Unions warn of street protests if wage talks fail
-- lashes GTU over “few pieces of silver” deal

May 2, 2011 – Kaieteur News

- GTUC rally… Unions affiliated to the Guyana Trades Union Congress yesterday warned that it will be upping the ante on government, even taking to the streets, over the coming months unless wage talks are fruitful. The announcement was made yesterday during the May Day rally of the unions’ umbrella body, which was held at the Critchlow Labour College, Woolford Avenue.

The annual May Day march was characterized this year by a three-way split, for the first time, signaling increasing differences between the unions. The Guyana Teachers’ Union (GTUC) went their separate way as did unions under the other umbrella grouping the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG). As expected, GTUC’s General Secretary, Norris Witter, and senior official, Lincoln Lewis joined in blasting the ruling People’s Progressive Party/Civic administration, noting that while they will not be telling people who to vote for in the coming elections, they will be advising Guyana who not to vote for.

The ‘GTUC’ rally, which has become a tradition now at the iconic Critchlow Labour College, saw the support of the main opposition, People’s National Congress Reform, the Guyana Minibus Union, the Women’s Advisory Committee and the Guyana Public Service Union, among others. PNCR Leader Robert Corbin, Deputy Basil Williams, Presidential Candidate David Granger and the Guyana Bauxite and General Workers Union, were also there.

“Cuss” back too

According to Lewis, this year the stakes are much higher and workers should fight to ensure that the lands, which is being given away by the administration, should be protected.

In a subtle reference to President Bharrat Jagdeo’s statements last year to Barama workers, Lewis warned that he is not afraid and will “cuss” out too. The President, in lashing out at critics last year, had controversially said that if his critics “cuss” him down, he stood ready to “cuss” them back.

Lewis, riling up the crowds, accused the government of placing “lackeys” to run state corporations instead of finding competent professionals.

GTUC had proposed to government a housing plan to help bridge the needs of that sector. This was earmarked for the Linden highway. However, after being asked to prepare a concept document, the government backtracked and refused to entertain the idea.

“We allow ourselves to be ridden…this can only happen if your back is bent or you are a jackass,” he challenged the workers.

High crime

In the area of crime, Lewis noted that the irony is that under the current administration’s watch, crime rates have risen to horrific levels. He said that criminals are operating with impunity and it was only with the US intervention that convicted drug baron, Roger Khan, was arrested. more
Giant Whirlpools off Guyana and Suriname

By: Cyril Bryan - Guyanese Online

One of the most surprising stories in April was that of two “Giant whirlpools off Guyana and Suriname". It said:

"US scientists discovered two giant whirlpools in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Guyana and Suriname. It became a sensational discovery because this part of the ocean has been studied thoroughly, and no one expected anything like that to appear in the area. More importantly, no one can understand where the whirlpools came from and what surprises they may bring to people."

According to Brazilian scientist Guilherme Castellane, the two funnels are approximately 400 kilometers in diameter. Until now, these were not known on Earth. The funnels reportedly exert a strong influence on climate changes that have been registered during the recent years." (see pg 4).

We hope that these massive funnels will soon disappear and that they do no damage to the coastlines of the two countries or the Caribbean islands.

Everyone knows that Guyana has very fragile sea defences. This is compounded with the ongoing battle in controlling the floodwaters flowing from the highlands towards the sea. This new potential threat to the sea defences has, therefore, raised some concern.

Recently, in February and March, there has been heavy rainfall that has caused extensive flooding along the coastal areas - the worst floods since 2005. Now, in April, there have been “Spring Tides” which have created “devastation and destruction” to farmers, especially those on the East Bank of Berbice. more

The hurricane season in the Caribbean is from June to November. Weather systems move off the African coast and continue westward, usually in a north-westerly arc. They sometimes affect the Caribbean islands before entering the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and even hitting the USA’s southern states.

Last October, it was noted that tropical storm “Tomas” started at a rather low latitude and skirted the South American coast before turning north hitting Barbados, and as Hurricane Tomas, devastating St. Lucia, St. Vincent and later Haiti. (see #19 NOAA map of 2010 hurricanes). It formed on October 26, the latest for a hurricane hitting the Windward Islands since 1851. In late summer, it seems that hurricanes are now likely to arc lower, closer to the equator, in the area where these giant whirlpools are, potentially creating disturbances on the South American coastline.

Reports say that these giant whirlpools are some 400 km in diameter. If they are still there during this hurricane season, which is from June to November, then Guyana’s weather authorities must become more vigilant in analyzing the effects they are having on Guyana’s coastline and weather during that period.

Suriname’s sea defences are better than Guyana’s, and will be completely rebuilt from Nickerie on the Corentyne River to their French Guiana border town of Albina. This is part of a US$6B investment with Chinese companies for a deep-sea port, housing projects and roads and railways to connect their capital, Paramaribo, with cities in Brazil. They intend to expand rice and agricultural production, most likely helped by Chinese/Brazilian investment. Details of these projects are in our December 2010 Newsletter.

Guyana’s coastlands have the best agricultural land, but they need well-maintained drainage and irrigation systems. I wrote a paper “Guyana Flood Analysis” during the 2005 floods, which outlined my thoughts on this subject. All I could add now is that the floods of 2011, have again warned the country of the fragility of its drainage systems.

Sea defences, like drainage and irrigation, are expensive to build and maintain. More attention has to be paid to this prerequisite to development, as most of Guyana’s population lives on the coastal belt. If not strengthened and maintained, the coastal towns and villages and agricultural lands will become uninhabitable as sea levels rise.

The Guyanese Online Newsletter and the Guyanese Online Blog Website are independent publications that have been designed, edited, produced and published by Cyril Bryan.

Individuals, Organizations, Associations and Guyanese groups should send e-mails with their announcements, features, news, pictures, event reports and advertisements for publication to the editor: Cyril Bryan at: guyaneseonline@gmail.com

Thank you for your comments and support.
By: Cyril Bryan. Editor and Publisher
This is the 15th edition of the Guyanese Online Newsletter. Here is my editorial for this month. Thank you for your comments and support.
The Guyanese Online blog has over 400 articles and videos on various subjects. Your comments, articles and ideas are welcome. Thank you for your readership and support!!

You can also write Cyril Bryan at guyaneseonline@gmail.com

TOP 20 – Most Popular – April 2011

The Top-20: most popular entries for April 2010.

1. “Guyanese Online Newsletter – April 2011
2. Empire Of Cricket” - The West Indies
3. A Tribute to Byron Lee - The Dragon
4. GUYANA PERSONALITIES 1970-1971
5. Exploring a Lifetime of Memories in Guyana
6. Eddy Grant - his story and songs
7. Famous People of Guyanese Heritage
8. West Indians in Britain during WW2
9. Come Visit Guyana - video
10. A nostalgic look at Guyana's cinemas
11. TAKUTU BRIDGE - Rupununi. Guyana
12. SINGING FRANCINE ~ Go Brave!
13. Johnny Bruff - video
14. Guyanese Parrots - comedy
15. Guyana Floods - March 2011 Updates
16. Girl plays piano with no finger on one hand
17. Living in Guyana – slide show
18. Guyanese Online
19. Real Old Guyana Calypso - Bill Rogers
20. Obama vs Trump by Cheddie (Joey) Jagan

Video: A next-generation digital book

Editor's choice for this month:

Digital technology is now changing every aspect of our lives. The tablet computer is just the latest. This video demonstrates how this technology would transform book publishing as we know it.

About this talk

Software developer Mike Matas demos the first full-length interactive book for the iPad -- with clever, swipeable video and graphics and some very cool data visualizations to play with. The book is "Our Choice," Al Gore's sequel to "An Inconvenient Truth."

About Mike Matas

While at Apple, Mike Matas helped write the user interface for the iPhone and iPad. Now with Push Pop Press, he's helping to rewrite the electronic book. Full bio and more links

New Blog Entries for April 2011

During April we published 36 new entries:

1. Trinidad music incorporated with India music
2. 'Ave Maria’ – video
3. Paradox of Our Times- slide show
4. Buxton-Friendship Express – April 2011
5. Old Jet Magazines – from 1950 onwards
6. A nostalgic look at Guyana's cinemas
7. David Granger Interview by Bibi Naraine
8. Ken Corsbie – Talk and More Talk
9. GCA to pay tribute to ten Guyanese Women
10. GUYAID Mother’s Day Luncheon – Greenbelt, Maryland
11. GUYANA PERSONALITIES 1970-1971
12. Obama vs Trump by Cheddie (Joey) Jagan
15. 'Back To The Hop’ Spring Dance – Toronto
16. Guyanese Association of Manitoba Inc.
17. GUYANA KAITEUR GROUP, INC. – Awards Banquet
18. GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS
19. West Indians in Britain during WW2
20. Ken Corsbie – "Arriving in America”
21. Guyana Medical Relief Donates Medicine
22. A Tribute to Byron Lee – The Dragon’
24. Father’s Day Walk/Run – Scarborough Ontario
25. The Story of Jonah – video
26. “Make THE Difference” – video
27. GUYFEST – Cultural Festival – July 2/2011
28. Guyanese Online Newsletter – April 2011 -
29. Indian Institute of Technology – IIT
30. "Guyanese Business doing well” – video
31. Conflicts in the “One Laptop Per Family” project
32. Girl plays piano with no finger on one hand
33. "Empire Of Cricket” – The West Indies
34. India Wins Cricket World Cup 2011
35. Food chart and health benefits
36. NYC Cultural Association. – Mother’s Day Dinner Theatre
What are the long-term benefits of the forestry concession to Siddartha?

**Letter to the Editor:**

Guyanese are indebted to Stabroek News and the Times of India for the news that some months ago, the Jagdeo administration signed away more than one million eight hundred thousand acres of land to an Indian businessman who plans to cut and ship logs to India to make furniture. As a Guyanese with no expertise in any of the related fields a number of questions immediately spring to my mind and I therefore write to outline the facts as I understand them and to ask the Government of Guyana to urgently confirm or deny them:

1. Mr. V G Siddartha, who owns a chain of coffee shops across India, has been granted a 30-year lease over pristine forest land subject to the Guyana-Norway forest conservation agreement. Minister of Agriculture Robert Persaud is reported as confirming two parcels of land amounting to total in 1,823,199 acres. The larger area confirmed is situated in the Upper Essequibo-Corentyne-North Rupununi District while a marginally smaller area is located in the Bartica Triangle.

2. According to the Times of India report, the varieties to be exported to India include Greenheart, Purpleheart, Wallaba and Bullet Wood, on which there is reportedly an export ban. The royalty that Mr. Siddartha will pay Guyana is not clear, nor do we know what tax and other concessions, including tax holidays, have been given to the businessman.

3. According to Minister Persaud the government has received from the businessman approximately US$3.524 million, most of which has already been spent, apparently to help meet liabilities owed to policyholders of Clico (Guyana) because one parcel of the land had been controlled by a Clico-related company.

4. The land assigned to the businessman represents more than 4% of the country’s total land mass. It is the equivalent of 2,889 times Greater Georgetown and nearly double the size of Iwokrama. To get control of the land, the businessman paid the princely sum of G$394 per acre or less than two United States dollars. There was no competitive bidding.

5. Once Mr. Siddartha begins extraction of the logs, the Guyana-Norway Agreement will be placed at risk since the proposed rate of extraction can cause the country’s committed limit to be exceeded. With the agreement providing for penalties for extraction above the agreed limit, Guyana could very well suffer more in penalties to the Norwegians than any money it stands to receive from Mr. Siddartha.

What are the long-term benefits of this deal to Guyana? As one aspect of this, how does the government justify exporting logs with no value added in Guyana? How does a deal of this nature relate to the LCDS – put to us as a long-term, visionary approach to Guyana’s development?

In the interests of transparency and to help us all understand the facts on the ground, I also ask the government to immediately publish a full-page map of the country with all the forest concessions owned and information on who owns each.

Yours faithfully, Andaiye

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**Giant ocean whirlpools—off Guyana and Suriname—puzzle scientists**

April 12, 2011 – (Pravda) US scientists discovered two giant whirlpools in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Guyana and Suriname. It became a sensational discovery because this part of the ocean has been studied thoroughly, and no one expected anything like that to appear in the area. More importantly, no one can understand where the whirlpools came from and what surprises they may bring to people.

According to Brazilian scientist Guilherme Castellane, the two funnels are approximately 400 kilometers in diameter. Until now, these were not known on Earth. The funnels reportedly exert a strong influence on climate changes that have been registered during the recent years.

"Funnels rotate clockwise. They are moving in the ocean like giant frisbees, two discs thrown into the air. Rotation occurs at a rate of one meter per second, the speed is sufficiently large compared to the speed of oceanic currents, on the border hoppers is a wave-step height of 40 cm," Castellane said.

Even during the dry months, when the movement of oceanic currents and the flow of the Amazon River practically comes to a standstill, the funnels do not disappear. Therefore, the nature of the funnels does not depend on the flow of water, which one of the world’s biggest rivers brings into the ocean. The natural phenomenon, which creates the whirlpools, is unknown to modern science.

As a matter of fact, the phenomenon of giant whirlpools in the World Ocean is not new to science. In most cases, the craters, or rings, as scientists call them, are formed as a result of so-called vertical currents. The latter, in their turn, appear because of differences in water density which appear because of difference in temperatures of water layers. It is an open secret that cold water is thicker and heavier, so it goes down, underneath the masses of warm water, which is lighter. This is the reason why warm currents in the World Ocean always flow closer to the surface, whereas colder currents flow closer to the bottom.

However, such movement of water may not always depend on the difference of temperatures of the water column. The difference in salinity can also be a reason. The mechanism here is the same. The density of saltier water is higher, this water is heavier and it moves closer to the bottom, pushing less saltier water up. This type of vertical fusion occurs frequently in the tropics because high temperatures...
Proof-of-address now required for Guyana Bank accounts

April 19, 2011 (Demerara Waves)

Money laundering and banking laws now require commercial banks to know their customers.

Commercial banks on Tuesday warned account-holders that if they do not submit proof-of-addresses, they will soon be unable to withdraw or spend monies using most methods including Automatic Teller Machines (ATM).

Chairman of the Guyana Association of Bankers, John Tracey told demwaves.com that account-holders have until April 29 to take in a proof of address like a letter or utility bill posted to them so that the bank could verify their address.

Tracey estimates that at least 35 percent of accounts are not compliant with the new laws and regulations although holders were given two deadlines- May 2010 and December 2010- before.

He said most of the non-compliant accounts are date back to pre-2006, and many of the holders have ignored the previous deadlines, migrated or died

The Bankers Association Chairman insisted that April month-end would be the last deadline and non-compliant accounts would be virtually frozen.

Poor results from Takutu Basin Oil well in the Rupununi - Groundstar Resources

April 25, 2011— Oil exploration in Rupununi, southern Guyana has failed to produce amounts in commercial quantities and the company will be abandoning the well, Groundstar Resources said Monday. “We are abandoning the well. Hydrocarbons were detected but not in commercial quantities,” a company official said.

Groundstar, in a mostly technical and statistical news release, went on to say that although excellent reservoir quality was encountered in this interval of the Apoteri Formation, the reservoir appears to have been penetrated below the oil – water contact, defined by the interval of good oil and gas shows between 2,515 and 2,841 metres.

The company said that the consortium is currently evaluating the next exploration drilling location on the block. The Apoteri K-2 well on the Takatu Block was due to be spud at a depth of 11,000 feet.

Now that the Apoteri-K2 well has shown poor results, the consortium would have to decide whether drill a second exploration well next month at either the Rewa or Pirara River prospects.

The Apoteri K-2 well was located 600 meters away from the drill-hole that had produced over 400 barrels of 42° American Petroleum Institute (API) light oil per day from the Karanambo 1 well in 1982.

GuySuCo land being sold to developers

April 14, 2011 The Guyana Press - Housing developments along the East Bank Demerara is picking up a fast pace with work progressing in a number of areas. Several developers have been granted plots especially at Providence and works have commenced in these areas.

Equipment owned by a number of construction companies have established their operations in this East bank area.

According to officials, plots of lands have been granted to Courtney Benn Construction Services, BK International, Buddy’s Housing Development and CARICOM General Insurances, among others.

A piece of land aback of the Providence Police Station has also been awarded to Presidential Advisor, Odinga Lumumba, reportedly in exchange for farmlands that he reportedly gave up in Berbice.

Government has opened up new lands for housing between Agricola/Eccles to Diamond and had announced that it was developing 10,000 new lots. However, the Providence area mainly has been allotted for private development.

Buddy’s and Courtney Benn have both been granted 50 acres each for development. These lands lie about a mile back of former cane fields bordering Greenfield Park and Mocha roadway. A remigrant scheme is also said to be earmarked for the area.

About a mile in from the Mocha road head, just south of that road, work has also started to clear lands for house lots. Workers from the Guyana Power and Light were in the area yesterday relocating poles. Further west, Courtney Benn workers were working on an access bridge leading to their scheme. Work has already started to construct access roads to the new schemes between Princess Hotel and the Guyana National Stadium and aback Greenfield Park.

Behind Republic Park, CARICOM General Insurance has started work on a new scheme and at Eccles, west of the Haag Bosch dumpsite, equipment are operating to clear lands there for house lots.

The housing industry has been described as one of the fastest growing one in Guyana with government developing several of them at the moment. Areas like Mahdia, Linden, Region Three, Four and Five were where the focus has been in recent years.

Source link: GuySuCo land being sold to developers:
Contracts awarded for Hope/Dochfour canal

includes road bridge, head regulator, outfall sluice construction—Total US$7.5 million

APRIL 21, 2011 | BY KNEWS

Government has granted its ‘No objection’ to four major contracts for the $3B (US$7.5M) Hope/Dochfour Northern Relief Channel.

The contracts, to the tune of $1.49B, will include the building of a 300-foot long bridge along the Hope Public Road. The awards were announced by Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Roger Luncheon, during his weekly press briefing.

Almost $350M will be spent on the construction of the bridge to span the channel at the public road. Another $420M was awarded to build a head regulator at the East Demerara Water Conservancy. This structure will control the flow of water from the conservancy to the canal and out to the Atlantic.

The relief channel has been hailed by Government as crucial to efforts to prevent flooding especially in the East Demerara area. The administration has been arguing that the number of sluices, including those at Land of Canaan, East Bank of Demerara, are insufficient to take off the waters of the EDWC whenever there are flood conditions. The 2005 floods were blamed on waters being released from the conservancy through the existing canals at the extremes of the conservancy.

For the building of a high level sluice outfall at the Atlantic Ocean to drain the channel, a contract for $605.4M was also awarded.

Luncheon: Amaila Falls Road hopelessly behind schedule - only 15% completed

APRIL 21, 2011 | BY KNEWS

Head of the Presidential Secretariat, Dr Roger Luncheon, yesterday (April 20, 2011), expressed the administration’s dissatisfaction with the progress Synergy Holdings Inc is making with the construction of the road to Amaila Falls.

According to Dr Luncheon, Makeshwar ‘Fip’ Motilall, is “hopelessly behind” schedule and they have suggested that he start to contract out certain components of the project.

He said that he believes that the consultant, Walter Willis, mirrors the sentiment of Cabinet and explored options for the completion of the roadway.

Dr Luncheon did state that no effort is being spared by the administration to get Synergy Holdings to complete the road, according to design. Motilall was also responsible for the road design.

As it relates to penalties he said that this would come into play at the end of a contract when the enormity of the failure to abide by the terms could properly be assessed. At the end of February last, Dr Luncheon had told media operatives that “the government couldn’t help but be concerned about the delays,” as these relate to the construction of the Amaila Falls Road Project currently being undertaken.

GPL reduces power losses

The state-owned Guyana Power and Light Incorporated has saved US$4 million by cutting back in losses due to, among other things, electricity theft, an official has said.

In an overview of the Unserved Areas Electrification Programme (UAEP), Project Coordinator, Morsha Johnson also credited the programme with a 9.7 percent reduction in losses from 2006 to 2010.

"This was achieved through aggressive loss reduction initiatives including the introduction of itron meters, prepaid meters and a new customer billing system, installation of new interfaces, replacement of defective meters and pursuing illegal connections," she said.

Addressing the closing of the UAEP, which was funded by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), she detailed that there was a 3 percent loss-reduction in 2010, resulting in the corporation saving US$4 million.

GPL’s losses were 40 percent in 2006 but by the end of 2010, it was 31.3 percent, she said.

During the life of the UAEP, 22,000 house lots in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 received electricity supply. That was in addition to 40,000 more on the coast in a separate government-funded programme. Two generators were also installed at Port Kaituma and Mahdia. (Demerara Waves-April 16)

High tides destroy East Bank Berbice farms

Farmer says: Highest spring tides ever

APRIL 21, 2011 | BY KNEWS

Farmers along villages on the East Bank of Berbice corridor are counting their losses as a result of the high tides that have brought total destruction and devastation to their livelihood and to their cash crops.

At the far out villages of Juliannesburg and Plegt Anker early on Tuesday were several scenes of residents’ yards and farms that were under knee-deep water. According to farmers, the problem has been persistent for over six months but has reached its boiling point, hence their willingness to talk about their losses, which amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The farmers are blaming the poor sea defense dam along the East Bank of Berbice which has, from time to time, been a major issue with residents living along those banks of the Berbice River.

Gopaul Ramdatt, a farmer at Juliannesburg said that pumpkins, oranges and bora on his farms have all been destroyed. He said that he has lost a lot of money as a result of the high tides. Ganesh Ramdatt said.
Canada-based Guyanese donate 400 netbook computers to Ministry of Education

April 12, 2011—Kaieteur News

The Ministry of Education yesterday received 100 laptops from two Canada-based Guyanese businessmen. The men also promised a further 300 within weeks.

Alan Zakhir and his business partner, Chris Sammy, made the presentation yesterday (April 11, 2011), to Minister of Education, Shaik Baksh, during a ceremony at the NCERD building.

Minister Baksh lauded the efforts of the businessmen. He said that the donation was very timely given the Ministry and the government’s drives to make information technology available to all Guyanese.

Baksh said that since he took up office as Education Minister he has been pushing for better Information Technology in schools. He noted that today he is proud to say that many of the Ministry’s vision have been realised.

Baksh noted that while the Ministry is moving toward having the 110 secondary schools in Guyana equipped with computer laboratories, there is also the need for teachers to be trained in the same field.

Efforts are being made to set up Information Technology laboratories at the Cyril Potter College of Education and at the University of Guyana.

More

Gayle lambastes WICB and coach Gibson

Says coach messed up Sarwan mentally during CWC

By Sean Devers—April 21, 2011: Kaieteur News

Former West Indies Captain Chris Gayle yesterday launched a stinging attack on the West Indies Cricket Board and Coach Otis Gibson during an interview broadcast on Jamaican Radio Station Klass Sports Radio.

Kaieteur News also received additional quotes via telephone messages from a very emotional Gayle who is now in India to represent the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL T20 competition after he was not selected for today’s T20 and the first two ODIs against Pakistan in St Lucia.

The 31-year-old Gayle was responding to a West Indies Cricket Board release which expressed disappointment in him accepting the ILP offer. The WICB said it did not accept Gayle’s reason for making himself unavailable but as he has already clearly made his choice and has traveled to India, the Regional Board did not wish to stand in his way.

“The WICB is most disappointed in the manner in which Gayle has handled the entire situation, especially given the mature and cooperative manner in which two other players who refused contracts – Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard – made themselves available for selection and agreed to an understanding in the best interest of West Indies cricket.”

The WICB release said.

“I can’t sleep properly. I need to get this off my chest. I want everybody to print what I said, I want to clear the air and I want them to ease up. WICB… back up offa my back.” Gayle said during the live Radio interview.

“They are making too much press release now. Nobody knows what Chris thinking. They going overboard now, putting out all kinds of releases. So I decided to clear the air,” Gayle said.

“I was forced to make this decision based on what was happening around me. Based on what happened to Sarwan and Chanderpaul. I wanted to play. I wanted to represent West Indies. That was my ultimate goal. Based on what was happening, I had to make that decision. An opportunity presented itself… a T20 squad was named, an ODI squad was named… listen, I had no other choice but to take the IPL contract.”

Gayle informed.

“The Jamaican opener said he was forced to make the decision to go India to play IPL after the squad was named and he wasn’t informed about anything and took matters into his own hands.

“As soon as I asked for the NOC everything mash-up! Emails start coming in left and right. I was playing cricket under a lot of pressure. I wasn’t supposed to be at that World Cup… over one little simple thing. The CEO threatened me. I was threatened by the CEO that I will get dropped over one simple bit of information,” Gayle revealed.

More. Read complete article
REDjet certified by Barbados for Caribbean services
Low cost carrier has announced flights to Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad

In April 2011, REDjet received its airline certification from Barbados, and has advertised its Low Cost Carrier (LCC) fare structure for flights to Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad, with services starting in early May 2011. The airline has advertised 15% of its seats at $9.99US with structured increases in the fares until all seats are sold.

REDjet charges for optional baggage and other services, but even if all the options are included with their highest fares, REDjet’s fares are still far below the previous fares of LIAT and Caribbean Airlines.

Curacao - part of space tourism

The developers said Curacao was selected because of the nice weather and because it is a relatively quiet area in the region’s air space. (Photo: gulfboatsandrv.com)

Curacao, Thursday April 14, 2011 – The small Dutch-speaking island of Curacao will be catapulted into history when it becomes the launch pad for a Dutch business venture into space.

A group of Dutch businessmen are to offer space trips for private individuals from 2014 with one-man flights taking off from Curacao for about 35 minutes at a cost of US$ 95,000 dollars. The first flights are to take off on 1 January 2014. A press conference to launch the venture was held at the National Aerospace Laboratory in Amsterdam on the 50th anniversary of manned space travel.

Pilot Rick Searfoss will pilot the flights to a height of around 100 kilometres for the Dutch company Space Expedition Curacao (SXC). SXC is an initiative of retired Lieutenant-General Ben Droste, aviator Harry van Hulten and investors Michiel Mol and Maarten Elshove.

Searfoss, a threefold Space Shuttle astronaut and one-time Space Shuttle commander, currently works as a test pilot for XCOR, the US company which builds the Lynx2, the two-seater space ship figuring so prominently in SXC’s plans.

The reaction of this competition was immediate. Both Caribbean Airlines and LIAT have now cut their fares to compete on the three routes announced by REDjet.

REDjet management plans to buy more aircraft and have applied to service 12 other Caribbean territories. If REDjet is successful in expanding its market it will transform inter-Caribbean travel. Its low fares will also complement the low-cost travel options offered by jetBlue (USA), WestJet (Canada), and the new Air Canada LCC now being planned.

Guyanese have welcomed the low-cost REDjet services to Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica. Everyone hopes that REDjet’s fares are sustainable and that this is the end of high airline prices and poor service. Travellers now look forward to similar reductions in the high taxes and other charges that are still impediments to low cost air travel in the Caribbean.

“Near miss” plane incident highlights challenges of CJIA – Benn

Bird strike fallout…

Authorities are breathing a sigh of relief after Tuesday’s incident in which a Caribbean Airlines aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing, following a bird strike. Transportation Minister, Robeson Benn, described the incident as a “near miss” and said that the resolve of the government is steadfast in ensuring that the area along the flight path of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) remains safe.

But the challenges in ensuring that the airport, the main gateway in Guyana, remains safe are nothing new.

According to Benn, in response to questions Friday, the airport had had to deal with a number of stray dogs in the past; squatters and even a wanted criminal hiding out in the area and that problem has been resolved.

However, the squating issue is still nagging at airport management and the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority. Government plans to build a mall near the airport and to remove several of the roadside bars and snackettes located along the roadway leading to the facilities.

However, the process is far from over. Under regulations, a three-mile radius around the airport and runways should be kept clear of activities that could affect the safe operations of the planes that land and take off daily.
Barbados aims for 100% free wireless Internet

April 14, 2011 – It’s on! The goal to make Barbados the first country in the world to provide 100% free Wi-Fi access to all of its citizens is gaining major traction.

The Wi-Fi project, branded “11:11:11ON”, is designed to position Barbados as a world leader in the global marketplace. It is widely believed that Information Technology capability and capacity is the single most important transformational force that a country can harness.

This point was reiterated by Britain’s most successful black entrepreneur, Piers Linney as he spoke at the Barbados Entrepreneurship Foundation’s (BEF) Monthly Entrepreneurs’ Forum held in March. Piers noted that a successful entrepreneurial economy could not be build without decent connectivity. “In the old days you built roads, canals and railways. Now you’re building information superhighways, internet connections,” the entrepreneur had noted. more (Caribbean 360)

Above average 2011 hurricane season forecasted

COLORADO, USA - Monday April 11, 2011 - The Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University is forecasting well above-average activity for the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season.

The extended range forecast of Atlantic seasonal hurricane activity and landfall strike probability for 2011 report by the William Gray-led department specifically states that the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season will have significantly more activity than the average 1950-2000 season.

The report states that 2011 will have about nine hurricanes (average is 5.9), 16 named storms (average is 9.6), 80 named storm days (average is 49.1), 35 hurricane days (average is 24.5), five major hurricanes (average is 2.3) and 10 major hurricane days (average is 5.0). more (Caribbean 360)

Suriname plans to expand rice acreage

(De Ware Tijd) PARAMARIBO —

In the coming years, the government wants to increase Suriname’s productive rice fields systematically to 150,000 hectares in 2020. As a first step, these areas will be increased to 70,000 hectares. In order to double that amount, many measures still need to be taken.

Gerrit Breinburg pointed out that this target is achievable given the availability of sufficient agricultural land. Breinburg announced that in the coming two years, the existing infrastructure such as canals and polders will be consolidated in the coming two years. The areas will be expanded to 70,000 hectares in phases.

Grenada’s cocoa industry recovers from hurricanes

-ST.GEORGE’S, GRENADA, APRIL 7th, 2011 _

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas has described as “remarkable”, the efforts of the Grenada Cocoa Association to resuscitate the industry in 2010 and commended the Association for its management of the industry following the ravages of two hurricanes and the mismanagement of the industry by the previous administration.

Speaking to farmers attending the Annual General Meeting of the Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA) at Bain’s Hall in St. Andrew, the Prime Minister acknowledged “the consistent and constant” recovery of the industry since the devastation caused by hurricanes Ivan and Emily in 2004 and 2005.

“You, our cocoa farmers, have done remarkably well. For the first time we have reached the EC $5M mark in cocoa sales, since 2004. I especially thank the management of the Association for your prudent leadership of the industry,” said the Grenadian leader more

Re-launch of Jamaica rail services welcomed

(Jamaica Observer) Wide-eyed, jubilant spectators flocked streets and sidewalks along the route from May Pen in Clarendon to Linstead, St Catherine on Saturday, April 16, 2011, waving and shouting as the bright yellow, green and black coaches swept past them for the official test run of the Jamaica Railway Corporation’s (JRC’s) new train service.

The excitement on the faces of several of the two hundred passengers aboard the train was echoed in the expressions on the faces of members of the thick crowd that converged at the point of departure at the May Pen Railway Bridge in Clarendon.

Cell phones, still and video cameras flashed, clicked and rolled as average citizens jostled each other for the best vantage point to record the moment for posterity. more

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The Newsletter and Blog for Guyanese Individuals, Associations and Groups Worldwide Blog: guyaneseonline.wordpress.com

Nominations for awards close on May 14, 2011.

Since 2001 the Guyana Cultural Association of New York has been the leader in recognizing those who have inspired us. This year’s awards ceremony on August 31, 2011, is in Brooklyn, New York. We will acclaim creators and enablers of various features of our culture where all of us are one people - Aal bady, waan bady.

Award Categories
- Guyana Cultural Association Award
- Guyana Cultural Association Award – Youth
- Guyana Cultural Association Exemplary Award
- Guyana Cultural Association Lifetime Achievement Award

What We Do – Nominations Are Open April 14th to May 14th 2011
Request nominations from anyone or entity and assess the submissions that are complete and on time.

Nomination can be submitted for a person or an entity whose work fits within the theme – Aal bady, Waan Bady

Youth nominations must detail the academic and extracurricular accomplishments that position the nominee above the average in his or her area of scholastic and cultural activities. The nominations form is here:
http://www.guyfolkfest.org/awards_nominations2011.htm#Nominations

More information on the 2011 Awards and the Folk Festival events are available at www.guyfolkfest.org

Guyana Cultural Association, Inc.
1368 E 89th Street, #2. Brooklyn, NY 11236

Contact: Claire A. Goring. www.guyfolkfest.org
The Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations has teamed up with Prostate Cancer Canada to host a Father’s Day Walk/Run for the Cure of Prostate Cancer

Guyana Medical Relief Donates US1.9M in Medicines

GUYANA MEDICAL RELIEF DONATES US$1.9 MILLION IN MEDICINE TO MAHAICONY HOSPITAL AND BERBICE REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Guyana Medical Relief, based in Los Angeles California has been donating medicines and medical supplies to the mainly rural hospitals in Guyana. This is the longest existing Guyanese NGO in the United States, having served for over 25 years.

Recently, the Chief Operating Officer, Sharir Chan visited the Mahaicony Diagnostic Center and became aware of the shortage of medicines at this facility. Through Guyana Medical Relief’s partner, Direct Relief International of Santa Barbara, California, a supply Fed-Ex aircraft touched down in Guyana carrying over 25 pallets of supplies worth in excess of US$1.9 million.

Medicines include the common blood pressure tablet, Captopril, amoxicillin, atenolol, medformin and other cholesterol lowering medications. These medicines were directly sent to the Mahaicony Diagnostic Center and to New Amsterdam Hospital for use in the Berbice Regional Health Authority, and other hospitals.

In addition to this emergency FedEx shipment, Guyana Medical Relief on April 6th, 2011 completed a container shipment of supplies and medications to the Bartica Hospital. Source : GMR Press release April 2011

The Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations has teamed up with Prostate Cancer Canada to host a Father’s Day Walk/Run for the Cure of Prostate Cancer

Location: Malvern Community Centre Track
June 19, 2011
30 Sewells Road at Neilson Rd. TORONTO. Free parking.

Event Day Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Event Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

Additional Information: 5K walk/run, kids’ fun run, stories.
Visit www.fathersdayrun.ca click on SCARBOROUGH
1. Create a personal or team fundraising page.
2. Learn fundraising tips, track your team and personal fundraising progress and share your stories. Instant tax receipts will be issued when donations are made online.

Visit prostatecancer.ca for more information or to view our early detection guidelines.

Contact: Ingrid King - President Phone: 416-431-0273

Download this document: Father’s Day Walk-Run
Download: Scarborough brochure.2011

Victoria Village - Creole Breakfast

Guyanese Association of Manitoba Annual Family Fun Day and AGM

By: Shamela S. Rambally

Saturday, April 23 2011 started out to be a chilly and cloudy day but you would not have known that if you were at the Guyanese Association of Manitoba, annual family fun day & AGM (annual general meeting) held at Elwick Community Center, 30 Maberly Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

From early noon, kids and adults eagerly came out to enjoy the day with their fellow country people, family and community neighbours. There was activities for all ages, that kept everyone present busy from start to finish. The kids were busy scurrying around looking for hidden treats of Easter eggs, while the adults played dominos and cricket. Teams with hometown names such as Abi, Iyu, and JJ were amongst the participants in the domino tournament. Kids also enjoyed an old Guyanese Easter tradition of kite flying but used self made gliders instead, but there was one brave soul that came out with his man-made kite and flew it proudly amongst all the gliders.

There was a clown and pirate to entertain the kids by making balloon animals, there was Easter bunnies and eggs to decorate, and food galore to enjoy. Throughout the day, everyone kept themselves busy with activities that made them feel like they were at home (in Guyana). The day was a great success and ended with many acknowledgements, prizes and awards for the winners and well doers (volunteers). …

Read full report < click> 45th Independence Program

Source :> GMR Press release April 2011
Scholarship Awards Banquet

GUYANA KAIETEUR GROUP, INC.
P.O. BOX 7545 / BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002

15TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday June 11, 2011 – Time 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Admission: $65.00 per person

Hartford Hilton Hotel, in Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

To award scholarships to deserving 2011 High School Graduates going on to higher education at a University, College or Trade School

Over the years, The Guyana Kaieteur Group Inc. has awarded fifty two (52) scholarships and is very proud of the high achievement of its recipients. Our major fundraising activities are the Banquet and Souvenir Journal. A donation, purchase of space in our Souvenir Journal or purchase of ticket/s to the Banquet can help.

Download Order Form: Guyana Kaieteur Group Souvenir Journal

The above advertisement order form and flyer provides detailed information about our Scholarship Awards Banquet and Souvenir Journal. Please mail the completed order form to P.O. Box 7545, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002.

Please feel free to contact our President Sylvestus Nelson at (860) 687-1256, Vice President Grantley Adams at (860) 648-0540 or our Business Chairperson Winston Roberts at (860) 292-1496.

BUXTON - FRIENDSHIP NEWS

Buxton Friendship Express - April 2011

The Buxton - Friendship Express (newsletter) for April 2011 is now available. To enjoy a copy, please click the link below:

http://buxtonguyana.net/Buxton-FriendshipExpress2011-04.pdf

You can obtain past issues of our newsletter from our website at: www.buxtonguyana.net

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We are also pleased to announce the

CIMBUX - Memorial Weekend Dance

- an Errol Bathersfield (Bonehead) Memorial event on Saturday, May 28, 2011 in Maryland, USA.


Tipperary Hall Rising – update

Construction of the new Tipperary Hall in Buxton is progressing rapidly

Picture of Tipperary Building construction taken on April 27, 2011

Picture: Thanks to Fitzroy (Rollo) Younge.

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The Newsletter and Blog for Guyanese Individuals, Associations and Groups Worldwide  Blog: guyaneseonline.wordpress.com
Tutorial High School Reunion - 2011

11TH INTERNATIONAL TRIENNIAL REUNION

DATE: July 31 to August 7, 2011

HOSTED BY: TUTORIAL HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (TORONTO CHAPTER)

PLACE: TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

THEME: “SURGING AHEAD WITH COMMITMENT”

In this vein, we shall begin the festivities with a Church Service in the afternoon of Sunday, July 31, 2011 and close 7 days later with a Family Fun Day.

We already have in place a prestigious venue for our Highlight Dinner and Dance. Other venues are also being arranged.

Note: Please continue to check this web site for up-to-date schedule information. A complete listing of activities, with times and locations, is also available at our website: http://www.thaatoronto.org/

Download Registration form from the website.

Information on Tutorial High School—Toronto Chapter and their plans for their 11th International Triennial Reunion (click to download)
CARIBBEAN CAMERA- TORONTO 2011-04-25

Two women who have reserved Saturdays on their calendars to spend unpaid and quality time with seniors for almost 40 years have been recognized for their selfless work by MPP for Don Valley West, Kathleen Wynne.

Recently, Wynne who is also Ontario’s Transportation Minister handed out Volunteer Service Awards to 22 community volunteers, among them were the two Guyana-born women, Joyce Tadege and Yvonne Lopes.

Both women have been volunteering as members of the Senior Guyanese Friendship Association, which serves over 300 Guyanese and non-Guyanese seniors (men and women) in the community. Tadege is a founding member of the association and has been serving for the past 30 years while Lopes has been associated with it for 37 years. They both served in various capacities including as the secretary, vice-president and activities coordinator. They also play an active role in events organized by the Guyana Consulate in Toronto.

“It was a complete surprise, I didn’t expect it. Raymond Peter (a supervisor at the centre for the Parks and Recreation) called and told me that he had sent my name in and I was accepted for the award,” said Tadege told the Camera.

Yvonne Lopes on the other hand said the award is very much appreciative. “I am very proud to get it. I didn’t expect something like that. I expected just a piece of paper. It was framed; I really did not expect it.”

Both women strongly believe that volunteering makes a difference in one's life and the lives of others as it allows you to network and broaden your knowledge and skills.

The association grew from being a little club which comprised parents of young Guyanese mothers who came to Canada to assist with their grandchildren. “All they were doing were looking after the children and going to church on Sundays and we wanted them to have something different, so we started a sort of a club,” Tadege added. After a few years, the registered association was formed in 1973 and has since grown over the years to cater for any senior, regardless of country of origin, who wants to socialize with others on a Saturday afternoon.

Members are involved in making handicrafts, choir singing as well as fund raising activities and special events. more
Guyanese Achievers USA & Canada -
A Celebration

By Vidur Dindayal

Guyanese Achievers, USA and Canada is the result of collaboration between Vidur Dindayal and the Guyanese diaspora, who shared with him its recommendations on whom to identify as examples of achievement. This volume chronicles Guyanese people who reflect their nation’s rich multi-ethnic heritage. These people demonstrate that Guyanese have been successful in North America for a long time.

For example, Sir James Douglas became the governor of the colony of Vancouver Island and later the colony of British Columbia in the 1850s. Today, he is considered the “father of British Columbia.” For Guyanese, he is Guyana’s “first gift to Canada.” A statue of Sir James Douglas was unveiled in 2008 at his birthplace in Belmont, Mahaica.

At the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century, the list of Guyanese who have been gifts to the United States and Canada is impressive. Guyanese Achievers, USA and Canada celebrates the academics, actors, doctors, educators, entrepreneurs, and others who, by demonstrating inventiveness and persistence, have been recognized as exemplars of Guyanese achievement in North America.

Vidur Dindayal, architect and author, was born in Blairmont, a sugar plantation in British Guiana, now called Guyana. He was raised there and in Rosignol village nearby. He was educated in Guyana and at Delhi University. After managing part of the family business, he immigrated to London, England, where he qualified as an architect and member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Keen on community service, Vidur, a JP, has been a magistrate in London, a member of the: Social Security Appeal Tribunals, Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Interfaith and other public bodies. He is fascinated with the rich cultural heritage - (European, African, Asian, and American - a microcosm of the world) - of Guyanese. The impressive achievements of Guyanese of a small population, he celebrates in this book.

Order here: Trafford Publishing.

No Stopping Rihanna
Tops Billboard Music Awards Nominations

Rihanna - in concert: tops Billboard nominations

News Americas, NEW YORK, NY, Fri. April 15, 2011:
There is certainly no lull in the career of Bajan superstar Rihanna and her continual racking up of award nominations are like icing on the cake.

This week the sexy Bajan singer topped the nominations at the Billboard Music Awards with nominations in 18 categories.

The 23-year-old S&M singer is up for hot 100 artist, top female artist, and R&B artist, as well as her collaboration with Eminem, Love the Way You Lie, being up for six awards.

Rihanna is also set to perform at the awards.

Eminem and Lady Gaga follow closely behind Rihanna’s nominations. Eminem has 16 nominations, including rap artist and top male artist, while Gaga has 12.

There are 46 categories at this year’s awards and the winners are decided by Billboard chart rankings. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Las Vegas on May 22.

Other Related Stories

- JLo, Rihanna, Taio Cruz For Billboard Awards
- It’s Rihanna Vs. The Donald
- Rihanna, Jennifer Nettles Perform At ACM
- Louis Farrakhan Disses Rihanna
The early years of the British Guiana Labour Union (BGLU) were marked by personal rivalries between the professionals and the rank and file members who held leadership positions. In particular, there were personal clashes between A. A. Thorne and Critchlow. Allegations of corruption in the use of union funds also surfaced.

A serious unemployment crisis developed in the early 1920s, following the end of the World War, and there were strikes and riots in Georgetown in 1924. Since similar problems occurred in the British West Indies, a strong solidarity among the trade unions was forged in all the territories. A number of West Indian labour conferences also took place, and the BGLU played a leading role in all of them. During this period, Critchlow served as Secretary-Treasurer of the union; C. T. Andrews was elected President of the union in 1922.

Spearheaded by Critchlow, the union also campaigned vigorously for the reduction of rents in Georgetown. At that time, most workers, particularly those on the waterfront, lived in rented buildings in the city. When a rent reduction was won in 1922, a committee of tenants designated the 3 July 1922 as "Critchlow Day."

In April 1924, there were many strikes by various categories of workers in demand of a shorter working day and higher wages to combat the rising cost of living. When the employers refused to give in to these demands, riots broke out in various parts of Georgetown, despite appeals by Critchlow for workers to desist from violence.

After the police made numerous arrests of both men and women who were charged with inciting and for causing violence, Critchlow advised workers to end the strikes. There was some opposition to this, but in the end his decision was heeded after he declared that he would ask the Governor to intervene in the matter of wages.

Immediately after, Critchlow asked the Governor, Sir Graeme Thompson, to set up an Arbitration Board to examine the wages issue, and to force both the employers and the workers to accept its award. However, since there was no legislation to allow for the establishment of such a Board, the Governor appointed a Commission which included Critchlow as one of the two workers’ representatives. This Commission issued a report on April 24, but it did little to improve the situation.

Meanwhile, sugar workers on the East Bank Demerara also went on strike at the same time of the Georgetown strikes. On the 3 April, they marched towards Georgetown to ask Critchlow to represent them in their struggle for higher wages. However, they were stopped by the police at Ruimveldt, on the south of the city. In the disorder that broke out, the police opened fire and killed 13 persons and injured many others. The strike ended almost immediately and sugar workers returned to their jobs the next day. (See THE RUIMVELDT SHOOTING IN 1924)

Throughout this period, the BGLU expanded its international links. Critchlow represented the union at the British Commonwealth Labour Conference in 1924, 1925 and 1930 in England. The British Caribbean and West Indian Labour Conference was inaugurated in Georgetown in 1926, and Critchlow was a leading representative at this, and at subsequent conferences. (In 1938, he was elected to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Conference).

Based on his experience in the workers' struggle, Critchlow recognised that the established capitalist system was not bringing benefits to the working class. In December 1930, he addressed members of the union and called for workers to fight against capitalism, as practised by the employers, and to struggle for the establishment of socialism.

In 1931, he travelled to Germany to represent the union at the International Committee of Trade Union Workers Conference. The following year, on an invitation from the trade union movement of the Soviet Union, he visited Russia in 1932. On his return to Guyana, he spoke of the benefits Russian workers were receiving, and immediately, the local press attacked him and called him a "Red, a Communist and a Bolshevik."

With the formation of unions to represent workers in various areas, the British Guiana Trades' Union Council (TUC) was established in 1941, and Critchlow became its first General Secretary. By 1943, there were 14 affiliate unions in this umbrella body which, shortly after, joined the World Federation of Trades Unions (WFTU).

In 1948, with the advent of the Cold War, the WFTU was split, and the TUC withdrew from it and joined the pro-West break-away group, the International Confederation of Free Trades Unions (ICFTU). Critchlow represented the TUC at the ICFTU conference in London in 1949, and was elected as a "substitute" member of the Executive Council to represent the West Indian group. Later in the year he attended an International Confederation of Workers meeting in Havana, Cuba.

He also championed demands for the extension of the right to vote so that all workers could participate in national elections. Some leaders of other unions which were also formed by this time, also agitated for this cause. In 1943, he and Ayube Edun, of the Man Power Citizens' Association (MPCA), which was formed a few years before, were nominated by the Governor to represent workers in the Legislative Council.
In the following year (1944), Critchlow was appointed to the Executive Council (the Governor's Cabinet), and he served in this position until 1947. He also served as the Government's nominee on the Georgetown City Council from December 1945 to December 1950.

In the 1947 elections, Critchlow contested and won the South Georgetown constituency. But as a result of an election petition, his election was declared null and void, and he was barred from contesting for a seat in the Legislative Council for the five years. It was during these elections that Dr. Cheddi Jagan was first elected to the Legislative Council.

Despite his increased administrative and official Government duties, Critchlow continued to actively represent workers in various parts of the country. He intervened in a bauxite workers' strike at Mackenzie in 1944, but the workers, most of whom were members of the BGLU, felt that he did not represent them adequately when he agreed to a resumption of work after discussions with the management of the Demerara Bauxite Company.

In 1950, the Government appointed an Advisory Committee to examine cost of living issues and to make recommendations. These included a minimum wage of $1.52 per day, but Critchlow, who was a member of the Committee, issued a minority report calling for a minimum wage of $2.00 per day.

For his outstanding public service, he was awarded the medal of Officer of the British Empire (OBE) by King George VI in 1951. On the following year, he resigned as General Secretary of both the BGLU and the TUC, but he served on the Arbitration Panel that examined the wage dispute for waterfront workers in Grenada.

After this period, he was generally not invited to activities organised by the TUC. During the 1957 May Day parade, a contingent of workers led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan saw Critchlow standing by his gate to watch the parade. Dr. Jagan broke ranks and walked over to the gate and took him to march at the head of the parade. Later, at the demands of the workers, he was allowed to address the May Day rally.

While Critchlow served as General Secretary of the TUC, May Day (1 May) was observed annually by unionised workers with marches and rallies. He made regular demands during his annual address to workers for the day to be declared a public holiday, but this was not achieved until 1958.

This outstanding working class leader died on the 10 May 1958 at the age of 74 years. In 1963, at the request of Dr. Jagan, who was then the Premier, the famous Guyanese artist E.R. Burrows sculpted a statue of Critchlow. This statue was later placed on the grounds of Parliament Buildings. Source: CRITCHLOW IN THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE

Also read: HUBERT CRITCHLOW: THE EARLY YEARS

THE LIFE AND WORK OF HUBERT NATHANIEL CRITCHLOW

The father of Trade Unionism in British Guiana and the Caribbean

Continue from page 16