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## Celebrating the PPP at 32nd Congress

Guyana's governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) on Sunday successfully concluded its 32nd Congress, which was well attended. There were many achievements, including the election of Central Committee members, and an amendment to the Party's Constitution, which will see it reflecting the practice of the government. Here, the party's leaders — General Secretary Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and President Dr Irfaan Ali — share a moment of triumph during the celebration. After restoring vision to the people of Guyana and shattering untrue narratives that were being implanted in the minds of Guyanese about them, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) is standing as the champion of the people, Dr Ali said in his address. "We developed a plan and a strategy to convert every weakness into strength and to lay a path for a party that is sustainable, resilient and one that allowed us to achieve victory in 2020. We must not take this period in the life and history of our party, lightly," he said.



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**NANNY MEETS THE CANDIDATE:** Hafizan Ayube, the 90 year-old maternal grandmother of Guyana President Irfaan Ali, was a special guest when Progressive Conservative hopeful for Brampton East, Jeff Lal, who is also the President of the Brampton Bharath Maa Mandir in the city, met with the community on the weekend to seek support for his candidacy.



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# Singapore company secures contract for works on FPSO for Stabroek

Seatrium Limited (Seatrium or the Group) on Monday announced that it has secured a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) topsides integration contract from longstanding customer, Japanese shipbuilder MODEC.

The scope of work covers the installation and integration of topside modules onboard the FPSO Errea Wittu, and includes completion and commissioning support for MODEC.

Marlin Khiew, Executive Vice President, Oil & Gas (Americas) of Seatrium, said, "We are pleased to be working with our longstanding customer, MODEC, on yet another FPSO topsides integration project, solidifying our position as the industry leader in FPSO conversions. Through our strong partnership and unwavering dedication, including decades of collaboration with MODEC, we continue to deliver cutting-edge offshore solutions that redefine excellence. Leveraging our deep engineering expertise, international yard footprint, and strong track record, Seatrium provides innovative, reliable, quality, and value-added offshore and marine solutions for our esteemed customers."

Over the years, Seatrium has built a strong track record in the FPSO space, including delivering a significant number of FPSO projects for MODEC since its first FPSO conversion Whakaaropai in 1996. The Group is currently undertaking integration work for FPSO Bacalhau, which will be operating in the Bacalhau field, Santos Basin, offshore Brazil. Separately, BrasFELS, Seatrium's yard in Angra dos Reis, Brazil, is also currently executing topside modules fabrication for FPSO Raia.

The FPSO Errea Wittu will be deployed in the Uaru Field, Stabroek Block, approximately 200 kilometers offshore Guyana. The US\$12.7 billion Uaru project was sanctioned in April 2023 and marked the startup of construction of the FPSO Errea Wittu back in February.

MODEC had successfully secured an order for the Uaru project from ExxonMobil. Under the engineering, procurement, construction and installation (EPCI) contract, MODEC will deliver the Errea Wittu floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel to the Stabroek Block. Notably, the revenue made by the company on the order does not include annual leasing costs which are likely to kick in once the ship



The Errea Wittu FPSO concept

is up and running.

The Uaru FPSO is expected to play a pivotal role in Guyana's oil sector, with first oil anticipated in 2026. With an oil production capacity of 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) and a gas production capability of 540 million standard cubic feet per day, alongside a storage capacity of 2 million barrels of crude, it will be one of the largest FPSOs globally.

This capacity sets the stage for the project to be one of the highest revenue-generating projects undertaken offshore Guyana, significantly impacting the nation's oil production capacity. With the Uaru project's operation, Guyana's offshore oil production is set to exceed the 1 million barrels per day mark.

Seatrium Limited provides innovative engineering solutions to the global offshore, marine and energy industries. Headquartered in Singapore, the Group has over 60 years of track record in the design and construction of rigs, floaters, offshore platforms and specialised vessels, as well as in the re-

pair, upgrading and conversion of different ship types.

The Group's key business segments include Oil & Gas Newbuilds and Conversions, Offshore Renewables, Repairs & Upgrades, and New Energies, with a growing focus on sustainable solutions to advance the global energy transition and maritime decarbonisation.

As a premier global player offering offshore renewables, new energies and cleaner offshore & marine solutions, Seatrium is committed to delivering

high standards of safety, quality and performance to its customers which include major energy companies, vessel owners and operators, shipping companies, and cruise and ferry operators.

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## EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

# The value of diversity, inclusivity

*Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, May 7 2024*

IN an era where global tensions seem to be tearing at the seams of society, it's refreshing to hear a leader extolling the virtues of multiculturalism as Guyana's President, Dr. Irfaan Ali, has done in his recent Arrival Day message.

His words resonate not only with the Guyanese people but also with a world desperately in need of reminders about the value of diversity and inclusivity.

President Ali's recognition of multiculturalism as a "priceless asset" isn't just rhetoric; it's a powerful acknowledgment of the myriad cultures that contribute to the rich tapestry of Guyanese society.

Arrival Day, a celebration of the nation's diverse heritage, served as a

poignant reminder of the resilience and contributions of those who have journeyed to Guyana's shores, enriching the nation with their traditions, languages, and customs.

But President Ali's message extended beyond mere celebration; it's a call to action. He urged Guyanese citizens to reaffirm their commitment to unity, diversity, and inclusivity, values that are not just lofty ideals but essential components of a thriving society.

In a world where divisiveness and intolerance threaten social cohesion, embracing multiculturalism becomes an act of resistance, a defiant stand against forces that seek to sow discord and division.

The President's vision for Guyana is one of unity in diversity, where every citizen, regardless of ethnicity or background, feels a sense of belonging and

inclusion.

This vision isn't just aspirational; it's practical. Studies have shown that diverse societies are more innovative, resilient, and prosperous. By embracing their multicultural identity, Guyanese can tap into this wealth of human potential, fostering a society where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

But achieving this vision requires more than just rhetoric; it demands concrete action. President Ali's call for solidarity and mutual respect is a timely reminder that building a cohesive and harmonious society requires effort from all quarters. It means dismantling the barriers that divide us, whether they be social, economic, or political. It means confronting prejudice and discrimination wherever they rear their ugly heads and fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding.

Of course, achieving such lofty goals won't be easy. It will require courage, perseverance, and a willingness to confront the uncomfortable truths about our society. But as President Ali reminded us, the rewards are well worth the effort. A truly inclusive society, where every individual is valued and respected, is not just a dream; it's a necessity if we are to build a better future for generations to come.

Let us heed President Ali's call to action. Let us recommit ourselves to the ideals of unity, diversity, and inclusion and strive to build a society where everyone can flourish and thrive. In doing so, we honour the sacrifices of those who came before us and paved the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for all Guyanese.

## AfroGuyana Unity Foundation defends gov't strategy

Dear Editor,

HIS Excellency, Dr. Irfaan Ali has delivered to every citizen of our great country, Guyana. Guyanese throughout the land and diaspora are thrilled with his purposefulness, his urgency in tackling persistent issues and his unbreakable bond with the common people.

The insightful leadership of Dr. Ali has not only augmented the People's Progressive Party/ Civic, but it has ushered new life into our economy. His unflinching pursuits to unify every community are noteworthy and it points to his selfless service to humanity.

It is not unexpected that our President is receiving acclamations from regional and international organisations. His drive and excellent management of Guyana will only bring about prosperity and goodwill to the entire region.

The People's Progressive Party stands at the cusp of an enormous victory at the upcoming General and Regional Elections. This is largely due to the delivery of manifesto promises, the extraordinary developments in all sectors and the upholding of democratic principles and institutions.

Not surprisingly, the shameless opposition would jump on some social media platforms spewing hate and pretending to be human rights activists.

How disgraceful! The country has

an opposition with a seditious history, a party known for dictatorial regimes and one which only recently sought to steal elections once more.

Guyanese are more informed and will reject the many attempts by the

opposition to polarise our populace. Guyana is united!

Dr. Ali means unceasing possibilities to every boy and girl, to every man and woman and Guyanese will agree that it's a period of unrivalled prowess.

My community stands with you, without a doubt.

Yours sincerely,  
Rajiv Kadarnauth  
Regional Councillor- Region Three

## Boycotts only serve to breed animosity

Dear Editor,

IN response to the recent attacks that followed the article authored by Comrade Figuera, it is imperative to underscore the fundamental principle that calls for boycotting our own people, particularly in the context of showing solidarity with an elected president, are entirely unwarranted and counterproductive.

Such actions not only undermine the democratic process but also hinder the opportunity for constructive dialogue and engagement within our community.

Foremost among our responsibilities is the recognition that Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali holds the position of duly elected President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, deserving of the respect inherently associated with his office.

The warm reception extended to him by our brothers and sisters in the

diaspora should be interpreted as a gesture of hospitality rather than an endorsement of his governance.

It is incumbent upon us to separate the individual from the office they hold, welcoming leaders with the courtesy they deserve while maintaining a critical stance on their policies and actions.

It is notable that previous visits by the leader of opposition have not elicited calls for boycotts against establishments they frequented. This underscores the need for our collective efforts to focus on uplifting our community morally and economically, rather than perpetuating divisions that only serve to exacerbate existing challenges.

Our allegiance to our nation necessitates support for its elected representatives, albeit with the understanding that constructive engagement and accountability are es-

sential components of a healthy democracy. However, resorting to measures such as boycotts only serves to breed animosity and hinder progress towards a more unified and prosperous future.

I implore our community to unite in embracing the values of unity, camaraderie, and patriotism. Regardless of personal affiliations or political preferences, it is incumbent upon us to extend love, protection, and respect to President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali until such time as the democratic process determines otherwise. Let us channel our energies towards fostering a society where dialogue and cooperation prevail over division and discord.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Sandy  
Regional Vice-Chairman  
Region Four, Central Executive Member, Peoples National Congress

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# Doug Ford: pro-Palestinian protests need to move

By Jenna Smith  
LJI REPORTER

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has urged pro-Palestinian protest encampments to leave university campuses, citing concerns from parents about student safety and potential harassment. Ford expressed disapproval of the encampments, noting reports of "unacceptable" behavior during the protests. His comments came as the University of Toronto indicated it was making headway in talks with student demonstrators.

The University of Toronto announced progress in discussions with protest leaders after meeting with them over the weekend. Though the university had initially given protesters a deadline to leave by 10 p.m. last Thursday, it later stated it would not forcibly remove the encampment as long as the activities remained peaceful. Sandy Welsh, the university's vice-provost of students, confirmed that meetings with student representatives had been constructive, with ongoing discussions to address health and safety concerns, as well as reports of hateful or threatening language.

The encampment, located in King's College Circle, emerged last Thursday as demonstrators demanded that the university reveal its connections with the Israeli government and divest from Israeli companies. Mohammad Yassin, a

fourth-year student and spokesperson for the protesters, expressed disappointment with the university's statement, claiming it "perpetuates lies" by alleging that the protesters are not part of the university community or engage in hate speech. He stated that any form of antisemitism or hatred is against the group's community guidelines.

During a Shabbat dinner organized by Jewish faculty and community members at the encampment, the group demonstrated its commitment to tolerance, said Yassin. He criticized the university for focusing on "trivial things" such as fencing and sanitation, arguing that their demands were more significant.

Ford's comments and the ongoing encampments reflect the broader tension between maintaining campus safety and addressing complex political issues. Despite some progress in dialogue, the encampments continue to raise questions about the university's role in addressing these issues while ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Pro-Palestinian encampments have also been established at other universities across Canada, including McGill University in Montreal, the University of Ottawa, McMaster University in Hamilton, and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.



Scene from some of the pro-Palestinian protests outside U of T



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# Dr Jagdeo re-elected PPP General Secretary with unanimous support

VICE-PRESIDENT, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, was, on Monday, unanimously re-elected to the post of General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

This occurred when the party's newly appointed Central Committee met for the first time at Freedom House, on Tuesday.

In addition to the election of the General Secretary, 18 persons from within the Central Committee were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Those persons appointed to the Executive Committee are Dr Irfaan Ali, Zulfikar Mustapha, Anil Nandlall, Dr Frank Anthony, Vickram Bharrat, Collin Croal, Nigel Dharamlall, Neil Kumar, Shyam Nokta, Dr Vindhya Persaud, Donald Ramotar, Clement Rohee, Dharamkumar Seeraj, Pauline Sukhai and Gail Teixeira.

Additionally, Kwame Mc Coy, Anand Persaud and Ricky Ramraj were elected as candidate members of the executive committee.

Mustapha was re-elected as Executive Secretary, and Dr Ali as the Finance Secretary while the other secretaries will be elected at the next Central Committee meeting.

According to a PPP press release, in an address at the meeting, Dr Jagdeo thanked the outgoing Central Committee members for their contributions and stressed that the recently concluded congress was a resounding success.

Following the conclusion of the PPP's 32nd Congress last weekend, Dr Ali and Dr Jagdeo were at the top of the list of candidates voted into the party's Central Com-

mittee.

Some 35 persons were elected to the Central Committee with an additional five persons elected as candidate members.

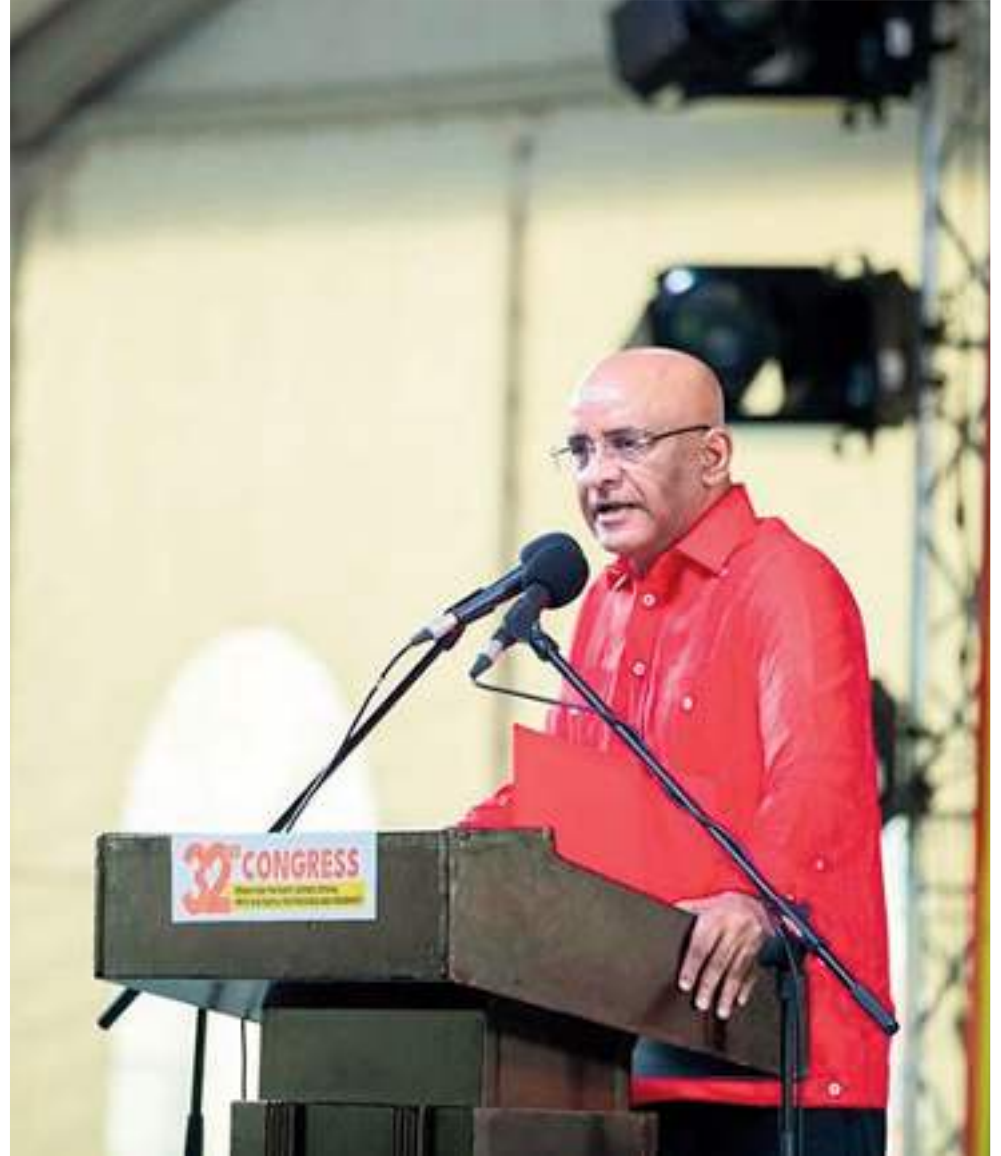
A number of the persons appointed to the Central Committee at the conclusion of the congress were "new faces" in the party's leadership.

During the congress, President Ali hailed the leadership of Dr Jagdeo in the party and noted that he sacrificed every hour of his time for the PPP and to ensure that the PPP remains strong and resilient.

He added that Dr Jagdeo in that sacrifice ensured that the PPP remained the champion of the people of Guyana.

The newly constituted Central Committee of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) elected 18- Central Committee members to the Executive Committee, consisting of Dr. Irfaan Ali, Zulfikar Mustapha, Anil Nandlall, Dr. Frank Anthony, Vickram Bharrat, Collin Croal, Nigel Dharamlall, Neil Kumar, Shyam Nokta, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Donald Ramotar, Clement Rohee, Dharamkumar Seeraj, Pauline Sukhai, and Gail Teixeira as full members. Kwame Mc Coy, Anand Persaud, and Ricky Ramraj were elected as candidate members. Zulfikar Mustapha was re-elected as Executive Secretary and Dr. Irfaan Ali as the Finance Secretary.

The other Secretaries will be elected at the next Central Committee meeting. In his address to the meeting, the General Secretary thanked the outgoing Central Committee members for their contributions. He stressed that the Congress was a



Dr Bharrat Jagdeo was re-elected as Secretary General of the PPP/C

re-sounding success, highlighted by its scale, diversity, energetic atmosphere, deep discussions, significant issues tackled, and efficient logistics. Dr. Jagdeo also expressed his deep appreciation for the work of Party members, supporters, volunteers, and others for their contribution to a highly suc-

cess-ful congress and for their continuous support to the PPP and its programmes. The 32nd PPP Congress, which took place from May 3 to 5 at Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara, was themed, "Strengthen the Party, Defend Guyana, Unite Our People for Progress and Prosperity." The congress

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# Senior cop facing misconduct charges says she acted out of frustration

By Aziz Abdool

LJI REPORTER

On Monday, a disciplinary hearing commenced for Superintendent Stacy Clarke, a senior Toronto police officer who has admitted to misconduct for leaking confidential information to six Black constables before promotional job interviews in 2021.

Clarke, the first Black woman to reach the rank of superintendent at the Toronto Police Service, had pleaded guilty in September 2023 to seven charges under the Police Services Act. These charges include three counts of breach of confidence, three counts of discreditable conduct, and one count of insubordination.

The case revolves around Clarke's actions during her tenure on a three-person interview panel for promotions in 2021, where she allegedly shared interview questions with candidates who were up for advancement, undermining the integrity of the internal promotion process.

At the disciplinary hearing held at Toronto police headquarters, there was standing-room-only as supporters and character witnesses filled the auditorium. Among them were members of the Jamaican Canadian Association, which arranged transportation for several dozen supporters to attend. Audrey



Supt, Stacey Clarke: allegedly shared interview questions

Campbell, the association's former president, testified in Clarke's defense, describing her as a vital bridge between the police and the Black community.

Outside the hearing, Campbell explained to reporters that Clarke's actions were borne out of frustration with the lack of promotional opportunities for Black officers, a systemic issue that has plagued the force for decades. "Everyone is culpable," she said, suggesting that the system's failure to ensure equal opportunities led Clarke to take desperate measures. She urged the Toronto Po-

lice Service to show leniency toward Clarke, describing her as a "beacon of trust" who had worked tirelessly to build connections with the Black community.

Joseph Markson, Clarke's attorney, argued during the hearing that her misconduct was a momentary lapse in judgment, triggered by the overwhelming stress of systemic racism and a desire to level the playing field for other Black officers. "Clarke has been running uphill against the wind for more than 26 years," Markson said, emphasizing that her journey as the first Black female su-

perintendent has been marred by heart-break and constant struggles with discrimination. He noted that her acts, though misguided, stemmed from a genuine desire to address systemic imbalances in the police force.

As a proposed consequence for her misconduct, Markson suggested demoting Clarke to inspector for one to 18 months, with automatic reinstatement to superintendent thereafter. He argued that this solution would acknowledge her wrongdoing while also recognizing the context and the unique challenges she has faced as a Black female officer in a historically white-dominated force.

Prosecutor Scott Hutchison, however, told the hearing Clarke's conduct as a senior officer is serious and would normally result in dismissal. But he said Chief Myron Demkiw believes there is still work for Clarke to do as a Toronto officer.

Hutchison proposed that Clarke be demoted two ranks to staff sergeant and be given the opportunity to reapply to become superintendent after two years.

At one point in the hearing, the defence called witnesses, including former police chief Mark Saunders, to the stand to testify about Clarke's integrity.

Saunders said he promoted Clarke because of her leadership abilities and said she managed to gain the trust of Toronto's racialized communities.

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# Gov't allocates \$543.6M for major bridges in Region Four

The Ministry of Public Works recently earmarked \$543.6 million for the enhancement of critical bridges across Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica).

According to information from the Department of Public Information (DPI), this allocation is part of a broader government commitment to fortify the country's infrastructure.

This is pivotal for boosting economic activities and improving daily commutes for thousands of Guyanese citizens.

Central to these upgrades is the rehabilitation of several key bridges, ensuring improved connectivity and safety within the region and around the capital city.

The Haslington/Grove Bridge Link on the East Coast Demerara, a vital artery for local traffic, will see an overhaul costing approximately \$26.8 million. This project is crucial for maintaining the structural integrity of a bridge that supports heavy daily traffic. Further enhancing the region's infrastructure, the New Diamond First Avenue Connector Road Bridge is set to receive a significant revamp with an investment of \$157.3 million.

Additionally, the Ice House Road Bridge in West Ruimveldt and the Enmore School Street Access Bridge, each receiving \$28.8 million and \$26.8 million respectively, are scheduled for



Rehabilitated Houston Industrial Zone Public Road

comprehensive rehabilitations.

Similar efforts will rejuvenate the Beehive North Access Bridge, with works also valued at \$26.8 million.

Also with these bridge enhancements, substantial efforts are underway to improve other infrastructural

elements such as culverts and drainage systems. The HDPE Culvert in Lamaha Gardens, for instance, is set for upgrades worth \$10.4 million, with adjacent projects in Lamaha Springs receiving \$31.7 million.

These concerted efforts by the

Ministry of Public Works not only aim to address immediate transport and safety needs but also pave the way for sustained economic growth and development, reflecting Guyana's commitment to a future where robust infrastructure fosters connectivity.



## New ambassadors named

TO bolster its international presence, the Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, announced a trio of esteemed diplomats poised to represent the nation on the global stage.

Professor Compton Bourne (centre) has been entrusted with the role of Ambassador-designate to Brazil, while Dr. Leslie Ramsammy (left) assumes the dual responsibility of Ambassador to Switzerland and Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

Mr. Sasenarine Singh (right), on the other hand, steps into the position of Ambassador to Belgium, doubling as Guyana's Permanent Representative to the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, stationed in Brussels. The ministry said the three diplomatic appointees will be taking up their positions shortly.



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# AG knocks City Council, capital police for allowing illegal vending

ATTORNEY GENERAL, Anil Nandlall, SC, strongly criticised the Mayor and City Councillors of Georgetown, as well as the Guyana Police Force (GPF), for their ineffective handling of the issue of illegal vending in the country's capital, highlighting their administrative incompetence.

The Attorney General, known for his unwavering dedication to maintaining law and order, expressed serious concern about the uncontrolled proliferation of street vendors and stressed the pressing necessity for immediate measures to restore order to the bustling streets of the city.

"The City Council is simply not carrying out its statutory responsibilities, and neither is the Guyana Police Force. There has been a combination of neglect both on the part of the City Council and the Guyana Police Force for decades. As a result, you have a monstrous situation of unlawful vending permeating the city with the resultant chaos, disorder, garbage, stench of bacteria and unsanitary conditions," he said, during his weekly programme 'Issues in the News'.

Nandlall mentioned that due to this lack of consideration, local businesses are taking legal action in the High Court. They are seeking injunctions against the City Council, demanding that vendors be removed from the vicinity of their stores.

The Attorney General stated that he "sincerely hopes" this initiative continues.

"Look, I am not against vending. Those who know me personally, know I used to be a market vendor. I know about vending but you cannot squat illegally. You cannot vend illegally. You cannot vend in such an unhygienic and disorderly manner. It will not be tolerated in any civilized society."

Nandlall warned: "It is a criminal offence to encumber pavements and public roadways. It is a criminal offence to block someone's ingress and egress to their premises. It is a criminal offence to vend without permission. It is a criminal offence to erect permanent structures without permission on parapets, public roadways and public reserves."

Nevertheless, he mentioned that these violations are happening without any punishment. Nandlall also talked about the measures taken by the Public Works Ministry to tackle the problem of street vendors along Kingston's seawalls. He referred to those individuals as "squatting on the seawalls" and stated that the government will not accept the



Street vendors in Georgetown

continuation of this illegal activity.

According to him, the government is trying every day to beautify the country, spending billions of taxpayers' dollars in the process. "We are trying every day to uplift the physical image of the city and then you have this unsightly, unruly conduct of squatting and vending illegally permeating the city. It will not be tolerated. It will not be tolerated," he pointed out.


Recently, Bank DIH Limited (the parent company of Demico House), Discount Store, Muneshwers Limited, Collection Boutique and Gift Centre and Shamdas Kirpalani instituted legal proceedings against the City Council after the vending situation around their respective business establishments had gotten worse. Ruling in favour of the businesses, the Demerara High Court ordered the City Council to remove the vendors, along with their stands, structures, and personal items, from the sidewalk and adjacent areas outside the businesses.

In separate applications before the court, the businesses, among other things, complained that the vending issue had gotten worse in recent years without any intervention from the City Council.


Due to this situation, all the businesses reported that their access to their properties had been hindered, leading to significant financial losses. The businesses stated that the presence of vendors caused congestion, which in turn

the establishments' customers and random pedestrians. Additionally, a number of them raised concerns about vendors selling and smoking narcotics, particularly marijuana, in close proximity to their businesses. The vendors were subsequently removed during enforcement exercises carried out by the Police and City Council. Earlier this week, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), through its attorney, issued a stern warning to the City Council, threatening to initiate legal proceedings if street vendors from the hospital's vicinity are not removed within seven days.

Meanwhile, Town Clerk (ag) of Georgetown, Candace Nelson, has said that following the court orders, the Council had been contacted by a few of the affected vendors regarding relocation. However, she stated that due to the increasing volume of such requests, the Council is unable to relocate anyone at this time. Moreover, she revealed that several businesses have asked the Council to remove persons vending around their buildings.






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# 'Power ship' on schedule for connection to national grid by Wednesday

A SIGNIFICANT step towards alleviating the power-outage crisis in Guyana is on the horizon as the power ship, which arrived at Everton, Berbice, on Saturday, is on track to be connected to the national grid by Wednesday.

This is according to Kesh Nandlall, Head of the Guyana Power and Light's (GPL) executive management team. Nandlall told this publication on Sunday that the power company is working on the task in phases.

Nandlall stated that they do not anticipate any delays as a result of the recent, intense downpours that have descended on the country.

The engineers and technical staff at GPL have been working non-stop before and after the ship arrived to make sure that everything was set up to connect it to the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS). More than 90 per cent of the work, which included installing transmission lines and driving piles, has been completed.

The power ship, which will supply 36 megawatts (MW) of power for the next two years, arrived in local waters last Wednesday. It last operated on the Caribbean island of Cuba.

It has two engines which produce 18.5 megawatts each.

On April 13, GPL signed a contract



The power ship is at Everton, Berbice

with Urbacon Concessions Investments, W.L.L (UCI) to charter the power ship for a period of two years, with US\$1 million paid as a mobilisation fee. The contract includes the provision of operational and maintenance services as part

of the agreement.

UCI is a subsidiary of UCC Holdings, a company incorporated in the State of Qatar. UCC Holdings has a strategic alliance with Karpowership International, a Turkish company.

Once connected, the power-supply ship is expected to operate at a remarkable 96 per cent availability, and will be integrated into GPL's grid at 69 kilovolts (kV).

Under the terms of the agreement, GPL will pay a monthly charter fee of 6.62 US cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for the power ship, along with a 0.98 US cents per kWh operation and maintenance fee based on electricity generation.

GPL is also responsible for the supply of heavy fuel oil (HFO) for operation of the generators of the vessel.

The persistent power outages, attributed to various factors including aging infrastructure and increased demand, have underscored the urgent need for infrastructural upgrades within GPL's network. In response, the utility company is actively exploring renewable-energy options, and is poised to embrace the government's gas-to-energy project, which aims to supply around 300 megawatts of power by the last quarter of 2024.

Vice-President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has reassured citizens that energy costs will not escalate because of the rental of the power supply ship, highlighting the government's commitment to stable and affordable energy solutions.



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# ‘We are all equal members of the human family’: Ali on Arrival Day

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has said that multiculturalism remains a priceless asset that enriches the human collective experience.

The Head of State made this remark in his Arrival Day message where he extended greetings on the occasion which commemorates the rich and varied tapestry of cultures that constitute the fabric of the nation.

“On Arrival Day we celebrate their indomitable spirit and resilience and also pay tribute to the myriad contributions they and their descendants have made to our motherland,” he said.

Added to this, Dr Ali said that their enduring legacy reminds all of the human capacity to overcome adversity and thrive in the face of challenges. As their contributions are honoured, the President urged that Guyanese reaffirm their commitment to building a future that honours their sacrifices and embraces the values of unity, diversity and inclusivity.

“Multiculturalism remains a priceless asset that enriches our collective human experience. In an era where divisiveness and intolerance threaten to tear apart the social fabric of nations, highlighting and celebrating our multicultural diversity makes us stronger and more united,” he added.

By celebrating the cultures that co-exist in our communities, the Head of State noted that a sense of belonging and inclusion can be fostered, while also laying the foundation for a more cohesive and harmonious society.

He went on to say, “Regardless of ethnicity, we are all equal members of the human family, united by our shared aspirations for a better future. By embracing this fundamental truth, we can transcend the artificial barriers and reject those forces that seek to divide us.”

However, on the occasion of Arrival Day, President Ali encouraged Guyanese to recommit themselves to the ideals of unity, diversity, and inclusion and celebrate the contributions of all peoples — past and present—while striving to build a society where everyone can flourish and thrive.

He said: “In the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, let us forge a future where our differences are respected and where the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood allow us to overcome the divisions of the past and the shenanigans of those who seek to manipulate these divisions for their own ulterior ends.”



President, Dr Irfaan Ali

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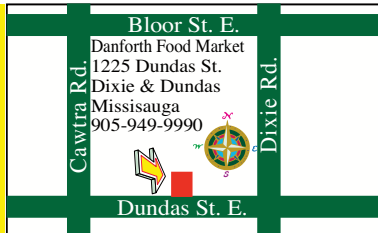


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# Former Colombia President: Maduro using Guyana as a scapegoat

FORMER Colombian President Ivan Duque condemned Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's attempts to leverage the border controversy with Guyana to distract from internal challenges and to rally support ahead of Venezuela's upcoming elections.

In a recent interview with Arick Wierson for Newsweek Magazine, Duque discussed Maduro's recent moves to assert Venezuela's claim over Guyana's resource-rich Essequibo region, despite ongoing proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Lawmakers allied to Maduro approved the creation of a new state in Guyana's territory, citing a controversial December referendum as justification.

Duque expressed his concerns, stating: "Maduro is desperate to remain in power... He's trying to use Guyana as an escape goat for using nationalistic speech."

Referencing Guyana's sovereignty over Essequibo for over a century, Duque added: "Essequibo has been in the hands and sovereignty of Guyana for more than 100 years... Maduro has tried to threaten Guyana that he's going to take away that territory."

President Maduro's refusal to recognise the jurisdiction of the ICJ adds complexity to the situation.

However, Duque asserted that the international community would respond "strongly" to any attempt by Maduro to use force against Guyana.

Duque elaborated: "According to the Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance... there's going to be a very strong response if he tries to use force against Guyana."

He also dismissed the notion of Maduro having the military capacity to invade and sustain an occupation in Guyana, labelling it a "very stupid card" that would elicit an immediate and robust international response.

"He better not play with that because he knows that if he tries to play the card, he's going to receive a very strong response," Duque said.

In addition to geopolitical concerns, he highlighted the environmental implications of Maduro's actions.

Duque praised Guyana for its efforts in conservation and protection of the Essequibo region, warning that any attempt by Maduro to assert control would result in an "environmental disaster."

He said that on a purely conservation and protection of nature scope, Guyana has been able to keep a territory with basically no deforestation, having 85 per cent of the country in tropical forest, being one of the leaders in the world as it regards the campaign for nature.

Turning attention to Maduro's attempts to rally support by focusing on historical grievances, doubts persist over the legitimacy of the December referendum and its impact on regional stability.



Former Colombian President Ivan Duque

The former Colombian President expressed confidence in Guyana's position before the ICJ, citing strong international support and the country's track record in conservation and environmental protection.

"Guyana is requesting that process before the ICJ keeps on going where they have made not only a legitimate defence of their sovereignty and their interests. But I also believe that Guyana will prevail because I think the judicial arguments that Guyana has presented before the ICJ are [solid]," he said.

Maduro's tactics, intended to bolster his political position, have faced criticism for their questionable nature and potential ramifications on regional stability.

This action by President Maduro has triggered fierce condemnation not only from Guyana, but also international and regional bodies.

Describing the action as "a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law," Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organisation of American States, and customary international law.

The government highlighted that this move by Venezuela contradicts the spirit of the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace, signed in December 2023.

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# Guyana Port announces plan to expand shipbuilding services

MANAGING Director of Guyana Port Inc. (GPI), Pritipaul Singh Jr., has said that the company is preparing to launch dredging and shipbuilding services, a US\$40 million investment to support the nation's maritime infrastructure.

Singh told the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo, Kiana Wilburg, during a recent episode of the Energy Perspectives Podcast, GPI has invested between US\$4 million and US\$5 million since its formation in 2019 to provide services in the ship repair market.

"The range of services that we focus on are specifically within the ship repair market. That includes blasting, painting, supply of manpower, mechanical repairs, electrical repairs, hydraulic repairs, propulsion system overhauls. It covers a vast array of vessel capability services that we can provide to the local and international market," he said.

With an ISO (International Organisation for Standard) certification and a strategic location 16 kilometres from the mouth of the Demerara River, GPI, Singh said, is a company that prioritises customer satisfaction and aims to estab-



Managing Director of GPI, Pritipaul Singh Jr.

lish itself as a place that people would want to visit again.

"It's not just about delivering a service. It's making sure that the client is satisfied at the end of the day," he added.

Singh emphasised that the company strives to empower its workers to

shape a sustainable future through maritime solutions.

"We invest approximately on an annual basis between US\$100,000 and US\$115,000 just on training. Right now, we have a staff complement of about 90 individuals. And with the new services that we are going to launch, which is

dredging, we are going to add about 10 people," he related.

Singh said too that GPI is increasingly prioritising quality management, and health and safety measures as integral components of its operational framework.

In light of the expected rise in demand for ship repair services in the oil and gas sector, the Managing Director said that GPI is collaborating with PMD Offshore Limited, a Ghanaian firm, to provide these services, and they are presently finalising an agreement.

He said that the GPI will be spending US\$35 million to construct a 5,000 gross-tonnes dry dock.

"Our team at Guyana Port Inc. will build the dock in Guyana. It is going to be an 18-month process of building and working to start raise capital," Singh added.

Additionally, US\$5 million will be used to start dredging services. With the discoveries of substantial offshore oil reserves, there has been a growing demand for port facilities and maritime services to support increased shipping activities and logistical operations.

## 15,000 NGSA students benefit from meals during exam

THE Ministry of Education has distributed over 49,500 meals, including breakfast and lunch, to over 15,000 pupils countrywide who sat the National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) between May 2 and 3.

Despite some hiccups during the process, Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand deemed the programme a major success.

"When you are dealing with 15,000 kids and a large number of caterers, which are really small business women mostly, and more than 500 locations, you will get some hiccups. I am very happy that the programme was successful. Where we had problems, we are reviewing to make sure those never reoccur," Minister Manickchand stated during a live Facebook broadcast Friday last.

She also highlighted the outstanding turnout for this year's examination, noting that the attendance clearly shows good management in the education sector, even after COVID-19 wrecked parts of the learning system.

"I am happy to say that with 95 per cent of the attendants registered...

We are retaining more children in the system... [And this has] to do with some of our measures," the education minister added.

Additionally, pupils with special education needs and those who were differently abled that wrote the NGSA

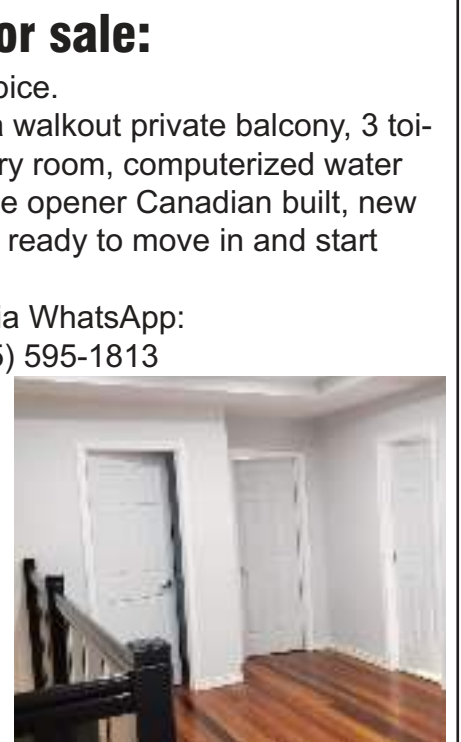
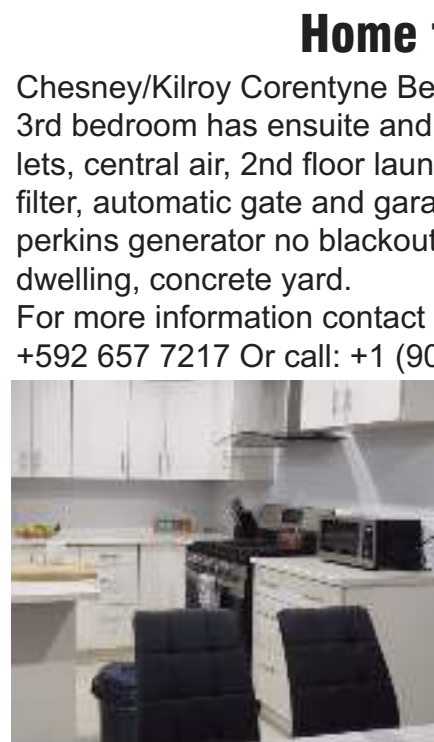
were also provided with support.

Over the years, the ministry has implemented many initiatives to curb the learning loss which includes the launching of the literacy and robotics programme in February 2023.

The undertaking has provided in-

tensive remedial intervention to fast-track the learner's literacy skills, especially their ability to read.

Additionally, the government procured all the necessary textbooks for primary school pupils over the last two years.



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Sunny Deol with his father Dharmendra, says he was beaten by relatives in his absence

## Sunny Deol recalls being beaten by relatives

In numerous interviews, the Deol brothers, Sunny and Bobby Deol, have recounted how they feared father Dharmendra as children. During their recent appearance on The Great Indian Kapil Show, they were asked about whether they are stricter parents than their father. While Sunny acknowledged being a strict father, he also spoke about his upbringing in a joint family, where elders would frequently resort to physical discipline.

In a BTS clip shared by Kapil Sharma, the comedian questioned the Deol brothers about their parenting styles. Bobby responded, "I think bhaiya is a stricter parent than I am." Sharing his perspective, Sunny said, "I don't think it is like that. Papa was strict, we are also strict but Papa used to be so busy in shooting that I rarely saw him as a kid.

Since we lived in a joint family with uncles and aunties, we used to interact with them more. Koe aisa nahi hai jisne merepe hath na saaf karho (There is no one in the family who hasn't beaten me up in the family) (laughs)."

He added, "I am the result of all that." Bobby jokingly added, "That's why he can fight 100-200 people because he has taken so much beating as a kid."

During the show, Sunny also shared anecdotes about how his mother, Prakash Kaur, would beat him if he got injured while playing. He said, "I used to get hurt and my mom would still beat me up with chappal and I would be bleeding."

On the professional front, Sunny Deol's last appearance was in the blockbuster Gadar 2.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20):** Don't expect too much excitement today but do expect to benefit financially if you knuckle down and do what others have asked of you. Cosmic activity in the money area of your chart means your efforts will reap considerable rewards, so don't hold back.

**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21):** There really is nothing you cannot do now. Today's Sun-Saturn link, followed by tomorrow's new moon in your sign, makes all things possible, though for best results you will need to narrow down your goals a bit. Don't try to do everything at once.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21):** Put disputes and disagreements behind you and resolve to get along with everyone today, even those people who delight in rubbing you up the wrong way. In the greater scheme of things nothing – absolutely nothing – is worth getting worked up about.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23):** You may want to impress important people with your talent for getting difficult tasks done on time and to a high standard but don't put yourself under too much pressure. They will be more impressed if you pace yourself sensibly while making life look easy.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23):** A colleague you deal with on a purely professional basis could become a very good friend over the next few days, so don't be afraid to let down your guard a bit. Show them that for you it's not all about work – you like to play sometimes too.

**VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23):** Even if you are the sort of Virgo who rarely strays outside your comfort zone the approaching new moon will encourage you to live dangerously over the next few days. If you begin a new journey on your own don't expect to be unaccompanied for long.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23):** You may be in the mood to shake things up and cause a few shockwaves but that approach could have a major downside over the next 24 hours. You need to remember that not everyone is as laidback and fun-loving as you. Sadly.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22):** Stand back from what you are working on and try to see it from both a wider and higher viewpoint. If you can do that today then what happens tomorrow is more likely to delight you than depress you. It really is all about perspective.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21):** If you are not in the mood to try too hard that's fine. You may fall behind in your workload but so what? And if colleagues complain that you are slacking just admit it with a smile. Do only what feels comfortable, even if that's nothing at all.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20):** Unlike some people you don't feel the need to be in the spotlight but that spotlight will nevertheless be on you over the next few days. You will feel perfectly at home with the eyes of the world on you – and the world will love what it sees.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19):** Keep moving at a steady pace and don't be tempted to speed up just because it looks as if some of your rivals are pulling ahead of you. Remember the story of the tortoise and the hare: the winner is the one who keeps going to the end.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20):** A helpful link between the Sun and Saturn will make it easy for you to see through illusions and avoid pie in the sky thinking. While others are wasting time in fantasyland you will be reaping the benefits of keeping your feet firmly on the ground.

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# Grenada begins firearms amnesty to curb gun violence

The Government of Grenada has initiated a firearms amnesty program, set to run from May 1 to July 30, 2024. This move is part of a broader effort to mitigate the incidence of violent crimes and gun-related issues within the state.

The amnesty, detailed in the recently gazetted Firearms Order, provides legal immunity for those surrendering firearms and ammunition under specified conditions.

Central to the government's strategy is the reduction of illegally circulating firearms and ammunition.

By removing these items from the community, the initiative aims to lower the potential for violent crimes and enhance public safety.

This proactive approach reflects the government's commitment to fostering a safer environment for all citizens.

During the amnesty period, individuals are encouraged to surrender firearms, related items, and ammunition.

These can be handed over at any police station to the officer in charge or to an officer designated by the Commissioner of Police at the Royal Grenada Police Force Headquarters.

Importantly, the process guarantees anonymity with no requirement to disclose one's identity, and no record of the person's details who surrendered the items will be kept.



**People with illegal guns in Grenada can now surrender them under the amnesty**

The Firearms Amnesty Act underscores the anonymity of the process. Those surrendering items are not required to reveal their identity, and the specifics of their identity will not be recorded.

This assurance of confidentiality is crucial to encouraging participation in the amnesty. Additionally, attorneys-at-law are permitted to act on behalf of individuals wishing to surrender firearms, ensuring a seamless and secure process.

The government anticipates that each firearm or piece of ammunition surrendered translates into a potential life saved and one less weapon on the streets.

This initiative is viewed as a vital component of a comprehensive strategy to tackle gun violence and promote community safety.

The commitment to these goals was echoed by Prime Minister and Minister for National Security Dickon

Mitchell, who emphasized the program's importance in enhancing the well-being of the community.

By implementing the Firearms Amnesty Act, Grenada takes a significant step toward reducing firearm-related crimes and building a safer environment for its citizens. This measure is aligned with the government's priority to ensure the safety and security of its populace through thoughtful and effective policies.

# Japan bestows top honour on Ralph Gonsalves

The government of Japan has announced its decision to bestow upon Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, the prestigious Japanese National Decoration, "The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun."

The accolade underscores Dr. Gonsalves' exceptional efforts in fortifying bilateral ties and fostering friendship between Japan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

This recognition highlights his steadfast commitment to advancing international relations and promoting mutual understanding.

As the premier decoration within the Order of the Rising Sun, this honor stands as one of Japan's highest national distinctions extended to foreign dignitaries.

Its bestowal signifies acknowledgment of Dr. Gonsalves' accomplished endeavors in enhancing relations between Japan and other nations.

Originating in 1875, the Order of the Rising Sun holds historical significance as Japan's inaugural national decoration. Its design, featuring rays of sunlight emanating from the rising sun and a paulownia flower and leaf attachment, reflects the nation's cultural heritage and values.



**Dr Ralph Gonsalves: St Vincent Prime Minister being honored by Japan for his leadership**

Currently serving his fifth consecutive term in office since 2001, Prime Minister Gonsalves has demonstrated steadfast leadership and unwavering dedication to public service.

His tenure has seen him assuming pivotal roles such as Chair of the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Chairmanship of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, amplifying his influence in regional affairs.

Prime Minister Gonsalves' previous visits to Japan in 2004 and 2018 have been instrumental in fostering

meaningful dialogue and cooperation between the two nations.

Through constructive engagement with his counterparts, he has played a pivotal role in deepening bilateral relations, paving the way for enhanced collaboration and mutual prosperity.

# St Kitts Prime Minister calls for urgent regional action on crime

St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew recently underscored the persistent global concern surrounding crime and security, particularly within the Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states.

Speaking at a meeting sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS), Drew emphasized the urgent need to address issues like gang violence and illicit firearms access in the Caribbean region.

In his capacity as the chairman of the Caricom Council of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE), Drew addressed the forum focused on “Special Security Concerns Of The Small Island And Low-Lying Coastal Developing States Of The Caribbean.”

He stressed that this theme is not only crucial for Caricom but also resonates with any nation prioritizing peace and security in the broader Americas.

Acknowledging the complexity of the challenges at hand, Drew commended the organizers for convening the forum, recognizing the necessity of collaboration and partnership in combatting gang violence and illicit firearms access.

He emphasized the evolving nature of crime, particularly gang-related violence, urging innovative and holistic approaches to effectively address it.

Drew highlighted the unprecedented global interdependence and technological advancements shaping



St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew

the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

He noted the blurred lines between domestic and international security, emphasizing the far-reaching repercussions of events across regions and nations.

This interconnectedness, Drew emphasized, requires nuanced approaches to security risks and threats at

various levels.

While acknowledging shared challenges with other regions, Drew emphasized the unique vulnerabilities and complexities of Caricom.

He stressed the importance of understanding Caricom’s security interests within the context of the region’s special characteristics as Small Island and Low-Lying Coastal Developing

States in the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Drew’s remarks underscored the pressing need for collaborative efforts to address the multifaceted challenges of crime and security in the Caribbean, emphasizing the importance of understanding and navigating the unique context of the region.

## Sharks facing slaughter in Tobago after attack

As many as a dozen sharks may have been killed since one attacked a British tourist last week Friday at Turtle Beach, Tobago.

Videos by fishermen on social media have shown a number of sharks killed in the waters off Tobago.

The videos started surfacing last Friday following a \$10,000 bounty issued by the Tobago House of Assembly for the capture of what witnesses said was a bull shark that severely injured British national Peter Smith while he was swimming at Turtle Beach. The bounty was later recalled by the THA.

Smith was flown via air ambulance to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida, for further medical care. According to a statement from his wife, he had to have his fingers surgically reattached and needed “extensive work” on one of his legs following the gruesome attack. He also suffered injuries to his abdomen, and remained in intensive care over the weekend.

He is however under “strong medication”, she said in the statement released through the BBC. The UK



In a rare attack, a tourist was bitten by a shark in Tobago

Foreign Office said they were providing support to the family.

The Division of Food Security, Natural Resources, the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Tobago House of Assembly has “strongly condemned” what it called the “indiscriminate killing of sharks in response to a recent shark attack incident in Tobago”.

In a media release, the division noted that sharks play a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of our

marine ecosystems.

“We understand the concerns and fears arising from the recent incident. However, reacting to this isolated event (where a British tourist was recently attacked by a shark) by targeting and killing sharks indiscriminately is not only ineffective in preventing future incidents but also harmful to our marine biodiversity,” the release said.

It noted further that Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the conservation and protection of its marine re-

sources, including sharks, through various national laws and international conventions.

The release said: “The Fisheries Act, Environmental Management Act, and Conservation of Wildlife Act all provide a framework for managing and safeguarding our marine wildlife. Additionally, as a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, we have a responsibility to adhere to international standards for shark conservation.”

The division further issued a plea to the public to refrain from engaging in any unauthorized hunting, capturing, or killing of sharks.

“Instead, we encourage the public to follow shark safety guidelines, such as avoiding areas where sharks are known to congregate, staying calm if encountering a shark, and reporting any shark sightings to local authorities,” it said.



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# Ten years after assassination, murder probe of former DPP stalled

The T&T Judiciary says it has done its part in the trial of the ten men accused of the shocking murder of Senior Counsel Dana Seethalal in 2014, as it had sent the completed notes of evidence to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in January.

In a statement issued at 5.40 pm on May 4, the Judiciary responded to the DPP's claims that his office had not received the notes – almost four years after the conclusion of the preliminary inquiry.

It said, "For matters prior to December 2023, Section 25 of the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act requires that committal bundles are transmitted to the DPP. Due to its size, the committal bundle in the case of The State vs Rajae Ali and others, which contains over 8,100 pages, was sent to the Office of the DPP via file transfer protocol (FTP) in three parts, on December 20, (2023) December 21, 2023 and January 5, 2024."

The ten men were committed to stand trial in July 2020 by then senior magistrate Indrani Cedeno. Cedeno was appointed a High Court judge in January along with two other magistrates.

Cedeno had to certify the notes of evidence before they could be sent to the Office of the DPP.

DPP Roger Gaspard said that up to May 3, no notes of evidence had reached his office. He said under the Preliminary Inquiry Act, before an indictment is filed, the notes of evidence must be obtained and reviewed.

"My office would have made several requests of the Judiciary since the committal for the notes of evidence.



Former Assistant DPP Dana Seethalal — shot and killed in 2014

"Up to 4.30 pm on Friday I had not received them."

Several people pointed out the sad irony that a woman who advocated for criminal justice reform, and made significant contributions in the Senate to improve the justice system, had become a victim of the same slow system.

Around 12.05 am on May 4, 2014, Seethalal was driving her Volkswagen SUV to her One Woodbrook Place apartment when two vehicles blocked

the road near the Woodbrook Youth Facility on Hamilton Holder Street, Port of Spain. The occupants of the vehicles got out and shot her five times.

At the time of her assassination, she was junior prosecutor in the trial of 12 men charged with the December 2006 murder of businesswoman Vindra Naipaul-Coolman, which began in March 2014.

But years earlier she had been a special state prosecutor seeking the

State's interest in a case against the Jamaat al Muslimeen for recompensation for the damage they inflicted during the 1990 attempted coup.

In 2008, she was also a special state prosecutor when the late Jamaat leader Yasin Abu Bakr faced several criminal charges, including promoting a terrorist act and sedition, based on comments he made during an Eid-ul-Fitr sermon in November 2005.

## JA farmers encouraged to invest in drones

In a bid to revolutionize agricultural practices, Peter Thompson, the Executive Director of Jamaica 4-H Clubs, urges stakeholders in the agricultural sector to embrace drone technology.

Thompson emphasizes the transformative potential of drones in enhancing operational efficiency and boosting production.

Highlighting the rapid application of drones, Thompson underscores their ability to spray an acre of crops in just three minutes.

Beyond spraying, drones offer sophisticated functionalities like vegetation indexing.

By programming specific crop data into drones, farmers can effortlessly assess crop yields using infrared technology.

Drawing parallels with European practices, Thompson elucidates on the multifaceted utility of drones.

From crop insurance assessments to livestock monitoring for health indicators, drones are proving indispensable.



Dronme technology could help farmers in Jamaica in encouraging efficiency

Thompson stresses the need for agricultural stakeholders to embrace technological advancements, envisioning a future where traditional tools like the hoe and machete become obsolete.

Thompson's call for technological integration resonates at the launch of the Kingston and St. Andrew 'Agrofest 2024,' held at the Rural Agricultural Development Authority's St. Andrew Parish Office.

Hosted by the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), the event is slated for Saturday, May 25, at the Hope Gardens complex under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Mining.

Agrofest 2024 promises a dynamic lineup of events, including a farm queen competition, Jamaica 4-H Clubs speech contest, and a spirited 'Eat Jamaican' cook-off organized by JAS.

Attendees can anticipate entertainment with a concert and revel in traditional activities like domino contests and a greased pig competition.

Additionally, the event will showcase horticultural displays, high school exhibits, and interactive experiences at the kids' village, embodying a vibrant celebration of Jamaica's agricultural heritage.



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# West Indies win T20 series against Nepal 3-2, but lose final

WEST INDIES A lost the final contest of a five-match T20 series against Nepal A by six wickets at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur, Nepal on May 4. Despite the defeat, West Indies won the series 3-2.

Alick Athanaze led West Indies in the batting department, hitting 42 not out to steer the regional team to 172/7 in 20 overs. The left-hander struck one four and three sixes in his 29-ball innings. Roston Chase and Johnson Charles, who were both named on the West Indies team for the T20 World Cup next month, made 33 and 24 respectively.

Sompal Kami was the pick of the bowlers for Nepal, taking 3/16 in four overs. Sagar Dhakal also snatched a three-wicket haul on the day, ending with 3/17 in two overs.

The Nepal batsmen ensured their team ended the series on a high, led by Anil Sah and Aasif Sheikh. Sah slammed 58 off 45 balls (four fours, four sixes) and Sheikh made 51 off 35 (two fours, five sixes).

Kushal Malla got Nepal over the line after Sah and Sheikh were dismissed. Malla ended on 37 not out off 18 balls. Left-arm pacer Obed McCoy



West Indies celebrate winning the Tour of Nepal T20 series in Kirtipur, Nepal on May 4

grabbed 3/36 in 3.5 overs for West Indies.

Summarised Scores:

WEST INDIES A 172/7 (20 overs)

(Alick Athanaze 42 not out, Roston Chase 33, Johnson Charles 24; Sompal Kami 3/16, Sangar Dhakal 3/17) vs NEPAL A 173/4 (18.5 overs) (Anil Sah

58, Aasif Sheikh 51, Kushal Malla 37 not out; Obed McCoy 3/36). Nepal won by six wickets.

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# B HALAL MEAT (BAKSH)

EAST & WEST INDIAN GROCERIES

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## FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

### FROM THE CARIBBEAN

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



## FRESH ONTARIO MEAT

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

ALL MEATS ARE 100% HALAL

AND MANY MORE  
AVAILABLE



## FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

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



3160 EGLINTON AVENUE (1 BLOCK WEST OF MARKHAM ROAD)

# WAREHOUSE SALE

## Lisa's Cosmetics/Fragrances Inc.



### FEATURING Prestige Brand Names

Cosmetics & Skin Treatment Products

- ★ Elizabeth Arden ★ Stila ★ Revlon ★ Orlane ★ Milani ★ Pur ★ Almay
- ★ Elizabeth Grant ★ Juicy Couture & MANY MORE PRESTIGE COSMETIC BRANDS

Professional Haircare Products

- ★ Joico ★ Wella ★ Nioxin ★ Nexxus ★ Sebastian

Professional Nail Colour and Nail Care

Health & Beauty Products

- ★ Dove ★ Pantene ★ Shea Moisture
- ★ L'Oreal ★ Garnier ★ Nivea ★ Olay
- ★ Acqua Di Parma ★ Allsaints ★ Ariana Grande
- ★ Armani ★ Azzaro ★ Burberry
- ★ Bvlgari ★ Cacharel ★ Calvin Klein ★ Creed
- ★ Davidoff ★ Diesel ★ Dolce Gabbana
- ★ Ed Hardy ★ Escada ★ Ferragamo
- ★ Givenchy ★ Gucci ★ Guerlain ★ Guess
- ★ Hugo Boss ★ Jean Paul Gaultier ★ Jimmy Choo
- ★ John Varvatos ★ Juicy Couture ★ Juliette Has A Gun
- ★ Kenzo ★ Lacoste ★ Lancome ★ Marc Jacobs
- ★ Michael Kors ★ Mont Blanc ★ Moschino
- ★ Nautica ★ Nina Ricci ★ Paco Rabanne
- ★ Parfums De Marly
- ★ Ralph Lauren ★ Replica
- ★ Serge Lutens
- ★ Thierry Mugler ★ Tom Ford
- ★ Vera Wang ★ Versace
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and many more fine fragrances

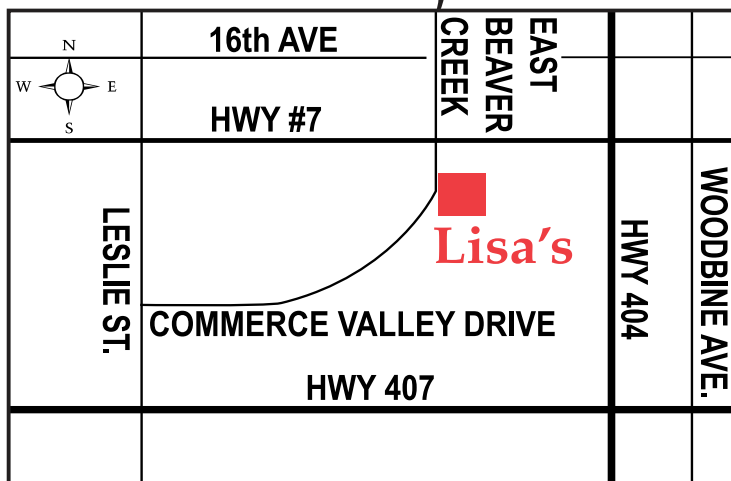
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**80%**  
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Gifts For  
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### WHERE

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### HOURS

Saturday  
9 am to 6 pm

Sunday  
10 am to 6 pm

Friday  
10 am to 8 pm

NO CHILDREN  
UNDER 10 ALLOWED

### HURRY!

LAST 3 DAYS

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

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President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



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USA V CAN SAT, 1 JUNE DALLAS

WI V PNG SUN, 2 JUNE GUYANA

NAM V OMA SUN, 2 JUNE BARBADOS

SL V SA MON, 3 JUNE NEW YORK

AFG V UGA MON, 3 JUNE GUYANA

ENG V SCO TUE, 4 JUNE BARBADOS

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