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# Guyana campaign in full swing

With just 20 days to go before Guyana heads to the polls, the race for the presidency is heating up. Key contenders are vying to lead the country through its next chapter, fueled by billions in oil revenues.

Six parties are in the race. The People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) incumbent, Dr. Irfaan Ali (above) is aiming for his second term. He remains confident of re-election, predicting a landslide victory. The PPP/C has said it plans to continue its developmental agenda, promoting a diversified economy and prosperity for all Guyanese.

A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) – a political alliance of several parties – is gunning for a repeat of its 2015 win, in what was then a coalition

with the Alliance For Change (AFC). They formed an APNU+AFC government. This time, Aubrey Norton, People’s National Congress Reform (PNC) stalwart and party leader, is APNU’s presidential candidate. APNU says it has a people-centered strategy as its focal point, with the overarching promise of ensuring every Guyanese gets more from the oil.

The party was at the center of the detracted March 2020 elections, where international observers said the APNU+AFC was attempting to rig. Now, Norton is signalling a zero-tolerance for rigging. He’s quoted in the local media as saying the party will accept results from an honest election, but if the election is not, “it would be a totally different story”.

The AFC has since divorced the APNU, going into the race alone with lawyer Nigel Hughes running point. He has signalled plans to have a diverse Cabinet that promotes gender equality.

There’s also the Assembly for Liberty and Prosperity (ALP) and the Forward Guyana Movement (FGM), both led by women who split from APNU: Simona Broomes and Amanza Walton-Desir, respectively. Last on the list is the We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party led by United States-sanctioned Guyanese businessman, Azruddin Mohamed. He and his father, and their companies, were sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department last year for their roles in public corruption in Guyana.



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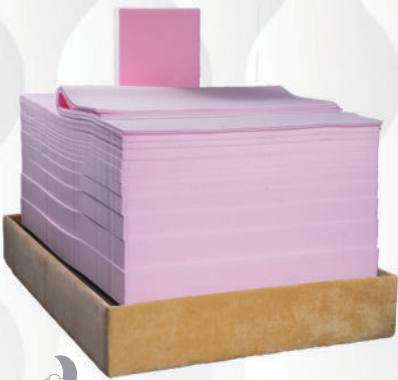
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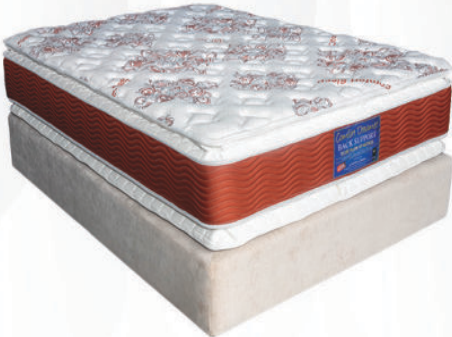
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- Breadfruit  
- Eco - Tourism  
**R1**

**BARTICA**  
- Precious Minerals  
- Manufacturing  
- Tourism  
**R7**

**PARIKA**  
- Transport, Food & Tourism Hub  
- Tourism Hub (CDS Islands)  
- Gas to Shore  
**R3**

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
- Transport, Food & Tourism Hub

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**R4**

**BERBICE**  
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**R5/6**

**WALES**  
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- Manufacturing & Industrial Hub  
- 300 MW Energy Plant & Integrated Natural Gas Liquid Plant  
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**R3**

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**R10**

**MANDIA**  
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- Agriculture  
**R8**

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Chief Investment Officer, Office of the President, Agency Head,  
Guyana Office for Investment

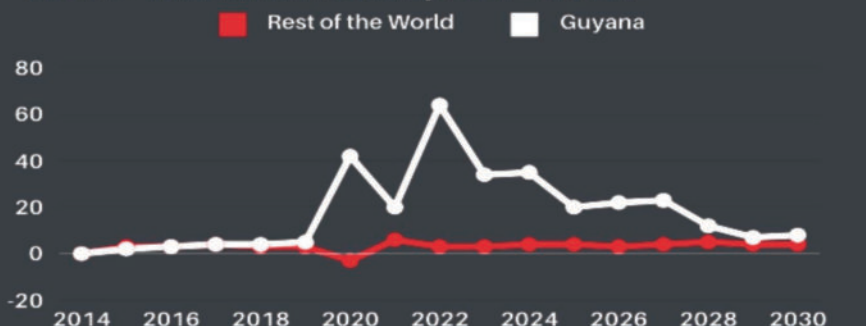
## EXPORT PROMOTION & READINESS



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## WHY BUY GUYANA STOCK?

1 GY 43.60% -2024 REAL GDP GROWTH  
Source - International Monetary Fund - Statista



Year	Rest of the World (%)	Guyana (%)
2014	0	0
2016	0	0
2018	0	0
2020	0	40
2022	0	65
2024	0	40
2026	0	25
2028	0	15
2030	0	10

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- Large Expanse of freshwater
- 420,000 Hectares of arable land
- 25% by 2025 reduction in food import bill

### CLIMATE SECURITY

- 18.3M Hectares in standing forest
- Storing 19.5 Gligatons of Carbon worth US \$195B

### ENERGY SECURITY

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- 17 Trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserves
- 300MW Power Plant

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

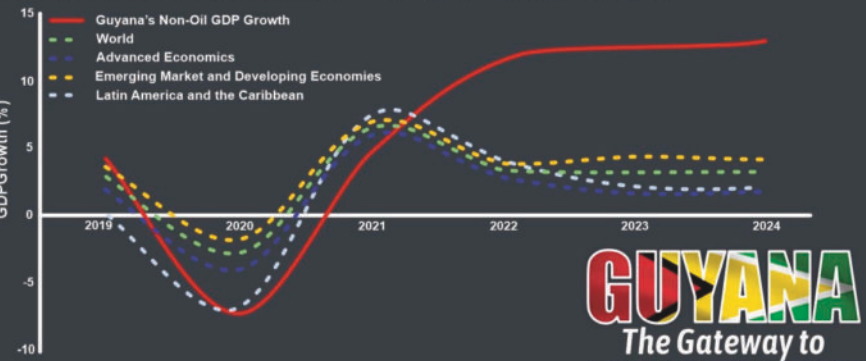
- Several New Regional Hospitals
- Access to free Education
- BIT Training
- Housing Development

### WORLD CLASS TOURISM INDUSTRY

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- 800 species of Reptiles
- 6500 species of Plants & Trees
- 365 Islands along Guyana's Essequibo River
- Several US Branded hotels under construction

### GUYANA: GROWTH NON-OIL ECONOMY VS. GROWTH IN OTHER REGIONS

Sources: Bureau of Statistics and IMF WEO Database, October 2024



Year	Guyana's Non-Oil GDP Growth (%)	World (%)	Advanced Economies (%)	Emerging Market and Developing Economies (%)	Latin America and the Caribbean (%)
2019	4	3	2	4	3
2020	-8	-1	-2	-1	-1
2021	7	5	4	6	5
2022	12	4	3	5	4
2023	13	3	2	4	3
2024	14	3	2	4	3

**GUYANA**  
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# PPP/C’s return to Office could shape Guyana’s economic destiny — Ramkarran

IF the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) secures a comfortable majority in the September 1 General and Regional Elections, Guyana’s economic trajectory could be decisively shaped for decades to come, according to political activist, Senior Counsel Ralph Ramkarran.

Writing in his most recent Conversation Tree column, Ramkarran said, “If, as expected, the PPP is returned to office with a comfortable majority at the elections on September 1, Guyana’s economic destiny will truly be shaped.”

He noted that the framework for this transformation is already visible, with a significant share of national income, dominated by oil revenues, being channelled into health, education, and infrastructure.

“Every indication is that as Guyana’s income grows, these expenditures will grow substantially,” Ramkarran observed, describing such investment as the proven foundation for countries that have successfully transitioned from poverty to developed or advanced developing status.

According to the Senior Counsel, the policy has been “tried and tested” over the past five years, and, if intensified with increased oil revenues, could cement Guyana’s future as “a vastly de-

veloped nation with at least regional, if not international clout”.

As he went on to explain, “This strategy has been tried and tested over the past five years, and if the next government intensifies this course with greater oil income, Guyana’s future destiny as a vastly developed nation with at least regional, if not international clout, is assured. Guyana’s development would have a positive impact on the economic fortunes of the region.”

However, Ramkarran cautioned that the oil resource is finite, and that there is always a risk of contracting the Dutch disease, where dependence on oil could weaken other sectors.

As such, he welcomed the government’s parallel emphasis on agriculture, mining, and tourism, supported by private investment to diversify the economy.

On the issue of poverty reduction, he urged realism, warning that progress is often slow, and can be hampered by unforeseen challenges.

Nonetheless, he expressed hope that within the next five years, growing oil revenues could be strategically used to offset the high cost of living, particularly through targeted support for vulnerable groups.



Political activist Ralph Ramkarran, SC

## Mustapha rallies Region Six behind PPP/C

THE People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has emphasised its record of delivery, outlining key policy successes that have shaped the transformation of communities across Guyana under the leadership of President Irfaan Ali.

Speaking in Hampshire, Corentyne on Tuesday last, Executive Secretary of the PPP/C and Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, said that the party’s policies have led to significant improvements in infrastructure, agriculture, education, healthcare, and job creation.

He highlighted the government’s clear development agenda, citing investments in improved roads, water, electricity, and the modernisation of key sectors. He relayed that, as the Minister of Agriculture, he saw firsthand the impact of the party’s policies. Farmers who were once neglected are now receiving the tools, training, and support they need to thrive. Drainage and irrigation systems have been overhauled. Markets have been expanded. And the agro-processing sector is booming, he stated.

Mustapha pointed to tangible outcomes in communities, from bridges and roads to schools and clinics, noting that progress is visible across all ten regions. “The transformation is felt in classrooms, clinics, marketplaces, and homes across the country,” he noted.

He also underscored the government’s people-centred governance ap-



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha on the campaign trail

proach. “We listen to your views and take them on board and that is how we are crafting our manifesto,” he said, reiterating the PPP/C’s commitment to inclusive, responsive leadership.

Mustapha reminded citizens that when the PPP/C returned to office in 2020, Guyana was grappling with stagnation, deteriorating public services, and a weakened economy.

“The country was in a state of regression. Key sectors such as agriculture, education, health, water, and infrastructure had suffered years of neglect and mismanagement,” he stated. He emphasised that it was under the PPP/C that a turnaround began.

As the nation heads into elections, Mustapha called on voters to reflect on what is at stake.

“This election is not just about seats, but rather it is about securing the

future of a nation that is on the rise. It is about continuing the journey of transformation that began with the return of capable, committed leadership in 2020,” he said.

Addressing a packed gathering, Mustapha declared: “The PPP/C has delivered without a shadow of a doubt.”

He added, “Our party doesn’t make empty promises. We make commitments, and more importantly we deliver

on them. From the coastlands to the hinterland, every Guyanese can see the transformation unfolding under President Irfaan Ali and the PPP/C administration.”

Encouraging voter turnout on September 1st, Mustapha stressed, “We can have the largest rally and all the grand public meetings, but the most important thing is to ensure on elections day every single person turns out to vote.”

As he closed, Mustapha expressed high confidence in the party’s support. He said Region Six has been challenged by PPP/C General Secretary Bharrat Jagdeo to deliver over 55,000 votes.

“I have confidence in you, I know the resilience of the Berbice people and the people in Region Six and I know that when the votes will be tabulated on the night of election that Region Six will deliver to the Peoples Progressive Party the highest number of votes in the history of our party.”

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## EDITORIAL &amp; OPINIONS

# Performance beats ole talk

Elections are a time to give populations pause to reflect on the current governance of their countries, and whether it is time for a change or to stay the course.

The people of both Guyana and Jamaica will have that opportunity come next month, on September 1 and 3 respectively.

We will speak about Jamaica in another editorial on another day. Today, our focus is on Guyana, and how we see the choice facing the people.

The Irfaan Ali PPP/C government is seeking a second mandate, and is being challenged by known opposition parties (as well as an unknown who is also facing US sanctions).

Dr. Ali is campaigning on performance and record, and to be honest, on both he's hard to beat.

In just five short years, the visionary Dr. Ali has changed the landscape of Guyana, both physically and economically. Unlike other countries where an oil windfall led to a phenomenon known as the "resource curse" -- where the windfall is squandered on meaningless things with no real plan for the economy on the way forward -- Dr. Ali and his team have used the oil money to improve life for Guyanese all around, beyond race or status.

For example, the government immediately began developing Guyana's infrastructure, which was poor at best when it took office, and created a net-

work of roads and bridges meant to serve the entire country.

No region was left untouched. Farmers in the hinterlands now have easy access to ports and markets for their produce, helping to secure the country's place as the "breadbasket of the Caribbean."

Under the Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, special attention was paid not just to crops but to the needs of farmers -- a usually forgotten demographic -- to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to keep the food and fish coming. They've received help from the government to mitigate perennial problems such as flooding that often destroy their hard work.

This is in keeping with Dr. Ali's vision to make sure the Guyana economy is diversified, so there is no single dependence on oil. When that resource runs out -- as it surely will, in the long term -- Guyana will still be able to feed itself and continue to export food to the world.

Under Dr. Ali, Guyana has also diversified its economy in other ways, encouraging manufacturing by supporting entrepreneurs and boosting tourism by ensuring there will be a steady supply of hotel rooms and airlift to accommodate visitors.

Unlike other countries that fell under the resource curse, the Ali government also did not engage in any ego

projects. The one of which it could rightfully boast -- the Demerara River Bridge -- is more function than form, even though it will surely remain a landmark in Guyana well into the future, much as the Golden Gate Bridge is for San Francisco.

When coming to people, Dr. Ali also has an eye on the future, making sure the coming generations have access to free education, including tertiary, so they can pursue their dreams and help build the country.

The government has built brand new schools across the country, in every region, all equipped with the latest technology to make sure no child is left behind in the rapidly-evolving 21st century.

The government has also built brand new state-of-the-art hospitals around the country, ensuring easy access to top tier healthcare for every Guyanese.

Many of the inroads into designing the health care system came through partnerships with major international institutions, such as Mt Sinai. This way, Guyanese now have access to world-class healthcare at home -- for free.

Housing starts are also at a global high, and the vision of making sure every Guyanese has a home is well within reach under the PPP/C.

Guyana today is nothing like the Guyana the Ali government inherited five years ago. That so much was done

in such a short time is remarkable. It is even more so when one considers the vision on which it was built -- one that ensures economic sustainability well into the future, one that ensures the well being of every Guyanese through health care and education, and one that is now a modern country with world class roads and bridges to ensure ease of movement of goods and people.

As for climate action, Dr. Ali & Co also lead the world, being the first country to set a target of being a net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The country is well on its way to achieve that, and when it happens, it will be the first energy producing country in the world to balance economic development with its environmental goals, through a combination of forest conservation, carbon accounting, and investments in renewable energy.

All of the above takes not just vision but performance, and in our opinion, this is where the Ali-led PPP/C government beats its contenders in the September 1 election by a mile.

Guyanese will do well to reflect on the last five years, to see how far they've come and in how short a time, and ask themselves if any of the other people asking for their vote could have accomplished that.

In our opinion, the answer is no. The choice on September 1 is clear.

## PPP/C stands tall above the five other elections contestants

Dear Editor,

AS we get closer to election day, everyone needs to exercise their voting rights. Having considered all the factors, I have to give my endorsement to President, Dr. Irfaan Ali and the PPP/C as we vote on September 1.

As a civil society advocate, my approach has been to give criticism where criticism is due and praise where praise is due. I differ with the PPP/C in matters of the oil contract, failure to fix the problem of NIS contributions being in-

accurate, and the freedom of information issue.

In considering the six parties vying for office, I have readily ruled out the PNC (APNU) and the AFC because they are parties which have rigged and supported rigging. That's a non-starter for me. We should not support parties which have rigging etched in their DNA.

The three new, "baby," fly-by-night parties -- parties which include leaders who supported and defended

the PNC's rigging in 2020, are too new and inexperienced to inspire any confidence or trust they can run a complex emerging new oil-producing economy at a time when we face threats from Venezuela.

We can't consider novices for the job of continuing the enormous reform and development trajectory on which we have embarked.

We have had the most infrastructural development which have improved our quality of life, buttressed by

ongoing salary increases, modest increases to Old Age Pensions and Public Assistance (which need to be doubled in the new term), the most cash grants to all and special cash grants to students. The PPP/C's scorecard is good. So given the six choices, overwhelmingly the PPP/C stands tall above the rest!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry Jailall

Civil Society Advocate



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# Anand Warns of Escalating Famine in Gaza, Condemns Killing of Journalists

By Denise Singh  
LJI REPORTER

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand warned Tuesday that a “famine is unfolding” in Gaza and that new Israeli restrictions on humanitarian operations risk worsening the crisis.

Her comments came a day after Global Affairs Canada condemned Israel’s killing of several Al Jazeera journalists, including reporter Anas Al-Sharif, in a targeted airstrike.

Israel claimed Al-Sharif was part of Hamas’ military wing — an allegation he and his employer rejected.

Press advocates say the killing is part of a wider effort to intimidate journalists covering the war.

“The humanitarian suffering in Gaza has reached unimaginable levels. Urgent action is needed to halt and reverse starvation,” Anand wrote on social media, citing a joint statement by foreign ministers from Europe, Asia and Australia.

That statement accuses Israel’s new restrictions on international aid groups of worsening conditions in the enclave.

Israel disputes widespread claims of starvation but continues to impose strict controls on aid entry and distribution.

The United Nations and humanitarian agencies say the measures — including a September policy requiring NGOs to share sensitive personal data about Palestinian staff — have already blocked shipments of food, medicine, and hygiene supplies.

Those not complying face expul-



Al Jazeera’s reporter Anas Al-Sharif was targeted by Israel and killed

sion from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), the term used by the UN and European governments for the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.

“Humanitarian space must be protected, and aid should never be politicized,” the foreign ministers’ statement reads.

They are urging Israel to approve all NGO aid shipments, lift operational barriers, and open every possible route for essential supplies.

The UN says Israel’s lengthy inspections and truck placements in unsafe areas have slowed or stopped aid deliveries.

Israel halted food shipments entirely for nearly three months earlier this year, later introducing a U.S.-contracted distribution system that has seen hundreds killed by Israeli troops as civilians tried to access food.

The Committee to Protect Journalists reports at least 192 journalists have been killed since the conflict began, calling it the deadliest war for the press in modern times.

The group and the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression have accused Israel of deliberately targeting reporters to suppress coverage of the war and potential evidence of international crimes.

Amnesty International has called

for an independent investigation.

Al Jazeera is among the last major outlets maintaining a large team inside Gaza, documenting the devastation, hunger, and daily airstrikes.

Israel bans the network from broadcasting domestically, has raided its West Bank offices, and bars independent foreign journalists from entering Gaza unless embedded with its military.

In a farewell post prepared in case of his death, 28-year-old Al-Sharif wrote: “I never hesitated for a single day to convey the truth as it is, without distortion or falsification.”

In a July broadcast, he wept on air as a woman collapsed from hunger behind him.

“I am talking about the slow death of those people,” he said.



Three other Al Jazeera reporters were also killed in the last few days





# Is Racism Losing Its Potency?

By Former Guyana President  
Donald Ramotar

One of the enduring struggles that the PPP has waged since its inception was and is for Racial and working class unity. Over the years it has had successes and setbacks. In 1953 the entire country was united.

The split in the Party and the use of race to divide the people by the British and their local allies in 1955 was a setback. However in the 1957 elections the PPP led by Cheddi Jagan won most of the African Guyanese votes.

It was in that period that the British Governor Sir Patrick Renison and his local allies, the Burnham led group, (which became the PNC in October 1957), intensified their efforts at dividing the working people.

Just before leaving his post as Governor of British Guiana Sir Patrick Renison in a letter to Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 10 March 1957 reported that he had succeeded in the task of building up opposition to Jagan's PPP. He noted that Burnham, even though "cynical, superficial, unreliable, prejudiced and irrational was no longer unthinkable as a Chief Minister."

Renison hailed his success of building opposition to the PPP and his making Burnham an alternative to Jagan as his success of the year. He however noted that the "dark edge" of the success "has largely been accomplished through racialism".

In the years that followed (1957 to 1964) the British, joined by the CIA and the PNC intensified their racial agitations. They used the 1962 budget, known as the Kaldor's Budget, (after Nicolas Kaldor the UN economist who advised the government) which was aimed at preparing the country for Independence and was highly praised by specialists, to begin race riots in the city.

The PPP fought tooth and nail to counter racism. Progress has been relatively slow up to 1992. Since then we have seen much progress in forging na-



The High Court with Statue of Queen Victoria – Georgetown – Guyana

tional unity in our country. The PPP support in Afro and Amerindian communities grew steadily.

The reasons for these positive developments are many. First and foremost is the fact that the PPP, from Jagan to Jagdeo, has never made any concessions to racism. Our position has always been staunchly against racism. The PPP is on record as expelling persons who tried to stoke racism in our country. That was the real reason for the removal of Balwant Singh Rai and some of his followers.

Just after the Party left office in 1964 Cheddi Jagan, clearly disappointed that the PNC had rejected its calls for a coalition government, charged PPP activists to work to build back racial unity in Guyana. In the Thunder of April 1965 he wrote "...We must work to achieve unity and social harmony. Racism is the greatest curse in our land..." He went on to say "We have to win over the misguided workers in the urban areas and the Amerindian people. This is the only true and lasting solution to our problems."

Well, it took a while, but the contours of that unity is taking shape. This could be seen by the composition of the crowds at PPP/C meetings and rallies, that there have been truly multi-racial crowds is unmistakable.

The racist propagandists of the APNU (PNC) and some of their supporters who are prominent in the press are becoming ineffective. This is because their talk of PPP discrimination does not correspond to the realities on the ground. Their propagandists like Henry Jeffery, Lincoln Lewis and David Hinds have lost much of their credibility and their naked racism is being exposed as never before.

Another reason that helped to blunt the racist propaganda is the fact that the return of the PNC to power in 2015 exposed them to the new generation, who were not around before 1992 and therefore had no knowledge of the PNC's corruption, racism and anti working class positions, were able to see them more clearly. In the five years between 2015 and 2020 they again displayed a great

level of incompetence, corruption and gross arrogance.

They never think about the welfare of our people or the image of our country. Their main aim has always been to get rich quick and to perpetuate themselves in power by rigged elections. The shame that they brought to this nation in attempting to steal the 2020 elections while the whole world was watching was deeply felt by all patriotic citizens. We recall the words of Barbados' late Prime Minister Owen Arthur, who was the head of an observer mission to those elections, when he said "it was the most transparent attempt to rig an elections."

Yes the APNU/AFC regime brought great shame to our nation.

The leadership of the opposition wants power to rule the country like monarchs and to enrich themselves at the expense people and country. Recall the renting of a house (for a bond) for more than twelve million dollars per month.

Guyanese are now once again walking with their heads held high and rightly saying never again.



Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO



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# Sex Secrets of Trump, Epstein, and Andrew Laid Bare in new book

By Denise Singh  
LJI REPORTER

Donald Trump, Jeffrey Epstein, and Prince Andrew were “all part of the same little group” in the early 2000s, according to British historian Andrew Lownie.

Speaking on The Daily Beast podcast, Lownie—author of the upcoming *Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York*—described how the trio’s social circles overlapped.

“Certainly Donald Trump and Andrew were close,” he said.

“They had the same interests in golf, money, and sex.”

Lownie recounted claims from a New York diplomat that Prince Andrew often lingered at the British consulate, looking for activities and trying to involve Epstein in his trips.

Staff were reportedly taken aback after overhearing Andrew and Trump discussing one of Trump’s “favorite words.”

According to Lownie, the relationship between Trump and Andrew was casual but close.

“Trump was swapping a list of masseurs with Andrew for when he came to New York. It was a pretty buddy-buddy relationship,” he said.

While Trump has publicly denied knowing much about Andrew, Lownie pointed to numerous photographs of them together—in New York, at Mar-a-Lago, in London, and elsewhere.

“They’re all trying to distance themselves now,” he added, “but they were extremely close for a particular period at the beginning of the century.”

The White House declined The Daily Beast’s request for comment.

In 2022, Prince Andrew settled a



Trump with future wife Melania Knauss and Prince Andrew at Mar-a-Lago in 2000.

civil sexual assault lawsuit brought by Virginia Giuffre, who alleged that Epstein had trafficked her to the British royal when she was 17. Andrew denied any wrongdoing.

On August 1, following two meetings with Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche—Trump’s former personal lawyer—Ghislaine Maxwell was moved to a lower-security federal prison in Bryan, Texas, known for its relatively comfortable conditions. Trump claimed

to have no knowledge of the transfer.

During his 2024 campaign, Trump vowed to declassify files on Epstein’s crimes—a pledge Attorney General Pam Bondi initially appeared eager to fulfill.

In February, Bondi told Fox News that Epstein’s rumored “client list” was on her desk and hinted at its disturbing contents. Days later, she told Jesse Waters:

“It’s pretty sick what that man did.” But by early July, the Justice De-

partment and FBI issued a memo stating that no client list existed and reaffirming that Epstein died by suicide. The Trump administration also announced it would not release any further “Epstein files.”

In recent weeks, Trump has dismissed questions about his ties to Epstein and Maxwell, calling the subject “pretty boring.”

*New episodes of The Daily Beast Podcast are released every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.*

## No more taxes on women’s hygiene products

Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that his government will remove all taxes on sanitary products, a landmark policy aimed at improving women’s health, dignity, and quality of life.

The Head of State made the declaration on Sunday while addressing a massive election rally at Bath, Region Five, noting that the measure will complement the ongoing Menstrual Hygiene Initiative spearheaded by the Office of the First Lady.

“We have to invest in your security and your quality of life. We have to invest in your dignity and honour; we have decided in our Manifesto that we are going to remove all taxes on sanitary supply,” President Ali told the gathering.

Launched in 2021, the Menstrual Hygiene Initiative seeks to address long-standing challenges surrounding menstrual health management in Guyana. A 2021 Ministry of Education study revealed that about one-third of female secondary school students struggle to access or afford sanitary pads; a barrier that often leads to missed classes and educational setbacks.

By promoting menstrual equity, the initiative aims to normalise conversations around menstruation, empower girls, and guarantee access to essential hygiene products, regardless of age, economic status, or location.







A section of the new \$553 million Bartica Stelling

## President Ali commissions ‘modern, safer’ \$553M Bartica Stelling

FOR years, the people of Bartica have relied on their riverside hub as a lifeline to the rest of Guyana, and now the gateway has been transformed.

President Dr Irfaan Ali commissioned the new \$553 million Bartica Stelling, a modern, safer and more efficient port facility that promises to reshape daily life in Region Seven.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony on Sunday, President Ali hailed the project as a major investment in the region’s economic transformation, underscoring the port’s role in supporting tourism, mining, agriculture, and trade.

“This is an investment that we believe will help in the transformation of Region Seven,” the president said. “It is part of a broader vision to modernise Guyana’s waterfront infrastructure, integrate our transport systems, and create opportunities that bring prosperity to everyone.”

Before the project’s execution, several setbacks were encountered when the first phase was awarded in 2017, including delays and complaints about the quality of work

The second phase came to a standstill until the PPP/C administration took office in August 2020.

Under President Ali’s leadership, work was advanced on the stelling to raise the standard to a satisfactory level while ensuring value for money.

Local contractor K&K Construction and Hardware Supplies, based in Bartica, won the contract after the project was retendered.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, noted that the works were completed within the contract sum, calling it “a job well done” by the contractor and his team. “This speaks to the visionary leadership of President Ali and the management style of the PPP/C administration. We promised the

people of Bartica we would get it finished, and we have delivered,” he said.

Mayor of Bartica, Anthony Murray, described the commissioning as a “historic moment” for the township, noting that the facility will improve access, enhance safety, reduce costs for farmers and miners, and open doors for new markets.

The Bartica Stelling upgrade forms part of the government’s ongoing programme to modernise ports across Guyana, with similar works planned or underway in Parika, Vreed-en-Hoop, Supenaam, and Port Kaituma. (DPI)

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# Guyana could face ‘big trouble’ if Mohamed elected to public office

VICE-PRESIDENT, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has emphasised how the election of OFAC-sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed to public office could expose Guyana to crippling international consequences.

During last evening’s airing of ‘Starting Point,’ the Vice-President sounded the alarm over the embattled businessman who, according to him, has “no track record of achievement, no plan for the future, no experience, and then, on the other hand, added to all of those: criminality.”

The Vice-President said: “And so we know now that this country could face sanctions and big trouble with the United States of America if he is elected.”

This is a presidential candidate that cannot even face the press properly, the Vice-President pointed out, while strongly dismissing those online pages associated with the businessman, which have attempted to diminish the seriousness of his sanctions.

“His sanctions, they are serious sanctions. A couple days ago, they sought to say, ‘oh, that some Chinese companies are sanctioned’; and those are different sorts of sanctions,” he said.

These companies are sanctioned under a capital market restriction pursuant to a US Executive Order targeting companies linked to the Chinese military. This measure prohibits US persons from investing in the company’s securities but does not freeze assets or impose trade bans.

“His (Azruddin) sanctions came under those reserved for people who do



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

drug trafficking, money laundering, gold smuggling, corruption, etcetera,” the Vice-President clarified.

Mohamed’s sanctions come with a serious set of consequences, which are spelled out in the sanction document published in June of 2024, Dr. Jagdeo said.

In August last year, the Bank of Guyana confirmed that all banks in Guyana have closed accounts they had with the Mohamed family and their businesses following US sanctions for their alleged roles in public corruption.

Nazar Mohamed, his son Azruddin and their businesses, namely Mohamed’s Enterprise, Hadi’s World and Team Mohamed’s Racing, on June 11, 2024, were sanctioned by OFAC, which oversees sanctions against individuals and entities

tied to illicit activities and hostile foreign governments.

The Vice-President pointed out that as a result of affiliation with the Mohameds, persons have lost their visas and candidates of his political party, We Invest in Nationhood (WIN), have lost their bank accounts, owing to local banks refusing to undergo financial collapse by severing their ties with US corresponding banks.

With that said, the Vice-President said that Mohamed is not investing in nationhood, but “he’s investing in himself to avoid criminality, total consequences for his criminality.”

To this end, the Vice-President dismissed Mohamed’s claims of political victimisation.

Recently, United States Ambassa-

dor to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, voiced serious concerns over the potential inclusion of a US-sanctioned Azruddin Mohamed within Guyana’s government, warning that such a development is “concerning”, and could have far-reaching diplomatic and economic consequences.

Ambassador Theriot made it clear that the US Government, particularly OFAC, views any elevation of Mohamed, currently the leader of the WIN party, as problematic.

“Yes, we are concerned anytime an OFAC-sanctioned individual has the potential to become a member of government...It’s problematic in multiple ways... We have to be very careful if that person is involved... we have to make sure that we didn’t work with him specifically,” Theriot stated.

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:

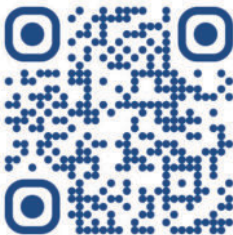
- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
- Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development of Guyana.

**World Guyanese Congress**  
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor  
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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)

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:  
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Telephone: [1-800-317-0804](tel:1-800-317-0804)





# Final concrete slab to be poured on New Demerara River bridge on August 25

THE final slab of concrete to connect the new US\$262 million Demerara River Bridge from East to West is slated to be laid on August 25.

This was confirmed by Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, who was examining the highly anticipated infrastructure last Thursday.

Within that time, the last eight girders will also be installed.

He disclosed that this can be expected to be completed between August 15 and 17.

Also, efforts are ongoing to run the final testing of the cables on the bridge.

“We have committed that this bridge will be completed by the end of August. Despite the weather, despite the challenges, the contractor and the project team are working on delivering this commitment,” the public works minister said reassuringly.

He rejected claims that the new bridge is unable to bear heavy loads. The minister said that people should not be worried.



Final slab on the historic bridge will be poured this month

The minister explained that “the weight of one of the girders that travels along this bridge to be placed is 160 tonnes... the weight of one of the cranes that are operating there is about 470 tonnes.”

In comparison, the average weight of a truck fully loaded is approximately 40 tonnes.

Appealing to critics to stop undermining public confidence, Minister Edghill said that every section of the bridge is tested to ensure compliance with international standards.

“So, people who have problems about whether the bridge is going to collapse and if the bridge can carry the weight, please don’t scare people. As a country, we can do things well. We have been doing things well,” Minister Edghill emphasised.

The new bridge will have a lifespan of 100 years and offer toll-free access. It will operate around the clock and accommodate vehicles of all sizes and weights, with a maximum speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour.

Its design will also feature the


Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH), the country’s second-highest national award.

More than 50,000 daily commuters are expected to benefit from the new bridge, resulting in an estimated \$3.5 billion in annual savings.


“Every Guyanese should be proud that we have been able to achieve this in such a short space of time,” he stated.

The bridge is a landmark development in Guyana’s ongoing journey toward modernisation, providing safe, efficient, and sustainable connectivity for generations to come. (DPI)

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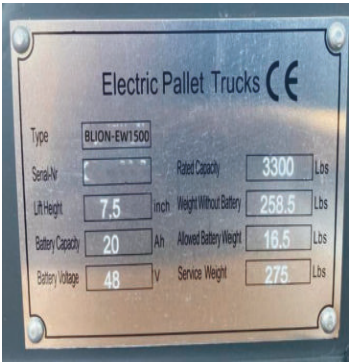



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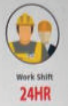






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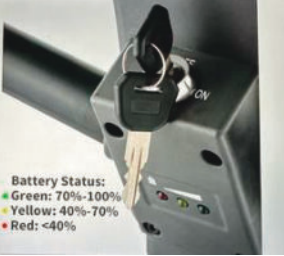
MODEL# BLION-EW1500



Electric Pallet Trucks	
Type	BLION-EW1500
Serial No.	
Rated Capacity	3300 Lbs
Lift Height	7.5 inch
Weight Without Battery	258.5 Lbs
Battery Capacity	20 Ah
Allowed Battery Weight	16.5 Lbs
Battery Voltage	48 V
Service Weight	275 Lbs









Battery Status:  
Green: 70%-100%  
Yellow: 40%-70%  
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# Billions invested to drive housing, jobs & infrastructure transformation in Region 10

REGION Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice) is experiencing a surge of development, with thousands of house lots allocated, new jobs created, billions invested in infrastructure, and major upgrades to health and education facilities.

Residents are reaping the benefits of new economic opportunities, with hundreds now earning more as contractors. Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo highlighted this positive shift, noting that the region had endured severe hardships under the previous government.

At a recent press conference, he contrasted the unprecedented transformation with what he described as years of stagnation under the former A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) administration. He recalled that the region once struggled with a dormant housing sector, massive unemployment, and the neglect of traditional industries such as bauxite.

“In two years alone, we’ve spent \$18 billion on roads in that region. And guess who are doing the roads? Like this year alone, 700 contractors from that region, many small people and

most Afro-Guyanese who are earning now by becoming a contractor,” he said.

He further pointed to the major infrastructure upgrades in the region. Coupled with the ongoing upgrade of the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, Region 10 is becoming a hive of economic activity. The region is also seeing new schools and a \$30 million injection to upgrade the regional hospital.

“And we’ve had really three years to do this because two years we lost to COVID,” Dr. Jagdeo said.

Aside from the policies and programmes, the Vice President pointed out that President Dr. Irfaan Ali and other government officials have consistently visited the region to engage with the people.

“People will support those who have their best interests at heart, and you can’t play the race card every single time,” he said, responding to opposition criticisms of the recent PPP/C rally held in Region 10, adding: “At some point in time, it’s not effective anymore, because people see through you. So, this is what their campaign is about. All negative, and then some unrealistic promises that they keep mak-

ing to people. They have no experience in managing a government, and none of the top leaders. So, that’s the main opposition party for you.”

Last Sunday, President Ali pledged development and prosperity to residents of Region 10, when he addressed a massive crowd at Lieu-Ken-Pen Square, Wismar, that the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has a plan already in motion to transform the region’s economic and infrastructural landscape.

President Ali unveiled plans for long-overdue improvements to Region Ten’s drainage and irrigation systems. The initiative, he said, will significantly reduce flooding in vulnerable low-lying areas such as Wismar and Mackenzie.

The planned drainage system overhaul is expected to dramatically reduce flooding in low-lying areas of the region, a persistent challenge for communities in Wismar and Mackenzie.

Additionally, the Linden airstrip will be upgraded and modernised, creating a launchpad for expanded domestic tourism, increased connectivity, and commercial activity. According to the President, this aligns with the broader

vision to position the region as a major economic hub.

This will be further complemented with special tourism incentives to generate more opportunities. Ultimately, the aim is to invest extensively in the region’s productive capacity. The government, he said, will inject billions into community-driven infrastructure by hiring local contractors to build concrete drains, an effort to stimulate both employment and small business growth.

Meanwhile, to enhance the region’s economic prospects, the government will be upgrading the Linden airstrip, making it into a regional hub in tandem with plans to expand tourism, which will rightfully place the region as a hub for massive opportunities.

Crucially, Ali made it clear that the development plan is not limited to Linden’s urban centre. Every village in Region Ten, he said, has been assessed and its priorities identified. From road development to mobile financial services, he affirmed that Region Ten will see the delivery of the commitments being made.



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# Guyana Gov’t continues to crack-down on gold smuggling

VICE-PRESIDENT, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has said that the government, as part of its continued efforts to clamp down on gold smuggling, is strengthening the charges against persons who are involved in this illicit act.

He made these remarks during last evening’s edition of the show ‘Starting Point.’

Dr. Jagdeo said: “The problem is, when you charge people for smuggling, they get bail, and it’s harder to charge them for money laundering offenses. So, we now have to strengthen the charges that we place on those people.”

The government has already put systems in place to counter gold smuggling, and the recent busts that have been made, according to the Vice-President, were intelligence-led operations and when information was obtained, several actions were taken almost immediately to begin to uncover the major players in the illegal activities.

The Vice-President further disclosed that there are individuals who want to place Guyana at risk.

“If we were sanctioned globally for our gold sector, all our gold miners would be put at risk...If we don’t export our gold, or it comes under a whole range of paperwork, who do you think it would affect? It would affect the people who mine gold, etc...,” he said.

Last Saturday, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali also pointed to these individuals who carried out this illicit act and stated that it could have crippled Guyana.

While noting that because of what one person did, the government had to go through enhanced scrutiny, he said, adding: “What one man did could have crippled the entire mining sector. Every single gold deal and operator could have been crippled.”

President Ali appealed to the miners that they will receive targeted support but all the government is asking for in return is that they sell their gold legally.

“All we ask of you to do is to make your gold [and] to ensure that you sell it legally to the established and licensed operators and the Guyana Gold Board... We will invest in you, and we just want you to do that one thing, right,” the President said.

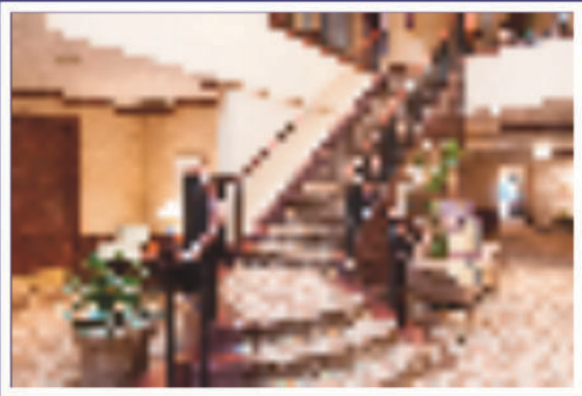
He then firmly stated: “We don’t want leakages in the system,” adding: “We don’t want our gold to cross any border.”



Jagdeo has said that the government is strengthening the charges to further clamp down on gold smuggling

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# Free advanced healthcare services closer to home for Region Three

EQUIPPED with the most modern facilities and equipment, the \$6.6 billion De Kinderen Regional Hospital in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) was on Monday commissioned by President Dr. Irfaan Ali.

The state-of-the-art facility marks a massive transformation for healthcare delivery in the region, with thousands of residents now having access to specialised and modern essential medical services in their home base.

The new hospital offers services in internal medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, cardiology, mental health and psychiatry, orthopaedics surgery, inpatient and outpatient care, advanced laboratory and imaging services, as well as dental and optical care.

“But as remarkable as these physical buildings are, the story of transformation in our human capital in a healthcare system is nothing short of extraordinary investment in place in building our human capital and healthcare system,” President Dr. Irfaan Ali said,

affirming that the government will ensure that all new facilities are fully staffed to offer the best services.

He added: “[There are] Thousands of new Guyanese in a nursing programme as medical technologists, as doctors, as lab technicians, as dentists, in every sphere of the health ecosystem, we’ve invested in building the human capital and human potential to deliver the best possible health care to the people of this country.”

The President stressed that while the recruitment of local health workers is paramount, the government will bring in human resources if need arises.

The commissioning of the De Kinderen Regional Hospital is a significant milestone in the government’s broader plan to build a healthier, more resilient Guyana, with a strong emphasis on accessibility, community well-being, and quality of care.

The De Kinderen Regional Hospital is the fourth of six new health facilities that have been commissioned in a wider programme that is being pursued

by the Government of Guyana to improve healthcare. The Enmore, Bath, and Diamond regional hospitals were recently commissioned.

The goal is to make healthcare services free and accessible, positioning Guyana as a hub for healthcare provision and training within the global ecosystem.

“Already, many persons from CARICOM [the Caribbean Community] are coming to our hospitals for treatment, and we will be able to play our role in building a stronger health ecosystem in our region; together, we will build strong,” the President said.

The President outlined the government’s commitment to developing a comprehensive, interconnected healthcare system across Guyana.

The system will integrate various hospitals, and provide electronic platforms for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists to access training programmes from universities like the University of West Indies (UWI).

The government plans to build a

modern oncology hospital, expand dialysis services, and establish a stroke rehabilitation centre.

Additionally, they will invest in rehabilitative care, childcare centres, and infrastructure for pharmaceutical manufacturing and research.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony stated that the hospital is a symbol of progress, and a testament to the President’s vision for world-class healthcare, highlighting its advanced features such as a 24-hour emergency department, a 24-hour imaging centre with X-ray, ultrasound, and CT scan capabilities, and three well-equipped operating theaters.

Dr. Anthony stressed the government’s commitment to modernising and expanding healthcare facilities, citing the region’s old facilities that were outdated and lacked basic amenities like water and electricity.

The new hospital represents a modernisation effort aimed at providing better healthcare services to the residents of Region Three





Sunjay Kapur was married to Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor, but the couple later divorced

# Billionaire inheritance feud spotlights India's messy family succession

An Indian tycoon's sudden death in June has triggered a fierce inheritance battle at an Indian automotive giant.

Sunjay Kapur, 53, suffered a heart attack on 12 June while playing polo in Surrey in the UK. He was an heir to Sona Comstar, a \$3.6bn (£2.7bn) business empire he inherited from his father. The company, among India's top auto component makers, has a global footprint with 10 plants spread across India, China, Mexico and the US.

A polo enthusiast, Kapur moved in the elite social circles of Indian capital Delhi, and reportedly shared a friendship with Prince William. He was married three times - first to designer Nandita Mahtani, then to 90s Bollywood star Karisma Kapoor, before marrying Priya Sachdev, a former model and entrepreneur, in 2017.

But weeks after his death, the question of succession has made Kapur and his family the subject of media speculation.

At the centre of it is Kapur's mother Rani Kapur, former chairperson of Sona Comstar.

On 24 July, Rani Kapur sent a letter to the board of Sona Comstar, raising questions about her son's death and appointments made by the company after that.

In the letter, she alleged that Kapur's death was under "highly suspicious and unexplained circumstances".

The coroner's office in Surrey said that after a postmortem, it had determined that Kapur died of natural causes. "The investigation has been closed," the office said.

Rani Kapur also claims to have been coerced into signing key documents while under mental and emotional distress from her son's death.

"It is unfortunate that while the family and I are still in mourning, some people have chosen this as an opportune time to wrest control and usurp the family legacy," she wrote.

She also asked Sona Comstar's board to postpone its annual general meeting (AGM) - which was set for 25 July - to decide on a new director who would be a representative of the family.

Rani Kapur didn't specify who she meant by "some people", but Sona Comstar held the AGM the next day anyway and appointed Sunjay's wife Priya as a non-executive director.

In her letter, Rani Kapur claimed she was the

sole beneficiary of her late husband's estate in a will left behind in 2015 which included a majority stake in Sona Group, including Sona Comstar.

The company has strongly denied Rani Kapur's claims and said that she has had "no role, direct or indirect, in Sona Comstar since at least 2019".

The board also said it had no compulsion to defer to her notice and that the AGM was conducted "in full compliance with the law". The company has issued a legal notice to Rani Kapur, asking her to stop spreading "false, malicious and damaging" statements.

Public shareholders, including banks, mutual funds and financial institutions, hold 71.98% of Sona Comstar, which is listed on Indian exchanges as Sona BLW.

The remaining 28.02% is held by promoters via a company called Aureus Investments Pvt Ltd.

According to the company's filings, Sunjay Kapur was the sole beneficiary of the RK Family Trust, which controls the promoters' stake in Sona Comstar via Aureus Investments.

"Looking at the company structure, at this point of time, Rani Kapur doesn't feature as a registered shareholder so won't have any voting rights. But there is the matter of the RK Family Trust and Aureus investments. We can't really know if Rani holds any direct interest there till the agreement is made public," says Tushar Kumar, a corporate litigator at India's Supreme Court.

The Kapur family's feud isn't an isolated case. Some 90% of listed companies in India are family-controlled, yet only 63% have a formal succession plan in place, according to a PwC survey.

Kavil Ramachandran of the Indian School of Business says most Indian family businesses operate with "significant ambiguity about specifics".

"One such [area] is who owns how much and who inherits and when," he adds.

Experts say family involvement without meritocracy and absence of formal agreements complicate matters. "On the demise of the patriarch (or even before), disputes arise, both on ownership and on management, and too much water would have flowed under the bridge for issues to be resolved amicably," said Ketan Dalal, who advises several Indian business families on ownership structures.



**ARIES (March 21 - April 20):** What occurs today, either in your private life or in the wider world, will help you see the bigger picture and recognize that most things happen for a reason. Once you know that you should find it easier to act, because you know what you do has meaning.

**TAURUS (April 21 - May 21):** As one of the zodiac's Earth signs you are not the sort to give up easily, or even at all, and if you keep plugging away at what you are working on it will come good eventually. Staying power is so important, even more so than intelligence.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21):** If you find it difficult to keep your mind on the job today then stop trying so hard and give yourself time to relax. There are some major changes going on behind the scenes at the moment, so you probably won't be missed if you take a break.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23):** Venus and Jupiter join forces in your sign today, making this the perfect time to get together with friends and loved ones and have a good time. Forget about your chores for a while and do only what makes you feel good about yourself.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23):** Has someone got it in for you or is it just your imagination working overtime? Most likely it's the latter, so don't be so suspicious and do make an effort to get to know what they are up to. You may even decide to help them in their efforts.

**VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23):** If you are smart you will resist the urge to answer back at someone who says something incredibly stupid. They are not the kind of individual you can have a reasoned debate with, so why waste your time on them? Pretend they don't exist.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23):** If you stand back and let other people make the running today you will save yourself a lot of time and effort and still end up at the place you were hoping to reach. Sometimes it pays to be the face in the crowd that doesn't stand out.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22):** You need to remind yourself today that time is not a factor in what you are doing. In fact, it will pay you to consciously move a bit more slowly than usual, because any mistakes you make will add minutes, maybe even hours, to your journey.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21):** No matter how tempted you may be to let others in on a secret of some kind you must keep it to yourself for the time being. Knowledge is power and the less your rivals know about what is going on the more power you will have.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20):** If you make it your business to assist a friend in need over the next 24 hours the universe will go out of its way to reward you in the future. Not that you need an incentive – you will do it anyway out of the goodness of your heart.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19):** Your good humor will light up whatever social situation you find yourself in today. The more friends and colleagues are feeling a bit down the more determined you will be to cheer them up. Their tears of sadness will soon become tears of joy.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20):** A change of direction in your life is clearly necessary but there is no reason why it should be a scary one. Nothing stays the same forever and what comes next will be more exciting, and more profitable, than what went before, so embrace the change.

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# September 3, 2025: Holness announces date for Jamaica election

At a packed Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) rally in Half-Way Tree, St. Andrew, Prime Minister and JLP leader Dr. Andrew Holness officially announced the date for Jamaica’s next general election.

Speaking to thousands of supporters, Holness revealed that the general election will be held on September 3, 2025, with nomination day set for August 18, 2025.

By-elections in four local government divisions in the Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation will also be held on September 3, Holness announced. The divisions are – Chancery Hall, Olympic Gardens, Seivwright Gardens and Denham Town.

All 63 JLP caretakers for the upcoming polls were confirmed at Saturday’s Central Executive meeting.

The announcement concludes weeks of political speculation and signals the official start of the campaign season.

The JLP government has been in power since 2016, with Holness serving as Prime Minister throughout this period. During this time, the administration has focused on economic growth, crime reduction, and social development, emphasizing stability and progress amid regional and global challenges.

Reflecting the government’s achievements, several ministers shared statements that were posted on social media, underscoring ongoing efforts across key sectors:

Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said, “This is a different Jamaica and a different government. We are delivering like never before. We’re building more roads, expanding access to clean water, supporting persons with disabilities, fixing transportation, and growing our economy for every Jamaican.”

Hon. Daryl Vaz, Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, highlighted transportation improvements: “Jamaica’s transportation system is transforming with more modern fleets, safer roads, and expanded routes, making travel more efficient and accessible for all. We are doing more for you! Choose Jamaica.”

Parnell Charles Jr., Minister of Labour and Social Security, emphasized social support: “We’ve increased the social pension to better support our seniors and those in need. We’ve raised the minimum wage to ensure hard-working Jamaicans earn what they deserve. Through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, we’ve expanded job training programs, strengthened



Jamaican PM Andrew Holness announces the election date

workers’ rights, and improved social safety nets to protect vulnerable families. Under the Jamaica Labour Party, we’re embracing technology and digital knowledge with clear plans to open new doors of opportunity for you!”

Juliet Cuthbert Flynn, State Minister in the Ministry of National Security, spoke on public safety gains: “New police stations are opening up, patrols are stronger than ever, and crime is going down. We’re putting in the work every single day to keep Jamaica safe and with the Jamaica Labour Party, we’re building a Jamaica we can all be proud of.”

Hon. Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, focused on rural development and economic growth: “We’re investing in the future of this country by creating more jobs, supporting our farmers, and driving economic growth across all communities. We’ve made sure our farmers and fisherfolk have insurance to protect their livelihoods. Forward ever, backward never!”

Addressing party members and the public, Holness called on JLP candidates to campaign with humility, respect, and a focus on improving the lives of Jamaicans across all constituencies. He stressed the importance of conducting campaigns with dignity and upholding the party’s commitment to decency and professionalism.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the government’s record during its two terms in office, including sustained economic growth over 20 consecutive quarters, a significant reduction in violent crime, record-low unemployment rates, and a more than 150 per cent increase in the minimum

wage.

Ahead of the election, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) will expand its services, including opening constituency offices on Saturdays to facilitate voter registration and the distribution of national ID cards.

International and regional observer groups such as CARICOM, the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and Jamaica’s Citizens Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE) have been in-

vited to monitor the election process, underscoring Jamaica’s commitment to transparent and credible elections.

Prime Minister Holness also gave a special mention to Jamaicans in the diaspora, saying he is welcoming those who want to come back home to vote.

The announcement marks the beginning of an intense political period, with both the ruling JLP and opposition, People’s National Party, gearing up for what is expected to be a closely watched electoral contest.

## St Lucia Adventists unhappy with same-sex ruling

Following a landmark ruling by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court that struck down colonial-era laws criminalising consensual same-sex relations, the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists is urging the nation to reflect, return to biblical principles, and uphold moral clarity.

The decision declared the “buggery” and “gross indecency” provisions in the Criminal Code unconstitutional, a move celebrated by human rights groups and LGBTQ+ advocates. The Adventist Mission, however, issued a public statement acknowledging the legal scope of the decision while affirming that it “remains committed to the unchanging authority of the Word of God in matters of moral and spiritual conduct.”

Citing Genesis, Romans, and other scripture, Mission President Pastor Roger Stephen reiterated the Church’s belief that marriage is “a lifelong union between one man and one woman,” with sexual intimacy “reserved exclusively for this sacred relationship.” He added, “Practices that fall outside this divine ideal, including same-sex sexual relations, are not in harmony with God’s revealed will.”

While standing firm on doctrine, the Mission emphasised the “inherent dignity, worth and value of every human being” and called for compassion. “We are all children of God, broken in different ways and in need of His grace,” the statement read. “Christ Himself modelled a perfect balance of truth and grace, and we are called to do the same.”

Pastor Stephen linked the court’s decision to broader societal decline, warning, “When we align ourselves with God, we will become a blessed nation. Departing from His word brings mayhem.” He urged Saint Lucians to “turn their attention inward” and “reflect on the values shaping society,” adding: “We call the nation back to God and His word...”



# Jamaica sees nearly 42% decline in murders so far in 2025

Jamaica has recorded 415 murders as of August 9 this year, a steep drop from the 712 killings during the same period in 2024, according to the latest figures from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

The 41.7 per cent decline marks one of the most notable reductions in recent years, with Westmoreland, St. James, Eastern Kingston, Western Kingston, and Manchester recording the lowest number of murders for the first nine months of the year.

The JCF also reported a 36.5 per cent decline in shootings, with 416 incidents compared to 655 last year. Rapes have also fallen significantly, down 26 per cent from 269 cases in 2024 to 199 this year.

However, not all crime categories showed improvement. Robbery cases have increased by 11 per cent, while break-ins have risen by 24 per cent. Despite these upticks, the police reported an overall 17 per cent decline in crime.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has attributed much of the downward trend to sustained investments in national security and a targeted crackdown on gangs and illegal weapons. “You have no hiding place! All the people who are importing guns into Jamaica, whether you live here or cooperate with people abroad, you have no hiding place. I want that message to go out very carefully,” Holness warned during an address earlier this year.

“Jamaica is on a solid pathway to tackle the gangs, which for a long time believed they had free space and free rein. None of that in Jamaica,” he said,



Picture of ongoing works on the international airport was taken in March

noting that since 2016, the number of active gangs has fallen from about 350 to fewer than 100.

Holness said that Jamaica has strengthened its national security appa-

ratus through new equipment, enhanced officer training, and stronger cross-border partnerships. He revealed that major shipments of illegal weapons and contraband had been seized in recent

months, reinforcing the government’s commitment to dismantling criminal networks. In 2024, Jamaica recorded a total of 1,139 murders — a 19 per cent decline from the previous year.

## Golding confident and ready for general election

Following the announcement last night that Jamaica’s general election will be held on September 3, People’s National Party (PNP) President Mark Golding declared his party fully prepared to challenge the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and deliver the change Jamaicans are demanding.

Speaking ahead of the announcement at a party meeting in Portland, Golding expressed strong confidence in his leadership and the party’s plans.

“Comrades, we have been waiting for this moment for a very long time. We have been walking the length and breadth of Jamaica. The highways and byways, the hills and the valleys, and everywhere we go as a united party the people say they are ready for change,” Golding said.

He also suggested the ruling party delayed calling the election due to lack of confidence. “Obviously they were running scared because no government leaves it to the 11th hour and really the election called itself because they were out of time,” he added.

Golding urged supporters to intensify their campaign efforts over the coming weeks. “We’ll be on the road, and we’ll continue to take that message of hope to the people. And I say to each of you in your own circumstances, carry the message far and wide, and let the people understand what we plan to do, and how we intend to make a better life for the



PNP leader Mark Golding

people of Jamaica.”

“Our plans are solid. Our plans are relevant. Our plans attack the real issues of concern to the people of this country. And we have the capacity and the will and the determination to execute on our plans,” he said.

Nomination Day is set for August 18, 2025. By-elections in four local government divisions in

the Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation will also be held on September 3, Holness announced. The divisions are – Chancery Hall, Olympic Gardens, Seivwright Gardens, and Denham Town.

With the election now officially set, Mark Golding and the PNP are gearing up for a determined push to return to government.



# Barbados and India sign MoU for Coconut Processing Plant

The Governments of Barbados and India have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a cutting-edge Coconut Processing Plant on the island, marking a significant milestone in Barbados’ re-industrialisation efforts and bilateral cooperation.

The agreement aims to boost Barbados’ food processing capabilities and foster economic transformation through innovative agro-processing. It also reflects a shared commitment to sustainability and value chain development in the agricultural sector.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mark Hill, CEO of Export Barbados, highlighted the strategic importance of the project. “This investment allows us to leverage technology from India as part of our broader re-industrialisation strategy,” he said. “It’s not just about coconuts; it’s about building full value chains, fostering innovation, and setting the foundation for future partnerships. We are thankful to the Government of India for this generous contribution and rest assured, we’ll be back for more.”

Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology, Johnathan Reid, pointed to the potential for expanding collaboration beyond coconut processing. “India is a global leader in digital public infrastructure and payment platforms. We are eager to explore those opportunities alongside agro-industrial growth. I see many more projects on the horizon,” he remarked.

Indian High Commissioner to Barbados, Subhash P. Gupta, praised the partnership and noted India’s ongoing regional food processing initiatives in Suriname and St Vincent. “The Barbados facility, focused on coconut processing, will be the first of its kind and could serve as a model for full-chain value extraction,” he said. Gupta emphasized that every part of the coconut—from water and pulp to biodegradable coir for rope and gardening—has value. He also invited a Barbadian delegation to visit Kerala, India, a region renowned for its coconut industry, to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Minister Reid underscored the plant’s role in supporting Barbados’ sustainability goals by integrating coconut-based biogas production and



Indian High Commissioner to Barbados, Subhash P. Gupta with a Barbadian official at the signing of the MoU

maximizing the use of all coconut components.

enterprises, reduce waste, and enhance export potential by transforming coconuts into high-value products. It aligns with Barbados’ broader push to-

ward deepening industrial linkages and adopting green manufacturing practices.

## DeVry partners with Caribbean schools

The Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA) and the AcademiX School of Learning have both signed landmark agreements with the US-based DeVry University aimed at expanding access to higher education for tourism professionals in both countries.

The initiative, part of DeVry’s Caribbean Bridge to Brilliance program, offers eligible students 50% tuition savings and a waived application fee for the university’s online bachelor’s and master’s degree programs.

In St. Lucia, the signing ceremony brought together SLHTA and DeVry representatives, hoteliers, and human resource professionals. SLHTA President Erwin Louisy described the partnership as a major step forward in the association’s commitment to workforce development.

“For years, the SLHTA has been deliberate in forging partnerships that expand educational and training opportunities for our industry professionals. But today, we are raising the bar,” Louisy said. “This agreement goes beyond operational certifications to include degree and diploma programs in fields critical to the future of hospitality—hospitality management, technology, human resources, business administration and more.”

DeVry University’s Vice President of Public Workforce Solutions, Scarlett Howery, called the collaboration “a

meaningful moment” for the institution. “Education has the power to transform lives,” she said. “It’s about breaking down barriers to education and equipping employees with real-world skills they can apply in a global economy.”

Employees of SLHTA member companies, as well as independent members, can apply for the program, which offers flexible online learning designed to fit around work and family commitments.

Louisy noted that the initiative supports the Saint Lucian government’s goal of having a university graduate in every household and will help strengthen the island’s tourism talent pool.

While in Dominica, DeVry University also signed an agreement with AcademiX School of Learning to create greater access to educational pathways for learners in that country. AcademiX, a private institution in Portsmouth with more than a decade of experience, is known for integrating real-world scenarios and innovative technologies into its teaching.

“This partnership marks a historic step for Dominica,” said AcademiX Director Heman Williams. “What began as a seed five years ago is now bearing fruit, empowering our nation with full access to globally relevant programs.”



# Caribbean central banks launch payment system to reduce reliance on US

Four Caribbean central banks are set to launch a pilot project to develop an alternative payment system aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar for trade and remittances.

Spearheaded by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Caricom Payment and Settlement System (CAPSS) seeks to transform cross-border transactions and will eventually link to Africa’s Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), established in 2022.

The pilot will initially include Barbados, The Bahamas, ECCB member states, and one additional country to be confirmed. ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine announced the initiative last week at the Africaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Grenada.

“I’ll allow the other country to confirm when it is ready to do so,” said Antoine. “Once we complete the pilot, we’ll look at scaling it up.”

Designed as a real-time, low-cost platform operating in local currencies, CAPSS mirrors PAPSS, a centralised system developed by Afreximbank and the African Union to enable secure, real-time cross-border payments in local currencies across Africa. The African platform currently connects central banks, commercial banks, and payment service providers in countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, and Rwanda, among others.

The Caricom adoption of the



The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank is spearheading the move

model is intended to facilitate regional trade and remittances in local currencies, bypassing costly and often unreliable correspondent banks in the United States.

“We cannot continue to rely on correspondent banks, particularly those from the US,” Antoine said.

Through CAPSS, transactions — such as from Grenada to Guyana — could be settled in Eastern Caribbean and Guyanese dollars, with central banks and the African Export-Import Bank serving as settlement agents.

“In day-to-day transactions,

traders will be trading in local currencies. That, we believe, is a potential breakthrough,” Antoine noted.

Phase one will focus on Caricom, with phase two expanding to African countries, enabling direct currency exchanges between the two regions. “Charity begins at home – phase one. Then, in phase two, we pivot to the motherland,” Antoine added.

The pilot builds on a successful proof-of-concept earlier this year between the Central Bank of Barbados and the Central Bank of The Bahamas. The ECCB is now working with the

Committee of Central Bank Governors to expand the system regionally and eventually link it internationally.

“This is a concrete example of leveraging our shared pain for shared prosperity,” Antoine said, thanking Afreximbank for laying the foundation for CAPSS.

“I want to be clear: while background settlements will still involve US dollars between central banks, the day-to-day transactions will use local currencies – a key innovation with broad potential,” he emphasised.

# Ralph Gonsalves rejects citizenship claim

St. Vincent Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has rejected claims by a St. Lucia-based website that 352 foreigners were granted Vincentian citizenship in 2019, describing the site as “probably a fake website” and providing official figures to Parliament.

The article, which Gonsalves said had also been repeated on a local radio station, alleged that 352 people were awarded citizenship between 2019 and 2024. The Prime Minister, who holds ministerial responsibility for citizenship, told lawmakers over the weekend that he felt compelled to set the record straight.

“I think I owe the House and the country the presentation of some information given what has arisen,” Gonsalves said. “Well, I knew straight away that that couldn’t be true, because I know the numbers; not precisely in every year, but broadly. And any citizenship which has been granted [has] been granted within the terms of those eligible for consideration ... upon application for registration as a citizen.”

According to figures provided to him by officials, 74 people were granted citizenship in 2019 — 54 through registration, typically for residents living in the country for more



St Vincent Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

than seven years or holding permanent residence, and 20 through marriage.

In 2020, 65 people were granted citizenship, including 35 by marriage. The numbers dropped to 55 in 2021 and 48 in 2022. In 2023, 63 people became citizens, including two St. Lucians and a Trinidadian who qualified under a law granting citizenship to grandchildren of Vincentians. Seven-

teen of the 2023 approvals were through marriage, while 15 were “second generations” — foreign nationals with a grandparent born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines — hailing from countries including Britain, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Canada.

Gonsalves also outlined an administrative initiative advising first-generation citizens by descent to obtain a citizenship certificate for official records. “We had introduced administratively a requirement ... if you’re a citizen by descent, first generation, we advise you to come and get a citizenship certificate, so you can have something to say that you’re a first generation, not second,” he said, noting that six such certificates were issued last year.



# Guyana urges UN to act against Israeli plan to take control of Gaza City

Guyana has joined calls for the United Nations to press Israel to reverse a cabinet decision to take control of Gaza City by October 7, 2025 — a move that would displace thousands of Palestinians and, according to critics, end prospects for a two-state solution.

Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, told the Security Council on Sunday that the planned occupation could threaten both regional and global stability.

“We, the Security Council, must respond to the fact that over 61,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 7, and this number increases every single day,” Rodrigues-Birkett said.

While reiterating Guyana’s condemnation of the October 7 attacks against Israel by Hamas, she stressed that no attack can justify “collective punishment” of Gaza’s civilian population.

Guyana’s demands include reversing the occupation plan, agreeing to an immediate and permanent ceasefire, withdrawing to pre-1967 borders as set out in UN resolutions and the International Court of Justice advisory opinion, and ensuring unrestricted humanitarian access so aid can flow “rapidly and safely” to civilians in need.

Rodrigues-Birkett also warned that existing relief delivery plans were inadequate and could endanger both civilians and humanitarian workers, and she urged the release of all hostages.

Two senior UN officials also sounded the alarm over the Israeli cabi-



The violence in Gaza is ongoing

net’s approval of a fresh offensive aimed at full military control of Gaza City — home to about one million Palestinians. They warned the move would risk “another horrific chapter” of mass displacement, death, and destruction.

Miroslav Jenča, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s proposed plan to “defeat Hamas” and establish a civilian administration neither tied to Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority risked “yet an-

other dangerous escalation” destabilising the entire region.

“If these plans are implemented, they will likely trigger another calamity in Gaza, reverberating across the region and causing further forced displacement, killings, and destruction – compounding the unbearable suffering of the population,” Jenča said, calling for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and full compliance with international humanitarian law.

Ramesh Rajasingham, a senior UN humanitarian affairs official, warned that hunger-related deaths in Gaza are al-

ready on the rise, even before any new mass displacement.

“Whatever lifelines remain are collapsing under the weight of sustained hostilities, forced displacement, and insufficient levels of life-saving aid,” he said.

Rajasingham, who heads the UN humanitarian affairs coordination office in Geneva, said he was deeply concerned about the “prolonged conflict and further human toll that is likely to unfold” if Israel proceeds with expanding its military operations in Gaza.



Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett



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# Chase urges Windies to seize every ODI as crucial step to World Cup

With the weight of both the current series and the 2027 Cricket World Cup qualification race on their shoulders, the West Indies have made their intentions clear: every One Day International (ODI) from this point forward is non-negotiable.

All-rounder Roston Chase embodied that resolve on Sunday, crafting an unbeaten 49 that steered the hosts to a pivotal five-wicket triumph over Pakistan at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium. The result leveled the three-match series at 1-1 and propelled the West Indies from 10th to ninth in the ICC ODI rankings — the final automatic qualification berth for the global tournament.

“The win was very important,” Chase reflected after the match. “It is basically a final from here because we have to keep the series alive, so we had to win today so that we can win the next match and the series as well. Any ODI series that we have from here now is very important, because we need to qualify for the World Cup outright so that we don’t have to go into any qualifiers. Every ODI from here we’re looking for full points.”

Coming off a composed half-century in Friday’s opener, Chase once again proved to be the anchor his side needed. Partnering with Justin Greaves, who contributed an unbeaten 26, the pair stitched together an unbroken 77-run stand off 72 deliveries to seal the



Caricom wants sweeping reform of West Indies cricket

win.

When Chase walked to the crease in the 20th over, the West Indies were precariously placed at 102 for four in pursuit of a modest total. “We wanted to get a good start, not to put ourselves under pressure with the small total, but it didn’t happen for us,” he said. “It was for us to go on, consolidate, and try to build a partnership. We were still going

a bit slow, but we kept the rate close, and I thought that was what helped in the end.”

The final ODI, set for Tuesday, carries added significance: the West Indies have not secured a bilateral ODI series victory over Pakistan in more than three decades.

“I wouldn’t say it’s pressure,” Chase noted with quiet determination.

“I’d say it’s an opportunity for us to show our mettle, show our class, and just go out there and perform, giving the crowd something to cheer about. So far it’s not been a capacity crowd, but I love the energy they’ve been giving us and the support they’ve shown. It would really make us and the fans happy as well.”

## Carlos Brathwaite aims for BCA board with reform agenda

Former West Indies all-rounder and 2016 T20 World Cup hero Carlos Brathwaite has officially thrown his hat into the ring for a seat on the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) board.

His candidacy comes with a bold promise to deliver innovation, global perspective, and sustainable solutions to shape the future of cricket in Barbados.

Members will cast their votes on August 12 at the historic Kensington Oval, electing board directors, a board secretary, and a president.

Under the rallying cry “For the Players. For the People. For the Future”, Brathwaite’s campaign rests on three central pillars:

- Modernizing the Local Game – Building a digitally connected cricket ecosystem that enhances transparency, streamlines communication, and leverages technology for better administration.
- Building Talent Pipelines – Forging global partnerships to give Barbadian players and coaches access to elite-level training and competition.
- Financial Sustainability – Creating a structure that offers fair compensation, rewards ambition, and makes cricket a viable career for young athletes.

Having represented the West Indies in 44 ODIs,

41 T20Is, and three Tests, Brathwaite says he is ready for his next chapter.

“I am looking forward to a different challenge. I look forward to bringing fresh ideas and trying to get Barbados and West Indies cricket to maximise its resources and eventually improve on-field performances,” he said.

He describes this shift as a natural progression: “From on the field, to the commentary box and now potentially at the table with decision makers.”

Brathwaite envisions a cricketing framework that honors Barbados’ rich heritage while adapting to the demands of today’s professional sporting landscape. He aims to empower schools, clubs, and grassroots programs with resources to compete and excel, while also attracting new sponsors to secure the game’s financial future.

“I have played a lot of cricket in all sectors and experienced the good, the bad, and seen some things that I think we can implement locally,” he noted.

“I want to bring years of knowledge and experience — locally, regionally and internationally — to help Barbados cricket as best as I can.”



Carlos Brathwaite.





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# Guyana among 15 nations added to UK’s ‘deport now, appeal later’ scheme

Guyana has been named among 15 countries whose nationals convicted of crimes in the UK could be deported before their human rights appeals are heard, under an expanded “deport now, appeal later” policy.

UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the move targets foreign criminals who have been “exploiting” the immigration system by “remaining in the UK for months or even years while their appeals drag on.” The scheme allows deportations to proceed once a human rights claim has been rejected, with any subsequent appeals heard via video link from overseas.

The expansion, which also includes India, Bulgaria, Australia, Angola, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Uganda, and Zambia, is part of the UK government’s wider push to speed up removals and reduce pressure on its overcrowded prison system.

Cooper added: “Those who commit crimes in our country cannot be allowed to manipulate the system, which is why we are restoring control and sending a clear message that our laws must be respected and will be enforced.”

The UK Home Office said the policy shift will “scale-up” the country’s ability to remove offenders, though it



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could not provide estimates on how many deportations might take place, noting that decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis. Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood said the changes would save £54,000 a year per prison place.

Since Labour took office last year, nearly 5,200 foreign offenders have been deported — a 14 percent increase on the previous year. However, official figures from the end of June show just 772 prisoners from the 15 newly added countries are currently behind bars in

the UK. The “deport now, appeal later” provision was first introduced in 2014 but was limited by a 2017 Supreme Court ruling, which required that deportees be able to give live evidence via video link if needed. The UK currently has arrangements for such video appeals with eight countries, including Tanzania, Belize, Finland, and Estonia.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the government is “leading diplomatic efforts to increase the number of countries where foreign criminals can

be swiftly returned,” adding, “if they want to appeal, they can do so safely from their home country. Under this scheme, we’re investing in international partnerships that uphold our security and make our streets safer.”

The expansion comes as the UK continues to grapple with record small boat arrivals, with 435 migrants brought ashore on Saturday — the highest daily total since its “one-in, one-out” agreement with France was announced.

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Fishermen are at work along the Corentyne Coast

# Gov’t to diversify incomes for sugar workers, boost fisherfolk and reduce poverty

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled a strategy aimed at improving the livelihoods of sugar workers, fisherfolk and vulnerable communities across Guyana.

Speaking at a rally on Sunday in Bath, West Coast Berbice, President Ali said his government is firm on moving sugar workers away from reliance on a single source of income. The government will do this by creating opportunities for diversification.

To achieve this, the president promised investments in technology

and mechanisation to ease the physical demands of their work while rolling out special incentives to help them launch supplementary ventures.

“We want you to work with greater ease, but more importantly, we want to develop a strategy of income expansion for sugar workers... We will invest with them, for them to expand their income base and income source,” President Ali said. “And we are going to give them special incentives.”

For fisherfolk, the head of state announced plans to provide critical

support, including assistance to replace boat engines, expand fishing zones, and adopt modern technology.

He also pledged to integrate them into the government’s aquaculture programme, which aims to create a stable and sustainable income platform for the sector. President Ali tied these measures to his administration’s wider poverty reduction strategy, which focuses on empowering citizens through ownership.

“Poverty reduction is not only about reducing the cost of things,” he

said, “It is about investing in you, so you can own things; your businesses, your homes, properties that are increasing in value and have access to the best infrastructure, water, education, and healthcare.”

The president noted that his government’s development approach does not provide temporary relief. Instead, the PPP/C focuses on transforming livelihoods, strengthening communities, and ensuring future generations can live with dignity.

## Special tax incentives for families led by single women

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced plans to create special tax incentives for families led by single mothers.

Much to the jubilation of a large gathering attending the Bath rally in Region Five on Sunday, President Ali described women as “the bedrock of development.”

He noted that single mothers can expect special tax incentives when the People’s Progressive Party/ Civic is re-instated to government after the September 1 General and Regional Elections.

The president said more focus will be placed on the development of women as “70 per cent of our graduates today are young women.”

Previously, such a statistic was unheard of in the country, as many women, the president noted, had been forced to set aside their professional and educational goals to focus on raising a family.

Today, with a myriad of opportunities available, women are taking the lead, and to support them, President Ali has committed to building childcare fa-



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on the campaign trail

cilities in every region.

In addition, the Menstrual Hygiene Initiative under the Office of the

First Lady, which seeks to give young women sanitary supplies for a year, will be expanded to remove all taxes

on sanitary and other basic supplies.

— DPI





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2025  
MATCH SCHEDULE

THU 14 AUG	SKNP		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 15 AUG	SKNP		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
SAT 16 AUG	ABF		v		BR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SUN 17 AUG	SKNP		v		TKR	11:00 AM	ST KITTS
SUN 17 AUG	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
TUE 19 AUG	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
WED 20 AUG	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
THU 21 AUG	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 22 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SAT 23 AUG	SLK		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SUN 24 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	11:00 AM	ANTIGUA
SUN 24 AUG	SLK		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 26 AUG	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
WED 27 AUG	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 28 AUG	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
FRI 29 AUG	TKR		v		BR	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 30 AUG	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SUN 31 AUG	SLK		v		ABF	11:00 AM	ST LUCIA
MON 1 SEP	TKR		v		SKNP	11:00 AM	TRINIDAD
WED 3 SEP	TKR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 4 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 5 SEP	BR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SAT 6 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SUN 7 SEP	BR		v		SLK	11:00 AM	BARBADOS
SUN 7 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 10 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
THU 11 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 12 SEP	BR		v		TKR	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SAT 13 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	11:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 14 SEP	GAW		v		BR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
TUE 16 SEP	ELIMINATOR - 3 <sup>RD</sup> v 4 <sup>TH</sup>					8:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 17 SEP	QUALIFIER - 1 <sup>ST</sup> v 2 <sup>ND</sup>					8:00 PM	GUYANA
FRI 19 SEP	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					8:00 PM	GUYANA
SUN 21 SEP	FINAL					8:00 PM	GUYANA

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