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ExxonMobil shifts focus to Natural Gas

The Government of Guyana has consistently advocated for the production and utilization of the country's natural gas resources to complement oil production.

During the Guyana Energy Conference last week, Vice President Bharat Jagdeo told Reuters, "There shall be a project. We have to monetize the gas, and if Exxon doesn't want to do it, we already said to them... we have a lot of people who are interested in doing this on their own."

This strategic push has led ExxonMobil, which previously prioritized oil, to commit to multiple natural gas projects.

These developments are expected to diversify Guyana's economy and create additional revenue streams. Below is a breakdown of the natural gas production projects ExxonMobil is pursuing and their associated benefits.

ExxonMobil has committed to supplying 50 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of gas from the Liza field to shore via a pipeline installed in 2024. The gas will be used for power generation via a 300-megawatt (MW) power plant that will provide reliable and affordable electricity, significantly reducing Guyana's dependency on imported fuels.

Annual Mash reflects Guyana's growth

Guyana President Irfaan Ali expressed immense satisfaction with the large number of people at this year's exciting and vibrant Mashramani parade, saying that it exemplifies the 'One Guyana' concept – unity, love and togetherness.

"This is about everybody coming together and enjoying this historical moment as we celebrate our 55th Republic status. This is just an amazing moment for our country. Our country is [moving] towards a transformative path towards prosperity.

"I am happy to see so many

Guyanese out here having fun, working together and celebrating together. That is who we are," the head of state underlined.

The float parade featured Guyana's rich diverse culture as well as its progress towards a sustainable future with its stunning floats and colourful costumes.

The Guyanese leader praised the designers' outstanding and innovative work on this year's floats, emphasising how well they conveyed Guyana's growth and development.

According to President Ali, the government has made significant investments in the arts and culture throughout the years, demonstrating its commitment to giving Guyanese artistes numerous opportunities to flourish in their craft. Mashramani 2025 is being celebrated under the theme, "Expressing our Culture and Creativity as One Guyana" reflecting Guyana's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Norah was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy in 2016, a degenerative condition affecting almost 5% of people over the age of 55.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call (416) 461 - 0581 today to schedule!

CARICOM unveils holistic plans to strengthen regional food system

TO strengthen the Caribbean’s food supply chain, ensuring resilience, sustainability, and competitiveness, President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Friday unveiled a comprehensive plan to boost the region’s agriculture sector.

“Given the current situation, we have established a holistic framework through which the industry and a food system must be built to ensure resilience, sustainability and competitiveness,” Dr. Ali, who is the lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet, told a press conference in Barbados, which concluded a three-day regional summit.

The holistic framework, which aims to overhaul the food systems across the Caribbean the Caribbean’s bold vision to strengthen its food supply with the aim of not only safeguarding food security but also modernising agricultural infrastructure, integrating technological solutions, and increasing participation from youths and women.

This new approach, Dr. Ali explained, is aimed at overcoming the challenges posed by climate change, supply chain disruptions, and the shifting global market landscape.

As part of the strategy, the Caribbean will expand its focus to include not only food security but also technological innovation, increased private sector investment, and greater regional collaboration to tackle common challenges.

“We want to build a food system which encourages young people and women to participate,” he said, underscoring the inclusive nature of the region’s growth strategy.

To this end, the President highlighted six strategic projects developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation and Agriculture (IICA) to further enhance the region’s agricultural capacity:

1. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES: Aimed at boosting productivity and rural employment by monetising agricultural extension services across CARICOM.

2. ENHANCING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES’ AGRO-MARINE SYSTEMS:



Guyana President Irfaan Ali unveiled the Caricom food plan at the regional Heads of Region summit

Strengthening coastal community resilience to climate change through integrated agro-marine value chains.

3. ESTABLISHING A DIGITAL FABRICATION LAB (FAB LAB): Aiming to promote technological innovation in agriculture and tourism, with a strong emphasis on youth and women in tech-based agricultural solutions.

4. DIVERSIFYING THE CARIBBEAN FRUIT CROP INDUSTRY: Developing sustainable production models and value-added products to enhance food security in the fruit crop sector.

5. BIO-ECONOMIC MODEL IN ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT: Promoting innovative waste management practices and bio-product generation to strengthen the region’s economy.

6. IMPROVING WATER SECURITY: Enhancing water security for smallholder farmers, helping mitigate climate-related risks to food and nutrition security.

These projects, he stressed, will be crucial in achieving the resilience, sustainability, and competitiveness of the region’s agricultural systems.

CARICOM has outlined several

initiatives over the past years to reduce its mammoth US\$6 billion food import bill. The aim is to slash this expenditure by 25 per cent by the year 2025.

Dr. Ali pointed out the region has made significant strides with investments in cold storage, farm-to-market access roads, solar drying facilities, and dairy establishments. In addition, private sector investments and lending in agriculture have shown substantial increases, demonstrating growing confidence in the Caribbean’s agricultural future.

These efforts will be further complemented by a new food hub and a digital platform designed to provide farmers with predictive data and real-time information essential for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.


The region’s modernisation also includes the ongoing construction of a Situation Room and data centre that will offer critical technical support to farmers across the Caribbean.

While the region has made impressive progress despite the devastation caused by natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, and storms, President Ali emphasised the resilience of Caribbean farmers and policymakers in rebuilding and continuing to prioritise food production. “We have been successful in expanding production, notwithstanding these natural disasters,” he said. “Our farmers and policymakers have shown tremendous resilience in reinvesting and ensuring that our focus on increased food production and food security remains a priority for the region.”

Back in July 2024, a Category 4 Hurricane Beryl made landfall on the islands of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and several others.

Devastating damages to infrastructure were reported in the Grenadines and Grenada, while the fishing industry in Barbados took a ‘beating’, as over 200 vessels were destroyed during the passage of the storm.





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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Choose your leaders wisely

Given the chaos being sown right next door, the time has come for Ontarians and Canadians in general to re-assess how they choose the people who lead them.

The days of toe-ing the party line are over, as the lines between Conservative and Far Right-wing, and Libreal and left wing or “woke”, become increasingly blurred.

The values we know certain parties stand for are not longer clearly defined. We can no longer say we’re Conservative or Liberal or even Labour. We really don’t know what any of these things stand for any more.

Just look at the USA today as an example. The Republican Party, the grand old lady of US politics, is no more. Instead, it has been hijacked by Donald Trump and his like-minded cronies, who have taken the term ultra-right to a whole new level.

Republican Congress people and senators are afraid to stand up for the

traditional values of the party -- values instilled in them likely by generations of family members.

They know if they do, they could face the ire of Trump who will go after them will all guns blazing, and their political careers will go no further. This is what happened to Liz Cheney and Adam Kazing, two brave souls who dared to challenge the narcissistic leader on his lies that the 2020 election was stolen, and paid the price for it.

On this side of the border, it is not as bad. The traditional parties still largely toe the party lines, but these are becoming increasingly blurred as some leaders are taking courage from what Trump is doing and think they can push the limits on this side.

It’s not unique to Canada, but a phenomena that is taking over the world. Just look at Germany, Denmark, South Africa, Brazil and you’ll see the trend of a rise of far-right politics.

Usually, far-right spells disaster

for people, as this leads to the rise of fascism worldwide. And we all know what happens when that beast awakens -- we just have to look back at the not-so-distant past.

As Trump’s slow-moving coup against the constitution unfolds in the US, we need to take a hard look at ourselves and understand the power of our vote, especially since election season is upon us.

Here in Ontario, we need to look beyond party lines and instead, choose the leader we believe is best to move us forward into the challenging times ahead.

So you might be a lifelong Liberal or Conservative or NDP. But that doesn’t matter today. What does is which of the people asking for your vote to lead us is truly worthy of the task, and will make it less painful to deal with what’s coming in the next four years as the agent of chaos next door continues his rampage.

The same applies to the Federal election whenever it is called. The choice you make could dictate the very future of this country and that of our children, as voters in the USA are finding out today.

The concept of voter regret is real. Those in the US who voted for Trump because they were fed-up of Joe Biden, or angry with him, are finding out that their vote is costing them big time, from loss of federal jobs they’ve held for years, to loss of social security, medicaid and more.

Here, we have a similar choice. Many are upset with Justin Trudeau, but voting to express that anger is not the way to go.

Trudeau is gone, no matter what. But we have to choose wisely and not in anger to replace him politically.

The wrong choice could be costly. Remember that when you’re voting today as well.

Religious tolerance, peace must always be paramount

Dear Editor

REGARDING the issue of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali attending the inauguration of the Lord Shiva murti at the Badrinaath Ashram, Spring Garden, Region Two, which seems to be a catalyst for criticism and derogatory comments in some quarters in society.

I wish to remind everyone that Guyana is a secular country firmly rooted in a multifaceted society encompassing culture, religion and ethnicity.

That said, President Ali was not elected through an Islamic slate, or from any religious list. As Head of State, he has every right, once requested, to participate in public events, religious or otherwise, that is in keeping with his office.

While Guyana is not without its challenges, both historically and current, generally, it is known for its enviable sense of religious tolerance. This is glaringly evident in the public participation of all ethnic groups in national religious festivals like Easter, Phagwah, Diwali, Eid, and Christmas.

This has been the bedrock of the tolerance we have seen, over time, and which has been fully incorporated within our institutions of learning, as seen through participation in “Culture Day” and events for the observances of national religious holidays.

Similarly, this is further demonstrated in many work places across the country, in both the public and private sectors, where a sense of pride is imbued in one to participate and reflect on each other’s culture, of which religion is a major component.

Our Heads of State have been steadfast in their participation in such events. President Ali’s predecessor, President David Granger, a devout Christian, participated in the playing of Phagwah, and had members of the Hindu community engaged in Chowtal singing, and hosted a Diwali Utsav at State House while in office. Those are mere examples from a plethora which space would be a constraint for me to list.

I believe that the participation of these officials in such events not only

demonstrates our country’s secular characteristic exemplified especially by the Head of State, but promotes appreciation for other religions. This is invaluable to fostering our enviable sense of tolerance, as aptly reflected in our national motto; One, People, One Nation, One Destiny.

This is built upon by President Ali’s One Guyana initiative to strengthen bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood, and the furtherance of tolerance and harmony. This, I believe, is what Heads of State are expected to do within the context outlined.

It is, therefore, most unfortunate that some would view President Ali’s

participation in the inauguration of the Lord Shiva murti in Region Two, through a myopic and partisan lens. Rather than accentuating its positives and using it as another opportunity to foster tolerance and peace, regrettably, their position is counterproductive to such efforts from all involved.

We must, therefore, remain relentless in our endeavours to enlighten our citizens on these issues, an enlightenment which is vital for better understanding and which leads to appreciation and tolerance.

Yours truly,
Neaz Subhan

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Canadian snowbirds cancel Florida trips over Trump's threats

From the CBC:

Bob Bloomer was loath to cancel his Florida trip this year.

The retiree from Cobourg, Ont., looks forward to the annual pilgrimage to Orlando. Come March, a third of the cars in his usual resort's lot seem to have Ontario licence plates.

The chance to catch a tan, play golf and catch up with familiar faces has become a family tradition.

Except for the early pandemic, Bloomer and his wife have travelled south every March for the past 20 years, he told CBC. The kids came too before they grew up.

So why did he cancel this year?

"Basically just frustration listening to Trump and all his rhetoric about how Canada's taking advantage of the U.S. with the trade agreement that basically he engineered," he said.

Since assuming office again in January, President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to annex Canada, or introduce punishing tariffs on Canadian goods.

Coming from Canada's closest ally, these threats have angered many of the approximately one million Canadian snowbirds who travel to the U.S. each winter.

Some have cancelled trips, while others are considering whether they will return next season.

The implications of a boycott are worrying Florida hoteliers, realtors and organizations that represent snowbirds.

Down in Hollywood, Fla., the water is still warm and the weather is still perfect, so Richard Clavet can't understand why Canadian guests are cancelling bookings.

"Right now, the places are being filled up with Americans. I just wish I had more Canadians," he told CBC.

The proprietor of Richard's Motel, Clavet arrived from Quebec in 1985 and never left, becoming an ambassador for a French-speaking enclave in the beachside community north of Miami.

Since buying his first motel in 1990, he has amassed a group of properties now offering about 200 units to an almost exclusively Québécois clientele. They came to escape brutal winters but return year after year for the Québécois television, the French magazines and the poutine food truck.

Which is why Clavet, who is a Trump supporter in the state hosting his Mar-a-Lago resort, is perplexed that anyone would cancel their booking over some bluster from the 47th president.



Canadians are cancelling their Florida vacations over Trumps' threats

"This is not Trump's country, this is Little Quebec," he tells uneasy guests.

Still, he's seen "craziness" in the past few weeks.

"I've seen a customer dropping a \$1,000 deposit to choose to go to Cuba instead," he said.

"They're boycotting Trump," he said, incredulous that someone would instead choose to vacation in a one-party state — or in Mexico, where some drug cartels are now listed as terrorist groups by Canada.

Worse for him, more guests are reconsidering whether they will return next year.

"They're all worrying, you know, 'What's gonna happen? Are we gonna go to war?'" Clavet explained, insisting that they're "way overreacting."

Overreaction or not, plenty of snowbirds are weighing their futures, according to Rudy Buttignol, the president of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons.

Buttignol has been on a listening tour, hearing from some of his organization's 250,000 members about their views on vacationing in the U.S.

"Anecdotally, I would say more than half the people that I've spoken to ... have said they were definitely reconsidering their travel plans," he said.

Trump's threats have come toward the end of the snowbird season, meaning that their full impact on the market will not be felt until next fall, according to Stephen Fine, president of Snowbird Advisor.

been more likely to cancel their plans than snowbirds, who have stronger ties to the U.S., Fine said.

He said 40 per cent of snowbirds own property and 70 per cent drive their own vehicles down, meaning going elsewhere isn't as simple as changing a plane ticket.

But a weak loonie and rising costs have already made the Sunshine State an increasingly expensive option for snowbirds, forcing a growing number of Canadians to sell their properties, according to Fort Lauderdale real estate agent Alexandra DuPont.

"In the last two weeks it's shifted to what's been happening more on the political side," she said of the motivations of Canadian sellers.

She's currently listing 35 properties, she said, and about 30 of those are owned by Canadians. Meanwhile, she has zero Canadian buyers. It's unprecedented in her 12 years of selling real estate.

"I've never had this many listings in my life," DuPont said. "A lot of my clients are checking up weekly ... they want to know how come I'm not bringing offers."

"There's definitely a negative sentiment amongst a number of snowbirds at this point, but I'm not sure what that is going to translate to for next season," Fine said.

So far, short-term travellers have

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Red beans, black-eye peas earmarked for 1000 acres of land in Berbice Savannah

Agriculture Minister Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha accompanied H.E. President Dr Irfaan Ali to Kimbia where the Head of State announced support of the development of 1000 acres of lands in the Berbice Savannah for blackeye and red beans production.

According to the President, the 1000 acres of land earmarked will also complement farmers executing small scale production and add to the current output.

Additionally, the Government is supporting the construction of a \$1.2bn silo facility on Kimbia for the storage of legumes produced.

The President said that through the initiative, which will have local support, families will be able to greatly add to their household disposable income and even start new ventures.

Further, the President noted that the Government is prepared to work with the villages in commencing operations in pig and livestock rearing, apiculture and cash crop production to support and meet local demands.



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha with President Irfaan Ali and others in Kimbia

Mexico, Guyana form Chamber of Commerce to steer partnerships

BY creating a platform for business opportunities and investment in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, and technology, the Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce aims to facilitate exclusive trade among Guyanese and Mexican businesses.

Engaging the local press on the sidelines of the recently concluded Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo, the Chamber's President, Ricardo Magana outlined the objectives and the efforts that led to its creation.

Magana highlighted the collaborative discussions between the Mexican Embassy in Guyana and the federal government in Mexico as the foundation for the initiative.

The Chamber is designed to serve as a bridge, helping businesses from both countries explore potential partnerships, investment opportunities, and trade ventures.

"We started off this project as a discussion with the Mexican government, especially with the embassy here in Guyana. I've been working for

the past few years with Guyanese," Magana said.

One of the key goals of the Chamber is to serve as a facilitator for cross-border business development.

He said: "Guyana is getting a lot of attraction and getting a lot of potential investments, and a lot of businesses are coming back and forth asking how we can be a part of this, and how can we find collaborations and Guyanese business partners so we can get into the Guyanese economy."

The Chamber's primary focus will be on sectors such as energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, and technology, areas where both countries have potential for growth and synergy.

Magana also acknowledged the involvement of major Mexican companies, such as Cotemar, and expressed gratitude for the support received from both the Mexican and Guyanese governments, as well as key stakeholders in the business community.

Meanwhile, Rafeek Khan, Vice-

Chairman of Guyana's Private Sector Commission, highlighted the growing economic ties between Mexico and Guyana.

Khan emphasised the strategic importance of the Chamber's formation, noting that many Guyanese businesses remain unaware of Mexico's extensive trade and manufacturing capabilities.

"Mexico trades and manufactures so many goods that many Guyanese companies don't yet realise the potential of. We had a trade mission last year, and we were hoping for more participants, but now that the Chamber is established, I believe the next trade mission will be much larger," Khan said.



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‘Food, agriculture will be the soul of our country’, Ali tells farmers

WITH the aim of increasing local production and meeting the needs of extra-regional markets, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that farmers will soon be able to access 1,000 acres of land in the Berbice Savannah for the cultivation of black-eye peas and red beans.

The President made this announcement during an engagement with residents and farmers of Kimbia, in Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Berbice), where a local group named Guycrops Inc. is currently engaged in large-scale legume production.

Other communities such as Friendship Savannah have also requested additional land to expand their production.

The additional lands requested is 803 acres in total. The government is allocating 1,000 acres, and has promised support in other areas to the farmers.

Dr. Ali said: “So, you continue your production in the land that you have now in the village for additional market, the local market, whatever customers you have. Outside of that, we will make 1,000 acres available in close proximity to the large-scale farming here, where all of you will come in and be part of that project. So, it will take commitment from you guys to come here, so we can get that production.”

These 1,000 acres will be brought into operation before the end of this year, the President promised.

He also told the gathering: “We’re going to try to find investors who are willing to come to have large-scale production of red beans and black-eye, but that production must be integrated into your production. You must also derive tremendous benefit from these investments.”

This “holistic” approach is part of the government’s broad plan to support crop diversification.

The President told the farmers that the government wants the developers to work with the farmers.

He said that the developers and government are putting resources in, so there can be a drying facility and proper storage facility for the black-eye peas and red beans.

Additionally, the government is supporting the construction of a \$1.2 billion silo facility in Kimbia for the storage of legumes being produced.

“I want to tell you that the developers are also working on extra-regional market in Toronto and our diaspora market in the US and other places,” President Ali said.

The Head of State said they want



President Ali checks out crops during his visit to farmers in Kimbia

to work with the farmers on mechanisation and modernisation, especially in light of the changing weather patterns, and their effect on production, yield and sustainability.

“So, we want to also ensure that in this area, we incorporate innovation and technology in what to do,” Dr. Ali told farmers.

The President also disclosed that private investors have already invested over \$600 million in machinery.

To continue its support to farmers, another aspect is that there will be the cost deductible on all the chemicals, and all the fertilisers that are required they will not face those capital costs, the Head of State said.

He told the farmers: “You are just putting in your efforts, your time, your labour, and it’s much less labour. Now, all we want is for you to come out and

get and look at your land and take care of your land and take care of your production, because you will continue your production in your area to serve your existing customers. This is adding more income to your community, your pocket and disposable income.”

Instead of competing against each other, this initiative by the government will see these farmers working together to ensure everyone succeeds, the President said.

“This is what One Guyana is about; One Guyana is about every Guyanese working with each other, working together, working for your own prosperity, working for development,” Dr. Ali said.

Further, the President noted that the government is prepared to work with the villages in commencing operations in pig and livestock rearing, api-

ary culture and cash crop production to support and meet local demands.

These collective successes will also aid in Guyana’s food security agenda.

“We’re committed to agriculture. We’re committed to food production. Food and agriculture will be the soul of our country. Food and Agriculture will be the soul of what we contribute to CARICOM... I look forward to working with all of you,” President Ali said.

Aside from explaining how economic continuity will be boosted, the Head of State highlighted how the government has invested in other areas.

He said: “We have invested heavily in the infrastructure to support farming all over the country, and here we are doing the road right now.”



Members of the Guyana Defence Force march during the celebrations

Ali on Guyana's Republic Anniversary: we'll continue to safeguard the people

STANDING firm as the rains continued to pour, President Dr. Irfaan Ali promised to safeguard the will of the people against any audacious attempts to subvert the country's democracy, as Guyana gears up for the 2025 General and Regional Elections.

With determination, the President, during the flag-raising ceremony for Guyana's 55th Republic Anniversary at the Public Buildings, on Brickdam, reminded Guyanese of how the nation's democracy is standing on solid grounds and any attempts to steal the voices, as seen in 2020, will be foiled.

The President, filled with emotion, said: "Our democracy, this year, would once again be on showcase, and be assured that the People's Progressive Party/Civic Government; your government, will do everything, and spare no resources in ensuring a smooth process as the people of Guyana carry out their democratic will, and carry out their democratic responsibility, as we will be celebrating democracy through elections this year."

At the heart of any nation standing on firm ground is the men and women in uniform, and President Ali did not hesitate to commend them for the work that they have been doing.

He said: "Importantly, in the last four years, we have seen the selfless act of our men and women in uniform. We have seen their sacrifices; we have seen their strength of character, and we have seen their commitment to the national duty, and to the people of Guyana. Only recently, we have seen the pride, we

have seen the confidence, and we have seen the skill, and also the commitment of our soldiers on our borders..."

He then called on citizens to recognise the efforts of all those who are serving at the nation's borders, who are putting their all into protecting what rightfully belongs to Guyana.

"I want us to applaud all those who are serving on our borders; those who are keeping us safe, and those who are sacrificing time from their own families to ensure that all of us, all of Guyana, remain safe, and that our territorial integrity, every inch of the land that belongs to Guyana, every inch of our exclusive economic zone will and must remain with the people of Guyana, this generation, and all the generations to come," he said.

The President further related that the government will continue to invest in the technology to support good, strong, responsible and transparent policing to ensure that the infrastructure being built out ensures that citizens are living in a safe, secure, and hospitable environment.

Also, Guyana has continued to make its mark on the global stage, and according to the President, efforts to defend Guyana's territorial integrity have been paramount.

The President said that over the past 55 years, Guyana has faced both triumphs and tribulations, yet no matter the challenges, the nation has always risen to the occasion.

Dr. Ali highlighted the nation's progress in infrastructure, education, and

sustainable development, and even as the rain continued to pour, he underscored his government's commitment to ensuring that all Guyanese continue to prosper.

Even when COVID-19 was sending shockwaves throughout the world, President Ali told Guyanese that the government was able to reboot the economy and relieve the burdens on citizens, thus restoring hope and confidence in the nation.

"Our economy has achieved record-breaking levels of growth. We are containing inflation, and injecting greater disposable income into our people's pockets. Over the past four years, Guyana's infrastructure landscape has undergone a phenomenal transformation, marked by both ground-breaking 'mega' projects and also important projects at the local level; major ongoing initiatives," he said.

These projects include the soon-to-be-expected Demerara River Bridge, the gas-to-energy project, and the large number of roads that were constructed and rehabilitated.

Turning his attention to the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry, he told Guyanese that ground-breaking advancements were made in this sector, energy, and national security.

As for agriculture, the President noted the record growth in several areas, and pledged continued support to farmers.

He said: "As a government, we will continue to evaluate global situations,

global circumstances, including price changes and price differentials, and you can be assured that this government will work towards making necessary adjustments, so that our farmers will not be burdened, and our farmers will not feel the weight of changes in the international trading and market conditions."

He also highlighted how the health and tourism sectors in Guyana have experienced significant progress over the past four years, and the policies and initiatives crafted by his government have resulted in all Guyanese living a better life.

After pointing to the vibrancy in every sector, the President related that the country is on a strong and solid foundation.

With Guyana set to host the World Biodiversity Summit and creating the Global Biodiversity Alliance, the President said that the nation's resources have placed it on a path where it can provide "great global leadership".

President Ali said: "Fellow Guyanese, our vision for Guyana is one where every child has quality education and opportunity to achieve their dreams, where women are empowered to take their rightful place in every sector of society, where workers are treated with dignity and fairness, and where young people are equipped with the skills and opportunities to lead our nation forward. We are committed to preserving and promoting the rights and heritage of our Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that they play a central role in our country's development."

President Ali emphasises the importance of developing sports sector

AS a means of reaffirming his government's commitment to enhancing the sports sector, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that by the end of this year, 100 community grounds across the country will be outfitted with the necessary infrastructure to host night games and other activities.

The Head of State made this announcement while delivering the feature address at a recent commissioning ceremony of a new \$68 million international-standard doubles squash court at the National Racquet Centre on Woolford Avenue.

He emphasised: "The more exposure we can give our athletes, the better they will develop. But you can't have exposure without facilities,"

Last year, 66 grounds in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) were rehabilitated, the President revealed.

"This year, we will invest more than \$400 million there alone, and this is part of a nationwide effort," Dr. Ali stated.

He emphasised that these investments are in addition to the five new international stadia currently under construction nationwide.

To complement these developments and significantly boost Guyana's sports sector, the President highlighted his government's ongoing programme to equip every school in the country with a multipurpose sports tarmac.

"This is all part of the ecosystem we are developing—focusing on infrastructure, athletes, and administration.



President, Dr. Irfaan Ali addressing the sports sector

Our goal is to position Guyana to integrate sports and culture with other core sectors," he said.

These investments are designed to provide Guyana's athletes with the space, infrastructure, and exposure necessary to maximize their potential, the President explained.

Dr. Ali said: "Sports as a Cornerstone of National Development."

Speaking extensively on the future of Guyana's sports sector, President Ali reaffirmed that investment in sports is a key component of the country's broader

national infrastructure plan and socioeconomic transformation.

"The development of sports is not just about recreation—it is essential for healthy living and national growth. But our facilities must also be safe spaces where athletes and families can feel secure," he emphasised.

The President also stressed the importance of promoting healthy lifestyles and the role sports can play in achieving this.

He said: "We must increase public education, using sports as a tool for

value creation. We need to reintegrate sports and culture into our school curriculum as fundamental teaching tools. We must also actively manage screen time for children, creating more opportunities for outdoor activities and engagement in sports."

While these may seem like "soft issues," the President said, they are critical to shaping the future and building a healthier, more dynamic society for the next generation.

By investing in sports infrastructure and the country's national athletes and thinking outside of the box, the country can set itself apart from others in 2030 and beyond, Dr. Ali affirmed.

"There's no second-guessing these ambitious targets. We have to do it" he told sports officials.

Dr. Ali also said: "National pride is built on many pillars, but one of the most integrating pillars through which national pride is built is on sports and culture."

On that note, he said that national pride is essential for the promotion of national unity and both of these elements will result in building national prosperity.

"National prosperity is not only and must not only be defined by national income or economic and financial parameters. National prosperity deals with the life of a nation," he said.

A duty-free sports store was another proposal the President made when giving recommendations for developing the holistic ecosystem.

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

World Guyanese Congress

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

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:

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Implementation of e-health records set for next month

THE implementation of the electronic health records system in Guyana is set for March 2025.

This is according to President, Dr Irfaan Ali, who made this disclosure on Saturday evening during his address to the nation on the occasion of the Guyana's 55th Republic Anniversary.

As the Head of State noted that the country has undergone significant transformation, he noted that the health sector will take a leap forward with this implementation.

"In March 2025, the country will take a giant leap forward with the implementation of electronic health records, modernising patient care and ensuring seamless access to medical history," he affirmed.

Added to this, Dr Ali indicated that to support this transformation, more than 3,000 healthcare workers are currently undergoing training.

During the Ministry of Health's 2024 end-of-year press conference, Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony told the Guyana Chronicle that while it took some time to get through hurdles, progress is being made in the project.

At that time, he also noted that the



contract was expected to be awarded soon to a United Kingdom-based company.

Dr Anthony indicated that the IDB-funded project went to tender earlier in 2024, and several expressions of interest were received.

These expressions had to be eval-

uated as the team was reportedly looking at 98 different technical parameters which were then narrowed down to four.


Phase one of implementation of the project is expected to begin at the Georgetown Public Hospital and its


satellite clinics and upon completion will be rolled out at other hospitals.

Dr Anthony noted that phase one was expected to be rolled out in early 2025 as they had gotten past the contracting part and were moving towards implementation.



Guyana Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony








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Egg smuggling on the rise as US consumers face skyrocketing prices

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are cracking down on rising trend of egg-smuggling.

More people are attempting to smuggle raw eggs into the United States, posing health risks.

As egg prices remain high across the country, CBP is seeing a surge in illegal attempts to bring raw eggs across the border. From October 2024 to February 2025, CBP recorded a 29 percent increase in egg detentions at U.S. ports of entry compared to the same time last year.

According to a CBP statement, since January, CBP officers in the El Paso region have stopped over 90 individuals trying to bring raw eggs into the U.S. from Mexico.

CBP agriculture specialists in the area have issued 16 civil penalties, totalling nearly \$4,000, for attempts to smuggle prohibited food and agricultural items, including raw eggs.

Raw-egg imports from Mexico are strictly prohibited.

In a press release, CBP stated that bringing raw or fresh eggs into the U.S. is largely prohibited due to the risk of spreading diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Virulent Newcastle Disease (ND). CBP enforcement tries to mitigate the spread of avian diseases, protect the food supply, and ensure compliance with regulations.

Egg prices in the U.S. have soared due to supply chain disruptions, a persistent bird flu outbreak and new regulations. Shoppers are facing empty grocery store shelves while restaurants



Travellers are prohibited from bringing in fresh eggs into the United States

struggle to manage the escalating costs of this staple ingredient.

Egg prices have more than doubled recently, shocking consumers who used to pay around \$2 per dozen. In December 2024, the average cost for a dozen large, grade-A eggs reached \$4.15, a 14 percent jump from the previous month, according to federal data. Prices are rising as high as \$8 per dozen, with grocery stores imposing purchase limits.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects egg prices will climb another 20.3 percent in 2025, adding to household financial strain. While Easter—April 20 this year—typically drives up costs, this year’s surge is primarily due to supply chain disruptions.

Jack Buffington, an associate pro-

fessor in supply chain management at the University of Denver, told Newsweek: “Several other issues are also contributing to the shortage, including higher wages and labour/immigration issues. Another key issue is that states are legislating regulations on eggs (e.g., banning caged eggs—mandating ‘cage-free eggs’), which is impacting the U.S. production capacity. I think there are like 10-11 states that have enacted this (Colorado just did so this month).”

A CBP spokesperson told Newsweek: Nationally we can report that there has been a 29% increase in eggs being detained at ports of entry this fiscal year (October 2024 to February 2025) when compared to the same time last fiscal year.

“Importation of raw/fresh eggs

into United States is generally prohibited due to concerns about diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Virulent Newcastle disease (ND).

“Travellers are prohibited to bring in fresh eggs, raw chicken, unprocessed avian products, and/or live birds into the United States. Travellers are encouraged to declare all agriculture products to CBP officers and Agriculture Specialists, failure to declare may lead to potential fines and penalties.”

The USDA anticipates egg prices dropping by the second quarter of 2025, potentially reaching \$2.50 per dozen by midyear. However, this outlook depends on controlling the bird flu outbreak and resolving ongoing supply chain issues.

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2025 Mash celebrations attract thousands

The streets of Georgetown came alive as thousands of enthusiastic patrons came out to witness the Mashramani float parade on Sunday.

Revellers exhibiting their creatively curated costumes danced their way down Church Street then on to Vlissingen Road as onlookers lined the pavements, immersed in the explosion of culture, colors and creativity on display.

Mashramani brings together Guyanese and tourists from all walks of life as they celebrate this much anticipated cultural event.

Guyanese delicacies and beverages on sale along the parade route coupled with the pulsating music blaring from speakers, added to the festive atmosphere.

Government agencies and the private sector were seen on the road with their various Bands participating in this national event.

Several Ministries showcased their extravagant floats during the parade including Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, Ministry of Housing and Water, Ministry of Public Works, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tourism Industry and Commerce.



One of the Mash bands on the streets of Gerogetown on Sunday

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Sonia Parag, who was leading her ministry’s band with over 100 revelers, spoke with DPI. She said that her band is part of the

medium category and the float depicts solid waste management which aligns with their theme “Cleaner Communities for a brighter and prosperous Guyana.” “An event like this always brings

ethnic groups and its really a gathering where people enjoy each other and come under one umbrella and celebrate, and that’s something that we want to promote” Minister Parag expressed.



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Partnerships, consortiums behind plan to diversify economy: Ali

HIGHLIGHTING the significance of de-risking opportunities through strategic partnerships, President, Dr Irfaan Ali has underscored the importance of consortiums as key drivers of sustainable development.

During his address at an event last week, the Head of State pointed to the success of various consortium-led initiatives that have been instrumental in addressing key challenges, while spurring development across multiple sectors.

“We want to create a model of building consortiums. Building consortiums by bringing together, first, all the local players, private sector, regional players and private sector and international players and private sector. The consortiums must be built through a model of mobilising capital, mobilising technology, mobilising markets and having shared risk,” Dr Ali said.

He added: “We have seen the success of consortiums here already, whether it’s the consortium built to supply for catering services, the FPSO consortium built for a new shore-based facility. The consortium build [sic] to ensure food sustainability for corn, soybeans.”

These alliances are critical in both mitigating risks and enhancing the efficiency of large-scale projects.

“We are working to create an environment that will continue to evolve in a way to better serve you, better serve investors, the citizens of the world, our citizens and the citizens of this country,” the Head of State said.

He reasoned how this model is not only vital for private sector initiatives but also for ensuring long-term food security and infrastructural development in Guyana.

“Perfection is not what we are seeking, what we are seeking is a development system of work that delivers, that is sustainable and one that brings us close together as partners,” President Ali said.

He further emphasised the government’s commitment to creating an environment that fosters innovation, enhances efficiency and encourages transparency, while also removing bureaucratic barriers to development.

President Ali underscored the importance of optimal resource utilisation, particularly in the context of Guyana’s growing energy sector and its potential to unlock new opportunities.

He said: “So, we want to ensure that the environment we create is innovative, improves effectiveness, improves efficiency and transparency,

removes bureaucracy and optimally utilise our human asset.”

Dr Ali revealed that the government has already initiated discussions and formed strategic partnerships to advance and further create a diverse economy.

“We have already opened up some discussions here and we already have some important strategic partners,” he said, noting that Guyana is making significant strides in attracting investments and expertise to build the necessary infrastructure.

“Partnership is important. Important to this development is economic diversification” he added.



President Ali spoke of the key drivers of sustainable development

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Foggers to fight mosquitoes

THE Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Health, has strengthened its fight against mosquito infestation by procuring and distributing fogging machines to Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) and municipalities across Region Six.

This initiative aims to curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases and enhance public health efforts in local communities.

During a recent handing-over ceremony, Director General at the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, along with Regional Executive Officer, Narindra Persaud, and Regional Health Officer, Dr Vineshri Khirodhar, emphasised the importance of properly utilising and maintaining the equipment to ensure its effectiveness.

As part of the distribution, each NDC and municipality received: A fogging machine; spray cans; chemicals for mosquito control and protective gear for safe handling of chemicals.

Officials encouraged recipients to use the equipment responsibly to safeguard communities against mosquito-related health risks.

This initiative aligns with the government's broader efforts to improve environmental health and minimise the impact of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. Residents are also urged to play their part by eliminating stagnant water and maintaining clean surroundings to prevent mosquito-breeding.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to enhancing public health measures and will continue to support regional efforts at vector control.

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Ali asserts Guyana's readiness to lead in AI and digitalization

Guyana President Dr. Irfaan Ali emphasized the critical need for investments and decisions today to be adaptable to the rapidly digitalizing world, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and digitization.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo on Tuesday, he stressed that future advancements in energy and technology demand forward-thinking investments that align with these digital transformations. He warned that failing to keep up with these changes could jeopardize future competitiveness.

Dr. Ali pointed out that Guyana is already taking steps in this direction, outlining plans to digitize the healthcare system and launching the Guyana Digital Initiative to cultivate local tech expertise. Additionally, the government is set to unveil the first digital school in the Caribbean. These efforts, the president explained, are part of Guyana's broader strategy to remain relevant and competitive on the global stage.

In a panel discussion on Wednesday, Aly Orady, supercomputer engineer and founder of Tonal, underscored the transformative role of AI across various sectors like healthcare, legal services, and engineering. Orady highlighted the projected growth of the global AI market, which is expected to soar from \$387 billion to \$1.3 trillion. However, he pointed out that such rapid AI growth will demand significant energy resources, especially from data centers, which consume large amounts of power.

Orady identified Guyana as a potential leader in AI and digitization, given its strategic advantages in energy. As global data centers are expected to increase their share of overall energy consumption from 2% to 19% by 2028, Guyana's low-cost energy and proximity to generation facilities place it in an advantageous position to attract these data centers. He urged the country to seize the opportunity and position itself as a leader in the AI revolution.

Jay Persaud, EY Global Emerging Technology Ecosystem Leader, echoed Orady's sentiments, emphasizing that Guyana is well-positioned to build a transformative roadmap by investing in technology and infrastructure. Aligning



President Ali speaking at the opening of the energy conference in Georgetown

technology and energy development strategies, he noted, would yield significant returns. He highlighted that major companies are already using AI to enhance experiences and maintenance strategies, and the energy sector's increasing reliance on AI will drive demand for skilled technology professionals.

Persaud suggested that Guyana could build on existing programs like

the One Guyana Digital Initiative and the Guyana Digital School to foster local tech entrepreneurship and innovation. Establishing AI data centers, coupled with digital skill training, would further solidify Guyana's tech sovereignty and create opportunities for both national and global use.

The One Guyana Digital Program, which successfully trained 365 students in December 2024, serves as a model.

These graduates secured well-paying jobs in the tech industry after eight months of intensive training, marking a promising step towards Guyana's digital future. The initiative was launched in February 2024 in collaboration with Toronto Metropolitan University and is part of a partnership between the Government of Guyana and Canada.



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India's Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump

Trump's '\$21m for voter turnout' claim triggers political row in India

US President Donald Trump's remark that his country spent \$21m to boost voter turnout in India's elections has triggered a political slugfest in the country.

He made the remark days after a team led by Elon Musk said it had cancelled the payout as part of its crackdown on a US agency providing foreign aid.

India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) called the payout an "external interference" and accused the opposition Congress party of seeking this intervention.

The Congress denied the allegation, calling Trump's claims "nonsensical". The US has not provided any evidence to support its claim.

On Friday, India's foreign ministry said it found the claims "deeply troubling".

Foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said it was "premature" to make public statements about the matter at this stage and that relevant authorities were investigating it.

Trump vowed to boost the US economy and soon after returning to office, he created the Department of Government Efficiency (Doge), led by Musk, to slash federal spending and jobs. Musk says Doge's mission is to save taxpayer money and cut national debt.

One of its biggest moves - now making global headlines - is a crackdown on USAID, the US agency overseeing humanitarian aid since the 1960s. Musk, who has called USAID a "criminal organisation", announced on Sunday that funding for several projects had been cancelled.

The cuts included \$486m for the "Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening", with "\$21m for voter turnout in India" and "\$22m for inclusive and participatory political process in Moldova".

Defending Doge's cuts, Trump said India "had a lot of money" and was among the world's highest-taxing nations.

On Thursday, he doubled down, questioning the \$21m spend on "India's voter turnout".

The latest comments came a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first Washington visit under Trump's second term, where

Trump announced expanded military sales, increased energy exports and plans for a trade deal and new defence framework.

"I guess they were trying to get somebody else elected. We have got to tell the Indian government," the US president said at a summit in Miami.

The same day, BJP leader Amit Malviya shared a clip of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaking at an event in London before the 2024 general election.

In the clip, Gandhi can be heard saying that major democracies like the US and European countries were "oblivious that a huge chunk of democratic model has come undone [in India]".

"Rahul Gandhi was in London, urging foreign powers - from the US to Europe - to intervene in India's internal affairs," Malviya alleged in his post on X.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh dismissed the claim and urged the government to report on USAID's decades-long support to governmental and non-governmental institutions during PM Modi's tenure.

Despite widespread reports, neither Doge nor Trump has provided evidence that USAID gave India \$21m for voter turnout.

India's poll panel has not responded, but former election chief SY Qureshi denied receiving such funding during his tenure, which ran from 2010 to 2012.

Earlier, Malviya claimed that in 2012, under Mr Qureshi, the panel signed an agreement with a group linked to George Soros' foundation - primarily funded by USAID - to support a voter turnout campaign.

Mr Qureshi dismissed the allegation as "malicious", stating that the agreement explicitly imposed "no financial or legal obligation on either side".

On Friday, the Indian Express newspaper said in an investigative report that the \$21m was sanctioned for Bangladesh and not India.

It was meant to run for three years until July 2025 and that \$13.4m had already been spent, according to records accessed by the newspaper.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): Mercury's influence in the most sensitive area of your chart means you need to put some time aside to think about your life and the direction it is heading. A little bit of serious thought now could lead to major and beneficial changes later on.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): If someone shows you a new way of looking at the world and points out that recent negative events have actually had positive repercussions you would do well to take them seriously. That new way of looking could soon be the most important way.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): Employers and other important people will encourage you to take on more responsibility at work but do you really want it? If you sense that those new opportunities are not the right ones for you then don't be afraid to reject them. Be your own boss.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): You can and you must get out and about and get yourself noticed over the next few days. But don't draw so much attention to yourself that it's not only your rivals giving you envious glances. Make light of your newfound popularity.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): Financial matters will become more important between now and Friday's new moon and it is of the utmost importance that you resist the urge to go on a spree. Today's Mercury-Saturn link warns there could be unexpected bills to pay.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): The more of an effort you make to be nice to people today the more of an effort they will make to meet you halfway. If you get the chance to do a good deed for a friend or neighbor your kindness will ripple out across the universe.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): It may be tempting to burn the candle at both ends but if you do your energy levels will drop dramatically. It is essential that you reward yourself with plenty of down time between now and the weekend. What have you done to deserve it? Just being you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Cosmic activity in the most dynamic area of your chart is coming to a head and the next few days could be truly special. If you get started on a project you have been planning for ages you will amaze yourself by how much progress you make.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): Don't get angry if friends and family members make the kind of decisions you think are stupid at best and dangerous at worst. If they insist on following potentially harmful strategies then all you can do is stay out of the way!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): By all means blow your own trumpet and let the world know who you are and what you can do but don't blow so hard that you deafen people. Speak softly and carry yourself with an air of confidence and competence. You'll get noticed all right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): A money-making idea will take up a large slice of your time and energy over the next few days but don't go at it in such a rush that it soon becomes impossible to maintain that pace. Small steps will take you where you need to go.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): There may be no stopping you at the moment but you need to be aware that you are not the only go-getter on the block. What starts out as a friendly rivalry could soon become an all-out conflict. Why not join forces and make an unbeatable team?

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Regional leaders accept US decision to deport illegal Caribbean nationals

Leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have largely accepted the U.S. decision to deport nationals from the region who are residing illegally in the United States. However, they are also working to formulate a collective response to the Donald Trump administration's global reduction in foreign aid.

While acknowledging the enforcement of U.S. immigration policies, CARICOM members are expressing concerns over the broader implications of reduced aid. The leaders are now focused on developing diplomatic strategies to address the cutbacks in U.S. assistance, which have had significant impacts on the Caribbean and other regions.

"St Lucia's position is, we have citizens in the US who are there illegally? St Lucia will cooperate with the US as far as that is concerned. But you need to be respected," Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC).

"You need to be treated as a state that obeys the laws and the regulations of every country. We will not encourage anyone to disobey the laws in United States, nor should anyone be encouraged," Pierre said.

His Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, Gaston Browne, said deporting nationals from the United States "is nothing new.

"I'm told, actually, under the Obama administration that more Caribbean nationals had been deported than what is actually on the list that we've seen recently under the Trump administration.

"I think we have an obligation to accept our citizens who are deported at the end of the day. We cannot make them stateless," Browne said, adding that "at this point, based on the quantities that I've seen, I don't think it is extraordinary.

"We just have to make sure that there's collaboration at the regional level to ensure that those involved in criminal activities that they do not get the opportunity to travel freely within this the CARICOM space and to create problems for us".

St Kitts-Nevis Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Denzil Douglas, said the Caribbean, like the rest of the world is "waiting to see the unfolding of the new administration in the United States.

"Of course, there are some immediate areas that we have to look at," he said, making reference to the immigration issues and the "mass movement of people out of the United States back to



St Lucia Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre

the Caribbean region.

"We're asking for the public protocols to be established and pursued, as we would have done in the past, where names of perspective immigrants would be sent to us or the police," he said, noting that the names could also be submitted to "our missions in Washington and processed and then the appropriate action taken.

"And we believe we can achieve this, because this is something that we've worked on in the past. I believe that once we can dialogue on issues like this, then of course, it would be better for all of us," he said, acknowl-

edging that while the Caribbean has not really dialogued with somebody like Trump "we've dialogue with persons who have held the office before and persons who have been secretary of state".

Douglas said that one of the immediate things that he believes is needed to be done "is for us as Caribbean leaders, Caribbean governments, to seek an early opportunity to speak with the administration at the highest level".

On the issue of the Trump administration implementing policies, including a significant reduction in foreign

assistance, Browne said that in the case of his country "we do not get any significant support in terms of grant aid or even concession funding from the US".

But he said that the situation may be different for other Caribbean countries "and we're hoping that ultimately, you know, when the dust settles, that these institutions will be reestablished, or if they reorganize in some other way, but that will continue deliver benefits to the Caribbean people.

"So we're watching this space to see how it develops," he added.

Former PM Mitchell quits as Grenada opposition leader

Former Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Keith Mitchell has officially stepped down as Leader of the Opposition, New National Party (NNP), effective today. Dr. Mitchell announced his resignation in a letter to Governor General Dame Cecile La Grenade, marking a significant shift in Grenada's political landscape.

In his statement, Dr. Mitchell expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the role but emphasized the need for new leadership to guide the party and opposition forward. While relinquishing his leadership position, he affirmed his continued dedication to the people of Grenada, stating that he will remain the Member of Parliament for St. George North West.

Hon. Emmalin Pierre, the newly appointed Political Leader of the NNP, will take over as Leader of the Opposition. Pierre makes history as the first female to hold the position within the party. Dr. Mitchell voiced his full support for her leadership, expressing confidence in her ability to lead with strength, empathy, and a deep commitment to the people of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique.

Dr. Mitchell's resignation comes as no surprise. Last year, he confirmed that he would not seek re-election as leader of the NNP. The party had revealed that he informed the NNP executive of this decision on December 13, 2024.

Dr. Mitchell is the longest-serving Prime Minister in

Grenadian history, having held office for over 22 years. His political career began when he was elected as leader of the NNP in January 1989, defeating then-Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. Following his victory, Blaize dismissed him from his position as Minister of Communications and Works.

In the 1995 general election, the NNP, under Mitchell's leadership, won eight out of 15 seats, allowing him to take office as Prime Minister. His tenure saw significant electoral victories, including a historic sweep of all 15 parliamentary seats in both the 1999 and 2013 elections—a feat no other political party in the region has achieved. He also served as Grenada's Minister of Finance for multiple terms.

However, the NNP suffered electoral defeats in 2008 and 2022, losing to the National Democratic Congress (NDC). Despite the 2022 loss to the NDC under Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell (no relation), Dr. Keith Mitchell remained Leader of the Opposition until his resignation.

The NNP previously expressed gratitude for Dr. Mitchell's decades of dedicated service and leadership, acknowledging his role in significantly shaping Grenada's progress. The party also reaffirmed its unity and optimism for the future, drawing inspiration from his legacy as it moves forward under new leadership.

CARICOM leaders bid farewell to Trinidad PM Keith Rowley

Caribbean leaders have paid glowing tribute to Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, as he made his final appearance at a CARICOM summit ahead of his retirement from active politics.

In January, Rowley officially announced that he would not be contesting the upcoming general election and plans to resign before the election is called. The general election is constitutionally due by the end of the year. Energy Minister Stuart Young is expected to become the leader of the People's National Movement.

On Friday, leaders from across the region praised Rowley's contributions to regional diplomacy and governance.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, recalled how Rowley played a pivotal role in strengthening ties between Jamaica and Trinidad, particularly during a period of strained relations. "I said, 'Listen, Prime Minister, come to Jamaica. Let us start this thing over,' and he graciously accepted. Since then, trade and movement between our nations have improved," Holness stated, hailing Rowley as a "true Caribbean man."

Guyana's President, Irfaan Ali, described Rowley as a "brother" and credited him for his decisive leadership during Guyana's 2020 election crisis. "Democracy and the rule of law were under threat, and Prime Minister Rowley stood firm in ensuring a resolution,"



Fellow Caribbean leaders pay tribute to Dr Keith Rowley

Ali said, also acknowledging his role in achieving the Argyle Agreement on the Venezuela-Guyana border dispute.

Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis humorously noted that his first impression of Rowley was that he was "cold," but he later saw him as a "rock" of stability in CARICOM. Meanwhile, Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, commended Rowley's principled stance

on key regional matters, assuring him that his legacy in Caribbean politics would endure.

In his farewell remarks, Rowley, who has served as prime minister since 2015, reflected on his time in CARICOM, urging leaders to remain united. "Together, we are always stronger. We must rise to the occasion and never accept being left behind," he said. He also

expressed pride in welcoming Martinique as an associate CARICOM member, calling it a "dream come true."

With Keith Rowley's departure on the horizon, his regional colleagues emphasized that while he may be stepping away from frontline politics, his influence and guidance would continue to be valued across the Caribbean.

Caribbean leaders to invite Trump for a visit

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders are seeking to invite U.S. President Donald Trump to visit the region for discussions on U.S.-Caribbean relations, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced Friday. In addition, they plan to engage senior Trump administration officials "as soon as practically possible."

The CARICOM leaders convened a three-day summit in Barbados, beginning on Wednesday, where the Trump administration's policies and its impact on the Caribbean were discussed.

"We're hoping we are successful in inviting President Trump to the region. It's very important for him to pay some attention to the third border of the United States. Also, to enter meaningful discussions as to how U.S. policies impact the region, especially these smaller countries," Browne said. "Many of us have open economies and we import up to 80% of what we consume primarily from the United States."

The urgency behind the invitation stems from shifts in U.S. policies since Trump took office on January 20, including foreign aid cuts, withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO), and immigration policy changes. Leaders of the 15-member CARICOM bloc are particularly concerned about the recent rollback of Temporary Protected Status for over half a million Haitian migrants living in the U.S.

"Already you have so many gang members, hundreds of thousands of people on the streets, and if you end up with maybe another 200,000 criminals on the streets of Haiti, it will make the situation more complex," Browne said. "That is of serious concern for us, and we're hoping that even in our subsequent engage-



Donald Trump

ments with [Secretary of State] Marco Rubio and potentially with the President... we can ask him to reconsider the impact of such a decision on Haiti."

While no specific date has been set for Trump's invitation, Browne emphasized the leaders' determination to make progress. "These are aspirations, and we're making every attempt now," he said.

A significant concern among CARICOM members is Trump's focus on tariffs and the freeze on foreign aid. While Antigua does not receive U.S. assistance, Browne noted that many Caribbean nations rely on aid, and the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has already caused ripple effects. The WHO's Caribbean office, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), faces a \$56 million funding gap due to the U.S. pullout.

"Obviously, that comes from the general support from the U.S. and even in terms of other assistance

from USAID; there's a gap now of about \$6 million," Browne said. "That itself represents not only a threat for the Caribbean, but also for the United States. COVID would have taught us that no one is safe until all of us are safe."

CARICOM leaders also discussed the potential deportation of Caribbean migrants, a topic that Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley addressed during the summit's closing press conference.

"The President of the United States and his administration have made it clear. We have asked each in our own right," she said, referring to requests for information on deportees. "To help us to be better able to prepare."

Mottley, the current CARICOM chair, confirmed that leaders were in contact with Mauricio Claver-Carone, Trump's special envoy for Latin America and the Caribbean, and anticipated a high-level meeting soon. "We are facing grave global uncertainty," she said, "but we are not in any way daunted by the challenges. We are approaching them with a calm confidence and a recognition that unity more than ever will be required from us to meet the common challenges that the world has presented."

Leaders and foreign affairs ministers from several Caribbean nations, including Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Jamaica's Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith, St. Lucia's Prime Minister Philip Joseph Pierre, and others, have stated since the beginning of the year that they have a duty to accept deported nationals of their respective countries.

Drug Kingpin ‘Dudus’ Coke granted early release from US prison

Jamaican drug kingpin Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke has had 17 months shaved off his 23-year prison sentence in the United States, with the possibility of further reductions likely due to good behavior, American authorities have confirmed.

Coke, 56, is currently incarcerated at Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institution in New Jersey and is now scheduled for release on January 25, 2029, according to the US Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP). His original release date was July 4, 2030.

The reduction in his sentence comes under the First Step Act (FSA), a bipartisan criminal justice reform law enacted in 2018, which allows incarcerated individuals to earn credits toward an earlier release through good conduct and participation in rehabilitative programs. However, the FBOP has not disclosed the specific reasons for Coke’s sentence reduction, citing privacy regulations.

Coke was once one of the most feared criminal figures in the Caribbean. As the leader of the notorious Shower Posse, a transnational drug and arms trafficking syndicate with operations in Jamaica, the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, he built a criminal empire that wielded significant influence in Jamaica’s political and social landscape. His stronghold in the Kingston community of Tivoli Gardens made him an almost untouchable figure for years.



Christopher “Dudus” Coke — was once one of the most feared criminal figures in the Caribbean

In 2010, an extradition request from the US sparked a violent confrontation between Jamaican security forces and Coke’s loyalists in Tivoli Gardens, leading to a bloody incursion that resulted in the deaths of at least 73 civilians and several security personnel. The government of Jamaica, under then-Prime Minister Bruce Golding, eventually approved his extradition after months of resistance and intense political pressure.

Coke was arrested in June 2010 while attempting to flee to the US em-

bassy in Kingston, disguised in a wig. He was extradited to the United States shortly after and, in 2012, pleaded guilty to charges of racketeering conspiracy and conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

The extent of the current power and influence of the Shower Posse remains unclear. While some law enforcement sources believe that Coke’s imprisonment significantly weakened the organization, others argue that rem-

nants of the syndicate may still be operating under new leadership, both in Jamaica and internationally.

Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institution, where Coke is being held, is a low-security prison described as having “no bars, towers, or locks,” according to its official website. The facility primarily houses non-violent offenders and those with shorter sentences.

With his potential early release now on the horizon, questions remain about what awaits Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke upon his return to Jamaica.

Freedom of movement for CARICOM begins June 1

Prime Minister of Barbados and chairman of CARICOM, Mia Amor Mottley, has announced that the regional body is on the brink of finalizing arrangements that will enable the freedom of movement for CARICOM nationals starting June 1.

This major development was one of the key outcomes of the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, which concluded on Friday at the Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lord’s Castle Resort.

Speaking at the closing press conference, attended both in person and online, Mottley emphasized that regional leaders had agreed on a mechanism to allow smaller groups of CARICOM member states to implement policies independently, rather than requiring full consensus.

“If that protocol for enhanced cooperation is completely ratified by the end of March, it opens the way for a number of countries to... the possibility of freedom of movement for CARICOM nationals from June 1, with the according rights of primary and secondary education, emergency health care, and access also to primary health care,” Mottley explained.

She noted that this move is critical for the region, which—except for Haiti—faces a declining and aging population. She urged CARICOM to move beyond the slow, gradual approach to integration and allow willing nations to take the lead in making freedom of movement a reality in 2025.



Chairman of Caricom Mia Mottley

For the average CARICOM citizen, this decision means that from June 1, nationals of participating countries will be able to move freely across borders without restrictions. They will have access to essential services such as education and healthcare in these nations, similar to how citizens are treated. This could open new job opportunities, allow families to relocate more easily, and strengthen regional economic ties.

CARICOM leaders also discussed improving maritime and air transport, increasing private sector involvement in regional trade, expanding hospitality training programs, and advancing digital transformation in tourism-related businesses. Additionally, plans for a CARICOM Educational Transformation Commission were outlined to enhance education standards across the region.

Jamaica mourns passing of veteran Attorney-at-Law

The Jamaican legal community is in mourning following the passing of veteran attorney-at-law, King’s Counsel (KC) Valerie Neita-Robertson. The distinguished lawyer, known for her sharp wit and formidable presence in high-profile criminal trials, died on Monday at the age of 71.

Neita-Robertson’s family confirmed her passing in a statement on Monday afternoon, expressing deep sorrow over their loss. “It is with great sadness that the Neita-Robertson family announces the untimely passing of Miss Valerie Neita-Robertson KC, attorney-at-law. Miss Neita-Robertson leaves behind four sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and other family members,” the statement read.

A legal powerhouse, Neita-Robertson earned a reputation as one of Jamaica’s top criminal defense attorneys. Over the years, she represented clients in some of the country’s most significant and high-profile cases, earning widespread respect for her eloquence, legal acumen, and fearless advocacy. Her fiery courtroom performances and relentless pursuit of justice made her a formidable force in Jamaica’s legal landscape.

One of her last major cases saw her representing Vybz Kartel and his then co-convicts when they were



King’s Counsel (KC) Valerie Neita-Robertson

granted leave in March 2017 to appeal their convictions and sentence at the Jamaican Court of Appeal. Neita-Robertson also represented convicted ex-juror Livingston Cain, who attempted to bribe the jury foreman in the Vybz Kartel murder trial.

Beyond her contributions to the legal fraternity, Neita-Robertson was passionate about mentorship, guiding

many young attorneys throughout their careers. She was also a proud alumna of the Wolmer’s High School for Girls and remained closely involved with the school’s community.

In 2024, veteran attorney-at-law Valerie Neita-Robertson signaled her intention to migrate to North America, stating that “Jamaica is no longer a place to live.” The lawyer, who ran un-

successfully for the People’s National Party in West Portland during the 2020 elections, also indicated her plans to leave the legal fraternity after 47 years.

Her passing marks the end of an era in Jamaica’s legal history, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of attorneys.

‘Slickianna’ murder accused shot by police

Rushawn Patterson, the man accused of murdering social media influencer Aneka “Slickianna” Townsend in 2022, was shot by police during an alleged confrontation in Hanover on Tuesday morning.

The incident occurred around 5:40 a.m., according to the police, who have not yet provided details on what led to the shooting.

At the time of the incident, Patterson was out on bail and was awaiting his next court appearance on October 15. His case had faced multiple delays due to incomplete files, including a chain-of-custody statement and forensic evidence from the Jamaica Constabulary Force’s Communication Forensics and Cyber-Crime Unit.

Patterson was arrested on November 2, 2022, following a high-level police operation after Townsend’s body was discovered floating in the sea in Reading, St James, on October 21. A post-mortem examination later confirmed that she had been strangled. He was formally charged with her murder on November 11.

According to police reports, Townsend had traveled from Kingston to Montego Bay on October 20, 2022, where she was picked up by Patterson. The two visited a restaurant in Hanover before heading to a guest house in St James. That night, an argument reportedly broke out between them, leading to Townsend’s death and the subsequent disposal of her body.

Rushawn Patterson was named as a person of interest the day after Townsend’s body was found but failed to turn himself in by the police’s deadline. He was eventually captured at a guest house in Hanover on November 2, 2022.

His trial had been repeatedly postponed due to



Aneka “Slickianna” Townsend with accused Rushawn Patterson, inset

missing documents, most recently in January, when the court granted additional time for prosecutors to complete outstanding case files.

The police are expected to release more details regarding Tuesday’s shooting as investigations continue.

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Sandals to create 3,500 jobs with massive new resort in Barbados

A massive, state-of-the-art hotel resort set to be built in Barbados later this year will create an estimated 3,500 jobs, marking what backers are calling the largest investment ever made in the country's tourism sector. The new development, under the Sandals Beaches family brand, will be constructed on the site of the former Heywood's Hotel Resort and Almond Resort.

Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts and Beaches Resorts, revealed that around 1,700 jobs will be created during the construction phase, with an additional 1,800 permanent staff positions available once the resort is completed. Stewart

made the announcement during the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at Wyndham Grand Resort – Sam Lord's Castle.

"Demolition will begin this coming Monday," Stewart said. "I have had several meetings with Prime Minister Mottley. The property will be a Beaches family brand, covering 1.2 million square feet with 600 rooms, including three- and four-bedroom villas. It will represent the best of what Sandals has ever offered for family holidays, all with a timeless elegance, designed to be absolutely beautiful. The

project is moving forward."

Stewart described the new resort as a "big machine" that will drive significant economic activity, including in areas such as tours, transportation, entertainment, and food and beverage services. He noted that the resort will host around 1,800 to 2,000 guests every week. "Barbados has come a long way, and it's amazing for us to help build its tourism infrastructure while continuing to see strong demand for Barbados in the marketplace," Stewart added.

The project, which is expected to take about two and a half years to complete, will be Sandals' third hotel in Barbados. Sandals Barbados currently

employs 1,450 permanent staff, while Sandals Royal Barbados employs about 600 workers.

The new resort will replace the former Almond Beach Village Resort, which closed on April 30, 2012, due to deteriorating conditions, declining occupancy, and profitability issues. The closure led to the loss of more than 500 jobs and had a significant impact on the country's tourism industry.

Stewart thanked Prime Minister Mottley for her continued support, stressing the positive effects the project will have on both the tourism sector and the broader economy of Barbados.

Grenada tackles climate change with new agency

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in collaboration with the government of Grenada and international partners, officially opened the island's first Climate-Smart Fisher Facility in Soubise, St. Andrew, on Saturday, February 22.

The facility is designed to enhance the resilience of the local fishing community while integrating sustainable infrastructure to combat climate change.

The dedication ceremony, themed "A Celebration of Community and Climate Action," featured remarks from Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy Kerryne James, and representatives from key stakeholders, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cres-

cent Societies (IFRC).

The new facility incorporates renewable energy solutions, such as solar panels, to lower operational costs and reduce carbon emissions. It also includes a rainwater harvesting system to ensure a steady water supply, particularly during droughts. Additionally, natural rock sea walls and native coastal vegetation have been incorporated to help stabilize the shoreline, absorb wave energy, and mitigate coastal erosion.

Beyond its environmental benefits, the facility is set to improve the livelihoods of local fishers by providing secure storage for fishing gear, better access to the sea, and a green space for community gatherings. A planned second phase of development will include

the construction of a jetty to improve access to the facility, particularly during periods of heavy sargassum seaweed influx.

"For over 15 years, our work in Grenada has focused on understanding how conservation and restoration can reduce climate vulnerability," said Rob Brumbaugh, TNC Caribbean Executive Director. "This facility is more than just infrastructure—it represents the power of community-led conservation and a holistic approach to resilience."

Minister Kerryne James emphasized the significance of the project, stating, "Through the strategic integration of renewable energy, habitat restoration, and community engagement, the Fisher Facility epitomizes our

holistic approach to climate resilience, fostering not just adaptation but genuine transformation in our socio-ecological landscape."

The Soubise Fisher Facility was developed under TNC's Resilient Islands by Design Initiative in partnership with the International Climate Initiative (IKI), The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMU), IFRC, and the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS).

The project serves as a model for using nature-based solutions to protect coastal communities while strengthening local economies, highlighting the intersection of conservation, economic development, and climate resilience.

Goolie, Jangoo, Pooran among protected picks for regional T20

Top-order batsmen Jyd Goolie and Kamil Pooran, and Amir Jangoo, who recently debuted for the West Indies in One-Day International (ODI) and Test cricket, are among seven protected picks for TT ahead of the draft for Cricket West Indies' (CWI) new regional T20 tourney.

The tournament, which is set to give exposure to upcoming talents in the region, will be played at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy (BLCA) in Tarouba. The tournament is tentatively scheduled for April 25-May 9, with the player draft scheduled for February 24.

The TT team, which will be known as the TT Legions, will also have Crystian Thurton, 2024 Caribbean Premier League (CPL) winner Mikkel Govia and allrounders Navin Bidaisee and Joshua James as protected picks. The 24-year-old James, a former West Indies Under-19 player, debuted for the Red Force in last year's CG United Regional Super50 tournament and also has a handful of CPL matches under his belt.

CWI's five other territorial boards



Amir Jangoo bats during a TTCB Dream XI T10 tournament

are being represented in the tournament, with Barbados Pelicans, Guyana Caimans, Jamaica Titans, Leeward Islands Thunder and Windward Islands Infernos all set to take part.

Each team will have 14 players, all of whom must be under 30 by the end of the tournament. Teams are al-

lowed to select three players between 27-29, with TT utilising those picks to select the trio of Goolie, 27, Pooran, 28, and the 27-year-old wicket-keeper/batsman Jangoo who scored a century on ODI debut for the Windies against Bangladesh last December.

Of the seven protected picks re-

served to the various teams, one player must be a wrist-spinner. TT satisfied this criteria with the selection of 24-year-old leg-spinner Bidaisee. To qualify to participate in the tournament, prospective players must have fewer than ten T20 international caps and 40 "List A" T20s. Each team must draft a minimum of two overseas players.

Red Force coach Rayad Emrit relayed the thought process behind the protected picks, and also explained picking the remaining players will be an especially tough task. TT have entered over 90 players into the player draft.

"The other seven (players) will be very tricky because there are a lot of good players in the draft to choose from. It's a lot of players. We're definitely looking to get a couple of fast bowlers. Right now, we only have one fast bowler in the squad in Joshua James, so our main focus in the squad is going to be fast bowling and a couple of batsmen," Emrit said.

He also said the team would love to land a left-arm spinner.

President Ali is new Caricom cricket chair

GUYANESE president Dr Irfaan Ali will replace the outgoing Prime Minister as the chairman of Caricom's Prime Ministerial sub-committee on cricket.

Dr Rowley made the announcement on the final day of the 48th regular meeting of the Caricom heads of government conference in Barbados on February 21.

On January 3, Rowley signalled his intention to resign as prime minister and declared he will not be seeking re-election as the PNM's candidate for the Diego Martin West constituency in this year's general election. The Caricom heads of government meeting was Rowley's last as prime minister.

As he handed over the reins to Ali, Rowley, who was appointed chairman in July 2023, said the sub-committee was in good hands.

"We did have some discussions, but not too much detail because we have done some work before in Guyana and TT and we have seen the results. Some progress has been made – and is being made," Rowley said.

"Today, I handed over to the plenary and the heads agreed to select my colleague from Guyana – who's an eminent cricketer as you know – president Irfan Ali to now take the chairmanship on the sub-committee of cricket because we maintain our interest in the potential for West Indies cricket to remain at a high level internationally and the preservation of our legacy."

He said the affairs of West Indies cricket is of utmost importance to Caricom.

"The heads of government should continue to be interested in what goes on in West Indies cricket and assist in whatever way we can."



Outgoing Caricom cricket chair Keith Rowley (left) with incoming chair Irfaan Ali of Guyana



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