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EA

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EA

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Cream 1000ml  
Reg:\$7.99

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EA

Chaokoh Young Green  
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Reg:\$3.59

**\$1.99**  
EA

Hunts Tomato Sauce  
680ml  
Reg:\$4.59

**\$2.29**  
EA

Lucky Fish Sauce  
700ml  
Reg:\$2.59

**\$1.29**  
EA

Windsor Pickling Salt  
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Reg:\$5.99

**\$2.59**  
EA

Royale Facial Tissue  
2ply 6boxes  
Reg:\$9.99

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FROZEN & DAIRY

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Reg:\$2.99

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EA

Shana okra whole & ring  
秋葵 300g  
Reg:\$2.99

**\$1.99**  
EA

AA-1 smelt  
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Reg:\$2.99

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腌制开边牛奶鱼 350g  
Reg:\$7.99

**\$5.59**  
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Taza chicken samosa  
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Reg:\$8.99

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EA

TC dumpling  
天上掉馅饺子系列 454g  
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EA

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Reg:\$2.99

**\$1.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$3.99

**\$2.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$4.99

**\$3.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$9.99

**\$7.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$6.99

**\$3.99**  
EA

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Seasoning Sauce 283g  
Reg:\$4.99

**\$2.99**  
EA

Alcan Premium Quality  
Aluminum Foil 20'  
12in x 20ft  
Reg:\$3.99

**\$1.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$15.99

**\$10.99**  
EA

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Reg:\$8.99

**\$5.99**  
EA

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**\$5.99**  
LB

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新鲜玉米 (5条装)  
Reg:\$5.99

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PK

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10磅白薯仔  
Reg:\$6.99

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BAG

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黄椒  
Reg:\$2.99

**\$1.58**  
LB

Seafood Mushroom  
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Paste (3 x 3.5L)  
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EA

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Hoisin Sauce  
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Eggs 180Pcs  
Reg:\$70.00

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# Scarborough SW candidate is a doctor, man of faith and family

Dr. ASM Tarun is running for Member of Parliament from Scarborough Southwest. He completed his medical degree from the University of Dhaka and completed his residency from the University of Manitoba. In his medical career he successfully runs six primary care clinics and a specialist centre. His community involvement and accolades include being a medical team leader in Rohingya Refugee Camps during the COVID 19 Pandemic, founding president of the Bangladeshi Physicians and Dentists Association Canada, Director of Canada-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce, as well as a member of Rotary Club of Toronto Danforth. Outside of academia, medical prac-

tice, and business pursuits, he is a man of faith, family, freedom, and fiscal responsibility.

As a frontline healthcare worker, Dr. ASM Tarun witnessed the overburdened healthcare system in Canada and believes the Conservative Blue Seal plan which aims to certify qualified foreign trained doctors and nurses amidst the healthcare staff shortage in Canada will help our healthcare system.

Advance Polling starts on April 18th and runs till April 21st. Election Day is on April 28th. Make sure to get your votes in during Advance Polling or the day of election.

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**TARUN**  
*Family Physician*  
**SCARBOROUGH SOUTHWEST**

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✓ Voting: April 28, 2025  
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## Who is Dr. Tarun:

- Compassionate Family Physician and health care leader
- Lives & works in Scarborough Southwest
- Successful business owner of 6 primary care clinics and a specialist centre
- Founding President-Bangladeshi Physicians and Dentists Association Canada
- Director-Canada Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce
- Medical team leader in Rohingya Refugee Camps during COVID 19 pandemic
- Member of Rotary Club of Toronto Danforth
- Advocate for Family, Freedom and Fiscal Responsibility



# Guyana government to meet exporters to discuss US tariffs

President Irfaan Ali has disclosed that the Government of Guyana will meet with local exporters to gauge the impact of the United States’ 38% reciprocal tariffs on Guyanese exports.

Last Wednesday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 38% tariff on goods from Guyana, citing that the country imposes 76% tariffs on U.S. goods in currency manipulation and trade barriers.

However, in a sudden shift, President Trump announced on Wednesday that he would temporarily lower the hefty duties he had just imposed on several countries while increasing pressure on China, leading to a surge in U.S. stocks. This decision followed intense financial market volatility, which had erased trillions of dollars from stock markets and caused an unsettling rise in U.S. government bond yields.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Local Content Summit on Tuesday, President Ali said, “As we said earlier, the U.S. is a strong partner of Guyana and we have a lot of discussions and conversations that are ongoing, and I’m not going to go further at this point.” He continued, “I have asked the Minister of Finance, and I know our Vice President too will be meeting with our exporters before the end of this week to have a sense from them as to the current impact or the current circumstances, but there are some good



Guyana President Irfaan Ali

conversations going on.”

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo also addressed the tariff issue during his last press conference, noting that the move was not unexpected, as Trump had campaigned on addressing trade imbalances between the U.S. and various countries.

He explained that, in Guyana’s case, U.S. trade figures indicated a substantial trade surplus, with Guyana exporting more to the U.S. than it imported. However, Guyana’s figures differ significantly. To address the dis-

crepancy, Jagdeo said that the government would work to clarify the difference in trade surplus data in hopes of potentially lowering the tariff. According to the United Nations COM-TRADE, Guyana’s 2024 report shows \$3.3 billion in exports to the U.S. and \$2.56 billion in imports, leaving a trade surplus of \$799 million. However, the U.S. report shows Guyana’s exports to the U.S. at \$5.5 billion, with imports only at \$1.3 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$4.1 billion.

“There is clearly room for us to

work with the U.S. partners to clarify this information,” Jagdeo said. He assured Guyanese exporters that the government would work with them to mitigate the impact of the tariff and ensure continued access to U.S. and other international markets. “I want to assure all of our exporters that we’ll work with them as we learn more of the issue. We will be meeting with them and working to ensure they have the full support of the government so that we do not lose economic output, welfare, or jobs in the export industries.”

## Pensioners to get \$10 billion in one-off payments

More than 25,000 senior citizens across Guyana are expected to receive a one-time payout from the government, totaling over GY\$10 billion, President Irfaan Ali announced on Thursday.

The payments will go to individuals who have reached the age of 60 on or before December 31, 2024, but did not meet the minimum 750 contributions required to qualify for a pension under the National Insurance Scheme (NIS). The initiative is aimed at offering financial relief to thousands of older citizens who have fallen short of the threshold.

Speaking during an event with senior citizens, President Ali said the measure is a “one-off” payment and emphasized that it would be rolled out

using existing data in the NIS database.

“From Friday, the NIS will begin disbursing payments to eligible pensioners based on their contribution history,” the President said. “For those who believe they qualify but are not in the database, you are encouraged to submit your documents at NIS offices or during outreach sessions that the Ministry of Finance and NIS will be holding together.”

The payout amounts will vary depending on the number of contributions made:

500 to 549 contributions:	GY\$260,000
550 to 599 contributions:	GY\$390,000
600 to 699 contributions:	GY\$520,000

700 to 749 contributions: GY\$650,000


President Ali said this measure would inject “over \$10 billion of additional disposable income into the hands of our senior citizens,” helping to ease financial burdens for those who narrowly missed the NIS qualification mark.

Outreach efforts to assist applicants will begin on Friday, with joint teams from the Ministry of Finance and the NIS facilitating document submissions and helping verify eligibility.



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## EDITORIAL &amp; OPINIONS

# Voting has consequences

It is a long-held wisdom that voting is the cornerstone of democracy, as it gives each adult an opportunity to choose the type of leadership they want in a free and fair manner.

That opportunity looms before us again on Monday April 28, and we dare say that never before has an election been more important to our country.

This is because of the threats we are facing as a country from our neighbours to the south, a country that once was our close ally.

That neighbour -- or its elected leader, we should say -- has chosen to dismantle centuries of friendship by attacking our sovereignty and our economy by imposing hefty tariffs on us.

He has also crumbled the relationship the USA has enjoyed with other close allies around the world.

If nothing else, the actions by Donald Trump have magnified the importance of voting carefully. If we didn't know it before, we know it now: voting has serious consequences.

In Canada, party leaders are hawking themselves as the best to lead us in these uncertain times, as indeed they should.

We must ask what are their plans to take us forward in this messy divorce from the USA while keeping a roof over our heads and food on our plates.

We must also ask what kind of Canada we would like to see in the immediate future: will it be the one we want our children to live in?

We're not going to tell you whom you should vote for. That's a very personal decision each voter has to make, and each one of you must do your own homework to decide which of the leaders presenting themselves as candidates for Prime Minister is most capable of negotiating the very rocky path we have ahead of us.

We think readers should look at experience, and who has a doable plan that will impose the least amount of pain on taxpayers. The action word here is "doable". Politicians promise

pie-in-the-sky to the people to get their votes, but are they able to deliver?

As we go to the polls here in Canada, the people of Trinidad and Tobago are also facing an election on April 28. Their choice is far more simple: either stick with the incumbent that has held power for the last 10 years, or make a change.

When one examines the track record of the incumbent, however, there is a lot to be desired. They have brought T&T to its knees financially, not the least by closing down the country's main income earner, the Petrotrin Oil Refinery. This government followed the playbook of previous iterations of the same party that shut down the sugar industry, as well as the railroad system, both actions that still have a major impact on the people through destroying an industry that employed thousands in the mainly Indo-populated sugar belt, and stranding the population on heavily trafficked roads.

On the other side is a promise of

better. The United National Congress led by former Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar is promising to reopen the refinery, as well as restore education and social benefits that she introduced in her first term that were then erased by the incumbent.

Persad-Bissessar is campaigning on boosting the economy -- which did well under her term -- and combating the scourge of violence that has seen murder rates soar past 600 per year.

For us, the choice in T&T is clear. It is also clear to us where we should vote here in Canada but we will leave that to you to decide.

Just remember one thing: voting has serious consequences. Be careful who you choose. The result could be a stronger Canada, or us becoming the 51st state.

Now may be the time to choose leader over party -- in other words, let's leave party loyalty at the door.

There's just too much at stake.

# A President who stands firmly for Guyana

Dear Editor,

SINCE taking office four and a half years ago, the PPP/C government led by President, Dr. Irfaan Ali; Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips; and Vice-President Dr. Bharat Jagdeo has had an extremely extraordinary list of accomplishments in almost every region and every district of the country, including those in the most remote areas of the country.

These achievements are unheard off and unmatched in the first term of any previous government since Guyana attained its independence on May 26, 1966.

Their relentless, persistent and tenacious efforts have resulted in massive socio-economic expansion and growth in such areas as health care, education, especially at the pre-and-post-secondary levels, housing, agriculture, poverty and employment reduction, the gas-to-shore project, and last but not least, the economy.

Under Vice President Jagdeo's tenure

as President, the economy had progressed at a rapid pace, but during the last four years under President Ali's, the country's economy accelerated at a pace never seen before in the history of Guyana.

Together, they have also transformed the landscape of Guyana, thus moving it from an underdeveloped country category to a developing and middle-income nation status.

His Excellency's impressive success at home was replicated on the border controversy with Venezuela shortly after the March 1, 2025, incursion by a Venezuela naval vessel into Guyana's exclusive economic zone the Liza Destiny, an Exxon-Mobil oil facility in the county of Essequibo.

President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela request's to meet with President Ali, ostensibly on recent developments on the border controversy, was strongly and flatly rejected by Guyana's Head of State.

Needless to say, President Ali's re-

fusal to meet with President Maduro was proper and correct, mainly because of the Maduro regime's ruthless, hostile and provocative aggression against Guyana and its citizens.

Another act of provocation was a statement by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to conduct elections in the Essequibo region of Guyana in to elect a "Governor" and "Legislative Council."

These plans by Maduro have not only exposed his reckless, stupid and infantile behaviour, but they also revealed his inept, indecent, crude and unstatesmanlike character.

In a terse and powerful statement, President Ali has rejected the threats by President Maduro to Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and has made it very clear that Guyana will not be intimidated or coerced.

The Head of State has said his government is open to dialogue and diplomacy on the border controversy, but not under

duress, and that its sovereignty is non-negotiable.

President Maduro believes that by having fake talks with President Ali will end his isolation and weaken the support of Guyana's friends and allies and give him a free rein to continue his aggression, but neither Guyana nor its friends and allies are taken in by his tricks.

President Ali was not alone in condemning Venezuela's incursion into Guyana's territory. Support came from the 15-nation CARICOM; Latin America; and several European Union members, but most of all the United States which has reaffirmed its support for Guyana's territorial integrity, and issued a stern warning that further provocation will result in dire consequences for the Maduro regime. Our leaders are confident that the border controversy will be settled peacefully.

Yours respectfully,  
Dr Asquith Rose



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**Contributors: Niraj Sharma, Freddie Kissoon,**

**Donald Ramotar, Cliff Rajkumar, Dr Kumar Mahabir, Dr Vishnu Bisram**

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# Canadian snowbirds packing up and flying north ...for good

The number of Canadian “snowbirds” planning to sell their second homes in sunny Florida and Arizona has surged this spring, many of them put off by the sudden chill that has blanketed relations between their homeland and the U.S.

Real estate agents say they are seeing more Canadians cashing out, further softening property prices in warm-weather states that have long attracted retirees and tourists from cold and snowy Canada.

Canadians spent close to US\$6 billion on U.S. real estate from April 2023 to March 2024 - making up 13 per cent of all foreign transactions - more than any other nationality, according to data from the National Association of Realtors. Nearly half of the homes purchased by Canadians were for vacation purposes, with Florida, Arizona and Hawaii ranking as the top markets.

Last week, Tracy and Dale McMullen sold their vacation home in Buckeye, Arizona, a property they owned for five years. The Alberta residents, who usually spend four to five months in Arizona a year, said they are not planning to come back.

“We decided to sell the property after the current POTUS took office,” said Dale, referring to U.S. President Donald Trump, who was inaugurated for the second time in January.

“It was time to leave. We felt we could not trust what he might do next to us as individuals and to our country. We no longer felt welcome nor safe.”

Canadians are feeling stung by the actions and words of the Trump administration, which has imposed steep trade tariffs on its northern neighbor, threatening Canada’s export-dependent economy. Trump’s repeated suggestions that Canada should become a U.S. state, and his derogatory references to now-former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as “governor” have annoyed Canadians and offended their national pride.

As a result, many Canadians are boycotting U.S.-made goods, such as bourbon and produce and canceling trips to U.S. destinations.

Canadian return flights from the U.S. fell 13.5 per cent in March from a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada. Canadian-resident return trips by automobile fell about 32 per cent.

Real estate is now facing a similar pullback in demand.

Laurie Lavine, a realtor in Arizona who helped the McMullens with their sale, told Reuters that he currently has 18 listings from Canadians looking to



Canadian snowbirds say they no longer feel welcome or safe in the USA

sell, compared with the usual two to four per quarter.

Trade friction and the current weakness of the Canadian dollar are also contributing to the pullback, Lavine said. Canadians are also feeling “picked on,” with U.S. border agents enforcing stricter rules on entering the country, he added.

Beginning this month, the Trump administration is requiring all foreigners 14 or older to register and submit fingerprints if they stay beyond 30 days. Canadians, who previously could visit for up to six months without a visa, are subject to the new requirement.

The sour feelings that many Canadians suddenly feel toward the U.S. are having a big impact on the property market in Florida, one of the closest warm-weather states to Ontario and Quebec, Canada’s most populous provinces.

“South Florida’s residential market has for decades been reliant on the annual influx of Canadian snowbirds who either own property and pay property tax or rent for the winter months - either way, a boost to the economy,” said Ermengarde Jabir, a director of economic research at Moody’s Analytics.

The first quarter is typically the peak buying season for condominiums in the region, coinciding with when many snowbirds are in town, said Andrea Hartmann, managing partner of the Sandy Hartmann Group, a real estate firm in the Tampa Bay area.

“Since the beginning of the year we have not received an offer from a Canadian buyer even once, and normally we

would,” she said.

Florida’s housing market is already reeling. Prospective buyers have faced rising insurance premiums, concerns over climate change and a series of devastating hurricanes in recent years.





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# Guyana to officially open World Trade Centre Georgetown in October

The World Trade Centre Georgetown (WTCG) will be officially declared open on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, marking a significant milestone for Guyana and the wider Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The announcement was made through special invitations distributed to delegates attending the 55th annual General Assembly and Global Business Forum of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) in France.

The invitation, signed by WTCG Executive Chairman Komal Samaroo, welcomes global business leaders to the opening ceremony, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the Centre’s headquarters, located at 44 High Street, Kingston, in the heart of Georgetown. Executive Director Wesley Kirton noted that the timing of the event—just one week ahead of the WTCA Members Forum in New York—was designed to accommodate international delegates planning to attend both gatherings.

The launch of WTCG comes at a time when Guyana is experiencing rapid economic growth, driven by developments in the energy sector, infrastructure, and a robust investment climate. Organizers say the Centre’s opening reflects not only Guyana’s expanding global role but also CARICOM’s broader ambitions to strengthen international trade and investment ties.

“WTC Georgetown stands as a



The Guyana World Trade Centre — will open in October

symbol of Guyana’s—and the region’s—commitment to global commerce,” the invitation reads. It also highlights the business potential in sectors such as energy, tourism, mining, agriculture, agribusiness, and manufacturing, positioning Guyana as a hub for

international partnerships.

WTC Georgetown is the first and currently the only World Trade Centre in the CARICOM region. While the official opening will take place in October, occupancy of the building is scheduled to begin in June. The two-day launch event

will feature high-level speakers, including government officials, international trade experts, and business leaders, alongside a robust business program aimed at facilitating new connections and investments.

# T&T State of Emergency ends after 105 days

The State of Emergency (SoE) in Trinidad and Tobago officially ended on April 13, 2025, following 105 days of enforcement under special security regulations.

The SoE, initially declared on December 30, 2024, by the then Prime Minister Keith Rowley, was intended to combat a surge in violent crime and a rapidly escalating murder rate. At the time, Rowley described the situation as “alarming” and said the emergency measure was necessary to curb gang violence and protect public safety.

Current Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Stuart Young echoed similar concerns when he took

office, pointing to a deadly gang war that claimed six lives as one of the triggering incidents. In his announcement, Young emphasized the urgency of protecting citizens from what could become a spiraling security crisis.

On the final day of the SoE, 39 detainees were released from the Maximum Security Prison (MSP) at Golden Grove and the Eastern Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre (ECRC) in Santa Rosa, Arima. Among these facilities, ECRC alone is expected to release approximately 36 detainees, all of whom had been held without formal charges under the emergency regulations.

However, not all detainees are being released. Eleven individuals remain in custody and are now facing criminal charges. Revocation orders for the 39 detainees were signed by National Security Minister Marvin Gonzales on the morning of April 13, one day after orders were signed for the 11 individuals to be re-arrested and investigated further. Three additional associates are also expected to be charged, bringing the total number of persons facing criminal prosecution to 14.

During the SoE, police officers were granted expanded powers, including the authority to search homes

and individuals without a warrant if there was reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. Critics say these sweeping powers did not yield meaningful results, while raising concerns about civil liberties.

As the country moves forward, the effectiveness of the SoE remains under scrutiny. With crime still top of mind for many residents, the government is now under pressure to implement alternative strategies that address public safety without compromising personal freedoms.

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# Coconut industry in Region Six has increased to 8,000 acres

MINISTER of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, has announced significant progress in the expansion of the coconut industry in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne), highlighting its growing contribution to the region’s agricultural development.

According to the minister, the cultivation area dedicated to coconut production has now reached an impressive 8,000 acres—a notable increase that reflects both government support and farmers’ commitment to diversification.

This expansion continues to boost local employment, enhance export potential, and provide opportunities for value-added products such as coconut water, oil, etc.

During an interview. Minister Mustapha emphasised that the government remains committed to supporting the industry through continued investments. He pointed out that “the coconut industry has increased tremendously. We have increased coconut to date close to about over 8,000 acres already in this region; nationally, it’s vast, almost 38,000 acres of coconut we have expanded in the industry.”

In Black Bush Polder last week, President Irfaan Ali revealed that the Ministry of Agriculture will be exploring the replanting of coconut as a way of boosting supplementary income for



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha

interested farmers, further contributing to agricultural diversification and economic resilience in the region.

According to President Ali, he also asked the Ministry of Agriculture to design a project where coconut trees can be replanted. He said that with the provision of the Brazilian green nuts and about 5,000 – 10,000 coconut plants, a facility will be built that will purchase the nuts and bottle coconut water for the local and regional markets, in order to create more “opportunities for your

income.”

“Those are the things that will help to increase your disposable income to diversify the earning potential of your land.”

As such, Minister Mustapha said that the directives from President Ali will assist farmers in expanding.

“As a matter of fact, we have a number of areas; we had two specialists that came from India who are now working with us, and we are looking at the banks, the Berbice River bank,

Canje River bank.”

He added that in the Black Bush Polder area, the ministry is looking at another 500 acres for coconut production. “We are looking to develop some right in the Canje area with the single parents that the President talked about with the shade house programme.

According to Minister Mustapha, coconut farmers who are already cultivating will also receive the necessary assistance.

## Mustapha promises more support for Essequibo’s rice farmers

FACING mounting concerns from rice farmers on the Essequibo Coast, Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, on Tuesday, unveiled a suite of emergency interventions aimed at stabilising the region’s rice industry and safeguarding farmers’ livelihoods.

During the meeting, Minister Mustapha assured farmers that the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), is taking active steps to resolve issues related to paddy spoilage due to delays at rice mills.

He explained that the GRDB will be working closely with both farmers and millers to correct these delays and improve efficiency across the supply chain.

Among the key measures announced, senior GRDB officials and regional extension officers have been dispatched to work directly with farmers and millers. Their immediate task is to enforce a fair and transparent paddy grading system, and to streamline operations at mills to eliminate backlogs.

“These additional interventions are already underway. Our goal is to ensure

that all 300,000 bags of paddy are successfully harvested and processed at the mills without further loss or delay. We are committed to safeguarding farmers’ livelihoods and supporting the strength of the rice sector in Region Two,” the Minister explained.

Minister Mustapha was joined on the outreach by Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Madanlall Ramraj; GRDB General Manager, Badrie Persaud; Deputy General Manager, Kuldip Ragnauth and a team of senior regional officials — underlining the seriousness with which the government views the issue.

Farmers, some of whom faced potential financial ruin had the situation persisted, welcomed the Minister’s visit and expressed gratitude for the prompt and tangible response.

The interventions come at a critical juncture for Guyana’s rice industry, as Region Two continues to play a pivotal role in national production.

Plans are currently underway to construct a drying facility in Region Two. A site for the facility will be identified soon, and it is expected to serve as



Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, engages with rice farmers

a long-term solution to the region’s recurring post-harvest difficulties.

This latest intervention follows an urgent meeting between farmers and Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo on April 12, during which several key issues were raised.

While the drying facility will take some time to be established, immediate measures have already been implemented. In a bid to facilitate cost-effective transportation, the government has removed freight charges for rice and paddy transported via ferry out of Re-

gion Two.

Truckers are now required to pay only vehicle fees, and they are permitted to return with cargo, opening new logistical routes for moving excess harvests.

The government is also exploring the use of buying agents to locate new markets and secure better prices for farmers. Minister Mustapha disclosed that approximately 556,000 tonnes of paddy are still to be harvested across the region—highlighting the urgency of intervention.





An aerial view of some of the new housing stock in Guyana

# Gov't charging full-speed ahead to clear housing backlog —Jagdeo affirms

THE aggressive approach by the government to clear the housing backlog and put more Guyanese families on the path to homeownership is being pressed forward, People's Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary, Bharrat Jagdeo, said.

During a recent press conference, he underscored the government's clear objective to make homeownership a reality for all Guyanese and stated that the funds have been set aside in the national budget to clear the backlog in nine regions.

Region Four (Demerara- Mahaica), however, has a massive backlog of nearly 50,000/60,000, he explained.

He said: "So, we said we will focus on clearing off these regions who have applied up to the end 2024 by this year's end, and early next year. And in Region 4, we hope it will take some of the pressure off. If you get a plot over there, we can take you off from Region 4. We're trying to get more people now with a

new bridge to go to three. Because in four we're running out of land."

Jagdeo then pointed to the non-existent housing policy under the previous A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) administration.

While the opposition has continued to be persistent in their criticisms, Jagdeo pointed to their dismal track record.

"What else do they have to say except negative? Have they laid out any plan for housing that you've seen?" He questioned.

Earlier this month, President Dr. Irfaan Ali announced that the Ministry of Housing and Water will work to eliminate the existing backlog of housing applications in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) by the end of this year. The Head of State made the announcement during a community outreach held in New Amsterdam, where the President engaged directly with res-

idents of Berbice.

He assured Berbicians that all individuals who submitted housing applications on or before December 31, 2024, will receive official letters. He emphasised the government's commitment to accelerating the processing of applications to ensure that individuals are granted access to housing opportunities on time.

Prior to that, during an outreach in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), he also announced that the housing backlog in that region will be eliminated and applicants will receive their provisional allocations by the end of September.

He told the residents: "Before the end of September, every single person who applied up to the end of 2024 will receive a letter for provisional allocation in Region Three...We will clear the backlog in Region Three completely."

He had highlighted that the lands the opposition gave away to their asso-

ciates have been repossessed and will be handed to the ordinary Guyanese.

Over 40,800 house lots have been allocated since 2020, with the government set to surpass its ambitious target of 50,000 house lots in its first term.

It is not just a number—it is tens of thousands of families, especially from low- and middle-income groups, who now possess the security and dignity of homeownership. The strategic expansion of housing schemes and infrastructure by the government, and new mortgage arrangements, have made home ownership possible for many who were previously marginalised.

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# Agricultural research partnerships forge new pathways for productivity

DURING a visit to Africa by its Director General, Manuel Otero, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) pledged to intensify its collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), to facilitate the adoption of new technologies to boost productivity in rural areas.

AGRA and CIMMYT are two of the most important organisations in the world involved in research and the promotion of science and innovation as key tools for agricultural transformation.

Otero remarked that, “These agreements highlight the importance of technical co-operation as an element that integrates science, innovation and policies to benefit agricultural producers, using technology as a powerful weapon to combat challenges involved in increasing productivity and protecting natural resources.”

“They also reaffirm IICA’s role as an organisation that is building bridges between science and public policy and between two regions that are vital to global food security”, he added.

The strengthening of the partnership with AGRA and CIMMYT was formalised with the signing of the agreements during a visit of the IICA Director General to Nairobi. Dr Otero, along with the Director of Technical Cooperation of the specialised agency, Muhammad Ibrahim, came to Kenya’s capital city to participate in Science



Manuel Otero, Director General of IICA and Alice Ruhweza, President of AGRA

Week, organised by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Private-sector representatives and policy and science decision makers in the areas of agriculture and food security attended the meeting, which focused on the role of science and innovation in boosting productivity and the income of farmers.

The signing of the agreement by Otero and AGRA President, Alice Ruhweza, took place at AGRA Headquarters in Nairobi. AGRA is working to transform the existing subsistence model of African agriculture into a commercially viable activity for small farmers, in a bid to improve food security, nutrition and the incomes of mil-

lions of farmers on the continent. During the meeting, Otero and Ruhweza made headway in developing a project involving researcher ex-

changes between both regions and the Director General provided details on research that IICA is conducting to improve tropical agricultural productivity and resilience.

Ruhweza handed Otero the symbolic key of the IICA office in Africa—to be housed at the AGRA Headquarters itself. An AGRA Office was opened at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica some years ago.

Ruhweza noted that, “During this time of global turbulence, collaboration between these two continents is not only strategic, but fundamental. African

countries have much to gain from Latin American experience, approaches and innovations.”

AGRA and IICA have been working together for several years to strengthen the role of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as regions that play a key role in guaranteeing the planet’s food security and sustainability.

In 2022, the organisations co-hosted the Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit on Agrifood Systems, bringing ministers, deputy ministers and experts on agriculture, the environment, science and technology from both continents to IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica.

While in Nairobi, Otero also signed a joint general co-operation agreement with Bram Govaerts, Director General of CIMMYT, addressing several issues, including agricultural research, innovation, the bioeconomy, territorial development and family farming, among others.

Goaverts noted that, “The partnership with IICA will bring to the foreground the role of science in devising agricultural solutions, driving innovation and supporting small farmers, who are the backbone of food security.”

Also participating in the signing of the memorandum of understanding was Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Director of CGIAR.

CIMMYT is one of CGIAR’s 15 agricultural research centres. It specialises in the development of improved varieties of maize and wheat and is headquartered in Texcoco, Mexico.

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](http://www.wgc-org.com)

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# President Ali extends condolences on passing of Pope Francis

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has expressed profound sorrow at the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, the spiritual leader of over 1.3 billion Roman Catholics worldwide. In a message of condolence, the President joined the global community in mourning the loss of a figure whose influence transcended religious boundaries.

See below a message from His Excellency, President Dr. Irfaan Ali on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis:

“I join the multitudes across the world in mourning the passing of His

Holiness Pope Francis. As the spiritual head of more than 1.3 billion Roman Catholics, his death will be deeply felt across all continents. On behalf of the government and people of Guyana, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the global Catholic community and especially the Faithful of our local diocese.

Pope Francis’s election to the papacy twelve years ago generated a wave of excitement, especially considering that he was the first person from the Americas to become Pope. His papacy sparked important conversations about



Pope Francis: will be remebered for the simplicity of his lifestyle

acceptance and belonging within the Church. The recent synod that he convened has laid the foundational stones for a new way of being Church.

Apart from his religious legacy, he will long be remembered for the simplicity of his lifestyle, his enlightened stance on global concerns such as climate change, inequality and migration, and his role in fostering improved inter-faith dialogue and relations.

The environment was close to his heart. In his encyclical letter, Laudato Si, Pope Francis called for shared responsibility for protecting the environment. Referring to the planet as “our common home”, His Holiness said:


We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalisation

of indifference.


He highlighted the plight of migrants and refugees, reminding us that “[They] are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.”

He was a tireless advocate for addressing inequality, often framing this need as a moral and social imperative rooted in the principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the common good.

Pope Francis was a shepherd of compassion and conscience. His pontificate has had far-reaching impacts and assures him of a revered place in the history of the papacy and the course of human history. May he rest in eternal splendour!”











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## Reddy Muttukuru Scarborough Woburn

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Born in India and settled in Scarborough-Woburn, he quickly established roots in the community by opening a rehabilitative clinic offering physiotherapy treatments.

Determined to expand his expertise, Muttukuru pursued further education at the National Academy of Osteopathy, earning a diploma in manual osteopathy. Over the past 23 years, his clinic has grown into a thriving full-treatment centre providing osteopathy, chiropractic care, and physiotherapy services.

Understanding the financial barriers many in his community face, Muttukuru has made it a priority to offer free rehabilitation clinics for seniors, youth, and refugees. He has also mentored newcomers, helping them navigate educational and career pathways, and has volunteered his time conducting sports clinics for local organizations.

Through his work, Muttukuru has witnessed firsthand the challenges affecting Scarborough residents, from rising costs of living to concerns over public safety. These experiences have motivated him to seek election as the Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Woburn.

“I am running for MP because I have witnessed the struggles of this community and heard the frustrations of its residents—especially after ten years under the Liberal government. Scarborough-Woburn deserves a strong voice in Parliament to tackle the critical issues affecting our community. Most importantly, they deserve a representative who will finally put Canada First, for a change.”

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# AI-powered holograms could transform math in Guyana: Dr Ali

PRESIDENT, Dr. Irfaan Ali has outlined an innovative approach to transforming education in Guyana, with hologram technology set to play a central role in teaching mathematics.

DURING a community engagement on Sunday, Dr Ali said: “We’re looking at the hologram technology to deliver mathematics, so that your children can walk up to a screen and ask an AI robot how to solve [an] equation.”

The interaction, he said, would be seamless and without the typical frustration some students may encounter in traditional learning environments.

Guyana is not just keeping up with global trends but is actively positioning itself as a leader in the field of education technology.

“That is where the world is going, and we are going ahead,” Dr Ali remarked confidently, stressing that his administration is prioritising strategies that will ensure that Guyanese children are equipped to thrive in the ever-evolving global economy.

The Head of State said: “We are busy strategising on the strategies that will enable us to be ahead of the competition, enable your children to function effectively in the new world.”

This is a part of a broader vision, as the government is pursuing ambitious plans to establish Guyana as a global education hub.

Dr. Ali said: “We are not just building an education hub to meet our national needs, we want children from around the world and the Caribbean to come to Guyana as an education destination, making it a part of the economic expansion of the country.”

Already, he noted, Guyana has begun discussions with major tech giants to explore areas for opportunities.

“We are now discussing with major tech giants on how we are going to convert the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, into a world innovation hub, where we will get startups to come here, to experiment here, to build the next generation of technology from Guyana with investment from the private sector,” the Head of State said.

He added: “That is the future we are talking about young people; this is exciting things.”

Guyana, he stressed, is not only preparing its youth for the future, but also positioning itself as a global player in the world of innovation and education.

Just last week, the Guyanese Head

of State called on global leaders to use open AI and digital access to bridge the divide, while addressing the Spring 2025, Berkeley Innovation Forum, California, United States.

“AI must serve rather than replace humans. It must empower rather than exploit and uplift rather than marginalise. Only through such re-imagined vision where AI is directed towards the common good can we ensure the next era of globalisation is one of conversion not division,” President Ali firmly said.

As the President reflected on digital revolution throughout history, he had pointed out that “big data,” robotics and

the internet are shaping economies at an unprecedented speed, concentrating technological power in a few hands.

“Today, as AI and automation redefine industries, there is growing backlash against globalisation, rising populism and increasing disparities between the developed and developing world,” the President noted.

In that regard, he said that in the late 20th century, globalisation was expected to narrow economic and technological gaps between developed and developing nations, through international trade, investment and technology transfer.



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# Opportunities being created with strategic investments in Essequibo

THE significant economic resurgence in Essequibo has been emphasised by the General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Bharrat Jagdeo, who has elaborated on the government's investments and their resulting enhanced infrastructure and opportunities.

During a recent press conference at Freedom House, he told reporters about the targeted government support in regions such as Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam) in critical sectors such as education and agriculture.

The General Secretary had several engagements in Region Two, including with the Chamber of Commerce.

He recalled the bleak state of Guyana under the previous A Partnership for National Unity+Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) and the groundswell of despair among the people.

However, Guyana today is starkly different under the PPP/C government, he explained.

He said: "I asked at the meeting how many persons are looking for a job and don't have a job and very few people would raise their hands at the meetings. And I remember going in opposition, it was a groundswell. People had no jobs whatsoever."

Agriculture, the lifeblood of the region, also faced major setbacks, given the neglect from the previous coalition administration, Jagdeo explained.

"So, we have been extremely successful at generating more jobs because of the dynamism in the non-oil economy too. But mainly at the lower end, but as you get more technically qualified, we still have a gap there and that's what we talk about all the time because people who are more technically qualified, they have to create more opportunities on the Essequibo coast," he said.

Business owners are actively searching for labourers, Jagdeo said while explaining the labour shortage issue.

The General Secretary stated: "One business owner said to me, 'I'm prepared to build living quarters to keep the people here. I'm looking for like five, six persons now and I can't



PPP Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

find labour,' which is a far cry from where we were."

The government's investment in the Community Service Officers (CSOs) programme has also empowered Amerindian communities, which is a tremendous stride given that those workers were sacked under the previous coalition administration.

The General Secretary explained: "We now have, across the country, nearly 3,000 CSOs and maybe another 2,000 persons who are working on the part-time jobs in Amerindian villages."

He also stated that the governing PPP/C remains deeply rooted in com-

munities, consistently working for the people year after year.

While the political opposition has only now taken an interest in citizens with elections on the horizon, Jagdeo emphasised that the PPP has been steadily making inroads and delivering real improvements in people's lives. As evidence of this progress, he pointed to a notable shift in public discourse — from widespread complaints about systemic issues to more personal concerns, reflecting the tangible advancements under the PPP's leadership.

"This is a major qualitative leap

forward because I recall when we just got back into office, how dominant those issues were at the public engagements we had. People used to say, 'we're driving on mud dams, we don't have a proper road, we don't have service at the health centre.' All of those issues have receded substantially and now we're engaged with a lot of individualised problems," the General Secretary said.

Jagdeo emphasised that when citizens voice their concerns, it should not be seen as a negative. Rather, he views it as a constructive opportunity — a chance for the government to listen, respond, and continue enhancing the quality of life for all Guyanese.

"The key thing is that we're (PPP) the only ones who've been doing this consistently... Which political party has done this or any individual, in those years? You see them now talking about going on the ground because we are approaching elections.

"They don't do this in a sustained way, out of concern for people. They just show up at election time."

He noted that even when the PPP was in opposition; the party remained on the ground consistently. In fact, in his first year as Opposition Leader, he recalled that he had over 80 community meetings, where he listened to the people.

In 2015, the APNU+AFC promised human and social development, but instead, Guyanese faced a burdensome period.

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Badar Suri, Indian Researcher Facing Deportation because of his wife's Palestinian links

# Indian students anxious as foreign students are detained in USA

For the last few weeks, many foreign students living in the US have watched as a sequence of events has repeated itself on their social media feeds: plain-clothes agents appearing unannounced and hauling students off in unmarked cars to detention centres.

Those taken into custody in a string of high-profile student detentions captured on video have not faced any criminal charges and instead appear to have been targeted for involvement in pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses.

The Trump administration has said repeatedly that visas are a "privilege" and can be revoked at any time for a wide variety of reasons.

But the crackdown appears to be far wider than initially thought, with more than 1,000 international students or recent graduates at colleges across the US now having had their visas revoked or legal statuses changed, according to a tracker from Inside Higher Ed, an online news site covering the sector.

For many, the precise reasons are unknown, and universities have often only learned of the changes when checking a government-run database that logs the visa status of international students.

The combination of targeted detentions and reports of wide-scale visa revocations have left campuses on edge, from the biggest public universities to elite Ivy League institutions, students and faculty said.

"I could be next," said one student visa-holder attending Georgetown University, who has written articles about Israel and the war in Gaza.

He's begun carrying around a card in his pocket that lists his constitutional rights, in case he is ever stopped by law enforcement.

Another student in Texas said he's afraid to leave his apartment, even to buy groceries.

And at some colleges, departments are being hit as researchers abroad refuse to return to the US.

Most students requested anonymity out of fear that having their names in the media could make them a target.

A flyer advertising a teach-in where Georgetown University professors addressed student concerns

The reasons for visa cancellations vary. In some cases, criminal records appear to be a factor. Other instances have reportedly included minor legal infractions like driving over the speed limit. But "a lot" of those targeted have been involved in pro-Palestinian protests, Secretary of State Marco Rubio himself has said.

It is part of a wider White House push to crack down on protesters whom officials say created an unsafe environment for Jewish students on many campuses. They also accuse demonstrators of having expressed support for Hamas, an officially designated terrorist group.

"Every time I find one of these lunatics, I take away their visas," Rubio told reporters in late March. "We do it every day."

Civil liberties groups have protested against the detentions and moves to deport student demonstrators as a violation of constitutional rights. And the students themselves reject associations with Hamas, saying that they are being targeted for political speech about the war in Gaza and US support for Israel.

At Georgetown, signs that read "protect our students" have been taped to the doors of bathroom stalls, adding a sense of gloom to the cherry blossom trees and tulips that typically mark the arrival of spring on campus.

A postdoctoral fellow from the university, Badar Khan Suri, was grabbed by federal agents outside his Virginia home in March. The Department of Homeland Security accused the conflict resolution researcher of "promoting antisemitism on social media" and having links to a "known or suspected terrorist".

The Indian scholar was arrested in US over father-in-law's Hamas link.

This was an apparent reference to the Palestinian father of his US-born wife, a former adviser to killed Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Mr Suri's lawyers say he has only met his father-in-law a handful of times and is being targeted due to his wife's identity.

His detention followed that of Columbia University student protest organiser Mahmoud Khalil, a permanent resident arrested at home in New York but now awaiting deportation.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20):** There is no point making threats unless you intend to carry them out and the simple fact is you don't. The only way you are going to get others to do the right thing is to show them that it benefits them as well – so make sure it does.

**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21):** This could be one of those days when sensitive topics are best avoided. The only trouble is there are so many sensitive topics at the moment that you may end up saying nothing at all – but at least you will be able to enjoy a peaceful day!

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21):** The message of the stars today is that if you change things for the sake of it you will have to change them back again at a later date, which means you will have consumed twice the time and effort for no gain at all. Just let it be.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23):** If you think in a positive way over the next 24 hours then positive things are sure to occur. However, don't get so carried away with dreams and schemes that you think up something that has zero chance of coming true. You've got to be sensible.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23):** The decisions you make over the next few days could set you up for a major breakthrough early next month, or they could set you up for the kind of fall that is painful to your ego. Make them good decisions but make them logical too.

**VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23):** You may be hoping that a problem of some sort will eventually go away of its own accord but the planets indicate that isn't going to happen, so get your head around the kind of decisions you need to be taking – and then start taking them!

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23):** The Sun's position in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart means this could be a confusing sort of day. You must – repeat, must – keep your wits about you when dealing with financial matters. There could be a great deal of money at stake.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22):** Affairs of the heart will go well for you over the next few weeks but they could go even better if you learnt not to be quite so demanding. Very few people can match your high standards, especially when it comes to passion.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21):** What seems trivial to you may be of huge importance to a friend or a family member, so try to avoid making comments that might upset them. Some people can be ridiculously touchy but that does not mean you have a right to be uncaring.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20):** The Sun's journey through the most dynamic area of your chart over the next few weeks will inspire you to raise your game and make the so-called impossible look easy. Your laidback yet effective approach to life will win round a new set of admirers.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19):** What seems good to you will seem bad to someone else today, and vice-versa. You are both correct because you have different ways of looking at the situation. You need to get past the idea that there can only ever be one answer to a problem.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20):** Over the next few days you will need to get serious about something that previously you never knew existed. But once you are aware it exists you will have no choice but to get to grips with it. If you don't, it could cost you money.

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# US Embassy in Grenada among those targeted for closure: NY Times

The U.S. Embassy in Grenada is among several diplomatic missions proposed for closure under a Trump-era cost-cutting plan, according to an internal State Department memo reported by The New York Times on April 15.

The undated memo, viewed by The Times, outlines a dramatic scaling back of America’s global diplomatic footprint, including the closure of 10 embassies and 17 consulates. Grenada is the only Caribbean nation named among the countries where embassies could be shut down, with diplomatic functions expected to be reassigned to nearby missions if the plan moves forward.

The proposed cuts were part of broader efforts by the Trump administration to reduce federal spending and streamline operations across U.S. government agencies. Within the State Department, officials reportedly considered slashing the department’s budget by nearly 50 percent — a move that would have major implications for American foreign policy.

In addition to Grenada, the memo recommends closing U.S. embassies in the Maldives, Luxembourg, and six African nations, including the Central African Republic and South Sudan. Several consulates across Europe, Asia, and Africa are also listed for closure or consolidation.

While the plan has not been implemented, its potential impact on small nations like Grenada is significant. The embassy in St. George’s plays a key



The US Embassy in St George’s, Grenada

role in facilitating U.S.–Grenada relations, including support for disaster preparedness, education initiatives, and regional security.

Critics of the proposed cuts have raised concerns that such a retreat from the diplomatic stage could give geopo-

litical rivals like China an opening to expand their influence — particularly in regions where Washington has traditionally maintained a stronger presence.

The New York Times noted that, if enacted, the closures would reduce the number of American diplomatic posts

in Europe to fewer than those maintained by China, and widen an already growing gap in Africa and East Asia.

For now, the future of the U.S. Embassy in Grenada — and other missions listed in the memo — remains uncertain.

## Cuba to require visas for all visitors — except Canadians

The Cuban government will officially end its decades-old tourist card system on June 30, 2025, replacing it with a fully digital entry requirement. Beginning July 1, all international travelers to the island will need to apply for an electronic visa (e-Visa) before departing, according to a recent announcement from Cuba’s Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR).

This change finalizes the country’s transition to a streamlined, digital visa system through eVisaCuba, an on-line portal launched in mid-2024. The move is aimed at simplifying the visa process and reducing paper use, while giving the government greater control over incoming travelers.

“With Evisa, applicants will be able to start their visa process virtually, from any device connected to the Internet,” MINTUR stated. “This platform simplifies the visa application and management process, eliminating the need for additional physical documents.”

However, there’s one current limi-



Cuba and Canada have had a long-standing relationship

tation: eVisaCuba does not support on-line payments. Instead, applicants must follow procedures set by individual Cuban consulates, which vary by country. To navigate this complexity, some travelers may choose to use authorized travel agencies that offer full e-Visa

services, including payment processing.

The new e-Visa is valid for a single entry and allows a stay of up to 90 days, with the option to extend once for an additional 90 days—totaling up to 180 days in Cuba.

Canadian citizens flying directly from Canada to Cuba are exempt from the standard application process. For them, the electronic visa will be automatically included in their airline ticket, per agreements between Cuban authorities and Canadian airlines.

That said, Canadians making a stopover in another country en route to Cuba must apply for the e-Visa separately, just like all other travelers.

Regardless of nationality, all visitors to Cuba must also complete the D’Viajeros online form (available at [dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu](http://dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu)) within seven days prior to arrival. This form includes health, immigration, and customs declarations and is mandatory for entry.

Upon arrival in Cuba, travelers must present:

- A passport valid for at least six months beyond their entry date;
- The D’Viajeros QR code and electronic visa number;
- Proof of travel insurance with medical coverage;



# Jamaican government no longer funding diagnostic services

A whistleblower at a Western hospital blasted the Jamaican government, stating that it has depleted its budget, which covers diagnostic radiology service fees at private institutions like Radiology West, preventing patients’ access to CT scans.

Under the Jamaican government’s Enhancing Healthcare Services Delivery Project (EHCSO), often referred to as ‘assistance forms,’ patients have access to free diagnostic radiology services at private institutions like Radiology West—one of the facilities paid by the Jamaican government to offer free diagnostic services to patients and known as the leading diagnostic imaging facility providing “compassionate care” in the West.

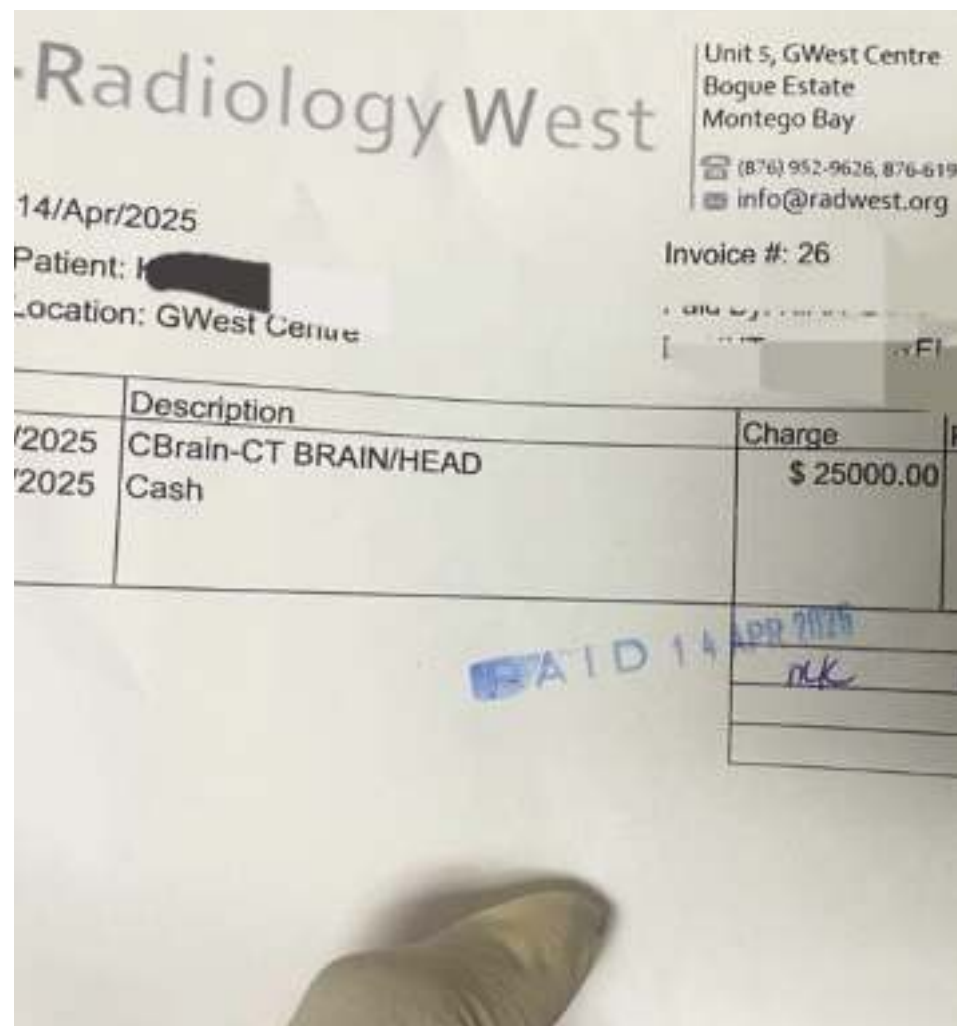
According to the Ministry of Health and Wellness’ website, the implementation of the EHCSO project aims to reduce “waiting times for services such as admissions, as well as reducing hospital length of stay. The project focuses on key areas negatively impacting the health sector’s ability to respond timely to the health care needs of the public patients.” One of the key areas of focus is diagnostic radiology services. The EHCSO Project was started in 2019 with the aim of assisting hospitals without diagnostic radiology equipment. The project is a partnership between the public and private sectors, with 16 private service providers across the island providing national coverage of participating health facilities.

A report by the Jamaica Information Service, an executive news agency of the Jamaican government, confirmed that up to March 2023, the project helped over 120,000 persons obtain free diagnostic services.

In October 2024, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton, at a press conference regarding facility issues at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, bragged that money is available to address issues plaguing Jamaica’s health sector. He also announced that the health ministry’s budget increased from \$60 billion to \$145 billion over eight years. This is a record-breaking 241 percent increase.

Minister Tufton told journalists, “Jamaica, right now, in terms of public health, doesn’t have a money problem. I am prepared to say that without apology. As it relates to the basic necessities of public health ... diagnostic and basic stuff, we don’t have a money problem.”

Regardless of this budget increase and Tufton’s confident assertion, the Jamaican government has discreetly limited its funding in order to control its financial obligation to private institutions offering diagnostic services. This has resulted in a longer wait time for patients to receive treatment at the hospital, as well as patients having to pay



One of the invoices for a patient’s care at a private medical centre

large sums of money to fund CT scans.

According to a registered nurse at a Western hospital, \*Hannah Jackson, “There is currently a longer wait time for patients who require diagnostic radiology services.” She explained this is because patients are forced to pay high costs in order to obtain CT scans at private institutions like Radiology West.

An internal memo dated December 13, 2024, with the subject line “EHCSO Budget Depletion,” sent from the customer care unit to a Western hospital’s management, sanctioned hospitals to categorize cases as emergency or life-threatening, or non-emergency, so that they can be prioritized. The report stated, “Due to near completion of the program’s budget, we regret to inform you that effective immediately, only emergency cases will be considered for assistance under this program.”

However, Nurse \*Jackson said she has not seen any emergency case prioritization at the hospital. She explained they stopped the program entirely.

“Mi want this to be exposed. They are doing damage control. They are no longer using assistance forms at all. Them all have to find new place [diagnostic radiology facility]. They even had to send a patient to St. Ann because the place [Radiology West in St. James] stopped accepting them,” Jackson said.

One customer service representative from a Western hospital called his “boss” mid-interview to ask whether or not he could disclose information regarding updates on Radiology West’s non-acceptance of assistance forms

from patients. He was warned not to disclose the information.

According to the nurse, \*Jackson, an ambulance transporting a critically ill patient from the hospital to Radiology West in St. James for diagnostic testing was forced to turn back and return the patient to the hospital. Radiology West was compelled to terminate its acceptance of patients in need of care because the facility can no longer accept assistance forms. The institution called the hospital while the patient was being transported to inform them of this change.

Representatives from Radiology West did not deny that this happened but refused to speak much on the matter. The report from one representative is that patients are denied compassionate care at the facility due to matters outside their control.

“We no longer accept assistance forms due to matters outside our control. You have to do [obtain diagnostic services] with cash,” the representative explained.

However, Nurse \*Jackson explained that the reason for Radiology West’s rejection of patients is that the Jamaican government cannot afford to pay the facility for its services.

“Government is not paying, so the facility operators stopped services to patients,” she revealed.

\*Patrice Dunkley, a friend of a patient who was admitted to hospital, said the same thing. “The government decided to stop paying for it, they claim they don’t have enough funds.” Dunk-

ley started investigating why her loved one could not get government funding for a CT scan in February and learned this.

Treatment to alleviate patients’ critical conditions is delayed because of the Jamaican government’s lack of funding for radiology services. Obtaining a CT scan at a private institution can cost up to 100,000 JMD.

Twenty-six-year-old Paul Smith\* is being treated for a gunshot wound to his leg. He is unable to walk and move freely because he has a broken arm and a bullet embedded in his thigh. He was told by his doctor that he needed to find \$100,000 in order to obtain a CT scan by the end of the week. This is because the doctor needs to ascertain how to move forward with the treatment of his gunshot wound.

\*Smith complained about how difficult it has been to source the \$100,000. He said his family is trying to sell a car, but they have not found a buyer. They are also searching for a facility that offers the CT scan at a more reasonable price.

“Mi cannot find it [\$100,000] at the moment. A nuh any and anybody can find \$100,000,” \*Smith asserted.

He said the long wait has been a stumbling block, and he is displeased with the current lack of funding for CT scans.

“Only thing leff fi do a just the CT scan so that them can move on. It kinda mek mi feel down because mi have mi business fi deal with. Mi feel disappointed knowing that the [Jamaican] government usually deal with it and it stop. It’s just overwhelming fi know seh something wah did a give free, we affi start pay fi it right now,” he expressed.

Aquiah Taylor, parent of six-year-old patient Kian Gordon, who was admitted for dizziness, vomiting, and fainting and told by physicians to obtain a CT scan, said provisions should be made to lessen the pressure on the patients and their families.

“\$25,000 mi end up pay. In the country, it’s that bad? Come on man. At least pay a percentage of it. Is not everybody can afford it,” Taylor said.

Representatives from the Compassionate Care Department of the WRHA explained that assistance forms are given based on the patients’ condition. This is a new policy introduced discreetly.

“They [hospitals] are operating on an emergency care basis. At this time, they are only dealing with emergency situations, so life and death,” the representatives said.

WRHA explained this is done because of limited funding, and it has been going on for months.

*Names marked with an asterisk (\*) have been changed*



# Guyana rejects China’s suggestion for border talks with Venezuela

The Government of Guyana has strongly rejected a recent statement from China’s chargé d’affaires suggesting that Guyana and Venezuela can resolve their longstanding border controversy through “friendly consultations and negotiations.”

In a statement issued on April 17, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reiterated that the matter is already before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), following a decision by the United Nations Secretary General and in accordance with the 1966 Geneva Agreement between the parties.

“The Ministry reminds the Government of the People’s Republic of China of the position made pellucidly clear on several occasions by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana,” the statement said, affirming that Guyana is committed to the ICJ process and will not engage in parallel discussions that could undermine the Court’s authority.

The ministry pointed to the Argyle Declaration of December 14, 2023, which recognizes Guyana’s firm commitment to resolving the issue via the ICJ. “In order not to undermine the jurisdiction or authority of the Court... Guyana will not engage in discussion of any matter that has been brought before the Court,” the ministry emphasized.

Guyana also expressed concern over China’s silence regarding Venezuela’s recent provocative actions,



Flashback: Guyana’s Irfaan Ali and Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro met to discuss the border issue

specifically Caracas’ plan to hold elections on May 25, 2025, for a governor and legislative council in the so-called “Guayana Esequiba State”—a name Venezuela has unilaterally assigned to Guyana’s Essequibo region.

“The Ministry... has taken note that there has been no comment from the Government of the People’s Republic of

China” regarding this declaration, which Guyana deems a “clear violation” of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As the diplomatic tension surrounding the century-old territorial dispute escalates, the Government of Guyana reaffirmed that principles of international law and mutual respect will remain the foundation of its foreign policy

and interactions with the global community.

The border controversy centers on Venezuela’s claim to the Essequibo region, which comprises about two-thirds of Guyana’s territory. The ICJ is currently considering the validity of the 1899 arbitral award that established the boundary between the two countries.

# US citizen fatally shot after hijacking plane in Belize

Three passengers were injured and a U.S. citizen was fatally shot after an attempted hijacking of a domestic Tropic Air flight in Belize on Thursday, police confirmed.

Authorities said Akinyela Sawa Taylor, a U.S. citizen, allegedly hijacked the plane at knifepoint just before takeoff, demanding to be flown out of the country and for the aircraft to be refueled. The flight, operated by Tropic Air Belize, was carrying 14 passengers in total, including two Americans.

Police said Taylor was shot in the chest by another passenger who was legally armed. The aircraft, which circled in the air for some time during the ordeal, narrowly avoided disaster as it was almost out of fuel by the time it landed safely.

Three passengers, all Belizean nationals, sustained knife wounds in the incident. The full details of how Taylor managed to board the plane with a weapon remain under investigation, officials said.

In a statement, Tropic Air Belize CEO Maximilian Greif praised the pilot and crew for their response. “Our pilots undergo rigorous training to respond effectively and efficiently to any situation, and today we pause to recognize the bravery, skill and leadership that brought our aircraft home safely,” he said. Greif described the pilot’s actions as “nothing short of heroic” and said the airline is providing “all available support” to the injured.

The U.S. Embassy in Belize has been informed and is assisting local authorities with the investigation. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce



Tropic Air Belize plane was hijacked

addressed the incident during a Thursday briefing, stating, “We are grateful — I think all of us are — that that did not turn into a mass casualty event with, I believe over a dozen people on the plane.”

Further complicating the investigation, Belizean authorities revealed that Taylor had been denied entry to the country just days earlier. Police are now probing how he was able to re-enter and board the domestic flight.

Speaking from Philip Goldson International Air-

port, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Luke Martin expressed regret over the incident. “It really highlights the importance of safety and security,” Martin said. “We want Belize and the region to remain safe—not just for Belizeans, but for the many Americans who travel or reside here.”

Martin added that while the Embassy had not previously been contacted by Taylor and had no confirmation of his background—including whether he was a military veteran—it is cooperating fully with Belizean authorities. “We have a strong relationship with Belizean law enforcement, and in times like this, that partnership proves crucial,” he said.

While the investigation is being led by Belizean authorities, U.S. officials are standing by to offer continued assistance, particularly in determining how Taylor may have entered the country after being turned away at the northern border.

“Belize is an important partner in the region,” Martin added, “and we want to maintain those strong ties, especially with law enforcement agencies, to ensure that events like this are handled swiftly and professionally.”





# Caribbean exempt from US tariffs on Chinese-built ships

Caribbean nations have secured an exemption from upcoming U.S. tariffs on Chinese-built ships—an outcome that averts what industry stakeholders had feared would be a devastating blow to maritime commerce across the region.

The decision, announced Thursday by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), follows months of intense lobbying by Caribbean leaders, private sector organizations, and shipping industry advocates. The exemption applies to both independent Caribbean nations and U.S. territories in the region.

The initial tariff proposal, launched under a Section 301 case in 2023, included punitive fees of up to \$1.5 million per port call for Chinese-built vessels entering U.S. ports. Ships built or operated outside the United States also faced potential penalties ranging from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Caribbean shipping lines—many of which rely on Chinese-built vessels—warned the move could cripple trade, drive up consumer prices, and endanger supply chains across island economies.

“There are a number of items that they have listed, but the main part of it that’s of importance to us is that the Caribbean region and the U.S. territories within the Caribbean region have been exempt from this fee,” said Darwin Telemaque, CEO of the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority.

Caribbean shipping lines such as Tropical Shipping, Seaboard Marine,



Chinese-flagged ships bringing cargo to the Caribbean were being subjected to tariffs

CMA CGM, and King Ocean rely heavily on mid-sized vessels built in China. These ships, which typically carry between 1,000 and 1,500 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), lack the scale to absorb such steep fees without significant disruption.

Telemaque said the proposed tariffs triggered “a tsunami of outrage and concern” among shipping professionals, port authorities, and exporters, particularly in the Caribbean.

The successful exemption was the result of a coordinated regional lobbying campaign led by the Caribbean Private Sector Organization (CPSO) and its chairman, Dr. Patrick Antoine. Their efforts were backed by CARICOM leadership, including Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston

Browne, who played key roles in mobilizing political support.

“There was tremendous support from the leadership at CARICOM,” said Telemaque. “Prime Minister Mottley was the main leader in that.”

Regional industry bodies such as the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC) and the Caribbean Shipping Association, as well as major exporters like Massy and GraceKennedy, also lent strong support. The advocacy culminated in a formal appeal in Washington, D.C., which ultimately secured the carve-out for the region.

Though the USTR has yet to finalize the tariff structure—which will be implemented in October—the exemption for Caribbean ports and U.S. territories will hold regardless of whether

the fees are calculated by tonnage or container volume. A final determination is expected in May.

The tariffs are part of a broader U.S. initiative to challenge China’s dominance in global shipbuilding and address perceived threats to American economic and military supply chains. The policy also reflects rare bipartisan support in Washington to revive U.S. shipbuilding and maritime competitiveness.

“Ships and shipping are vital to American economic security and the free flow of commerce,” U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement. “The Trump administration’s actions will begin to reverse Chinese dominance, address threats to the U.S. supply chain, and send a demand signal for U.S.-built ships.”

## \$500K cocaine seized at Piarco Int’l Airport

Trinidad and Tobago police arrested one suspect and seized nearly half a million Trinidad and Tobago dollars worth of cocaine during an anti-crime operation at Piarco International Airport over the weekend.

In a statement issued Monday, law enforcement officials said the cocaine—valued at TT\$473,932 (approximately US\$75,000)—was discovered concealed inside a vehicle on the airport compound during a joint operation by officers from the Northern and North Central Divisions.

“The search of a vehicle resulted in the officers finding one bag containing a quantity of cocaine with an estimated street value of TT\$473,932.80,” the statement read. “One suspect was arrested in connection with the find.”

The anti-crime sweep extended to the surrounding areas of the airport, where several other vehicles and individuals were searched.

The operation formed part of a wider set of weekend crackdowns across multiple divisions that led to the discovery of several illegal weapons. Among the items seized was an AR-15 assault rifle found loaded with a magazine of 14 rounds of 5.56 ammunition. That weapon was recovered in a bushy area in Freeport, west central Trinidad, after officers acted on intelligence.

In separate searches, police recovered another pistol with one round of ammunition in Diego Martin, and a third firearm along with five rounds of ammunition



Piarco International Airport

tion and a stash of cannabis hidden in an abandoned structure in Santa Cruz, on the outskirts of Port of Spain.

Police say investigations into all seizures are ongoing as authorities ramp up their efforts to crack down on illegal drugs and firearms in high-traffic zones, including the country’s main international airport.







Pope Francis died on Easter Monday after delivering an Easter message on Sunday to the faithful

# Caribbean leaders pay tribute to Pope Francis following his death

Caribbean leaders joined the global Catholic community in mourning Pope Francis, who passed away on Easter Monday at the age of 88. Widely respected as a spiritual shepherd and advocate for the poor, the late pontiff’s death marked a solemn close to Christianity’s holiest season.

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Stuart Young, led regional tributes, describing Pope Francis as “a great and humble leader” whose compassion and progressive stance on global issues will be remembered for generations.

“Pope Francis focused on uplifting the poor and vulnerable and in the modern world was known for his desire for peace and the promotion of international diplomacy,” Young said in a statement. “He approached modern topics with an open mind and was not afraid to suggest a need for change... He was a known advocate for action on climate change and showed genuine concern with regard to the treatment of migrants.”

Young said he joins Catholics in praying that the next pope “will be chosen mindful of the world we now live in and its challenges that we face as a people.”

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness also expressed deep sorrow, reflecting on the Pope’s enduring influence.

“I am truly saddened, this morning, at news of the death of Pope Francis,” Holness said. “He dedicated his life to uplifting the poor and vulnerable... His quiet humility endeared millions to his style and to a deeper belief in God.”

Holness added that the Pope’s final public appearance on Resurrection Sun-

day “reflects the Pope’s dedication to duty and to the people.”

Matteo Bruni, Director of the Holy See Press Office, confirmed that the Pope’s body will likely be transferred to St. Peter’s Basilica on Wednesday, April 23, for public veneration. Funeral arrangements are expected to be confirmed after the first meeting of the College of Cardinals.

Pope Francis had battled recurring respiratory issues for years. On February 14, he was admitted to Rome’s Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital following a severe bout of bronchitis. Four days later, doctors diagnosed bilateral pneumonia. After 38 days of treatment, he returned to the Vatican, where his condition gradually declined.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was elected in 2013 as the first Latin American and Jesuit pope. His papacy was marked by calls for social justice, environmental stewardship, and a Church that welcomes all — messages that resonated across the Caribbean and the Global South.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has joined world leaders in mourning the passing of Pope Francis, calling him “a beacon of global moral strategic leadership” and revealing that his writings provided her strength during some of Barbados’ most trying times.

In a tribute issued after the pontiff’s passing on Monday, Mottley reflected on the influence Pope Francis had on her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I confess that it was Pope Francis’ writings and teachings that guided and

inspired me through the dark and desolate days of the COVID-19 pandemic, as I worked with others to lead Barbados through that period of grave uncertainty,” the prime minister said. “He was, in every sense, my hero.”

Mottley recalled her encounter with the Pope late last year, describing it as a humbling experience.

“He reinforced in me the importance of always aligning our hearts, our heads, and our hands with our faith – to

see, hear, and feel all people, so that we may help them, and to protect our planet,” she said.

“Let us, each and every day, see, hear, and feel people—to fight the globalisation of indifference. In so doing, we will walk the road he paved tirelessly to the very end of his life. If we dare to live with heart, to serve with courage, humility, and to love without borders—then Pope Francis still walks among us,” the Barbadian leader added.

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# Windies 'A' to host South Africa in five-match St Lucia tour

West Indies' Men's "A" team will face stern competition from South Africa's "A" team when a five-match tour is contested at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, St Lucia from May 21-June 11.

An April 17 Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced the tour details, with the teams scheduled to play three 50-over matches, to go along with two four-day First Class games. The 50-over series will be played from May 21-27, with the first four-day match commencing on June 1.

The release said the series strengthens CWI's commitment to bringing international cricket to all corners of the Caribbean.

"This series reflects CWI's broader strategy to ensure international cricket is always shared equitably across the territories, strengthening regional ties and fan engagement at every level."

CWI CEO Chris Dehring, who began his tenure in February, stressed the significance of the series.

"The upcoming "A" series provides an excellent opportunity for our players and teams to prepare for international commitments. The interna-



Fastbowler Akeem Jordan (second from right) celebrates with his teammates after getting a wicket

tional schedule is getting busier by the season and therefore it's very important for the cricketers to keep themselves ready through good competitive cricket," Dehring said.

CWI's director of cricket Miles Bascombe said the "A" team matches are critical to the players' development as they make the step towards becoming full international cricketers.

The release said the West Indies "A" squad will be announced shortly, while the South Africans are scheduled to arrive in St Lucia on May 16.

The series will lead into the West Indies' "Full Ah Energy" home series, which bowls off with the first of three Test matches versus Australia on June 25.

The Windies "A" team visited

South Africa for a three-match four-day series in 2023, with the hosts grabbing a 2-1 win after losing the first match.

Current West Indies Test players Joshua Da Silva, Kavem Hodge, Tevin Imlach, Shamar Joseph, Jayden Seales and Kevin Sinclair all featured in the last "A" team series versus South Africa.

## Windies women keep World Cup dreams alive

WEST Indies kept their ODI Women's World Cup dreams alive when they defeated Bangladesh by three wickets in a must-win qualifier clash at Lahore City Cricket Association Ground in Lahore, Pakistan, on April 17.

A stellar spell from Aaliyah Alleyne (4/39) restricted Bangladesh to 227/9, to which the WI women responded with a victorious 228/7 from 46 overs, courtesy an unbeaten knock of 51 from Chinelle Henry.

After winning the toss and electing to bat first, number three batter Sharmin Akhter (67) and opener Fargana Hoque (42) built a strong top-order partnership of 118 runs, after opener Sobhana Mostary (six) was caught behind by Shemaine Campbelle off Henry's bowling in the fifth over, with just 16 runs on the board.

Akhter and Hoque repaired the start and carried them to 134 runs, before Alleyne broke the stance by dismissing the latter caught and bowled.

Two balls later, Alleyne struck again as she had Akhter bowled, and snared another wicket in her following over, as she had Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana bowled for five runs.

At 142/4, the Windies bowlers upped the ante and squeezed the remaining batters. Only Nahida Akter (25) and Rabeya Khan (23 not out) got to double figures from the remaining five batters.

Alleyne shone with the ball while skipper Hayley Matthews (2/42), Afy Fletcher (2/43) and Henry (1/38) were also among the wickets.

Set 228 for victory from 50 overs, the maroon women showed clear intent in the chase. They batted smartly and aggressively with Henry eventually top scoring with her unbeaten 51 from 48 balls, which com-



Chinelle Henry scored 51 not out, and was the top scorer for the West Indies

prised two sixes and five fours.

Competitive scores from Stafanie Taylor (36), Matthews (33), opener Qiana Joseph (31) and Shemaine Campbell (24) lent much-needed support to churn out a positive result.

Shabika Gajnabi (20) and Alleyne (11) also had fair contributions which helped accumulate their intended target.

Henry and Fletcher (one not out) got them over the line, and kept the team's chances of securing World Cup qualification alive.

West Indies women play their final qualifier game versus Thailand on April 19, while Bangladesh face

hosts Pakistan on the same day.

The regional team need a win by a huge margin over Thailand and will hope Pakistan get past Bangladesh, to confirm their World Cup spot in India later this year.

Summarised scores: BANGLADESH WOMEN 227/9 (50) — Sharmin Akter 67, Fargana Hoque 42, Nahida Akter 25, Rabeya Khan 23 not out; Aaliyah Alleyne 4/39, Hayley Matthews 2/42, Afy Fletcher 2/43 vs WI WOMEN 228/7 (46) — Chinelle Henry 51 not out, Stafanie Taylor 36, Hayley Matthews 33, Qiana Joseph 31, Shemaine Campbell 31; Marufa Akter 2/38 — WI Women won by three wickets.



# From Despair to Hope...

## Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy



*"It's as though I'm stepping from razor blade to razor blade."*

*"It feels like my feet are under attack by fire ants."*

*"Like I'm walking on wet paint with rolled up socks."*

And you're in this type of pain all the time.

"It's relentless, keeping you up at night and preventing you from doing even the most mundane tasks. Things I used to take for granted, like wearing shoes, going grocery shopping. Two of my three children were getting married last year, I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to attend their weddings," shares Norah W.

Norah was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy in 2015, a degenerative condition affecting almost 5% of people over the age of 55.

"My doctor sat me down and said, 'Norah I'm sorry to tell you this, but you have peripheral neuropathy. I'm going to prescribe you gabapentin to manage the discomfort but overall, neuropathy is untreatable.'"

My first thought was, 'we can cure cancer but you can't stop my feet from hurting?' It felt like a cruel joke."

While neuropathy can be caused by a number of things including diabetes and chemotherapy, over 23% of neuropathy cases are classified as idiopathic. In layman's terms, the cause is unknown. This was the case with Norah.

"Basically every question I had was met with an 'I don't know.' It was depressing to say the least."

Eventually, Norah was forced to quit her job because the numbness had started to set in and prevented her from driving.

Fortunately for Norah, she would attend a health fair featuring TLC Medicine and the work they were doing to treat peripheral neuropathy.

"I thought it had to be a sham," Norah shares. "After so many specialists told me there was no hope, here was this acupuncturist saying she had a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy! I just had to call and I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am that I did."

Teresa Lau, founder of TLC Medicine, says that cases like Norah's are incredibly common. "Almost all of my neuropathy patients have been told at one point or another that there is no hope. I like to think I specialize in offering hope."

### ...with TLC Medicine

To quote the New York Times, "Chinese medicine proves itself where Western medicine fails."

"Acupuncture has been treating complicated, chronic conditions such as neuropathy for thousands of years," shares Teresa.

"I start with a foundation based on this time-tested science and my decade of clinical experience. I then tailor treatments based on a number of factors. This includes the severity of your neuropathy, how long you've had it, whether or not there are any underlying factors, things of that nature," explains Teresa.

"It's because of these personalized treatment programs that we're seeing such incredible results!"

Four months after treatment, Norah is back at work and thriving.

"Being back at work isn't even the most exciting part," exclaims Norah. "Not only was I able to attend my son's wedding, but I could walk down the aisle! It was the most magical moment and I have Teresa to thank for it. To think I might've missed that." Norah held back tears.

If you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its cause, it's time to call Teresa and the staff at TLC Medicine.

Call (416) 461-0581 to schedule your very own comprehensive consultation or visit [TLC-Medicine.ca](http://TLC-Medicine.ca) to take advantage of their new patient offer, a \$40 consult (normally \$240).

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- H.E. , Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana.

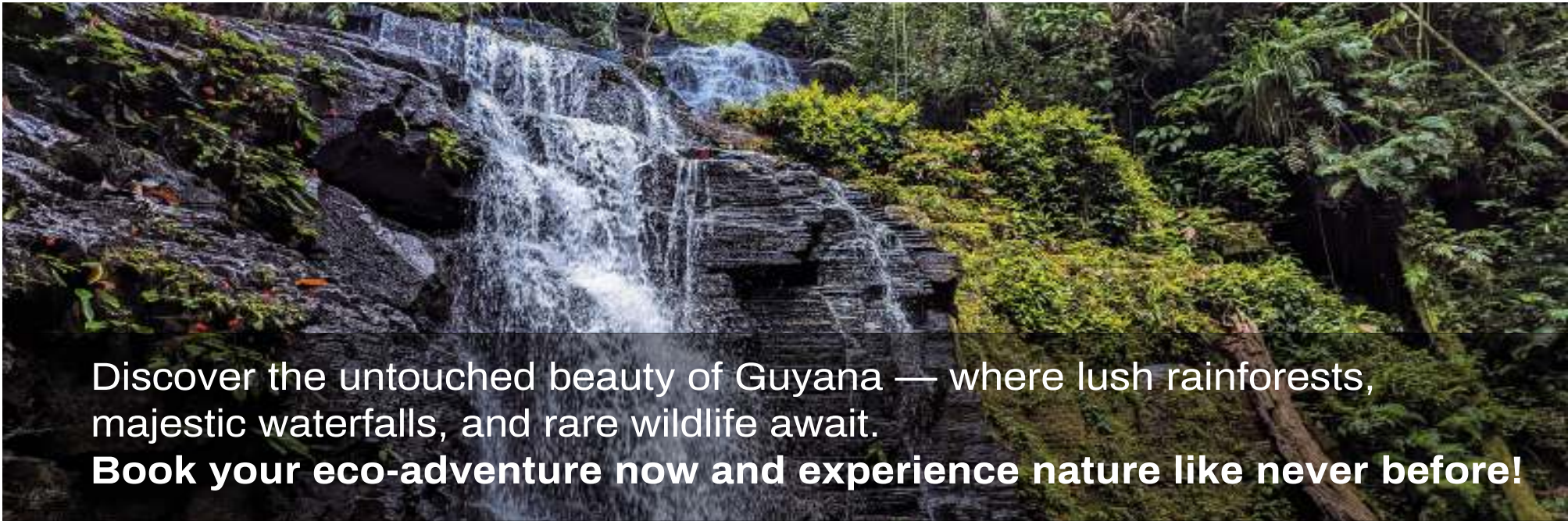


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