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Vishnu Mandir and Global Care Outreach Run for Dialysis participants at the 2023 TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon

### Diaspora hears Vishnu Mandir's marathon call

By Romeo Kaseram LJI Reporter

Toronto - The call to the community and the wider diaspora to up its activity level for a healthier lifestyle was clearly heard across the GTA, and further abroad, when family, friends, and supporters took to Lake Shore Boulevard on the morning of October 15 for the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

In tandem with the lift in personal physical activity was the corollary objective by Vishnu Mandir and Global Care Outreach to raise funds to assist patients needing dialysis care in Guyana.

It was such that on the morning of October 15, both objectives, in upping personal physical activity, and simultaneously raising muchneeded dialysis funds, came into

a party atmosphere in downtown Toronto.

here in the GTA, and as far west from Alberta, and elsewhere in Canada. There were also repeat visits by participants who crossed the border to attend the event from the US.

Also behind the starting rope for the 5K inperson event were Acting Consul General at the Consulate General for Trinidad and Tobago, Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette; Honorary Consul for the Guyana Consulate General in Toronto, Mani Singh;



Dr Doobay (left) and Mayor West are among the medals at the TWM

confluence in what at times was a high-octane and and Richmond Hill's Mayor David West.

And participating for a second year in a row This year the effort saw first-time participation in the 5K in-person event was leader of Vishnu by a cross-section of members from the diaspora Mandir, Dr Budhendranauth Doobay, who was accompanied by devotees from the mandir, and many other supporters.

> The tens of thousands of participants gathered on Lake Shore on the morning of October 15 revealed that the TWM was a sold-out affair.

> It had been confirmed earlier this month in the run-up to the run-off by Vishnu Mandir's Marathon Coordinator Roy Doobay, when he noted that all events in the 2023 TWM edition had been sold out

to the tune of 25,000 participants.

While commending such an admirable commitment by the tens of thousands of participants, among them members of the diaspora, at the same time Roy also noted that the reassuring drive towards more personal physical activity was being accompanied by a touching and humanitarian component.

Roy was speaking to the gift of selfless giving, which he said was more and more evident from the visits to the TWM's donation site by donors reaching out with financial support for the Global Care Outreach fund-raiser.

"Visiting the donation site and supporting one of our stellar participants with a contribution to their commitment will go a

in Guyana," he had stated. At the same time, Roy also noted that Global Care Outreach was a charity partner with TCS

long way in helping someone in dire need of dialysis

Such association with a credible body meant donated funds took verifiable pathways, with openness and accountability transparent and evident. Put another way, it meant all donated funds went directly to the "noble cause" of dialysis support, he

As he had noted, "All donations go directly to See Page 15: Mayor West

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hard-working

**President Ali** 

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**'A Poem For** 

Rabia'

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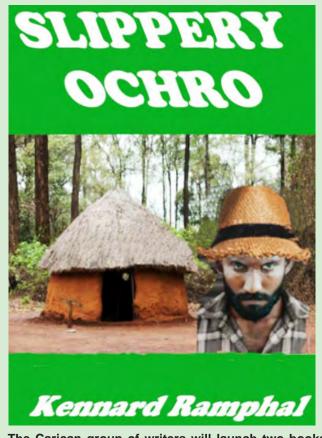
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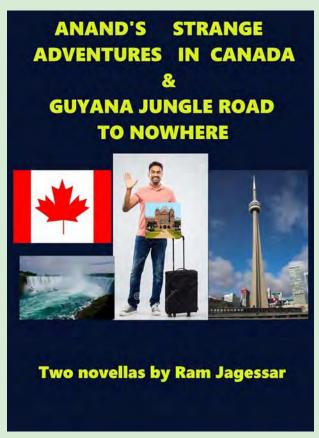


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The Carican group of writers will launch two books on November 5. In the lineup are two novellas by the late Ram Jagessar; and the novel by Ken Ramphal. Jagessar's book, Two Novellas: Anand's Strange Adventures in Canada, and The Guyana Jungle Road to Nowhere, and Ramphal's Slippery Ochro will both be presented at the event. The launch takes place at the Tropical Nights Restaurant, 1154 Morningside Avenue, Scarborough on November 5 starting 3:00 p.m.

### Hindu Federation calls for peace, dialogue

By Romeo Kaseram LJI Reporter

Toronto - The Hindu Federation last week expressed the Hindu community's "deep sorrow" while condemning the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas.

At the same time, the organisation also lamented "the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives, and reports of kidnapping and torture", while calling for peace and meaningful dialogue.

In a release on October 12, the Hindu Federation stated: "We strongly believe that acts of terrorism and extremism, regardless of their location, pose a severe threat to peace, security, and the well-being of individuals and society. In an increasingly interconnected world, such acts of violence reverberate beyond borders, affecting us all."

It added, "Our hearts go out to the grieving families who have lost their loved ones in this unfortunate human conflict. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the hundreds of lives that have been tragically lost in this ongoing

The federation also sent out an appeal "to all parties involved to exercise restraint and engage in meaningful dialogue to seek a speedy and peaceful resolution to this conflict".

Additionally, "We firmly believe that dialogue and diplomacy are essential tools to resolve disputes and promote harmony among nations."

As the group also noted, "In these testing times, we urge the international community to work collectively toward a peaceful and just solution that ensures the security and prosperity of all those affected by this conflict. We stand in solidarity with all efforts that aim to bring an end to this violence and

It also declared that the Hindu community believes in the principles of compassion, peace, and unity.

"Let us all join hands and work towards a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and understanding, fostering a more peaceful and harmonious global society," the statement concluded.

As its website notes, the Hindu Federation is an amalgamation of temples of varied Hindu denominations, and other organisations in Canada. It was founded in 1999, and among its roles are to highlight the Hindu community, and to celebrate its achievements in religion, arts, culture, and heritage.

#### **AGB to exhibit works** by T&T artist Atteck

Sybil Atteck, Bélé Dancers, 1954; oil on Board,

60.96 x 78.74 cm; courtesy Helen Atteck.

**↑**he **Art Gallery of Burlington** will be bringing together the life's work of iconic Trinidad and Tobago artist Sybil Atteck (1911-1975) for the first time in Canada in an exhibition that takes place from October 20 to January 7, 2024.

Borrowed from the largest collection of her work that has been amassed by her nephew Keith Atteck in Burlington, and

drawn from the family's holdings in Southern Ontario, this exhibition traces the profound impact of Atteck's legacy across familial, historical, and aesthetic lines.

Featuring rarely seen works from the family's collection, the exhibition includes paintings, drawings, and archival material from the 1930s to 1970s.

Sybil Atteck was a pioneering artist. Her disciplined struggle and gritty perseverance allowed her to become the most prominent artist and important historic figure in the Caribbean art scene.

(AGB image) Atteck has been continually recognised, both nationally and internationally, as the 'Mother of Visual Arts' of Trinidad and Tobago. She nurtured, influenced, and firmly secured the fine art capabilities of her nation pre-, during, and post-Independence within her practice, and as a founding member of the Trinidad and Tobago Art Society.

For a lifetime of accomplishment, leadership, and eminent contribution to the advancement of fine arts in Trinidad and Tobago, Atteck received national recognition with the prestigious award, the Chaconia Medal (Gold), in 1973.

An opus as prolific as Sybil's took a special drive and tenacity. For a woman making work in the 1930s until her death in 1975,

> having a thriving international art career was unprecedented. As it turns out, that determination is a family trait.

> Keith Atteck's journey to venerate the legacy of his aunt has been nothing less than heroic. Researching, collecting, and organising her life's work have been a full-time passion project for Keith.

> He has become an archivist and detective, unearthing a collection of unknown and undocumented work, along with critical reviews, catalogues, and photographs to piece her artistic trajectory together.

The AGB has been working

with the Keith and the Atteck family to bring their private collection of collected notes, preparatory drawings, exploratory paintings, and sketchbooks into the public sphere - transporting the works from the walls of the family's homes to the walls

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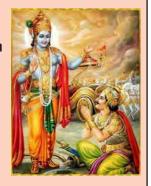
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### September hits highs above normal world temperatures

new high for heat was set in September, an indication how far above normal Earth's temperatures have now hit, the European climate agency reported earlier this month.

According to an AP report, the UN News, the World Meteorological Organisation, along with other world media, the rise in global temperatures was apparent after a summer of record-smashing heat, notably in July.

However, it appears to have become worse in September, the European climate agency said on October 4.

According to the data, the average temperature in September was 0.93 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average for September. It was the warmest margin above average for a month in 83 years of records that are kept by the European Space Agency's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

As Copernicus' Director Carlo Buontempo said, "It's just mind-blowing really. Never seen anything like that in any month in our records."

As was reported, July and August had hotter raw temperatures due to both months being typically warmer on the calendar.

However, September had what scientists call the biggest anomaly, or departure from what is normal.

Temperature anomalies are crucial pieces of data in a world that continues to warm up.

The *UN News* also noted that average surface temperature reached 16.38 degrees Celsius, or 0.5 degrees Celsius above the previous record in September 2020.

It also stated that September this year was roughly 1.75 degrees Celsius warmer compared to the pre-industrial period. It was also 0.93 degrees Celsius warmer than the 1991-2020 baseline, which is used as a practical tool for climate sensitive sectors like agriculture.

The *UN News* also cited the *WMO*, noting it said the growing warmth continues an extended streak of extraordinary land and sea-surface temperatures. This is an ominous signal about the speed with which greenhouse gases are changing the climate, it stated.

"The temperature anomalies are enormous – far bigger than anything we have ever seen in the past. Antarctic winter sea ice extent was the lowest on record for the time of year," said Petteri Taalas, the agency's Secretary-General.

"What is especially worrying is that the warming El Niño event is still developing, and so we can expect these record-breaking temperatures to continue for months, with cascading impacts on our environment and society," he added.

Trinidad & Tobago Weather Center

TRINIDAD'S TOP 5 MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES FOR 2023

As of September 19th

September 17th

August 25th

September 19th

September 18th

August 27th

TRINIDAD'S TOP 5 MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES FOR 2023

DATA: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

35.4°C

35.2°C

September 19th

35.1°C

34.9°C

Anomalous warming temperatures are also being experienced in the Caribbean, as Trinidad & Tobago's Weather Center notes in the graphics above and at the right

El Niño is a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that causes changes to the weather worldwide.

Also, Samantha Burgess, Copernicus' Deputy Director, stressed that September 2023 was one for the record books.

"This extreme month has pushed 2023 into the dubious honour of first place – on track to be the warmest year and

around 1.4 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial average temperatures," she said.

With the COP28 UN climate change conference taking place in Dubai next month, "the sense of urgency for ambitious climate action

has never been more critical," she added.

Meanwhile, Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto noted the dire signals in the rising warmth, saying, "This is not a fancy weather statistic. It's a death sentence for people and ecosystems. It destroys assets, infrastructure, harvest."

According to Copernicus' calculations, the average temperature for September was 16.38 degrees Celsius. It broke the old record set in September 2020 by a whopping half-degree Celsius, which is a notable and large margin in the climate records.

In September, it was noted that higher, hotter temperatures stretched across the globe. However, these temperatures were chiefly driven by persistent and unusual warmth in the world's oceans that did not cool off as much in September as normal.

HOTTEST DAYS IN T&T FOR 2023 (SEPT)

MAXIMUM HIGH TEMPERATURES RECORDED AT T&T'S CLIMATE REFERENCE SITES

PIARCO 35.40°C

CROWN POINT 33.60°C

Also, these temperatures have being at a record high since spring, said Buontempo.

Copernicus also reported that last month was 1.75 degrees Celsius warmer than during the mid-1800s. In 2015 the world agreed to try to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius warming since pre-industrial times.

The global threshold goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius is for long-term temperature averages,

not a single month or year. But scientists still expressed grave concern at the records that are now being set.

According to the *WMO*, the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement have been set to guide all nations to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the world's temperature increase in this century to two degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius

The objective of this goal is to avoid or reduce adverse impacts and related losses and damage to all nations.

"What we're seeing right now is the backdrop of rapid global warming at a pace that the Earth has not seen in eons, coupled with El Niño, natural climate cycle," said US cli-

> mate scientist Jessica Moerman.

Moerman is also president of the Evangelical Environmental Network. She added, "This double whammy together is where things get dangerous."

While El Niño is playing a part in the current upward climb of the world's temperature, climate change has a bigger footprint in the growing

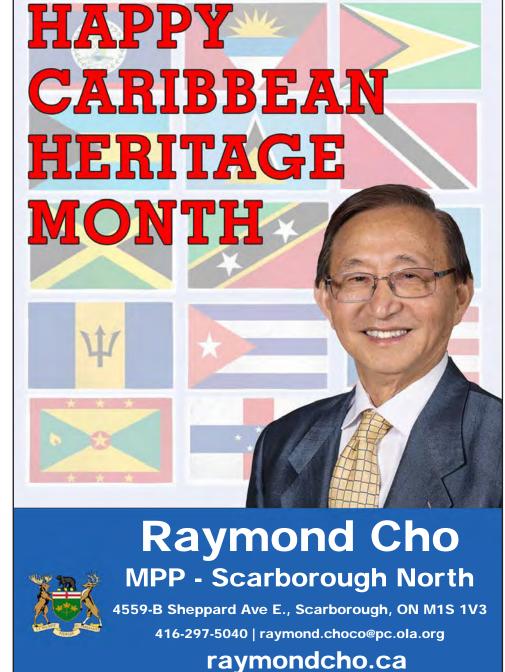
warmth, Buontempo said.

Also, as Otto noted, "There really is no end in sight given new oil and gas reserves are still being opened for exploitation. If you have more record hot events, there is no respite for humans and nature, no time to recover."

Additionally, Buontempo said El Niño is likely to get warmer, and cause even higher temperatures next year.



A vendor sells a bottle of water on an extremely hot day in Georgetown, Guyana



### Regional leaders meet in Ottawa for Canada-Caricom Summit

Ottawa - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday welcomed Caricom leaders to Ottawa for the first Canada-Caricom Summit on Canadian soil.

Trudeau is co-chairing the Summit alongside the current chair of Caricom, and Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit.

With Caricom celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Summit will be highlighting Canada's strong ties with the Caribbean, and provide an opportunity for leaders to continue to strengthen cooperation, and chart a better future for people in both regions.

"Canada and the Caribbean Community have built an enduring partnership over the last 50 years, based on ties between our people and our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights," Trudeau said earlier this month.

He added, "At this Summit and beyond, we will keep working together to take climate action, build strong economies, and keep people safe, now and into the future."

Under the Summit's theme of Strategic Partners for a Resilient Future, Trudeau and Caricom leaders will advance shared priorities, including building inclusive and sustainable economies, increasing trade and investment, and promoting multilateral collaboration.

The leaders will also be discussing climate change and will be addressing its impacts in the Caribbean, including exploring ways to improve access to financing for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean.

During the Summit, Trudeau will highlight the importance of reinforcing democratic values, promoting human rights and the rulesbased international order, and strengthening coordination on regional security, including responding to the ongoing security, political, and humanitarian crises in Haiti.

Canadian business leaders and investors to further commercial opportunities in the region.

Also, as co-Chair of the United Nations





**Keith Rowley** 





**Roosevelt Skerrit** 

group, Trudeau will take the opportunity to at 10:15 a.m. today. The afternoon session will advance the SDGs, the pathway for the world to build a more sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for everyone.

Among the Caricom leaders attending the Summit is Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali.

A statement from Guyana's office of the President noted that Ali will be joining other regional leaders to advance shared priorities in

Among these priorities are "building inclusive and sustainable economies and increasing trade and investment", and discussions on "climate change and its impacts in the Caribbean".

Also among the leaders attending the Summit are Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Terrance Michael Drew; and Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Dr Keith Rowley.

Antigua and Barbuda are being represent-And finally, the leaders will engage with ed by non-resident High Commissioner to Canada, Sir Ronald Sanders, who also serves as the country's Ambassador to the US and the Organisation of American States.

discuss access to finance and global financial architecture reform, along with the issue of regional security and Haiti's volatile situation. July 4, 1973. It is comprised of 15 Full Members A trade and investment round table will be held

Canada has long-standing ties with many Caricom countries on a wide range of shared priorities, including trade, security and defence, international assistance, and governance.

This Summit builds on the work Canada Trinidad & Tobago. is doing to strengthen ties with the region, 44th Conference of Heads of Government of are Associate Members.

More than two million Canadians travel to students from Caricom study in Canada \$3.9 billion.

every year.

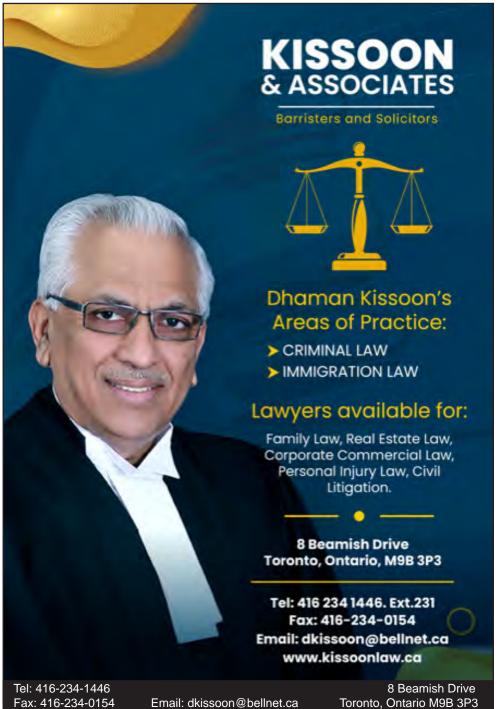
Caricom is a regional organisation that was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas on and five Associate Members.

Caricom's Full Members are Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and

The overseas territories of Anguilla, including Trudeau's visit to Nassau, The Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas earlier this year to participate in the Cayman Islands, and Turks & Caicos Islands

In 2022, Canada's two-way merchandise trade with Caricom countries reached \$1.8 bil-Caricom countries annually, and over 10,000 lion. In 2021, bilateral trade in services reached





#### **Editorial**

### 'Food for thought'

nalysis in this edition by our columnist, Dwarka Lakhan, is elucidating as it is instructive about the path Guyana's future economic development should take to diversify its industries, and at the same time apply its focus on becoming self-reliant and self-sustaining.

As Lakhan notes, Guyana's Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh recently reiterated the country's commitment to economic diversification and sustainability. Singh was attending the recent Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund when he spoke to the publication *LatinFinance*.

In that conversation, he declared that Guyana has bold plans to channel billions of dollars into the non-oil sectors, including infrastructure, in a bid to boost the economy's long-term competitiveness, and to limit dependence on fossil fuels.

"We are going to pump as much oil as we can, but we want to ensure that our non-oil sectors are competitive, sustainable, and diverse," he said, adding, "[Our] focus is the economic diversification of Guyana."

As Lakhan, and other similarly eminent voices have noted, oil is a depletable resource; it will not last forever. Also, it is subject to the uncertainties of international pricing and the vagaries of demand/supply arrangements.

Consequently, moving forward, Guyana must strategically develop traditional "core" sectors of the economy that would likely survive oil in the long run. And as Lakhan further elucidates, these "core" sectors include industries such as forestry, fishing, mining, and agriculture.

As he noted, it is that latter that now sustains the livelihoods of about one-third of Guyana's population. And as Lakhan has noted in this publication over time, and by many other regional commentators in the Caribbean, it is agriculture that provides much needed food security in the current environment of rising prices and global food shortages, as well as for future needs.

Thus it is reassuring to learn this week from media reports out of Georgetown that Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali recently underscored his government's objective of restoring agricultural productivity to communities.

At the time, he was speaking to residents in the Baracara community in Region Six on plans for continued agricultural development in the region.

Ali was unequivocal, his insistence perhaps on the edge of positivity and enthusiasm, when he declared he would settle for nothing less than 400 acres of land for cultivation in Baracara. As he declared, he would not accept anything below the 400 acres, which are to be prepared for the production of red beans and black-eye beans.

"[We're] going to put the land to work; we're going to put the machinery; we are going to put the labour," he assured the Baracara assembly.

Ali's insistence, and perhaps passion, was well in alignment with the comment made earlier by Singh to *LatinFinance*. That the government's focus was fixed and purposeful on enabling "core" sectors, such as agriculture, which in the case of Baracara means putting land back into production, and in so doing, enabling sustainability, diversity, and bringing productivity back to communities.

Ali's statements came in the wake of a visit he led with a technical team to several communities along the Berbice River in August. There assessments were done for the large-scale production of red beans and black eye beans. Visits were also made to communities as Tacama, Kimbia, Mara, and Moleson Creek, with the aim being to begin cultivating 1,000 acres before the end of 2023.

Meanwhile, preparations are now underway for the cultivation of 250 acres of millet at the Tacama Savannah in Region 10 in Upper Demerara-Berbice, where over 160,000 tons of corn and soya bean were recently harvested.

And as Guyana's Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha has revealed, the government will be replanting corn and soya; and will begin experimentation with wheat.

As Mustapha declared, these initiatives are all part of the government's vision to position Guyana as a hub for food production. Such moves for diversification and sustainability are welcome for its vision and pragmatism.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication.
Letters to be published will be edited where necessary.
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### Tense, unignorable silence at Gladstone Library

Nalini

Mohabir

am writing from London, having recently visited the Gladstone Library. The library was started by William Gladstone, a British Prime Minister in the late nineteenth century. William was the son of politically connected slaveowner John Gladstone, who received the biggest pay-out for "loss of property" after slavery ended. John Gladstone helped

draft the plan for Emancipation to his benefit, including postponing the end of slavery while looking for replacement labour to keep his profits. He found his answer in the plan to ship "Gladstone's coolies".

Travelling to Guyana with his family, Charles Gladstone (great-great grandson of William Gladstone) made an apology for slavery and Indentureship at the University of Guyana on August 25.

I, the grand-daughter of an Indentured labourer, was crossing the Atlantic in the opposite direction, to view John Gladstone's papers, on the 200th anniversary of the Demerara Uprising.

The Gladstone Library is primarily a theology library. Slave owners, like the Nazis, committed their atrocities away from prying eyes at home. They then used charitable acts at home to build their reputation as "god-fearing" citizens. For example, John Gladstone gave money to Trinity College, and to his church. Religious certainty and history are entwined.

In addition to theology books, the library contains the Gladstone family archives, including John Gladstone's plantation ledger books, letters, and receipts. There's also the ephemera. Take for example, the archival folder entitled *Notes on Slaves Executed between 1799 and 1815 in Demerara* – a scrap of paper, with four names scribbled. Later in the same catalogue, is a receipt for tulip bulbs ordered from Holland.

Fourteen years after the Demerara Uprising, there is a letter from John Gladstone to his nephew, a merchant in Calcutta, asking for an estimate of the cost for shipping: "One hundred natives of India, Men Women and Children ... [as well as] an estimate of the probable annual charge to the incurred for the maintenance of such a body of Emigrants after their arrival in Guiana and finally an Estimate of the annual value of their Services... subject to the deductions to be made for the maintenance of the people."

Plantation archives are primarily about accounting – life reduced to costs, benefits, measures, flesh.

I feel my body a silent judge of the archives, an intrusion into

the calm of the library's Victorian architecture and green banker lamps. For over two hundred years, we have been contained in the Gladstone family archives. I am here because they were there, yet somehow there is the surprise of me.

I should be the one surprised that the family kept these records. I suppose they felt no shame, nor did they expect someone like me to show up. If they did, perhaps they would have built a prayer room to mourn

the dead.

Charles Gladstone's apology at UG was accompanied by a beautiful and inclusive program carefully curated by the university.

Speakers from the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Rastafari communities were invited to give opening prayers. I wish to quote an excerpt from Ras Aaron Blackman, to remember that the Rastafari community has been pushing for reparations long before Caricom.

Ras Blackman said: "Sugar cane once the world's pride now crumbling with the world's worst market price [...] having filled their pockets with sugar money today produce artificial honey. [...] Kings they brought from African lands to work as slaves in their backlands. [...] Indentured servants coming from India [suffer] the same fate as Africa, living in logies and drinking impure water. [...] Today together we must work [...] I & I must unite"

The program was also accompanied by a small but strong contingent of protesters, carrying placards. They were silenced by UG's Vice Chancellor. The university cameras neither allowed us to see their signs, nor hear their message. They were not allowed to disrupt the Gladstone apology.

As part of the apology, this younger generation of Gladstones promised reparations in the form of funding for an Institute for Migration and Diaspora at UG.

As Ramdular Singh wrote in *Stabroek News*, "how can this Institute for Diaspora and Migration be attuned to the grassroots, address the deep racial divides, and bring about healing?"

As Ras Blackman and Singh suggest, it is important to understand how institutional power tries to frame you. Diaspora is not just about trade, technology, and remittances, just like how Indentureship was not simply immigration.

Hopefully, this new Institute will also consider the question of repair, between Afro- and Indo-Guyanese, and reparations for Indentureship.

### When long distant calls abroad were a family affair

Romeo

Kaseram

here was a time when contacting a relative who had emigrated meant making an excursion away from the village, leaving behind for at least half a day the enclosing seas of sugar canes; broods of nonchalant chickens futilely scratching at the dry dust in the front yard; and goats too preoccupied with chewing their bulging brown eyes.

cupied with chewing, their bulging brown eyes closed with contentment to even bleat, "See you soon; try to return before feeding time".

Leaving village life behind, we ventured into the big city, where the family landed up at the main office of the telecommunications' company,

the purpose being to make a long distance telephone call to the relative abroad.

We waited and waited; and the longer it took for the clerks to make the connection with "the party" abroad, the more and more the adults fidgeted.

"Party? What is this I hearing? We send she to study nursing in the 'foreign', and she partying?" It took a few minutes before this restive relative grasped the language of business that the clerk was using to keep our party informed.

Despite my tender years, I suspect the adults were overwhelmed by the sanitising that hovered over the cubicles in the undertone scent of bleach; then there were the clickety-clack, clackity-click-clack of typewriters that terminated with the tinny ding of its shop-counter bell; and of course, a sense of vulnerability brought with exposure to the glare from lengthy white fluorescent bulbs overhead.

And try as the adults did, they could not hush us noisy children, who in transports of mischief, having noted how overpowered they had become by the office ambiance, chose to ignore their desperate placements of forefingers heavily pressed against purposely tightened lips.

The repeated gesture of the pressed-down forefinger yelled, and yelled, "Be quiet! You're all in so much trouble when we get back home!"

However, the pitchfork of mischievousness continued to prevail over the weighted-down wings of good behaviour.

So the menacing failed, as well as its replacement, which were malevolent stares that arrived like darts thrown across the room from eyes narrowed down to the slits of snakes.

It was an unwholesome foreshadowing of the reprimands and "bawl-ups" to be generously doled out after we returned

home, and which were certain to follow us to the end of our days. Yet we persisted in making hay and mayhem while the fluorescent bulbs shone.

Finally, the clerk looked up to our group, responding to the heads lifting up in unison and hopeful with expectation, and wordlessly pointing to a nearby booth with a dis-

missive but accurate and practiced chin.

We packed into the booth like so many sardines, each family member allotted a fixed time,

according to their place in the pecking order, to speak with the relative living in "the foreign".

Family members at the lowest level in the hierarchy had about ten seconds, the time ruthlessly policed and enforced by a distant 'uncle', who had taken the watch off his wrist, and was

a distant uncie, who had taken the watch off his wrist, and was holding it up like a stopwatch, tapping it at the start, and then tapping the face more vigorously, with an accompanying glare, to end the countdown and the conversation.

In that time the adults quickly identified themselves, a few

having to waste valuable seconds to locate their placement within the family's complicated genealogy.

"What?! How you don't remember me?! I used to cut your little tail when you thief sugar and condense milk from the Cow & Gate pan in the kitchen. You don't remember your Mamoo son-in-law sister on your mother side across by the drain?"

Another relative wasted her allotment of valuable seconds laughing down the mouthpiece, cackling with glee and issuing reproaches, saying, "But Aye! Aye! How you talking to your Tanty so? Like you gone that side and get accent in the cold!"

Tap! Tap! The distant 'uncle's' fingers grew impatient with any wastage of the currency of seconds he had taken upon himself to monetise, drumming Morse code forcefully onto the broad face of his Timex with the same forefinger that had earlier failed to menace us to keep our lips tightly sealed.

And how did us children use the allotted time? Since we were talking to a relative living up north, it made sense to push the latitude and have a message sent a couple fractions higher up on the longitudinal line to the toy workshop in the North Pole.

Valuable seconds were misspent when my turn came to handle the receiver made warm and damp by previous hands.

"Who is this? Is someone there?" my relative enquired.

I was holding a sea-shell to my ear; all I could hear were endless waves breaking on a restless, distant shore.

### WI cricket needs Caricom's help

Dear Editor,

The 13th prestigious version of the International Cricket Council's One Day Tournament is presently being played in India. However, the inaugural World Cup champions, who went on to win the second champion-

ship and play in the finals of the third championship, have failed to qualify to play in this World Cup cricket champion-

The West Indies team is out of the tournament because of poor administration and poor performance by the team.

West Indies cricket team was indeed the best team in the world, and the Caribbean cricketers dominated world cricket. It is indeed sad to know that the millions of cricket fans in the Caribbean are now forced to look at the other teams from around the

world, and not see their beloved team among them.

Where are our cricket administrators? Where are our Caribbean leaders? When will those responsible for the administration of cricket wake up from their slumber?

Cricket is the Caribbean's unifier and our

Cricket West Indies, the governing body for the sport in the region, is today a liability, and has been a total failure.

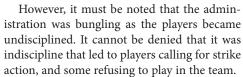
Even though the CWI has commissioned several reports on the deteriorating state of the game, our status in world cricket continues to plummet, and we are almost at the bottom of world cricket.

Cricket has been failing at the club level in

all the territories. The structure of West Indies cricket is being destroyed.

West Indies was at the helm of world cricket in the 1980s. West Indies' batting and bowling were world class. Brian Lara had to wait for his opportunity to get a place in the West Indies team.

The batting line-up was mighty strong, and there was no place for any of the first six batsmen to be replaced. The bowling was lethal. The team was all supreme in all two versions, in Tests, and One Day International matches.



Further, the administration's tolerance for some level of indiscipline was the cause of insularity and poor selection of the West Indies

West Indies cricket desperately needs the immediate intervention of Caricom Heads of



**Brian Lara** 

States. It would have been better for us to not play in the present World Cup because of Caricom intervention, rather than us being booted out by failing to qualify for a place in the prestigious championship.

Today the West Indies team is ranked eighth in Test cricket, less than tenth in ODIs, and seventh in T20Is in the official ICC rankings. This sad state of cricket in the Caribbean must be carefully debated and strengthened.

The CWI must face up to the reality that the talent and potential are not evident in West Indies Cricket.

Look at the Trinbago Night Riders CPL team. That team is being referred to as "dad's army", the nucleus of that team all being pen-

sioners from IPL. And the other teams seem to be heavily dependent on the foreign players.

The West Indies four Day tournament must be better organised; the ODI tournaments must be more competitive; and the Twenty20 tournaments must be more attractive to more players in the Caribbean.

As for women's cricket, much more attention will have to be placed in the respective countries.

The just concluded CPL tournament was a big success for the Guyana Amazon Warriors. Moreso, it was indeed the fresh initiative and carnival flavour added to the biggest sport in the Caribbean. Cricket is a major attraction.

Neil Kumar, Guyana, via email.

### Questions on ownership of the CPL

Lloyd holds up the World

**Cup Trophy in 1975** 

Dear Editor,

Like most of Guyana, I was pleased to see the Guyana Amazon Warriors win their first CPL title last month.

Even our energetic President Dr Irfaan Ali was present in the ground to share in our joy, sitting next to the owner of GAW - Bobby Ramroop.

The image of Ali and Ramroop made me reflect on what the spectacle of CPL really is - a private enterprise.

As the CPL seems to be entrenched in Guyana culture, it would be good for faithful Guyanese to understand the "closed-door" structure of the CPL.

To help initiate some public disclosure, I to know who is the CPL's real boss. invite the CPL organisation to respond to the

following questions in the press.

How was the CPL initiated in the region? Who owns each of the franchises participating in the CPL presently?

> What involvement does Guyana's government have in the

Does the government earn any direct revenue from the CPL organisation?

What involvement does the Guyana Cricket Board have in the CPL, and how much revenue does it earn from the annual

Who receives the profits from the CPL organisation?

Going back to that image, it would be good

Shaun Prescott, Guyana, via email.



Irfaan Ali

### **Uneasy flow at Water Street's VFS office**

It fills my heart with great joy to be able to declare my Guyanese identity with pride. For so long we had been disrespected and treated like diseased people even by our closest neigh-

Now, I am proud to hold up my Guyana passport and gloat to those previous disdainers. That was until I had the unfortunate need to visit the VFS "office" on Water Street for a Canadian visa.

Let me state categorically that I have no intention of migrating permanently to Canada. While that country boasts a high standard of living, Guyana is where I belong.

But family affairs do occasionally require me to visit Canada. To obtain a visitor's visa, it is necessary for me to pay a visit to the VFS "office".

It seems that VFS has been contracted by the Canadian High Commission to provide visa processing services in Guyana. Should you have the unfortunate need to visit this VFS "office", be prepared for the following: inappropriate location in a desolate section of Water Street; locked door with inadequate signage or instruction; no shade or cover while you wait for the door to open; and, unpleasant

door manners by security staff (when the door eventually opens).

Also, be prepared to meet insufficient space in the "office" for the conduct of personal matters; poorly attired staff with limited training on customer interaction; requests for documents which are not asked for by the Canadian Visa Office; and, ridicule if documents are not as expected.

While the Canadian High Commission may respond to this letter by stating that VFS is a private contractor, surely there must be some minimum level of service delivery that the Canadians expect.

For many, this is their first interaction with anything Canadian. I support the public calls for removal of visa requirements for Guyanese travelling to Canada.

I was greatly disappointed when the Canadian government recently decided to remove visa restrictions on many Caribbean countries, except Guyana.

Hopefully, the experience of the UK's visa removal will help the Canadians decide on the need for visas: Guyanese come, visit, spend our money and return home. This is where we

Juanita Gomes, Guyana, via email.

### RE/GUYANA **GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS**

#### What to do with inherited property in Guyana

nyone 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.

### Colonial-era, digital ambitions in T&T hopelessly out of sync

Dear Editor,

How long does it take for the police department in Trinidad and Tobago to ratify a traffic ticket?

I received a fixed penalty notice on September 26. I decided to contest it, but that is easier said than done.

The back of the ticket gave an online address to contest the charge. Using the address provided, I discovered a well-constructed webpage. However, it did not work as intended.

I entered the information requested from the ticket: FPN, notice issue date, permit number, and registration number – but nothing happened. The page just sat there and pondered, while I too sat there and wondered how something so simple in concept was so inept in execution.

I called my lawyer. He relayed a story of a client with a similar frustrating experience, and who is still awaiting a response after filing an appeal notice in person at the courthouse two years ago. My legal consultant advised that I visit the Magistrates' court on Edward Street in Port-of-Spain, and file it in person.

When I got to the courthouse, it was tightly shuttered for renovations. All court cases were now held online. Next door, court officials tried to assist by following the instructions on the ticket, but the lack of response from the online site even stymied them.

I then went to the Police Administration Building. At least there, I spoke to senior police officers who were sympathetic to my plight, but said they too had heard it before.

Sad to say, they also could not help. Here we are: a colonialera people in the digital age.

### T&T needs to change direction – extremely challenging to achieve

Dear Editor,

People power is a multifaceted thing that takes many forms. It depends on the type of change you want to achieve, and who exactly has the power to effect that change through government, community, or even individually. Change isn't easy, but it's extremely difficult for our Trinidad and Tobago.

Our country needs to change direction, and this is becoming increasingly more important as the crime situation is totally out of hand. Gangs and extortion rackets are now becoming stronger, and more prominent in communities as our protective services and institutions remain impotent.

Year after year, and especially during the budget presentation we hear the same old rhetoric, and we are not seeing anything that can make a difference in our lives.

There is a major call for administrative reform in Trinidad and Tobago, but the pace of our public service is grossly inadequate. In some instances, a snail moves faster. Our country deserves more, especially innovative ways to tackle the inefficiencies of our public, security, and utility services.

Trinidad and Tobago's Chief Justice Ivor Archie, at the ceremonial opening of the law term on October 6, called for reform of the public sector. He complained about the inefficient staff model that is damaging the Judiciary and government ministries

The public service has increased in size exponentially over the decades, apparently to give people jobs under various governments without delivering efficient service to the people. As our service needs have grown, the systems have not improved,



An officer in T&T talks with a motorist in PoS

The administration continues touting that we must invest billions to digitise all aspects of the public service to improve the level of service to the citizens. They insist that blockchain is a surefire way to go.

The Inside Telecom website describes the blockchain model as follows: "On a blockchain-based government model, individuals, businesses, and governments share resources over a distributed ledger secured using cryptography. This structure eliminates a single point of failure and inherently protects sensitive citizen and government data."

It adds, "A blockchain-based digital government can increase confidence and accountability while securing data, automating procedures, and reducing fraud, waste, and abuse."



Judges at the opening of the 2023-2024 law term

and have caused problems throughout the entire system.

We recognise that change is never easy, and in Trinidad and Tobago it moves like molasses. There seems to be no plan to make a difference, and make changes to an antiquated system that we have long outgrown. There seems to be only old talk and self-congratulations, instead of any real plan of action.

Trinidad and Tobago's future economic success is at stake. Our government has to listen to the people, and stop their dictatorial attitude in managing our economy and the country.

dictatorial attitude in managing our economy and the country. We need to put a stop to this stagnation and deal with the problems, of which crime is number one.

Neil Gosine, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

It all sounds good on paper. But can the government of Trinidad and Tobago ever get its act together, so ordinary citizens can do simple things like contest an improperly-issued traffic ticket? Or, for that matter, any unjustified case?

According to the ticketing officer, the ticket was for "improper overtaking on the left side of the road".

I had two options: one, pay the fixed penalty; or two, contest the ticket online.

Meanwhile, if I do not file a timely notice to contest after 15 days, then I will be blocked from further contesting it.

Who writes these laws? I now face the potential of being a scofflaw to be hunted down like a common criminal, while the murderers and thieves laugh all the way to the bank.

Speaking of the bank, these are the same institutions where vicious criminals lurk to spy on law-abiding customers transacting business, and then follow and rob them.

Shouldn't the tellers be trained to know that specific customers' primary purpose in the bank is to surreptitiously view big withdrawals from nearby customers?

Digitisation of services is a metaphor for white-collar theft, but how do you combat low-level criminals who can outwit

high-level security using old-fashioned hit-and-run techniques? What else can we expect when this insane government turns law-abiding people into criminals?

We can now call ourselves the Trinidad Asylum, where criminals are created, not born; and where self-governance allows Big Government to enrich themselves while the people suffer.

Rex Chookolingo, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

### Protective service present in PoS for elite, but absent for nationals

Dear Editor

The opening of the new law term on October 6 saw what would now be regarded as an unusual sight in the nation's capital, although its re-introduction has been much clamoured for within recent years.

I speak of the presence of joint Defence Force and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service sentries on many street corners, especially in the uptown area.

These sentries not only looked very able-bodied, but were armed to the teeth.

Whilst those important folks who gathered for the law term's ceremonial opening were definitely afforded the very best of the State's national security apparatus, in close proximity to their lavish affair, those women who were viciously attacked and robbed on Charlotte Street in broad daylight, later on in the same week, were left to the mercy of the criminals, since those very same able-bodied sentries were now absent!

The National Security Minister has indicated publicly that it is not his job to keep citizens safe.

I guess this mantra was changed temporarily for the benefit of those VIPs attending the opening of the law term, while we ordinary folks are left to contend with the ruthless and heartless criminals.

Indeed, these criminals are free to drag and beat up anyone who dares resist their attempts to forcibly take possession of our valuables. And on the streets of the nation's capital and in broad daylight! Folks, these unfortunately are our times.

Michael Jattan, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

### Why Guyana, the world need more agro-processing facilities

Dear Editor

I was happy to note that an agro-processing facility was recently commissioned at Charity in Guyana. For too long agricultural farming products have been needlessly wasted in Guyana. Let me emphasise: there is way too much wastage.

First, let me remind Guyanese that contemporary food science now allows us to understand how and why foods lose quality during normal storage; they spoil too quickly.

However, with modern agro-processing facilities, we can select conditions that greatly extend storage times, while maintaining freshness.

For example, across North America, apples are typically harvested over a two- or three-month period, and yet are available all year-round. This is because once apples are harvested, they can be rapidly transferred into controlled atmosphere storage that slows their respiration, and hence ripening, to allow them to be kept for up to 12 months until ready for use.

Another positive to be mindful about is that food processing allows us to eat a greater variety of foods than our ancestors. This is so because we can safely preserve and package foods, and are able to transport foods from across the globe to our homes.

We are neither restricted to what is produced locally, nor to seasonality, greatly extending food availability and accessibility for the great majority that live in urban environments. Increased



Guyana's Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha examines preserved carambola (star fruit) at the Charity agro-processing facility

choice allows us to have a more varied diet, which is more likely to provide all the nutrients required for good health.

Therefore, commendations are in order for the Charity facility that was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and its minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, in collaboration with the Regional Democratic Council through the Guyana Marketing

Corporation.

It means more than "300 persons, including farmers, agroprocessors, women, youth, and other stakeholders, will benefit immensely".

The cost ran up a bill of (Guy) \$28.3 million, but this investment is most needed, and will pay great dividends in the near future

Lest we think Guyana is parochialised, I refer to the World Resources Institute report. In it is noted that a 25 percent reduction in food waste would push food production 12 percent closer to the levels necessary to feed the world in 2050.

Also, that this would shrink the amount of increased agricultural land needed by 27 percent, inching closer to fully closing the land gap. This is a positive double whammy! Remember, I mentioned the wanton waste must be stopped!

Since we will need to produce as much as 56 percent more food than we did in 2010 to feed the world's growing population by 2050, we cannot rely on ancient and traditional farming and production practices. These by themselves are deleterious, and could be catastrophic for the planet. So how will we meet the demand?

I gave the answer earlier, and here it is again: we need many more agri-processing units.

H.B. Singh, Guyana, via email.

### Guyana's govt says focus is on diversifying its economy

ith oil set to dominate Guyana's future economic development, Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh has reiterated the country's commitment to economic diversification and sustainability.

Speaking to LatinFinance on the sidelines of the recent Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and

the International Monetary Fund, Singh said Guyana has bold plans to channel billions of dollars into the non-oil sectors, including infrastructure, in a bid to boost the economy's longterm competitiveness, and



Lakhan

to limit dependence on fossil fuels. "We are going to pump as much oil as we tors are competitive, sustainable, and diverse," he is reported saying. He added, "[Our] focus is the economic diversification of Guyana."

Incidentally, the government has identified transportation infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and tourism as drivers of its plan to dramatically remake the country over the next five years.

Singh said Guyana plans capital expenditure of roughly \$1.5 billion annually in the coming years to diversify the economy. He noted that the infrastructure agenda will be financed via domestic capi-

tal mobilisation, but also with the support of multilateral and commercial financing.

Using revenues from oil, in combination

with an increase in publicly guaranteed debt, the government has so far allocated billions of dollars to projects that are deemed to be transformational in nature, including energy expansion and diversification, transportation infrastructure, and sea and river defence.

The ultimate goal is to prevent the country from enduring the so-called Dutch disease, whereby a resource boom leads to economic imbalances in the country, created by an overdependence on oil, and a subsequent decline in other sectors.

The truth is, oil is a depletable resource that will not last forever. It is also subject to the uncertainties of international pricing and demand/supply arrangements.

It is, therefore, necessary to strategically develop traditional "core" sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining, which will likely survive oil over the

For instance, agriculture sustains the livelihoods of about one-third of the population, and also provides much needed food security in the current environment of rising prices and global food shortages, as well as for future needs.

Perhaps, it is still too early to pass judgement, but the trend in production in core sectors of the economy such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining do not in any way reflect the benefits of efforts to diversify the economy.

Moreover, the historical pattern of fluctuating to declining production in these sectors must be reversed if diversification is to have any meaningful impact.

As Table 1 shows, there has been a surge in the year-over-year (YOY) change in total GDP growth in 2020, the year in which oil revenues began flowing. In 2021, the percentage change in YOY GDP growth over 2020 was 53.58 percent. The average total GDP growth for the 2012-2021 period was 9.6 percent.

In the agriculture sector, which is one of the core sectors, it is imperative for diversification efforts to have a far greater impact. While the YOY change in agriculture's contribution to total GDP growth was 17.7 percent in 2021, the contribution of the sector to the economy since 2012 was extremely volatile, averaging negative 4.53 percent (See Table 2).

While the government has announced substantial investments in agriculture, the sector's historical pattern of production must be reversed if its contribution is to offset the growth in oil, and have a meaningful impact in the oil driven economy in the future.

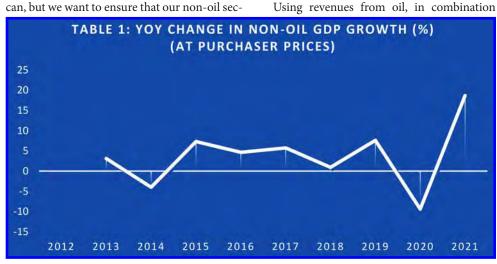
Although the mining and quarrying sector has had periods of strong growth since 2012, good years have been typically followed by bad years as seen in Table 3.

Unlike the core sectors that should benefit the most from diversification, the Services sector has experienced relatively consistent growth since 2012, with the exception of 2020 when economic activity slowed down during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021, the YOY change in growth in the sector was the highest, mainly due to a resurgence in economic activity (See Table 4).

There is no doubt that the government of Guyana has plans to diversify the country's non-oil economy. The problems of doing so are historical in nature. Pumping money into its core sectors is necessary, but not sufficient condition to achieve long-term success. It must have a defined strategy in place.

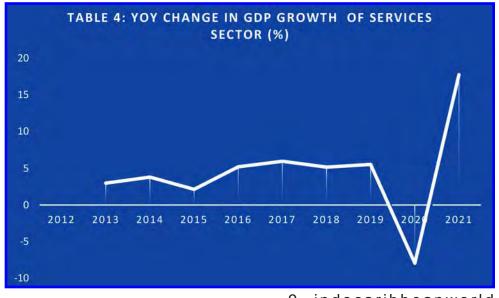
So far, the government's approach has been ad hoc in nature, leaving scope for concrete and measurable strategies for the country's longterm development.

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









## lani Singh

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**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 34 YEARS!** 

### Congratulations, ICW for 40 years of community outreach

Commons on October 3.

#### Mani Singh

Honorary Consul, Toronto, Canada, The Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

I extend heartiest congratulations to *Indo-Caribbean World...* on achieving such a significant milestone of the 40th anniversary.

I also congratulate *Indo-Caribbean World* for being duly recognised in the national Parliament of Canada, in a statement read on October 3, 2023, by federal Member of Parliament, Chandra Arya.

I can testify, as someone who has been active in the business, social, and political sectors in Canada for over 40 years, that *Indo-Caribbean World* has been an important and consistent voice for our Canadian Indo-Caribbean community on social, political and diaspora affairs, also for over 40 years.

And especially so during the early 1980s and 1990s, when our community had no voice on many important social and political issues in Canada... *Indo-Caribbean World* was there, and provided such a voice.

On behalf of all the peoples of the Caribbean diaspora, especially my fellow Guyanese, I would like to thank *Indo-Caribbean World* for its professionalism, dedication, and service to the Caribbean community and beyond over the past four decades.

#### Dhaman Kissoon

I am extremely proud of this significant achievement. I am extremely happy to have been associated with *Indo-Caribbean World* from 1991. Keep up the great work.

#### Jagdesh Singh

Thanks for your service to our community.

#### Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association

On behalf of the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association, congratulations to *Indo-Caribbean World*. You have laid the foundation for the next generation to build upon, and we are grateful for your vision and leadership.

#### Cecil Ramnauth

Congratulations to *Indo-Caribbean World* for its work in community building, and for promoting the youth at every opportunity.

#### Doleep Singh

What a joy to see your dedicated, enduring, and muchneeded work being recognised in Canada's House of Commons.

That this praise was given by MP Arya makes it even more significant, since this gentleman is also an indefatigable worker for the same and similar causes.

I wish you continued success.

#### Vishnu Dutt

Congratulations on this signal honour. Well-deserved. Keep up the good work.

#### Dwarka Persaud

Congratulations to *Indo-Caribbean World*, and to everyone who contributed to this milestone. This recognition is well-deserved. On behalf of all your readers, thank you for keeping us informed.

#### Harry Hergash

Heartiest congratulations on this well-deserved, prestigious recognition.

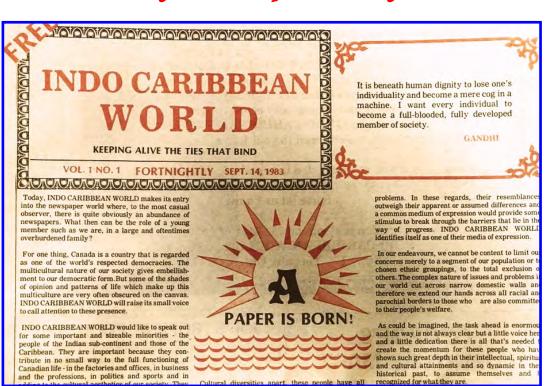
Through thick and thin you persevered to keep this publication alive, growing from modest beginnings to become an internationally renowned publication.

Over the years I have been privileged to have my articles and letters published in *Indo-Caribbean World*, and I am delighted that your outstanding work has been recognised at the highest level of government in our adopted homeland.

Regards and best wishes to Indo-Caribbean World's team.

#### Sherry Harrikissoon

Well-deserved! Proud to be associated with Indo-Caribbean



Indo-Caribbean World's inaugural edition, September 14, 1983



**MP Chandra Arya** 

**Ottawa** – *Indo-Caribbean World* was on [October 3] recognised in the House of Commons in Ottawa by Liberal MP for Nepean, Chandra Arya, for serving the community for four decades.

Following is the text of MP Arya's speech:

"Mr Speaker,

"I would like to congratulate *Indo-Caribbean World* on its 40th anniversary which published its first edition on September 14, 1983.

"It has succeeded in its mission to become the voice for an under-represented and largely unrecognised Indo population in the growing Caribbean diaspora in Canada.

"I would like to recognise the founder and publisher Harry Ramkhelawan, and editor Romeo Kaseram, for their excellent work and achievement.

"Their team informs and educates not only the growing community, but all of Canada about the Indo-Caribbean, Caribbean, and our Canadian sub-continental roots.

"Indo-Caribbean World plans to stay committed to its 40 years of history, and philosophy, in bringing the voices from the margin into the centre, and to continue contributing to building a glorious and free Canada.

"Thank you, Mr Speaker."

World. Congratulations!

#### **Roy Doobay**

Well done! Congratulations on the amazing news! This is an incredible achievement and well-deserved. Thank you all for your selfless and high quality journalism, and community work. Cheers to 40 years and continued success.

#### Vidur Dindayal

Wonderful! I join in the chorus of praises for *Indo-Caribbean World*; brother MP Chandra Arya, thank you.

Indo-Caribbeans are not a large community of millions, but we impact life positively wherever we settle. We punch well above our weight. A few of us are names that have earned respect worldwide.

Indo-Caribbean World represents our community's finest

values of inclusivity and enterprise. My prayers are for continued blessings, and to celebrate many more years of the glittering Indo-Caribbean-World.

#### Janet Naidu

I want to congratulate *Indo-Caribbean World* on this great recognition in the Canadian House of Commons for the role played in the community, and on your 40th anniversary.

#### Dhanpaul Narine

This is the coolest thing I have seen in years! Congratulations are in order. I am proud to be a regular contributor. All the best for another 40 years!

#### Ramesh Gampat

Let me join others and offer a hearty congrats to *Indo-Caribbean World*. Fantastic work pays off. Keep it up.

#### **Harry Persaud**

Congratulations and well-deserved. I have enjoyed reading *Indo-Caribbean World* over the years. I

like both the format and content.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity in the past to write for you, and to the readers of your excellent publication.

#### Cliff Rajkumar

Congratulations and thank you for *Indo-Caribbean World's* comprehensive reporting and coverage of the diaspora news, events, and community awareness.

#### **Darshanand Khusial**

On behalf of Oil & Gas Governance Network, many congratulations on the recognition *Indo-Caribbean World* has received in the Canadian Parliament.

Thanks for publishing our many letters on the oil situation in Guyana.

Wishing *Indo-Caribbean World* another 40 years of successfully informing and educating the public.

#### Puneet Aujla

Congratulations on this recognition. Well-deserved.

#### Ram Angod

It is no small thing for a Member of Parliament to stand up in Federal Parliament to register praise for a community newspaper outside of his operating domain.

MP Chandra Arya felt *Indo-Caribbean World* was deserving of Parliament's attention for its 40-year professional news coverage, which is a victory for the publication.

I congratulate *Indo-Caribbean World* for its early vision, and for its unbroken perseverance in fulfilling its destiny.

For over 40 years, *Indo-Caribbean World* collaborated with others to operationalise its vision.

#### **Abdool Saheed**

God bless! Keep up the good work.

#### Vishnu Dutt

Congratulations on this signal honour. Well-deserved. Keep up the good work.

#### Jagdesh Singh

Thanks for your service to our community.

#### Ashook Ramsaran

Congratulations. A well-deserved tribute.

#### Ramabai Espinet

Heartfelt congratulations. A well-deserved acknowledgement of *Indo-Caribbean World's* dedication and hard work. Here's to 40 more...

#### Roma Mungol

Congratulations on this milestone. What an achievement.  $\,$ 

#### Russell Lutchman

Congratulations.

#### Capil Bissoon

Excellent. Congratulations and very best wishes for continued success.

### Mahatma Gandhi played a role in abolishing Indentureship

#### By Anjali Tiwari Special to Indo-Caribbean World

n the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti that was observed on October 2, and which the United Nations declared as International Day of Non-Violence, it is worth remembering the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to the abolition of the Indenture system.

Since it was an international event, every corner of the world recalled Gandhi for his contributions and philosophy for a nonviolent and peaceful world.

Among the least talked about contributions of Gandhi are his writings on the Indentured system, and his contributions for the freedom of Indian Indentured labourers across the colonies.

Gandhi defined the word *girmit* in a Gujarati article in *Samalochak*, titled as indenture or slavery in December, 1915, writing, "*Girmit* is a corrupt form of the English word 'agreement'. The term cannot be dispensed with. What it suggests, 'agreement' does not... the document under which thousands of labourers used to emigrate and still emigrate to Natal and other countries on contract for five years is known by the labourers and employers as *girmit*. A labourer so emigrating under *girmit* is a *girmittio* (Indentured labourer). Almost 12,000 such indentured labourers emigrate annually from India, mostly to the Fiji Islands near Australia, Jamaica near South America, British Guiana, Dutch Guiana and Trinidad."

He further goes on to compare Indentureship with the status of being in semi-slavery.

Gandhi's attachment to the cause of Indentured labour was from his experiences in South Africa. The Indians' discontent against the coolie system first came in 1894 when free Indians were disenfranchised by a Bill passed in Natal National Assembly. This Bill was passed due to fear of the Asiatic menace in colonial Natal.

Gandhi formed the Natal Indian Congress to fight this injustice towards Indians. In South Africa, he started *Indian Opinion* to raise the issue of injustice towards Indians.

The Indian National Congress also amplified the injustice against the Indians in its Banaras session of 1905, and passed a resolution against the discrimination towards Indians in South Africa. Gandhi wrote in *Srishti Vichar* in Gujarati, titled *Message of Gokhale's Life*, where he acknowledged that he discussed the issue of Indentured labour in Natal with the leaders in India.

In the initial days, Gandhi was not much involved in affairs of the Indentured labourers, as some historians argue. But when he became aware of the problems of Indentured Indians he was determined to see it abolished.

In one of his letters in 1894, he wrote: "If I am to depend upon one-tenth of the reports that I have received with regard to the treatment of the Indentured Indians on the various estates, it would form a *terrible indictment against the humanity* of the masters on the estates and the care taken by the Protector Of Indian Immigrants."

In another letter to J.B. Petit on June 16, 1915, Gandhi wrote that "system of indentured emigration is an evil which cannot be mended but can only be ended".

Gandhi moved the Resolution for the abolition of the system at Bombay Provincial Conference at Ahmedabad demanding the immediate abolition of the system on October 23, 1916.

He also introduced the Resolution number IX on "Indenture Labour" on December 28, 1916 at Lucknow Session of Indian National Congress for the abolition of Indentureship.

Gandhi made immense contributions for the abolition of this unjust system. He criticised the British government for its export of Indians. He raised the issue through various platforms, such as in the print media, his speeches, and in his writings.

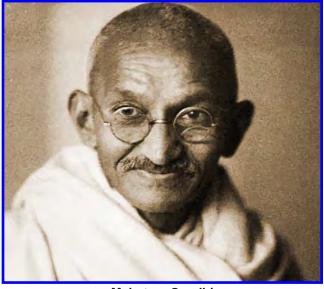
His writings and speeches against the system were no less vocal and categorical than his demand for India's Independence.

Gandhi also highlighted the issue of Indentured women and the hardships they faced in the colonies. And he continued to criticise the British government against the injustices meted towards Indentured Indians in the British colonies.

It was due to contributions of Gandhi, and leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Sarojini Naidu, Annie Besant, Madan Mohan Malviya, and many others, that this unjust system was eventually demolished via legislative steps.

The abolition of the Indentureship system was one of the early, crucial successes of the nationalists in India. Although this fight against justice began in South Africa, it led to the liberation of Indentured Indians across the world, and a ban on further recruitment of Indians to work on colonial plantations.

Anjali Tiwari is a research scholar in the Department of Western History at the University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in India



Mahatma Gandhi



Indentured labourers threshing rice





A building in Gaza in flames last week following an Israeli airstrike

#### Caricom calls for immediate ceasefire

Georgetown - Caricom last week called for a ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel, where fighting has claimed over 2,000 lives on both sides of the border.

On October 7, Hamas insurgents invaded Israel, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives. In response, Israel declared official war.

In its statement on October 9, Caricom condemned the Hamas attack, along with Israel's counterattacks on Palestinian territory in Gaza.

It described both the attacks and counterattacks as "the antithesis of civilised life and living".

"Innocent lives are being lost amidst the fervour and violence of the actual combatants. Caricom thus joins the responsible members of the international community in calling for an immediate ceasefire and end of hostilities by all parties," the group stated.

It added, "The recent round of hostilities reflects the pain and suffering of ancient quarrels. The ongoing harsh conditions under which the Palestinians live in veritable colonialism and Israel's sense of insecurity will contribute to a cycle of violence until those realities are definitively addressed."

Caricom also indicated its support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. This resolution was adopted in 1967, and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories.

Additionally, Resolution 242 acknowledges the claim of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the region, while calling on the UN Secretary General to appoint an envoy to facilitate an acceptable solution to the conflict.

"Accordingly, Caricom continues to support the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and the ongoing efforts of the United Nations towards a two-state solution as the best way to achieve comprehensive peace, security, and tranquillity between Israel and Palestine," the Caricom statement declared.



Tourist site, Bathsheba, in Barbados

### Barbados looks to 'debt-for-climate' swap

**Bridgetown** – Barbados is hoping to execute that helps to bring the cost down. a "debt-for-climate" swap early next year to secure savings of around \$300 million over a 15-year period to fund clean water supplies, Reuters reported last week.

Speaking with the news agency, Barbados' finance minister Ryan Straughn said his government is working with the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Investment Bank on credit guarantees.

Straughn spoke with *Reuters* during the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, which took place in Morocco earlier this month.

"It would be a similar structure to what we did last year with the blue loan, which was very, very successful," Straughn said.

In September 2022, Barbados carried out a "debt-for-nature" swap that saw \$150 million of international bonds swapped for cheaper debt. The move generated \$50 million for marine conservation.

Debt-for-nature swaps have grown in popularity recently. It sees a country's debt bought up by a bank or specialist investor, and replaced with cheaper loans, usually with a development finance "credit guarantee", or "risk insurance",

In Barbados' latest planned deal, the savings are meant to fund conservation, or a climaterelated purpose.

The savings from Barbados' mooted "debtfor-climate" swap will be used to upgrade a water treatment plant to help better manage water resources and improve food security, Straughn said.

"We've had to implement water restrictions this year. And [the upgraded plant] would have made a substantive difference in terms of the way that we manage the water," he said.

Barbados's previous debt-for-nature swap funneled money towards protecting and rehabilitating the surrounding Caribbean sea.

A debt-for-climate swap would be an almost completely new concept, though, and one that other climate change vulnerable countries are likely to want to explore.

Barbados relies heavily on its tourism sector, and with climate change, the country must maintain the optics of tropical imagery to

Tourism accounts for over 40 percent of its GDP, and roughly 40 percent of employment.



#### I AM SELLING MY HOME WITH TENANTS AND NEED SOME ADVICE

elling a home with tenants can be like walking on a tightrope, but instead of balancing poles, you must handle the seller, the buyer, and the tenant. Evicting a tenant to sell your home is a no-go if a long-term lease exists. And if the lease is on a month-to-month basis, you can only oust them if a buyer snaps up the property, and wants it for themselves. It's a real challenge, but you can turn a complicated situation into a smooth and breezy transaction with some good old-fashioned communication skills. So, warm up your social skills, and let's make this sale happen!

Choose a realtor with experience dealing with tenants. Give the realtor an overview of the rental situation and arrange a meeting with the tenant. Be compassionate and understanding with your tenant, since selling can be disruptive and emotional. Your realtor can explain the selling process and possible outcomes to the tenant. You can offer the tenant a rent reduction during the selling process as an incentive to keep the place tidy and facilitate the showing.

There are essential rules to remember when selling a home with tenants. It is critical to get permission in writing from the tenant to take any pictures of the rental accommodation, and it is an excellent practice to review the photos with them before posting them. The tenant has rights, and is entitled to 24-hour written notice before you enter into their space. You can chat with your tenants and devise a schedule that won't cramp their style. Your tenants have the right to be present during showings, and if they ask, you should honour that. Remind your tenants to hide all their precious belongings before a showing, too!

If the relationship with the tenant is terrible, the tenant might be uncooperative, and the seller must be careful. An uncooperative tenant may deliberately keep the suite untidy with cluttered sinks and unflushed toilets to turn off potential buyers. In many cases, it is better to ask the tenant to move before you put the property up for sale by giving the tenant a financial incentive. A good tenant can be an asset because many buyers prefer to buy an investment property knowing they do not have to worry about searching for tenants. Make copies of the rental application with all the supporting documentation, and the lease agreement for the buyer with the tenant's permission.

Selling a home with an unregistered basement apartment can be risky. If the apartment does not meet the legal standards and codes, the seller should not advertise it as a rental unit. Otherwise, the buyer may inherit a tenant who could sue the buyer and the seller in case of an accident. The safest option is to sell the home without the tenants and inform the buyer that the basement apartment is not compliant with the municipal code. The seller should also ask the buyer to sign a waiver that releases them from liability if a fire or

If you have the time and extra cash, use it to bring the basement apartment up to code and register it with the city by working with a reputable contractor. First, check with your municipality and ask if you can retrofit your basement suite. The secondary suite must meet the minimum room size and ceiling height standards, and have a separate access point and window in every room. In addition, it must have fireproofing and fire separation elements, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Secondary suites registered with the city are safe, and the rental income can assist a potential buyer in qualifying for a mortgage. Homes with registered basement apartments usually sell for more money than those without.

You cannot evict a tenant to sell a property. Once you sell the property, the new buyer can apply to the landlord and tenant board for vacant possession and give the tenant an incentive to move, such as one month's rent. The board has the final say, and, as a result, can derail the sale. In the sale contract, it's essential to write what options the seller and buyer have if the tenant does not move, for example, extending the closing date until you get vacant possession, or the buyer assuming the existing tenant, or killing the deal.

When selling a home with a tenant, you are disrupting someone's nest. Think about it: how would you react if someone invades your space, and wants to kick you out? The key is to communicate and be courteous.









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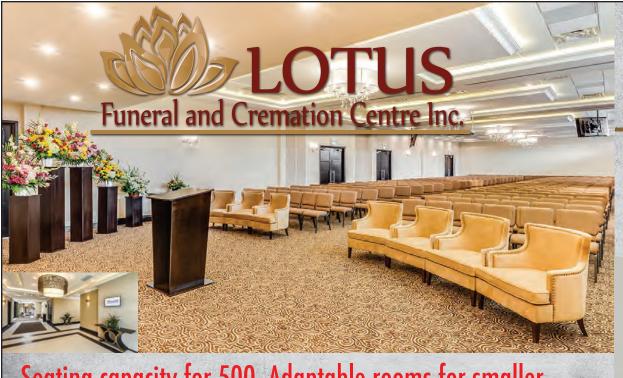
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From Dr Budhendranauth Doobay Vishnu Mandir & Global Care Outreach





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Marathon 2023
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2024!





**Need Information On Our Marathon Run & Dialysis Fundraiser?** 

Marathon Coordinator
Guyana Consulate General
T&T Consulate General

Roy Doobay 416-723-8879 Nutana Singh 437-332-0962 Tessa Sooklal 416-495-9442

Donations To Dialysis Care in Guyana Are Accepted To November 13
Click Here To Donate To A Humanitarian Cause



Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette (left to right), Man Singh, and Guyana Consulate's Nutana Singh



Run for Dialysis friends Qiuyan (left) and Karenna

### Mayor West: 'Inspiring to join your team'

#### From Page 1

the Dialysis Centres in Guyana. All donations, meaning 100 percent, go directly into assisting patients needing dialysis in Guyana. There are no administration fees. It is a total, undiluted, and direct input to assist dialysis patients in Guyana."

Earlier this week, the Global Care Outreach dialysis fundraiser website had accumulated a total of over \$130,000 in donations, and counting.

And as Roy noted, there was still time for donors to continue with their generosity, since the TWM cut-off for donations is on November 13.

"There is still time left for donors to contribute to this worthy and humanitarian cause," he told *Indo-Caribbean World* on Monday.

Meanwhile, participants at Sunday's event were luxuriating in what was yet another successful outcome in their commitment to raising personal activity levels, and at the same time, feeling good about reaching out with a helping and generous hand to patients afflicted with kidney disease.

In a congratulatory note following the event, Richmond Hill Mayor West extended "sincere gratitude to [Dr Budhendranauth Doobay], Roy Doobay, and the whole team participating in support of the Global Care Outreach Program".

Said Mayor West: "It was inspiring to join your team of dedicated globally-minded citizens as you strive for equity and equality in health care treatment. Thank you to each and every walker, runner, volunteer, and donor. Together, and individually, we made a tremendous impact, and I was honoured to participate and represent Richmond Hill."

Victoria Doobay was similarly uplifted and energised. It was her inspirational idea that originally saw Vishnu Mandir undertaking the TWM, for both its activity, and as a fund-raiser.

"I am thrilled about the success of yet another effort," Victoria said on Monday, hours before returning to the US.

"I think everyone had a fantastic time. It was incredible to watch people come together to commit to a better lifestyle, and for the betterment of others, such as dialysis patients," she said.

Victoria also recognised the tremendous work done by volunteers in the background, noting that it was the synergy of many moving parts behind the scenes that made the 2023 event such a success.

"This would not have happened without the efforts of everyone working together. It is one thing to have a wonderful idea, but it takes a team to build a village. Everyone has their own strength, and working together, they all made this happen," she declared.

Additionally, "I felt great after. I always love the endorphin rush that comes afterwards."

Similar to Mayor West, Victoria also extended gratitude and appreciation to Dr Budhendranauth Doobay, recognising his leadership, guidance, and his presence on the ground on Lakeshore on the morning of the marathon.

Said Victoria: "It couldn't be done without Dr Doobay. This marathon initiative speaks to the value placed on the physical, mental, and spiritual. It is synchronistic, and at the same time, synergistic."

And conclusively, "Already I am looking forward to coming back next year!"



Nimoon (right) with Mayor West



Victoria (left) with Dr Doobay

### Guyana's 'most hard-working' President pays a visit to Queens

#### By Dhanpaul Narine

resident Irfaan Ali of Guyana is the most hard-working president in the world! This was a description given to him by Claire Patterson-Monah, who competently chaired the program during Ali's visit to Queens, New York. He had spoken the previous day on the *BBC* about reparations for slavery. He made a clear, compelling, and powerful case for reparations. By the end of the interview, his voice lent credibility

to the call, and he has become a respected advocate for reparations.

Ali visited Queens, in New York, a borough that is famously christened as 'Little Guyana'. There was not a spare seat in the building. The rank and file comprised the multi-ethnic population that is Guyana, and a sense of camaraderie was most evident.

Guyanese are a unique people. They can fuss over many things, but once the 'Gyaff' begins, suspicions quickly melt away, and friendship takes over. This was evident on the evening of the President's visit – Ali was able to bring Guyanese, and friends of the country together, by keeping it real and leveling with the audience.

He said that under his administration Guyana will be far ahead of its time. The country will be a global leader in food, energy, and climate.

Irfaan Ali

"By 2030, we have to be ahead of the rest of the world," Ali said to applause.

It requires hard work and selfless service to the country. He was proud of his cabinet, which comprise persons that are committed to Guyana's development. One of the catchy innovations of the President was the use of technology to highlight the progress and plans for Guyana. The video presentation was slick, sophisticated, and seamless as it charted the objectives for the Regions of the country.

Ali said Guyana is building an economy that is different. It will lead to high-scale and high-end jobs. He spoke about the expansion of education and social and health facilities in the various regions. The idea is to create a baseline that would lead

all Guyanese to enjoy a better lifestyle. He said that his vision of 'One Guyana' is to bring opportunity and prosperity to all Guyanese.

As far as investment is concerned, he said that Guyana "is pursued by every sophisticated investor in the world". Gone are the days in which people would ask the location and geography of the country. The investment portfolio and capital are from many countries.

He said Guyana is only going

to borrow on fixed rates. All of the borrowing has been done at a fixed four percent. He also referred persons to the latest IMF Report on Guyana, which will confirm his statements.

The IMF Report has lauded Guyana's policies in various areas such as transparency and accountability, climate change, the management of the oil and gas sector, food security, and system of governance, among other things.

Ali called for the correct narrative to be presented regarding the development of Guyana. He said that many times people "use narrative and create their own narrative for their own selfish reasons".

He also pointed out that the construction industry, nurses, and teachers, will be given priority in employment.

Investment will be made in the creation of a National Skill Training Center. A total of 26,000 scholarships were already granted, and "long before 2025 every Guyanese will have free university education".

He called for the system to work, and for the rule of law and democracy to be respected. The 'One Guyana' concept must be owned by all Guyanese, he declared.

Mt Sinai Health System is partnering with the government to build a world class health system in Guyana.

A number of questions that were put to Ali that included restoring the national awards, public transportation for school

children, roads and traffic in Guyana, facilities for the disabled, a visit to Brooklyn, Guyana's border situation with Venezuela, and mental health.

He addressed the questions with deftness and candour. The national awards would be restored, and that while public transportation for school children is a good idea, there are hundreds of private bus operators that would be displaced.

Also, his government would look into the sand trucks on



A section of the audience at the event

the East Bank, with a view of regulating the traffic. Also, the urgent need for facilities for the disabled would be addressed.

Ali said he plans to visit Brooklyn. He explained that Guyana knows where its borders are in keeping with international agreements and that his government will respect the ruling of the ICJ regarding Venezuela's claim.

Ali invited professionals in the diaspora to return to Guyana and work with the mentally challenged. He said that his government will have a look at copyright laws to benefit the country. Also that people should use the system in Guyana to access wheelchairs, canes, and pampers as the country has enough of them. He promised that the backlog for passports will be cleared soon.

What was the government doing about the crimes in Guyana? He said that visits to Guyana have increased exponentially, and most people feel safe. Reporting on crimes has been amplified and sensationalised, but people have to go beyond the perception. Nevertheless, his government is tackling the problem.

Ali's visit to Queens in New York was an unqualified success. He met a cross-section of the community, was unflustered, and he struck the right notes. The narrative needs to get out that his administration is doing more than most to bring all Guyanese together. And yes, he went home to celebrate Guyanese victory in the CPL.

### To husband Stanley Algoo: 'You made me realise my potential'

Following is the eulogy, delivered as an epistolary narrative, by Stanley's dear wife, Imogen. In the text box below are extract's from the eulogy delivered by their son, Brendon. (Ed.)

#### By Imogen Foster-Algoo Dear Stanley,

I wish I had never had to write this letter. We met at my home in 1964 on a cold and rainy night as you sat talking to my parents. I remembered you: a dashing cyclist braving the traffic at the Library Corner (where five roads met), and confidently picking your way through trucks, cars, donkey and mule carts, and Naparima Girls High School students yelling, "Look Stanley!" I was the loudest, and hoped to see a pratfall.

You graduated in 1961 and won the Island Scholarship, and your picture was in the paper. I was very proud of you, and glad you never fell off your bicycle two years before. Here you were in our home chatting with my parents, and I joined the conversation, and you left after informing us you were going to Russia next year. I said: "Send me a postcard saying 'From Russia with Love" as a joke. This promise was not fulfilled. Instead of the postcard, I got you, "the love" of my life for 55 years afterwards.

We met again when I visited Lynette your sister in the Carnegie Free Library where she worked. I was wearing new red fishnet stockings, which I bought at the Montreal Expo in 1967 and I just returned to Canada. Lynette took me to the desk and said, "Stanley, look who's here! And look at her legs!". You answered, "How oddly fetching", and I thought, "What an odd comment". I said, "You never sent the postcard from Russia".

You replied, "How about going to the movies tonight and sorting this matter out".

I acquiesced and accompanied you to see Lord Jim. Halfway through the movie I noticed you looked a lot like the actor, Peter O'Toole: sort of sad and goofy (this image would later be replaced when a young Tom Hanks came onto the Hollywood scene).

I was leading a "hedonistic" lifestyle with my friends, as I had just graduated from Naparima Teacher's college, had a good salary, and felt rich, and as my dad would say in exasperation, "Parties, dances,

beach limes and sprees, where and when will this end?"

long time after the movie Zulu.

You asked me what my life plans were, and did I intend to go to university. I said I was enjoying my current life immensely, thank you, and had no reason to change. You observed I have a photographic, fly paper memory, and a good sense of logic, and can argue like a bush lawyer.

I was flattered, but thought you had an ulterior motive in mind. But I thought, "No, you are too honest, ethical and straight-laced to be like the other guys".

You then became a regular visitor to our home as you worked with my brother Vince, and started to pick Vince up and bring him for lunch at my home. You loved my mother's cooking, and suddenly it became a pattern.

We kept going to the movies, and sometimes accompanied by my brothers, and sometimes with [Dr Brinsley Samaroo], so the water became hotter and finally the frog was cooked. We were married on August 17, 1968. It is now 55 years of happy

Stanley Algoo January 27, 1942 - July 28, 2023

tanley was born in Guyana to Edward and Doris Algoo, now both deceased. He was the husband of Imogen (née Foster), and father of Brendon. Stanley attended the Vistabella CM School in Trinidad, and Naparima College, where he obtained an Island Scholarship in 1961. Here in Canada, he studied at McGill University, where he obtained a BA; a BLS from the University of British Columbia; and an MLS from the University of Toronto in 1971. Stanley emigrated to Toronto in 1971 after serving as Head of Carnegie Free Library in San Fernando, Trinidad, and Acting Head of the Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago. In Toronto, he retired as Director of Technical and Computer Services for the Scarborough Public Library. During his tenure, he introduced the first bibliographic computer system, and developed the Chinese script catalog, making his library system the first in North America to use the unique Chinese stroke count filing system. He was a deeply spiritual person, and collected and donated numerous documents to the Presbyterian Archives. He was also a skilled fund-raiser for the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada. (Extracted, Obituary Stanley Algoo; view funeral livestream here.)



Stanley Algoo (at right) with Imogen Foster-Algoo (left to right); Dr Kenneth Lalla; Dr David Rampersad; Isabelle Lalla; Dr Brinsley Samaroo; and Joan Samaroo.

Tt is interesting that it took me going to library school ■to begin to decode you. You may remember me telling you about how library school taught me that we first have data, and then data becomes information, and then information becomes knowledge. Many can attest to your knowledge... but I think you took things two steps further: your knowledge became wisdom, and your wisdom became enlightenment. This enlightenment was always a steadying influence in my life.

When it came to your Christian faith, you are a Presbyterian and Protestant to your core.... You cared about communicating and preserving the positive impact of Presbyterianism, and the work of Canadian Missionaries in Trinidad. You were a philanthropist, and shared this interest with mom. You served as a role model for my faith, and we had thousands of hours of discussion about how Presbyterianism is a "cerebral" form of Christianity, and how it was at the core of all our freedoms.

remember you teaching me to read with the red West ■ Indian Reader books. Saturday mornings you would sit me down, and I would struggle to read these strangely worded Trinidadian stories. However, it is when you exposed me to The Ox and the Frog, in which a frog boasts to an Ox that he can inflate himself to his size with a predictable and hilarious frog splattering conclusion, that I could not stop reading... the story was also a life lesson that you embodied: to always be humble despite your great enlightenment, talents, and gifts; and to recognise and appreciate your limitations.

bought a Father's Day card for you a month and a half ■before Father's Day because something told me I had to pick out the perfect card this year.... It reads: "Dad, thanks for teaching me what really matters. There are a lot of things you taught me without ever saying a word. You taught me to do what is right by living your life with integrity. You taught me to be kind by always caring so much about others. And my whole life, day by day, you've taught me how to love by loving me with your whole good heart. Happy Father's Day 2023 with love."

Stanley Algoo is my father, and you were there from the very beginning of my life, and I was at the end of yours. When I was born, the doctor gave me to you to hold first... You told me that I looked with huge wide eyes all around me... you said it looked like I came from another dimension, but I also had a specific question in my eyes as I looked at you. You looked at me in the eyes and answered the question: "You are my son. I am your father. God gave you to me." And now I reply: "I am your son. You are my father. God gave you to me." (Brendon)

I was accepted and I started to do three nights of courses a week, which was a heavy load, but would allow me to graduate in three years.

You decided to drive me to courses after working all day across the city in Scarborough, and you would wait for me in the cafeteria for three hours or more for my classes to conclude, and sometimes find articles in the library.

We arrived home at 12:30 a.m. each night, and had to go to work early in the morning.

If my marks fell under 75 percent, I would have to drop courses, but this did not occur. As a result, I was able to do two full courses in the summer. Therefore, I fulfilled the requirements for my BA in three years, and graduated with the full-time students.

Then, you said why not challenge your "fly paper memory" and your "bush lawyer" expertise and see if you can do your Master's? I thought "Okay", I agreed, and I attended OISE and attained my degree in one and half years, working full-time and doing full-time courses.

You made me realise my potential, and I am truly grateful to you.

After my Master's degree, we had our greatest achievement: the birth of Brendon. You loved him the first time you held him in your arms and looked into his eyes in the operating room of the hospital. At that point I realised I would always be second in your life because you became the most devoted father.

You took him everywhere. You taught him to ride his bike, fly kites, play baseball, and you made a Trinidad and Tobago box cart for him, which thrilled all the boys in the neighbourhood. It was most popular toy, and everyone wanted to push it, and ride in it.

We went on trips, and cruises and Brendon was allowed to use the video camera. We went to Europe, the Caribbean, the US, Disney

Brendon was fascinated by every museum, and wanted to return many times (I think we went to the British Museum about four times, and art galleries, I have lost count). You never complained, and enjoyed it as if each time was a first time.

Your family and your home were your haven; your strength, and the place where you could relax and discuss anything you wished. We three had great discussions that enthralled and enlightened. And

As we got older, we were each other's best friend, and in our twilight years we were just happy sitting with each other feeding the birds and squirrels in the sunshine. We will do this again in the land in the great beyond.

I am basically a teacher, so I will share this observation with you of my new reality: wedding ceremonies never prepare us for this loss of a partner, that is, one of us will leave before the other. Usually, it is the husband.

The widow will feel like a bird with a broken wing, which can never fly again.

Therefore, the lucky ones among us today, please look at your wedding album each year, and cherish your partner each day you have together, for you never know when the final goodbye will come.

Thank you my friend, my husband, my love, and we will meet and laugh again. Brendon and I will always remember you, and hope that when you meet God, He will say to you, "You have done well, my good and faithful servant."

Our wedding was a party of about 300 plus guests which sometimes became quite passionate, and an exercise in logic. I forgot all about you for awhile, and one day you came and began about 5:00 p.m. at the Palm's Club with a live band and We had a wide diversity of friends, and all were welcomed at our asked me to go to the movies again. We did; and we talked for a dancing till 3:00 a.m. Most unlike any "Stanley Algoo's" event, home as part of the Algoo's 'Open Door' policy. which ended at the ungodly hour of 8:30 p.m.

We spent two glorious years in Trinidad and Tobago, hanging out with our friends at the beaches, Tobago, partying and eating at my parents, and any friends who could cook. However, in 1970, the Black Power movement put a stop to all these activities, and we figured we had to do two things immediately: (1) I had to learn to cook; and, (2) You had to learn how to not eat four square meals plus per day.

You did eventually learn to cook steelcut oats, boiled eggs, and tea. You became a good sous chef and dishwasher as well. You were a master of sanitising and marinating meat.

You left Trinidad and Tobago to do your Master's degree at the University of Toronto in September 1970. You graduated in June 1971, and we were both lucky to get jobs in Toronto. You got a job in the Scarborough Public Library system as a cataloguer, and I got a job in Etobicoke as a teacher. The comment you made about my flypaper memory resurfaced, and I reluctantly agreed with you to apply to York University.

### A Poem for Rabia explores colonialism, revolution, social change

**Ramabai Espinet** interviews playwright, Nikki Shaffeeullah. Her latest work, *A Poem For Rabia*, is now playing at **Tarragon Theatre**, 30 Bridgman Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 1X3; the theatre's Box Office can be reached at **416-531-1827**.

RE: Lovely title. Tell us about it. Who is

NS: The play features three central characters: Zahra in 2053; Betty in 1953; and Rabia in 1853. These three women are along the same bloodline, so, among other things, Rabia (played by Adele Noronha) is an ancestor to the other two. All of the characters are fictional, but Betty (played by Michelle Mohammed), and Rabia are very loosely based on various historical and familial figures who I have

encountered through research and conversation.

**RE:** Any earlier plays? Or is this your first?

NS: I work more as a director, producer, and sometimes actor, and I have facilitated many community-engaged performance projects, and have worked on collectively created shows, but this is my first major playwriting project. So, in some ways, it feels like a big first!

**RE:** Talk to me about your involvement in the theatre. I see that you are the playwright as well as an actor in this production.

NS: I did my first play when I was eight years old, and have continued to make theatre since then. I studied theatre at university, and have worked in theatre and performing arts my whole career so far. One reason I love theatre is how it necessitates that people from different walks of life (audiences, artists, and so on) share real space together in real time. The essence of it is community. So, I have spent a lot of time in my career so far exploring the different ways theatre can intentionally be used as a means for community connection, community building, social change, and so on. One thing about working in the theatre is that you often

"He did not kill me." I sprang out of sleep and glanced around the dark room. Where did that voice come from? The clock on the night table showed 4:13 a.m. The voice was in my head but was not attached to any dream. With goosebumps covering my body, I slipped back under the covers with my eyes and ears wide open until it was time to get dressed for work.

When I got off the train at work, a newspaper headline,

'JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF MURDER – SENTENCED TO DEATH', grabbed my attention.

The dreamless voice and the newspaper headline kept creeping into my head all day during work. Somehow my mind wanted to connect them, but I didn't know why.

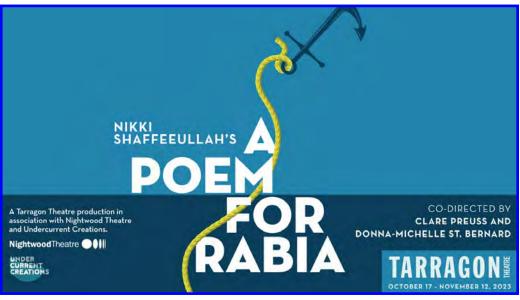
That evening after supper, I switched the TV channel to the news, instead of watching the usual game shows. Curiosity from the newspaper's headline drew me to the top TV news story of the

The circumstantial evidence was based on DNA found at the crime scene. The defense team of legal aid lawyers did not put up a

fight to prove their client's innocence. They did not even dress him for court. They seemed convinced of his guilt since the homeless man had no alibi. Against their wishes, the defendant took the stand and proclaimed his innocence, but that homeless man had no tangible alibi. He declared that he was asleep under his cardboard cover on the sidewalk several blocks away at the time of the stabbing.

"Devin Brown killed me." The same voice delivered a second message to me through the TV during a commercial break. The news reported that a syringe and needle found in the taxi carried the DNA of Jimmy Cordo, the homeless man who could not give an account of how it got into the cab. The prosecution built their case around this piece of circumstantial evidence, listing the murder as a robbery for cash gone wrong. They convinced the jury that drug-addicted Jimmy Cordo was in desperate need of money to feed his heroin addiction. Taxi driver Paul Smo was simply an easy target in the dark street where he had arrived and waited to pick up a fare in front of an illegal booze bar of drug addicts, prostitutes, and other patrons who profited off them.





Nikki Shaffeeullah's A Poem for Rabia is now playing at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto

have to wear multiple hats to stay working – for better or worse, you need a varied skill set. In this case, it's exciting for me to be a first-time playwright, and to reconnect with the craft of theatre through this lens. And I haven't acted in a play in years, so that's exciting too.

**RE:** What is the play about - brief synopsis.

NS: A Poem for Rabia weaves the stories of three queer women from the same bloodline: Zahra, a disillusioned activist in 2053, navigating a Canada that has just abolished prisons; Betty, in 1953 British Guiana, caught between her new secretarial job at the Governor's office and the growing national Independence movement; and Rabia, an Indian domestic worker in 1853, abducted by colonial 'recruiters' and sent sailing from Calcutta to the Caribbean on an Indentured labour ship. It explores themes of how big political changes in the world impact individual people, communities, and our bodies. It reflects on colonialism, revolution, and social change.

**RE:** Why was it important to you to focus on this subject?

**NS:** I wrote the play very slowly, on and off, for about a decade, and it wasn't until many years in that I started to see what

it was 'about'; in other words, I didn't begin it with the goal of exploring any particular subject. It was for me less about naming a subject, and more about asking a series of questions I wanted to ask – about myself, about my world, about the past, about the future. For me, the play in part asks about how we, especially as people in diaspora, figure out who we are, and how we can be good to ourselves, and those around us. I was also really fascinated with the task of building a play with three distinct worlds (different continents, different time periods) that intersect with each other in sometimes magical ways.

**RE:** Of course, everyone is welcome to the play, but might there be a specific audience that you find yourself in dialogue with?

NS: I think the play might be of particular interest to anyone who grapples with the complexity of how to build a better world, however you define that. It might be of service to anyone who is curious about their cultural past, but doesn't always know how to access that.

**RE:** I look forward very much to seeing your play. The very best to you for its success.

Kamil

Ali

### The Supernatural

### A Significant Development



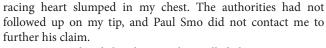
Paul Smo was the only driver for the taxi company who was not afraid to pick up fares at the seedy location. No one harmed him and he made most of his money for himself and the taxi company transporting regulars all night back and forth between their homes and the location. Familiar faces and easy routes made him and the taxi company fast money. The prosecution contended that Jimmy Cordo targeted Paul Smo after he had made several runs for cash-only fares.

I went to bed and stared at the ceiling, wide awake from the events that surrounded me. I did not want to disturb my wife by telling her of the strange links that entangled me in the case. Was Paul Smo reaching out to me from the grave? If so, why me? I have never met him or any of the characters involved.

I slipped out of bed and searched social media for the name Devin Brown, but there were hundreds of people with that name. On a hunch, I called the Crime Stoppers hotline and left an anonymous message linking Devin Brown to the crime.

I woke up the next morning and turned on the TV at low volume in the living room while my wife was still asleep. A

repeat of the news from the evening before added no new information to the case. My



During my lunch break at work, I called the taxi company and asked if they had a driver named Devin Brown. A cold chill ran down my spine when I was told that he was the daytime dispatcher and part-time driver of the company. I connected the name with the words taxi and dispatcher and found him on social media, but it did not reveal anything incriminating. With no news updates, I went to bed feeling sad and frustrated. An innocent man was about to lose his life. I tossed around for half the night then fell asleep from exhaustion.

"My Rolex." The voice spoke that night when I was again awakened at 4:13 in the morning. I snuck out of bed and opened up social media. Devin Brown's profile picture showed a Rolex watch on his wrist. I searched the news article online. Investigators said they found a broken fake Rolex watch on Paul Smo's wrist that had stopped at 4:13 in the morning. They figured that the watch was smashed during the life-and-death struggle at the time of the murder.

"Devin Brown's Rolex," I spoke to the desk sergeant. "Trace it. He put his fake one on his victim." The serial number was tracked back to Paul's rich great uncle who had bequeathed the \$20,000 Rolex to Paul a few years earlier upon the reading of his will.

When faced with overwhelming evidence and a chance to avoid the death penalty, Devin Brown confessed to the framing of the homeless man to cover up his murder.

"Greed will do you in every time." The new prosecutor summed up the case for the jury. "The genuine Rolex was his payment by an unfaithful wife's lust for her husband's best friend and to collect on a one million dollar life insurance policy."

The vagrant was set free. The lovers were each sentenced to life imprisonment. I never heard from Paul or anyone else ever again. Truth or imagination? I'll never know, but whatever it was, my intervention saved an innocent man, and put two coldhearted murderers behind bars. The outcome warmed my heart.

### President Kangaloo issues call to nurture, ensure children's safety

Port-of-Spain - Nationals have been called on to establish a "safe and nurturing" environment for the Trinidad and Tobago's

The appeal was made last week by President Christine Kangaloo when she spoke at the Rapidfire Kidz Foundation

In her keynote address, she also focused on the collective well-being of the nation's youth while entreating that more be done to uplift the young population.

Kangaloo told the gathering there were few things that made her as happy as when vulnerable and less fortunate children receive love and care. It was the most vital work that can be done by human beings, she declared.

She also referenced recent news items in the Trinidad and Tobago media, noting the reports of crimes committed against children were a reminder of how society had fallen short.

Among the reports cited by Kangaloo were about two young boys who were dragged out a vehicle in broad daylight and murdered in their school uniforms.

Then was a report about a young schoolgirl who escaped

### Opposition calls again for removal of Hinds

Port-of-Spain - Yet another call has been made for the removal of Trinidad and Tobago's National Security Minister Fitzgerald Hinds, this time coming again from Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

In her latest appeal, Persad-Bissessar asked Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley to assume the national security portfolio.

It is not the first time that Persad-Bissessar has called on Rowley to remove Hinds from the national security role.

She repeat the call again last week following the Rowley's

contributions to the 2024 budget debate in Parliament.

While addressing the issue of crime, Rowley said he would not be rotating the position, adding, "The UNC] had seven of [National Security] ministers. That is not how we run the coun-

However, following Rowley's statement, at a special news conference after, Persad-Bissessar described Hinds as an "abject failure" in the office of national security. She added that Rowley should "man-up" and take over the ministry,



in addition to his role as Prime Minister.

Said Persad-Bissessar: "Hinds must go... I urge [Rowley] to dismiss Hinds, and he himself should assume the position of National Security Minister. Rowley must man-up and show some leadership in this most critical area."

She added, "All of his ministers of National Security thus far have failed. I don't want to hear that as Prime Minister he cannot also be Minister of National Security. Other Prime Ministers have led national security where needed. Well, Prime Minister as I say this, '[It] is the time for you to take the lead," she said.

Persad-Bissessar went on to state that Trinidad and Tobago had turned into a "war-zone", and was in a state of "anarchy"

As she noted that since 2015, the number of serious crimes, including home invasions, murders, extortion, rapes, and robberies, has skyrocketed.

She also declared that Rowley's budget contribution was "the most embarrassing speech" in the history of budget debates. Also, that he did not address the failed shooting attempt on the Deputy Prisons Commissioner's life, or on other issues such as the effect of crime on business owners.

"This man is fighting and attacking everyone in the country besides the criminals. He voiced no empathy for the thousands of families that have lost innocent loved ones in horrible homicides, home invasions, blatant street attacks, and other dastardly crimes," she declared.

She added, "[Rowley] showed no concern at the impact of crime on business owners, many of whom are shutting down their operations, sending home workers, and seeking to migrate because of extortion."



Kangaloo (right) with husband, Kerwyn Garcia through the window of a moving maxi-taxi fearing she would be attacked.

Also cited by Kangaloo was the report of a toddler being physically abused because he would not drink a bottle of milk.

Said Kangaloo: "I was president of the Senate then. Today, I am President of the country... I can say that while we have been doing better in many areas, we are still a long distance away from where we need to be."

Kangaloo also noted recently headlines were no better; in fact, in some cases the reports in the media were worse, she

However, to attribute culpability was not helpful in addressing the present problems. Instead, a revolution of hearts and minds was needed.

"As signatories to the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child, and having committed to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, our country has a responsibility to ensure that no child is left behind," she said.

Also, "[While] we have been making progress in several areas administratively in developing the capacity and opportunities for our children, organisations like the Foundation have a critical role to play in helping us close the gap between where we are at the moment, in terms of helping our children to realise their fullest potential, and where we need to be," she said.

Kangaloo then called upon nationals to commit to making every effort to provide a positive environment for children, and in so doing, create a brighter future for the country.

"Seven years and nine months ago, I quoted from the poet Dorothy Law Nolte, who wrote that if a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn; if a child lives with hostility, she learns to fight; if a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive," Kangaloo stated.

She added, "All of this is true. But Nolte also wrote that if a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence; if a child lives with praise, she learns to appreciate; and if a child lives with fairness, he lives with justice."

Kangaloo commended the Rapidfire Kidz Foundation its work in positively impacting the nation's youth.

"I ask you to continue doing your good work," Kangaloo

She added, "And I look forward to speaking with you in years to come, in whatever capacity I might be in then, and to our giving thanks, in one united voice, to the work and the generosity of the Rapidfire Kidz Foundation, and to the progress that our country will by then have made in improving the lives of our nation's children."

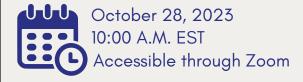


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### Visitors to PoS urged to remain vigilant

**Port-of-Spain** – Business owners, visitors, and shoppers in Port-of-Spain last week expressed growing concern over safety following a series of attacks and robberies on downtown streets.

One of the more frightening attacks took place earlier this month when a US resident was robbed of a significant quantity of US and Trinidad and Tobago currency, and her cell phone.

A video of the robbery, with the victim being brutalised as she lay on the sidewalk while desperately clutching her purse, circulated extensively on social media following the attack.

One street vendor, Robbie Wendell, told the media he was frustrated with the slow response time from police following the violent robbery.

"It took the police too long to come. As soon as those fellas attacked the woman, they should have been here. I don't feel safe in Port-of-Spain, but I know how to handle myself," he said.

Wendell urged nationals to remain vigilant when visiting the

Another national, Jordan Hackett, stressed the need for increased police presence, and for shoppers and tourists to remain vigilant.



Harewood-Christopher examines the seized weapons

### Criminals warned by CoP

**Port-of-Spain** – Sending a notice to criminals that the security forces were in pursuit, Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher last week commended her officers following seizure of a large quantity of firearms and ammunition in north Trinidad.

These weapons were likely linked to the suspects in the attack on the Deputy Commissioner of Prisons Sherwin Bruce, police investigations later suggested.

As was reported last week, three masked men shot at Bruce's vehicle as his chauffeur waited outside his home in Barataria shortly after 7:00 a.m.

The vehicle's driver was hit twice, while Bruce's daughter sustained minor injuries.

That police intelligence had gathered a possible link to this shooting and the weapons' seizure was revealed last week by Harewood-Christopher in release following what police described as the largest seizure of illegal firearms in Trinidad and Tobago's history.

According to Harewood-Christopher, after the crafting and execution of the service's Violence Crime Reduction Plan earlier this year, "an intelligence-led exercise was carried out at a location in the Santa Cruz police district, where a huge cache of high-powered, sophisticated weapons was discovered and seized"

As the release itemised, 13 firearms were found, including two AK-47 rifles, two Draco rifles, one M-16 rifle, two UZI submachine guns, one Beretta sub-machine gun, one Ruger 30 calibre rifle, and one Ruger Precision 50 calibre rifle. The seizure also included 1,152 rounds of assorted ammunition, including 45 mm, 50-calibre, 12-gauge, 7.62 mm, 9 mm, and 6.5-calibre armour-piercing ammunition.

Several major firearm component parts were also seized, including ten laser pointers, 23 rifle stocks, 53 trigger guards, 13 selectors, 15 triggers, four rear sights, and four buffers.

Harewood-Christopher said the seizure represented a major breakthrough in the police force's battle against the proliferation of illegal firearms and ammunitions.

"We anticipate it will significantly impact the commission of violent crimes involving the use of illegal weapons. We serve notice on people who seem prepared to disrupt law and order in this country that we are closing in on them. The question is not, 'If', but 'When' they will be detained," she warned.

Harewood-Christopher also warned those "wanting to challenge law enforcement that now is a good time to cease and desist. You will not succeed. We are coming for you."

"It's not safe in [Port-of-Spain]. More policing is needed. If people are coming to Port-of-Spain, they need to pay attention to their surroundings," he advised.

Shopper Rochelle Stewart emphasised the need for stricter punishments for criminals.

"I am working too hard for my money, and things are so expensive. People can't even shop in peace," she said.

Stewart also noted that a woman police constable was attacked earlier this month in Independence Square and robbed of a gold chain.

"Not even police safe in this place," she concluded.

Another visitor to the city also expressed frustration and fear, saying, "We can't keep up with this – nobody would want to come [to Port-of-Spain] – not even for Carnival. Crime all over, and not just in Port-of-Spain: people are not safe. My advice is to keep yourself home and save your money."

Stephen Lin, the owner of the store Ronald Lin, said there is an urgent need for functioning surveillance cameras. He also revealed he was the victim of a robbery in July.

Said Lin: "People don't feel safe. Christmas is coming soon, and town is full of crime. How could people feel safe shopping here? We need more police, and we need them on a permanent basis."

The approach of the Christmas season and personal safety were also on the minds of other nationals in Port-of-Spain, with vegetable vendor, Sharon Daniel, urging that care and vigilance be foremost on the minds of visitors coming to the city.

Daniel also noted there was a lack of police protection.

"... [At] this rate, I don't know how Christmas looking. I hoping for a better Christmas season, because last year was terrible. This crime rate isn't helping," she declared.



A low-resolution screen grab captures the violence when a US visitor was robbed in Port-of-Spain





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### The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

### We thrived on hits from Samadhi, Sangram, Babul, Har Har Mahadev

#### **By Vidur Dindayal**

ori Gori, Banki Chori, the song in movie Samadhi is top of my list of old 'pitcha' songs. Coming next would be Sawan Ke Baadlo or Mera Sunder Sapna, Beet Gaya. These songs dominated the Indian radio programmes in my young days.

Samadhi, Babul, Sangram and Har Har Mahadev were among the biggest hit movies in the early 1950s. And for us in Guyana, these are the songs that people mostly talked about.

Samadhi was the highest earning film of 1950. The very popular music was by C. Ramchandra. He introduced a western style to the Gori Gori song. The lyrics are a tease.

It says, Oh young fair guy, come in my street sometime. If you want, you can call me every day. Meeting every day is not so good. Not so good for love. A bit of meeting and bit of goodbye, having moonlight night all the time is not

The happy number was beautifully performed by Nalini Jaywant, Kuldip Kaur, and lady dancers with background singing by Lata and Amirbai Karnataki.

Three other songs were also nice to listen to: Wo Pass Aa Rahe Hai; Abhi Sham Ayegi; and Idhar Mohabat Udhar Zama.

Shekhar (Ashok Kumar) joined up with the Indian National Army under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He falls in love with Lilly D'Souza (Nalini Jaywant), a performer, only to discover she and her sister Dolly (Kuldip Kaur) were British spies. Shyam acting as Shekher's brother was an officer on the opposing side.

The 'pitcha' Sangram also starred Ashok Kumar and Nalini Jaywant. Ashok Kumar was Kunwar, Nalini was Kanta. Shashi Kapoor acted as young Kunwar, and Tabassum as young Kanta.

Kunwar, early in his life, got into gambling. When he grew up he was on the wrong side of the law. Escaping once from trouble, he got

help by Kanta who wrongly assumed he was injured and needed help. She turned out to be his childhood friend. They enjoyed each other's company until things unraveled at the end.

Sangram was the sixth highest earning Indian film of 1950. Sajjan, unrecognisable as old Lala, a friend of Kunwar's father, was the father of Kanta.

Memorable songs included: Din Aaye Pyare Pyare; Woh Unka Muskurana; and, Ulfat Ke Jadu Ka Dil Mein. This is the song where Ashok and Nalini are swimming. The song Kas Ke Kamar Ho Ja Taiyyar is sung by the two when they were young, played by Shashi Kapoor and Tabassum.

Babul featured stars from the young, new generation – Dilip Kumar as Ashok, Nargis as Bela, and Munawar Sultana as Usha.

Ashok comes to this village as a new postmaster. The daughter of the former postmaster is Bela. She likes the young postmaster and tries to get him to like her. He does not take her on. He likes Usha. Bela could not bear this. She went to Usha and told her that Ashok liked her instead. Usha believed her. Her parents arranged Usha's marriage to someone else.

The music of Babul was by Naushad, who was also producer. There were no less than 12 beautiful songs, the most memorable being Chhor Babul Ka Ghar.

Bela climbed up to the branch of a tall tree to see the coming of Usha's wedding party. The branch broke and Bela fell and hurt herself fatally. Hearing this, Ashok came quickly to her aid, but it was too late. In her dying moments she asked him to sing the song: Chhor Babul Ka Ghar. It was very hurtful. She is lying down, her head on Ashok's chest. He sings every word of the song slowly. You see a picture of the 'Lord' of Death coming

on his white horse. A strong wind is blowing wildly the flames of diyas. Her eyes close. Next is a picture of her running towards 'death' on the white horse. Death covers himself and her with a black sheet and rides swiftly away. That's

Nargis was young and she played her role convincingly. As you know, she was 'Mother India' in the award-winning movie. She married Sunil Dutt. He used to broadcast on Radio Ceylon, playing Hindi film songs. It was popular because in India in 1956, All India Radio at that time did not play film songs. That is the first time when I heard his name.

Har Har Mahadev, among religious films, was the one most talked about, because it had several very bhajan-like songs. In fact, the one usually heard, was sung as a bhajan - Bhole Nath Se Nirala. Starring were Trilok Kapoor, younger brother of Prithviraj Kapoor, Nirupa Roy, Jeevan, and Durga Khote.

At the time of the showing of this hit movie in British Guiana, the community was blessed with the visit of two Swamis from India attached to the Bharat Seva Ashram Sangha. They were Swami Advaitananda and Brahmchari.

Many people went to receive them at the airport. In an atmosphere of celebration, there was a big reception for them at the Hindu temple at Kitty.

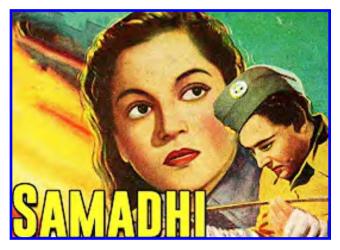
At the time, I was attending High School in Georgetown doing my A-Levels. I got to know about the Hindu community leaders from all over the country who came to show respect to the Swamis. My father attended. Prominent among the leaders were Dr J. B. Singh, head of the

Maha Sabha; Pt Paltooram, who lived opposite to the temple; well-known singers like Teelack, and others.

The bhajan from Har Har Mahadev, Bhole Nath Se Nirala, was sung at the temple.

One unique thing about the Swamis: when bhajan was being sung, Brahmchari would dance, waving his sword, not fiercely but artistically. He was a young man, maybe in his late 20s. He could have been a film actor if he wanted to. His dance with the sword was something people came to see.

A while after the two Swamis went away, a third, Swami Purnananda, came to British Guiana. He stayed for some time. The Temple at Cove and John, East Coast Demerara, was his signal achievement, having established it as a branch of the Bharat Sewa Ashram Sangha in India.











**Brahmchari** 

Swami Advaitananda

### Saira Banu shares special moments of her wedding, life with Dilip Kumar

aira Banu treated her Instafam to some unseen pictures and videos from her wedding to Dilip Kumar on her wedding anniversary on October 11.

The reel features glimpses of Saira Banu's mehendi ceremony, marriage rituals, cake cutting ceremony, and tender moments shared with Dilip Kumar. There are also glimpses of Dev Anand, Raj Kapoor, and Raaj Kumar who attended the wedding.

Saira Banu did the voice-over, calling her marriage "the dream of Cinderella". She admits in the video that it was her "obsession" with getting married to Dilip Kumar since she was a "ten-year-old girl".

Saira Banu signed off the video with these words: "It takes two to achieve it, and two to understand that it is an elastic relationship of give and take, and an abiding sense of togetherness forever."

Along with the video, Saira Banu wrote, "Today, the 11th of October, is our wedding anniversary. I am writing specially to express my gratitude to the multitude of well-wishers and dearest friends who have thoughtfully always sent me remembrances of this magical day for both of us, Dilip Sahib and I... when time stood still for us with a million happy sparkling stars in the sky. I have resorted after 'Two Years' of his physical absence from all of us to write and tell all of you about his real-being, his anecdotes, his likes and dislikes, that I, as his wife of 57 years, would know. I want to express my happiness at the appreciation that all of you are extending to me in my efforts."

Saira Banu encapsulated how she feels as Dilip Kumar's wife in these words: "People have often asked me...What was it like to be married to Dilip Kumar Sahib... the 'SHAHENSHAH' and I always told them, It felt like sharing a throne without having to slog for it! It's a real Cinderella story! It isn't every day that a girl is lucky enough to be married to the man of her dreams. It would be too difficult to enlarge on this... my life with him. It would take pages and pages. In fact a book."

Saira Banu cited Dilip Kumar's personal traits that made him stand out: "If he had an immense personality, he was also a great human being, he had also being so versatile in his knowledge of the world and everything under the sun that you never feel cramped with him. He has been a book you can never stop reading because you discover a new page to it every day. His interests, apart from films, ran a wide range of subjects such as Urdu and Persian Poetry, Anthropology, International Affairs, Botany, Sports, etc... This is an aspect of him that has been so enthralling, and this made him a vibrant, thrilling man."

Saira Banu concluded: "Sahib has been that iconic guiding light not only for me, but for all those generations who have



Saira Banu and Dilip Kumar

stepped forward in their lives, exemplified by his gracious presence and personality. Dilip Sahib is forever. May Allah always keep him in his love and abiding grace. Aameen!"

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi pens special garba song for Navratri



Narendra Modi

usic label Jjust Music spearheaded by Jackky Bhagnani is setting the spirit for the auspicious festival of Navratri.

Taking inspiration from the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's poetry to make a celebratory *garba* track, Jjust Music has created a majestic song titled Garbo for everyone to enjoy

Speaking of the lyrics penned by Modi, it speaks about the festival of Navratri that unites people across states, embracing cultures and traditions.

*Garbo* promises to be a melodious tribute to the joy and spirit of Navratri. The song is sung by the singer Dhvani Bhanushali, with the music composed by Tanishk Bagchi.

Speaking about the song and the spirit of Navratri, Jackky Bhagnani said, "Being a part of this remarkable musical project with Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is a moment of immense pride and joy for me and Jjust Music. *Garbo* is a tribute to our cultural heritage and the essence of Navratri."

Bhagnani added, "It's a testimony to the binding strength of the music. It is an exceptional and humbling experience for me, and I am confident that *Garbo* will become an integral part of Navratri celebrations for many years to come."

India is ready to dance to the *Garbo* tunes this Navratri season, thanks to this tribute by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.



Dhvani Bhanushali



Bhairavi Vaidya

### Taal's Bhairavi Vaidya passes away at 67

Renowned veteran actor Bhairavi Vaidya, celebrated for her roles in notable films such as Salman Khan's *Chori Chopke Chupke* and Aishwarya Rai's *Taal*, passed away on October 8 after a short battle with cancer.

Her career spanned an impressive 45 years. She was 67.

Bhairavi's contribution to entertainment extended beyond the silver screen, with her talent gracing both the big and small screens.

She recently appeared in the television series *Nima Denzongpa*. Actor Surabhi Das, who shared the series with her, expressed deep sorrow following Vaidya's death.

"I am really saddened by the news of her passing... I shared great times with her on sets," she told *India Today*.

News of Vaidya's passing reverberated through the industry, with the Cine and TV Artistes' Association paying its respects, expressing condolences following Vaidya's death.

Acclaimed actor Pratik Gandhi also remembered Vaidya as an "affectionate" individual. He shared the screen with her in a Gujarati film, *Ventilator*.

While Vaidya's work in Hindi cinema and television is celebrated, she also extended her talents to the Gujarati film industry.

Her versatility and dedication to her craft made her a prominent figure in the entertainment world.

Additionally, she graced television screens in popular shows like *Hasratein* and *Mahisagar*.



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Rizan (left) gives thanks following Pakistan's win against Sri Lanka

### Record WC Pakistan-Sri Lanka match

t was a World Cup match that saw a record run chase, and one that ended with four centuries scored.

The game also turned out to be a top thriller when Pakistan chased a record 345 to beat Sri Lanka, in what the international media have described as one of the best matches so far in the 2023 tournament, now underway in Hyderabad.

Pakistan did not appear to be too steady at sea and on target at 37-2 early into their innings, but then a determined partnership of 176 off 156 balls between Abdullah Shafique and Muhammad Rizwan soon repositioned the sails.

Shafique scored 113 off 103 balls before being caught at point. The smooth sailing then continued with Rizwan and Saud Shakeel sharing 95 for the fourth wicket.

Dogged by injuries, Rizwan received treatment for his back, and was haunted by a cramp in his calf, but kept his eye on the compass throughout.

He finished unbeaten on 131 from 121 balls, overcame the dismissal of Shakeel for 31, and hit the winning run to bring Pakistan safely into port. Iftikhar Ahmed helped the ship along, finishing not out on 22.

The win came with an over and four balls to spare.

In their game, Sri Lanka made 344-9 from the allotted 50 overs. It was a knock that saw Kusal Mendis scoring 122 off 77 balls, and Sadeera Samarawickrama 108 off 89.

So far, this match is the first in World Cup history to have accumulated four centuries from batters on both teams.

Previous record chases in the Men's Cricket World Cup

328 - Ireland vs England, 2011

322 - Bangladesh vs West Indies, 2019

319 – Bangladesh vs Scotland, 2015

313 – Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe, 1992

310 – Sri Lanka vs England, 2015.

## WI, Ireland Academy series set for Antigua

he match schedule and venues for the West Indies Academy home series against Ireland Academy was announced last week by Cricket West Indies. The series will feature three 50-over matches and two four-day matches in Antigua from November 17 to December 5.

Speaking with the Caribbean media last week, CWI's High-Performance Manager Graeme West outlined the idea behind the series and the structure. He noted that CWI continues to

prioritise the development of players with the objective being to prepare them to play at the highest level.

Said West: "We are delighted to host Ireland Academy in Antigua, for what will be a highly competitive multiformat series."

He added, "This series is critical in the players' ongoing development and education. [We] are pleased that it will involve both red- and white-ball



**Graeme West** 

matches. [This year] has provided the players with some great exposure through the Headley-Weekes Series, the CG United Super50 Cup, and the Republic Bank CPL, so this will be a fitting conclusion to the calendar year, and provide the squad with clear aims and objectives going into 2024."

West also noted that the five matches are being played in isolation, but form part of CWI's overall high-performance strategy.

"We want to provide the squad with competitive environments and high-performance platforms that facilitate growth and prepare the players to excel in a West Indies shirt," he stated.

#### Schedule

#### November 17

1st 50-Over match at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium November 19

2nd 50-Over match at Coolidge Cricket Ground **November 21** 

3rd 50-Over match at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium November 25-28

1st 4-Day match at Coolidge Cricket Ground

December 2-5

2nd 4-Day match at Coolidge Cricket Ground

### After scoring a century, cricket now makes an Olympics' run

hile the pinnacle for batters in the game of cricket is to hit that 100-run goal, it appears that the game itself acquired a not-so-desirable target with its absence from the Olympic Games since the early 1900s.

But that lengthy knock ended earlier this week when the International Olympic Committee officially approved the inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

This decision came during an IOC session, which was held in Mumbai on Monday.

Cricket will now be played in Twenty20 format, and both men and women's teams will be included in Los Angeles. Initially, ICC will field only six teams from each category LA28. In addition to cricket, baseball-softball, flag football, lacrosse,

and squash have also been formally included in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028.

The decision to include cricket was confirmed by Nita Ambani, a member of the IOC.

"The inclusion of cricket in the sports programme for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics Games was a welcome addition that had the potential to attract a lot of new interest and opportunities for the Olympic movement across newer geographies in the world," Ambani said.

Additionally, "As an IOC member, a proud Indian, and an ardent cricket fan, I am delighted that IOC members have voted to include Cricket as an Olympic Sport in the LA Summer Olympics 2028!"

Earlier this month, Cricket West Indies President Dr Kishore Shallow was enthusiastic following IOC plans to include the game in LA.

"The Los Angeles 2028 Olympics' recommendation for cricket inclusion at the Games is a monumental step that could see more significant opportunities for cricket and the Caribbean community," he told the media in the Caribbean.

Additionally, "I share my International Cricket Council colleagues' enthusiasm about this progress, and commend all stakeholders for advancing this ambition."

Now that it has been approved, the final LA28 event programme, and the number of athlete quotas in the additional sports, will be finalised in the future.

Three of the five proposed sports, including cricket, have previously been contested at the Olympics. Cricket's only previ-



Kishore Shallow



Nita Ambani



India in joyful moment at the 2022 Commonwealth Games

ous appearance was at the 1900 Games in Paris, France, when a team from Britain beat a team representing the hosts. Its appearance in France was a two innings-aside competition.

However, the proposed modern-day format to the OIC for cricket will be for the Twenty20 format – one of cricket's latest, and most spectator-friendly versions.

According to world media reports earlier this month, the ICC recommended a six-team tournament for both men and women to the LA28 organising committee.

It was also reported that the participating teams will com-

prise the top-six ranked sides in the ICC's men's and women's T20 rankings on a cut-off date. This strategy is similar to the one that was used to determine the teams when cricket made its return after 24 years at the Commonwealth Games last year in the Birmingham, UK.

It was also reported last week that the ICC proposed T20s, after both LA28 and the IOC emphasised the format must be one that featured a world championship (which ruled out the T10 or Hundred format), had a compact duration (which ruled out the 50 overs' ODIs), and had significant spectator interest.

ICC president Greg Barclay welcomed the decision to propose cricket to the IOC, saying, "We are delighted that LA28 have recommended cricket for inclusion in the Olympics."

He added, "Whilst this is not the final decision, it is a very significant landmark towards seeing cricket at the Olympics for the first time in more than a century. I would like to thank LA28 for their support during the new sport evaluation process over the last two years, and we look forward to the final decision..."

As a game, cricket has gained enormous global appeal, and has been making appearances in other multi-nation and multi-sport events.

It saw a debut at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where three men's sides from the Caribbean played in a 16-team tournament under the Oneday, 50 overs-a-side format. This tournament was won by South Africa. In that tournament, Barbados, led by Philo Wallace, finished sixth, and were the highest placed of the three Caribbean sides. Antigua and Barbuda led by Dave Joseph were eighth, with Jamaica, captained by Jimmy Adams, finishing in tenth place.

There was no men's competition when cricket returned to the Commonwealth Games last year. The game saw the top eight women's teams in the ICC rankings under the T20 format on the field, with Barbados, at the time the reigning CWI T20 Blaze champions at the time, taking the slot allocated to the West Indies.

Cricket also featured in the 2010 edition of the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, and in 2014 in Incheon, South Korea.

It was also part of the events in the recently-concluded 19th edition in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, where India won gold.



A celebratory West Indies women's team

### West Indies Women's 'A' team tour Pakistan

15-member West Indies Women's 'A' Team squad is in Pakistan for an historic tour until November 8. It is being led by Head Coach Shane Deitz, with top-order batter and wicket keeper Rashada Williams as captain, and offspinning all-rounder Ashmini Munisar wearing the vice-cap-

The lineup was announced earlier this month by Cricket West Indies, and includes six Guyanese women who would be making the historic trip.

As the Caribbean media reported last week, this is the firstever West Indies Women's 'A' Team Away Tour. It features three 50-over matches against Pakistan 'A' at the Lahore Country Club in Muridke, followed by a tri-nation T20 Series with Pakistan 'A' and Thailand.

The preliminary matches will be played at the Lahore Country Club, with the final taking place at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Lead Selector for Women's and Girls' Cricket Ann Browne-John praised this latest CWI move.

"The 'A' Team tour to Pakistan is a welcome addition to the calendar. It is a perfect opportunity for the developing players to get some international experience," she told the Caribbean media last week.

She added, "The team is a combination of players who participated in the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup, and players who have just started to establish themselves in the Senior Team set-up, some of whom are in Australia for the ongoing series."

Browne-John also commented on Williams in the lead role.

"The captain Rashada Williams has shown good leadership during the CG United Women's Super50 Cup and Women's T20 Blaze earlier this year and recently had some good performances during the Women's CPL. This tour, coming just after the Australia series, is a great opportunity for players to grow and improve," Browne-John stated.

Rashada Williams (captain); Ashmini Munisar (vice captain); Jahzara Claxton; NaiJanni Cumberbatch; Cherry Ann Fraser; Shabika Gajnabi; Jannillea Glasgow; Sheneta Grimmond; Trishan Holder; Zaida James; Djenaba Joseph; Qiana Joseph; Nyia Latchman; Mandy Mangru; and Shunelle Sawh.

#### **Match Schedule** October 24

1st 50-Over match, Lahore Country Club, Muridke October 26

> 2nd 50-Over match, LCC, Muridke October 29

3rd 50-Over match, LCC, Muridke

November 3

1st T20 match vs Pakistan 'A', LCC, Muridke

November 4

2nd T20 match vs Thailand, LCC, Muridke

November 5

3rd T20 match Pakistan 'A' vs Thailand, LCC, Muridke November 8

4th T20 Final, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

### Aussie women prepare for Test versus India

balls during the ODI series with West Indies in preparation for the day-night Test against India come De-

cember, the cricket website ES-PNcricinfo reported last week. The match is likely to be played in Mumbai.

It is likely that the famed Wankhede Stadium would host a Test in December, in what would be India's first home women's Test since 2014. Mumbai hosted Australia's most recent women's Test in India way back in February 1984.

Also, India and Australia played out a draw at Carrara on the Gold Coast in a day-night Test in October 2021.

"I think the coaches thought it could be a good chance just to have a try with the pink balls,"

**Annabel Sutherland** said emerging all-rounder Annabel Sutherland. She added, "We had a Test on the Gold Coast, and weren't able to get a lot of preparation for that just because of the short notice

for the series, and with [Covid-19 restrictions]. You look at the

ustralia's women cricketers started training with pink men, they often swap between red and white balls within close windows of time, so if we can get comfortable with the pink ball, red ball, white ball, whatever it is, it will certainly make the lead-

> up Test matches [easier]. Any chance you get to play in India is one that you look forward to."

> Sutherland also indicated she was eager for more time in the middle, but will continue biding her time down the order. Already with a Test and ODI century to her name, Sutherland batted at No 7 against the West Indies in the recent ODIs.

> As ESPNcricinfo noted, Australia have so much depth with bat and ball that players who can open for their State and in franchise cricket regularly get relegated to the lower order.

> Said Sutherland: "I'm always up for more time in the middle. I'm in the coach's ear all the

time. I'm sure I'm annoying [coach Shelley Nitschke] just as much as a few others who are pretty keen for a hit. The girls up top are doing a pretty good job as always. I'm happy to be patient at the moment and watch the girls do their work up top."



#### (Matches ALL TIMES LOCAL)

**Wednesday October 18** 

16th Match (D/N), New Zealand vs Afghanistan, Chennai, 2:00 p.m.

**Thursday October 19** 17th Match (D/N), India vs Ban., Pune, 2:00 p.m.

Friday October 20 18th Match (D/N), Aus. vs Pakistan, 2:00 p.m. 19th Match, Netherlands vs Sri Lanka, Lucknow, 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday October 21** 

20th Match (D/N), England vs South Africa, Wankhede, 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday October 22** 

21st Match (D/N), India vs New Zealand, Dharamsala, ICC Cricket World Cup, 2:00 pm **Monday October 23** 

22nd Match (D/N), Afg. vs Pakistan, 2:00 pm **Tuesday October 24** 

23rd Match (D/N), Bangladesh vs South Africa, Wankhede, 2:00 p.m.

**Wednesday October 25** 

24th Match (D/N), Aus. vs Nether., 2:00 p.m. **Thursday October 26** 

25th Match (D/N), England vs Sri Lanka, Bengaluru, 2:00 p.m.

Friday October 27 26th Match (D/N), Pakistan vs South Africa, Chennai, 2:00 p.m.

27th Match, Australia vs New Zealand, Dharamsala, 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday October 28** 

28th Match (D/N), Bangladesh vs Netherlands, Eden Gardens, ICC Cricket World Cup, 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday October 29** 29th Match (D/N), Afghanistan vs Sri Lanka, Lucknow, 2:00 p.m.

**Monday October 30** 

30th Match (D/N), Afghanistan vs Sri Lanka, Pune, 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday October 31** 

31st Match (D/N), Bangladesh vs Pakistan, Eden Gardens, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, November 1

32nd Match (D/N), NZ vs SA, Pune, 2:00 pm **Thursday November 2** 

33rd Match (D/N), India vs Sri Lanka, Wankhede, 2:00 pm

Friday, November 3

34th Match (D/N), Afghanistan vs Netherlands, Lucknow, 2:00 pm

35th Match, New Zealand vs Pakistan, Bengaluru, 10:30 am

Saturday November 4

36th Match (D/N), Australia vs England, Ahmedabad, 2:00 pm **Sunday November 5** 

37th Match (D/N), Eden Gardens, India vs South

Africa, 2:00 pm **Monday November 6** 

38th Match (D/N), Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka, Delhi, 2:00 pm

**Tuesday November 7** 

39th Match (D/N), Afghanistan vs Australia, Wankhede, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, November 8

40th Match (D/N), England vs Netherlands, Pune, 2:00 pm

**Thursday November 9** 

41st Match (D/N), New Zealand vs Sri Lanka, Bengaluru, 2:00 pm

Friday November 10

42nd Match (D/N), Afghanistan vs South Africa, Ahmedabad, 2:00 pm

43rd Match, Aus. vs Ban., Pune, 10:30 am Saturday November 11

44th Match (D/N), England vs Pakistan, Eden Gardens, 2:00 pm

**Sunday November 12** 

45th Match (D/N), India vs Netherlands, Bengaluru, 2:00 pm

Wednesday November 15

1st Semi-Final (D/N), TBA-TBA, Wankhede, 2:00 pm.





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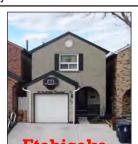


& island, dining area with walkout to deck, stainless steel appliances, butler pantry, wood beam accents & barn door, living room with built-in gas fireplace, high ceilings, mudroom with garage access, California shutters, primary bedroom with gas fireplace, shiplap, his/her walk-in closets, & a 5-piece ensuite. Second bedroom with 3-piece ensuite & walkout to balcony. Third & 4th bedrooms with Jack & Jill bath, basement with separate entrance with lots of potential. Fenced yard with beautiful trees in backyard. Plus More!

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







Beautiful 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms, 2 storey home located in the quiet

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



washrooms, Detached Home in York. Huge Backyard. Conveniently Located Within Walking Distance To amenities and schools. Extremely Close Proximity to Public Transit! A Great Place to Call Home.



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



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