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Modi arrives in Guyana for three-day State visit

Guyana President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali welcomed the Prime Minister of India, the Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, Tuesday night, at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

The Prime Minister was joined by his high-level delegation of government officials.

President Ali was joined by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd, the Indian High Commissioner to Guyana Dr Amit Telang, and other government officials.

It is anticipated that the two leaders will discuss a wide range of topics, with a focus on military cooperation and tackling the problems caused by climate change.

The two countries also agreed to create working groups in agriculture and food production, information and communications technology, energy, ayurvedic and wellness, natural medi-

cine and development, and defence, among other areas to further the bilateral cooperation agenda.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi will engage in summit-level bilateral discussions with President Ali.

Additionally, he will co-chair the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit in Guyana, alongside Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell, and President Ali.

PM Modi is also scheduled to address the National Assembly, the Indian community and the Indian diaspora in Guyana.

PM Modi's visit to Guyana comes at the invitation of President Ali. This is the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Guyana in 56 years.

This visit underlines the historically robust relations between India and Guyana. The two nations established diplomatic relations on May 26, 1966.

Since then, the two nations have engaged in a thriving programme of economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation, with the Indian government providing Guyana with substantial development assistance.



Guyana President Irfaan Ali greets Indian PM Narendra Modi on his arrival

The two nations have been directly connected in mutual investments in sustainable development and renewable energy.

Guyana has also received lines of credit from India for a number of developmental initiatives, including the building of roads, bridges, and hospitals.

In January 2023, President Ali vis-

ited India as the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, where he was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.




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ALBUM

Modi's visit to Guyana



Throng of admirers greet India's Modi on his arrival in Guyana

By Cliff Rajkumar
IN GEORGETOWN

The Prime Minister of India, the dynamic and seemingly indefatigable Shree Narendra Modi Ji, arrived at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana, after midnight today from his gruelling G20 summit in Brazil to a jubilant crowd who patiently awaited his arrival to greet him with the honour and respect of kinship and adoration for his dedication and single-minded commitment to make our world a safer, inclusive and humane place for all of mankind.

The Honorable Prime Minister of India, Modi Ji takes inspiration from his ancient civilizational creed which subscribes to the holistic belief that all life forms are integral aspects of the creator and that all people on planet earth are essentially one family deserving of respect and equal rights befitting their native culture, traditions and way of life. Modi Ji has emerged to become a leader who champions peace, harmony and cooperative engagement with all nations of the world.

Modi Ji leadership has awoken the pride and dignity of his nation to reclaim their once glorious heritage.

In this noble quest, he has extended the hand of goodwill to all neighbours and even far-off nations without oppres-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets the red carpet treatment on arrival in Guyana

sive conquests and subjugations. Indeed! the world has changed and Modi Ji has adapted to the new geo-political realities where scarce resources are being fiercely contested and demands the highest level of diplomacy to be a fair-minded and neutral partner to appease the divergent political, ideological and alliances realities which are reshaping our fragile planet.

Modi Ji's historic visit to the Cooperative republic of Guyana, marks a very necessary and significant milestone in the relationship between these two symbiotically culturally connected nations.

The throng of admirers who patiently awaited his arrival to greet him with love and affection affirm a bond that is rooted in a shared culturally-linked heritage. In fact, 39.8% of the Guyanese population are of Indian decent and was brought to this former colonial nation from India as Indentured servants to work under abominable conditions in the sugar plantation of their Colonial overlords.

This historic visit underscores the importance of strengthening bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for mutual growth and the rejuvenation of cul-

tural ties in Guyana and the region.

This Guyana visit reflects the deep commitment of India to reach out and strengthen the inherent cultural ties and trust which can lead to a dynamic partnership with Guyana...heralding a new era of friendship and progress. In this lauded visit Georgetown, Guyana's capital and address a joint press conference with President Irfaan Ali. Modi Ji will also meet with the local business community and also visit cultural landmarks marking the arrivals of his intrepid country folks who braved the turbulent Atlantic

Guyana drafting Caribbean's first agritourism policy

FOLLOWING extensive discussions, the draft for the Caribbean's first agritourism policy and roadmap was unveiled on Friday.

The document, compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), provides a strategic framework for funding and developing Guyana's emerging agritourism sector.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, and Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Oneidge Walrond attended a national stakeholder

meeting at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, where they participated in discussions on the policy's details.

Strategically integrating Guyana's rich agricultural heritage with its rapidly expanding tourism sector, the objective is to create sustainable tourism experiences while fostering economic diversification.

The initiative is expected to open numerous development and employment opportunities for farmers, small businesses, and rural communities.

Minister Mustapha noted that the advancement of the agritourism sector will significantly aid in furthering Guyana's economic growth in non-oil

sectors.

"The development in the agritourism sector, and the development of an agritourism roadmap and policies is not just another initiative; it's a bold vision for the future of Guyana" the minister said.

Even though the policy was recently drafted, over the years, the government has been investing in enhancing agritourism experiences, including the construction of ecolodges.

Minister Walrond emphasised that Guyana already has the necessary resources and locations to offer enjoyable agritourism experiences on par with international standards.

As she explained, "Right here at home we have been seeing what agritourism can do; the Rupununi rodeo is coming out of cattle farming, and we've seen the attraction... People are looking for these kinds of authentic experiences."



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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Modi's visit is significant

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, November 19 2024

THE state visit by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, which begins today, is a significant milestone in India-Guyana relations and it has evoked excitement among Guyanese of all walks of life.

Of equal importance is its timing. This visit is happening as Guyana is experiencing explosive economic growth as it cements its place in the global energy sector as a key player.

The visit will be the final leg of an Africa-Caribbean outreach, which started off in Nigeria, followed by a stop in Brazil.

An economic powerhouse, India is regarded as the world's sixth fastest-growing economy and it has one of the highest GDP growth rates in the world. It has made a big name for itself in areas such as agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals and engineering.

With this visit to Guyana, it is anticipated that more than five decades of partnership in fields such as healthcare, connectivity, security/defence and renewable energy, will be strengthened. These are all areas that President, Dr Ir-



Indian PM Narendra Modi greets Guyanese on his arrival

faan Ali and his government have vowed to prioritise and develop.

Agreements that will be of great benefit to the Guyanese people are expected to be inked. Additionally, technology exchange, climate change, healthcare collaboration and other matters of mutual interest will be discussed by PM Modi and the Guyanese Head of State.

Through this visit, Guyana will also get an opportunity to tap into India's suc-

cess in creating Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), gaining insightful knowledge into how to stimulate economic growth and diversification while promoting innovation and creativity and enhancing regional integration and global competitiveness.

Guyana can also learn about India's success in converting raw food into value-added products through agro-processing and explore ways for us to replicate.

The Asian nation has also been able to create technological advances that have positioned it well, globally. This is another area that Guyana can tap into as it eyes modernisation and an economically enriching existence for all citizens.

PM Modi's address to the National Assembly of Guyana is also on the agenda along with him co-chairing the second India-CARICOM Summit. The latter holds enormous benefits for the CARICOM as PM Modi and Caribbean leaders will use the opportunity to strengthen historical connections and explore collaborative opportunities.

His planned visits to historical sites and engagements with the Indian community and the Indian Diaspora in Guyana are also significant, given the shared history of enslaved labourers during British colonial rule and the two countries' rich cultural link.

PM Modi's visit here must not be taken lightly as it reflects an evolving narrative in international relations that all countries are intertwined, regardless of their global status and that collaboration, understanding and mutual growth are paramount to a more multipolar world order.

Doug Ford is wasting your money

The Editor:

Last week we learned that Doug Ford's plan to recklessly rip up bike lanes in downtown Toronto will cost up to \$50 million dollars.

In communities across Ontario like mine in Parry Sound-Muskoka, people are struggling to find a family doctor. They're struggling to find an affordable place to call home. And as a dad and a teacher, I can tell you first-hand that our education system is stretched thin.

Yet Doug Ford thinks the best use of your taxpayer dollars is to rip up bike lanes in downtown Toronto?!

Bill 212 is coming to a vote imminently at Queen's Park, which, if passed,

will greenlight the bike lane removals. The Bill will also fast-track Highway 413 – another of Doug Ford's expensive GTA-centric vanity projects – allowing the government to avoid proper environmental assessments and meaningful Indigenous consultation on a project that will cost billions and pave over the Greenbelt.

Not only is this a massive waste of money when healthcare and housing resources are stretched thin, but it will make traffic and climate pollution even worse.

Imagine if that money went to hiring frontline healthcare workers, building affordable homes, hiring education

staff for students with special needs, and improving the services we all rely on in our communities?

We need investments that truly support families and communities across Ontario.

Please join us in our fight against

Bill 212 and Doug Ford's reckless spending.

Sincerely,

Matt Richter

Deputy Leader

Candidate for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Ontario Greens

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Trudeau blames ‘bad actors’ for ‘gaming’ the immigration system

From the CBC:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government could have acted faster to rein in immigration programs, after blaming "bad actors" for gaming the system.

Trudeau released a nearly seven-minute video on YouTube on Sunday talking about the recent reduction in permanent residents being admitted to Canada and changes to the temporary foreign worker program.

Over the next two years, the permanent residency stream is being reduced by about 20 per cent to 365,000 in 2027.

In the video, Trudeau talks about the need to increase immigration after pandemic lockdowns ended in order to boost the labour market, saying the move helped avoid a full-blown recession.

But after that, Trudeau says some "bad actors" took advantage of these programs.

"Some saw that as a profit, to game the system. We saw way too many large corporations do this," Trudeau said.

The prime minister adds that "too many" colleges and universities used international student programs to "raise their bottom line" as non-Canadian students pay significantly higher tuition. He also said scammers targeted "vulnerable immigrants" with bogus paths to citizenship.

"Looking back, when the post-pandemic boom cooled and businesses no longer needed the additional labour help, as a federal team we could have acted quicker and turned off the taps faster," Trudeau said.

From there, Trudeau talks about the new immigration plan with the stated goal of lowering the amount of permanent and temporary immigrants coming to Canada.

In addition to a phased reduction in new permanent residents over the next two years, recent changes have made it more difficult for employers to get temporary worker permits approved.

Trudeau says the goal of the government's immigration reduction is to help stabilize population growth while housing stocks catch up, and then to consider gradually increasing immigration rates once again.

When reached for comment, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre's spokesperson Sebastian Skamski referred The Canadian Press to an interview Poilievre did with CKNW 980's The Jas Johal Show in Vancouver where



The Prime Minister said some people saw the immigration system as a way to profit

Poilievre discussed immigration.

In that interview, Poilievre said much of his criticism of the current immigration system is coming from what Trudeau himself has said since enacting these recent changes.

"Now, he's basically denouncing his entire immigration policy and expecting us to believe that he can fix the problems that he caused," Poilievre said.

"The bottom line is we have to fix our immigration, get back to the best system in the world, the one that brought my wife here as a refugee legally and lawfully, the one that brought so many people here to pursue the Canadian promise, and that's what I'm going to do as prime minister."

Poilievre has previously said he would tie immigration rates to available housing while considering other factors like access to health care and jobs.

Speaking on background, an official from the Prime Minister's Office said that the video is being released as another means of communicating government policy to Canadians.

As for concerns around the potential for increased irregular migration given U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's deportation promises, the official said the video was filmed before the American election.



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An invigorated India influences inspiration

By Jai Lall

THE nationality of a composite of six races from the land of many waters, with the encore of “Boukaiya, Nnoo, Bem-Vindo, Huanying and Svaagat,” will collectively convey a Guyanese “welcome” in a singular voice echoing a “One Guyana,” as the 74 years old Indian Prime Minister, Shriman Ji Narendra Damodardas Modi, sets foot for the second time on the soil of Guyana.

Guyana is the birth place of some 40 percent of Guyanese who have traceable links to Bharat Mata due to the arrival of their ancestors from India, their motherland.

After 56 years, an Indian Prime Minister is gracing this South American nation, the late Indira Gandhi being the last in 1968. Other Indian officials to visit Guyana include the late Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the then Vice President of India who visited Guyana in 1988 and Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the then Vice President of India came on a state visit to Guyana in 2006.

Prime Minister Modi, leader of the largest democracy in the world with a population of 1.45 billion people, comes from a country which has a legacy of having a “people-centric approach and mainstreaming the priorities of the Global South.” The agricultural and diversified country being the seventh largest nation in the world with an area of 1.269 M square miles and speaking some 780 languages, India has 28 states and eight union territories with a GDP growth rate of 7.6 per cent annually.

The 2023 World Bank report also states India’s Gross Domestic Product as 3.55 trillion USD with her GDP per capita being 2,484.85 USD.



PM Modi receives flowers on arrival from an Indigenous child

For 89 years, India was a British colony and was known as the British Raj. In 1947, India single-handedly defeated the British with words and wits and won her independence with the Mahatma Gandhi’s path of truth and non-violence (Satya Graha) approach.

India became divided with the birth of Pakistan as a neighbour. A decade ago, India was the 11th largest economy in the world. This nation which was ravaged by invaders, raped for her wealth and repudiated as a “Coolie” mentality, slowly but surely, like its national flower, the Kamalgatta, it rose from Dharti Ma and the Ganges, to blossom as the fifth largest economy in the world, beating its former master the British.

While the US remains the only nation to put man on the moon, on the 23rd August 2023, India became the fourth nation to land on the moon. With India’s “Chandrayaan – 3, she became the first country to successfully land a spacecraft near the moon’s south pole,

demonstrating a safe and soft landing on Lunar Surface, a rover roving on the moon and conducting scientific experiments.

Apart from India’s fascinating foods, fantastic fields and famous festivals, she is fanaticised for cricket, songs, music and films. The Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the world and is visited by millions of tourists who travel also to the snow-laden mountainous Himalayas in the north and the watery Kerala in the south.

A country landscaped with beauty, brains and businesses, it houses a rich culture of traditions, religions, festivities, and celebrations.

India glorifies a way of life catering to an ambience of spirituality feeding off a spectrum of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Zoroastrians, Jews, Bahá’ís, eremites, teachers, holy men, charlatans and a host of other significant inclusivities.

From a historical background of

77 years of different, diversified and determined leaders, Prime Minister Modi has survived to lead the nation with three consecutive election victories since coming to power in 2014. He is on the rise in a country boasting 167 billionaires in the world, being the third highest. The IMF is forecasting a prediction that India is expected to take over Japan’s position to clinch the title of the world’s fourth largest economy in Fiscal Year 2025 with a GDP at \$4,340 billion USD.

The quiet, humble and approachable but fiery Prime Minister who is charming and charismatic, is ever friendly, hardworking and resolute. His aim is to reshape the image of India in the eyes of the world with pride from a proud past, dignity with a determined destiny and resilience to rule not from the rear. While PM Modi is adept, he is wary of human limitations and remains practical. His job correlates with the co-operation of his courageous commissioners who act as his confidants, consiglieres and commanders. As campaigners for Modi, they help to chronicle and communicate many of the conversations which are cumbersome and convoluted with concerns, controversies and criticisms.

Prime Minister Modi is careful and he surrounds himself with a chosen few who are his eyes, nose and ears, following him like a shadow. He places confidence in those he trusts and has faith in his closest and oldest allies as he delegates them with responsibility.

His three-day visit to Guyana will be fruitful as it can remove barriers of distance and development between two countries with common ideologies, peoples and aspirations. The Guyanese people and President Ali do welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi with open arms.



Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO



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First Friday Night Market a success

THE inaugural Friday Night Market at Leonora has been hailed as a huge success, in that it fulfills the vision of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Announced just last Friday, the event saw an overwhelming turnout, with residents from across Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) showing strong support for local farmers and vendors.

The market was a collaborative effort that brought together the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Region Three Regional Democratic Council (RDC), and the Interim Management Committee for the Leonora Market. Each of these stakeholders worked tirelessly to bring the event to life, ensuring that it ran smoothly and met the needs of both vendors and patrons.



‘ONE GUYANA’ FPSO set to arrive mid-2025 – ExxonMobil Guyana President

THE ‘ONE GUYANA’ Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel is expected to arrive in Guyana during the second quarter of 2025, ExxonMobil Guyana President, Alistair Routledge, announced on Tuesday.

Routledge made this revelation at the Jaguar FPSO steel strike ceremony hosted at the Guyana Shore Base Incorporated (GYSBI) in Houston, East Bank Demerara.

The vessel, part of ExxonMobil’s Yellowtail development project within the Stabroek Block, is currently dry-docked at the Keppel yard in Singapore.

“We’re anticipating going to Singapore in January for the naming ceremony and the christening of the vessel before it sets sail from Singapore,” Routledge disclosed. “That vessel will set sail for Guyana and arrive here in the second quarter of next year where it will be installed, commissioned and made ready for startup later in the year.”

The vessel design is based on SBM Offshore’s industry leading Fast4Ward® programme that incorporates the company’s new build, multi-purpose floater hull combined with several standardised topsides modules.

The FPSO will be designed to produce 250,000 barrels of oil per day and will have associated gas treatment capacity of 450 million cubic feet per day and a water injection capacity of 300,000 barrels per day.

The FPSO will be spread-moored in water depth of about 1,800 metres and will be able to store around two million barrels of crude oil.

ExxonMobil will take ownership of the FPSO upon completion. The vessel will be part of the Yellowtail development project, which includes six drill centres and up to 51 wells.

In March 2023, SBM hosted the



ExxonMobil Guyana President, Alistair Routledge

Steel Strike Ceremony at Industrial Fabrications Incorporation (InFab) on the East Coast of Demerara, to signal the commencement of work by the companies—InFab, Guyana Oil and Gas Support Services Incorporated (GOGSSI) and Zeco Group of Services.

With nearly \$55 billion earmarked to develop six government-sanctioned projects, the estimated investment for the ‘ONE GUYANA’ FPSO vessel is reported to be approximately \$10 billion. ExxonMobil Guyana Limited continues to exceed expectations in oil production with a current daily output of 650,000 barrels of oil, the company has surpassed its initial targets.

The operations are spread across three FPSO facilities – Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, and Prosperity – all of which are operating beyond their nameplate capacities. The ‘ONE GUYANA’ vessel will bolster these production numbers.

Recently, ExxonMobil and its partners’ output hit the 500 million barrels year-end goal, marking a major milestone for Guyana since the start-up in the Stabroek Block five years ago.

The consortium aims to expand production capacity to more than 1.3 million barrels per day by 2027, a target achievable as all six projects are expected to be operational by then.

The financial impact of these oper-

ations on Guyana is significant. Since the first production in December 2019, oil revenues and royalties totalling over \$5.4 billion have flowed into the Guyana Natural Resource Fund.

Furthermore, the industry has generated substantial local employment, with more than 6,000 Guyanese making up nearly 70% of the workforce on the Stabroek block.

ExxonMobil Guyana Limited serves as the operator with a 45% stake in the Stabroek block, while Hess Guyana Exploration Ltd. holds a 30% interest, and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited owns the remaining 25%.



His Excellency, Sébastien Sigouin, High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana (seated centre), flanked by the high-level Canadian delegation

High-level Canadian delegation explores investment opportunities in Guyana

A HIGH-LEVEL Canadian delegation, led by His Excellency Sébastien Sigouin, High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana, concluded a successful four-day visit to Guyana on November 15, 2024.

The delegation, which included representatives from prominent Canadian commercial and development organisations, aimed to deepen economic ties and explore investment opportunities in Guyana's rapidly expanding economy, driven by its burgeoning energy sector.

The delegation featured officials from the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), Export Development Canada (EDC), ON2 Solutions, WSP, and Aecon, who engaged with key government ministers and business leaders.

Meetings were held with Guyanese officials, including the Ministers of Housing and Water, Health, Finance, Tourism, Industry and Commerce, and Public Works, as well as executives from Scotiabank and the Guyana Office for Investment (G-Invest). The delegation also met with His Excellency, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, to discuss high-level collaboration opportunities.

The visit underscored Canada's commitment to fostering a dynamic partnership with Guyana, aligning with its emerging needs for sustainable infrastructure and economic development. High Commissioner Sigouin

highlighted Canada's dedication to ethical business practices and long-term collaboration, stating, "Canada has a longstanding friendship with Guyana, and we believe there is tremendous potential for Canadian companies to contribute to Guyana's future."

President Dr. Ali commended Canada's continued partnership and shared his vision for Guyana's growth, emphasising the role of foreign partnerships in achieving national development goals. The discussions focused on leveraging Canadian expertise to advance Guyana's infrastructure transformation, improve quality of life, and promote sustainable development.

ON2 Solutions, renowned for its medical oxygen systems, explored opportunities to strengthen Guyana's healthcare infrastructure. Discussions centred on enhancing the medical oxygen supply chain to boost the resilience of Guyana's healthcare system.

Canadian infrastructure giants WSP and Aecon engaged in discussions about contributing to Guyana's public works and housing initiatives. Their expertise in sustainable urban and rural development was welcomed as Guyana seeks to build transportation networks and housing solutions aligned with its rapid economic growth.

Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) proposed innovative financial frameworks to support

Canadian investment in Guyana. Their government-to-government and public-private partnership (P3) models were designed to ensure robust project development with long-term benefits for both countries.

The delegation met with Scotiabank and G-Invest to identify ways to attract Canadian investment. Scotiabank highlighted Canada's strong financial services presence in Guyana, while G-Invest showcased opportunities in renewable energy, eco-tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The visit set the stage for future collaborations, with Canadian and

Guyanese stakeholders identifying key sectors for immediate action. Both countries expressed optimism about transforming these discussions into concrete partnerships, emphasising ethical practices and sustainable growth.

Canada's active participation in Guyana's transformation journey reaffirms its readiness to support the country's development goals. As Guyana continues to rise as a regional economic powerhouse, the Canadian delegation's visit has strengthened the foundation for a partnership poised to bring shared prosperity and innovation to both nations.



Girders being installed for Demerara River Bridge ahead of 2025 opening

IN a significant step toward the completion of the New Demerara River Bridge, Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, on Friday, witnessed the first of 472 precast girders for the landmark project. This marks a new phase in the bridge’s construction, signalling further advancement in Guyana’s infrastructural development.

The girder launcher has a capacity exceeding the girder’s weight, ensuring efficient operations.

Moving at a speed of just two kilometres per hour allows for precise placement.

Once the first eight girders are installed, the launcher will be repositioned and the process will repeat until all girders, including those for the central span, are in place. The installation of the first eight girders is expected to take about a day.

Precast girders are horizontal beams designed to support the bridge deck and bear the weight of traffic, making their installation a crucial milestone in the construction process. Minister Edghill attended the launch on the western end of the bridge and addressed the media, emphasising the significance of that phase.

“This is another substantial advancement in the bridge’s construction,” Minister Edghill remarked. “Each phase of construction brings us closer to realising the bridge, which will not only improve connectivity but also contribute to regional economic prosperity.”

The minister also shared that some key elements of the cable-stayed bridge have already arrived in the country, with the remainder expected soon. With an overall project completion rate of 75%,



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill and team on site at the western end of the bridge

he confirmed that the project remains on track for its March 2025 deadline, with no major setbacks reported thus far.

“The challenges that could have affected the delivery of the bridge on time, particularly the shipping of materials, have been successfully addressed,” said Edghill. “We are operating 24 hours a day, and progress has been continuous.”

The minister acknowledged the efforts of the 800+ workers involved in the project, noting that the construction com-

pany is fully mobilised to meet the deadlines. The only potential challenge, he pointed out, would be ensuring the workforce keeps pace with the demanding schedule.

By the end of December, the bridge’s two towers, currently standing at 73 metres, are expected to rise to 112 metres. Minister Edghill expressed his gratitude to the contractors, consultants, and his team at the Ministry of Public Works for their round-the-clock commit-

ment to the project’s success.

Patrick Thompson, the Chief Transport Officer, elaborated on the technical aspects of the girder installation. The first girder was connected to the girder launcher, which had been positioned on the bridge’s first two piers. He explained that each set of piers would be connected by eight girders, and the launcher would be moved in stages to install the remaining girders until the bridge’s middle span is reached.

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

World Guyanese Congress
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

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Guyana is making progress towards reducing violence against women

GUYANA has made major strides in reducing violence among women, particularly those who are migrants, sex workers and those identifying as transgender.

Speaking virtually before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on Friday, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, said the reduction of violence against women was achieved through a wide range of initiatives. The hearing, which focused on the impact of gender-based violence on migrants, sex workers and transgender women in Guyana, was attended by the parliamentary affairs minister.

“Recognising the unique challenges faced by these groups, the state party has worked tirelessly to ensure they receive equal protection, support and access to justice,” the minister said.

Minister Teixeira cited the passage of the Family Violence Act in 2024 which marked a significant advancement in the legal framework aimed at combatting domestic violence in Guyana. This crucial piece of legislation, she noted, offers an inclusive and progressive approach to protect victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

Replacing the Domestic Violence Act of 1996, the legislation includes a broader and more inclusive definition of family violence, fortifying legal protection, enhancing support services, and prioritising prevention.

The minister said that, “this new legislation introduces innovative provisions that extend legal protections to cohabiting couples, regardless of marital status, as well as to same-sex couples within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) communities, thus ensuring a more inclusive and equitable legal environment for all.”

Through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, victims are being offered critical support through the Survivor Advocate Programme and the Hope and Justice Centres. In 2023, 69 transgender women



Gail Teixeira — appeared virtually before a IACHR Commission on violence against women

accessed Gender Based Violence (GBV) services.

In addition, Minister Teixeira highlighted that the ministry’s support is inclusive, encompassing all women, regardless of nationality or gender identity, including specialised services for LGBTQ+ individuals.

“These programmes offer critical assistance including legal support, crisis counselling and safe shelter for survivors of violence,” the IACHR was informed.

Additionally, there are ongoing revisions to the Sexual Offences Act, as part of efforts to promote a greater level of inclusivity and equality. The government has also worked to strengthen inter-agency collaborations with the Guyana Police Force (GPF) and other partners to help tackle this social scourge.



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Flood-affected Abary residents get groceries, cleaning supplies

AGRICULTURE Minister Zulfikar Mustapha along with RDC and NDC Representatives from Region Five, on Saturday returned to Catherine/Abary, Mahaicony to conduct a follow-up visit with residents who were affected by flooding on Friday.

Minister Mustapha and the team also distributed food hampers and cleaning supplies to every household that was affected.

While engaging residents, Minister Mustapha said that a preliminary loss assessment was done in the area and that agricultural inputs and planting materials will be distributed to farmers free of cost. He also said that an additional assessment will be done to further verify the extent of damage to household appliances in the area.

It was also noticed that floodwaters had completely receded in the area as stop logs were installed to prevent further intrusion of water into the area. Residents thanked the government for offering assistance and for swift action



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha engages a resident of Abary

to ensure further flooding did not occur. On Friday, the Abary sluice door

suffered major damage as a result of the spring tide causing flood threats to low-

lying areas along the Belamy drain from Abary to Airy Hall, Mahaicony.

President, PM lead rebuilding efforts in Karasabai

LED by President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Prime Minister (PM) Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, a multi-stakeholder team commenced the reconstruction and repair of several houses in Karasabai, Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo), that were recently ravaged by a windstorm.

The team which included officials from the Regional Democratic Council (RDC), the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and Men on Mission (MoM) travelled to the South Pakaraima community and were able to complete a foundation for one of the houses that was completely ravaged by the storm.

Works to repair roofs, walls and other damaged infrastructure were also commenced on Friday. The team is expected to continue works throughout the weekend, to bring relief to the residents who were adversely affected.

"I'm very grateful, thankful for everything," Nina Cypria, a resident, shared as she expressed gratitude for the assistance being provided to help rebuild

her house.

It was just about a week and a half ago when Cypria's house was destroyed by the storm.

Authorities had confirmed that some 22 houses were destroyed, some residents also suffered minor injuries.

One resident noted that he and family had to set up camp nearby for shelter following the storm.

The man, whose name was not provided, shared that he was housing several students along with his wife at the time their house was destroyed.

"They have given me a great help, because I was staying in the house and the house was blown away where we were staying and we just made a camp."

Meanwhile Regional Executive Officer, Karl Singh, said the team on Friday successfully cast a foundation for a house and would be moving on to repair several other houses.

"The residents here are very grateful and I myself, as the Regional Executive Officer am very grateful for the

President and the Prime Minister being here assisting residents today," Singh said, further emphasising the impact of collaboration to assist residents in rebuilding their houses.

"This is basically history, because the President is here. It means a lot to our Amerindian people and this will definitely go a very, very far way," he added.

Expressing similar sentiments, Karasabai Toshao, David Albert, added: "I must say, on behalf of myself, on behalf of the people of Karasabai and my fellow village council how grateful we are for this help that we would have received.

President Ali, offering brief remarks, pointed out the ultimate goal was to ensure that every Guyanese is supported.

"Our only mission is to make life better for every family, for every Guyanese."

The Head of State further extended gratitude to the various officials and agencies that coordinated the rebuilding

exercise, recognising the strengths in collaboration.

"I want to thank the coordinator, the REO, the Chairman, of course, the Toshao, the leaders here. Our Prime Minister, our men and women in uniform, all the staff, all the workers, we are very pleased that the first foundation is over, and we are moving to the second one."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Phillips noted that the CDC, Guyana's premier disaster agency, which falls under the purview of his responsibilities, was proactive in its response.

The CDC immediately began assessments following the storm's passage on November 3.

"The CDC was able to bring in relief supplies on Monday the 4th and from the time we brought in relief supplies, tarpaulin, food stuff and some other supplies that the people would need to get back on their feet and we have not removed from the location."



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GuyOil records overwhelming response at first GuyExpo

THE Guyana Oil Company (GuyOil) is recognised as a market leader in high quality petroleum products including Super 95 motor gasoline, ultra-low sulfur diesel and Castrol lubricants.

It is Guyana's largest petroleum distribution company that imports, stores and distributes petroleum products in wholesale and retail quantities throughout Guyana.

GuyOil has a retail network of 56 service stations and three industrial storage facilities in all three counties and is conveniently positioned to meet the fuel needs of organisations nationwide. The company supplies Super 95 gasoline, low sulfur diesel, ultra-low sulfur diesel, kerosene and Castrol lubricants.

At GuyOil's booth at GuyExpo 2024 was Lynne Layne, Retail Sales Executive who told the Guyana Chronicle that the response to their booth has been overwhelming with the main attraction being the 'spin the wheel' feature to win prizes.

She stated that scores of people have been gathering at their booth to secure a spot to win something after having a chance to spin the wheel.

Layne said that the prizes up for grabs included umbrellas, key chains, openers, tumblers, pouches, free fuel, lubricants, free car wash, notepads and pens among other things.

She reported that it is their first-time having a booth and participating in the GuyExpo event. She said she feels encouraged by the fact that many people wanted to know more about their services and products.

Layne pointed out that the experience has been rewarding, as seeing the smiles and reactions on the faces of



Guyoil's Retail Sales Executive, Lynne Layne at GuyExpo 2024

people who had won prizes was priceless. Additionally, the hunger for information was indeed refreshing, she added.

The GuyOil executive noted that they sell gasoline along with branded Super 95, their best-seller, as well as, two types of diesels (ULSD and LSD)

which are both environmentally friendly. She informed this publication that they are the only company in Guyana that sells these products.

Ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) refers to diesel fuel containing less than 15ppm sulfur and there are multiple benefits to the engines that uses this type of fuel, she said.

Layne reported that GuyOil is a local company and all the sales goes back into our economy to foster the development of human resource and the country.

"GuyOil is here to stay. It is a household name noted for its high-quality products and services across the country, a local branded company which is the sole distributor of Castrol lubricants," she said.

Layne related that GuyExpo 2024 is the place to be to showcase products and services. She said it is also a way to give back to the people and a very good experience for the company and its staff.

This publication was also told that the GuyOil Aviation Services Inc. (GASI) was established in 2015 and is a subsidiary of the Guyana Oil Company Limited.

Its operations involve the importation, marketing and distribution of Jet-A fuel. GASI operates from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and the Providence terminal, East Bank Demerara.

GASI holds the International Air Transport Association (IATA) certification, underscoring its commitment to meeting international standards and best practices in the aviation industry, ensuring the highest quality and safety in importation, marketing and distribution of Jet-A fuel.

More hinterland homes turn onto solar power

SUPPORTED by the government, residents from across several hinterland and riverine communities have been reducing fuel use as more households are now turning to solar power.

Through the Hinterland Solar Home Installation Programme, solar panels have been distributed to several communities providing many with sustainable sources of electricity.

"We have received solar panels six months back and its beneficial to all the residents in Rukumuta Village. It is very useful to the children of our households. They can study at nights, do their assignments and even wake up in the morning and do their assignments and homework," a resident from Rukumuta Village, Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) recently shared during an engagement with officials.

The woman shared that residents have not been purchasing generators or fuel and most households rely on solar

panels.

"The resident are not focusing on buying any fuel or buying generator for homes since the government has helped us a lot."

Meanwhile, a massive project aimed at upgrading the water systems in Region Nine is underway. Works have already commenced on this project and once completed several communities will have access to safe potable water.

"The project has started, and it is almost completed, and we are very thankful to the Government of Guyana and also the collaboration of GWI from Lethem."

The resident explained that prior to this project, several residents were accessing gravitational water, which was not often safe for residents to use for household purposes.

Another resident shared that most recently there has been a lot of concentration placed on the development of

hinterland communities.

According to the man, in the community of Karasabai where he resides, several projects are underway to develop the health, education and recreational sectors.

Currently construction is underway to build the village's first secondary school and health facilities are also being upgraded.

"So far a lot of concertation has been placed into indigenous communities and more so especially Karasabai in health, education and sports," the man shared.

Just like Rukumuta, several households in Karasabai have also benefitted from the government's solar panel programme.

Aside from the many education, health and sports initiative, the distribution of solar panels has been a significant benefit.

He noted that many are now able to

have access to lights and electricity.

"If this can be an ongoing programme that would be really nice for persons that now building their house, for those who don't have."

He however lobbied for more sporting initiatives, highlighting the potential for many indigenous youths to participate in sporting activities.

"I would like to advocate that more effort, more focus being made in sports in the hinterland areas. We would have seen focus being made a lot in the coastal areas in term of sports and we can get a little bit more," he added.

Sharing similar sentiments, another resident pointed out that several indigenous communities are presently undergoing tremendous development.

According to the Karasabai resident, he is particularly excited about the construction of the village's first secondary school.

Guyana’s leadership in climate change recognised at COP29 Summit

THE Government of Guyana has been actively participating in critical negotiations at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), while also receiving international recognition for its global leadership in climate action.

Held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024, the conference has so far seen several events which highlighted Guyana’s contributions to advancing practical climate solutions, a press release from the Natural Resources Ministry noted.

Guyana was honoured with the Transparency Award at the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) event. The award, presented by Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, of the UNFCCC, recognised Guyana’s commitment to transparent climate reporting, the release noted.

As one of the first countries globally to undergo an in-country review of its BTR, Guyana has set a global precedent for enhancing the quality and transparency of climate data.

According to the release, Senior Director of Climate and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Pradeepa Bholanath, accepted the award on behalf of the country.

Building on its previous role as chair of the Carbon Markets Working Group, Guyana has now assumed the position of co-chair of the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership (FCLP), alongside the United Kingdom. The FCLP was established at COP26 in Glasgow after over 100 global leaders committed to ambitious action to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

This partnership, now comprising over 30 countries, aims to advance practical solutions, integrating forest conservation with sustainable development.

At the event announcing the new co-chairs, it was highlighted that Guyana had received US\$227 million in results-based payments from the Guyana-Norway Agreement and US\$237.5 million to date from its groundbreaking agreement with Hess Corporation for the sale of Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART-TREES) credits.

This represents one of the largest flows of forest carbon finance globally and served as a focal point for discussions among attendees.

Providing remarks, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, said, “The Government of Guyana is

pleased to join the United Kingdom as co-chairs of the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership.

The coming year will be vital for global efforts on forests, with Brazil’s hosting of the next COP bringing much-needed focus to this priority. The good news is that forest countries and communities are not lacking in ambition—what they need is to be able to access practical pathways to realise that ambition. Countries in the FCLP, as well as others, are already advancing a menu of solutions, so we must create the opportunity in the coming year to go further and faster.”



Pradeepa Bholanath receives the award to Guyana

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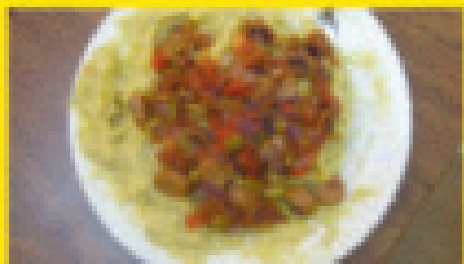
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Pottery on display

NANDKISHORE and Sara (N&S) Andrews of Wakenaam, Essequibo River, are no strangers to GuyExpo but this year, they received positive marketing requests and were able to network with other businesses to expand.

Nandkishore Andrews said that he is thankful for the opportunity to showcase and market his products, all locally produced with the best seller the wind chimes.

He related that he specialises in pottery in the form of plant pots, wind chimes, pen holders, tea lights, candle holders, bells, bedside lamps and much more.

The potter added that it was an inherited skill from his late father, who was a gifted, natural pottery-maker and he grew up learning the trade as a boy. He started to enhance his skill in pottery after he finished primary school and began earning from it at his home.

Andrews shared that his father, Jothis, a pottery artisan and cricket coach, passed away 12 years ago. By that time he and his brothers had already mastered the art of pottery.

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Facilitating wealth creation requires robust investments- President Ali

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has recently highlighted that there is a critical link between robust investments being made in the country and wealth creation.

The Head of State touched on this late last week while addressing the opening ceremony of GuyExpo 2024, where he noted that by focusing on human-resource development, people are enabled to achieve and contribute to the economy.

Outlining his government’s vision for empowering citizens, President Ali stated that wealth creation begins with, “investing in people; equipping them with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to thrive in a growing, modern economy.”

He added that the holistic development of citizens through affordable housing, accessible healthcare and quality education not only uplifts individuals, but transforms them into empowered citizens who can seize new opportunities and drive the spirit of enterprise.

“Wealth creation requires a forward-looking perspective, one that values and welcomes both local and foreign investment as a catalyst to economic transformation,” President Ali said.

In this regard, he added that it is not about being myopic or fearful of outside influence, but about understanding that investors take on significant risks to help build various industries’ infrastructure and workforce.

He said: “These investments lay the groundwork for a more dynamic economy, one that creates jobs, enhances our skills base and modernises key sectors.”

Dr Ali also noted that when the role of investors is appreciated and one recognises that they are bringing capital expertise and opportunities that often wouldn’t be possible otherwise, discouraging investments through misinformation or malicious criticism only



Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali

sets us back.

Meanwhile, he indicated that central to the government’s vision for economic growth is the expansion and modernisation of public infrastructure.

Dr Ali underscored the necessity of robust investments in areas such as roads, schools, healthcare facilities, drainage systems and bridges and added, “Facilitating wealth creation re-

quires robust investment in infrastructure.

“These are the pillars of an environment that enables enterprises to thrive, connecting people to markets, knowledge, and opportunities,” he expressed.

Defending his administration’s aggressive push for public infrastructural projects, the President disclosed, “That

is why I make no apologies for ensuring that our public infrastructure projects are accelerated, embraced, and delivered on time every single day.”

According to him, this requires consistent efforts and strong, bold leadership which the People’s Progressive Party/Civic administration is ready and willing to provide every day.

Students urged to apply for loan write-offs

AS the government continues to aggressively implement its Student Loan Write Off Programme, additional measures to improve ease of access to the initiative by prospective beneficiaries were announced today by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh.

This is according to a press release issued on Sunday in which Minister Singh urged persons to submit their applications as soon as possible, so as to facilitate timely processing of the applications in the interest of ensuring that all eligible persons benefit from the write off of their outstanding student loans.

In his announcement regarding the additional accessibility measures for the Student Loan Write Off Programme, the minister outlined that fully online submission of applications is now possible through the Ministry of Finance website at <https://studentloanwriteoff.gov.gy/apply/new>.

According to the release, he said that drop boxes for hard-copy submission of application forms will be placed at all 10 Regional Democratic Council offices countrywide with immediate effect, as well as the Ministry of Education at 26 Brickdam, and at the University of Guyana Tain Campus, Berbice.

Further, applicants may also mail in their applications via any post office to the Student Loan Agency. Persons are advised to address their envelopes to: Student Loan



Guyana Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh

Agency, PO Box 101544, Georgetown, and state their names and addresses aback of the envelope, the release said.

Application forms will also be available at all RDC and NDC offices countrywide

“Eligible applicants are reminded that they can still download the application form via the Ministry of Finance’s website on this link: <https://finance.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Student-Loan-Application-Form-2024-Final.pdf>.

“The hard copy of this form can also be submitted to the Student Loan Agency at the University of Guyana, Turkeyen,” the release. It added that it would be recalled that in May of this year, the government announced its Student Loan Write Off Programme.

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GDF assets being exposed to ‘enormous opportunities’: Ali

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali has said that as the transformation of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) continues, its human assets are being continuously exposed to tremendous opportunities that propels their personal growth and that of the country.

The Head of State made these remarks during a recent event where he addressed veterans and emphasised that a deliberate strategy had been crafted to move the GDF forward.

Dr Ali said that this carefully crafted strategy is not only ensuring the sovereignty of the country but it is also ensuring that in the building out of the Guyana Defence Force the human assets remain the centre of investment.

He noted that this is why the human assets in the GDF today are exposed to historical opportunities for training and better working conditions, among other things.

“That is why our human assets in the Guyana Defence Force today are exposed to enormous opportunities, historical opportunities in international training, education, access to degree and post-graduate programmes, better working conditions, improved welfare...,” he said.

President Ali said that the invest-



Members of the Guyana Defence Force

ments in all of these areas are being made to ensure that officers not only look forward to a long and enjoyable time as veterans but also to ensure that they enjoy the dignity of that service and retire with dignity.

This he said is what the govern-

ment is investing in.

Earlier this year, President Ali announced that GDF would undergo a comprehensive restructuring to enhance its technological and strategic capabilities and build the human resource capacity there.

At that time, he stressed the necessity for reorientation and reorganisation within the force to adapt to modern demands.

Dr Ali said that with the types of assets that are being invested in, there will be a need for structural changes.

WTC Georgetown to host Banking conference

THE World Trade Centre Georgetown (WTCG) is set to host a landmark conference on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at the Exhibition Centre, Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre.

Themed ‘Banking Made Easier’, the event, sponsored by Demerara Bank Limited (DBL), will focus on transformative developments in domestic and international banking.

Amid global shifts in business, advancements in banking technology, enhanced regulatory frameworks, and increasing demand for accessible financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the conference promises to be a timely and insightful gathering.

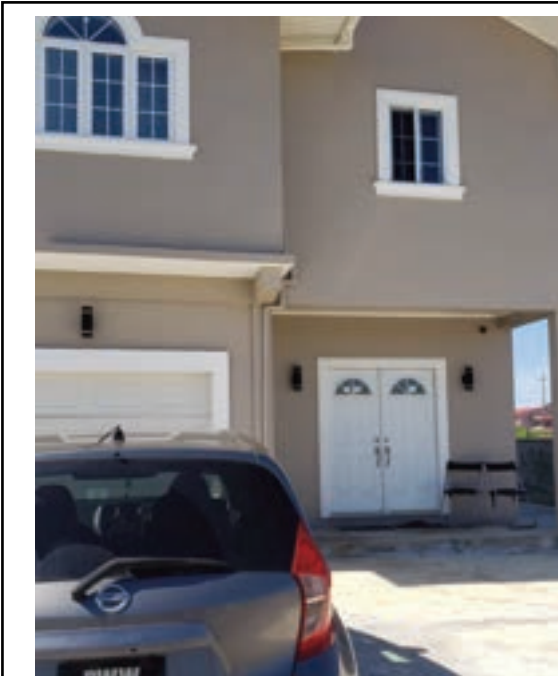
Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh will deliver the opening address. Other notable speakers include: Mr. Robin van Puyenbroek, Executive Director-Business Development, World Trade Centers Association, and Co-Chair of the US EXIM Bank’s Advisory Council on Small Business; Dr. Gobind Ganga, Governor of the Central

Bank of Guyana; Komal Samaroo, Chairman of Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL); and Mr. Dowlat Parbhu, CEO of Demerara Bank Limited (DBL).

The conference will feature discussions on a range of critical topics shaping the future of banking in

Guyana and its relationship to the global financial sector, including: Access to trade and business financing; Banking regulations and the anti-money laundering landscape in Guyana; Correspondent banking challenges and solutions; Banking instruments for diaspora communities;

Enhancements in international payment systems and money transfers; Demerara Bank’s innovative technological initiatives to improve accessibility and efficiency in: Lending, Deposit accounts, Online banking, Visa products, International payment instruments, and Digital banking for the diaspora.



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Naga human remains were on display at the UK's Pitt Rivers Museum before they were taken down

Indian Naga tribes seek to bring back ancestral skulls from UK

Last month, Ellen Konyak was shocked to discover that a 19th-Century skull from the north-eastern Indian state of Nagaland was up for auction in the UK.

The horned skull of a Naga tribesman was among thousands of items that European colonial administrators had collected from the state.

Konyak, a member of the Naga Forum for Reconciliation (NFR) which is making efforts to bring these human remains back home, says the news of the auction disturbed her.

“To see that people are still auctioning our ancestral human remains in the 21st Century was shocking,” she said. “It was very insensitive and deeply hurtful.”

The Swan at Tetsworth, the UK-based antique centre that put the skull on auction, advertised it as part of their “Curious Collector Sale”, valued between £3,500 (\$4,490) and £4,000 (\$5,132). Alongside the skull - which is from a Belgian collection – the sale listed shrunken heads from the Jivaro people of South America and skulls from the Ekoi people of West Africa.

Naga scholars and experts protested against the sale. The chief minister of Nagaland, Konyak’s home state, wrote a letter to the Indian foreign ministry describing the act as “dehumanising” and “continued colonial violence upon our people”.

The auction house withdrew the sale following the outcry, but for the Naga people the episode revived memories of their violent past, prompting them to renew calls for the repatriation of their ancestral remains stored or displayed far from their homeland.

Scholars suggest that some of these human remains were bartered items or gifts, but others may have been taken away without the consent of their owners.

Naga human remains were on display at the UK's Pitt Rivers Museum before they were taken down in 2020

Alok Kumar Kanungo, a scholar of Naga culture, estimates that the UK’s public museums and private collections alone hold around 50,000 Naga objects.

Oxford University's Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM), which has the largest Naga collection, features approximately 6,550 items taken from the

state, including 41 human remains. The museum also has human remains from several other states of British India.

But in recent years, experts say, with growing ethical concerns about collection, sale and display of human remains, many collectors are reconsidering their approach.

Kanungo says human remains have become “white elephants” for museums.

“They are no longer an object that can be disposed of or possessed by its owners; no longer a source of tourists’ money; can no longer be used to present Naga peoples as ‘uncivilised’; and of late have become an emotionally and politically charged issue.”

So, museums have started returning human remains from communities such as the Maori tribes of New Zealand, the Mudan warriors of Taiwan, the Aboriginal people of Australia and the Native Hawaiians.

In 2019, PRM told the BBC that it had returned 22 such objects.

A museum spokesperson told the BBC that the figure has now gone up to 35. “So far these [objects] have all been returned to Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada.”

A graphic novel discusses Naga people's ancestral remains on display in far away museums

As part of an ethical review, the museum removed Naga skulls from public display in 2020 and placed them in storage. This is when FNR demanded their repatriation for the first time.

The museum said it was yet to receive a formal claim from Naga descendants and the processes to return human remains "can take between 18 months and several years, depending on the complexity of the case".

Repatriating human remains is more complicated than returning artefacts. It requires extensive research to determine whether the items were collected ethically, to identify descendants and to navigate complex international regulations on movement of human remains.

The Naga forum has formed a group called Recover, Restore and Decolonise under anthropologists Dolly Kikon and Arkotong Longkumer to facilitate returns.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): When the Sun moves into one of the better areas of your chart on Thursday your confidence and your energy levels will soar. Today though you must turn your attention to sorting out a problem for someone you love. They’ve tied themselves up in knots again.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Let everyone around you know that you will not be pushed around and you will not be dictated to. The more insistent others become that you change your ways the more you must dig in your heels and refuse to budge. You’re good at that.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): As Pluto moves into one of the more outgoing areas of your chart today you won’t be shy about telling people what to think and how to behave. Don’t be too pushy though or you risk turning against you someone who could be a really good friend.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): The more you are pressed to make an instant decision about a money matter or business issue the more you must hold off until you have more information. The planets warn that someone is trying to maneuver you in a way that only benefits them.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): As power planet Pluto moves into the partnership area of your chart today you must be ready to fight off attempts to force you to do things you don’t feel comfortable with. Others may outrank you but you are not obliged to obey their orders.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): You may be determined to have your say, and that’s a good thing, but the planets indicate you will do better in the long-term if you tone down your act a bit now. If you draw attention to yourself today it could end badly for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): If that little voice at the back of your head tells you to avoid certain people you must listen to what it says so you don’t get dragged into a situation that can only end in tears. Be especially wary of people who claim to know all the answers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): The Sun in your sign links with Neptune today, encouraging you to be generous with your time and your energy. If you go out of your way to help someone in need now the universe will go out of its way to help you later on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): If you get through the day without losing your temper you will have done very well indeed. Someone who has been annoying you for quite a long time is about to be reminded that if you mess with a Fire sign you risk getting burned!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): You need to be on your guard today as someone will try to play on your fears and nudge you towards making a silly mistake. Now that you know that you can take steps to keep them at arm’s length. You don’t HAVE to interact with them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Pluto’s move into your sign today marks the start of a new phase, one in which you will be required to take on more responsibility and step up to a leadership role. Don’t doubt yourself. You’ve got what it takes to reach the very top.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Question everything you see and hear on the work front over the next 24 hours. The planets warn that even people whose advice has been good for you in the past may try to mislead you, because they themselves have been misled by others.

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Guyana Dominates 2024 CSEC and CAPE Exams, Tops the Caribbean

Guyana has once again secured top honors in the 2024 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) for the May/June session. Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand, shared the exciting news on Facebook after receiving the results from the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

The country led the region with outstanding performances in both exams, with all of the top students coming from Queen’s College. This achievement highlights the exceptional standard of education at the institution and underscores the continued academic excellence in Guyana.

Aniyah Couchman was recognized as the most outstanding overall CAPE student and the top student in natural sciences, while Dave Chowtie earned the title of most outstanding overall student at the CSEC level, as well as the highest achiever in humanities.

Couchman previously achieved 11 grade ones, a grade two in two units, and a grade three in one unit, while Chowtie attained an impressive 23 grade ones and six grade twos.

Guyana also excelled in other categories, with students across the country recognized as top performers.

Asiyah Karim from I.S.A. Islamic School was named the most outstanding business student in the Caribbean, earning 14 grade ones. Venisha Lall from Anna Regina Secondary School on the Essequibo Coast achieved top honours in Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) with 18 grade ones, eight grade twos, and three grade threes.



Chitra Prabhu from Saraswati Vidya Niketan School in Region Three was acknowledged as the most outstanding student in sciences, securing 17 grade ones, two grade twos, and one grade three.

Carlana Alexander from St Rose’s High School was recognised as the top

student for Agricultural Science (double award) and will receive her award later in the year when CXC meets in St Lucia.

“As you can see, we have students from schools all across the country which speaks about the equity and equality that we have been trying to roll out and implement,” the minister expressed.

Manickchand commended the students, teachers, parents, and families for their support.

This marks the fifth consecutive year that Guyanese students have dominated the region’s CSEC and CAPE results, with similar successes in 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2020.

A&B tells Sandals, ‘take your hotels elsewhere’

Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda has strongly criticized Sandals Resorts International (SRI), urging the Jamaica-based luxury hotel chain to consider removing its property from the twin-island nation if it continues its “policy” of avoiding taxes.

Speaking on his radio program over the weekend, Browne expressed frustration over what he claims is a pattern by Sandals of withholding taxes owed to the government, including approximately EC\$30 million (US\$75.3 million) in Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) collected at its Sandals Grande Antigua resort.

“I don’t understand why these so-called investors feel that they are the only game in town and are the only stakeholders to benefit,” Browne said, referencing the 373-room, six-star resort. “They try to wring every ounce of revenue out of the business and they don’t want the government to get anything in the form of taxes. I have been

through this already with Sandals, and I don’t want to go down that road with them again,” he added.

Browne’s comments follow a recent issue Sandals encountered in the Bahamas, where the company also had to settle outstanding tax payments. He alleged that Sandals has a history of tax-related disputes across the Caribbean, suggesting the company’s approach puts undue strain on local economies.

“Everywhere they go, this is their modus operandi!” Browne declared, criticizing Sandals for focusing solely on profits. He specifically addressed Sandals’ executive chairman, Adam Stewart, stating, “Sandals is not the only stakeholder when you open your hotels in a Caribbean country; you have staff who deserve a good pay; you have the government who ought to get its fair share of taxes. You cannot rely exclusively on exploiting concessions and to push governments into the ground; you all need to stop it!”



Gaston Browne

Browne likened Sandals’ business model to a “colonialist” approach that exploits local resources without fair compensation, an accusation he says is deeply disappointing given Sandals’ status as a beloved Caribbean brand. “This is a colonialist model that does not work for the Caribbean people,” he said. “You should be proud to be able

to say that your workers are making a decent salary so that they could afford a mortgage, a good car, etc. It’s not about you expanding while others are suffering.”

The Prime Minister emphasized that low wages in the hospitality sector have made it challenging for hotels to attract local workers, while Sandals continues to profit significantly. “Every time there is an assessment, you come with all kinds of reasons why you should not be paying,” he said. “I’m tired of it. If this is going to be your attitude going forward, where only Sandals benefits, then take your hotel elsewhere; and I am very serious.”

SRI has not yet issued a response to Browne’s comments. The Prime Minister noted that he was “shocked” to learn of Sandals’ alleged lack of cooperation with the Inland Revenue Department and reiterated that this tax issue is not unique to Antigua and Barbuda but affects other Caribbean countries where Sandals operates.

UWI ranked among the world’s best universities for sixth year

For the sixth consecutive year, the University of the West Indies (UWI) has earned a position in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, announced in its 2025 edition last month.

UWI is listed among 2,092 of the world’s top universities, representing a select group from an estimated 32,000 institutions worldwide.

UWI’s entry into THE rankings began in 2018 as a strategic effort to bolster the university’s international reputation and secure funding through increased student enrollment and re-search grants. Since then, the university has held its place among the top 5% of global institutions, highlighting its growing influence and commitment to the Caribbean region.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles noted, “The UWI’s consistent presence in these rankings reflects our long-standing commitment to academic excellence and leadership. As the higher education landscape rapidly changes, driven by increased competition and reduced funding, universities must innovate to succeed.”

He continued: “The UWI recognises these challenges and is taking proactive steps to enhance its standing regionally and globally. While we see rankings as a measure of our quality



im-provements, we also understand that positions can fluctuate yearly. In this dynamic environment, we remain committed to reviewing and adjusting our quality standards and processes to meet evolving ranking criteria.”

Professor Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Academic-Industry Partnerships, added that UWI’s strong performance in the “Teaching” and “International Outlook” indicators underscores its commitment to accessibility

The University of the West Indies and international engagement, two pillars of the university’s mission. Despite the challenges posed by a recent shift in THE’s ranking methodology—which now emphasizes “Research Quality” over the previous “Citation” indicator—UWI continues to adapt its approach to balance regionally relevant research with global standards.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings evaluates institutions on five core areas: teaching,

re-search, citations, industry income, and international outlook. This year, nearly 2,100 universities from 115 countries were ranked, making it the most competitive assessment yet. UWI remains the only Caribbean university to meet THE’s criteria, which include publishing a minimum of 1,000 academic papers over five years and offering a diverse curriculum that includes undergraduate programs across multiple disciplines.

JA goes after delinquent student loans in USA

Jamaicans with outstanding student loans who migrate to the United States could encounter obstacles when updating or renewing their immigration status, due to a recent partnership between the Jamaican and U.S. governments aimed at tracking down borrowers with unpaid debts.

Cheryl Surjue, Manager of the Loan Servicing Department at Jamaica’s Students’ Loan Bureau (SLB), told JIS News that the new arrangement is designed to help identify Jamaican nationals in the U.S. who have outstanding student loan balances. Surjue explained that this partnership addresses cases where professionals migrate and default on their loans, leaving the SLB with no way to track them. “When they leave, we are not able to fully track their whereabouts, [and] those loans tend to go bad,” she said.

As part of this collaboration, U.S. immigration authorities will check with the SLB to verify whether Jamaicans applying for visa renewals have any outstanding student loans. “Persons who may have migrated on the J1 visa and want to renew their status with the U.S., before they can actually do that, there’s an arrangement where the U.S. government needs to find out from us (Jamaica) if this person is indebted to the



Government,” Surjue added.

According to Surjue, updating one’s U.S. immigration status may require fully settling any outstanding loan, not just bringing payments up to date. “It is at this point that you’ll find most of these beneficiaries will actually start servicing their loans, because we did not know and they didn’t communicate with us that they migrated,” she explained.

She noted that this cross-border

arrangement has already helped the SLB recover overdue loan payments but cautioned borrowers to act responsibly by notifying the SLB of their migration plans and making arrangements to repay their loans before they become delinquent. “Before you get to that point, we want persons to be responsible borrowers. This is why we’ve actually launched our Financial Literacy Programme, to know how we can assist and how

the beneficiaries may go about repaying their loan and not wait until it gets to that point of the loan being bad or we have to solicit debt collectors to try and locate you,” Surjue emphasized.

Through this program and the U.S. partnership, the SLB aims to encourage Jamaican borrowers abroad to honor their debt obligations, so that they are not caught off guard when renewing their immigration status.

Grenada PM Dikon Mitchell recognized on TIME100 Climate list

TIME has named Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell to the 2024 TIME100 Climate list highlighting his leadership and commitment to addressing the global climate crisis. The TIME100 Climate list recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to climate action, and this honor places Mitchell among other influential figures dedicated to sustainable solutions.

Mitchell has been vocal about the importance of addressing climate change, especially given its disproportionate impact on small island nations like Grenada. His leadership in advocating for stronger climate policies and for international cooperation on environmental issues is crucial, as Caribbean nations are often on the frontlines of climate-related disasters such as hurricanes and rising sea levels.

“We have lived through the destructive power of hurricanes, which can erase decades of progress in just a few minutes, but we have also seen that when communities are prepared—we can save lives and livelihoods,” Mitchell told the U.N. “We are a living lab on the front lines of a global challenge.”

“Dickon Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada since 2022, knows all too well the devastation a natural disaster can visit upon a small island nation like his.” The article states “He also understands why climate resiliency is so urgent for countries facing financial and structural ruin. This July, when Hurricane Beryl made landfall on the Grenadian islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique as a Category 4 tropical cy-



Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell

clone, the destruction was immense: roofs torn from homes, boats scattered across the land, public water supplies and health infrastructure decimated. Three people were killed.”

Because of the scale of that wreckage, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) made a record \$44 million payment to Grenada to help it rebuild—and that allowed Mitchell to activate a first-of-its-kind debt clause postponing \$30 million in repayments from the Grenadian government to private investors, including U.S. investment firms Franklin Templeton and T. Rowe Price. While the debt will still be paid back later, the near-term flexibility al-

lowed Mitchell’s government to increase its liquidity and put the additional resources to disaster relief—a form of climate resiliency that had never before been tested.

“With international partnership we developed innovative financial tools... which allow us to receive financial payouts and recover more swiftly from natural disasters,” Mitchell told the United Nations General Assembly in September as he advocated for more relief. “These efforts reflect more than just economic policy; they show that small nations like Grenada can develop sophisticated solutions to the challenges we face.”

The world has taken notice. Based

on Grenada’s rebuilding efforts, countries like Spain are now advocating that wealthy nations across the globe offer these types of pause clauses to help developing countries recover. It’s a loan structure the World Bank has recently been working on as well.

“We have lived through the destructive power of hurricanes, which can erase decades of progress in just a few minutes, but we have also seen that when communities are prepared—we can save lives and livelihoods,” Mitchell told the U.N. “We are a living lab on the front lines of a global challenge.”

Dominica to honour Modi with national award

Dominica is set to bestow its highest national honor, the Dominica Award of Honor, upon Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the country. The prestigious award will be presented during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit, scheduled to take place from November 19 to 21, 2024, in Georgetown, Guyana.

Dominica’s President, Syvanie Burton, will preside over the ceremony. The award highlights Modi’s significant support to Dominica, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, India donated 70,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Dominica in February 2021, playing a critical role in the nation’s pandemic response.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit expressed his gratitude, emphasizing that the award reflects Dominica’s deep appreciation for Prime Minister Modi’s steadfast support during the difficult global health crisis.

“Prime Minister Modi has been a true partner to Dominica, particularly during our time of need amid a global health crisis. It is an honour to present him with Dominica’s highest national accolade as a sym-

bol of our gratitude for his support and as a reflection of the strong ties between our countries,” Skerrit said.

“We look forward to building on this partnership and advancing our shared vision of progress and resilience.”

In accepting the award, Prime Minister Modi reiterated the importance of global cooperation in tackling critical challenges such as climate change and geopolitical conflicts. He reaffirmed India’s commitment to collaborating with Dominica and other Caribbean nations to address these urgent issues.

The award also highlights India’s broader contributions to Dominica, including support in education, information technology, and efforts to enhance climate resilience and sustainable development. This recognition reflects the strengthening of bilateral ties between India and Dominica and underscores the broader collaboration between India and the Caribbean region

Both President Syvanie Burton and PM Skerrit are expected to attend the India-CARICOM Summit. The summit is a key diplomatic event that brings together leaders from India and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to discuss and strengthen ties



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

across various sectors, including trade, development, climate change, education, and healthcare. The summit serves as a platform for enhancing bilateral relations and fostering deeper cooperation between India and the CARICOM member states.

‘Man A Yaad’ Audley Shaw says he’s stepping aside from JA politics

Veteran Jamaican politician and Member of Parliament (MP) Audley Shaw, affectionately known as “Man A Yaad,” has announced his departure from representational politics, capping off a remarkable 31-year career.

The long-serving MP for Manchester North East confirmed his decision during an interview with the Jamaica Observer, ending months of speculation about his future.

“I will not be seeking re-election,” the 72-year-old politician stated. “I’m the longest-serving MP for the Parish of Manchester. On March 30 this year, I’ve served 31 years. Winston Jones of the PNP held the record before me with 25 years, but I am now senior to him by six years.”

Known for his larger-than-life personality and the moniker “Man A Yaad,” Shaw has been a mainstay of Jamaican politics. His extensive career includes leadership roles as Minister of Transport and Mining since 2022 and previous portfolios such as Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce (2020–2022) and Minister of Finance and the Public Service (2007–2012; 2016–2018).

Beyond his ministerial duties, Shaw played an instrumental role in attracting international investments during his time as Director of Public Relations at Jamaica National Investment Promotions



Jamaican Minister of Finance Audley Shaw

Limited (JNIP) in the 1980s. He entered Parliament in 1993, following an appointment to the Senate by Edward Seaga in 1989, and has since been a steadfast figure within the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), where he served as General Secretary, Deputy Leader, and Chairman of the Public Accounts Com-

mittee. Shaw’s achievements have been widely recognized, including receiving the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander in 2013 for his dedication to public service. His economic leadership as Minister of Finance saw him navigating fiscal reforms during critical

periods in Jamaica’s history. As Shaw steps aside, the contest to succeed him in Manchester North East is taking shape. Educator Hidran McKulsky, principal of Holmwood Technical High School, and Craighead Division Councillor Omar Miller have both expressed interest in securing the JLP nomination. Meanwhile, the People’s National Party (PNP) is positioning Valenton Wint for a potential bid to reclaim the seat.

Shaw leaves Manchester North East, which includes the divisions of Christiana, Walderston, and Craighead, as a JLP stronghold. In the 2020 General Election, he won his seventh term with an impressive 3,900-vote margin, his largest to date.

With his signature charisma and deep connection to the people of Manchester, Shaw’s departure marks the end of an era. His nickname, “Man A Yaad,” became synonymous with his reputation as a people’s champion, emphasizing his commitment to grassroots engagement and his constituents’ welfare.

As Audley Shaw transitions out of representational politics, his legacy remains firmly rooted in his decades-long service to Jamaica, characterized by economic stewardship, political resilience, and a genuine connection with the Jamaican people.

JA announces life insurance plan for creatives

Over 4,400 entertainers and creatives in Jamaica now have access to life insurance through the newly launched Jamaica Entertainers and Creatives Insurance Plan (JECIP).

The program, unveiled in a contract signing ceremony on November 12 at the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, was spearheaded by Portfolio Minister Hon. Olivia Grange.

The JECIP, administered by Guardian Life Insurance Group, offers free life insurance coverage to registered members of the National Registry of Entertainment and Creative Industries Practitioners (E-Registry). Coverage extends to individuals aged 6 to 75, with an option to continue until age 99.

Minister Grange emphasized the importance of this initiative for the nation’s entertainment community, urging eligible individuals to enroll. “We are working so that the situation we faced in 2017/2018 will not be repeated,” she said. “In that year, 19 entertainers died, 70 percent of whom had inadequate insurance coverage, leaving them unable to afford proper funeral arrangements. This was partic-



Government and entertainers join together to celebrate the launch of the life insurance plan

ularly embarrassing, as many of these cultural practitioners have given so much to our country.”

Minister Grange stressed the need for financial preparedness, noting, “I don’t like to see us having to pass the hat around to bury anybody. It is important that you take this very, very seriously.”

Earlier this year, the Ministry’s Entertainment Division surveyed 142 individuals on the E-Registry, finding that most expressed interest in group life insurance but were unable to afford it. This feedback led to the creation of JECIP as a non-contributory plan,

meaning no monthly contributions are required from registered participants.

The initiative also includes a phase two, scheduled for launch in January 2025, that will introduce group health insurance covering hospitalization, surgery, accidents, maternity, major medical expenses, and emergency care for those touring overseas.

Eric Hosin, Guardian Life’s Group Head of Life, Health, and Pensions, expressed the company’s commitment to the program, saying, “We are very pleased to be a part of this, because we know how important it is that you take care of your families.”

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Dione Jennings, underscored the government’s commitment to social protection, noting, “The Ministry... joins with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment, and Sport in a united mission to ensure that every Jamaican has access to the social protection they deserve, and no one is left behind.”

Jamaican entertainers and creatives who wish to participate are encouraged to register online or at the Entertainment Ministry’s offices.

Tugboat ‘arrested’ in Angola in probe of Tobago oil spill

T&T Prime Minister Keith Rowley says the seizure of the tugboat Solo Creed is important in terms of efforts to secure compensation for efforts to clean up an oil spill which occurred in the waters off Cove in Tobago on February 7.

The Solo Creed was towing the barge Gulfstream which got loose and was found overturned and stuck on a reef, leaking bunker fuel into the ocean.

Dr Rowley also said efforts continue to identify the owners of the Solo Creed.

He made these statements in the House of Representatives on November 18.

As he concluded the budget debate in the Senate on October 23, Finance Minister Colm Imbert announced that the Solo Creed had been seized in Angola.

In a statement on October 24, the Energy Ministry said arrest proceedings were filed in Angola after a "relentless pursuit" of the Solo Creed by the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs with assistance and support of the Coast Guard and the Maritime Division of the Works and Transport Ministry.

"The government will continue to pursue all legal proceedings in TT and elsewhere to ensure that the rights and interests of the people are protected and vindicated."

The statement said the ministry will take the necessary steps to hold the owners and any person interested in the ves-



The Solo Creed was reportedly towing the oil-laden barge than sank in Tobago earlier this year

sel accountable for the damage caused in Tobago.

Rowley said he believed that Imbert "in his exuberance was trying to encourage his colleagues that at sometimes, there is something that we can celebrate about Trinidad and Tobago."

Rowley said, "The vessel and those associated with it were operating illegally and took many steps to hide their identities, including, it appears, to falsify relevant documents."

He added that government continues to seek the assistance of other governments and international bodies in ascertaining this information.

Rowley told MPs that two weeks ago, Energy Minister Stuart Young dis-

cussed various options with the International Oil Compensation (IOPC) Fund in London for further assistance in identifying those who were responsible for oil spill.

Rowley said it will not be easy to trace the identity of these people.

But he added, "The government is on the job and if they are to be found, we will find them. This is something that goes on all the time in international maritime trade."

Rowley said, "At least we have the vessel and we know what happened with respect to the situation (oil spill), and the IOPC is working with us to finalise our compensation."

Couva South MP Rudranath Indars-

ingh asked what benefit does the population gain from the seizure of the Solo Creed but its owner or owners remain unknown and at large.

Rowley said, "If we are to make a successful claim with the IOPC, we have to show that we have taken all reasonable steps to identify the perpetrators of this illegal action against us."

He said it is wrong for anyone to claim that the seizure of the Solo Creed was useless.

"We are doing what is required to be done, which is to find out who was responsible for the cargo (on the Gulfstream) and who was responsible to the people of TT (for the oil spill)."

Pride TT wants justice for murdered activist

Pride TT is calling for swift justice for the LGBTQIA+ community and loved ones of activist Kennty Mitchell, who was gunned down outside his Ste Madeleine home on Friday night.

A Pride TT release described Mitchell as a brave and respected member of the LGBTQIA+ community in TT, which is "once again grieving the senseless loss of one of our own."

"We hope that Kennty's tragic death does not become just another forgotten statistic in a long list of unresolved acts of violence against members of our community. We urge the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to fully investigate his murder and bring those responsible to justice so that Kennty's family and the LGBTQIA+ community can find the closure and justice they deserve."

The organisation said Mitchell's life should not be defined by how he died but by his powerful legacy of courage, strength and unwavering conviction to live authentically in a society that often sought to silence him.



Kennty Mitchell

"Kennty's refusal to remain quiet in the face of discrimination and injustice serves as a bold reminder to all LGBTQIA+ people: never allow oppression to stifle your existence, your voice, or your dreams."

"His legal victory against police discrimination was a monumental mo-

ment in our fight for equality, proving that LGBTQIA+ individuals have the right to live peacefully and without fear of prejudice, hate, or violence in their own country."

It said Mitchell's activism also provided a beacon of hope and support for countless individuals, and his contributions were instrumental in elevating the visibility and rights of openly LGBTQIA+ citizens.

"Kennty played a pivotal role in Pride TT's call to expand Pride celebrations into South Trinidad by helping to co-ordinate and execute some of the activities following our community outreach town halls. He will be profoundly missed by his community and all those who were inspired by his work."

Another LGBTQIA+ organisation, Queer Corner Caribbean, offered condolences to Mitchell's loved ones, and condemned a newspaper report on the incident (not in Newsday) that it said was "disrespectful and unnecessary."

"Referring to Kennty as a 'self-proclaimed homosexual' in the opening

line of the article was both disrespectful and unnecessary. Such phrasing undermines his identity and contributions as an activist, perpetuating harmful stereotypes about LGBTQ+ people.

"Words carry power, and careless language in reporting can alienate and stigmatise the very communities being discussed."

It said the media house's approach in this instance highlighted the urgent need for sensitivity and awareness when covering issues affecting marginalised groups. It urged the company to take immediate steps to improve its editorial standards by consulting LGBTQ+ advocacy organisations to better understand the impact of language choices. "Accurate and respectful reporting is critical to fostering understanding and inclusion."

Mitchell, 47, was gunned down outside his Richie Street, Ste Madeleine home around 11.30 pm on Friday.

Crime scene investigators found eight spent nine-millimetre shells near Mitchell's body.

West Indies pull one back in fourth T20 vs England

WEST Indies finally got off the mark in the five-match T20 series against England, winning the fourth encounter by five wickets in a high-scoring match at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St Lucia on November 16. England now lead the series 3-1 with one match to play.

England posted a healthy 218/5 in 20 overs batting first and West Indies responded with 221/5 in 19 overs. The West Indies top-order batting has been struggling during the series, which led to England winning the first three matches convincingly.

West Indies got a destructive opening stand from Evin Lewis and Shai Hope as the pair put on 136 for the first wicket. In the first three matches, West Indies lost wickets during the powerplay and struggled to score a competitive total batting first.

Lewis and Hope found the boundaries regularly on this occasion as they combined to hit 11 fours and ten sixes in nine overs. Spinner Rehan Ahmed then led the fightback with two wickets in the tenth over. In the first ball of the over, Lewis was dismissed for 68 and on the very next ball Hope was run out for 54. Lewis struck four fours and seven sixes in his 31-ball innings and Hope belted seven fours and three sixes in his 24-ball knock.

It was three wickets in three balls for England as Pooran was bowled for duck by Ahmed.

England were now back in the contest with the score 136/3 in the tenth over. Windies captain Rovman Powell played a crucial knock as his 38 off 23 balls helped push his team closer to the target. After Powell fell, Sherfane Rutherford's 29 not out off 17 with three sixes ensured West Indies got over the line with one over to spare.

Batting first, Jacob Bethell struck an unbeaten 62 off 32 deliveries (four fours, five sixes) to propel England past 200. Opener Phil Salt cracked 55 off 35 and captain Jos Buttler smacked 38 off 23 to boost the total.

The Windies' bowling figures did not make for pretty reading as 2/40 in four overs from left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie was the best effort on the day. Fellow left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, who has had a promising series, had a forgettable day as he ended with 0/40 in three overs.

The final match of the series will be played on November 17 from 4 pm in St Lucia.

SCOREBOARD
ENGLAND
+Phil Salt c +Pooran b Chase*55
Will Jacks c +Pooran b Joseph*25
*Jos Buttler c Chase b Motie*38
Jacob Bethell not out*62
Liam Livingstone c Hetmyer b Motie*4
Sam Curran run out*24



West Indies' Shai Hope plays a shot from a delivery of England's Sam Curran

Extras (b1, lb6, nb1, w2)*10	Shai Hope run out*54	Fall of wickets: 1-136, 2-136, 3-
TOTAL (five wickets; 20	+Nicholas Pooran b Ahmed*0	136, 4-172, 5-196.
overs)*218	*Rovman Powell lbw b Turner*38	Bowling: Turner 4-0-42-1, Mah-
Did not bat: Dan Mousley, Jamie	Shimron Hetmyer c Livingstone b	mood 4-1-24-0, Curran 3-0-41-0, Mous-
Overton, Saqib Mahmood, Rehan	Ahmed*7	ley 3-0-36-0, Ahmed 4-0-43-3,
Ahmed, John Turner.	Sherfane Rutherford not out*29	Livingstone 1-0-30-0.
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-102, 3-129,	Roston Chase not out*9	Toss: England.
4-155, 5-218.	Extras (lb5, w11)*16	Result: West Indies won by five
Bowling: McCoy 4-0-40-0, Joseph	TOTAL (five wickets; 20	wickets and trail 1-3 in the best-of-five
4-0-33-1, Hosein 3-0-40-0, Motie 4-0-	overs)*221	series.
40-2, Powell 1-0-11-0, Chase 4-0-47-1.	Did not bat: Gudakesh Motie,	Player-of-the-Match: Shai Hope.
WEST INDIES	Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Obed	Umpires: Gregory Brathwaite,
Evin Lewis c Mousley b Ahmed*68	McCoy.	Zahid Bassarath.

Rahkeem Cornwall leads Leewards into Super50

CAPTAIN and man-of-the-match Rahkeem Cornwall secured Leeward Islands Hurricanes' spot in the CG United Super 50 Cup semifinals with a brilliant all-round performance, in a six-wicket victory against the struggling Combined Campuses and Colleges on November 17.

Playing at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, and with the threat of rain looming, Cornwall proved decisive with both bat and ball to pick up a decisive win, to finish third at the end of the preliminary phase.

The Windward Island Volcanoes were hoping to sneak into the top four, but their match against the West Indies Academy, at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground, UWI, St Augustine, was abandoned due to the rain. Windwards finished in sixth place.

Leewards, who were fourth heading into the final round, handled their business efficiently against CCC to move into third.

Batting first after being inserted, CCC were bundled out for just 151 in 36 overs.

After early inroads by left-arm spinner Karima Gore and pacer Oshane Thomas, Cornwall cleaned up the CCC middle- and lower order to finish with astonishing figures of six wickets for 20 runs from six destructive overs.

Only Jonathan Drakes and Shaqkere Parris could hold their head up as the CCC lineup lived up their name and



Leewards batsman Rahkeem Cornwall.

played like schoolboys. Drakes stroked 48 off 56 balls, including six boundaries, before being caught by Kadeem Henry off Cornwall.

Cornwall had a hand in Parris' dismissal too, catching him for 38 off "leggie" Hayden Walsh. After they were removed, Cornwall wrapped up the tail quickly.

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