On September 11, 2011 we were reminded of the destruction of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in this slide show. Ten years ago, on this date, the world changed inexcusably. It was the day one of the most horrific terrorist attacks on the United States ever took place.

In a four pronged attack on the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists from the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally crashed two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City causing both towers to collapse within two hours. Hijackers crashed a third plane into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Following passenger attempts to take control of the fourth hijacked jet, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania before it could reach its intended target in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 3,000 people died in those attacks. In their wake, the painful memories resurface every year particularly on this date. One of the very first statements issued by the new American Ambassador to Guyana, Ambassador D. Brent Hardt was one on the September 11 attacks.

Released on Friday September 9, the Ambassador says, “on this 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, we remember that 9/11 was not only an attack on the United States, but an attack on the world and on the humanity and hopes that we share.

We remember that among the nearly 3,000 innocent people lost that day were hundreds of citizens from more than 90 nations. They were men and women, young and old, of many races and faiths. On this solemn anniversary we join with their families and nations in honoring their memory. More—read complete article.”

May their souls Rest In Peace
Guyana’s Elections
The "Youth Vote" should decide these Elections

By: Cyril Bryan — Editor

Everyone is asking “when are the Elections?” It is now the third week of September and the date has still not been announced, although outgoing President Bharrat Jagdeo bid farewell at the Providence Stadium on September 16th, 2011.

GECOM, the Elections entity, says they are ready. The Government said that the Election date will be after November 14, so the date will be between that date and December 28, the constitutional end-date for elections.

The majority of potential voters were born since Guyana’s Independence in 1966 and now the future is in their hands. If we examine the 2002 Census, and add 10 years to birth dates, the population groups could roughly be projected as follows: Ages:20-34 = 221,880; Ages:35-49 = 171,168; Ages:50-64 = 110,455; Over 65 = 64,603. The voting age is 17. The reported Ages:17-19 numbers are part of the now-15-19 age group of 96,666 persons (they were the 5-9 age group of the 2002’s census). They could number another 40-50,000 young potential voters.

The registered voter numbers would obviously be less due to mortality, especially of older persons, migration, and persons not registering to vote or retrieve their ID cards. They are quoted here merely to show the comparative potential voting strengths of the various age groups.

The 2002 Census reported that Region 4’s population was 310,320 (41% of the population). Georgetown, the capital city, is in Region 4. This Region has always been the key to election victories if the people are motivated to vote.

Unfortunately, many of the young voters are disenchanted, disinterested and demoralized and cannot see how voting makes a difference. What Guyana needs at this time is a charismatic leader, with the ability and vision to motivate the young voters in the quest to move the country forward for all its "six peoples", and thus realize its full potential.

For instance, in Suriname, President Desi Bouterse awakened young voters last year and won the elections. He is already delivering on his promises and has signed over US$10 billion in new investments, which include road/rail links to Brazil and a deep-sea port. There are also special projects geared especially to reduce youth unemployment. For years, Guyanese workers have found employment in Suriname and this migration is expected to now increase.

Guyanese Online

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, and Associations and Guyanese groups should send e-mails with their announcements, features, news, pictures, videos, ideas, event reports and advertisements for publication to the editor:

Cyril Bryan’s E-mail: guyaneseonline@gmail.com

August 20 to September 20, 2011
20 Most popular Blog entries

Guyanese who died on 9.11.2001 Remembered - In Memory of the 25 Guyanese who perished on Sept. 11, 2001
Famous People of Guyanese Heritage
Hurricane Irene - Damage in USA slide show - 117 photos
Last Lap Lime 2011 - Toronto - Photo album
WikiLeaks Guyana - Twelve Articles on US Diplomatic cables
UN Report Status of Minorities in Guyana by Gay McDougall
Updates - State of Emergency declared in Trinidad
WikiLeaks Guyana - Census provides insight into Guyanese Society
Trinidad Curfew - Video Commentary by Rachel Price
COME BACK TO GUYANA - November 1-10, 2011 - from Toronto
FBI indict President Jagdeo’s friend - Ed Ahmad
Easter Monday 2011 - 63 Beach Corentyne, Berbice
Nostalgia 565- Saga of Regent Road and Street
Port-of-Spain Trinidad: The new Baghdad
Guyana Elections 2011 - Eight Articles on Elections
Brian Lara - the cricket great - by Sanjay Manjrekar
WikiLeaks Guyana - Aftermath of Sawh Assassination
Triple Play & Fuh Fun - Calderia BBQ 2011- photo album
My Guyana El Dorada - by Ewalt (Waltie) Ainsworth
Day 3- Jagdeo vs Kissoon Libel Case... Jagdeo’s “Forget the Past” comments tested

Total Weblog hits August 2011 = 26,162
Average hits per day in August = 872
The Guyanese Online blog has over 600 articles and videos on various subjects. Your comments, articles and ideas are welcome. Thank you for your readership and support!! Support us by clicking on the online advertising ... THANKS!!

New Blog Entries for August 2011
Click to access the article on the website

1. UN Minorities report accepted as evidence in Jagdeo-Kissoon libel case
2. GuySuCo – Incompetence at Skeldon factory – Commentary
3. UN Report Status of Minorities in Guyana by Gay McDougall
4. Day 3- Jagdeo vs Kissoon Libel Case… Jagdeo’s “Forget the Past”
5. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
6. Ten Things Martin Luther King, Jr. Taught Us
7. Jagdeo brushes off US Envoy’s concerns about Guyana’s Narco-image
8. Corruption in India – 12 day hunger strike forces change
9. Hurricane Irene – Damage in USA slide show – 117 photos
10. Guyana Oriental College Old Students Association
12. Guyana heading for narco-statehood – Wikileaks
13. Trinidad Curfew – Video Commentary by Rachel Price
14. Guyana Elections Day almost certain in November
15. Freddie vs Jagdeo libel case – Updates of trial
16. The ADHD Scam and the Mass Drugging of Schoolchildren
17. Blueberries faked in cereals, muffins, bagels and other food products
18. Damn or fear it, the truth is that it’s an insurrection
19. Scotiabank Toronto Caribbean Festival – formerly “Caribana”
20. GUYANESE ONLINE NEWSLETTER – August 2011
21. The “Accidental Rudeness” of the British
22. Alumni Associations Dance – September 3 – Brooklyn, NY
23. Cricket board blasted in India after English whitewash
24. Updates – State of Emergency declared in Trinidad
26. Jagdeo defends purchases from Ahmad, tax-waivers
27. FBI inds President Jagdeo’s friend – Ed Ahmad
29. CARIBBEAN EVENTS CALENDAR – to December 2011
30. Keep an eye on Suriname – letter
31. Revamping the education system in Guyana
32. US had provided info on cops’ drug connections-Rajmattan
33. Police order India activist freed after protests
34. Obama Will Triumph — So Will America
35. ‘Black Clothes’ police running drug blocks
36. BHS and QC Alumni New York – Labor Day Sunday Jam – Sept 4
37. QC Alumni Toronto – Dinner Dance – October 28,2011
38. REDJet eyes Antigua and Brazil – Fuel cost a problem
39. Where are the billions? – letter by “Joey” Jagan
40. Linden Fund Canada AGM – September 10, 2011
41. Guyana Folk Festival Symposium 2011 – Update

Top 30 Blog Entries for August 2011
Click to access the article on the website

1. Last Lap Lime 2011 - Toronto - Photo album
2. Triple Play & Fuh Fun - Calderia BBQ 2011- photo album
3. Saints Caribjam and Victoria Pub - 2011 Photo Album
4. GTLIME 10th Anniversary 2011 - Photo Album
5. Easter Monday 2011 - 63 Beach Corentyne, Berbice
6. FBI inds President Jagdeo’s friend – Ed Ahmad
7. Updates - State of Emergency declared in Trinidad
8. Hurricane Irene - Damage in USA slide show - 117 photos
9. Famous People of Guyanese Heritage
10. “Go Brave! - Obama” by Singing Francine
11. Last Lap Lime 2011 - QC Alumni Toronto
12. CAL Plane from NYC crashes at Guyana's airport + video
13. Plane Crash - Editorial
14. UN Report - Minorities in Guyana - Gay McDougall
15. Corentyne centenarian reaches an amazing 110 years
16. Where are the billions? - letter by "Joey" Jagan
17. Guyana - Original Folk Songs
18. Trinidad Curfew - Video Commentary by Rachel Price
19. Tilapia production idea for Guyana - Tony Vieira
20. TAKUTU BRIDGE - Rupununi, Guyana
21. Pictures: Caribbean Airlines plane crash in Guyana
22. BHS and QC Alumni NY - Labor Day Sunday Jam - Sept 4
23. US had provided info on cops’ drug connections-Rajmattan
24. Obama Will Triumph -- So Will America
25. "Little Richard" - the entertainer
26. Keep an eye on Suriname - letter
27. CARIBBEAN EVENTS CALENDAR – to December 2011
28. "Rip Off Britain" - a society in shambles - letter
29. Last Lap Lime - Toronto - Monday August 1, 2011
30. REDJet expanding flights from T&T to Caribbean

42. Last Lap Lime 2011 – QC Alumni TorontoPictures: Caribbean Airlines plane crash in Guyana
43. UK youth – living outside the boundaries of civilised society
44. VIDEO: Children having children contributing to poverty
45. Global Economic Downturn: A Crisis of Political Economy
46. Suriname eying US$3.5B of investments
47. Transaction was a private affair – Luncheon
48. PPP’s postpones congress to campaign; Nagamootoo dismisses reason
49. Britain Debating Cause Of Its Worst Unrest In Years
50. Nothing ‘mindless’ about Rioters
51. Plane Crash – Editorial
52. REDJet expanding flights from T&T to Caribbean
53. Last Lap Lime 2011 - Toronto - Photo album
54. Saints Caribjam and Victoria Pub - 2011 Photo Album
55. GTLIME 10th Anniversary 2011 - Photo Album
56. Triple Play & Fuh Fun - Calderia BBQ 2011- photo album
57. Tilapia production idea for Guyana – Tony Vieira
58. Guyana, Belize reduced hunger by 50% in 2010 – FAO
59. Corentyne centenarian reaches an amazing 110 years
60. CAL Plane from NYC crashes at Guyana’s airport + video
News: Royal Caribbean to compensate passengers

Caribbean 360) St. Kitts, Monday September 5, 2011 —

Royal Caribbean International (RCI), has backed off on its policy that says it won’t compensate passengers for weather events that alter a cruise.

Royal Caribbean drew criticism people booked to sail on the Serenade of the Seas on August 21 were stranded in San Juan after the ship departed early to avoid Hurricane Irene. The cruise line is keeping mum on the amount of compensation.

“We are in the process of contacting those guests who were not able to sail with us to inform them of their compensation, and would prefer that the impacted guests learn of the amount directly from the line before it is disclosed publicly,” said spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez.

“We are compensating these passengers,” she added, “because we understand that this was an unusual situation, and we want to provide our guests with another opportunity to sail with Royal Caribbean International in the future.”

Fifteen passengers who had booked their air through Royal Caribbean were provided hotel accommodations in San Juan on August 21 and 22, along with air transportation to Aruba on August 23, where they boarded the Serenade. RCI said these passengers also will be compensated with a future cruise certificate for 30 percent of the cruise fare.
Five Reasons Why a Professional Business Place is Important

With today’s technology options, it is very easy for many to enjoy the telecommuting benefits of working at home. However, even with the latest tools and technology there are still some important factors to consider if you are lacking a professional workplace.

1. **Professional Image** – A physical business address versus a home address or Post Office box is important to your customers’ perception in determining if they believe you are a reliable business. It may not be important if you deliver exceptional products and services, however, you may miss the opportunity if you do not present a professional, credible image in the beginning.

2. **Distractions** – The distractions of a home office (barking dogs, kids, chores, spouses) can throw your concentration and productivity off course quickly, not to mention the reflection on your business if these noises can be heard in the background of an important call.

3. **Meetings** – A professional place to meet your clients and colleagues improves your image and shows you are serious about your business. It also ensures that the privacy of your negotiations and discussions is protected and eliminates the distractions and interruptions of a meeting in a public venue or a home environment.

4. **Privacy** – Personal privacy regarding your home address is important so you do not have uninvited visitors showing up at your door without warning. This could be a big problem if you are not presentable for the business world.

5. **Package Delivery** – You may miss important package deliveries if you are not home.

In addition to the convenience and other benefits of a home office, the office space rent savings is a huge benefit. It is a great hybrid workplace solution that allows the freedom to work just about anywhere, yet provide the professional business address, meeting place and other business amenities as needed.

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**Guyana Christian Charities (Canada)**

**Upcoming Event - 2011**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2011 at 1.00 p.m.**

**ANNUAL FOOD FAIR AND BAKE SALE**

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church Hall
1490 Markham Road
(North of 401 – Entrance on Milner Avenue)

Free Admission

Joe Castanheiro -- 416-286-1956
Mike Gonsalves -- 416-420-0565
Des De Barros -- 905-837-0135
Dennis Choy -- 905-839-0434
Karen Heifa -- 416-287-2526

E-Mail: info@gcccanada.org

The annual Food and Bake Sale at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall (Markham Road and 401), is our biggest fund-raising effort. It is supported by many Guyanese and West Indians, as well as others, in the Greater Toronto and surrounding areas.

Please Support us
Colors, pride of the Caribbean shine brighter than the sun at the West Indian American Day Parade

By Ashley N. Fleming, Katie Nelson and Bill Hutchinson, DAILY NEWS WRITERS - NYC

Tuesday, September 6th 2011, 4:00 AM

The colors of the Caribbean nations were on display in Brooklyn Monday as tens of thousands of revelers gyrated to the beat of the West Indian Day Parade.

Humid weather and an occasional thunder shower did little to muffle the steel drums, staccato whistles, horns and dancing feet of the most festive of New York festivities.

"I wait for this all year," said Katty Antoine, 20, of East Orange, N.J. Antoine had "Haiti" shaved into her hair, carried the Haitian flag in both hands and was dressed from head to toe in red, blue, white and green - the colors of her homeland.

"I love the Haitian float," Antoine said. "It's the best float in the whole country." Conrad Peters, 21, a student at Queens College, said he was there to represent Trinidad. "I love my heritage," he said. "I'm wearing my country's colors to represent for my family and show America how great my country is."

The parade is a mandatory stop for city politicians representing Brooklyn and beyond. Mayor Bloomberg marched the Eastern Parkway route, waving to cheering spectators and ignoring the boos of others. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz tried to keep rhythm with the soca and calypso sounds as he rode a float with reggae music legend Mighty Sparrow.

Along the 2-mile parade route, vendors hawked jerk chicken, red beans and rice, and bandanas and flags of West Indian nations from Turks and Caicos to Trinidad and Tobago.

Ian Noray, 48, said, "It's carnival in my country! Everything they celebrate in a month, we cram into one day," the Trinidad native shouted. "The best part is, all creeds and races of people gather here together."

With Jennifer H. Cunningham w hustinson@nydailynews.com

The sun was in and out, but the scattered showers didn't dampen the spirits of thousands of people at the 2011 West Indian Day Parade.

Spectacular Sun-filled Parlor 1 Bedroom Suite in Harlem Landmark Area

Come to Harlem and stay at a spectacular sun-filled parlor suite in a privately-owned landmarked brownstone as your vacation home. Experience spacious rooms with original oak floors, original wood details and 12 foot ceilings in an open loft like style.

The suite has a soothing color scheme with beautiful and comfortable furniture. The suite consists of a one bedroom with a Queen size tempur-pedic bed and antique dressers. The living room has a queen size sofa bed and flat screen tv with cable and wireless internet access.

It also consists of a fully equipped kitchen with stainless steel appliances and all utensils to cook a four course meal and then serve on a four person dining room table, which can be expanded to accommodate more guests, if necessary. A full size private bathroom with tub/shower combination is in the unit.

Management lives on site and is available to help you with all your questions and needs.

Come and experience the 'New Harlem' ……… and Guyanese hospitality. See reviews at the website

Photos and Description of the Harlem vacation apartment rental. 1 Spacious Bedroom, Queen-sized pull out sofa, 1 full bathroom, sleeps 4. Website link is here. <click

Nearby highlights include the Convent Baptist Church, Abyssinian Baptist Church, City College, Columbia University, Hamilton House Grange, the word-famous Apollo Theatre and the Schomburg Library. Theatre District, 42nd Street, Museum Mile within 15 minutes via subway

Per night $150 - $225

Call: Teresa or Lexi - Speaks English, Spanish

Telephone: +1 347 748-5831 - mention Guyanese Online
Guyanese Association of Manitoba

By: Sharmela S. Rambally.

Song, dance, food and fun!!
Hey bus driver turn around the bus!!

TRIP TO THE BEACH ...

Sunday September 11, 2011 is a day everyone here in this picture will not forget. This was the first trip for the program and it was extremely enjoyed by all. Over 45 members of the association and its senior members enjoyed a bus trip to south beach and grand beach with songs, jokes, fellowship and laughter. From the moment everyone entered the bus till the departed there were happiness, joy and contentment for the company, entertainment and beautiful day they were amongst.

Kudos to my fellow executives, President Kamta Roy Singh, Vice-President Sam Kaidnath, first lady Pam Kaidnath (PSK), Hostess with the most Director Vinita Bayney and Ricardo Kallu for an excellent job in keeping everyone entertained, well fed and happy.

Much thanks to Pammy Persuad and the Guyanese Association song birds, including Aunty Bibi & Uncle Hanif, Aunty Jaimattie, Savitri Singh, Aunty Joyce and all of our precious songstresses. I personally would like to say to all of you thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Looking forward to our next trip, let’s start planning.

GUYANA MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

A California Public Benefit (Non-Profit) Corporation #95-4192121 cordially invites you to its

27TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.—Dinner Service at 8:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM
3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

Music by DJ Marcus B

Donation: $60.00 per person in Advance
(please purchase tickets by September 30 and please write out “Guyana medical relief” in the “pay to” line on all checks)

For Tickets/Information, Please call: Sharir Chan–530-419-3123; Sonia Isaacs–310-645-9774;

GUYANA MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.
A California Public Benefit (Non-Profit) Corporation #95-4192121

Download Flyer: Dinner Dance Flyer 2011

The Newsletter and Blog for Guyanese Individuals, Associations and Groups Worldwide Blog: guyaneseonline.wordpress.com
Nothing to negotiate re Guyana-Venezuela border

The recent statement by Foreign Minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett that Guyana has made a full submission of a claim to an extended continental shelf to the United Nations, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), has elicited an interesting pair of responses in Venezuela – or rather, one interesting response and one interesting non-response.

No Official Reaction

In the latter instance, there has been no official reaction by the Venezuelan government. On the other hand, El Universal, a major Caracas daily generally regarded as conservative, appeared to take umbrage at this perfectly legitimate move to extend our continental shelf by up to 150 nautical miles from the 202 nautical mile outer limit of the existing exclusive economic zone. Venezuelan objections are, of course, rooted in that country’s spurious and irritating claim to the Essequibo region and, by extension, the adjacent maritime zone, which has long been a hindrance to our development.

El Universal Indignation

El Universal begins its September 13 article on a note of high indignation: “The old Venezuelan claim to the Essequibo territory has not been able to gain a centimetre of that area, but on the other hand Guyana is trying to acquire a maritime space greater than it enjoys.” The newspaper goes on to report that the Venezuelan foreign ministry has not issued any public statement, in the absence of which, it turns to Sadio Garavini, the Venezuelan ambassador to Guyana from 1980 to 1984.

Mr Garavini explains that, in such cases, the extension of the continental shelf is made known via a unilateral declaration: “It is like information which is provided to the effect that one is assuming the right that one already has.” But then he adds that Venezuela should reject the extension, since the area under consideration is part of the so-called “Zone in Reclamation.” It obviously escapes Mr Garavini’s attention that this term is itself a unilateral assertion, not supported by international law.

“Venezuela has rights to Essequibo” – Garavini

Moreover, Mr Garavini contends that since, in his view, Venezuela has rights to Essequibo, “this would be a good reason and a good moment to press for negotiations.” Even more startling is his reported allegation that when there were “serious” negotiations, Guyana had indicated “informally that it was ready to give Venezuela a very small piece of territory on the coast.” This would have offered Venezuela, in Mr Garavini’s words, “the possibility of extending our territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, which is very important because it is rich in petroleum.”

It would be all too easy to dismiss this unsubstantiated recollection as the ramblings of an embittered, former diplomat put out to grass by President Chávez, but Mr Garavini is remembered as an intelligent and energetic ambassador. There has to be another reason for such a position and it most probably lies in the complex domestic political situation prevailing in the ‘Bolivarian Republic.’

Criticism of Chavez re Guyana

Mr Garavini is a known critic of Mr Chávez and his government. In this regard, he assails the Venezuelan president for having delegitimized the Venezuelan claim by saying to President Jadgeo, according to a February 2004 US Embassy cable published by WikiLeaks, that it was “spurious and the product of imperialist pressures.” Mr Garavini believes, furthermore, that for Venezuela to say nothing now would be a tacit recognition that the area is Guyana’s and that Mr Chávez’s government has already ceded one of the most important weapons of negotiation by not withholding recognition of the investments made by transnational corporations in the Essequibo region.

Rekindling of Nationalism

This view of Mr Chávez’s seemingly benign disposition towards Guyana notwithstanding, no comfort should be taken from the official silence of the Venezuelan government thus far. The history of our relationship with our western neighbour shows that domestic political pressures have a way of rekindling nationalistic ogling of Essequibo. And the online reactions to El Universal’s article have been unanimous in their anger at Mr Chávez for allowing Guyana to hold on to and develop Essequibo.

We must therefore be vigilant with regard to the political dynamics in Venezuela and the popular belief in the righteousness of their false claim. The move by our government to protect our territorial rights and developmental interests, from the northwest to the Corentyne, in accordance with international law is correct. We must be equally unanimous in our support for such a course of action.

From our perspective, there is, of course, nothing to negotiate, no concessions to be made. Nor can Venezuela seek a negotiation on the extension of our continental shelf or the delimitation of our maritime borders, when it has chosen to remain outside the international legal framework of UNCLOS. And any solution to the border controversy has to remain within the multilateral ambit of the good officer process under the auspices of the UN Secretary General.

See also: WikiLeaks Guyana – 20% of fuel smuggled from Venezuela – Border Dispute still alive
**Jagdeo says ‘farewell’ at Stadium celebrations**

**September 17, 2011 – Kaieteur News**  
.. Lashes out at critics

Even though he is yet to announce a date for national elections, President Bharrat Jagdeo said “farewell” yesterday, and lashed out at critics of his 12-year presidency, saying they come from the “scandal industry.”

His comments came at an appreciation ceremony put together by who he said were “friend” and “the organizers” who have been careful to say that the cultural performances were voluntary even as they promoted the involvement of the Police and Army, the National School of Dance and other state entities.

The state-owned radio and TV broadcaster NCN was used to broadcast the event live, with sponsors such as the state-owned Guyana Oil Company.

But even before the event, commuters using the East Bank early in the morning were greeted by derogatory road markings against the President. These were later wiped over by the Police.

The event, which ended with fireworks and included participation of at least one Amerindian group that was flown to Georgetown by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, attracted a crowd that filled the National Stadium to capacity.  

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**New US Ambassador to Guyana arrives**

**September 10, 2011 | By KNEWS**

The new US Ambassador to Guyana, D. Brent Hardt, arrived in Guyana on Thursday September 8, after having been confirmed by the Senate in June. His arrival would mean that Guyana would have a resident ambassador after a two-year hiatus.

He was sworn in as Ambassador to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on August 19, 2011.

According to a release from the local US Embassy in Georgetown, Ambassador Hardt is a career Senior Foreign Service Officer with extensive service in the Western Hemisphere and Europe.  

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**Guyanese economy records growth in first half of 2011**

**September 5, 2011 – The Guyanese economy has achieved real economic growth of 5.9 percent in the first half of 2011, boding extremely well for the remainder of the year. This is according the fifth mid-year report presented by the Finance Ministry to the National Assembly.**

Underlying this overall expansion in real gross domestic product in the first half was growth in the non-sugar sectors of 5% aided by increased rice and gold production.

The report stated that, “as a result of this performance, and given updated outlooks for the various productive sectors, the economy is now projected to grow by 5.1 percent in 2011 with non-sugar growth projected at 3.4 percent, an upward revision from the original projections of 4.6 percent and 2.8 percent respectively at the time of Budget 2011.”

The rice industry continued its successes of recent years into the first half of 2011, coming off a remarkable production performance in 2010. The 2011 first crop rice production at 207,514 tonnes was 23.3 percent higher than the corresponding period in 2010 and the highest first crop in the industry’s history due to improved drainage and irrigation and improved seed types and stocks.

Production of bauxite reached a total of 815,505 tonnes at the half year, an increase of 38.6 percent compared to the same period in 2010. The composition of the industry’s output, a higher proportion of lower grade to higher grade product, converts into a sub-sector growth of 13.8 percent for a yearly value added in the bauxite industry now projected at 13.4 percent.

Total gold production in the first half of 2011 was 163,413 ounces, an increase of 14.9 percent over 2010. With gold prices hovering firmly above US$1,500 per ounce and approaching US$1,800 per ounce in the post mid-year period, there is every incentive to invest and operate in the industry.

Gold production for the year is now projected to reach 320,000 ounces, resulting in an upward revision in the industry’s projected growth from 2.9 percent to 3.7 percent.  

(excerpts Caribbean360)  
Detailed GINA Report here
Guyexpo 2011 Launched

Georgetown, GINA, September 1, 2011

Guyana and the Caribbean’s annual premier trade fair and exposition “Guyexpo” was officially launched under the theme “Enhancing Growth through Competitiveness”, by Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Maniram Prashad on Wednesday evening August 31, at the auditorium of Guyana’s International Conference Centre, Lilienaal, East Coast Demerara.

The event, slated for September 29 to October 2 at the Sophia Exhibition Centre, is known to be Guyana’s largest Trade and Investment Exposition showcasing locally produced goods and services.

Among the activities planned for this year’s exposition would be a business seminar, where local entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to meet their overseas counterparts who are interested in the development of Guyana’s markets and engage in activities which will help them to expand their businesses.

Local exhibitors will have the opportunity to meet, network, and negotiate with international companies and establishments, and showcase their skills, talents and creativity.

This annual event provides a platform for both local and foreign businesses that import, export, retail and wholesale. It fuses together a wide cross section of products of handicraft, furniture, garments, jewellery, horticulture, pharmaceuticals, tourism, information technology and most of all Guyanese culture.

Canadian Gold Exploration Company Begins Potaro Lidar Survey

September 10, 2011 - Kaieteur News

Cinro Resources Inc., (the “Company” or “Cinro”) a Canadian exploration company dedicated to the exploration of Gold and polymetallic deposits in Guyana, South America has entered into its second phase of its exploration into its Potaro group of permits (hard rock mining).

Cinro Resources Inc., intends to further advance these properties to where a resource quality and quantity is defined, resulting in a technical report acceptable to Canadian standards.

Cinro intends to make financial investments in its first two years of operations, with a combined larger investment over the next 10 years.

These investment will be in the form of joint ventures or actual outright purchases of existing producing mines. Cinro Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Roy Singh, visited Guyana in early August and met with Prime Minister Samuel Hinds.

Mr Roy Singh said, “The people of Guyana are warm, friendly and hard working and it will be an asset for Cinro to hire directly from within the country – all that it can. We understand and expect that a number of persons will be non-nationals with skills, expertise, experience and contacts not available at the time in Guyana.”

Commercial sector adopting a culture of electricity theft – GPL

(Kaieteur News—August 28, 2011)

An increase of electricity theft in the commercial sector has been noted by Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) despite major monitoring efforts and an ongoing surveillance programme, according to GPL Chief Executive Officer, Bharrat Dindyal.

Some of the businesses in the commercial sector that are guilty of electricity theft include establishments that construct furniture, wood processing companies, ice companies, hotels, and fish processing companies.

Alluding to the fact that more stringent penalties are in place to deal with defaulters since the implementation of the Electricity Sector Reform (Amendment) Bill 2010, Dindyal said the situation is growing at an alarming rate and persons and companies caught stealing electricity and facing conviction more than three times can be denied permanent service.

Underscoring that these companies also charge for their services, the CEO noted that GPL installs I-Tron meters for business entities but despite this, they use elaborate methods to steal electricity. However, there has been some degree of success, while law enforcement must also play their part in curbing the theft of electricity. Noting that the situation is serious countrywide, Dindyal said some of the guilty parties seem to have what he termed “an endless supply of wire and ideas”.

However, the company stressed it was taking a number of steps to curb the theft of electricity, one of which is the use of a special type of meter – the ITron meter – that is being used for large consumers in a secure environment. In addition, for small customers, the company is offering the prepaid meter, which discourages consumers from accessing it with the intention of tampering.

Dindyal said the company will continue to work towards reducing both technical and commercial losses as it operates in an environment of high fuel prices.

According to the GPL, the power company will replace 15,000 main demand meters with minor meters, install 1,365 Itron meters and replace 9,000 defective meters among other measures.

Records reveal that 22 percent of the company’s losses are technical in nature and are largely as a result of electricity theft, faulty meters and deficiencies in the billing system, while electricity theft costs GPL $2B annually.
**Education Officer addresses situation of teachers attending UG**

August 28, 2011 | By Kaieteur News

Things did not run as smoothly as they should have run regarding teachers in Berbice who attended the University of Guyana Berbice Campus (UGBC) during the last school year. These sentiments were shared by Regional Education Officer of Region Six, Mrs Shafiran Bhajan. She stated that the physical absence of the teachers from the classroom to attend UG is severely impacting the system, since some teachers attend classes as many as three days weekly.

Some matters with the teachers’ UG timetables were not done to the best that they could have been done. “When we analyzed the [teachers’ UG] timetables themselves, we saw that people doing the same courses... some applied for release for earlier times, like some going to a 9:15 [am] class (at UG) and people going [to] the same course going to an 11:15 class, so we found disparity and professional ethics.. and personal integrity were compromised by the teachers.”

Bhajan said that teachers should be more honest. She lauded the leniency of the Ministry of Education (MOE) with regards to teachers’ attendance to UG. “In other countries you go [to university] during the holiday season for courses; you must be a graduate before you enter teaching at the secondary level of education. You must be a trained teacher before you come to teach the primary level. more

**Chinese firm Haier wins One Computer Per Family (OLPF) Contract**

Kaieteur News — September 1, 2010

A Chinese company that goes by the name, Haier Electrical Appliances Limited, yesterday won a US$7.5 million contract to supply 27,000 laptops under the government’s One Laptop Per Family (OLPF) Project.

Haier was one of two companies that President Bharrat Jagdeo six months ago said could be favoured to supply laptops, utilizing the Chinese grant funding for the project. The government set aside $1.8 billion in this year's budget for the project, and Jagdeo had said the Chinese government would support the project with an US$8 million grant.

Jagdeo was quoted by the Guyana Chronicle on February 12, 2011, as saying that because the grant is from China, it may be required that a Chinese firm supplies the laptops for that allocation of funds, “probably one of two major suppliers – Haier and Lenovo....”

Haier Electrical Appliances was one of three companies whose bids met the bid criteria, but Haier ranked the highest of the three, Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh said yesterday in announcing that the Cabinet – the Council of government ministers chaired by the President – gave its no objection for Haier Electrical Appliances Limited, to be awarded the contract. The decision was taken last Friday by the Cabinet. .. more

**IDB funding feasibility study of Linden/Lethem road**

Kaieteur News— September 13, 2011

The review of the Linden to Lethem Road feasibility study by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Public Works Ministry is expected to conclude next month, says Leon Goring, Engineer, Public Works Ministry.

According to Goring, the preliminary designs outline numerous options for the road. Some of them include leaving the road as it is; utilizing laterite surface with gravel base; transforming the stretch into an asphalted concrete surface; and chip sealing the road.

He said that with the exception of the option to leave the road as it is, the other options provide for the construction of concrete bridges to replace the timber bridges along the stretch.

However, in the interim, maintenance works continue on the stretch. In early May, the Ministry awarded three contracts totaling $193M to contractors for the execution of rehabilitation and maintenance works on 265 miles of the Linden to Lethem roadway. Before, the contractors could have commenced works, heavy rainfall in the hinterland region and the over flowing of the Takutu River banks, flooded certain sections of the road. This added to the current deplorable condition of the road.

Goring stressed that the contractors, Mekdeci Machinery Company (MMC) and BK International, are expected to conduct maintenance works along the stretch for one year. They were also awarded contracts to repair deplorable sections of the road. This should be concluded by year-end.

He emphasized that MMC is executing works from Kurupukari to Linden. This programme is 25 percent completed. BK International is responsible for works from Kurupukari to Lethem and 10 percent is completed. Goring noted that infrequent rainfall in the region has allowed the contractors to execute works on the deteriorated sections. He added that large buses are not allowed to traverse the stretch, only minibuses and cargo trucks. more
**REDjet calls for true “open skies” in the Caribbean**

*(Caribbean360) MARIGOT, St Martin, Monday September 19, 2011*

– Chief Executive Officer of low-cost carrier Redjet Ian Burns has accused Caribbean governments of seeking to protect their own aviation interests by failing to deliver on an open skies agreement.

The charge was leveled at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation’s inaugural State of the Industry conference which has just ended here.

Burns said the “outdated” agreements that are in force in the region “seek to restrict growth and allow for political control to operate protectionism in direct conflict with the developments in aviation throughout the globe and consumer rights.”

“We have got to bring an end to the failed policies of protectionism and bureaucracy and relieve the over-burdened tax payer of a milestone that deprives countries of hospitals, schools and sustainable job creation,” he told the meeting.


**Cuba travel set to take off as flight options expand**

Miami Herald – September 11, 2011: (excerpt)

Miami is no longer the only show in town when it comes to Cuba travel. Charter firms have been authorized to offer service from airports around the country, including Fort Lauderdale and Tampa.

Earlier this year, the United States authorized people-to-people exchanges that make it easier for a wider variety of Americans to visit Cuba, lifted some restrictions on academic trips, and expanded the number of cities that can serve as gateways for Cuba travel from three to 15.

While many have embraced the changes — a record number of travelers from the United States are expected this year — others have criticized the flights because landing fees and payments for other services flow to Cuban government coffers.

Miami International Airport has long been the main gateway for Cuba travel — eight charter companies handled 7,616 departing and arriving flights last year — and it will continue to be.

(Miami Herald – September 11, 2011)

**Carnival strikes visitor deal with Jamaica**

*Kingston, Jamaica, August 18, 2011—*

Carnival Cruise Lines has reached an agreement with the Government of Jamaica, which will guarantee cruise ship ports in Montego Bay and Ocho Rios at least 1.2 million visitors over three years.

The agreement will ensure that both ports maintain current levels of cruise arrivals, despite the competition from the new Falmouth Cruise Ship Pier. Carnival has also agreed that if it fails to deliver the agreed number of visitors, it will pay the difference between the actual numbers and the guaranteed figure.

Minister of Transport and Works Mike Henry described the achievement as “another important milestone” for his ministry, and commended both Carnival Cruise Line and the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) for their support.

“This development means that Ocho Rios and Montego Bay will continue to see the same volume of visitors as before, and it means that everyone can now plan in relation to the arrival of cruise ships from Carnival to these ports,” he noted.

Henry said that in the context of the need for continued growth, the Government will be revisiting opportunities to expand both ports, and discussions will continue with interested parties on developing the landside of the ports, to increase the attractions for visitors and improve earning capacity.

China pledges billion dollar loan to Caribbean
support for exports, scholarships, agriculture and tourism

(Barbados360) Wednesday September 14, 2011 – The Business Conference of the third China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum in Trinidad and Tobago has brought promising results with China committing finances to support regional governments, up exports, offer scholarships and fortify agriculture.

Chinese vice Premier Wang Qishan has pledged US$1 billion of preferential loans to support the economic development of the region. He said the Chinese government will further deepen China-Caribbean cooperation in such areas as finance and investment, capacity building, environmental protection, new energy, culture, education, health, trade, tourism as well as agriculture and fishery.

In finance and investment, the China Development Bank will set up US$1 billion in special business loans to finance infrastructure.

China will also donate US$1 million to the Caribbean Development Fund. In capacity building, the Chinese side will offer training courses for no less than 2,500 Caribbean nationals and 30 at the postgraduate level to study in China. The Asian giant will also help build an early warning monitoring network for earthquakes and tsunamis and provide training for disaster reduction and prevention.

"China will continue to support the Caribbean countries’ efforts in developing their economies, improving people's livelihood, promoting the Caribbean regional integration process and playing an active role in international affairs," Wang said.

In recent years, China-Caribbean relations have maintained fruitful cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, science and technology, and infrastructure, he said.

Over the last six years, China-Caribbean cooperation has moved on the fast track, the Chinese vice premier said, adding that bilateral trade, increased by an annual average of 24 percent, reaching US$7.2 billion in 2010.

UN: Violent Crime threatens Caribbean development
“chronic insecurity and entrenched inequality could undermine hard-won gains”

(Barbados Nation) Barbadians poor work ethic may be the biggest impediment to doing business successfully here.

The World Economic Forum, an independent organization in Europe, has placed “poor work ethic in the national labour force” as the “most problematic factor for doing business in this country.

However, the island’s largest public sector trade union, the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), has rapped the report, with general secretary Dennis Clarke stating that some foreign businesses were frustrated they could not come here and treat workers “how they like”.

Chief executive officer of the National Initiative for Service Excellence (NISE) Kim Tudor called it “distressing”.
Stabroek News—September 17, 2011

REDJet expanding Caribbean routes: starts sales

(Barbados360) Barbados, Friday September 16, 2011 – REDJet will begin flying to Jamaica from Barbados and Trinidad in another two months.

The airline’s Business Development Director Robbie Burns says tickets go on sale for flights to start of flights on Sunday, November 20. The announcement yesterday came almost two months after REDJet got the green light to operate in Jamaica from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Flights to Jamaica from Barbados and Trinidad will be operated twice weekly.

“REDJet is confident that they will manage the new passenger load with a recently acquired third aircraft, Nickitastic,” said the REDJet statement.

CEO and Chairman Ian Burns also said that REDjet’s fleet will increase to five aircraft, with one aircraft due to be in service by December and another during the first quarter of 2012.

Barbados gets poor work ethic rating

“Societies and states are sometimes tempted to use illegal means to fight crime, and the public debate on insecurity can become unduly polarized. Clark suggested that more coordination is needed across borders in matters of intelligence, security, and policing.

The UNDP official noted, though, that in the last two decades, the region’s quest for democratic governance has made great progress, with the strengthening of electoral democracy and a steady transition towards civilian and more transparent forms of governance.

Given the scope of the challenge facing the region, the next UNDP Human Development Report for Latin American and the Caribbean will focus on people’s security.

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Trinidad Curfew - “WE WILL WIN WAR”
support for exports, scholarships, agriculture and tourism

The announcement of the expansion of the “hot-spot” areas was made at a national security briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister in St. Clair.

It came after a marathon meeting of the National Security Council which began at 10.30 am and ended at about 5.30 pm and which is understood to have addressed a wide range of issues, including the need to review curfew areas and the recent collapse of criminal cases against 21 men who were alleged to have been members of a Nelson Street, Port-of-Spain gang.

From the very day the curfew hours came into effect in an initial six crime “hot-spot” areas, there have been calls for them to be reviewed.

Caribbean countries get high ranking in FDI Report

The Financial Times has ranked five Caribbean countries among the top ten Caribbean and Central American Countries of the Future.

Trinidad and Tobago was placed third, followed by Barbados in fourth place. Jamaica was ranked 10th position.

Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands were the only Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member countries on the list, coming in sixth and seventh respectively.

Costa Rica was ranked number one in the Caribbean and Central America.

The rankings are created by the British media group’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Intelligence Division as a benchmark of the investment attractiveness of countries and cities in more than 55 sectors for 350 locations around the world.

SHELL discovers oil off French Guiana coast

LONDON, September 9, 2011/PRNewswire-FirstCall --
As part of the Tullow-operated joint venture, Shell today confirms an oil discovery in the Guyane Maritime permit approximately 150-kilometers offshore French Guiana.

The GM-ES-1 well is being drilled in a water depth of over 2,000 meters and to date has drilled to a depth of 5,711 meters. The well has encountered over 70-meters of net oil pay in two objectives. The joint venture plans to drill ahead to the planned target depth.

"We are pleased with the preliminary results of this first ever deepwater well offshore French Guiana," said Dave Lawrence, Shells executive vice president Exploration and Commercial. "We are early in the evaluation, but the initial results are encouraging for this new play. The joint venture will continue to drill ahead, evaluate the well results, and determine next steps."

Trinidad: Colombian Drug Gang Bloodbath Averted
PNM leader: Govt members whispered cock-and-bull story

Sep 6, 2011 Trinidad Express - By Ria Taitt
Political Editor

Government spokesmen have told the Opposition PNM that the state of emergency was called because a Colombian drug gang wanted to kill members of a Trinidad and Tobago drug gang, following the $22 million drug bust at Piarco.

So stated Opposition Leader Dr Keith Rowley yesterday.

"When the debate was over and we were dispersing in the crowd and talking amongst our parliamentarian colleagues, government spokespersons came to the Opposition, whispering in our ears as good friends well-remembered, 'we can't tell the country but we could tell you that the real reason is this: that the cocaine that they pick up in the two suitcases in Piarco, belonged to a Colombian drug gang and Trinidad drug gang was supposed to guard it in Trinidad for it to be shipped out, and that (Trinidad) gang allowed the Government (the law enforcement authorities) to intercept it. So the Colombian gang was going to kill the Trinidad gang and that is what the Government moved to avert. And that is what Sandy was alluding to, when he said that blood would flow," Rowley said.

But the Opposition Leader said the PNM does not believe this latest story.
Mc Watt double winner at Guyana Prize for literature awards

Stabroek News  September 1, 2011

Mark Mc Watt was last evening named winner of both the Guyana Prize 2010 Poetry category and the Caribbean Award 2010 Poetry category when the Guyana Prize for Literature Awards Ceremony was hosted at the Pegasus Hotel.

Mc Watt’s compilation ‘The Journey to Le Repentir’ won the top prize in both categories. In photo from left to right are Chairman of the Jury, Professor Victor Ramraj; Chairman of the Guyana Prize for Literature committee, Al Creighton; Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Lawrence Carrington; President Bharrat Jagdeo; Jury member, Professor Stewart Brown; winner of the Caribbean Award 2010 Fiction category, Myriam F. A. Chancy; Mark Mc Watt and winner of the Guyana Prize 2010 Fiction category David Dabydeen. (Photo by Anjuli Persaud).

GUYANA LEGENDS

Folk Tales of the Indigenous Amerindians

By: Dr. Odeen Ishmael

Guyana Legends: Folk Tales of the Indigenous Amerindians is a collection of 50 folktales of the first people to inhabit Guyana and the contiguous regions of the north coast of the South American continent. It is compiled and written by author Dr. Odeen Ishmael.

Very little is known of Amerindian history in Guyana before the arrival of European settlers in the early 17th century and, actually, no written form of their languages existed until about 70 years ago. Indeed, much of the history of the Amerindian people is based on oral traditions which are not quite clear because the periods when important events occurred are difficult to place. (Download press release here)

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THE ARTS JOURNAL

Volume 6 Numbers 1 & 2 published

The Arts Journal is an independent, refereed Journal that provides fresh critical perspectives on the contemporary literatures, arts and culture of Guyana, the Caribbean and their Diasporas. (read announcement for Vol 6 1 & 2)

Now in its sixth Volume, this Journal is widely subscribed to by the libraries of secondary and tertiary learning institutions, community colleges, public and private libraries, art galleries and museums, and other such institutions in Guyana, throughout the Caribbean region, North America and the United Kingdom.

Download: The Arts Journal Flyer

Please visit the Arts Journal’s website at: www.theartsjournal.org.gy to see reviews and responses to this publication, Editorial and Contents of each issue and composition of the Editorial and Advisory Boards. For Subscriptions and Submission of Articles, contact the editor, Ameena Gafoor, at: theartsjournal@live.co.uk or Ber- nadette Persaud at bernadettepersaud5@hotmail.com
It is perhaps a coincidence that the very week in which the Head of the Presidential Secretariat had to respond to embarrassing questions in court in the ongoing libel suit filed by President Bharrat Jagdeo against popular columnist Frederick Kissoon, is the very week that the Wikileaks exposed astounding new revelations on very high officials in the state and more significantly, Guyana’s reputation as a narco-trafficking entity. But it is not only coincidence. All of the disclosures produced by spoken word and printed, official documents tell a tale that is all too familiar in Guyana: the absence of due process; arrogance; an obsession with deception as a protective fallback on the part of the existing government; and the general denouement in all spheres of national life.

The recourse to libel against a vocal columnist is also indicative of the levels to which the fear of the spoken and written word has reached. But let us place the libel case in context. Libel suits in themselves are a normal form of protection of a citizen from a newspaper and other print media. The history of libel suits in Guyana is long and deep and dates back to when the newspaper press was founded in 1793 under Dutch colonial rule. However, what distinguishes libel against an individual by a representative of the state in this instance, is the general environment in which the right to sue for libel is exerted. The judiciary and constitution under which the libel case is being prosecuted are frayed and broken. While sparks of courage and judicial integrity remain, the entire system is besieged; the interference with judicial appointments and the attrition of personnel from all sections of government not least of all in the legal system and diplomatic personnel, tells its own story.

The list of transgressions against the media is long and includes such interventions as cutting of state advertisements to media houses deemed hostile to the regime, and restrictions on radio and television access.

Meanwhile, the Wikileaks exposures that continue to unfold with embarrassing speed reveal things about events, people and consequences that were already known; things unknown that are now in public purview; and even newer, previously unknown levels of depravity - the likes of which Guyana has never seen. And there is more to come.

In all this, the overwhelming deficit in national life in Guyana stands as a backdrop and witness to the new outpourings of excess, the cause of which resides, to restate the importance of the location, in the state of our political culture. But how did it come to all this?

Not all the deterioration in the social and political fabric of the country can be laid at the door of the current administration. They have only succeeded in accelerating what has been brewing now for a generation – or from back when things were considered “stable.”

........... More read complete article here