs are closely tied. It seems as though some individuals may have established mining companies which actually do not engage in mining. But yet these companies report the discovery of large quantities of gold.

Apparently, these companies use cash obtained from drug trafficking to buy gold from legitimate producers, and then sell the gold through official sources, thereby legitimising the dirty drug money.

Therein lies a few problems. One, reported gold production rises; two, legitimate producers sell gold illegally, thereby robbing the government of royalties; three, dirty drug money enters the banking system legally; and four, the supposedly legal money obtained by illegal means is used to acquire real estate property.

Arguably, there are measures in place to identify legitimate sources of gold, but whether they are diligently implemented remains questionable. Incidentally, official monitoring and supervision of production activities remain challenging.

Local reports claim that the US and Guyanese law enforcement agencies, including those responsible for fighting financial crimes, have been keeping their eyes on certain gold mining operations. Dossiers have been reportedly compiled on a number of miners and data shared with international partners.

While the government and regulators have had knowledge of gold smuggling for almost two decades, former President Donald Ramotar said that during his tenure in office the US never

raised the issue of gold smuggling with him.

He was then referring to a 2012 incident in which 476 pounds of gold, believed to have originated from Guyana, were stolen from the Guyanese fishing boat *Summer Bliss*, which was docked in the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao. The vessel was apparently on its way to Miami, but made a stop in Curaçao. The gold was valued at approximately (US) \$11.5 million.

In another smuggling incident, it was reported that Brazil was conducting an investigation involving a Guyanese businessman, who was said to be part of a smuggling ring where some (US) \$16.4 million of illegally mined gold was laundered through shell companies in the food and medical supply industries.

Since the US sanctions, the government has announced plans to put measures in place to curb smuggling. Last month, the Ministry of Natural Resources met with jewelers and goldsmiths, as part of a new attempt to streamline the gold industry, and bring operators in line with the laws governing the sector.

Under the Guyana Gold Board Act, jewelers and goldsmiths are required to be licensed by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, and to purchase all of their gold from the Guyana Gold Board.

However, at the meeting it was discovered that only a "handful" of the jewelers and goldsmiths are in compliance with the laws governing the industry.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, said his Ministry, along with the GGMC and the Gold Board, is prepared to work with the jewelers and goldsmiths to bring them in conformity with the laws

Minister Bharrat also said the government has been working over the past three-to-four years, to get miners to declare all of their gold, but noted that getting miners to do that remains a challenge.

In early June, Vice-President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo announced intensified actions against smuggling, stating that gold smuggling in Guyana is not merely an issue of lost revenue, it strikes at the heart of national integrity and economic fairness.

Jagdeo said smugglers are not acting on a whim; they are part of well-organised networks that manipulate market dynamics to their advantage. He said some gold dealers were offering rates higher than the international market price, which suggests a deeply entrenched black market where gold is trafficked, not for legitimate economic activities, but for purposes that likely include money laundering and other forms of financial crime.

He noted that the government must ensure that its efforts are sustained and systemic. This means not only pursuing the foot soldiers, but also targeting the masterminds behind these operations. It requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal reforms, enhanced border controls, and international cooperation.

Evidently, gold smuggling is entrenched in Guyana. Besides targeting individuals, the government must engage all affiliated agencies/institutions within its ambit to deal with the problem, including GGMC, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Special Organised Crime Unit, the Guyana Revenue Authority, local banks, and affiliated public servants. It is also apparent that individuals within some of these agencies might be compromised. Therefore, there can be no foxes in the henhouse.

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



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Acting Consul General for Trinidad and Tobago, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette (centre), speaks with Grenada's Consul General Gerry Hopkins (at left), and Uni-TnT members at Bedessee Imports Ltd following the donation of \$30,000-plus in emergency items to Grenada last week. *Photo by Russell Lutchman*

Uni-TnT reaches out to aid Grenada

The United Trinbago West Indian Association recently donated over \$30,000 in foodstuff and other emergency items to victims of Hurricane Beryl in Carriacou, Petite Martinique, and the northern part of Grenada.

Working with Uni-TnT to facilitate its latest charitable outreach was Raymond Bedessee at Bedessee Imports Ltd.

According to Uni-TnT's Carlos Maharaj, the items that are being shipped from Bedessee's to the hurricane-hit islands include canned foodstuff and other emergency relief items to aid nationals as they rebuild following the widespread damage.

Uni-TnT, and other charitable groups here in the GTA, have been working with the Grenada Consulate and Grenada Disaster Preparedness Toronto to coordinate the outpouring of sup-

port following the disaster.

Led by Grenada's Consul General Gerry Hopkins, the outreach and support have seen multiple steps taken to inform, listen to, coordinate, engage, and mobilise members of the Grenada and Caribbean community here in the Canadian diaspora.

As the Consulate General has noted, its response objective is to achieve optimal results to benefit victims of Hurricane Beryl victims.

Present for the donation at Bedessee Imports on July 19 were Consul General for Grenada Gerry Hopkins; Acting Consul General for Trinidad and Tobago Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette; President of Grenada Disaster Preparedness Toronto, Unison Joseph; Uni-TnT's team Tony Chankar, Mahadeo Sankar, and Carlos Maharaj; and Bedessee's Raymond Bedessee.

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Captain Jay puts TCCF into cruise

Toronto – The Caribbean Children Foundation held its 20th annual boat cruise on July 7 in a well-attended event that packed the Enterprise 2000 with friends, supporters, and volunteers.

On board the vessel were participants who partied to resonating and upbeat Caribbean music, and who all enjoyed delicious Caribbean cuisine while contributing to a worthy fund-raiser to help Caribbean children with critical medical needs.

Yet again this humanitarian and philanthropic enterprise was captained by TCCF’s hardworking president, Jay Brijpaul, along with the charitable group’s crew of devoted and dedicate volunteers.

So far, the TCCF has assisted over 385 less fortunate children in the past 20 years.

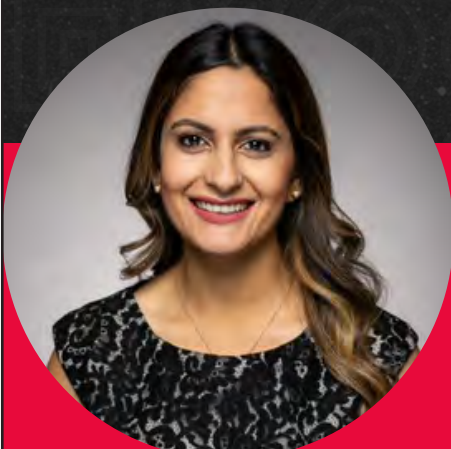
And as the TCCF continues to note, its remarkable commitment to the children ensures that all the funds raised go directly towards their much-needed, critical, and life-saving care. As Jay notes, there are no administration and other costs.

Call Jay at [905-840-5369](tel:905-840-5369) for more information.



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Mottley addresses the nation on the crime surge

Mottley calls for a peaceful Barbados

Bridgetown – An upsurge in criminal violence has seen Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley urging citizens to intervene in a united effort to restore peace to the island, the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported earlier this month.

Mottley also asked Barbadians to participate in a national endeavour that saw the nation taking a five minute pause earlier in a gesture of national unity and peace-making.

She told Barbadians that they should step up in a united effort to “see, touch, engage, or participate” in returning peace to the island.

“I ask now every Barbadian, each of us, to pause for five minutes... for silent reflection wherever we are, whatever we are doing, other than, of course, the essential services,” Mottley stated during a national broadcast.

As of last week, Barbados had recorded an increase in murders, with the authorities saying that the estimated 30 killings are more than double the total for last year.

In response, Mottley warned that law enforcement authorities will deal sternly with “a handful of individuals who seek to cause panic in the country”.

She told Barbadians that even in the midst of the annual Crop Over activities, they should reflect on the need for a peaceful Barbados.

“I know it is Crop Over, and I know it is Kiddies Kadooment, but it is important that we pause and reflect for five minutes, even in Kiddies Kadooment... to send a signal that the majority of us want to build the common peace. We want a peaceful Barbados, and that we are committed to stepping up and putting in the hard work towards it.”

While Mottley did not announce any new policy initiatives to stem the tide of violence, or to address its root cause, she nonetheless highlighted gang activity, drug abuse, and the impact of social media and violent video games on youth.

She called for a renewed focus on moral and religious education, telling Barbadians “we must immediately address the absence of religious and moral grounding of our children”.

She also told citizens that they should not turn a blind eye to crime in their communities, adding “by closing our eyes and remaining silent we are indirectly authorising its indiscriminate and unlawful use”.

And she appealed to the various sectors of society to play their part in combating violence, including summer camp leaders, religious institutions, and community leaders. She

stressed the importance of teaching children “the basic difference between right and wrong, and the need to respect human life”.

In her address Mottley acknowledged the need for modernising the criminal justice system, and increasing the efficiency of the courts, noting that the current system is “caught in a 19th-20th century position”.

Said Mottley, “But my friends, we must now come together again to confront the tendency towards violence in this country, a violence driven by anger very often and the inability or unwillingness to resolve conflicts peacefully”.

Mottley also appealed to religious organisations, and to the media, while reiterating the call for collective action and a recommitment to the values that have traditionally defined the Barbadian society.

“Where we must step up individually and collectively is in our commitment to take back our common peace in

Barbados, and to show love and respect to one another,” she stated.

At the same time, she also identified a range of issues contributing to the rise in violent crime, including mental health challenges exacerbated by Covid-19 restrictions, the influence of social media, and the desensitisation of youth to violence through video games and other media.

However, she also expressed particular concern about the prevalence of guns and drug abuse.

“If the bulging pocket in your son, or your grandson’s or granddaughter’s, or your best friend’s pocket looks like a gun, is shaped like a gun, it bulges like a gun, my friends it is most likely a gun,” she stated.

On the issue of drugs, she told the nation “we have to confront this issue of the illegal carrying and use of guns in our country, and the escalating use and abuse of drugs and alcohol, not just drugs”.

Mottley also encouraged Barbadians to speak up when they see signs of wrongdoing.

“Better to open your mouth now and talk, than to hold your belly and bawl,” she said. At the same time, she cautioned against vigilantism.

In her address, Mottley also acknowledged the grief of families who have lost loved ones to violence.

“I saw the picture, the powerful picture... of the three mothers in white as they carried their vigil out... Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and all of the others who have lost family,” she told the nation.



Barbados officers on patrol



Ask Jay...

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TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF MORTGAGE FRAUD: THE DEADLY TORONTO SHOOTING

A mortgage fraud scheme culminated in a deadly office shooting in Toronto, leaving three people dead. Alan Kats, driven by rage and desperation, fatally shot Samira Yousefi and Arash Missaghi before taking his own life.

The incident stemmed from Kat’s belief that Yousefi and Missaghi had swindled his family out of \$1.28 million in a mortgage investment scam. His wife, Alisa Pogorelovsky, said the couple had been embroiled in a lawsuit against Missaghi and others, alleging severe financial losses due to fraudulent activities. Although the allegations were never proven in court, the tension reached a tragic breaking point.

Alan Kats left behind a note accusing Yousefi, Missaghi, and two others, of being responsible for his death. His final plea read, “My death is in the hands of Samira Yousefi, Arash Missaghi... Stop these criminals.”

This incident highlights the widespread issue of mortgage fraud in the Greater Toronto Area, where many innocent victims find themselves caught in the web of deceit. Understanding how to detect and protect against mortgage fraud is crucial. Here are some common red flags and scams to watch out for:

Too Good to Be True Offers

Beware mortgage advertisements offering below-market interest rates, no income verification, or guaranteed approval despite a bad credit history. These enticing offers often aim to collect personal information and steal identity. With your details, fraudsters can take out a mortgage against your property and disappear with the proceeds.

The Second Mortgage Scam

Another scam involves fraudsters selling second mortgages. Typically, second mortgages carry higher interest rates. Scammers advertise on social media, offering these mortgages at a discounted rate. For example, a second mortgage of \$50,000 at 15 percent secured against a property is offered for sale at a discount of \$30,000. The fraudster vanishes with the money once a buyer falls for the trap. The second mortgage is often fraudulently registered against someone’s property, rendering it invalid.

Ponzi Schemes Disguised as Loans

A scammer convinced my parents to lend her \$5,000, promising a 40 percent interest plus full repayment within a week. My parents lent her the money, and she promptly paid them \$2,000 in interest. Overjoyed, my parents lent her \$10,000 next, and she again spent the interest. My parents shared their success with friends and neighbours, who also lent money to the scammer. However, she disappeared with everyone’s money once the pot was sizable. Similar schemes often underpin mortgage fraud, where perpetrators raise funds by promising high returns and vanishing with the loot. Tragically, this was Alan Kats’ experience.

Reverse Mortgage Scams

Reverse mortgage scams are on the rise. A reverse mortgage allows homeowners to exchange their home equity for regular payments, typically supplementing retirement income. Unlike traditional mortgages, the principal increases over time due to accrued interest. Scammers exploit this arrangement to access properties, re-mortgage them, and extract the equity. Many elderly fall prey to these scammers.

Document Falsification

To secure a mortgage, buyers must complete an application and provide employment documents, such as recent letters and pay stubs. Providing false information constitutes mortgage fraud. If the fraud is detected before closing, the lender may refuse to finance the deal, leaving the buyer unable to close due to insufficient funds. In such cases, the seller can sue the buyer. If discovered post-closing, the lender can recall the mortgage and sell the property under the power of sale.

To avoid becoming a victim of mortgage fraud, always use reputable lenders. Please avoid responding to advertising that offers cheap mortgage rates and guaranteed loan approvals, and be careful of anyone offering quick money-making schemes.

Alan Kats’ story reminds us of the consequences of mortgage fraud. Staying vigilant and informed is the best defence against falling prey to such schemes. A rule of thumb is to deal with reputable people, or if you need something, ask a close friend or family member for a referral.

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Hate and intolerance in the city – We should be building bridges instead

By Dhanpaul Narine

The attempted assassination on Donald Trump has transfixed the nation. It has dominated television and social media and ‘breaking news’ never seems to stop. There will be a myriad of questions over security, and the political rhetoric that is being used to ‘amp up’ the emotions of ordinary people. It is time to revisit hate in the city, and to look at what was done in the past to combat it, especially in the Queens community in New York.

There are over 1,000 organised hate groups in the US. Their aim is to cause mayhem and destruction by using religious, and other differences, to spread hate. It is reported that since 2000, hate groups rose by over 50 percent.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, “their rise has been fueled by growing anxiety over jobs, immigration, racial and ethnic diversity, the election of Barack Obama as America’s first Black president, and the lingering economic crisis. Most of them merely espouse violent theories; some of them are stockpiling weapons and actively planning attacks”.

The US Congress defines a hate crime as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by the offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation”. Hate crimes are usually violent in nature, and no nationality appears to be excluded in the attacks.

According to the FBI, most hate crimes appear to be motivated by race. But, as we have seen in the attack of Donald Trump, race may not have been a factor. In 2013, race accounted for around 49 percent of crimes that were reported. The breakdown showed that Blacks topped the list as victims with 54 percent, followed by Whites at 16 percent, Hispanics ten percent, Asians five percent, American Indians 1.3 percent, and Others at nine percent.

The incidence of hate crimes based on religious affiliation tells another story. During 1995 to 2000, and 2001 to 2012, Jews topped the list as victims with over 50 percent. Significant increases in the numbers are to be found in the Muslim community. For example, during 1995 to 2000, Muslims as victims were two percent, but during 2001 to 2012 it increased to 12 percent. The ‘Other’ religion category remained constant at around 10 percent.

There are active hate groups all over the US. California tops the list with 57; Florida is second with 50; and New York is third with 44. The haters do not discriminate. They attack people for flimsy reasons, and in some cases for no reason at all.

The killing of an Imam and his assistant in Ozone Park in Queens, NY, drew condemnation from a wide cross-section of the community. These, and other hate crimes, prompted the Interfaith Council for Community Development to call a meeting in Queens in New York, sometime ago, to discuss ‘Peace, Safety and Security’ in the community.

The meeting was held at the Starlite Pavilion and representatives from various organisations attended. Mohamed Hack welcomed the participants, and asked for tolerance and for all mankind to get to know each other in peace. He said that in the last three months hate crimes have sent a shock wave in Queens, and have taken a toll on everyone, including the law enforcement community.

Imaam Ahmad Hamid, as the moderator, thanked Pastor Matthew Singh for allowing the Council to use the Starlite Pavilion to host the meeting. Pastor Singh has been in the forefront in promoting peaceful causes.

Councilman Barry Grodenchik began by asking for walls to be broken down as the needs of the communities are basically the same. People may not look or sound alike, but they want the same things: peace and security for their families.

“People are landing at JFK Airport as we speak to start a new life in America, and we have to be tolerant. Our differences are really



minor,” he remarked.

This writer said that we meet at a very challenging time in the history of our country. The US needs mutual respect and tolerance more than ever. One good place to start this conversation is in the home. However, respect and tolerance and problem-solving should also become part of the school system.

This writer also said that the killing of an Imam is akin to the destruction of a reservoir of knowledge, and from all accounts Imam Alauddin Akonjee served his community well as did his assistant Thara Mirah.

This writer ended by quoting Martin Luther King who said that the “time is always right to do what is right”, and suggested further that social media be used to combat hate. The revolution, he said, will be digitised.

Peter Fontanez from the New York ‘Good Neighbors Coalition’ spoke about the importance of working together to create a paradise of neighborhoods. He advocated programs in which peoples from the various communities should get to know each other, and to appreciate each other’s culture.

Assemblyman David Weprin said our strength is in our diversity, and that a hate crime against any group is a crime against all of us. He added that he has championed the Religious Garb Bill in Albany that would include facial hair for religious reasons.

Weprin referred to a *New York Times* article, which states that some sections of the population have reservations about 9/11 being observed on the same day as Eid-ul- Adha. He said there was no need to fear anything, as we have to show our tolerance, and it was important for all communities to become active politically.

Senator Leroy Comrie said that there is need to combat hate speech and acts of hate. We need to continue to hold meetings to focus on hate, and to come up with proposals to overcome it, he said. One should utilise all forums to highlight the problems. According to Comrie, “we need to push back hate and to use education to do this as nobody wants to go backwards”.

Dr Inderjit Singh represented the Sikh community. He said that, “God created the Sikhs last and he gave them the task of protecting others. The next time you see a Sikh in a turban look at him as a protector of your rights.”

After the tragedy of September 11, 2001 Sikhs were mistaken for Muslims, and were attacked. Sikhs are brothers and sisters with

everyone, Inderjeet said.

It was the turn of Shaikh Safraz Bacchus of Masjid al Abidin to make his contribution. He said that he was a student of the Citizen’s Police Academy along with Imam Hamid, and they saw at firsthand the challenges that police officers face every day. He stated that we live in a city with commonalities. We have “the same heart and we need to communicate better to

ensure that whatever fears exist will go away”.

The Commission on Human Rights was also represented. Frank Joseph and his colleague Rama Issa said that one of the aims of the Commission is to foster good relations between communities. An attack on one religion is an attack on all. The Commission is a resource for all, and New York City has some of the most robust human rights laws, and the Commission is making grassroots outreach to teach the community about their rights.

Captain James Fey from the 106th Precinct said that there is much for all of us to learn from each other, and that tolerance is important. Captain Deodat Urprasad from the 102nd Precinct said that the NYPD is here to serve the public, but to do so it needs the participation of all. Crime is down by 19 percent in the 102nd Precinct, and this reduction is as a result of the residents and the Precinct working together.

Dr Faizuddin Shuayb dealt with the stereotypes that affect the Muslim community. He said that there is a whole industry on Islamophobia in America that creates a negative narrative. Muslims should try to make their voices heard, especially the moderate Muslim voices, and the challenge is to have a unified community and jurisprudence.

Imam Azeem Khan from Masjid Omar Ben Abdel-Aziz stated that his mosque worked against the odds to promote peace in the neighborhood.

Ashook Ramsarran called for regular meetings to discuss the need for tolerance, while Nazar Mustafa summarised the proceedings by asking all communities to work together to promote peace and tolerance.

This was a good effort by the Interfaith Council to discuss hate and its implications. The Council will do well to continue the dialogue and to bring the various groups together in the name of peace.

Congratulations to Dr Budhendranauth Doobay on being appointed a Member of the Order of Canada

The Kissoon family extends heartiest congratulations to Dr Doobay on this glorious recognition to the prestigious Order of Canada.

From the entire Kissoon family, led by its siblings, in-laws, grandparents, and grandchildren.

We are all proud of this signal and eminent achievement!



"The Order of Canada recognises individuals who have made positive and lasting impacts on communities here in Canada, or who have brought honour to our country abroad."
**Governor General
Mary Simon**





Celebrating Dr Doobay's Order of Canada

From Page 1

benefits all of us, not just here in Richmond Hill, but I am also very proud to know that [it] spills over into other countries. We are very fortunate... here in Richmond Hill, and we are sharing that fortune and goodwill with other countries that need it most."

While Mayor West noted Dr Doobay's care and goodwill extended beyond Canada's borders, Winston Kassim spoke directly to the good work being done in Guyana at the Doobay Gafoor Medical Centre.

As Kassim informed his listeners, Dr Doobay set up the centre after he learned how "the poor people in Guyana were virtually sent home to die when they could not afford proper dialysis treatment".

A "resolute" Dr Doobay then proceeded to set up the centre, Kassim told his listeners. He added that it has since grown ten-fold, and has expanded from dialysis to include out-patients, laboratory, radiology, and other related services.

As Kassim noted, Dr Doobay's "drive and

determination to accomplish his ambitious goals are a testament to how very blessed he is."

And as Mayor West alluded to Dr Doobay's determination, so did Kassim focus on Dr Doobay's tenacity to get the job done. Thus it was that the work accomplished at the centre in Guyana led to medical experts at McMaster University agreeing to offer their time and at their own expense by traveling to Guyana to provide advice and counsel, Kassim stated.

Kassim also informed his listeners as a volunteer he has been offering "monitoring and evaluation expertise" during expansion of Dr Doobay's medical facility.

He ended his address by expressing gratitude to Dr Doobay for "inviting and including all of us on this journey of the birth and growth of Doobay Gafoor Medical Centre... we feel blessed and privileged to be part and parcel of this journey in saving lives", he declared.

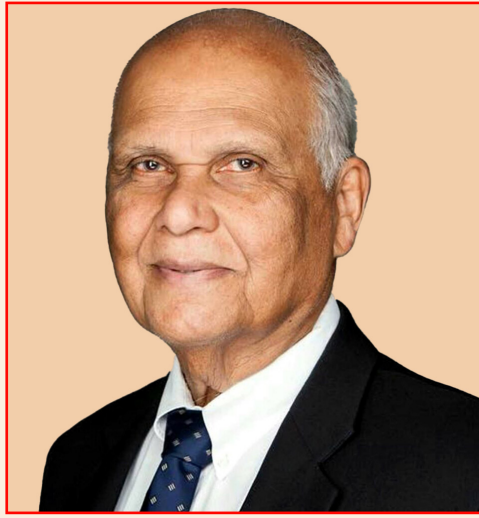
Kassim is also a Member of the Order of Canada, and a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for Volunteerism.

BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGHA CANADA

(Branch: Bharat Sevashram Sangha - Kolkata, India)
 Founder: Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj

The Canada Sevashram Sangha Inc. with its Executives and Members extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Budhendra Nath Doobay on being awarded the Order of Canada, the highest and prestigious civilian honour in the country. The Diaspora communities are indeed proud that the Government of Canada has recognised your invaluable and stellar contributions to medicine, religion, and culture. As you are a dynamic and dedicated proponent of Sanatan Hindu dharma for all your life in Canada, this is a timely and well-deserved Award.

Dignitaries, guests, and volunteers at the Peace Park. KP Studio photos



Dr Budhendranauth Doobay

HINDU FEDERATION



The Hindu Federation offers its congratulations to Dr. Budhendranauth Doobay for being appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Doobay is the founder of the Hindu Federation and one of its ambassadors.

The Order of Canada is one of our country's highest honours that recognises people across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to our nation.

The motto of the Order, DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM, translates to "They desire a better country". However, Dr. Doobay's contributions transcend national boundaries, including in India, Pakistan, Haiti, and Turkey. But it is in Guyana that he has left an indelible mark through his establishment of the Doobay Gafoor Medical Research Centre, which provides medical care and dialysis services for the less fortunate.

In Canada, he founded the Vishnu Mandir, which has become a multi-faceted organisation that includes a Senior's Home, Montessori

School, Peace Park and Museum of Indian Civilisation.

Dr. Doobay's contribution to the Hindu community is much more profound than is apparent. His personal relationships with community members in the capacity as friend in need, physician, and guidance counsellor make him the special person that he is.

To Canadians, he is a great contributor to health care and the well-being of all through his work as a medical professional. To the Guyanese diaspora, he is a great Son of Guyana; and to the Hindu community in Canada and around the world, he is an icon of Hinduism.

We of the Hindu Federation are proud to be associated with Dr. Doobay, and share the sentiments of thousands who believe that this recognition is most deserving and long overdue. We hope that is a trend that will see many more deserving individuals from the minority communities receive this honour in the future.

About the Hindu Federation

The Hindu Federation is an amalgamation of temples of varied Hindu denominations and other organisations in Canada. It serves as a platform to bring into the glare of publicity, our great community, and to celebrate its achievements in the areas of religion, arts, culture, and heritage.

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Ramkirath's gift to young people - A balanced perspective on life

By Petamber Persaud

Who dares write for young people! Writing in itself is challenging. But writing for youths! Well, in his new collection, *Poems For Guyana's Youth*, Haimnauth Ramkirath has undertaken this with a beauty that hides the skill, perspiration, and endless hours it took in curating his thoughts with exacting use of language to make for easy absorption and digestion.

Of course, you will still see the scars, the healed scars of growing pains, but now worn like medals, badges of honour. And, of course, you will feel and empathise with the author's nostalgia, the longing for bygone (boy-gone) days. The recognition that we have lost something that William Wordsworth intimated in, *The World is too much with us... Little we see in Nature that is ours*. We cannot help but to reflect if it is not the same sentiment that is echoed in these lines of Haimnauth's:

*But now I wonder what has gone –
the gladsome rain holds no charm.*

I run and run from every drizzle along the dam.

Something I lost along these cobbled streets and thoroughfares.

It is useful to note that this collection does not start with the author's words, but with the words of Guyana's most influential and illustrious poet, Martin Wilde Carter, setting the tone of the collection. With the use of this poem by Carter, *A Child Ran Into The Sea*, Ramkirath indicates that he is grounded in the literature of Guyana, the nuances that only literature can bring forth. And he measures up quite admirably alongside his literary ancestors. To Ramkirath's credit, with this collection, he has added to a short list of Guyanese writing for young people, which includes John Agard, Grace Nichols, among others.

I was attracted to Ramkirath's work via social media mainly through the comments to his posts on Facebook, not so much the likes (from acquaintances), but the connections he made. Connectivity is vital in this sort of lone wolf task of writing, and more so writing for the young, even though writing has its own inherent rewards. Find examples in these poems: *A Tap On The Shoulders*, *At The Street Corner* that is "stage for every debate and fight," and *A Felt Closeness*...

*Not from that little smart ubiquitous thing that knows no rest,
and brings the whole world into the living room or the conference –
but people talking to people in a felt closeness
of a tap on shoulder, a look into the eyes, and a warm embrace.*

*Something lost when a distance intervenes.
We talk by holding or looking into a screen.*

*.... The touch of a warm hand –
more than words can ever say...*

My eyes popped open, and I glanced around. Why did everything appear in different shades of grey? Was I in a bizarre monochrome dreamworld? Was I still sleeping but thought that I was awake? I stared at the ceiling with my palms cradling the back of my head, enveloped by the silence that caused my ears to ring.

My head spun toward a buzzing sound at the side of my bed. I yelped and jumped back at the sight of what I perceived to be a see-through ash-grey toddler with an evil grin and arms stretched out toward me menacingly. I gasped when I saw him wearing my baby's clothes, but the exposed parts of his body sparked with static, making it impossible to recognise him.

I stared at him in horror with my bed cover pulled up to my chin and my back pressed against the wall at the far end of the bed when he glanced behind for a moment. He floated into the air and hugged my wife's dress which moved on its own without her in it. He seemed to be bawling when he exited the room in a backward bumpy pattern while stretching his arms toward me, but all I heard was the sound of the static fading away by distance. The door closed on its own after he left, leaving me breathless with a thumping heart. I have never had a ghostly encounter before, neither awake nor in a nightmare.

After a series of deep breaths to slow my heart and gather enough courage to get out of bed, I entered the hallway outside my bedroom and turned toward my baby's nursery, worried that he was a mischievous spirit looking to haunt our most vulnerable family member, our innocent baby Jimmie. He had already taken possession of Jimmie's clothes. I feared that I was dealing with the most dangerous demon who seemed intent on playing deceptive mind games with me.

I entered the nursery just in time to see him lower himself onto Jimmie's bed. A cold chill made me shiver when I saw an empty nursing bottle lower itself into his mouth. It stayed upright

So, what can we expect in this work – more than meets the eyes. For instance, in his opening poem *My Young Friends*, he shows two stages of life (it is useful to note here that the collection is divided into two parts):

*The world hesitates, but you never doubt
your little hands can send the ball to kiss the clouds.
It's the rope and not your feet that asks
for rest—
from the skipping, ...
And I would rather be with you for a
jaunty while,
than in this place where people grope and
whine.
But the knees protest and so does the
back...*

And he follows up with the stages between, exhorting us to "listen to stories of your ancestors" as we "Sway to the beat of the bongo, dolak, and tassa", describing the festivals of his native land, its folklore, the fauna and flora that come alive in his hand, even the people – workers of the land – are unforgettable like the cow minder, the wood seller, the channa man, the cane cutter, and of course there is cricket, and "a bottle of rum" – the rum culture.

Ramkirath invokes the wisdom of the grandmother:

*one ounce of prevention better than a pound of cure.
don't hang your hat where your hand cannot reach.
you never miss the water till the well run dry.
what sweet ah goat mouth does sour he backside.
easy snake does bite hot.
moon ah run till day ketch am.
can't suck cane and blow whistle.
every skin teeth is no laugh.
na tek yuh mattee eye fuh see.
what you see daytime, don't look fuh at night with fire stick.*

Repeatedly he glorifies the land of his birth. He extols the Kiskadee, the Hibiscus, the grandeur of Kaieteur, the Victoria Amazonica Lily, Laura, the parrot, and the "Sweet Rain". He looks past locations reaching to the earth, the naked ground, the pasture, and invoking Cuffy, Kowsilla, the Enmore Martyrs, and other freedom fighters as he himself sought to defend the land against Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro.

Ramkirath knows what education can do, but cautions us while reaching for the stars to be still grounded. He devotes lots

of attention to education, book learning, even as he extols the virtues of nature as the best educator.

A Treasured thing

*Hold the book; open it.
Run your fingers along its spine.
Turn the pages and feel them.*

*Take in that whiff of fresh ink on crisp paper.
It's the best perfume.
It will enter your soul, and be there when
you're old.*

A good book – treasured thing.

Here's another treasured thing – nature:

*There's no obituary for the fallen saman tree.
No solemn march; no black ribbons worn.
There're no candles; no scribbled messages
at its roots.
Not even a mark to show where it stood.*

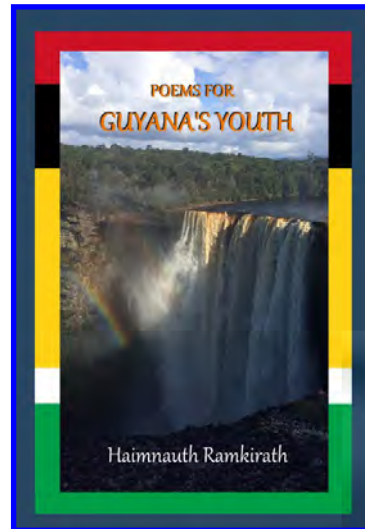
It would be useful to us all as grown-ups to remember that we have inherited the earth and all wherein – the joys and sorrows, and so on, and it behooves us that we leave this earth/world in a better state for our descendants to inherit. And Ramkirath exhorts us that in the quest for economic progress, we have to be mindful of what we leave to posterity:

*And what a poverty in that prosperity –
clouds leaving a glum trail over thoroughfares and high rises –
when we hear no bees buzzing on the silk cotton tree,
and no frogs croaking in swollen ponds by the deserted church-
yard.*

Looking back can be heart-wrenching, but in the hands of a superior storyteller it can be healing, and this is what Ramkirath has done in this collection – offer a balanced view/perspective of life; this is a gift to young people.

Ramkirath was an educator before migrating to the US in 1991. He has published five works of poetry: *At Ease Like The Blooming Lotus*, *Troubled World*, *Rhythms of Ease & Wonder*, *Unsung Verses*, and *Stirrings Of Hope & Other Poems*. This is his sixth work showing the development of a writer with much more to share. [Poems for Guyana Youths is available here.](#)

*Petamber Persaud is the author of
An Introduction to Guyanese Literature.*



The Supernatural The Dream

Kamil
Ali



on its own while the ghost baby sucked on its nipple. When he sensed my presence, he turned to give me a threatening staticky smile as if to say, 'Dare me'. My blood drained to my feet. He was trying to intimidate me and it was working! I scampered out of the room with short shallow breaths that threatened to suffocate me.

I went in search of the rest of my family. The TV was on in the living room. I could see the glow but could not define the images on the screen. Stacy's clothes sat on the sofa, upright and filled by an invisible body. Troy's clothes did the same on a beanbag while a cell phone hovered on its own in front of his clothing.

When I entered the kitchen, the stove was on and two pots sat on the burners. Whatever they contained was invisible to me. Marge's clothes stood in front of the stove but my wife was not in them. I gasped when the pots lifted themselves one at a time to lean sideways, and aided by a pot spoon that took on a life of

its own, poured their invisible contents into containers on the counter. Lids lifted themselves and sealed the containers shut.

My body froze and my stomach churned. My house was haunted and my family had fallen victim to some kind of malevolence that abducted them and took over their roles in the family.

I tried to shake myself awake but the nightmare continued. I cried out for Marge. I needed her to wake me up from this terrible nightmare that trapped me in a terrifying world that made no sense. Panic made me start to hyperventilate. My lungs sucked at the air with rapid short shallow breaths to extract

as much oxygen as possible, yet I felt like my desperate gasping for air was not effective. I was slowly suffocating to death.

After Marge's apron floated off her clothing and placed itself on the backrest of a chair at the kitchen table, I stepped aside to let her clothing move past me. I followed them to the nursery where they leaned over the baby who smiled at them and dropped the feeding bottle, which rose into the air alongside him. Together, the three moved to the living room where the clothes belonging to Stacy and Troy rose into an upright position and followed the trio of Marge, the baby, and the bottle out the back door.

I tried to follow but found myself trapped in my home with no escape. I used every ounce of strength to kick and punch myself awake, but my efforts were met with a defiant nightmare that retaliated by tightening its stranglehold on me. Paralysis' icy fingers held me down on my bed. In my eerie dreamworld, I was in the kitchen and a split second later, I was in bed fighting for my life without my family there to protect me. I shivered from a cold sweat and blacked out.

Distant echoing voices entered my head and brought me into a semiconscious state that allowed me to hear but I was unable to move any muscles. I peered through the slit that my eyelids' involuntary muscles created when they relaxed. I saw the outlines of Marge and the kids hovering over me.

"The effects of the anesthetics are starting to wear off." The doctor skinned each eye open and flashed a bright light into them. I cursed him for the instant headache he had caused me.

When I recovered and we returned home, Marge explained that I was babysitting Jimmie when I had a heart attack. The baby's screams had alerted her while she was cooking. Her 911 call had left me in limbo, but ultimately saved my life.



Arrest of taxi driver for not helping police officer may be illegal says expert

Port-of-Spain – The arrest of taxi-driver Careem James for allegedly failing to help police officers apprehend a suspect may have been illegal, a member of Trinidad and Tobago’s legal fraternity said last week.

Speaking on CNC3’s *The Morning Brew*, attorney-at-law Martin George argued that James may not have committed an arrestable offence.

“An arrestable offence is one for which you could be in prison for a term of five years, at least,” George stated.

Family plans to seek safety abroad

Port-of-Spain – The family of a man killed in Belmont in north Trinidad last week has indicated they will seek asylum abroad. The family has said that Trinidad and Tobago is no longer a safe place, and are fearful that warring gangs could end their bloodline if they do not leave the country.

Unwilling to be named by the media over fear of reprisal by criminals, the family members sought anonymity to speak with reporters at the Forensic Science Centre in St James.

One family member told reporters, “The crime situation is overbearing now.” He also claimed that the murdered family member, Shaquille Parreira “wasn’t a criminal”.

Parreira was shot multiple times around on July 11 as he waited for a taxi to go to work that morning. He was 26 years old, and lived at Upper Belmont Valley Road in Belmont.

According to police reports, Parreira died after a gunman emerged from a white car and shot the victim multiple times. He died at the scene.

Meanwhile, family members who heard the volley of gunshots told the media they were unaware he was a target in the latest explosion of gang warfare in the Belmont community.

Indicating his four children were scared

He added, “Under Section 60 of the Police Service Act, the law speaks to the penalty for this [offence] is imprisonment for up to one year. Then this does not come under the definition of an arrestable offence.”

According to police reports out of Trinidad and Tobago last week, around 4:30 p.m. on July 16, officers attached to the Transit Police Unit on patrol in the City Gate area were at the La Horquetta and Maloney Bay, also known as Bay 4, in at the transport terminal in Port-of-Spain.

to be left on their own since Parreira’s death, one relative speculated that an affiliation with reported gang members from the area could be what led to Parreira’s killing.

“Even if you are a gangster now, I know you from small, and just by people passing and seeing you just talking to them, they will class yuh. This time you are not in nothing, and we won’t shun a boy because we grow up together. We are from the same area,” the relative lamented.

Parreira was a father of one, and was described by relatives as being firmly rooted in the Baptist faith. He was also described as a someone who was focused on providing for his family.

The relative said criminals of today had no code or respect as it was long ago.

“If you went for somebody and didn’t find them, you would leave and swing back; you wouldn’t take the women and children. But it is not that way now,” he stated.

He was also critical of the government of Trinidad and Tobago for mishandling the crime situation, for the lack of jobs, and the inability of people to afford basic food items.

The relative also noted that their house was caught in the middle of the turf that the gangs were fighting over.

While patrolling the area, a female police officer observed a man holding a pouch closely and grasping it in a suspicious manner.

The officer then attempted to search the man, following which a struggle ensued.

According to the police report, the officer allegedly called out to James, who was exiting a maxi taxi at the time, saying loudly, “Sir, can you assist me in the execution of my duties?”

James’ response was a firm, “No”. He then raised his hands in the air, and walked away.

According to Section 60 of the Police Service Act, Chapter 15:01, if a person fails to assist a police officer in making an arrest or who is being assaulted, they can be arrested, charged, and face a fine, or jail time upon summary conviction.

The act also specifies that refusal or neglecting to assist a police officer without reasonable cause can result in a fine of (TT) \$10,000 and imprisonment for one year. This was amended in 2019 (Miscellaneous Provisions, Law Enforcement Act 25 of 2019), increasing the penalties to \$10,000 and three years of imprisonment.

After his arrest, James was granted bail with surety and released.

Speaking to the case, George asked, “Did they have a warrant when they went back to arrest this man? Because if they did not have a warrant, that creates another issue, because

basically the arrest may have been illegal,” he stated.

He also believed that James may have had good reason behind his decision to not render assistance, given the current crime-ridden climate in the country.

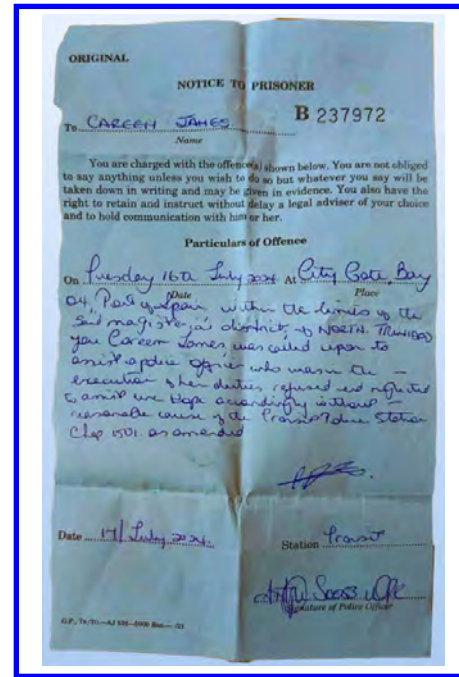
“In the current scenario of Trinidad and Tobago, one could ask oneself why someone would willingly want to expose themselves to the danger, or risk of possibly also being assaulted, by the person whom the police is trying to arrest, or exposing themselves to the risk of reprisal,” he stated.

Additionally, “The situation in the society is such that one can understand the hesitation, the reluctance and the fear that an ordinary citizen would have in [to help].”

George noted that the law also offered an escape clause, stating that without reasonable cause “once the person can indicate, ‘I was afraid for my life... I was afraid I would be assaulted too ... that the person might come back after me’”.

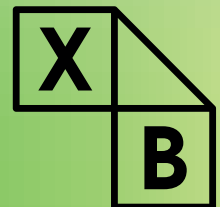
Meanwhile, the Route 2 Maxi Taxi Association has since pledged its support for their colleague James.

Speaking with the media last week, the association’s president, Brenton Knights, said, “The association will stand with this individual, and whatever assistance he requires, or asks of the association, we will try our best to help.”



James’ arrest document

JAMBANA Celebrating EMANCIPATION DAY



Monday, August 5 | 1 – 9 PM
Chinguacousy Park

With musical performances by Fab5, Kirk Diamond, Rayzalution and many more!

The City of Brampton recognizes Emancipation Day and commemorates the abolition of slavery of people of African descent across the British Empire and in Canada.



The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Mughal-e-Azam, Barsaat Ki Raat top-rated movies in the 1960s

By Vidur Dindayal

Mughal-e-Azam [The Great Mughal], Golden Age 1960 release, is a special treat to see. It is exciting and fascinating when you read in *Wikipedia* about how the movie's makers virtually created a palace as a set, and how so much research went into get the right colour and type of dress and into the costumes that were worn at the time.

We know this is what film makers do, but this one is so 'mind-blowing'. No wonder *Mughal-e-Azam* edged past the superb *Mother India* as India's highest grossing movie.

This epic historical drama is about Prince Salim, son of Emperor Akbar, who was madly in love with Anarkali, and rejected his father's wish to forget her. His father sentenced Salim to death, but it was revoked when Anarkali gives herself up to die in his place. She was being entombed alive, with a wall being constructed around her, when her mother reminded Akbar that he owed her a favour. And so he arranged for Anarkali's secret exile with her mother.

Prithviraj Kapoor played Emperor Akbar, Dilip Kumar was Salim, and the beautiful Madhubala was Anarkali.

Naushad was the music director. The songs of *Mughal-e-Azam* were heavily inspired by Indian classical music and folk music, particularly ragas such as *Darbari*, *Durga*, used in the composition of song *Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya*, and *Kedar*, used in the song, *Bekas Pe Karam Keejeye*. The soundtrack of the movie's 12 songs account for nearly one third of the film's running time. The singers were Lata Mangeshkar, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, and Mohammed Rafi.

Mughal-e-Azam received universal acclaim. *BBC* considered it a "benchmark film for both Indian cinema and cinema grandeur in general". Among other glowing praises were, "[Landmark] of cinema, most... passionate piece of work that Hindi cinema has ever produced, the Indian equivalent of *Gone With The Wind*, classic, benchmark, milestone, an epic film in every way."

At the 1961 National Film Awards, *Mughal-e-Azam* won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. Also, in the 1961 Filmfare Awards, *Mughal-e-Azam* was nominated in seven categories: Best Film; Best Director; Best Actress: Madhubala; Best Playback Singer: Lata Mangeshkar; Best Music: Naushad; Best Cinematography; and Best Dialogue.

Barsaat Ki Raat [A Rainy Night], was a 1960 Hindi romantic musical film starring Madhubala, Bharat Bhushan, Shyama, K. N. Singh, Mumtaz Begum, Baby Shobha, and Peace Kanwal. The movie is a Muslim-social, and is set amongst the erudite and cultured urban Muslims of Independent India.

Barsaat Ki Raat revolves around two lovers Shabnam (Madhubala) and Amaan Hyderabadi (Bhushan), who strive to be together, but the society does not approve of them.

Amaan is a talented and struggling Urdu poet trying to make a mark in the world of music. Shabnam, who has not seen him yet, loves his songs and poetry. When they meet accidentally on a stormy rainy night, Amaan and Shabnam fall in love with each other. Problems get in the way. At one time Shabnam is even imprisoned. In another scene Shabnam hear Amaan's voice on the radio – a memorable scene. Eventually the lovers reunite on another rainy night.

The soundtrack of *Barsaat Ki Raat* was composed by Roshan, and lyrics were penned by Sahir Ludhianavi. Its nine songs were the second best-selling soundtrack of 1960 after *Mughal-e-Azam*. The song *Zindagi Bhar Nahin Bhoolegi*, sung by Mohammed Rafi, and again as duet by Lata Mangeshkar and Rafi, topped the music charts that year. The website *Rediff*, calling the film's music its lifeline, placed *Na To Karavan Ki Talash Hai* at second place in the Bollywood's Top Ten *qawwalis*. It was sung by Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Sudha Malhotra, S.D. Batish, and Mohammed Rafi.

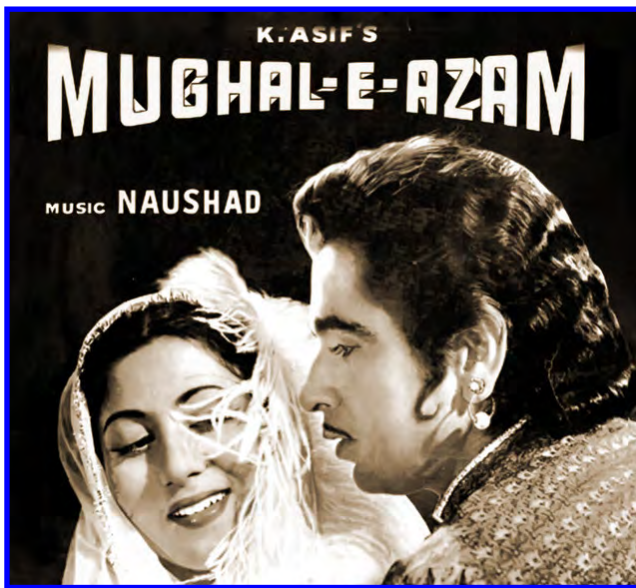
Barsaat Ki Raat received positive feedback from contemporary critics, and was singled out for praise by both critics and audience. A cult film now, it has been lauded by 21st century critics, who have particularly noted Madhubala's performance and the soundtrack. The latter continues to be widely popular and imitated.

The movie features a number of innovative themes, and it has particularly strong female characters who are independent-minded, and who choose their own loves and destiny. It also glorifies the lives of singing girls, who are not often highly regarded in Indian society.

Barsaat Ki Raat was the second highest-grossing film of 1960, the 21st highest earner of the 1960s, and one of the top 100 highest-grossers of all time. It was listed at Number 22 by *Box Office* magazine in their list of "Top 50 Film of Last 50 Years".

Most of the praise was directed towards the film's 'outstanding feature', the *qawwalis*.

The film received acclaim for its music and performances, with the reviewers stating that it "stands apart and breaks away from



the past trends". They also described it as the "greatest-ever musical of all times of the Indian cinema", while praising Madhubala's dramatic performance as one of the finest of her career.

Barsaat Ki Raat is considered a milestone in the history of Indian cinema, and is known for popularising the romantic musical genre in films.

Kohinoor starring Dilip Kumar, Meena Kumari, Leela Chitnis, Jeevan, Mukri, Tun Tun, and Kumkum, was the third-highest grossing Hindi movie of 1960. Songs *Suhani Raat* from *Dulari* and *Sawan Ke Badlo* from *Rattan* are most popular songs ever.

However, *Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re* from *Kohinoor* comes next to these as my most memorable and enjoyable song of all Hindi films. It has a classical style, and for anyone who did not care much for Indian classical singing, this song would be their best introduction.

I recall Dilip Kumar being interviewed about this song and saying he practised playing the tune on the sitar to make it look perfect and real-life, and that his dedication was so intense and repetitive that his fingers were very sore and almost bleeding. Practising on the sitar meant he had to repetitively move the fingers up and down the strings – lower for the high notes, and up to the high part of the strings for the low notes. It is a most wonderful song.

It is also said that Dilip Kumar got into depression after playing tragic roles, as in *Devdas*, that his psychiatrist recommended

to him to do light roles – thus the lighthearted role in *Kohinoor*.

He was cast with Meena Kumari to play a prince and princess of different kingdoms. The movie was full of sword fights, songs, and dances, and was notable for some rare comical and funny scenes by Meena Kumari. It was quite a refreshing change from her well-known roles as tragedy queen.

The film's music was composed by Naushad, with lyrics by Shakeel Badayuni, and became a cult favourite among music lovers for its soul-stirring music compositions. The soundtrack of ten songs features vocals by Mohammed Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar, and Asha Bhosle.

For me, the best known songs in the soundtrack are *Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re*, a classical dance song, composed on *raga Hamir* and sung by Mohammed Rafi, and *Do Sitaron Ka Zameen Par Hai Milan Aaj Ki Raat*, which is sung by Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi.

Dilip Kumar won the Filmfare Award for Best Actor, and Moosa Mansoor won the Filmfare Best Editing Award.

Chhabili was released in 1960, and is a very special movie for me. It was produced and directed by the celebrated and revered star Shobhana Samarth, who played the unforgettable Sita in *Bharat Milap* and *Ram Rajya*. Her daughters Nutan and Tanuja star in *Chhabili*.

Ten years before, in 1950, Nutan starred in her mother's movie *Hamari Beti* [Our Daughter]. It was directed by Shobhana Samarth, the first under her own production company, Shobhana Pictures. It was made to launch the acting career of daughter Nutan, who played the title role at age 14. She also sang the song *Tujhe Kaisa Dulha Bhaaye Re*. The movie also saw the debut of Samarth's younger daughter Tanuja, who appeared as a child artiste.

Samarth and Motilal, who wrote the script, starred as Nutan's parents. The film attracted considerable attention for Nutan's work. During filming she was nervous about her appearance and talents. Later, she recalled how her relatives, who called her ugly, changed their opinions overnight, saying afterwards how proud they were of her.

Critics praised the movie, Motilal's acting, Nutan's fine performance, and Nutan and Tanuja for showing "great promise".

Cinemaya called the movie a "comedy-of-manners scripted with intelligence and sophistication", and revealed Samarth as a director of refined sensibilities aware of the thin line between tears and laughter in everyday life.

After Nutan's career started, she acted in many hit movies. It appeared that singing had taken a backseat, but it was again Shobhana Samarth, who in *Chhabili*, showcased the singer in Nutan like never before.

Starring Nutan, Tanuja, Helen, and Kaysi Mehra, *Chhabili* was produced under the banner of Shobhana Pictures. As already noted, it was made by Shobhana Samarth to launch her daughter Tanuja as the heroine.

Nutan as singer was a revelation to me. Many people are familiar with her career as an actress, but not many know that she had a good singing voice, and had apparently also taken some training in singing. She has also written a few songs as well!

The songs in *Chhabili* were actually sung by by Nutan. The film's two most popular songs are *Ae Mere Hamsafar*, a very rare solo sung in the voice of Nutan, and *Lahron Pe Laher*, which sung by Hemant Kumar and Nutan. Hemant Kumar also sang a solo of *Lahron Pe Laher* for the movie.

Nutan sang other memorable songs in *Chhabili*. The song *O My Darling O My Sweety* is sung by Nutan with Mahendra Kapoor. Unfortunately the movie does not seem to be available like *Hamari Beti*, but the songs are on YouTube.

As far as I know, Kaysi Mehra has acted in only two movies: *Chhabili* (1960) and *Mem Didi* (1961),

I am happy and feel lucky to have a mini-connection to the above. Kaysi Mehra was a classmate of mine at college in India in the late 1950s. In 1962, in Guyana when I was booking films to show in our local village cinema, I saw the leaflet of movie *Chhabili* with Kaysi's picture. It was exciting. I immediately booked the film to show.

Unfortunately, I came away to England before it was shown. I never saw the movie, but I saw *Mem Didi*, starring Kaysi and Tanuja. Two songs with Kaysi are memorable and very entertaining, and Nutan as an actual singer is very special.

I wondered about Kaysi after those two movies. Through modern technology, I saw him on YouTube. I was happy and felt privileged to meet Kaysi again, 61 years since our college days – a very long time, when I visited India in 2019. We had lunch and talked about old times. He looked very well indeed. We acted in two college plays in the late 1950s – J.B. Priestley's *Laburnum Grove*, and Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

As far as I know, after the brief spell as an actor, Kaysi went into business and has done very well as a businessman. He is on YouTube as K.C. Mehra. Bless him.

Praise for Kartik Aaryan following release of biopic Chandu Champion

Kartik Aaryan has impressed fans with his physical transformation following his shooting of the movie, *Chandu Champion*. Also, since the in the biopic drama's release, Aaryan has been receiving acclaim from fans and industry peers for his portrayal of Murlikant Petkar, India's first-ever Paralympic's gold medallist.

In an interview to promote the movie, Aaryan revealed he was "completely anti-social" during the shooting, which involved training, workshops, and maintaining a diet.

"I was living an anti-social life. Not that I was very social before, but during this process, I was completely anti-social. And I started liking it...", he revealed.

He added, "I went to Anees [Bazmee] sir's set. As soon as I started shooting for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, and did my first scene, I was told my energy had dropped, and I needed to increase it. I kept trying to raise it, but after a while, I felt I was acting too much. I even double-checked with him. Finding the right balance was tough."

Aaryan detailed the preparation that went behind playing the real-life character.

"It was about leaving everything that I was eating. Everything I was then eating was new to me. It was something that never tasted good... This has turned me into a very meditative, positive, spiritual person. Not that I was so negative... I was almost an insomniac," he said.

Also, "Working out, and working out properly without thinking about anything. I followed it for one and a half years, two years, and it was a work of patience and perseverance."

Aaryan also said that he had to take swimming and boxing lessons with professionals for the role.

He also opened up about his strict diet plan and how he managed to get fit.

After the trailer release, many viewers noted the actor's major body transformation. In the interview, he revealed his diet plan, and what all he gave up to play the role of Murlikant Petkar.

As he stated, he did a lot of things for the first time, and learnt many new things while prepping for the role.

"I did a lot of things for the first time, and got to learn new things. If you club together the chronicles of his journey, not just



in sports, but his army life and normal life, then you will see it becomes a multi-genre biopic which was a difficult subject for me," he stated.

He added, "I was... doing a movie out of my comfort zone, and this movie was something that taught me a lot."

The preparation was quite rigorous, and he never had a single cheat day, Aaryan stated.

He also revealed what he ate, and what he had to sacrifice.

As he stated, "Wheat, rice, sweets, chocolates, ice cream, burgers, pizza, and so on. I had to stop eating a lot of things for the role. The food that I was eating was in small quantities that I didn't even consider an appetiser. I used to have soup and little fruits. I used to have cauliflower rice, beans, salads, and tofu, and I used to eat these for 1-1.5 years. Yes, there were no cheat meals, no Sundays

for me, every day was working for me in terms of diet, working out."

Aaryan has been receiving praise for his performance in *Chandu Champion*. Following the movie completing one month of its release, Aaryan shared behind-the-scenes photographs of

his training for the filming, along with an appreciation note, on social media.

The photographs showed him with his trainer. Aaryan also posted a note that stated, "It's been a month since #ChanduChampion released in cinemas and the love and appreciation keeps pouring in. Will always be grateful to Sajid Sir and Kabir Sir. #Repost @tridevpandey. It's been a month since Chandu Champion hit the theaters, and it's still going strong! What a journey it has been! @kartikaaryan's 1.5 years of consistent hard workout and determination to do justice to his character has paid off. This picture shows the result of all his training and effort. It proves that anything is possible if you work hard and train well."

Veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha has also indicated he was impressed with Aaryan's performance.

Sinha said, "What a sincere hardworking boy! Kartik deserves all the success he is getting. He is so dedicated and passionate in *Chandu Champion*. *Ek junoon hai uss bachche mein*. [There's a passion in that child.] Please convey my congratulations to him."

Sinha also mentioned that Aaryan should be given a National Award for his performance.

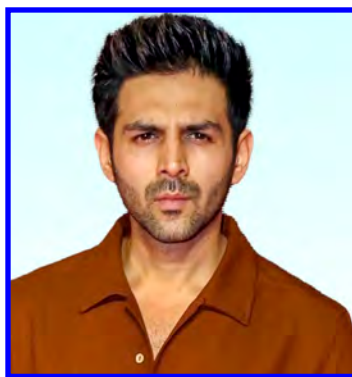
He added, "He should get all the awards for this including the National award."

Sinha compared Aaryan's career with his own Bollywood journey.

As he stated, "*Jab main aaya tha toh baahar ka tha*. [When I entered, I was an outsider.] I had no connections with the industry. Amitabh Bachchan had come with a recommendation letter from Srimati Indira Gandhi. *Mere paas kuch bhi nahin tha*. [I had nothing.] Except self-confidence, just like Kartik. Nor was I a *gora-chitta* [fair-skinned] Punjabi like the ruling heroes of those times, like Dharmendra and Jeetendra. Every ten years the film industry gets one outsider who takes over the industry. After Akshay Kumar it is Kartik Aaryan."

The movie is directed by Kabir Khan, and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala. It also features Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav, Shreyas Talpade, Sonali Kulkarni and Bhuvan Arora. It was released on June 14, and marked the first collaboration between director Kabir Khan and Kartik Aaryan.

Chandu Champion was shot in London, Wai, Jammu, and Kashmir. The movie is co-produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, and Kabir and is backed by the production companies Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, and Kabir Khan Films.



Kartik Aaryan



What do the daily responsibilities of a care worker include?

- Providing care for bed bound senior.
- Light housekeeping tasks including sweeping, mopping, laundry, and meal preparation with preference to Guyanese dishes.
- Providing personal care (getting dressed, washing/bathing, diaper changes, grooming and Feeding meals, meds, liquids, etc.)
- Assistance with ambulation, transfers, daily exercises, and walking.
- Ensuring that the senior's needs and wishes are met.

How to apply

By email: hr@atascargo.com

By mail: 3 Fitzpatrick Drive, Brampton, ON L6P 0P3

This employer promotes equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including those self-identifying as a member of these groups: Apprentices, Indigenous people, Persons with disabilities, Newcomers to Canada, Seniors, Veterans, Visible minorities, Youth. Employer accepts applications from: Canadian citizens & permanent residents of Canada; other candidates with or without a valid Canadian work permit.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Home-Care Worker

- Benefits: Financial benefits, other benefits
- Permanent Employment- Full Time
- \$18.00 to \$26.00 hourly / 40 hours per week
- Starts as soon as possible

- Ability to use a Hoyer lift to transfer from bed to wheel chair.
- Gently encouraging residents to get involved with [recreational activities and hobbies](#).
- Accompany to medical appointments using wheelchair or ambulance if required.
- Ability to treat and care for seniors and their property with dignity and respect.
- Ability to communicate with clients in a friendly and congenial manner.
- Recording and [reporting essential information](#) and relay to key family member.
- Cooperating with other health and social care professionals to provide holistic care.
- Administering medication under supervision (as detailed in their individual medication record).

Hiring Requirements:

- ✓ Personal Support Certification.
- ✓ Successfully complete a mandatory criminal background check.
- ✓ Minimum 2 years PSW Experience caring for the bed bound elderly.
- ✓ Speak fluent English; Understand and speak Guyanese colloquial language.
- ✓ Must have proof of two Covid-19 vaccinations to meet our mandatory vaccination policy.
- ✓ Have the physical ability to perform the functions of the job descriptions and the ability to lift 25lbs.
- ✓ Able to work independently as well as part of a team
- ✓ This is a physically demanding position and requires hand, arm and shoulder dexterity, sensory ability, lifting, walking, climbing stairs, standing, bending, reaching, and frequent movement.
- ✓ Live in only.

Yadav named India's T20 skipper

Suryakumar Yadav has been named India's T20I skipper for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, the Board of Control for Cricket in India confirmed earlier this month while announcing the squads.

The confirmation was reported by the cricket website *Cricbuzz*, and other international sports media.

While Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the entire tour, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been included in the ODI squad.

The selectors also named Shubman Gill as vice-captain of both the squads after he recently led India in the Zimbabwe tour. That was a significant development, considering Hardik Pandya was India's designated deputy in the ODI World Cup in 2023 and the recently-concluded T20 World Cup.

It was reported recently that Hardik's fitness issues could prompt the selectors to not elevate him to captaincy, and the 30-year-old has skipped the ODI leg of the tour.

There were also doubts surrounding the availability of senior pros Rohit and Kohli for the ODIs. However, Gautam Gambhir will have both the stalwarts bolstering the batting lineup in his first assignment as India's new coach.

K.L. Rahul, who was not considered for the T20 World Cup, retains his ODI spot, along with Shreyas Iyer.

However, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja did not make the pick for the ODIs that includes Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag.

Meanwhile, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Abhishek Sharma, who both fared well in the T20I series against Zimbabwe, did not get the pick. Another notable omission was Sanju Samson, who had a century in the last ODI that India featured in, and has also produced reasonable numbers in the limited appearances he has made. However, he retains his spot in the T20I side.

In the pace department, Harshit Rana has been included as the fourth pacer in the ODI squad alongside Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj, and Arshdeep Singh.

Rishabh Pant, who made a successful return to the national team for the T20 World Cup, returns to the ODI setup as well.

Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel will lead the spin department in both ODIs and T20Is. Ravi Bishnoi is the other wrist spin option for India for the T20I leg, while Yuzvendra Chahal, who was part of the T20 World Cup squad, has been excluded.

The tour starts on July 27 with the T20I series in Pallekele, before the teams move to Colombo for the ODIs.



Suryakumar Yadav

Renegades sign Matthews

West Indies all-rounder and women's captain Hayley Matthews signed a one-year deal with the Melbourne Renegades for the tenth season of the Women's Big Bash League in Australia, the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported last week.

The reigning ICC Women's Twenty20 Player-of-the-Year, she rejoins the Renegades under the new contract provision of the WBBL that grants clubs the opportunity of signing overseas players ahead of the player draft.

Matthews said she was looking forward to playing for a third consecutive season with the Renegades in the tournament.

"I'm super excited to be back with the girls. I'm confident I can play a massive role within the team, and help put up some really good performances and hopefully lead us to a finals series," she said.

She added, "I've built some really strong bonds and relationships at the Renegades over the past couple of years. The main thing I can appreciate about this club is the way they bring me in and make me feel so welcome. I can step back into what feels like a massive family."

Also, "We haven't achieved what we've wanted to the last couple of years, but with some key members back, and some new additions cooking up as well, I'm confident we can go out there and put it all together."

Renegades general manager, James Rosengarten said getting the signature of Matthews was a key target for the club's pre-draft list spot.

"We're delighted to have Hayley with us for another season. She's an incredible all-round cricketer and leader, we can't wait to see what she can bring this season with bat and ball. She brings so much to the Renegades, and we're very happy to secure such an in-demand player prior to the draft."

The Renegades welcomed Matthews with great excitement last season after she put on a series of incredible performances for West Indies Women against Australia Women, notably a memorable hundred at North Sydney Oval.



Hayley Matthews

Royals pick Williams, Holder for WCPL squad

International women cricketers Rashada Williams and Trishan Holder have been drafted back into the squad of defending champions, Barbados Royals, for this year's Women's Caribbean Premier League, the *Caribbean Media Corporation* reported last week.

Williams is West Indies Women's wicketkeeper-batsman from Jamaica, while Holder is a 20-year-old emerging Barbadian batter who played the last of her nine Twenty20 Internationals for West Indies Women in February last year.

The international trio of Shabika Gajabi, Cherry Ann Fraser, and Djenaba Joseph, who were a part of Guyana Amazon Warriors last season, were also picked by Royals, along with Barbadian all-rounder Najanni Cumberbatch.

The Amazon Warriors stuck close to home and drafted five Guyanese players to complete their squad: Ashmini Munisar,

Sheneta Grimmond, Realeanna Grimmond, Kaysia Schultz, and Nyia Latchmann. Also, Jamaican pacer Kate Wilmott was also selected.

Trinbago Knight Riders, who had signed up the Indian duo of Jemimah Rodrigues and Shikha Pandey earlier this month, along with the Australian duo of Meg Lanning and Jess Jonnasen, made five picks at the Draft to complete their squad.

TKR snapped up the retired international duo of left-handed batsman Kyshona Knight, and off-spinner Anisa Mohammed, as well as all-rounder Cheaden Nation, Shunelle Sawh, and Jannillea Glasgow.

The three-team tournament will be played from August 21-29 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LIBERAL MPS AND THE LIBERAL BLACK CAUCUS:

On August 1st, we celebrate Emancipation Day, honouring the legacy and resilience of enslaved people of African descent and their enduring journey towards freedom.

Our commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of Black Canadians remains steadfast. We are dedicated to addressing the historical and systemic inequities that persist, through funding Black-led organizations, supporting Black entrepreneurs to developing Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy and implementing Canada's Black Justice Strategy.

On Emancipation Day, we stand united with advocates and champions of equality, reaffirming our pledge to work towards a society where freedom and justice are realities for all.

UN MESSAGE DE VOS DÉPUTÉS LIBÉRAUX ET DU CAUCUS LIBÉRAL NOIR :

Le 1er août, nous célébrons le jour de l'émancipation, en honorant l'héritage et la résilience des personnes d'ascendance africaine réduites en esclavage et leur long voyage vers la liberté.

Notre engagement à faire progresser les droits et le bien-être des Canadiens venant des communautés noires reste inébranlable. Nous sommes déterminés à remédier aux inégalités historiques et systémiques qui persistent, en finançant des organisations dirigées par des personnes noires, en soutenant des entrepreneurs noirs, en développant la Stratégie canadienne de lutte contre le racisme et en mettant en œuvre la Stratégie canadienne en matière de justice pour les personnes noires.

En ce jour de l'émancipation, nous sommes unis aux défenseurs et aux champions de l'égalité, réaffirmant notre engagement à œuvrer pour une société où la liberté et la justice sont des réalités pour tous.



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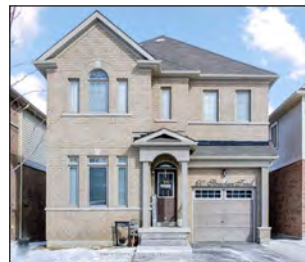
Mississauga For Sale \$740,000

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



Beeton For Sale \$1,139,000

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



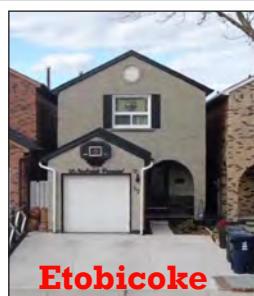
Pickering Condo For Rent \$2,800

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



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Etobicoke

Ajax For Sale \$949,000

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



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

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



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