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Cricket lovely Cricket

The 30th and final regular season fixture of this year's Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) saw reigning champions Guyana Amazon Warriors (pictured) suffer a heavy 74 run defeat at the hands of the Trinbago

Knight Riders on home turf in Providence, on Sunday night. Despite this loss the Amazon Warriors finished top of the table and was facing the St Lucia Kings in Qualifier 1 on Wednesday as we went to press.

The Barbados Royals eliminated TKR from a shot at the finals, and will now face the winner of Wednesday's match at the finals on Sunday at Guyana's Providence Stadium.

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Mia to world leaders: time for a reset

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley told leaders at the United Nations General Assembly that over the last four years the world has faced 'poly-crises.'

"We continue to wrestle with the climate crisis as a human family, We grapple with the legacy of the pandemic," she said, adding that "we are now regrettably confronted by multiple theaters of war and scenes of horror

and famine flowing from that war, armed conflict, instead of pursuing the development of citizens of every country."

Citing Ukraine and Gaza, as well as Sudan, Ms. Mottley said that the world could not "afford the distraction of war," saying that, "if ever there was a time to pause and to reset, it is now collectively, collectively as an international community and individually, as leaders in each of our countries."

She said it was incumbent on leaders to "deliver new opportunities and solutions to these crises which dampen economic growth, which restrict the ambitions of our people and numb our sense of the beauty and goodness that the world ought to be offering."



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Mia Mottley named as one of two the new Co-Chairs for SDG Advocates group

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres named Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and her Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau as new co-chairs of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates group amidst the growing number of development crises facing the world.

“The Sustainable Development Goals are the world’s blueprint to build a healthier, greener, and sustainable future by 2030. With the clock ticking and multiple crises driving us further off track, we must do everything in our power to deliver the SDGs,” said Guterres, adding “I’m pleased that Prime Minister Mottley and Prime Minister Trudeau will help lead advocacy to do just that”.

Mottley said it was necessary to “seize the moment to move forward, together, to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the end of the Decade of Action and Delivery on the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has campaigned extensively for climate action and debt sustainability in middle-income countries and small states. In 2021, she was awarded the Champions of the Earth Award for her leadership.

Prime Minister Trudeau has been a strong advocate for climate action and nature protection, the empowerment of women and girls around the world, and ensuring an inclusive and resilient re-



Prime-Ministers-Mia-Mottley-and-Justin-Trudeau

covery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“To build a better future for people and the planet, we must all place the values of inclusion and sustainability at the heart of everything we do. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals aim to create a world that is fair, equal, and peaceful, with clean air and clean water for everyone.

“As Co-Chair of the SDG Advocates group, I look forward to rallying countries, governments, the private sector, and others, to come together to accelerate our progress and continue to raise our voices – and our ambition – on the path to 2030,” said Trudeau.

The SDG Advocates are influential leaders who support the Secretary-General in raising global ambition and action to keep the promise of the SDGs.

The previous co-Chairs, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of Ghana and former Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg have led the group since 2016 and 2014, respectively. The Secretary-General has thanked them for putting the SDGs on the global political agenda.

They will continue to stay engaged as co-chairs of the SDG Advocates Emeritus Group, a group of alumni Ad-

vocates who continue to support the achievement of the SDGs.

The following is the list of SDG Advocates.

Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians

His Royal Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II, 14th Emir of Kano

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar

BLACKPINK, K-pop Girl Group
Richard Curtis, Screenwriter, Producer and Film Director

Hindou Ibrahim, Activist for Climate Action and Indigenous Rights

Graça Machel, Founder and Chair of the Board, Graça Machel Trust

Dia Mirza, Actor, UN Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador

Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, STEM Activist

Edward Ndopu, Public Intellectual, Humanitarian and Founder of A BILLION REASONS

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute at Columbia University

Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate, Founder of Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation

Brad Smith, President, Microsoft Corporation

Forest Whitaker, Founder and CEO, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation

CTO Strengthens Caribbean Tourism Visibility in Europe

The Caribbean Tourism Organization will amplify the visibility of the region’s presence in Europe following a landmark partnership with the CTO Chapter in the UK & Europe, which represents over 85 travel-related companies and organizations.

Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary-General and CEO of CTO, announced the launch of strategic marketing initiatives to bolster the Caribbean’s brand across the UK and emerging markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). In collaboration with the CTO Secretariat, the CTO Chapter UK & Europe will execute a comprehensive work plan to increase the region’s visibility and engagement with key audiences across these pivotal markets.

The renewed efforts encompass a wide range of activities, including:

Strategic Marketing Programs: Developing and executing targeted marketing programs for the UK and Europe, complete with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and plans to expand into emerging EMEA markets.

Digital Marketing Strategy: A strong focus on digital marketing, with strategies tailored for the UK and Europe to boost the region’s online presence.

Commercial Activities: Manage and develop CTO-related commercial activities across UK and European



Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary-General and CEO (second from right), is pictured with (l) CTO Chapter UK & Europe Chairman Colin Pegler & others

markets, ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations.

Market Intelligence: Conducting regular analysis and presenting market insights on the UK, Europe, and emerging markets to inform strategic decisions.

Collaboration with Affiliates: Partnering with CTO members and affiliates to manage activities in key markets such as Central Europe, France, and the Netherlands.

Media and Stakeholder Engagement: Maintain close relations with

media, trade associations, government bodies, airlines, and tour operators while serving as the CTO’s spokesperson in UK and European markets.

Colin Pegler, Chairman of the CTO Chapter, highlighted the importance of the renewed collaboration: “The CTO Chapter is thrilled to reignite our partnership with the CTO Secretariat after a four-year hiatus. This collaboration is pivotal in strengthening the Caribbean’s presence in our markets. Our board is committed to this collaboration, and the team is dili-

gently working on a robust action plan for 2025 to keep the Caribbean at the forefront of global travel destinations.”

The CTO Chapter UK & Europe is poised to launch a series of impactful marketing campaigns and activations designed to engage consumers, travel trade professionals, and the media. With a cohesive and strategic approach, the chapter aims to reinforce the Caribbean’s reputation as a top global travel destination while aligning with the overarching goals of the CTO Secretariat.

Florian Valmy-Devillers, Director of the CTO Chapter, emphasized the initiative’s unified strategy: “Our primary objective with the CTO team is to create synergy through a cohesive strategy across vital UK, European, and emerging markets. From cross-channel consumer campaigns to immersive travel trade training and media engagement, we are dedicated to delivering high-impact activations for our members and reviving the ‘One Sea, One Voice, One Caribbean’ spirit across our targeted markets and beyond.”

The CTO’s headquarters is located at Baobab Tower, Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados BB 22026.



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

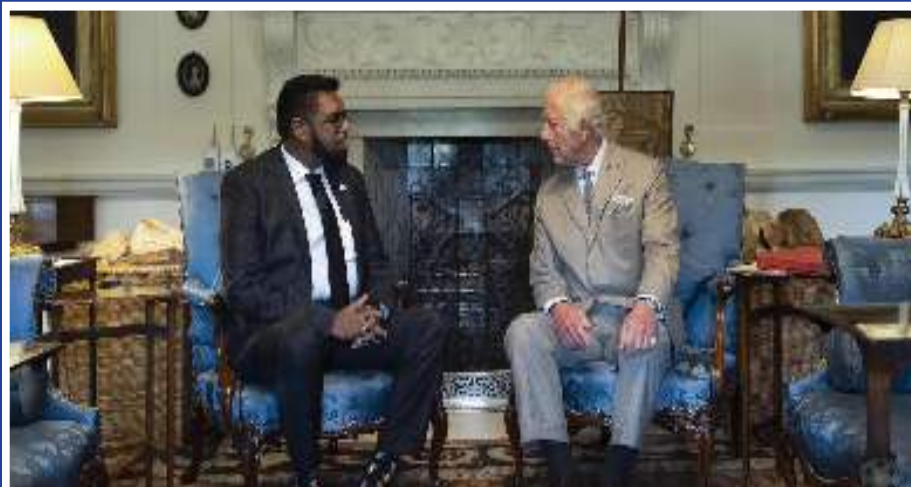


KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 77

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION AT UN

- URGES REFORM, CLIMATE ACTION, AND LAUNCHES GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

PAGE 3



PRESIDENT ALI ADVANCES GUYANA'S LCDS 2030 IN SCOTLAND WITH ROYAL SUPPORT

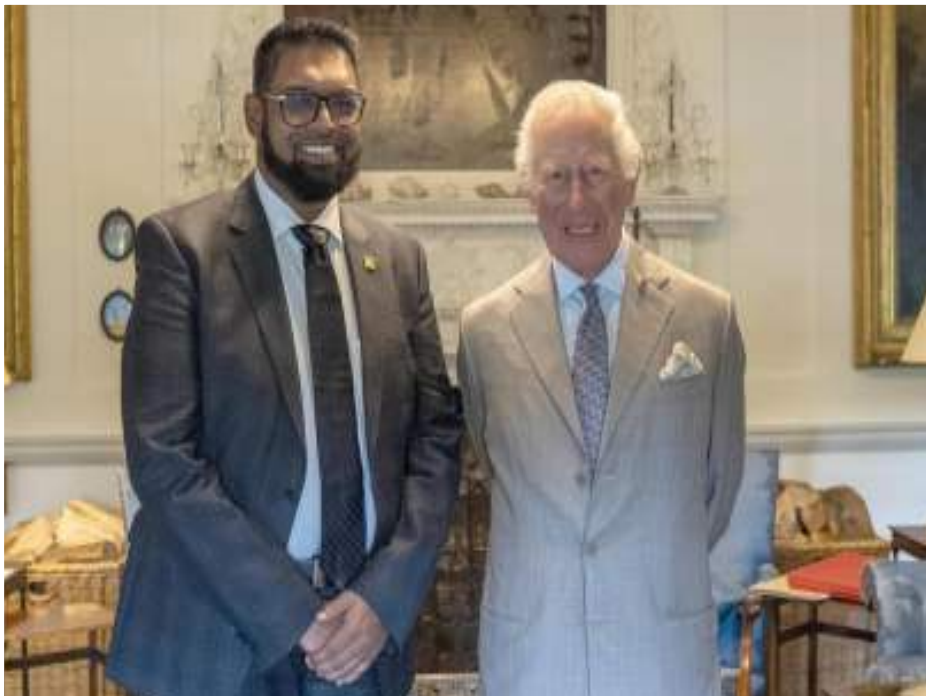
PAGE 2



GUYANA, US DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP - US REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY

PAGE 4

PRESIDENT ALI ADVANCES GUYANA'S LCDS 2030 IN SCOTLAND WITH ROYAL SUPPORT



President Dr Irfaan Ali meeting with His Majesty King Charles III



President Dr Irfaan Ali visiting Dumfries Estate in Edinburgh, Scotland

Guyana's green development commitment to sustainable development goals, particularly in sustainable urban planning.

This trip builds on the recent collaboration between the King's Foundation and Guyana, which was announced during President Ali's recent address on the LCDS. The President emphasised that the next phase of the LCDS will prioritise sustainable urban development, aligning with Guyana's

Facilitated by the King's Foundation, the visit focused on forging global partnerships and securing support for Guyana's ambitious

vision to restore Georgetown as the "Garden City of the Caribbean."

At the heart of the visit was a private meeting between President Ali and His Majesty King Charles III. The two leaders discussed their shared commitment to climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and initiatives aimed at uplifting vulnerable populations. Speaking after the meeting, President Ali expressed optimism for future collaboration, noting, "The King has been a staunch advocate of Guyana's LCDS, recognising it as a model for the world since its launch in 2009. I believe we will work closely in the years ahead, especially with our new LCDS focus on urban development,



President Dr Irfaan Ali visiting Dumfries Estate in Edinburgh, Scotland

biodiversity, and water management."

President Ali was deeply inspired by the King's Foundation's work in Scotland. "While I was familiar with the Foundation's initiatives, witnessing them in action has been truly enlightening. I believe Guyana can not only learn from these efforts but also set a powerful example for the Commonwealth on our new priorities," he stated.

That evening, President Ali and King Charles continued their dialogue during a private dinner, focusing on deeper collaboration ahead of the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

President Ali also toured various Scottish facilities that support vulnerable populations, with a focus on education, innovation, and sustainability—core pillars of Guyana's LCDS 2030. His

engagements showcased the importance of global partnerships in building an inclusive, low-carbon future.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT INCLUDED:

STEM Education Initiatives:

The President observed cutting-edge programmes designed to equip young people in Scotland with vital skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). These efforts mirror Guyana's own drive to promote STEM education as a foundation for future economic growth.

Regenerative Agriculture:

At a regenerative agriculture centre, President Ali explored innovative practices aimed at improving soil health, increasing biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable food production. These practices align with Guyana's strategy to

become a leader in regional agriculture and food security.

Sustainable Housing Projects:

The President toured housing initiatives that focus on green building techniques and energy efficiency, mirroring Guyana's goals of creating eco-friendly, inclusive housing developments that meet modern standards.

Urban Green Spaces:

President Ali visited urban regeneration projects that emphasise the creation of green spaces for improved community well-being. He expressed strong interest in replicating similar initiatives in Georgetown as part of Guyana's urban renewal efforts.

Sustainable Textiles Workshops:

The President engaged with artisans working in sustainable textiles, learning how traditional skills are being preserved while promoting economic empowerment for marginalised groups such as women and youth.

The visit reinforced Guyana's commitment to sustainable development, social inclusion, and global partnerships. President Ali's engagements in Scotland reflect the broader goals of the LCDS 2030, positioning Guyana as a leader in green development while fostering collaboration with international allies.

PRESIDENT ALI AND UK FOREIGN SECRETARY LAMMY EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GUYANA-UK COLLABORATION

President Dr. Irfaan Ali recently engaged in a pivotal meeting with the newly appointed United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, at his official residence in Carlton Gardens, London. Their discussions centered on exploring avenues for enhanced collaboration between Guyana and the UK, focusing on critical areas such as commerce, biodiversity, and the evolving situation in Haiti.

Earlier in July, President Ali had congratulated Lammy



President Ali and UK Foreign Secretary Lammy

on his appointment, reaffirming Guyana's commitment to a robust partnership with the UK. In a statement on his official Facebook page, President Ali expressed

his support for Lammy and emphasised the importance of their diplomatic ties. He also addressed key concerns regarding Guyana's sovereignty

and territorial integrity, receiving assurances from Lammy about the UK's continued support in these areas.

David Lammy, proud of his Guyanese heritage as the son of immigrants, expressed his enthusiasm for his new role. Describing it as "the honour of my life," he acknowledged the significant challenges facing the world today. Lammy reiterated his commitment to navigating these challenges by leveraging the UK's strengths, stating, "We will

reconnect Britain for our security and prosperity at home."

The meeting between President Ali and Foreign Secretary Lammy marks a significant step in

strengthening Guyana-UK relations, paving the way for future cooperation in various sectors crucial to both nations.



President Ali and UK Foreign Secretary Lammy

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION AT UN

- URGES REFORM, CLIMATE ACTION, AND LAUNCHES GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE



President Ali speaking at the UN General Assembly's Summit of the Future

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has called on world leaders to act decisively on climate change, reform of multilateral institutions, and global peace and security. He was at the time addressing the

79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"Multilateralism is at a crossroads," President Ali stated, emphasising the urgent need for global cooperation. **"Despite broad agreement on key issues, action has been slow. We will all be doomed in the court of conscience for knowing what is right while ignoring what is wrong."**

Highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable countries, President Ali urged world

leaders to fulfil their commitments. **"This cycle of hope followed by disappointment cannot continue if the Sustainable Development Goals are to be met,"** he said. Guyana, President Ali noted, is a leader in environmental

we lead by example without arrogance," he remarked.

In a significant announcement, President Ali launched the Global Biodiversity Alliance, revealing that the first summit will take place in 2025. The alliance aims to create a



The 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.



President Ali and team meeting UAE's Minister of State for International Co-operation, the Honourable Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, at the Guyana Mission in New York

and Nutrition Report, revealing that 28.9% of the global population faces food insecurity. He called for urgent action on climate and peace to protect food systems, while announcing that Guyana's agricultural policies aim to empower women and youth.

Condemning aggression in Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, President Ali reiterated Guyana's support for peace efforts in Haiti. He also called for an end to the Gaza conflict and demanded immediate ceasefire and humanitarian relief.

President Ali

concluded by urging reforms to global financial institutions and the UN Security Council, emphasising that developing countries deserve a stronger voice. **"The future we seek demands courageous action,"** he stated, calling on the UN to fulfil its role in promoting peace, development, and human rights.

The president also participated in several side events focused on key matters from food security, to climate change and energy security.



The high-level event hosted by US President Joe Biden, which focused on Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats

conservation. The country's vast tropical forests store 19.5 gigatons of carbon annually, and its Indigenous Peoples have been exemplary stewards of the land. **"We do not lecture;**

market for biodiversity credits and promote nature-positive action.

Addressing global food insecurity, President Ali cited alarming statistics from the UN Food Security

NO HYPOCRISY IN GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT PATH

- PRESIDENT ALI - DEFENDS COUNTRY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

President Ali has reaffirmed Guyana's strong commitment to environmental preservation, emphasising that there is no contradiction between the country's development of oil and gas resources, and its dedication to preserving its natural environment.

In an interview with The New York Times Climate Forward Event, President Ali highlighted Guyana's unique position as a country with vast biodiversity and forests that store significant amounts of carbon. He emphasised that Guyana's development path is not only about oil and gas, but also about protecting its natural resources and contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

"There is no hypocrisy or contradiction in our development path," President Ali stated. **"We have made it very clear that we support the**



WHAT IS THE LCDS 2030 ALL ABOUT?

The Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 presents a vision for Guyana's development along a low carbon pathway. It outlines an approach and associated actions to transform Guyana's development and the livelihoods of all its citizens. The LCDS 2030 protects Guyana's forests, biodiversity, and waterbodies, and advances clean energy and climate adaptation actions nationally.

The LCDS 2030 defines the use of Guyana's natural resources in a sustainable way and to

Guyana has embarked on a development pathway, guided by the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030

removal of subsidies from petroleum-producing countries and companies."

Despite the rapid development of its oil and gas industry, Guyana remains one

of the world's most important countries for biodiversity, thanks to its strategic location in the Amazon and Guyana Shield. President Ali emphasised the country's commitment

to protecting its biodiversity, even as it pursues economic growth.

"Whilst in the rest of the world, we have lost more than 50 per cent (of biodiversity), here is a small developing country that came out of colonial rule that is making a global commitment that we are going to keep, regardless of the development trajectory of the country, that biodiversity," President Ali said.

Recognising the vulnerability of the region to climate events, President Ali highlighted the challenges faced by developing countries in securing the financial resources needed for mitigation and adaptation. He emphasised that Guyana's development of its oil and gas resources is a strategic decision aimed at generating the necessary funds to protect its environment

and contribute to global climate efforts.

"Where do we find the resources for mitigation and adaptation?" he questioned. **"No one is coming with a grant to give these countries to invest in adaptation and mitigation... You have to find resources."**

President Ali explained that while

total LCDS revenues into improving the livelihood of Amerindian communities and 85 percent into climate adaptation and mitigation.

President Ali also addressed concerns about the consultation process for the LCDS 2030, affirming that all indigenous leaders have signed on to the document. He



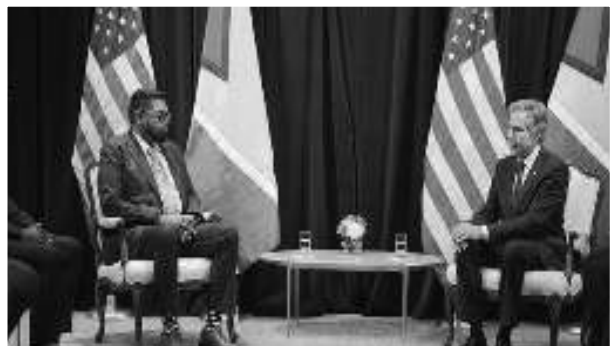
The New York Times Climate Forward interview

Guyana will maximise its petroleum activities, it will also utilise 20 percent of the carbon sequestered in its forests. The country's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 outlines its plan to invest 15 percent of

emphasised that Guyana is leading the climate change discussion and is committed to a balanced development approach that prioritises both economic growth and environmental preservation.

GUYANA, US DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP

- US REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY



President Ali meeting with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in New York, during which, they reinforced the strong and evolving partnership between Guyana and the United States. The leaders discussed pressing regional issues, such as the political unrest in Venezuela and the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, while highlighting their shared values of democracy, the rule of law, and regional stability.

President Ali emphasised Guyana's dedication to addressing Haiti's dire

situation, saying, "The humanitarian effort that is required here is of utmost importance to us." He also acknowledged the growing collaboration with the U.S., adding, "On a bilateral basis, a strong partnership continues to be built between Guyana and the United States - expanded trade, great collaboration, and cooperation in terms of security."

The U.S. has long supported Guyana's sovereignty, particularly amid tensions with Venezuela over territorial disputes. President Ali expressed his gratitude, noting, that the U.S. has been a steadfast ally in

supporting Guyana's sovereignty, and the government is committed to strengthening this invaluable relationship.

Secretary Blinken

within CARICOM, and its role in regional security efforts. "We see this partnership in the work we're doing together,

Guyana's involvement in the Multinational Security Support mission for Haiti, adding, "We're grateful for the partnership between Guyana and the United States in supporting those efforts."

The robust relationship between the two nations spans various sectors, including economic ties, defence cooperation, law enforcement, cybersecurity, education, and health. Both leaders expressed optimism for further deepening this partnership, ensuring mutual benefits and regional stability.



President Ali meeting with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York

reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to Guyana's territorial integrity, stressing the importance of Guyana's leadership

especially in Haiti. Guyana's leadership in CARICOM has been critical," Blinken stated. He also praised

VISA-FREE TRAVEL BETWEEN GUYANA AND UAE



The Memorandum of Understanding signing

A new agreement between Guyana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will allow citizens of both countries to travel visa-free.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Guyana's

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, and the UAE's Minister of State for International Cooperation, Reem Al Hashimy, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

President Ali witnessed the signing of the agreement, which will make travel between the two countries more convenient and accessible.

GUYANA URGES UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL LAW

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, has called upon members of the United Nations Security Council to reaffirm their commitment to the UN Charter and prioritize international peace and security. In a speech delivered at a recent Security Council meeting, Minister Todd emphasised the crucial role of the UN in maintaining global stability.

"The United Nations remains indispensable," declared Minister Todd, warning against the growing skepticism that threatens to undermine the organization's authority. He urged member states to uphold



Minister Hugh Todd

the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and hold those who violate international law accountable. "We cannot tolerate double standards in the application of legal norms," he stated.

Citing the ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine as tragic examples of disregarding the UN Charter, Minister Todd condemned the use of veto power by certain Security Council

members, which he argued hinders the UN's ability to address crises effectively. "War erodes human dignity," he added, calling for the protection of civilians and an end to the selective enforcement of international law.

Minister Todd also underscored the importance of collaboration between the UN and regional organisations, such as the African Union and CARICOM, in addressing global threats to peace and security. He concluded by reaffirming Guyana's dedication to global peace and urging bold and visionary leadership to ensure a secure and sustainable future for all.

CHEF DEV'S "MAD LOVE" FOR GUYANESE CUISINE

- TORONTO-BORN CHEF BRINGS CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH ASIAN FLAVOURS TO THE FOREFRONT

Toronto-born Devan Rajkumar, better known as "Chef Dev" has embarked on a culinary journey that has brought him full circle to his Guyanese roots. Growing up in a diverse community, Chef Dev was exposed to a variety of cuisines from a young age. After training in the hospitality industry and travelling the world to explore different



The book signing at the Grand Coastal Hotel where persons got an opportunity to interact with the chef and author

flavours, he found himself drawn back to his Caribbean and South Asian heritage.

Chef Dev's passion for cooking is evident in his relaxed and modern approach. His first-ever cookbook, "Mad Love" is a celebration of bringing people and cultures together through culinary delights. The book features over 100 inventive recipes that

put a unique spin on traditional East and West Indian dishes.

Recently, Chef Dev hosted a book signing at the Grand Coastal Hotel, where fans and food enthusiasts had the opportunity to meet him, purchase copies of his cookbook, and learn more about his culinary journey. The event was a resounding success, showcasing Chef Dev's



The book signing at the Grand Coastal Hotel where persons got an opportunity to interact with the chef and author

popularity and the excitement surrounding his new cookbook.

Mad Love is more than just a collection of recipes; it's a testament

VP JAGDEO PREVIEWES 2025 BUDGET - FOCUS ON FULFILLING ELECTION PROMISES

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has reaffirmed the government's commitment to fulfilling the promises made during the 2020 elections, emphasising the importance of the upcoming year for the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration.

Speaking at a high-level meeting with senior public servants and government officials at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Dr. Jagdeo said 2025 would be crucial for the PPP/C to complete its election pledges.

"This is a very important year for us because we expect to

complete the list of promises we made to the electorate when we were contesting the elections," he stated.

Dr. Jagdeo highlighted significant progress, especially in areas like tax relief and social measures, but acknowledged that some tasks remain. **"The promises you make to people have to be fulfilled,"** he stressed, while expressing confidence that the remaining goals would soon be accomplished.

Addressing agency heads responsible for managing 95% of public spending, Jagdeo underscored the need for efficient



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

resource management. He referenced a recent government directive aimed at improving efficiency and warned against expecting large increases in recurrent expenditures. **"We are going to pay careful attention to any significant growth in the recurrent expenditures,**

outside of wages and salaries," Dr. Jagdeo noted. He reminded the audience that the wage bill had already been increased by \$90 billion.

Dr. Jagdeo explained that while the PPP/C's election promises were conservative and financially feasible, the government has already gone beyond its manifesto, implementing additional measures that align with its long-term vision for the country. **"Our promises, although they seemed a lot, were very conservative...we did not make promises we could not fund,"** he said.

He highlighted key strategies such

as the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the National Development Strategy, emphasising that these plans are guiding the government's broader goals for Guyana's future. **"All the measures we have implemented beyond the promises were guided by a strategic vision,"** he added.

With oil revenues set to significantly benefit the country, Dr. Jagdeo urged caution, warning of the volatility of global oil prices. **"The best days for oil revenues are ahead of us... but there is a real risk of a price collapse,"** he cautioned, calling for fiscal discipline in

managing the budget.

Budget 2025 is already in preparation and expected to build on the 2024 budget, which totalled \$1.146 trillion. Senior Minister with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, echoed Jagdeo's remarks, stating, **"Budget 2025 will continue the progress we have made to improve the livelihoods of Guyanese citizens."**

The meeting included key officials from all 10 regions and public sector entities, as the government remains focused on fiscal responsibility and sustainable growth for the country.

GUYANA'S ECONOMIC BOOM FUELS PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh

The Guyana government is actively working to create a favourable environment for private sector growth, as the country experiences a significant economic boom. According to Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for

Finance and the Public Service, the private sector plays a crucial role in driving sustainable and resilient development.

In an interview with the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Centre of the Atlantic Council, Dr. Singh outlined several government initiatives aimed at

supporting private sector competitiveness. Despite global challenges, the government remains committed to fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Guyana's economy has witnessed remarkable growth, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) surging by 49.7 percent in the first half of 2024. The non-oil economic sector also expanded significantly, growing by 12.6 percent. This growth has spurred a dynamic private sector, which is capitalising on emerging opportunities, particularly in the oil and gas sector.

"Given the rapid emergence of new opportunities, especially in the oil and gas sector, we

are seeing several Guyanese companies entering or engaging in lines of activities that they might not have previously considered," Dr. Singh said.

Recognising that Guyana may lack the experience to fully capitalise on opportunities within the oil and gas sector, the local private sector has been forming joint ventures and strategic partnerships with international companies. **"They might have the local knowledge, capital, and personnel, but they might not have industry-specific access to technology,"** Dr. Singh explained.

"By partnering

with international companies, they can address these constraints."

Government support for the private sector is evident through the enactment and enforcement of the local content framework, which incentivises partnerships between Guyanese and international companies. **"This framework aims to ensure that Guyanese companies can participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the opportunities in the oil and gas sector,"** Dr. Singh added.

The government is also addressing challenges related to accessing finance through international

institutions and banks. By updating the Financial Institutions Act (FIA), the government aims to modernise Guyana's banking sector and align it with international standards, which will improve access to capital and increase lending flexibility.

Targeted support is being extended to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), including financing programmes and technical assistance. Last year, a \$100 million loan agreement was signed with Small Business Development Finance Trust Incorporated (SBDF) to promote the development and expansion of SMEs.

FIRST LADY ARYA ALI HONOURED WITH GLOBAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP AWARD

First Lady Mrs. Arya Ali was bestowed with the prestigious Global Female Impact Leadership Award at the Global Power Women Conference in New York City. The award recognises global first ladies for their significant contributions to advancing women's and girls' rights.

Mrs. Ali's dedication

to gender equality and social justice has been instrumental in driving positive change in Guyana. Her groundbreaking Menstrual Hygiene Initiative has reached over 32,000 women and girls, providing them with essential sanitary products and education on menstrual health.

In her acceptance

speech, Mrs. Ali expressed her gratitude for the recognition and emphasised the collective efforts of countless women in Guyana who have fought tirelessly for equality and justice. Mrs. Ali acknowledged the progress made but highlighted the ongoing challenges in achieving true gender parity.

The Global Female

Impact Leadership Award is a testament to Mrs. Ali's exceptional leadership and her commitment to creating a more equitable world for women and girls. Her work aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5, which focuses on empowering women and achieving gender equality.



First Lady Arya Ali receiving the award

GOVT OFFICE COMPLEX ON TRACK

- AS MINISTER EDGHILL REFUTES MISUSE ALLEGATIONS

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, has strongly rejected the baseless accusations made by Opposition Member Annette Ferguson concerning the \$15.8 billion Government Office Complex. Speaking at a recent press conference, Minister Edghill emphasised that the project, which aims to modernise government infrastructure and improve access to services, has been thoroughly discussed and remains on track.

Ferguson had alleged that public funds were being misappropriated for the construction of the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Minister Edghill dismissed these claims as "absurd" and questioned

the opposition's integrity in spreading such misinformation.

"The assertion that public funds are being diverted to construct the Sheraton Four Points Hotel is not only absurd, but also raises serious questions about the integrity of the opposition," the minister stated.

Providing an update on the project's progress, Minister Edghill confirmed at the recent press conference, that the Government Office Complex was 6% complete, with several key milestones achieved. These include the near-finalisation of legal work and preliminary processes at 99%,

the full completion of geotechnical investigation stage one, land clearing for 20 acres, mobilisation of site offices, and confirmation



3D image of the \$15.8 Billion Government Office Complex

of the site location by the Ministry of Public Works. Additionally, 99% of sand filling for both temporary and permanent works on 13 acres has been

completed, alongside the conceptual design, which is fully finished. Geotechnical investigation stage two is 95% complete, while

the detailed design was at 25%.

Though the construction is only partially visible at the site, Minister Edghill clarified that a significant

amount of work is taking place offsite, such as the fabrication of steel structures. These components are being prepared for later assembly, ensuring that construction proceeds according to plan.

Minister Edghill further reassured the public that the project is proceeding on schedule, with a completion date set for August 23, 2026. A \$2.6 billion mobilisation advance has already been paid, with subsequent payments tied to the completion of specific deliverables.

"Our primary objective is to deliver this vital project for the people of Guyana," he affirmed, calling for an end to what he described as

"reckless" opposition rhetoric. **"We welcome constructive dialogue, but misinformation will not derail our commitment to progress."**

The government Office Complex, strategically located in Eccles, is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion and parking difficulties for citizens accessing government services. With three entry points from major roadways, including the Demerara Harbour Bridge, the Ogle East Bank bypass, and Heroes Highway, the complex is designed to improve connectivity and streamline access to services for all Guyanese.

VP JAGDEO ISSUES WARNING ABOUT PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES

- CALLS FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE, TRANSPARENCY AHEAD OF BUDGET 2025



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo and Senior Minister with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo issued a stern warning to heads of public sector agencies, emphasising the government's commitment to enforcing strict procurement rules. Speaking at a high-level meeting at the Arthur Chung Conference Center, Dr. Jagdeo made it clear that any violation of procurement regulations would not be tolerated.

"We want a fair procurement system," Dr. Jagdeo stressed, adding that transparency and accountability are key priorities for the PPP/C government as it executes its public projects. He addressed Permanent Secretaries, Regional Executive Officers, and heads of major agencies, including the Guyana Police Force, Guyana Defence Force, GuySuCo,

and Guyana Power and Light (GPL).

While 95% of public projects are successfully completed, Dr. Jagdeo expressed concern over the remaining 5%, where issues have arisen. He criticised the Parliamentary Opposition for focusing disproportionately on these problems, but acknowledged the need for improvement. **"We must address the five per cent of contracts that fall short of required standards,"** he said.

Dr. Jagdeo called for strict adherence to the Procurement Act and the Standard Bidding Documents, stressing that any deviation must receive prior approval from the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB). **"Officials will be evaluated on**

their adherence to these guidelines," he warned.

He also condemned the misuse of procurement loopholes, including the overuse of the three-quote system and restrictive tendering.

The government is actively working to formulate comprehensive harassment legislation aimed at protecting individuals from behaviour that threatens their safety, dignity, and rights.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud, announced that consultations are underway with the Ministry of Legal Affairs

Dr. Jagdeo urged officials to avoid rushing projects toward the end of the year, which often leads to sole sourcing, adding that such practices must be curtailed.

Dr. Jagdeo addressed reports of bribery in exchange for expedited payments, warning agency heads to remain vigilant. **"Such practices damage the government's reputation, and we must root out corruption,"** he said.

He also raised concerns about conflicts of interest, where officials with private businesses bid for contracts within the agencies

they oversee, calling for stricter oversight. **"Those in government who want to be contractors must leave their public roles,"** Dr. Jagdeo stated.

He also highlighted inflated contract costs, with unnecessary items like vehicles and computers being added to inflate bills. **"These practices are unacceptable and will be corrected,"** he affirmed.

Looking ahead to Budget 2025, Jagdeo stressed that data-driven decision-making would be key to ensuring policy effectiveness

and preventing misinformation. **"Public servants must rely on facts and analysis when making decisions,"** he said.

Senior Minister with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, echoed Dr. Jagdeo's call for transparency, noting that preparations for the 2025 budget are underway. The government remains committed to ensuring procurement integrity and delivering on its promises while maintaining a strict watch on public spending.

NEW HARASSMENT LAWS IN THE WORKS

The government is actively working to formulate comprehensive harassment legislation aimed at protecting individuals from behaviour that threatens their safety, dignity, and rights.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud, announced that consultations are underway with the Ministry of Legal Affairs

and other stakeholders to develop legislation that safeguards the rights of women.

"We can never stop until we have all the parts of the puzzle in place to address this matter," Minister Persaud stated at a Gender-based Violence event.

The harassment legislation is a continuation of the government's efforts to address gender-based violence. In August,

the Family Violence Act 2024 was passed, providing a framework for protecting family members from domestic abuse.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall emphasised the importance of creating laws that address societal challenges. **"Laws are made for different reasons and a legislative agenda can be reactive and can be proactive,"**

he said. **"Laws govern or regulate human conduct or communities... although laws are inspired differently, they must be for the benefit of the people."**

The Attorney General noted that the government has strengthened laws to tackle domestic violence and reduce road accidents, and will take similar steps to address the increasing number of harassment complaints.

FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION IN SIGHT AS GOVT CANCELS OVER \$203.7M IN STUDENT LOANS

The government is steadily progressing towards its goal of providing free tertiary education to all citizens by 2025. This commitment was reaffirmed by Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), during a recent press conference.

Dr. Jagdeo outlined the government's structured approach, aimed at gradually shifting the financial burden of tertiary education from students to the Treasury. In contrast to the APNU+AFC government, which increased university fees by 35%, Dr. Jagdeo

emphasized that the current administration is committed to realising free education through meticulous planning. **"They promised free education within weeks but raised fees instead. We believe we can achieve this in five years because we plan everything,"** he stated.

The government's phased approach is already showing tangible results. The first phase, announced by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, during the 2024 national budget reading, has benefitted

approximately 13,000 students through the forgiveness of around \$11 billion in student loans. Furthermore, the

an additional 2,900 students expected to benefit by the end of 2024.

President Dr. Irfaan



The promise of free university education through a phased approach started in 2024

government recently wrote off \$203.7 million in student debt for 346 persons, with

Ali has previously committed to a phased rollout of free university education,

beginning in 2024. As part of this initiative, the government has introduced the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), which provides opportunities for citizens to earn higher education degrees free of cost. To date, \$1.6 billion has been invested in scholarships through the GOAL programme.

While optimistic about the progress, Dr. Jagdeo acknowledged potential challenges, including rising costs during the transition. He also stressed the importance of aligning educational offerings with the demands of the national economy and emphasised the

need for alternative options like technical training programs to supplement the offerings of the University of Guyana (UG). **"UG will always play a critical role in delivering tertiary education in our country. We need to fund it well and improve it,"** he said, highlighting the administration's focus on equipping graduates for the job market.

The government's sustained efforts to make tertiary education accessible to all continue to gain momentum, with free tertiary education now on the horizon for Guyanese students.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS URGED TO SHINE AS AMBASSADORS IN CUBA



The students with Minister Ashni Singh and Cuban Ambassador Soberon Luis

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public

Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, met with a group of students awarded government scholarships to pursue medical studies in Cuba. The initiative is supported by the Governments of Guyana and Cuba and includes opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate medicine studies.

Dr. Singh emphasised the significance of the students' selection during his address,

highlighting the unique opportunity to study abroad. **"This is not only an academic privilege, but also a chance to experience a new culture and engage with international peers,"** he remarked. He pointed out the value of exposure to Cuban culture and expressed gratitude to the Cuban Government for its ongoing contribution to the development of

Guyana's health sector.

Dr. Singh congratulated the students for earning the scholarships and encouraged them to be exemplary representatives of Guyana while they live and study in Cuba. **"Be good ambassadors of Guyana and gracious guests of Cuba,"** he urged.

Also present at the meeting was the Cuban Ambassador to Guyana,

His Excellency Jorge Francisco Soberon Luis, who reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening the educational ties between the two countries.

The scholarships are part of the Government of Guyana's broader effort to enhance the country's healthcare system by investing in the education of future medical professionals.

FAMILIES STRENGTHEN BONDS AND ACHIEVE SUCCESS THROUGH BIT

The Board of Industrial Training (BIT) has not only empowered individuals, but has also significantly enhanced the livelihoods of families by fostering cooperation and strengthening bonds.

A recent graduation ceremony for 59 residents of Region Three showcased the transformative impact of BIT's training programmes. Among the graduates were two parents and their children, who have embarked on a journey of shared success.

Jermaine Lewis, along with his son and daughter, graduated from the welding course offered by BIT. Lewis noted that the course has been instrumental



Shaunel Scotland and her son, Michael Bacchus proudly holding their certificates

in spurring his family business. **"While going to the course, we gained a lot of new experiences and although we faced different challenges every day, we still managed to get**

through them," he said.

Lewis expressed immense pride in graduating alongside his children, who are now poised to take over the family business. **"I feel very proud about**

getting them into the same job with me because they would eventually be taking over the business at any time," he shared.

His son, Daniel Lewis, highlighted his early involvement in welding and expressed his gratitude for completing the course with his family. **"I feel nice that I end up graduating with my parent because everything that my dad teaches me, I have to take it in because it is for the benefit of my future,"** he said.

Another parent-child duo, Shaunel Scotland and her son Michael Bacchus, also graduated from BIT courses. Scotland, who is

pursuing online classes, found the Information Technology course particularly beneficial. Her son, an electrician in the oil and gas sector, noted that the Electrical Installation course has enhanced his skills and opened up new opportunities.

BIT's Chief Executive Officer, Richard

Maughn, encouraged the graduates to continue their journey of success and to explore other training opportunities offered by the organisation. He highlighted the significant impact that BIT has had on the lives of 1,128 individuals in Region Three since 2020.



Jermaine Lewis, along with his son and daughter holding their certificates

PM PHILLIPS COMMITTS TO EXPANDING GUYANA-CHILE COLLABORATION



Prime Minister Mark Phillips at the reception

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips, reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to deepening its bilateral relations with Chile during a reception celebrating Chile's 214th Independence Anniversary.

Prime Minister Phillips extended heartfelt

congratulations to the President of Chile, His Excellency Gabriel Boric, and the Chilean people.

The Prime Minister emphasised the strength of the diplomatic relationship between Guyana and Chile, which has spanned over 53 years. "Our collaboration has extended across various platforms—bilateral, regional, and international—allowing us to pursue issues of common interest as members of CELAC, the Brazilian Consensus, and through the CARICOM-Chile mechanism, as well

as at the UN," he stated.

Prime Minister Phillips highlighted Chile's role in advancing human resource development in Guyana, pointing to Chilean support in areas such as geological mapping, maritime training, and language skills. He expressed Guyana's eagerness to further strengthen ties with Chile, particularly in the upcoming consultations. These discussions will provide a framework for deeper collaboration in key areas such as trade, investment, environmental protection, agriculture, maritime issues,

mining, and energy.

The Prime Minister also underscored Chile's commitment to democracy, good governance, and economic growth, recognising the nation's contributions to regional integration across South America. "The relations between our two countries stand on the foundation of shared values, mutual respect, and trust. We share a strong adherence to principles of international law, including the United Nations Charter, sovereign equality, territorial integrity,

and the peaceful settlement of disputes," he said.

Touching on shared environmental challenges, the Prime Minister acknowledged the pressing issues of forest fires and droughts affecting both nations and the wider region. He emphasised the importance of

collaborative efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change, particularly in terms of food security.

The reception, held in honour of Chile's Independence Anniversary, was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, other members of Guyana's Cabinet, private sector representatives, and members of the diplomatic community.



Prime Minister Mark Phillips at the reception to mark the Spanish-speaking nation's 214th Independence Anniversary

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, represented Guyana at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 2024 Public Forum, in Geneva, Switzerland, where she advocated for climate-friendly trade practices.

Minister Walrond shared Guyana's experiences in trade liberalisation and market access, emphasising the benefits that these policies have brought to the country's agricultural sector. She also raised

concerns about the challenges posed by export restrictions on food and called for reforms in Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) to ensure better access to staple foods for developing nations.

The Minister highlighted the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including climate change, debt distress, and trade finance shortages. She emphasised the importance of transitioning towards

MINISTER WALROND ADVOCATES FOR CLIMATE-FRIENDLY TRADE AT WTO FORUM



Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond taking part in a high-level panel discussions at the WTO's annual Public Forum

blue and green sectors comparative advantages to leverage Guyana's and contribute to global

efforts in climate change mitigation.

Minister Walrond reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to sustainable development, noting that the country's low-carbon development strategy aligns with its priorities for environmental protection and economic growth.

The WTO Public Forum provides a

platform for stakeholders from around the world to discuss global trade issues and propose ways to enhance the multilateral trading system. As the WTO celebrates its 30th anniversary, the Forum focused on how regionalisation can help make trade more inclusive and ensure that its benefits reach more people.

CHINA MEDICAL TEAM TO TRAIN GUYANESE DOCTORS

In a major development for Guyana's healthcare sector, the Ministry of Health has forged a partnership with the China Medical Team in collaboration with the Caribbean Pharmaceutical Group

Limited (CPGL). The agreement, signed by Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony at his Brickdam Headquarters, aims to provide training and development opportunities for Guyanese and

Chinese doctors. This collaboration is expected to foster greater expertise within Guyana's healthcare sector.

CPGL, a key player in Guyana's health industry, has expressed its commitment to supporting the

nation's healthcare growth. Through this partnership, CPGL continues to fulfil its social responsibilities by contributing to the development of medical professionals.

Present at the signing ceremony were



Guyana partners with China for healthcare boost

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Narine Singh, Dr. Zhao Changyong, Head of the 19th China Medical Team, and other relevant officials.

Guyana and Qatar have taken a significant step towards strengthening their cooperation in biodiversity conservation. The Protected Areas Commission (PAC) of Guyana and the State of Qatar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration in areas such as conservation, ecological monitoring, and research.

The agreement,

GUYANA AND QATAR PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud and Commissioner Jason Fraser sign an agreement with Acting Charge d'Affaires Mohammed Ebrahim Al Rumai of the Qatari Embassy to Guyana

signed by Foreign Secretary and PAC Chairman Robert Persaud and Acting Charge d'Affaires Mohammed Ebrahim Al Rumai, marks a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries. It will focus on building capacity in Guyana to better manage its green spaces and improve

the visitor experience at protected areas like the Botanical Gardens, National Park, and Kanuku Mountains.

The MoU will also leverage Qatar's expertise to enhance the management of Guyana's protected areas system, ensuring its long-term sustainability. By learning from Qatar's practices, Guyana aims

to improve its own conservation efforts and protect its valuable biodiversity.

US CONSULTANTS CONFIRM FEASIBILITY OF GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT - AS GOVT MOVES FORWARD WITH PHASE TWO



The Gas-to-Energy project will generate 2,100 gigawatt hours of electricity annual

Guyana's landmark Gas-to-Energy project has been confirmed as technically and environmentally feasible, according to consultants commissioned by the U.S. Export-Import (EXIM) Bank. Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo recently shared the findings, which come as the government pushes ahead with its transformative energy initiative.

The EXIM Bank's

due diligence process was a key step in preparing Guyana's loan request, which is expected to be presented to the Bank's Board by October. This loan will help fund the onshore component of the project, including a 300-megawatt (MW) power plant and a natural gas liquids (NGL) processing plant. The project, located in Wales on the west bank of the Demerara River, is being developed by LNDCH4,

a joint venture between CH4 and Lindsayca, and is projected to cost around US\$759 million.

The consultants' review validated the project's ability to meet international standards, ensuring its technical viability and environmental sustainability. With these evaluations complete, the loan application now awaits the EXIM Bank's final decision.

While the loan approval process is ongoing, the government has continued to fund the project through treasury resources, ensuring that development activities remain on schedule. The Gas-to-Energy project is set to be delivered in 2025, in line with the government's

commitment to reducing electricity costs and improving the quality of life for all Guyanese.

In a significant development, the government has also extended a request for proposals (RFP) for Phase Two of the project. Phase Two will further expand Guyana's power generation capacity, with the construction of a 250 MW combined-cycle power plant and an additional NGL facility. The second phase aims to reduce electricity costs by 50% and leverage natural gas from ExxonMobil's offshore oil fields.

With 60% of the pipeline's capacity still available for Phase Two, the government is seeking a private-

sector partner to design, finance, and operate the facility under a 20- to 25-year Power Purchase Agreement. Interested firms have until November 14, 2024, to submit their proposals.

Upon completion, the Gas-to-Energy project will generate 2,100 gigawatt hours of

electricity annually and produce approximately 6,000 barrels per day of NGL products. The project is expected to have a transformative impact on Guyana's economy, creating jobs, attracting investments, and positioning the country as a regional energy leader.



The project development at Wales on the west bank of the Demerara River

AMAILA FALLS HYDROPOWER PROJECT TO RESUME DEVELOPMENT

The Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, a key component of government's energy strategy, is set to make a comeback. Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo recently announced that the government is actively pursuing the development of this 165-megawatt hydroelectric plant, which has faced delays under previous administrations.

Currently, the government is evaluating several international firms interested in

the project, including Rialma S.A. from Brazil, China International Water & Electric Corp, Lindsayca CH4 Guyana Inc., and OEC, GE Vernova, and Worley. Dr. Jagdeo emphasised the importance of the project in achieving Guyana's energy goals and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. **"It's a crucial project for us to achieve the energy mix that we envision for Guyana... It's high on the agenda and remains a financially feasible proposition,"**



The Amaila Falls Project is a major hydroelectric power initiative aimed at harnessing the potential of the Amaila Falls on the Mazaruni River

he stated.

The Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, located in Region Eight,

has the potential to provide a substantial portion of Guyana's electricity needs. Its

development is expected to create jobs, boost economic growth, and contribute to the country's environmental sustainability.

Originally launched by the PPP/C government, the project was halted by the A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) and the Alliance for Change (AFC) during their time in opposition. Prior to its suspension, extensive studies, including an environmental and social impact assessment, were completed, with

approximately US\$80 million allocated from the Guyana-Norway partnership.

In addition to the Amaila project, the government is also focused on expanding energy generation capacity through the Gas-to-Shore Energy project in Wales, Region Three, and solar farm initiatives in Regions Two, Five, Six, and Ten, aiming to produce 35 megawatts of solar power once operational.

AMID GOV'T EFFORTS TO EXPAND POWER SUPPLY DEMAND HITS 205 MW



A \$160 million investment will upgrade GPL's transmission and distribution system

The growing electricity demand in Guyana has reached 205 MW over the past three months, prompting the government to take

immediate steps to meet the country's rising power needs. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips made this announcement

during an energy mixer hosted by AmCham at the Guyana Marriott Hotel.

Prime Minister Phillips highlighted the significant rise from 188 MW earlier in the year and reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring adequate power supply. He noted that an additional 60 MW will be sourced from contractors before the end of the year, complementing the 36 MW boost already acquired through a Turkish power ship.

"We are working tirelessly to ensure we have enough electricity while we await the Gas-to-Energy project, which will add 300 MW to the grid," PM Phillips said.

This landmark project, set to be completed by the current administration, is expected to transform Guyana's energy landscape. The prime minister emphasised that savings from this initiative will help bridge the energy gap between

the hinterland and the coast.

Additionally, Vice President and General Secretary of the PPP, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, addressed public concerns over power outages, stating the government is sparing no effort to improve the generating capacity of Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Inc. A \$160 million investment will upgrade GPL's transmission and distribution system, with 20 companies shortlisted for the task. Dr. Jagdeo pointed

out that the APNU+AFC government's failure to support the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project hindered Guyana's energy growth, but reassured citizens that the Gas-to-Energy project will drastically reduce costs and enhance reliability.

The government's focus remains on modernising the electricity grid, increasing capacity, and preparing for the future as Guyana's economy and infrastructure rapidly expand.

STATE-OF-THE-ART AIR SEPARATION UNIT OPENS IN GUYANA



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat

Guyana's burgeoning oil and gas sector received a significant boost with the commissioning of Massy Gas Products Guyana Ltd (MGPGL)'s Air Separation Unit (ASU). This cutting-edge facility will play a vital role in supporting the country's industrial growth and energy security.

The ASU, located in Old Road, Eccles,

East Bank Demerara, was officially launched at a simple ceremony. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, commended MGPGL for their substantial investment, which aligns with the government's vision to position Guyana as a



Chief Executive Officer of Massy Gas Products Guyana, Augustine Harris

manufacturing hub.

"Today in 2024, we are boasting of producing over 650,000 barrels per

day. And we are well poised on our way that in another four years from now, we will be close to 1.4 million barrels per day. That is unprecedented," the natural resources minister highlighted.

The ASU will produce high-purity nitrogen and oxygen gases, eliminating the need for imports and ensuring a reliable supply for various industries. This will not only reduce costs and increase efficiency but also create new opportunities for local businesses. Minister Bharrat also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to establish a manufacturing industrial park on the West Bank of Demerara, where the ASU's products will be essential.

Augustine Harris,

Chief Executive Officer of Massy Gas Products Guyana, expressed confidence in the plant's ability to meet the country's growing demand for nitrogen and oxygen. The ASU



Massy Gas Products Guyana Ltd's Air Separation Unit

was designed to satisfy the needs of the oil and gas sector, including turnarounds, start-ups, and shutdowns associated with the gas-to-shore pipeline.

The ASU is a state-of-the-art facility that produces oxygen at a purity of 99.99% and nitrogen at a purity of 0.155 per million of oxygen. These high-quality gases are

company. While the oil and gas sector is poised to be the plant's biggest market, it will also service other sectors, such as manufacturing, construction, and healthcare.

Massy Gas Products, formerly known as Demerara Oxygen Company Ltd (DOCOL), has been operating in Guyana since 1948. The company has a long history of providing oxygen and acetylene gases for industrial and medical use. Over the years, it has expanded its product portfolio to include nitrogen, nitrous oxide, and other gases.

The company's plans to invest in a three-tonne per day CO₂ filling plant and a CO₂ production plant demonstrate its commitment to contributing to Guyana's growing economy.

essential for various medical and industrial applications.

The ASU was manufactured in India by Cosmodyne, a subsidiary of Nikkiso, a Japanese

NEW PETROLEUM DATA REPOSITORY COMING SOON

The government is making significant strides towards establishing a centralised petroleum data repository within the country. This ambitious project aims to consolidate all historical and current petroleum data, fostering job creation and generating revenue.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat announced that the government is set to finalise arrangements for the implementation of the data repository in the second half of 2024. Currently, Guyana's petroleum data is stored

in Houston, Texas, requiring companies to make special requests for access.

"Many countries producing oil don't have a data repository in their own country after four or five years," Minister Bharrat said. **"After four years [of producing oil] we are already moving towards establishing our own data repository in the country."**

The minister emphasised the financial benefits of hosting the data repository in

Guyana. **"It's a very lucrative investment or assignment that we're taking on because it's not only spending money to set up the data repository,"** he explained. **"It is about getting our people to work there and to sell that data to companies that will come and seek to do exploration in Guyana. It's worth a lot of money."**

In previous bid rounds, companies were required to pay a US\$2 million fee for data access. Minister Bharrat

noted that while Guyana received a portion of this revenue, hosting the data repository in-country would be significantly more profitable. **"If we can have it in-country, it means that we will make that kind of money when we sell our data because our data is in demand,"** he said.

A petroleum data repository is a centralised storage and management system for various types of petroleum-related information, including seismic data, drilling records, and reservoir engineering data. It



Comprehensive system for the storage and management of petroleum data, including seismic insights

serves as a valuable resource for companies exploring and producing oil and gas in Guyana.

In addition to the data repository, the government is also moving forward with plans for seismic surveys offshore Guyana. Eight expressions of interest have been reviewed, and seven companies have been invited to submit proposals. The

government aims to complete the evaluation process and award a contract in the second half of 2024.

A 3D seismic study is a crucial tool in oil and gas exploration, providing a detailed image of the subsurface geology. This information helps identify potential locations of oil and gas reserves.

NEW GENERATOR TO ADDRESS POWER OUTAGES IN MAHDIA

The government has swiftly responded to recent power outages in Mahdia, Region Eight, by installing a new generator set and accelerating the completion of a solar farm project.

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo announced the installation of the generator, which was procured locally and



The Prime Minister inspecting the current state of affairs at the Mahdia Power and Light Company Incorporated and engaging the staff on the operations of the utility company

transported to the region within four days to address the frequent blackouts experienced by residents.

In addition to the new generator, the Vice President confirmed that the solar farm being built in Mahdia will be operational within three weeks. This \$362 million project, contracted to Standby Power Engineering Company

(SPECOM), will provide 0.69 megawatts of electricity to the existing mini-grid, benefiting approximately 3,000 residents.

The combined power from the generators and solar farm will not only meet the electricity demand of Mahdia but also provide a surplus, ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply.

The government has also been implementing other initiatives to improve energy access in Guyana.

Vice President Jagdeo emphasised the government's commitment to addressing the energy needs of all citizens, stating that these initiatives demonstrate a **"very responsive government."**

GUYANA'S FIRST URBAN ECO-LODGES OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Exterior of the eco-lodge homes

Guyana's inaugural urban eco-lodges are now fully furnished and ready to welcome visitors. President Ali announced the completion of the 30 accommodations at Great Diamond, East Bank Demerara, on social media.

Designed and constructed by DuraVilla Homes under the

Ministry of Housing, these eco-lodges are built entirely from sustainably harvested materials sourced from Guyana's rich forests. This ensures a durable, energy-efficient, and environmentally friendly retreat for guests.

The project, managed by approximately 120 Guyanese women,

showcases the country's commitment to empowering its citizens and promoting sustainable development. The eco-lodges offer modern amenities such as air conditioning and spacious patios, while the interiors feature stunning Guyanese artwork and natural finishes.

Located near the Guyana National Stadium and the upcoming Eccles to Great Diamond highway and regional hospital, these eco-lodges provide convenient access to essential services. By utilising local materials, employing Guyanese labour, and highlighting

Guyanese culture, the government aims to expand both the housing and tourism sectors in Guyana.



Interior design of the eco-lodges



Interior design of the eco-lodges



Exterior of the eco-lodge homes

KINGSTON SEAWALL ESPLANADE TURNS ONE



First Lady, Mrs Arya Ali

The Kingston Seawall Esplanade marked its first anniversary with a vibrant evening of cultural performances. The popular public space, launched by First Lady Arya Ali, has become a beloved destination for residents and visitors alike.

In her address,

Mrs. Ali emphasised the importance of the esplanade as a community gathering place. She noted the space's transformation into a thriving hub for relaxation, events, and local vendors. **"This space is more than just a place to take a stroll,"** she stated. **"It's where families gather and friends reconnect and visitors experience the warmth of our community. We have seen it transformed into a lively venue for events, a peaceful escape and a thriving space for our local vendors."**



A section of the Kingston Seawall Esplanade

While expressing gratitude for the space's success, Mrs. Ali also addressed concerns about vandalism and misuse. She urged the public to treat the esplanade with respect and care, ensuring its continued enjoyment for generations to come. **"I want to urge us to**

try our very best to take care of these amenities. It belongs to you. It belongs to me. It belongs to our children. It belongs to every single Guyanese," she stated.



Some of the audience members at the anniversary celebration



Some of the audience members at the anniversary celebration

GUYANESE-BORN ACTOR JACOB SCIPIO RECONNECTS WITH HIS ROOTS DURING FIRST VISIT TO GUYANA

Hollywood actor Jacob Scipio, best known for his roles in Bad Boys for Life, Bad Boys Ride or Die, and Netflix's Pieces of Her, paid a courtesy visit to Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond. The meeting, held at the Minister's office on South Road, was part of Scipio's first visit to the country of his father's birth, Guyana.

Born in Islington, London, to a Guyanese father, Ricardo Scipio, and an English mother, Sallyann Sexton, the actor's homecoming to

Guyana holds special significance. During his visit, Scipio embarked on a busy itinerary, engaging with local culture and



Minister of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond and actor Jacob Scipio

Guyana's blossoming film industry. His schedule included a movie screening, a visit to the stunning Kaieteur

Falls, meetings with local film professionals, and visits to schools. He also travelled to Leguan, a small island in the Essequibo River, which is the birthplace of his father and grandfather.

Minister Walrond warmly welcomed Scipio to Guyana, expressing pride in his local roots and highlighting the nation's cultural richness. She went on to outline Guyana's transformative developments in recent years, particularly in tourism and the creative industries, pointing to the country's numerous



Actor Jacob Scipio enjoying some local delicacies

tourist attractions—from its lush rainforests to its heritage sites. The Minister emphasised the government's commitment to growing Guyana's tourism sector.

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GUYANESE IN NEW YORK PRESIDENT ALI'S CALL TO ACTION

President Dr. Irfaan Ali received a warm welcome from the Guyanese diaspora during his visit to New York, where he engaged with overseas Guyanese eager to contribute to the nation's progress.

The President attended two major events, including a social mixer at Hibiscus Restaurant in Queens and a breakfast meeting in Brooklyn. Both gatherings highlighted the strong connection between the diaspora and Guyana, with discussions centred on key sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and the rapidly expanding oil and gas industry.

President Ali shared his vision for Guyana's future, encouraging the diaspora to participate in the country's development. Many attendees expressed their interest in supporting national growth, particularly in areas of local security and community safety.

The President's message of hope and collaboration resonated deeply, with several attendees expressing a desire to return to Guyana and contribute to its transformation. The events underscored the importance of diaspora involvement in shaping Guyana's future, with President Ali reaffirming his commitment to leveraging their skills and expertise for the nation's continued success.



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LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES RESOLVED FOR NEW DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill inspecting works at the eastern end of the new Demerara River Bridge

The government has secured a significant legal victory in its efforts to build the New Demerara River Bridge, as the High Court has ruled in favor of acquiring three properties in Peter's Hall. These properties were compulsorily acquired under the Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes Act to facilitate the bridge's construction.

Justice Navindra Singh has ordered that the property owners hand over possession to the government by September 30, 2024, while the State is required to provide compensation by September 20,

2024. Although the government has successfully negotiated compensation agreements with nearly 40 property owners, disputes persisted with 13. The court's ruling now allows the government to move forward with possession, while compensation for the disputed properties will be determined at a later stage.

Interestingly, the compensation awarded by the court is less than the initial offers made by the government, a decision made after careful evaluation of evidence presented by both the government's Valuation Officer and the property owners' representatives.

In its continued efforts to resolve land acquisition issues, the government, represented by Attorney General Anil Nandlall SC, Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal, and Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill, has met multiple times with property owners to negotiate fair compensation packages. Legal counsel

represented both sides throughout these discussions.

While progress has been made, some land acquisition matters remain pending before the High Court. The government has expressed its commitment to securing possession of all necessary properties to ensure the project's completion.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSING STEADILY

Meanwhile, construction of the New Demerara River Bridge is advancing steadily, with 70% of the work completed to date. The US\$260 million project, led by China Railway Construction Corporation Limited



Construction of New Demerara River Bridge continues despite challenges

Politecnica, has seen substantial progress, with over US\$150 million already invested.

Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill recently inspected the bridge, and found that significant progress has been made on the foundation, including the installation of drilled shafts, pile caps, piers, and tower legs. The new bridge will feature a wider safety passageway of 300 meters, a marked improvement from the previous 100 meters, and will be constructed using materials designed to withstand impacts.

To further support construction, technical engineers have been sent to China to test critical components and

materials, with the final shipment of supplies expected to arrive by October.

In addition to the bridge itself, the project includes the construction of 50 meters of roadway on both the eastern and western sides. The government is in the final stages of signing the contract for this roadwork, which will connect to key infrastructure, including the Heroes Highway and the East Bank of Demerara, ensuring smoother traffic flow.

The New Demerara River Bridge, a critical piece of Guyana's infrastructure development, is steadily becoming a reality.



The construction of the new Demerara River Bridge and its connecting infrastructure

and supervised by

SIX EAST COAST DEMERARA FAMILIES RECEIVE CORE HOMES

Six families along the East Coast of Demerara have realised their dreams of homeownership through the government's Core Home Support Initiative. The initiative, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, aims to provide affordable housing solutions to families in need.

Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal and Minister within the Ministry, Susan Rodrigues facilitated the handing-over



Minister Colin Croal handing over house keys to Julie Beckles

ceremonies for the core homes, which are valued at \$5 million each. The recipients expressed immense gratitude for the new homes, as they were previously living in deteriorating conditions and struggling to make a livelihood.

"I feel so overwhelmed because it was a long journey," Michelle Moses, a recipient, shared. "I was trying

to acquire my own home, and today I can finally say I have achieved a home. I feel thankful."

Widower Zillah Ramcharran expressed her gratitude for fulfilling her late husband's lifelong dream of homeownership. "I would like to say thank you guys for helping me for this house because my husband passed away

and we had this land we didn't have money to build on it," she said.

Kamal Ramjeet, speaking on behalf of his mother, conveyed the significant financial relief that the new home would bring to his family. Before receiving the new home, Ramjeet's mother lived in a dilapidated wooden house with a steep step that caused tremendous pain in her back and legs. With the new home, the family can now easily access every necessary amenity.

The families were required to contribute only \$100,000 towards their new homes, making them affordable and accessible. Minister Rodrigues emphasised that this project is part of the government's broader efforts to improve the livelihoods of citizens. Other initiatives include zero-rating building materials, reducing interest rates,

and raising mortgage interest relief.



Michelle Moses in front of her new home

The Core Home Support Initiative has already allocated over 121 homes, bringing the government closer to its goal of providing 50,000 house lots in five years. This initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to providing affordable housing and improving the lives of its citizens.



Michelle Moses in front of her new home



The ministry required the families to contribute only \$100,000 towards their new \$5 million two-bedroom homes

Gov't invests \$47.8B to streamline energy security in Guyana

WITH long-standing challenges of sufficient power supplies in Guyana, achieving energy security has been a high priority for the People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) government.

As evidence of this, the government in its first trillion-dollar budget this year, had allocated almost \$100 billion to achieving energy targets. In these first six months, \$47.8 billion has already been invested, taking Guyana closer in its pursuit of energy security outlined in the Low Carbon Development Strategy.

As fruit of Guyana's burgeoning oil sector, the country is experiencing growth at an unprecedented rate. Naturally, the demand for energy has increased for both the domestic and manufacturing sectors.

In a bid to proactively address this increase in the short-term, some 28.9 megawatts (MW) of emergency power was installed at the Columbia substation.

The country is also receiving a supply of 36 MW of power from a power ship, which is connected to the country's main interconnected system through Everton.

In the government's 2024 Mid-Year report it was remarked, "These interventions are expected to improve stability and reliability of electricity supply across the grid and address immediate generation shortfalls."

On the side of medium-term goals, works continue to progress on the construction of Guyana's most transformative development thus far — the 300 MW gas-to-energy project. Already, \$40.8 billion has been spent to advance work on it.

Additionally, works were completed on 114 of the 371 pole foundations for the installation of transmission lines. In September, a request for proposals (RFPs) was extended to qualified firms to design, finance, and operate Phase Two of the project under a 20- to 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Looking ahead, the installation of transformers is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2024. With respect to the long-term energy investment, the 165 MW Amaila Falls hydropower project remains under active consideration by the Guyana Government.

Works have also advanced to improve solar power and mini hydropower generating capacity. In the first half of the year, a 0.65 MW solar farm at Mahdia was substantially completed and is expected to be commissioned in the second half of the year.

Additionally, works for three solar farms will advance later this year, namely a 10 MW solar farm in Berbice, 8 MW solar farm in Essequibo and a 0.6 MW solar farm at Leguan.

A total of 3,101 solar energy home systems were distributed in the first half of the year to support households in the off-grid and riverain communities. It is expected that 501 more will be delivered to Chenapau, Karisparu, Tuseneng, Maikwak and Cashew Island by the end of the year.

In line with the government's commitment to expanding hydropower usage, significant progress has been made on the construction of the mini-hydropower plants at Kumu and Moco Moco, with capacities of 1.5 MW and 0.72 MW, respectively.

Both projects are slated for completion by the fourth quarter of 2024. Furthermore, contracts have been signed to upgrade the primary distribution networks at Ituni, Kumaka, and Kwakwani, with work expected to be finalised by the end of the year. These upgrades will enhance electricity reliability in these communities and provide access to over 475 new households.

Through this national development blueprint, the government returns to a strategy of reducing emissions associated with electricity generation by



utilising the lesser-emitting natural gas and renewable energy (solar, hydro, and wind).

This is being done through a combination of: (i) investment in transformational energy infrastructure across the generation and transmission systems; (ii) fiscal incentives and government policies to support the use of

renewable energy at the level of households and businesses; (iii) investments to improve energy efficiency.

The LCDS projects that by 2030, 70 per cent of Guyana's energy mix will be supplied through lesser-emitting and renewable energy sources. (DPI)

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YOUMAN NABI OBSERVED WITH CALLS FOR TOLERANCE



President Dr Irfaan Ali at the Day of the Prophet programme held at the Eccles Sunnatul Jamaat

On the auspicious occasion of Youman Nabi, Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, extended heartfelt greetings to the nation, particularly to the Muslim community celebrating the birth and life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

President Ali emphasised the significance of Youman Nabi as a time for reflection on the profound legacy of the Holy Prophet. He highlighted the Prophet's exemplary character, unwavering faith, and dedication to justice and compassion, which continue to inspire

Muslims worldwide.

President Ali stressed the importance of religious freedom and tolerance in Guyana, noting that it is enshrined in the country's Constitution. He urged all citizens, regardless of religious orientation, to respect the beliefs of others and practice their faith freely without fear of discrimination.

"The Holy Prophet himself championed religious freedom and freedom of conscience," President Ali stated. **"The Holy Quran urges that: 'There shall be no compulsion in religion.' This simple yet profound message underscores**

the importance of respecting the beliefs of others and recognising that faith is a deeply personal matter that cannot be forced upon others."

The President also called on the Muslim community to embody the values espoused by the Holy Prophet,

including compassion, integrity, and mutual respect. He encouraged them to work together to build a more cohesive and united Guyana.

"As we mark Youman Nabi, I extend my warmest wishes to all Guyanese," President Ali concluded. **"May this occasion bring**



President Dr Irfaan Ali at the Day of the Prophet programme held at the Eccles Sunnatul Jamaat

peace, joy, and blessings to all of you, and may the example of the Holy Prophet continue to guide us in our journey toward building a more just and united Guyana."



President Dr Irfaan Ali at the Day of the Prophet programme held at the Eccles Sunnatul Jamaat

CONVERSATION TREE ROAD PROJECT SET FOR OCTOBER COMPLETION

The long-awaited North-South corridor of the Conversation Tree Road is now on track to be completed by the end of October, following a change in contractors. S. Jagmohan and Sons have taken over the project after the termination of Trinidadian contractor Kallco's contract due to delays.



Ongoing works on the Conversation Tree Road Project

During an inspection on , Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, expressed satisfaction with the progress being made. He stated, "We want

to be able to wrap this up by the end of October, and I am sure everyone will be pleased that a project that had been delayed is now back on track."

Minister Edghill acknowledged the early challenges the project faced but commended the efforts of those who have worked hard to ensure its recovery. **"Sometimes the story**

is only about who didn't do their part, but it's important to recognise those who have gone above and beyond to get things done," he remarked.

The next phase of the project will focus on connecting the newly paved road to Sheriff Street. Additionally, Dennis Street is being widened, with further plans to extend the road towards the Eastern Highway and Sophia. The remaining work is expected to be completed within six weeks.

To further enhance the area, the Ministry of Public Works has contracted nine smaller firms to rehabilitate the boulevard along Conversation Tree. These upgrades include

constructing a walkway, installing lighting, and landscaping, aimed at improving safety, accessibility, and the overall aesthetics of the area.



Ongoing works on the Conversation Tree Road Project

75 ROADS UPGRADED IN DIAMOND

Residents and commuters in Diamond are celebrating a significant upgrade to their local infrastructure. After decades of enduring subpar roads, the community has finally seen a much-needed transformation.



Imran Khan

The government has fulfilled its promise to improve the road network in Diamond. A total of 75 key thoroughfares, spanning 25 kilometres, have been upgraded. This major project, executed by the Ministry of Public Works' Special Project Unit (SPU), cost \$690 million.

Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill recently inspected the newly completed roads, expressing satisfaction with the quality of work. He also engaged with residents who shared their gratitude for the improved accessibility.

Taxi driver Alvin Ramratten praised the upgrades, noting that the previously dilapidated roads had made it difficult and expensive to transport passengers.



Phillip Readie

"Now it's doing well, and people are coming into the



Road upgrade in Diamond, East Bank Demerara

street, so it's good," he said.

Other residents, like Imran Khan and Phillip Readie, echoed Ramratten's sentiments. They expressed relief and appreciation for the improved road conditions, which have

made it easier to navigate the area.

Minister Edghill reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing road networks nationwide. **"It is one thing for me to listen to the satisfaction of**

the residents. People have been living here for years without proper roads, and now they are extremely happy that this was done. We will continue to advance and transform communities," he emphasised.

The upgrades, which included 7th Avenue, 21st Avenue, and roads in Avenue A and B, were completed in just seven months. This initiative follows similar upgrades in the nearby Grove community, where 29 roads were improved at a cost of \$150 million.

MASTERS PROGRAMME PRODUCES NEW HEALTHCARE LEADERS

Fifty-four healthcare professionals have successfully completed the Masters Certificate in Healthcare and Physician Leadership programme, equipping them with essential skills to enhance management and service delivery.

The nine-month programme, launched in October 2022, was a joint initiative between Guyana and the Schulich School of Business and Executive Education at York University in Canada. It aimed to strengthen the capacity

for training hospital leadership among healthcare professionals nationwide.

The graduating cohort included 24 physicians and 30 healthcare practitioners. At the graduation ceremony held at the Pegasus Hotel, Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony encouraged the graduates to utilise their new skills to transform Guyana's healthcare system and provide optimal medical support to the population.

"With the training



Fifty-four healthcare professionals graduate after completing Masters Certificate in Healthcare and Physician Leadership programme

you have received, I hope that you will put it to good use and use it for the betterment of the people of the country," Dr. Anthony

said. Guyana is actively working to build a world-class healthcare system through the construction of modern regional

hospitals, rehabilitation of health facilities, and provision of essential services. **"This is just the first part of the journey,"** the health

minister emphasised, adding that Guyana aims to become a leading destination for health tourism in the Caribbean region.

High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana, Sebastien Sigouin, expressed his country's pleasure in witnessing the partnership between the two nations towards a healthier and more prosperous Guyana. He emphasised the importance of a strong healthcare system for sustainable societal growth.

NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL TO BE DOWNSIZED - AS GOVT SHIFTS FOCUS TO COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE



National Psychiatric Hospital (NPH) in Berbice, Region Six

The Ministry of Health has announced plans to downsize and eventually close the National Psychiatric Hospital (NPH) in Berbice, Region Six.

This decision is part of a broader effort to reform mental health care delivery in Guyana and shift towards a more decentralised and community-based

approach. The recently published 'Guyana National Mental Health and Suicide Plan' outlines the government's intention

to reduce stigma, human rights violations, and the burden on the NPH. By decentralising services and integrating individuals with severe mental illnesses into their communities, the government aims to provide more accessible and appropriate care.

The new plan will involve a needs-based assessment to guide the redistribution of resources across regions. Inpatient and outpatient facilities will be established to ensure that mental health services are available

throughout the country.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security will collaborate with the health ministry to reintegrate long-term patients with their families.

Support measures, such as disability and caregiver pensions, will be provided to families, while community rehabilitation facilities will be established for those without family care.

Community treatment teams will

offer ongoing medical and mental health support for individuals in residential facilities, promoting a more holistic and community-based approach to mental health care.

The government's efforts to implement the National Mental Health and Suicide Plan 2024-2030 demonstrate a commitment to creating a more supportive environment for those struggling with mental health challenges and suicide.

EXPANDED YAKUSARI HEALTH CENTRE IMPROVES HEALTHCARE ACCESS



The newly expanded health facility

Residents of Yakusari in Region Six are now benefiting from improved healthcare access thanks to the expansion of the local health centre. This project, facilitated by the Regional Democratic Council (RDC), is part of a broader effort to

enhance healthcare delivery in the Black Bush Polder community. The expanded health centre features a new section adjacent to the existing building, significantly increasing its capacity and range of services. With the completion of this

project, the health department is now able to offer a wider range of services, including dental care provided by a visiting dentist.

This expansion will enable health professionals to better address the growing

healthcare needs of the community and ensure more comprehensive and accessible care for all residents.

Since 2020, the government has been investing in upgrading health facilities across the country to meet the



The interior of the newly expanded health facility



National Psychiatric Hospital (NPH) in Berbice, Region Six

needs of the increasing population. This includes building new facilities in areas that previously lacked them.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, the government is also committed to ensuring that health facilities are adequately equipped

and staffed. The 2024 national budget allocated a substantial \$129.8 billion to the health sector, which represents the largest budgetary allocation in its history. This funding will support the continued expansion and improvement of healthcare services throughout the country.

SHIELDSTOWN RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE LONG-AWAITED LAND TITLES AND HOUSING SUPPORT



Recipient, Hansraj Sukhlal receiving his steel and cement voucher from the Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues

Twenty-six families in Shieldstown, Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice), will soon receive land titles for properties they have occupied for over two decades. This significant milestone brings an end to a lengthy wait for these residents.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water Susan Rodrigues announced the news during a community

meeting. She emphasised the government's commitment to regularising land ownership in Guyana and highlighted the positive impact this will have on the Shieldstown community.

A team from the Ministry of Housing and Water will return to Shieldstown next week to facilitate the sign-up process for

obtaining land titles. This development is part of the government's ongoing efforts to address squatting issues across the country. Since 2020, over 175 squatter settlements have been regularised, improving the lives of many families.

In addition to the land titles, 62 residents from Region Five have received steel and cement vouchers, totalling \$13.9 million. These vouchers will support the construction of their new homes.

Minister Susan Rodrigues and Member of Parliament Faizal Jaffarally presented the vouchers at the Regional Democratic Council in Fort Wellington. The vouchers are

part of a government program that provides homebuilders with essential materials for constructing homes up to \$25 million in value.

Several recipients expressed gratitude for the support, which will enable them to transition from landowners to homebuilders. Hansraj Sukhlal, a recipient, noted that the voucher will provide a great start for his home construction. "This is the first time I'm making a start to build my home," he said. "I feel really good that I got it today because it is a long time since I have been waiting for the voucher."

Shellita Bissoon, another recipient from

Shieldstown, shared her excitement about finally beginning her journey to homeownership. "I am living at my sister's home," she expressed. "I am proud because I am getting my own home now."

Ganesh Dhanpat from D'Edward Village echoed similar sentiments, saying, "With a voucher like this, I am certain that

it will go a great deal for them to assist them in building their homes."

These developments highlight the government's commitment to improving the lives of Guyanese citizens by providing access to land ownership and supporting home construction.



Residents at the meeting

GUYANA SET NEW REGIONAL STANDARDS IN FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud

Guyana is emerging as a regional leader in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV), earning recognition for its comprehensive approach that includes legal reforms, community initiatives, and expanded victim support services.

At a recent GBV medical symposium organised by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Policy Unit,

held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud celebrated Guyana's achievements. "Guyana's model has been held as the best to emerge from the Spotlight Initiative. We are now being seen as the leading country in the region with our Gender-Based Violence response," she said, emphasising the country's commitment to reducing GBV and safeguarding vulnerable populations.

The Spotlight Initiative, a global partnership supported by the European Union and the United Nations, has played a pivotal role in this progress.

The initiative has funded several GBV prevention and response programmes across the country, enhancing



Members of the medical profession and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security at the symposium

Guyana's efforts to combat violence against women and girls.

A cornerstone of Guyana's GBV prevention efforts is the Family Violence Act of 2024, which

significantly strengthens protections for victims. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall,

highlighted the act's importance, noting that it offers broad protections for family members, including those exposed to sexual and verbal abuse. "This act is both

criminal and civil. Courts can issue orders, sentence offenders to jail, or grant bail, and the police now have the authority they previously lacked to intervene in family matters," AG Nandlall explained.

In addition to legislative reforms, Guyana has made strides through community-based initiatives. The Community Advocate Network (CAN), which has trained over 1,000 individuals nationwide, empowers citizens to identify, report, and address GBV cases, fostering a culture of safety and accountability across the country.

The 914 GBV hotline

has also been a vital resource, receiving over 4,000 calls since its launch. To make it even more accessible, the Ministry of Human Services is developing a chat interface, making it easier for victims to seek help.

International recognition has followed Guyana's comprehensive approach, with the country's model serving as an inspiration for similar initiatives in the region. As Guyana continues to prioritise the protection of its citizens and the reduction of GBV, it is setting new standards in the pursuit of a safer, more equitable society.

GUYANA SET TO RESUME INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

The government is preparing to restart international adoptions, in compliance with the Hague Convention.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, announced the resumption during an outreach in Region Six. The government has established the Guyana Central Authority to administer the process and ensure that international adoptions

are handled smoothly and judiciously.

The Guyana Central Authority, which will be chaired by Minister Persaud, will include representatives from various government agencies and a legal expert. The body will follow strict guidelines to manage the adoption process, including investigations, home studies, and background checks to ensure the child's well-being.

The government's decision to resume international adoptions follows the passage of the Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act 2021 and Guyana's signing of the Hague Convention in 2019. The establishment of the Central Authority ensures that the country's adoption procedures align with international standards and best practices.

In addition to international adoptions,

the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is expanding its support for vulnerable children, offering foster care and adoption services. A key initiative is financial assistance of \$20,000 per month for orphans and those in foster care.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud addressing the outreach

AG NANDLALL CRITICISES ONGOING DELAYS IN ELECTION FRAUD TRIAL

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senior Counsel Mohabir Anil Nandlall, has voiced serious concerns over the continuous delays in the election fraud trial stemming from the March 2, 2020 general and regional elections. The case has faced yet another postponement, with proceedings now pushed to October 31, 2024, following an earlier adjournment in mid-September. The trial has been delayed due to the ongoing medical leave of presiding magistrate, Leron Daly.

Speaking on the issue during his televised programme "Issues in the News," AG Nandlall expressed his dismay at the constant delays. "What is transpiring here cannot accord

with the principles of justice understood by the ordinary reasonable man. Every Guyanese should be concerned with this state of affairs," he said, highlighting that the delays contradict the public's expectation of timely justice.

AG Nandlall criticised the defence counsel, accusing them of using tactics to stall the trial. He cited various technical objections and repeated requests for adjournments as deliberate strategies to obstruct the trial's progress. "We are going into another election, and we still don't have a determination on fraud charges arising from the election that

occurred four years ago," the attorney general emphasised, stressing the urgency of

government, including former ministers and former senior officials of the Guyana Elections

and several other former GECOM employees, face charges of conspiracy to defraud the electorate

government found that there were "shockingly brazen attempts" by Lowenfield, Myers, and Mingo to interfere with the proper counting and tabulation of votes, in an effort to manipulate the election results. The report concluded that these actions were deliberate attempts to undermine the election process and delay the declaration of results.

While AG Nandlall stressed that his criticisms were not an attack on the judiciary, he urged the courts to resolve the matter swiftly to preserve the integrity of the electoral process and maintain public trust in the justice system.



Former officials and ex-GECOM employees face court over electoral fraud

resolving the case.

The trial, which began in July 2024, involves key figures from the former APNU+AFC

Commission (GECOM). The accused, who include Volda Lawrence, Keith Lowenfield, Clairmont Mingo, Roxanne Myers,

by manipulating votes during the 2020 election. A Commission of Inquiry (COI) initiated by the current PPP/C

CATHY HUGHES ADMITS FALSE CLAIMS AGAINST DR JAGDEO IN HIGH COURT



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

In a striking admission during High Court proceedings, Cathy Hughes of the

Alliance for Change (AFC) acknowledged that her claims against Dr Bharrat Jagdeo,

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), were false. Hughes had alleged that Dr Jagdeo, while serving as President, offered Venezuela a "channel" to resolve the long-standing border controversy.

Under oath, Hughes conceded that the channel issue was raised prior to Dr Jagdeo's government involvement and that he had no role in the matter during 1989. She admitted her claims were based solely on a

TikTok video she could not produce as evidence.

Dr. Jagdeo responded during a news conference at Freedom House, expressing satisfaction with Hughes' court admission. "It is dishonourable behaviour...she lied on me to the people in Linden, knowingly. And she admitted that in court," he stated. He emphasised the importance of exposing such "dishonesty" in politics.

The controversy

dates back to November 2023, when Hughes claimed during a public meeting that Dr. Jagdeo had offered Venezuela a maritime channel. This statement misrepresented past discussions, which occurred under the previous PNC administration, not during Dr Jagdeo's tenure.

Dr. Jagdeo condemned Hughes' comments, warning of the dangers they posed in international

discussions. "This is the rumour-mongering among people because they hate the PPP...that they are prepared to compromise even our border," he remarked.

Hughes filed a libel claim against Dr. Jagdeo following his criticisms. The hearings for this claim began on September 6, 2024, before Justice P. Chandra-Haniff at the High Court in Georgetown.

NO GOVT PLOT BEHIND POLICE ACTION IN INFLUENCER CASE

General Secretary of the ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) and Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has strongly denied allegations of political intimidation, which have surfaced following a police raid on a residence linked to social media influencer Melissa Ann Atwell.

The raid, conducted by the Guyana Police Force (GPF), resulted in the discovery of over 20 grams of cannabis and has led to accusations that the government is targeting its critics.

Speaking at a press

conference at Freedom House in Georgetown, Dr. Jagdeo firmly refuted the claims, emphasising that pursuing individuals based on their political views is not part of the PPP/C government's approach. He underscored the administration's commitment to tolerance since coming into office.

"That is APNU's old tactics. You don't find that under the PPP... we don't engage in that sort of thing; we have been very tolerant," Dr. Jagdeo stated, referring to the opposition's past

behaviour.

He further highlighted the freedom citizens now enjoy under the current government, stating, "The people who wouldn't say a word under APNU+AFC, because of fear, can now speak freely. We defend ourselves, but you're not going to find this government trying to intimidate their opponents."

Dr. Jagdeo described the accusations as baseless, noting that there is no evidence to suggest any government involvement in the

incident.

"I am sure there was no plot by the government or anyone in the government to plant marijuana on this social media influencer. Although she may be critical of us, she has the right to express her views as a Guyanese citizen. We defend people's rights all the time," Dr. Jagdeo affirmed.

He reiterated that the government's focus is on improving the lives of Guyanese and not on targeting political opponents or



influencers, concluding, "Our work speaks for itself."

WAGE GROWTH MUST BE CAUTIOUS, WARNS DR JAGDEO



The Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU) and the Ministry of Education recently inked a three-year salary increase agreement that also includes several non-salary benefits,

Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, emphasised the critical need for careful management of wage increases to safeguard Guyana's economy. He warned that excessive salary hikes could lead

to significant long-term consequences, especially given the unpredictable nature of global market trends.

Dr Jagdeo, speaking at a recent press conference, stated, "When we are exposed to

the vagaries of the international market, prices can fall dramatically. We face a choice: cut salaries or cut jobs. To avoid that, we must be prudent with wage increases."

He reassured

the public that the government is committed to a strategic plan to ensure public servants receive meaningful benefits while maintaining economic stability. The government's approach includes increasing revenue through taxes and royalties from the oil sector, along with job creation and public-private partnerships.

Since 2020, the government has invested approximately \$90 billion in wage increases for the public sector, effectively doubling the wage bill from over \$100 billion to \$200 billion. "Public sector employees are now taking home \$90 billion more per year than they were in 2020," Dr Jagdeo pointed out.

In response to the opposition's claims of a 75% wage increase for public servants, he dismissed these as misleading, asserting, "This is a typical revisionist tactic used to mislead the public." He highlighted that the previous administration had awarded itself a 50% salary hike while neglecting public servants.

Focusing on education, he discussed the government's investment in teacher training, noting that 6,000 out of 14,000 teachers are currently undergoing training funded by the government. This initiative aims to enhance both the quality of education and teachers' salaries.

Dr Jagdeo explained

the diminished purchasing power of wage increases, illustrating that a 10% raise in the past had a greater impact than today due to rising living costs.

On August 21, the Government of Guyana signed a three-year agreement with the Guyana Teachers' Union, granting a 27% salary increase for teachers and a 50% increase in concessions. This multi-year agreement underscores the government's commitment to addressing the needs of its citizens, with Dr Jagdeo affirming, "This reflects our unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for all Guyanese."

LABOUR MINISTRY INTERVENES IN ITEL GUYANA CLOSURE

Following reports of ITEL Guyana's plans to cease operations and lay off over 400 employees, the Ministry of Labour has engaged with the company to address the situation.

Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton announced that his ministry is working with ITEL to ensure that affected workers receive proper severance pay and assistance in finding alternative

employment. "We are working with the company to ensure that all necessary procedures are followed and that workers' rights are protected," he stated.

Minister Hamilton explained that ITEL is required to provide the Ministry of Labour with a formal notification of its plans one month in advance. The company must also submit a list of employees who will

be affected and their corresponding severance packages.

The Ministry of Labour will review the severance packages to ensure they comply with labour laws and regulations. Additionally, the ministry will assist workers in finding new job opportunities through its Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency and job bank.

Minister Hamilton noted that the government has established call centres in various regions of Guyana, which could provide alternative employment opportunities for affected workers. He emphasised that there are options available for those who may lose their jobs due to ITEL's closure.



Nearly 400 employees face job loss as ITEL Guyana, located at 81-82 Camp & Robb Streets, announces site closure in November 2024

DR JAGDEO CALLS OUT OPPOSITION FOR CONTRADICTIONS ON JOB PROGRAMME

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has called out the hypocrisy of the PNC/APNU/AFC coalition, highlighting their inability to propose innovative solutions to address the concerns of the Guyanese people.

During a press conference at Freedom House in Georgetown, he pointed out the opposition's contradictory stance on the National Pathway Workers Programme.

Dr. Jagdeo noted that while the opposition initially opposed the part-time jobs initiative, they

have recently stated that, if elected in 2025, they would increase workers' salaries by \$10,000. The National Pathway Workers Programme, launched by Vice President Jagdeo, aims to boost employment opportunities by allowing individuals to work for 10 days a month and earn \$40,000.

"Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton was opposed to it. The PNC was opposed to it. The AFC was opposed to the 15,000 part-time workers, claiming we don't need this in the system. Now they say



VP Jagdeo speaking to citizens at the launch of the part-time job initiative

they will pay you a bit more. But they lack creativity," Dr. Jagdeo said.

The National

Pathway Workers Programme has received widespread recognition for its benefits to individuals and the

broader economy. Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that the opposition avoids serious discussions on key issues because they lack a concrete track record or policy proposals.

"Our opponents will never want to engage in meaningful conversations because they know they have no credible plans," he stated, criticising their vague promises.

In the 2023 budget, the government allocated \$10 billion to expand the part-time jobs initiative, with an additional \$10 billion set for 2024 to

extend the programme to hinterland regions. Although implemented by the Office of the Vice President, the initiative falls under the local government ministry and provides unemployed Guyanese with opportunities to earn a salary during challenging economic times exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukraine war.

Launched in 2022, the programme primarily targets coastal residents and aims to support families facing increased living costs.

SUCCESSFUL SOYBEAN HARVEST AT TACAMA GOLD

A significant soybean harvest is underway at Tacama Gold Inc., in the Berbice River. Over 4,000 acres of soybeans are being harvested, with an average yield of 1.2 tonnes per acre.

President Ali shared the update on his Facebook page, highlighting the government's ongoing efforts to support agricultural production in the region. The government has allocated \$967.8 million

to further improve the Tacama facility, including the installation of a conveyor system by the end of the year.

In the first half of 2024, \$408.2 million was spent to upgrade the facility, enabling it to efficiently produce corn and soybeans. The government's plans to procure three additional silos will increase the total storage capacity to 27,000 tonnes.

These investments align with Guyana's

commitment to self-sufficiency in livestock feed production. In the past three years, the government has invested over \$1.4 billion in infrastructure development in the Tacama area to support agricultural production.

Key investments in technology, such as field maps, GPS locators, drones, and multi-spectral cameras, are aimed at advancing climate-smart agricultural

practices and enhancing productivity.

President Ali has emphasised the importance of reducing the region's large food import bill. By investing in agricultural production, Guyana aims to achieve self-sufficiency in corn, soya, black-eye peas, and red beans by 2026. This will save the region hundreds of millions of US dollars in imports.



Over 4,000 acres of soybeans harvested at Tacama Gold

IMPROVED D&I FOR LOWER POMEROON FARMERS AS \$261M PUMP STATION COMMISSIONED

A significant boost to agricultural productivity has been provided to farmers in Cozier, Lower Pomeroon, with the commissioning of a \$261 million pump station. The rehabilitated pump station, equipped with a new 100-cubic-foot-per-second mechanic drain pump, will improve drainage and irrigation for approximately 5,000 acres of cash crops.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfiqar Mustapha, during the commissioning, emphasised the government's commitment to



The commissioning of the \$261 million pump station in Cozier, Lower Pomeroon, Region Two

supporting farmers in the region.

The rehabilitation project included upgrading the existing pump station, installing

a new pump, and replacing wooden sluice doors with stainless steel. These improvements will help to reduce the risk of flooding in the area, and

ensure a more reliable water supply for farmers.

Minister Mustapha also announced plans for two additional pump stations on the Essequibo Coast – one at Plantation Andrews and another at Charity. These projects are part of the government's broader efforts to modernise the agricultural sector and enhance food security in Guyana.

In addition to infrastructure improvements, the government has provided four excavators to farmers in the Pomeroon area to assist

with drainage and bed-lifting projects. This support has benefited over 500 farmers and has contributed to increased agricultural production.

The commissioning of the new pump station

is a testament to the government's dedication to agricultural development and its vision for a more prosperous and resilient agricultural sector.



Inside the pump station

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, GUYSUCO, AND MMA/ADA UPHOLD ACCOUNTABILITY AMID ALLEGATIONS

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Guyana Sugar Corporation Inc. (GuySuCo), and the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary Agricultural Development Authority (MMA/ADA) have firmly rejected recent allegations, emphasising their ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the development of the agricultural sector.

In response to claims made in a September 16, 2024 editorial by Kaieteur News, the MoA labelled the accusations as "false" and "irresponsible," criticising the media outlet for spreading sensationalised narratives. The ministry emphasised its significant achievements

under the current administration and contrasted them with the shortcomings of the previous APNU+AFC government.

The ministry specifically addressed allegations concerning the "theft of sugar" at the Rose Hall Estate, clarifying that no theft occurred. An audit revealed an overstatement of sugar production by 243 tonnes, which resulted from breaches in standard operating procedures. "Appropriate disciplinary actions have been taken against the responsible staff," the ministry affirmed.

Addressing claims of corruption at the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary Agricultural

Development Authority (MMA/ADA), the ministry reassured the public that all incidents of misconduct are thoroughly investigated. "The records are there to be verified," the ministry stated. "An incident was recently uncovered, and the involved staff were dismissed." The ministry also noted MMA/ADA success over the past four years, benefiting over 2,000 farmers with significant investments in the sector. "These investments have cushioned the hard effects that affected farmers' lives," the ministry added.

GuySuCo similarly condemned allegations made by Opposition Member of Parliament Vinceroy Jordan in

Stabroek News, calling his statements "reckless exaggerations" devoid of facts. The corporation emphasised that it is regularly audited by the Auditor General's Office and has completed audits for 2022, with the 2023 audit underway. GuySuCo also addressed Jordan's specific claims about missing sugar at Rose Hall, clarifying that no sugar was lost, but rather an over-declaration occurred due to breaches in sugar declaration protocols. "This serious misconduct resulted in the dismissal of the Production Manager and Head Laboratory Technician," the corporation stated.

Regarding the Albion Estate's power plant, GuySuCo confirmed that an investigation was

conducted by the Guyana Fire Service, with the estimated repair cost of 600 million Guyana dollars accurately reflecting engineering assessments. "Remedial works have been completed, and the factory is in full production mode for the second crop of 2024," GuySuCo assured.

The MMA/ADA also firmly dismissed accusations by MP Vinceroy Jordan on social media, particularly regarding alleged land-grabbing and misappropriation by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Zaid Rafoodeen. The authority clarified that Mr. Rafoodeen has been a long-time rice farmer and has not been allocated any new lands. "Mr. Rafoodeen has

indicated that he will pursue legal action against these baseless accusations," the MMA/ADA stated. The authority also underscored its excellent performance under the current administration, noting the positive impact on thousands of farmers.

Reflecting on the former APNU+AFC government's tenure, the MMA/ADA accused the previous administration of favouring cronies, neglecting farmers, and increasing drainage and irrigation charges. "Over 10,000 acres were allocated to a company without considering the needs of more than 200 farmers," the MMA/ADA said.

All three organisations called on the media to prioritise accuracy and thorough research before publishing accusations.

GOVT STEPS IN TO AID LINDEN STORM VICTIMS



Minister Edghill visiting with, and spearheading relief efforts for residents in Region 10

A severe storm flooding compounded that swept through the devastation. Linden on September 24th has left a trail of destruction, prompting a swift response from the government. Dozens of homes were damaged, and many residents were left without shelter as heavy rainfall and

affected families. **“Our priority right now is to ensure families can safely return to their homes,”** Minister Edghill stated. **“We are focusing on getting roofs back on as quickly as possible.”**

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) is also actively involved, providing hot meals and other essential relief. The government has pledged unwavering support to Linden residents as they rebuild their lives.

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, and Minister Edghill recently met with local stakeholders

to discuss flood mitigation and drainage improvements. A flood assessment is underway, and infrastructure improvements will be prioritised.

The Prime Minister also called for greater involvement from local

leaders, stating, **“The government is ready to work with all stakeholders, but the town’s leadership must be present in discussions on Linden’s development.”**



Prime Minister, Mark Phillips and Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill meeting with stakeholders



Minister Edghill visiting with, and spearheading relief efforts for residents in Region 10

WHITE WATER AND KUMAKA GET NEW FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS



Part of the commissioning in White Water

Farmers and agro-processors in Region One are set to benefit significantly from the recent commissioning of \$51 million in agro-processing facilities at White Water and Kumaka. These facilities are expected to enhance the value of agricultural products, increase incomes, and create new job opportunities.

equipped with state-of-the-art machinery, will process cassava into high-demand products like cassava bread, farine, tuma water, and cassareep. This facility is expected to process nearly 140 kilograms of cassava daily, generating 24,000 liters of cassareep monthly.

Meanwhile, the \$12 million Kumaka packaging facility will provide essential post-harvest services, such as cleaning, washing, drying, packaging, and storage. This will help reduce operational costs and minimise spoilage, ensuring that products reach local and regional markets in optimal

condition.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha reiterated the government’s commitment to boosting food production and creating economic opportunities in rural communities. He noted that the White Water facility is part of a broader effort to enhance food production in Region One, which has been identified as a strategic agro-processing hub.

The government has invested over \$850 million since 2021 to enhance food production in Region One, with an additional \$300 million allocated for 2024. This investment includes

the procurement of necessary equipment and inputs for farmers and agro-processors.

In addition to the agro-processing facilities, a \$5.8 million wooden cargo boat was handed over to farmers from Hobodeia,

Hotoquai, Aruau, Sacred Heart, and St Dominique. This boat will enable farmers to transport their produce to the Kumaka Packaging Facility, further improving their ability to reach markets and increase their income.



Part of the commissioning in White Water

BERBICE EXPO TO SHOWCASE OIL, GAS, AND AGRICULTURE



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha

The 18th annual Berbice Expo and Trade Fair is set to take place on October 18-21 at the Canje Welfare Community Centre. This year’s event will focus on

innovation in the oil, gas, and agriculture sectors.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha highlighted the importance of the



Regional Chairman, David Armogan

expo as a platform for showcasing local businesses and fostering investment opportunities. **“This annual event is a significant platform that brings together stakeholders from across the country, showcasing the strength and diversity of our local businesses,”** he said.

Regional Chairman, David Armogan noted that the expo remains one of the largest events in Berbice, attracting businesses and visitors from throughout the region. **“This is one**



The launch of the 18th annual Berbice Expo and Trade Fair

of the largest single events in this region over the last 18 years,” he said. **“It gives the business community, both within and outside the region, an opportunity**

to display their products and allows people to see what is available.”

Poonai Bhigroog, President of the Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce, emphasised

the need for balanced development in the oil and gas and agriculture sectors to ensure that the benefits are shared by all. **“We need to ensure that the growth is inclusive and beneficial to all citizens,”** she said.

The expo will feature 160 booths, with half already reserved. The affordable entrance fee of \$500 makes the event accessible to everyone, providing a valuable opportunity to explore local businesses and the region’s potential.

GOVT SET TO ANNOUNCE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO EARLY 2000s CRIME WAVE

A new health centre was officially opened in the community of Swan on the Linden-Soesdyke Highway. The facility, which cost approximately \$40 million to construct, will provide basic health services to residents of Swan and surrounding areas.

Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony commissioned the health

centre, noting that it will eliminate the need for villagers to travel to neighbouring villages for medical care. Services offered include prenatal care, diabetes and blood pressure testing, HPV testing, and dental services.

Dr. Anthony emphasised the government's commitment to



The CoI aligns with recommendations from the United Nations Human Rights Committee

enhancing Guyana's healthcare system by constructing new health facilities nationwide. He highlighted the ministry's ongoing collaboration with communities across the country to ensure access to adequate healthcare services.

By early 2025, six new hospitals will be opened in Diamond,

Skeldon, Enmore, Bath, De Kinderen, and Anna Regina. These investments will further improve the quality of healthcare in these regions.

In the first half of 2024 alone, the government spent over \$44 billion to ensure the nation's health system is intact and able to provide high-quality care.

PERSONS WARNED TO DESIST FROM SQUATTING IN AMELIA'S WARD



Illegally erected fences on allocated lands

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) has issued a stern warning to individuals illegally occupying lands in Amelia's Ward/Fitz Hope. The agency has received reports of unauthorised land sales and construction activities in the area,

which is reserved for Phase Four of the CHPA's housing project.

During a community visit, CHPA CEO Sherwyn Greaves emphasised that the agency has been actively monitoring the land and dismantling any unauthorised structures.

He denounced any transactions conducted outside the formal process and assured residents that there is no need to resort to illegal squatting.

The CHPA has a successful track record of regularising squatting areas in other regions, but the lands in Amelia's Ward have already been allocated. Greaves urged individuals to submit formal applications for land ownership through the proper channels.

"We are disappointed that persons think that they have to go to these measures to get an allocation when we have been

doing hundreds of allocations in Region Ten since 2020 and we continue to do more" Greaves highlighted.

He warned that continued illegal occupation could result in individuals being registered as squatters, hindering their chances of obtaining a formal allocation. Greaves reassured concerned landowners that the CHPA is committed to securing their lands and preventing further squatting.

"There's no need to squat. There will be enough lands for everybody and once you have a legitimate

application in the system you will be served," he stated.

The agency has recently approved \$80 million for road improvements in Amelia's Ward, indicating its

commitment to developing the community. By following the legal process and working with the CHPA, residents can ensure they have a secure and legal claim to their land.



CEO of Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA) Sherwyn Greaves and team during the visit to Amelia's Ward

REGION SEVEN RESIDENTS ACQUIRE SKILLS IN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND WELDING

Twenty residents from Region Seven are set to receive certification in electrical installation, welding, and fabrication, thereby boosting their employability and entrepreneurial prospects.

These four-month training programmes, facilitated by the Board of Industrial Training (BIT), align with the government's commitment to enhance livelihoods and meet labour market demands.

During his recent visit to the region, Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton engaged with the trainees, and highlighted the growing need for skilled electricians in Bartica and beyond. He encouraged participants to view their training

as a stepping stone rather than an end point, stating, **"You should strive to upgrade yourself. As we build more houses, the demand for electricians will increase. You might even consider starting your own business."**

Several trainees

expressed their satisfaction with the skills they are acquiring, which they believe will enable them to contribute positively to Guyana's development. Kasmira Beaton, 21, the only female trainee in the welding and fabrication course, described her experience as transformative.

"I decided to try something different from cooking and girly stuff. At first, I felt a bit out of place as the only girl, but I grew comfortable and eager to learn," Beaton shared, adding that she plans to start her own welding and fabrication business.

Lisa Pereira, 26, who has always had a passion for electrical work, is thrilled to pursue her dream of becoming a skilled electrician. **"I've always liked electrical work. Now that I have this opportunity, I know I can find jobs or even work for myself once I complete the programme,"** Pereira said.

Minister Hamilton underscored the



Trainees from the electrical installation training programme in Region Seven



Minister of Labour, Joseph Hamilton speaking to the welding and fabrication trainees

importance of completing the training, noting that it will provide participants with valuable skills for their personal development. **"At the end of the day, you will have a skill that will be useful for your future,"** he remarked. He also encouraged trainees to explore additional courses that complement their current training, reinforcing BIT's mission to offer a wide array of technical and vocational programmes nationwide.

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NATION BIDS FAREWELL TO SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL



President Dr Irfaan Ali speaking at the state funeral

A national funeral was held to honour the life and legacy of Sir Shridath Surendranath Ramphal, a towering figure in international diplomacy and a stalwart champion of Guyana. The ceremony, attended by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett, and CARICOM Chairman Dickon Mitchell, as well as Sir Ramphal's family members, was a testament to his far-reaching impact.

Sir Ramphal's ashes were interred at The Seven Ponds of the Promenade Gardens, a

Nations Law of the Sea Convention, where Guyana successfully asserted its maritime rights. **"He was always at the forefront of defending Guyana's territorial integrity,"** the President remarked. **"He never faltered when called upon."**

The President also underscored Sir Ramphal's achievements as Commonwealth Secretary-General, where he championed democracy, justice, and racial equity, thereby enhancing Guyana's global standing. **"His words carried weight due to his distinguished career and his deep concern for Guyana's future,"** President Ali said. **"Sir**

honour, the Order of Excellence.

Sir Ramphal was also renowned for his global advocacy. He played a critical role in the Commonwealth's opposition to apartheid in South Africa and supported Zimbabwe's liberation. His influence extended across international forums, consistently advocating for Caribbean interests.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Sir Ramphal was a beloved family man and a compassionate friend. As Chancellor of several prestigious universities, he championed



President Dr Irfaan Ali speaking at the state funeral

education, inspiring generations to pursue intellectual excellence. His legacy will continue to guide future leaders in

Guyana and beyond.

Tributes to Sir Shridath Ramphal

In remembrance of the late Sir Shridath family, friends, heads of state, and prominent figures honour his profoundly impactful life and legacy.

Chairman of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Grenada Dickon Mitchell: "Sir Shridath was at the vanguard



President Dr Irfaan Ali paying respect to Sir Shridath Ramphal's son

of understanding the nexus between the natural environment and development."

C A R I C O M Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett: "In an illustrious career devoted to public service, Sir Shridath

Sir Shridath would be all we require. I can think of no other product of our region whose name was followed by more "letters" from more organisations and countries than Sir Shridath – all well deserved. As we reflect on his passing, I am satisfied that the extent of his service to this region and the world for almost three-quarters of a century has irreversibly stamped his name in [the] annals of Caribbean history."

Director General of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OCEC) H.E. Dr. Didacus Jules: "Sir Shridath's contributions to the OECS were

helped steer the course towards our (Zimbabwe's) independence with his astute leadership."

CCJ President Justice Adrian Saunders: "Sir Shridath's vision for an integrated Caribbean was not only rooted in political and economic unity but also in strengthening legal frameworks that protect the rights and freedoms of all Caribbean citizens."

Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau: "A believer in the power of education as a force for good, Sir Shridath's tenure saw the creation of the Commonwealth of Learning, making high-quality education available across the Commonwealth."

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB): "The Caribbean Development Bank and the entire Caribbean community have lost a true statesman, a regionalist par excellence, and an internationalist whose

blazed a trail of excellence in diplomacy, law, academia and politics, earning respect and admiration in his homeland Guyana, elsewhere in the Caribbean Region, and across the Commonwealth of Nations."

Former Prime Minister of Jamaica P.J. Patterson:

"No one has spoken more passionately and more persistently written or more assiduously toiled in the vineyard of oneness than this genial giant."

Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley: "If ever we needed a definition of the term Global Citizen, a look at the resume of



Family members of the late Sir Shridath Ramphal at the state funeral

invaluable...His vision for a stronger, more integrated Caribbean remains a guiding light for our organisation."

Non-Resident Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Guyana H.E. Paul Chikawa: "In his key position as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Sir Shridath Ramphal

contributions have shaped the course of history."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland: "Nelson Mandela said of Sir Sonny, 'He is one of those men who have become famous because, in their fight for human justice, they have chosen the whole world as their theatre.'"

Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines: "I am unlikely ever to meet another statesman or Caribbean figure of higher quality than 'Sonny' Ramphal."



President Dr Irfaan Ali paying respect to Sir Shridath Ramphal at his final resting place at the Seven Ponds in the Botanical Gardens, Georgetown

fitting resting place for this esteemed Guyanese hero. President Ali led the tributes, hailing Sir Ramphal as an "architect of Guyana" and an exceptional figure for the Caribbean and the Commonwealth.

President Ali highlighted Sir Ramphal's significant contributions to international law and diplomacy, particularly his role in Guyana's legal team before the International Tribunal of the United

Shridath reminded us that democracy is fragile and must be defended at all costs."

Throughout his 95 years, Sir Ramphal distinguished himself as a champion for diplomacy, justice, and regional cooperation. His tenure as Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs laid the foundation for Guyana's foreign policy and regional development. His efforts earned him Guyana's highest



The urn with Sir Shridath Ramphal's ashes brought to The Place of the Seven Ponds at the Botanical Gardens



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CPL CRICKET CRAZE TAKES GUYANA BY STORM



The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) cricket tournament ignited a frenzy of excitement across Guyana as fans flocked to stadiums to witness thrilling matches on September 20, 21, 22, and 25.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors, the home team, dominated, securing impressive victories over the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots, Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, and Barbados Royals.

Beyond the cricket, the CPL matches transformed the stadium grounds into a festive atmosphere with local food, live music, and a carnival-like vibe.

The tournament attracted passionate cricket fans and prominent government officials alike, showcasing Guyana's enthusiasm for the sport.



Canadian arm of University of Guyana hosts meet and greet

Dr. Ken Singh and his wife, Jessie Singh, hosted a “Meet and Greet Reception” on Saturday, September 28th in support of the University of Guyana and the University of Guyana Foundation, which was attended by Honorary Consul, Mani Singh, along with Consulate Team members Mr. Robert Bazil (UG Alumni) and Ms. Devina Richmond.

In attendance also included members of the World Guyana Congress, including the Chairman: Mark M. Persaud, LL.B., LL.M., LL.D.

This was the first major event for the Canadian arm of the UG Founda-

tion. There were over 200 guests in attendance with both the Chancellor, Prof. Edward Greene, and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin, giving remarks. Vice Chancellor Prof Paloma Mohamed Martin also presented a video of the University’s Blueprint 2040 and beyond showcasing the impressive work and progress of the University.

Many UG Alumni, members of the business community, supporters and influencers from the diaspora attended. There was an amazing dinner which was followed by door prizes and gifts.



Dr Ken Singh and his wife Jessie at the event. PHOTO: GUYANA CONSULATE TORONTO

Routledge Publishing publishes ‘path-breaking book’ from UG

A GROUND-breaking publication entitled “Post-secondary Chemistry Education in Developing Countries: Advancing Diversity in Pedagogy and Practice” was officially launched on Friday at the Education Lecture Theatre (ELT), of the University of Guyana’s Turkeyen Campus.

The publication was co-authored by

three senior academics led by award-winning chemist and Head of the University’s Chemistry Department, Dr. Dawn Fox; Chemistry Lecturer and Former Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Chemistry Educator Medeba Uzzi; and Education Methodology Specialist and Director of UG’s Institute of Distance and Continu-

ing Education (IDCE) Dr. Jacqueline Murray. The 220-page book, “Post-secondary Chemistry Education in Developing Countries: Advancing Diversity in Pedagogy and Practice” was published by the internationally-renowned Routledge Press under its research in STEM education imprint.

The event was well supported by

members of the academic community, both in Guyana and abroad, as well as relatives and friends of the authors. The publishing of the book is viewed as a significant achievement in academic publishing, as it advocates a multifaceted approach to holistically transform chemistry education within developing countries.

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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