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President Ali welcomes new Republic of Korea ambassador

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali received the Letters of Credence from the Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Guyana, Seijoong Kwon, at State House, on Tuesday.

President Ali, in welcoming the new ambassador, expressed his desire to see stronger progress in bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He said that the opportunities for enhanced collaboration have reached a stage where they can transition from potential to reality.

He noted that Guyana is currently experiencing a significant phase of transformative development.

The President proposed that the two nations deepen cooperation in several areas, including technology, private sector investments, manufacturing, and value-added products.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd, was also at the accreditation ceremony.



New hospital in Region Five opens its doors

The Bath Regional Hospital in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice) was opened by the Guyana government on Wednesday (July 30).

The new hospital is one of 6 that is being opened across the country in coming weeks. The others are Lima in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), De Kinderen in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), Diamond and Enmore in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), and Skeldon in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne).

Each hospital will span 65,000 square feet and equipped with 75 hospital beds, laboratories, accident and emergency units, modernised imaging capacities, operational surgical theatres and outpatient facilities.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony said, 'The facility stands as a testament to the Government's unwavering commitment to decentralising health care and delivering services directly to the people.'

The hospital is part of the government's efforts to decentralize healthcare and bring services closer to the people.

The opening of the Bath Regional Hospital marks a significant step in Guyana's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare. This is part of a larger effort to modernize the country's healthcare infrastructure.

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Guyana to operationalise world’s first national biodiversity monitoring system

PRESIDENT Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that Guyana will become the first country in the world to implement a fully standardised, border-to-border national biodiversity monitoring system by 2030.

The National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS), launched at the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit, will collect and analyse data on the country’s plants, animals, and ecosystems and help guide decisions and policies that support sustainable development and conservation.

President Ali stated that the initiative shows Guyana’s commitment to protecting the environment and will create a new global standard for biodiversity accountability at the national level.

“Guyana is taking a bold step in being the first globally to adopt such a system, the development of the National Biodiversity Information System to serve as a digital backbone for conservation finance and policy,” the Head of State said while delivering closing remarks at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) at the Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA) Summit.



Guyana is developing a border-to-border national diversity system

The NBIS positions Guyana as a global leader in biodiversity stewardship

and will serve as a roadmap to meet the 30×30 biodiversity goal – protecting 30 per cent of land and sea by the year 2030.

This is just one of the many outcomes from the GBA summit, which will bring practical solutions to address biodiversity loss.

“You now have before you a practical path to halt biodiversity loss and finance a nature-positive future. This summit marked not just admiration, but a turning point for our planet,” he noted.

This robust digital infrastructure will unify biodiversity data collection, analysis, and decision-making across Guyana. The strategy will be developed and led by an interagency coalition of government, local and indigenous peoples, academic institutions, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), building on decades of Guyanese-led conservation.

“We’re also hoping that we can have our own museum, because we have

enough history and enough of an ecosystem to support such a museum and the development of an intensive park to showcase the richness of our biodiversity,” President Ali said.

The Head of State called on wealthier nations and private companies to step up and provide more funding to support countries like Guyana that are taking action.

He welcomed the launch of a new fund, Tropical Forest Forever (TFF), at the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, aimed at helping countries preserve their forests with long-term support.


“To this end, we support the expansion of high-integrity markets for jurisdictional approaches, and we also encourage potential investor countries to announce ambitious contributions to TFF. Further, we call on international organisations, NGOs and civil society to support the TFF worldwide.” (DPI)



President Ali delivers remarks at the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit

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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Clear and Present Danger

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, July 30 2025

THE recent remarks by US Ambassador Nicole Theriot regarding the possible election of sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed to Guyana's Parliament should alert every Guyanese citizen.

The consequences of US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions are serious. We can see the immediate impact as banks close accounts for anyone connected to sanctioned individuals. This threat to our nation is clear.

We already see the evidence. Multiple banks, including Demerara Bank and the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI), have quickly shut down accounts of candidates linked to Mohamed's We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party.

These actions are not just political; they are smart business choices driven by strict international banking rules. Banks must protect their relationships with US institutions and access to the SWIFT system, the global platform for money transfers. To do this, they often cut ties with anyone linked to sanctioned individuals.

The reach of OFAC sanctions goes well beyond individual issues. Reports are that these measures come with

heavy penalties. Fines can hit up to \$20 million, and violations may lead to prison sentences of up to 30 years.

Financial institutions also face tough consequences, with civil penalties hitting \$250,000 per violation under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

This explains why local banks, such as Citizens Bank and Republic Bank, quickly closed the accounts of sanctioned former Permanent Secretary Mae Thomas after her designation.

Ambassador Theriot's warning that US companies might reconsider their relationships with Guyana if a sanctioned person enters government is not just political posturing. It reflects the legal reality that US persons cannot do business with sanctioned entities.

The ambassador mentioned Afghanistan as an example of how sanctions can ruin a country's investment climate. This comparison should terrify every Guyanese, especially given the more than US\$15 billion in American investment that has come into our economy over the last four years. This amount makes up 96 percent of our foreign direct investment.

The economic implications are enormous. ExxonMobil has already shown how sanctions compliance can affect business by leaving a consortium

with the Mohameds after their designation.

If Mohamed were to take office, similar departures could ripple through our economy, forcing companies that fuel our remarkable economic growth to shut down.

More than 3,000 US small and medium enterprises are currently doing business with Guyana. The impact would be devastating for employment, government revenue, and our global reputation.

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo rightly pointed out that banks must take US sanctions seriously or risk losing access to the global financial system.

The "de-risking" trend he mentioned has already caused many Caribbean countries to lose banking relationships with US institutions. For a nation that relies heavily on international trade and investment, this kind of isolation would be disastrous.

The geopolitical effects extend beyond economic concerns. Sanctions lead to diplomatic challenges that would limit our ability to work with international partners. As Ambassador Theriot noted, US officials would be legally barred from working with any sanctioned parliamentarian, creating difficulties for bilateral cooperation.

This situation would weaken our

strategic partnerships at a time when we need maximum diplomatic coordination, especially regarding regional security issues like Venezuela's territorial claims.

Former President Forbes Burnham's clash with US power in the 1970s led to economic collapse, a situation that took decades to recover from. We cannot afford to make such mistakes again.

The financial sector's reaction to these sanctions shows a clear warning of broader consequences. When banks prioritise compliance over customer relations, it highlights the seriousness of potential violations.

The closure of accounts for WIN candidates illustrates how widely sanctions compliance affects associated individuals. This trend would only grow if a sanctioned person gained governmental authority.

The impact goes beyond symbolic protest votes; it could undo the economic progress that has made Guyana one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The evidence is overwhelming, and the stakes couldn't be higher. Guyana's future relies on maintaining our reputation as a trustworthy international partner devoted to the rule of law.

Accounting, Economic, and Social Perspectives

The Editor:

In recent public discourse, confusion has arisen around the concept of wealth—particularly in distinguishing between accounting, economic, and social definitions. I therefore wish to clarify these distinctions and contextualize a recent statement made by President Irfaan Ali of Guyana.

President Irfaan Ali stated:

"We have seen around us countries that made the mistake of treating oil, of treating natural resources, revenue as wealth... Revenue generated from nat-

ural resources must be invested to create wealth."

Accounting Perspective: In accounting terms, wealth is typically defined as net assets. This is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Assets} - \text{Liabilities} = \text{Net Assets.}$$

Assets are considered resources that can be used to generate future economic benefits. Financial ratios such as the asset turnover ratio are used to measure how efficiently firms utilize their assets to generate revenue.

Economic Perspective: From an economic standpoint, wealth is defined

by value creation. This refers to the process of using resources to produce goods, services, and innovations that contribute to economic growth. Wealth creation in this context is dynamic and focuses on how effectively assets are deployed to generate new value over time.

Social Perspective: Socially, wealth is associated with quality of life and collective well-being. It encompasses access to education, healthcare, social equity, and community resilience. In this view, wealth is not merely about ownership or production,

but about how resources improve lives and foster sustainable development.

President Ali's remarks highlight the importance of understanding wealth beyond its accounting definition. His emphasis on investing resource revenues to create wealth aligns with both economic and social interpretations—focusing on long-term value creation and societal advancement. Clarifying these distinctions is essential for informed public debate and effective policy-making.

Sincerely,
Joel Bhagwandin



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Poilievre’s Leadership Hangs on a Series of Key Votes—Starting in Alberta

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

Two-and-a-half months after suffering a federal election defeat, Pierre Poilievre’s future as leader of the Conservative Party is increasingly tied to a string of critical numbers—starting with a byelection result, followed by a leadership review, and ultimately, polling performance leading into 2026. Poilievre is now the third consecutive Conservative leader in a decade to lose to the Liberals.

This past April, he led the party into an election that, just weeks before, looked like a certain Conservative majority. Instead, the Liberals won under newly chosen leader Mark Carney, and Poilievre lost not only the general election, but also his long-held Ottawa-area seat of Carleton—a riding he had represented since 2004.

Despite the loss, Conservatives attempted to cast the outcome in a positive light. The party secured 144 seats and earned 41.3% of the popular vote—the best showing for the Conservatives since 1988. But none of that changed the fact that the party fell short once again, of forming government.

The political landscape shifted rapidly following Carney’s selection as Liberal leader. Poilievre, slow to recalibrate his strategy, found himself and his party overtaken. A new Research Co. poll puts Poilievre’s personal approval rating at 44%, compared to Carney’s 61%. The Liberals now lead the Conservatives by 10 points—47% to 37%.

Poilievre is now contesting a byelection in the rural Alberta riding of Battle River–Crowfoot, a Conservative stronghold, in an effort to return to Parliament. The outcome is not in serious doubt—he’s expected to win—but the size of his victory will matter.

In the 2021 election, incumbent MP Damien Kurek won the riding with 82% of the vote. That benchmark sets the bar for Poilievre. Falling short, particularly by more than a few points, could be politically damaging ahead of the party’s mandatory leadership review in January 2026.

Under Conservative Party rules, Poilievre must face a leadership review following the election loss. The vote is scheduled for January 29 at a party convention in Calgary. While he’s expected to survive the review, the margin will be closely watched. A weak endorsement could further undermine his authority and embolden internal critics.

Complicating the Battle River–



Pierre Poilievre is facing a fight from a crowded field of candidates in the riding of BattleRiver-Crowfoot

Crowfoot race is a crowded field of candidates. In addition to at least seven credible or semi-credible challengers, the so-called “Long Ballot Committee” is backing over 100 protest candidates to criticize Canada’s first-past-the-post system and clog the ballot.

Among the challengers, the Alberta separatist candidate poses the most direct political threat. Eastern Alberta has long been fertile ground for separatist sentiment, and Poilievre—born in the province but who spent two decades representing an Ottawa riding—may struggle to connect fully with local voters. His critics have even seized on his pronunciation shift, from “paw-luh-veer” to “pwah-lee-ehv,” as symbolic of that disconnect.

If Poilievre’s vote share drops below 75%, many observers believe it would cast doubt on his standing within the party. A result closer to or above 80% would likely reinforce his position and put internal dissent to rest—for now.

Should he win, Poilievre will return to the House of Commons as Leader of the Opposition, facing off against Prime Minister Carney. But the dynamics in Parliament have shifted during his absence. The Commons has been noticeably calmer, more civil—a stark contrast to the confrontational style Poilievre became known for as a Harper-era cabinet minister.

Observers will be watching to see whether Poilievre moderates his tone or returns to his trademark aggressive rhetoric.

He will also face a significantly

altered political and economic agenda. The Carney government must confront a wave of urgent issues: escalating tensions with the U.S. under a newly re-elected Donald Trump, looming trade barriers and tariffs targeting Canada, and a high-stakes federal budget attempting to balance fiscal re

straint with ambitious defence spending promises. Poilievre’s ability to pivot from partisan firebrand to credible statesman may be the final number that decides his fate.

—with files from Policy Magazine



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Medical School, Engineering Faculty coming to Essequibo – President Ali announces

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that a medical school and a faculty of engineering will be established in Region Two, as part of the government's vision to expand access to higher education and professional training across Guyana.

Speaking to a large audience in Anna Regina, the President urged residents to reflect on the transformation taking place around them.

"Look around Region Two—look around Essequibo," he said. "A new hospital, new roads—development is happening."

He noted that in just five years, the people of Region Two have regained economic strength, with continued growth and visible infrastructure upgrades.

"Development is not a spur-of-the-moment decision," he stated. "It requires vision, strong ideas, and actions that ensure success for a lifetime."

The President revealed that over 4,000 scholarships were awarded to residents of Region Two over the past five years, allowing teachers, nurses, and other professionals to access training and education. He emphasised the importance of voting to continue such progress:

"When you vote, you're voting for a government that will invest in a medical school—right here," he said.

President Ali also cautioned residents against false promises and manipulation by political opponents.

"Do not sell your dignity—because it is not for sale," he warned, adding that the PPP/C can identify "trickery" early.

He pointed to the actions of Winn Azurudin Mohamed, a presidential candidate of the opposition, suggesting that his charitable activities were politically motivated.

"He was only doing charity—but at what cost? He put Essequibo at risk," Ali said, urging residents to protect the region and its future.

"Our young people's future must not be gambled away," he said firmly.

Turning to agriculture, President Ali underscored his administration's



President Ali on the campaign trail

support for rice farmers, contrasting it with the neglect under the previous government.

"Rice farmers were told rice is a

private business and left to struggle," he said. "But the PPP/C provided a \$300 subsidy per bag of paddy and launched a crop insurance plan to protect your in-

vestment."

He said more help is on the way, including a price stabilisation fund and a fertiliser support program to be co-funded with farmers.

"The price stabilisation will ensure farmers are paid on time at the end of the crop," he explained.

Further investment will be made in equipment, machinery, and land expansion, signalling a comprehensive plan to modernise the rice industry.

"Rice farmers, tell me honestly, with conscience—who is it you can trust?" President Ali asked. "We will ensure that rice is successful and profitable."

In closing, the President urged Essequibians to safeguard the development gains made and to look ahead with confidence.

"The opposition's intention is to get rid of the People's Progressive Party/Civic," he said. "We must not let that happen."

He called on voters to make wise decisions at the polls:

"On September 1, vote for the PPP/C—the party that delivers and invests in your future."

'We Have the Farmers at Heart' — PM Phillips

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips on Saturday urged Essequibians not to be misled by false promises from political opponents, declaring that only the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) has consistently delivered for the people of Region Two.

Speaking to a massive crowd at the Anna Regina rally, Prime Minister Phillips reminded residents of the PPP/C's strong track record in governance, especially in supporting farmers.

"The PPP/C has the farmers at heart, whether it's rice farmers or those growing crops in the Pomeroon," he stated, reaffirming the government's commitment to the agricultural sector.

Phillips emphasised that the PPP/C stands on a solid foundation, citing the widely applauded "Because We Care" cash grant as a direct example of people-centred leadership.

"The PPP/C delivers, and every Guyanese is getting \$100,000," he told the cheering crowd, adding that, "More is coming! As a government, the PPP/C remains people-centred, and we believe that the people should get more."



Prime Minister Phillips on the campaign trail



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Ontario Scraps \$100M Starlink Deal, Pays Undisclosed Exit Fee

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

The Ford government has officially terminated its \$100-million contract with Elon Musk’s SpaceX to provide Starlink internet services in northern Ontario.

Originally signed in November, the deal aimed to deliver high-speed satellite internet to approximately 15,000 remote homes.

A spokesperson for the provincial government confirmed the cancellation in an email, stating:“Our government has cancelled the Starlink contract. We are seeking an alternate solution as we continue our efforts to secure long-term, stable high-speed internet access across the province.”

The province was required to pay a termination fee, though the exact amount remains undisclosed.

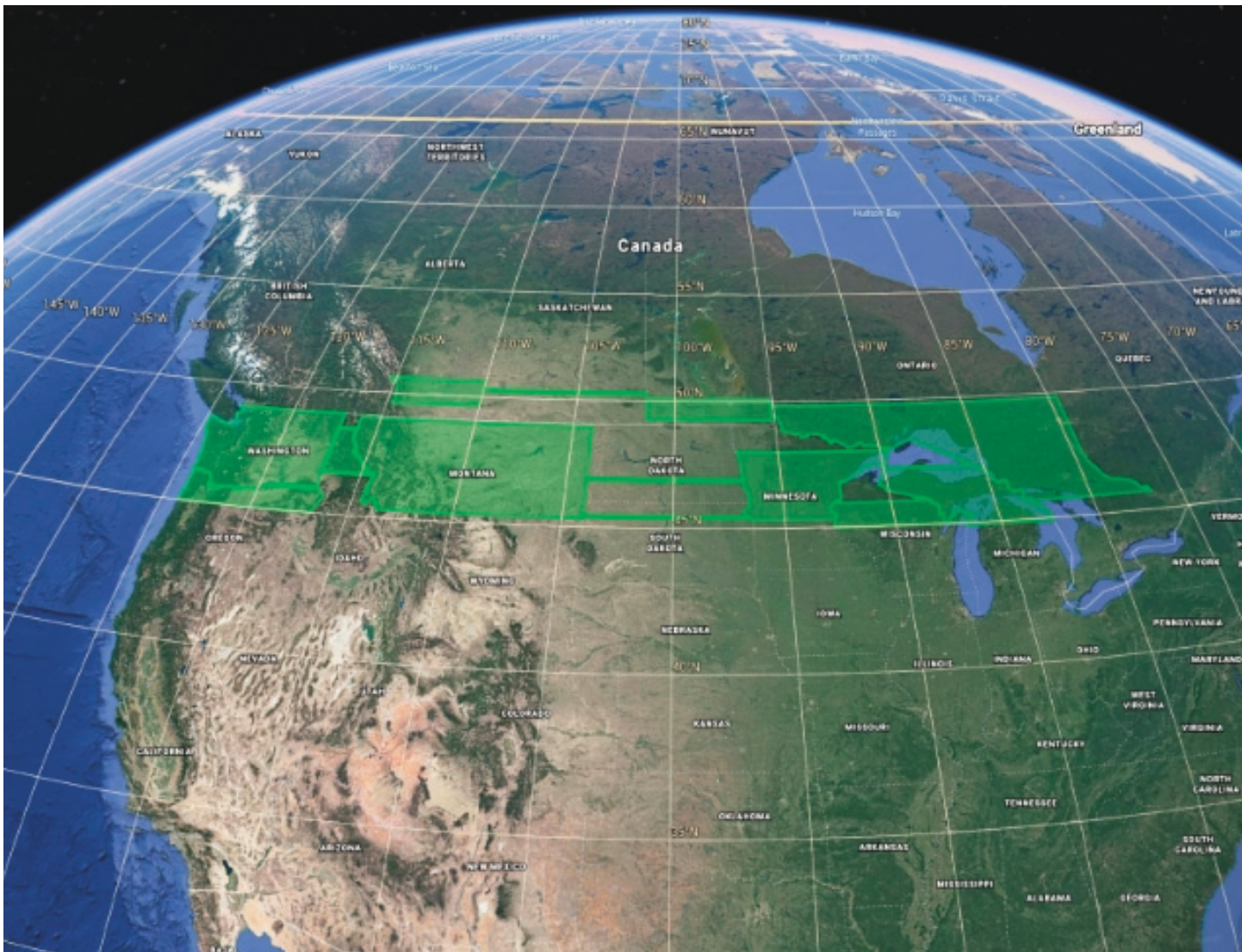
A senior government official, speaking on background, said the negotiated fee was “not zero,” but emphasized it was significantly less than the full value of the deal.

SpaceX declined to comment ahead of publication.

The timing of the agreement raised eyebrows from the start. Ontario announced the deal with SpaceX just days after Donald Trump’s victory in the U.S. presidential election—a campaign in which Musk played an increasingly visible role.

The province had been engaging in a broader diplomatic effort to build ties with Trump’s incoming administration, partly to protect Ontario’s economy from potential U.S. tariffs.

Those efforts ultimately failed, and Canada faced new trade restrictions within months.



Starlink would have provided much-needed internet coverage in Canada’s far north communities

In March, Premier Doug Ford publicly declared the deal dead.

“It’s done. We’re not going back there,” he said. Musk responded with a terse social media post: “Oh well.”

Despite Ford’s public declaration, cancelling a multi-million dollar international contract required more than a press statement. Government sources say officials even considered introducing legislation—tentatively titled the Starlink Cancellation Act—that would allow Ontario to back out without legal liability.

However, this approach risked damaging Ontario’s broader relationship

with SpaceX, which provides internet to some critical services in the province, including health care facilities in the north.

Instead, the government chose to quietly negotiate a termination agreement that would preserve those relationships and avoid potential litigation.

The end of the Starlink deal leaves 15,000 households in northern Ontario still waiting for the high-speed internet they were promised. The province has not revealed which alternatives it is pursuing, nor when a replacement contract might be signed.

Ontario NDP Leader Marit Stiles criticized the government’s handling of

the file.

“This should have been done a long time ago,” she said in a statement.

“The premier should have secured a proper deal for those in Northern and rural communities who still don’t have the reliable internet that they were promised by this government.”

Stiles added that giving taxpayer money to Musk’s company was always the wrong strategy:

“Months have passed and we still don’t have a plan or even a process that’s calling for home-grown solutions.”

—with files from Global News

Guyana signs agreement with DR for coffee

The Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has signed a historic agreement with the Government of the Dominican Republic to commence large-scale cocoa and coffee cultivation in Region One. This milestone initiative aims to establish approximately 200 acres each of coffee and cocoa as part of Guyana’s broader efforts to boost economic diversification, enhance rural livelihoods, and expand regional trade.

The agreement underscores the importance of sustainable agriculture and technical cooperation and will support the development, cultivation, processing, and marketing of both crops. It will also pave the way for joint research and development programmes, as well as value-added production and trade facilitation in the cocoa and coffee sectors.

During the signing, Agriculture Minister, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, emphasized the government’s commitment to introducing high-value crops to reduce Guyana’s and the wider region’s food import bill.

“This forms part of the government’s agenda to integrate new crops into the sector. While there has been an expansion in the cultivation of traditional crops, over the last five years, we’ve facilitated and invested in the cultivation of new crops—things that we usually import like carrots, corn, broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce. Cocoa and coffee are crops that we started to cultivate.”





President, Dr Irfaan Ali hands over the new official residence of the CARICOM Secretary-General

Keys to the house: Ali reiterates Guyana’s commitment to CARICOM

IN a significant gesture reflecting its commitment to regional integration and the Caribbean Community, President of Guyana, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, handed over the new official residence of the CARICOM Secretary-General to the incumbent officeholder, Dr Carla Barnett, at a ceremony in Sparendam, East Coast Demerara, on Saturday.

Participating in the handover were Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Elisabeth Harper; Guyana’s Ambassador to CARICOM, H.E. George Talbot; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and

Water, Bishram Kuppen and other government officials. Officials of the CARICOM Secretariat were also in attendance.

According to President Ali, “Guyana is steadfast in its support of regional integration...we are proud of the work of the Caribbean Community.”

This new, modern residence “not only meets the standards expected of such a facility, but it also eases the commute and supports the effective functioning of the office of the Secretary-General...[the residence] would also bring the Secretary-General closer to the seat of the Secretariat itself”, the President said.

Directing his remarks to the Secre-

tary-General, President Ali thanked her for her continued service. “I wish you every success as you carry out your duties from your new residence. May the residence we hand over today, serve not only as a place or rest, but as a quiet symbol of our shared journey and of the future we are building together.”

The CARICOM Secretary-General, graciously receiving the keys to the official residence, expressed her appreciation to the Government of Guyana. She said, “I am happy that this part of the commitment of the Government of Guyana has come to fruition. It really is a pleasant place to live and my family and I look forward to living here. I know my successors will enjoy living here

also.” Dr Barnett also excitedly informed those in attendance that flowers and fruit trees will be planted on the property to “represent each of the countries of the Caribbean Community.”

Following the remarks, the CARICOM Flag was hoisted for the first time at the residence and President Ali signed the visitor’s book to mark the occasion.

Colgrain House in Georgetown, purchased by the Government of Guyana in 1975, accommodated the first six CARICOM secretaries-general, with the incumbent Dr. Barnett and her predecessor Ambassador La Rocque, accommodated in rental properties until the completion of the construction of the new residence.

Guyana at the forefront as CCJ tackles landmark environmental case

GUYANA featured prominently in the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Annual Report for 2023/2024, which was released on Friday last. The report recorded a four per cent increase in new matters filed compared to the previous year, with Guyana contributing six of the 26 appellate cases. This placed it on par with Belize and just behind Barbados, which filed nine cases.

Dominica and Saint Lucia filed one and four cases, respectively. The cases were evenly split between criminal and civil matters. Among them was a high-profile appeal from Guyana that saw the regional court hearing novel matters in its Appellate Jurisdiction.

In Ramon Gaskin v Minister of Natural Resources and Others [2024] CCJ 14 (AJ) GY, the CCJ addressed environmental regulation in the oil and gas sector under Guyana’s Petroleum Act.

The case, which originated from the Court of Appeal of Guyana, marked the CCJ’s first detailed interpretation of the Act as it relates to environmental oversight. Gaskin challenged the issuance of a Petroleum Production Licence (PPL) granted to ExxonMobil Guyana Limited, CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited and Hess Guyana Exploration Limited.

He argued that each of the companies involved in the Stabroek Block joint venture should have acquired separate environmental permits prior to receiving the PPL. The High Court of Guyana had dismissed the claim after a delay of 366 days in delivering its judgment.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the High Court, stating that the environmental permit was tied to the



The CCJ in Port of Spain, Trinidad

Liza 1 Project and that Exxon, as the operator, could comply with the environmental obligations.

The CCJ, in a judgement delivered by Justice Winston Anderson, who now serves as President of the Court, upheld the rulings of the lower courts. The Court held that the granting of environmental authorisation was a condition precedent to the granting of a PPL. Environmental authorisation must be given for the undertaking of a project and the Environmental Protection Agency must be convinced that a developer can fulfil their role and responsibilities and comply with the terms and conditions of the environmental permit.

As the sole operator, ExxonMobil alone was able to comply with the obligations of the developer and was subject

to extensive environmental obligations, which were extended to Hess and CNOOC through joint and several liability.

The grant of the PPL to CNOOC and Hess did not render the licence invalid for four reasons (i) the Act’s requirements were satisfied with Exxon being granted the environmental permit; (ii) the grant was consistent with oil and gas industry practice as Exxon the sole operator operated as representative of the joint venture; (iii) there was joint and several liability between the Companies for environmental harm; and (iv) there was no increased risk of harm to the environment under either the precautionary principle or the avoidance principle by the inclusion of Hess and CNOOC in the PPL. Justice Anderson concluded that

there was no basis for finding that the Minister of Natural Resources acted unlawfully.

The Annual Report also noted that the CCJ held a total of 45 sittings during the reporting period, which ran from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024. These included six case management conferences, 25 hearings, and 14 judgement deliveries. A large majority, 80 per cent, of these sittings were held virtually. Hybrid and in-person sessions accounted for seven per cent and 13 per cent, respectively.

The report showed that the CCJ’s Appellate Jurisdiction continued to be the more frequently used avenue. It received 26 new matters in the past year, up from 25 in 2022/2023.

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

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

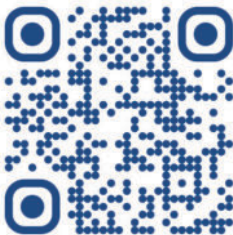
- Key priorities of the WGC include:
- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
 - Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
 - Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development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

World Guyanese Congress
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:
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Guyana on track to record region’s highest GDP growth rate for 2025

THE Guyanese economy recorded positive growth during the first quarter of 2025 as major economic transformation progressed in key sectors. This was outlined in the Bank of Guyana’s report for that period. The financial institution, which monitors the economic well-being of the nation, was keen to note that the oil and gas subsector was a major contributor to growth, albeit moderately.

Expounding on the performance of the oil sector, the Central Bank said it recorded an increase of 1.8 per cent to 56.8 million barrels, a modest increase when compared to the 56 million barrels produced at the end of March 2024. This outcome, it said is primarily on account of strong contribution from Prosperity, Guyana’s third floating, production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel, which experienced an 11.5 per cent increase in production of crude oil when compared to one year earlier.

The Central Bank noted that the Liza Destiny and Liza Unity FPSOs experienced lower production of crude oil



A drilling ship in Guyana’s waters

by 8.5 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively.

As it relates to bauxite production, the Central Bank said this grew significantly to 941,200 tonnes, compared to 96,638 tonnes one year earlier. This outcome, it said, is primarily on account of higher production of Metallurgical Grade Bauxite (MAZ) of 804,179 tonnes. In terms of Chemical Grade Bauxite (CGB), the Bank of Guyana said this increased to 81,447 tonnes, and Refractory Aggregate Super Calcined Grade Bauxite (RASC) increased to 41,623 tonnes. It was noted, however, that the production of tailings bauxite declined to 13,951 tonnes.

Another strong performer in the extractives sector was gold. The Central Bank reported that declarations grew by 12.8 per cent to 101,369.2 troy ounces. The small and medium-scale miners also recorded higher declarations by 13.1 per cent, while the sole large-scale operator, Zijin, recorded an increase in declarations by 12.3 per cent.


The declaration of crushed stone also saw an increase to 1,432,332

tonnes, while production of manganese increased to 82,692 tonnes. In contrast, sand extraction declined by 3.7 per cent to 2,711,314 tonnes and diamond declarations declined by 58.0 per cent to 5,615.5 metric carats.


Overall, Central Bank said, “The Guyanese economy is projected to record real GDP [Gross Domestic Product] growth of 10.6 per cent, as the oil and gas and support services sector is expected to grow moderately.” Notably, this 10.6 per cent growth will keep Guyana on track to record the highest growth rate in the region.

As for non-oil GDP growth, the financial institution said it is projected at 13.8 per cent. “This growth will be primarily due to continued development of the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors, along with further expansion of the construction, manufacturing and services sectors,” the bank said in its report.

It was also noted that the gold and bauxite mining industries are expected to further expand and influence the growth of the non-oil economy.

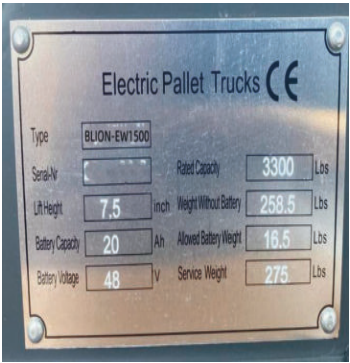



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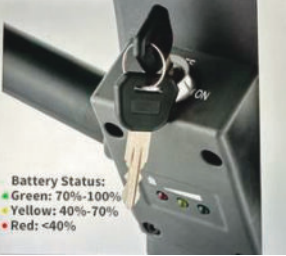
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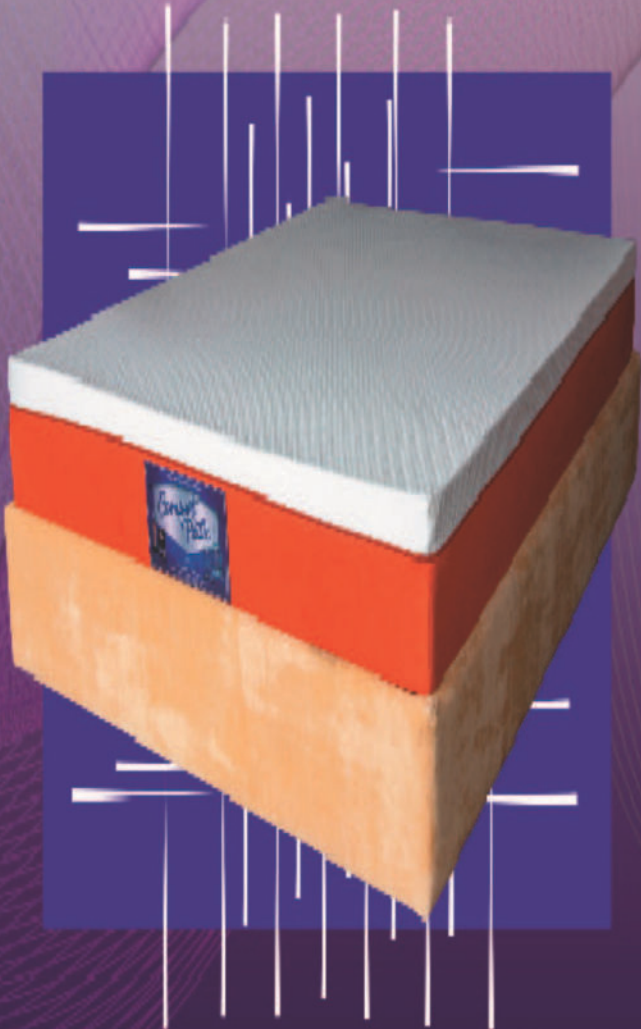
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27 new technicians certified to support Guyana’s EV sector

ELECTRIC car owners can now rest assured that, if damaged, their vehicles will receive the care they need, as Guyana welcomes more electric vehicles than ever before. With EVs continuing to emerge on Guyana’s roadways, the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) announced, in a statement on Saturday, that 27 auto electricians and mechanical technicians recently completed the fourth Electric Vehicle (EV) Maintenance and Repairs training programme.

The programme, which was held from July 14 to July 25, 2025, at the Mahaicony Technical and Vocational Training Centre (MTVTC), saw participants trained in high- and low-voltage systems, routine maintenance procedures, and the repair and replacement of EV components. Upon successful completion of the training, participants will be awarded an internationally recognised certificate from the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI).

Supported by the European Union (EU), the training forms part of the EU’s Global Gateway strategy, which prioritises investments in renewable energy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This activity in Guyana was facilitated under the Euroclima Programme, the EU’s flagship initiative to promote sustainable development and climate action. Other stakeholders in the programme include the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which co-funded and supported the venture, as well as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the implementing agency assigned to support this action in Guyana.

According to recent reports, there are now over 200 electric vehicles on Guyana’s roadways, supported by six (6) publicly accessible EV charging stations located in Regions 3, 4, and 6. In a bold move to further encourage EV adoption, the government has introduced a range of fiscal incentives, including the removal of all taxes on EVs and the increase of the depreciation allowance for electric motor vehicles to 50%.

These measures are complemented by planned investments in seventeen (17) additional public EV charging stations across multiple administrative regions in 2025, highlighting that while still new, EVs are slated to quickly become a major part of Guyana’s vehicular landscape.

At the closing ceremony, officials highlighted both the symbolic and prac-

tical value of the training and the country’s investment in future-ready skills. Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr. Alfred King, underscored that the training programme also demonstrates Guyana’s commitment to clean energy, advancing technology, and building the capacity necessary for national development.

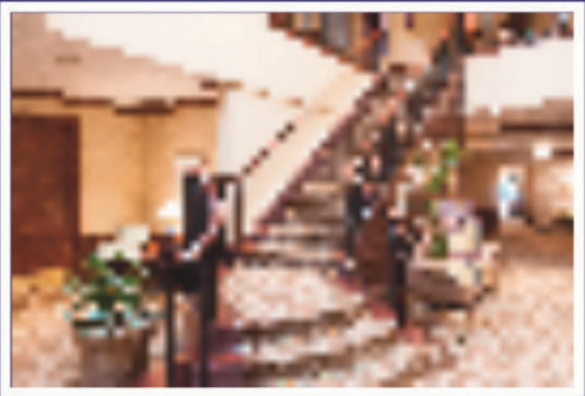
By equipping participants with the skills needed to support the EV industry, the initiative not only builds public confidence in this emerging mode of transportation but also accelerates the country’s swift transition to electric mobility.



Electric cars are becoming more popular in Guyana

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lb as is

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Ali outlines comprehensive support plan for Guyanese

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali has said that the Government of Guyana, through direct interventions and the structural realignment of the taxation system, will continue to invest in its people by building out an ecosystem that supports a good quality of life, promotes the reduction of poverty and reduces the cost of living.

The Head of State during a live Sunday broadcast noted that while the government has already rolled out a slew of measures and have expanded social services, these will be further accelerated should the People’s Progressive Party/Civic administration return for a second term.

“I am going to outline to you this very deliberate and clear strategy that supports a specific social welfare programme, an enhancement programme that looks at a system where the taxation system must not add any burden...in the five years ahead of us, the taxation system will become less complex,” President Ali said.

Further, he assured his viewers that the focus is on systemic policies that address both short-term and long-term challenges, promoting economic growth and social safety nets.

“It would allow more income in the pockets of people. We will ensure that every segment of the population grows but more direct initiatives are pursued at the family level, the lower income level, the middle-income level, supporting our young professionals so that they can have a high-quality life.”

The government he noted will be further enhancing access to essential services like health, education, and water infrastructure.

“Those are things that will continue to support, because they’re essential in addressing vulnerabilities. So, for example, the increase salaries for public service and our public servants, and... support [for] our farmers, the increases in old-age pension, public assistance grants and programme, the NIS pension, Because We Care grant for school children, that will be expanded.

He added: “So we have crafted some very specific issues in addressing poverty, in addressing cost of living, all aimed at ensuring all of our country grow in this period of economic expansion.”



Guyana President Irfaan Ali

Already too, the government has committed to slashing electricity and cooking gas costs by 50 per cent when its flagship gas-to-energy project comes on stream.

This he noted is an essential service that will see direct relief.

“So, when you have not only accessibility and reliability, but the cost of energy coming down by half that is directly addressing poverty, because this is an essential service. Similarly, with the gas project coming on stream, cooking gas is going to come down substantially. We are targeting cylinder of cooking gas at \$1,000. Now that, again, is another essential item, that’s another essential item that will reduce poverty that will save for the household.”

Further, he emphasised that community wealth will be at the core of the government’s economic expansion. According to him, these will see co-invest-

ment and grants for small and medium-sized enterprises, expanded part-time job programmes with skills training, incentivised lending through lower interest rates and reduced collateral requirements, community housing subsidies for low-income families and direct support to the arts, forestry, fishing and mining sectors.

For example, the president stated: “We’re removing every cost associated with education from the ordinary family: textbooks, primary education, secondary education, free university education, transportation grant, Because We Care grant, expanding the school feeding programme.”

Over the past five years, more than 200 taxes have been repealed, while social programmes have been broadened to include all sectors of society. Measures have been introduced to offer subsidies and direct support for housing construction and improvement, with a particular focus on assisting poor and vulnerable families. Initiatives to encourage banks to lower interest rates and ease collateral requirements for low-income groups have also been explored.

“These are the things that we’re going to pursue in a comprehensive way in the next five years as we address poverty costs of living and economic expansion directly at a community level, and the regional level, and a national level,” President Ali emphasised on Sunday.

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The wreckage of the Air India passenger aircraft

More questions than answers after Air India crash report released

When the preliminary report into the crash of Air India Flight 171 - which killed 260 people in June - was released, many hoped it would bring some measure of closure.

Instead, the 15-page report further stoked speculation. For, despite the measured tone of the report, one detail continues to haunt investigators, aviation analysts and the public alike.

Seconds after take-off, both fuel-control switches on the 12-year-old Boeing 787 abruptly moved to "cut-off", cutting fuel to the engines and causing total power loss - a step normally done only after landing.

The cockpit voice recording captures one pilot asking the other why "did he cut-off", to which the person replies that he didn't. The recording doesn't clarify who said what. At the time of take-off, the co-pilot was flying the aircraft while the captain was monitoring.

The switches were returned to their normal inflight position, triggering automatic engine re-light. At the time of the crash, one engine was regaining thrust while the other had relit but had not yet recovered power. The plane was airborne for less than a minute before crashing into a neighbourhood in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad.

Several speculative theories have emerged since the preliminary report - a full report is expected in a year or so.

The Wall Street Journal and Reuters news agency have reported that "new details in the probe of last month's Air India crash are shifting the focus to the senior pilot in the cockpit.

Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera claimed that its sources had told them the first officer repeatedly asked the captain why he "shut off the engines".

Sumeet Sabharwal, 56, was the captain on the flight, while Clive Kunder, 32, was the co-pilot who was flying the plane. Together, the two pilots had more than 19,000 hours of flight experience - nearly half of it on the Boeing 787. Both had passed all pre-flight health checks before the crash.

Understandably, the wave of speculative leaks has rattled investigators and angered Indian pilots. Last week, India's Aircraft Accident Investi-

gation Bureau (AAIB), the lead investigator, stated in a release that "certain sections of the international media are repeatedly attempting to draw conclusions through selective and unverified reporting". It described these "actions [as] irresponsible, especially while the investigation remains ongoing".

Jennifer Homendy, chairwoman of the US's National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is assisting the investigation, said on X that the media reports were "premature and speculative" and that "investigations of this magnitude take time".

Back in India, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association condemned the rush to blame the crew as "reckless" and "deeply insensitive", urging restraint until the final report is out.

Sam Thomas, head of the Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA India), told the BBC that "speculation has triumphed over transparency", emphasising the need to review the aircraft's maintenance history and documentation alongside the cockpit voice recorder data.

At the heart of the controversy is the brief cockpit recording in the report - the full transcript, expected in the final report, should shed clearer light on what truly happened.

A Canada-based air accident investigator, who preferred to remain unnamed, said that the excerpt of the conversation in the report presents several possibilities.

For example, "if pilot 'B' was the one who operated the switches - and did so unwittingly or unconsciously - it's understandable that they would later deny having done it," the investigator said.

"But if pilot 'A' operated the switches deliberately and with intent, he may have posed the question knowing full well that the cockpit voice recorder would be scrutinised, and with the aim of deflecting attention and avoiding identification as the one responsible.

"Even if the AAIB is eventually able to determine who said what, that doesn't decisively answer the question 'Who turned the fuel off?'"

"We may even never know the answer to that question."



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): Be wary of anyone who tries to win you round to their way of thinking by firing facts and figures at you from all directions. They may be talking fast and furious so you don't get the chance to stop and think about what they are saying.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): You will be on the move a lot over the next few days and by the time Venus, your ruler, joins Jupiter in the travel area of your chart on Thursday you will have made a lot of exciting new friendships. A very pleasant week awaits you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): You may get a bit peeved if someone you work with questions your plans but they could be doing you a favor. Listen to what they have to say and then make an effort to work out if you need to make changes. Most likely you will.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): There is no reason at all why you should feel guilty about something that went wrong. On the contrary, the fact that you took a chance when everyone else was too timid to try means you should be congratulating yourself. Now take another chance.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): Don't worry if you are held back from enjoying yourself today because as the week progresses you will get more freedom of action and then there will be no stopping you. Be smart and conserve your energy over the next 24 hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): A thick slice of good fortune will come your way today and you must make the most of it. There will, of course, be those who say you don't deserve so much luck when other people are struggling but they are wrong - you deserve it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): What looks like a difficult task today will get easier as the week progresses, so stick with it and don't listen to those who say you might as well give up. Take this opportunity to prove that you do, after all, possess considerable staying power.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You may have started a lot of new projects over the past few weeks but now you need to focus on just one of them and give it 100 per cent. Make the relentless pursuit of excellence your one and only aim over the next seven days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): The more a friend or colleague moans about how tough life is at the moment the more annoyed you will get, and rightly so. Point out to them the many places in the world where life is so much more of a challenge. Do they want to swap?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): A positive attitude is an absolute must this week. Cosmic activity in the further reaches of your solar chart will bring challenges that require a forceful response, so get your act together and don't waste time and energy on needless negativity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): There will be occasions this week when you find yourself moving in the opposite direction to most other people, but why should that bother you? You have never been one to follow the herd, so be brave and blaze your own trail through life.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You will be far too busy taking care of what is in front of you this week to get worked up about what may be going on at a distance. Charity begins at home, so be kind to yourself and find ways to resolve a personal crisis.

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Antigua denies putting former TT PM Rowley on Interpol watch list

Antigua and Barbuda’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Chet Greene, has voiced concern over what he sees as a breakdown in regional diplomatic protocol after former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley was stopped twice by immigration authorities at VC Bird International Airport without the Antiguan government’s prior knowledge.

Rowley, who stepped down from office in March, revealed this week that he was flagged during two separate visits to Antigua—on July 13 and again days later while returning to Trinidad from Montserrat. On both occasions, he was asked to wait by immigration officials and later told he had been placed on a list, which he initially believed to be an Interpol watch list.

He said during the first encounter, despite presenting his diplomatic passport, he was escorted to an executive lounge by Antiguan security officers after what he described as a significant delay. A second encounter allegedly involved a similar stop, though a supervisor reportedly explained it was a case of mistaken identity.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the reports emerged, Minister Greene said he was disappointed that Antigua and Barbuda—a sovereign Caribbean state—was neither informed of Rowley’s travel plans nor given the opportunity to formally acknowledge a former regional leader.

“There were no provisions made especially or particularly for Dr Row-



Keith Rowley claims he is on an Interpol watch list, but both TT and Antigua deny knowledge of it

ley passing through,” Greene said. “And you know that in itself is where we have a concern because we would like to know that our protocol is extended to persons who would have served this region.”

He described the incident as regrettable, noting that Antigua had now been drawn into what he termed a “local political matter”.

Greene declined to comment on whether Dr. Rowley had, in fact, been placed on any security list, noting that he had not spoken directly to immigra-

tion authorities and that any further comment would be inappropriate. “Antigua and Barbuda does not have any comments to make on this matter, which seemingly is, even from Dr Rowley’s account, a local political development,” he said.

In Trinidad and Tobago, both the Police Commissioner and Homeland Security Minister Roger Alexander have denied any government involvement in flagging the former prime minister.

“Just like everybody else, I am

wondering from whence that came,” Alexander said. “We have no information about that. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago did not put anybody, from my knowledge, on any watch list... not that particular individual (Rowley) or anyone else.”

He emphasized that Interpol operates independently, and that the government does not interfere with its procedures. While no formal investigation is planned, Alexander said the matter may still be examined internally.

Probe launched after cops kill five men in Jamaican raid

Five men were shot and killed on Monday in Jack’s Hill, St. Andrew, Jamaica, during what police have described as an intelligence-driven operation targeting armed criminals in the upscale residential community.

The deadly encounter, which has further inflamed concerns about rising police-related fatalities, is now under investigation by the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM).

According to reports, the operation was carried out by officers attached to the Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime Investigation Branch (CTOC). Acting on intelligence that gunmen were gathered at a specific location in Jack’s Hill, police say they moved in shortly after midday. Upon arrival, they were allegedly met with gunfire, prompting them to return fire in what authorities have described as a “confrontation.”

When the shooting subsided, five men were found fatally shot. Their identities have not yet been released.



Jack’s Hill is usually a quiet residential area

Law enforcement sources say four illegal firearms were recovered at the scene. However, one man—believed to be armed with a rifle—reportedly escaped during the operation.

Residents in the usually quiet community reported being jolted by the sound of sustained gunfire, which disrupted the midday calm and sent some scrambling for cover.

No members of the security forces were injured in the incident, and the Jamaica Constabulary Force has yet to release an official statement detailing the events.

Meanwhile, INDECOM has confirmed that it has launched an investigation into the shooting. The oversight body is responsible for probing actions taken by members of the security forces, especially in cases where force results in death or serious injury.

Monday’s incident brings the number of people killed by the security forces in Jamaica since the start of the year to 184—marking a dramatic 121 percent increase over the same period in 2024, when 83 fatal police shootings were recorded up to July 21.

INDECOM noted that 22 people have been killed by police so far in July alone, compared to 15 in July last year. Despite the sharp rise in fatal encounters, the commission reports that only 39 members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force have been charged within a year of related investigations.

Dominica’s International Airport now 40% complete and ahead of schedule

The highly anticipated Dominica International Airport is now over 40 per cent complete and progressing ahead of schedule, according to Finance Minister Dr. Irving McIntyre. The update was delivered during his presentation of the National Budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

“Since the mobilization and commencement of construction of Dominica’s international airport, we have made substantial progress in transforming this long-awaited national priority into a reality,” Dr. McIntyre said. “The scale and pace of work on this project are unprecedented in our nation’s history.”

Civil works on the site are significantly advanced, with four major culverts — stretching more than 2,000 meters in total — already constructed to support proper drainage. The minister also reported that the leveling of the runway is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025.

Construction of the passenger terminal has begun, and upcoming works include the cargo facility, air traffic control tower, and rescue and firefighting services building. A tunnel will also be built beneath the runway to ensure safe and continuous access between the communities of Wesley and Woodford Hill.

To date, over \$45 million in compensation has been paid to 235 property owners, and 47 new homes have been built — 31 of them directly by the Government.

“This transformative project remains on schedule and will serve as a catalyst for tourism, trade, and investment, reshaping Dominica’s economic



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

landscape and global connectivity,” Dr. McIntyre added.

The \$1 billion contract to build the international airport was signed in June 2021 between the Government of Dominica and Montreal Management Con-

sultant Establishment (MMCE). The agreement marked the official start of construction at a ceremony held at Windsor Park Sports Stadium.

At the time, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit expressed gratitude to the

communities of Wesley, Woodford Hill, and Palm Tree for their support and promised citizens both locally and abroad that “nothing and no one” would stop the government from delivering the airport.

No more automatic promotion for Jamaican students

Starting this September, students in Jamaica will no longer be automatically promoted to the next grade level regardless of their academic performance — a major shift aimed at tackling long-standing issues in literacy and numeracy.

The announcement came from Dr. Adrian Stokes, Chairman of the Education Transformation Oversight Committee (ETOC), during a press conference at Jamaica House on Wednesday.

“Students who are not at the requisite level will be placed on a pathway that allows them to remediate the learning challenges they are experiencing. Individual learning plans will be developed for these students to ensure proper targeting of learning challenges,” Dr. Stokes explained.

He noted that the blanket promotion of unprepared students had created major challenges at the high school level, where some first-formers are expected to tackle as many as 10 subjects without foundational skills.

“These students, some of them are placed in what is called the pathway three by the Ministry. They require focused attention to correct fundamental issues with literacy and numeracy,” he said.

To ease the pressure and sharpen the focus, Dr. Stokes said these students will now be required to



Students in Jamaica will no longer be automatically promoted

take only six subjects in their first year of high school.

“These students will be taken through a more targeted programme to ensure they are better equipped to pursue a successful secondary school life. It’s a very important development,” he added.

Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Infor-

mation, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, said the number of subjects students pursue will increase over time based on their academic growth.

“They will, over time, as we deal with the literacy and numeracy problems, be exposed to all of the beautiful subjects that are there,” Dr. Morris Dixon said.

Election of sanctioned businessman could strain relations, US warns Guyana

U.S. Ambassador to Guyana Nicole Theriot has raised alarm over the political aspirations of Azruddin Mohamed, a presidential candidate currently under U.S. government sanctions.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event today, Ambassador Theriot said Mohamed’s potential election to the National Assembly—or even the government—could force Washington to reconsider how it engages with Guyana.

“We are concerned. Anytime a U.S. Department of Treasury, OFAC-sanctioned individual has the potential to become a member of government, that is problematic in multiple ways,” the ambassador said. “If that person sits on a committee, for example, we would have to ensure that any U.S. engagement with that committee excludes him.”

Mohamed, along with his father and their companies, was sanctioned by the U.S. last year over allegations of tax evasion and under-declaration of gold. Despite this, he recently launched the “We Invest in Nationhood” (WIN) party and qualified to contest Guyana’s upcoming elections.

Until now, the U.S. government had remained publicly quiet on the Mohameds’ sanctions, even as local officials—such as Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo—maintained that Washington and Georgetown were actively sharing information on the matter.

The U.S. and Guyana currently enjoy wide-ranging cooperation on defense, security, and trade. But Ambassador Theriot said Mohamed’s entry into national politics could threaten that dynamic—not just diplomatically, but economically.

“What concerns me more is the impact on private investment,” she added. “When a sanctioned individual becomes a government official, U.S. companies often reassess their risk exposure. We’ve seen this in Afghanistan and elsewhere, where firms begin to de-risk or even sever ties.”

The ambassador emphasized that the upcoming elections are “extremely important” for both Guyana and the United States, especially with regard to maintaining peace and stability in the region. The U.S. Embassy will be part of the international observer mission



Azruddin Mohamed was sanctioned for allegedly evading US\$50 million in taxes on gold

for the vote.

In the meantime, Mohamed’s WIN party has been actively rallying support across the country.

Meanwhile, Mohamed says he is optimistic that the United States will soon lift the financial sanctions imposed on him, as he launched his political party’s manifesto last Thursday, ahead of Guyana’s September 1 general and regional elections.

Mohamed, who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in June 2024 for allegedly evading US\$50 million in taxes linked to more than 10,000 kilograms of undeclared gold exports, told reporters that his legal team is working with OFAC to have him delisted.

“I think, I am being very optimistic that very soon I will be delisted so that we can work together with the United States of America,” he said. During the launch of his We Invest In Nationhood (WIN) party’s manifesto, he declared, “When we take office on the 2nd of September, the United States of America will work with us,” citing what he described as improved relations between U.S. President Donald

Trump and Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa.

Mohamed defended his candidacy. “This is a sovereign nation. This is the will of the people, they want me to run for office. That is why I declared my candidacy – the people of this country,” he said.

Mohamed also linked Guyana’s current foreign exchange strain to the sanctions against him. “Since I was sanctioned, the financial system within the bank – heavy shortage of foreign currency – but they won’t say this,” he claimed. He declined to directly comment further on the OFAC allegations, adding only, “I don’t know about that,” and maintained he is one of the country’s top taxpayers.

As part of his campaign platform, Mohamed promised sweeping economic changes, including an increase in the income tax threshold from GY\$130,000 to GY\$200,000, a 50 percent salary hike, cuts in duties on several vehicle categories, and a GY\$100,000 monthly pension for 85,000 pensioners—estimated to cost GY\$60 billion annually. He said these policies would be funded by reducing

“wasteful spending and corruption.”

“We have the money, Sir,” he declared, though specific costs for the full slate of proposals were not provided.

WIN also pledged to renegotiate the 2016 Production Sharing Agreement with ExxonMobil, enforce ring-fencing rules for oil block development costs, and publish all extractive industry contracts and spending. The party says it will strengthen financial transparency through a centralized, searchable portal.

Mohamed further vowed to clamp down on alleged gold smuggling operations, which he claimed are connected to political insiders.

Among WIN’s proposed social policies are increased public assistance for individuals living with HIV and cancer (from GY\$14,000 to GY\$30,000), a GY\$100,000 annual school grant, and possible increases to the private sector minimum wage. WIN member Dawn Hastings also said the party would work with the National Tashao’s Council to create a credit union for Indigenous communities and increase disbursements from carbon credit revenue.

T&T marks grim anniversary of the 1990 coup attempt

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar have issued statements commemorating the 35th anniversary of the 1990 attempted coup, reflecting on the trauma and resilience that followed one of the most harrowing chapters in the nation’s history.

On July 27, 1990, members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen, a radical Islamist group led by Yasin Abu Bakr, launched an armed insurrection against the democratically elected government. They stormed the Red House—Trinidad and Tobago’s Parliament—taking Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and several Cabinet members hostage. Simultaneously, another group seized control of the state-owned television station, Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT), using it to announce that the government had been overthrown.

The siege lasted six days, during which 24 people were killed, dozens injured, and Port of Spain was left in chaos. Prime Minister Robinson, who was shot in the leg after reportedly urging soldiers to “attack with full force,” and other officials were eventually released after the insurgents surrendered under an amnesty agreement.

In its media release, the Parliament described the events as plunging the country into “the abyss of uncer-



Armed members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen group tried to overthrow the government in 1990

tainty and violence.” It acknowledged the lives lost, those injured, and the deep psychological scars left on the national conscience.

“The effects of this traumatic episode still echoes today. Yet, even amidst the horror and confusion, there emerged resilience and courage,” the statement read. The Parliament paid tribute to those who endured immense physical and psychological trauma and

continued to serve the Republic “with honour and dignity.”

It emphasized that the people of Trinidad and Tobago rejected violence and stood firm in defense of democracy. “Those who believed the public would support this violent misadventure gravely misjudged the strength of our democratic convictions,” it noted.

The Parliament also recognized the efforts of police, defence force per-

sonnel, public servants, medical workers, media personnel, and parliamentarians who “went beyond the call of duty” during the crisis.

“Though the passage of time may blur details, we must never forget. Remembrance ensures that history is not lost to silence. It acknowledges the pain of the past while preserving the truth for future generations,” the statement concluded.

Jamaica’s Holness: Independence is a mission to renew

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has urged Jamaicans to see Independence not just as a yearly commemoration, but as a mission that each generation must actively renew.

Speaking at a reception hosted by Governor-General His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen at King’s House on Thursday (July 24), marking Jamaica’s 63rd Independence Anniversary, Dr. Holness highlighted that independence goes beyond self-rule. It includes the nation’s duty to provide safety, security, justice, and opportunity for all citizens.

“[Also] the capacity...to uphold law and order... and ensure justice and stability. It means building a Jamaica that is not only free, but a Jamaica that is fair,” the Prime Minister stated.

He emphasised that the resilience of Jamaica’s independence must withstand global uncertainties. “But the Government cannot do it alone. Independence is not a spectator sport. Each generation must earn it anew; not only through politics, but through performance...in our schools, in our businesses, in our families, in our communities.

Describing the pursuit of excellence as the “next frontier of nation building,” Dr. Holness urged citizens to use sovereignty wisely, ensuring dignity and access to opportunities such as



Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness

land ownership, wealth creation, education, health, and safety.

On behalf of Opposition Leader Mark Golding, Member of Parliament for St Andrew South Western, Dr. Angela Brown Burke reflected on the sacrifices of those who fought for

Jamaica’s freedom. She called on Jamaicans to honor that legacy through unity, justice, and equality.

“Let us reaffirm the values that bind us as a people and let’s commit to building a Jamaica that honours our past, rises to meet the present and

boldly claims our future,” Dr. Brown Burke said.

Jamaica will celebrate its 63rd Independence Day on August 6, under the theme: ‘Be Proud, Be Bold in Black, Green, and Gold.’

T&T ‘monitoring’ situation as US allows energy exploration in Venezuela to resume

Trinidad and Tobago Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal says government continues to monitor global energy developments.

He made this comment in respect to a recent decision by the US government to allow energy multi-national Chevron to resume energy exploration in Venezuela.

The reversal is believed to be part of a recent prisoner swap deal that saw the return of ten remaining Americans who had been detained by the Venezuelan government.

In exchange, the US arranged for the return home of 252 Venezuelans who had been deported to a counter-terrorism prison in El Salvador known as the Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo.

Chevron scored a license to do business with Venezuela in 2022 under the former Joe Biden administration after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro had expressed an openness to conducting fair elections.

But the US says free elections never happened – the US recognised Maduro’s opposition as the legitimate winner – yet Maduro clung to power.

In February, the Trump administration rescinded Chevron’s license to do business in Venezuela, giving the company a May deadline to wind down operations.

A Washington Post report this week said as part of the deal, no royalties or taxes would go to the Maduro regime. The new deal would allow Chevron to operate with limitations in the sanctioned Opec nation.

In response to the news, Chevron said the company conducted its business globally in compliance with laws and regulations applicable to its business, as well as the sanction frameworks provided for by the US government, including in Venezuela.

In a WhatsApp comment to Newsday on July 25, Moonilal said. "We are always monitoring global energy developments."

He added, "Markets are unpredictable on both the demand and supply sides while persuasive geopolitical considerations are ever present."

Moonilal made no direct reference



Dr Roodal Moonilal, T&T’s Minister of Energy

to Chevron being allowed to resume operations in Venezuela.

He made no comment on whether or not consideration would be given about pursuing energy initiatives the former PNM government had in train with Venezuela before the April 28 general election.

On April 8, then prime minister Stuart Young said the US government had revoked the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) licences for Dragon and Manakin-Cocuina cross-border gas fields.

The Dragon gas deal license was granted on October 17, 2023, and was due to expire on October 31, 2024.

The Manakin-Cocuina license was granted on December 18, 2023. Young said he was in contact with attorneys in Washington DC, and could not provide further details at the time.

The Manakin-Cocuina field is the second largest on the Trinidad and Tobago-Venezuela maritime border. It holds at least one trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves.

At that time, the Trump administration announced it was ending all oil and

gas licenses granted by the Biden administration for energy exploration in Venezuela, including Chevron's.

Before the election, Young said efforts would continue to be made to reapply for OFAC licences for Dragon and Manakin-Cocuina.

The UNC won the election 26-13-2.

In May, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar declared the Dragon deal was dead.

She said the UNC would focus on energy initiatives with Grenada, Guyana and Suriname instead.

This week, Moonilal confirmed a Reuters report that government is negotiating with Exxon Mobil to explore and produce oil and gas in up to seven deep-water blocks off its east coast.

He said dialogue between TT and several major oil and gas companies were advanced in critical meetings at the recent Suriname gas conference last month.

“We are in discussions with major players to ramp up exploration and production within and outside of bid rounds.”



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CWI welcomes CARICOM’s call for reform in West Indies cricket

In what could mark a defining moment for the future of West Indies cricket, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has thrown its full support behind a sweeping reform proposal issued by the Bureau of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on Cricket.

The proposal, issued Thursday by CARICOM and the PMSC, calls for immediate and far-reaching structural reforms, expressing grave concern over the continued deterioration of cricket in the region, particularly in the longest and most prestigious format of the game—Test cricket.

The regional leaders minced no words in their assessment of the state of West Indies cricket, describing it as a sport in crisis. Their statement cited chronic deficiencies in youth development, governance, and strategic long-term planning as critical factors contributing to the team’s fall from global competitiveness.

In addition, the leaders expressed frustration over CWI’s longstanding failure to act on key reform initiatives, pointing specifically to the 2007 Patterson Report, the 2015 Eudine Barribeau Report, and the 2020 Wehby Report—all of which have remained largely unimplemented despite repeated calls for change.

In a statement released on Saturday, CWI offered a strong and conciliatory response, signaling its willingness to partner with CARICOM in the transformation of regional cricket.

“We deeply appreciate the ongoing interest and involvement of regional Heads of Government in the future of West Indies cricket and reaffirm our commitment to open constructive engagement,” the CWI declared.

The board described the proposed special committee—comprised of a broad cross-section of regional stakeholders—as “a valuable opportunity to not only candidly address the challenges we face, but also to explore practical pathways to strengthen and sustain West Indies cricket.

CWI emphasized that its six shareholder members, the territorial cricket boards, would be encouraged to participate fully in the reform process, sharing insights and contributing to the reshaping of the sport’s governance and developmental structures.

“We reiterate our strong desire for collaboration with CARICOM and all stakeholders, as reflected in our consistent participation in meetings of the



Caricom wants sweeping reform of West Indies cricket

Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on Cricket since 2023 and in various courtesy engagements with regional leaders,” the board added.

Though once an indomitable force in world cricket, West Indies has seen its legacy dimmed by poor performances, internal discord, and mismanagement. With this show of unity

between political and sporting leaders, a new chapter may be opening—one anchored in transparency, accountability, and strategic renewal.

“CWI remains confident that, through collective effort and a shared vision, we can return West Indies cricket to the highest standards of excellence both on and off the field,” the

statement concluded.

As calls for reform transition into coordinated action, the Caribbean cricket community watches with cautious optimism, hoping that this collaboration will finally deliver the long-promised renaissance of West Indies cricket.

Andre Russel bids emotional goodbye to cricket

On a warm Tuesday night at Sabina Park, the curtain fell on one of the most electrifying and unforgettable careers in West Indies cricket history. Andre Russell, the towering Jamaican all-rounder whose name became synonymous with power, pride, and passion, walked off the field for the final time in West Indies colors — not with a win, but with a roar from the crowd, tears in his eyes, and gratitude in his heart.

The 37-year-old, who for over a decade redefined the modern cricketer, played his last international match on home soil against Australia, turning back the clock with a breathtaking cameo of 36 off 15 balls, including four sixes and two fours, reigniting Sabina with the kind of fireworks that made him a global icon.

Russell arrived at the crease with West Indies tottering at 98 for five in the 14th over, and instantly lifted the atmosphere with an onslaught of clean, brutal hitting. Though his stay was short, his impact was thunderous. After being caught behind by Josh In-



Andre Russell

glis off Nathan Ellis, every Australian player approached to offer congratulations — a rare and touching show of respect — before he left the field to a standing ovation from the Kingston faithful.

Tears streamed down his face as he ascended the steps to the dressing

room, where teammates and coaching staff embraced him, marking the end of a 15-year international journey that had begun in Colombo in 2010.

“Thanks again to the people at Sabina Park, thanks to the West Indies Cricket Board for making this possible,” Russell said afterward. “I’m very grateful to end my career here, playing in front of my home crowd, family and friends... The result didn’t go my way but at the end of the day I’m happy and grateful.”

Russell’s story is the stuff of cricketing legend. From Clarendon College and St Catherine Cricket Club, he launched a career that saw him conquer the game’s most challenging formats. Across 142 international appearances, Russell became a three-dimensional dynamo — feared for his ferocious hitting, sharp pace bowling, and acrobatic fielding.

He holds the record for the highest strike rate in ODI history (130.22) and scored 92 against India in 2011 — the highest score ever by a No. 9 in ODIs.

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‘Any child who wants a university education will get it’ - President Ali

WITH the University of Guyana (UG) receiving over 20,000 applications for the academic year, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali has announced that the government will begin engaging private tertiary institutions to ensure students are not left behind or left out.

Speaking at a public meeting last week, President Ali said the administration is engaging with all private universities in the country, including new medical schools and international institutions, to discuss ways of supporting students.

“We have taken a decision that every single private university, all of the universities, whether it’s the new medical schools, whether it is international universities that we are going to negotiate with them, similar so that no child who wants a university education will be left without an education,” the President stated.

He noted that given the number of applications to UG, alternative pathways must be considered and provided.

“We have trained more than 82,000 Guyanese, almost 40,000 alone, on the GOAL scholarship programme,” he said.

Starting with the 2025/26 academic year, tuition at the University of Guyana became officially free for all students, including those pursuing Diplomas, Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD degrees.

This policy reflects a major PPP/C



The University of Guyana

manifesto commitment fulfilled, designed to make tertiary education more accessible to students across UG’s campuses and online platforms.

The initiative took effect on January 1, 2025, with significant funding allocated in the 2025 national budget to support it.

Prior to full implementation, a phased approach was announced in 2024 to transition into free university education, addressing existing student loan repayments first and then fully abolishing tuition fees.

The government has stressed that this initiative is a planned, structured

effort contrasting with previous administrations which increased fees instead of providing free tertiary education.

The Head of State also highlighted the government’s efforts in expanding educational access through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarship programme.

The programme initially promised 20,000 scholarships but has since expanded, distributing over 39,000 scholarships covering certificate to PhD-level programs. This initiative enhances access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for all Guyanese, irrespective of economic background.

The GOAL programme partners with reputable institutions such as the University of the West Indies Open Campus, University of the Southern Caribbean, Indira Gandhi National Open University, and others, offering flexible timelines from two months to three years.

The government also plans to modernise and expand technical and vocational training, implement digital and AI-powered personalised learning strategies, and increase financial support for students, including school transportation grants and expanded cash support programmes for families.

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