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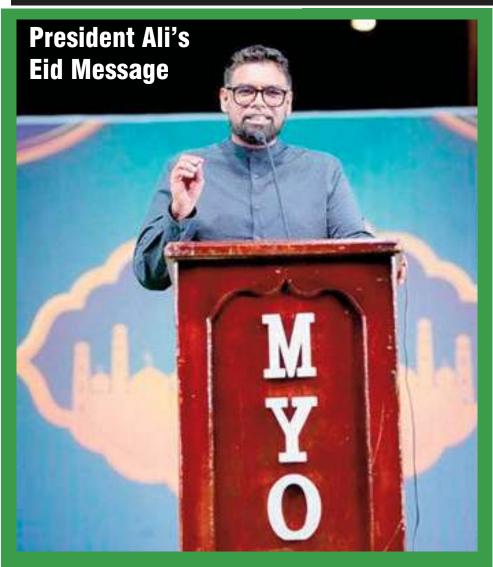
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Now that Ramadan has ended, Muslims express their profound gratitude for Allah's mercies and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with great joy. I extend warm Eid-ul-Fitr 2024 greetings to all Guyanese, especially our Islamic community, who find immense happiness in this festival. Guyana's promise of sustained prosperity and social harmony allows us all to celebrate each other's festivals with greater unity

See full message on Page 10



Guyana-Venezuela border spat continues to boil over

Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali has once again reiterated Guyana's call for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing border controversy, welcoming Venezuela's submission of its counter-memorial on the merits of the case concerning the 1899 Arbitral Award at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Guyanese Head of State, during a live broadcast statement on Facebook, maintained that the country will respect the rule of international law and urged Venezuela to do the same.

"This is what Guyana has been calling for and I hope that Venezuela will continue to engage fully in the process before the International Court of Justice," he said, adding: "The court's final decision will ensure a resolution that is peaceful, equitable and in accordance with international law."

Now that Venezuela has submitted its counter-memorial on its questions of the 1899 Arbitral Award—a legally binding agreement that established the first and only accepted boundary between Spanish-speaking Venezuela and Guyana the court will move forward in the process of making a judgment.

President Ali noted that Guyana will abide by the court's ruling.

"Both parties are bound to accept the court's judgment in this matter," the Guyanese Head of State said.

However, Venezuela continues to make "unfounded" statements regarding Guyana's development of its own resources.

Responding directly to those statements, Dr. Ali said: "As a sovereign nation, we are beholden to no state or private entity in how we conduct our domestic or foreign policy, including our relation with other states."

Recently, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro made a move to enact legislation in the Bolivarian Republic to assert its claims to Guyana's Essequibo re-

Maduro's latest action is a clear violation of the Argyle Declaration – an 11point agreement that addresses matters consequential to the border controversy, including the fact that Guyana stands firm to its position that the substantial case is before the ICJ.

More stories inside

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The Belle Vue Little Library Community Project

The small community of Belle Vue recently unveiled a public library for not just their community by for the communities in Region #3 to access. The library is the first of its kind in Region #3.

The idea first took root in 2020 when a staff from the Ministry of Health – Aruna Faria sought out ways to emulate her leaders and give back to her community. Ms. Faria who also sits on the board of directors for a Canadian Charity – Giving Health to Kids, reached out to her fellow board member in 2020 to ask for tablets to help children who could not afford to access school work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her colleagues responded by providing 60 tablets and 2 laptops which were donated to children living in Belle Vue, Patentia, Canal #2 and Stanleytown Primary School where she donated 20 tablets to less fortunate children.

It was during this exercise that she realize the gravity of the unmet needs for educational resources and support. As a child Aruna visited the Stanleytown Public Library located in Stanleytown, West Bank Demerara where she was born and raised by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Gladwin Lall. As an adult she moved to Belle Vue and would pass the Belle Vue Community Centre daily on her way home from work.

Her gaze often fell upon a vacant



The Belle Vue Little Library — idea first took root in 2020

room at the entrance of the centre and after further enquires she found that the room was not allocated for any activities. While her intensions were to build a library, she was unsure of how to get books and resources. This was soon realized when a chance meeting connected her with Mr. Joe Persaud, a philanthropist who has been giving back to his home country in many

ways for over a decade. Joe was quick to assist with sending books and connecting Aruna with his friends from the Little Library in Canada to further discuss ways to bring the Little Library to fruition.

Aruna started off by seeking permission from the local NDC and the Regional Chairman for the use of the room and upon receiving approval

sought to commence renovations on the room. With the help of her friends, family and strangers who shared her vision for giving back to her community, she received donations to renovate the ceiling, rewire the room, redo the plumbing, replace the bathrooms, replace the doors both external and internal, and replace the windows and locks among much more. While much were provided by donations, Aruna stood the cost personally for materials and labour often times recruiting family and community workers to help.

At the final stages, the little library provided the needed assistance to build the shelves and complete the painting and fund the purchase of the carpeting for the room. It was not an easy task to clear the books and move them from the storage location and then finally to the library. But with help from fellow members from the community, the books were successfully transported to the library where sorting and packing commenced.

On March 17, 2024, the Belle Vue Little Library was officially opened. The Library stands as a testament to the power of community and the boundless possibilities that emerge when we join hands in pursuit of a common goal. It is in these efforts that our children can embark on the journey of learning, discovery, and endless possibilities.



Volunteers get the library to receive its first visitors



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Guyana's Ali named Caribbean's Global Leader 2024

Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali has been voted the Caribbean Global Leader 2024, by the Caribbean Global Awards.

THE announcement comes following an unprecedented level of public engagement, with a record-breaking 609 valid votes cast in the People's Choice category.

The Caribbean Global Awards revealed the top 10 Caribbean Global Leaders, showcasing a diverse array of influential figures making significant contributions to their respective nations and the wider Caribbean Community.

President Ali's ascendancy to the top spot is a testament to his unwavering dedication and remarkable leadership in advancing Guyana's interests while fostering regional cooperation. His vision and commitment have been pivotal in driving progress and prosperity across the Caribbean.

Among the distinguished leaders recognised by the awards are Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley SC of Barbados; Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada, and Prime Minister Andrew Holness ON, PC of Jamaica, who secured the second, third, and fourth positions respectively.

The list also includes Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Michael Drew of St Kitts and Nevis; Prime Minister Ralph Everard Gonsalves of St Vincent and the Grenadines; Prime Minister Phillip



President Irfaan Ali — topped the list of leaders from the Caribbean

Davis of the Bahamas; and Prime Minister Dr. Keith Christopher Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago, who are celebrated for their exemplary contributions to regional development.

Completing the lineup are Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, and President Sylvanie Burton of Dominica, alongside Actor Michel Reinette of Guadeloupe, highlighting the diversity of talent and expertise within the Caribbean.

In a statement, the Caribbean Global Awards expressed gratitude to the public for their enthusiastic participation in the recognition process, underscoring the immense interest and engagement in acknowledging exemplary leadership within the region.

"Their vision, commitment, and

tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the region's progress and prosperity," the Caribbean Global Awards said, adding: "As such, the Caribbean Global Awards extends its warmest congratulations to all the winners and expresses gratitude to the public for their enthusiastic participation in this important recognition process."

Nandlall mobilizes int'l support for Guyana

IN a move to address Venezuela's persistent aggression towards Guyana, Attorney-General Anil Nandlall has outlined a plan to mobilise international support and condemnation through parliamentary channels.

The backdrop to Nandlall's remarks stems from recent developments in Venezuela, where lawmakers allied to President Nicolás Maduro approved the creation of a new state in Guyana's resource-rich Essequibo region.

Despite ongoing proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Venezuela has attempted to assert itself to lay claim to Guyana's territory, citing a December referendum as socalled "justification."

During his address at the 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, the Attorney-General had highlighted the gravity of the situation, which had received widespread support.

Nandlall, during his programme, "Issues in the News," said that he will be taking proactive measures in keeping with the nation's determination to defend its territorial integrity and seek international solidarity in the face of Venezuela's aggression.

"Many of you may have seen my presentation which was published on Facebook. After the presentation, the Guyana delegation received widespread support. So, what I plan to do is to write to the various Parliaments who were present and who expressed their support to give effect to that support," Nandlall said.

He highlighted the importance of leveraging this support to invite parliamentary representatives to speak out against Venezuela's actions in their respective legislatures.

"To invite them to speak in the parliament and condemn the actions of Venezuela and to call upon Venezuela to comply with international law, to call upon Venezuela to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, and to demand that Venezuela implies diplomacy and dialogue rather than threat and confrontation," Nandlall emphasised.

He also referenced the proactive stance taken by Great Britain, stating that the nation "has already used their parliament as a platform to condemn Venezuela and the posture that Venezuela has adopted on this matter."

Nandlall said that Britain reiterated its support for Guyana and condemned Venezuela's actions during the IDEAL conference.

He voiced concern over

Venezuela's persistent disregard for World Court orders and the Argyle Declaration regarding Guyana's Essequibo

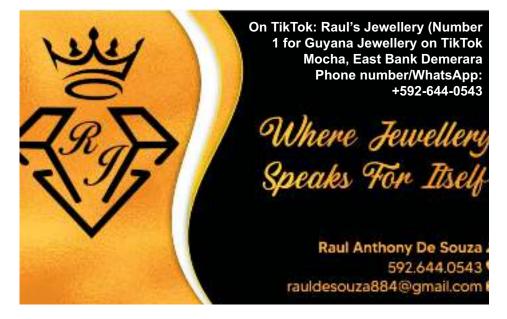
"We will see how that issue unfolds as time progresses," Nandlall said, indicating the ongoing efforts to mobilise international support and address the escalating situation.

The creation of the new state, named "Guayana Esequiba" by Venezuela, adds another layer of complexity to the long-standing territorial controversy. Venezuela, last year, had increased claims to two-thirds of

Guyana's Essequibo region.

During his presentation at that 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Geneva, Nandlall expounded on the historical context of the controversy, tracing it back to the Arbitral Award of 1899, which definitively settled the boundary between Venezuela and Guvana.

He noted Venezuela's acceptance of and adherence to the award for six decades until the early 1960s when Guyana was on the brink of independence.





EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Caricom misses boat on free movement

Editorial from Trinidad Newsday, April 5 2024

IT WAS supposed to be Caricom's gift to its people.

At last year's historic 45th Conference of Heads of Government, hosted in this country, leaders announced plans to introduce full freedom of movement for regional citizens. The measure was the centrepiece initiative of the bloc's golden-jubilee celebrations

"This is a fundamental part of the integration architecture, and at 50, we could not leave TT and not speak about the core of the regional integration movement," said Roosevelt Skerrit, Dominica's Prime Minister, who was the Caricom chairman. "We hope to see that it is implemented by March 30,

2024."

The promise, possibly involving treaty amendments and national-level legislation, was always ambitious, especially with the risk of domestic politics sinking it. But as the deadline approached, leaders assured us it would be met

"We are on target," declared Mia Mottley, Barbados Prime Minister, a few weeks ago.

"This month of March, all attorneys general are required to put their country in a position for the Parliament to act," our own PM disclosed.

Trinidad and Tobago's Dr Keith Rowley added there was a fervent desire to get the job done and described, in stark terms, what is at stake, economically and symbolically: "This is about whether we will survive as a Caricom nation."

March has come and gone. Our Parliament is adjourned; the PM is on vacation. No official update was given as the month came to an end.

This is an embarrassing turn of events, particularly for Ms Mottley, who is charged with economic integration matters in the Caricom quasi-cabinet. The failure to deliver, at least for the moment, on its own promise is possibly a sign that Caricom has been blindsided by events which have occurred since last July.

The bloc is this month due to continue its role as interlocutor in the border conflict between Venezuela and Guyana, which erupted at the end of 2023. It has been attempting to play a role in the Haitian crisis.

Both matters came to a head this

week, with Nicolás Maduro pursuing domestic legal moves that would purportedly authorise him to annex Essequibo, in the face of December's Argyle Accord; and the fires continuing to burn in Port-au-Prince, where violence reached "unprecedented levels," according to the UN.

If free movement remains unrealised, more trouble could nonetheless soon be coming home for each island.

Meteorologists this week warned the upcoming hurricane season, which runs from June-November, may be the worst on record, with as many as two dozen named storms.

It would be a shame if, because of all of this, leaders are ultimately unable, after half a century, to use the small window of opportunity they have to act.

Rallying the International community

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, April 8 2024

VENEZUELA'S recent decision to promulgate the Organic Law for the "Defence of Essequiba" is not just an affront to the sovereignty of Guyana, but is also a destabilising move that threatens the peace and stability of the entire Caribbean region.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, has rightfully echoed the concerns raised by President, Dr Irfaan Ali of Guyana, calling on fellow Commonwealth member states to stand in solidarity with Guyana during this critical time.

Under this new law, Venezuela aims to assert control over two-thirds of Guyana's sovereign territory, effectively creating a new state within its own borders.

This blatant disregard for international law and diplomatic norms is deeply troubling.

By granting itself the power to elect a governor and allowing the National Assembly to legislate in this territory, Venezuela is escalating tensions and undermining the efforts to resolve the longstanding border controversy through peaceful means.

The decision by President Nicolás Maduro's government directly contradicts the order issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on December 1, 2023.

The ICJ's ruling explicitly stated that Venezuela must refrain from taking any actions that would alter the current situation in the territory until a final decision is reached.

Venezuela's latest move not only violates this order, but also undermines the spirit of the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace signed by both countries in December. 2023.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General rightly emphasises that the ICJ process is the lawful and appropriate means to address this controversy.

The international community, including the Commonwealth, has consistently supported Guyana's position and urged Venezuela to abide by the principles of international law.

However, Venezuela's persistent disregard for these principles only serves to prolong the conflict and jeopardise regional stability.

It is worth remembering that the border between Guyana and Venezuela

was settled by an arbitral tribunal in 1899, a decision that Venezuela accepted for over 60 years.

Despite decades of negotiations, Venezuela's repudiation of the award upon Guyana's independence in 1966 reignited tensions that have yet to be fully resolved.

The referral of the matter to the ICJ by the United Nations Secretary-General was a significant step towards a peaceful resolution, but Venezuela's continued provocations undermine the credibility of international institutions and exacerbate the situation.

In light of Venezuela's latest actions, it is imperative that the international community stands united in support of Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Commonwealth, along with other relevant stakeholders, must exert diplomatic pressure on Venezuela to abide by its international obligations and engage constructively in resolving the controversy through peaceful means. Failure to do so risks further escalation and instability in the region.

As responsible members of the global community, we cannot afford to ignore Venezuela's blatant disregard for the rule of law and the principles of peaceful coexistence. It is incumbent upon all nations to uphold the sanctity of international law and work towards a just and lasting resolution to the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy. Anything less would be a betrayal of our collective commitment to peace, security, and justice.

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Please note that all letters are subjected to be edited for space and to ensure they meet our legal requirements. Letter writers must include contact information, which will be withheld from publication, so we can contact the writer to ensure the authenticity of the contribution.



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Suspended Ontario police officers cost taxpayers \$134 M: CBC News

By Jenna Smith LJI REPORTER

Over the span of 11 years, police suspensions in Ontario have incurred a substantial cost to taxpayers, totaling around \$134 million, as disclosed by an exclusive database compiled by CBC News. This comprehensive survey delved into reports concerning hundreds of officers who were placed on leave with pay due to accusations of misconduct or unlawful behavior.

The investigation meticulously gathered publicly available data encompassing officers from 44 police departments, including prominent ones such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police, and Ottawa Police Service.

The findings exposed 453 instances of suspensions arising from a wide array of allegations ranging from drunk driving, fraud, and drug trafficking to more serious offenses like manslaughter, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. Notably, these cases represent a mere fraction—less than two percent—of the approximately 25,140 officers currently serving across 61 communities.

Key highlights from the investigation include:

The median duration of a suspension stood at 553 days, equivalent to roughly a year and a half, with the longest suspension enduring for nine years and the shortest lasting only a day.

Gender-based violence, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment, accounted for over one-third of the allegations against suspended officers.

A staggering 87 percent of suspensions were accompanied by criminal charges.

Nearly half of the officers suspended and subsequently convicted of a crime were reinstated, while less than ten percent faced termination.

The spectrum of suspended officers encompassed all ranks, from constables to chiefs and deputy chiefs, with eleven individuals facing multiple suspensions within the past decade.

Erick Laming, an assistant professor of criminology at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., commended the depth of CBC's investigation, describing it as more comprehensive than any prior endeavor. He emphasized the public's rightful indignation towards these cases, highlighting the paradox of taxpayers footing the bill for officers' salaries even post-conviction.



There were 453 instances of suspensions of police officers



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President Ali has every right to intervene in the affairs of GPL



Joel Bhagwandin

I am pleased to see that His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali intervening in the affairs of GPL. Unfortunately, he should not have had to do so, but he has no other choice, since those whom he delegated the direct responsibility to so do, have failed him, unashamedly too.

Despite this, many are of the view that nothing will come of this—his intervention that is, such that the status quo will remain. Well I beg to differ, and I will explain why hereunder.

I have noted with interest, a letter in today's Stabroek News authored by former Minister, David Patterson, who accused the Government for covering up the mismanagement of GPL.

Contrary to that view, having studied the GPL case study over the last few months and the Skeldon case study to understand the root causes of their respective failures, I have arrived at a different conclusion based on the findings in both cases. The conclusion is that, particularly in the case of GPL: the management of the entity has succeeded over the last decade, up until now, facilitated, inter alia, the complicity at the subject ministerial level, to have manipulated the politicians at the executive level (the Presidency), thereby effectively shielding their incompetence, mediocrity, mismanagement, and poor management, by design, which aided their many alleged wrongdoings especially in the area of procurement. This explains why they have failed to furnish their statutory reports to the National Assembly, thus evading scrutiny and from being held accountable.

So, the former Minister, David Patterson, who now emerges with all of the solutions, owes this nation an explanation—as to why under his stewardship as the former subject minister for GPL—failed to comply with Section 67 of the Public Corporations Act. He has failed to hold GPL accountable largely because he was complicit, so too, was the former President, David Granger, who failed to hold his subject minister accountable.

Conversely, President Ali is ensuring that he does not commit the mistake of his predecessor. The President has personally intervened and everyone with responsibility are being held accountable. For this, the President must be commended, and I reject the "saintly missive" authored by the former Minister, unless he subjects himself to providing the nation with explanations as to why those reports were never laid over to the National Assembly.

I cannot sit idly by observing the many forces that are working assiduously to undermine the President on a daily basis. That's not going to happen. My self-conferred mandate, which I have stated many times publicly, the reason I do what I do, is to help the Presidency, and by extension the Government to succeed in delivering its mandate to

the people.

Extension services are critical

Dear Editor,

THE Ministry of Agriculture in Guyana plays a crucial role in supporting and promoting the country's agricultural sector. One of the key initiatives undertaken by the ministry is the provision of agricultural extension services.

These services are essential for small-holder farmers as they (extension officers) provide them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their agricultural practices and increase productivity.

Agricultural extension services involve the dissemination of information, training, and technical assistance to farmers to help them adopt modern and sustainable farming techniques. This can include guidance on proper crop and livestock management, soil-conservation methods, pest and disease control, market access, and financial management.

The importance of agricultural extension services to farmers cannot be overstated. These services enable farmers to enhance their knowledge and skills, leading to increased yields and improved agricultural practices.

By adopting modern techniques and technologies, farmers can boost their productivity, enhance the quality of their produce, and ultimately increase their incomes.

Furthermore, agricultural extension services play a crucial role in promoting sustainable farming practices.

By educating farmers on environmentally friendly methods such as organic farming and proper soil-conservation techniques, extension services help farmers to protect the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend.

In addition, agricultural extension services play a vital role in promoting food security and rural development. By empowering farmers with the necessary tools and knowledge, extension services help to increase food production, reduce food insecurity, and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

Overall, it is a key component of agricultural development in Guyana. By providing farmers with the information, training, and resources they need, extension services help to improve agricultural productivity, promote sustainable farming practices and enhance food security and rural development.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Guyana continues to invest in and support farmers through these services to ensure the continued growth and success of the country's agricultural sector.

Fawaz A. Harry

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Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO

Central Bank holds key interest rate, signals rate drop could come soon

By Aziz Abdool

LJI REPORTER

The Bank of Canada has held its key interest rate at five per cent for the sixth consecutive time since July.

The central bank said that inflation is still too high, but noted that core inflation measures — which strip out volatile sectors like food and energy — have trended downward in recent months.

It will be looking for signs that this trend is sustained before moving on rate cuts.

While inflation cooled to 2.8 per cent in February, with price growth slowing across goods and services, high rent and mortgage interest costs continue to drive up the inflation rate, the bank said.

The bank expects that it will reach its two per cent inflation target in 2025.

Governor Tiff Macklem and deputy governor Carolyn Rogers held a news conference Wednesday with the latest announcement.

Most economists expect the first rate cut to happen during the bank's next meeting on June 5.

The bank first raised interest rates in March 2022, the beginning of an aggressive campaign to cool inflation that resulted in 10 rate hikes in less than two years.



Central Bank Governor Tiff Macklem

Canada's inflation rate slowed to

2.8 per cent in February, while measures

While the Bank of Canada's conditions to begin lowering interest rates have been met, it needs to see price pressures ease for longer to make sure the decline in inflation is sustained.

"I realize that what most Canadians want to know is when we will lower our policy interest rate. What do we need to see to be convinced it's time to cut?" Macklem said.

"The short answer is, we are seeing what we need to see but we need to see it for longer to be confident that progress toward price stability will be sustained."

Economists were widely expecting the central bank to hold its key rate on Wednesday and deliver a rate cut at its next policy announcement in June. eased

The central bank has been particularly focused on measures of core inflation, which gauge underlying price pressures by stripping out volatile price movements.

Along with the rate announcement the Bank of Canada released its quarterly monetary policy report, which suggests the likelihood of a "soft landing" - whereby inflation slows without a significant economic downturn - has increased.

The central bank has slightly revised down its forecast for inflation this year and continues to expect it to return to the two per cent target by the end of 2025



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BUSINESS SERVICES





Irfaan Ali recently met with fisherfolk at Rosignol, Mahaica-Berbice (Region Five) to address pressing issues they are facing. He was joined by Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha.

Observe Eid-ul-Fitr with hearts full of love and empathy

The following is a message from President Ifraan Ali on the occasion of *Eid-ul-Fitr:*

"The Holy Month of Ramadan has ended. During the Holy Month, Muslims engaged in acts of abstinence, fasting, charity and prayer to strengthen their faith in Allah.

This special period assures them of God's blessings. Now that Ramadan has ended, Muslims express their profound gratitude for Allah's mercies and celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with great joy.

I extend warm Eid-ul-Fitr 2024 greetings to all Guyanese, especially our Islamic community, who find immense happiness in this festival.

During Eid-ul-Fitr, Muslims in Guyana will gather with loved ones, share with those in need, and reflect on the oneness of humanity, as emphasised in the Holy Quran.

Guyana's promise of sustained prosperity and social harmony allows us all to celebrate each other's festivals with greater unity and joy.

Eid-ul-Fitr also serves as a reminder of our shared values of togetherness, happiness, love, forgiveness, and compassion.

As we celebrate, let us shower our love and generosity on our fellow brothers and sisters, especially the less fortunate. Uplifting the vulnerable is an obligation of our faith.

The Holy Prophet (On Whom be Peace) says: "He is not a believer

whose stomach is full while the neighbour to his side is starving."

Let us therefore observe Eid-ul-Fitr with gratitude and a heart full of love and empathy. Eid-Mubarak to all!"

Faith, love holding strong in Gaza

The following is an excerpt from a message from President of CIOG Al-Hajj Shahabudeen Ahmad:

"My dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam and Humanity,

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuh.

"May the Peace, Guidance, Mercy, and Blessings of Allah (swt) be

Eid Mubarak, Eid Mubarak, Eid Mubarak! On this joyous day of Eidul-Fitr, the Executives and Staff of CIOG join you in celebration.

"Alhamdu-Lillah, (Praise be to Allah) we were honored by Allah (swt), the Infinitely Merciful, to have graduated from the university of Ramadan. A month in which we practiced patience, self-control and restraint.

"We have participated in private and communal worship, engaged in much reflection and introspection, enhanced our caring and giving and refined our character; all with the expectation of attaining closeness to our Creator, Allah (swt). Now, after a month of fasting, we celebrate with the intention of being Abdun-Shakoor, thankful servants. Allah (swt) says in chapter 10 of the Holy Quran, entitled Yunus (Jonah) verse 58:

"In the grace of Allah (swt) and

in His (swt) mercy, in that they should rejoice; it is better than all [the worldly wealth] that they may amass!'

"On this 1st day of Shawwal, the day of Eid, as we celebrate and rejoice in the grace and mercy of Allah (swt), we ponder on the many lessons of Ramadan. However, this year was immensely more difficult not because we deprived ourselves of food and water but because of what we endured as an Ummah.

"Yes, this Ramadan was painful as we watched in disbelief at the first publicly televised genocide of our Brothers and Sisters in Gaza. We were given many lessons this Ramadan but the greatest lessons came from them while under-siege. Notably, the concept of Imaan (faith) and Tawwakul (intense and hopeful trust in Allah (swt)).

"Emerging from Ramadan this year cannot mean the same as last year. The lessons we were taught in and out of the Masjid must be coupled with action. Gratitude is not just expressed on the tongue.

"Self-restraint and control must be extended to other aspects of our lives.

We witnessed our Brothers and Sisters break their fast with soup made of grass and water, and some are in

perpetual fasting. Despite their homes and places of worship decimated, they still prayed the night prayers between the rubble. I ask, what is the source of their strength? What we witnessed is their constant dua (prayer) of our Father Ibrahim (Abraham), peace be upon him.

We must now go beyond the Masjid and couple this with civilization changing action. Belief is not just expressed on the tongue, but it must also be manifested in our deeds and lives. This is the legacy of Muslims everywhere we went. In a time that is seemingly filled with darkness and loss of hope, let us fulfill the rights we have to those around us and this Ummah – and by extension – the entire world. Be that beacon of light and hope.

"In our celebration, let us not forget those among our brothers and sisters who face difficulties and hardship, those facing the challenges of illness, hunger, and despair. Reach out, find ways to help, comfort and sustain others, while filling them with hope and reminding them that Allah (swt) is Gracious, Merciful and Abundant.

"Be steadfast in prayer and regular in charity. Whatever good you send forth for your souls before you, you shall find it with Allah."

No shortcuts to building world class health care system, says Ali

THERE is no shortcut to building a world-class healthcare system, but in order to achieve this goal, there must be collaboration between healthcare personnel and the government, according to President Dr. Irfaan Ali.

President Ali made the foregoing remarks at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) where he met with a number of healthcare personnel on Friday.

During his address, the President said that there are serious investments being made in the healthcare system, and in making these investments, it is expected that within a short time-span, Guyana must be able to deliver efficient, reliable and quality healthcare to its citizens, and become the "premier healthcare system in the region".

According to him, the government also wants to structurally integrate the healthcare system into the economy as an important revenue earner in the future.

"So, these investments and the expansion of the infrastructure, both to the public and private healthcare system, are around these core principles," the President said.

He added: "It is only in this collaborative approach that we will be able to build a system where the practitioners own the changes, own the system, own the modernisation. If we don't create the ownership for all the stakeholders, then we will not be able to derive the results we want."

Moreover, since the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government assumed office, they have been making steady progress in the expansion of the healthcare system, and as a result, there will be an expansion of services, according to the President. And soon there will be the launch of the national approach to testing for prostate cancer.

He went on to say that there have been many partnerships within the last three years. Using the Mount Sinai Healthcare System as an example, he said that the objective here is to build our healthcare system to the point where the brand could be "confidently attached".

The government wants to work with healthcare workers to craft a team approach to healthcare, and not a compartmentalised approach, according to Dr. Ali.

With that said, one of the things catered for within this year's budget is the development of regional health services for the hospitals to allow citizens to have better experiences.

"The worst thing when you're not feeling well is to go into a place that does not look well," the President noted.

Further, there are efforts being deployed to establish a customer response mechanism.

"One of the things we're thinking about is to have a call centre approach



The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation

where if a citizen, both a health clinic or a hospital, and [if] they're dissatisfied with the service, then that citizen can easily call, through a call centre approach, and make their complaint so that we can have a more professional and efficient system, and more responsive to the needs," he said.

Focusing more on the GPHC, Dr. Ali said that the investments they are making in the hospital will aid the nation in having a state-of-the art forensic, biochemistry and pathology laboratory.

Also, they are also advancing care in terms of surgical intervention.

Continuing to set the foundation for world-class healthcare, the President also called for discussions in key areas where there are backlogs, and which are these areas that require imported specialised help.

Referencing the 12 hospitals that are being constructed nationwide, Dr. Ali said that they will bring different levels of services, which will require a greater degree of management, and these investments will aid in drastically reducing the workload at GPHC.

However, when these hospitals come into operation, the President said the healthcare personnel will need to identify the gaps and start working on a system that will allow the government to fill them

"There is no shortcut to this; it must be planned, structured and targetted, and all of us must be part of this decisionmaking or idea-development forum," the Head of State said.

Shifting his attention to the worldclass paediatric and maternal hospital in Ogle, which is currently under construction, the President said that he wants this to be managed by Guyana's local capability, as far as possible.

"I want that to be managed by our local capability as far as possible. We have to identify what are the gaps, knowing the level of service that will come with that facility. What are the gaps, and ensuring that we provide the training the adjustments in the system so when that facility comes into existence, we'll be ready," Dr Ali stated.

He also listed a number of national

initiatives that are being created to benefit all Guyanese, such as the citizens' health mobile app development programme.

With Guyana growing rapidly and having a diverse set of people, the President addressed the issue of language barriers.

"The final issue I want to address is that in the system, we have a number of doctors that were trained in Cuba, so you have the added advantage of being good at Spanish. We want now to align your capability with the nurses and doctors who are Spanish-speaking in a system.

"So that we will have, if you have a hospital with 10 Spanish-speaking nurses and you have two doctors who are trained in Cuba, we then develop a core group with those two doctors so that we have a better communication channel and better support channel in terms of the capability that they bring, [and] ensuring that that capability is not hindered because of language gaps and language challenges," the President said.



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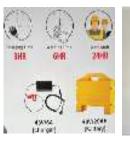
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US says it has no plan for secret military base in Guyana

WHITE House National Security Communications Adviser, John Kirby, has said that the United States has "no plans" for a secret military base in Guyana— a rumour which is being peddled by Venezuela amid the ongoing border controversy.

During a press briefing last Thursday, Kirby addressed concerns in Venezuela, where lawmakers allied to President Nicolás Maduro approved the creation of a new state in Guyana's resource-rich Essequibo region.

Despite ongoing proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Venezuela has attempted to assert itself to lay claim to Guyana's territory, citing a December referendum as socalled "justification."

President Maduro has also accused the US of having placed "secret military bases" and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in Guyana to attack the population of southern and eastern Venezuela.

"There's no plans for a secret military base," Kirby said as he dismissed the rumours.

The United States has long denied that it has plans to set up a military base in Guyana. Guyana's government has also made no request for the establishment of such a base here.

Venezuela, with no evidence, has been weaponising commentaries made on social media by persons to propagate a distorted narrative on the border controversy.

The creation of the new state, named "Guayana Esequiba" Venezuela, adds another layer of comincreased claims to two-thirds of Guyana's Essequibo region.

This area is known for its wealth in oil, timber, and other natural resources, drawing attention and contention from both sides.

In response to Venezuela's actions, Guyana has been bolstering its defence and diplomatic efforts with the help of international partners, aiming to counter security threats while promoting regional stability.

Despite these preparations, Guyanese officials have reiterated their focus on defence rather than offence.

Following Venezuela's reaction to



White House National Security Communications Adviser, John Kirby

the docking of the British offshore patrol vessel, HMS Trent, in Guyana's waters, President Dr. Irfaan Ali clarified the nation's defensive posture, indicating no intent to initiate conflict with Venezuela.

Despite the tensions, a recent decplexity to the longstanding territorial laration agreed upon by Guyana and dates back to the 1899 Arbitral Award, controversy. Venezuela, last year, had Venezuela in St Vincent and the Grenadines, facilitated by Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, has calmed the situation, with both countries committing to peaceful dialogue.

> Following a historic meeting with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in St Vincent and the Grenadines on December 14, 2023, both leaders agreed "not to threaten or use force against one another," reinforcing their commitment to peace and stability in the region.

> The two nations also agreed to cooperate to avoid incidents on the ground conducive to tension between them. In the event of such an incident, the two states will immediately communicate

with one another, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAC), and the President of Brazil to contain, reverse and prevent its recurrence.

The genesis of the controversy a landmark decision that delineated the land boundary between then British Guiana (now Guyana) and Venezuela.

Despite historical arbitration, tensions persisted, leading Guyana to approach the ICJ in 2018, seeking affirmation of the award's legitimacy.

With the support of CARICOM, the Commonwealth, and international partners, Guyana stands firmly in its legal battle, which remains under the ICJ's consideration.

Kirby reiterated the importance of both parties respecting the recent ICJ's provisional measures which are binding on the parties involved. Under the UN Charter, all states are solemnly bound

to comply with the court's orders, which can be enforced by the UN Security Council.

"We've said many times that there's an 1899 arbitral ruling about the border between Guyana and Venezuela, and we want both sides to respect that ruling and to do it peacefully," Kirby

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Guyana's partners outraged at Venezuela's recent actions

AS Venezuela continues to rehash its spurious claims over Guyana's Essequibo region, Guyana's partners, who have been notified of the Bolivarian Republic's recent action, are "outraged", Vice-President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo told a news conference on Thursday last.

During a People's Progressive Party (PPP) press conference, Dr. Jagdeo said that the action taken by President Nicolás Maduro to promulgate the "organic law for the Defence of Guayana Esequiba", is a form of annexation by decree, and although it is not fiscal annexation, it runs contrary to the Argyle agreement and the ongoing process at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"In fact, it runs counter to the provisional measures given by the World Court that prohibits any change of the status quo in relation to the 1899 Award, and Venezuela is seeking to unilaterally change this," he said, adding:

"We have already notified all of our partners.

"We brought this to their attention, the bad faith [and] negotiations of Venezuela, and so they are aware of what's happening. Many of them are expressing concern and also outrage



Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

about this approach; the untrustworthy nature of the regime there, and we are not going to let our guards down. So, I hope that the country recognises this; everyone has been fully briefed on this matter."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has issued a statement where it deems the action taken by Venezuela "an egregious violation of the most fundamental principles of international law enshrined in

the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organisation of American States and customary international law".

The Foreign Ministry has noted that the action also contradicts the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela, agreed to on December 14, 2023, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"This unlawful act calls into question Venezuela's obligation to abide by

the principles of that Declaration.

In this light, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana wishes to put on notice the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Governments of the Caribbean Community and the Latin American and Caribbean Community of Nations, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States, that it will not countenance the annexation, seizure or occupation of any part of its sovereign territory.

"Guyana has always stood by the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Rule of Law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes," the statement read.

It further noted that as a result of the 1966 Geneva Agreement, to which Venezuela and Guyana are parties, the ICJ has ruled that it has jurisdiction to make a decision on the case brought before it by Guyana regarding the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which definitively settled the land boundary between the two countries, and the Court's decision will be final and binding on both parties.



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Guyana continues to lobby for forest consevration payments

THE forest remains a critical component in the fight against climate change, and massive support is required to conserve it, President, Dr Irfaan Ali has maintained.

He said, however, while global stakeholders are aware of this, there have not yet been many solid commitments to fund such efforts.

In view of this, President Ali continued to lobby for a structured mechanism to advance monetary support to fund conservation efforts.

The Head of State made a case to enhance efforts to conserve forests within the Caribbean and Latin American region, during a presentation at the Sixth Annual Security Challenges in Latin America Forum held at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Centre, School of Advanced International Studies, last week.

During the frank discussion, the Guyanese Head of State said: "I would say there is tremendous commitment in words, in understanding that there is a value, but there is very limited movement towards developing a mechanism through which that, value is monetised."

Guyana since 2007 has been lobbying for support to enhance conservation efforts of its forest and those of its neighbours that are a part of the Amazon



There's no solid commitments to funding for protecting forests

Basin.

While Guyana has entered a voluntary market to preserve its forests, a structured mechanism could create a greater incentive for Guyana and other developing countries.

In a nutshell, carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.

carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to President Ali, the market is "not getting the type of reaction that it deserves."

What is needed are frank discussions on decision making and policy Companies or individuals can use making to acknowledge the value of forests by the already developed coun-

The value of forests, the Guvanese leader said, must be written in policymaking frameworks to support a marketbased mechanism

In 2022, Guyana sold 37.5 million carbon credits for a minimum of US\$750 million, to be paid during 2022-2032 (a third of the credits Guyana will receive over 2016-30); this is one of the largest transactions in the world.

More recently, Guyana made the world's First Paris Agreement Corresponding Adjustment for ART-Issued TREES Carbon Credits, allowing for the authorisation of carbon units for use in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

"We were one of the first countries to have an agreement with the Kingdom of Norway and then we had an end-user agreement with the Hess Corporation. We now are working on having another agreement. So, we have proven that the model can work although it's a voluntary market, but we now have to move that on a global scale in a very structured market, and that is what we want to do. Work with everyone in bringing this," the President said.



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It's the Guyanese DNA to love and share, says Ali in Qiyaam message

IT is within the Guyanese DNA to love and share, so it is only natural that the nation jumps at any opportunity to support humanitarian causes, President Dr Irfaan Ali has said.

This was according to the President during his address at the Qiyaam Lailatul Qadr— A night of Prayer for Global Peace, Guyana and Palestine, on Saturday evening, when he reflected on Guyana's love and compassion.

"In our DNA as Guyanese, we are built to love. We are built to share. We are built to sacrifice. Even when we had very little, Guyana sacrificed every single time the world was in need," the President said.

Reflecting on the period when current Vice-President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo was the Head of State, Dr Ali noted that Guyana had the distinction in the world as being the highest per capita donor for humanity and humanitarian efforts around the world.

"Today these values shape us as a people and as a country," he said, while adding that this is cemented in the PPP/C government, which he has the honour to lead.

President Ali went on to say that the PPP/C government is developing policies and programmes that allow the citizens of this country to achieve prosperity, and his administration is doing this in such a manner that the nation's resources are being managed responsibly.

Even as Guyana acknowledges its steps towards the improvement of all lives, the President drew attention to the suffering of persons the world over, including the people of Palestine and those in Haiti, who are facing severe adversities.

"Terrorism has no place in our modern world and has no place in any religious texts, none whatsoever.

We are very principled; Guyana and the People's Progressive Party/Civic government have always been principled on matters, like for a matter of fact, every successive president in our government at the UN would always have a paragraph to speak about Palestine and injustice in other places in the world.

"We speak on behalf of Haiti. We speak on behalf of Palestine. We speak



on behalf of Cuba, because we always speak from a position of principle. We speak against terrorism, because as I said, these are things that have no place in our societies," Dr Ali firmly said.

The humanitarian disaster in Gaza remains grave as a result of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. Severe food insecurity is a defining feature of the crisis, affecting the whole Gaza population at crisis level or above.

Gaza's healthcare system has also collapsed, leading to hospital closures and a shortage of medical supplies.

Dr Ali has also been involved in discussions aimed at restoring normalcy and stability to Haiti.



President Ali: We are built to love and share

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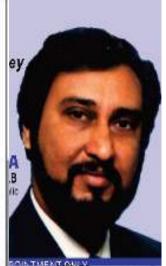
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Tug, barge removed after collission with Demerara Bridge

DESPITE Sunday's incident at the Demerara Harbour Bridge (DHB), Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill has said that swift action by several teams resulted in unhindered operations at the bridge and scheduled retraction at 04:00hrs on Monday.

Reports are that a motor tug and barge, which was engaged at the construction site of the New Demerara River Bridge, drifted and came in contact with four buoys and two pontoons to the southern section of the DHB

Providing an update on the situation during an interview on Monday, Minister Edghill said: "We have successfully had our retraction at 4am this morning (Monday) to allow for marine traffic, and we have successfully completed the double lane this morning (Monday) as well. I am pleased to say that the bridge operated as normal, and right now I must also say that the tug and barge that collided with the bridge have been removed."

Regarding the current state of the bridge and the estimated cost of the damage, the minister said: "The technical staff of the DHB is working tirelessly to ensure that the structure is realigned. They are also accessing the damage, the cost, and what needs to

be done. While all of this is happening, the bridge will remain operational."

Minister Edghill said that people in any field of work need to be vigilant and take extra precaution to ensure that the safety of all is protected.

"I just finished speaking with the Director- General of MARAD, and I asked that the investigation be completed in the shortest possible time. While we are awaiting the result of the investigation, I would also like to caution all employees, especially those that are working in the fields, truck and vehicular drivers, boats, machinery operations, etc. to be extra careful in making sure that you are looking out for the welfare of others," he said, adding: "Whatever we are doing, make sure that we double and triple check; we cannot afford to be careless and make mistakes that can be prevented, if only we are careful and thoughtful. Like I said to the truck drivers last Saturday at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, we understand that people are working to provide for their families, but we cannot afford to risk taking away the next possible lawyer or doctor in our families because of someone not taking the necessary precaution."

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Ali: We're committed to the advancement of Guyana and its people

GUYANESE could look forward to the nonstop implementation of policies and programmes to enhance their livelihoods and push economic development, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has said

The Guyanese Head of State, during an interview with Trinidad and Tobago's CNC 3 morning show on Monday, said that the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government has already outlined an ambitious 2030 and beyond agenda for sustainable economic growth.

"You will see a continuation of polices that would lead to sustainable development; polices that are aimed and directed towards building the prosperity of every family. You will see Guyana taking a lead role, if not the lead on the issue of climate security, energy security and food security," Dr. Ali said when asked about his government's Manifesto plans ahead of the upcoming 2025 General and Regional Elections.

With special emphasis on improving the lives of every citizen, heavy investments will continue in the areas of agriculture, health, and education.

"We don't want wealth to be in economic parameters alone; we want wealth to be enjoyed by citizens of the country through a good standard of living," he said, adding: "You will see a lot of policies and programmes that will continue along this trajectory."

The government, he said, will make tremendous investments in information and communications technology (ICT), placing technology at the forefront of driving the country's economy.

For example, the country will see its governance system moving to greater efficiency through digitisation.

"We are migrating all the manual processes into digital processes, so that you have less human bias in the system



President Ali being interviewed by the media recently

itself, and the system must work in an efficient and reliable way," he said.

Aside from this, there will be additional investments to enhance the country's human-resource assets.

"We have been investing heavily in research and development, enhancing our human-resource capacity; we want to have one of highest skilled human resources-based assets in the world," Dr. Ali emphasised.

The government is also working towards implementing an economic initiative to improve and expand disposable income at the household level.

On the security front, President Ali

said: "We're going to invest heavily in security, ensuring that everything we are building is built in a secure environment; an environment in which the citizens of the country enjoy the highest level of security."

Aside from this, the government has been pursing regional prosperity by strengthening partnerships with its neighbours.

"You will see great interconnectivity with the transport system; you will see an energy corridor developed. You will see a world-class education system, a world-class health system. You will see energy system that has all the com-

ponents of a modern system, with wind, solar, one with natural gas," Dr. Ali said.

The government, he added, will also support the local private sector in creating an enabling environment for further investments.

"You will see a lot of policies and programmes that will continue along this trajectory, building the private sector, expanding opportunities for the private sector, making them more competitive; moving the private sector into research and development so that we can be in sync," the President said.

Exercise caution when transporting petroleum

CITIZENS are being urged to exercise greater caution while transporting petroleum products across the country.

The appeal comes in light of the concerning trend of improper transportation of hazardous liquids, which pose significant risks to public health and the environment.

Reports indicate that many carriers are transporting these substances atop their vehicles, including vans, minibuses, and trucks.

It is imperative to emphasise that such products should be securely stored within the vehicle, preferably in designated cargo areas.

The Guyana Fire Service (GFS), as one of the regulatory agencies, calls upon individuals to demonstrate responsibility and strictly adhere to established guidelines.

Petroleum products should only be transported in containers specifically



The Guyana Public is being urged to be cautious when transporting gas

designed to prevent leakage and spillage during transit, approved by the relevant regulatory authorities.

Vehicles transporting these products must possess adequate ventilation or be equipped with emergency systems capable of handling flammable vapours or gases, including fire extinguishers and spill containment materials.

To mitigate the risk of accidents such as leaks or spills, it is essential to

ensure that vehicles are not overloaded with petroleum products beyond their capacity.

Moreover, drivers and personnel involved in handling these substances must familiarise themselves with pertinent regulations and guidelines established by entities such as the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA).

Regulatory agencies advise that vehicles utilised for transportation must prominently display warning signs indicating the presence of highly flammable or hazardous substances.

By collectively adhering to and implementing these guidelines, a collective approach to ensuring that a safe and environmentally friendly society is maintained.

For further information on proper transportation practices for petroleum products, individuals may contact the GFS on telephone numbers 226-2411 or 912. (DPI)

OAS condemns Venezuelan regime's 'threatening objectives'

THE Organization of American States (OAS) has squarely denounced the Venezuelan regime's recent approval of the so-called "Law for the defence of Essequibo," labelling it as a threat to regional peace and security.

The strong statement issued by the General Secretariat of the OAS on Monday did not mince words, asserting that the Venezuelan law, purportedly aimed at territorial defence, starkly contradicts fundamental principles of international law and underscores the dictatorial tendencies of the regime.

The OAS described it as reminiscent of sad historical episodes that led to annexations by force, military aggression, and destruction.

"The Venezuelan regime, which a few days ago approved a fascist "law" to combat "fascism, neo-fascism and similar expressions," also approved a so-called "Law for the defense of Essequibo" whose "legislative" standards recall sad historical episodes that led to annexations by force, military aggression and destruction.

"Regional peace and security depend on stopping the Venezuelan regime from advancing these threatening objectives. International law condemns the crime of aggression, condemns the threat of aggression, condemns unilateral actions to resolve bilateral problems, condemns non-compliance and violation of current Arbitration Awards and, as an international community, we must condemn bellicose attitudes and intimidation of countries and international actors," the OAS said.

According to the OAS, the approval of this law by the Venezuelan regime signifies a dangerous escalation of aggressive posturing, with the potential to destabilise the entire region.

Alluding to the gravity of the situation, the statement highlighted the regime's pattern of bellicose behaviour, including recent legislative manoeuvres aimed at combating dissent under the guise of combating fascism.

In a clear rebuke, the OAS underscored the imperative of halting the Venezuelan regime's march towards what it termed as "threatening objectives."

The OAS highlighted the condemnation of unilateral actions to resolve bilateral issues, citing Venezuela's disregard for current Arbitration Awards and its unilateral measures aimed at annexing territory belonging to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.



The disputed territory between Guyana and Venezuela

Guyana, applauding its decision to seek of Justice (ICJ) and condemning the

The OAS expressed solidarity with recourse through the International Court

Venezuelan regime's attempts to intimidate other international actors.

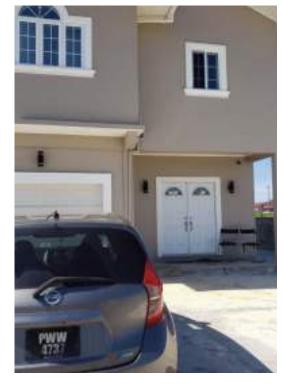
Additionally, the statement highlighted the detrimental impact of Venezuela's actions on the legacy of peaceful relations with Caribbean nations and the exploitation of Guyana's natural resources.

Characterizing the "Law for the defense of Essequibo" as a tool for both external aggression and internal repression, the OAS warned of its potential to plunge the region into further insecurity. It stressed that the law not only jeopardizes the security of Guyana but also threatens the peace and stability of the entire hemisphere.

In light of these developments, the OAS called upon the international community to condemn Venezuela's belligerent actions and stand in solidarity with those affected by its aggressive posturing. The organisation encouraged concerted efforts to address the escalating crisis and safeguard the principles of international law and regional stability.

"The combined use of internal repression with the regime's aggressive stance towards the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is a new milestone in the Venezuelan regime's infinite spiral of moral and political poverty. This law puts at risk the security not only of Guyana, but also the peace and security of the hemisphere," OAS said.

Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, KC, recently echoed the concern of President Dr Irfaan Ali that its neighbour will move to seize Guyana's territory.



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Jaya Bachchan with members of her family including husband, Icon Amitabh Bachchan

Jaya Bachchan says she's taking a break from films

Actor-politician Jaya Bachchan was at the peak of her career and had given hits like Anamika, Abhimaan, Chupke Chupke and Silsila, when she decided to take a break from films and focus on raising son Abhishek Bachchan and daughter Shweta Bachchan.

The sudden decision to move away from films, while husband Amitabh Bachchan continued to work, made many claim Jaya 'sacrificed her career' for her family.

However, the actor, in a recent interview, said that it was her choice to take a break from movies and there was no need for her to be tagged as 'Mother India'.

In an interview with India's Times Now, Jaya said she is not okay with being made to look like

someone who was made to do something.

She said that at that time everyone looked at her decision to quit films as a big surprise and tagged her as 'Mother India', but in reality, she did what she wanted to do. She emphasised that it was not any kind of martyrdom.

The veteran actor said, "I'm not that kind of a person. No one can make me do what I don't want to."

Jaya Bachchan returned to the screen after 17 years with the 1998 film Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa and since then has been part of several films such as Fiza, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Ki & Ka and more recently Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.





ARIES (March 21 - April 20): After the ups and downs of recent weeks you would be forgiven for taking things easy now but that isn't your style. Step up your efforts to pull ahead of your rivals and make sure friends, colleagues and loved ones are behind you 100 per cent.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): If you have to postpone your travel or social plans today then so be it. The planets indicate there are serious issues that will need your input and you are not the sort to head off and have fun while leaving others to sort out the mess.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): The planets warn you are taking a minor dispute far too seriously and need to get your mind straight before you say or do something you might later regret. It doesn't matter who is right and who is wrong, it isn't worth the aggravation either way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Because you have been on the go almost non-stop of late it's no surprise you now feel a bit run down. Ease off today and give your mind and your body time to recover. What's so important that you need to run yourself into the ground?

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): The more you allow yourself to dream now the more you will accomplish in the very near future. Your mind is a powerful tool and if you point it in a specific direction that is where you will end up and where you will find your true calling.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): You may have to wait a bit before you get the chance to work on your latest big idea but keep thinking about it and keep refining the details inside your head, so that when you do get the green light you are ready to hit the ground running.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): The more obstructive some people get the more your anger will rise but try not to let it ruin your day as nothing bad will come of it. Look at it as an opportunity to impress colleagues and employers with how patient and relaxed you can be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You won't be happy if something restricts you today – and it will – but a little further down the line you will look back and realize it worked in your favor. If the universe is conspiring to keep you from doing something it must have its reasons.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): No matter what challenges you face over the next few days you will handle them all with ease. Yesterday's solar eclipse filled you with so much self-belief that you honestly think you are destined for greatness, and with confidence like that it may be true!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Cosmic activity in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart will put you on the spot over the next 24 hours but you will quite enjoy the experience. You will certainly enjoy showing your enemies that you are not the sort to crack under pressure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): If you find yourself a bit out of touch today you must consult someone who has their finger on the pulse. No one expects you to know it all, so don't expect it of yourself. Focus on what you are good at and make an excellent job of it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): A friend or family member will claim a large slice of your time and energy today and while it might be frustrating that they are keeping you from more interesting activities you must help them with their problems. They've helped you many times in the past.

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US legislators address impact of firearms on Caribbean region

In a significant move aimed at tackling the rampant flow of illegal firearms into the Caribbean, US legislators have introduced a new bill garnering attention from both sides of the border.

Jamaica's National Security Minister Dr. Horace Chang has expressed encouragement at this development, highlighting its potential to mitigate the devastating effects of gun violence on Caribbean communities.

At the forefront of this legislative effort is the Caribbean Arms Trafficking Causes Harm (CATCH) Act, spearheaded by Congressman Joaquin Castro, Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Senator Chris Murphy, and Senator Tim Kaine.

The proposed legislation seeks to address the alarming proliferation of illicit firearms originating from the United States, which has fueled a surge in violent crime across the region.

Dr. Chang, speaking to Radio Jamaica News, commended the US Congress for taking proactive steps to tackle the issue of arms trafficking.

He acknowledged the complexities involved, noting the clandestine nature of the firearms trade and the role of intermediary countries like those in Central America.

Despite these challenges, Dr. Chang emphasized the importance of holding manufacturers and traders accountable for the distribution of



Jamaican National Security Minister Dr Horace Chang

firearms that contribute to the Caribbean's security woes.

Central to the CATCH Act is the aim to enhance transparency and accountability within US anti-trafficking efforts.

By imposing stricter regulations on the export and monitoring of firearms, the legislation aims to stem the flow of weapons that have wreaked havoc, particularly in countries like Haiti. The tragic intersection of political instability and humanitarian crises in Haiti underscores the urgent need for decisive action to curb the influx of firearms originating from the United States.

Suriname President for official visit to China

Suriname's President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, is poised to embark on his inaugural journey to China, as announced by the state-owned Suriname Communications Service (CDS).

This revelation comes on the heels of a recent visit by delegates from China's Central Television (CCT) earlier this week.

In an official statement, the CDS outlined the objectives behind President Santokhi's forthcoming trip.

It is geared towards projecting into the future, fostering tangible visions, and delving into avenues for novel partnerships, with an emphasis on bolstering investments.

Additionally, the President aims to forge pathways for Surinamese entrepreneurs in China and reciprocally, facilitate opportunities for Chinese businesses in Suriname.

Although no specific timeline for President Santokhi's visit to Beijing has been disclosed, the CDS highlighted that during deliberations with Santokhi, representatives from CCTV offered a succinct overview of the channel and its array of services.

CCTV stands as the paramount television network in China, broadcasting across 51 channels, and catering to over one billion viewers in six lan-



Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

guages.

Its diverse programming encapsulates a spectrum of content, showcasing the cultural tapestry and societal nuances of the nation.

Emphasizing the enduring nature of the relationship between China and Suriname spanning over 170 years, the

CDS underscored its continued relevance and efficacy.

This historical camaraderie has not only catalyzed advancements in social and technological realms but has also yielded substantial economic dividends for Suriname. Advertising in Equality News works.

CARICOM still discussing plans for free movement of nationals in region

CARICOM leaders, gathered for their summit in Guyana earlier this year, were unable to finalize the arrangements for the free and full movement of CARICOM nationals by the anticipated deadline at the end of last month

According to sources familiar with the matter, a decision was made during the recent virtual heads meeting to schedule a series of further discussions leading up to the next meeting in Grenada, aimed at addressing outstanding amendments to the treaty.

Initially, optimism prevailed after the summit in Guyana in February, where Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, overseeing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), expressed confidence in meeting the targets for free movement of CARI-COM nationals.

However, as the anticipated mid-March meeting approached, it became evident that more time would be needed to iron out the details.

The CSME, designed to facilitate the free movement of goods, skills, labor, and services across the region, faces hurdles in its implementation.

While certain categories of workers can move freely with a CARICOM Skills Certificate, others still require work permits, undermining the vision of seamless movement within the community.

At the heart of the delay lie two



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley discusses the issue of free movement with her colleagues recently

unresolved policy issues, referred to heads for resolution by the intergovernmental task force on free movement.

These matters, pivotal to operationalizing full free movement, were slated for discussion in early March, with hopes for resolution before the March 31st deadline.

Notably, Antigua and Barbuda have signaled a preference for maintaining the current skills regime, citing the need to safeguard the local labor market and economic stability.

Similarly, the Bahamas and Bermuda have indicated their reluctance to participate in the free movement initiative, underlining the diverse perspectives within CARICOM.

JA cops to stop using gender-specific titles

The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has taken a significant stride towards gender inclusivity by announcing the abolition of titles such as 'Woman Constable'.

Instead, the force will now use the title 'Constable' across the board, reflecting its commitment to eliminating gender-specific references within its ranks.

Described by the JCF as "symbolic as it is progressive," this move underscores the force's dedication to transformative change.

Spearheaded by the newly appointed Commissioner of Police, Dr. Kevin Blake, the decision marks a critical step in the ongoing evolution of the JCF.

Emphasizing the significance of this directive, the JCF highlights its broader implications beyond mere administrative adjustments.

It represents a pivotal shift in cultural dynamics within the force, acknowledging the indistinguishable valor and capability of all officers, irrespective of gender.

This announcement coincides with the JCF's commemoration of 75 years since women first joined its ranks.

By replacing gender-specific titles



The Jamaican Constabulary Force has abolished gender specific titles for officers

with the universal 'Constable,' the force pays tribute to the collective service and sacrifice of its members.

Moreover, it underscores a commitment to fostering an environment of inclusivity, where professional merit takes precedence over personal attributes.

In aligning its policies with global best practices in law enforcement, the JCF emphasizes that effectiveness should be gauged by competence and integrity, not gender.

By adopting a uniform approach to titles, the force sends a message to society: roles and responsibilities in security and service are not bound by gender, but are endeavors pursued by all humans, regardless of gender identity.

The Jamaica Constabulary Force's decision to abolish gender-specific ti-

tles marks a significant milestone in its journey towards greater gender inclusivity and equality.

With this progressive step, the force sets a precedent for other law enforcement agencies worldwide, demonstrating a commitment to fostering a more equitable and inclusive work environment.

JA to enhance rights and welfare of workers in overseas program

Jamaica's Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., is placing a significant emphasis on enhancing the rights and welfare of Jamaican participants in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP).

Charles articulated the government's commitment during the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) Television program 'Get the Facts'.

He emphasized the necessity of ensuring acceptable minimum standards and expanding opportunities for Jamaicans.

This, he noted, involves strengthening relationships with stakeholders to elevate Jamaica's competence on the global stage.

Efforts are underway to improve liaison services, with a focus on orienting and training officers, establishing new offices, and refining the selection, orientation, evaluation, and monitoring processes.

Charles underscored the importance of efficiency and effectiveness in achieving program objectives, ensuring safe opportunities for Jamaicans while promoting program sustainability.

Liaison officers serve as primary points of contact for immediate support to farm workers.

Charles highlighted the increased frequency and impact of their engagement, expressing optimism for positive



Jamaican farm workers at work in Canada

trends in expanding opportunities for Jamaicans in Canada and the United States over the next three years.

Encouragement and engagement Charles encouraged farm workers to remain committed to the program, emphasizing openness and communication with the Ministry.

He assured them of opportunities to voice their concerns, underscoring the program's benefits for Jamaica and expressing eagerness to expand both opportunities and benefits.

Last year, nearly 10,000 Jamaicans

benefited from the program in Canada alone. The Overseas Employment Programme has long been a vital contributor to both the Jamaican and Canadian economies, providing financial support for many Jamaican families to improve their standard of living.

TT says no to military involvement in Haiti

The Trinidad and Tobago government announced on Tuesday its decision not to provide military assistance amidst escalating security concerns in Haiti.

Criminal gangs in the country have been plotting to overthrow Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry's government, prompting international deliberation on intervention measures.

Foreign and Caricom Affairs Minister, Dr. Amery Browne, addressed reporters at a news conference, elucidating the government's stance on contributing to security efforts in Haiti.

Despite the nation's support for actions addressing the crisis, Browne emphasized that Trinidad and Tobago would not deploy military forces or police officers as part of the Multinational Security Mission (MSS) sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

While ruling out military involvement, Browne highlighted Trinidad and Tobago's contributions to diplomatic initiatives and financial aid aimed at addressing the situation in Haiti.

The government has extended support to Caricom Good Offices efforts, the Eminent Persons Group, and other diplomatic frameworks, laying the groundwork for potential interventions.

Browne mentioned Trinidad and



Gang violence has made Haiti almost ungovernable

Tobago's participation in a virtual summit with other Caricom leaders to discuss the ongoing crisis in Haiti.

The summit aims to provide updates, assess the situation, and explore collaborative approaches within the region to address the concerning developments in Haiti.

The United Nations Security Council had previously authorized the deployment of the MSS to support Haiti's police force, with Kenya offering to lead the mission.

However, legal obstacles arose when the Kenya High Court deemed the deployment unconstitutional without a reciprocal arrangement with the Haitian government.

In response to the court ruling, Kenya signed a "reciprocal arrangement" in Nairobi, seeking to address legal objections and proceed with its plan to dispatch 1,000 police officers to Port-au-Prince. Meanwhile, other Caricom nations, including the Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize, and Antigua and Barbuda, have expressed willingness to assist the MSS in fulfilling its mandate.

Despite Trinidad and Tobago's decision to refrain from military involvement, regional and international efforts persist to address the security crisis in Haiti, underscoring the complexity and urgency of the situation.

Royal Navy intercepts £16 million in drugs in Caribbean region

The British Royal Navy has reported significant success in the Caribbean with HMS Trent, a warship, at the forefront of a major crackdown on drug trafficking.

In a series of strategic operations, HMS Trent has managed to intercept drugs valued at £16.7 million (approximately US\$21.1 million) in two separate incidents.

These efforts represent a substantial blow to drug runners operating in the region.

In a remarkable demonstration of international cooperation and maritime prowess, the crew aboard HMS Trent, comprising British sailors, Royal Marines, and a US Coast Guard team, executed a swift interception of a smuggling speedboat.

This action came shortly after the warship had visited Martinique. The operation saw the deployment of fast sea boats, manned by the Royal Marines of 47 Commando, to halt the smugglers, confiscate the narcotics, and detain the suspects as night approached.

Reports are that less than 48 hours following their initial success, HMS Trent was back on the offensive.

This time, in collaboration with a US Coast Guard patrol aircraft, the team managed to locate and intercept another speedboat, further disrupting the operations of drug traffickers.

Across these operations, HMS Trent successfully seized 200kg of cocaine among other drugs, cumulatively worth £16.7 million.

Commanding Officer, Commander Tim Langford, lauded the adaptability and professionalism of his crew, high-



Royal Navy in action in the Caribbean Sea

lighting their seamless transition from diplomatic engagements in Martinique to conducting high-stakes boarding operations.

The operations underscored the exceptional level of cooperation among the Royal Navy, the US Coast Guard, and other partners, proving instrumental in the success of these missions.

Since its deployment to the Caribbean at the close of 2023, HMS

Trent has been a formidable force against drug trafficking, with total drug seizures valued at £307 million.

The warship's activities include a £220.56 million cocaine haul in February and a £70.1 million seizure in January.

These operations are part of the Royal Navy's broader commitment to combat drug trafficking globally.

British Defence Secretary Grant

Shapps praised the efforts of HMS Trent's crew in combating drug trafficking, emphasizing the impact of their work on keeping illegal drugs off the streets.

The Royal Navy's operations not only disrupt criminal networks in the UK but also play a crucial role in maintaining maritime security and upholding international law in the Caribbean.

JA unveils Tourism Strategy and Action Plan

Jamaica's Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, underscored the pivotal role of the country's Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (TSAP) in fostering stakeholder readiness to navigate the industry's evolving landscape.

Developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the TSAP charts a course aimed at catalyzing socio-economic advancement and attracting investment.

With a focus on fortifying the local tourism industry against climate change impacts, the plan also aims to curtail the sector's environmental footprint.

At its core, the TSAP endeavors to diversify Jamaica's tourism offerings, fostering a more robust inbound tourism market.

Moreover, it seeks to propel the industry towards knowledge-driven and technology-enabled development.

Minister Bartlett emphasized the imperative of inclusivity within Jamaica's tourism framework.

He stressed the need for strategies that not only bolster physical infra-



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

structure but also prioritize human capital development.

Recognizing Jamaica's greatest

asset as its people, Bartlett advocates for initiatives that nurture intellectual, innovative, and creative capacities within the populace.

A significant aspect of TSAP involves amplifying local production to bolster Jamaica's capacity to retain a greater share of tourist expenditure.

Bartlett underscores the substantial consumption disparity between visitors and locals, underscoring the necessity for domestic industries, particularly agriculture, to meet the demands of the tourism sector.

Highlighting the imperative of economic linkages, Bartlett emphasizes the need to curb financial leakage from the tourism sector.

By fostering synergies between tourism and other sectors, the strategy aims to maximize economic benefits within Jamaica.

The culmination of a series of consultations, the recent Tourism Strategy and Action Plan Consultation Workshop in Kingston and St. Andrew served as a platform for stakeholders to provide valuable input, ensuring the TSAP's alignment with diverse perspectives and needs.

Sweltering forecast for Caribbean in 2024 Heat outlook

The scorching Caribbean heat that plagued the region in 2023 shows no signs of relenting as the Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) issues its Heat Outlook for April to September 2024.

Brace yourselves for another sweltering stretch, expected to persist until October, with August and September likely to bear the brunt of the heat onslaught.

As April ushers in the transition towards the peak of the Caribbean Heat Season, residents across the Caribbean Islands and Belize are advised to prepare for temperatures soaring beyond the norm.

The outlook for April to June forewarns of an unrelenting onslaught of intense daytime and nighttime heat, setting the stage for what could be an exceptionally sweltering summer.

The implications of such extreme heat extend far beyond mere discomfort. With the mercury expected to soar to near-record levels by August and September, vulnerable populations and small livestock face an increased risk of heat stress.

The soaring temperatures, coupled with escalating humidity, are likely to exacerbate the situation, underscoring the urgent need for adaptive measures.

In a stark departure from historical averages, the projected number of heatwave days for April to June 2024 paints



Forecasters warn of excessive hear throughout the Caribbean in 2024

a worrisome picture.

Anticipate a staggering increase, with forecasts indicating upwards of 50 heatwave days inland Belize, and 30 to 50 days in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and leeward locations in the Windward Islands.

Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago are all expected to experience a minimum of 30 scorching heatwave days.

Already, several islands in the Caribbean region have experienced sweltering conditions, serving as a harbinger of the impending heatwave. Grenada sounded the alarm on April 6th, issuing a heatwave advisory after enduring eight consecutive days with temperatures surpassing 31.7 degrees Celsius at Point Salines.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda grappled with an excessive heat warning as the Heat Index soared to a staggering 50°C or 122°F.

Similarly, the British Virgin Islands issued a heat advisory on April 8th, urging residents to take precautions as temperatures soared, signaling the onset of a relentless heatwave.

23 named storms predicted for hurricane season

In anticipation of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team has released a forecast signaling a period of heightened activity.

Projections suggest an active season ahead, with an increase of over 50 per cent in storms across all categories.

The forecasters anticipate a majority of these storms to make landfall within the Caribbean and the mainland United States.

Expectations set forth by the forecast estimate a total of twenty-three named storms for the upcoming season.

Among these, eleven are projected to escalate into hurricanes, while five could potentially reach major hurricane status.

This forecast considered the first major prediction for the 2024 season, is grounded in the observation of warmerthan-normal tropical Atlantic conditions

These conducive atmospheric circumstances are deemed favorable for both the formation and intensification of hurricanes.

A significant contributor to the forecast's predictions lies in the record warm levels observed in the sea surface temperatures of the eastern and central Atlantic.



Residents in a Caribbean island stumbled through debris left behind by a hurricane

These temperatures are currently soaring and are expected to persist well above average as the hurricane season approaches.

The Colorado State University (CSU) highlights this as a crucial factor amplifying the likelihood of an extremely active hurricane season.

The CSU, committed to providing

accurate and timely information, has announced plans for regular updates on the forecast.

In June, the team will release an updated assessment, offering insights into any developments or shifts in the forecasted outlook.

While the CSU's forecast provides a comprehensive initial outlook, atten-

tion now turns to the upcoming assessment from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center.

Scheduled for release in May, NOAA's forecast will offer additional perspectives and insights into what lies ahead for the 2024 hurricane season.

Seales strikes twice in English county cricket debut

LONDON: West Indies duo of allrounder Jason Holder and pacer Jayden Seales, 22, got a chance in between showers to make their entry into this year's English County Championship, which opened on April 5.

Seales ended the day with two for 33 from 10.1 overs and was the only successful bowler for Sussex before bad light stopped play on the weather shortened day with Northamptonshire 95 for two in their first innings.

The Trinidadian pacer struck with the first ball of his second over when he got opener Emilio Gay caught by the 'keeper down the leg-side for five.

But Northants captain Luke Procter, not out on 41, and opener Justin Broad defied the Sussex attack and carried the visitors to 58 for one at tea.

Seales struck in the second over after the break when he got Broad lbw playing half forward, but Procter and Indian batsman Karun Nair, not out on 12, carried Northants through to the close.

Speaking after his debut, Seales said he is enjoying the experience.

He said his maiden wicket, albeit with a touch of fortune, settled whatever nerves he had.

"Obviously the first one was a bit lucky but I'll take those any day," he said.

"Just happy to have an impact with the team and get the wickets."

He said he relished the challenge of bowling in new conditions.

"I enjoyed the challenge. I enjoyed getting the ball to do a little bit and getting the breakthrough."

He said the ball didn't swing as much as anticipated so he had to bowl straighter and alter the seam position periodically.

West Indies teammate Kemar Roach was not so fortunate because no play was possible at Old Trafford between hosts Lancashire and defending champions Surrey, of which he is part, because of adverse weather.

Heavy overnight rain meant that no play was possible before lunch, and play was abandoned for the day about 12.30 p.m. after another heavy downpour in a match that will also feature two international record-breakers in the Lancashire line-up.

Leading England pacer Jimmy Anderson and top Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon, fierce rivals for the nations during the Ashes, have been drawn together for Lancs this county season and will be looking forward to a strong start against Roach and company.



Jayden Seales - memorable county cricket debut



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Three women named to CWI Board

CRICKET West Indies (CWI) on April 8 announced the appointment of three women to its board of directors, marking a historic milestone for gender diversity and inclusion within the organisation.

Diann Campbell and Louise Victor-Frederick join as new appointees, while Debra Coryat-Patton returns to the board.

Campbell, a distinguished Jamaican cricket administrator with nearly three decades of experience, holds a master's in Human Resource Management and a bachelor's in History with a minor in Politics. CWI said her expertise in cricket administration, corporate governance, and organisational development will greatly benefit its strategic initiatives.

Victor-Frederick, a seasoned branding and communications strategist from St Lucia, brings a wealth of experience. With a master's in International Public Relations and Global Communications Management, along with a bachelor's in Business Administration, Victor-Frederick has made significant contributions to the corporate landscape of St Lucia. She also serves as a director of the Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture.

Coryat-Patton, an accomplished







From ;eft, Louise Victor-Frederick, Diann Campbell and Debra Coryat-Patton

attorney from TT. specialises in Employment Law, Intellectual Property Law, and Diplomatic Protocol, bringing invaluable legal expertise to the board. She is also a Chartered Director and Chartered Corporate Secretary.

In addition to these appointments, Hallam Nichols has been reappointed as an independent director, which is expected to further enhance the board's collective expertise and vision. Nichols is a prominent Barbadian entrepreneur. He served on the CWI Stakeholders Relations Committee.

CWI president Dr Kishore Shal-

low said, "We are thrilled to welcome Ms Campbell and Mrs Victor-Frederick as new appointees, and we warmly welcome back Mrs Coryat-Patton and Mr Nichols to the CWI board of directors. Their diverse backgrounds, extensive experience, and unwavering commitment to excellence will undoubtedly strengthen our organisation and contribute to the advancement of cricket in the West Indies."

Regarding diversity on the board, Shallow said, "Since the beginning, I've advocated for diversity within CWI to ensure fairness both on and off the field. This appointment is a natural progression of our ongoing commitment."

Shallow also thanked the outgoing independent directors, saying "My profound gratitude to both Manniram Prashad and Gail Mathurin for their service...They have certainly made meaningful contributions to West Indies cricket, and we anticipate their continued involvement and impact in other capacities."

All four appointments are for a one-year period ending March 2025.





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BRUNCH IN THE COUNTRY LINDEN REGATTA CPL CRICKET MATCH

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ONE GUYANA CONCERT

SEPT 27TH FRI

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SEPT 28TH SAT

CPL CRICKET MATCH JOUVERT

SEPT 29TH SUN

CRICKET CARNIVAL PARADE ROAD PARADE AFTER PARTY CPL CRICKET MATCH

SEPT 29TH SUN

RISING SUN (JUMBO JET THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMITTEE)

OCT 1ST TUES

CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY IN LINDEN & BERBICE

OCT 2ND WED

CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY
IN LINDEN & BERBICE

OCT 3RD THUR

PAN ON THE BEACH

OCT 4TH FRI

FOOD FESTIVAL CPL CRICKET MATCH

CPL WATCH PARTY
IN LINDEN & BERBICE

OCT 5TH SAT

FOOD FESTIVAL SUPER CONCERT

OCT 6TH SUN

FOOD FESTIVAL
CPL CRICKET FINALS
CRICKET FINALS AFTER PARTY



#discoverguyana

