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# CARIBBEAN GRAPHIC

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## Aussie Honour For Sir Ronald Sanders

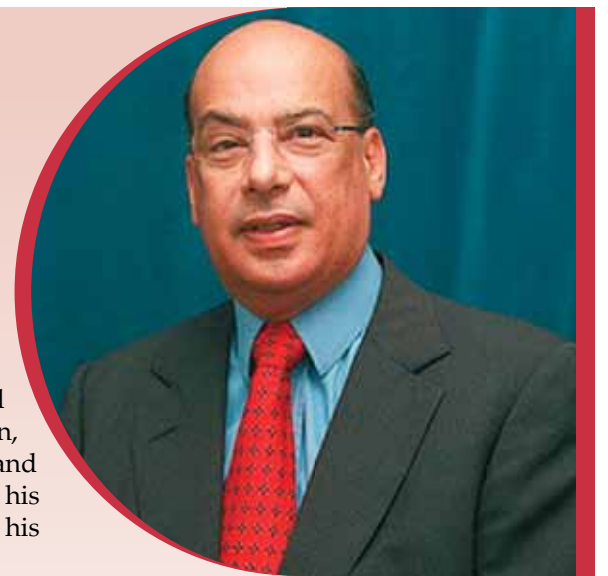
**C**aribbean Graphic columnist Sir Ronald Sanders has been awarded the ORDER OF AUSTRALIA. He was appointed an honorary Member (AM) in the General Division.

The Order was Gazetted on 30th November 2012 by the Office of the Governor-General of Australia. According to the official citation, Sir Ronald has been honoured "For service to Australian relations, particularly concerning Commonwealth issues and advancing the interests of small developing states of the Caribbean region."

Sir Ronald Sanders is a member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and an international consultant, writer and a former senior Caribbean diplomat (1982 1987 and 1996 2004). Over the past 30 years, Sir Ronald has significantly contributed to expressing the concerns of the Caribbean region, particularly championing

the interests of its small developing states, and the Commonwealth. During the course of his career, he has served on numerous committees and advisory boards formulating and implement policies which affect the Caribbean and the Commonwealth. Sir Ronald has been, and is, a voice for the Commonwealth and developing Caribbean states through his diplomatic work and advocacy as well as his many publications and the media.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2009, the EPG was established to undertake an examination of options for reform to bring the Commonwealth's many institutions into a stronger and more effective framework of cooperation and partnership. Sir Ronald and nine other EPG members produced the report: A Commonwealth of the People – Time for



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

Urgent Reform. He was an important source of advice to the EPG on the Commonwealth as an institution and on its benefits to the governments and people of all its member states. Sir Ronald also wrote the initial draft of the report which, when finalised by the EPG, was a centre piece of discussion at the CHOGM in Perth in October 2011.

## Spirits & Spice Fundraiser A Caribbean Christmas Celebration

**W**ith the holiday season finally here, the Caribbean Tourism Scholarship Foundation (CTSF) is looking to kick it off with traditional Caribbean flare. On Thursday, December 6th, they'll be hosting their first annual Spirits & Spice Fundraiser, inside the Scotiabank Plaza Tower's 63rd floor,



Executive Dining and Meeting Space.

Combining the excitement, beauty and splendour of the Caribbean with the warmth and cheer of the holiday season, guests will enjoy the pleasant aromas of Caribbean spices, the delectable taste of exotic island cuisine and an authentic cultural celebration. A variety of delicacies representing the Dutch, English, French and Spanish Caribbean will be just part of the exotic menu. Guests will also learn more about Caribbean cuisine and customs; dance the night away to the rhythmic beat; mix and mingle with friends, special invitees and of course, sample from dozens of the world's finest Caribbean spirits and cocktails.

There will be plenty of entertainment throughout the evening, in addition to fun and exciting contests. All this

while enjoying the marvellous view of the Toronto skyline from the 63rd floor of the Scotiabank Plaza Tower.

The Spirits and Spice Fundraiser offers a unique and exciting opportunity to enjoy an authentic Caribbean experience, while directly making an investment in the lives of thousands of Caribbean people through Education and Economic Development. The treat of an all-inclusive experience where the delights of a Caribbean Christmas are there to savour.

Looking to participate in this spicy event? Simply visit them online at [www.spiritsandspice.com](http://www.spiritsandspice.com) for info and tickets. Doors open at 5:30pm for this night of exotic performances, cocktails and culturally-inspired cuisine from gourmet chefs.

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# Networking Group Shines Spotlight On Caribbean-Canadians

**N**etworking is an affordable marketing method that many entrepreneurs use to grow their businesses, and Torontonians



**Akua Hinds**

reached out to Caribbean-Canadian business owners to find out what kind of support they

needed from each other.

"The group was developed with the main idea to network with other organizations. Several business owners and sales professionals were looking for ways to develop their businesses and obtain new customers. I did some research by reading books, articles, visiting networking groups over the years, and decided to form an alliance with relationships and with Caribbean small business people. I started to ask people what they wanted out of a network. I was asking them what their problem was and if they were achieving and accomplishing what they should be getting from their businesses. They are all small-business people and they told me 'no' because they are lacking the fi-

nette Lumley has started a networking group to help Caribbean-Canadians step into the spotlight and promote their businesses to each other. Lumley is a Jamaican native, and she has had a varied career, working as a hairstylist in the past and currently working as a paralegal and bookkeeper. Lumley launched her Toronto-based networking group called Its Ur Turn in October 2012 because she wanted to unite Caribbean business people and encourage them to support each other.

"I like to share and to give. I figure if these people were to come in and try to help each other within the group by promoting each other's products and services, it will be an excellent way for Its Ur Turn to be out there; self-direction for the Caribbean community. For example, if someone wants to purchase a hair product or a house cleaning product, instead of going to those major stores, those corporations could just contact the network and they'll be able to get a product or service that they need by calling in and asking for someone within the group that offers that service," Lumley explained.

To prepare for leading and launching her networking group, Lumley



*Jannette Lumley*

nances to promote their businesses by way of marketing," Lumley said.

As Lumley listened to the business owners sharing their experiences and frustrations, Lumley decided to name her networking group "Its Ur Turn" because she felt that the business owners deserved to be part of an organization where each individual would have their turn to promote, generate leads and referrals, and showcase their products or services on a bi-weekly basis in a face to face forum.

The Its Ur Turn network is growing and currently has over 12 members and counting who try to help each other meet their business goals. Lumley hopes that Its Ur Turn will encourage people of Caribbean heritage to show each other support.

"When you look at other communities you will find that they are very supportive of each other. We have a tendency sometimes to go outside of our community to support others. So, we figure that people will get more comfortable within their own settings if the group is Caribbean oriented," Lumley explained.

"Currently we have financial advisors, mechanics, paralegals, legal representatives, nurses, manufacturers, teachers, and the list goes on. There are various types of people in the organization with various jobs and occupations."

Lumley works at RYL Legal and Consulting Services and provides legal services, income tax services, and bookkeeping services to her clients and education to Its Ur Turn members.

"We would educate these people in terms of not just how to purchase a home, because a home could be a li-

ability depending on how you look at it. It could also be an investment. We would also take that investment further where we would go into stocks and bonds and suggest ways how they could achieve that goal, not just to be working until retirement. At some point, you work and you stop and then you can reap from what you sow," Lumley said.


Lumley said that Its Ur Turn plans to focus on educating entrepreneurs and the public through encouraging the group's members to generate leads.

"Continue to promote, promote, promote. Let the word get out there. We want to have an educational resource information center for people who are information-hungry; meaning they are thirsty and they need to get the education that will enable them to go to the next level in their life."


Lumley's vision for the group is for it to grow into a household name.

"For the next 6 to 12 months we have plans for each member to continue to network by word of mouth, showcasing, targeting whatever audience that is out there in the community; it could be anyone that requires whatever services they need. We are planning to build a strong network with leads and referrals, giving us exposure within the GTA. We believe solely on promoting unselfishness.

In the community, a lot of people are very selfish in terms of their business; they are not willing to promote any other business except for their own. I believe that we need to get rid of that selfish attitude and decide to share by promoting the other services; that's how we're going to grow. That's how we're going to build."



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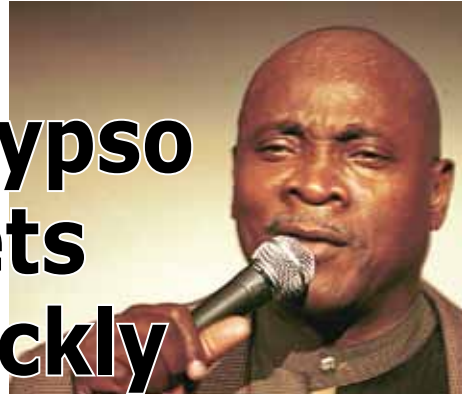
# Continuous Fun At Digicel Days

Owner Vincent Lai was amongst those having lots of fun during the Nicey's hosted November 1st Digicel Customer Appreciation Day. Scores of Nicey's customers visited the store to enjoy the festive atmosphere created by the on-site presence of Digicel's Event and G98.7 Radio Remote personnel. Digicel Top Up customers who took advantage of the day's special Double and Triple Bubble promotions, which allowed their Caribbean based receivers to obtain double and triple the amount of credit sent, were given special giveaway packages com-



pliments of Nicey's, Digicel and G98.7. Brampton's Betta Jerk will host this year's final Digicel Customer Appreciation Day, the sixth of the series, on December 15. Betta Jerk Restaurant is located at 2901 Queen Street East.

# Ultimate Parang/Calypso Show Tickets Moving Quickly



Tickets for the December 9 Ultimate Parang show featuring Calypso music icons, Baron, Crazy and the Mighty Sparrow are moving very quickly, the show's Promoter Curtis Eustace has indicated. City of Scarborough's Metropolitan Centre will be the venue for the Ultimate Parang/Calypso Show, which will also feature Toronto's popular Parang groups Los Amigos and Moka, plus a host of the Toronto Caribbean Community's top deejays.

\$35 Advance Tickets for the Ultimate Parang/Calypso Show can still be obtained from outlets such as Drupati's, Lena's, Leela's and Radica's Roti Shops.

An excited Eustace has also indicated that the Mighty Sparrow will be at Drupati's Scarborough on Saturday December 8 for a Meet & Greet with interested parties. Drupati's is located at 1085 Bellamy Road, just north of Ellesmere.

Roanna Sinclair was the 3rd Runner-up in this year's Miss West Indian Canadian Pageant.

She is currently obtaining her Honours Bachelor of Arts in English and Drama at the University of Toronto with a minor in Italian.

Roanna's favourite Guyanese tradition is her annual family cookout which was started many years ago by her late grandmother.



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# ZZZooming In On Trendsetters Photography

It's been said that a picture speaks a thousand words and for Courtney Boyce of Trendsetters Photography, this widely known expression is spot on. Taking pictures is much more than just capturing an image; for Boyce it's also about telling a story, capturing an emotion or a moment in time and preserving it.

Boyce makes meticulous efforts to take top-notch photos that represent the true essence of what has occurred at that very instant. In fact, he considers photography more akin to a chess game where he waits for the individual to make the first move, and that way the photograph taken turns out to be an accurate illustration of what happened.

Patience is an imperative aspect in the photography business and in order to ensure that an original work of art emerges in every picture, this virtue must be practiced. "I want my clients to look at a photo and say 'my goodness, I didn't know that that had happened; this is really beautiful.' I capture emotions so I want the client to see emotions, feelings of joy, pain or sorrow in my pictures and it really comes down to waiting for those things. I don't just shoot; I look for things that are emotional and that will ensure my clients are happy and that makes me happy too," explained the Barbadian photographer who is well known and liked for his comedic abilities to engage and entice his subjects.



Christine Reid

out the years he has attracted and retained admirers from around the world via the internet including Europe, the United States and the Caribbean with poignant photographs that are imbued with artistic creativity.

For the past 22 years there have been myriads of people who have remarked favourably on Boyce's work and regard it as being potent pieces of art that are "filled with feelings and emotions and you just want to keep looking at the picture," said Boyce. He is frequently asked by others on how they too can capture mesmerizing photographs.

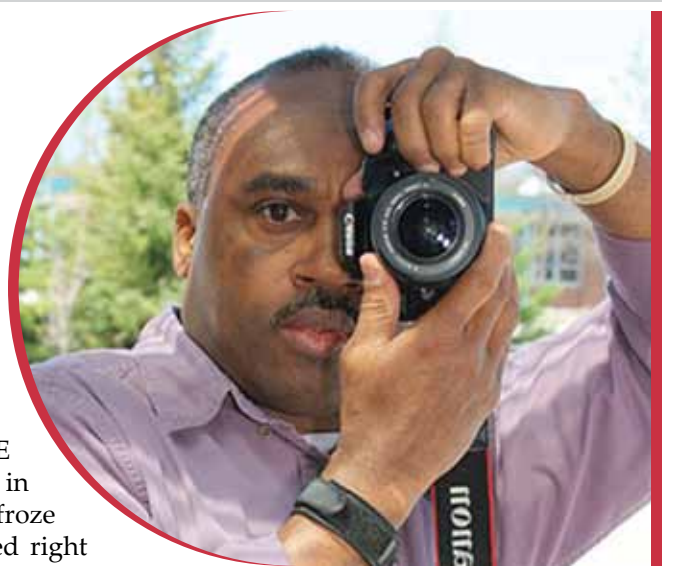
With the extensive selection of cameras on the market, shopping for a high quality camera can be an intimidating and overwhelming task for someone who is a novice to picture taking and even for the person who has some familiarity with photography. Such apprehensions should be considered irrelevant because "all cameras are the same. It doesn't matter about what camera you use, it's the person behind the lens," explained Boyce who is routinely asked by numerous people on how to capture exquisite photos. "You can use a ten thousand dollar camera or a two hundred dollar camera but in the end you're still going to get the same image. What's important is to have a

trained eye and know what you're looking for and develop it."

In 1979 Boyce got his first taste of using a camera when a family member made him borrow his Canon AE 1. "I had an instrument in my hand that actually froze time and I was addicted right away" explained Boyce. Although the initial photos taken were not what he considers being premier images, he knew that he tapped into something that would belief changing. With the constant encouragement and enablement of his family, Boyce made the decision to become a professional photographer and established Trendsetters Photography in August 1990.

That same year when Trendsetters Photography was founded, Boyce got his first professional assignment which was to be a photographer at a wedding. With much jollity and good humour, he distinctly recalls when his client paid him seven hundred dollars all in 20 dollar bills. "It was like I got instant Parkinson's for about a half an hour with all the money that was in my hands!"

One of Boyce's most moving photographs was taken in Bridgetown, Barbados in 1997 of the late activist Redvers Dundonald Dyal, commonly known as 'King Dyal' throughout the island for his brightly coloured suits and gracing cricket events for over four decades. "That man was like a walking history book and his photo



was one of the most significant ones I captured," said Boyce.

November 30th, 2012 marked Barbados' 46th year of independence and this year it evoked a special significance for Boyce, especially with the playing of Barbados' national anthem. "Hearing the national anthem I get emotional, even up to now I get chills in my body because I remember those old school days lining up in the yard," said Boyce.

He also praises his country's first Prime Minister Errol Barrow for his extraordinary accomplishment in putting into effect first class education at no cost, as well as the improvement of social services for Barbadians.

Boyce encourages anyone who is seeking to embark on a career as a photographer to go back to the basics and build their portfolio by using a film camera. "You can manipulate film easier and there's so much more you can do with film than you could do with digital cameras. It allows you to watch the birth of a picture in front of your eyes and to get the feeling of what the old pro's went through."

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# Caribbean Perspective

## More Political Pressure And Resources Needed British Tax Lobby

**C**aribbean tourism destinations are eagerly waiting to see whether the U.K. Government will conduct an economic review of its Air Passenger Duty (APD) which has led to a significant fall off in British visitors to the region and is squeezing the already thin profit margins of the hospitality industry.

During a recent visit to the U.K., it was clear to me that the region's Heads of Government need to be at the forefront of the APD lobby, that financial resources need to be made available to sustain the APD campaign and that one of the most effective strategies is to re-energise the Caribbean diaspora to rally around the issue and use their considerable voting clout.

Under the current four band system, passengers flying to the Caribbean pay 81 pounds sterling in economy class in Band C. The Caribbean is calling for a re-banding that will move the tax to Band B with a fee of 65 pounds, applicable to travel to the U.S.

According to CTO statistics, there was a 10.7 per cent decrease in passenger traffic between the UK and Caribbean between 2008 and 2001.

Noting that the Caribbean is the most tourism dependent region in the world, the CTO has stressed that at a time when the Caribbean is experiencing low GDP growth, high levels of debt and rising food and energy prices, "re-banding the Caribbean could provide a boost to the Caribbean economy in a way that is both valuable and effective."

Research undertaken for the CTO shows that if the Caribbean alone were to be re-banded at the same level as the US, the cost to the UK Treasury would be 18.6 million pounds out of an overall APD take by the UK Treasury of 2.9 billion pounds in 2012.

Over the past month, there has been an intensification of the APD campaign on several fronts. Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, United States Virgin Islands Commissioner of Tourism, Beverly Nicholson Doty, and a group of Caribbean Tourism Ministers had a series of meetings during World Travel Market in London with British Government and Opposition parliamentary representatives. This included talks with the Shadow Economic Secretary, Cathy Jamieson and long-standing black Opposition Labour MP Diane Abbott, who has Jamaican roots.

One of the critical meetings was with the new Economic Secretary to the Treasury,



**Sandra Ann Baptiste**

2008 to 2011 are Dominica (-33%), St. Lucia (-22%), Jamaica (-16%), Antigua and Barbuda

(-15%) and Barbados (-14%).

A recent House of Commons Debate on the APD was led by Conservative MP Priti Patel, who noted that 200,000 members of the public are calling for a review of the economic impact of the tax. Several British MPs pointed to the illogical nature of the tax noting that taxes on travel to U.S. destinations were less than that to the Caribbean, which was a shorter distance.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), which is supportive of the Caribbean position on the APD, is also pressing for an economic review of the tax, which it deems harmful to the British economy. Both ABTA and the all-party MPs group underlined that the APD is adversely affecting inbound tourism and investment in the U.K.

David Jessop, who heads the London-based Caribbean Council, retained by the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) to lead the APD

Sajid Javid, who has agreed to meet a delegation of MPS with interests in the Caribbean.

The countries most affected by the APD in terms of a decline in U.K. market share from

lobby, told me that the case is being made that any APD review should include its impact on Third Countries such as the Caribbean.

ABTA's Head of Public Affairs Luke Pollard advised me that the association has been highlighting the issue through "A Fair Tax on Flying Campaign", which is an alliance of more than 30 airlines, airports, tour operators, destinations and trade associations who are uniting to call on the Government to make the system of aviation tax in the UK fairer.

"This is especially acute for lower socio-economic groups and ethnic minorities visiting friends and relatives abroad," ABTA says in its APD campaign literature.

The Association is calling for the APD to be replaced with a per plane duty (PPD) which it regards as a fair tax based on the efficiency of the aircraft and would be more closely aligned to the distance.

For those passengers who want a little more leg room and book "Premium Economy" the APD is 162 pounds.

Thomas Cook, the second largest travel group in the UK, has reconfigured its packages to the Caribbean and, among other things, removed premium economy seats.

ABTA is hoping that an APD review can be completed within three months and before the budget next March.

Hoteliers in Barbados are among those feeling the pinch. British visitors to the island, who account for close to 40 percent of overall arrivals, traditionally stay longer and spend more than other visitors.

Barbados High Commissioner in London, Hugh Anthony Arthur, observed that the Caribbean, which is challenged to maintain economic viability, continues to face punitive measures from Europe, noting the challenges which the sugar, bananas and rum industries in the region face.

He agrees that the Caribbean needs to keep the APD pressure up in the U.K., especially in the 45 marginal constituencies where the votes of the Caribbean diaspora are crucial.

The U.K. administration needs to honour its commitment "to continue dialogue with a view to mitigating the deleterious effects that the application of the tax may have on its economies."

Caribbean leaders should seek an audience with British Prime Minister David Cameron to drive home the message that steps to "establish a new and improved strategic partnership", as agreed to at the U.K.-Caribbean Forum in Grenada last January, must include an overhaul of the APD that is clearly damaging already fragile Caribbean tourism dependent economies.

(Sandra Ann Baptiste is a Business Consultant and Specialist in Caribbean Affairs).

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# Champion Cyclists, The Caribbean Region's Unsung Heroes

Over the past fifty years, as a Region the Caribbean has produced many world class cyclists. Their respective performances in international competitions haven't always received the recognition that's been due. As a very sad validation of that point, David DeFreitas, one of Guyana's former cycling champions and amongst the very best the Caribbean has ever produced, died here in Canada a few weeks ago. For someone whose achievements in his chosen spot were so outstanding, his passing was relatively unheralded and arguably bereft of the attention it deserved.

Aubrey Bryce, himself a former Guyana national cycling champion and not unlike DeFreitas amongst the Region's best ever, has written a fitting tribute to his fallen former wheeler. Bryce's glowing portrayal of DeFreitas' many outstanding accomplishments should evoke fond memories amongst those, like myself, who were privileged to have seen the legend during some of his finest performances back home in Guyana. Against very talented international competition.

During much of the late sixties and early seventies, cycling was as popular a sport in Guyana as either cricket or football. DeFreitas, his local arch-rival Archie Britton, Raymond Lee Own, Bruce Camacho, Eon Dornellas, Bryce, Neville Hunte, Dennis Medford and Victor Rutherford all became household names in Guyana by virtue of their outstanding performances at international Cycling meetings within the Region and further afield.

Likewise in Trinidad Roger Gibbon, Leslie King

and Gene Samuel were foremost amongst those whose illustrious cycling careers generated much national pride. In his outstanding career King, who died in October 2009, won a gold and silver medals respectively in the Match Sprint and Kilometre Time Trial at the 1970 CAC Games; bronze in the Match Sprint and silver medal in kilometre time trial at the 1970 Commonwealth Games; gold in the match sprint and silver in the kilometre time trial at the 1971 Pan American Games.

King was preceded by Roger Gibbon, who competed in both the 1964 and '68 Summer Games. Gibbon was outstandingly successful in the 1960s at the Pan American Games collecting a total number of four individual medals (three golds, one silver)

Samuel, "Geronimo" as he was known to most, was arguably the most accomplished of the lot having represented Trinidad at no less than four Olympic Games. His best ever Olympic showing was in 1984 at Los Angeles. He placed fourth in the kilometre Time Trials, losing by 4/100th of a second to the Frenchman Colas in the sprint for the Bronze Medal.

Njisane Phillip's Gold medal, 2012 Pan American Track Cycling Championships, Argentina and two years prior at the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico, is but the latest in a very long list of outstanding international performances by cyclists from the twin island Republic.

Ask any Jamaican, from the youngest to the oldest and of either gender, to list their country's Olympic medal winners and they likely readily provide names such as Usain Bolt, Don Quarrie, Merlene Ot-

tey et al. Ask the same Yardies, who won Jamaica's only Olympic medal to date outside of cycling, and the answer will likely not be nearly as forthcoming.

David Weller took the bronze medal in the 1,000-metre individual time trial at the 1980 Olympics, Alexander Panfilov taking the gold and Lothar Thoms the silver. Weller had won medals at major meets previously. Among those were two silver medals (1975, 1979) at the Pan Am Games and two gold medals at the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1978. There was also a bronze medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games. Xavier Miranda, Jamaica's other cycling great, won a silver medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games and then gold at the Pan American.

Amongst Barbadians Hector Edwards and more recently Barry Forde were two who had the Trident flying high at International meetings. Forde's best showing was a silver medal the 2005 Los Angeles World Championships, although he did win Golds at the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Pan American Games. Forde's performances were however overshadowed by a subsequent positive drug test. Prior to Barry Forde's emergence, only Hector Edwards had won medals at the Central American and Caribbean Games with a bronze medal in 1974 and a silver medal in 1978.

Perhaps someday a Caribbean Cycling Hall of Fame will be established somewhere in the Region, thereby ensuring that the exploits of our unsung heroes will be suitably heralded.

*Tony Mc*

# Scrambling Alone – Not Seeing The Cliff

It is not only the people of the United States that should be praying that their political leaders have enough sense not to push themselves off the so-called "fiscal cliff", but the rest of the world as well, including their neighbour and big trading partner, Canada.



**Sir Ronald Sanders**

In the US Congress, Republicans want to cut government spending and avoid raising taxes particularly on the wealthy, while Democrats are looking for a combination of government spending cuts and tax increases especially on the wealthy. "Fiscal cliff" is where they will be if the issues are not resolved before December 31.

The consequences of not reaching a compromise by year-end are far-reaching including pushing the US into another period of recession. But it seems that the bitterness surrounding the Presidential election, in which Barack Obama was elected to a second term, continues to define the Republican attitude to negotiations, and if it doesn't cause them all to go over the "fiscal cliff", it will create so much uncertainty that investors – including those who are large purchasers of US bonds – would be reluctant to invest. Even families, faced with the uncertainty over new taxes or job losses, have begun to rein in their spending and this will have an effect on the economy, probably leading to no growth and higher unemployment.

But that is not the only problem that the US faces. There is yet another hurdle to jump. If it is not met satisfactorily, it will also have an impact on the global economy and, especially, on countries for whom trade, investment and remittances are important. This hurdle is the limit on US debt. Congress set that limit at a staggering \$16.4 trillion, but by the next three months, the US is likely to hit that limit with a bang, requiring Congressional approval to increase it. Another set of political bickering will then begin which, at best, will lead only to stop-gap measures

and not the comprehensive solution that is required.

For countries in the Caribbean, if the US problems are not solved, they can expect fewer tourists, less investment and much reduced remittances. In Canada, there was no growth in GDP in August and September

as exports experienced their worst decline in three years. Fortunately, for Canada, employment is still holding steady, and Canadian tourism is helping Caribbean economies this winter.

While the US will have to wrangle itself out of its dreadful situation, the Eurozone area of the European Union (EU) countries has been facing one difficulty after another in relation to the level of debt among several of its member-countries. In the first quarter of 2012, combined EU economic activity was flat, and in the second quarter it actually contracted.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – the premier joint economic think-tank of Canada, the US and the EU – warns in a report that Europe's debt crisis is "a far bigger threat to the world's economy" than the US 'fiscal cliff' and "could drag Europe into a deep recession in the next two years and the US along with it". The OECD says that unemployment is high with around 50 million jobless people in the entire OECD area.

Worryingly, it also says unemployment is set to remain high, or even rise further, in many countries unless structural measures are used to boost near-term employment growth. So, while the US "fiscal cliff" is proving to be as precipitous to the Caribbean as it is to the US, events in Europe offer no golden parachute.

Emerging markets appear to have some answers. According to the same OECD, "after softer-than-expected activity during 2012, growth has begun picking up in the emerging-market economies, with increasingly supportive monetary and fiscal policies

offsetting the drag exerted by weak external demand. China is expected to grow at 8.5% in 2013 and 8.9% in 2014, while GDP is also expected to gather steam in the coming years in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russia and South Africa"

The better situation in the emerging markets is a ray of light. If they continue to grow and begin to promote consumption in their own economies through increased imports from the US and the EU, this will have the effect of boosting those economies, reducing their fiscal deficits and improving employment.

While Canada has begun to open up new markets in China and India, the news is not so good for small countries that have tied themselves almost exclusively to the US and EU for trade and investment, and which, while some of them have developed relations with China in particular, have neglected the opportunities that exist in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russia and South Africa. Even with regard to the Chinese, trade is largely one way in China's favour and loans – mainly for construction that employs a majority of Chinese labour – makes very little immediate impact on the economies while increasing their debt levels.

Of the 15 independent countries of the Caribbean that form the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Dominican Republic (DR), only 6 – the Bahamas, Belize DR, Guyana, Haiti and Suriname – recorded over 2 per cent growth in 2011. Of other 9, four actually had negative growth, and growth in the remaining 5 was marginal. Guyana and Suriname are the two sole countries that have enjoyed an average growth rate of 4 per cent over the last five years.

It may well be argued that many of the Caribbean countries have already fallen off their own fiscal cliff and are failing to rescue themselves through cooperation and integration in their regional and international arrangements that might be a more viable way of saving themselves, than limited national scrambling.

*The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)  
Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)*

**CARIBBEAN GRAPHIC**

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# Caribbean Destination

## Saint Maarten: Divided Delights

**S**aint Martin French Saint-Martin; Dutch: Sint Maarten) is an island in the northeast Caribbean, approximately 300 km (190 mi) east of Puerto Rico. The 87 km<sup>2</sup> island is divided roughly 60/40 between France (53 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (34 km<sup>2</sup>); however, the Dutch side has the larger population. It is one of the smallest sea islands divided between two nations, a division dating to 1648.

As of January 1, 2009 the population of the entire island was 77,741 inhabitants, with 40,917 living on the Dutch side, and 36,824 on the French side. Collectively, the two territories are known as "St-Martin / St Maarten".

Often referred to as the crossroads of the Caribbean, St. Maarten is just three hours from New York City and two hours forty-five minutes from Miami.

The 37-square-mile island of St. Maarten was first settled by the Arawaks and was discovered by Christopher Columbus on behalf of Spain in 1493. Columbus sighted the island on November 11th, the holy day of St. Martin of Tours, and so named the island after him. For the next 150 years the island was passed between Holland, England, France and Spain.



The old stone forts that guard many of the island's inlets are proof of the island's turbulent past. In 1648 St. Maarten was peacefully divided between Holland and France, and today is the smallest landmass in the world to be shared by two sovereign nations.

St. Martin's Dutch side is known for its festive nightlife, beaches, jewelry, exotic drinks made with native rum-based guavaberry liquors, and plentiful casinos. The island's French side is known for its nude beaches, clothes, shopping (including outdoor markets), and rich French and Indian Caribbean cuisine. English is the most commonly spoken language along with a local dialect. The official languages are French and English for Saint-Martin, and both Dutch and English for Sint Maarten. Other common languages include various French-based creoles (spoken by immigrants from other French Caribbean islands), Spanish (spoken by immigrants from the Dominican Republic and various South American countries), and Papiamentu (spoken by immigrants from Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao).

Rental cars are the primary mode of transportation for visitors staying on island. If any driv-



ing is expected off the major roads (such as to some of the more secluded beaches), a four-wheel drive is recommended. Traffic on the island, however, has become a major problem; long traffic jams between Marigot, Philipsburg and the airport are common.

Shopping on St Maarten and Saint Martin offers duty-free goods in numerous boutiques. Popular goods include local crafts & arts, exotic foods, jewelry, liquor, tobacco, leather goods, as well as most designer goods. Most often the designer goods are offered at significant discounts, often up to 40% lower than US retail prices.

Let's go beach ... that's especially true for St. Maarten and St. Martin. The island is blessed with over 36 white sandy beaches. All of them are beautiful, each with its own special charm and character, from the isolated romantic little cove to beaches, where action is going on day and night. There are beaches with waves high enough for surfers, and others, calm ones for families with small kids.

There are also nude beaches where naturists do enjoy clothing optional beach life. Those that are busy, as well as some that are sufficiently deserted for honeymooners. Tiny beaches between rocky cliffs and some with large stretches of white sand. Beaches with plenty of activities from horseback riding, volleyball, to snorkeling, scuba diving, parasailing, surfing, jet skiing, body boarding, kite-surfing,... ! Additional choices are even on the tiny islands off St. Martin, such as Pinel and Tintamarre, both 'the Caribbean dream come true' places.

Night lovers can party all night in St. Maarten. The island exudes a natural energy that fuels the body and soul. Like the neon lights, it's an electricity that never seems to fade, no matter how late it gets. Visit any one of its 14 world class, vegas style casinos. Or dance the night away to popular dance hits or electronica in Miami inspired nightclubs. It's a wild ride from one beach bar to the next, and there's no stopping until you say so.

What's more, talent from around the world comes to St. Maarten to entertain, adding to an ambiance of care-free fun and frivolity that is native to an island where all are welcome, an island where all are free to enjoy life to its fullest, an island that perfectly blends European sophistication with Caribbean charm.

Inspired by steamy Miami nightlife, St. Maarten nightclubs are equipped with the hottest dj's and latest dance mixes to keep you out on the dance floor all night long. Nightclubs range in style



from the trendy and hip Tantra Night Club and Sanctuary, a two story venue that combines Zen and 18th Century Ambiance with one of the largest dance floors in St. Maarten, to the relaxed, open air Bliss Night Club. Lit by Tiki torches and cooled only by the sea breeze, guests can trade in their party attire for a bathing suite and take a dip in the full size swimming pool while enjoying specialty drinks and modern techno.

Where else but St. Maarten can you be on a beautiful Caribbean Island and still enjoy vegas style casinos equipped with all the latest video slot machines, table games and tropical island drinks to keep you busy until morning, and well beyond that. Table games include: Baccarate, Poker, Three Card Poker, Caribbean Poker, Texas Hold'em, Roulette and Blackjack.

Known as the "Gastronomic Capital of the Caribbean", St. Maarten offers the widest variety of dining experiences of any other island in the world. Stay here for a year, and you'll never eat in the same place twice. Truly, a gourmet's paradise, worldwide cuisine is represented by the island's over 350 restaurants. Aromas blend in the air as chefs combine sweet and spicy Caribbean flavors with sophisticated worldwide recipes.



From the casual to the cozy to the uniquely Caribbean, Philipsburg in particular holds a menagerie of tasty dining establishments.

Divided though it may be, St Maarten offers much to delight any visitor.

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## 400 Jobs Forthcoming

BRIDGETOWN, A Barbados-based call centre that had been pushed to the brink of collapse about two years ago due to an “epidemic” of employee absenteeism, is now facing another problem — where to house an “exploding” workforce. According to reports the US owners of the local branch of KM Solutions, located at Number 4, Harbour Industrial Estate, had, up until about two years ago, been considering pulling its investment in the operations and shutting it down because of non-performance. Regional Vice President, Tony Jennings has disclosed that just before he took over the operations two years ago, the company was suffering from a serious bout of absenteeism that threatened its future.

Jennings revealed though that with the assistance of Human Resources Manager, Kimberley Stoute, and Project Manager, Corey Watson, the company was able to regularly engage staffers on the need to be on the job, weed out the persistently guilty and hire the right people through a much tighter recruitment process.

Now, Jennings explained, KM Solutions was bursting at the seams with a staff of 200 well trained, dedicated workers.

“But we have a problem with space. So I have been converting the conferences rooms into production lines,” the executive noted.

He said the last remaining conference room, in which this interview was done, had already been allocated for conversion.

In fact, Jennings announced that business was growing so significantly, that the company was in the process of finalising a “very major” contract, which would require the hiring of an additional 400 employees.

He said management was in discussion with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation the use of a nearby building to temporarily place parts of its operations, but was considering a more permanent solution by relocating the entire business to the offices which once housed the NCO, a Harbour Road call centre that had employed some 1,200 people before its closure.

Jennings gave the assurance that under his watch KM Solutions would not suffer the same fate as NCO, or even another call centre in the same area “that was going”.

The Jamaican-American business leader warned Barbadians of the need to improve their work ethics and competitiveness, otherwise the country would continue to lose business to other markets such as Mexico, Honduras, Panama and even Jamaica.

## Barbados Bonding

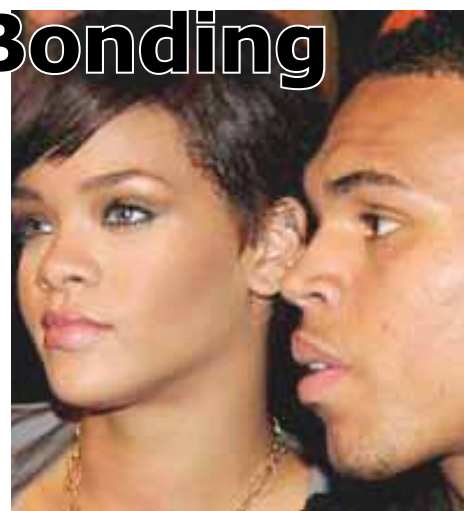
BRIDGETOWN, After months of denying that her rekindled relationship with old flame Chris “Breezy” Brown was headed toward a romantic reconciliation, Barbadian superstar Rihanna appears to have changed her tune, with reports surfacing this week that the pair will “ring out the old and ring in the new” in her home country at year-end. The “Diamonds” girl, who until recently was insisting that she and the American R&B singer were just good friends, is now said to be eager to show her family and friends how much the “Turn Up the Music” star has changed and has accordingly booked a five-star villa on the island for what has been described as a “bonding holiday”.

The “We Found Love” hitmaker has reportedly also made arrangements for 23-year-old Brown’s mother to join them so the two families can spend quality time together..

“While no one else can understand it, she’s convinced that Chris is the love of her life and her soul mate and that they’re simply meant to be together.

“She’s booked him and his mum into a five-star villa in Barbados over New Year so they can all get some downtime with her family,” the source added.

Brown was convicted of assaulting his then-girlfriend Rihanna in February 2009, at a time when the two



rising stars were considered to be one of the hottest young couples in show business.

According to the source, “They’re unrepentant and they want to show the whole world that they’ve moved on from what happened in 2009.”

Brown attacked Rihanna in his car on the eve of the 2009 Grammy Awards and later admitted to hitting and choking her. He was subsequently found guilty of assault and sentenced to six months community service and placed on probation for five years.

He has since been targeted by anti-domestic violence groups in several countries, and the announcement of his headline appearance in a Guyana concert slated for December 26 sparked public outrage. The gig has since been cancelled.

## NIS Sells

BRIDGETOWN, The National Insurance Scheme (NIS) has followed Government’s lead and is selling the former Barbados National Bank (BNB) shares it owns to Republic Bank Limited in Trinidad and Tobago.

Confirmation of this has come from Republic Bank’s group managing director David Dulal Whiteway, who recently told local media that the NIS had officially indicated it would sell its 9.70 million shares in the former BNB (now Republic Bank Barbados) to the bank’s parent company, Republic Bank Ltd, at \$5 per share for \$48 million.

The development came after NIS



chairman Dr Justin Robinson had publicly stated his preference for a share swap, noting that the NIS already had more than enough cash.

A share swap would have resulted in the NIS getting equity in Republic Bank Ltd, which Robinson viewed as much more valuable than a one-time payday of \$48 million.

## Cash Ease For Farmers

BRIDGETOWN, More than 6,000 farmers across Barbados will now get an ease in their pockets in the purchase of agriculture-related materials. Under a new Farmers’ Incentive Scheme recently unveiled by Minister of Agriculture, Dr. David Estwick, both large and small farmers will no longer have to pay up front for items bought from suppliers and then wait for a refund under an existing rebate scheme.

Speaking at a November 30 press conference at his ministry, Estwick explained that for a long time now, farmers had been complaining of having challenges with respect to the level of support provided to them by the Government. He explained that whether it was a simple item from a spray can to a tractor, farmers faced the problem of having to provide the cash on the spot and then apply to the Ministry of Agriculture for a particular level of rebate in relation to that item.

The Cabinet minister was of the view, that this new type of agricultural



programme, would not only attract additional persons into the industry, but would help existing farmers to expand their operations. He said the scheme would also assist young people who wanted to enter agriculture to “get a foot in”, in that they no longer had to find all of the funds up front to buy the necessary equipment to start their operations.

The government official also revealed that the new scheme would run alongside the old rebate programme, for the benefit of those who still wanted to use the rebate. He was sure, too, that the incentive scheme would improve food security and promote productivity.

## Independence Justified

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados celebrated its 46th anniversary of political independence from Britain on November 30, with Prime Minister Freundel Stuart telling nationals that the achievements of the island over the years have “fully justified” the decision to break colonial ties with the United Kingdom. He said at the social, political and economic levels, Barbados has made tremendous strides.

He said economically, the island has been able create an environment friendly both to the local and the foreigner who wants to invest and expanded opportunities to encourage the development of micro- and small businesses. But he warned Barbadians that the island’s development has been hit by the global financial and economic crisis to the point that the “sectors from which we have traditionally earned our foreign exchange have faced unprecedented challenges”.

But he said given the social partnership forged two decades ago between the employers, the trade unions and

the government has allowed the island to meet the challenges “successfully”.

In his message, Prime Minister Stuart reminded nationals that independence never promised to confer only benefits.

“Our aim must be to create a Barbados in which can be found families that are sound, communities that are vibrant, a society that is just, and a nation in which the well known Barbadian resilience continues to reveal itself.

“We are living in very difficult and challenging times. Information and communications technology has brought within the reach of every citizen ease of access to developments social, political and economic taking place far beyond the shores of Barbados.

“Our options, however, are not unlimited. As we embark on our 47th year as a nation, let us not forget that the options we take will influence the choices we make and will determine the future we create,” Prime Minister Stuart added.





## US Student Killed In Boating Mishap

ROSEAU, Dominica - A 22-year old United States student died from injuries received from a boat propeller over the December 1 weekend. Police said that Casey Shulman, a student of the University of Virginia (UVA) was among a group of 54 students who arrived on the island on December 1 aboard a ship which offers a semester of studying at sea. The police said that Shulman and a group of students later went snorkelling south of the island and the accident occurred when the students were returning to their base after picking up food supplies.

The authorities said that Shulman sustained injuries all over her body and was pronounced dead at the Princess Margaret Hospital. A statement later issued by UVA vice president and chief student officer, Patricia Lampkin, said Shulman was a participant in the Semester at Sea programme. The trip



during which the incident occurred was organized independently of the SAS activities. Leadership at the Institute for Shipboard Education and senior voyage administrators have also been in contact with Casey's family, the U.S. Embassy of the Eastern Caribbean and University leadership."

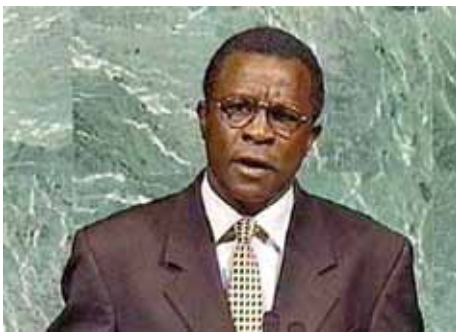
It said that grief counseling and support services have been made available to all members of the SAS community on a 24-hour basis and that a commemorative service has been planned.

## State Properties On Sale

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada - The main opposition New National Party (NPP) has accused the Grenada government of selling off state properties and illegally borrowing funds from the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) to meet the salaries of public servants. NPP leader and former prime minister Dr. Keith Mitchell told supporters at a December 2 public meeting in Crochu on the island's east coast that the Tillman Thomas administration had taken EC\$14 million (One EC dollar = US\$0.37 cents) from the NIS to meet its financial obligations to public workers.

"The Mt Hartman Plant area, one of the most lucrative properties in the country owned by the government, they sold it my friend to pay salaries. On November 30 that went through. My friends these are not them say. I have seen the copies myself," Mitchell said, warning that there were other state-owned properties to be sold to ease the government's financial woes.

"They are selling everything. You are hearing that they sell the rest of the shares in GRENLEC (Grenada Electricity Company). You are hearing they are selling the rest of the shares in Cable and Wireless and in the Grenada



Breweries. Well let me tell you all of those shares were sold as of a few weeks ago," Mitchell said, as he again appealed to Prime Minister Thomas to reconvene Parliament so that the issues could be debated.

"Tillman Thomas must understand that these properties are not his own. These (belong) to the people. He has no right to sell those properties without the people of the country involved, and without parliament.

Mitchell also accused the government of seeking to inflate their public service with their "friends" and that they have also agreed to give public servants an increase in salaries.

The Grenada government was unable to pay public servants their salaries in August on time and said it regretted the delay "but wishes to assure all public workers that they will be paid".

## Trini Killed In St Lucia

CASTRIES, St. Lucia - Police say four people are assisting their investigations into the shooting death of 27-year-old Trinidadian, Arthur Jones. Police said that Jones was shot and killed on November 29 soon after leaving the home of a female friend at Bois D'Orange, north of here. He was apparently ambushed and shot several

times. He slumped to the side of the Bois D'Orange road where his body was discovered later in the morning.

Police said that the murder may have been linked to a shooting earlier this year that left one person dead and another seriously wounded. So far, 40 people have been murdered here this year.

## World AIDS Day Celebrated

BASSETTERRE, ST Kitts - On December 1, the Caribbean joined the rest of the global community in observing World AIDS Day indicating that while there had been a drastic decline in the number of new infections, the region should not relax its efforts in dealing with the deadly virus.

Caribbean countries observed the day with a number of activities and a report by UNAIDS notes that the number of children born with the virus declined significantly in the Caribbean during the period 2009 and 2011.

The report noted that the Caribbean, which has the second highest incidence of HIV/AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa, also recorded the highest decline in AIDS-related deaths of any region between 2005 and 2011. The number of children born with the deadly HIV declined significantly in the Caribbean during the period 2009 and 2011, according to the 2012 global report by UNAIDS.

In his message to mark the occasion, St. Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister



Dr. Denzil Douglas, who has lead responsibility for health in the quasi Caribbean Community (CARICOM) cabinet, said that there is no doubt that significant inroads have been made to reverse the spread of AIDS throughout the world. He said in this regard, the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) embracing governments, civil society, regional and international partners, networks of people living with HIV and vulnerable communities, must be commended for its leadership role.

## Safe Travel

CASTRIES, St. Lucia - The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) has assured travellers of their safety while flying the skies within the sub-regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). In a December 1 message to mark its eight anniversary, the ECCAA said the advances made in international civil aviation in recent years, air travel continues to be the preferred and most reliable mode of transportation for connecting persons across the world.

"The ECCAA as the civil aviation regulatory authority for the OECS region engenders this year's International Civil Aviation Day theme through its core mandate to provide safe and secure skies in the OECS Member States through technical support of CNS and security screening equipment and en-

suring compliance in civil aviation safety and security through audits, inspections, surveys and tests. "We are also guaranteeing the issuance of safety circulars, flight inspections and verification of navigation, surveillance and visual aids and ensuring adherence to civil aviation legislation and regulations," it said in the message that also marks observance of International Civil Aviation Day on December 7.

The ECCAA said it was also cooperating with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and other international civil aviation authorities and agencies on accident and incident investigations, sourcing and facilitation of aviation related training and provision of civil aviation technical advice to the nine-member OECS grouping.

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# Williams Certified As Construction Safety Officer

GEORGETOWN, Guyanese Michael Williams is now his country's only resident certified Construction Safety Officer, having recently completed specialised training in Canada. Topping the class at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Vancouver, Canada with 97 percent, he is now certified in the areas of Workers Hazardous Information Management Systems, Construction Safety and Fire Safety.

Williams, who co-sponsored his participation in the course with Guyana Goldfields, is currently the Health and Safety Officer at that company.

The course, which lasted from November 19-30, included Occupation Health and Safety and the Environment inclusive of: Construction Safety, Workers Hazardous Information Management Systems, Electrical Safety,

Fall Protection, Fire Safety, Chemical and Biological exposures, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Occupational First Aid among others.

He said the mining and construction Sectors would mostly benefit. At the same time, he urged authorities to "review and dedicate more resources to enhance Occupational Health and Safety in these sectors."

He said he decided to pursue the course to enhance Occupational Health and Safety within Guyana Goldfields which is currently in the construction phase for gold mining development in the Aurora Gold Mine located in the Cuyuni River Region 7.

Williams is a Registered Nurse, who was trained locally and in the Caribbean, and has had extensive experience in emergency management, pediatrics and Occupational Health and Safety.

# Classes Continuing For QC Students

GEORGETOWN, Queen's College classes will continue at the Richard Ishmael Secondary School amid the authorities' continuing efforts to rid the school of a stubborn flea infestation. The Ministry of Education said the decision was taken to continue double-session classes after receiving advice from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health.

Teachers, students, parents and other education stakeholders were told that reoccupation of Queens College has been postponed "to facilitate further treatment to the building and the compound."

"As such, the current arrangement, utilizing space at Richard Ishmael secondary on a shift system, will be extended," the Ministry of Education



said in a statement.

The Education Ministry promised to continue ensuring that the inconvenience to the affected students of Queen's College and Richard Ishmael Secondary is minimized.

Discomfort and dislocation by the fleas at the country's premier school began around mid-November.

A janitorial service has been hired to spray the entire school including the attic and office. Coordinator of the Schools Boards, Melcita Bovell has said that the problem was caused by cats living in the attic where lots of old paper records are stored.

# Digital Television In the Works

GEORGETOWN, The Guyana government is to start consultations on the transition from analog to digital television broadcast with an eye on the benefits to be realised for mobile broadband connectivity. Chief spokesman Dr. Roger Luncheon noted at his weekly news briefing on November 30 that analog was being rapidly replaced around the world with the US and Canada already making the change. Guyana, along with the rest of the world, has until June 17, 2015 to do the same.

He noted that it was only a matter of time before analog television equip-

ment such as transmitters and receivers became unavailable on the market.

With the analog to digital transition there are many issues that Guyana would have to address; these include the technical, the regulatory, economic and business related issues. Our broadcasters would obviously have to embrace as they have done with analog standards, a single digital broadcast standard. Dr. Luncheon added that the transition has already started somewhat with the importation of flat screen televisions which can utilise both the analog and digital formats.

# IMF Reports Robust Economic Growth

GEORGETOWN, THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported that Guyana recorded another year of robust growth in 2011 supported by favourable external conditions, rising foreign direct investment and low inflation. It noted that following general elections in November 2011 the political situation, though largely stable, became more complicated, but investor interest has remained strong and confidence generally positive. In 2011 output expanded by 5.4 percent, buoyed by increased activity in the gold, agriculture and services sectors.

The IMF said twelve-month inflation was 3.3 percent in 2011, reflecting pressures from higher food prices later in the year. The current account deficit weakened somewhat (from 9.9 percent of GDP in 2010 to 13.6 percent in 2011) due to a surge in oil and capital goods imports as a result of higher international oil prices and stronger investment. Foreign direct investment financed most of the current account deficit with gross reserves remaining comfortable in 2011 (though falling from 5.3 months of imports at end-2010 to 4.3 months of imports at end-



2011). Public debt remained stable at 65 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In fiscal Year 2011, the overall fiscal deficit widened to 4.4 percent of GDP from 3.6 percent of GDP in 2010, falling short of the target of 3.5 percent of GDP. This slippage was due to the combined effect of an 8 percent wage increase to public sector workers in November 2011; lower excise fuel tax revenues used to cushion the impact of higher international oil prices; losses in public enterprises; and the increase in the tax thresholds for personal income taxes.

# Help Requested

GEORGETOWN, Guyana has asked Curacao for help in tracing the origin of US\$11.5 million worth of raw gold that was stolen by gunmen from a Guyanese fishing vessel on the Dutch Caribbean island, Natural Resources Minister, Robert Persaud said on December 1.

The request for help has been dispatched through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The minister warned that anyone found culpable could face prosecution.

He was due to lead a ministerial team into talks with gold dealers and representatives of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) to discuss the incident that occurred the previous day.

On November 30th international news media reported that the 470 pounds of raw gold divided into 70 bars were hauled off the MV Summer Bliss by six men. They were described as hooded, masked and wearing jackets with the English word "police" instead of the Papiamentu language equivalent of "polis."

Executive member of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA), Colin Sparman plans to tell the Natural Resources Minister that his association hardly believes that its any of its members who smuggled the gold aboard the vessel that left Georgetown four days ago.



"It's not from our producers. Our membership is encouraged to sell to the Guyana Gold Board," he said.

He suggested that it was a possible that a portion or all of the precious metal might have originated from another country aboard the vessel in transit Port Georgetown. Suriname, a former Dutch colony with historical ties to Curacao, is also a major gold producer.

Guyana hopes that producers will this year declare 400,000 ounces of gold this year, up from 360,000 ounces last year.

President, Donald last month floated the idea of gold producing nations agreeing to a common regime of royalties and taxes to help choke cross-border gold smuggling from countries like his that currently has a higher rate of levies compared to Suriname.



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## Spanking Alternatives Being Reviewed

KINGSTON, The Education Ministry is taking another look at alternative methods of discipline that are being introduced in the country's schools to assist teachers with classroom management. The move comes against the background of complaints from teachers and school principals who are struggling to address the wayward behaviour of some of their students. Despite its being banned by law, some teachers have contended that corporal punishment is the most effective way to control some of the behavioural problems they face in the classroom.

Just over three years ago, the Ministry, in partnership with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), launched an initiative that formed part of a broader programme to make the country's schools more child-friendly. At that time, the ministry and other key education stakeholders, including the Jamaica

Teachers' Association, reiterated their official objection to flogging in schools. But the controversy over the issue has been reignited following the recent exposure of activities at Kensington Primary School in Portmore, St Catherine. In a local media article, one parent complained that children at the high-performance school were being beaten to get them to achieve academic excellence. The report quoted parents who withdrew their nine-year-old child from the school after refusing to consent to the child being flogged by teachers.



While insisting that students were not harmed, principal of Kensington Primary Carla McCalla-Francis admitted that 'slapping' the children was a feature of the school's disciplinary programme and contended that it was needed to rein in wayward students. Her remark sparked much public outcry from persons opposed to corporal punishment and led to pronouncements by both Education Minister Reverend Ronald Thwaites and Children's Advocate Dianne Gordon-Harrison, who both promised to investigate what the OCA views as a violation of the Child Care and Protection Act.

However, other stakeholders in education challenged the stance being taken by the State entities and asserted that there was a place for corporal punishment in the country's schools. Some of them, particularly principals and teachers, have argued that they have not been provided with effective alternatives to corporal punishment. They maintain that students have become more disruptive, are poorly socialised, and need flogging to keep them in check.

## Bus Preaching Ban Supported

KINGSTON, The head of the Anglican Church in Jamaica has supported the Jamaica Urban Transit Company's (JUTC's) ban on bus preachers, saying that some Christians have misinterpreted the Scriptures to mean that they have a duty to win souls by coercion.

Bishop Howard Gregory has said that the church has a mandate for mission, which involves preaching. He pointed to Matthew 28:18-20 in which Jesus charges His apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and

teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". However, the question, Bishop Gregory says, is how the church fulfils that mission.

Bishop Gregory's comments were the latest in the raging debate triggered by JUTC Managing Director Rear Admiral Hardley Lewin's prescription of preaching on the buses announced a few weeks ago. According to Bishop Gregory, the new policy has so angered some members of the religious community that the only thing left for them to do is label Lewin the 'anti-Christ'.

## Chairman Retiring

KINGSTON, Professor Errol Miller, the outgoing head of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ), has been hailed for his selfless leadership as he ends his 12-year run as chairman of the institution. Miller recently told local reporters that he would resign as head of the ECJ at the end of December.

Those who worked with him have had nothing but praise for Miller.

"It's going to be a great loss to the commission," said Director of Elections Orrett Fisher. "I found him to be a very unselfish person who has contributed significantly to the commission."

According to Fisher, Miller has, on many occasions, "gone beyond the call of duty" in an effort to get his job done.

Attorney Nancy Anderson, a director of the election observer group Citizens Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE), said it had always been a pleasure working with Miller. She said that he had always been keen to include CAFFE in the commission's plans and proposals for Parliament.

"He was a strong leader but he also



saw the need to delegate," Anderson said. "He will be missed."

Attorney Tom Tavares-Finson, the Jamaica Labour Party's representative on the commission, said: "His leadership of the commission has been inspiring. He's one of the persons who has directed the forward movement of the commission."

Miller told reporters that he was leaving in order to spend more time with his wife and college-age daughter. According to a source, commission member Dr Herbert Thompson is expected to be the next chairman.

## Bad Boy School In Doubt

KINGSTON, Plans by the Government to open a multimillion-dollar complex that would accommodate boys deemed by their high schools and the Ministry of Education to be too unruly for the public school system appear to be in limbo as Education Minister Reverend Ronald Thwaites says he is harbouring second thoughts regarding the appropriateness of such a facility.

The Malvern Special High School, located in Potsdam, St Elizabeth is being built to provide residential behavioural management for between 40 and 60 delinquent boys who are too disruptive for the regular school environment.

The Potsdam facility was slated to be the first of several similar institutions that would have been rolled out by the education ministry in response to demands from school principals across

the country, some of whom view the delinquents as threats to both staff and students.

The minister's admission comes amidst intense public debate over the use of corporal punishment in schools and against the background of claims by some stakeholders in the education system that indiscipline and cases of deviant behaviour are on the rise, particularly in secondary schools.

His disclosure also comes at a time when the Government is coming under intense pressure over its housing of children in adult correctional facilities and the treatment of others in State-run facilities.

Many observers, including children rights advocates, maintain that the rights of many children in State care have been violated, and that many of these children are not benefiting from any form of rehabilitation.

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## No IBD Funding For Highway

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Finance Minister Larry Howai says the government never made a formal request to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to fund the \$7 billion highway.

"I am advised that the government only had preliminary discussions with the IDB and did not make a formal request. By the time the discussions started with the IDB the government was ready to commence the project and the IDB would not have had time to do a detailed evaluation of the loan request," Howai has told local media.

The Point Fortin Highway project was announced in the People's Partnership's first budget in 2010. At the time of announcement, then Finance Minister Winston Dookeran said the highway would create jobs for the country's languishing construction sector. The government subsequently announced that it would fund the

project from the Treasury.

To put the cost of the highway in perspective, its cost is equal to the cost of the country's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). The cost has been revised twice- from an initial \$5.2 billion at October 2010 to \$7.2 billion by January 25.

The government had only expected to spend \$1 billion in acquiring 400 properties.

President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Luis Alberto Moreno has previously said he was approached by the government about funding the project but they only "talked about it".

"Yes we have talked about that project, but we are focusing all of our efforts on the \$300 million project that would restore many of the highways in the country, both in Trinidad and Tobago," Moreno had said.

## Killed Wearing Headset And Holding Cellphone

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Schoolgirl Vatsutee Bahadur was wearing a headset and holding a cellphone when she was run over by a three-tonne truck on the afternoon of November 29, police have said. Police said the headset may have prevented the 13-year-old from hearing the rumble of the oncoming truck. Bahadur, a pupil of ASJA Girls' College, Charlieville, died almost instantly.

An autopsy was subsequently performed on her body at San Fernando General Hospital's mortuary. Police said Bahadur stepped out of a maxi-taxi at the intersection of Greg Street and Balmain Road, in Couva, around 2.37 p.m. The teen was attempting to cross the roadway, when she was hit by the truck proceeding east along Balmain Road.

Bahadur fell over and rolled under



the truck, police said. Her body was crushed. The driver stopped a short distance away and attempted to assist the teenager, but she was already dead.

Bahadur lived at Oatis Lane, Balmain. Her brother, Adesh Bahadur, died in a car crash along the Solomon Hochoy Highway four years ago. Relatives said her mother, Ameeran Mohammed, was inconsolable. Media coordinator at the Ministry of Education Yolanda Morales-Carvalho said the Ministry would provide counselling to Bahadur's school-mates, through Student Support Services.

## Kublalsingh - I Am Prepared To Die

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Hunger striker Dr Wayne Kublalsingh was on December 3 refusing all medical aid, even his own private ambulance, as he embarked on day 19 of his hunger strike action against the Debe to Mon Desir segment of the highway to Point Fortin.

"There has to be some closure," he said as he settled into a portable chair under an umbrella. As the team attempted to set up a tent near the Office of the Prime Minister at Gray Street, St Clair, the police intervened and stopped the transport vehicles from even off-loading the material to set it up.

A resigned looking Kublalsingh did not react to that. He just sat under an umbrella held by one of his Highway Reroute Movement members.

"I have decided that I will stop having the ambulance here with the doctors, no medical support, basically continue the hunger strike without food and without water," he said. He admitted that it was a dangerous step to take at this stage of the hunger strike.

"But it is an important move to bring



resolution, to bring closure to this action. This cannot continue. I am prepared to die" he said.

Kublalsingh, was awaiting word on the scheduled meeting in Port of Spain between the Joint Consultative Council and Works Minister Emmanuel George, said he made a personal appeal to the Prime Minister's secretary Lisa Ghany for a one on one private meeting with the Prime Minister.

"We haven't had a response yet," he said.

Kublalsingh, sitting in the unsheltered heat, was dressed in a sweater and sweat pants and thick socks.

"I am chilly but I am going to battle this out. I am very dehydrated, very weary, very exhausted. I am feeling my organs become extremely weak, but I have asked my family to respect my wishes," he said.

## Boy Sets House On Fire With Lighter

PORT-OF-SPAIN, A Ste Madeleine four-bedroom house was destroyed by fire on November 30 after a seven-year-old boy played with a cigarette lighter on the premises.

The father of the boy and owner of the house, Alan Maloney, of Manahambre Road, said he left his son alone at home to go on a job.

Maloney said: "Teachers were on strike and he did not go to school. Parents, this is a lesson. Never leave children at home alone." Fire broke out at the concrete and wooden house around 2.30 p.m. Fire tenders from the Mon Repos Fire Station arrived at the

scene and extinguished the blaze.

Maloney, a refrigerator and stove repairman, said he went to Hope Road, Princes Town, on a job. He said the child told him he was playing with a lighter under the house, and papers caught afire. When the flames grew, the boy ran to a neighbour's house.

Maloney said his son's schoolbooks, uniforms, toys, and personal items were destroyed. The child is a Standard Two pupil of the Ste Madeleine Government Primary School. "My son already got some Christmas presents and everything burned up. He is very upset about that," Maloney said.

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# Home Affairs

## WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

For most of us, having a secure, well paying job is a necessity. Imagine if you were to lose your job tomorrow? How would that affect you? What, if anything are you entitled to as an employee if you are terminated by your employer?

In Ontario, the laws with respect to wrongful dismissal are quite clear. In what follows, I will discuss the laws with respect to wrongful dismissal. It is important to note that an employer's obligations and liabilities under certain specific statutes such as the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Employment Standard Act and the Worker's Compensation Act which prohibit dismissals under certain circumstances will not be addressed here.

Generally, an employee who is terminated without cause would be entitled to:

- a) Statutory notice according to written laws;
- b) Reasonable notice according to the law as decided by the courts (common law);
- c) In some cases, severance pay according to statutory law.

It is worth noting that an employer/employee relationship is a contract and if either party were to break the contract, the law imposes certain liabilities. The awards given by the courts or judges (common law) are generally more substantial than what our written laws proscribe.

Of course, it is not in every case that an employee who is dismissed would be entitled to notice of



Selwyn R.  
**Baboolal**

termination or compensation. For instance, an employer will not be required to give notice to an employee where:

- a) The employee has been disobedient, dishonest or deliberately failing to perform his/her duties;
- b) The employee was employed for a definite term or task;
- c) The employment contract has become impossible to perform.

It is usual that most employers will require an employee to sign certain documents once the relationship has ended. These documents include a confidentiality agreement, a Release and an Acceptance of compensation. It is always in your best interest to have these documents reviewed by a lawyer. In fact, it is my experience that most employers will pay your legal expenses to have the documents reviewed and signed in the presence of a lawyer.

The foregoing is intended for information purposes only and you should consult a lawyer if you need legal representation or a legal opinion.

*Selwyn R. Baboolal is a partner at Oumarally Baboolal practicing in the area of litigation for the past 18 years.*

# A Good Time To Review Credit Rating



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The holidays are a hectic time but as we come to the end of 2012 it is natural to take a look of where you are and how you are going to get ahead in the upcoming year.

Your credit rating and score is a good reflection of your financial health and is a key factor in determining your ability to buy or rent a home, lease or finance a car, borrow money or sometimes to get that new job. You are eligible once a year to obtain free reports from Canada's two credit agencies, TransUnion and Equifax. These two agencies do not share information so it is important to look at both. Verify all information as this is your profile. To get more details go to [www.equifax.ca](http://www.equifax.ca) and TransUnion refers to its credit report as consumer disclosure and you can order one by mail [www.transunion.ca](http://www.transunion.ca) for more details.

The holiday season is also a popular time to make charitable donations which can actually put some money backing your pockets. To claim your federal and provincial tax credit for your donations, the charity must be registered with the Canada Revenue Agency and donation must be made by December 31.

Registered Education Saving Plan (RESP) allows you to save tax free for your child/children's education. The Federal government offers grants through the Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG). They match your contribution by 20 percent up to a maximum of \$500 per year for each child. To receive the full grant you would need to contribute \$2500 by December 31 each year.

New Year's Eve brings a great deal of decisions, reflecting and financial deadlines. Completing some key checkmarks before that deadline can save you money in 2013. Make it a great year!

*\*The information in this article is not intended as specific investment, financial, accounting, and legal or tax advice.*

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# Belly Bustas Take 3

## Wake Up Call

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5.00 am for an early morning business flight to Chicago. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he finally wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5.00 am." The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9.00 am, and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't woken him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed ... it said... "It is 5.00 am; wake up."

## Momma's Gift

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother. The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chap- ter and verse, and the parrot recites it." Soon thereafter, mom sent out her letters of thanks: "Milton," she wrote one son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house." "Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."

## Rope A Dope

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter, ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one has to drop off, otherwise they are all going to fall. They were not able to choose that person, but then the woman made a very touching speech. She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because as woman she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, and for men in general, without ever getting anything in return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping their hands.

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# Women's Health



## Doctor Prescribed Healthy Living

**M**en's Health rounded up the country's top doctors and asked them some pretty personal questions about their daily habits and favorite foods, hoping to find some lifestyle patterns that would put us all on the right path toward a longer, leaner, healthier life. Here's what they prescribed.

### Antiaging

Nicholas Perricone, M.D., board-certified clinical and research dermatologist and author of *Forever Young*. Dr. Perricone was one of the first experts to promote an anti-inflammatory diet for healthy skin and a healthy body. He outlined the evidence in his earlier books, *The Perricone Prescription* and *The Wrinkle Cure*. In his latest publication, *Forever Young*, he introduces readers to the cutting-edge science of nutrigenomics.

"By manipulating different aspects of your diet and lifestyle, you can switch on protective genes and switch off genes that may have a negative effect on health," he says. "Eating anti-inflammatory foods at every meal--fruits, vegetables, nuts, fish, whole grains--is key."

### Skip sugar, avoid wrinkles

"Avoiding foods that cause blood sugar spikes--such as products with sugar and white flour--controls inflammation, which my decades of research show is the single greatest precipitator of aging. Inflammation leads to wrinkled, sagging skin, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and some cancers."

### Get your vitamin D naturally

"Sunshine triggers your body to produce vitamin D, and it's the best source of this vitamin, which helps reduce the risk of osteoporosis and many cancers. I spend about 15 minutes a day in the sun, taking a brisk walk or participating in some other activity, without wearing sunscreen.

Don't go overboard, though. Any longer than 15 minutes or so increases your risk of skin damage."

### Weight Management

David Katz, M.D., m.p.h., director of the prevention research center at Yale University, author of *Flavor Full Diet*, and principal inventor of the nuval system.

Dr. Katz's motto: Love food that loves you back. "When you develop an optimal diet and sustain it, your tastebuds quickly acclimate to less salt, less sugar, and healthful foods.

### Rethink cravings

"Cravings are not reliable indicators of what your body needs if your diet is poor; but if your diet is very close to nature, you don't tend to yearn for foods that are 'bad.'"

### Eat chocolate

"Dark chocolate is antioxidant-rich. I eat it when I want it--in moderation, of course. One of my favorite chocolate treats is my wife's Almond-Oat - Dark Chocolate Cookies. Combine 2 cups each of rolled oats and almond meal, 1/2 cup each of canola oil and agave syrup, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, and 1/2 cups of bittersweet chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoon on a parchment-lined baking sheet

and bake at 350°F for 9 minutes."

### Heart Health

Arthur Agatston, M.D., medical director of wellness and prevention for Baptist Health South Florida, and author of the *South Beach Diet*, has a confession: "When it comes to sweets, I have the least willpower of anyone in my family," says Dr. Agatston. "My wife helps me stick to the South Beach Diet Three-Bite Rule: Three bites of any dessert satisfies you without triggering your desire to keep eating." And he notes that sticking to his signature approach--good carbs, good fats, lean protein--has meant he craves sugary or starchy foods far less often than he used to.

### Eat breakfast every day

"People who skip the morning meal tend to have higher cholesterol and insulin levels and a larger waist circumference--all risk factors for heart disease."

### Mix up your diet

"There are literally thousands of healthful micro-nutrients in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes that protect not just your heart but your entire body. They interact in complicated ways that we have been unable to reproduce in a pill."

### Snack on nuts

"A protein- and fiber-rich snack keeps you energized, gives your body a steady stream of good nutrients to digest (which keeps your metabolism revved), and leaves you less vulnerable to blood sugar swings. Almonds, my favorite, have vitamin E and protein and more fiber than any other nut."

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# Sports Beat

## Mottley Perplexed

BRIDGETOWN, Parliamentarian Mia Mottley is perplexed by calls for new Barbados Football Association (BFA) president Randy Harris to resign as an organizer of the LIME Pelican Football Challenge.

In an interview with the local reporters Mottley, former Opposition Leader, argued there was no conflict of interest with Harris' functioning in the two positions.

"I must tell you that I am a little bemused, to say the least. I don't know if Randy has discovered something that people don't want him to discover, and



that is why they are calling for his removal," Mottley said on November 30 at the conclusion of the second LIME Pelican Football Challenge.

She said there were absolutely no decisions that the BFA would make in the running of the LIME Pelican Football Challenge.

## Jamaica Second In VBall Qualification Standings

Jamaica outclassed Martinique 3-1 but fell 3-0 to Bahamas on December 1 in first round NORCECA qualification matches for the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship at the International School Auditorium in Willemstad, Curaçao. The Bahamians won 25-15, 25-14, 28-26 before the Delian Brown-led Jamaica took one hour 25 minutes to repel Martinique 19-25, 25-16, 25-20, 25-16.

In their opening match against top-ranked Bahamas, Jamaica lasted one

hour and 10 minutes despite Webb's game-high 14 points. At the end of day one, Bahamas led Pool A with nine points after beating both Jamaica and Curaçao (25-27, 25-18, 28-26, 25-17).

On day two, Curaçao secured their second win beating Jamaica 25-15, 25-22, 25-20 in one hour six minutes. The result means that Bahamas will take on Curaçao in the final while Jamaica meet Martinique in the battle for third place, the winner of which will advance to the second round.

## Memories of Clement David DeFreitas

**G**reat memories make the best stories. Taking that thought a little further, especially in this particular case, there are certain memories so powerful that they seemingly reach out and compel you to tell their story. Such is the case of Clement David DeFreitas. Most of us knew him simply as David DeFreitas. To me he was the indomitable one. But never mind me, here is what the experts have said about him:

- Simply Terrefic". Sports Editor – The Chronicle
- "Wonder Boy....DeFreitas - a world beater" Cedric Wilshire
- "David DeFreitas – a new Caribbean Champion" J. A. "Pirate" Alexander
- "British Guiana's Cycling Champion"
- "Guyanese Star Cyclist"

David DeFreitas is a likeable individual with a pleasing personality". 'Bruiser' Thomas, Editor, Graphic Sports

These are only but a few of the accolades describing David's accomplishments as a bike rider but more importantly, one can only imagine, the personal self-worth and esteem he obviously achieved as a result of it. Then, observing the response of the thousands that experienced the immense joy which he brought by winning in front of them, one got the impression that in as much as he was winning for himself, he was also winning for them. By doing so, it created a tremendous source of national pride seemingly galvanizing a nation and bringing a new and real meaning to our motto, "One People, One Nation, One Destiny".

David DeFreitas was born January 27, 1945 to his mom, Enid. He was the third of seven. His other siblings being Michael, Ed, Brian, Aubrey, John and his only sister, Loretta. As a young boy growing up not too far from where he lived, I could not wait to get my hands on the day's newspapers to see what they would be saying about him on that day. See, I wanted to be like him so that they could write the same things that they were saying about him, about me. I would train on the same roads he trained on. I knew when and where. I pretty much stalked him. I positioned my training just so I could see him and maybe, he might see me. In my naivety, my thinking was that if I emulated exactly what he did, maybe, just maybe, I might be just as good as he was. But he just wasn't good, he was great...excellent really.

David started racing as a junior in 1959.

Here is his resume:

- 1959 – Started a racing career as a junior cyclist



Personally, these images and the lifetime of memories like them are what mine are all about. I am sorry to hear and experience the death of my friend, Clement David DeFreitas. Death is sad but his life to me, brought great joy. I choose to celebrate David's victories, to enjoy his memories, to be grateful for them, to cherish them and to give thanks that they have enriched my life. Finally, when I remember them, I get that urge that I'd like to write a story about them.

- 1959 – 1962 – Moved aggressively through the ranks from Juniors to "A" Class in a matter of a very short 3 years.
- 1962 – Appointed to the National Team
- 1964 – Selected National Representative to the West Indies Championships – Barbados, West Indies
- 1965 – National Representative – Central American and Caribbean Championships, San Juan, Puerto Rico Bronze Medal - 4000-m Pursuit
- West Indies Track & Field Championships – Barbados, W.I.
- Gold Medal – 4000-m Pursuit
- 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games – Jamaica, West Indies
- 1967 – Pan American Games, Winnipeg, Canada

In the beginning, performances were consistent

but not what cycling fans would see as spectacular. Successes were enough to earn him the required promotions that would eventually place him in the elite class of cycling in Guyana. On arrival there his training intensified, his skills developed and his performances blossomed. Winning in this class against the cream of the current crop of cyclists became commonplace but even more significantly; his ownership and outright domination of the longer races are legend.

From 1962 through 1968, David became a permanent fixture on Guyana's national cycling team. Local and international, he cut a path of successful and valiant performances that would become the standard by which others, following in his footsteps, would be required to emulate. Not just for Guyanese cyclist but for cycling in all the Western Hemisphere. Reports of his representation of our country against the best competition in the world, whether locally or internationally, was always in high praise of his physical abilities and mental toughness.

When asked by a prominent sports writer of the day to share his secret of success as a bike rider, he simply said, "...a rider has to have the ability to go beyond the burn". Success for David was not always in victory. David was an intelligent rider. He rode with panache, he was aggressive, he was determined and tenacious, but more importantly, cycling fans were always thrilled and entertained by his Herculean demonstration of stamina and power.

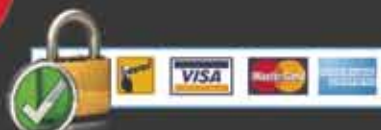
No more was this evident as in The August Olympiad held at the British Guiana Cricket Ground in August of 1965. On this auspicious occasion, in the final event of Day 1 of an highly competitive international cycling meet against the best competition from the West Indies, The United Kingdom, The United States and South America, David lapped the field, not once but three times in the Blue Ribbon 20,000-m event. The rationale by the so-called pundits of the day was an obvious one – "a one-time thing", a fluke, if you will. But when, just a mere 21 hours later, that same athlete comes back to win in the same fashion by lapping the field twice in a much longer 25,000-m event, against the same competition having the full knowledge that there is a 100% possibility that they could very well get lapped again, this is not a fluke but a very real indication that the athlete posing the threat and delivering the final outcome is surely of an extra-ordinary talent. These moments and many more like them were the very nature of David's contribution to the nation.

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## Trinidad To Face Canada

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago will boost their preparation for January's Caribbean Twenty 20 when they take on Canada in a three-match series starting here this month. The series will bowl off December 13 at Queen's Park Oval and has been organised by the Canadian Cricket Association which will use the matches to promote their domestic T20 tournament next year.

T&T manager Omar Khan said that with the CT20 bowling off January 6, the series would serve as great preparation for the defending champions.

"This would be good preparation for our guys with the regional T20 tournament upon us," Khan said. "The boys are looking forward to the matches because a full strength Canadian cricket team will be coming."

Last year, T&T won the CT20 after beating fellow powerhouses Jamaica in the final of the competition at Kensington Oval in Barbados. Ironically, they open this year's tournament against Jamaica at Queen's Park Oval, as they launch their bid to defend their title.

Khan said there was a possibility T&T's further match preparation could be further strengthened.

"We have gotten interest from both Barbados and the Windwards who want to come in early to take on our boys before the tournament starts," he explained.

"The details are yet to be confirmed for this but it will again be another good chance for the boys to get some matches under their belts."

Next year's CT20 runs until January 20 with the first round scheduled to be played here and the second round and finals in St Lucia.

A Batting Partnership Made In Heaven

On November 19, in the sedate and picturesque surrounds of the Wollongong University campus oval, the two greatest Caribbean batsmen in history shared a 42-run stand for the ages.

Sir Viv Richards (19 not out from 20 balls) and Brian Lara (48 from 38) may have missed each other in the transition of West Indies cricket but they showed that the years have not entirely sapped them of their gifts.

At 60, Richards looked as comfortable at the crease as he did 30 years ago, albeit against lesser bowling in this charity cricket match to raise funds for curing serious diseases.

Lara was all backfoot cuts and down-the-pitch lofted drives, while rival skipper Adam Gilchrist watched on from behind the stumps.

"He looks OK," a miked-up Gilchrist said after another Lara boundary. "He could be quite good when he grows up."

Lara and Richards came together at 2-103 and for 40 minutes entertained the enthralled crowd, with many taking photos of the scoreboard bearing the two legendary names.

In the end, the match was tied - both sides made 155 from their 20 overs - but the greater cause was won.

In an earlier celebrity Twenty20 game, Wendell Sailor scored the winning runs as his Town XI defeated Ben Creagh's Gown XI.

Wallabies playmaker Quade Cooper claimed two wickets for Town, while Sailor starred with bat and ball.

Sailor said a close family friend, aged 13, is battling a brain tumour and he felt compelled to participate.

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## Lloyd Calls For Presidential Intervention

GEORGETOWN, Head of the controversial Interim Management Committee, Clive Lloyd has asked for the intervention of Guyana's President Donald Ramotar over what he says is the continued activity of Guyana Cricket Board officials in domestic affairs.

A court ruling last February barred the GCB from participating in cricket administration here, with the government-run IMC taking over the role.

Recently however, GCB secretary Anand Sanasie told the regional media that trial matches would be held during the December 8th & 9th weekend to select a national team for the Caribbean Twenty 20 in January.

Lloyd, the legendary former West Indies captain, said an urgent resolution needed to be found.

"I have decided to write His Excellency, outlining the situation here," the Guyana Times quoted Lloyd as saying.

"The situation now is definitely out of control and something has to be done quickly to have it resolved. You can't have a group of people served with an injunction and they continue

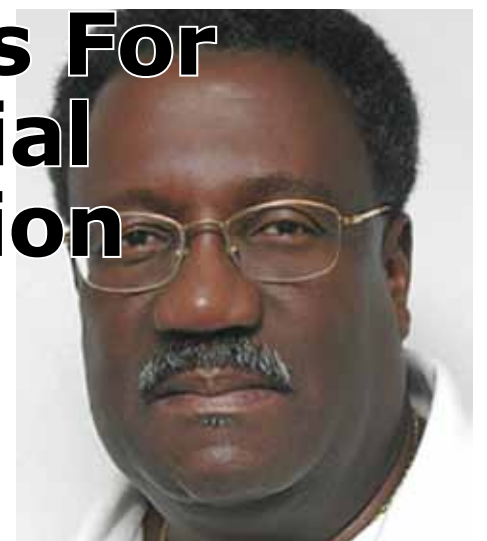
to perform."

The West Indies Cricket Board said Guyana's cricket authorities had missed the November 22 deadline for submission of teams for the CT20, and raised concern about the length of time it had taken to resolve the dispute.

The WICB, the regional governing body for the game, says it recognises the GCB as the legitimate body to run cricket affairs in Guyana.

"The Board further implores all parties involved to use their best endeavours to ensure that the situation with regard to cricket in Guyana returns to a level of acceptability in the shortest possible period," a WICB statement said.

The International Cricket Council has also thrown its support behind the GCB and the WICB in the matter.



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# Good Times Ahead

**PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CMC)** – West Indies Cricket Board director Baldath Mahabir believes the proper structure is in place to move West Indies cricket forward and says bright days are ahead for the regional game. Speaking at the recent St Vincent and Grenadines Cricket Association annual awards ceremony, Mahabir said the WICB had created a strong developmental base to produce the next generation of players, and noted that the current players were also making huge strides.

He also argued that the West Indies team's performance was also trending in the right direction.

"Our Test ranking is stuck at seventh, our ODI ranking has moved up one from eighth to seventh, and our T20 ranking is second," said Mahabir, an executive of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board.

"In the Test ranking we have one batsman, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, at number five, one bowler Kemar Roach at number 10. We have one batsman in the top 10 in T20 and that's Chris Gayle in second position and three all-rounders in Gayle at five and Dwayne Bravo seventh and Marlon Samuels ninth.

"Are these indicators strong enough to really say that we are trending upwards or are we living in false hopes? My personal view ... is that the collective entity that is West Indies cricket is now structurally, in a better place than it has been for a very long time, if not ever."

He continued: "Why do I say this? I say so because at this time, West Indies cricket is displaying quality and depth. We have a competitive West Indian team in all three formats, we have resurrected our 'A' team programme and we have a vibrant Sagcor High Performance Centre.

"OurDigicelGrassrootsdevelopment



work is ongoing in every territory and Women's Cricket is attracting positive attention due to consistently quality performances."

West Indies have made strides over the last year, winning the World Twenty20 title in Sri Lanka last month to capture their first world title in eight years and only their second since 1979.

They also swept New Zealand and Bangladesh in two-Test series, to also win four Tests on the trot for the first time in 19 years.

Mahabir reminded that several of the Windies players were now also the major attractions on the international T20 circuit and said though this had posed challenges the WICB had successfully deal with these.

"Even though those tournaments have resulted in issues related to player availability, the WICB has made huge strides in working with our players to nurture and maintain relationships that are both pleasant and professional," Mahabir pointed out.

"So now we can conclude with a measure of justification that West Indies cricket is on the way up."

## Bangladesh Making Better Use Of Conditions Says Sammy

**West Indies** captain Darren Sammy has said that Bangladesh's 2-0 lead in the ODI series was because the home team had assessed the conditions better and tailored their game accordingly. Sammy won both tosses - West Indies batted in the first game and fielded in the second - but his team was beaten comprehensively. The 160-run margin of defeat in the second ODI in Khulna was West Indies' third-heaviest loss in terms of runs.

"We have to take the pitch out of the book, if we are to win the next one and the two after that," Sammy said. "Bangladesh have played some good cricket and are showing us how to play one-day cricket on these pitches. They have assessed these conditions well and played accordingly.

"It is probably a good wake-up call for us and we'll come back harder. We are 2-0 down but we're not out. It would not be a wise thing to count us out because we have been in similar situations before and we have bounced back."

Sammy said the West Indies batsmen had missed out on runs by not being selective at the start of the innings. They made 199 in the first game, with many of their middle-order batsmen

throwing wickets away to aerial shots, and the theme continued in the second match, though a fair share of batsmen couldn't work out the spinners. Chasing 292, West Indies were dismissed for 132.

"I think it is about being more selective. If you look at the kind of players we have, once we stay at the crease we are going to score runs, but we keep getting out," Sammy said. "So far we haven't been able to put good partnerships together.

"We don't really want to rely on anybody. You look to see off the two new balls so you just got to play what you see and be patient. We know we are a good boundary hitting team and once our batsmen spend time at the crease, like we showed in the Test matches, it becomes easier for us to play."

West Indies will now return to Dhaka needing to win the remaining three ODIs to clinch the series. Sammy thinks a change of scene improve his team's performances.

"The brand of cricket we play, we should have played much better. A change of scenery in Dhaka could bring a change of fortune for us, and keep the series well alive. We are 2-0 down, but we are not down and out."

# Bangladesh Trashes Windies In 2nd ODI

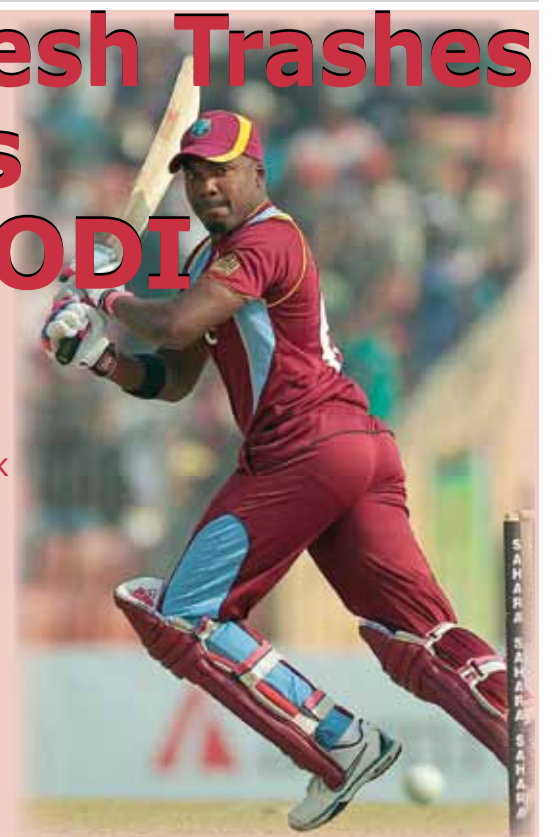
**Bangladesh 292 for 6**  
(Anamul 120, Mushfiqur 79, Rampaul 5-49)  
**beat West Indies 132**  
(Bravo 28, Gazi 3-21, Razzak 3-19) by 160 runs

**Bangladesh** recorded their biggest win in ODIs in terms of runs, thrashing a listless West Indies by 160 runs to take a 2-0 lead and are in prime position to claim the five-match series. The spinners delivered for the second game in succession, but Bangladesh owed their early dominance in this match largely to Anamul Haque, who became the third teenager from the country to score a ODI century, and Mushfiqur Rahim for propelling them to 292.

West Indies opted to bowl first, primarily to nip out as many wickets as possible using the early morning moisture and then exploit the easier batting conditions in the afternoon. As it transpired, batting appeared twice as tough with the psychological setback of chasing 293 against a four-pronged spin attack that had rendered the match a no-contest even before the halfway stage of the chase. Bangladesh needed just over 31 overs to wrap things up and bettered their previous highest victory margin of 146 runs against Scotland in 2006. Ravi Rampaul's 5 for 49 was a forgotten statistical highlight.

The moisture on the pitch had disappeared after the first half hour, handing the advantage to the batsmen, which Mushfiqur and Anamul relished during their 174-run stand. Bangladesh were progressing at a healthy 5.31 runs per over but ironically lost momentum when the field restrictions were on after the 35th over for the mandatory Powerplay. The seamers wisely dished out short deliveries, exploiting the new one-day rule that allows two bouncers an over. Bangladesh scratched around for 20 runs and lost two wickets in that passage, including that of Mushfiqur, who played a tired pull to midwicket for 79.

Anamul slowed down as he approached his century, consuming 23 balls in the 90s, but his wait ended



when he pulled Rampaul to deep square leg and with the pressure off his shoulders, biffed Andre Russell for two sixes and a four off consecutive balls. Both Anamul and Mominul Haque fell to Rampaul - who picked up his second five-wicket haul - going for big hits. Bangladesh ransacked 68 off the last five overs to post their biggest total against West Indies.

While Chris Gayle's dip in form didn't affect West Indies' fortunes in the Tests, his no-show in the one-dayers so far is having a telling impact. A strong start was needed, and it was important West Indies knocked off as many as possible with the new ball before the spinners came on in tandem. By the time that happened, West Indies had lost three of their top four, including Gayle and Marlon Samuels.

Gayle's departure - caught behind giving Mashrafe Mortaza the charge - and tight bowling from the spinners choked the run-rate. Samuels tried to cut Sohag Gazi but got a thick edge to Mushfiqur, who took a sharp catch. Abdur Razzak trapped Dwayne Smith lbw, in a spell which read 5-0-19-3. Darren Bravo too edged the left-arm spinner Razzak and Devon Thomas missed a straight one. The wheels were falling off for West Indies when Sammy went for the lofted drive over extra cover off Mahmudullah but found the fielder. At the end of 25 overs, West Indies had lost seven, with their hopes pinned to Kieron Pollard. The end came soon when Pollard lost his off stump to Naeem Islam and Tamim Iqbal plucked a chipped drive from Narine to seal the game.



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