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CGCC growing Canada-Guyana synergy

Toronto – The momentum by the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce has picked up rapidly since its inaugural gala in September last year, with its membership growing even as it meets the mandate to facilitate synergies among businesses in Canada and Guyana.

Almost a year later after its well-attended inauguration in Markham, the CGCC facilitated yet another successful event, this time a business information session, which took place on September 9 in Etobicoke.

And even as the CGCC completed its recent event in Toronto, plans are now well underway in Guyana for yet another signature event, its Maple Leaf Gala, which takes place in Georgetown at the Marriott Guyana Ballroom on October 6.

The evening of celebration, networking, and business opportunities will see the keynote address delivered by Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali.

Meanwhile, here in Toronto, the Etobicoke event, which was titled *Canadians Doing Business in Guyana – Tax Implications*, saw the key speaker Toronto lawyer, accountant, and consultant to the government of Guyana, Tameshwar Lilmohan, edifying registrants with

his expertise, knowledge, and experience.

During his address, Lilmohan spoke on the tax implications for Canadian taxpayers who are considering doing business in Guyana. Among the topics discussed were registering a business, preliminary requirements, and tax consequences. A schooled expert in taxes, Lilmohan also eloquently elaborated on the Canada-Guyana Double Taxation Treaty.

The ongoing work by the CGCC in facilitating, nurturing, and engaging businesses is in tandem with the uptick in growing global confidence and focus as the engines now running Guyana's economy continue to shift into high gear.

According to media reports out of Georgetown earlier this month, one prediction for Guyana is for economic growth of 28.2 percent this year. As reported, for the first half of the year, the sugar industry grew by 30.1 percent; mining and quarrying by 89.9 percent; and the petroleum sub-sector by 98.4 percent. These figures were published in the mid-year report released by the Guyana's Ministry of Finance.

Also, another recent and corollary report was released

See Page 5: CGCC offers



Irfaan Ali



Members of the diaspora in Canada this week joined with nationals and the government of Guyana in expressing profound condolences to Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, and his family following the passing of their matriarch, Shakeela Nazirah Singh, née Hoosainny. Dr Singh's mother passed away in Toronto on September 14; her funeral took place on September 17. In photo, taken at Lotus Funeral & Cremation Centre, are (left to right) Keith George, Guyana's High Commissioner to Canada; Mohamed Osman and Bibi Shariman Ali, parents of Guyana's President Irfaan Ali; Dr Ashni Singh; and Mani Singh, Honorary Consul at the Guyana Consulate General in Toronto.

VM's marathon preparations shift into overdrive

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Toronto – Preparations by Vishnu Mandir and Global Care Outreach for its upcoming TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon have now shifted into overdrive. The additional boost came following inspirational sign-ups for the in-person marathon events by eminent leaders in the municipal government, and from the diplomatic corps.

In what was an indication of the growing involvement and support for VM's annual fall event, City of Richmond Hill Mayor David West, the Honorary Consul Mani Singh from the Guyana Consulate in Toronto, and Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette from the Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago took their first steps to join up and become participants.

The trio will be at ground level in downtown Toronto come the morning of October 15 with the VM team. Earlier this week they indicated growing enthusiasm to be part of the exciting starting lineup for the in-person 5K event.

"It is my honour and privilege to join Dr [Budhendranauth] Doobay's TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon Run for Dialysis team," West said earlier this week.

He added, "I am so grateful for the many generous acts that have been led by this community, and I am excited to join them on October 15. Whether

you walk, run, volunteer, or donate, I hope you will be inspired as I have been by the relentless and determined philanthropy that is embodied by this team and get involved." [Click here to go to West's TWM donation page.](#)

Singh also indicated he was looking forward to the October 15 event.

"On behalf of the Guyana Consulate, I am very pleased to once again participate in the [TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon]," he said.

He added, "This initiative, while encouraging physical activity and fitness in our Guyanese-Canadian diaspora, also helps to make affordable and accessible specialised health care for our fellow Guyanese back home. I'm particularly pleased to say that the [Guyana Dialysis & Eye Clinics] is one such health care provider in Guyana that contributes towards the government of Guyana's overall objective, which is to ensure specialised health care is made more

accessible and affordable for all Guyanese." [Click here to go to Singh's TWM donation page.](#)

The enthusiasm and support by West and Singh were similarly echoed by Ramsubagh-Mannette, who also called on the diaspora to get involved, and to support VM's and Global Care Outreach's humanitarian and philanthropic effort.

Said Ramsubagh-Mannette: "As October 15 draws

See Page 15: Marathon growing



David West



Vishnu Mandir is getting set for its Diwali Mela & Shobha Yatra on October 7. In photo are Dr Doobay (left) and Laj Prasher from last year's spectacular event. See display on Page 14.

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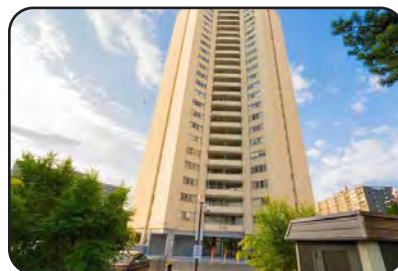
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ICW gets a welcome visit from writer, globetrotter

Indo-Caribbean World was recently graced with a courtesy visit by the eminent Vidur Dindayal, a resident of the UK, and one of our esteemed writers. He was welcomed by ICW's publisher, Harry Ramkhelawan.



Vidur (above), & during a visit to the Hanuman statue at Vishnu Mandir in Toronto

Both octogenarians, the two good friends spent many pleasant and brotherly hours in nostalgic conversation about growing up in Guyana, living abroad as members of the diaspora, and of course, talking about the craft of writing and publishing.

Vidur is a retired architect, a former Justice of the Peace, and an author. Among his books are an autobiography, *A Life of Blessings*; *Guyanese Achievers UK*; and *Guyanese Achievers, USA and Canada*. He has also compiled a family history, *Dad and Maa, Autobiography of Pandit Petambar*

and Mrs Sati Dindayal.

At 88, Vidur is an inveterate globetrotter: before his recent sojourn here in Canada, our intrepid world traveler had visited Guyana. Prior to his South American adventure, he had traveled to India, where health complications led to a preemptive return to the UK. Now undeterred, recovered, and imbued with divine energy and purpose, Vidur's ineluctable wanderlust will see him returning to India this November, where he will join in the celebration of Sai Baba's birthday at Puttaparthi.



Martin Latchana (front row) could not resist the selfie with good friends Acklema and Rajiv Persaud



The Rhythm Rollers kept the event uptempo

NAAC brunch fills evening with tasty food, dancing

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada held a brunch on the roof top patio at Tropical Nights Restaurant and Lounge, Scarborough, on September 10. The event saw many alumni members and friends in attendance. They were treated to a delectable and sumptuous cuisine of Indo-Caribbean, Caribbean, and Caribbean-Chinese dishes.

Among the dishes were various curries, bake and saltfish, baigan chokha, pumpkin, and *dhal puri*.

Live entertainment was also on hand that saw attendees tak-

ing to the dance floor. Entertainers included Rudy Maharajh and his band *Jammin*, and foot-tapping performances by *The Rhythm Rollers*.

The evening was filled with good food, music, dancing, and recalling many pleasant memories. The get-together was a welcomed event for the NAAC, with members not seeing each other since the Covid-19 lockdown. The next event that NAAC will host will be its Christmas Gala, which takes place on November 26, 2023 at the Elite Banquet Hall in Etobicoke.



Current NAAC President Selwyn Baboolal (centre) with friends and family; at left is Adam, with Sheeraz (second from left); at right is Omar, and second from right, Riaz.

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Refugee child exodus in Caribbean hits all-time high

The number of migrant children moving across Latin America and the Caribbean has hit a new record in the wake of climate change, violence, and instability, the UNICEF reported last week.

UNICEF also noted that one in four people on the move in Latin America and the Caribbean is a child, making the exodus the highest proportion globally.

As the organisation's child alert stated, children are migrating through Latin America and the Caribbean in record numbers, and now account for a larger share of the migrant population than other regions in the world.

Record numbers of children are on the move via three major migration routes in Latin America and the Caribbean: through the Darién jungle between Colombia and Panama, outward migration from South America, and at key transit points in northern Central America and Mexico.

Also, the nature of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean region has changed dramatically in the last decade.

"Gang violence, instability, poverty and climate-related events are, alarmingly, gripping the region and pushing more children from their homes," said UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean Director, Garry Conille.

"More and more children are on the move, of an increasingly young age, often alone and from diverse countries of origin, including from as far away as Africa and Asia. When they cross several countries and sometimes the entire region, disease and injury, family separation and abuse may plague their journeys, and even if they make it to their destination, their futures often remain at risk," Conille added.

At least 29,000 children made the perilous Darién crossing in 2021. An estimated 40,000 children made the crossing in 2022, and more than 60,000 children have crossed the Darién jungle in the first eight months of 2023, half of them below the age of five, making it the year with the most child crossings on record.

Meanwhile, the number of refugee and migrant children apprehended at the southern border of the US has also been on the rise.

The US Customs and Border Protection recorded more than 149,000 children crossing in Fiscal Year 2021, and over 155,000 in FY 2022, UNICEF reported.

In the first seven months of FY 2023, more than 83,000 children have entered the country according to the CBP. These trends are echoed in other smaller migration flows across the region as increasing violence, instability, and climate-related disasters result in more displacement and forced migration.

The proportion of children moving along major migration routes in Latin America and the Caribbean has also climbed to a record high in the past three years. Around the world, children make up 13 percent of the migrant population, but in this region, about one in four people, or around 25 percent, on the move is a child, up from 19 percent in 2019. This is only rivalled by Sub-Saharan Africa, where children also account for 25 percent of the migrant population.

Increasingly, it is younger children who are making these perilous journeys, with those under 11 years now accounting for up to 91 percent of all children on the move at some key transit points. This new reality poses challenges to national migration policies and humanitarian responses in countries of origin, transit, and destination.

The physical risks along irregular migration



A refugee family fleeing Venezuela last year. Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela photo

routes are innumerable, especially for children. As well as the dangerous terrain they traverse – from jungles and rivers to railway lines and highways – children may also encounter violence, exploitation, and abuse.

"My favourite part was leaving the jungle because it's a nightmare in there," said Angela, an eight-year-old girl who walked through the Darién jungle in 2022. During the journey, Angela and her ten-year-old sister were separated from their parents and wandered lost for two days before being reunited.

The family traveled for more than 40 days to reach Guatemala before continuing to their destination.

The mixed migration flows in Latin America and the Caribbean are dynamic and often intersect; most countries are simultaneously points of origin, transit, destination, and return.

This presents challenges and requires an integrated approach within the region to ensure migrant and refugee children and their families are protected and the root causes of forced migration are addressed.

UNICEF is working with partners and governments along migration routes to provide accurate information to promote safe migration, to offer lifesaving assistance, and support children's access to essential services. This includes helping countries prevent, detect, and safeguard children from violence, and assisting children and families who face hardship and exploitation on their migration journey.

UNICEF is also appealing for (US) \$160.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrant children in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

As of August 2023, UNICEF has received less than 20 percent (approximately US \$32.5m) of its funding requirements. UNICEF is also appealing for (US) \$142.31 million for children and families on the migration route across Central America and Mexico in 2023.

As of August, UNICEF received just 26 percent of these much-needed funds.

"The unprecedented scale of the child migration crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean urgently requires a stronger humanitarian response, as well as the expansion of safe and regular migration pathways for children and families to help protect their rights and their futures, no matter where they are

migration.

Also, building on the interconnected nature of migration movements and policy responses in the region, and investing in countries of origin to improve access to services, prevent, and respond to violence.

The organisation is seeking to create education and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable children, young people, and families, and support children who continue their residence in the country of origin while their parents have migrated.

Also, expanding safe and regular migration pathways for children and families, including family reunification mechanisms, while upholding the right to territorial asylum. Too, children and families should be allowed to enter a State's territory in order to apply for asylum and be able to remain there for the duration of asylum proceedings.

Also urging strengthening child-sensitive border and reception processes led by child protection authorities at the earliest possible stage, implementing child-specific safeguards, preserving family unity including for children traveling with non-parental caregivers, and ensuring access to legal services.

And UNICEF is also urging investing in strong national child protection systems to safeguard all children, including migrant and refugee children, from exploitation and violence, ensuring compliance with adequate procedures to determine their best interests, and promote safe border crossing.

from," Conille said.

UNICEF continues to urge United Nations Member States in the region to ensure the rights, safety, and well-being of migrant and refugee children, including mobilising a regional approach to international protection, and to address the child-specific root causes of

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All proceeds from this event go to the building of the New Radha Krishna Mandir in Cambridge Ontario

CGCC offers 'concierge service' to businesses looking to Guyana

From Page 1

by the IMF, which noted the rapid growth that Guyana's economy is presently undergoing.

In addition, the IMF noted that this growth was supported by the government's modernisation plans, which include an unparalleled oil sector expansion.

According to the IMF report, following record GDP growth in 2022 of 62.3 percent, the highest in the world, "real GDP is expected to continue to grow extremely fast in 2023 at 38 percent".

Speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World* last week against this backdrop of a bullish, burgeoning economy, Fareed Amin, a director with the CGCC, remarked that the chamber was more than prepared to work "as a concierge service" to facilitate the interest abroad that is being discerned in the growing number of would-be investors.

He also noted investors here in Canada, and globally, were becoming more informed, and aware of potential opportunities that are opening up in Guyana.

In an earlier interview this month, Amin had also commented on the energy build-up among business interests abroad.

Its manifestation was a reassuring reflection of growing investor confidence in Guyana's burgeoning economic landscape, he stated.

Consequently, as an indicator of this energised interest, the September 9 information was "well-attended", he declared.

Speaking about the event, Amin said: "We had about 80 registrants. Among the attendees were small business persons, contractors in Guyana, home builders, professionals, consultants, and may others, who are doing business in Guyana."

He added, "[Lilmohan] did a great presentation. He took the registrants through tax legislation, explained double taxation treaty, provided examples of various classes of taxes, among others. It was a pretty technical presentation, and it was well-received. It simplified and demystified."

Amin also spoke to the CGCC's upcoming Maple Leaf Gala, which will take place in Georgetown on October 6.

And similar to the enthusiasm on the



Lilmohan (standing) addresses attendees at the information session

Canadian front, Amin said the CGCC was anticipating a sold-out event.

Enthusiasm on the Guyana front for the gala was keen, and likely being driven by President Ali's support for the event, he stated.

"With President Ali attending, I suspect this is why so many people are coming," Amin said.

He added, "The CGCC feels very privileged President Ali is attending, and is supporting the chamber. As has been noted, he has a special attachment to Canada, and wants to see trade and investment strengthened. He has always been a great supporter of the CGCC, and we have been fortunate to have his government ministers visit Canada."

CGCC's inaugural gala saw Finance Minister Ashni Singh delivering the keynote address.

Romeo Kaseram, LJI Reporter



Winston Kassim, CGCC founding director, co-chair at the information session



CGCC panel members during the Q&A

Radha Krishna mandir holding live concert featuring Pt Munelal

Radha Krishna Mandir & Cultural Centre Inc in Cambridge, Ontario is holding a fund-raising concert and dinner on September 23, starting 6:00 p.m. at Bhawani Shankar Mandir, 90 Nexus Avenue, Brampton.

The concert will feature the popular and talented Pt Munelal Maharaj, formerly of Trinidad and Tobago, and who now resides in Orlando, Florida. Many other young artists and performers are also in the evening's lineup.

Pt Munelal comes from a lineage of pandits, and was trained both in Trinidad and India. He sings Bhajans and Hindi songs, and has preached on Hinduism internationally in nations such as Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Canada, the US, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and in other countries.

A forerunner to this concert was the tremendously successful and well-attended Bhakti Sangeet, which took place on April 22 in Etobicoke.

Meanwhile, construction work continues on the new Cambridge mandir, with its executive aiming to have the building enclosed by December 23. A Spring 2023 opening is being aimed for, and the mandir is counting on the continued support of the Hindu community to meet this goal.

Funds raised will go into RKMCC Building Fund. Tax deductible **Donations can be made by clicking here.** Funds can also be sent by




Pt Munelal


eTransfer to donate@radhakrishnamandir.ca.

A brick programme is now available for donations at \$1,500 each. There are many available areas in the building with bricks awaiting a name, and are available for individuals, entire families, or a chosen family member.

For more information, please contact **Dwarka Persaud at 519-240-0870**; or send an email to president@radhakrishnamandir.ca; or [click here to visit the mandir's website](#).



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Editorial

A new caution

It is an ongoing narrative in this space that we remind members in our community to exercise caution, and to remain vigilant against crime, when visiting our homelands in the Caribbean.

As part of our commitment to ensuring our community stays informed, and is guided to credible and reliable data, we typically link to top-level travel advisories that are issued by protective agencies, and which are found on websites hosted by Canada, the US, the UK, and other nations.

In so doing, as a community publication now in our 41st year, we continue to fulfil that part of our mandate to keep our diaspora informed, so members who are visiting the homelands remain within zones of security, safety, and return home to Canada in good health.

Having done so for over four decades as a community publication, we will continue to emphasise that visitors traveling to nations with high rates of crime remain vigilant; at this time, among Caribbean nations being cited by Canadian and US travel advisories for robberies, gun violence, kidnapping, and murders are Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Haiti.

Also, in the past we have urged our diaspora making trips back home to remain cognisant of road safety, particularly in countries where poor roadway conditions, and the national driving culture, are treacherous, chronically competitive, and at times could become quite deadly.

It is instructive to cite Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago at this point, particularly the former nation, where the growing road carnage, notable in the deaths of young people, continue to emerge as a troubling national issue.

And now it has come to pass where we must add a new item on the list requiring vigilance and caution.

Sadly, it is a time when the global narrative has shifted; so much that we have crossed over into a new threshold, one that sees us standing on the doorstep of a clear and present danger.

We are talking about climate change. And with this has emerged the possibility of an unhappy and unhealthy outcome that could see our diaspora crossing over into zones of endangerment when visiting the Caribbean. Such endangerment has the potential for serious and deleterious fallout in personal health from pathologies triggered by extremely hot temperatures.

The famous statement made on July 27 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres is as instructive as it is filled with foreboding. Stating that our world was now in the hot seat, and anticipating that climbing temperatures in July would see the hottest month ever recorded in human history, Guterres stated, famously, darkly, and with a dramatic, apocalyptic foretaste: “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board”; and it did.

Months later, with temperatures rising in different locations across the world, we must now narrow our focus to our homelands, and issue a new caution: that members of our Caribbean diaspora visiting Trinidad and Tobago in the coming weeks exercise a new vigilance; that they deploy a new level of caution to keep their persons safe from what are going to be record levels of high temperatures in this country.

It is a word to the wise to note last week T&T’s Meteorological Service issued a warning that temperatures are going to remain high in both islands until the end of September. There is an 80 percent chance that temperatures near or greater than 34 degrees Celsius will blanket Trinidad during this period. Tobago could see temperatures hitting 32.5 Celsius degrees or higher.

Also, that cities, urban, and built-up areas are expected to see maximum temperatures near to, or greater than, 34 degrees Celsius; and as was noted, these temperatures impacting on the person could feel like being in the range of 34-44 degrees Celsius. It is a worrisome development.

To our diaspora visiting T&T: yet again we advise vigilance against crime and an unwholesome road culture; and to this, we now add another layer of caution against the extreme heat that is being caused by climate change.

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

NY border crossing more about duty than duty-free

The Niagara Duty Free shop is a busy place on a long weekend. Thousands of people file through for a tax-free purchase before crossing the border. Many take advantage of the holiday for an extended road trip.

The large volume of Indo-Caribbean customers is quite noticeable on long weekends at that duty-free shop, and the other ones nearby. Most are there to either stretch their legs, or use the washroom. Others take advantage of the large selection of alcoholic beverages available at reduced and tax-free rates.

The constant flow of Indo-Caribbean people at the duty-free store is representative of something larger; something that is much more meaningful than a simple road trip and a pitstop for discounted rum.

Most Indo-Caribbean individuals in Toronto or NYC have close family ties in the other city. And during long weekends, there are a number of events that trigger the pilgrimage that is quite familiar to many of us.

The convoy of Indo-Caribbean families traveling to and from Toronto and New York City is not unique to any individual household; it is a pattern many of us have experienced.

The populous Indo-Caribbean communities in both regions retain linkages connecting diasporic families that might have arrived at new homes, but in different countries; and for a variety of factors, they ended up settling apart.

From weddings to birthdays, pujas, and even funerals, the distance may be far, but we take the time to make the journey to reconnect with our loved ones.

The eight-to-nine-hour journey from one city to the other traverses small-town America, mostly in New York State, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. And despite an absence of diversity along the route, when we arrive at our destination, we already feel like we are home.

Of my mother’s siblings, only one, lives in the US; she is in the NYC Borough of Queens. My father has only one sibling living there as well, and a handful of cousins and extended family members.

For myself, it is difficult to fathom living a far distance from one’s sibling. But family connections like these are what trigger the necessity to travel quite often between the two cities.

Indo-Caribbean families are mostly relatively close. With many of us growing up in tight quarters in small villages in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, family connections always remain important. And it is why that regardless of the distance, we make the trek on multiple occasions to connect.



Ryan Singh

Over the course of my life, I have probably been to NYC about 30 times. And despite those several trips, I am yet to visit the Statue of Liberty.

Arriving in Queens, I never feel displaced. My mother’s eldest sister, “Big Aunty” as all the cousins call her, and her daughter, always make preparations after not seeing us for months.

Fresh clap-roti and fry aloo await; or a variety of chow mien, fried rice, curry from a local West Indian restaurant – all sitting in the kitchen to feed their tired and hungry Canadian family. It is almost a ceremonial meal each time that awaits our arrival.

This past Labour Day weekend, my cousin’s daughter got married, and our family made the trip to New York for the first time since the pandemic. It was this last trip that made me realise there is so much more happening in the journey that we undertake.

Beyond traditional sightseeing, the bond we uphold with our families is central to our identity. We use our holidays and vacation time not to visit far-off exotic places, but to ensure that we spend time with the ones we love.

Not being able to see family for the years over the pandemic was unusual. But despite the almost four-year gap since I last saw my cousin and her children, there was no absence of the bond I have with them.

Her boys who visited Canada as babies for our family events are all grown up now, and are either working or attending college. Seeing them again made me realise how important that trip was for reconnecting with family.

The pilgrimage we take to get there is always worth it; despite the geographical distance between us, and trip of several hours along a variety of highways. And now that pandemic years have passed, we are back to enduring the commute to be with our family.

From happy occasions to sad gatherings, each time we do so reminds me that our bond with our family is central to our survival as a people.

It inspires us to neglect the lights and sounds of Times Square; instead, we spend quality time in living rooms and backyard patios, sharing and enjoying each other’s company.

It makes these convoys of Indo-Caribbean people a mission to uphold bonding moments like these, where we take the opportunity to reconnect and recommit to our strong family bonds.

This is why each trip to New York City is special to me.

When a car came calling at a village on the margin

It was a remarkable moment for myself as a young boy. The day was growing stale, the edges of familiar objects greying with the creeping shadows of evening: a cart unhitched from its weary beast of burden, tilted clumsily down so it rested forward on the tips of its two shafts, soon to dissolve into its background wall of impenetrably knotted grass.

Then there was the rainwater barrel, the forward march of darkness cracking the silver liquid mirror of its surface, its circular reflection now a fractured underside of eaves from the thatched roof and a piece of the sky beyond. It was as if the roof was becoming shards; and that soon splinters of sky would begin to fall to earth as sharp as swords.

Soon the water barrel, its cover forgotten on the ground, and leaning against the barrel’s side, would merge into the charcoal darkness to become indistinguishable from the adobe walls.

Back then, in those early days of my boyhood in the homeland, without electricity, our only sources of night light were *flambeaux*, glass bottles filled with kerosene, the mouths stuffed with rolled cloth that were crude wicks, which when lit produced an even cruder sooty, yellow, and boisterous flame.

Or there were oil lamps with lit wicks that at times hissed like irascible old men, and even spluttered like them when made incoherent with annoyance; and also which at times attracted Kamikaze moths that hurled themselves violently against the lamp shades like battering rams; or tragically entered the narrow top of the lamp shade to rapidly spiral downwards into the heart of the sun, there to perish with horrific immolation.

Back then the sun itself was a timepiece for young boys like myself, its descent a tightly-wound tick-tock, tick-tock, each recurring sunset inexorably moving the hour hand away from my boyhood days, my early youthfulness unwinding with the rapidity of the second hand.

Meanwhile, I remained on the alert that soon my grandmother’s call for me to come into the house from the waywardness of the abandon of play would be sent aloft. The sing-song, rise-and-fall sinuosity of her admonition penetrating the stillness of the evening would hover with searching scrutiny over the grid of dirt tracks that mapped out the voluminous cane fields where we lived.



Romeo Kaseram

When Ma’s shrill calls grew sharper with insistence and an ascending imperative, quickly crossing the narrow territory of her patience to arrive at the point of no-return, it was then I knew my play-day was done, that the hour had come, and my return to the house had better be imminent.

Or else Ma would fly out of the house, the annoyance visible in the rapidity of her searching eyes, despite the softening light of the evening’s suffusing, descending gloam. But not this evening. There it was in the distance, a car lumbering in my direction with the elephantine caution of measured navigation that slows down heavy vehicles when they traverse unwholesome, rutted roadways.

A car visiting our settlement was a most unusual and remarkable sight for a young boy growing up at the margin. Here was a village that was looked down on by the lofty tops of frowning, arrogant fields of sugar canes, and was made inaccessible by roads worn down by historical cart wheels transporting thousands of tons of sugar canes to the distant sugar factory.

The car was manoeuvring its way along our dirt tracks, its wheels dipping deeply into the craters permanently carved into the under-developed and neglected dirt roads by the wheels of generations of carts drawn by beasts of burden: donkeys, mules, and horses.

In what was the atmospheric of the gloaming, the arriving evening now in the liminal space between day and night, it seemed the rise and fall the vehicle on the uneven track was that of a nautical craft cautiously navigating its way across an unmapped, uncertain, and unpredictable sea.

Ma kept calling to me; but I lingered, curious about the approaching vehicle. Finally it arrived, carrying a payload of the gaze. Within and behind its wound-up glass windows were foreign eyes staring in wonderment at my rural landscape: the tilted cart; the rainwater barrel; a perspective of dripping, late evening laundry weighing the clothesline down into an arc.

And there, a young boy, framed outside the insulated car’s glass window: face dirt-gummed with dried sugar cane juice; distracted fingers scratching a mosquito bite on an upraised leg.

Satisfied, the voyeurs left, the car cautiously backing away, having run out of roadway, and unable to turn around.

Time to address issue of government appropriated immigration fund

Dear Editor,

The unthinkable expropriation of the Indian Immigration Fund by the government of Guyana in 1971 has incurred the resentment of Indo-Guyanese leaders, who described that callous act against Indian immigrants and their descendants as unconscionable and insensitive.

The INIMF was established by Labour Ordinance, Chapter 104 in 1864. Its purpose was to facilitate the recruitment of Indian immigrants to work on sugar plantations, and to provide for their repatriation at the end of Indenture.

Notwithstanding the clear objectives of the INIME, as well as the fact that the Special Immigration Fund Committee set up by the government in 1965 had unanimously agreed that the fund be dedicated to the Indian community for educational and cultural projects, the Guyana government rejected the SIFC's recommendation, and unilaterally diverted the funds towards the building of the National Culture Center in preparation for Carifesta 1972.

At the onset, it is vital that a few conceptual issues be clarified. While 238,909 Indian immi-

grants landed in Guyana between 1838 and 1917, less than one third (75,898 or 31.8 percent) of them returned to India. Most immigrants (68.2 percent) chose to make Guyana their home.

Contrary to the view expressed by critics, Professor Lomarsh Roopnarine states that

only 3.2 percent of Indian immigrants received land in lieu of return passages. And Indo-Guyanese have not been opposed to Carifesta, nor the building of a National Culture Center. However, they insisted that funds for NCC must come from general revenues, and not from the INMIF.

While Indo-Guyanese have been demanding restorative justice to atone for a grievous historical wrong perpetrated against their foreparents and their descendants, not many Guyanese are aware of this struggle.

A major reason is that most Guyanese (at least eight in every ten) who reside in Guyana are not aware of the seizure of the dedicated



Tara Singh

INIMF because they were not yet born. Given this reality, it has become crucial that the INMIF story be narrated within the appropriate historical context in the public domain.

The 1970s was a dark period (characterised by political and social upheavals) in Guyana's history. The PNC government decided to seize property (with or without compensation). The Indian Immigration Fund was one example of the casualty.

In the process of expropriation, they altered the country's legal and constitutional architecture. At the political level, they declared Guyana a Cooperative Republic in 1970, abolished appeals to the Privy Council in 1971, and replaced it with the Guyana Court of Appeal.

With the full control of the Executive and the Judiciary, they needed to control the Legislative body, Parliament, and this they secured by rigging the 1973 elections and allocating to themselves a super majority of seats (69 percent, or 34 of 53 seats).

These measures allowed them absolute dominance and control over every aspect of people's lives. They proceeded to militarise the society: expanded the Guyana Defence Force and the Guyana Police Force, and established National Service in 1974, and the People's Militia in 1976.

The PNC's economic philosophy was captured in their Socialist Manifesto (Sophia Declaration) of 1974, which set out, among other things, the doctrine of party paramountcy and policies to transform the economy into cooperative socialism.

The PNC's dominance and control of society was complete and absolute (1968 to 1992).

Having received a sharp increase in real

GDP growth from 1.2 percent in 1973 to 7.7 percent in 1974, and 8.48 percent in 1975, due to the windfall from the Sugar Levy (G \$355 million) in 1974 and 1975, the PNC's grip on the economy began to falter.

GDP growth plummeted from 1.54 percent in 1976 to -1.84 percent in 1979 because of bad policies. Seeking to arrest the decline, the PNC launched several investment projects (1978-1980) for which they sought funding of (US) \$474 million (88.5 percent from external and 11.5 percent from local sources).

However, those projects that included the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary Project, Bauxite, Tapacuma, Black Bush Polder Irrigation, Upper Demerara Forestry, and Guysuco, failed to stop the haemorrhage in GDP growth.

Notes Dr Ramesh Gampat: "Burnham Little Red Book (Sophia Declaration) triggered the economic tsunami that plunged the economy into the Great Downswing from 1977 to 1990."

Thus, the prevailing environment during the 1970s, and even beyond, was hostile in a context where confrontation overpowered *rapprochement*. But the authorities' failure to render restorative justice and to suppress the INMIF story would not obliterate the truth.

Indo-Guyanese leaders rightly seek the correction of a grave historical wrong perpetrated against immigrants and their descendants, that is, the seizure of the unused (G) \$825,000 (equivalent to US \$3,141,072 today) of the Indian Immigration Fund.

While Burnham seized the Indian Immigration Fund, he graciously received (US) \$5,000 per month from the CIA during the period 1969 to 1971. He had asked for (US) \$10,000, but that sum was rejected.

The current administration must address this burning issue, bring it to closure, and thus end this unhappy chapter of Indian immigration and Indentureship.

Dr Tara Singh, New York, via email.

Class-action suit to return INIMF?

Dear Editor,

Dr Tara Singh has made a very important intervention regarding the government of Guyana addressing the issue of the Indian Immigration Fund. This was an issue that has been raised even before the last ship repatriating Indian Indentured labourers and/or their qualified descendants, the *MV Resurgent*, sailed on September 4, 1955 carrying 258 men, women, and children back to India.

The previous ship had left in 1949, and on June 2, 1950, Manpower Citizens' Association leader Ayube Edun raised the status of the Immigration Fund with the Secretary of State.

The return passage was an integral part of the contract to induce Indian Indentureds to leave their native Bharat. And even though towards the end of the 19th century, government amended the laws forcing the immigrants to pay between one-half (men) and one-third (women), Labour Ordinance, Chapter 104 in 1864, still compelled the government to allocate funds for the return contingency.

As Guyana's Independence approached and it became apparent there would be no more returnees, a delegation of five major organisations representing the Indian Guyanese community, with Dr Balwant Singh of the Mahatma Gandhi organisation playing a leading role, met with the PNC government to discuss the issue.

They recommended that an "Immigration Fund Committee" be established to examine how the monies in the Immigration Fund could be utilised for the benefit of the descendants of the Indian immigrants generally.

After extensive consultations, they then recommended that the Fund be transferred to the control of a Board of Trustees of an "Indo-Guyanese Educational and Cultural Movement", and also for assisting the needy among those who originally came from India.

One of the specific recommendations was to launch a Guyanese Indian Cultural Center in each of the three counties that would foster and encourage cultural and art forms more specific to the Bhojpuri and "Madras" belts, from where most of the Guyanese Indians had originated.

In 1969, fresh from its "mandate" out of the rigged 1968 elections, the PNC government rejected the recommendation, and in 1971 unilaterally announced they would use the funds to build a National Cultural Center to host the first Carifesta scheduled for August 1972.

Dr Balwant Singh launched trenchant denunciations of the decision, and vowed to organise a boycott of Carifesta that was to be centred at the Cultural Center in Georgetown, away from the predominantly rural Indian Guyanese masses.

There is an interesting footnote that exemplifies Forbes Burnham's vindictiveness towards those who opposed his unilateral decisions as he inexorably created his dictatorship.

Dr Balwant Singh had been roundly castigated by Indian Guyanese for supporting the TUC 1963 80-day strike as head of the Civil Service Union, and was voted out that year as Chairman of the Maha Sabha. His successor, Sase Narine, ironically became a staunch supporter of Burnham, brought the Maha Sabha literally under the wing of the PNC, and was rewarded with the Speakership of the National Assembly.

Following his success in mounting opposition to Burnham's pet project Carifesta, trumped-up charges of larceny of pharmaceuticals were brought against Dr Balwant Singh. Even Dr Frank Williams, Burnham's personal physician and Andaiye's father protested this move.

In July, 1972, just a month before Carifesta's launch, the case was called and Dr Singh's presence demanded, even though he was ill. He was eventually brought in a stretcher, and the case was adjourned and never concluded.

In the meantime, he lost his job as the long-serving Government Chief Bacteriologist and Pathologist, and was never able to claim his pension and gratuities because the charges were never withdrawn.

But back to the matter at hand - the Immigration Fund. We had raised the matter in the late 1990s, and one ROAR-affiliated group of young Indian activists, under the name of Guyana Organisation for Indian Protection had conducted extensive research into the issue. They recommended that a class-action suit be filed against the government for the recovery of the monies (with six percent compounded interest), which should be used in accordance with the recommendations of the 1965 Immigration Fund Committee.

Their activity on the Fund was overtaken by the massive decade-long societal violence that started in 1998 with the murder of 30 Indian Guyanese and one African Guyanese businessman. Maybe it is time for their recommendation to be revived.

Ravi Dev, Guyana, via email.



Ravi Dev

RE/GUYANA GUYANA PROPERTY MATTERS

Does paying the Land Tax guarantee possession of your Property... Perhaps not!

By Maj Khan

It has been generally understood that one of the best ways to protect your property anywhere in the world is to pay the land taxes. The fact is land taxes must be paid, and in Guyana there is an annual filing requirement with a two percent penalty for failure to do so. The government arm responsible for land taxes is the Guyana Regulatory Authority.

The optics are quite straightforward; however there is *caveat* with far-reaching consequences, of which owners should be aware. Those who are familiar with land disputes strongly advise that taxes must be paid in person. Why? The receipts for paying land taxes are often handwritten on a carbon-copy book.

In fact, property transactions in Guyana including title, valuation, mortgage, and tax compliance receipts are all done on paper. In the age of the Internet, those living abroad are well-versed with the digital world, where access to home ownership is at their fingertips. In Guyana, the government has just implemented an e-service platform that will take time to develop. In the meantime, most land records are written or typed and housed in local offices. It means that remote property owners have to invest a great deal of time and funds to ensure their paperwork is in order.

Currently, most owners living abroad have a 'trusted' family member they rely on to ensure the daily upkeep of their property, including paying the land tax. If that receipt is written in the name of anyone else other than the registered owner, it can create conditions that are favourable for that individual whose name is on the receipt. Translation: that individual is in a position to file for possession of that property. This is especially viable if the owner has not visited the property for years.

Unfortunately, today property disputes are common, with siblings pitted against each other, parents against children, and families at war with each other. The stakes are high, and the price paid heavy - often with a bitter experience fraught with a gamut of emotions, with substantial time and monies invested over decades. And the question is always asked, "What could they have done differently to ensure none of this would come to bear in the first place?"

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.](#)

Adopt Singapore's stern measures to fix crime menace in T&T

Dear Editor,

I have run out of patience with the government, the Opposition, and all those other influencers who seem content with pussy-footing on the violent crime crisis in Trinidad and Tobago.

There is no recognition of the fact that we are in a state of war, and, therefore, traditional crime-fighting methods will not suffice. We are at war with the Mexican and Colombian drug cartels and their agents in Trinidad and Tobago.

They are employing guerilla warfare tactics. They have captivated the minds of some of our misguided young men who are lured by the opportunity to make lots of money without hard work, and to enjoy the fruits of their ill-gotten gains at a very young age, with all the glitz and glamour that go with it.

These young men and their principals, among other things, control "turf", tax small and micro-enterprises, invade homes, rob the elderly, rob people who make cash withdrawals from financial institutions, commit violent/murderous assaults on anyone who dares to challenge their authority. Witnesses are routinely executed.

These miscreants are also reputed, whether true or false, to have control of certain law-enforcement officials, and other high public officials. They have us where they want us – living in fear.

We must stop condoning crime by excusing lawlessness on spurious grounds such as poverty, unemployment, and other socio-economic ills, especially having regard to the numerous opportunities available for immediate employment, and training courses (inclusive of a stipend in many instances) that cater to the acquisition of lucrative skills, which routinely go abegging. Socio-economic support is also available via the government, NGOs, and the private sector, among others.

That notwithstanding, it is not disputed there are certain



A forensic team collects evidence at a T&T crime scene

socio-economic issues that need to be addressed comprehensively. However, a key component in addressing such issues is a change of mindset by some disadvantaged people.

Nonetheless, we must all recognise that violent/serious crime is a lucrative business. Those lawbreakers will continue to pursue that line of business until there are meaningful consequences for their actions.

Our legislators must stop making "whipping boys" of law-enforcement officials and the judiciary. The real culprits, like the medieval princes, are the legislators themselves. They are twiddling their thumbs while Rome is burning.

Sure, there is much room for improvement by both law-enforcement officials and the judiciary. However, the laws and administrative infrastructure are wholly inadequate to deal with

the current "terrorist" menace.

Our law-enforcement officials and the judiciary cannot be expected, so to speak, to clean the Brian Lara Promenade in Port-of-Spain with a toothbrush when, obviously, a power-washer is required.

We do not have to reinvent the wheel. Singapore can show us how to combat this menace effectively. There were ten murders in Singapore in 2021, in a population of 5.7 million. We need to adopt the Singaporean model. The Trinidad and Tobago government ought to liaise with Singapore, a fellow Commonwealth country, and request that it provides the services of an appropriate number of its officials to advise on the implementation of similar stern measures in Trinidad and Tobago, inclusive of the necessary training required for the relevant state officials.

As many of us are aware, in Singapore the mere possession of an illegal firearm can attract the death penalty, in certain circumstances. So, too, the importation of illegal drugs above a certain quantity.

Law-enforcement officials, inclusive of customs and excise officials, and coast guard officials who are complicit in such matters can face the death penalty for such deviant behaviour. Human trafficking, home invasions, and praedial larceny are dealt with very harshly.

Criminals in Trinidad and Tobago have been boasting in certain quarters they are confident no serious restrictions will be placed on their very lucrative business, given, as alleged by them, that they control "certain elements", and, therefore, the required legislative framework will never see the light of day.

Our parliamentarians have an obligation to prove them wrong by enacting the appropriate legislation.

Louis W. Williams, Trinidad and Tobago, via email.

Upgrade of provisions for health needs to be a Caribbean priority

Dear Editor,

Good healthcare yields multiple benefits in any society. A healthy lifestyle and quality of life make for the greatest well-being of the individual and the society. This is reflected in the UNDP's Human Development Index, where health makes the largest contribution to a country's development score.

In addition, a healthy workforce is a more productive workforce, and good health facilities are an important factor in the promotion of investment, and the attraction and retention of a skilled labour force.

The impact of better health systems on the development of society may be illustrated by the examples of Grenada and Jamaica. These countries have the same national income per year, (US) \$13,000, in terms of what the average person can afford to purchase. However, whereas the life expectancy at birth in Grenada is 75 years, in Jamaica, a newborn can expect to live only to age 71 years.

That difference in life expectancy is the main reason why, despite Jamaicans and Grenadians enjoying the same purchasing power, Grenada ranks much higher in the Human Development Index – at 68; whereas Jamaica is ranked 110 in the most recent Human Development Report.

Similarly, Barbados and St Lucia have the same average national income at purchasing power parities, but life expectancy in Barbados, 78 years, puts Barbados at number 70; whereas St Lucia is ranked at number 106.

These data suggest that first priority needs to be given to the upgrade of health provision in the Caribbean. Even though health and education take the greatest share of public spending,



Caribbean life expectancy, 2020. Wikimedia Commons Repository graphic

health services have in fact deteriorated.

Hospitals are outdated and poorly equipped, the quality of primary and preventative health care has not been maintained, and inadequate budgetary resources are devoted to provisioning hospitals and clinics.

The salaries of medical professionals in public health systems have fallen way below the international competition, and this, allied with poor working conditions and constant scarcity of supplies, creates incentives for medical professionals to emigrate.

It is no exaggeration to say that our health systems are in crisis. As a result, inequity is growing in our societies, as those

who can afford it avoid the public health systems in favour of private provision, often travelling abroad.

Those who have no alternative to public health services are plagued by shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies; delays in service; and often poor service by over-worked, underpaid, and poorly-equipped medical staff.

The international competitiveness of Caribbean countries is threatened by this deterioration in health facilities. Turning things around would require, first of all, a large investment in state-of-the-art public hospitals and health clinics, and the up-to-date systems and equipment needed to make them fully functional. This investment should be considered a top priority for government borrowing from abroad ahead of all other considerations.

Secondly, governments would need to recruit medical staff with the expertise to manage and operate modern medical facilities. This has implications for the structure of remuneration in public services, because it will be necessary to go much of the way to closing the yawning gap existing between domestic and international salaries.

Government revenues are growing slowly, except in Guyana, and debt levels are high in many countries. In order to bring health provision up to speed, it would be necessary to divert financial resources from other uses. Those decisions will be very difficult, but they are the best way to use limited resources to advance the development of Caribbean nations and the well-being of our people.

DeLisle Worrell, Guyana, via email.

Diabetes a major public health problem; important to take action, get screened

Dear Editor,

I am glad that health issues are continuing to be a major concern for Guyana's PPP/Civic government. I say this based on the fact that the Health Ministry recently made the announcement there are around 400 facilities where Guyanese nationals can visit to get screened for diabetes.

As Technical Officer for Diabetes at the Chronic Diseases Unit, Dr Nandishaw Ramsingh said, "We have at least 400 facilities nationwide. This includes health centres, health posts, and hospitals. We are encouraging persons to visit their nearest health facility. One single screening by way of a blood test, we can at least be able to tell what your blood sugar levels are like."

Why is it important to be screened? Diabetes is a major public health problem that is approaching epidemic proportions

globally. Worldwide, the prevalence of chronic, noncommunicable diseases is increasing at an alarming rate. The statistics show that about 18 million people die every year from cardiovascular disease, for which diabetes and hypertension are major predisposing factors.

Today, more than 1.7 billion adults worldwide are overweight, and 312 million are obese. It gets more ominous, as at least 155 million children worldwide are overweight or obese. No wonder a diabetes epidemic is underway.

I note that in the observance of Caribbean Wellness Day, the Health Ministry encouraged the general populace to get screened for diabetes, and to utilise the services available at the 400 facilities nationwide.

However, I think there needs to be awareness irrespective of

special days and occasions. Now that the opportunities are plentiful, and facilities are available across Guyana, there should be no letting-up from the populace. Early diagnosis is the way to go.

There is every reason for nationals to take the requisite steps now. The figures show that there is need to act and to not wait.

According to an estimate from the International Diabetes Federation, the number of people with diabetes is 246 million (with 46 percent of all those affected in the 40–59 age group), and this will likely increase to 380 million by 2025.

No wonder the PPP/Civic government's health sector in 2023 was allocated a mammoth (G) \$84 billion to ensure rapid infrastructural development, as well as to offer better access to primary healthcare.

H.B. Singh, Guyana, via email.

IFIs optimistic about Guyana's future growth prospects

Major International Financial Institutions are very optimistic about Guyana's future growth prospects.

Both the International Monetary Fund and the Inter American Development Bank expressed their optimism in recent reports about the country. The IMF said that "the outlook for Guyana's medium-term growth is better than ever before" in its September 11, 2023 concluding staff statement, following an official visit to the country.

The international financial watchdog noted that oil production will continue to expand rapidly as three new approved fields will come on stream between 2024-2027, and a sixth field is expected to come on stream in the first half of 2028.

This will allow the Guyanese economy to continue to grow very rapidly, supported by the government's modernisation plans, including the unparalleled oil sector expansion. Following record real GDP growth in 2022 of 62.3 percent, the highest in the world – real GDP is expected to continue to grow extremely fast in 2023, said the IMF.

The IMF report stated that growth in the non-oil sector is supported by the implementation of a fast-paced public investment program focused on providing transportation, housing, and flood management infrastructure, and raising human capital.

It was noted that spillovers from oil and construction are supporting growth in the services and supplies sectors, while agriculture, mining, and quarrying are also performing well.

It projects that Guyana's real non-oil GDP growth will be sustained at a 5.5 percent level – albeit, lower than government forecasts – stating that growth is being fuelled by the government's ambitious plans to address developmental needs.

On the other hand, the IDB forecasts that the non-oil economy will grow by 7.9 percent.

Guyana's diamond declarations down

Georgetown – A significant decrease of 21.2 percent in diamond declarations has been noted for the first half of 2023, Guyana's Ministry of Finance has revealed in its latest mid-year report.

However, in a surprising contrast, the mining and quarrying sector witnessed substantial growth, surging by an impressive 89.9 percent for the same period, *Kaieteur News* reported earlier this week.

The remarkable expansion was primarily driven by increased output from both the oil and gas industry, and the 'other mining' subsectors. However, beneath these overall positive statistics, there is a story of divergence within Guyana's mining sector.

On the bright side, the "other mining and quarrying" subsector, which encompasses the sand, stone, diamonds, and manganese sectors, exhibited robust growth of 45.2 percent during the first half of the year.

Sand and stone declarations soared by 52.6 percent and 71.7 percent, respectively, supported by heightened construction activity. The government's continued investment in transformative infrastructure projects nationwide contributed significantly to this surge.

However, diamond declarations experienced a downturn, falling by 21.2 percent to 38,068 metric carats during the same period. Manganese production also faced challenges, with a notable decline of 21.9 percent due to operational constraints.

Looking ahead, the Finance Ministry said it remains cautiously optimistic. With construc-

tion in 2023, agriculture, services, and construction are projected to grow by 7.2 percent, 5.6 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, down from 11.9 percent, 9.0 percent, 26.3 percent, respectively, in 2022.

Gold production, which had contracted by 2.5 percent in 2022, is expected to recover with a growth rate of 12.7 percent in 2023.

The IDB report, titled, *Caribbean Economics – Global & Regional Economies at a Crossroads*, noted that Guyana's GDP will grow by an additional 37.2 percent in 2023.

As a matter of fact, Guyana's real GDP grew by an estimated 59.5 percent in the first half of 2023, while the non-oil economy grew by 12.3 percent – greater than both IMF and IADB projections.

"This is a direct result of the policy matrix of the government ...reigniting the traditional sectors," stated President Dr Irfaan Ali at a recent press conference a press conference in Georgetown.

The IMF cautioned that Guyana's favourable medium-term growth prospects are accompanied by both upside and downside risks. On the upside, the IFI noted that further oil discoveries would continue to improve growth prospects.

However, it cautioned that construction growth and strong public investment may support higher than expected short-term non-oil growth, but could also lead to inflationary pressures and the appreciation of the real exchange rate beyond the level implied by a balanced expansion of the economy, overheating, and the crowding out of credit to the private sector. Adverse climate shocks, and volatile or lower than projected commodity prices, may also negatively impact the economy, the IMF report stated.

The IMF commended the authorities' commitment to fiscal discipline, which it says allows for a balanced growth path. It said

tion activity expected to intensify in the second half of the year, the "other mining and quarrying" subsector is projected to achieve a growth rate of 17.1 percent for 2023.

As *Kaieteur News* reported, Guyana's gold declarations have also faced a decline this year. The Ministry of Finance attributes this decrease to low declarations by small and medium-scale miners, resulting in an 11.4 percent drop compared to the same period last year. Large-scale producers, on the other hand, experienced a modest 6.1 percent year-on-year expansion.

Despite the mining sector benefitting from significant tax breaks and incentives, declarations have not met expectations for the first half of 2023.

In August 2022, the National Assembly approved tax relief measures aimed at benefiting the mining industry, including a reduction in final tax rates and the removal of Tributors' Tax.

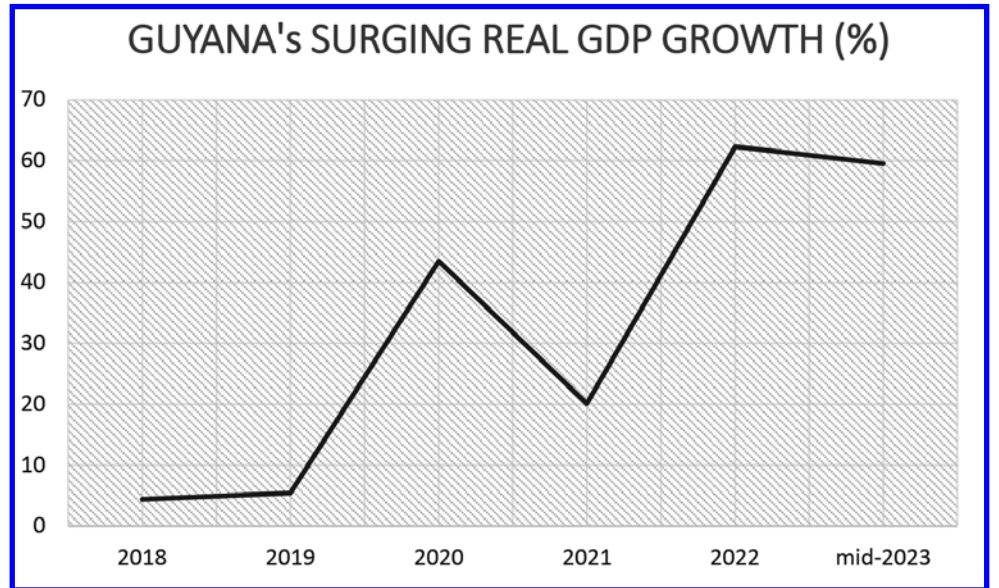
Amid growing concerns about Guyana gold declarations decreasing, Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, during a news conference in July, confirmed that the decrease in declarations is factual, but added that a probe has been launched into alleged gold smuggling.

For the past several months, the Guyana media have been reporting on several foreign gold mining companies informing investors about Guyana's rich mining industry.

Among the companies is Omai, which produced over 3.7 million ounces of gold between 1993 and 2005, and is now making a comeback in Guyana's mining industry.



Dwarka Lakhan



that over the medium-term, moderating fiscal impulses are projected to achieve a zero overall fiscal balance by 2028. This will allow for an expansion of the economy, with real GDP growth on average of 20 percent per year during 2024-2028, without creating macroeconomic imbalances.

It was noted that public investment is expected to be financed primarily by oil revenues in the medium term. Public sector debt is projected to decline gradually as a share of GDP over the medium term, after declining to 26 percent at end-2022, from 43.2 percent of GDP in 2021.

The real exchange rate is expected to appreciate, and inflation to increase, as the economy closes its development gap. Gross international reserves, excluding the National Resource Fund, are expected to continue to accumulate, with reserves coverage indicators continuing to strengthen.

In 2022, the inflation rate reached 7.2 percent in April, averaged 6.4 percent over the year, and ended up at 7.2 percent in December.

Since then, the inflation rate has progressively declined by 3.0 percent in May 2023.

Food inflation, particularly volatile, was projected at 11.7 percent in 2022, and incremented to 14.1 percent in December 2022. However, it followed a downward trend in 2023, moving from 12 percent in January 2023 to 6.4 percent in May 2023.

According to the IDB, in the wake of the current challenges globally, Guyana remains in a unique position benefiting from its new-found sources of revenue, as well as resources related to environmental sustainability, such as the sale of carbon credits, which places the country in an excellent position to continuously pursue its developmental objectives.

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.

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Cardiologist recognised with McMaster Alumni Gallery induction

By Romeo Kaseram
LJI Reporter

Recognised as a thinker with pioneering global contributions in diversity, health, chaos and complexity in medicine, health, and society, Toronto cardiologist and community leader Dr Vivian Rambihar was inducted to the McMaster University Alumni Gallery in early June.

His induction to the university's Alumni Gallery came 50 years after entering the institution's innovative new medical school in 1972, graduating with an MD in 1975, and for his global contributions to medicine, science, and society.

Attending the inauguration with Dr Rambihar were wife Perdita; fellow McMaster Alumni Dr Mohamed Meghji and wife Dr Syeda Fatima; Toronto family doctor Dr Unus Hack and wife Shanti; globally renowned scientist Professor Jamal Deen and wife Meena; and two of Dr Rambihar's daughters: Toronto cardiologist Dr Sherryn Rambihar, and Toronto Psychiatrist and Specialist in Sports Medicine, Dr Nadira Rambihar.

Dr Rambihar is a Guyana scholar from the year 1969; he attended Queen's College in Guyana from 1962-1969, and was a QC teacher from 1969-1971 before obtaining a BSc at the University of Toronto in 1972, and an MD from McMaster University in 1975.

As McMaster notes on its alumni website, Dr Rambihar has advocated extending diversity and health, chaos, and complexity in medicine, health, and society to complex 21st century intersecting and interdependent global crises like climate change, equity, disparities, poverty, pandemic, and planetary health.

It adds, "He has ventured even beyond, using ideas from Order and Chaos in the universe for medicine and humanity as in his book, *Chaos from Cos to Cosmos: Making a New Medicine*, and sharing a podium with fellow [McMaster] medicine alumna and astronaut Roberta Bondar, at a talk he organised on *Chaos in Medicine - Out of this World*."

It is for such significant, impactful, and innovative contributions that Dr Rambihar was inducted into the 2023 Alumni Gallery, the website declared.

Tracing Dr Rambihar's journey into the medical field, McMaster stated that the path he took "was meandering, and not necessarily meant to be".

"At university, he was torn between choosing studying medicine, or math and physics; so he chose both. After completing high school in Guyana, where he excelled in math and physics, he spent a year teaching math, contemplating his future," the alumni site noted.



Dr Rambihar (second left), spouse Perdita (second right), & daughters Dr Nadira Rambihar (left), & Dr Sherryn Rambihar at the McMaster University Alumni Gallery 2023 inauguration

However, in a step that prove to be the right direction, Dr Rambihar chose Canada to further his studies. The decision came after learning about the new and revolutionary medical school at McMaster.

At McMaster, Dr Rambihar specialised in cardiology, and then returned to his roots in math and physics to create applications of the 21st century science of chaos and complexity to medicine, science, and society.

It was "a journey into uncharted waters", the McMaster biography noted.

Quoting Dr Rambihar, it noted that moving to Canada in 1970 was also a journey into the unknown.

As Dr Rambihar said, "It was exciting, and a completely different way of living and culture". It meant adaptation and change for the promising young student, particularly dealing with Canadian winters.

Fifty years later, Dr Rambihar notes adaptation to winter remains a challenge, notably since he remains Caribbean at heart.

Studying medicine at McMaster, along with his work in chaos and complexity, were explorations of the unknown. However, McMaster medicine was revolutionary, considered one of the three most important innovations in medical education of the 20th century.

As Dr Rambihar noted, "McMaster medical school when it

started in 1968 was a chaos and complexity medical school 50 years before its time. The way it was structured, self-organising, self-directed, flat as opposed to top-down hierarchical, is a chaos and complexity perspective."

As McMaster declared, "This experience with novel approaches and thinking, and his foundation in math and physics, led him to explore chaos and complexity, rooted in math and physics, and considered by Stephen Hawking as the science for the 21st century."

Meanwhile, he trained in cardiology at McMaster after graduation.

As Dr Rambihar noted, "Cardiology appealed to me because you can do things and get an immediate response. You can also solve problems, and in solving the problems, you help patients and the community..."

Additionally, he told McMaster Alumni, "What cardiology does is it allows you to ...go a step backwards and get into society and the community, and get into prevention and make a difference that way."

This interest and close link to the community led him to observations of disparities in health, becoming one of the first to identify ethnic and gender differences in health in Canada, and into research, advocacy, and health promotion.

His pioneering work also included research and actions to reduce the excess and premature heart disease in South Asians, and in other communities locally and globally.

Also, his interest in chaos and complexity led him to devise novel complexity approaches to achieve change for health in Canada and globally, and to reduce disparities.

An adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, and a former co-chair of health for the Global Organisation for People of Indian Origin, Dr Rambihar has earned a number of awards for his work as a clinician, researcher, and advocate.

Among his awards are the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Segall Award for Health Promotion; the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian of the Year Award; the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal; and Alumni Awards from the three universities he is affiliated with, and where he has taught: McMaster; the University of Toronto; and The University of the West Indies.

He has also written a number of books, among them *Tsunami*, *Chaos and Global Heart*, which is available free online. It explores chaos and complexity science in an accessible way for everyone, and includes sections on health, and health promotion. [Click here to download a free copy.](#)

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SCAN ME

Historical Indentureship sites, monuments in Indian diaspora

The following are excerpts from Edition 155 of the ongoing global & pan-Caribbean public programmes held via Zoom, and which are hosted by the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre and the Ameena Gafoor Institute. The excerpts below are from Part Two of the group's ongoing pan-Indo, pan-Caribbean, and global explorations, *Historical Indentureship Sites & Monuments in the Indian Diaspora*. Additional reporting by Trishana Jeenath. [Click here to view the unedited edition of the online session.](#)

By Dr Kumar Mahabir

Establishing Indian Indentureship sites, sculptures, and monuments ensures the experiences and contributions of the Indentured labourers are acknowledged, remembered, and passed on to future generations. These are tangible reminders of a chapter in world history that shaped the identity and heritage of millions of people in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific. Indian Indentureship represents a period of migration, struggle, and resilience, where individuals were deceptively transported from India to various parts of the world as labourers.

Sites and monuments are educational and cultural heritage resources that provide a deeper understanding of a shared history and heritage. Visitors can even engage with the stories, artefacts, structures, and sites that symbolise the lives of those who endured Indentureship. These monuments foster a sense of connection, empathy, and respect for our ancestors.

It is vital that we honour the past with monuments and historical sites, thereby preserving our cultural heritage, and promoting inter-generational dialogue that demonstrate the resilience of the diaspora's spirit.

The Pan Indo-Caribbean meeting was chaired by Evelyn Sampath-Nath, and moderated by Shalima Mohammed, both from Trinidad and Tobago. It was hosted by the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre. Speakers were Aniel Manurat (Suriname); Shadel Nyak-Compton (Grenada); Junior Bacchus (St Vincent); and Kirun Naido (South Africa).

...
ANIEL MANURAT, Suriname: "In Suriname you can find monuments of historical Indentureship, particularly important to the Indian community. For instance, we have Baba & Mai in Khoi Depot, Nickerie, and Commewijne. On June 5 each year, we gather by this statue to celebrate Immigration Day.



The Mahatma Gandhi monument were installed to recognise the Indian community during indentureship."

There is also a Baba & Mai statue in Kolkata in India, dedicated to our ancestors who left India. For Diwali, a huge deya [lamp] is set up and everyone can contribute ghee [clarified butter] to facilitate its lighting. The Lalla Rookh Complex, the monument of Jai Kisan, The Lalla Rookh Groningen, The Janey Tetary monument, and



of the first holding estates for Indentured Indians in Grenada. Indian food and the use of Madras Fabric is very prominent in Grenada. It's estimated that 3,205 East Indians came to Grenada from Calcutta and Madras.

A commemorative plaque was erected on private property on the site, and the road leading to the site was

renamed Maidstone Road. Irvine's Bay is one of the most important historical sites linked with Indian heritage. We recognise the need to make this site an official way to provide our communities, visitors, and students with a cultural park for historical, cultural, and educational purposes, events, and tourist attractions. The Gandhi Bust McDonald College, St Mark Union, and Samaritan Union Community Centre are other sites important to Indian heritage in Grenada."



...
KIRU NAIDOO, South Africa: "In South Africa, we have no officially sanctioned site that the government has created to reflect Indian history, and where such sites exist, they emerge from civil formations. The first Indentured labourers in South Africa arrived in the colony of Natal via Durban Harbour. In a country that

has been so fractured by race, class, ethnicity, and tribalism, we have to be careful about the monuments we structure and their purpose. When tensions come to the fore in society, all kinds of tension get focused on those statues to the point that people want to destroy them. In the history of people of Indian origin in South Africa, particularly people of Indentured origins, there have not been instances where people put up statues to any particular individuals, or to commemorate specific events; rather the focus has been on creating structures that will be of benefit to society and humanity. These structures express our relationship with history. There should be facilities that have utility to the broader people."

...
SHADEL NYAK-COMPTON, Grenada: "Belmont Estate is a historic plantation that dates back to the 1600s, and it is one



...
JUNIOR BACCHUS, St Vincent: "In 1881, the first shipment of Indians came to St Vincent with 260 Indians in Edinburgh. A total of eight ships with 2,474 Indians came to St Vincent between 1861 and 1880. The St Vincent Indian Heritage Foundation took their bill to parliament to recognise June 4 as Indian Arrival Day, and October 7 as

Indian Heritage Day. In June 2007, we began the re-enactment of the arrival of Indians on Indian's Bay. There are cultural activities like dance, Indian food, songs, and speeches from people all over the world. The re-enactment is an important part of our recovery of the heritage."

Dr Kumar Mahabir is a full-time anthropologist at the University of Guyana, and a former Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. He obtained his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida.

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Usain Bolt

Jamaica's SSL fraud probe continues

Kingston – Jamaica has so far received close to (Jam) \$10 million in assistance from the UK government as investigations continue into alleged fraud at Stocks and Securities Ltd, the Caribbean Media Corporation reported last week.

The alleged fraud involving billions of Jamaican dollars has affected close to 70 accounts held by the SSL. Among the accounts is a US multi-million dollar investment held by former international track star, Usain Bolt.

Jamaica Finance Minister Dr Nigel Clarke told a local newspaper that “the government of the [UK], through the British High Commission in Jamaica, has provided grant support to the Financial Investigations Division in the amount of £50,000 [just under (Jam) \$10 million], to assist in the investigation into the alleged fraud at Stocks and Securities Limited”.

Clarke added that “the Ministry of Finance and the public service are grateful to the British High Commission for this meaningful support, which ultimately comes from British taxpayers”.

His response to questions from the media came following opposition spokesman on finance Julian Robinson requesting a complete report on the government's expenditure in the investigation.

Robinson also noted that each day more information emerges on the extent of the role being played by the government and its agencies in footing the bill for the investigations.

“Full transparency requires the disclosure of expenditures not just by the Ministry of Finance, but by both the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Investigations Division, [which] are funded by the public purse,” Robinson said.

In March this year the government signed with Kroll Associates UK, in which the company agreed to assist local law enforcement agencies with their probe of the more than (Jam) \$3 billion fraud at SSL involving around 40 clients whose accounts were implicated in a fraud scheme.

“Kroll will bring to the table technology and expertise that will enable the investigators to unravel every aspect of this fraud,” Clarke said last March. At the same time, he pointed out that Kroll Associates was “a subsidiary of Kroll International, a firm known for their forensic auditing experience and expertise”.

Clarke also re-endorsed the decision to engage Kroll last month. As he noted, Jamaica will be the ultimate beneficiary of successful investigations into the alleged financial crime, and that “successful investigations increase public trust, strengthen our financial system, and serve as a deterrent to other potential wrongdoers”.

He added, “However, these kinds of investigations are expensive, especially for fraud of the magnitude and duration of what allegedly occurred at SSL. Highly specialised resources have to be retained and international collaboration has to be sustained.”

Clarke also gave the assurance that the Jamaican government was “not using tax revenues to fund the extraordinary costs of the SSL investigation.”

At the same time, he added: “As a country, we will need to be prepared to make the necessary fiscal allocations for investigations of this kind if we are interested in achieving a Jamaica governed by the rule of law.”

In January this year it was reported by the international media that the lawyers for eight-time Olympic gold medalist Usain Bolt were claiming that more than (US) \$12.8 million were missing from his account with SSL.



Nigel Clarke

According to CNN, CBS, and other international media outlets, Bolt's lawyer, Linton Gordon said his client was looking to recover (US) \$12.8 million after the balance of his SSL account was “mysteriously” depleted to just over

\$12,000. According to Gordon, Bolt made no withdrawals or transfers from the account. The internationally recognised runner retired from athletics in 2017, is now involved in business, and is taking care of a young family.

Also, a former wealth adviser at SSL, Jean-Ann Panton, who confessed to stealing from clients, has been charged with three counts of larceny as a servant, five counts of forgery, five counts of uttering forged documents, three counts of engaging in transactions involving criminal property, and three counts of breaching the Cybercrimes Act.

However, late last month, the FID said it expects to make more arrests in relation to the fraud probe. As it noted, the corruption at SSL has been found to be more extensive than previously thought, and has affected almost twice as many people as was earlier stated.

Director General of the FID Selvin Hay said the investigation is progressing with the application of the highest professional standards.

“It has taken on new dimensions which are wider than first expected,” Hay stated in a release.

He added, “What is being uncovered is that there are approximately 70 affected accounts – this is significantly more than the just over 40 affected accounts at the initial phase. The investigation has also identified other fraudulent schemes at SSL, which has resulted in the misappropriation and/or loss of numerous investors' funds amounting to over (US) \$10 million [close to 1.5 billion Jamaican dollars].”



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Both spouses have their lawyers, so why not have their own realtors as well? It is easier to work with one realtor, but if things get sour, that realtor could get caught in the crossfire, injuring the realtor's ability to manage the sale. If both parties cannot settle on one realtor, they can each choose their realtor and ask them both to co-list the property. In addition to confidentiality issues, a co-listing agreement has other benefits, such as different ways to promote the property since the realtors may have a diverse clientele and advertising media. They can bring different perspectives in negotiating offers for the property.

When both spouses are joint owners, their realtors will require both parties to sign off on the listing, and in a co-listing arrangement, the realtors will meet separately with their own client to sign the contract. If the marital home is in one spouse's name, the law requires that the other spouse consent to the sale and divide the net proceeds according to their agreement. Knowing the approximate net proceeds from the sale is helpful because both parties can arrive at a settlement quicker.

A co-listing agreement should address the needs of each party. Selling a matrimonial home is emotional because it signals that the relationship will end. A co-listing agreement should address the needs of both spouses. Here are some things to consider:

- Who will pay the bills if one party is living in the home?
- How can we prepare the home for sale, and who will pay for it?
- What is the ideal closing date?
- Once the home is on the market, what arrangements exist for showing and keeping the house clean?
- Will the proceeds of the sale be in trust or divided between the two parties?
- Is there an agreement as to how to divide the proceeds?
- How much would it cost to sell the home, and who will pay for it?

A co-listing agreement should address each realtor's role. For example, only one realtor can list a property on the Multiple Listing Service, a system designed for advertising properties to most realtors, while the other realtor can address marketing.

Choose realtors with experience to assist you. When screening realtors, look for someone who is neutral and has experience selling matrimonial homes.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Ask which brokerage will be the primary listing brokerage.
- Ask each realtor for a market evaluation of the home.
- Ask what is the best way to price the home.
- Ask what arrangements are in place for showings.
- Once both parties choose their realtor to co-list, let the two realtors develop a plan to sell the home. Both spouses can review the project before committing.

Realtors have a fiduciary duty to their clients and know what they should not disclose to the other party.

You can choose both realtors from the same brokerage. Many gears work together when selling a marital home, and when both realtors are from the same company, it is easier for them to work together. However, the agreement must stipulate that both realtors will only talk to the spouse they are acting for. When the divorce is stormy, I suggest using realtors from different brokerages.

You do not need to pay extra commission when you co-list. Although there are two realtors involved, you should not pay separate commissions. Usually, the commission offered to the selling brokerage is divided between the two realtors when the transaction closes. You should discuss the commission structure before listing and have it in writing in the agreement. Check with your realtor if there is any additional cost before finalising.

Every year around 70,000 Canadians are parting ways. The marital home represents a large part of their assets that must sell. The brew becomes toxic when you add children, memories, and emotions to the mix. A co-listing arrangement is a buffer between the parties to avoid conflicts, which is better than paying high legal fees.

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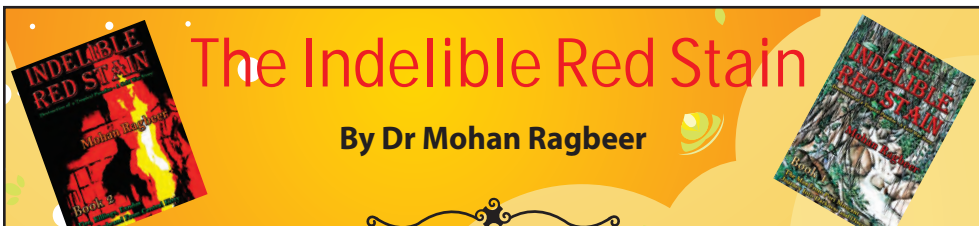
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The Indelible Red Stain
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The two companion books are available from Amazon.com, through Kindle and other on-line sellers or from the author at mohan.ragbeer@gmail.com



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Marathon growing in numbers, stature

From Page 1

closer, I am getting more and more fired up about my participation in the [TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon] to raise money for dialysis and eye care.”

She added, “I hope that the Consulate’s participation this year, and in future years, will deepen interest in, and support for this worthy cause promoted by Vishnu Mandir.”

[Click here to go to Ramsubagh-Mannette’s TWM donation page.](#)

VM’s historical involvement in Toronto’s signature marathon fall event is founded on a two-fold philosophy. On the one hand, the marathon intersects seamlessly with the commitment by VM’s leader, Dr Doobay, in ensuring that the mandir’s devotees, and the diaspora, continue to engage and participate in ongoing physical activity.

And on the other hand, TWM’s participants are supported in their commitment by donors who contribute through fund-raising to assist Global Care Outreach with its ongoing humanitarianism programme in Guyana.

Donating to the Dialysis & Eye Clinics in Guyana helps dialysis patients from all walks of life have affordable access to treatment and eye care.

Last year’s effort saw VM and Global Care Outreach raising just over \$200,000 through its marathon participants and their donors.

With the positive indicators that the marathon is growing in numbers and stature, the founder of the initiative, and one of its original organisers, Dr Victoria Doobay, said she was again looking forward to participating this year in the in-person event, and raising funds for a humanitarian cause.

Victoria has participated in several triathlons and half

[Click here to Register](#)
[Donate to a Participant](#)
[YouTube 2022 Run](#)

marathons in the past years. However, as she notes, her favourite event is traveling to Toronto from across the border where she lives and works, and taking part alongside the energetic VM leader, Dr Doobay.

[Click here to go to Dr Doobay’s TWM donation page.](#)

Said Victoria: “I am looking forward to supporting VM’s humanitarian initiative once again this year, and participating with Dr Doobay.” [Click here to go to Victoria’s TWM donation page.](#)

As he did last year, once again Dr Doobay will be participating in the in-person 5K event in downtown Toronto.

There are still a few spots left for those interested in signing up for the event. Participants in the virtual event can be located anywhere in the world.

The TWM offers three events for participants: the in-person full marathon – either running or walking the 42 kilometres; an in-person half-marathon of 21 kilometres, again running or walking; and an event that is five kilometres.

According to Roy Doobay, who has been coordinating and leading the initiative, while the in-person full and half-marathons are all taken, there is a limited number of spots remaining for the 5K in-person event.

The virtual half-marathon is now full; however, there are



Victoria Doobay in motion

limited spots available for the virtual full and 5K events.

The virtual event can be done from any location in the world. Participants register online, and then log daily activity that accumulates as an ascending total of kilometres.

It can either be done as steps while walking or running during a daily routine. Posting the steps online eventually totals up the required kilometre goal.

The in-person and virtual registrations enable a fund-raising page, which can then be sent out as links to potential sponsors. Funds raised from a participant’s sponsors are collected by the TWM, and then sent to Global Care Outreach.

See display below for VM’s and Global Care Outreach contact information.

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Half Marathon
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Respected doctor, philanthropist, Frank making a difference

By Dhanpaul Narine

The 'Denbow' name is popular in Guyana. Members of that family have made their mark in medicine, law, and other professions. Frank Alstein Denbow is a member of that distinguished family. He has blazed the trail to become a respected doctor and a philanthropist who is making a difference in his native Guyana and beyond.

Frank was born in Camp Street in Georgetown, Guyana. He is the only child in his family. His dad was Frank Alstein Denbow Senior, and his mom was Dr Enid Denbow. Many readers will know of Dr Enid Denbow and the tremendous contributions she made to the medical profession.

The young Frank attended Stella Maris Primary School and later St Ambrose School. He is grateful to all his teachers for their hard work and dedication. Frank passed his Common Entrance and won a place at the prestigious Queens College. He was active in student life and found his first headmaster Doodnauth Hetram to be "an amazing person".

Frank liked math, and he always wanted to follow in the footsteps of his mother and be a doctor. He recalls that when his mother qualified as a doctor, he was at the airport holding her bag. The others were his dad, and the late Ashton Chase.

Frank graduated from Queens College in 1974. He found his years there to be enjoyable, and it was great to be alongside his cousins Charles and Claude Denbow.

Frank was expected to excel like his cousins, but he said he only became serious when it was time for the exams. He passed his Advanced Levels and proceeded to England. He was accepted at Queens University in Belfast in 1975 to pursue studies in medicine. It was a six-year course, and after his internship, he went to Jamaica where he worked until 1987.

How did Frank find his time in Jamaica?

Said Frank: "I enjoyed my stay in Jamaica. I developed a love for Jamaica that I maintain to this day. I found Jamaica to be similar to Guyana, and I had no problems adjusting."

It was time for another spell in England, but this time Frank would enter an exclusive club. He studied hard and passed the medical exams to become a Member of the Royal College of



Frank graduates with an MD

Physicians.

He returned to Guyana in 1988 and worked at the Georgetown Hospital, and also lectured at the University of Guyana. He took over the practice of Dr Frank Williams, a well-known name in Guyana.

Frank left Guyana in 1991 for the US. He completed his residency at Newark Beth-Israel Hospital, and from 1999 to 2019 he was assigned at Executive Health Exams International, where he retired in a senior position.

How did the Guyana-Jamaica Friendship Association happen? Frank said that in 2013 he had an illness that led him into some deep thinking. He felt that the biggest impact could be made in the fields of health and education, especially at the primary level.

Rural schools needed services, and if children were given the opportunities, then they could excel. He selected Guyana, the land of his birth, and Jamaica, that had given him so much in which to establish and further his philanthropic mission.

The decision was made to work at the Aeolus Valley School in St Thomas, Jamaica, and at the Mashabo Primary School in Guyana. Both schools had hard-working and innovative principals. The results over the years have been staggering. Literacy has improved as a result of the intervention of the GJFA. Specialist teachers in the New York Public Schools share their expertise with local teachers, and the results are evident.

During the years 2018 and 2022, Mashabo had multiple passes into Grade A secondary schools, for the first time in



The family (back row l-r): Drs Claudette, Frank, Charles Denbow, Captain Louis Crawford, and Colonel Fairbain Liverpool. Seated (l-r) are Roderine Moses, Dr Louise Liverpool-Grant, and Dr Sarah Crawford-Gordon

its history. Microscopes and science teachers were sent to Aeolus Valley, together with instructions, and they improved science scores in the school.

Frank said that the communities were also engaged, as teachers would reach out on weekends and give literacy classes for adults. One of the graduates of Mashabo is at the University of Guyana doing pre-med classes, and is a powerful role model. When the Covid-19 pandemic happened, Frank and his team were able to send supplies to the schools to continue their education.

Teachers also contributed their services virtually. Symposia were done on nutrition and health, and on issues that relate to domestic violence.

What is Frank's vision for the future? He wants to continue to serve, and would like to see other persons take up the challenge, through Home Town Associations, or adopt a village, or a clinic program.

Frank has had many persons in his life who have made an impact, but the ones that stand out are his parents Dr Enid Denbow and Frank Denbow Sr.

He said, "My parents remain my role models. They have provided the inspiration for me to succeed."

He also admires Dr Harold Hamilton (MRCP), a Trinidadian, who was his mother's boss at the Georgetown Hospital, and a close family friend.

Frank loves sports, especially cricket, and his heroes are Sir Garfield Sobers and Rohan Kanhai. He is concerned about climate change, and would like the young people to work hard and be responsible. Frank is proud of the achievements of his son Frank Egerton Denbow, who among other things, climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with his cousins Jemel Liverpool, and Kareem Liverpool, in celebration of Jemel's 40th birthday.

There is no doubt that Dr Frank Alstein Denbow is an asset to the community. He leads by example, and his leadership in the GJFA, along with his team, is to be admired. He has a lot more to contribute. We wish Frank and his family all the best in the future.

Inspiring, positive message rises out of Narine's uplifting book

By Loaknauth Rajesh Sobhai

What's in a name? If it is *Shitty People* as in the case of Dr Dhanpaul Narine's book, then people will want to take a second look. Let us not be misled: while Dr Narine will not directly be writing about himself in this column, he has written about himself in another narrative, but indirectly through the filter of his semi-autobiographical novel.

Shitty People is like a gauntlet thrown down. Those two evocative words, were they to be overheard on the streets, could easily cause alarm that it was addressed to the listener as an insult.

As a book title, it is clearly intended to provoke a response from the prospective readers, all of whom will be familiar with the maxim that a book should not be judged by its cover. This teaser of a title calls for a judgment to be made about the use of such uncouth words.

Dr Narine is a graduate of the University of Guyana. He has also earned several degrees from the London School of Economics, including a PhD. He is a man of letters, a well-regarded member of our Guyanese, and the wider New York-based community.

He is not the kind of man from whom one would expect to hear such foul, potty language. Yet he has found it to be a suitable title for his debut novel. What gives?

There was illumination on this subject, and a great deal more that was offered by Dr Narine on August 26, 2023 at the Lefferts Boulevard branch of the Queens Library. This program was sponsored by District Leader Richard David and the Indo-Caribbean Alliance. The Lefferts Boulevard branch of the Queens library is located in the heart of the large Guyanese and Trinidadian population in Richmond Hill, New York.

It has a designated Indo-Caribbean section of books. This section was ably established with the guidance of Richard David and the ICA, and shows the importance of community involvement by individuals who wish to give back to the community. David continues to be a member of the board of Queens Library.

On August 26, 2023, *Shitty People* was inducted into the Indo-Caribbean section of the library. It was preceded with a book reading and discussion with Dr Narine. The event was well-



Narine (centre, photo at left) with members of the Lefferts Branch of the Queens Library;



in photo at right, readers who attended the book's induction

attended and included Judge Karen Gopee, Dr Devicka Persaud, Tanuja Raghoo, Rusat Ramgopal, Rohan Narine, David Correia, and a number of students from the community.

The book is over 600 pages long. It is essentially a novel, but it also contains semi-autobiographical underpinnings from Dr Narine's early life.

It is set in the colonial British Guiana, during the turbulent times of the late 1950s and the 1960s, and the trajectory of the hero's life follows that of the young author.

It is plain that a great many of the scenes portrayed in the book were re-lived and pulled deep from the memory of Dr Narine. The vividness with which they are depicted can only come from someone that experienced severe hardships.

This fact serves the novel well, and a fascinating discussion of the book unfolded at the induction ceremony. It was evident that a great many of the older participants could relate to the events from their past experience; while the younger participants were drawn into the world of their parents that was close, and yet a world apart from their current reality.

The nitty-gritty of life lived in the 'logies' of Guyana, with its proximity to the river, the flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, and the unsanitary conditions that resulted, are indeed a world apart from current realities – yet they were a harsh reality that prevailed and was experienced by the young author.

The contumely that attended that life, from others who were perhaps themselves only a few steps up in the social ladder, was also described, as if it came from another world.

But while the novel is set in mucky conditions, as with a great many things that may have roots in the soil, there is growth that springs forth that reaches out and beyond. The story traces the difficulties that were encountered in trying to get an education

– the most crucial determinant in many people's lives.

Most of us have had it drilled into our psyche that education is important, the key to a better life. Even those who were uneducated in the formal sense, were aware of its importance for children of the next generation. And so it was that the young protagonist was pushed by his

Ma, his grandmother, who was assisting her daughter by taking on the task of raising the young man to attend school, even while Ma was afraid of the officialdom that comprised the educational establishment.

The progress of the young man is a testament to the importance of two seemingly contrary forces at work in our lives. The first is the randomness of events that serve as a trigger to move us from one state of complacency or normalcy to a state of action. This does not come from within – it is purely external. The second is the opposite in that it is entirely internal: it is the fire that gets lit, the desire that is kindled, and the will that gets forged to push us towards a goal that materialises or gets clarified in our minds.

This then, will be a story that resonates with all of us. The setting will be familiar to some, but not all of us; but the 'moral' of it is what has always, and will always be to thrill our hearts. It is to see how our very own Dr Narine overcame the odds, walked through the mud of the "shitty people", and emerged as an educated man.

He walks with his head held high, and encourages us all to hold our own heads high. He is an educator in his own right, helping those who have fallen behind in getting their high school diploma, or who never had the opportunity because it simply was not available to them.

He believes in second chances. *Shitty People* is a powerful story that reminds us that we can reach for the stars. These are things that should be lauded and emulated. All in all, I would readily accept that, even if we continue to balk at the name of the novel, Dr Narine has earned the right, or should that be "write", to call it what he wishes!

Loaknauth Rajesh Sobhai is an attorney; he practices in Queens, New York City

Launch set for Shah's captivating memoir *To Change the World*

**To Change the World:
My Work with Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Canada**
Chandrakant P. Shah
Mawenzi House Publishers, 2023.

A celebration of Professor Emeritus Dr Chandrakant P. Shah's memoir, *To Change the World: My Work With Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Canada* (Mawenzi House Publishers Ltd, 2023) will take place at the Dalla Lana Public School of Health, University of Toronto, 155 College Street, Toronto on September 28.

This event starts at 5:30 p.m. with an award ceremony that will present the C. P. Shah Alumni Award of Excellence. Following this ceremony, Dr Shah will be in conversation with Suzanne Stewart from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. There will be refreshments and a book signing afterwards.

[Click here to register for the event.](#)

Highlight of the evening will be the launch of Dr Shah's *To Change the World*. A captivating memoir, it traces Dr Shah's journey from a small town in Maharashtra, India, to professor of public health at the University of Toronto.

In so doing, the book addresses inequities in Canadian health care, specifically in under-served and First Nations communities.

As Mawenzi House notes in a release, "This memoir is an inspiration to all Canadians, encapsulating Professor Shah's remarkable contributions to the field, including the first Canadian textbook on public health."

Dr Shah has received many awards during his illustrious career. Among these prestigious awards are The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals from the Office of the Governor General of Canada. Here he was recognised for being a Pioneer in Public Health Education, and for being an advocate for Aboriginal Peoples, the homeless, the jobless and poor children in Canada in June 2012.

In 2010, Dr Shah received the J. S. Woodsworth Award for outstanding Commitment and Excellence in the Fight For the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, particularly for Aboriginal People through his teaching, research, clinical ser-

vice, and advocacy work.

Dr Shah was also recognised to be among the Outstanding Physicians of Ontario in 2007 by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. This award is given to physicians who have demonstrated excellence, and who come closest to meeting society's vision of an "ideal physician".

He also received the CAPIH Medal of Service in 2007 from Canadian Association of Physicians of India Heritage for his outstanding contribution to healthcare and education.

There is also the Order of Ontario in 2005, which was awarded by the Government of Ontario for being a pioneer in public health education in Canada, in developing innovative healthcare programs, and for being an advocate for Aboriginal Peoples, the homeless, the jobless, and poor children in Canada.

The Mawenzi House release also notes, "As a testament to his enduring impact, there will also be a presentation of the C.P. Shah Alumni Award of Excellence to a distinguished individual, who has advanced the field of public/population health or health systems in Canada through their contribution and/or sustained efforts in the practice of public health, teaching, and research."

Dr Shah was born in India in 1936. He is now Professor Emeritus at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, and is a retired physician, a public health practitioner, and an advocate for improving the health and well-being of marginalised groups in Canadian society.

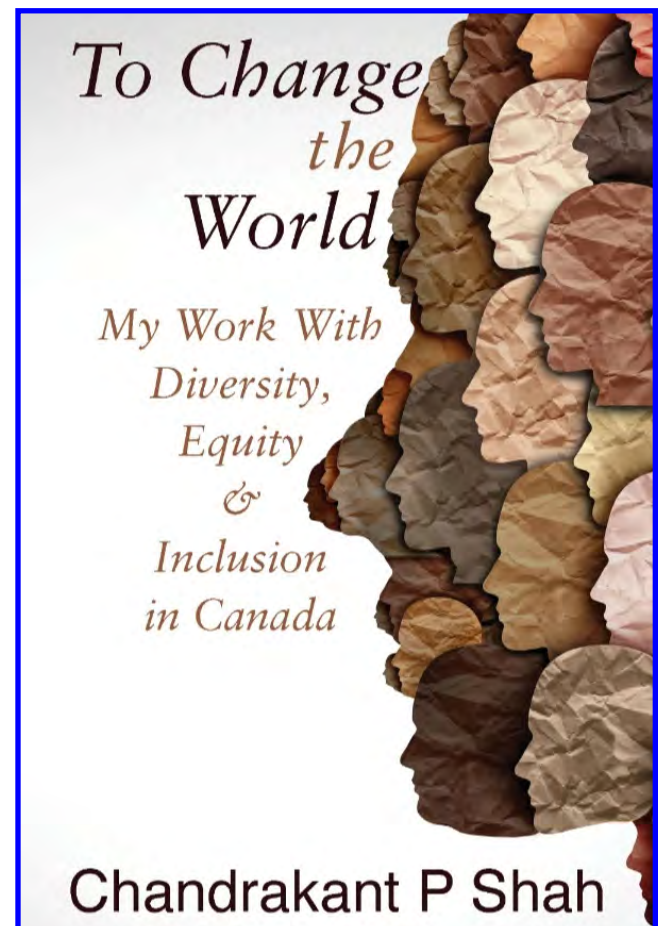


Dr C.P. Shah

He was a Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, the University of Toronto from 1972-2001. After retiring from the University, he worked at the Anishnawbe Health Centre Toronto from 2001-2016, where he provided primary health care to the Indigenous community in Toronto.

At the same time, he also researched the urban Indigenous health issues. His research and advocacy work on employment equity had a profound impact on Canadian universities' hiring policy of visible minorities as professors.

As Mawenzi House's website notes, Dr Shah is the ninth of 15 children; he was born in a small town in Maharashtra, India. He managed to attend medical school through diligent study,



sometimes under an oil lamp.

He arrived in Canada in 1965, where he joined the School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Here in Canada, he quickly noted the inequities in health and social services for the under-served and the Indigenous populations. Throughout his professorship, he worked tirelessly to draw attention to the plight of these populations, and to existing inequalities in Canada's institutions.

Dr Shah also made important contributions to the teaching of public health in Canada, and wrote the first comprehensive textbook on the subject, which is now in its sixth edition.

As a security guard at the hospital, the routine during my afternoon shift saw me eating lunch at eight o'clock each night during my half-hour 'lunch' break. I hardly took the two 15-minute breaks two hours after my shift started and two hours before it ended, preferring instead to stay busy and help the time move along faster. Knowing that every second counts, I use my two 15-minute breaks to direct traffic in the Emergency ward to help the medical teams save lives without interruption.

Sunday evenings are usually quiet, which makes for a long shift of boredom, until one night in October during my second 15-minute break, when the rain came down in blinding sheets and the howling chilly winds of autumn blew the heavy droplets sideways through the overhead doors. My chatting with the nurse on duty was interrupted when I heard a thud behind me. I spun around just in time to see a bone-thin man with white hair and matching facial hair collapse onto the tiled floor halfway between the door and the nurses' station. I ran to him and picked up the 90-pound senior citizen, despite the burning in my sinuses from his body odour. He smelled like rotting flesh.

Before I could get him on one of the empty gurneys lined up against the wall, his eyes popped open and stared into mine. His pupils narrowed into a pinhole and shot an invisible beam into my brain. I blacked out.

"What happened?" I alternated glances at the concerned faces of the doctors and nurses hovering over me when I regained consciousness. My confusion lasted a few moments before recollection filled the gaps in my memory. "Where is the old man?" I glanced around.

"Easy, Dominic." Nurse Kelly, the nurse with whom I was chatting, gently pushed my shoulders back onto the gurney's leatherette-covered foam mattress. "You suffered a concussion." She touched a bump on the side of my head. I winced in pain and surrendered to their caring hands.

"What happened to the old man?" I stared Nurse Kelly in the eye.

"Here, take these." She ignored my question and lifted my

The Supernatural The Transition



head. I swallowed the two painkillers she handed me, and washed them down with the glass of water I took from her.

I recovered enough to drive home before my shift ended and crawled into bed without waking Sheila.

I was plagued with a recurring dream of the incident in the Emergency room. Every time I woke up, I tried to remember what happened between carrying the old man and waking up on the gurney myself, but only managed to give myself a frustration-filled headache. Why did Nurse Kelly not answer my questions about him? The mystery kept me awake for half-hour stretches before tiredness took over my body and forced me to sleep until the dream woke me up again half an hour later.

This broken sleep pattern continued until the alarm popped my eyes open at 2:30 p.m., as it did every day. There was the usual dead silence in the home. The kids were at school, and Sheila was at work. I showered and got dressed before making a sandwich, and leaving for the start of my four o'clock shift.

When I arrived half an hour early at the hospital and put my lunch away in my locker, I went to see Nurse Kelly for some answers, but she was busy. I planned to visit her later when she had a minute to talk.

Kamil
Ali



While making my rounds, I paused at the Administrator's office. A voice behind the closed door sounded like Sheila's. The exactness of the voice and the manner of speech made me chuckle at the thought of Sheila having an unknown identical twin that we never knew.

When I returned to the security office, my colleague was seated at his desk, monitoring the cameras. He seemed too focused to acknowledge my presence. I sat at my desk and decided to rewind the cameras until I saw Sheila walking along the hallway and entering the Administrator's office after knocking. It was at nine in the morning. My heart raced. What was Sheila doing with my boss in the middle of the morning when she was supposed to be at work, and I was supposed to be sleeping? I felt a chill of betrayal when they took an eternity behind the closed door. My heart pounded when I fast-forwarded the video and watched them emerge with the Administrator's arm around my wife.

My blood turned cold when they strolled with their backs to the camera, and down the hall to the elevator with Sheila's head resting on my boss' chest. I kept my eyes on the camera on each floor to see where they would step out of the elevator. Finally, they reappeared in the basement. My blood boiled. The abandoned storage room was hidden in a far corner, where no one goes. I ran down the five flights of stairs to the basement in time to see them enter the morgue. I looked up to see Sheila dab at her red, swollen eyes with a tissue. My boss clutched her as she swayed, on the verge of collapse.

Suddenly, everything started to make sense. The old man who had collapsed was my liaison with death. He had allowed me to do my final deed of kindness by reaching out to him. I died at his touch with my soul still trapped in my body. Enhanced awareness through dreams made me feel like I was still alive and subject to mortal thoughts and feelings. My soul could only be released into eternity by acceptance of my fate.

Agony like I have never felt before gripped my heart and begged me to stay but the merciful breaths of the whispered words and sincere prayers from grateful families of victims that I had only met once in the Emergency room, floated me up the stairway to heaven.



An anxious parent looks on as her son hydrates following another hot day at school last week

T&T prepares for severe heat spells

Port-of-Spain – Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service last week issued a yellow level hot spell warning, cautioning the public that “extremely hot conditions” in the weeks ahead can be hazardous to health.

The Met Service warned of an 80 percent possibility that temperatures could near or exceed 34 degrees Celsius, and could continue into late September.

Also, that warm-to-hot conditions near 32.5 degrees or greater were expected to occur across Tobago.

“Therefore, a proactive approach to lessen the effects of hot spell conditions should be adopted,” the Met Service advised.

It added, “In cities, urban and built-up areas, the maximum temperatures are expected to be high (near to or greater than 34 degrees), and feel-like temperatures particularly when the winds are calm to light will likely range between 34-44 degrees.”

The hottest time of the day will not notable between 10 am to 4 pm, it stated.



Nyan Gadsby-Dolly

The elderly, sick adults, and young children were warned that high temperatures can be hazardous to health. According to the Met Service, this September is seeing many climatic features working together to promote warmer to hotter days. Calm to light winds with fewer cloudy periods are now enabling more incoming solar radiation, particularly during the mid-morning to afternoon periods.

Said the Met Service: “These climatic features are a moderately strong El Niño which generally restricts cloud development; a negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation, which encourages weak winds across the Caribbean; a warmer than usual Atlantic Ocean Sea Surface Temperatures east of the Trinidad and Tobago; the apparent local position of the sun at our latitude; and South-easterly flow of wind from the equatorial region.”

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly took the temperature down following the notification of the heat spell by the Met Service, telling the media heat was not a new problem in Trinidad and Tobago.

Her call for cooler heads to prevail came after the Education ministry issued a statement advising parents, teachers, and administrators to take precautionary measures against the high temperatures. The Ministry’s advice came following the Met Service’s warning.

Responding to media questions on whether the ministry had put any special plans in place to deal with the heat, Gadsby-Dolly declared that the “operational supervision of teachers and principals” was being underestimated.

School administrators have been dealing with heat for years, she claimed.

“This has happened all the time. We are in a tropical country and it’s been hot,” she stated.

Additionally, Gadsby-Dolly noted, “That’s not new. It’s something we are accustomed managing, and we continue that.”

Gadsby-Dolly also noted that the installation of air-conditioning units in schools was “a continuous process”, noting, “As we build new schools, as we refurbish schools, these things are taken into consideration.”

T&T govt says another deficit budget coming

Port-of-Spain – The government of Trinidad and Tobago will present another deficit budget next month, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has indicated.

He made the disclosure last week while addressing the current state of the nation’s economy following a three-day government retreat.

As Rowley noted, at this time the government is in the process of evaluating the sustainability of existing programmes, and re-evaluating if they are still needed.

Said Rowley: “We spent a lot of time [during the government retreat] discussing the economy, not only for today looking forward, but we reviewed what we had done to see what was successful and how successful, and what might not have been successful and where adjustments may be required, and if there is any policy that may be required to be either upstamped or trimmed.”

He also acknowledged that the country’s resource base was not what it was in previous years when there had been higher earnings.

“We remain an economy that is heavily dependent on the fortunes of the hydrocarbon sector – oil, gas, and petrochemicals in different ratios – and that gas is LNG, petrochemicals rely on natural gas, and we are still producing as many barrels of oil as we can,” Rowley stated.

He also said that Trinidad and Tobago’s pricing of these resources was influenced by the international market, and discussions were held with the Minister of Finance, Colm Imbert, about the projections for the gas, petrochemical, and oil markets, which should give the government an idea about the future

of Trinidad and Tobago.

“That gives us an idea of what we can do in sustaining what we are into, improving, or increasing where we might need to, or being cautious and careful where we have to be,” he added.

Rowley said the foundational agenda of the retreat was to discuss T&T’s financial position for the next three to five years. Focus was also placed on fuelling the non-energy sector, which he said the data revealed was doing very well.

“We need to have a development programme because that development programme is where a lot of the short-term employment is supported by people who engage in the projects that are funded by the government...” he stated.

Additionally, “So we have to have a development programme, and it does look like if we will maintain a deficit budget. And from that budget, we have to determine how we will treat with our debt and our levels of borrowing.”

On the issue on an increase in the minimum wage, Rowley said consideration was also being given to increasing the rate. This would be addressed by the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Finance, he added.

Also, the government aimed to control inflation and to ensure that the value of the dollar was retained.

These were some of the initiatives taken by the government to assist citizens with the high cost of living, he declared.

Rowley did not give a date for the budget, but commented that it would be announced “soon” by Finance Minister Imbert.



Colm Imbert

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'A violent society' as Rowley invites Opposition to help fix crime

Port-of-Spain – While noting that Trinidad and Tobago is a violent society, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley last week stated his government was doing all in its power to respond to the situation, among them showing a willingness to work with the Opposition.

At the same time, Rowley also declared the government had no plans to remove National Security Minister, Fitzgerald Hinds, from the role. Later, Opposition Leader, Kamla Persad-Bissessar declared Rowley's statement on retaining Hinds was "atrocious".

Speaking to the government's willingness to work with the Opposition, last week Rowley said: "Having heard [Persad-Bissessar speak earlier last week], I intend to write to her, and ask her to supply or receive personnel from the government on the issue of crime."

Additionally, "[The] government will receive from her side on the issue of crime, and let us see what common grounds exist that the Parliament can deal with... It is all good to say this and say that, but when the rubber hits the road, you have to look to see what direction the traffic is going in... and if there is an opportunity for collaboration, for the betterment of the country, we are willing to explore it."

Rowley made the declaration following a post-Cabinet retreat. At this press conference he also touched on several issues impacting on Trinidad and Tobago, which were discussed at the retreat.

Among the topics discussed was one at the forefront impacting the entire nation, which was crime.

"Put to the forefront now in the national conversation, one is the high levels of violent crime, notwithstanding some other elements of crime might be subsiding. But what really attracts our attention, and is of greatest concern to us are the high levels of violent crime," Rowley stated.

Additionally, "It gives us no pass to say that it is something being experienced throughout the region, and the wider world. But we are having to focus on our situation in a way that others have to focus on theirs."

While he gave the assurance that all was being done to impede criminality by his government, at the same time there was a violence in the society that needed further attention.

Rowley also made an oblique reference to the fatal stabbing of a woman earlier this month by her cousin. Police said a drawing compass from a mathematical geometry set was used as the murder weapon. It is also alleged that killing was over monies owed for damages following a traffic accident.

Said Rowley: "How does one put that in the scheme of things? Does anyone in the country anticipate that? Did anyone in the family anticipate that? I'm sorry to say that when that happens, we have to come to the conclusion that we are a violent society. Could that not have been avoided? ...I know what a compass is; and for that to be used as a killing tool, then who are we? Why

Potato prices chip upwards

Port-of-Spain – The past two months have seen inflation chipping away at lower costs for potato, and with prices climbing to unprecedented levels, calls have gone out the Ministry of Agriculture to step in and promote local cultivation.

Last week agronomist Akanath Singh told the media that Trinidad and Tobago can produce its own potatoes. At the same time, Singh indicated a few of his students were involved in cultivation of the staple.

Singh noted that prices for potatoes have almost doubled since July, and this escalating cost was driving consumers to alternatives such as breadfruit and eddoes.

"This alarming escalation in potato prices has not only strained household budgets, but has also brought into sharp focus the vulnerability of the nation's food supply chain," Singh said.

He added, "I do believe we can grow potatoes successfully on a larger scale, once the proper growing conditions are met such as soil type, pH, and so on. We also do have a range of products such as fertilisers and organic bio-stimulants available right here that will bring excellent growth and yields with potato production."

At the San Fernando Central Market last week, wholesale vendors like Visham Mahabir were claiming that last year a 50-pound bag of potatoes sold between (TT) \$60 to \$80.

"Now it has gone up to \$200 to \$250. It is the first time we are seeing these record-high prices," Mahabir said.

Meanwhile, gardener Judy Narine-Persad was growing her own, noting, "I was able to reap within three to four months."

Narine-Persad said potatoes had started to send out roots in her fridge, which she cultivated in loose soil.

"I planted and reaped twice, so I know we can grow potatoes on a large scale," she said.

Last week Agriculture Minister Kazim Hosein said his ministry has been evaluating the suitability of potato varieties over the last five years for local production.



Keith Rowley

is this happening?"

Rowley also advised that nationals be more attentive to the people around them, and to examine the company they kept.

As he observed, the number of murders reported annually were not committed by someone "from Mars", but mostly by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

It meant nationals must work with law enforcement in tackling crime.

Rowley also spoke to the performance of Hinds. In his words, the work in national security was being done. Also, that he was aware of calls from various sectors in the country for Hinds to step down.

However, Rowley reiterated that Hinds would remain in his position for the foreseeable future.

Said Rowley: "There are some people who are less pleased

with my own performance than his... There is no minister in the Cabinet right now who has had their name called for removal more than me."

He added, "So I understand where he is coming from, and how these things go, but I also understand that the work is being done."

However, in a statement made later, Persad-Bissessar disagreed with Rowley's position on keeping Hinds in the national security role.

As she declared, it was simply atrocious that after a three-day Cabinet retreat Rowley chose to keep Hinds on the job.

Said Persad-Bissessar: "I call on Rowley to put our citizens' lives first, and select a competent person to helm our national security apparatus. His refusal to replace ...Hinds with someone competent has now gone past dictatorial arrogance to total disregard of our citizens' opinions and fears."

Persad-Bissessar said Rowley continues to ignore the terror citizens are facing due to the crime crisis, and has once again ignored the cries of the population to remove Hinds.

"While ...Rowley admits that crime is totally out of control, he refuses to act in the best interest of the population. Saying the society is violent does not absolve the Rowley government of their responsibility in controlling violent crime and murders," she stated.

She also addressed Rowley stating the only stability that exists under Hinds "is a stable rise in the murder rate and violent crime".

Persad-Bissessar also requested that Rowley listen to the business community, civil society, the man on the street, and all other stakeholders to put the lives of citizens first, and select a competent person to lead the national security ministry.

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The Golden Years of Indian Cinema

Evergreen Dulari left us with the eternally haunting Suhani Raat

By Vidur Dindayal

The movies, *Mahal*, *Shabnam*, *Patanga*, and *Dulari* were among the highest grossing films released in 1949. In Guyana *Shabnam* was the super hit, no question.

I don't remember hearing about *Mahal* in Guyana, but in my late teens, in the early 1950s I heard its famous song *Ayega Aanewaala* in a record borrowed from my parents' friends who had just come from India to set up business in Guyana.

I visited their home and they let me borrow the record of songs from *Mahal*. My parents liked the *Mahal* song.

A few years later, people were talking about the famous song *Ayega Aanewaala*, a trademark song of Lata Mangeshkar, all her life.

After its release *Mahal* soon gained popularity in India, and by its third week, became a nationwide sensation. It was the third highest-grossing Hindi film of 1949 after *Barsaat* and *Andaz*.

Critics call it a classic. Stars were Ashok Kumar as Hari Shankar, and Madhubala as Kamini. Madhubala was only 16 years old when she made the film.



Mahal is a ghost story. In Allahabad, there is a beautiful abandoned palace. A new owner, Hari Shankar (Ashok Kumar) comes to live in this palace. He gets visions of a mysterious lady Kamini claiming to be his lover in their previous lives. The old gardener narrates the story of incomplete love.

Madhubala was described as the film's "real hit". The success of *Mahal* turned Madhubala and Lata Mangeshkar into overnight stars.

The casting of the female lead role was complex, with several actresses refusing the role, or asking for high fees.

Mahal was produced by Savak Vacha and Ashok Kumar under the banner of Bombay Talkies. The music for the film was composed by Khemchand Prakash.

Lata Mangeshkar sang *Aayega Aanewala*, and two other songs. Other songs were sung by Rajkumari, and one by Zohrabai Ambalewali and Rajkumari.

The first words of *Ayega* were *Khamosh hai zamana, chup chaap hain sitaare*. The meaning paints a picture of haunting quietness – the world is quiet, the stars are silent.

The rest of the first verse:

Aaraam se, hain duniya, bekal hain dil ke maare.

The world is at rest, the heart is restless.

Aise main koi aahat, is tarha aa rahi hai.

Like this, someone is coming, in this way.

Dev Anand's birth centenary to be celebrated with 2-day film festival

A film festival celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of screen icon Dev Anand will be held later this month, the Film Heritage Foundation announced on September 4.

Dev Anand, star of films such as *Hum Dono*, *Tere Ghar Ke Samne*, *CID*, and *Guide*, will be honoured ahead of his birthday on September 26 with a gala titled *Dev Anand@100 - Forever Young*.

The two-day celebration, held jointly in association with the National Film Development Corporation Of India – National Film Archive of India, and PVR Inox, will be conducted on September 23-24 across 30 cities and 55 cinema halls all over India, according to a press release.

The FHF, founded by filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, has curated a collection of four of the actor's movies for the showcase: *CID* (1956), *Guide* (1965), *Jewel Thief* (1967); and *Johnny Mera Naam* (1970).

Audiences in cities including, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Kolkata, Guwahati, Indore, Jaipur, Nagpur, New Delhi, Gwalior, Rourkela, Kochi, and Mohali, will get an opportunity to watch these landmark films of Dev Anand restored by NFDC-NFAI in 4K resolution for the big screen, the release stated.

After a successful run with *Bachchan Back To The Beginning*,

Jaise ke chal rahaa hai, man me koi hamaare.

Like this it is going on, in our mind there is someone.

Ya dil tharap rahaa hai, ik aas ke sahaare.

Or is the heart beating because of one hope.

Aayega, aayega, aayega, aayega, aayeha, aanewaala...aayega, aayega, aanewaala.

He will come, will come, will come, will come, is coming, will come, will come, is coming.



Dulari is famous for one of the most popular songs ever. *Suhani Raat Dhal Chuki*. Who does not know *Suhani Raat*? The words, the lyrics below, tell all about how touching is this song. It was played in London in at least two funerals I attended of Guyanese I know.

The film starred Madhubala as Dulari, Suresh as Prem, and Geeta Bali as Kasturi.

Prem Shankar (Suresh) is the son of a rich businessman. His parents want him to marry into a rich family. However, he loves a gypsy girl named Dulari (Madhubala) who was kidnapped by gypsies in her childhood.

The gypsy sardar's son also wants to marry her and kidnaps her. Prem, after fighting, frees Dulari. His father refuses to bless them.

But, gypsy woman Kasturi (Geeta Bali) who knows Dulari from childhood discloses that Dulari is the daughter of a businessman friend of Prem's family.

Dulari is reunited with her family and she and Prem get the blessings of their elders.

The music of *Dulari* was composed by Naushad. The songs were sung by Shamshad Begum, Lata Mangeshkar, and the famous one *Suhani Raat Dhal Chuki* by Mohammed Rafi.

Released in November 1949, *Dulari* emerged as the eighth highest grossing Indian films of that year. It was a major commercial success, continuously shown in theatres for over 35 weeks, and it turned into a silver jubilee hit.

Its success was credited to Madhubala's stardom, and Naushad's music.

Dulari played an important role in the career developments of Madhubala, Geeta Bali, and Naushad.

Here are the words of the famous song, *Suhani Raat*:

Suhani Raat Dhal Chuki, Na Jaane Tum Kab Aaoge

The beautiful night has slipped away, don't know when you will come

Jahan Ki Rut Badal Chuki, Na Jaane Tum Kab Aaoge

Throughout the world the seasons have changed, don't know when you will come

Nazaare, Apni Mastiyaan, Dikha Dikha Ke Kho Gaye.

and Dilip Kumar – *Hero Of Heroes*, Dungarpur said they had to celebrate the birth centenary of Dev Anand.

"We wanted to honour his legacy by screening four of his milestone films. The films are among my personal favourites, as I consider Goldie Anand (Vijay Anand) one of the most stylish directors of Indian cinema. The festival also marks an important collaboration between Film Heritage Foundation and NFDC-NFAI, who have restored the four films, and partnered with us to enable us to showcase these films," the FHF founder said in a statement.

"The Gregory Peck of India, as Dev Anand was often called, continues to be a beloved star, and we are thrilled that contemporary audiences will have the opportunity to watch some of the films that made him an enduring legend of Indian cinema," he added.

Filmmaker Suneil Anand, son of Dev Anand, said he is pleased to hear that the FHF is planning a film festival to commemorate his father's 100th birthday.

"I personally like my dad's work, as the leading man, in *Johnny Mera Naam*. I think this is because the character he played closely resembled his true personality. It was an ideal vehicle for him to showcase his histrionics, mannerisms, and his

The sights have shown their beauty and are now gone

Sitaare Apni Roshni, Luta Luta Ke So Gaye

The stars have shone their light and now gone one by one.

Har Ek Shamma Jal Chuki, Na Jaane Tum Kab Aaoge

Every light has been lit, don't know when you will come

Suhani Raat Dhal Chuki...

Tadap Rahe Hain Hum Yahan, Tumhare Intezaar Mein

Desperately here I am, waiting for you,

Khiza Ka Rang Aa Chala Hai Mausam-E-Bahar Mein

Autumn colours are coming in the season of spring

Havaa Bhi Rukh Badal Chuki, Na Jaane Tum Kab Aaoge

The winds also have changed direction, don't know when you will come

Suhani Raat Dhal Chuki...



Patanga is a 1949 Indian Hindi-language romantic comedy film. Rajendra Kumar, who later became a leading actor, worked in *Patanga* as an assistant to the director, also played a small role in the film.

The duet song *Mere Piya Gaye Rangoon*, picturised on actor Gope and lead heroine Nigar Sultana, became very popular. I like this song.

The playback singers for the song were C. Ramchandra, who was also Music Director, and Shamshad Begum. The stars included Nigar Sultana, Shyam, Yakub, Gope, and Shyama.

The story is about Raja (Yakub), a traffic constable who was distracted by a song, sung by Rani (Nigar Sultana), and leaves his traffic station. This led to a serious traffic accident and Raja was suspended from his job.

Rani decides to help Raja and both of them found acting jobs at Gope Theatre run by Natharam Gope (Gope). Shyam (Shyam), the son of a wealthy landlord falls in love with Rani, the classic love triangle.

Mera Piya Gaye Rangoon sung by Shamshad Begum became an evergreen hit. I like this song.

The words are hilarious. Gope is enjoying the company of dancers in Rangoon, but he phoned his wife in Dehra Dun, saying quite the opposite.

He is speaking on the phone to his wife in Dehra Dun, saying, "Hello I am in Rangoon, I miss you very much. I am very unhappy. I forgot to bring you with me. Here I am living the life of a *sanyasi*, very lonely, I wish you were with me."

suave dressing sense," he said.

Additionally, "*Jewel Thief* was another such film – it had the trappings and the look of slick Western and European cinema... I am sure the festival will be a big success, and that contemporary audiences will rediscover the youthful magic of my father – who will stay forever young on the silver screen," he said.

In the continuing legacy of Dev Anand and his family banner Navketan Films, Suneil Anand said he is currently making a Hollywood-based film, dedicated to his father, called *Vagator Mixer*, which will be released worldwide soon.

According to the organisers, this is also the first time a government body has collaborated with a not-for-profit organisation for a film festival of such scale. The restoration of the films for *Dev Anand@100 - Forever Young*, was undertaken as part of the National Film Heritage Mission and funded by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary (Films), and Managing Director, NFDC, said it is important for the public to witness Dev Anand on the big screen once again, and in a manner how he was viewed during his heyday decades ago.



Dev Anand

Indo-Canadian Punjab honour killing film *Dear Jassi* at London Film Festival

A film inspired by a real-life honour killing in Punjab, *Dear Jassi*, which recently had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival has been selected in the official competition category for this year's BFI London Film Festival starting early next month.

Directed by India-born filmmaker Tarsem Singh Dhandwar, the film also marks a debut for producer Sanjay Grover – the son of Bollywood actor Gulshan Grover, who was representing him at the Canadian screenings while his son was busy with a shoot in London.

“This is a heart-wrenching love story and my friend, director Tarsem, has done an extraordinary job,” said Gulshan Grover.

“Also, it’s a very special moment for me because *Dear Jassi* is a film produced by my son Sanjay, his first independent film after working at Hollywood studios,” he said.

Somewhat reminiscent of legendary love stories of Punjabi folklore, the film retells the tragedy of 24-year-old Jassi Sidhu who fell in love with Sukhwinder Sidhu alias Mithu, a kabaddi player of the same Sidhu clan, while visiting her mother’s village in Punjab.

Born at Maple Ridge near Vancouver, Jassi was murdered by her mother’s hired killers near Jagraon in Punjab while her husband was left for dead.

Opening with sufi poet Bulleh Shah’s *Kamli*, the film brilliantly recreates the tragic events of June 2000, beginning with the Indo-Canadian girl (played by Pavia Sidhu) falling in love with the rugged Punjab boy (played by Yugam Sood) during her first trip to Punjab.

Scenes quickly switch between grimy Punjab towns and Jassi’s swanky Maple Ridge near Vancouver as the romance blossoms between the two, first through their secret rendezvous in the Punjab village, and then via letters and phone calls when Jassi flies back to Vancouver.

When Jassi’s mother Malkiat Kaur and maternal uncle Surjit Singh Badersha force her to marry an Indo-Canadian boy of their choice, she flies to India and secretly gets married to Mithu before returning to Canada to make arrangements for Mithu to come to Canada.

But when her mother and the maternal uncle get wind of her secret marriage, Jassi is tortured, confined to their home, and forced to sign papers to get her marriage in India annulled.

The high points of the movie are the chaotic scenes at Jassi’s home in Canada when her secret marriage is no more a secret,



Jassi & Sukwinder meet in the movie *Dear Jassi*



Star-crossed real-life couple Jassi & Sukwinder (left)



A still from *Dear Jassi*



Dear Jassi’s producers Ashwin Varde, Sanjay Grover, Rajesh Bahl, Bhushan Kumar, Vipul D Shah with director Tarsem Singh (sitting)



Kanwar Grewal (left to right), Pavia Sidhu, & director Tarsem Singh Dhandwar at the premiere of *Dear Jassi*

and she seeks police help to get out to fly to India to save Mithu and her marriage.

The director has made an extensive use of colloquial Panjabi to capture the essence of earthy Punjabi sense of humour in the film, which has been dubbed into English.

“Both a true work of art and an unblinking chronicle of continuing injustice, *Dear Jassi* demonstrates immense storytelling talent and filmmaking rigour while capturing the brutality that lies on the other side of a beautiful sunset, if you’re brave enough

to turn the camera,” according to TIFF, where the film was part of its official selection.

It will compete with nine other worldwide entries at the London Film Festival, which opens on October 4. The other Indian films selected for screenings at the annual festival include *The Buckingham Murders* in the Thrill section of the line-up, directed by Hansal Mehta and starring Kareena Kapoor.

In the same section is another Indian thriller, *Stolen*, directed by Karan Tejpal, with actor Abhishake Banerjee in the lead.



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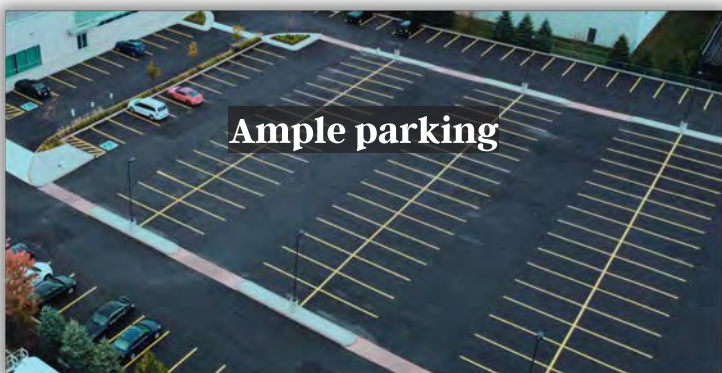


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Stokes fires up the bat to full steam

Just weeks after he made public his decision to return to the ODI format, and only in his third game, Ben Stokes fired up the bat to full steam ahead, rocketing to the top of England's all-time ODI charts with an innings of 182 that saw his team thrashing New Zealand by 181 runs.

Stokes beat by two runs the previous England record set by Jason Roy against Australia in Melbourne in 2018, the *British Broadcasting Corporation*, *The Guardian*, and other international media outlets reported last week.

Speaking afterwards with the English media, Stokes said that not only was he not aiming for Roy's achievement, also that he had no idea of the record's total.

Said Stokes: "I just apologised to Jase upstairs. He said, 'Well done'; and I said 'Sorry'. I don't think there was too much to it. He'll be pretty happy he has seen one of his teammates, who he has played a lot of cricket with, take that off him. But individual stuff like that I'm not too fussed about. I didn't really know I'd done it until the bloke on the Tannoy started announcing it, and then I got out next ball. It was his fault!"

Stokes said the main benefit of his innings had been to re-familiarise himself with its particular rhythms.

"It was good for me personally just to get familiarity again with how 50-over cricket goes," he said.

Additionally, "There were a couple of times I had to check myself, because I looked up and there were still 23-24 overs left. Sometimes you have to drag yourself back I guess, you have way more time than you think."

It was his third ODI since coming out of retirement to play in this year's World Cup. Arriving at 13-2, Stokes added 199 for the third wicket with Dawid Malan, an England record partnership in an ODI against New Zealand. Malan finished off his innings



Ben Stokes

with 96. Despite losing their last six wickets for 32 runs, England still piled up 368.

Faced with pulling off the highest successful chase in an ODI in England, New Zealand were soon in disarray at 37-4, thanks chiefly to a three-wicket burst from Chris Woakes, who expertly used the movement on offer in an eight-over opening spell.

Glenn Phillips battled to 72 to prolong the match, but after he was leg-before on review to Liam Livingstone, New Zealand were hustled out for 187.

Meanwhile, Stokes continues to walk out to the pitch with a troublesome left knee, and which will restrict his World Cup involvement to just performing with the bat.

However, as the *BBC* noted, it is his ability to gather high scores that made England keen about his return to defend the World Cup title in India.

He is valued for his ability to deliver from tight corners, such as during the 2019 final, and in the 2022 T20 World Cup final. Few players can match his purposefulness in striking the ball when he finds the range.

The Oval game saw England in trouble after Jonny Bairstow fell to the first ball of the match and Joe Root dragged on, both batters leaving courtesy Boult.

It took Stokes to reply affirmatively, and to go on to break the English ODI record. After Robin Smith held the England ODI record for 23 years with 167 made in 1993, it has now been broken three times since 2016, first by Alex Hales, then Roy, now Stokes.

Former captain Charlotte Edwards holds the record for the highest score by an England woman in an ODI, with 173 not out against Ireland in 1997.

The highest score by a batter in an ODI is the 264, which was made by India's Rohit Sharma against Sri Lanka in Kolkata in 2014.

Indian batter Gill moves up in ICC ODI ranks

India's Shubman Gill moved up to a career-best No. 2 last week in the ICC ODI rankings for men's batters, with only Babar Azam ahead of him, the cricket website *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

Gill scored 58, contributing a 121-run opening partnership with captain Rohit Sharma in the Asia Cup Super Four fixture against Pakistan. The total helped him move up one spot despite just scoring 19 against Sri Lanka in the next game.

Virat Kohli, who hit an unbeaten century against Pakistan, and Rohit, who hit 53 and 56 earlier this month, and after 74 not out against Nepal on September 4, both moved up two places each, and last week were occupying eighth and ninth positions, respectively. This is also the first time since September 2018 that three Indian batters were in the top ten of the ODI rankings. Four years ago, Rohit, Kohli, and Shikhar Dhawan were all in the top six.

Pakistan also saw three batters in the top ten, with Babar still at the top with a lead of more than 100 rating points over

Gill. Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman are fifth and tenth, respectively.

Elsewhere, South Africa's Temba Bavuma advanced 21 places to reach a career-best No. 11 after scoring three centuries and two half-centuries in his last eight ODIs. Earlier this month he hit an unbeaten 114 against Australia, followed by scores of 46 and 57. His previous best position was 25th.

Among the other major gainers were Australia's David Warner, who rose from fifth to fourth, Travis Head (a jump of six places to 20th), and Marnus Labuschagne, who was up 24 places to 45th. India's K.L. Rahul was also ten places up to 37th, while Ishan Kishan gained two spots, and moved to 22nd place.

Among the bowlers, New Zealand's Trent Boult moved up to joint-second with Australia's Josh Hazlewood after picking up 3 for 37 in his 100th ODI, also his first in almost exactly a year, while Adam Zampa entered the top five for the first time after picking up four wickets in the second match against South Africa.

Pacer Shah likely out of Pakistan lineup, dealing serious blow to WC campaign

Pakistan were last week dealt what could turn out to be a serious blow in its World Cup campaign when Naseem Shah, one of the team's key bowlers developed a serious shoulder injury.

At this time, Shah's participation in the entire tournament from October 5 to November 19 is not guaranteed, the cricket website *Cricbuzz* reported.

The website further reported that even partial participation is in doubt. Shah is a mainstay in Pakistan's bowling attack.

According to a statement from the Pakistan Cricket Board, "The Pakistan Cricket Board's medical team has been monitoring the status of ...Shah's shoulder injury sustained during the Asia Cup 2023."

It added, "Medical consultations with experts are underway to provide the best possible care to Naseem. The PCB medical panel will decide on the fast bowler's return to cricket based on further assessments."

Doubts over his availability emerged two days after Babar Azam's side was knocked out of the Asia Cup. The right-arm pacer did not take part in the crucial Super 4 game against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan lost the match in a final-ball thriller, with Naseem's absence keenly felt.

Cricbuzz also reported that PCB officials confided that Shah's reports were to be sent to the UK for further advice.

Also, it was indicated that the team management will act accordingly based on the advice received. However, the chances of his participation in the World Cup looked bleak last week.

In his growing career, Shah has played 17 Tests, 14 ODIs, and 19 T20Is.

PCB officials also indicated confidence that Haris Rauf will be available for the World Cup. Rauf was also absent in the Sri Lanka game. According to the officials, Rauf is not seriously injured. What occurred were episodes of pain in his rib cage, which necessitated rest from the must-win game on September 14.

The PCB will also undertake a review of the team performance in the Asia Cup. Pakistan started out as a favourite. However, the team failed to reach the final.

Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq, head of the cricket committee Misbah-ul-Haq, and selector Mohammad Hafeez were expected to do the review of the team's performance this week.

Meanwhile, Pakistan media reports suggested last week that the PCB may make a call allowing its players to take part in only one overseas T20 league, apart from the PSL, to ensure the players remain fit.

The Pakistan team arrived in Dubai last week, and will play their first game on October 6 against the Netherlands. Their highly anticipated match against India will be held in Ahmedabad on October 14.



Patrick Lashley

CWI pays tribute to WI players Lashley & White

Cricket West Indies last week praised two late West Indies cricketers, Peter Lashley and Tony White, noting their contribution to West Indies cricket.

September 4 saw the passing of Lashley at 86. He died in his homeland Barbados following a protracted illness.

CWI thanked him for his contribution to player development, with President Kishore Shallow declaring, "Peter Lashley will forever be remembered in West Indies cricket as a member of that great team that played in the most famous Test match, one of the most memorable moments in our rich history."

Shallow added, "He had a wealth of knowledge of the game, and played a major role in the development of several players in Barbados, many of whom went on to represent the West Indies at the highest level."

Lashley made his debut in the historic Tied Test against Australia in Brisbane in 1960, and went on to play four Tests, scoring 159 runs at an average of 22.

Following his career, Lashley became involved in the administration of the game as a prominent member of the Barbados Cricket Association's board of management.

His death was the second to hit the Barbados and West Indies cricket fraternity in as many months, following the passing of Anthony 'Tony' White at 84 on August 16. He was a middle-order batsman and an off-spinner, who featured in two Tests against Australia in 1965.

"Tony White was part of a generation of superb players who helped to lay the foundation for the growth of West Indies cricket," Shallow said.

He added, "Despite his limited opportunities at the international level, he was a consistent performer at the first-class level. He was highly regarded and respected by his teammates and opponents."

Both Lashley and White were members of the historic Barbados side that captured the inaugural Shell Shield first-class tournament in 1966.



Tony White



Naseem Shah



Barbados Royals celebrate taking a wicket during the CPL finals

Majestic Royals take women's CPL crown

Barbados Royals women took the crown at the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League champions earlier this month following a close eight-run victory over the Guyana Amazon Warriors women in the final. The game was played at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Royals were runners-up to the Trinbago Knight Riders women in the inaugural edition of the tournament last year. The win this year set a few records, with the Royals raising the bar for the women's game after posting 169 for seven when they were sent in to bat.

Skipper Hayley Matthews set the tone for the high score, hitting two sixes and ten fours in a 59-ball 82. Matthews and Rashada Williams shared the first century stand of the competition, 108 for the second wicket. Williams added to the total with 36 off 23 balls, hitting one six and six fours.

"[The] girls really came out today, and we were pretty fired up at the beginning of the day," Matthews said afterwards.

She added, "Like I said before, we were obviously looking for redemption after last year, and I am definitely pleased with the performance. I think the girls stepped up when it really mattered, and thankfully we ended with the trophy in our hands at the end of the day."

However, the Warriors put up a royal fight, and did not make it an easy game for Matthews and company. As an indicator of the fight, Sophie Devine started by hitting two fours off the first over from Chinelle Henry to get the battle underway.

Devine continued to take on the bowling, smashing Quiana Joseph for a straight six before hitting Matthews for four. However, Joseph was able to finally deliver the key ball that saw

Devine stumped for 22 by Williams with the score on 35 for one in the fifth over.

Stafanie Taylor then headed back to the benches for four, bowled by Amanda Jade Wellington. However, Shemaine Campbell then took up the fight, hitting a big six off Wellington, while Suzie Bates struck two fours off Erin Burns in the tenth over to take the score to 80 for two at the half-way stage.

Two more fours from Cambelle off Joseph helped the Guyana cause. However, Bates left after acquiring 36, putting the onus on the remaining bats to accumulate 63 more runs off 36 balls.

Natasha McClean then went after the runs with a four and six off Henry. However, a frugal Afy Fletcher (none for 23) coming at the end put the Warriors bat under pressure.

McClean was even dropped by Gabby Lewis on 16. She was later run out by Matthews for 28 with the score on 141 for four, with 29 more runs needed off 13 balls.

But Campbell held the centre, slashing the bat dangerously to take a straight six off Matthews to keep the Warriors within striking distance.

But the penultimate over saw Wellington taking three wickets for three runs. It meant the Warriors were chasing 21 runs with the final over to go. Wellington finished her spell with a haul of four for 23.

Chasing 21 prove to be a tall order for the Royal, despite Shabnim Ismail nailing Matthews for a four and six before she was caught by Lewis for ten.

With ten runs needed off two balls, Karishma Ramharack got a single effectively ending the contest. Campbell finished unbeaten on 47. The Warriors could only reply to the Royal's 169 for seven with a score of 161 for eight.

Australian tour sees same WI women's team

West Indies women's selectors have kept faith with the players from the last white-ball series in naming a 15-member squad for the tour to Australia in October, the Caribbean media reported last week.

In the six-match series are three T20 Internationals and three One-Day Internationals.

Following the West Indies' clean sweep against Ireland in the CG United ODI series and the T20I series in St Lucia earlier this year, the panel named a largely unchanged squad for the Australia tour under the leadership of captain Hayley Matthews.

The tour will be the first for new head coach Shane Deitz who, arrived in the West Indies at the end of August.

The inclusion of the 'Rising Stars' quartet of Ashmini Munisar, Djenaba Joseph, Zaida James, and Jannillea Glasgow will see some of the youngest talent in the team having their first opportunity to test their skills against the current T20I and 50-Over World champions, Australia.

Said lead selector for women's cricket Ann Browne-John, "The selection panel has chosen to maintain most of the players who were victorious in the home series against Ireland. Jannillea Glasgow, after having an outstanding Rising Stars Women's Under-19 tournament, has been included in the 15-member squad and we see the return of Karishma Ramharack."

Browne-John added: "This team is one we believe will continue to build and develop as our game evolves in the rapidly growing landscape and high-performance setting of women's cricket."



Ann Browne-John

She also noted that the selectors have continued to place confidence in some of the developing players, with a few of them coming off title-winning performances in the Massy Caribbean Premier League.

Said Browne-John: "... [We] are expecting them to continue their good run of form. This is a team we believe can produce competitive cricket against a top team like Australia, under the guidance of the new head coach, and led by the captain Hayley Matthews, who is enjoying a very productive 2023 thus far."

The ODI series against Australia is West Indies' fourth fixture in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-2025 after playing New Zealand, England and Ireland.

Each match provides them with opportunity to win valuable points to climb the Championship table, where they currently lie ninth out of ten teams.

Following the Australia series, the West Indies women will have four further three-match ODI series to play over the next two years.

At the end of the cycle, the top five teams in the ICC Women's Championship will book a berth for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in 2025, along with hosts India.

The remaining teams will have to go through the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

Full Squad: Hayley Matthews (Captain), Shemaine Campbell (Vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Djenaba Joseph, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams.

Cricket Schedule

(ALL TIMES LOCAL)

Wednesday September 20, 2023

Malaysia T20I Tri-Series 2023

Malaysia vs Papua New Guinea, 2nd Match, Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, 10:30 AM

Ireland tour of England ODI Series, 2023, Eng. vs Ire., 1st ODI, Headingley, Leeds, 12:30 PM

Gulf Cricket T20I Championship 2023

Qatar vs UAE, 11th Match, West End Park Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, 4:00 PM

Oman vs Saudi Arabia, 12th Match, West End Park Int. Cricket Stadium, Doha, 8:30 PM

Thursday September 21, 2023

Malaysia T20I Tri-Series 2023

Hong Kong vs Papua New Guinea, 3rd Match, Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, 10:30 AM

Gulf Cricket T20I Championship 2023

Qatar vs Saudi Arabia, 13th Match, West End Park Int. Cricket Stadium, Doha, 8:30 PM

New Zealand tour of Bangladesh, 2023

Bangladesh vs New Zealand, 1st ODI, Shere Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka, 12:00 PM

Friday September 22, 2023

Malaysia T20I Tri-Series 2023

Malaysia vs Hong Kong, 4th Match, Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, 10:30 AM

Gulf Cricket T20I Championship 2023

Bahrain vs UAE, 14th Match, West End Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, 4:00 PM

Kuwait vs Oman, 15th Match, West End Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, 8:30 PM

Australia tour of India, 2023

India vs Australia, 1st ODI, Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium, Mohali, 1:30 PM

Saturday September 23, 2023

Malaysia T20I Tri-Series 2023

Papua New Guinea vs Malaysia, 5th Match, Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, 10:30 AM

Ireland tour of England ODI Series, 2023

England vs Ireland, 2nd ODI, Trent Bridge, Nottingham, 11:00 AM

Gulf Cricket T20I Championship 2023

TBC vs TBC, Final, West End Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, 7:00 PM

New Zealand tour of Bangladesh, 2023

Bangladesh vs New Zealand, 2nd ODI, Shere Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka, 12:00 PM

Sunday September 24, 2023

Malaysia T20I Tri-Series 2023

Papua New Guinea vs Hong Kong, 6th Match, Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur, 10:30 AM

Australia tour of India, 2023

India vs Australia, 2nd ODI, Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore, 01:30 PM

Tuesday September 26, 2023

Ireland tour of England ODI Series, 2023

England vs Ireland, 3rd ODI, County Ground, Bristol, 12:30 PM

New Zealand tour of Bangladesh, 2023

Bangladesh vs New Zealand, 3rd ODI, Shere Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka, 12:00 PM

Wednesday September 27, 2023

Australia tour of India, 2023

India vs Australia, 3rd ODI, Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, 1:30 PM

Saturday September 30, 2023

Estonia tour of Gibraltar 2023

Gibraltar vs Estonia, 1st T20I, Europa Sports Complex, Gibraltar, 1:00 PM

Gibraltar vs Estonia, 2nd T20I, Europa Sports Complex, Gibraltar, 5:30 PM

Thursday October 05, 2023

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

England vs New Zealand, 1st Match, Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, 2:00 PM

Friday October 6, 2023

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

Pakistan vs Netherlands, 2nd Match, Rajiv Gandhi Int. Stadium, Hyderabad, 2:00 PM.

Saturday October 7, 2023

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

Bangladesh vs Afghanistan, 3rd Match, Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala, 10:30 AM

South Africa vs Sri Lanka, 4th Match, Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, 2:00 PM.



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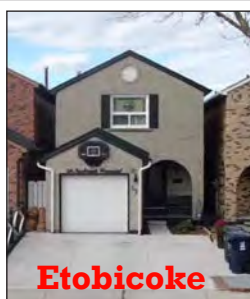
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