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Celebrating US Independence

Guyana President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has praised the enduring and secure relationship between the USA and Guyana, despite numerous challenges.

He made those remarks when he delivered congratulatory remarks at the United States' 248th Independence Anniversary cocktail ceremony, held recently at the Pegasus Suites in Georgetown.

Ali is pictured here with US Ambassador Nicole Theriot, who also praised the Guyana-US relationship (*see Page 12*).

President Ali acknowledged the United States as a "great friend" to Guyana and emphasised the commitment of both nations to collaboratively address issues. "Collectively and together, we have many challenges that we have committed ourselves to confronting. Whether it is transnational crimes, the sharing of information, or greater integration of our system to support a rule-based society, we are both committed to the task of building an unbreakable friendship and relationship.."



DEADLY HURRICANE: Boats are pictured strewn across the harbour in Bridgetown, Barbados, following the passage of Hurricane Beryl on Monday. The storm is being blamed for several deaths across the region, and for decimating the fishing industry in Barbados (see stories inside). As we go to press on Wednesday, Jamaica was bracing for Beryl, which up to last check was a Category 5 storm, the highest on the charts.



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Fisheries production increased by 37.8% in 2023 – Min. Mustapha

Following a period of declined catches, which were due to several reasons including climate change, Agriculture Minister, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha disclosed that in 2023, 36,396 MT for seafood was harvested in the fishing industry, representing an increase of 37.8%.

Minister Mustapha made this disclosure while addressing fisherfolk from across the country who gathered at the Uitvlugt Community Center to observe Fisherfolk Day 2024. This year’s event was held under the theme “Protecting Livelihoods, establishing a Safe and Sustainable Environment for our Fisherfolk”.

While delivering remarks, the minister said that fishing remains an extremely dangerous profession and commended the nation’s fisherfolk for the sacrifices made for their family and the country.

“We must commend and applaud our fisherfolk for the sacrifices they make by braving the elements at sea to earn a living and provide citizens with affordable and nutritious sources of protein. As a government, we are positioning this country to be a major food producer and exporter in CARICOM and you have a very important role to play in these efforts. In 2023, 36,396 MT of seafood was harvested in the fishing industry representing an increase of 37.8%. The aquaculture industry is also doing well. Last year, that sector grew by 75%. If we match these production figures with the earnings, you will see that in 2023, the sector earned US \$54 million,” he noted.

He also said that since the government took office, systems have been put in place to ensure fisherfolk have greater representation and a stronger voice in policy-making processes.

“Since our return to government, significant strides have been made to enhance the fisheries sector through initiatives aimed at improving safety, increasing sustainability, and ensuring economic security for our fisherfolk. In recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture has worked tirelessly to bolster the resilience of our fishing communities. With the establishment of the Guyana National Fisherfolk Organization, we have empowered our fisherfolk with greater representation and a stronger voice in policy-making processes. We’ve also resuscitated and enhanced all fishing vessel landing sites across the country. That was a programme initiated by President Ali,” Minister



Minister Zulfikar Mustapha addressing fisherfolk at Fisherfolk Day 2024

Mustapha explained. The minister also said that the government is currently expending large sums of money to rehabilitate facilities like the Meadow Bank wharf and the surrounding vending and landing areas. “Only last week, we signed a contract valued at approximately \$75 million for the refurbishing of the Meadow Bank wharf. An additional \$50 million will also be expended to develop the areas around the landing site at the wharf to enhance the aesthetic. These upgrades will include the construction of sheds, water facilities, and stalls for persons who sell fish and other seafood there,” he explained. Last March, President Ali visited the Meadow Bank wharf which is currently utilized by approximately 42 fishermen several vendors, and other stakeholders. During his visit, the Head of State instructed that a design for the necessary upgrades be completed and submitted within two weeks. Meanwhile, FAO Country Direc-

tor, Dr. Gillian Smith said that the impacts of climate change, the degradation of fishing habitats, and the intersection of fisheries activities with other activities have an impact on the fisheries sector on a global scale. “We know as we go forward that the fishing sector is not an easy sector; its not an easy sector to make a living in. When you make a living, you make a good living. When things are bad, they are really bad. There are also all sorts of other things that impact global fisheries and I am sure that for Guyana, they are not so different. Climate change and the impacts of climate change, degradation of fishing habitats, and the intersection of fisheries activi-

ties with other activities...all these are impacting fisheries on a global scale. have an impact on the fisheries sector on a global scale,” Dr. Smith said. She also encouraged the fisherfolk present to collaborate with stakeholders and collaborators and to cooperate with the technical officers and each other to meet the local and global demand for fish and other seafood. Since taking office, the government has been working assiduously to enhance the livelihoods of fisherfolk across the country. In May 2022, President Ali announced a one-off \$150,000 relief grant for fisherfolk; an initiative that benefited approximately 7,500 fisherfolk.





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Dr Doobay among 83 to be inducted into Order of Canada

GUYANESE doctor and entrepreneur, Budhendranauth Doobay is among a list of over 80 persons announced to be granted the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is the second highest Canadian state honour which was established in 1967 and celebrates outstanding achievements and extraordinary contributions.

A media statement from Canada’s Governor General, Mary Simon said: “The Order of Canada recognises individuals who have made positive and lasting impacts on communities here in Canada, or who have brought honour to our country abroad.”

Dr. Doobay, a retired cardiovascular surgeon, religious leader and mentor is said to be the only Guyanese to hold both the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada.

He is hailed as a philanthropist and humanitarian, and is also the founder of the Doobay Medical and Research Centre in Guyana.

The list includes Canadian Pop-punk musician Avril Lavigne who, according to CBC, has been made a member of the order to mark her career success and work in supporting persons with serious illnesses and disabilities.

Also being inducted to the order is the former Governor of the Bank of Canada, Stephen Poloz who also served as the president and CEO of Export Development Canada.



Dr Doobay receiving the Order of Ontario. He will now receive the Order of Canada

Yonge-Dundas officially renamed to Sankofa Square

Toronto city councillors last Thursday voted 17-6 in favour of proceeding with a plan to rename and re-brand Yonge-Dundas Square.

Changes approved Thursday include formally replacing all City of Toronto references to Yonge-Dundas Square with Sankofa Square; the square’s board of management will oversee establishing a new multi-year strategic and business plan; and that plan will include ways to “enhance revenue stream” and increase programming and safety at the square.

The name “Sankofa” was proposed after a committee involving

Black and Indigenous leaders studied options to replace Dundas. Sankofa originates in Ghana. It represents the act of reflecting on and reclaiming teachings from the past.

The process to rename the square was triggered by a petition that claimed Henry Dundas was involved in delaying the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade.

Critics had stepped up to try to reverse council’s course, including a petition against the renaming with some 30,000 signatures submitted.

Suggestions included renaming the Square in honour of Toronto mu-

sician Gord Downie, as well as after Gordon Lightfoot, who performed most of his shows at the nearby Maddy Hall venue.

Lightfoot, originally from Orillia, Ontario, died last year. He was a world famous musician.

Critics also said the name Sankofa Square celebrates Ghana, not Toronto.


“You could go to prison in Ghana

for being gay,” one said.

The cost of renaming Yonge-Dundas Square to Sankofa Square was pegged at around \$335,000 by Mayor Olivia Chow and Coun. Chris Moise, who stated that any costs beyond the budget would be covered by the square’s board of management through third-party financial partners and in-kind support.



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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Responding to the storm

Our thoughts are with our Caribbean neighbours in Jamaica today, who as we're going to press were preparing for the devastation anticipated by the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

The Category 4 storm -- the strongest in the region so early in "hurricane season" -- has already taken a wild ride through the southern and western Caribbean, leaving destruction in its wake.

Particularly hard hit are Grenada, Carriacou and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Barbados also suffered significant damage, but appears to have fared better than its neighbours.

Tobago was a target for Beryl but miraculously dodged the bullet, getting drenched by heavy rains but spared the fate of the others.

In the height of the storm earlier this week, however, some leaders were quick to step up to the plate to reassure their people that they were on top of things and would be ready to respond

as soon as it was safe to do so.

From Terrence Drew in St Kitts to Ralph Gonsalves in St Vincent, Dickon Mitchell in Grenada and Mia Mottley in Barbados, they all made sure to put themselves in front to keep the people as calm as possible. For all the populations, this was the first Category 4 hurricane they had ever faced.

Notably absent was Trinidad and Tobago's Keith Rowley, who we were told was attending a graduation ceremony where he was the keynote speaker.

In the height of the storm, Mr Rowley was missing in action. He later appeared before the public after the danger had passed.

But there's another leader whose country was not even in danger but who stepped forward rapidly to assure his Caribbean neighbours they were standing by to respond. He is Guyana's Irfaan Ali, who made the public statement early on, before the first deadly winds touched a single island.

In the statement released on Monday, Dr. Ali made a passionate plea for regional unity and a wholistic approach to the destructive Category 4 hurricane.

Ali, who is also the current chair of CARICOM, said that in light of these challenging times, all citizens and the private sector of the region should coordinate closely with their respective governments and regional emergency response mechanisms in providing immediate support and relief to those affected by the hurricane.

According to Dr. Ali, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) was already working to mobilize and coordinate assistance and disaster relief even as the storm is still passing through the Windward Islands.

"This is a time for all of us as a regional community to stand together and extend our support to those impacted or likely to be impacted by Hurricane Beryl. Let us mobilize the necessary assistance and relief efforts in the true

spirit of regional solidarity.

"Together, we can overcome the adversities posed by this hurricane and ensure the safety and well-being of all our peoples and communities," he added.

Ali also put his resources to work, immediately mobilizing shipments of vital aid to the hardest hit countries. Within a day of the storm's passing, the Guyanese Defence Force was in the air and on water carrying much-needed emergency supplies to Grenada and in particular Carriacou, the tiny island of less than 10,000 people that has been the hardest hit so far.

From our perspective, this is what we call leadership, and we commend all of those leaders who did what was expected of them in times of crisis and stand up for their people.

As we continue to monitor Beryl, we wish the people of Jamaica and the northern Caribbean well.

We can bet, however, that whatever happens, Dr Ali has your back.

Politics and cricket are synonymous in Caribbean

Dear Editor,

POLITICS and cricket, the ultimate but unavoidable combination, is not a unique or unorthodox mix with drinks, but an unending conversation when Guyanese congregate to imbibe intoxicants, critique the critics and entertain the entertainers.

The men's ICC T20 World Cup has just concluded in Barbados, but the fever will follow the West Indies team as they tour England. Then, the cavalier-type cricketers return to the West Indies to smash bat and ball for the 2024 CPL games as the Guyana Amazon Warriors will defend the title.

As the cricket final was playing out in the field, politics was having a field day with the AFC and PNC delivering yorkers and smashing aces as they defended the avoidance of paralysing the game with bravado over boredom and with the convenience of cancelling candidacy, comes into play. A walkover seems inevitable and bad weather is not to be blamed as the ground umpires do not have to resort to the third umpire to juggle, finagle or fumble for a result.

It was hallelujah and bacchanal time for those castigated, chastised and criticised as "mentally lazy," proved that their mettle was made of steel, and, their mental stamina was not latent but live, last Saturday at the Kensington Oval.

Trinidad's Carnival overspilled in Barbados to leave a lamentable and laughable hangover from patriots and patrons partying the whole night. It was a nail-biting finish, suspense perhaps suspending the adrenalin and spectators crossing fingers as they hang on to the edge of their seats or stood up, too nervous to be still and eyes glued to bowler and batter!

Perhaps, what will go down as 'the catch of the year,' may prove to provide the pivotal penultimate point, when SKY (Suryakumar Yadav), caught the ball by the rope, bowled by Hardik Pandya who was defending 16 runs in the last over. SKY threw it to the sky, jumped out of the boundary and back in to catch the ball again to dismiss the dangerous David Miller from South Africa. Guyanese see everything through the lens of politics while using the race eyes, and, the nostrils to smell the scent of discrimination.

Did the sports world desire, depend and deserve the Indian and South African teams to end up in the finals so that, the insatiable crave of the bookies will influence the placement for high stakes in betting, winning or losing?

It was déjà vu for Rohit Sharma and his side as they reminisced on Kapil Dev's catch and the Indian players when, the underdog India, defeated two-

time champion, Clive Lloyd's West Indies team, to win the coveted 1983 World Cup Series played at Lord's. Having won two ODI World Cups, two T20 World Cups, and two ICC Champion Trophy titles, India has established herself as an all-time world leading contender and challenger in the game of cricket and can classify herself as 'the' and not 'a' cricket icon.

India is very resourceful, having been blessed with a population of over a billion to choose her cricketers, her cup is never saturated with talent. Her difficulty lies in choices. Unlike the West Indies, choices are free and fair and not tainted with favouritism or over-looking the obvious choice.

West Indian selection is garlanded with glorious uncertainties and decorated with questionable decisions. There is always the aftermath of pointing fingers, resorting to the blame game and punching holes. At the end of the day, it's the game that suffers: some players' talents are suppressed due to frustration from being ignored and the pride of the fans is dented.

Though India is historically grounded in the principle of truth and non-violence through Gandhi's teachings and her rich ancestry of philosophy and religion, sports and entertainment have catapulted the nation from a less

sedentary stage to migrate to more rigorous activity. India never looked back with their caps now feathered and blazed a trail featuring from Gavaskar to Tendulkar.

How were the venues "fixed" for the ICC T20 2024? Barbados is also referred to as "Little England," but has a 300,000 population with less than 8,000 of Indian origin. Was there a compromising anticipation for a certain expected outcome? England was the defending champion, having defeated Pakistan in 2022. Although Guyana has less than a million people, Trinidad and Jamaica have over a million each, with Trinidad having a high proportion of Indian descendants.

Cricket in the Caribbean is controversially political. CARICOM Day is being celebrated the first Monday in July in the Caribbean. Perhaps, sports closely followed by politics and economics, provide the necessary hat-trick for cricket to survive in the West Indies. Former CARICOM Chairperson, Mia Mottley, recently noted that, "there must be space for all, regardless of who wins and who loses." How ideal for politics and cricket!

Yours respectfully,
Jai Lall



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

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Bird flu may be a pandemic unfolding in slow motion: experts

Scientists tracking the spread of bird flu are increasingly concerned that gaps in surveillance may keep them several steps behind a new pandemic, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen leading disease experts.

Many of them have been monitoring the new subtype of H5N1 avian flu in migratory birds since 2020. But the spread of the virus to 129 dairy herds in 12 U.S. states signals a change that could bring it closer to becoming transmissible between humans. Infections also have been found in other mammals, from alpacas to house cats.

“It almost seems like a pandemic unfolding in slow motion,” said Scott Hensley, a professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania. “Right now, the threat is pretty low ... but that could change in a heartbeat.”

The earlier the warning of a jump to humans, the sooner global health officials can take steps to protect people by launching vaccine development, wide-scale testing and containment measures.

Federal surveillance of U.S. dairy

cows is currently limited to testing herds before they cross state lines. State testing efforts are inconsistent, while testing of people exposed to sick cattle is scant, government health officials and pandemic flu experts told Reuters.

“You need to know which are the positive farms, how many of the cows are positive, how well the virus spreads, how long do these cows remain infectious, the exact transmission route,” said Dutch flu virologist Ron Fouchier of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam.

Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said surveillance for humans is “very, very limited.”

Marrazzo described the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s human flu surveillance network as “really a passive reporting, passive presentation mechanism.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture is more proactive in testing cows, but does not make public which farms are affected, she said.



The spread of the Bird Flu is cause for alarm



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Joel Bhagwandin

INSTITUTIONS IN CHARGE OF GOLD ARE NOT BROKEN

In a letter published in sections of the media today (June 19th, 2024), Dr. C.K. Hunte contends that the “institutions in charge of gold are broken...and that we cannot wait on OFAC to tell us that millions of US dollars were not collected”.

Dr. Hunte appears to be highly uninformed—although I can understand his point of view about “broken institutions”, a concept and an established fact, which he knows more about than perhaps anyone else in the current regime. In this regard, Dr. Hunte had presided over the failure of GAIBANK in the late 1980s early 1990s period. I had dealt with this issue in some amount of detail in April 2023.

However, I must also point out that Dr. Hunte has taken guidance from my advice to him that he should consult with the authoritative reports for data such as those on the Bank of Guyana website, which he did on this occasion.

The issue of the observably declining gold production has little or nothing to do with the institutions per se. Rather, this phenomenon is attributed to (i) gold smuggling as has been recently established and confirmed by the authorities, and (ii) a loss of appetite for investment in the sector coupled with the difficulty in attracting labour. In the case of the latter, the authorities and stakeholders in the sector have confirmed that gold miners are finding it difficult to attract labour—largely because of the abundance of equally and/or more attractive opportunities on the coastland. Thanks to the burgeoning oil and gas sector and the construction boom that is taking off. The same is true for some of the key gold mining players—who are moving away from gold mining—focusing on other opportunities on the coastland such as in the oil and gas sector, construction, and aviation among others.

That being established, coming

back to the notion of “broken institutions”, in order to determine whether there is any merit to such claims, then one would have to examine the operations of those institutions in accordance with their respective governing legislative/legal framework. For example, is the Gold Board operating in contravention of the Gold Board Act, is the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission operating in contravention of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Act, is the Guyana Revenue Authority operating in contravention of the Guyana Revenue Authority Act, has there been an examination of the audit reports for these institutions that would have highlighted major deficiencies, red flags and/or breaches that are alarming or major cause for concern? Dr. Hunte, of course, did none of this type of work, thus rendering his claims baseless and unmeritorious. Accordingly, for Dr. Hunte to credibly make these sort of determinations even at a preliminary stage, he would have to perform far more robust work as opposed to his usual surface level type of mediocre analysis.

Since the revelation of the corruption report by the U.S authorities, the public domain has been engulfed with a plethora of “verbal diarrhoea” by an exceptional group of noisemakers on the matter. It is interesting to note that some of the proponents who are now self-anointed champions and advocates against tax evasion and corruption—have been embroiled in tax evasion controversies in the past, such as the likes of Kaieteur News publisher et.al (Guyana Chronicle, November 24, 2014). Another proponent worth highlighting is a certain chartered accountant and attorney-at-law, Mr. Lalbachan Chris Ram—who has violated established codes of conduct, rules and regulations governing the conduct of audits, to the extent whereby such act, is akin to enabling perpetrators of tax avoidance or eva-

sion tendencies.

It is important to note that money laundering is not a straightforward issue, it is in fact very complex. So not because it was the U.S that conducted the referenced investigation for over two years, it means that there is a grave failure in our system. Often times, money laundering involves cross border transactions. Hence, for countries like Guyana to successfully curb money laundering transactions and prosecute those involved in money laundering, it inevitably requires co-operation and collaboration with international partners and other jurisdictions. The Anti Money Laundering (AML) laws provide for this. Moreover, it demands considerable investment in the resources and capabilities.

Furthermore, in the pre-2015 period, the PPP/C Government created two key institutions, namely, the Special Organized Crime Unit (SOCU) and the State Asset Recovery Agency (SARA). These institutions were created with the view of strengthening the overarching institutional framework in compliance with the AML requirements—to investigate, enforce and prosecute those involved in money laundering crimes. As such, these institutions were originally intended to work in tandem with the Fi-

nancial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Unfortunately, during their tenure (2015-2020), the APNU+AFC Government politicized these institutions, thereby effectively reversing the work of their predecessor. This means that we have suffered five-years of regression in so far as the country’s institutional capacity is concerned. Consequently, the Government now has to pick up the pieces, rebuild, reconstruct, and equip these very important organizations with the requisite tools moving forward.

Finally, for those who are comparing the U.S investigative capacity for money laundering crimes to that of Guyana’s, it is by far an unfair and unintelligible comparison. The U.S is a country whose resources and capabilities, intelligence network, institutional, human, and technological capabilities, and capacity are 200 years advanced in contrast to ours. Therefore, what is of utmost importance that seems to have evaded the intellectual wisdom of some commentators, is that Guyana needs to deepen its co-operation with the U.S, seek out their support in this regard to continue developing our capacity and capabilities, which is precisely what the Government is pursuing—not only with the U.S but other international partners.

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Canada-backed mental health project makes strides in Guyana

THE International Development & Relief Foundation (IDRF) celebrated a significant milestone with the successful showcase of its CAD\$2.9 million “Safeguarding the Human Dignity and Rights of Populations at Risk for Ill-Mental Health in Vulnerable Communities across Guyana” (SPAR) project.

The event, held on Wednesday at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, highlighted the project’s achievements in suicide prevention since its inception in 2022.

The Project Showcase served as a platform to spotlight the SPAR project’s progress, including nationwide Gatekeeper Training on Suicide Prevention and the launch of an innovative Mental Health Portal aimed at fostering community resilience and mental well-being.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, expressed strong support for the initiative, stating, “We in Guyana have been actively addressing high suicide rates, and this project contributes to that reduction. By providing in-person training on suicide prevention and launching an online mental health portal, the population is able to access resources and educate themselves. This is the future.” Minister Anthony also acknowledged Canada’s strong support in other areas such as maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), and sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

Nabil Ali, IDRF’s Chief Operating Officer, remarked, “This event not



The IDRF team with Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony

only showcases the tangible outcomes of our collaborative efforts but also underscores the deepening relationship between Canada and Guyana in addressing critical mental health challenges. Through strategic partnerships with local stakeholders and government ministries, including the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, IDRF has significantly enhanced mental health literacy and support systems in Guyana.”

Canada’s High Commissioner to Guyana commended the Government of Guyana for its ongoing efforts to ad-

dress mental health, most recently with the launch of the country’s national mental health action plan and national suicide prevention plan (2024-2030). “Mental illness is not a Guyanese problem, or even a Canadian problem, it is a global problem from which no society is immune,” he noted, while pledging Canada’s commitment to supporting Guyana’s efforts to address mental health as well as to the wider health sector.

The event drew a diverse audience of stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders,

educators, and representatives from non-governmental organisations. Discussions and presentations underscored the importance of sustained investment in mental health initiatives to build resilient communities and empower individuals facing mental health challenges. Moving forward, IDRF remains dedicated to expanding its impact and supporting sustainable mental health solutions in Guyana. For more information on IDRF’s SPAR project and its ongoing efforts in mental health advocacy, please visit IDRF’s project page.

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Higher oil production will bring enhanced economic benefits to Guyana

BY 2027, ExxonMobil Guyana is poised to surpass the milestone of producing 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd), a significant achievement that promises to not only boost the company's revenue but bring substantial benefits to the people of Guyana.

This is according to Vice President and Business Service Manager of ExxonMobil Guyana, Phillip Rietema, as he discussed the oil giant's 2023 financial statement on this week's episode of the Energy Perspective Podcast, which is produced by the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo.

By the end of 2023, ExxonMobil, the operator and co-venturer of the lucrative Stabroek Block offshore Guyana, had made \$614.6 billion in profits.

And that profit occurs at a time when the company's annual revenue was \$1.1 trillion and its overall operating expenses were estimated to be \$356.1 billion.

He stated that the corporation has three other development projects—Yellowtail, Uaru and Whiptail—set to begin production in 2025, 2026, and 2027, respectively.

Each project is estimated to generate 250,000 barrels per day, bringing the total offshore oil output in Guyana to more than 1.3 million barrels per day.

This will take the company's annual revenue to US\$30 billion, Rietema noted.

"Oil produced is revenue produced as revenue to be shared amongst the people of Guyana and our shareholder group," the official said.

He termed the earnings as "big numbers" and stated that they present an opportunity for Guyana to grow and develop. He assured that ExxonMobil has implemented strategic policies to manage the resources effectively and elaborated on the economic impact of



Vice President and Business Service Manager of ExxonMobil Guyana, Phillip Rietema

this milestone.

"It is not just about the revenues we generate. It is what we can do with the investment dollars. Our operations are now employing over 6,000 Guyanese throughout the value chain and that grows every month. We have over 1,700 unique Guyanese businesses that are doing business in the oil and gas industry. Ten years ago, there were very few people working in the industry and very few businesses."

The enhanced revenue streams are anticipated to support various developmental projects and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for Guyanese citizens.

The government has been making

significant investments in key areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

Turning his attention to the gas-to-energy project, Rietema stated that it is a transformative project for the country.

The project will harness natural gas from the Stabroek Block, channelling it through a 200-kilometre pipeline to a new power plant and Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) facility at Wales, West Bank Demerara (WBD).

He explained: "The revenues are really nice but the gas-to-energy project... it is clear that that is going to impact every single individual in the country. Cheap, reliable power is really fundamental to development and you can only imagine the different businesses that are going to be coming here and looking to use that for their manufacturing, job creating et cetera."

June 2024, marked 25 years since ExxonMobil has been in Guyana.

ExxonMobil is the operator of the offshore 6.6 million-acre Stabroek Block.

Along with its partners Hess Guyana Exploration and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana, a consortium was formed to find and exploit petroleum from the area.

ExxonMobil Guyana holds a 45 per cent stake, followed by Hess Guyana Exploration with 30 per cent and CNOOC Nexen Petroleum Guyana with 25 per cent.

According to the Vice President, the three companies have invested \$6 trillion (US \$30 billion) and have recovered US \$20 billion thus far. He stated that they are committed to investing US \$55 billion and plan to remain in busi-

ness here for decades.

He highlighted that the oil contracts have made these investments possible.

In terms of profits, he stated that the people of Guyana will always receive the "lion's share". "About 52 per cent of the profit is for Guyana and 48 per cent for the contractor."

He explained that 2023 was a "record year" for the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) as inflows stood at \$330M. The Natural Resource Fund Act of 2019 established the NRF to manage Guyana's natural resource wealth for the benefit of the people now and in the future, as well as for the country's long-term growth.

Moreover, Rietema explained that Guyana's Stabroek Block developments compete globally and are among the top deepwater projects in the world.

He stated that these projects have a competitive advantage over many others around the world due to their breakeven spread, which can survive market volatility.

"They are some of the best deepwater projects in the world. We are very proud of them. I know our chairman has said something to the effect of we expect that the Guyana projects that we are doing in Stabroek will go down as one of the greatest deepwater projects in the industry's history," he added.

Since the first discovery in 2015, the company has three projects—Liza 1, Liza 2 and Payara—producing over 600,000 barrels a day. The prolific Stabroek Block has solidified Guyana's position as a major player in the global oil industry and the fastest-growing economy in the world.



Exxon's offices in Georgetown



Over 2500 grants were given to small business owners

Gov't investment fosters development of small businesses

OWING to critical investments made by the government, Guyana has seen thousands of new start-ups and small businesses being established, People's Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has said.

Dr. Jagdeo pointed to this at a press conference at his party's Georgetown Headquarters on Thursday, when he also disclosed that some 2,000 new small contractors have also entered the country's buzzing construction arena.

“Thousands of new start-ups, small businesses, even contractors; we have had about 2,000 new contractors who have been bidding below \$15 million for small works. Almost all those concrete roads in the villages, around the country, around the region are done by small contractors,” Dr. Jagdeo told reporters.

He said that this was made possible due to the government's efforts to empower small business owners and contractors.

“We have put in place a system where more people have received direct transfers from the government. We have done this through co-investment in some areas to allow small business growth, and we have seen a proliferation,” Dr. Jagdeo said.

In 2023, the Government of Guyana signed a \$100 million agreement with the Small Business Development Finance Trust Incorporated,

targeting lending to small and micro-enterprises in various sectors of the economy.

The government, Dr. Jagdeo highlighted, recognises the role of small businesses in the country's economy, and as such, there is a specific support system for them.

In 2023, over 2,500 grants were given to small-business owners at a value of over G\$680 million.

Also, 61 loans were guaranteed through the Small Business Bureau (SBB)'s partner financial institutions valued at \$569 million.

Senior Communications Manager of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Cordell McClure had previously said that since 2020, over 7,000 clients have benefitted from training in their respective fields, which aims to build the capacity of small businesses and to contribute to a more robust sector.

McClure had said that grants are meant to serve as a launching pad or start-up initiative, and incentives and loan guarantees offer competitive interest rates and facilitate business expansion by providing access to much-needed capital.

He also said that the government and the SBB support and investments are geared towards realising growth in the small business sector.



US lauds Guyana relationship as it celebrates 248th independence day

AT the 248th Independence Day celebration held at the Pegasus Suites Hotel, U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, praised the robust bilateral relationship and thriving commercial ties between Guyana and the United States.

In her presentation, Ambassador Theriot emphasised the strengthened relationship between the two nations, noting that over 100 U.S. companies are currently operating in Guyana. “Our commercial ties are deeper than ever; just a few years ago, we created a few hundred million US dollars’ worth of goods, but last year we surpassed 4.6 billion USD. We now have over 100 US companies in Guyana, and that number is growing every single day,” she stated.

Ambassador Theriot highlighted the significant contributions of U.S. businesses to Guyana’s economic growth, which sustain the employment of thousands of locals through trade missions, seminars, and interactions between the private sectors. She expressed hope for a better future for Guyana and all Guyanese, facilitated by these economic activities.

The ambassador pointed out that U.S. business ventures in Guyana span various sectors. “Energy is, of course, the key economic driver, but we see activities in the areas of healthcare and education, agriculture, and new US technologies are being adopted by Guyanese firms and the government to make them more efficient and competitive,” Theriot said.

Additionally, Ambassador Theriot acknowledged the construction of numerous US-branded hotels and restaurants in and around Georgetown. She mentioned that the US information technology (IT) office in Guyana is running several programmes aimed at supporting women’s economic security, food security, small business incubation, and institutional strengthening.

The ambassador also affirmed the



US Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot

US support for Guyana’s vision of becoming the food hub of the Caribbean. She explained the US initiative to work with local products such as turmeric, coconut, and West Indian cherries to market both domestically and internationally.


Finally, Ambassador Theriot highlighted the efforts of Peace Corps volunteers from the United States, who are working throughout Guyana in collaboration with schools and government agencies. “They work alongside communities in the critical areas of literacy, health, and the environment,” she noted.

The ambassador’s remarks underscored the deep and expanding partnership between Guyana and the United States, celebrating the shared achievements and future prospects of this enduring bilateral relationship.



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Guyana eyes Diaspora markets with processed, packaged shrimp

WITH Guyana surpassing its production target of brackish water (swamp) shrimp, the Government of Guyana has revealed plans to boost the processing and packaging of the local produce to tap into the lucrative diaspora markets.

According to President Dr. Irfaan Ali, the country is already exporting its local produce in bulk to the diaspora; however, he believes there is room to add value to the produce.

“We are now producing 708 per cent more swamp shrimp than we were producing a year-and-a-half ago, but we are still exporting it in bulk in the diaspora. We can add value by packaging and processing, and as we build out the aquaculture [sector],” the head of state said during a recent engagement with agro-processors and other stakeholders.

The government, he noted, has already outlined a strategic plan to not only increase the country’s food production, but also create an agriculture sector that is rooted in sustainability to meet both local and regional food-security goals.

“The true colour of Guyana is in our ability to produce and export food of high quality all across the region and around the world. You will realise that the emergent strategy and strong investment in the agriculture sector is to create an enabling environment; the space and the competitiveness that is necessary to



Guyana Agriculture Minister Zulkifar Mustapha

position our country’s agriculture produce and product as a high-quality differentiated brand in the regional and international market,” the president explained.

He noted that already, the government is establishing regional and sub-regional food production hubs. These will see Guyana producing, processing and packaging commodities for its local and regional demands.

“We have a massive agri-investment plan that we are rolling out, and the plan is not only about planting and introducing new crops. It is critically integrated into the overarching economic framework,” President Ali said.

Currently, Guyana is leading the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regional bloc in slashing its US\$6 billion food-import expenditure by 25 per cent by 2025.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Zulkifar Mustapha, in a recent interview with this newspaper, explained that the country was able to surpass its production target for brackish water shrimp in the roll out phase of the project.

According to Mustapha, the project which was first launched back in 2021 is now 70 per cent complete.

Initially, the ministry had set a production target of producing 10,000 kilograms of shrimp per month, but the

farms that have been established are now producing 135,000 kilograms.

“We have started the production of fresh- water prawns at Onverwagt, and we have increased the production of brackish water shrimp there. In Berbice, we have moved the amount from 10,000 kilograms monthly to 135,000 kilograms and we haven’t completed the entire project as yet. It is about 70 per cent.”

“At the end of project, we would be producing approximately 120,000 kilograms but now we are 70 per cent into the project and we have already surpassed that figure,” Mustapha added.

Mustapha is now optimistic that when the project is fully completed production could increase to over 200,000 kilograms monthly.

In 2023, Guyana earned approximately \$1.3 billion from the production of brackish water shrimp for the period between January to November of that year.

The ministry had recorded a total of 815,496 kilograms of shrimp being produced for the period between January to November. This showed a 49 per cent increase when compared to the 548,900 kilograms produced over the same period in 2022.

In 2023, Guyana saw the highest marine production in the past 5 years, with over 42,000 metric tonnes.

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Works moving apace on six regional hospitals, says Health Minister

WITH the intention to build a world-class healthcare system in Guyana, works on six new regional hospitals across the country are moving apace and on track for completion by the end of 2024.

This was highlighted in a recent production which shed light on the ongoing construction of the hospitals at Anna Regina, Region Two; De Kinderen, Region Three; Diamond and Enmore, Region Four; Bath, Region Five, and Skeldon Region Six.

Late last year, it was noted that the foundations for all six health facilities were laid, and that infrastructure works would start to take shape at all sites.

The production, called, “Big Things Happening”, highlighted the significant infrastructure works that are ongoing at the six sites.

At the Skeldon Hospital site, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony had said that they were there to examine the pace at which the construction is going.

“Given the development that is going to be happening in this part of Region Six, and in anticipation of a new bridge from Suriname, this here is obviously going to be an area where a lot of growth will happen,” he had said.

Meanwhile, at Bath, Region Five, Member of Parliament Faizal Jaffarally stated that the construction of the hospital is a demonstration of the further commitment by the Government of Guyana to improve healthcare delivery.

“When it has been completed, there will be no need for us as residents of Region Five to travel all the way to Georgetown as we normally do,” he said.

These facilities will have 24-hour Accident and Emergency, 24-hour labs, a suite of imaging services, including ultrasound, digital X-Ray, and CT scans, along with operation theatres and more.

The six hospitals are being constructed through a partnership with China’s Sinopharm International, and serve as part of a larger \$37.2 billion initiative that will modernise the regional healthcare system in Guyana.



The new Bath Regional Hospital in Region Five

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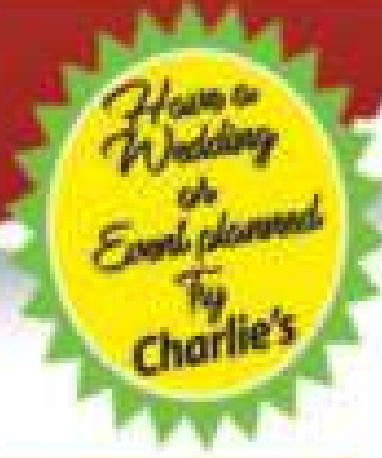
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Five certified as Guyana’s first-ever helicopter search and rescue swimmers

AFTER spending six and a half months exposed to rigorous training in both Canada and Guyana, five Guyanese have graduated as helicopter search and rescue swimmers.

They are the first set of Guyanese to ever hold such a certification. A graduation ceremony was recently held at the OHI/Omni Helicopters Hanger, Eugene F. Correia International Airport (EFCIA), East Coast Demerara.

Speaking on behalf of the graduates, Ishwar Parhbu told the gathering that for six and a half months they were exposed to a rigorous and dynamic training programme hinged primarily on their physical ability in the water from icy cold to humid temperatures which tested their reach.

He said that they started their training in a pool to hone their skills in swimming after which they were introduced to the more complex search and rescue aspect via the helicopter using the basket method.

Prabhu stated that they bonded as a team and encouraged each other to become successful. He emphasised that they were happy with their achievement.

Another graduate, Daniel Yorris, in his remarks highlighted their training journey and heaped praises on the training team of five that guided them throughout the process.

He said that they will equip themselves with empathy and integrity to fulfill their mandate as Guyana’s first-ever helicopter search and rescue swimmers.

During the ceremony, the five graduates were presented with their certificates for successfully completing the programme.

Giving an overview of the course, Chris Mackay said the five graduates successfully completed an extensive training programme to prepare them and during that time, they showed exceptional courage and the ability to learn.

He related that their training began in January this year and it was to improve their skills through being in an extreme environment both locally and overseas where they received hands-on training on land and in the water under the guidance of expert trainers.

Meanwhile, Omni Country Manager, Peter Gay told the gathering that it was a highly coordinated training programme geared towards sharing expertise.

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Gold Miners applaud Gov’t action against illegal mining activities

THE Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) has expressed strong support for the government’s recent initiatives to enhance the mining sector’s integrity and efficiency.

Following a weekend meeting between GGDMA executives and government officials, new measures were announced to tackle illegal mining and smuggling.

The government has committed to several actions to address these issues, which include:

Designating Specific Landings: Identifying and regularising specific areas in the interior to serve as designated landings for mining activities.

Enhancing Legitimacy: Implementing additional mechanisms to verify the legitimacy of individuals conducting business within mining communities.

Controlling Movement: More aggressively managing the movement of itinerant individuals, including shop owners and miners, and accounting for all persons conducting business in the interior.

Strategic Operations: Conducting targeted operations in clusters known for raiding activities, addressing conflicts of tenure, and ensuring smoother operations.

Increased Surveillance: Enhancing surveillance on entities trading vulnerable minerals to prevent illegal activities.

The GGDMA in a press release, on Monday, stated that it has welcomed these measures which aim to curb illegal practices and improve sector operations. The association emphasised its ongoing collaboration with the govern-



A gold mine in Guyana

ment to address rogue elements that undermine the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).

Since taking office, the GGDMA noted that the current administration has reinstated previously removed incentives and introduced new ones to support the mining industry and boost declarations. The Minister of Natural Resources has maintained direct en-

gagement with operators and stakeholders, working to resolve issues and promote fair practices.

The GGDMA reminded miners of their responsibility to ensure accurate declarations, increase production, and collaborate with the government to re-

duce illegal operations.

In the statement, the GGDMA reiterated its support for the government and the Ministry of Natural Resources in their efforts to enhance production, increase declarations, and curb smuggling in the sector.



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Guyana mobilising support mission to help battered islands

AS several Caribbean countries brace themselves for the impact of Hurricane Beryl and others begin to assess the damage it has left behind, Guyana’s President and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Dr. Irfaan Ali, has called for the mobilisation of the necessary assistance and relief efforts.

In a statement released on Monday, Dr. Ali made a passionate plea for regional unity and a wholistic approach to the destructive Category 4 hurricane.

“As Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), I express deep concern and continued anxiety over the passage of Hurricane Beryl through our region. Initial reports have indicated significant damage and destruction to infrastructure and private property in some territories. As this weather phenomenon roars its way through the Region, we must continue to brace ourselves against the effects of high winds, storm surges along sea coasts, and heavy rainfall,” he said.

Further, he said that, in light of these challenging times, all citizens and the private sector of the region should coordinate closely with their respective governments and regional emergency response mechanisms in providing immediate support and relief to those affected by the hurricane.

According to Dr. Ali, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is already working to mobilise and coordinate assistance and disaster relief even as the storm is still passing through the Windward Islands.

”This is a time for all of us as a regional community to stand together and extend our support to those impacted or likely to be impacted by Hurricane Beryl. Let us mobilise the necessary assistance and relief efforts in the true spirit of regional solidarity.

“Together, we can overcome the adversities posed by this hurricane and ensure the safety and well-being of all our peoples and communities,” he added.

In a statement on Monday, the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) and key partners said they stand ready to assist participating states as the region braces for the first major hurricane of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) of Guyana, is working in collaboration with the CDEMA to ensure a coordinated and effective response.



Hurricane Beryl battered the tiny island of Carriacou

Roofs were blown off houses as Hurricane Beryl brought high winds to St Vincent and the Grenadines

During a Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) meeting held Monday and involving over 166 partners from local, regional and international agencies, plans were shared in preparation for the hurricane.

The CDPG was co-chaired by

CDEMA’s Executive Director, Elizabeth Riley and the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Simon Springett.

Major stakeholders in attendance at the meeting included the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves; Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell; National Disaster Coordinators and Ministers who gave up-

dates on activation of National Emergency Operation Centres, logistics, communication as well as relief and response to the levels of impact.

The CDEMA CU activated its Regional Coordination Plan on June 29, and continues to monitor the progress of Hurricane Beryl and remains committed to supporting affected countries.



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Many villagers of Gujarat acted in the film, which was produced by milk farmers

Indian film at Cannes made by half a million farmers

In the mid-1970s, half a million dairy farmers in India's western state of Gujarat contributed two rupees each to make a ground-breaking film.

Manthan (The Churning), directed by venerated filmmaker Shyam Benegal, became the country's first crowd-funded film.

The 134-minute 1976 film was a fictionalised narrative of the genesis of a dairy cooperative movement that transformed India from a milk-deficient nation to the world's leading milk producer. The story drew inspiration from Verghese Kurien - known as the "Milkman of India" for revolutionising milk production in the country. (India today accounts for nearly a quarter of the global milk production.)

Nearly 50 years after it was made, a pristinely restored Manthan is receiving a red-carpet world premiere this week at the Cannes Film Festival, alongside classics from Jean-Luc Godard, Akira Kurosawa and Wim Wenders. Restoring the film was a challenge, according to Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, award-winning filmmaker, archivist and restorer.

All that remained of Manthan was a damaged negative and two faded prints. The negative had been ravaged by fungus, leaving vertical green lines across many sections. The sound negative was entirely destroyed, forcing the restorers to rely on the sound from the sole surviving print.

The restorers salvaged the negative and one of the prints. They borrowed and digitised the sound from the print, and repaired the film. The scanning and digital clean-up were conducted at a Chennai lab under the supervision of a renowned Bologna-based film restoration lab, with both Benegal and his long-time cinematographer Govind Nihalani overseeing the project. The film's sound was fixed and improved at the Bologna lab.

Some 17 months later, Manthan was reborn in ultra high definition 4K. Benegal, one of the doyens of Indian cinema, says the film remains very close to his heart.

"It is wonderful to see the film come back to life almost like we made it yesterday. It looks better than the first print," the 89-year-old filmmaker says.

Benegal recounts that, egged on by Kurien, he had produced several documentaries on Operation Flood - India's milk revolution - and rural marketing initiatives. When he suggested a feature

film to Kurien, saying that documentaries mainly reached those "converted to the cause", Kurien balked. He told Benegal that there were no funds available to make the film, given his refusal to accept money from farmers.

Under the cooperative model, small farmers would bring and sell milk in the mornings and evenings to a network of collection centres in Gujarat. The milk was then transported to dairies for processing into butter and other products.

Kurien proposed that the collection centres deduct two rupees from each farmer, enabling all of them to become producers. The collected funds financed the making of the film. "The farmers readily agreed because we were telling their story," says Benegal.

Manthan boasted a stellar cast, featuring Girish Karnad, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Amrish Puri, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Mohan Agashe in key roles. Vijay Tendulkar, a prominent Indian playwright, contributed multiple scripts, with Benegal selecting one for the film. Renowned composer Vanraj Bhatia scored the music.

In the film, a city-bred government veterinary doctor and his team arrive in a deeply divided village in Gujarat with plans to start a dairy cooperative. As he starts his work, the vet is caught in the tumultuous politics of change and faces challenges from a private dairy owner, the village head and a volatile local milkman.

"Manthan is a microcosmic picture of transformative politics... Benegal offers a brilliant social critique of a situation in which government bureaucrats enter a village and try to change the social and economic perspectives of its inhabitants," wrote Sangeeta Datta, author of World Director Series: Shyam Benegal.

Money was tight and the 45-day shoot was a challenge. Nihalani remembers using a "patchwork of different film stocks" to shoot the film. The crew lived as a close-knit family in the village, where many residents also acted in the film. The cast did not change their costumes throughout the shooting, so "that they looked worn in the village", said Datta.

Kurien released the film initially in Gujarat to a rousing reception. "The film did brilliantly because its largest audience was also the film's producers. Every day we had this incredible sight of truckloads of people coming in from all over to see the film," says Benegal.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): You need to get your act together quickly, because there is a danger that you will be too laidback in your attitude and miss out on opportunities that are perfect for you. There is still plenty of time to do something amazing – or even several somethings!

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): It may look as if you are in a state of hibernation at the moment but just because you are not active in a visible sense does not mean your brain is not working. On the contrary, your mind will be on the go every single second today.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): The pace of life may be hectic now but you have what it takes to stay ahead of the game. Your enthusiasm for one project in particular can take you to new heights of accomplishment over the coming week. Settle for nothing less than total success.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Don't just sit back and wait for life to bring good stuff your way – get out there in the world and make it happen! The approaching new moon will bring opportunities that most people hardly dare dream about, but for you they are there for the taking.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): You will have to juggle several tasks at once as the new week begins but that won't worry you in the slightest, in fact you will enjoy the challenge. Your self-belief is such that the thought of failure won't enter your head for a single moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): If you know what you want there is no doubt at all that you can find a way to get it. Keep reminding yourself of that fact over the next few days and don't be surprised when what you get is even more fantastic than you had hoped for.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): Go out of your way to be nice to people today, because the more you give of yourself now the more the universe will give back to you around the time of Friday's new moon. Being agreeable is not only good manners, it's good business too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): If a colleague suggests that you work together on something that you suspect may not be entirely legitimate then you must be mentally and morally strong enough to say "no thank you". You don't need to break the rules to be a success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): You may think you don't have enough money in the bank to do everything you want to do today but is that true or are you looking for excuses? Forget about how much your activities may cost and just go for them. You'll find ways to pay.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): The more someone tries to persuade you to tone down your ambitions the more obvious it will be that you are doing the right thing. The only reason they are trying to hold you back is because they fear your efforts will outshine their own – and they will!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Why are you trying so hard to live up to the expectations that other people have of you? Why put yourself under that sort of strain? The planets urge you to be your own person and do your own thing every minute of every day. Ignore everyone else.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Good fortune is heading your way and if it hasn't arrived by the time the moon is new on Friday then your parents must have forgotten your correct date of birth. Be positive in thought and decisive in action and you WILL experience some kind of magic.

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Canada contributes CAN\$101,000 to support local initiatives in Dominica

The High Commission of Canada has announced a contribution of CAN\$101,000 to three non-governmental organizations in Dominica through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Following a competitive proposal process, Lifeline Ministries Inc., Kibe’Kuati Inc., and the Dominica Olympic Committee were selected as part of nine CFLI projects in the Eastern Caribbean for 2024-2025.

Building on last year’s success, Lifeline Ministries Inc. will receive CAN\$30,000 for the second phase of its ‘Lifeline Safe Refuge Project,’ which provides safe accommodation and support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This funding will also enhance intake services for a local SGBV helpline supported by the Bureau of Gender Affairs and the Maria Holder Memorial Trust.

Kibe’Kuati Inc. will receive an additional CAN\$36,000 to expand its education and rehabilitation program for SGBV survivors in the Kalinago Territory. This program includes academic guidance, vocational training, childcare support, parenting classes, and SGBV counseling for both survivors and perpetrators, fostering healthier relationships.

High Commissioner of Canada, H.E. Lilian Chatterjee, praised the ongoing partnerships, stating, “We are pleased to continue our partnerships with Lifeline Ministries Inc. and Kibe’Kuati Inc. whose 2023 projects exemplified innovative and community-based approaches to address sexual and gender-based violence. These organizations are providing critical support to their communities, to Dominica’s social services sector and to the country at-large. We applaud their steadfast commitment to end SGBV and build a safer Dominica.”

In a new partnership, Canada is pro-



Lifeline Ministries, Dominica, one of the institutions getting support from Canada

viding CAN\$35,000 to the Dominica Olympic Committee for the ‘Rising Tides: Essential Skills for Empowering Coastal Communities’ project. This initiative targets marginalized groups, offering aquatic safety training and marine education to promote environmental stewardship and reduce water-related accidents in Soufriere and surrounding areas.

High Commissioner Chatterjee re-

marked, “This is our first CFLI partnership with the Dominica Olympic Committee. The youth-driven project advances several priority areas for Canada in the Eastern Caribbean, including advancing the empowerment of women and girls and prioritizing diversity and inclusion in taking climate action. We eagerly look forward to the positive impact this project will have on Dominica’s coastal communities.”

The CFLI supports small-scale, high-impact projects in developing countries. This year, the High Commission of Canada distributed CAN\$300,000 among organizations in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, including the Grenada Community Development Agency and the Do-Nation Foundation Inc. in Saint Lucia, among others.

Antigua moves to clear minor cannabis convictions

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is taking a significant step towards criminal justice reform by proposing legislation aimed at expunging criminal records for individuals convicted of possessing small amounts of cannabis.

This initiative will clear the records of those affected, enabling them to legally declare a lack of prior arrests or juvenile delinquency in various legal and professional contexts.

In a pivotal move scheduled for July, the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda will convene to discuss and potentially pass this transformative legislation.

This development follows a historical context where previous attempts at expunging minor offenses, enacted in 2013, were not implemented.

The proposed legislation builds on the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act



People convicted of minor marijuana offences will get their records cleared

of March 2018, which decriminalized the possession of up to 15 grams of cannabis or cannabis resin.

Notably, while this amendment eased penalties for small-scale posses-

sion, it did not legalize the sale of cannabis, and strict penalties remain for such activities.

Additionally, current regulations allow households to cultivate no more

than four cannabis plants, with possession beyond this limit still considered illegal.

Antigua & Barbuda named as hosts of 55th OAS General Assembly

The Organization of American States (OAS) recently concluded its general assembly in Paraguay, where members unanimously decided that the next assembly will be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda.

This decision marks a significant nod to the dual-island nation, recognizing its leadership and the trust placed in its capability to organize such a prestigious event.

Guatemala champions Antigua and Barbuda's bid

The proposal to select Antigua and Barbuda as the next venue was warmly received and supported by Guatemala, which played a pivotal role in facilitating the acclamation.

This move underscores the unity and collaborative spirit within the OAS, reflecting the organization's principles of mutual respect and collective decision-making.

Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to OAS principles

The decision to host the 55th General Assembly in Antigua and Barbuda highlights the country's longstanding dedication to the core values of the OAS, which include freedom, equity, and justice.

The nation's commitment is evident in its active efforts to address key issues such as organized crime, women's rights, community protection, and the preservation of democratic processes.



Sr John's, the capital of Antigua

Showcasing regional leadership and hospitality

Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to the OAS, Ronald Sanders, emphasized the significance of bringing the assembly back to the Caribbean after 22 years.

He highlighted the country's suc-

cessful hosting of the fourth United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, which saw over 5,000 delegates, as a testament to their ability to facilitate major international gatherings.

The ambassador extended an invitation to OAS members to experience

the warmth and collaborative environment that the islands are known for.

Looking forward to next year's assembly, the focus is set not only on productive discussions but also on creating an experience that celebrates the shared goals and accomplishments of the OAS member states.

Grenada strengthens firearms legislation

Grenada's Parliament has recently approved significant amendments to the nation's firearms regulations, which will increase penalties for visitors who fail to declare firearms at customs.

This move is part of a broader effort to combat the illegal firearm trade and associated violent crimes.

Hefty fines and increased jail terms introduced

Under the revised 1968 Firearm Act, the fine for failing to declare a firearm has been raised to EC\$50,000, marking an increase of 4900 percent from the previous EC\$1,000 penalty.

Moreover, the potential jail time for those convicted under the new legislation has doubled from three to six months.

These stiffer penalties will be enforceable starting from August 1 of this year.

Government's firm stance on firearm offenses

The amendment was introduced by the Leader of Government Business, Phillip Telesford, and strongly supported by Finance Minister Dennis Cornwall.

Cornwall emphasized the government's commitment to addressing the il-



Grenada is adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal firearms

legal firearm trade, which has been linked to recent increases in violent crimes, particularly those affecting the nation's youth.

He articulated a stern warning to both nationals and non-nationals involved in these activities, indicating that

the government is prepared to extend prison capacities if necessary to accommodate offenders.

Zero tolerance policy

The Dickon Mitchell administration is adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards firearm-related offenses.

This policy aims not only to penalize violators but also to deter the illegal trade and misuse of firearms that have been contributing to the loss of lives in Grenada.

Jamaica’s opposition leader Mark Golding to renounce UK citizenship

Mark Golding, President of Jamaica’s opposition People’s National Party (PNP), has announced he will renounce his United Kingdom (UK) citizenship.

This decision comes after extensive discussions about whether an aspiring prime minister of Jamaica should hold dual citizenship.

Golding made the announcement at a PNP meeting on Sunday and later shared it via social media.

In a video where he announced his intentions, Golding said, “As promised, I would take the time to listen to views both internally and externally in making an informed decision in regards to having British citizenship by descent.”

He emphasized that while he is not legally required to give up his UK citizenship, he did not want it to affect his future candidacy.

“I do not want my status to affect our party nor any candidates who are running for a seat. I have to take all things into consideration and therefore I will renounce my UK citizenship. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feedback over the last month. Now let’s get back to the real issues that are affecting the majority of Jamaicans,” Golding said.

Criticism of dual citizenship

Mark Golding faced criticism from members of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) who questioned his nationality after he supported the idea that dual citizens should be allowed to sit in the Houses of Parliament.

He later confirmed that he holds both Jamaican and British citizenship,



Jamaican Opposition leader Mark Golding

the latter through his father who had migrated to Jamaica from the UK. He stated he had not renounced his British citizenship because it was not “legally necessary” for him to do so.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness also urged Golding to renounce his UK citizenship, arguing that the country’s

leader should not hold dual citizenship.

“To be the ultimate leader of a country, to be the ultimate executive leader of the country, you should have no other citizenship. There should be no question by your citizens that you lead that you know that you have somehow split loyalties,” Holness said.

Golding reiterated that he would only renounce his UK citizenship if the people of Jamaica required him to.

In May, Jamaican Senator and government Minister Matthew Samuda announced that he had begun the process of renouncing his British citizenship, which he acquired at birth.

JA government moves to combat misinformation

The Jamaican government, led by the Broadcasting Commission, is set to launch a comprehensive social media literacy campaign.

This initiative aims to enhance public understanding and reduce the spread of misinformation in the digital realm.

The announcement was made by Senator Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, responsible for Information, Skills, and Digital Transformation, during a post-cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House on June 26.

As digital spaces become hotbeds for misinformation, the government’s primary focus is on boosting public education.

This effort seeks to equip Jamaicans with the knowledge to distinguish between factual information and falsehoods.

By leveraging the capabilities of the Broadcasting Commission, which has already begun independent work, the campaign aims to foster a well-in-



The digital space ia a hotbed for misinformation

formed public.

Dr. Morris Dixon highlighted the challenges posed by the prevalence of disinformation and the government’s commitment to uphold truthfulness, es-

pecially in social media communications.

The minister pointed out that while democratic societies welcome diverse opinions, the promotion of outright

falsehoods is detrimental.

In instances of verified misinformation, legal actions may be pursued under existing laws such as the Cyber-crimes Act and libel legislation.

The minister clarified that no new legislation is being introduced at this stage. Instead, the existing legal framework will be utilized to prosecute those disseminating misleading content online.

Before resorting to legal measures, the government emphasizes the importance of public education to guide the discourse on responsible communication in digital platforms.

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Jamaica is the target: Gov’t urges residents to prepare for Beryl

The Jamaican Government is emphasizing the importance of completing preparations for Hurricane Beryl as early as possible Tuesday morning.

According to Information Minister Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, the Meteorological Service of Jamaica has confirmed that Beryl remains a significant threat and is approaching the island.

High alert and preparedness measures

Morris Dixon highlighted the government’s serious approach to the impending storm, with disaster preparedness efforts operating at full capacity.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness is actively coordinating with state agencies to ensure comprehensive readiness across the nation.

Discussions with Members of Parliament are also underway to outline their roles in assisting Jamaicans and managing the response to Beryl.

Morris Dixon indicated that Prime Minister Holness is likely to address the nation later today to provide further guidance and updates.

Call to action

In a media release issued on Tuesday, Morris Dixon urged Jamaicans to finalize their storm preparations promptly this morning.

Residents in flood-prone and low-lying areas were advised to prioritize safety by evacuating to one of the numerous shelters activated across the island.



Jamaicans pictured stocking up on food supplies on Tuesday

One confirmed death in SVG, Carriacou flattened

At least one person has died in St Vincent and the Grenadines as a result of the passage of Hurricane Beryl. The death was announced by Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves on Monday night in an address to the nation.

“There may well be more fatalities, we are not yet sure,” Gonsalves said as he noted the devastation brought to Union Island, Canouan, and Mayreau in the Southern Grenadines islands by Hurricane Beryl.

Ninety percent of buildings on Union Island are either severely damaged or destroyed, Gonsalves stated.

The situation in Canouan and Mayreau is still unclear as communication with first responders is difficult. Despite the devastation, Gonsalves is thankful that many lives and homes were spared.

He said St Vincent and the Grenadines will start the reconstruction effort as soon as conditions are safe for first responders to begin clearing roadways and restoring power to cut-off communities.

Grenada impacted by Hurricane Beryl

Grenada also suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Beryl.

Ron Redhead, a member of



Battered houses in Carriacou

Grenada’s parliament representing the St. George North-East area, shared photos and videos of Carriacou, showing roofs of homes torn open and snapped trees.

“In half an hour, Carriacou was flattened,” Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell said. By Monday evening, the government had not yet shared an official death toll, though communications were strained.

There has been one unconfirmed death in the St. George’s area of Grenada. According to the Washington

Post, a house reportedly collapsed, killing a resident.

Hurricane Beryl shattered records as it strengthened in unusually warm waters. On Sunday, it became the Atlantic’s first storm on record to reach Category 4 intensity in June, and then Monday it surpassed Hurricane Dennis as the strongest Atlantic hurricane to form so early in a year.

Beryl, with maximum sustained winds reaching 150 mph, is the strongest hurricane to hit the southernmost Windward Islands in about 174 years of

record-keeping, meteorologists said. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 had maximum sustained winds of 135 mph when it killed 41 people and caused massive damage across Grenada.

Grenadian officials were already preparing to start damage assessments and relief work, though they did not expect that to safely begin until late Monday evening.

Officials had warned residents to stay indoors and seek shelter in concrete-lined bathrooms, if possible. Thousands of Grenadians sought refuge in shelters, local media reported.

On Carriacou and neighboring Petite Martinique, also part of Grenada in the southern Lesser Antilles islands, there was no electricity, limited communication, and reports of extensive destruction of roofs and damage to buildings, Mitchell said in a live-streamed media briefing earlier Monday. On the island of Grenada, a hospital and police station were among the buildings damaged, he said.

It’s still too early to say which land-mass is next in line to be struck by Beryl after the Lesser Antilles, but Jamaica, Cuba, and Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula in particular are at risk.

Tobago escapes monster hurricane but Beryl batters Windwards

MONSTER Category 4 hurricane Beryl brushed past Tobago on July 1 as it churned north towards the Windward Island, making landfall on the island of Carriacou, leaving a trail of damage and destruction, but with few reports of human casualties.

With the storm remaining “extremely dangerous,” Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Martinique remained all under hurricane warning Tuesday.

The islands experienced widespread power outages, water shortages and infrastructure damage.

Beryl slammed into Carriacou, off Grenada, on the morning of July 1, after regaining category-four strength with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (approximately 225 km/h). Earlier, she had dropped to category three.

It is the first storm on record in the Atlantic to reach category-four strength in June.

In a statement just after midday, Grenada PM Dickon Mitchell said he anticipated damage caused by the hurricane in Carriacou “will be extreme.

“As soon as it is safe to do so I will journey to Carriacou to assess the damage and give a full report to the nation,” he said, adding that while the eye of the hurricane did not pass over Grenada, the island expected strong winds, storm surges and continued heavy precipitation, “for the next several hours.”

Carriacou has a population of about 10,000 and is best known for its beaches and coral reef.

Carriacou and the other islands will remain vigilant as another disturbance – Invest 96L – was reported by



Boast battle high seas as Hurricane Beryl passed through the southern and eastern Caribbean on July 1

the US Hurricane Center in Miami, about 1,000 miles (1609.3 km) east-southeast of the Windward Islands, reportedly on a path similar to Beryl's.

The Hurricane Center warned, “Environmental conditions appear marginally conducive for additional development of this system, and a tropical depression could form by the middle part of this week while it moves generally westward at 15-20 mph across the central and western tropical Atlantic.

“It has a 20 per cent chance of development over the next two days and a 50 per cent chance of development over the next seven days.”

Caricom chairman and Guyana president Dr Irfaan Ali said he was

deeply concerned and anxious over Beryl's passage through the Caribbean.

In a statement on Caricom's website, Ali said, “Initial reports have indicated significant damage and destruction to infrastructure and private property in some territories.

“As this weather phenomenon roars its way through the region, we must continue to brace ourselves against the effects of high winds, storm surges along sea coasts, and heavy rainfall.”

Ali called on citizens and the private sector to co-ordinate with their respective governments and regional emergency response agencies to provide support and relief to those affected

by the hurricane. He said the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) was already working to mobilise and co-ordinate assistance and disaster relief.

“This is a time for all of us as a regional community to stand together and extend our support to those impacted or likely to be impacted by Hurricane Beryl. Let us mobilise the necessary assistance and relief efforts in the true spirit of regional solidarity.”

The 47th regular meeting of the Caricom Heads of Government, which was supposed to take place in Grenada from July 3-5, has been postponed.

Teachers: SEA exam too stressful, want review

PRESIDENT of the TT Unified Teachers Association Martin Lum Kin is again calling for a comprehensive review of the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examination.

In an interview on June 28, Lum Kin said a few years ago there was an attempt to review the examination.

However, he said he had no information on what became of that process.

“Every year we are faced with this same situation which places undue pressure on students, parents and teachers. For this and other high-stakes examinations, there should be a comprehensive review of the system as well as the Constitution.

“There should be another and better way of placing students at secondary schools. There was an attempt to look at it a couple of years ago. TTUTA is not privy to the results.”

In a release, chairman of the National Parent Teachers Association (NPTA) Walter Stewart commended the efforts of the students who wrote the exams, although the NPTA was yet to analyse the results.

NPTA applauded the Ministry of Education for putting systems in place for students and their parents to access the results on the ministry’s online portal even before midnight.



TTUTA President Martin Lum Kin

“It was seamless and we applauded the ministry. It is noteworthy that this year's cohort would have experienced challenges as a result of the pandemic exacerbated by online learning and loss of teaching time.

“It is significant therefore that they persevered and are able to progress to the next stage of their educational journey.”

Nevertheless, NPTA said it is deeply concerned that the mean scores in all three subject areas were below 60 per cent, that only 1.42 per cent of students scored above 90 per cent and that there was a decline in mean raw scores in English Language Arts.

“NPTA is heartened that the performance at the focus schools has shown an increase in the average weighted score and that there was a decline in the percentage of these schools of students scoring less than 30 per cent.”

A total of 18,177 students – 9,127 boys and 9,050 girls – sat the exam this year.

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India lift T20 World Cup title, Virat Kohli delivers in final game

INDIA got their second International Cricket Council (ICC) Twenty/20 World Cup trophy in dramatic fashion on June 29 when they got a nail-biting seven-run victory over South Africa at the Kensington Oval, Barbados in the 2024 finale.

Both teams took unbeaten runs to the final, but only one team could walk away with T20 World Cup honours.

Batting first, India got to a competitive score of 176 for seven, with superstar batsman Virat Kohli (76 off 59 balls) stepping up to the occasion after having an underpar tournament with the bat. Kohli came into the final with a top score of 37, but he anchored the innings beautifully after his team slipped to 34 for three in the fifth over. At the post-match

presentation, Kohli announced it would be his last T20 international match for India.

"This was my last T20 World Cup. And this is exactly what we wanted to achieve," Kohli said.

"One day you feel like you can't get a run, and then you come out and things happen.

"I knew this was my last T20 game playing for India and it's the last World Cup I was going to play. We wanted to win an ICC tournament and we wanted to lift the cup. It was the occasion that helped me to put my head down and just respect the occasion, rather than trying to force things out there."

Kohli started his innings in ominous fashion as he cracked three boundaries off the first over of the match by the lanky Marco Jansen. He shared in a 72-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Axar Patel (47 from 31 balls) and he then put on 57 runs for the fifth wicket with Shivam Dube (27 off 16 balls) as India got a grandstand finish to their innings — scoring 58 runs off the last five overs.



Indian players celebrate their World Cup win in Barbados

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lb

Monaco Sweet Tangerine 美國甜橙
Reg: \$2.59

15¢
lb

Watermelon 西瓜
Reg: \$7.99

59¢
ea

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Spanish Onion 大洋葱
Reg: \$2.79

27.00
case

Green Onion 青蔥
Reg: \$2.99

28.00
case

Red Pepper 11 Lbs 紅椒
Reg: \$2.99

28.00
case

Napa 白菜
Reg: \$2.99

28.00
case

Green Leaf Lettuce 綠生菜
Reg: \$3.49

34.00
case

Lemon 18kg 黃檸檬
Reg: \$3.60

36.00
case

Ginger 薑
Reg: \$4.00

40.00
case

Broccoli 花椰菜
Reg: \$4.50

45.00
case

Yellow Plantains 黃大蕉
Reg: \$7.80

78.00
case

Frozen Panga Bata Fillet 魚片 8x4.5lb
Reg: \$6.00

60.00
case

Headless White Shrimp 大頭白蝦 31/35 4x6.12case
Reg: \$11.00

110.00
case

Raw Shrimp 81/110 生蝦 70x41lb
Reg: \$16.00

160.00
case

Extra Large Egg 特大蛋 50
Reg: \$5.39

53.99
case

Diamond Brand Dried Red Chili 鑽石牌紅辣椒 5lb
Reg: \$2.00

20.00
bag

Arroyo D Coconut Milk 阿羅約椰奶 24x400ml
Reg: \$4.39

43.99
case

BUNGE Pure Land 純地 20kg
Reg: \$6.80

68.00
case

Container S32 容器
Reg: \$4.25

42.50
case

Container EP-28 容器
Reg: \$2.35

23.50
case

Container NG-081 容器
Reg: \$2.60

26.00
case

Kraft Singlefold Towels 紙巾
Reg: \$2.50

25.00
case

ADM All Purpose Flour 麵粉 20kg
Reg: \$1.99

19.99
bag

Monosodium Glutamate 味精 22.7kg
Reg: \$6.00

60.00
bag

Capri Vegetable Oil 菜油 1.6L
Reg: \$3.19

31.99
case

WALLS Dishwashing Liquid 洗滌精
Reg: \$2.69

26.99
case

Lee Kum Kee Kum Chun Oyster Flavoured Sauce 450g 李錦記鮮味蠔油 4x2.2kg
Reg: \$3.90

39.00
case

Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 李錦記海鮮醬 1.75L
Reg: \$4.89

48.99
case

NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 環保包裝
Reg: \$2.20

22.00
case

Redpath Sugar 白糖 20kg
Reg: \$3.19

31.99
bag

FROZEN

Full Moon Frozen Head-on Shrimp 20/30 400g 有頭蝦
Reg: \$7.99

59¢
ea

Cool Ocean Raw P&D White Shrimp 400g 雙龍中蝦(去殼) 1包
Reg: \$7.99

49¢
ea

SH Squid Tube 300g 魷魚管
Reg: \$3.99/ea

2/\$7.00

Madame Wong Frozen Monthong Durian 454g 金枕頭榴蓮
Reg: \$9.99

99¢
ea

Tatak Pinoy Tender Sausage Series 300g 菲律賓香腸系列
Reg: \$4.99/ea

2/\$7.00

O'Ya-Hoko Frozen Corn Series 500g 泰國玉米系列
Reg: \$2.99/ea

3/\$5.00

Luxury Crab Meat 400g 蟹肉
Reg: \$26.99

199¢
ea

Coconut Tree Frozen Banana Cake 320g 香蕉餅
Reg: \$2.99/ea

2/\$5.00

Ferna Blue Jack Mackerel 藍鱈魚 750g
Reg: \$4.99

39¢
ea

Festa Ice Cream Series 1.4L 冰淇淋系列
Reg: \$8.99

69¢
ea

Chile Mussels Meat (Cooked) 400g 智利口貝(熟) 1包
Reg: \$9.99

39¢
ea

Long Phung Cooked Vietnamese Sausage Series 325g 香腸系列
Reg: \$9.99

49¢
ea

GROcery

Nongshim Bowl Instant Noodle Series 88g 方便麵
Reg: \$1.99

99¢
ea

Angel All Purpose Creamer 海島 330ml
Reg: \$2.99

15¢
ea

Lee Kum Kee Oyster Sauce 蠔油 510ml
Reg: \$4.59

29¢
ea

Nongshim Shrimp Cracker 250g 餅乾
Reg: \$1.99

88¢
ea

UFC Barbecue Sauce 550g 蒜香醬
Reg: \$3.99

19¢
ea

AJE NO-MOTO MSG 454g 味精
Reg: \$4.79

29¢
ea

Canadian Sun Vegetable Fruit Jelly 640g 果凍
Reg: \$3.99

39¢
ea

Gold Kid Instant Mocha with Smoothie Cream 1250g 冰沙
Reg: \$3.99

32¢
ea

Kram Chicken Broth 400g 雞湯
Reg: \$8.99

79¢
ea

MY Sun Sky Flakes Crackers Series 500g 餅乾
Reg: \$1.99

188¢
ea

C2 Apple & Lemon Green Tea Series 500ml 冰茶系列
Reg: \$2.99

99¢
ea

Bulacan Coconut Gel in Syrup 340g 椰果罐頭
Reg: \$2.59

15¢
ea

G7 Coffee Mix 5 in 1 包 22816g
Reg: \$2.99

29¢
ea

Coconut Tree Dried Noodle 黑白米線 400g
Reg: \$3.49

15¢
ea

Lee Kum Kee Hoisin Sauce 海鮮醬 475ml
Reg: \$4.99

49¢
ea

Three Angels Brand Kimchi 400g 山打根泡菜
Reg: \$1.99

19¢
ea

Golden Panda Jasmine White Rice 8kg 白米
Reg: \$12.99

129¢
ea

WU Portable Burner Gas Stove 4000 BTU 瓦斯爐
Reg: \$13.99

129¢
ea

MEAT

Pork Butt 豬腩肉
Reg: \$3.79

27¢
lb

Beef Rib Eyes 牛柳
Reg: \$9.59

85¢
lb

Beef Neck Bone 牛骨
Reg: \$2.99

19¢
lb

Ground Beef 牛肉碎
Reg: \$4.99

39¢
lb

Frozen Chicken 400g 凍雞
Reg: \$2.99

65¢
lb

SEAFOOD

Fresh Frozen Lobster 新鮮凍大龍蝦
Reg: \$14.99

49¢
ea

Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillet 新鮮大西洋三文魚
Reg: \$12.99

109¢
lb

Frozen Fresh Pompano 凍鮮黃魚
Reg: \$5.99

49¢
ea

Fresh Sea Bream 新鮮海鱸
Reg: \$7.99

69¢
lb

Fresh Pickled 新鮮醃菜
Reg: \$4.99

39¢
lb

Frozen Fresh Head-on White Shrimp 凍鮮有頭白蝦
Reg: \$5.99

49¢
lb

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Rejuvenate your Relationship and Marriage

Dear Friends,

If you find yourself in a difficult relationship and feel like there's no way out or no one to turn to for help, please know that you are not alone. Every relationship faces challenges, but there are ways to navigate through them and find resolutions that can bring happiness and harmony back into your life.

Here are the top 5 reasons for breakdowns in relationships:

1. Poor Communication: Lack of effective communication can lead to misunderstandings, unresolved issues, and growing distance between partners.

2. Trust Issues: Trust is the foundation of every healthy relationship. When trust is broken or eroded, it can cause significant damage and result in a breakdown of the relationship.

3. Differences in Values and Priorities: When partners have conflicting values, goals, or priorities, it can create tension and make it challenging to find common ground.

4. Unresolved Conflicts: Ignoring or avoiding conflicts instead of addressing them can lead to resentment, frustration, and an overall deterioration of the relationship.



5. Lack of Emotional Intimacy: Emotional connection and intimacy are crucial for maintaining a healthy relationship. When partners feel emotionally disconnected, it can lead to feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction.

We urge you to seek help if you are experiencing difficulties in your relationship. You deserve to be happy and to have a fulfilling family life. There is no shaming in reaching out for help.

There are various resources available to support you, such as couples therapy, individual counseling, relationship and marriage coaching, workshops, and support groups.

Remember that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. By taking proactive steps to address the issues in your relationship, you can work towards rebuilding trust, improving communication, resolving conflicts, and ultimately creating a stronger and more

fulfilling bond with your partner. You deserve to have a happy and healthy relationship. Please don't hesitate to reach out for support and guidance.

Wishing you strength, courage, and the determination to create the happy family life you deserve.

Warm regards,
Jenet Russell (pictured)
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