

Equality

MAINTAINING THE PERFECT BALANCE **\$1.00**

SERVING, CARIBBEAN, EAST ASIANS, GUYANESE, JAMAICANS, TRINIS AND MORE. 416 759 6397



Vettyvel Law
Professional Corporation
2225 Markham Road -Suite 203
Scarborough on. M1B 0E6

- Real Estate Law (Residential & Commercial)
- Wills & Estates
- Corporate & Commercial Law

Rishani Vettyvel, BBA, LLB, LLM
Barrister & Solicitor
Direct 416 261 1544 Fax. 416 291 1544
rishani@vettylaw.com



CASKET FACTORY™
AFFORDABLE CASKETS & URNS

WE HELP FAMILIES SAVE ON FUNERAL COSTS™



Canadian Made: Affordable Caskets, Urns, Flowers, Headstones and more.

www.casketfactory.ca

Toronto Casket Factory Outlet

1-905-502-0334

Thursday December 18 2025. Volume 45, Issue #48 www.equalitynews.ca. For advertising, call 647-216-2359

Air Transat starts Canada-Guyana route

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) today marked a significant milestone in Guyana's aviation and tourism development with the arrival of Air Transat's inaugural flight connecting Georgetown and Canada.

The service will operate twice weekly until May 29, 2026, using the Airbus A321LR, a next-generation aircraft recognized for its efficiency and comfort. The route enhances connectivity between Guyana and Canada, supporting travel for tourism, business, trade, and the Guyanese diaspora.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Hon. Deodat Indar, noted that the new service aligns with the Government of Guyana's strategic objectives for aviation and national development.

"The commencement of this Air Transat service reflects the Government's continued efforts to expand Guyana's international air connectivity," Minister Indar said. "Improved and reliable air links are essential to supporting economic growth, facilitating trade, and strengthening Guyana's

integration with key international markets."

He further added, "The entry of a carrier such as Air Transat also reflects confidence in Guyana's aviation oversight and regulatory framework. As we continue to strengthen safety, security, and compliance in line with international standards, Guyana remains well-positioned to attract reputable airlines and sustain long-term growth in the sector."

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Sanjeev Datadin, also underscored the significance of the inaugural flight for CJIA's long-term development. "The addition of this service reflects the deliberate, long-term approach being taken to increase Guyana's airlift," Mr. Datadin said. "At the board level, we remain focused on building strong airline partnerships, ensuring sound governance, and supporting investments that position CJIA to meet future demand while maintaining international standards."

Continued on Page 2



Consul Mani Singh with staffers at the Guyana Consulate in Toronto

THE Guyana Consulate in Toronto, last Sunday, hosted members of the Guyanese diaspora and friends of Guyana at its annual Christmas Open House and Social.

The informal social gathering also served as an opportunity for members of the diaspora and staff of the Toronto Consulate to get acquainted with each other and socialise in the spirit of the Christmas season.

Honorary Consul Mani Singh welcomed the approximately 200 guests, including leaders and representatives of various civic, social, religious and cultural organisations within the Guyanese Canadian community.

Consul Singh also extended season's greetings on behalf of His Excellency, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the Government and people of Guyana to all present.

He thanked diaspora leaders and members in particular, for always volunteering and supporting the out-

reaches and work of the Consulate over the past years.

Many used the opportunity to seek information and guidance on the various Consular services provided by the Toronto Mission.

The year 2025 has been a landmark one for the Consulate, which has been providing a range of exceptional and improved consular services, including the new biometric system in progressing applications for the more enhanced and safer Guyana Passport, which is now available in both five and 10-year terms, to the thousands of Guyanese Canadians and also to non-Guyanese seeking visas, and information on trade and investment opportunities in the rapidly growing Guyanese economy.

Diaspora members and friends of Guyana shared experiences among themselves, as they enjoyed a taste of nostalgic Guyanese food.



SHARMA LAW

Catastrophic injury? Car accident?
Slip & fall? Income disability
benefits denied?

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
vsharmalaw.ca

HURT?
CALL VISHAL'S
DIRECT LINE
647-972-4440

Guyana
Christmas Special

\$999 Direct From Toronto

1 Check-in + 1 Cabin Baggage free

See our ad on Page 34

Book Now

+1 (416) 802 8000

REDDY'S
PHYSIO REHAB INC.
Serving The Community since 2004.





Tel: 416 285 1455
Cell: 416 357 6958
Fax: 416 755 9979
Email: reddysphysio@gmail.com



**WE ARE SPECIALISTS IN TREATING
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT INJURIES.**
If you or Your Family Member or a Friend were injured in an
Motor Vehicle Accident in GTA and Surrounding areas please
CALL US FIRST. It's a totally free no obligation consultation.

Air Transat flies Guyana route

From Page 1

Air Transat’s Chief Revenue Officer, Sebastian Ponce, has reaffirmed the airline’s commitment to the route and to serving Guyana. “Celebrating the launch of our inaugural flight to Georgetown is a proud moment for Air Transat,” said Sebastian Ponce.

“This new service not only deepens our connection with Canada’s vibrant Guyanese community, but also offers travellers a seamless way to reach a destination rich in culture and heritage. Today’s inaugural flight marks the beginning of stronger ties, new opportunities and memorable journeys — all with the comfort and care that define Air Transat,” said Ponce.

The launch of this service complements CJIA’s ongoing modernisation and expansion initiatives, which focus on improving capacity, operational efficiency, and Guyana’s position in the regional and international aviation landscape. The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) today marked a significant milestone in Guyana’s aviation and tourism development with the arrival of Air Transat’s inaugural flight connecting Georgetown and Canada.

The service will operate twice weekly until May 29, 2026, using the Airbus A321LR, a next-generation aircraft recognized for its efficiency and comfort. The route enhances connectivity between Guyana and Canada, supporting travel for tourism, business, trade, and the Guyanese diaspora.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Hon. Deodat Indar, noted that the new service aligns with the Government of Guyana’s strategic objectives for aviation and national development.

“The commencement of this Air Transat service reflects the Government’s continued efforts to expand Guyana’s international air connectivity,” Minister Indar said. “Improved and reliable air links are essential to supporting economic growth, facilitating trade, and strengthening Guyana’s integration with key international markets.”

He further added, “The entry of a carrier such as Air Transat also reflects confidence in Guyana’s aviation oversight and regulatory framework.”

“As we continue to strengthen safety, security, and compliance in line with international standards, Guyana remains well-positioned to attract reputable airlines and sustain long-term growth in the sector.”

હવે પ્રાથના હોલ અને સ્મશાન ઘર એકજ સ્થળે

Chapel Ridge

Funeral Home & Cremation Centre

North Toronto

Crematorium Inc.







Vilo
Licensed Funeral Director
(416) 993-0826



Harjinder
Licensed Funeral Director
(647) 966-0093



Christeen
Licensed Funeral Director
(416) 258-6759



Kirti
Licensed Funeral Preplanner
(416) 417-0182

Complete Funeral Package Pricing \$4395.00
Includes HST

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE

- Same Day Funeral Service with 1 hour visitation prior to service, including all professional fees and preparation
- Batesville Grey Doeskin Casket
- Cremation and Witnessing Fee at North Toronto Crematorium or St John's Dixie Crematorium in Mississauga
- Coroner, Death Registration and BAO Fee

Not included: Flowers, Limousines, Clergy or Musician Fees, Urns

Facilities
also available in
Mississauga

Everything in one Place!

2 Stalwart Industrial Drive, Gormley
(close to Highway 404 and Stouffville Road)

Newly built large Chapel with Crematorium on-site - everything in one place!

8911 Woodbine Ave., Markham (4 blocks north of Hwy 7)
info@chapelridgefh.com • www.chapelridgefh.com

905-305-8508

info@northtorontocrematorium.com
www.northtorontocrematorium.com

289-578-1288

Where Comfort Meets Quality

- Sleep Better Tonight

#1 IN GUYANA
FOR MATTRESSES



Foam Mattress



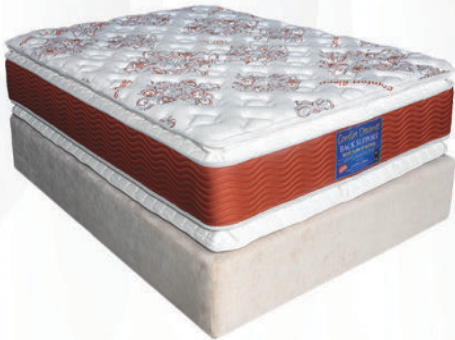
Pink Foam Sheets



Comfort Night Magic



Super Comfort Quilted



Comfort Dreamer Back Support



Memory Foam



Comfort Custom Euro Top



Comfort Custom Luxury



Comfort Classic Delux



CS
Comfort Sleep Inc.
Sleep on ... Dream on...



49 Eccles Industrial Estate, East Bank Demerara, Guyana, South America

(+592) 233-3013/ 233-2657/ 233-3024 +592-618-1078 sales@comfortsleep.gy OR info@comfortsleep.gy
https://www.com/ComfortSleepGY https://comfortsleep.gy

SEAFOOD & MEAT

Fresh Premium Salmon
Fillet 特级三文鱼柳
Reg: \$12.99**\$9.99**
LBParrot Fish
青衣
Reg: \$6.99**\$5.99**
LBGolden Tilefish
金马头
Reg: \$6.99**\$4.99**
LBMutton Snapper
深海火点
Reg: \$10.99**\$7.99**
LBPork Back Ribs
猪肉排
Reg: \$4.99**\$3.59**
LBBeef Rib Eye Steak
肥牛扒
Reg: \$9.99**\$8.99**
LBLean Ground Chicken
鸡肉碎
Reg: \$4.99**\$3.79**
LBSalted Pork Tails (5LB)
咸猪尾 (5磅)
Reg: \$25.99/EA**\$19.99**
EA

PRODUCE

Mini Watermelon
迷你西瓜
Reg: \$6.99**2/\$4.98**Blueberry 170g
蓝莓
Reg: \$3.99**2/\$2.98**Cauliflower
椰菜花
Reg: \$6.99**\$3.98**
EACooking Onion 10LB Bag
10磅装洋葱
Reg: \$5.99**\$3.98**
BAG

BAKERY

FV hawaiian roll
夏威夷早餐包
Reg: \$4.99**\$3.99**
EALFD chocolate pancake
巧克力松饼
Reg: \$4.99**2/\$4.00**GY mini croissant
迷你羊角包
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
EAElite Sweet cup cake
小蛋糕
Reg: \$2.59**2/\$3.00**Cedar Pita
阿拉伯皮塔饼
Reg: \$1.79**99¢**
EA

Merry Christmas

FUSION SUPERMARKET

嘉禾超市

1150 Morningside Ave., Unit 113
Scarborough, Toronto M1B 3A4
(at Sheppard Ave. & Morningside Ave.)

416 281 1222

Business Hours:
Monday-Sunday 8:30am-9:00pm

**SPEND \$68 BEFORE TAX
GET A FREE CALENDAR AND SHOPPING BAG
(PER TRANSACTION)**

Special Effective: From Fri. Dec. 19, 2025 - Thur. Dec. 25, 2025

每单消费满\$68即送挂历1个
以及购物袋1个

Chaokoh Young Green Jackfruit
580ml
Reg: \$2.99**2/\$3.00**
SPECIALMr. Goudas Sweetened
Condensed Milk 300ml
Reg: \$4.99**\$3.00**
SPECIALQuality Chickpeas 1.8kg
Reg: \$6.99**\$3.00**
SPECIALGuyanese Pride Long Grain
Parboiled Rice 10LB
Reg: \$9.99**\$6.00**
SPECIALOasis orange juice no pulp
橙汁 1.5L
Reg: \$5.99**\$2.99**
SPECIALMaple Lodge chicken wieners
熟鸡肉香肠 450g
Reg: \$3.59**2/\$5.00**
SPECIALWhite egg (XL)
白鸡蛋 (特大) 18pcs
Reg: \$6.99**\$5.99**
SPECIALSH white shrimp headless
去头开背白虾 400g
Reg: \$6.99**2/\$9.00**
SPECIALAvocado
袋装牛油果
Reg: \$4.99**2/\$4.88**
SPECIALMorocco Sweet Tangerine
摩洛哥甜桔
Reg: \$1.99**98¢**
SPECIALZucchini
意大利青瓜
Reg: \$1.99**88¢**
SPECIALCarrot
红萝卜
Reg: \$1.59**68¢**
SPECIALFresh Lane Snapper
新鲜火点鱼
Reg: \$9.99**\$6.99**
SPECIALLive Lobster
新鲜游水龙虾
Reg: \$16.99**\$9.99**
SPECIALFresh Pork Chop
新鲜猪扒
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
SPECIALFresh Beef Sirloin Tip
新鲜牛肉
Reg: \$9.99**\$7.99**
SPECIALVisit Our Website At: www.fusionsupermarket.caCheck prices on display tags in store in case of discrepancy due to printing errors on this advertisement.
Offers valid while quantities last. Fusion Supermarket reserve the right to limit quantities.
广告如有排版错误时, 则以店内有关标示为准。本广告售卖之商品均有充足存货, 如因顾客购买热烈而售完, 敬请原谅。嘉禾超市保留调整数量之权力。

649



GROCERY

Nutrament Energy
Nutrition Drink 325ml
Reg: \$3.99**\$2.38**
EAKosa Coconut Water 1L
Reg: \$4.99**\$2.38**
EADing Dong Snack Mix
95g
Reg: \$1.99**68¢**
EALotte Choco Pie 336g
Reg: \$5.99**\$3.28**
EAAlvina Mixed Chocolate
Assortis 500g
Reg: \$10.99**\$6.88**
EABulacan Halo-Halo/
Macapuno Strings 340g
Reg: \$4.99**\$2.38**
EACarnation Thick Cream
170ml
Reg: \$4.29**\$2.88**
EAGrace Johnny Cake 270g
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.48**
EAMontego Sun Dried
Sorrrel 100g
Reg: \$3.99**\$2.38**
EASquid Brand Fish Sauce
725ml
Reg: \$3.99**\$2.48**
EAUFC Banana Sauce 550g
Reg: \$3.99**\$1.88**
EAFoodiejoie Dried Hot Chili
454g
Reg: \$5.99**\$3.88**
EA

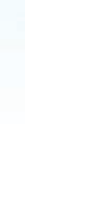
FROZEN & DAIRY

Basa steak
鱼排 600g
Reg: \$3.99**\$2.99**
EAAA-1 bullet tuna
小吞拿鱼 680g
Reg: \$4.99**2/\$7.00**Sanford green shell
mussel 新西兰半壳青口
800g
Reg: \$14.99**\$10.99**
EAFrozen green pigeon
pea 木豆 300g
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
EASH banana leaves
香蕉叶 450g
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
EARomero corn tortilla
墨西哥玉米饼 70ct
Reg: \$7.99**\$4.99**
EASmoked ham
烟熏火腿
Reg: \$5.99**\$3.99**
LBMilk fish (whole)
牛奶鱼 (整条)
Reg: \$4.99**\$2.99**
LBCassava chunk
切块木薯 500g
Reg: \$2.99**2/\$5.00**Red N' Juicy sausage
猪肉香肠 450g
Reg: \$8.99**\$6.99**
EAChopped spinach
菠菜碎 750g
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
EATelugu Swetha grated
coconut 椰蓉 312g
Reg: \$3.99**2/\$5.00**Fries
原味薯条 5LB
Reg: \$7.99**\$5.99**
EASmoked turkey
烟熏火鸡
Reg: \$9.99**\$6.99**
EA

HOT POT 火锅季

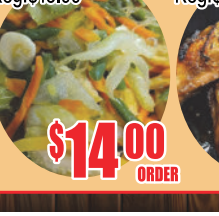
CHOYSCO Quail Eggs
In Water 425g
Reg: \$3.59**\$2.29**
EAPagoda Brand Lungkow
Vermicelli 50g
Reg: \$0.79**39¢**
EADe Zhuang Hot Pot Base
Small Square 360g
Reg: \$5.99**\$4.59**
EAKonnyaku Konjac Noodle
280g
Reg: \$2.99**\$1.99**
EAJin Tian beef & beef tendon
ball 锦添牛肉丸 & 牛筋丸 380g
Reg: \$10.99**\$8.99**
EAOcean Food crab stick & flake
蟹条 & 蟹棒 454g
Reg: \$4.59**\$2.99**
EABest Choice Beef Ribeye
Roll 大众顶级牛肉卷
Reg: \$10.99**\$9.59**
LBBest Choice Lamb Shoulder
Roll 大众顶级羊肉卷
Reg: \$11.99**\$10.99**
LBEnoki Mushrooms
袋装金针菇
Reg: \$2.99**2/\$2.88**King Oyster Mushroom
皇子菇
Reg: \$4.99**\$2.98**
EAPoached Lotus Root
Slice 水煮莲藕片
Reg: \$3.99**\$2.88**
BAGFresh Watercress
西洋菜
Reg: \$2.59**2/\$2.98**

RESTAURANT

Cook Brand
Sweet Chili Sauce 3.5L
(3 x 5400g)
Reg: \$79.99**\$59.99**
CASEHuy Fong Chili
Garlic Sauce 3.5L
Reg: \$31.99**\$22.99**
EARedpath Fine
Sugar 20kg
Reg: \$45.99**\$36.99**
BAGLee Kum Kee
Hoisin Sauce
1.75L
Reg: \$12.99**\$8.99**
EAExtra Large White
Eggs 180Pcs
Reg: \$70.00**\$58.00**
BOXBean Sprout
Reg: \$23.99**\$19.98**
BUCKETFrozen straight
cut fries 30lb
Reg: \$48.00**\$36.00**
BOX

PINOY TASTE FILIPINO KITCHEN

PINOY TASTE Catering Order: 647-608-3130

Pork Embotido
1pc
Reg: \$10.99**\$9.99**
EACHGrilled Mackerel
1pc
Reg: \$10.99**\$9.99**
EACHPork Spring Roll
1pc
Reg: \$0.70**60¢**
EACHFried Chicken 5pcs
Reg: \$9.99**\$8.99**
ORDERPancit Bihon
Reg: \$15.99**\$14.00**
ORDERChicken Inasal
Reg: \$4.99**\$4.00**
EAPork BBQ 1pc
Reg: \$4.00**\$3.50**
EAVegetable Spring Roll
10pcs
Reg: \$4.00**\$3.49**
ORDER

Asian Cuisine 亚洲美食 (Every Day Lunch Special)

Catering Order: 416-286-0893

SUSHI

SUSHI Catering Order: 416-281-1



Agriculture Minister Zulkifur Mustapha receives the award from GCCI

Agriculture Minister honoured at GCCI awards for leadership in food security

MINISTER of Agriculture, Zulkifur Mustapha, has been recognised for his leadership in strengthening national food security and advancing agricultural development at the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry 135th Annual Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner. The recognition was conferred under the strategic direction of President Dr Irfaan Ali’s administration. The award, presented alongside recognition for the Ministry of Agriculture, acknowledged leadership and innovation in advancing Guyana’s agricultural systems, with particular emphasis on ensuring the country’s ability to feed its population while contributing to regional food security efforts.

Guyana has historically played a central role in CARICOM’s push for agricultural self-reliance and the reduction of the region’s food import bill. Over time, changes in political leadership slowed this momentum and diminished the country’s influence within the regional food security framework.

That trajectory shifted in 2020 with the return of the PPP/C to government under President Ali. Since then, the administration has restored policy focus on agriculture, revived stalled initiatives, accelerated production targets and repositioned Guyana at the forefront of CARICOM’s agricultural agenda.

Minister Mustapha, who has served as Minister of Agriculture since 2020, has been a key implementer of the President’s vision. His leadership has focused on modernising the sector and strengthening food sovereignty at both the national and regional levels.

Under this renewed policy direction, the Ministry of Agriculture has made strategic investments in drainage and irrigation, farm to market roads, climate resilient infrastructure and farmer support programmes. These initiatives have contributed to expanded acreage, increased yields, greater crop diversification and improved resilience across the sector.

Agricultural output has increased significantly in recent years, particularly in staple crops. Rice production surpassed 725,000 metric tonnes in 2024, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of national food security. With continued policy support, production targets are now set at one million metric tonnes in future cycles.

Growth has also been recorded in corn, soya and other non-traditional crops. Expansion plans and targeted investments are being implemented to increase soya cultivation, to position Guyana as a net exporter within the Caribbean.

Guyana’s progress was further highlighted in a recent global study published in Nature Food, which assessed food pro-

duction capacity in 186 countries. The study found that Guyana was the only country capable of producing sufficient quantities across all seven major food groups to fully feed its population without reliance on imports. These groups included fruits, vegetables, dairy, fish, meat, plant-based proteins and starchy staples.

While the study noted that 65 per cent of countries globally overproduce meat and dairy relative to dietary needs, Guyana stood out for balanced food production. China and Vietnam followed, producing enough food in six of the seven categories. This milestone reflects the administration’s policy emphasis on agriculture, supported by increased budgetary allocations, diversification strategies, farmer-focused interventions and climate resilience planning.

According to Minister Mustapha, Guyana’s emergence as a food secure nation is the result of deliberate leadership,

strong policy direction and the commitment of local farmers, aligned with President Ali’s vision of agriculture as a pillar of national development.

Beyond domestic self-sufficiency, Guyana has also reasserted its leadership within CARICOM’s food security agenda. As Chair of the CARICOM Special Ministerial Task Force on Food Production and Food Security, Minister Mustapha, supported by President Ali’s diplomatic and policy leadership, has advanced collaborative efforts aimed at reducing the regional food import bill and expanding intra-regional agricultural trade.

Guyana’s renewed role reflects a national vision in which the country not only feeds its own population but also plays a leading role in strengthening food availability and resilience across the Caribbean, consolidating its position as a regional agricultural leader.

BILINGUAL IMMIGRATION LAWYER
(English & French)
Refugee Claims | Francophone Immigration Support Program | Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot.
Contact me today!
pouchelonlaw@gmail.com.
416-759-8389
POUCHELON LAW
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION





EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

What a Year!

To say 2025 has been an interesting year is an understatement.

For Canada, the Caribbean and the world, the changes came fast and furious.

Not the least, of course, was President Donald Trump taking office for the second time.

Immediately, he unleashed a whirlwind on the world, slapping countries with tariffs and rounding up people deemed to be illegals, cruelly detaining them and deporting them.

Within weeks of him taking office, the world was put on notice that we can no longer depend on the USA as a friendly ally.

For Canada, the tariffs slapped on us forced us to reconsider the direction of our trade. We could no longer depend on our southern neighbour to buy our goods, and we had to quickly pirouette to other countries.

Fortunately for us, we elected just the right man for the job in Mark Carney. On April 28, we made the momentous decision to give Liberals a third term in office, with Carney at the helm.

He has proven his worth as a former head of the Central Banks of both England and Canada, with the ability to forge relationships with Europe that could prove very useful for businesses

in Canada that lost a valuable market down south.

As we look towards the new year, there is a lot of uncertainty still. We don't know what 2026 has in store for us, simply because Trump has proven to be both unreliable and volatile. He continues to threaten Canada's sovereignty by uttering nonsense about it becoming the 51st state, and vowing to cripple us economically to allow for his takeover of this country.

It will be interesting, to say the least, to see how Canada navigates 2026 with such threats hanging over our heads.

But it's not just in Canada that Trump has caused problems. His administration has declared war on narco terrorists, and is blowing up boats and killing people in the Caribbean without a shred of hard evidence that these are actual drug smugglers.

Indeed, the act of blowing up boats and murdering what could be innocent fishermen are war crimes, and the International Criminal Court will no doubt take an interest in that, in spite of Trump's threats against the court.

Of course, the "war" on narco terrorists is the guise under which Trump is planning for regime change in Venezuela to get the US hands on that

country's oil reserves.

His posturing in the Caribbean is making life very difficult for the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Elected on April 28, the Kamla Persad-Bissessar government inherited a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the USA signed by the previous Rowley administration, which basically gives the USA the right to station its military assets in T&T.

The US-Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) SOFA is a military pact defining rules for US personnel in T&T, focusing on security cooperation, interoperability, and facilitating joint operations (like disaster relief) but not establishing a US base.

The US is taking full advantage of this to drag T&T into its acts of aggression against Venezuela, which is causing enormous problems politically for Persad-Bissessar at home.

The new T&T PM is now caught between trying to maintain cordial relations with Venezuela while also continuing its strong partnership with the USA, its largest trading partner.

Due to the SOFA, she cannot go against the Americans, and because of Trump's volatility, she cannot go against his wishes. She has been walking a tightrope to seek the best interests of her citizens, and the opposition

has been using this situation to score cheap political points, knowing full well that if they were in power, they would have to do exactly what she is doing.

It will be interesting to see how this plays out as we go into the New Year.

T&T wasn't the only Caribbean country to see regime change in 2025, as the political dynasty of St Vincent's Ralph Gonsalves also ended after 5 terms in office.

Jamaica, however, stayed the course with its government, re-electing Andrew Holness to another term, while Guyana also chose the steady hand on the ship of state by re-electing the Irfaan Ali government.

St Lucia also opted to keep the government of Philip Pierre in its election.

As we look towards 2026, all we can hope for is peace and stability in the world -- a wish that will be hard to achieve with the Trump administration running roughshod on everyone.

But as usual, you can count on us to keep you informed.

We wish our readers, clients and friends all the best for the holidays, and thank you for your continued support.

Ron Robinson was an outstanding citizen

Dear Editor,

On this solemn occasion, on behalf of The National School of Theatre Arts and Drama, and also of the National Drama Company, I pay tribute to Ronald Owen Robinson, A.A., numbered among the great theatre and broadcasting personalities of Guyana.

Ron Robinson was an actor, director, producer, radio and TV broadcaster,

co-founder of The Theatre Company, Production Director of Merundoi radio series, former Chairman of the Theatre Guild, whose name became a household word in Guyana.

He was famous for several memorable plays, dramatic performances, radio programmers, TV satirical series, and was the winner of many awards and prizes. Ron reigned for decades as

the nation's best actor and best director.

He served as a tutor at the Drama School, was a pioneering TV news anchor, broke records with Gem Madhoo for the longest running and most popular dramatic productions, and contributed to culture in diverse ways.

The loss of Ron Robinson signifies the passing of an age of greatness and achievement in Guyanese theatre

and drama. The National School of Theatre Arts and Drama, like the entire Guyanese nation, is in his debt, and on this solemn and reflective occasion, acknowledges an outstanding artist and says thanks to Ron.

**Al Creighton Jr.,
Director of Studies**



Publisher: Bhaskar Sharma

Equalitygroup@rogers.com

Editor: Nishad Sharma

Annual subscription: \$104.00 (including postage)

Funded by the Government of Canada



Equality News is the largest weekly newspaper serving Guyanese and Caribbean readers in Canada.

Contributors: Niraj Sharma, Freddie Kissoon,

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

For advertising in Ontario or nationally, call Marie Sharma 416-281-3333 or 647 -216 2359

View Equality News every week online (ads included)

www.equalitynews.ca

Equality News International is published by Equality News Incorporated.

104-1920 Ellesmere Road - MB# 234, Toronto, Ontario M1H 3G1

Tel: 416-281-3333 , Fax: 416-759-5359, Email: EqualityGroup@rogers.com

Family demands Ontario government apology following jail death, inquest

Family members of a man who was in the throes of a mental health crisis when he died at the hands of guards inside an Ontario correctional facility in 2016 say they are still waiting for an apology from provincial officials and for recommendations of a coroner's inquest into his death to be implemented.

Yusuf Faqiri said at a news conference Monday it has been nine years since his brother, Soleiman Faqiri, died and two years since a coroner's inquest deemed his death a homicide and made 57 recommendations to prevent something similar from happening again.

“Not once has the Ontario government reached out to my family to engage with us with respect to this tragedy,” Faqiri said.

“Not once have they spoken to us.”

Soleiman, who suffered from schizoaffective disorder — a combination of schizophrenic and bipolar symptoms — was taken into custody on Dec. 4, 2016, after allegedly stabbing a neighbour during what his family has said was a psychotic episode.

Less than two weeks later, he was dead.

Soleiman Faqiri's family, civil



The One Fare system allows for free transfers between different transit systems

rights watchdog demand Ford government act on inquest recommendations

The 30-year-old was awaiting a mental health assessment at the Central East Correctional Centre, near Lindsay, Ont., when he died face down on a cell floor after guards punched and struck him repeatedly, pepper sprayed him

twice, covered him with a spit hood and left him shackled.

Speaking at the same news conference Monday, NDP MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam said the province issuing a public apology and acting on the results of the inquest is long overdue.

“His death was a systemic failure

of Ontario’s correction and mental health systems,” Wong-Tam said. “No one should have to endure what they have endured.”

When asked about the situation at a separate, unrelated news conference Monday, Premier Doug Ford said that his “heart goes out to the family.”

Trump orders blockade of sanctioned Vene oil tankers

US President Donald Trump has said he is ordering a “a total and complete” blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into and out of Venezuela.

In a post on Truth Social, he said Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro’s government had been designated a foreign terrorist organisation and accused it of stealing US assets, as well as “Terrorism, Drug Smuggling, and Human Trafficking”.

“Therefore, today, I am ordering A TOTAL AND COMPLETE BLOCKADE OF ALL SANCTIONED OIL TANKERS going into, and out of, Venezuela,” he added.

His remarks came a week after the US seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela. Venezuela has not yet responded to Trump’s latest remarks.

In his post, Trump said Venezuela was “completely surrounded by the largest Armada ever assembled in the History of South America”.

He added that it will “only get bigger” and “be like nothing they have ever seen before”.

Trump also accused Maduro’s government of using stolen oil to “finance themselves, Drug Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Murder, and Kidnapping”.

The Trump administration has repeatedly accused Venezuela of drug smuggling, and since September the US military has killed at least 90 people in strikes on boats it alleged were carrying fentanyl and other illegal drugs to the US.

In recent months, the US has also moved warships into the region.

Venezuela – home to some of the world’s largest proven oil reserves – has, in turn, accused Washington of seeking to steal its resources.

The US, under both Trump and former President Joe Biden, has opposed the Maduro government for years and pressed for him to be removed by instituting stringent sanctions.

Last week, the US imposed fresh sanctions on six more ships it said were carrying Venezuelan oil.

Sanctions were also placed on some of President Maduro’s relatives



Donald Trump

and on businesses associated with what the US called his illegitimate regime.

A day earlier the US said it had seized a tanker off Venezuela’s coast.

The White House said the seized vessel, called the Skipper, had been involved in “illicit oil shipping” and would be taken to an American port.

Venezuela’s government denounced the seizure, with Maduro say-

ing the US “kidnapped the crew” and “stole” the ship.

The US had built up its military presence in the Caribbean Sea, which borders Venezuela to the north, in the days before the raid.

It involved thousands of troops and USS Gerald Ford – the world’s largest aircraft carrier– being positioned within striking distance of Venezuela.

Ron Robinson: 'A son of Guyana whose voice became our nation's soul'

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali has paid tribute to veteran broadcaster and cultural icon Ron Robinson A.A., describing him as “a son of Guyana whose voice became part of our nation’s soul,” and whose contributions to broadcasting, theatre and satire helped shape the country’s cultural identity. Robinson died on Friday at his home at the age of 79.

In a heartfelt message posted to his official Facebook account, the President reflected on Robinson’s decades-long presence in the lives of Guyanese, noting that “for decades, Guyanese awoke to his mellifluous tones guiding us into each new day with trademark wit, unvarnished intelligence, and a rare grace that only true masters of the craft possess.”

According to the head of state, Robinson was far more than a familiar voice on the airwaves. “He was not merely a broadcaster; he became for years a companion to households across the land, a trusted presence whose words soothed, entertained, enlightened, and inspired,” the president said.

Ali also highlighted Robinson’s impact on the performing arts, recalling his work in theatre and satire. “In the theatre, his artistry lit our stages, his timing sharpened our laughter, and his creativity gave life to productions that have become woven into our cultural memory,” he stated.

The president pointed to Robinson’s involvement in *The Link Show*, *No Big Thing*, *Stretched Out Magazine* and other satirical productions, stating that through these works, Robinson “held up a mirror to our society.” He added that Robinson did so “with gentleness, humour and fun, reminding us of our flaws and our forgotten strengths.”

Reflecting on a more challenging period in Guyana’s history, President Ali noted that Robinson’s voice also carried moral weight. “There was a time in our history when speaking truth came with risks,” he said. “In that difficult season, Ron Robinson lent his voice to the national call for democracy.” According to

the President, Robinson “understood the sacred duty of those gifted with a platform to defend the dignity of the people and the promise of the nation.”

Ali credited Robinson with setting lasting standards in broadcasting and the arts. “Ron Robinson elevated broadcasting, refining it with a mastery that few have ever matched,” he said, adding that “his impeccable elocution and faultless pronunciation set a gold standard for broadcasting.” He also noted that Robinson’s stage work “laid a sturdy foundation upon which our dramatists continue to build.”

The president recalled that it was “my honour to have presented to him the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to broadcasting and the arts.”

Extending condolences, Ali said, “On behalf of the Government of Guyana, I extend heartfelt condolences to his family, and to the countless admirers—here at home and across our far-flung diaspora—who remember his unforgettable, unmistakable voice.”

He concluded by expressing hope that Robinson’s legacy would endure, stating, “May his memory remain as enduring as his contributions, and may his spirit continue to echo in every corner of Guyanese culture that he helped shape with such brilliance and devotion.”



Earlier this year, President Dr Irfaan Ali presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Ron Robinson

NCN honours one of its own

THE National Communications Network (NCN), on Monday, began the first of a series of commemorative events at its headquarters on Homestretch Avenue to honour the life and legacy of legendary broadcaster Ron Owen Robinson, A.A., who took his final bow last Friday and signed off for the last time.

NCN, home to both radio and television, was a familiar space for Robinson, affectionately known as Uncle Ron, who dedicated six decades of his life to broadcasting.

In February, on World Radio Day this year, NCN unveiled its Radio Wall of Fame, celebrating pioneers and contributors to the country’s rich radio history.

Robinson was among those honoured, and colleagues recall how meaningful it was for him to see himself recognised on the wall and to live with that honour in his final months. Later in May, Ron received the Lifetime Achievement Award on World Press Freedom Day from the Office

of the President.

While Ron’s contributions spanned radio, television and theatre, radio remained his greatest love.

He remained actively on air with NCN Radio to the very end, hosting a classical music programme, *Treasury of Music* and *Church Calling*, continuing a lifetime of service to audiences across Guyana.

In tribute to his extraordinary contribution, NCN has opened a Book of Condolences, inviting colleagues, friends, listeners, and admirers to sign throughout the week at Homestretch Avenue in honour of a man whose talent and dedication came so naturally.

A special tribute programme was aired Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. on the Voice of Guyana, followed by a Night of Reflections on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Homestretch Avenue as the nation prepares to lay Ron Robinson to rest on Friday.



Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO



GROUP OF COMPANIES
Put Guyana First

1 & 2 MUDLOT WATER STREET, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA. TEL: 592- 226-5513-4 | 226-5314-5 | 226-4113 FAX: 592- 226-5517 | 223-7421

Lawyer who admitted stealing millions from homeowners is disbarred

From the CBC:

A Toronto real estate lawyer who admitted to embezzling from homebuyers and sellers in southern Ontario going back as much as a decade was disbarred Friday afternoon in a law society hearing.

Singa Bui's licence to practise law was revoked following a three-hour-long hearing in which the Law Society of Ontario presented more than 2,000 pages of evidence, which she did not contest, that Bui repeatedly dipped into her firm's trust account to steal millions of dollars of client money and even forged bank records in a way that hid the theft.

Bui has previously admitted she spent the money on decorating her family's two homes, luxury clothing and jewelry, private school tuition for her children, and vacations, among other things.

She was "found to have committed the most serious financial misconduct a lawyer could be engaged in, and breached her core obligations to act with honour and integrity," law society lawyer Chad Skinner told the hearing.

"She has committed misappropriation against 13 separate clients, to the staggering amount of over \$12 million. These funds have been used to fund a lavish lifestyle for Ms. Bui and her family, including purchasing luxury goods and travel."

Bui did not attend the virtual hearing. Her lawyer Nadia Liva offered no evidence in rebuttal and didn't contest any of the law society's submissions, except to ask for a reduced costs order against Bui of \$50,000.

The three-person panel hearing the case only spent about 10 minutes deliberating before deciding to revoke Bui's licence and order her to pay the \$100,000 in costs. It also ordered her to reimburse amounts the Law Society of Ontario is paying out from its compensation fund to some of her victims, which currently adds up to \$736,000, but with an additional \$500,000-plus still pending.

More than \$6 million has not been returned of the \$12 million. A little more



Real estate lawyer Singa Bui

than half of that has been paid out by insurance companies to some of Bui's victims.

Much of the evidence at Friday's hearing was already known through earlier disciplinary hearings and court records from more than 20 lawsuits filed against Bui and her husband and law partner, Nicholas Cartel, who together had a now-defunct firm called Cartel & Bui LLP in Toronto's Liberty Village neighbourhood.

But for the first time, the public heard evidence that Bui falsified bank statements in a way that helped cover her tracks.

In August 2022, the Law Society of Ontario dispatched an auditor to do a routine financial spot check on Cartel & Bui LLP. The auditor asked Bui to provide a number of financial records, including bank statements for all the firm's

trust accounts for June 2022 and the ledger of client trust account balances. A trust account is a tightly regulated bank account that only holds money belonging to a lawyer's clients and not the firm.

ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE



Scenes from the launch of the Oil and Gas Corner

Minister Singh encourages young Guyanese to capitalise on oil and gas industry

SENIOR Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh on Saturday emphasised that the new Oil and Gas Corner at the New Amsterdam National Library in Region Six has the potential to educate and inspire young people about the booming sector.

He was at the time speaking at the launch of the initiative, which is being executed by ExxonMobil Guyana in collaboration with the Government of Guyana.

According to a press release, Minister Singh also reiterated the government's commitment to expanding access to knowledge, strengthening public education, and ensuring that citizens, especially students, are equipped with a clear understanding of Guyana's oil and gas sector.

"Today's launching of this corner, though it might appear on the surface to be a modest initiative, showcases the work that we are doing together and has the potential to be the first point of direct contact between young Guyanese people and the oil and gas industry to see what an FPSO looks like as well as your seabed and subsea operation,"

Minister Singh said as he expressed the hope that similar corners will be set up.

He also expressed gratitude to the President and team of ExxonMobil Guyana Limited for the partnership, and thanked the team at the library for their work in bringing the vision to life. Dr. Singh also encouraged young people to explore the possibilities of the oil and gas industry and to take full advantage of the resources available at the library.

He further encouraged young Guyanese to get into the industry and take up all the educational opportunities being made available by government such as opportunities to study at places like the University of Guyana and the Guyana Technical Training College at Port Mourant.

According to the release, Dr. Singh added "and so as modest as it is it represents an extremely important instalment in our rollout of initiatives as we seek to bring the oil and gas industry closer to the Guyanese people, to inform them of the vastness of possibilities that exist for them and to put them potentially on a path that will see them playing a role because we want as many Guyanese people as possible to be

working in the industry".

President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge, who also delivered remarks, explained that the project aimed to bring to life what is done in the industry to make every person in Guyana see and educate communities about what is happening in the industry offshore.

"It is what I expect to see in libraries like this, the bringing to life what we do, and our passion for what we do

and making sure what we do is done safe so I am really excited to be here," he said as he thanked the government, the National Library of New Amsterdam, and the region for their involvement in pulling the project together

The new corner features a replica of the One Guyana FPSO, along with educational materials designed to make complex national developments more accessible within a public learning space.

**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**

BuyCanadianNow.Ca



Ferry services being ramped up to handle Christmas ‘super peak’ season

FERRY services across key routes are being expanded to accommodate a sharp increase in demand, during what has been described as the “super peak” season.

This was according to Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill, who on Sunday made an impromptu visit in the Kingston area in relation to increasing services in that regard.

Speaking while assessing operations on the ground, Minister Edghill explained that the transport system has been under sustained pressure for months, with traffic levels exceeding capacity. He described the current period as a “super peak,” noting that authorities are now taking steps to ensure the ferry network can cope with the seasonal surge.

A major focus of the visit was the return of the MV Malali to service following dry-docking. The minister said the vessel had only just completed its transit to the Kingston Wharf and he wanted to personally verify readiness alongside senior technical staff.

“So, I came to have a first-hand look... to ensure that we are good and ready to go,” he said.

Against this backdrop, the minister outlined plans to significantly increase trips on high-demand routes, particularly between Parika and Bartica. He said services would move from one to two trips per day to ease congestion and facilitate the movement of goods and vehicles.

“We have done more trips to Bartica than we used to do,” he noted.

With vessels in operation, authorities expect to increase carrying capacity substantially during the holiday season.



Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill at the Kingston Wharf on Sunday

He went on to point out the strong demand from commercial operators and suppliers preparing for Christmas distribution, including major companies moving goods.

The minister also addressed ferry operations serving Region One, assuring

residents that adequate coverage would be maintained.

Minister Edghill emphasised that ferry operations would follow a continuous “touch-and-go” schedule throughout the peak period, with vessels reloading and redeploying immediately after of-

floading.

He urged passengers to monitor official updates closely: “Please track the transport website,” he said, explaining that services would continue in this manner until after New Year’s Day.

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:

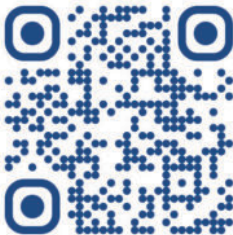
- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
- Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development of Guyana.

World Guyanese Congress
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5P6



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

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:
Email: mail@wgc-org.com
Telephone: [1-800-317-0804](tel:1-800-317-0804)



Lethem steps up preparations for Christmas Season

AS Lethem, like the rest of Guyana, gears up for a bustling holiday season, the town clerk and council are rolling out a number of initiatives aimed at improving health, security, and accessibility across the municipality.

Town Clerk Keisha Williams said the council is spearheading clean-up efforts, implementing security and traffic measures, and pushing ahead with road works, all geared towards ensuring a safe and welcoming Christmas season for shoppers, residents, and small businesses.

With increased travel expected during the holidays, one of the council’s main areas of focus this season is transportation and accessibility.

Williams explained that contractors working on road rehabilitation projects in Lethem are pushing to complete works as early as possible ahead of Christmas. “We are working on getting a number of roads asphalted in the municipality of Lethem. And coming up to the Christmas season, the contractors have been pushing to asphalt all those roads, and to finalise those contracts before the Christmas season,” Williams said.

With travel comes increased traffic,

a hurdle the council says it is well prepared to manage. Williams noted that the council has been working closely with local police ranks to ensure traffic remains under control, particularly given the large volume of vehicles that pass through the region daily.

“For security, we have made preparations for that with the police for traffic management,” she said, adding, “We would have met with the police to put measures in place for traffic control, given the fact that we are a border town with sometimes more than 1,000 cars a day in Lethem.”

The municipality has launched its annual clean-up campaign, and extended waste collection hours ahead of the Christmas season

The council is also focused on maintaining cleanliness amid the hustle and bustle of the season. Williams explained that the municipality has launched its annual clean-up campaign, and extended the hours for its waste collection services. “We are doing our clean-up drive, which we do annually. It is something that is done throughout the year, but we have started our clean-up drive for the municipality to ensure that we have a clean Christmas, not just a



Lethem residents gathered last weekend to celebrate the tree lighting

bright Christmas. Also, for our waste collection service, we have added extra hours to ensure that the town is clean,” she said.

Alongside efforts to ensure a safer and more enjoyable Christmas season, Williams highlighted the positive impact the holidays are having on small businesses and entrepreneurs. “We have seen quite a few small businesses popping up in the municipality, of which the council is supporting with regulating the operation of their businesses,” she said.

She further noted that, “We have noticed that there is support for the small businesses from the general public. And this is as a result of the efforts of the Small Business Bureau, the town council, as well as the fact that because of the training that a lot of them would have received, they are now marketing their product using the various means of communication available.”

The festive atmosphere in Lethem has already been set, following the town’s annual Christmas tree light-up and decorating activities held last week, which drew hundreds of residents.

“On Saturday, on the 13th of December, we had our annual Christmas tree light-up in the municipality. The event was attended by almost 800 residents, which includes children as well. There was a Christmas concert that included folks from the various religious sectors, students from the secondary and primary schools, as well as residents who participated in the concert and presented,” Williams added.

As Christmas approaches, the town council says it will continue working with stakeholders to ensure Lethem remains clean, safe, and accessible, while fostering an environment where residents and businesses can fully enjoy and benefit from the festive season.



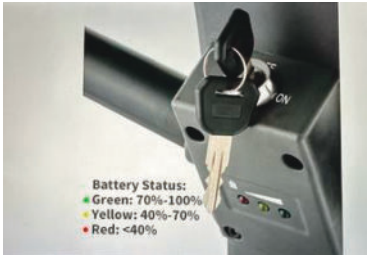
EMAIL: SERVICES@TRADELOGIX.CA
PHONE: 416-938-8779



MODEL# BLION-EW1500



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



Recently commissioned hospitals to be authorised as teaching facilities

WITH several new hospitals commissioned across Guyana, Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony has said that very soon those facilities will be authorised to become teaching hospitals.

The health minister made this known while speaking during the recent Regional Health Officers conference.

Dr Anthony said the government is advancing plans to strengthen health-education infrastructure, including the completion and operationalisation of two new training facilities.

“We have two new nursing schools or training schools, for that matter, that we’ll be completing. One is at the Suddie Hospital compound, and one is in the old New Amsterdam Hospital compound,” he stated.

While the facilities will support nursing education, the minister noted that their scope will be significantly broader. When operationalised, they will accommodate multiple programmes offered through the Health Sciences Division, which currently runs approximately 20 courses.

The intention, he explained, is to decentralise these programmes so that greater numbers of people can access training without having to relocate to Georgetown.

Added to this, he noted that the ministry is working with the University of Guyana to extend the reach of its medical school into the regions. Dr Anthony said the initiative would allow students to complete much of their academic and clinical work within their own regions, although periodic attendance at the main campus would still be required. He added that the approach is designed to ensure “we’ll get more people in the regions properly trained.”

Meanwhile, the health minister stated that emphasis is also being placed on integrating training into newly opened hospitals. Dr Anthony explained that additional classroom spaces are being added at each of the six facilities

commissioned this year.

With this, it will complement the existing teaching capacity traditionally centred at the Georgetown Public Hospital.

Against this backdrop, Dr Anthony noted that the government will move to amend the relevant legislation to authorise the six new hospitals as teaching hospitals.

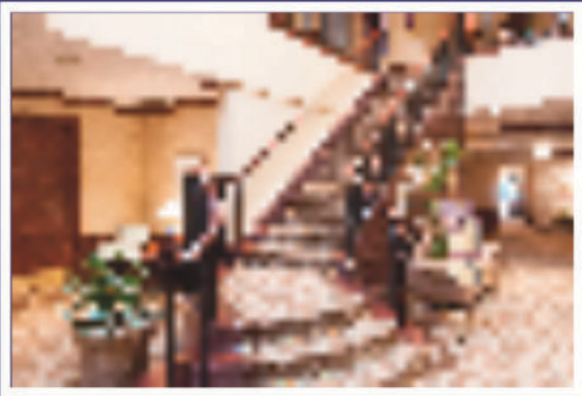
“Very soon, we will authorise that the six new hospitals would all become teaching hospitals, so we’ll make the relevant legal amendment so that that can happen,” he said.



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony

Our Family Caring for Yours

From the flowers on the front lawn to the paintings on the walls, we at Ogden’s always consider the comfort and needs of the families that we serve first. We offer services and products that are meaningful and fit comfortably within your budget. Just some of the ways that we as a family care for yours.
Family owned and operated since 1948.



Advertising
in Equality
News works.
Try us
today!



416-293-5211

4164 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 1T3

www.ogdenfuneralhome.com

SHARMA

LAW

Your Personal Injury Lawyer

A lawyer who gets to know you, so he can represent you. When you're looking for the best possible result, you need an attorney who knows every detail about you and your case. Sharma Law takes the time to get to know each and every client, so we're in the best position to represent you and your family when it matters most. Backed by proven results and experience at Ontario's highest levels of court, Sharma Law specializes in Personal Injury Law.

NO FEES UNLESS WE SETTLE YOUR CLAIM



Personal Injury

Injuries caused by the negligence of others can be physically, emotionally, and financially devastating for victims and their families. If you've been injured, you need a personal injury lawyer who knows how to fight for the compensation you deserve.



Injury Claims

- Motor Vehicle Accident Claims
- At-Fault Accident Claims
- Not At-Fault Accident Claims
- Catastrophic In-jury Claims
- Slip and Falls / Trip and Falls
- Dog Bites
- Long Term Disability / Short Term Disability
- Pedestrian Accidents

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to achieving successful results for every client and case. We accomplish this by providing exceptional legal advice and strategies based on a thorough understanding of your case and your desired outcomes.

FREE CONSULTATION AND CLAIM REVIEW.

Check out our Google reviews



Available for in-person visits at your home or hospital, anywhere in Ontario. Video Conference and Office meetings available.



Hurt? Call Vishal's direct line 6479724440

sharma@vsharmalaw.ca
www.vsharmalaw.ca





 www.skyroutetravel.com  +1 (416) 439 4000 / 1 877 468 6759 (Toll Free)  contact@skyroutetravel.com


4652780

 CONSUMER
PROTECTION BC

 IATA



106-1200 Markham Road, Scarborough, ON, M1H 3C3
34-1911 Jane and Finch Mall, Finch Ave W, North York, Toronto, ON, M3N 2V2



Danforth Food Market

www.danforthfoodmarket.com
We're simply the best West Indian store in town.

Specials in Effect Thu. Dec.18th
until Sun. Dec,21st 2025

DANFORTH FOOD MARKET HURRICANE RELIEF BARREL

SEND SUPPORT BACK HOME
TOGETHER

Products Included	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Grace Red Kidney Beans 800g	12 Pks	\$6.49	\$77.88
Grace Condensed Sweetener 297ml	48 Tins	\$1.75	\$84.00
Grace Corn Meal 2kg	18 Pks	\$4.19	\$75.42
Grace Mackerel in Tomato Sauce 155g	100 Tins	\$1.39	\$139.00
Grace Vienna Sausage (Hot) 113g	48 Tins	\$1.69	\$81.12
Grace Corned Beef 198g	48 Tins	\$2.99	\$143.52
Grace Instant Oats 1kg	24 Pks	\$3.49	\$83.76
Cedar Parboiled Rice 8kg	4 Bags	\$17.99	\$71.96
American Eagle White Flour 5kg	6 Bags	\$7.99	\$47.94
Jamaican Pride Butter Beans 398mL	24 Tins	\$1.49	\$35.76
Jumbo Barrel (Tax Incl.)	1 Pc	\$70.00	\$70.00
Shipping (Tax Incl.)		\$100.00	\$100.00
TOTAL VALUE		\$1,010.36	

**YOU PAY 2/3* (\$673.57)
WE'LL COVER THE REST**
* Includes Shipping Cost

**THIS RELIEF INITIATIVE
IS PARTNERED WITH**

Danforth Food Market Grace Foods Canada Cedar Phenicia Group

Jamaican Local Transportation & Taxes Not Included

Grace Premium Coconut Milk 400 ml

99¢ each

Renso Coconut Water 1 L

2/\$3

Maggi Season-Up All Purpose Seasoning 2 kg

22.99 each

Cedar Parboiled Rice 8 kg

10.99 each

Cedar Canola Oil 2.84 L

6.99 each

Island Spice Artificial Rose Water Flavouring 120 ml

1.99 each

Sorrel Fizz Beverage 300 ml

2/2.20

Anchor Strawberry Syrup 750 ml

3.99 each

Royal Danish Delight Butter Cookies 340 g

2/\$5

Eclipse Original Crackers 113 g

2/\$1

Lou & Nicky's Lemon Juice 946 ml

1.29 each

Cedar Whole Kernel Corn 341 ml

99¢ each

Laurentide Windshield Washer -45 3,78 lt

4.99 each

Windsor Safe-T-Salt Ice Melt Salt 10 kg

4.99 each



LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

121 City View Drive
North of Belfield Road, East side of Highway 27
647-547-8188 www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Seating for more than 500+ guests!

Crematorium inside our building!



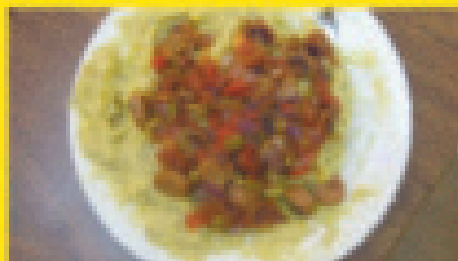
CHARLIE'S CATERING SERVICE

Brought to you by Charlie's Caribbean Cuisine

the finest taste of the Caribbean
Dine in or Take out & Catering

For CATERING Inquiries, call:
905-949-0663

Have a
Wedding
or
Event planned
By
Charlie's



WE CATER FOR ALL OCCASIONS
INCLUDING:

- Corporate Events • Weddings
and other Social Events

Not sure how much food you'll need?
WE CAN HELP YOU!

We will suggest the right amount of food to maximize
the value of your dollar

So you'll have enough food and pay less and have less waste

Full Catering for Hindu religious
ceremonies including 7 curry
(Cooked with separate cookware and utensils)

We Guarantee
you'll love our food, that's why we are
willing to give a free taste test to prove
that our food is great.

WE CATER TO ALL YOUR
CARIBBEAN NEEDS.

All meats halal,
pork free environment

Delivery
to the
GTA
available

3055 Hurontario St. Mississauga, L5A 2G9
www.charliescaribbeancuisine.com

Serving the community for over 30 years you can rest assure that your
order will made fresh and with the highest quality ingredients possible.

charliescaribbeancuisine@hotmail.com

LAW OFFICE

CHET SHARMA

B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

GENERAL PRACTICE

Immigration Law
Criminal Law
Divorce & Family Law

Office: 416-285-1550
Res: 416-284-9191

150 Lawson Road, Toronto
ON M1C 2J4



POINTMENT ONLY

Chet Sharma
B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B.





Serving the Caribbean Community for Over 40 Years

Weekly Ocean & Air Freight Services

Antigua • Barbados • Guyana • Dominica • Grenada • Jamaica • St. Lucia • St. Vincent • Suriname • Trinidad

Door to Door Service • Returning Residents • Boxes & Crates • Complete Packing & Crating Services • Money Transfer • Courier Service • Empty Barrels (food grade plastic, cardboard & steel)

WE PICK UP IN MONTREAL & OTTAWA

NEW EMPTY BARRELS FOR SALE AT OUR CANADA OFFICE!

\$65CDN



\$60CDN

MONEY TRANSFER AVAILABLE





SCAN ME

5250 Finch Ave E, Units 13 & 14, Scarborough, ON M1S 5A5
Tel: (416)292-4370 www.laparkan.com

ADS IN EQUALITY WORK!

SG AUTO WORK

Stanley G. (Owner/Technician)

416-285-5875
sgautowork@hotmail.com
1940 Ellesmere Rd. Unit 14
Scarborough, ON. M1H2V7

AC Services
Brakes
Electrical Systems
Engine Repair
New & Used Tires
Steering
Suspension
Transmission Repair



CHARLEY'S CARIBBEAN CUISINE

For all your catering needs

1158 Morningside Ave, Scarborough
(at Morningside)

(416) 282-8608

Fabulous authentic Guyanese food. We can't make this for these prices. (Grandma is from Berbice Guyana and knows country Guyanese food - even she will eat it!) Try the dhal puri and okra / shrimp.

Actual Review from Yellow Pages

Come savor a savory meal at Charley's Caribbean Cuisine



Not sure how much food you need? We'll help you suggest the right amount of food to minimize your cost.

Pork free halal foods. Catering for Hindu religious events, as well as all Caribbean events.



PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE!

Minister Mustapha, new IICA Director discuss innovation, sustainability

NEWLY elected Director-General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim on Monday paid a courtesy call on Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha at his Regent Street office.

Discussions during the meeting focused on advancing the development of Guyana’s agricultural sector, with emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and strengthening cooperation between Guyana and IICA, the Agriculture Ministry said in a post on its Facebook page.

Dr. Ibrahim, a Guyanese national, is an agricultural engineer with more than 35 years of international experience in agricultural development.

He was elected Director-General of IICA in November 2025, and is slated to assume office in January 2026 for the 2026–2030 term.

He succeeds outgoing Director-General Manuel Otero, and was nominated by Guyana, with the endorsement of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In his new role, Dr. Ibrahim is expected to advance initiatives centered on agricultural innovation, resilience, and sustainable development across the Americas.



Newly elected IICA Director-General Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim with Minister Zulfikar Mustapha

Discover the power of pre-planning

Complete your own final arrangements now and discover the confidence and comfort of knowing you’ve better protected your family and your estate.

Get started today with a **FREE Planning Kit**
416-267-4653



Resthaven
Memorial Gardens
by Arbor Memorial

2700 Kingston Road, Scarborough, ON
resthavenmemorial.com

Official
Family
Registry
Important
Please open and complete

Serious Crime falls by 76% within past five years: Commander McBean

SERIOUS crime in Regional Division 4A continues to decline, as Divisional Commander Simon McBean has reported that it has sharply fallen by more than 76 per cent over the past five years.

The Divisional Commander highlighted this during the Guyana Police Force (GPF)’s Regional Division 4A Annual Christmas and Luncheon and Award Ceremony, on Monday.

Although Georgetown, which falls within this division, is experiencing rapid economic growth and activities, making it a major target for crime, the police force continues to resiliently respond to crime, according to McBean.

A 2.4 per cent decrease in serious crimes compared to the same period in 2024 has been recorded.

However, looking at the broader picture over the last five years, the transformation is “staggering,” the Divisional Commander said, noting that since 2020, serious crimes in the division has fallen by more than 76 per cent.

It has moved from 836 recorded serious crimes at this time in 2020, to just 200 to date in 2025, the Divisional Commander noted.

Over 16,500 crime reports were investigated, resulting in 3,501 criminal charges, he said.

He attributed this reduction in crime to three strategic pillars, including strong leadership, technological integration and community partnership; this he dubbed as the “backbone of the success and remains the integral part between the police and the public.”

“While the numbers are positive, we acknowledge that one serious crime still is one too many,” he said, noting that public perception often lags behind data and the fear of crime remains a challenge for the GPF.

Moving forward, the division’s goal is to ensure that the safety reflected in the statistics is a safety truly felt by every citizen in their daily lives, according to McBean.

As it relates to the traffic department, McBean reported a 24 per cent decrease in fatal accidents, but he did disclose that there has been a three per cent increase in general traffic accidents.

He further reported that the traffic department brought over 5,660 persons



Regional Division 4A Commander Simon McBean

before the court for violations.

McBean further reported that 28 il-

legal firearms were taken off of the

streets and over 65 kilograms of

cannabis and 18 grammes of cocaine

were seized.

Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge safe, stable

THE Ministry of Public Works (MoPW), on Monday, informed the public that continuous monitoring of settlement observation points of the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge has confirmed that no abnormal settlement has occurred in the bridge foundations.

According to information from the ministry, all monitoring data indicate that the bridge structure remains safe, stable, and fully reliable for public use.

Regarding the pavement undulations observed on the side span of the main bridge, technical investigations have determined that these irregularities are limited to localised surface flatness variations arising from the asphalt pavement construction process.

Importantly, this condition affects only the pavement surface layer and does not compromise the bridge’s structural integrity or load-bearing capacity.

Additionally, the pavement undulation observed near the east approach bridge abutment has been attributed to the

specific characteristics of this transition zone, where the road embankment “fill” interfaces with the concrete abutment structure.

Differences in material properties between the sand fill and the concrete structure have resulted in varying settlement behaviour, leading to a temporary elevation difference that manifests as pavement undulation.

The contractor has been instructed to carry out remedial works shortly to restore a smooth and comfortable driving surface.

The Ministry of Public Works said it appreciated the vigilance and concern shown by members of the public and other stakeholders regarding this critical infrastructure.

The ministry remains fully committed to the professional and responsible management, monitoring, and maintenance of the bridge and its ancillary facilities, ensuring the highest standards of public safety and travel comfort. (DPI)



There is a growing memorial at the scene of the shooting on Bondi Beach

Bondi Beach gunman originally from India, police say

One of the two men suspected of carrying out a mass shooting at Bondi Beach was originally from southern India but had "limited contact" with his family there, police sources have said.

Sajid Akram, 50, who died at the scene in Sydney on Sunday, was originally from the city of Hyderabad, a police official from the Indian state of Telangana said.

He had travelled to India just six times since moving to Australia in 1998 and his family "expressed no knowledge of his radical mindset or activities," the official added.

Sajid and his 24-year-old son Naveed are suspected of killing 15 people and injuring dozens more at an event celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah on Sunday.

Hyderabad, where Sajid Akram's family is based, is the capital of Telangana state in southern India.

The Telangana police official told BBC Telugu Sajid had "visited India on six occasions after migrating to Australia, primarily for family-related reasons such as property matters and visits to his elderly parents".

"It is understood that he did not travel to India even at the time of his father's demise," the official said.

"The factors that led to the radicalisation of Sajid Akram and his son, Naveed appear to have no connection with India or any local influence in Telangana."

The official also said Sajid Akram had no criminal record in India, he had completed a degree and had moved to Australia in search of employment before marrying a woman "of European origin".

Sajid Akram was an Indian passport holder, but his children were born in Australia and are Australian citizens, the official added.

Police are currently investigating why the father and son travelled to the Philippines in the weeks leading up to the attack. They arrived on 1 November and left on 28 November, the country's immigration bureau confirmed to the BBC.

Sajid travelled using an Indian passport, while

his son used Australian identification, the authorities said.

Citing security sources, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) said that the pair travelled to the island nation to receive "military-style training", but officials have not been able to confirm those reports.

Philippines foreign affairs minister Maria Theresa Lazaro and her Australian counterpart, Penny Wong, have agreed to "keep each other closely informed" of any developments related to the investigation into the Bondi Beach shooting, according to a text message Lazaro sent to the media.

It is understood that Naveed Akram was previously investigated over ties to a Sydney-based IS terrorism cell, ABC reported.

IS is an extremist Islamist militant group that has claimed responsibility for a number of terrorist attacks across Europe and America, including the 2015 Paris attacks.

The Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Naveed Akram first came to the attention of the authorities in 2019 "on the basis of being associated with others".

However, at the time, an "assessment was made that there was no indication of any ongoing threat or threat of him engaging in violence".



A bystander tackled one of the gunmen



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): If your freedom is being stifled there is still time to do something about it. Speak up and let those you live and work with know you are not happy about their controlling ways. Make sure they know things are going to change.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): You have a knack for coming up with winners even when the odds seem stacked against you and if you follow a hunch today there is every chance it will pay off. You may win big once but don't tempt fate by trying to win a second time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): Let friends and family members know how much you appreciate their recent efforts on your behalf. If you leave it until after the Sun changes signs next weekend they may think you've been taking them for granted, so speak up right away.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Your workload has got heavier of late and if you are not going to exhaust yourself you need to offload some of it today. Anything that landed in your In tray without you requesting it must be sent straight back to where it came from.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): You can be a bit too easygoing at times and the planets indicate you need to get serious about a professional problem of some kind. Let colleagues and your employer know you are now in the right frame of mind to resolve it.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): It's inevitable that if you keep your emotions bottled up there will come a time when it gets too much and they explode out into the world at large. Make it your priority today to find constructive ways to ease the pressure.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): You must let friends and loved ones know what is on your mind. You have an important message to get across and this is the perfect time to speak up. Use your way with words to paint a picture everyone will understand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Follow your instincts today and don't let people who are not as adventurous as you talk you out of doing what you know to be right. The only person you need to trust is yourself, so be brave and follow a new path through life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): So much is possible for you now but you also need to be aware that time is getting short. In between now and the Sun's change of signs next weekend you MUST act quickly and decisively. The time for reflection is past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): With Mars in your sign you won't be quite so fearful about life, but if you are smart you will wait for the Sun to join it there on the 21st before devoting yourself 100 per cent to an exciting new project. There's no need to rush.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): If you make a conscious effort to work with other people today there is no doubt at all you will create something of lasting value together. You may enjoy being different, even a bit of a loner, but you can be an excellent team player too.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You may be a nice guy by nature but today you will have no choice but to get tough with someone who has let you down. Don't waste your time giving them a second chance because the planets say they will waste it. Cut ties immediately.

Our advertising works! Try a low cost ad in Equality News and reap the benefits of the only print weekly newspaper.



Usain Bolt, Puma donate J\$10 million to help rebuild storm-damaged schools

Sprint legend Usain Bolt, in partnership with global sportswear sponsor Puma, has donated J\$5 million each to St Elizabeth Technical High School (STETHS) and his alma mater William Knibb Memorial High School in Trelawny to support recovery efforts after both schools were severely damaged by Category 5 Hurricane Melissa in late October.

STETHS in Santa Cruz, St Elizabeth, suffered extensive structural damage, with the grade 11 block—critical for students preparing for Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exams—left entirely without a roof, according to JIS News. Roofs on other buildings, teachers’ cottages, the athletes’ dorms and sections of the perimeter wall were also hit, and the spectator stands were left in tatters. William Knibb reported that seven buildings on campus were damaged, six of them severely, including the loss of roofing.

The donations come on the heels of long-standing efforts by Bolt to support education and youth development across Jamaica. Through the Usain Bolt Foundation, the Jamaican icon has consistently invested in local communities, particularly in rural parishes like Trelawny, St Elizabeth, St Ann, St James and Clarendon. Earlier this year, the foundation contributed J\$6.1 million in cash and kind to six rural high schools to help prepare students for the

Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) Boys and Girls’ Championships, with William Knibb among the beneficiaries.

In addition to high school support, the foundation has donated essential supplies—including printers, hygiene stations and learning materials—to 21 rural early-childhood institutions across five parishes, assisting more than 1,200 children and their teachers the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bolt has also engaged in community outreach beyond schools. In Trelawny, his foundation partnered with the JN Foundation on charitable runs and other events aimed at raising funds for social services and facilities for vulnerable children, underscoring his commitment to his hometown and wider rural Jamaica.

Bolt’s relationship with Puma dates back to 2003, when the German sportswear brand signed him as a 16-year-old rising sprinter—a sponsorship that would grow into one of the most iconic athlete-brand partnerships in sport.

Over the years, Puma has not only outfitted Bolt at major global competitions but also utilised his charismatic persona as the face of its “Forever Faster” campaign and related global marketing efforts. In 2021, Bolt sealed a lifetime partnership deal with Puma, becoming the first track-and-field athlete to secure such an agreement, which

extends his role with the brand beyond active competition and into lifestyle and cultural collaborations.

The partnership has also reinforced Puma’s broader support for Jamaican athletics, including sponsorship of high school track programmes and major events like the ISSA Boys and Girls’ Championships—platforms that

have helped nurture generations of local talent.

Bolt, widely regarded as the greatest athlete of all time and a global ambassador for Jamaica, continues to leverage his influence and relationships to give back to the communities that shaped him—on and off the track.

Mia Mottley makes Forbes list

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has once again earned international recognition, returning to the Forbes World’s 100 Most Powerful Women list for the third consecutive year, ranking No. 99 in 2025 among the globe’s most influential political, business and philanthropic leaders.

Forbes highlights Mottley’s continued global impact, particularly her forceful advocacy on climate change, her diplomatic leadership, and her role in steering Barbados’ constitutional transition.

According to her Forbes profile, Mottley “was elected as Barbados’ prime minister in 2018. When she was sworn in, she became the first woman to hold the role.” The profile also notes her rise as a global leader on climate issues, referencing her 2021 address to the United Nations General Assembly, where she delivered an “impassioned speech” calling for urgent action.

That same year, the United Nations Environment Programme named her a “Champion of the Earth for Policy Leadership.” Forbes further underscores her role in Barbados’ historic constitutional shift, noting: “Under her leadership, in November 2021, Barbados officially became a parliamentary republic and removed the Queen of England as its head of state.”

Mia Mottley has appeared on the Forbes Power Women ranking in recent years, including in 2023 and 2024, reinforcing her sustained influence on the global stage. Her continued presence reflects not only her domestic leadership, but also her growing role in shaping international conversations on climate finance, debt reform and global equity—particularly for small island developing states. In 2022, she was named to TIME magazine’s TIME100 list, which recognizes the world’s most influential people.

Her inclusion places her among a global cohort of women shaping economies, diplomacy, technology, philanthropy and cultural influence. She joins a 2025 Power Women list led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at No. 1,

Trinidad and Tobago approves transit of US military aircraft through airports

The Trinidad and Tobago government has approved the transit of United States military aircraft through the country’s airports in the coming weeks, a move officials describe as routine but one that has sparked strong criticism from the political opposition.

In a media release issued Monday, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs said the approved aircraft movements are “logistical in nature,” intended to facilitate supply replenishment and routine personnel rotations.

Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister Sean Sobers said the decision reflects the government’s continued co-operation with Washington, noting that the partnership has delivered concrete benefits to Trinidad and Tobago, including joint military training exercises, enhanced surveillance capabilities and the installation of a radar system used in narcotics interdiction.

Sobers said Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has reaffirmed the administration’s commitment to “cooperation and collaboration in the pursuit of safety and security for Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region.” The ministry also noted that the U.S. Embassy has supported national development through initiatives such as donations of school equipment and other educational support.

However, former Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Minister Dr. Amery Browne sharply criticized the government’s announcement, calling it “deceptive.”

Speaking on a local radio program, Browne said Trinidad and Tobago had never before granted what he described as blanket permission for unspecified foreign military aircraft to use local airspace and airports.

“There is nothing routine about this,” Browne said. “This has nothing to do with the usual cooperation and friendly collaborations that we have enjoyed for decades with the United States and our neighbours.”

Browne argued that the government’s statement risks undermining Trinidad and Tobago’s long-standing foreign policy posture and regional standing, claiming it moves the country away from established CARICOM principles.

Foreign Minister Sobers rejected those claims, saying the government remains in close engagement with the U.S. Embassy and is acting in the national and regional interest. “We welcome the continued support of the United States,” Sobers said.

The approval comes against the backdrop of increased U.S. military activity in the Caribbean linked to counter-narcotics operations. Prime



One of the American military aircraft flying in Trinidad’s airspace

Minister Persad-Bissessar has publicly supported U.S.-led efforts aimed at disrupting the illegal drug trade, a position that political observers note differs from that of several other CARICOM member states, which have repeatedly emphasized maintaining the Caribbean as a zone of peace.

Venezuela has also expressed concern

in recent months, accusing Washington of using counter-narcotics operations as a pretext for broader geopolitical objectives, including efforts to destabilize the government of President Nicolás Maduro.

In its statement, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs reiterated that cooperation with the United

States has contributed to the interception of millions of dollars’ worth of illegal narcotics and strengthened Trinidad and Tobago’s national security capacity.

Browne, however, said the prime minister has failed to adequately explain the implications of the policy shift to the public.

DR also gives approval for US planes

The Dominican Republic government has authorized several United States military aircraft to land and operate in the country in the coming days as part of an operational support deployment in the Caribbean.

According to officials, the aircraft have been granted temporary permits to operate from restricted areas at San Isidro Air Base and Las Américas International Airport. The cooperation agreement allows for surveillance, transport, and technical support missions.

Aircraft expected to participate include the KC-130 tanker and the C-130 Hercules, two of the U.S. Air Force’s most widely used and versatile aircraft.

The C-130 Hercules, which has been in service since 1954, is one of the most successful military transport aircraft in history. Originally designed for rugged operations during the Cold War, the aircraft has been deployed in conflicts such as Vietnam and Desert Storm, as well as in major humanitarian missions, including disaster response efforts in Haiti, during Hurricane Katrina in the United States, and in other global emergency zones.

The KC-130, introduced in the 1960s, functions as both a tanker and logistics aircraft, providing aerial refueling for fighter jets, helicopters, and drones. It has supported military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, and has also been used for nighttime special operations and personnel transport.

Authorities have not disclosed flight schedules or the total number of aircraft involved. However, officials indicated that the deployment may support maritime and aerial surveillance, the movement of sensitive equipment, logistics for regional security operations, in-flight refueling, and the



A C130 in DR airspace

transportation of technical personnel.

The mission forms part of ongoing security and technical cooperation agreements between the Dominican Republic and the United States, as both countries continue to collaborate on regional security initiatives in the Caribbean.

Venezuela cuts energy ties with Trinidad over seized oil tanker

Venezuela on Monday announced that it has terminated, with “immediate effect,” all existing contracts, agreements and negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago, accusing Port of Spain of complicity in the United States’ seizure of a Venezuelan oil tanker last week.

In a statement posted on Instagram, Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said President Nicolás Maduro made the decision in response to what she described as an “escalation of hostilities and serious aggressions” following the December 10 seizure of the tanker by U.S. authorities.

Caracas has repeatedly characterized the seizure as an act of piracy. Rodríguez said Venezuela has “full knowledge” of Trinidad and Tobago’s participation in what she described as the “theft” of Venezuelan oil carried out by the U.S. administration through the interception of a ship transporting the product.

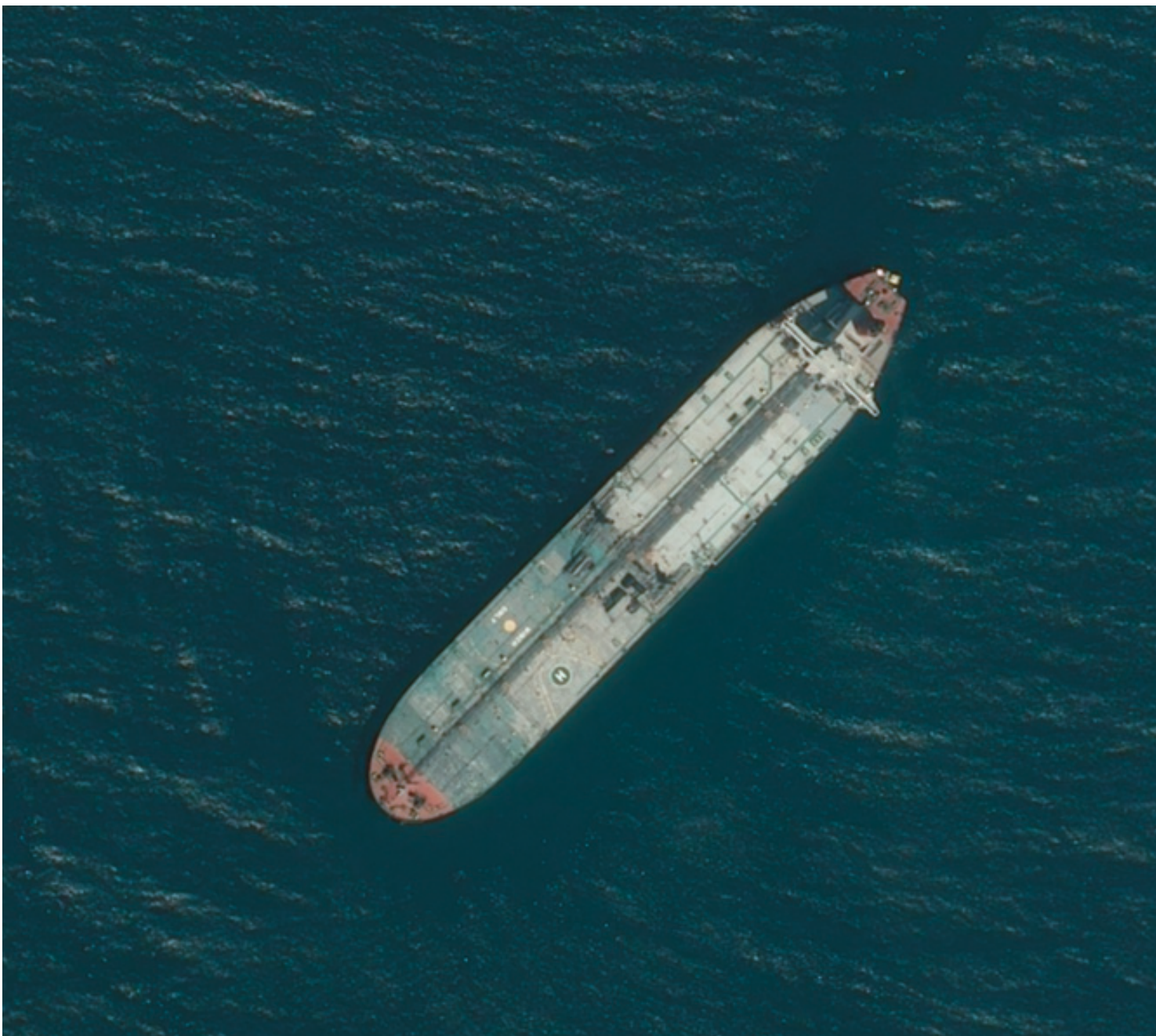
The statement described the incident as “a serious violation of international law and a clear transgression of the principles of free navigation and trade.” It also accused Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of pursuing a “hostile agenda against Venezuela” since assuming office.

Among the allegations, Rodríguez claimed that the Persad-Bissessar administration facilitated the “installation of U.S. military radars” in Trinidad and Tobago to harass Venezuelan ships, asserting that Venezuela considers the prime minister to have turned the country into a “U.S. aircraft carrier to attack Venezuela, in an unequivocal act of vassalage.”

President Maduro has also denounced the Energy Cooperation Framework Agreement previously signed with Trinidad and Tobago. Rodríguez said the Venezuelan government has decided to sever energy ties with the Caribbean nation in response to what it called a “very serious act that aims to blatantly steal Venezuela’s oil.”

“Venezuela demands respect! And it will not allow any colonial entity and its vassals to threaten the sacred sovereignty of the country and its right to development. Venezuela will always prevail,” Rodríguez said.

The dispute follows confirmation last Wednesday by Guyana that the oil tanker seized by the United States was



The tanker seized by the USA in the Caribbean

falsely flying the Guyana flag and is not registered in the country. In a statement, Guyana’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) said it has observed the “proliferation and unacceptable use” of the Guyana flag by vessels not registered there.

MARAD said the U.S. government informed the agency that it encountered the Motor Tanker SKIPPER (ex-ADISA), IMO Number 9304667, in international waters, falsely displaying the Guyana flag.

U.S. President Donald Trump said the SKIPPER was the largest crude tanker ever seized by American authorities and confirmed that the United States would seize the oil aboard the vessel. Venezuelan authorities again described the seizure as piracy.

Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar has dismissed Venezuela’s accusations that Trinidad and Tobago colluded with the United States as “false propaganda.” She said that if the Venezuelan government has concerns about the

seizure of the tanker SKIPPER, they should address them directly with President Trump.

“They should direct their complaints to President Trump, as it is the U.S. military that has seized the sanctioned oil tanker,” she said, adding that Trinidad and Tobago continues to maintain peaceful relations with the Venezuelan people.

Persad-Bissessar also told Guardian Media she is unconcerned by the Maduro administration’s threat to terminate natural gas arrangements, stating that Trinidad and Tobago has never depended on Venezuela for gas supplies.

“We have adequate reserves within our territory. We are aggressively working to reduce bureaucratic barriers to speed up approvals for energy companies,” she said, noting that bureaucracy remains the main obstacle to exploration and production.

Former energy minister and energy expert Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan

echoed that assessment, saying the developments involving Venezuela come as no shock and do not represent a major blow to Trinidad and Tobago, as no Venezuelan gas had been flowing to the country in the first place.

She said the framework governing unitisation agreements for cross-border fields remains in place but does not revive projects that were already stalled or shut down. Looking ahead, Seepersad-Bachan warned that Trinidad and Tobago must seek alternative sources of gas as domestic reserves decline and foreign exchange pressures increase, cautioning against expectations of quick solutions from other regional players.

For the foreseeable future, she said, the country’s most realistic option is to accelerate development of its own acreage and pursue viable partnerships, accepting that Venezuelan gas will not be part of the equation.



Holness reassures Jamaicans there is no ban on Christmas parties

Prime Minister Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has reassured Jamaicans that there is no ban on festive celebrations, dismissing social media rumours claiming citizens are prohibited from hosting parties during the Christmas season.

The clarification comes amid confusion sparked by comments made at a post-Cabinet press briefing last week, where the Government announced the cancellation of official Christmas parties across ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) as Jamaica recovers from the impact of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa.

At the December 10 briefing at Jamaica House, Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Senator Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, said the directive applied only to government-hosted events, not to the general public or private sector.

“We have agreed to allow small in-ministry or in-department recognition and morale-building activities,” Morris Dixon said. “So, if you are doing something in the office itself, that is fine, but no rental of external venues is allowed.”

The Minister also urged the private sector to proceed with Christmas events, warning against a slowdown in economic activity, particularly in areas not as heavily impacted by the storm.

“We really do need to make up for what is happening in the west, in terms of the downturn in economic activity,” she said. “So, those of us in areas that haven’t been affected as much, please go out and spend money.”

The Prime Minister warned that the spread of misinformation has the potential to undermine public order and create unnecessary confusion.



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness

“There are those people... who are vested in telling you lies to mislead you,” Dr. Holness said. “For what reason? I don’t know. Maybe they want the country to descend in chaos. They don’t like to see law and order.”

Dr. Holness was speaking with residents at the hurricane shelter at Petersfield High School in Westmoreland during the Prime Minister’s Christmas Treat on Saturday, December 13.

While encouraging entertainment and festive activities, the Prime Minister

emphasized that events must be properly organised and comply with public safety requirements. He noted that the police are prepared to issue permits once promoters make the necessary arrangements.

“The police have said that they will give permits for parties so long as the promoters make the proper arrangements,” he said.

Dr. Holness outlined practical considerations organisers must address, particularly in communities still af-

ected by infrastructural challenges following recent storms.

“Some places don’t have light, so if you’re going to keep a party, you have to put up light. You have to get one generator, people have to have water [to] use bathroom facilities,” he explained.

He also stressed the importance of security at entertainment events, noting that some venues can be targeted by criminals.

Hurricane Melissa relief voucher system by new year

The Jamaican Government is preparing to transition its post-Hurricane Melissa relief program from direct food distribution to a voucher-based system by early 2026, aimed at giving affected residents greater purchasing power and flexibility.

Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ambassador Dr. Rocky Meade, disclosed the plan during Wednesday’s (December 10) sitting of Parliament’s Public Administration and Appropriations Committee.

Dr. Meade explained that in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, the Government relied on emergency procedures to deliver rapid assistance, with a strong focus on food distribution. As recovery progresses, however, officials believe it is time to adjust the approach.

“Now that we have done that quite

a bit... we’re hoping... to have a change in how we assist the country,” Dr. Meade said. “We want to give more purchasing power to those who are in need so that, as the businesses come back up, they can actually get the things they want and not just a package that we assume that might be, [where] they may have too much of one thing and not something else.”

He said the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) is leading work on the new system, which he loosely described as a voucher model, though it may not involve traditional paper vouchers.

“It’s really putting purchasing power in the hands of citizens,” he said. “We have had some meetings on how that could work, and the details of that are also being worked out.”

According to Dr. Meade, the MLSS will also provide guidance on

identifying priority needs and determining beneficiary eligibility under the new arrangement. The goal, he said, is to pivot to this method of delivering relief by the start of the new year.

He noted that officials recently presented the proposed system to Prime Minister Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, who requested a few adjustments before final approval.

“I can assure you there has been progress, and they (the Ministry) have a product,” Dr. Meade said. “But for some tweaks, [it] will be ready [for] rollout in January. I am reasonably confident that by the New Year, we’ll be

able to roll something out.”

Holness had previously expressed concern about images of people rushing for care packages and called on both relief groups and residents to maintain self-respect throughout the recovery process. The new system, he explained, will allow individuals to choose what they need. “Giving persons coupons or cards [will enable them to] buy the stuff that they need.”

The proposed shift is intended to support both hurricane-affected households and local businesses as economic activity gradually resumes following the storm.

ADVERTISING IN EQUALITY NEWS WORKS. GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A LOW COST AD

Jamaica welcomes 300,000 visitors after Hurricane Melissa

Jamaica has welcomed more than 300,000 visitors since the passage of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, a milestone Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett says reflects the sector’s rapid and coordinated recovery strategy.

The figure includes both stopover and cruise arrivals and comes as the island reopens fully for the critical winter tourism season, with major resort areas now operational.

Following the storm, Jamaica moved quickly to restore tourism infrastructure across key destinations, including Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Negril and Kingston, all of which are now open and receiving visitors.

Bartlett confirmed that Jamaica has met its target of restoring tourism operations by December 15, just over six weeks after the hurricane.

“Our recovery has exceeded expectations,” Bartlett said. “Jamaica is not just back — we are stronger, more resilient, and more committed than ever to delivering the authentic Jamaican experience our visitors know and love. The dedication of our tourism workers, many of whom were personally affected by the hurricane, exemplifies the true spirit of Jamaica.”

All major airports — Sangster International Airport, Norman Manley International Airport, and Ian Fleming International Airport — have resumed normal operations, with airlines maintaining regular flight schedules. By the end of December, approximately 71% of hotels are expected to be reopened, with that figure projected to rise steadily through early 2026.

“This has been a whole-of-indus-



WestJet touches down on Saturday December 6, 2025, from Québec to Montego Bay

try effort,” Bartlett said. “Hotels, attractions, transportation providers and government agencies have worked around the clock to ensure that Jamaica is ready to welcome our guests. Every visitor who chooses Jamaica during this time directly supports the rebuilding of communities and the restoration of livelihoods.”

Tourism attractions across the island are also operational, allowing visi-

tors to once again experience Jamaica’s culture, music, cuisine and hospitality.

“The best way to support Jamaica is to visit Jamaica,” said Donovan White, Director of Tourism. “We are ready to deliver unforgettable experiences while showcasing the incredible strength and hospitality of the Jamaican people.”

Tourism accounts for more than 30% of Jamaica’s GDP and supports

roughly one-third of jobs across the island. Officials say the sector’s swift recovery is critical to economic stability and household incomes nationwide.

Jamaica recorded 4.3 million visitors in 2024, and tourism authorities remain confident the destination will achieve a full recovery by December 2026, positioning the sector for sustained growth.



Advertise and survive as the holiday season approaches with a low cost ad in Equality News 647-216-2359

NEXT ROOFING AND HOME SOLUTION

1000 Purpledusk Trail scarborough ON M1E 4C8

LICENSE AND TRADER CONTRACTOR
SPECIALIZES IN ROOFING AND SIDING
ALL OUT SIDE HOMES
AND WSIB AND INSURANCE

Jemal Said
Owner
647-676-6699
onextroofingsolutiin@gmail.com
www.nrsroofing.com

NEXT ROOFING SOLUTION SERVICES:

- Shingles Roof
- Flat Roof
- Metal Roof
- Window Frame
- Gutter Cleaning
- Leaf Screen
- Shelter
- Aluminum
- Eavestrough
- Soffit
- Fascia
- Sliding
- Vinyl Sliding
- Skylight

FREE ESTIMATE

A person wearing a white hard hat and safety gear is working on a roof. They are using a tool to work on the roof structure.

Daren Sammy issues blunt challenge as West Indies batsmen falter

West Indies head coach Daren Sammy did not mince words after another heavy setback on New Zealand soil, delivering a searing assessment of his team’s nine-wicket loss in the second Test at the Basin Reserve.

Visibly frustrated, Sammy described the performance as a backward slide at a moment when forward momentum was desperately needed.

The match was effectively decided within three days, as the visitors were comprehensively outplayed and dismissed for 205 and 128, leaving New Zealand with a straightforward chase to seal victory.

Despite the lopsided result, Sammy acknowledged the effort of his bowling unit, which shared the wickets in New Zealand’s first innings. Anderson Phillip led the way, finishing with four wickets across the match.

However, any discipline shown with the ball was undone by an anemic batting display. Shai Hope’s 47 and John Campbell’s 44 stood as the highest individual scores, grim indicators of a collective failure that left the team without a foundation or fight.

For Sammy, the collapse stirred painful memories of an all-too-familiar pattern.

“It shows every time we try to take a step forward, we take about two steps backwards,” Sammy stated. “It takes me back to 2013, where we drew the Test in Dunedin, came here, and

lost inside three days. It’s just the consistency that we’re looking for.”

The coach’s comparison underscored his concern that isolated good performances continue to be followed by sharp regression, eroding confidence and continuity.

Sammy identified a recurring weakness that has plagued the side, an inability to control critical moments once they arise.

“We keep getting ourselves in good positions, but little moments switch the momentum, and in this Test match, once we lost the momentum, we lost it for a long period of time.”

Against a New Zealand attack that he conceded “answered the call,” West Indies failed to respond when the game demanded resilience and composure.

“Nobody stood up”: A blunt message to the batsmen

While credit was given where due, Sammy’s sharpest words were directed at his batting unit, which he felt left the bowlers exposed and unsupported.

“In a team, you want people to step up when needed the most. In this Test match, nobody stood up for us,” he said.

“When you have runs not coming from the number seven and the number five positions, it puts a lot of pressure on the rest of the team. The bowlers are doing their job. It’s not the bowlers’ fault. I think it’s the batsmen that have to take more responsibility.”



Daren Sammy

The message was unambiguous: responsibility with the bat is no longer optional.

Christchurch blueprint offers hope Despite the disappointment,

Sammy pointed to the fighting draw in the first Test in Christchurch as proof that the team is capable of a vastly different outcome when individuals commit fully.

New Zealand clinch nine-wicket win inside three days

Jacob Duffy capped a devastating match with another masterclass in seam bowling, carving through a brittle West Indies batting order to propel New Zealand to a commanding nine-wicket victory inside three days of the second Test on Friday.

The fast bowler claimed his second five-wicket haul of the series, as the visitors were bundled out for a paltry 128 at the Basin Reserve, completing a collapse that left New Zealand with a routine chase and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series following the drawn opener.

Resuming the day already trailing by 73 runs on first innings, the West Indies produced yet another dispiriting display with the bat. Their second-innings total marked their sixth-lowest Test score against New Zealand and underscored a growing vulnerability against sustained pace and discipline.

Duffy finished with figures of 5-38, while Michael Rae provided able support with 3-45, keeping constant pressure on a line-up that never truly settled.

Beginning the morning on 32 for two, the West Indies harbored belief that they could summon something

special, still buoyed by memories of their heroic second-innings stand in the first Test.

Brandon King and Kavem Hodge appeared composed early, adding 18 runs with little alarm during the opening exchanges. But a moment of confusion abruptly shifted the match’s momentum.

King drove Rae to cover and set off for a single, only to be sent back by Hodge, who hesitated after initially committing. A sharp throw from Michael Bracewell was calmly gathered by wicketkeeper Mitchell Hay, leaving King short of his ground and the West Indies deflated.

The slide accelerated almost immediately. Five balls later, Rae struck again when Shai Hope’s attempted block ballooned back to the bowler, who gratefully accepted the return catch. At 58 for four, the visitors were already fighting to survive.

Captain Roston Chase’s struggles with the bat continued when he gloved a sharp, rising delivery from Duffy behind for just two. Soon after, substitute fielder Will Young produced a superb two-handed effort at short midwicket, completed on the second attempt, to re-



Jacob Duffy

move Hodge for a team-high 35. At 88 for six, the contest was effectively decided.

Justin Greaves and Tevin Imlach momentarily steadied the innings with a 25-run stand, offering brief resistance before Duffy returned after lunch to end Greaves’ stay. Initially given not out, Greaves was adjudged lbw on re-

view, and the door slammed shut once more.

With only one run added, Imlach edged Duffy to second slip, where Tom Latham made no mistake. Rae then bowled Jayden Seales for a duck, before Duffy fittingly dismissed Ojay Shields to complete his second five-wicket haul in just his second Test.

Chasing a modest 56 for victory, New Zealand suffered only a minor hiccup when Anderson Phillip removed Latham for nine. From there, Devon Conway and Kane Williamson erased any lingering doubt in emphatic fashion.

Conway struck an unbeaten 28 from just 22 balls, including six fours, while Williamson finished on 16 not out as the Black Caps reached 57 for one in just 10 overs, scoring at nearly six runs an over.

With the victory, New Zealand seized a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series, rewarding their bowlers’ dominance and exposing ongoing concerns in the West Indies’ batting depth.

Duffy’s performance earned him the Player-of-the-Match award, a fitting recognition for a spell that decisively shaped the contest.

We are OPEN during Public Holidays-CHRISTMAS 公众假期圣诞节照常营业

Merry Christmas



SUPERKING SUPERMARKET 鴻發超市



Special Offers Effective: Friday Dec.19, To Thursday Dec.25, 2025.



VEGETABLE & FRUIT

Lemon 黄柠檬 Reg: 2 for \$1.50 3/\$1.00	Carrot 胡萝卜 Reg: \$1.39 79¢ lb	Big Taro 大芋头 Reg: \$1.59 99¢ lb	Eggplant 大茄瓜 Reg: \$1.99 1.29 lb	Mama Squash 妈咪瓜 Reg: \$1.99 1.29 lb	Chinese Broccolis 芥兰 Reg: \$1.99 1.39 lb	Bok Choy Sum 白菜芯 Reg: \$1.99 1.39 lb	Head Lettuce 圆生菜 Reg: 2 for \$5.00 2/\$3.00	
Nai Yu Miu 奶油苗 Reg: \$2.48 1.88 lb	Long Hot Pepper 粗长尖椒 Reg: \$2.99 1.99 lb	Cauliflower 椰菜花 Reg: \$3.99 2.99 ea	King Oyster Mushroom 皇菇 Reg: \$3.48 2.88 bag	Romaine Heart 袋装西生菜 Reg: \$5.99 3.99 bag	Asparagus 芦笋 Reg: \$6.99 4.99 bunch	Asian Pear 水晶梨 Reg: \$1.79 1.29 lb	Australia Orange 澳洲橙 Reg: \$1.79 1.29 lb	
Fresh Papaya 新鲜木瓜 Reg: \$1.79 1.38 lb	US Fuji Apple 美国富士 Reg: \$1.99 1.29 lb	Grape Tomato 小番茄 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 pk	Vietnam Red Meat Pomelo 越南青柚 Reg: \$5.99 2.99 ea	Blueberry 蓝莓 227g Reg: \$3.99 2.99 pk	Yellow Meat Nectarine 黄油桃 Reg: \$5.99 3.99 lb	Golden Kiwi 黄金奇异果 1.32Lb Reg: \$5.99 3.99 pk	Pineapple 菠萝 Reg: \$5.99 3.99 ea	
Apple Mango 苹果芒 Reg: \$13.99 12.99 case								

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Cucumber 长青瓜 14.00 case	Spanish Onion 洋葱 23.00 case	Cabbage 椰菜 23.00 case	Napa 白菜 27.00 case	Green Pepper 青椒 30.00 case	Broccoli 西兰花 30.00 case	Long Hot Pepper 粗长尖椒 30.00 case
Ginger 中国生姜 32.00 case	Taro 大芋头 33.00 case	Green Leaf Lettuce 唐生菜 40.00 case	Lemon 黄柠檬 43.00 case	Green Onion 葱 60.00 case	Australia Orange 澳洲橙 50.00 case	Avocados 36s 牛油果 60.00 case
Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 鱼柳 8x3.5Lb 65.00 case	Headless White Shrimp 无头白蝦 21/25-10X4Lb 220.00 case	AA-1 Galunggong 池魚 20x450g 55.00 case	Extra Large Egg 箱装大鸡蛋 56.99 case	Pork Intestine 猪大肠 10kg 50.00 case	Chicken Breast 鸡胸肉 25kg 260.00 case	Gold Plum Dried Black Fungus Strips 5Lb 木耳絲 29.99 case
Mr. Goudas Long Grain Rice 20kg 黄米 29.99 bag	Long Grain White Rice 優質絲苗米 20kg AAA USA-1 29.99 bag	P.R.B Monosodium Glutamate 50Lb 珠江橋牌味精 58.00 bag	ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg 19.99 bag	Capri Vegetable/Canola Oil 16L 菜油/芥菜籽油 32.99 case	Carnation Evaporated Milk 48x354ml 三花淡奶 90.00 case	
Redpath Sugar 20kg 白糖 27.99 bag	EP-6 Hinged 250pc 餐盒 22.99 case	BBR 28 / BBR 38 150pc 一次性餐盒 27.00 case	NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 19.99 case	E-Pack Wrap 914 保鲜膜 450mmx600m 20.00 case	Convenience Rolls 10.5x15 13Lb 包裝袋 15.99 case	NF 200 Napkins 餐巾紙 45.00 case

FROZEN

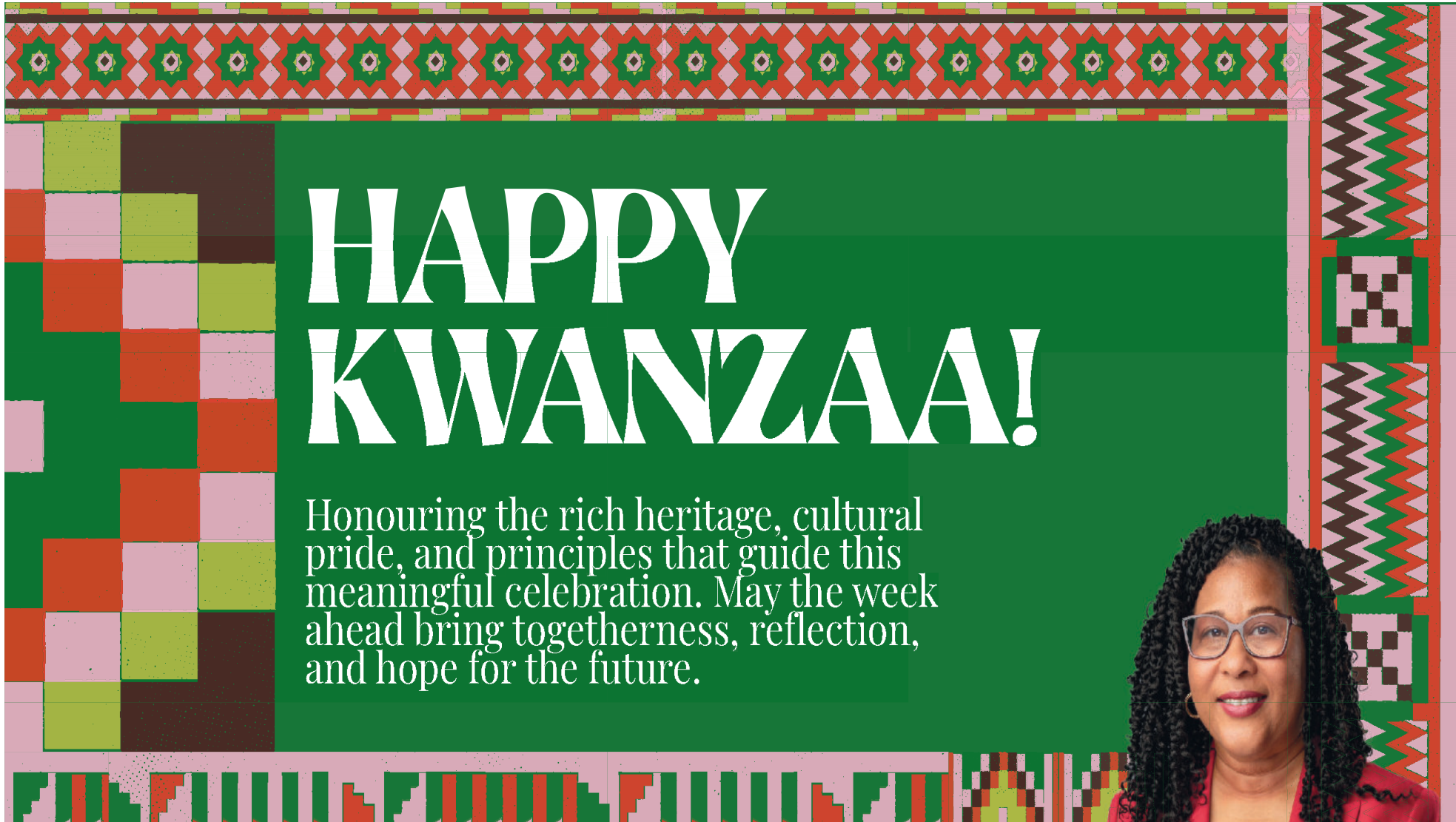
Thai Gold Headless Shrimp 无头蝦 16/20 380g Reg: \$9.99 7.99 ea	Sanford Greenshell Mussels 紐西蘭半殼青口 800g Reg: \$13.99 10.99 ea	Qualy Pak Brand Squid 1kg 魷魚 Reg: \$10.99 8.99 ea	Marco Polo Red Fish 750g 紅魚 Reg: \$8.99 6.99 ea	Siren's World Tilapia 2.5Lb 羅非魚 Reg: \$6.99 4.88 ea	Bulacan Grated Cassava 木薯粉 454g 30粒散蛋 Reg: \$1.99/ea 2/\$3.00
Bulacan Frozen Banana Leaves 454g 香蕉葉 Reg: \$2.99/ea 2/\$4.00	Viva Sea Baby Cleaned Cuttle Fish 340g 墨魚 Reg: \$6.99 4.99 ea	Maximum Pre-Fried Breaded Squid Rings 500g 炸魷魚圈 Reg: \$6.99 4.88 ea	Frozen Durian 急凍榴蓮 Reg: \$4.99 3.99 lb	Black Tie Snow Crab Cluster 雪花蟹腳 400g Reg: \$20.99 16.99 ea	White Egg 30pcs 30粒散蛋 Reg: \$11.99 9.88 pk

GROCERY

Starbucks Coffee Series 星巴咖啡 405ml Reg: \$4.59 2.59 ea	Nongshim Tonkotsu Ramen 猪骨面 6x101g Reg: \$15.99 12.99 ea	Ding Dong Mixed Nut Series 零食 95g Reg: \$1.39 79¢ ea
Bong Bong's Playa 380g 餅 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 ea	Dole Pineapple 100% Juice 菠蘿汁 240ml Reg: \$1.59 99¢ ea	S&W Fruit Cocktail 796ml 雜果罐頭 Reg: \$2.99 1.99 ea
Aroy-D Coconut Milk 椰奶 400ml Reg: \$2.99 1.79 ea	Eden Choice Crema Thick Sterilized Dessert Topping 奶油 70g Reg: \$2.59 1.79 ea	UFC Banana Sauce 香蕉醬 550g Reg: \$2.99 1.99 ea
UFC Spaghetti Sauce 1kg 意面醬 Reg: \$4.99 3.99 ea	Bulacan Pancit Canton 454g 大黃面 Reg: \$3.99 2.59 ea	Golden Palace Jasmine Rice 金皇宮茉莉香米 7kg Reg: \$15.99 12.99 bag
Golden Panda Glutinous Rice Flour 400g 金熊糯米粉 Reg: \$1.39 88¢ ea	Mega Sardines Series 沙丁魚 155g Reg: \$0.99/ea 3/\$2.00	Maseca Instant Corn Masa Flour 1.8 Kg 玉米面 Reg: \$8.59 5.99 ea
LKK Panda Brand Oyster Sauce 907g 李錦記熊貓鮮味蠔油 Reg: \$6.99 4.59 ea	Chin-Su Fish Sauce 500ml 魚露 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 ea	Vinamilk Sweetened Condensed Creamer 1.284kg 香星公煉奶 Reg: \$6.99 3.99 ea



SEAFOOD

Fresh Frozen Lobster 新鮮上水龍蝦 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 lb	Fresh Yellow Tail Snapper 新鮮黃尾立 Reg: \$8.99 6.99 lb	Fresh Jumbo Perch 新鮮大單鯉 Reg: \$4.99 2.99 lb
Fresh Squid 新鮮魷魚 Reg: \$7.99 6.99 lb	Frozen Fresh Pompano 冰鮮黃立鯉 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 lb	Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美白蝦 Reg: \$5.99 4.99 lb



HAPPY KWANZAA!

Honouring the rich heritage, cultural pride, and principles that guide this meaningful celebration. May the week ahead bring togetherness, reflection, and hope for the future.



ANDREA HAZELL

MPP SCARBOROUGH—GUILDWOOD



"A Complete Real Estate Service - Buying, Selling & Rentals." **PETE'S REAL ESTATE** Residential | Business | Mortgage Foreclosure Options
Commercial Land & Building Valuation | Bank Loans

Real Estate Co. Ltd. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, VALUATION, SALES & RENTALS, FINANCIAL ADVICE ON MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS.
CALL: 223-6218 | 226-9951 | 226-5546 | 227-2487 | 623-7805 | 656-5544

PETE'S REAL ESTATE

IS IN BUSINESS OVER 40 YEARS

We can sell your property for the best price on the market

- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- PROPERTY SALES & RENTALS
- REAL ESTATE VALUATION

A Complete Real Estate Service:

- ✓ Buying
- ✓ Selling
- ✓ Rentals
- ✓ Tax Compliance

Contact: 223-6218, 623-7805, 656-5544

Hislop backs Dwight Yorke for continuity despite World Cup failure

Former Trinidad and Tobago goalkeeper Shaka Hislop believes head coach Dwight Yorke deserves the opportunity to continue leading the national team, even after failing to guide the Soca Warriors to qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Trinidad and Tobago managed just one victory from six matches in the qualifying campaign and bowed out after finishing third in Group B, behind group winners Curaçao and Jamaica. The disappointing outcome has fueled widespread speculation that Yorke, appointed by the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) last November with a clear World Cup mandate, could be relieved of his duties.

Speaking on Sports on 95.5 FM on Saturday, Hislop acknowledged the frustration among supporters and analysts, noting that the calls for change are understandable given the stated objectives.

“I am firmly on the fence with this one, I really am,” Hislop said when asked whether the TTFA should part ways with Yorke.

While conceding that the primary goal was not achieved, Hislop emphasized that his assessment goes beyond the final standings.

“I will firmly state that I am very biased towards Yorke, but the truth is that he was appointed to get this team to the World Cup and obviously, we haven’t made it.”

Despite the failure to qualify, Hislop believes Yorke’s tenure has brought tangible improvements that merit continuity rather than disruption.

“But in time, I recognised the progress the team has made and I really appreciate the direction that he continues to take this team; so those two kind of balance out each other,” he explained.

For Hislop, the strides made under Yorke’s leadership strengthen the case for patience.

“Now I’d love to see Dwight continue in his role, given that progress and be given the support in trying to identify and develop everything that the team needs...but I can see both sides of the argument so I really couldn’t give a definitive answer on that one, one way or another,” he added.

Reflecting on Trinidad and Tobago’s overall showing in the qualifiers, Hislop admitted that the campaign fell short of expectations, particularly given the composition of the group.



Dwight Yorke

“I’m disappointed. I was disappointed because I felt we had a group that maybe we should have been able to navigate a lot better than we did,” he said.

Still, Hislop believes the shortcomings are not insurmountable.

“But I’m also encouraged because I feel that we are just missing one or two pieces, most importantly, a natural finisher.”

Hislop praised the team’s attacking flair but pointed to a crucial absence in the final third.

“Don’t get me wrong, in terms of our starting front three...I thought we had three fantastic and exciting players that really had me on the edge of my seat, but of the three of them, none of them are natural finishers and at this level, we missed that.”

For Hislop, the debate over Yorke’s future ultimately hinges on whether the TTFA values immediate results over long-term development, a decision that could shape the Soca Warriors’ direction well beyond this qualifying cycle.

ETHNIC VISION
IMMIGRATION
SERVICES

OUR SERVICES

- SPECIALIST IN REFUGEE MATTERS
- APPEALS
- FAMILY SPONSORSHIP
- STUDENT VISAS
- STUDY PERMITS

Ritu Vashni Sharma
RCIC #R510878
FOUNDER/OPERATOR
Canadian Immigration Consultant

CALL FOR CONSULTATION
(416) 799-2106

RVS LEGAL
SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

We offer expert legal consulting services designed to provide clarity, guidance, and strategic solutions tailored to your unique needs and objectives

OUR SERVICES

- Specialized in Landlord and Tenant Matters
- Immigration Appeals
- Small Claims Court,
- Human Rights Tribunal
- Highway Traffic Offenses
- Notary Public
- Commissioner of Oaths for taking affidavits.
- & more.

CALL FOR CONSULTATION
(416) 799-2106



SEASON *Greetings*

Special Christmas Deal

The Royal International Hotel & Mall is Georgetown's newest luxury destination, offering a full-service hotel, modern shopping, and dining, all located right across from the Botanical Gardens.

Starting December 5th, 2025 on all Economy Double Rooms

US\$150 + VAT PER PERSON

GUYANESE & VISITING DIASPORA HOT DEALS

HOTEL AMENITIES

Modern Guest Rooms & Suites	Conference Facility & Meeting Room
Smart WiFi TV	A Full Service Spa
Fitness Centre & Lounge	Hot and Cold Shower

BOOK NOW

Lot 1 Mandela Avenue, Botanical Gardens, Georgetown Guyana

+592 226 8228

royalguyana.com

royalinternationalevents@gmail.com



Christmas Season SPECIAL

Aiden
by BEST WESTERN



Season Greetings

Aiden by Best Western Georgetown Guyana is a new, modern collection of flexible, upper mid-range boutique hotels custom-designed with an adventurous personality in Georgetown, Guyana's capital city.

Special Christmas Deal

USD 180+ VAT per person

For resident Guyanese and our visiting diaspora
December 5th - 7th & 26th - 28th, 2025


FOR BOOKING +592 225 2000

Meeting Facilities	Rooftop Terrace
High Speed Internet	Restaurant On Site

Complimentary Breakfast

88-89 Oronoque & Robb St, Georgetown | reservations@aidenguyana.com





CARA LODGE




Cara Lodge blends timeless elegance with modern-day comfort. It's a place where creaking floorboards meet contemporary convenience, and where the warmth of family-style hospitality makes every guest feel at home.

Single Occupancy USD170 | Double Occupancy USD195
Rates include Breakfast but are subject to VAT.

Starts on October 1st, 2025 and Ends on December 31st, 2025

HOTEL AMENITIES

High Speed Internet	Free Parking	Breakfast Bar
Restaurant On Site	Meeting Facilities	



294 Quamina Street, Georgetown

reservations@caralodge.com

+592-225-5301 / 624-2272
Call for Booking



RAMADA GEORGETOWN PRINCESS

The ideal choice for the business or leisure traveller or event organizer with fully remodeled guest rooms and event spaces. Guests are welcome to take part in a delicious complimentary buffet breakfast, served each morning at the poolside. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Single Occupancy - US\$170 | Double Occupancy - US\$200
Rates are subject to 14%VAT and includes Full Complimentary Breakfast.

Rates are valid until December 31, 2025, for Guyanese residents and visiting diaspora.

HOTEL AMENITIES

High Speed Internet	Free Parking	Breakfast Bar
Restaurant On Site	Meeting Facilities	



Track BS Block 'Z' Plantation, Providence, EBD, Guyana

sales@ramadageorgetown.com

+592-265 7001-4
Call for Booking



JEWELZ
BY KINGS HOTEL

A VERY MERRY GUYANESE CHRISTMAS

Come back home for Christmas & New Years or just enjoy Peace & Relaxation.....Staycation!

\$200/night Plus VAT

*Rates only apply for Guyanese with valid ID

Special Rates for Guyanese & the Diaspora
Dates: December 22, 2025 - January 12, 2026

BOOK NOW

592-515-2000 Or 760-9963

Reservations@jewelzbykings.com

183-184 Waterloo & Quamina Streets, Georgetown Guyana