

# Equality

**MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE** **\$1.00**

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397



## TAPAS

tel: (246) 228-0704  
 info@tapasbarbados.com  
 www.tapasbarbados.com  
 Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados  
 See our ad on Page 2



### Vettyvel Law

Professional Corporation  
 1-- 203-Markham Rd.  
 Scarborough Ontario M1B 0E6

- Real Estate Law (Residential & Commercial)
- Wills & Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

**Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LLB, LLM**  
 Barrister & Solicitor  
 Direct 416 281 1544 Fax: 416 281 1544  
 rishani@vettyvelaw.com



## Barbados marks 75 Years Of Air Canada Service

The year was 1949. Newfoundland had just joined Canada. The Maple Leafs celebrated their 8th consecutive Stanley Cup. And Air Canada started flying to Barbados (BGI).

Trans Canada Airlines, as the carrier was known then, was – impressively – the first North American airline to fly to the island. And still today there is a tradition of friendship and connectivity between the two very different countries. Equally telling of AC’s close relationship with the island, it was the first airline to resume service post-pandemic.

Toronto. “This is more than air routes, this is an enduring friendship between Barbados and Canada,” the Hon. G.P. Ian Gooding-Edghill, Minister of Tourism and International Transport told the some 100 guests. “We deeply value the partnership. Barbados is not just a destination – it is an experience. You arrive as strangers and leave as friends.”

Attractions include those famous beaches; a vibrant culinary scene from the most sophisticated to unpretentious street food; year-round festivals of



**Equality's Bhaskar Sharma with Barbados Tourism Minister Ian Gooding-Edghill during the Minister's visit to Toronto earlier this week**

wind at one of the island’s famous and funky little rum shops.

Speaking of connections between the two countries, Ryan Ford of the BGI Hotel and Tourism Association reminded the audience of how many Barbadians (“Bajans”) come to Canada for their education. And he added an impressive statistic: Canadians are now the highest number of purchasers of real estate on the island, surpassing Brits and Americans. We also represent the highest number of repeat visitors.

The Minister also mentioned there will be two new hotels opening next year; and the attendees learned that BGI is now considered a top destination for groups.

“75 years is a milestone indeed,” BGI’s High Commissioner to Canada Gline Clarke told the guests, who comprised members of the Bajan diaspora, AC and ACV staffers and other members of the travel industry. “Let’s ensure continued growth for the next 75 years!”



**ACV's Shirley Lam, Diana Rodriguez, Nino Montagnese and Dina Bertolo with Travel Brands' Sam Youssef**

And to celebrate the important anniversary of that flight on 03DEC 1949, a swank and definitely Barbados-themed cocktail event was held at the sleek X Hotel near the lakefront in

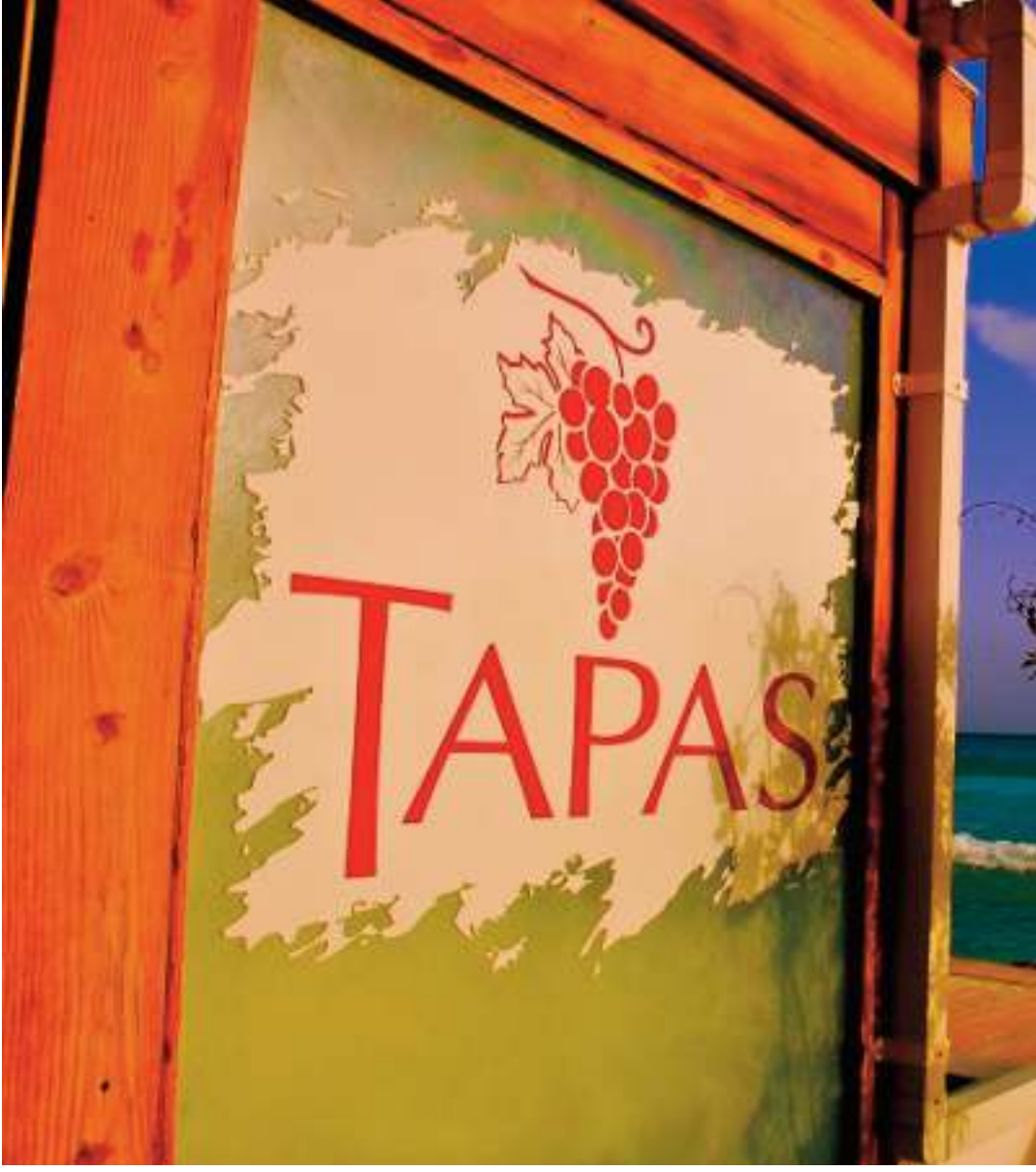
every stripe; and rollicking adventure travel opportunities. Above all, visitors are encouraged to get out and connect with the locals, whether they are shopping, golfing, or getting their second



**Jackie and Chris Stubbs of Ultimate Hotels and Villas**



**BGI Tourism Marketing Inc's Lisa Batson with Sandals' CJ Smith**



For the most delicious local and international cuisine and signature cocktails in Barbados. Join us for an exceptional time when you visit our beautiful island

Hastings Main Road  
Highway 7  
Christ Church  
Barbados WI  
+1 (246) 228-0704



# JEFF LAL

www.jefflal.com

**PPC CANDIDATE FOR MP  
BRAMPTON EAST**

**PPC**  
PEOPLE'S PARTY  
of CANADA

- ▶ Lower The Cost of Living
- ▶ Proactively Fight Auto Thefts & Crime
- ▶ Create Opportunities for Our Children
- ▶ Put Families First

**“NEW VOICE,  
BRIGHT FUTURE:  
TOGETHER FOR  
BRAMPTON EAST!”**

PPC CANDIDATE FOR MP  
**BRAMPTON EAST**

Freedom | Responsibility | Fairness | Respect

SCAN ME



- 1 BECOME A PPC MEMBER**  
Being a member empowers you to be a part of the democratic process choosing your PPC candidate.
- 2 VOLUNTEER WITH MY CAMPAIGN**  
Join the movement by volunteering your time.
- 3 SHARE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS**  
The greatest support is helping us spread our PPC message.

@ /jeff.lal 9 Abacus Rd, Brampton, Ontario L6T 5B7  
info@jefflal.com +1.416.892.3959

# SHARMA LAW

Your Personal Injury Lawyer

A lawyer who gets to know you, so he can represent you. When you're looking for the best possible result, you need an attorney who knows every detail about you and your case. Sharma Law takes the time to get to know each and every client, so we're in the best position to represent you and your family when it matters most. Backed by proven results and experience at Ontario's highest levels of court, Sharma Law specializes in Personal Injury Law.



**NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM**



## Personal Injury

Injuries caused by the negligence of others can be physically, emotionally, and financially devastating for victims and their families. If you've been injured, you need a personal injury lawyer who knows how to fight for the compensation you deserve.



## Injury Claims

- Motor Vehicle Accident Claims
- At-Fault Accident Claims
- Not At-Fault Accident Claims
- Catastrophic In-jury Claims
- Slip and Falls / Trip and Falls
- Dog Bites
- Long Term Disability / Short Term Disability
- Pedestrian Accidents

### OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to achieving successful results for every client and case. We accomplish this by providing exceptional legal advice and strategies based on a thorough understanding of your case and your desired outcomes.

**FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW.**

Check out our Google reviews



Available for in-person visits at your home or hospital, anywhere in Ontario. Video Conference and Office meetings available.



**Hurt? Call Vishal's direct line 6479724440**

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca

www.vsharmalaw.ca



# Toronto's Dr Nar, Vic Insanally, Auntie Comsee get UG Doctorates

Now in its fourth season of awards, the University of Guyana has announced its 2024 list of exemplars in science, business, the arts, and education who will be awarded honorary doctorates in this year's convocation exercises. Alumnus of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Guyana and Founder of Baron Foods Sir Ronal Ramjattan; Guyanese Toronto-based surgeon and medical innovator Dr. Narendra Chetram Singh; CEO and Founder of Hansib Publishing Mr Arif Ali and Creole Linguistics and English Language Specialist Professor Ian Robertson are among the eleven outstanding Guyanese who will be awarded at the various ceremonies when the University of Guyana hosts its 58th Convocation exercises scheduled for November 7 to 16, 2024.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Victor Compton Insanally, shipping magnate Christopher Fernandes; finance and management specialist Ralph Bazilio; child rights activist and social worker Ann Greene; historian and consumer advocate Patrick Parbhu Dial; veteran Guyanese musician and culturalist Eze Rockcliffe and cultural icon Pauline Thomas aka "Auntie Comsee" round out the diverse and impressive list. The following are brief synopses of each awardee.

#### RONALD RAMJATTAN

Sir Ronald Ramjattan is a well-respected chemist/food technologist. He is the CEO and founder of Baron Foods Ltd. Sir Ramjattan began his academic journey at the Muslim Education Trust College in Brickdam, Georgetown. His passion for chemistry led him to the University of Guyana, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry in 1972.

#### DR NARENDRA SINGH

Dr Narendra Singh is currently the Director of Pediatric Critical Care Services at the South Texas Health System. Additionally, he is the Strategic Adviser to the Minister of Health in Guyana. In 2018, he retired as the Chief of Staff of Humber River Hospital, Toronto.

Dr Singh is also the Programme Director for the Pediatric Post Graduate Programme, the University of Guyana/Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, and Associate Clinical Professor, the Faculty of Medicine at McMaster University. He founded Guyana Help the Kids in 2009 to address neonatal and infant mortality rates in Guyana.

Dr Singh has received numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Medal of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Prix d'excellence (Specialist of the Year).

#### ARIF ALI

Arif Ali has over 50 years of experience in publishing for and about the Caribbean in the United Kingdom. Ali's career as a newspaper publisher started in 1973 with the acquisition of



Vic Insanally

the West Indian World. Under Ali's editorship, the West Indian World prospered, campaigning on various educational issues that were affecting black schoolchildren in Britain. Ali went on to further engage and communicate with the Caribbean, African, and Asian communities by establishing the Asian Digest (August 1980), the newspapers Caribbean Times (1981), Asian Times (1983), and African Times (1985), as well as Root Magazine (1987).

#### PROFESSOR IAN ROBERTSON

Following the completion of his secondary education at Queens College, Prof Ian Robertson went on to the University of the West Indies, Mona, where he completed the Special Honours degree in English. He returned to the University at the St. Augustine campus where he completed his Ph. D in Linguistics.

Prof. Robertson worked in the education system in Guyana, Trinidad, and Jamaica for more than forty years. He has also been actively involved in the work of the Caribbean Examinations Council having served as Assistant Chief Examiner at the CSEC English and as Chair of the syllabus development committee for the preparation of the CAPE Communication Studies.

#### CHRISTOPHER FERNANDES

Patriarch of the Fernandes clan, international shipping magnate, and servant leader, Christopher Fernandes' work experience covers a wide range of activities in the fields of business and management, as well as social, cultural, humanitarian, and sports in Guyana. He pursued his tertiary education at the Irish Management Institute and Pennsylvania State University. He is currently the Chairman of John Fernandes Group of Companies.

Chris Fernandes also served as the Hon. Counsel for Germany to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana from 2003-2010. He was the First President of the Shipping Association of Guyana Inc. (1995 – 2002). He was also the Chairman of the Caribbean Shipping Association.

#### ANN GREENE



Pauline Thomas, Auntie Comsee

Ann Greene is a career social work professional with over 45 years of experience in the Public Service in Guyana. She has served in a number of capacities in the Social Services in Guyana, starting as an administrative staff and moving to a probation and welfare officer a capacity in which she served for several years before reaching the height of the Chief Probation Officer and later Director of the Child-care and Protection Agency.

#### RALPH BAZILIO

Ralph Bazilion has over 37 years of experience as a Certified Public Accountant in the US. He has built a distinguished career providing audit, accounting, financial, and management advisory services. As the CEO of Bazilio Cobb Associates and the Managing Partner of Watson Rice LLP, Bazilio has demonstrated exceptional leadership and expertise in both firms, guiding them to prominence in the accounting and consulting sectors.

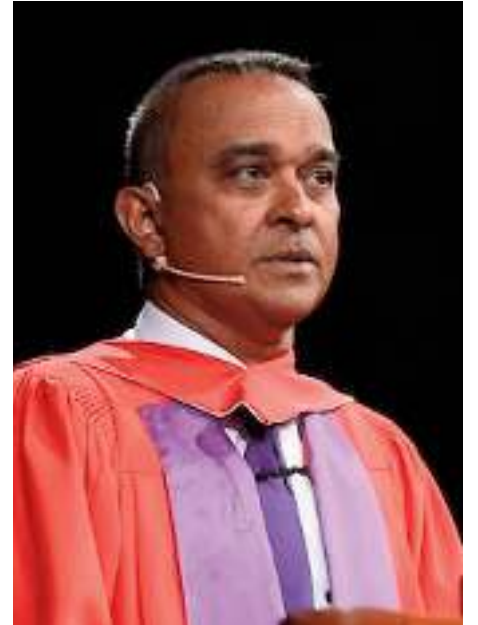
#### PATRICK DIAL

Pat Dial is a historian by profession. He served in numerous capacities in the public sector over several decades, including at the level of Permanent Secretary in the then Ministry of Information and Culture and as Executive Director of the Advisory Committee on Broadcasting which later evolved into National Broadcast Authority.

#### VIC INSANALLY

Victor Insanally has had a long and illustrious career through which he has made immense contributions to the arts, culture, and public life in Guyana. He has been a pioneering force in Guyanese arts, culture, public relations, and philanthropy. His contributions to the creative and civic life of Guyana, particularly as a distinguished broadcaster, cultural leader, and pioneering entrepreneur, are unparalleled. Moreover, his devotion to the upliftment of Guyanese children through the Tina Insanally Foundation exemplifies his commitment to using his talents and influence for the greater good.

In recognition of his exceptional contribution to the field of the Arts, Theatre Guild of Guyana recently



Dr Narendra Singh

awarded him the 2023 Icon of the Arts Award for Marketing and Promotion of the Creative Spirit. In 1998, he was conferred with the Cacique Crown of Honour for his outstanding services to the country.

#### EZE ROCKLIFFE

Eze Rockcliffe is a cultural icon. He is the lead for the Yoruba Singers band, formerly known as the "Kitty Young Ascians". Due to Rockcliffe's exceptional talent and leadership, the band has achieved many significant successes for over half a decade.

Eze Rockcliffe is a cultural icon. He is the lead for the Yoruba Singers band, formerly known as the "Kitty Young Ascians". Due to Rockcliffe's exceptional talent and leadership, the band has achieved many significant successes for over half a decade. Owing to the fact that the band has never broken up, it is by far the longest-continuing ensemble of its kind in the country. It is the first to have played at almost every version of the Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (Carifesta), and the first musical group or outfit from Guyana to have had the honour to perform at the world-famous Maddison Square Garden alongside the Might Sparrow and the late Lord Kitchener back in 1983.

#### PAULINE THOMAS

Pauline Thomas – affectionately known as "Auntie Comsee" is a living legend at 102 years old. Her name resonates deeply within the realms of storytelling, folklore, and cultural preservation. Her legacy has not only enriched the artistic community in Guyana but has also influenced the wider Caribbean diaspora.

Thomas's captivating performances at the Theatre Guild of Guyana set the standard for stage acting in the country, earning her widespread admiration for her ability to blend humour, pathos, and cultural nuance in her roles. However, it was her work as "Auntie Comsee" on the radio that truly solidified her status as a national icon.

These awardees join only 21 other honorary doctorates ever awarded by the University in its 61-year history.

# COP29 sets carbon market framework, but concerns rise over equity

AFTER nearly a decade, world leaders during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) agreed on the final building blocks to set out how carbon markets will operate.

Though a notable achievement, there are still concerns about how forested countries like Guyana will navigate the market.

“Safeguards are crucial to prevent low-quality carbon credits from entering the market. If low-quality products flood the market, it could dilute the quality, and lead to a collapse in prices,” Guyana’s Vice-President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo on Thursday argued, as he pointed out the need for equity and certification in maintaining the markets standards.

Dr. Jagdeo, while responding to questions posed to him by the media at his weekly news conference stated that even though the government here is ‘pleased’ that there was some progress, the agreements emerging out of the Conference of Parties do not live up to the goal of keeping the world on a sustainable trajectory.

“We are disappointed in that regard,” he said, noting that Guyana will show its full support for market developments that promote financing for forest and biodiversity credits.

“For Guyana, anything that supports market development, particularly in forests and biodiversity credits, is something we support. Certification is key to maintaining high-quality forest carbon. We hope credible organisations will certify carbon before it enters the market. Without proper certification, any country could introduce substandard products, undermining the market. In our case, we use the ART-TREES certification process, which is robust, and ensures our carbon is of the highest quality,” he said.

Guyana has established its own unique mechanism, through the creation of one of the first Low-Carbon Develop-



Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

ment Strategies in the world, which enabled it to enter a voluntary market for the sale of carbon credits.

The Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) had issued 7.14 million vintage carbon credits to Guyana, marking a ground-breaking achievement in the global fight against climate change.

Simultaneously, the Government of Guyana had announced the world’s first Paris Agreement corresponding adjustment, a significant step reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

These developments fulfilled requirements to label the credits as the world’s first eligible for use by airlines towards their targets in the 2024-2026 phase of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)’s global emission reduction programme, CORSIA.

The issuance by ART, known as TREES credits, recognises Guyana’s efforts at successfully reducing emissions

from forest loss and degradation, while maintaining one of the world’s most intact tropical forests through jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives.

Meanwhile, Global Ambassador for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Chief Executive Officer for the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator (CCSA), Racquel Moses, during media engagement on Friday highlighted the inequity in the assessment of carbon credits, where most assessors are from the global north, which also produces much of the carbon.

She is advocating for a global south entity funded by the north to build capacity in assessing carbon credits fairly.

“We have to be vigilant; we have to be vigilant on the safeguards that are required to ensure that the carbon credits that are entering the market are quality

credits,” Ms. Moses said.

She reiterated the need for vigilance to ensure high-quality carbon credits enter the market, stressing the importance of proving additionality, and advocating for fair pricing. She called for proactive engagement in global carbon exchanges to monitor and influence the market.

“...fair pricing goes hand-in-hand with the quality of the credits; I would advocate for us looking at the opportunities that exist, [for] us to work together to create an entity in the global south funded by the global north to build our capacity in assessing these carbon credits and ensuring that there is fairness in how they are determined, and that there’s increasing rigor, but that that rigor is not overly onerous, so that it makes it more difficult for us to sell our carbon credits.”



On TikTok: Raul's Jewellery (Number 1 for Guyana Jewellery on TikTok)  
Mocha, East Bank Demerara  
Phone number/WhatsApp: +592-644-0543

Where Jewellery Speaks For Itself

Raul Anthony De Souza  
592.644.0543  
rauldesouza884@gmail.com

# A Model for the Caribbean

*Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, December 3 2024*

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali's recent announcement of a 20-acre farmland development project at Eteringbang, Region Seven, is another commendable step towards addressing food security challenges in Guyana's hinterland communities.

This initiative not only aligns with Guyana's broader vision for sustainable agriculture, but also sets an example for other Caribbean nations grappling with similar issues.

The Caribbean region has long struggled with food security, with many countries importing more than 80 per cent of their food consumption.

Guyana, along with Belize and Haiti, stands out as one of the few

CARICOM nations producing over 50 per cent of its consumption. President Ali's focus on empowering hinterland communities like Eteringbang demonstrates a strategic approach to bolstering domestic food production, and reducing import dependence.

The Eteringbang project is not just about cultivating land; it's a holistic approach to agricultural development. By including plans for a food-processing facility and a youth-focused poultry programme, the government is creating a sustainable ecosystem that addresses production, processing, and employment. This multi-faceted strategy is crucial for long-term success and community buy-in.

President Ali's emphasis on involving young people in the ownership of agricultural projects is particularly

praiseworthy. By targeting youth for the poultry programme and highlighting opportunities in nearby mining camps, the government is addressing the critical issue of youth unemployment, while ensuring the longevity of these agricultural initiatives.

The commissioning of a new airstrip at Eteringbang is a game-changer. Improved transportation infrastructure is vital for the success of agricultural projects, enabling easier access to markets and resources. This development will likely have a multiplier effect on the local economy, benefiting not just agriculture but various sectors.

Guyana's approach to food security, as exemplified by the Eteringbang project, could serve as a model for other CARICOM nations.

With the region facing a staggering 52 per cent food insecurity rate, Guyana's proactive measures, including its US\$2 million pledge towards the 'Building Food Security through Innovation, Resilience, Sustainability, and Empowerment' project, set a precedent for regional cooperation and self-sufficiency.

While the Eteringbang project is promising, its success will depend on consistent implementation and support. It is, however, just a microcosm of Guyana's ambitious vision for food security and sustainable agriculture.

As Guyana continues to lead the charge in CARICOM's food security agenda, projects like these will be crucial in transforming the region's agricultural landscape.

## Should India offer refuge to victimised descendants?

By Dr. Kumar Mahabir

On the heels of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to Guyana on November 19-21, 2024, the question can be asked: Should India offer refuge to victimised descendants of indentured labourer in the Diaspora? If so, would it be an act of historical responsibility or solidarity? Could extending refuge to these communities - many of whom face discrimination and violence due to the legacy of colonial exploitation - help strengthen India's ties with its diaspora? What would be the potential benefits for both refugees and local populations? How might India balance this gesture with its own domestic resources and immigration policies?

The following are excerpts from an Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre (ICC) Thought Leaders' Forum held recently (27/10/24). The program was chaired by Shakira Mohommed and moderated by Shalima Mohammed, both from Trinidad. The topic was "Should India offer refuge to victimised descendants of indentured labourers in the Diaspora?" See the unedited recording of the program: <https://www.youtube.com/@dmahabstreams>.

There were four (4) speakers in the program: DR. SHUCHI GUPTA of

India, a historian, as well as the producer and director of the film titled Who am I? The documentary is based on Suriname academic, Dr. Maurits Hassankhan's search for his ancestral family in India. PROFESSOR RAVI-CHANDRAN MOORTHY of Malaysia, a Professor of International Relations at Universiti Kebangsaan in Malaysia; VINESH SELVAN of South Africa, who has championed the plight of the South African Indian community during the 2021 insurrection; and PROFESSOR PEGGY MOHAN of India, originally from Trinidad, who moved to India in 1979 to teach linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

DR. SHUCHI GUPTA said: "By exploring innovative ways to connect with and support its' diaspora, India can honour its shared history with these communities. Ultimately, the decision should be guided by the commitment to human rights and social justice, ensuring that the legacy of indentured labourers is honoured, and their descendants can find a place in the narrative of modern India. By doing so, India can reaffirm its identity as a nation that values its diverse heritage and solidarity with those affected by historical injustices. We as Indians everywhere, are one, and that is why I am here to link the broken chains.

We have different nationalities, castes, creeds and religions, but all these differences, I must say keep India alive in your hearts in the diaspora, and in the hearts of our future generation."

PROFESSOR RAVICHANDRAN MOORTHY said: "People in the Diaspora should embrace and promote active human rights and be a leader for the humanitarian voice globally. Active engagements with the state in question, meaning there is a certain problem, on behalf of the impacted diaspora, the affected diaspora, they must have an active engagement. If you have problems in southern countries, you should speak to the foreign ministers, and engage them publicly, diplomatically, or behind the screen. In extreme cases, Bharat should also provide refuge to the affected diaspora communities. We need to develop a proper model. At the moment, I see that India is getting really close to the diaspora community."

VINESH SELVAN said: "I'm just saying that those who were affected by indentured labour should come together, find a country to relocate to, and build a society free of persecution, marginalisation and discrimination. The idea is not to displace anyone or take up arms; it is just to create a place where Indians who are displaced by indentured labour can

live without persecution because we need to stop the cycle of 164 years. Many efforts have been made and we have not changed since, so I think if we do achieve it, the plight of Indians can change in one generation."

PROFESSOR PEGGY MOHAN said: "There has to be a certain feeling for India itself and for those who do want to come. It's been the most welcoming place on the planet from the time of humanity. Some people have said it is overpopulated. There are people who come and don't leave because they settle. I am just someone in a very in-between situation, both Trinidadian (who had no problem with Trinidad) and Indian who envisages living there for the rest of my life. I think that the only thing is ... is that I was not aware that many people felt so unhappy where they were; that like the Rohingyas, and like the Bangladesh War, they were desperate to come. I remember my father-in-law coming home one night (my husband told me) saying "I have to build a refugee centre," and he just calmly had his dinner and went and built a refugee centre with the engineering department of his State, and didn't think a thing of it; that was the way things have always been done."



**Publisher: Bhaskar Sharma**

**Equalitygroup@rogers.com**

**Editor: Nishad Sharma**

**Annual subscription: \$104.00 (including postage)**

Funded by the Government of Canada.



Equality News is the largest weekly newspaper serving Guyanese and Caribbean readers in Canada.

Contributors: Niraj Sharma, Freddie Kissoon,

Donald Ramotar, Cliff Rajkumar, Dr Kumar Mahabir, Dr Vishnu Bisram  
For advertising in Ontario or nationally, call Marie Sharma 416-281-3333

or 647 -216 2359

View Equality News every week online (ads included)

**www.equalitynews.ca**

Equality News International is published by Equality News Incorporated.

104-1920 Ellesmere Road - MB# 234, Toronto, Ontario M1H 3G1

Tel: 416-281-3333, Fax: 416-759-5359, Email: EqualityGroup@rogers.com

# Canada helping Guyana fight Gender Based Violence

In observance of 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, State House was on Monday evening illuminated in orange lights with Canadian High Commissioner Sébastien Sigouin reflecting on the importance of advocacy against the scourge and the role Canada has played in helping Guyana to address it in a practical way.

The event was facilitated by First Lady Arya Ali, who was in attendance along with President Dr Irfaan Ali. According to the High Commissioner, Canada has provided various training, as well as working with persons in critical positions in Guyana relative to gender-based violence, such as medical workers and the justice system itself.

“Over the years, Canada has been working with our partners here in Guyana, to address gender-based violence in many, very practical ways. For example, we have been raising awareness on young men and women on how to prevent violence. We have trained doctors and nurses to identify abused women and girls. And we’ve also been working with the justice system to better address reports of violence,” Sigouin said.

The First Family joined by the Canadian High Commissioner, Sébastien Sigouin along with his family; UN representative, Dr Gillian Smith at the lighting up of State House in orange, in commemoration of the 16 days of Activism against GBV

“And to do so we’ve worked with various partners. We’ve worked with the UN (United Nations), the Guyana Police Force (GPF). We’ve also worked with organisations like Help and Shelter, the Justice Education System and others, just to mention those. And one of the key lessons we’ve learned is eliminating gender-based violence requires leadership, influence and action. Not just by our leaders, but by all of us.”

The high commissioner stressed that everyone, in their own ways, can contribute to eliminating gender-based violence. These ways include public advocacy, teaching both genders about gender-based violence or even attending events such as the orange lighting ceremony they were attending.

The ceremony also comes at a time when Canada is commemorating the December 6, 1989 Montreal Massacre, where 14 female students in the prestigious engineering school École Polytechnique were murdered by a gunman.

“This week, 35 years ago, a man entered a school in Montreal and killed



Guyana’s First Family joined by the Canadian High Commissioner, Sébastien Sigouin along with his family

14 women and injured 13 other individuals. He killed 14 women just because they were women. And to this day, it’s still hard to understand how and why someone can commit such a horrible act. But it also reminds us how far gender-based violence and hatred for women can go,” he added.

Meanwhile, United Nations (UN) representative Dr Gillian Smith stressed the need for urgent action, justice and compassion, particularly for survivors. She also noted that the colour orange represents hope and a brighter future free from violence.

“The 16 days activism campaign mobilises individuals, organisations worldwide, to advocate for the prevention and elimination of such violence. We’re pleased to join with the High Commission of Canada and the Office of the First Lady in this effort.”

“This year marks 25 years since the UN General Assembly designated the 25th November as the international day for the elimination of violence against women. And next year will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Beijing declaration and platform for action,” she added.

Dr Smith went on to commend the Guyana Government for its leadership and commitment, also singling out the First Lady for her advocacy against violence. She also committed the UN to lending continued support in the fight.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign is a global initiative, which begins on

November 25, and serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing battle against gender-based violence. Only last week, it was revealed that for 2024 so far, the violence-based 914 toll-free hotline re-

ceived some 6000 reports, all of which were addressed appropriately. Of the 6000 cases, 182 were related to domestic violence and 292 were related to child abuse cases.

**Call, Text or Email me for exclusive offers and promotions.**

**Tanvir Jhutti**  
 Email - [tanvir.jhutti@telus.com](mailto:tanvir.jhutti@telus.com)  
 Cell - 647-577-4618

**Equality News**

**Advertising That Works!**

# Guyana sets benchmark for climate transparency

GUYANA has made a significant stride in climate action by being the first country in the Caribbean to submit its final transparency report, positioning it as a regional leader in climate accountability.

This is according to Global Ambassador for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Chief Executive Officer for the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator (CCSA) Ms. Racquel Moses, who, at a Friday's post-COP29 news conference commended Guyana for its pioneering efforts.

The report, a critical component of the global 'Together for Transparency' initiative, reflects Guyana's commitment to transparency in its climate actions, ensuring that the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are not only ambitious but also measurable and accountable.

Moses, a leading voice on climate policy, stressed the importance of these transparency efforts for gaining access to climate finance, and demonstrating the country's genuine climate needs.

"There were over 42 events on the together for transparency initiative, and that helps to prepare nationally determined contributions, and execute them with integrity to ensure that there is clarity from our region.



**Global Ambassador and CCSA Chief Executive Officer Ms. Racquel Moses**

"Only Guyana has submitted their first final transparency report; we hope the others follow," Moses said, adding: "This underscores the importance of capacity building to ensure that other Caribbean countries can meet their reporting commitments, enabling better access to climate finance and a clearer

demonstration of our region's needs."

The 'Together for Transparency' initiative, which saw over 42 events focused on enhancing climate accountability, plays a crucial role in helping countries prepare and execute their NDCs.

For Guyana, it's a step towards greater integration into the global climate finance system, allowing for clearer demonstration of the country's vulnerabilities and needs.

With climate finance being one of the critical drivers of effective climate action, Moses emphasised that for Caribbean nations to fully access these resources, they must be able to demonstrate their climate actions clearly and reliably.

Capacity building, she added, is key to ensuring that countries like Guyana can continue to meet their reporting commitments.

According to Moses, Guyana's achievement shows that with the right support and resources, smaller nations can lead on global issues like climate transparency.

She stressed that it is vital that other Caribbean nations follow Guyana's lead, by strengthening the region's ability to meet its climate goals, and securing the financial support needed for adaptation and mitigation efforts.

## Nothing's as sweet as Honey Fest

The Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) hosted its inaugural Honey Fest on Friday, November 22nd, 2024 under the theme "Unlocking the Economic Potential of Honey".

The event saw participation from apiculturists from across the country displaying several types of honey and honey-infused products.

While offering remarks, Agriculture Minister Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha said the Government of Guyana is repositioning the apiculture industry and positioning Guyana to be a major honey producer in the region. Minister Mustapha also said that with Guyana's vast landscape, apiculturists are in a better position to produce different types of honey. He also said that the GLDA was working to stop the production and importation of fake honey.

The Honey Extravaganza aims to showcase Guyana's rich landscapes and the potential for high-quality honey production.



**Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO**



**GROUP OF COMPANIES**  
Put Guyana First

1 & 2 MUDLOT WATER STREET, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA. TEL: 592- 226-5513-4 | 226-5314-5 |  
226-4113 FAX: 592- 226-5517 | 223-7421



# More than \$10B invested in healthcare in Region 8 under PPP/C gov't

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali has revealed that his government has invested over \$10 billion in healthcare infrastructure and services for Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) since taking office in 2020.

The announcement came during Friday's sod-turning ceremony for the new modern Kato Hospital, a flagship project aimed at transforming healthcare access in the hinterland.

The healthcare facility is being constructed at a cost of nearly \$6 billion, with completion expected within 24 months.

Addressing a packed audience of residents, village leaders, and regional officials, President Ali emphasised that the initiative reflects his government's unwavering commitment to enhancing healthcare access and delivery in Guyana's hinterland regions.

The Guyanese leader revealed that the new healthcare facility will span over 57,000 square feet which is 57 times larger than the existing Mahdia Hospital.

It will feature 75 beds, including 45 designated for inpatients, and a \$200 million modern housing facility for doctors and nurses. Unlike traditional open wards, this hospital will have wards with a maximum of five patients, each equipped with private washrooms and dedicated support systems.

According to him, the facility will include 100 per cent first-grade hospital beds (not cots), an operating theatre for procedures such as cataract surgeries and Caesarean section (C-section), and a modern emergency room with a dedicated procedure room for minor surgeries.

Additional services will include diagnostic imaging such as X-rays and CT scans, a laboratory, outpatient department, pharmacy, a digital health control room, a dialysis centre, a modern mater-



President Ali at the sod turning for the Kato Hospital

nity unit, pediatric services, a neonatal intensive care unit and an intensive care unit.

President Ali pointed out that this single hospital represents a greater investment in healthcare for Region Eight than what was spent by the A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance for Change (APNU+AFC) government in the region during their five-year tenure in office.

Under the APNU+AFC government, he said, \$1.4 billion was spent, whereas the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government has invested over \$10 billion, marking a 700 per cent increase in investment.

Emphasising the government's

commitment, he stated, "We care, and we will not stop until every citizen, every community has equal access to the same standard of service. You deserve the same standard of service like anyone else across the country."

"Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right," Dr Ali declared.

"This region is exploding with development, and we want all of you to be a part of this. The People's Progressive Party continues to be that government that delivers to you every single day. Every single thing we have promised in the manifesto, we have delivered. And we are delivering more than what we have promised in the manifesto," he added.

To support the hospital, the president announced that individuals in the region with five Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) subjects are being enrolled in the nursing programme and the Community Health Worker programme.

"The Kato Hospital will provide 24-hour high-quality service and care. We are not just turning the sod; we are turning the page of a new chapter in the story of Kato and people of Region Eight. This hospital symbolises progress, equality, and hope. It shows what is possible with a genuine caring government, with an administration that is built on policies that are people-centred."

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, stated that the sod-turning marked a historic moment, not only for Region Eight but for all of Guyana.

He emphasised that it signifies a transformation in the healthcare landscape of the region. Dr. Anthony highlighted the failure of the APNU+AFC

government to upgrade the region's healthcare system, stating, "Not long ago, in 2019, when we look back at what was available for healthcare here, it was not much. I recall the hospital in Mahdia, while they were calling it a hospital, we were not able to do any surgeries. I'm not sure how we say it is a hospital—it was only doing primary healthcare services, basically outpatient clinics. A few patients were admitted, but nothing serious could be done for them."

Fast forward to 2020, and for the first time in the history of the region, he said his government was able to establish an operating theatre at the Mahdia Hospital.

With the addition of the operating theatre and the necessary equipment, the minister explained that the hospital gained the capacity to perform surgeries.

Over the past year, it successfully carried out 46 surgeries for people living in Mahdia and the surrounding communities.

According to Dr Anthony, this development has allowed residents to save both money and time that would otherwise be spent travelling to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

He said the facility can now perform ultrasounds and has an upgraded laboratory.

"Before, we had to send samples to Georgetown for testing, and they would run the tests and send back the results to the doctors in the region. And of course that took a lot of time," he explained.

Meanwhile, Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Pauline Sukhai, urged citizens to support the government's ambitious development agenda.



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony



The One Guyana Christmas Village on Main Street

## Ali urges spending on local products as Christmas season approaches

As the Christmas Holiday season approaches, President Dr Irfaan Ali has called for Guyanese citizens to embrace local products and traditions throughout the month of festivities.

On Monday evening, the highly anticipated Annual One Guyana Christmas Village was officially launched on Main Street, Georgetown. At the opening ceremony of the event patrons were treated to musical renditions and dances by several local talents.

Delivering feature remarks at the event was Head of State President Dr. Irfaan Ali, who highlighted that for the first time the annual One Guyana Christmas Village will feature a Guyana Supermarket, where small and medium sized businesses will be given the opportunity to market and sell their products. In this regard President Ali urged Guyanese citizens to utilise local produce, and products as the season festivities continue.

“This year, I am particularly delighted and I want to congratulate the Ministry of Tourism, for putting up our first Guyana supermarket at Christmas time, where our small and medium sized enterprises will be showcasing and selling all of their items. So tonight, we are going to start a month of celebrating who we are, celebrating the family of Guyanese, but celebrating also our local produce, our local product.”

President Ali added, “and I want to encourage as many of you this Christmas. Let us spend these holidays utilizing as far as possible our local produce, our local food, our local culture, and our local talent. Let us truly make this year’s Christmas celebration a celebration of who we are, the great vibrant Guyanese people.”

President, Ali also highlighted that the Christmas village over the years has positioned itself as a Guyanese staple throughout the holiday season. He added that the village promotes unity and love among the Guyanese population.

“The Christmas village is now a staple. It is now part of the Guyanese Christmas experience. Transforming Main Street into a national street of unity, a street of love, a street of peace, a street in which we celebrate our food, we celebrate our culture, we celebrate our identity, and we celebrate our uniqueness. Because our Christmas celebration is unique It is different from the rest of the world.”

Moreover, the Head of state revealed that due to robust policies and interventions made by the government throughout the year, the tourism sector in Guyana has seen significant growth in 2024. On this point the Head of State revealed that come 2025 the tourism sector will reach its all-time.

“Next year is going to be a year of

immense energy, continuation of the transformation. But next year is a year in which our tourism jet will take off and we are going to ensure that the calendar of events will expand our tourism footprint and we’re bringing more traffic into Guyana to ensure the hotel rooms are filled, to ensure that the bread and breakfast facilities are filled, to ensure that next year collectively we work on championing the prosperity for each other and of each other.”

Additionally, President Ali revealed that annual Joint Services Old Year’s celebration, will no longer be

held at the Guyana Defense Force (GDF) Camp Ayanganna base. He revealed that this year’s proceedings will also take place on Main Street.

“This year, we’re going to welcome 2025 a bit different the Chief of Defense Staff, Commissioner of Police, our Head of the Fire Service and Prison Service, the men and women in uniform have decided that this year we’re going to have one big family holiday night right here on Main Street. We’re going to fill every square inch of Main Street and we’re going to ring in 2025 together here on Main Street with the grandest, largest holiday night party.”



# Draft Companies Bill completed; consultation imminent – AG

The draft for a Companies Bill has been completed, while in the area of Copyright Law, the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government will be relying on a model Copyright Legislation being developed in conjunction with the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

This update was recently given by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, who in a recent interview with the media expressed that while Guyana has been developing its own Companies Act, both of these legislations are part of a suite of bills CARICOM has been working on.

“We are moving in the direction of a CARICOM model legislation. In the area of commerce and business, CARICOM has a suite of legislation they are creating. A Companies Act, a Trademark Act, a Copyright Act, a Business Registration Act, Insolvency and Bankruptcy, etc. So those are the areas we are working with CARICOM on, in relation with those model legislation.”

“Work is underway right now, as I speak. As I said, the business registration amendments to bring us in conformity with the CARICOM model are being worked on. The Companies Act, and Companies Bill, have been completed in draft. And we have to do another round of consultation,” he said.

Nandlall explained that these are examples of legislation that affect a wide range of sectors. As such, he made it clear that the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government, will be careful not to act precipitously, which



**Attorney General Anil Nandlall**

could touch off dissatisfaction from the sectors most affected.

“The intention is to create a common commercial and legal space, as far as possible. Our Companies Act, Companies Bill, is undergoing its final stages... we are working. We can’t do everything at the same time. We have the most aggressive legislative agenda in the region.”

“We’re not sitting idle at all. But

rather than moving unilaterally, we believe that we should move regionally. In particular, if there is a movement in that direction. If the region has agreed to move in that common direction, we would be hard-pressed to move insularly away from that direction,” Nandlall further explained.

The need for changes to the Companies Act has been highlighted by both sides, with Private Sector Commission

(PSC) stalwart Ramesh Dookhoo pointing out during an Anti-Corruption workshop that ambiguities exist in the current legislation regarding private and public companies, which need to be cleared up.

Meanwhile, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo had also said recently that legislative changes that will better protect shareholders in public companies could be on the horizon. During a press conference, Jagdeo spoke about public companies which usually have shareholders that range in size from small to large.

The Vice President acknowledged that there are cases where small shareholders do end up receiving the short end of the stick, for instance when a company does not declare a profit or even liquidates, and noted that they would have to review this.

Meanwhile, the need for Copyright Legislation has recently been in the spotlight, with renewed advocacy following Guyanese-born singer Jackie Hanover, popularly known as Jackie Jaxx, suing a major corporation for copyright infringement.

In September, Jax and Ivan Harry, who performs as D’Ivan, filed a copyright infringement lawsuit in the United States against One Communications (Guyana) Inc. and Tennicia De Freitas, known by her stage name NEKEITA, for the unauthorized use of their musical compositions “Guyana” and “Oh Guyana” during a rebranding event hosted by One Communications. The issue has sparked a widespread debate on Guyana’s outdated copyright laws.

The World Guyanese Congress (WGC) is a federally incorporated non-partisan global organisation that represents the interests of citizens of Guyanese heritage around the world. The organisation focuses on the successful development of our communities globally with an emphasis on leadership development and collaborative activities in diaspora communities to strengthen the community worldwide.

The organisation is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and led by a Chairman and Executive Committee supported by an Advisory Council and various Committees as well as a Board of Governors that acts as ambassadors for the organisation. It has nine national and regional chapters:

Key priorities of the WGC include:

- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
- Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development of Guyana.

**World Guyanese Congress**

5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5P6



To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit [www.wgc-org.com](http://www.wgc-org.com)

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:  
Email: [mail@wgc-org.com](mailto:mail@wgc-org.com)  
Telephone: [1-800-317-0804](tel:1-800-317-0804)



# Over 3,000 community roads completed as Gov't accelerates development

MORE than 3,000 community roads have been completed nationwide under the People's Progressive Party/Civic administration, with small contractors playing a pivotal role in this transformative initiative.

Vice President (VP) and General Secretary of the PPP, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, highlighted this achievement during a recent press conference, emphasising the government's commitment to creating opportunities and improving infrastructure across the country.

Dr. Jagdeo explained that this approach has allowed small contractors to thrive while delivering critical infrastructure. In Region Ten alone, over 300 contractors executed projects worth more than \$4 billion. "This strategy empowers local contractors and strengthens communities. It's all happening with the same technical capacity," he stated.

In addition to road improvements, nearly 200 bridges are being constructed across Guyana. In Region Six, 45 of 46 bridges leading to Lethem are being replaced, enhancing connectivity. Major projects such as the construction of two four-lane bridges—one across the river at Wismar and another underway—are reshaping the nation's infrastructure landscape.

Key highways, including the East Bank, East Coast, and Berbice four-lane roads, are advancing rapidly, with significant developments transforming areas like Diamond and Crane. "The East Bank is unrecognisable now," Dr. Jagdeo remarked.

To address the critical issue of flooding, the government has ramped up efforts to enhance drainage systems. Sixty new drainage pumps are being installed through a World Bank-funded project, along with the rehabilitation of 60 kokers and the construction of 19 pumping stations. Several Hope-like canals are also being built to direct water to the Atlantic Ocean.

"This work is unprecedented. If we relied on previous contractors, it would have taken ten years to build



Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

just 19 pumping stations," Dr. Jagdeo said, highlighting the government's efficiency in mobilising resources and accelerating projects.

In the housing sector, 38,000 house lots have been distributed, supported by extensive infrastructural development, including roads and electricity. The government is also running a 75-kilometre high-power transmission line and progressing with the gas-to-energy project, which remains a priority despite delays.

Dr. Jagdeo underscored the administration's commitment to transparency, noting that all contracts are publicly available on the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) website. However, he criticised the opposition for spreading misinformation and opposing key projects like the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project.



EMAIL: [SERVICES@TRADELOGIX.CA](mailto:SERVICES@TRADELOGIX.CA)

PHONE: 416-938-8779

MODEL# BLION-EW1500



Multi-function Control Handle

Loss Wiring, Easy Service

Plug-In Battery Design

**SUCCESS**  
Find it in an Equality ad  
Call 647-216-2359

# One Guyana Forum celebrates Xmas

The One Guyana Forum (Canada) hosted a spectacular event, their second annual Dinner and Dance Christmas Party, in collaboration with Windies Restaurant, KNG Entertainment, and El Dorado Rum last night. The evening brought together the Toronto Guyanese Diaspora for a night of celebration and recognition.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the One Guyana Founders Award, which honored outstanding contributions to the Guyanese community. Mr. Mohamed Osman Ali and Mrs. Bibi Shariman Ali, parents of H.E. President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, presented the awards to Ms. Grace Joseph, Acting Consul General of Guyana in Toronto, and Mr. Anthony Whyte. Mr. Whyte's award was accepted by his brother, Mr. Dexter Whyte.

Ms. Joseph expressed her gratitude for the award, sharing her humble beginnings as a Guyanese from Region Six. She accepted the award on behalf of the Staff at the Consulate General Of Guyana in Toronto, who are dedicated to serving the Toronto diaspora. Ms. Joseph also thanked the One Guyana Forum (Canada) for bringing the Guyanese diaspora together and expressed appreciation for the kindness and generosity extended to her and her family, and the Consulate in Toronto.

The event was a resounding success, with the Toronto Guyanese Diaspora coming together in full force.



**BMO**  **Bank of Montreal**

Mortgage Financing.  
Simple and convenient.

**416-819-2874**  
stenson.arul@bmo.com  
bmo.com/ms/stensonarul

**Stenson Arul**  
Mortgage Specialist

“ Ask me how I can help. ”



# Ali on fallen soldiers: They answered the call of duty with courage

THE nation united in solemn reflection during an emotional memorial service held on Sunday morning to honour five brave soldiers who perished in a tragic helicopter crash almost one year ago.

The ceremony, attended by President Dr. Irfaan Ali, Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, senior members of the Joint Services, the families of the deceased, and other dignitaries, paid tribute to the late Brigadier (Ret'd) Gary Beaton, Colonel Michael Shahoud, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Welcome, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Charles, and Warrant Officer Class Two Jason Khan.

Held at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown, the service served as a sincere remembrance of the servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice while on a mission to safeguard Guyana's sovereignty during one of the nation's most tumultuous periods—the ongoing border controversy with Venezuela.

President Ali, delivering heartfelt remarks, described the day as one of profound sorrow and reflection. "Today is a painful day of reflection for us as a nation," he stated.

Addressing the grieving families, he offered assurances of continued support and prayers from the nation. "I would like to assure the families of our continued prayers as a nation for faith, patient, endurance, love empathy and every mercy that constitute bringing some level of hope to your lives," he said, underscoring the collective grief and solidarity felt by the nation.

The President highlighted the critical mission the men were undertaking at the time of their death, emphasising their commitment to the nation's defence. "They were on a mission to exercise their oath of office in protecting every square inch of Guyana and every Guyanese. Their loss is deep and connected to our national sovereignty and



The fallen soldiers will be remembered with a monument in their names

defence," he stated.

He added, "These men answered the call of duty with courage and conviction. Their mission was not one of aggression or hostility but of preparation to ensure the safety and security of our motherland. It is said that true patriotism is being willing to sacrifice for one's country. For these men, duty was

not just an obligation; it was a calling. When our nation needed them the most, they didn't hesitate. They placed their commitment to Guyana above their personal interests..."

"Their service was a shield for us all," the Guyanese leader declared.

President Ali described the fallen soldiers as "five extraordinary men"

who epitomised dedication and courage.

"One year has passed since that fatal helicopter crash that claimed their lives. Yet the grief of their passing remains as fresh as the day it occurred. Today, we do not seek to relive the anguish of that tragic moment but to celebrate the ideals and values these men represented. Ideals that continue to inspire us as a nation," he said.

He reflected on their multifaceted roles in life—as fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons—emphasising their unwavering commitment to a cause greater than themselves. "These five heroes were more than just members of the Guyana Defence Force. They represented the ideals that continue to inspire us as a nation," he added.

By making the ultimate sacrifice, President Ali stated that the soldiers have not only cemented their personal legacies but also elevated the reputation of the Guyana Defence Force, ensuring that their contributions will resonate for generations to come.

For his part, Chief of Defence Staff of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), Brigadier Omar Khan expressed that while we reflect on the lives of the five fallen heroes, it is equally important to recognise and celebrate the resilience and sacrifices of their surviving families and relatives. "Know that you are not alone. You can count on our unwavering support as a force. Together, we bear the weight of this loss, and it is our duty to ensure that their memory lives on in the hearts and minds of those who knew them," Khan said.

He concluded, "May their souls rest in eternal peace, and may we carry forward their legacy of service and sacrifice in all that we do and say."

In recognition of their bravery, dedication, and service, a monument has been erected on the front lawns of GDF's Base Camp Ayanganna.

## Hinterland airstrips to undergo major upgrades

WITH the aim of boosting tourism and enhancing connectivity, work will soon commence to upgrade several airstrips in Guyana's hinterland region, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has said.

The Head of State made the announcement at the recent commissioning of the Brigadier Gary Beaton Aerodrome at Eteringbang, Region Seven.

According to the President, works have already commenced to upgrade the Kaieteur Airstrip, where about 500 feet of runway remains to be completed.

He expressed optimism that the final section will be finished by March next year.

"That will not only boost tourism, but that will ensure we have a safe land-

ing space there in Kaieteur," he said.

Kaieteur Falls, one of Guyana's most iconic natural wonders, draws thousands of visitors annually, and the completion of the airstrip is expected to significantly enhance access for both tourists and emergency services providers.

President Ali further detailed plans for another key airstrip development in the bordering community of Kaikan.

"From here, they're going to go to another important border location in Kaikan, and we want that airstrip to be delivered by June," President Ali explained. "So, they (engineers) have to put everything in place."

In addition to these projects, two other strategic airstrips are set to be

added to the portfolio managed by the Guyana Defence Force Engineering Corps. These are Camp Jaguar, which will be vital for security and operational purposes, and the Orinduik airstrip, which is critical for both regional connectivity and economic development in the area.

"Those two airstrips, Camp Jaguar and Orinduik, immediately, will be added, and work must commence before the end of the year," President Ali stated.

The President also emphasised the importance of local community involvement in the upkeep of these airstrips. "In relation to this airstrip, we want to immediately restore the community contract for the maintenance of the airstrip," he noted before highlighting the role that

local communities will play in sustaining the infrastructure and ensuring its long-term viability.

These developments are part of a broader national strategy aimed at improving air travel access across Guyana, particularly in remote regions that are crucial for economic growth, tourism, and national security. The government's investment in aviation infrastructure is expected to foster greater connectivity, while also positioning Guyana as a premier destination for eco-tourism.

As work continues on these projects, President Ali reiterated his commitment to improving Guyana's transportation infrastructure and ensuring that the country's remote regions are adequately served by modern facilities.

# Guyana reaffirms commitment to food security with record rice production

GUYANA has reaffirmed its position as a vital player in the Caribbean’s food security efforts, according to Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha.

During a community meeting held at the Beterverwagting Community Centre on Saturday morning, Minister Mustapha provided an update on the agricultural sector, highlighting significant achievements and ambitious plans for the future.

In a historic announcement, Minister Mustapha revealed that Guyana has surpassed the 700,000-tonne mark in rice production for the first time in history.

“We are presently at 724,000 tonnes, and we still have more to harvest,” he stated, crediting this record production to substantial investments in the sector. Over the past four years, government support for agriculture has tripled, with a more than 300 per cent increase in the budgetary allocation since 2021.

Looking ahead, Minister Mustapha forecasted that 2024 will be a pivotal year for agriculture, with expectations of even higher production levels.

“This year again, 2024 will be one of the most productive years for us in agriculture, in all areas except sugar,” he expressed optimism, asserting that Guyana’s agricultural output would continue to grow, solidifying its role as a leader in the Caribbean food security movement.

A key focus of the minister’s address was the growing interest in agriculture among young people. Despite the allure of the oil and gas sector, more youths are recognising the importance of agriculture as a sustainable career path. “In every corner of our country, we have seen a renewed interest in agriculture over the last four years,” Minister Mustapha remarked, emphasising the sector’s potential for young professionals.

Minister Mustapha also highlighted the impact of these agricultural investments on Guyana’s food security. The country is now producing 60 per cent of the food it consumes, marking a significant step towards self-sufficiency. “We, as a government, want to produce more. We want Guyana to produce almost all the food it needs,” he stated, mentioning efforts to reduce reliance on imports of corn and soy, which cost the country nearly \$30 million annually for livestock feed. The government aims to meet all local corn and soy needs by the end of next year.

In discussing specific plans for the Beterverwagting/Triumph area, Minister Mustapha outlined a comprehensive strategy to enhance agricultural production. He assured local farmers of the

ministry’s commitment to supporting them through new productivity-boosting projects.

The minister also announced initiatives designed to empower youth and women in the community, including smart agriculture training in shade-house cultivation and hydroponics for members of the Beterverwagting/Triumph Community Development Council, which consists mainly of these groups.

Furthermore, the government will continue its Black Giant Chicken programme, aimed at supporting low-income households with poultry for subsistence farming.



Farmers had the opportunity to share concerns with Minister Mustapha

## Our Family Caring for Yours

From the flowers on the front lawn to the paintings on the walls, we at Ogden’s always consider the comfort and needs of the families that we serve first. We offer services and products that are meaningful and fit comfortably within your budget. Just some of the ways that we as a family care for yours. Family owned and operated since 1948.



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East  
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com



# Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com

We're simply the best West Indian store in town.



Grace Peanut Punch 250 ml

79¢ each



Nutrament Energy Nutrition Drink Vanilla 355 ml

249 each



Jamaican Pride Ackee 540 ml

699 each



Horlicks Original Malt Beverage Mix 400 g

549 each



Grace 100% Pure Coconut Water 500 ml

169 each



Red Bull Energy Drink 250 ml

189 each



Royal Danish Delight Butter Cookies 340 g

2/\$5



HTB Spice Bun 340 g

249 each



Diana BBQ Sauce Assorted 500 ml

299 each



Caribbean Dreams Browning 147 ml

199 each



Grace Coconut Milk Powder 50 g

69¢ each



Rogers Lantic White Granulated Sugar 2 kg

299 each



Chico Sardine in Tomato Sauce 425 g

2/\$3



Garden Patch Peas & Carrots 398 ml

69¢ each



Cream of Wheat 3 Minute 800 g

349 each



Grace Parboiled Rice 2 k

499 each



Dial Hand Soap Assorted 385 g

\$1



Carib Carbolic Soap 125 g

99¢ each



Dettol Liquid Antiseptic 1 L

999 each



Windsor Safe-T-Salt Road Salt 10 kg

399 each



# Five Location To S



# HOLIDAY EATING STARTS HERE

**Frozen Easy Cooked Trimmed Oxtail**



**\$9.99**  
lb  
Frozen or Previously Frozen

**Grown From Australia Free Range Goat Meat**



**\$4.99**  
Frozen

**Fresh Beef Kidney**



**\$1.79**  
lb

**Fresh or Frozen Centre Cut Beef Shank Steak**



**\$4.99**  
lb

**Fresh Turkey Neck**



**\$1.99**  
lb

**Frozen Cleaned & Guttled Yellow Tail Snapper**



**\$9.95**  
10 Lb Box

**X Large Salted Cod Fish**



**\$6.99**  
lb

**Fresh Flamingo Chicken Leg Quarters**



**4.59**  
≥ 18 kg box  
With Purchase of 2 cases or More Thursday To Sunday Only

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**



**\$3.99**  
lb

**Jamaica's Choice Xmas Smoked Turkey**



**\$5.99**  
lb

## Fresh Seafood Catches

**Fresh Florida Red Snappers (BLine)**



**\$7.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Lane Snapper**



**\$8.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Doctor Fish**



**\$7.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Baby King Fish**



**\$7.99**  
lb as is

**Fresh Mutton Snappers**



**\$8.99**  
lb as is

### YOU'LL LOVE OUR FRESH PRODUCE

**Fresh Jamaican Yellow Yams**



**4.99**  
lb

**Fresh Jamaican Sweet Yams**



**6.99**  
lb

**Fresh Jamaican Pumpkin**



**1.99**  
lb

**Sweet Oranges**



**1.49**  
lb

### Five Locations To Serve You Better

**Specials in Effect Thu. Dec. 5th until Wed. Dec. 11, 2024**

Though we strive for accuracy in both copy & illustration, unintentional error may occur, we reserve the right to correct any error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

**Finch Ave. W.**  
Danforth Food Market  
3701 Keele St.  
416-398-8123



**Steeles Ave. W.**  
Danforth Food Market  
301 Silverstone Dr.  
416-740-9870



**Sheppard Ave. E.**  
Danforth Food Market  
651 Markam Rd.  
416-439-6397



**Under New Management**

**Bloor St. E.**  
Danforth Food Market  
1225 Dundas St.  
Dixie & Dundas  
Mississauga  
905-949-9990



**Stafford Dr.**  
Danforth Food Market  
144 Kennedy Road  
South  
289-298-0399



**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 8 pm

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Thursday 9:30 am to 9 pm  
Friday-Saturday 9 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 6 pm

**Store Hours**  
Monday-Friday 9 am to 9 pm  
Saturday 8 am to 9 pm  
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

# Serve You Better





# LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

121 City View Drive  
North of Belfield Road, East side of Highway 27  
647-547-8188 [www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com](http://www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com)



Seating for more than 500+ guests!

Crematorium inside our building!




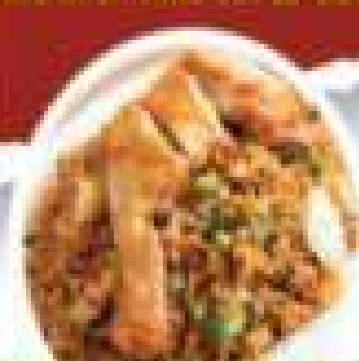
## CHARLIE'S CATERING SERVICE

Brought to you by Charlie's Caribbean Cuisine

The finest taste of the Caribbean  
Dine in or Take out & Catering

For CATERING Inquiries, call:

 905-949-0663



**WE CATER FOR ALL OCCASIONS INCLUDING:**  
• Corporate Events • Weddings and other Social Events

**Not sure how much food you'll need? WE CAN HELP YOU!**

We will suggest the right amount of food to maximize the value of your dollar  
So you'll have enough food and pay less and have less waste

**Full Catering for Hindu religious ceremonies including 7 curry**  
*Cooked with organic vegetables and spices*

*We Guarantee*  
you'll love our food, that's why we are willing to give a free taste test to prove that our food is great.

**WE CATER TO ALL YOUR CARIBBEAN NEEDS.**

All meats halal, pork free environment

Delivery to the GTA available

  
**For all your catering needs please call 905-949-0663 or email us at**  
[charliescaribbeancuisine@hotmail.com](mailto:charliescaribbeancuisine@hotmail.com)

3055 Hurontario St. Mississauga, L5A 2G9  
[www.charliescaribbeancuisine.com](http://www.charliescaribbeancuisine.com)

Serving the community for over 30 years you can rest assure that your order will made fresh and with the highest quality ingredients possible.

# LAW OFFICE

## CHET SHARMA

B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.  
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

### GENERAL PRACTICE

*Immigration Law  
Criminal Law  
Divorce & Family Law*

Office: 416-285-1550  
Res: 416-284-9191

150 Lawson Road, Toronto  
ON M1C 2J4



**Chet Sharma**  
B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.



Barbados President Dame Sandra Mason pins medal on Grant

## ADS IN EQUALITY WORK!

## Highest honour for Eddy

IN a momentous ceremony marking Barbados' 58th Anniversary of Independence, renowned Guyana-born musician Eddy Grant was bestowed with the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados (OFB) on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

The event, held at the iconic Kensington Oval, saw President Dame Sandra Mason presenting the award to Grant, recognising his extraordinary contributions to music and culture.

Edmond Montague Grant, better known as Eddy Grant, was celebrated for his exceptional achievements as a global cultural icon.

The OFB citation highlighted Grant's innovative work in creating unique music genres, including Soca and Ringbang, as well as his role as a vociferous promoter of indigenous music.

Grant's multifaceted talents as a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist were also acknowledged. His career, spanning several decades, has left an indelible mark on the music industry, influencing artists across the Caribbean and beyond.

# SG AUTO WORK

Stanley G. Chief Technician

416-285-5875

sgautowork@hotmail.com

1940 Ellesmere Rd. Unit 14  
Scarborough, ON. M1H2V7

AC Services

Brakes

Electrical Systems

Engine Repair

New & Used Tires

Steering

Suspension

Transmission Repair



# CHARLEY'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE

## For all your catering needs

1158 Morningside Ave, Scarborough  
(at Morningside)

## (416) 282-8608

Fabulous authentic Guyanese food. We can't make this for these prices. (Grandma is from Berbice Guyana and knows country Guyanese food - even she will eat it!) Try the dhal puri and okra / shrimp.

## Come savor a savory meal at Charley's Caribbean Cuisine



Not sure how much food you need? We'll help you suggest the right amount of food to minimize your cost.

Pork free halal foods. Catering for Hindu religious events, as well as all Caribbean events.



## PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE!

# Modi promises to help CARICOM meet wide range of regional challenges

At the opening of the second India-CARICOM Summit in Guyana today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would provide much-needed assistance to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in tackling a range of regional challenges.

The Meeting, co-chaired by the Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, the Honorable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, and the Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, was attended by the Heads of State and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, The Commonwealth of Dominica, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Foreign Ministers of Belize, Jamaica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, Dr. Carla Barnett.

Modi emphasized India's ongoing commitment to working closely with CARICOM, noting the partnership's efforts in addressing crises like COVID-19, natural disasters, capacity building, and development. He highlighted India's role as a reliable partner in the region's future development.

India is set to grant an additional 1,000 ITEC scholarships over the next five years to support the technical training and skill development of Caribbean youth. In addition, the technical development center in Belize will be expanded to benefit all CARICOM nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted agriculture and food security as the second pillar of India's commitment to the Caribbean. He outlined how India is transforming its agriculture sector with innovations such as drones, digital farming, farm mechanization, soil testing, nano-fertilizers, and natural farming. Modi also



Modi (with Guyanese President Irfaan Ali) emphasized India's ongoing commitment to working with CARICOM

emphasized the promotion of millets to improve food security across the region.

“On India's initiative, the UN declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Millets are a superfood that can grow in any kind of climate. For CARICOM countries as

well, this can become an effective means of addressing climate change and also improving food security.”

In the health sector, Modi announced that India is ready to assist Caribbean countries in addressing non-communicable diseases, which are a high priority for the region. Modi also

offered to share technology with CARICOM states to help them harvest sargassum seaweed, a long-standing environmental challenge. The seaweed, which has caused significant problems in the region, can be repurposed as fertilizer, providing a sustainable solution to the issue.

## Guyanese gets King Charles III medal

Dr. Krishana Sankar, a Guyana-born scientist and leading voice in science communication, has been awarded the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal for Science Engagement by the Royal Canadian Institute for Science (RCIScience).

This accolade recognises her exceptional contributions to public education and engagement in science, particularly in combating misinformation.

Reflecting on the honor, Dr. Sankar shared her gratitude:

“This recognition is incredibly meaningful, reflecting over a decade of work—both publicly and behind the scenes—sharing accurate, evidence-based information with the public. I'm thrilled to celebrate this honour alongside so many inspiring colleagues and friends whose work I deeply admire.”

Dr. Sankar's commitment to science communication began during her volunteer work with Diabetes Canada, where she translated her research into accessible insights for broader communities.

As a graduate student at the University of Toronto, she co-founded a chapter focused on raising awareness about diabetes and debunking related myths. These early efforts ignited her passion for public engagement, leading to a career dedicated to making science accessible, equitable, and empowering.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Sankar emerged



Dr. Krishana Sankar

as a critical advocate for public health, hosting vaccine Q&A sessions, organizing virtual roundtables, and addressing misinformation on social media. Her impactful work has extended beyond Canada, reaching communities in the United States, Australia, and her native Guyana.

Currently, Dr.

Sankar serves as Science Advisor and leads the Community Partnerships team at ScienceUpFirst, a Canadian initiative aimed at tackling misinformation. Her role focuses on collaborating with equity-deserving and marginalized populations to ensure access to accurate and relevant scientific information.

Dr. Sankar's influence spans international platforms, including collaborations with the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations, and the Government of Guyana. Her insights have been featured on prominent outlets such as Reuters, the Huffington Post, and Global Citizen.

**ADVERTISING  
in EQUALITY  
NEWS  
WORKS!  
TRY IT  
TODAY.  
416-281-  
3333**

# Guyana and Brazil sign agreement expanding daily direct bus routes

The government of Guyana announced on Monday that it has signed a new agreement with Brazil, paving the way for the introduction of direct bus routes between the two countries. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, this agreement falls under the Guyana/Brazil International Road Transport Agreement (IRTA). As a result, three international bus service routes have been established for transporting passengers between Brazil and Guyana.

The buses operating these routes will run on a daily and twice-daily basis. There are specific requirements for the buses, which must be no older than eight years from the date of manufacture and have a seating capacity of at least 32 passengers. The agreement aims to enhance connectivity between the two countries and improve transportation options for travelers.

The ministry said that persons wishing to transport passengers must register as a Transporting Firm with the Commissioner of Customs & Trade Administration to be followed by a tax identification number (TIN) as well as a public proxy instrument granting a



Brazilian buses like this one could soon be allowed into Guyana

legal representative in Brazil full powers to represent the firm in all legal and administrative acts.

It said the text must be in English and Portuguese.

“A Transporting Firm shall secure appropriate authorization from the National Agency for Road Transportation in Brazil in order to ply the above international routes,” the ministry said,

adding that buses will be subject to the necessary Immigration & Customs Procedures in effect at the designated border points between Guyana and Brazil.

# Exxon reaches 500M barrel mark in Guyana

ExxonMobil Guyana, along with its co-ventures Hess and CNOOC, announced on Wednesday that they have reached a significant milestone of 500 million barrels of oil produced from the Stabroek block offshore Guyana. This achievement comes less than five years after Guyana became an oil-producing nation.

According to a joint statement, the rapid pace of development in the Stabroek block was instrumental in reaching this production milestone, highlighting the country’s swift emergence as a major player in the global oil industry.

“Our unrivalled success in developing Guyana’s oil resources at an industry-leading pace, cost and environmental performance is built on close collaboration with the government of Guyana, as well as our co-ventures, suppliers and contractors,” said ExxonMobil Guyana President Alistair Routledge.

“We remain committed to Guyana for the long-term and look forward to continue delivering for the country,” he added.

ExxonMobil affiliate ExxonMobil Guyana Limited is operator and holds 45 per cent interest in the Stabroek

block. Hess Guyana Exploration Ltd. holds 30 per cent interest, and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited holds 25 per cent interest.

The three companies say they have committed nearly US\$55 billion to develop six government-sanctioned projects on Guyana’s offshore Stabroek block.

The statement said the first three projects – Liza Phase 1, Liza Phase 2

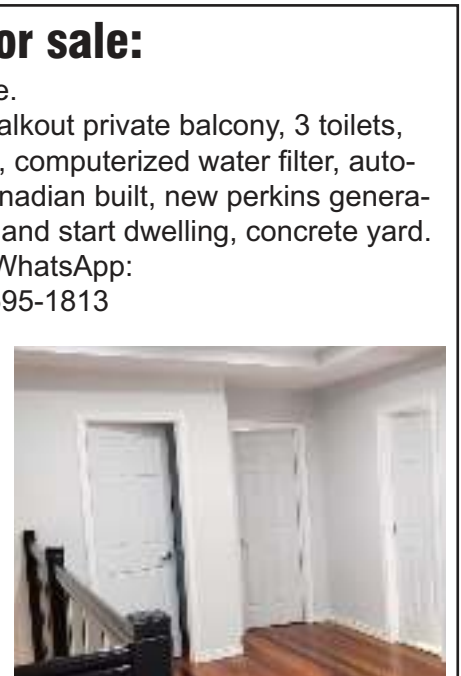
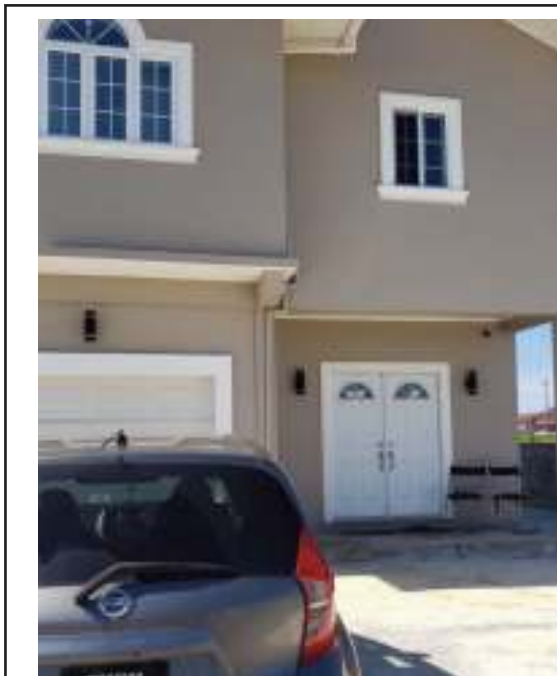
and Payara – are averaging more than 650,000 barrels of oil per day in production.

“Plans are in place to grow production capacity to more than 1.3 million barrels of oil per day by the end of 2027, when the ExxonMobil Guyana-led consortium anticipates having all six projects up and running offshore.”

The companies said that oil production would generate tens of billions

of dollars of revenue and significant economic development for Guyana.

“Since first production in December 2019, more than US\$5.4 billion in oil revenues and royalties have been paid into the Guyana Natural Resource Fund. More than 6,000 Guyanese support the Stabroek block operations, which is nearly 70 per cent of the industry workforce locally,” the statement added.



## Home for sale:

Chesney/Kilroy Corentyne Berbice.

3rd bedroom has ensuite and a walkout private balcony, 3 toilets, central air, 2nd floor laundry room, computerized water filter, automatic gate and garage opener Canadian built, new perkins generator no blackouts ready to move in and start dwelling, concrete yard.

For more information contact via WhatsApp:

+592 657 7217 Or call: +1 (905) 595-1813



A dramatic surge in hoax bomb threats had caused widespread disruption in flight services in October

## Indian airlines hit by nearly 1,000 hoax bomb threats

India's airlines and airports received 999 hoax bomb threats this year as of 14 November, the country's deputy civil aviation minister told its parliament.

This was nearly 10 times more than the threats received in 2023, Mr Murlidhar Mohol said.

More than 500 of the year's threats were received just in the last two weeks of October.

The dramatic surge in hoax threats had wreaked havoc on flight schedules, causing widespread disruption in services.

The recent threats were all hoaxes, Mr Mohol said, with "no actual threat detected at any of the airports/aircraft in India".

Police have registered 256 complaints and 12 people have been arrested in connection with these threats, the minister said.

But the cases mark an unprecedented spike in such hoaxes.

Between 2014 and 2017, authorities had recorded just 120 bomb hoax alerts at airports, with nearly half directed at Delhi and Mumbai, the country's largest airports.

The flurry of hoax threats this October had delayed several affected flights while others were diverted.

Hoax threats against flights heading for other countries also lead to international agencies getting involved.

In October, Singapore's Air Force sent two fighter jets to escort an Air India Express plane following a bomb threat.

The same month, another Air India flight from New Delhi to Chicago was forced to land in a remote airport in Canada.

Passengers on the flight were later airlifted to Chicago on an Air Force plane deployed by Canadian officials.

India's civil aviation ministry had then said it was making "every possible effort" to safeguard flight operations.

India's airports have a Bomb Threat Assessment Committee which assesses the gravity of the threat and takes action accordingly. A threat can lead to the involvement of the bomb disposal squad, sniffer dogs, ambulances, police and doctors.

Passengers are off-loaded from the plane along with cabin baggage, check-in baggage and cargo, and they are all screened again. Engineering and security teams also search the plane before it is cleared for flying again.

The resultant delay can cost thousands of dollars in damages to airlines and security agencies.

More than 150 million passengers flew domestically in India last year, according to the civil aviation ministry.

More than 3,000 flights arrive and depart every day in the country from more than 150 operational airports, including 33 international airports.

### India marks grim Union Carbide-Bhopal tragedy

Forty years ago, an Indian city became the site of one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

On the night of 2 December, 1984, a poisonous gas leaked from Union Carbide India's pesticide plant in Bhopal, enveloping the central Indian city in a deadly fog which killed thousands and poisoned about half-a-million people.

According to government estimates, around 3,500 people died within days of the gas leak and more than 15,000 in the years since. But activists say that the death toll is much higher, and that victims continue to suffer from the side-effects of being poisoned.

In 2010, an Indian court convicted seven former managers at the plant, handing down minor fines and brief prison sentences. But many victims and campaigners say that justice has still not been served, given the magnitude of the tragedy.

Union Carbide was a US company which Dow Chemicals bought in 1999.



The Union Carbide factory in Bhopal



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20):** If you get the chance to deal with an issue that has been bothering you for months then grab it with both hands and work your way through it once and for all. You have spent too many sleepless nights worrying yourself sick for no good reason.

**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21):** Something will occur over the next 24 hours that invites you to question an opinion you have always regarded as fact. As one of the zodiac's Fixed signs you don't change your outlook easily but on this occasion you may have no choice.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21):** Refuse to settle for second best both in your personal life and on the work front. Your standards are such that it should be easy to get ahead of rivals and competitors who are not as motivated as you – which is just about everyone.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23):** Are you the only one who knows what is going on or are you as confused as everyone else? The planets suggest you may not have as solid a grip on reality as you would like to think, so be flexible and be ready to consider the alternatives.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23):** There is a danger now that you will scatter your energy in too many directions and reduce the impact of the decisions you make. Focus on your number one aim and give it 100 percent effort, then when it is done move on to the next thing.

**VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23):** If you make an effort to be enthusiastic about what you are expected to do today it won't be as daunting or as dreary as you had anticipated. It's not the task itself but the attitude you adopt towards it that can make it a fun activity.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23):** You will need a lot of patience when dealing with friends and loved ones over the next 24 hours as they will insist on making choices that are clearly going to turn out badly. Be ready to help them pick up the pieces when those choices go wrong.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22):** If you hear something that sounds too good to be true today you must make it your business to look at the situation with a critical eye. Almost certainly you are being told only half the story and need to find out what has been deliberately left out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21):** The time has come to let go of something you no longer need. It may be a painful decision to make but once it has gone there will be more room in your life to embrace opportunities that will mean more to you in the future.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20):** According to the planets you are being suspicious for no good reason. This is one of those occasions when if you have a little more trust in the people around you they will reward you in ways you cannot yet imagine. Let go of negativity.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19):** If you need to put your financial house in order, and the planets suggest most strongly that you do, this is a good time to start. How can you increase what you earn or decrease what you spend? Better still, how can you do both at the same time?

**PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20):** The pace of life will slow down considerably over the next few days and you must take advantage of that to rest both your mind and your body so you are better prepared for what happens later in the month. Take it easy while you can.

**Our advertising works!  
Try a low cost ad in Equality News and reap the benefits of the only print weekly newspaper.  
Call 647-216-2359 for rates**

# Suriname announces 'royalties for everyone' as energy benefit

President Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi of Suriname has announced a new financial initiative called Royalties for Everyone (RVI), aimed at distributing oil royalties to every Surinamese national. Under this plan, each Surinamese citizen will receive a savings note worth US\$750, which will accrue seven per cent interest annually.

The funds will come from the future royalties generated by Block 58, a key oil exploration area. The RVI initiative is designed to provide long-term financial benefits to the people of Suriname by sharing the wealth from the country's energy sector, with payouts to be made in the future. This move reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that the nation's citizens benefit from its natural resource wealth.

Santokhi said the payment would only be made when the oil from Block 58 has been sold and Suriname has received the royalties.

"The RVI is listed in US dollars so that it is stable in value. The payment will be made in Surinamese dollars. For people over 60 years old and people with disabilities, options are being developed to receive these before 2028.

"We must now translate that positive impact into opportunities for our own people. There are opportunities for our entrepreneurs, our youth to shape the future of Suriname with the right education and training," Santokhi said as he spoke of the positive impact of an agreement reached with TotalEnergies, the global integrated energy company that produces and markets oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity.

In October, TotalEnergies chairman and chief executive officer, Patrick Pouyanné, held talks with President Santokhi and Annand Jagesar, the chief executive officer of the state-owned Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname NV, Suriname's National Oil Company.

They later announced the Final Investment Decision (FID) for the "GranMorgu" development located on offshore Block 58.

According to a statement posted on the website of TotalEnergies, the GranMorgu project will develop the Sapakara and Krabdagu oil discoveries, on which a successful exploration and appraisal campaign was completed in 2023.

It said the fields are located 150 km off the coast of Suriname and hold recoverable reserves estimated at over 750 million barrels.

The project includes a 220,000 barrels of oil per day Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) unit, that replicates a proven and efficient design.

Total investment is estimated at around US\$10.5 billion and first oil is expected in 2028.

The GranMorgu FPSO is designed to accommodate future tie-back opportunities that would extend its production plateau.

TotalEnergies is the operator of



Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi

Block 58 with a 50 per cent interest, alongside APA Corporation (50 percent).

Staatsolie has announced its intent to exercise its option to enter the development project with up to 20 percent interest. Partners agreed that Staatsolie will contribute to the project from FID and will finalise its interest before June 2025.

The Suriname Constitution stipulates that "natural resources are the property of the nation and will be used to promote economic, social and cultural development".

It also states that "the State strives for a fair distribution of the national income, aimed at a fair distribution of welfare and prosperity among all levels of the population".

Speaking at a luncheon for the

media, Santokhi, who was accompanied by the visiting Prime Minister of Curaçao, Gilmar Pisas, who was a special guest of the country celebrating its 49th anniversary of independence, said "after the announcement of the first investment decision for block 58, 'I have received many requests to better implement those requirements of the constitution.'

"And some groups, especially retirees, have informed me that they, unlike younger generations, will not benefit from the positive effects of oil in the country.

"With these requests in mind, I have commissioned financial experts to propose a financial instrument that offers the people of Suriname a share in our natural resources.

"Today I can announce the creation of a financial instrument that offers the people of Suriname a share in future oil royalties. In this way, our people become de facto owners of Suriname's natural assets.

"Consider this share as a form of reward for a number of years of necessary efforts during the macroeconomic and financial stabilization," Santokhi added.

The government said the "Royalties for Everyone" has three objectives, namely that everyone has a share in the development of the oil and gas sector, just as other countries, such as Alaska, have done.

It said citizens are rewarded for the years of necessary efforts during the macroeconomic and financial stabilization and thirdly that the instrument is a powerful incentive to achieve important and cross-party policy goals such as reducing the informal economy, by everyone freely identifying themselves with the tax authorities, and everyone who does not yet have one, getting a bank account.

Santokhi said that several experts have been working for several months, under the coordination of the ministry of finance and planning, to develop this instrument, with the timeline that it will be implemented in the first half of 2025.

"I expressly inform you that the RVI will be paid from future royalties to be received by the State of Suriname.

"The State will not be burdened with a loan and future oil will not be pledged. The only thing that will happen is that part of the future royalty revenues will be allocated to the population," Santokhi added.

## Jamaica PM rolls out tax cuts and debt relief

Amid mounting political pressure following a narrow win in February's local elections, Jamaica's Prime Minister Dr. Andrew Holness announced sweeping measures at the Jamaica Labour Party's (JLP) 81st annual conference on Sunday.

Aimed at easing the financial burden on middle-income earners and vulnerable groups, the proposed policies include reductions in electricity taxes, water bill amnesties, targeted relief for craft vendors and tourism workers, and more.

Holness announced that in the next budget, the government would slash the general consumption tax (GCT) on electricity from 15% to 7% for users consuming up to 200 kilowatts monthly. The policy, estimated to cost the government \$1.5 billion annually, will predominantly benefit middle- and upper-middle-income households, according to UN Jamaica Economy Panel economist Keenan Falconer.

The plan also mandates a national rollout of prepaid electricity meters by the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS), particularly in vulnerable communities.

Among the other measures announced included an expansion of the eligibility criteria for the recently introduced \$20,000 reverse income tax credit.

The Prime Minister explained that this week's payments will raise the total number of Jamaicans receiving the rebate to just over 290,000. However, he acknowledged that some individuals remain excluded from the program because they are not registered in the government's system.

To address this, Holness announced that starting next February, the government will begin accepting applications

from unregistered individuals. These applicants will undergo a needs assessment, and those who qualify will also receive the \$20,000 payment.

Holness also revealed plans for the National Water Commission to write off debts owed by pensioners for more than two years and extend discounts of at least 50% to disconnected customers who make payment arrangements. Craft vendors will also benefit from waived fees and outstanding debt forgiveness in government-owned markets, providing relief ahead of the winter tourism season.

He further introduced a partnership-driven Tourism Worker/New Social Housing Programme set to begin in 2025. Through collaboration between the Tourism Enhancement Fund and hotel operators, the initiative will provide housing solutions for sector workers deemed in need.

These measures come as Holness positions himself to solidify public support ahead of his bid for a third term as prime minister.

Acknowledging voter dissatisfaction in February's local elections, where the JLP narrowly secured a majority and voter turnout was just 29.6%, Holness, at the time, admitted that the results reflected pressing concerns such as infrastructure, water supply, and garbage collection. "People's expectations have risen," he said, framing the incentives as part of the government's response.

In February's election, JLP candidates won the majority of seats in seven parishes, while the PNP won five. Kingston and St. Andrew ended in a tie, and ultimately ended up with a PNP Mayor, replacing JLP's Delroy Williams.

# Ralph Gonsalves retained as ULP leader, party to field new candidates

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has been re-elected as the leader of the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. During the party's 26th annual convention, Gonsalves revealed that the ULP plans to field new candidates in at least four of the 15 constituencies for the upcoming general elections, which are expected to take place before the February 2026 constitutional deadline.

Gonsalves shared that two current legislators, Deputy Prime Minister Montgomery Daniel (representing North Windward) and Frederick Stephenson (representing South Windward), have decided to retire from politics. In addition, a candidate who has unsuccessfully contested elections five times has also expressed their intention to step down. This shift is part of the ULP's efforts to introduce fresh faces in the upcoming elections.

ULP's chairman, Edwin Snagg, who has failed since 2001 to win the Southern Grenadines, does not want to make another attempt.

The party will likely field Senator Keisal Peters in West Kingstown, which the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) has held since 2010.

"We have to have candidates' selection properly. There are some persons who run last time may not run



St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

next time. Gommery, for instance, has already said he is retiring, and we have to thank him for his tremendous service," Gonsalves said, referring to the North Windward MP.

"Montgomery has taken North Windward safe thus far and grace will lead us home," Gonsalves said, hinting

that Grace Walters, who the ULP selected in March 2023, will be its North Windward candidate.

"Well, Cummings in West Kingstown ain't have nothing to say against Keisal, other than try to run she down personally," he said referring to Peters, who made history as the coun-

try's first female minister of foreign affairs when she was appointed to the post in August 2022, after two years as the junior minister.

However, in July 2024, she was relieved of the foreign ministry portfolio and reassigned to national mobilisation.

## Grenada to introduce use of AI in parliament

Grenada's Parliament is set to introduce artificial intelligence (AI) tools in 2025, as announced by Speaker Leo Cato. The initiative will encourage legislators to utilize AI technology, and the Parliament will be procuring the necessary tools to facilitate this. In addition, training will be provided to parliamentarians on how to effectively use AI. The plan was inspired by discussions at the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) held in Australia earlier this month, where the use of technology for parliamentary work was a key topic. Cato represented Grenada at the conference and shared these plans with fellow parliamentarians. "There were some major conclusions taken at that conference, I will just read a few of the conclusions," he said as he proceeded to read three of the conclusions.

He said that participants concluded that Parliaments in the Commonwealth should proactively explore all the necessary measures and support systems to allow parliamentarians to undertake their term in office.

The second outcome as he read from a prepared document was "Parliament should continue to adapt and innovate to strengthen their governance system while ensuring their efforts, respect and engage with tradition and



local context.

The third outcome was that "the commonwealth parliaments should commit to integrate technological solutions to allow for inclusive participation in the electoral process and for all persons even those living with disabilities," Cato told the sitting.

The theme of the conference was:

'Engage, Empower, Sustain: Charting The Course For Resilient Democracy.'

"The workshops provided a space for delegates to share their experiences as Parliamentarians and discuss issues including the use of Artificial Intelligence and technology; the security of MPs; ending human trafficking; combatting discrimination legislation; sup-

porting LGBT+ and people with disabilities to participate in Parliaments and engaging with Indigenous peoples," said the concluding statement.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy says that AI can be used by parliaments to transcribe and translate, manage records of debates, and subtitle video content.



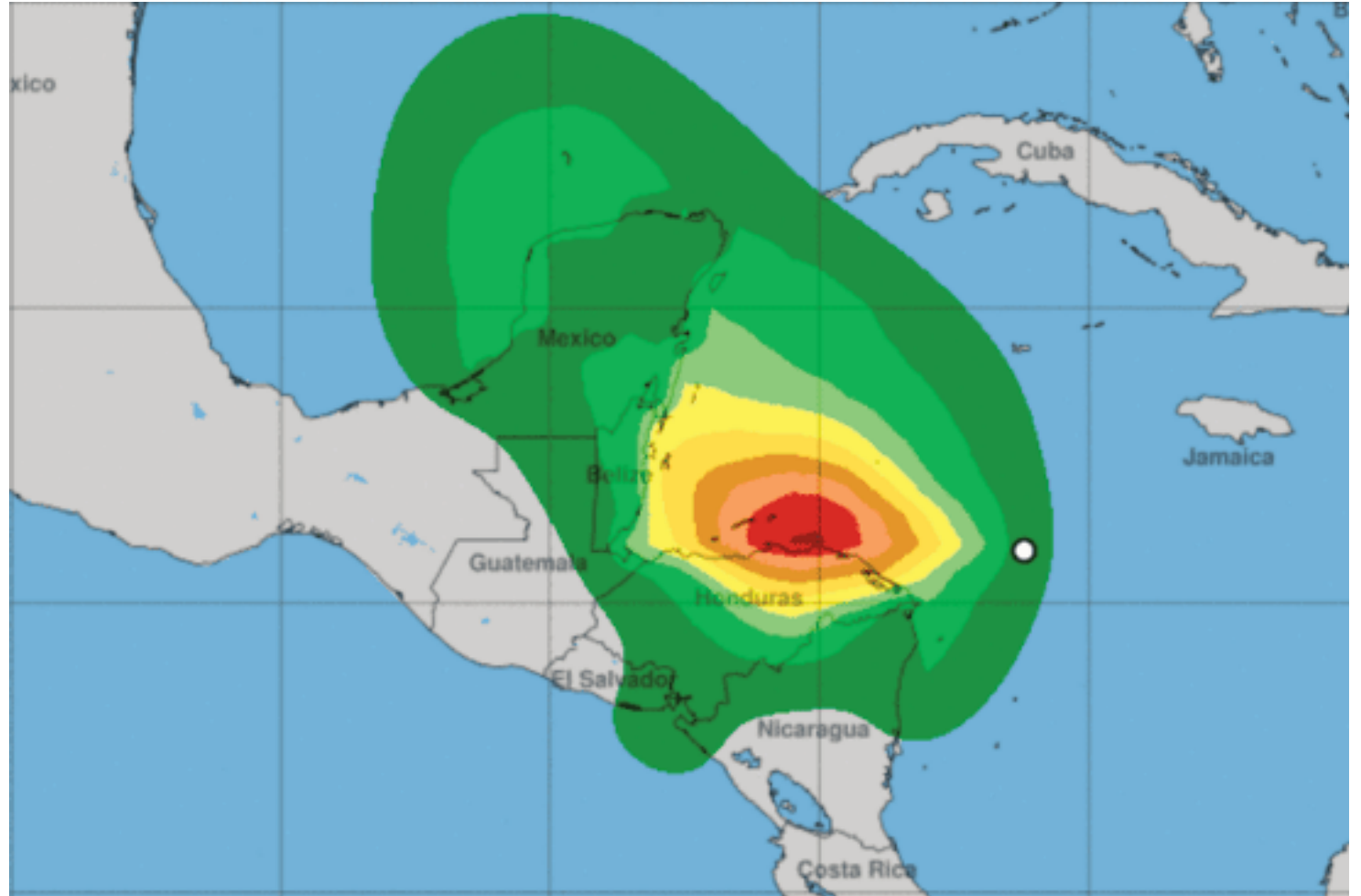
# 2024 Atlantic Hurricane season ends, deadliest since 2005

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season saw 18 named storms, 11 hurricanes, and five major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher), marking the ninth consecutive above-average season for the region. The year's storms were fueled by the ongoing climate crisis, which continues to break records and lead to more extreme weather events, including rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, and flooding.

One of the most notable events was Hurricane Beryl, which made history as the earliest Category 5 hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin. Striking in July, Beryl caused widespread devastation across the Caribbean. However, despite its severity, the impact on human life was significantly reduced due to advancements in early warning systems.

Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO), highlighted that while the hurricane caused extensive damage to homes and infrastructure, fewer lives were lost compared to previous storms. This reduction in fatalities was attributed to the improvements in early warning systems, which allowed for better preparedness and response to the storm's threat.

The 2024 hurricane season was marked by extreme events and significant fluctuations in activity. After the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl in July, storm activity slowed in August due to atmospheric conditions over Western Africa that hindered storm development. However, storm frequency



and intensity surged in early September, with seven hurricanes forming after September 25, setting a record for late-season activity.

One of the most catastrophic storms of the season was Hurricane Helene, which made landfall in late September as a Category 4 hurricane on Florida's Gulf Coast. Helene caused catastrophic flooding in the southern Appalachians, widespread wind damage across the eastern

United States, and severe storm surge flooding along Florida's coast. With over 150 direct fatalities, Helene became the deadliest hurricane to strike the United States since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In October, Hurricane Milton made landfall near Siesta Key, Florida, as a Category 3 storm. It brought with it 46 tornadoes, torrential rainfall, and severe flooding, causing additional widespread damage. The combination of powerful

storms and their aftermath illustrated the season's extremes and the continuing impact of the climate crisis on hurricane activity.

Small island developing states in the Caribbean remain particularly vulnerable, with disproportionate impacts highlighting the need to scale up initiatives like the Early Warnings for All campaign, aimed at building resilience.

## JA parents may be responsible for kids to age 23

The Jamaican Senate has approved significant amendments to the Maintenance Act, allowing maintenance orders for children to be extended beyond the age of 18 for education or training purposes.

The revised law, passed on Friday, November 29, permits courts to issue or extend maintenance orders up to a child's 23rd birthday, regardless of whether an order was previously in place.

The amendments also enable applications for maintenance orders to be filed by children over 18, their parents, or individuals responsible for their care and custody.

Piloting the Bill, Minister of Education, Skills, Youth, and Information, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, highlighted the Government's commitment to addressing the evolving needs of families. "This Bill reflects the evolving needs of Jamaican families, and we obviously are very much committed to education and training," she said. "We understand that these are vital pathways for securing brighter futures for youth, and financial support during this critical period is indispensable."

Previously, the Maintenance Act, 2005, required maintenance orders to cease when a child turned 18



**Amendments to the Maintenance Act in Jamaica will make parents responsible for kids to age 23**

unless an extension was requested before that age. Dr. Morris Dixon explained the challenges this posed:

"This limitation has created inequities and undue hardship for children and custodial parents. There have been cases where children, despite continuing education, are unable to receive maintenance because no prior order was in place before their 18th birthday," she noted.

The amendments address these issues by allowing courts to extend orders for children enrolled in education or training programs, even if no previous

order existed.

To ensure consistency, the changes also impact the Children (Guardianship and Custody) Act, which previously capped maintenance at age 21. This period has now been extended to age 23 to align with the updated Maintenance Act.

"These amendments signal the Government's commitment to the protection of families, the welfare of children, and the equitable sharing of responsibilities within communities," Dr. Morris Dixon affirmed.

# Caribbean Population growth falls below expectations

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has reported that the population of the region reached 663 million in 2024. This figure is nearly 4% lower than what was projected in 2000, when forecasts predicted the population would reach 689 million by this year.

ECLAC's 2024 Demographic Observatory report highlights the accelerating demographic changes in the first quarter of the 21st century, focusing on the implications of an ageing population. The report discusses how these demographic shifts are affecting the labor force and care systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing the challenges that come with a growing elderly population. These trends call for urgent attention to adapt public policies and infrastructure to meet the needs of an ageing society.

"At that time, it was estimated that fertility and mortality rates in Latin America and the Caribbean would be higher than what was effectively recorded between 2000 and 2023, considering trends from the previous decade and what occurred in other regions of the world. Also, these initial projections did not anticipate the increased volume of migration flows in recent years or the significant demographic changes seen during the COVID-19 pandemic," ECLAC said.

According to the 2024 Demographic Observatory Population Prospects and Rapid Demographic Changes in the First Quarter of the 21st Century in Latin America and the Caribbean, currently, the region's population is projected to peak at approximately 730 million in 2053.

The document, prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, emphasizes that the growth rate of the region's population is ever lower.

In the 1960s, annual growth rates topped 2.5 per cent. However, starting in the middle of that decade, a decreasing trend began, due especially to declining fertility. Although the 2000 revision foresaw that this downward trend would continue, the 2024 data shows that, in actuality, the decline was faster than anticipated.

This accelerated demographic transition has prompted major shifts in the age structure of the region's population. In 1950, around 41 per cent of the population was under 15 years of age; today, that proportion has fallen to 22.5 per cent.

At the same time, the adult population between 15 and 64 years of age went from accounting for 55.6 per cent of the total population in 1950 to representing 67.6 per cent in 2024. It is forecast that in 2050, around 18.9 per cent of the region's population will be made up of people over 65 – approximately double the proportion observed in 2024 (9.9 per



cent).

This will mean an increase from the 65.4 million people over 65 years of age in 2024 to an estimated 138.0 million in 2050, ECLAC said.

The 2024 Demographic Observatory stresses that the rapid demographic shift that has been observed in Latin America and the Caribbean presents challenges and opportunities for the re-

gion in the context of accelerated population ageing, with a significant increase in the population's median age.

In 1950, the report indicates, the median age of Latin America and the Caribbean's population was 18; by 2024, that value had risen to 31 years of age; and by 2050, it is forecast that the median age will be approximately 40.

"The birth rate has declined more

quickly than what was expected at the start of the century, and neither the rise in mortality due to COVID-19, nor the increase in migration flows, was foreseen at that time," said ECLAC's executive secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs.

"We at ECLAC call for promoting the population's healthy ageing and offering everyone, especially lower-income groups, access to healthcare and social protection systems that would reduce the impact of greater demand for care on families," he added.

ECLAC said that the change in the population's age structure and the persistent decline in fertility to below-replacement levels pose additional challenges to those already existing in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of socioeconomic inequality and access to state-provided goods and services.

It said ageing has an impact in all areas of public policy and, in particular, entails an increase in demand for long-term care services, which poses challenges but also opportunities.

Salazar-Xirinachs said it is crucial that the situation of women be given special consideration, since they are generally the ones who absorb the work of caring for children and older persons within families.

## Caribbean records increase in remittances to US\$18 billion

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has projected that Caribbean countries will receive US\$18.4 billion in remittances in 2024, marking a modest two percent growth, similar to the rate observed in 2023.

In its latest report, the IDB highlights that while remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to reach a historic high, they are growing at the slowest pace in a decade. Despite this slower growth, the IDB noted that remittances are gradually returning to pre-COVID-19 pandemic growth levels. Overall, the region is forecasted to receive US\$161 billion in remittances in 2024, reflecting a five percent increase from the previous year.

The estimated slowdown for 2024 can be attributed to several factors, including reduced human mobility in 2023, slower labor market growth for migrants abroad, and a relative improvement in the economies of Central American and Mexican recipient countries.

The report reveals nuanced regional variations in remittance trends. Central American countries are expected to see a 6.6 percent growth, with remittances reaching \$45.7 billion. In contrast, the South American region is projected to experience a more significant 9.1 percent growth in remittance income, totaling US\$31.7 billion.

The IDB's comprehensive analysis provides insights into the profiles and behaviors of remittance senders and recipients. Remittance amounts vary by nationality, gender, and years of residence abroad, ranging from US\$131 to US\$648 monthly. These amounts represent between six and 23 percent of migrants' incomes.

Interestingly, the study found that more than half of mi-



grants primarily send money to their mothers, with one in three sending funds to their fathers.

Gender differences in remittance patterns are notable: men tend to send a median of US\$300 monthly, with this amount remaining stable for the first 15 years, though decreasing as a percentage of income. Women, by contrast, maintain a consistent rate of income allocation to remittances, resulting in increased amounts sent over time.

The report underscores the critical role of remittances in supporting families in their countries of origin. Approximately 80 percent of migrants indicated that the funds are primarily used for essential maintenance, including daily food, housing, and transportation expenses.

Medical expenses emerged as the second most common use, with other significant purposes including education, savings, business investments, and real estate.

# Panday: humanity, compassion needed to deal with migrant issue

PATRIOTIC Front political leader Mickela Panday says humanity and responsibility are necessary elements of any solution to the issue of Venezuelan migrants coming to Trinidad and Tobago to escape challenges they are experiencing in their own nation.

In a statement on November 29, Panday said, "We believe that it is our moral duty to approach this situation with compassion while safeguarding the welfare and security of our citizens."

TT, she continued, must remain committed to international humanitarian principles, recognising that many Venezuelans are fleeing unimaginable hardships caused by economic collapse and political instability through no fault of their own.

"However, as a sovereign nation, we must also prioritise the interests of our people by ensuring that our policies are structured, balanced, and enforceable."

As part of a united and pragmatic approach towards this issue, Panday suggested greater co-operation between Caricom, international partners and local stakeholders to craft a sustainable solution that upholds human dignity while ensuring TT's resources and security remain intact.

"We remain committed to protecting our nation's future while extending a helping hand to those fleeing suffering. This is the balance of humanity and responsibility that we must uphold."

At a UNC meeting in Barataria on



**Mikela Panday: daughter of Basdeo Panday now leads the political party Patriotic Front**

November 25, Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar condemned the abduction and murder of a constituent, Winston Thomas, allegedly by Venezuelan migrants.

She repeated her position in a statement on November 26, saying enough is enough. "The time has come to take action against Venezuelan migrants who are committing crimes daily against our citizens."

"Today I make it clear: if the

Venezuelan migrant community do not get their act in order and desist from engaging in criminal conduct, begin assisting the police service in identifying Venezuelan criminals and integrate peacefully into our society, my incoming government will take aggressive action against all illegal Venezuelan migrants and deport every one of them to their homeland by any means necessary."

Foreign and Caricom Affairs Minister Dr Amery Browne and National Security

Minister Fitzgerald Hinds subsequently condemned her statements.

Browne said, "The Ministry of National Security has continuously been deporting Venezuelan nationals who break the laws of TT whilst here."

Hinds said Persad-Bissessar's latest statements were "unfortunate and inflammatory" and "a reckless outburst."

He added the remarks aimed to play politics and mimic US President-elect Donald Trump.

## Unions protest major pay hike for PM, MPs

The Joint Trade Union Movement (JTUM) in Trinidad is calling on all citizens to gather in front of WhiteHall on December 7 to protest the government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Salaries Review Commission.

The Prime Minister accepted the recommendations on November 28, which see his salary increasing from around \$59,000 to \$87,847, along with pay increases for the President, Opposition Leader, cabinet and non-cabinet ministers; ordinary MPs (government and opposition); senators; the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Chief Secretary; THA Minority Leader, and heads and members of local government corporations.

At a post cabinet media briefing on at Whitehall, Rowley said, "The government accepts the recommendations of the SRC. To implement it will require a circular from the Minister of Finance, whenever that comes out, and the politics will start or it will end."

Rowley said he thought the SRC had done good work in preparing its report.



**T&T PM Keith Rowley got a \$28K pay increase per month**

Asked if he thought the new salary was fair, he said, "Whether it is fair or not is not the point. Those who were given the assignment to do it, they have done it, these are the recommendations and I accept it..."

Rowley said he believed TT could pay a decent emolument to its management structure to continue managing the country.

"I am not unaware of the view in some quarters that government and its appendages are a waste of time, and

nobody is worth anything. I don't subscribe to that.

"I subscribe to the fact that the country's management structure does relatively good work, in some cases excellent work, and where they are to be compensated, I believe the compensation that is recommended by the SRC is not exorbitant for the country's management structure."

In a statement on November 29, JTUM said all concerned individuals should not only voice their frustrations

but take action and demonstrate.

"As citizens continue to struggle to make ends meet in a country grappling with economic decline due to stringent government measures, the government's decision to accept the SRC's recommendations, which provide substantial pay increases and back pay for themselves while offering minimal support to those who drive the economy, clearly reflects a lack of concern for the needs and issues facing ordinary people in our nation."

The union said the government was clearly disconnected from the population.

"The acceptance of a substantial pay increase while providing only a four per cent for six years increase for public services, civil servants, etc, and nothing for others clearly highlights their disconnect from the citizens they vowed to serve. Furthermore, this situation suggests an agenda aimed at preserving the divide they have created between the upper and lower classes, leaving little room for the revival of the middle class, which this government has effectively eliminated."

# West Indies pull one back in fourth T20 vs England

Jayden Seales delivered a master-class in pace bowling with sensational figures of 15.5-10-5-4, as the West Indies skittled out Bangladesh for 164 on the second day of the second Test here at Sabina Park on December 1.

His performance saw him go into the record books with the 7th most economical spell in Test cricket since 1977 for bowlers delivering a minimum of 60 balls.

The Trinidadian ensured the hosts held a commanding position, and by stumps, the West Indies had reached 70 for 1, with Kraigg Brathwaite and Keacy Carty steadying the ship after the early loss of Mikyle Louis.

Earlier, it was Shamar Joseph who set the tone, dismantling the Bangladesh batting lineup with a fiery spell. After a solid 73-run partnership between Shadman Islam and Shahadat Hossain, Joseph triggered a dramatic collapse. From 83 for 2, the visitors slumped to 98 for 6 in the space of 34 balls, with Joseph accounting for three key dismissals.

Joseph first ended Shahadat's resilient knock of 22, breaching his defence with a delivery that uprooted the stumps. He then forced Jaker Ali into an awkward pull shot, resulting in a top edge that lobbed behind for an easy catch by wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva.

In his next over, Joseph found Shadman's outside edge, giving Da Silva his fourth catch of the innings. Litton Das fell amid the carnage, edging Seales to first slip for just 1.

After lunch, Bangladesh's lower order, led by Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam, mounted a stubborn resistance. The duo batted for 116 balls, adding 41 runs while frustrating the West Indies bowlers. Their stand ended when Taijul Islam fended an Alzarri Joseph bouncer to third slip for 16.

Seales returned to clean up the tail with ruthless efficiency, taking the final three wickets for just five runs. Taskin Ahmed's attempt to pull a short ball resulted in a sharp catch by Alick Athanaze at second slip, courtesy of Da Silva's reflexes.

Mehidy's hook shot found the hands of fine leg, and Nahid Rana's leg stump was uprooted by a pinpoint delivery to end the innings.

Bangladesh's seamers responded with disciplined bowling, conceding only 16 runs in the ten overs before tea. After the interval, Rana's fiery spell yielded the wicket of Louis for 12, caught behind off a sharp delivery.

Taijul Islam extracted turn and bounce from the surface, keeping both Brathwaite and Carty in check. Despite his accuracy, he failed to claim a wicket, with seven of his ten overs being maidens. The West Indies skipper Brathwaite, unbeaten on 33, and Carty, on 19, ensured there were no further setbacks before bad light ended play prematurely for the second consecutive day.



West Indies' Jayden Seales, left, celebrates the dismissal of Mominul Haque, right, of Bangladesh

## Shallow says change essential in CWI after report

ST JOHN'S: Cricket West Indies (CWI) will convene a pivotal meeting with its Full Member shareholders on December 6 to vote on implementing the governance reforms recommended by the Wehby Report.

The development marks a critical juncture in CWI's ongoing efforts to strengthen its governance structure and position West Indies cricket for future success.

In accordance with the company's Articles of Association, shareholders were notified on November 13, 2024, of the upcoming meeting to vote on governance reform.

The session follows discussions at the Annual General Meeting held on March 23, 2024, which resulted in the approval of some recommendations.

However, the meeting next week will give shareholders the opportunity to again consider the highly anticipated proposals on the duration of the term of office of CWI's president and vice president, as well as the introduction of term limits.

CWI's Full Member shareholders are the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA), Guyana Cricket Board (GCB), Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA), Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB), Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB), and Windward Islands Cricket Board (WICB).

CWI president Dr Kishore Shallow, in highlighting the importance of the upcoming meeting, emphasised that the organisation is fully committed to advancing the governance reform agenda.

"Governance reform continues to be a priority for CWI as we take decisive action on our journey of organisational transformation and continuous improvement.

"The recommendations of the Wehby Report offer a clear pathway toward improving our governance framework, and this meeting provides an opportunity for our shareholders to collectively shape the future of West Indies cricket," Shallow said.

"We approach this process with a spirit of collaboration, transparency, and a shared commitment to building a more efficient and resilient organisation.

"While change can be challenging, it is essential for the



CWI president Dr Kishore Shallow

growth and sustainability of cricket in the Caribbean.

"This meeting is not just about governance, it is about ensuring the long-term health of the sport we all cherish. We are optimistic that, with the support of our shareholders, we can move forward together and continue to inspire pride across the region," the president said.

Commissioned in 2019, the Wehby Report recommended several critical reforms designed to strengthen the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of CWI's governance framework.

Although some recommendations have been implemented, the process faced delays due to the onset of the covid19 pandemic in 2020 and the need for additional consultations.

Key proposals include restructuring of the board of directors, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and modernising operational practices to align with global best practices, all of which remain pivotal to driving CWI's organisational transformation.

Any purchase over \$30 or \$50, get a 2025 calendar FOR FREE!  
单笔消费满\$30, 送2025年台历一个!  
单笔消费满\$50, 送2025年折页一个!



SUPERKING SUPERMARKET

鴻發超市



Special Offers Effective: Friday Dec.06 To Thursday Dec.12, 2024



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Korean Cabbage 高脚菜 Reg: \$1.29 <b>79¢</b>	Bok Choy Sum 白菜仔 Reg: \$1.89 <b>1.29</b>	Eggplant 茄子 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.39</b>	Shanghai Miu 上海青 Reg: \$2.29 <b>1.69</b>	Roma Tomato 羅馬番茄 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.79</b>	Green Bean 青豆仔 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99</b>
Red Pepper 紅椒 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.59</b>	Fresh Corn 玉米 Reg: \$1.99 <b>2.99</b>	Asparagus 芦笋 Reg: \$1.99 <b>3.99</b>	Romaine Lettuce 罗马生菜 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>	Blue Jay Orange 蓝鸟橙 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.29</b>	US Fuji Apple 美国富士苹果 Reg: \$4.99 <b>1.39</b>
California Sweet Mandarin 加州甜橙 Reg: \$3.99 <b>1.99</b>	Seedless Small Red Grape 无籽小红提 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.59</b>	Blueberry 蓝莓 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b>	Dragon Fruit 火龙果 Reg: \$4.99 <b>2.99</b>	China White Meat Pomelo 中国白肉柚子 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b>	Honeydew 白瓜 Reg: \$5.99 <b>3.99</b>

GROCERY

Heinz Tomato Ketchup 1.25L 番茄酱 Reg: \$6.99 <b>3.99</b>	Unico Tomato Paste Series 番茄酱 150ml Reg: \$1.99 <b>89¢</b>	Primo Spaghetti Series 意大利面 300g Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.79</b>
Ma Ling Pork Luncheon Meat 370g 午餐肉 Reg: \$3.99 <b>3.99</b>	Liga Mackerel Series 425g 鲭鱼罐头 Reg: \$4.99 <b>2.59</b>	Golden Panda Sweetened Condensed Milk 300g 甜炼乳 Reg: \$3.99 <b>99¢</b>
Ma Ling Corn Snack Mix 300g 玉米零食 Reg: \$1.99 <b>1.29</b>	Polly Strawberry Cream 草莓饼干 1.2kg Reg: \$3.99 <b>1.59</b>	KC Candy Series 900g 糖果 Reg: \$3.99 <b>99¢</b>

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Cucumber 大黄瓜 <b>15.00</b> case	Korean Cabbage 高脚菜 <b>25.00</b> case	Spanish Onion 大洋葱 <b>26.00</b> case	Carrot 红萝卜 <b>27.00</b> case
Green Onion 葱 <b>29.00</b> case	Lime 青柠 <b>29.00</b> case	Green Leaf Lettuce 绿生菜 <b>30.00</b> case	Lemon 黄柠檬 <b>35.00</b> case
Headless White Shrimp 无头白虾 21/25 10x4LB/Case <b>190.00</b> case	Thailand Black Tiger Shrimp 泰国黑虎虾 21/25 4.5LB/Case <b>185.00</b> case	Extra Large Egg 超大蛋 <b>54.99</b> case	Huy Fong Chili Garlic Sauce 胡牌辣蒜酱 373.5L <b>65.00</b> case
Heinz Tomato Ketchup 番茄酱 4x2.5L <b>38.00</b> case	Container NG-093 容器 <b>33.00</b> case	Container NG-081 容器 <b>23.00</b> case	Kraft Singlefold Towels 纸巾 <b>25.00</b> case
Capri Vegetable Oil 橄榄油 1.6L <b>31.99</b> case	VALIE Dishwashing Liquid 4x4L 洗洁精 <b>26.99</b> case	Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 李锦记蒜蓉鲜味露 16oz 2kg <b>39.00</b> case	Lee Kum Kee Hois in Sauce 李锦记蒜蓉酱 1.75L <b>48.99</b> case
ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg 20kg <b>19.99</b> bag	Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg <b>60.00</b> bag	Redpath Sugar 白糖 27kg <b>31.99</b> bag	

FROZEN

SH White Shrimp 5L/60 400g 鲜冻白虾 Reg: \$6.99 <b>4.99</b>	Primo Delight Red Hot Sausage Series 375g 香肠 Reg: \$5.99 <b>6.99</b>	SANFORD Green Shell Mussels 2lb 鲜冻青口 2lb Reg: \$13.99 <b>9.99</b>	Lobster Ball Fish Cake 龙虾球 500g Reg: \$5.99 <b>5.99</b>	SH Basu Fillet 400g 巴西鱼柳 Reg: \$2.99/lb <b>2/\$5.00</b>	SH Squid Tube 300g 鲜冻鱿鱼 Reg: \$4.99 <b>3.99</b>
Takoyaki Grilled Wheat Cakes 540g 章鱼烧 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99</b>	BF Cut Descaled Bangus Milkfish 400g 中鱼 Reg: \$6.99/lb <b>4.99</b>	Kababayan Steamed Sticky Corn 800g 玉米 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b>	JF Frozen Durian Meat With Seed 400g 冷冻荔枝肉 400g Reg: \$11.99 <b>8.99</b>	Surasang Cabbage Kimchi 泡菜 2.64lb 泡菜 Reg: \$7.99 <b>5.99</b>	Bingrae Milk Drink Series 牛奶 6x200ml Reg: \$4.99 <b>6.99</b>

MEAT

Boneless Pork Butt 无骨猪肉 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b> lb	Beef Flank 牛腩 Reg: \$7.99 <b>6.99</b> lb	Frozen Cow Tongue 牛舌头 Reg: \$6.99 <b>5.99</b> lb
Beef London 牛腩 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99</b> lb	Chicken Drumstick 鸡腿 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.79</b> lb	

SEAFOOD

Frozen Fresh Pompano 鲜冻黄翅 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99</b> lb	Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 鲜冻白虾 Reg: \$5.99 <b>4.99</b> lb	Fresh White Perch 鲜冻白鲈 Reg: \$2.99 <b>1.99</b> lb
Fresh Mullet 新鲜鲻鱼 Reg: \$3.99 <b>2.99</b> lb	Fresh Skate Wing 新鲜翅 Reg: \$4.99 <b>2.99</b> lb	Fresh King Fish Steak 新鲜鲑鱼排 Reg: \$12.99 <b>8.99</b> lb

1635 Lawrence Ave West, North York ON, M6L 3C9 Tel: 416-241-8988 MON - SUN 9AM - 9PM, OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK www.superking.ca

Although We Strive For Accuracy in Both Copy & Illustration, an occasional Error May Occur. We Reserve The Right To Correct Any Error. Specials Available While Quantities Last. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities. Design and advertisement by Promoz Solutions. Tel: 416-773-1028



# PETE'S REAL ESTATE

IS IN BUSINESS OVER 40 YEARS

We can sell your property for the best price on the market

- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- PROPERTY SALES & RENTALS
- REAL ESTATE VALUATION

**A Complete Real Estate Service:**

- ✓ Buying
- ✓ Selling
- ✓ Rentals
- ✓ Tax Compliance

**Contact: 223-6218, 623-7805, 656-5544**

## B HALAL MEAT (BAKSH)

EAST & WEST INDIAN GROCERIES

416-261-8564

### FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

#### FROM THE CARIBBEAN

- BORA
- EGGPLANT
- SAIME
- SQUASH
- PUMPKIN
- WIRI WIRI PEPPER
- HOT PEPPERS
- OKRA
- MARRIED MAN
- THYME
- FROZEN KATAHAR
- COCONUT CHOKA
- EDDOES
- SPIKE MANGO
- GINEP
- GOLDEN APPLE
- AWARA



### FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

LAMB \* GOAT \* CHICKEN \* DUCK  
RED HEN \* ROOSTER

ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL



AND MANY MORE AVAILABLE

### FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

- GILLBAKA
- GREY SNAPPER
- CATFISH
- BANGAMARY
- BUTTERFISH
- HASSA
- WHITE BELLY SHRIMP
- BLACK SHRIMP
- CRAB
- SMOKE FISH



3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)

#1 For Quality



Comfort Sleep Inc.  
*Sleep on... Dream on...*

Scan Me



Comfort-Pedic  
Memory Foam  
Mattress



Comfort Foam  
Mattress



Comfort Custom  
Luxury



Tel: +592 233-2657 | + 592 233-3013 | +592 233-3024 | WhatsApp: +592 618-1078

Address: 49 Eccles Industrial Site, EBD, Guyana

Email: [info@comfortsleep.gy](mailto:info@comfortsleep.gy) | Website: [comfortsleep.gy](http://comfortsleep.gy)

**"Guyana On Show, The Fastest Growing Economy"**



*"Our focus is to not only build Guyana's premier facilities but a premier academy for cricketers all across the region. We want to be known to have an academy that provides the conditions, for the development of the best fast bowlers, world class spinners and batsman who can bat spin and pace bowling."*- H.E. Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



**GSL T20**

**FIXTURES**

GUYANA NATIONAL STADIUM - PROVIDENCE

**NOVEMBER 2024**

Tue 26	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs LAHORE QALANDARS
Wed 27	19:00 AST	HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Fri 29	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs VICTORIA
Sat 30	10:00 AST	HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs LAHORE QALANDARS

**DECEMBER 2024**

Sun 1	10:00 AST	RANGPUR RIDERS vs VICTORIA
Sun 1	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs HAMPSHIRE HAWKS
Tue 3	19:00 AST	VICTORIA vs LAHORE QALANDARS
Wed 4	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Thu 5	19:00 AST	LAHORE QALANDARS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Fri 6	19:00 AST	HAMPSHIRE HAWKS vs VICTORIA
Sat 7	19:00 AST	<b>GSLT20 FINAL</b>

**TICKET PRICING**

Stands	Tix Price - USD	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	24	5000
North West Stand (Red)	29	6000
South West Stand (Green)	34	7000
Mound	14	3000
<b>Total</b>		

GAW GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price - USD	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	14	3000
North West Stand (Red)	24	5000
South West Stand (Green)	29	6000
Mound	12	2500
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	

NON GAW GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	14	3000
North West Stand (Red)	19	4000
South West Stand (Green)	22	4500
Mound	10	2000

10 AM GAMES		
Stands	Tix Price	Tix Price - GYD
South East Stand (Orange)	7	1500
North West Stand (Red)	10	2000
South West Stand (Green)	12	2500
Mound	5	1000
<b>Total</b>		



**TAKING CARE OF All Your Dental Needs**

Dentists: Dr. Clive R. Jagan, Dr. Shane A. Jagan, Dr. Kyle V. Jagan, Dr. Ian N. Jagan

We at JDC have one objective in mind: To make sure you get the professional and personal attention you deserve. So be ready for a relaxed and pain free dental experience.

11 Lamaha and Light Streets, Georgetown, Guyana  
Tel: (592) 226-0400  
e-mail: info@jagandentalcentre.com  
www.jagandentalcentre.com

**CLINICAL SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Teeth Whitening
- Laser Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Implantology (Implants)
- Endodontics (Rootcanals)
- Prosthodontics (Dentures, Crown & Bridge, Veneers, etc.)
- Pedodontics (Kiddy Dentistry)
- Periodontics (Gum Surgeries, Deep Scaling, De-pigmentation, etc.)
- Oral Surgery (Extractions)

