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Trade soars to US\$4.7B between Guyana, USA

BILATERAL trade between Guyana and the United States of America (U.S.) has surpassed S\$4.7 billion over the past year and according to the U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, this is a new record reflecting the strong and rapidly growing economic ties between the two nations. “Over the past year, we’ve reached another milestone. Bilateral trade in physical goods alone surpassed US\$4.7 billion, a new record. The number of U.S. companies working with Guyanese partners continues to grow, along with sustained investment across many sectors,” Ambassador Theriot said at the 249th U.S. Independence Day celebration last Friday. She noted that since last year, the two nations have celebrated new ventures such as company launches and grand openings to ground-breaking partnerships. “We’ve welcomed a new U.S.-branded hotel, joined in launching a new primary and secondary school partnership, brought a U.S. company to Guyana, offering the country’s first ever industrial 3D printing and marked the entry of a company specialising in welding and machining services.” The continued partnerships, she noted, will not stop there.

More on the story on Page 15



Guyana, Brazil conduct joint border patrols

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and the Brazilian Armed Forces recently conducted Joint Simultaneous International Patrols in the border region near Lethem and Bonfim as well as in the Kanapang in the Pakaraima Region. According to a statement issued by the GDF on Friday, the patrols were carefully coordinated to ensure real-time collaboration and mutual visibility between forces, contributing to improved situational awareness and joint readiness. “The joint operation featured patrols across air, river, and land domains. These multi-agency patrols aimed to deter illicit cross-border activity, reinforce surveillance capabilities, and deepen inter-operability between security forces,” the statement said.

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SCAN ME



R - Region

WARAMURI (BARIMA - WAINI)
- Coffee Production
- Breadfruit
- Eco-Tourism
R1

BARTICA
- Precious Minerals
- Manufacturing
- Tourism
R7

PARIKA
- Expansion of the Schomburgk Road to the Demerara High Space Bridge. Port has the latest Regional Ferry Service, Transportation and Logistics, Agricultural Trade, Eco & Medical Tourism.
R3

ESSEQUIBO
- Tourism Hub (365 Islands)
- Gold Centers
- Agriculture / Agro-processing
- Solar Farms - Commercial
- Coconut Farming
R2

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
- Transport, Food & Tourism Hub

Silica City
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R4

BERBICE
- Oil Refinery
(Downstream investment opportunities, Petrochemical industry, fertilizers & synthetic materials, Fuel Distribution, Industrial Manufacturing - Deepwater port - Aquaculture - Hotel Development - Agricultural belt
R5/R

WALES
- Gas to shore pipeline
- Manufacturing & Industrial Hub
- 300 MW Energy Plant & Integrated Natural Gas Liquid Plant
- Weed-on-Roap Shore Base Inc. (VESNI)
R3

LINDEN
- Agricultural Port & Large Scale Farms
- Food Zone - Local
- Sustainable Highway - Eco Lodges & Resorts - Theme Parks
- Manufacturing Ecosystem
- Treatment and Logistics Hub
- Sports Facilities & Sports Tourism
R10

MANDIA
- Precious Minerals (Gold, Diamond, Agriculture)
R6

GUYANA BRAZIL CONNECTION
Logistical Integration
Food Security
Energy Security
Construction of roads, ports and airports that connect the Caribbean to the Northern Region of Brazil

LETHEM
- Hotel Development & Casinos - Airport Expansion - Large Scale Farming - Bottle Ranching Gold Storage - Eco Tourism - Food Hub
R9

GUYANA SURINAME CONNECTION
- Corontyne River Bridge
- Food Production (Enhanced agricultural collaboration & trade)
- Infrastructure Projects - Eco-tourism

BARBADOS
Transport, Food & Tourism Hub
Twining Beach/Isle

KAJETUR BLOCK
CANJE BLOCK
GAS TO SHORE
STANDER BLOCK

SURINAME
NIEUW NICKERE



Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, MBA
Chief Investment Officer, Office of the President, Agency Head, Guyana Office for Investment

GUYANA'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXPORT PROMOTION & READINESS

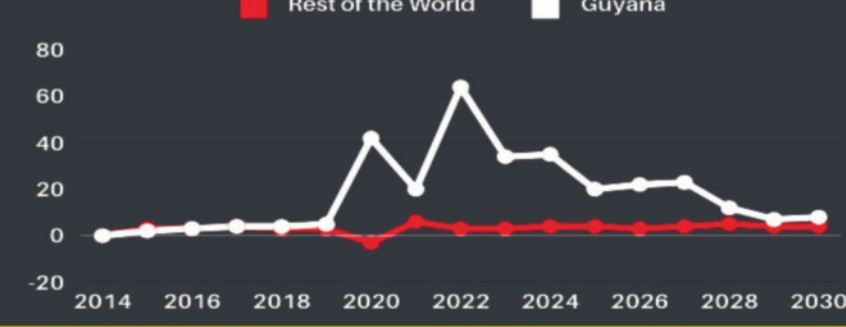


The Guyana Office for Investment is a semi-autonomous agency established in 1994 pursuant to the Public Corporations Act, with a mandate to promote and encourage investment in Guyana.

WHY BUY GUYANA STOCK?

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

Rest of the World Guyana



Year	Rest of the World (%)	Guyana (%)
2014	0	0
2016	0	0
2018	0	0
2020	0	40
2022	0	60
2024	0	43.60
2026	0	30
2028	0	20
2030	0	10

FOOD SECURITY

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

CLIMATE SECURITY

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

ENERGY SECURITY

- 11+ Billion Oil-equivalent barrels discovered offshore
- 17 Trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserves
- 300MW Power Plant

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

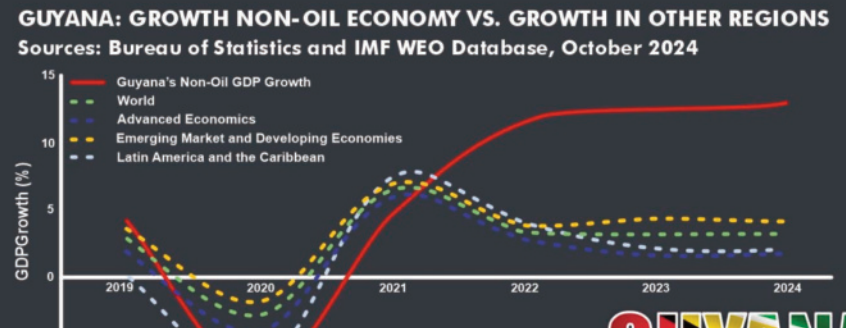
- Several New Regional Hospitals
- Access to free Education
- BIT Training
- Housing Development

WORLD CLASS TOURISM INDUSTRY

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

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

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



Year	Guyana's Non-Oil GDP Growth (%)	World (%)	Advanced Economies (%)	Emerging Market and Developing Economies (%)	Latin America and the Caribbean (%)
2019	5	3	2	4	3
2020	-5	-2	-1	-3	-2
2021	10	5	4	8	6
2022	12	6	5	9	7
2023	13	7	6	10	8
2024	14	8	7	11	9

GUYANA
The Gateway to OPPORTUNITIES

Guyana to Host Global Biodiversity Summit, Strengthen Role as Green Leader

By Clarissa Ali
LJI REPORTER

Guyana is poised to take another major step in its global environmental leadership by hosting the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit from July 23 to 25, 2025, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Liliendaal.

The event underscores Guyana’s commitment to advancing its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, according to Kevin Hogan, Advisor to the Office of the President.

Speaking on Episode Three of the "United for Biodiversity: the Alliance Podcast," Hogan emphasized that biodiversity has always been a core component of the LCDS—even though the strategy initially gained international recognition for its climate-forward approach.

“The LCDS began with a focus on the climate benefits of our forests,” Hogan said. “But biodiversity was never an afterthought. This summit marks a new chapter—the evolution of a vision that’s always placed Guyana at the forefront, now strengthened by international partnerships.”

The LCDS was first introduced in 2009, during a time when Guyana was emerging from decades of economic hardship.

Then-President Bharrat Jagdeo—now Vice President—championed a model of sustainable development that diverged from the global norm of deforestation followed by reforestation. Instead, he proposed a bold alternative:



Guyana continues to punch above its weight on the issue of biodiversity

getting paid to preserve Guyana’s standing forests.

That boldness resulted in a groundbreaking agreement with Norway, which paid Guyana US\$227 million between 2009 and 2015 in exchange for maintaining some of the world’s lowest deforestation rates per capita—a global first.

However, from 2016 to 2020, under the APNU+AFC coalition, payments for forest climate services stalled.

“It was unfortunate,” Hogan said. “Despite the work of so many, no compensation came during those years.”

The program was revived under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who took office in August 2020 and moved quickly to secure payments covering the full period from 2009 to 2022.

Building on that legacy, LCDS 2030 expands beyond climate and forest protection to include biodiversity conservation, water resource management, and urban sustainability.

“Guyana continues to punch above its weight internationally,” Hogan noted. “Because this has always been a Guyana-driven effort—guided by the presidency but powered by communities.”

The upcoming summit will also spotlight a bold new proposal: a financing model to reward countries for preserving biodiversity, setting the stage for another Guyana-led innovation on the global sustainability front.

‘Old’ Demerara Bridge may find new life as link from Timheri to Sand Hills

When the new Demerara River Bridge is officially opened to the public, the government can utilise the old Demerara Harbour Bridge to connect Timehri to Sand Hills.

This was disclosed by President Dr Irfaan Ali on Monday, who noted that engineers are currently examining the feasibility of this venture.

President Ali explained that the connection from Timehri to Sand Hills would open up lots of opportunities.

It would take commuters to Foul-

mouth which would connect to the Parika-Goshen Road.

“...that would interconnect with this Sand Hills Road that would take us into Bartica, into the interior, so we are now connecting all of the regions,” the President said.

He added that, “the Timehri-Sand Hills Road will open up hundreds of thousands of new acres of land for housing, sand mining, agriculture and large areas for forestry.”

Earlier this year, the Ministry of

Public Works had issued an invitation for bids for the road link between Parika and Goshen.

The government had previously touted using the old Demerara Harbour Bridge to bridge the Berbice River at Kwakwani, or bridging the Essequibo islands of Leguan and Wakenaam.



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Lingering Threats

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, July 2 2025

THE sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana face unprecedented challenges that require constant attention from every citizen.

Recent developments involving US-sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed and his political ambitions through the “We Invest in Nationhood” (WIN) party pose a direct threat to our democratic foundations and important international relationships, according to President, Dr. Irfaan Ali and other foreign and local officials.

This situation is serious. When the United States Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed sanctions on the Mohamed family in June 2024, it was not a routine action.

These sanctions arose from claims of evading over US\$50 million in taxes on more than 10,000 kilograms of gold exports between 2019 and 2023.

This type of financial misconduct threatens the core of our economic system. President Ali has made this very clear: “OFAC sanctions are not ordinary sanctions. They are sanctions that seek specific measures.”

The implications go beyond financial wrongdoing. US Congresswoman Maria Elvira Salazar has issued a clear warning that highlights the urgency of

our situation.

Her statement that “individuals sanctioned for illicit activities must not be allowed to jeopardise this vital relationship” addresses the real danger of letting compromised individuals gain political power.

This is not just political talk; it reflects serious concern in the US Congress about Venezuela’s efforts to undermine Guyana’s democracy through what Congressman Carlos Gimenez referred to as a “pro-Maduro puppet candidate.”

We cannot dismiss the Venezuelan connection as a coincidence. At a time when our country faces its greatest external threat from Venezuela’s aggressive territorial claims over the Essequibo region, the rise of a US-sanctioned political figure with alleged ties to the Maduro regime represents a dangerous mix of internal and external threats.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s recent warning that any Venezuelan attack on Guyana would lead to severe consequences for Caracas highlights the importance of maintaining strong US-Guyana relations. Yet, Mohamed’s political activities threaten this crucial alliance when we need it the most.

Further, the response from the financial sector shows the systemic risks involved. Local banks have cut all ties with Mohamed and his businesses not

because of political bias but because working with OFAC-sanctioned individuals could expose them to secondary sanctions.

Insurance companies have also distanced themselves, and tenants have left buildings owned by the sanctioned entities. This is not victimisation; it is simply the result of engaging in activities that place one outside legitimate international commerce.

President Ali’s description of Mohamed as a threat to national security is not exaggerated or politically driven.

When our key ally in defending against Venezuelan aggression labels someone as so compromised that they warrant sanctions, that person automatically becomes a security risk to our nation’s defence.

The president’s comment that “our greatest threat to our national security is Venezuela” and that Mohamed is a risk “because our key ally has identified him to the extent that he is sanctioned by them” reflects a serious geopolitical reality.

Guyanese voters should see that the September 1 elections are more than just a choice between political parties.

They represent a critical moment for our national security, international reputation, and future development.

President Ali’s warning that “leadership must not fall into the hands of those whose affiliations and agendas

may compromise Guyana’s territorial integrity” highlights the stark reality of our current situation.

The choice is clear, we can protect our democracy by rejecting those identified as threats to our national interests by our closest allies, or we can allow sanctioned individuals to possibly endanger our sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Guyana’s significant progress in recent years, from our growing oil wealth to our improved international profile, has come from careful management of relationships with democratic allies.

These achievements are too valuable to gamble on the political ambitions of those operating under international sanctions. Our democracy deserves leaders whose integrity is unquestionable and whose commitment to our sovereignty remains unaffected by foreign entanglements.

The warning from Congresswoman Salazar and her colleagues should alert all Guyanese. When our strategic allies express concern about threats to our democratic institutions, we ignore their warnings at our own risk.

The way forward requires vigilance, wisdom, and a strong commitment to the principles that have guided our nation toward prosperity and security. We must not allow sanctioned individuals to endanger the vital relationships that safeguard our sovereignty and ensure our future.

Gaslighting going wild

Dear Editor

ALTHOUGH the concept gaslighting is not widely used in Guyana, I know of no better construction that can highlight what, at times, transpires in the media. In fact, gaslighting is going wild here.

I asked ChatGPT for a definition and here is what I got – “Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation in which one person or group causes another to question their own reality, memory, or perceptions. The goal is often to gain control, avoid accounta-

bility, or undermine the victim’s confidence and sense of self.” This is a perfect description for a piece published in the press yesterday that reads as follows: “The People’s National Congress (PNC) is, by every measure that matters, more democratic than the People’s Progressive Party (PPP)” (6/24/2025).

Let me make the following points clear. First, excepting in one instance, the PNC has rigged or attempted to rig every election since 1973. This includes referenda and their own party elections. Secondly, the PNC has regularly re-

sorted to intimidation or even violence (e.g. via Rabbi Washington) to achieve its goals. And thirdly, if democracy implies economic growth and human development, then the PNC’s policies have delivered persistent decline and massive suffering. Nothing democratic there!

By contrast, and contrary to the attempted gaslighting by C.S. Singh, the PPP has defined processes for party governance, including selection of its leaders at all levels. Its economic policies are arrived at through deep and

wide consultations in electoral districts across the country. The same engagement is availed to civil society from different ethnic and racial groups, religious leaders, women’s groups, trade unions and private sector organisations.

The suggestion that the PNC is more democratic than the PPP is more than absurd. It is asinine. Thankfully, the Guyanese people have more commonsense than the ‘gaslighter’ might have calculated.

Sincerely
Dr Randy Persaud



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Canada drops technology tax to restart US trade talks

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

Canada has announced it will scrap a planned tax on major U.S. technology companies, just hours before the first payments were set to come due, in a bid to restart stalled trade talks with the United States.

The decision follows U.S. President Donald Trump’s abrupt move on Friday to walk away from negotiations over a new trade deal, calling Canada’s digital services tax a “blatant attack” and threatening to impose new tariffs on Canadian imports in retaliation.

In response, the Canadian government said it would introduce legislation to formally repeal the tax and immediately suspend payment collection, which was scheduled to begin Monday.

The digital services tax (DST) would have imposed a 3% levy on revenues earned in Canada by tech giants such as Amazon, Google, Meta, and Apple, provided those earnings exceeded \$20 million.

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett confirmed Monday that trade talks between the two countries would “absolutely” resume following Canada’s decision to reverse course.

Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said in a statement that the tax, originally proposed



The tax was aimed at large digital companies doing business in Canada contribute their fair share of taxes

in 2020, aimed to ensure large digital companies doing business in Canada contributed their fair share of taxes. “Canada introduced the DST to address a gap where large foreign tech companies could generate significant revenue from Canadians without paying corresponding taxes,” the statement said.

“However, our long-standing preference has always been for a global, multilateral solution on digital services taxation.” Several countries, including the United Kingdom, have been revising tax frameworks to better capture revenues from multinational digital firms,

which often pay minimal corporate tax by shifting profits to lower-tax jurisdictions. Canada’s move to cancel the DST appears to be a strategic concession aimed at reducing tensions with Washington and salvaging progress toward a broader trade and security agreement.



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Guyana pouring ‘enormous resources’ into fight against Venezuela-linked gold smuggling

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has pledged to dedicate “enormous resources” to dismantle a gold-smuggling network linked to Venezuela, a move spurred by a recent United States warning that the illicit trade could empower “undemocratic forces.”

He affirmed that Guyana will work closely with the US authorities to confront and eliminate this serious threat.

“Only today, the U.S. reminded all of its partners about this serious threat with Venezuela as it relates to gold smuggling. And we have received that advisory today,” he said.

“And, I want you to know that we are putting enormous resources into ensuring that the threat of illicit gold smuggling, that can help to empower or safeguard undemocratic forces, is uprooted,” the president stated, while addressing the 249th Independence Anniversary of the United States last Friday.

Guyana’s head of state emphasised that strengthening international peace and security remains a shared priority within the hemisphere.

The US, through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is dedicating resources to strengthen law enforcement and security cooperation with the Caribbean.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March, during a visit by US Secretary of State Rubio, underscores the commitment between the two countries to addressing common security challenges.

President Ali stated that the MoU builds on the long-standing partnership and seeks to deepen collaboration in key areas. This includes counter-narcotics efforts, the fight against transnational organised crime, and the strengthening of security and defence cooperation.

Acknowledging the US for its unwavering support in defending Guyana’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, President Ali said, “As we continue to advocate for this region to remain a zone of peace, my government is committed to the adherence of international law and the ongoing proceedings before the International Court of Justice in the resolution of the controversy with Venezuela.”



President Ali and US Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, share a light moment

Further cementing the united front against these threats, US Ambassador Nicole Theriot spoke highly of the security cooperation between Guyana and her nation, asserting that the partnership is “the strongest it’s ever been.”

She cited a recent joint military exercise, which saw the Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team (LAMAT) providing medical care to over 1,700 Guyanese citizens. The Guyana Defence Force’s (GDF) Coast Guard is also re-

ceiving support from the joint development of coastal radar capability.

Beyond security, the president noted that Guyana recognises the importance of robust, sustainable, and democratic institutions.

As the country prepares for its upcoming general and regional elections in September, President Ali said, “We welcome the continued support of the United States in ensuring a fair, transparent, and credible electoral process, as

was the case with your (country’s) support after the 2020 elections.”

This strong partnership encompasses many broader areas of mutual interest, including economic development, trade, agriculture, technology, and advancing energy security. The President also highlighted significant US financial support, such as the US\$500 million from the Ex-Im Bank for the gas-to-energy project, as a testament to the deep collaboration between the two countries.

Flood affected residents in Mazaruni receive support

The government has stepped up its efforts to deliver relief supplies to communities in the Middle and Lower Mazaruni that are severely affected due to persistent rainfall.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat spearheaded the distribution of food hampers, mining equipment and cleaning supplies.

He recently visited communities that included Tamakay, Issano, Papi Show, Martin’s Landings and Tasserene Village.

The rising waters disrupted mining operations several retail shops and homes have been impacted.

Minister Bharrat, along with members of the Small Miners Association (SMA), also visited the Amerindian communities of Batavia and Karrau, where they distributed boat engines, solar units to the miners.

The equipment will assist them in their daily operations, contribute to increased gold production, and continue to support developments within the mining sector.

The gold mining industry has shown significant improvements due to direct government support following challenges resulting from smuggling and under-declaration.

Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and Public Service Dr Ashini Singh, said earlier this year that the government will continue its efforts to regulate the sector and ensure these problems are contained.

These efforts include increased compliance, enforcement activities and use of ICT applications to monitor mining operations.



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Canadians view of the USA worsens as trade dispute continues: poll

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

Canadian views of the United States have worsened further during President Donald Trump’s ongoing trade dispute with Canada, according to a new Ipsos poll conducted for Global News Network.

The survey reveals a sharp rise in the number of Canadians avoiding American-made products and travel to the U.S., reflecting deepening frustration with Trump’s approach to Canada.

The poll, released ahead of Canada Day, shows that 75% of respondents say they plan to avoid travelling to the United States — a 10-point increase since February.

Meanwhile, 72% now say they are steering clear of U.S.-made goods, up five points over the same period.

A significant 77% of Canadians surveyed said their opinion of the U.S. has worsened because of Trump’s repeated attacks on Canada’s economy and sovereignty — a nine-point jump from earlier in the year.

Nearly half of those respondents said they hold that view strongly.

“Canadian anger against Trump and the U.S. administration does not really appear to be waning,” said Kyle Braid, senior vice-president at Ipsos Public Affairs.

The poll also highlights a resurgence in Canadian patriotism. After years of gradual decline, national pride appears to be on the rise. Many Canadians say they are more likely to participate in Canada Day celebrations or display a Canadian flag this year. Nearly half (47%) report feeling prouder to be Canadian than they did five years ago — a massive 31-point increase since June of last year.

This uptick in patriotism stands in stark contrast to polling from Gallup in



Prime Minster Mark Carney with US President Donald Trump at the recent G7 summit in Alberta

the United States, which shows American national pride hitting record lows ahead of July 4th celebrations.

The Ipsos findings align with broader trends. Statistics Canada reports that Canadian travel to the U.S. has dropped sharply during the first half of Trump’s second term, with May showing the steepest declines yet.

At the same time, a recent PwC Canada study found that three-quarters of Canadian consumers are willing to pay more for locally produced or premium food products — even though many still express concerns about higher prices.

The Ipsos poll of 1,000 Canadians was conducted online before Trump’s latest move to halt trade negotiations with Canada. Talks had recently resumed

after Canada agreed to withdraw a contentious digital services tax. The renewed negotiations were especially urgent following Prime Minister Mark Carney’s election win in April, which saw his Liberal Party form a minority government.

Trump and Carney had committed at the G7 summit to negotiating a new trade and security deal within 30 days. But Trump abruptly called off talks last Friday, throwing the process into uncertainty.

“That’s the thing about Donald Trump,” said Braid. “Just when you think the tensions might be easing, he finds a way to reignite them. He never misses a chance to remind people why they’re frustrated with the United States.”

Despite the tensions, the poll found that Canadians are increasingly confident in their leaders’ ability to manage Trump. Confidence in the federal government’s handling of the relationship rose by 12 points over four months, reaching nearly 60% — the biggest jump across all issues surveyed.

While anti-Trump sentiment was seen across all demographics, it was especially pronounced among older Canadians.

“It’s present among younger Canadians too,” Braid said, “but to a much lesser extent.” In the face of political friction and rising economic nationalism, one clear takeaway from the poll is that Canadian pride is on the rebound — and the country’s patience with its southern neighbour is wearing thin.

Ottawa Removes Final Federal Trade Barriers Under Its Control

By Clarissa Ali
LJI REPORTER

The federal government says it has eliminated all remaining interprovincial trade barriers within its jurisdiction, marking a significant step toward freer trade within Canada.

Internal Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland announced Monday that Ottawa has removed the last federal exemptions from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), clearing 53 outstanding exceptions — most of them related to government procure-

ment. “Today’s announcement builds on the government’s broader efforts to strengthen the Canadian economy,” Freeland said in a statement. “The federal government will continue to lead by example and work with provinces and territories to strengthen the CFTA, advance mutual recognition, and improve labour mobility across Canada.”

The move follows Prime Minister Mark Carney’s repeated pledge during the spring election campaign to “eliminate” internal trade barriers and deliver “free trade by Canada Day.”

However, not all trade obstacles within the country will be gone — even at the federal level.

Key restrictions, such as those under Canada’s supply management system for dairy, remain in place.

That system, which includes provincially allocated production quotas, is not being dismantled.

Additionally, Quebec’s language laws, which can affect business operations, will continue unchanged.

Several provinces have also made moves in recent months to reduce their own interprovincial trade barriers, though progress has been uneven.



Mohamed Yusuf (above) and Mohamed Haseeb Yusuf, brothers of Nazar 'Shell' Mohamed and uncles of presidential hopeful, Azruddin Mohamed

Uncles of Guyana Presidential hopeful Mohamed say 'he is not fit to lead'

UNITED STATES (U.S.)-sanctioned businessman, Azruddin Mohamed's presidential dreams took a brutal hit from his own family, as two of his uncles, Mohamed Yusuf and Mohamed Haseeb Yusuf, have publicly declared that he is not capable of leading Guyana.

The two highly respected Muslim men have since endorsed President, Dr. Irfaan Ali for a second term in office, describing him as the man capable of taking charge of Guyana's further development.

Both men are the brothers of Nazar 'Shell' Mohamed, a well-known businessman in Guyana.

"My nephew, Azruddin Mohamed, he does not understand politics, he does not understand geo-politics, he is a political [novice]...I don't think he has that ability, and he is not that educated...that is my main reason. If he had those qualities, I would have been the first to endorse him, but he doesn't have leadership qualities. So that is why I just dismiss him," Mohamed Yusuf said in a video recording posted on Facebook on Saturday.

Mr. Yusuf did not mince his words as he called out his nephew for turning his father's 30 years of quiet but meaningful charity into a "political circus" to fuel his own "narcissistic" ambitions.

"He hijacked his father's charity and he is going about now and turn it

into a political circus. He is going to the people and show them that he is such a charitable man and he deserves to lead them. But this guy is not fit, and he and his sister, Hannah Mohamed, they just wake up one morning and decide to form a political party because Azruddin has some social media standing and has a lot of followers. These people are just social media freaks," Mr Yusuf said.

He expressed his disagreement with the way in which Azruddin and his sister are campaigning, noting that his nephew is not 'fit and proper' to lead Guyana.

"I totally disagree with this, they do not have the ability...they are two narcissists, they only think about themselves, they do not care about the people. They are pretending they have this quality.

"Azruddin Mohamed is not fit and proper to lead this country and it is for this reason I am encouraging the people not to pay him much mind."

Mr. Yusuf openly threw his support behind President Ali and urged Guyanese voters to reject his nephew's political games and stay the course.

"I proudly endorse President Irfaan Ali for re-election [at] the September 1 General and Regional Elections.

"My fellow Guyanese brothers and sisters, do not gamble with your future and the future of your children and your country. Vote proudly for President Ir-

faan Ali and the PPP/C on the 1st September 2025."

According to Mr. Yusuf, President Ali is capable of leading Guyana, given his level of intelligence and vision for Guyana.

Meanwhile, the other brother of Nazar, Haseeb Yusuf, who is a former leader of the Guyana Islamic Trust, also openly endorsed President Ali for a second term, describing him as the only Presidential Candidate who can lead Guyana into a "new era of development."

"I have examined most of the candidates who are vying for leadership, for the highest office of this country and I have recognised that there is only one person, one candidate that has all of the prerequisites, to lead this country into the new era of development, the one who has the credentials, the vision, the competence, the empathy and the integrity, that goes with the office.

"I have examined all of the candidates, including my nephew, Azruddin Mohamed, and I have only seen one person that outshines all the others...I hereby endorse Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali as President for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for a second term," the religious leader, educator, and social activist said in a video recording posted on Facebook.

Haseeb pointed to the development that has taken place under President Ali.

"Over the past years, we have all witnessed his unprecedented commitment and relentless hard work to the advancement and transformative development of Guyana in almost every sector of our society.

"Dr Irfaan [Ali] has distinguished himself as very capable and prominent leader of Guyana. And we have all observed that. It's very difficult for anybody to deny his accomplishments."

Given Guyana's unprecedented development, the distinguished Islamic Leader said that the country needs someone at the helm who is "competent," branding President Ali as the man for the job and he encouraged his fellow Guyanese to do the same.

In 2024, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced that it sanctioned Nazar Mohamed and his son, Azruddin Mohamed, several of their companies, and a Guyanese Government official, Mae Thomas, for their roles in alleged public corruption in Guyana.

According to a statement from OFAC, this is related to the evasion of taxes on gold exports, noting that between 2019 and 2023, Mohamed's Enterprise omitted more than 10 thousand kilograms (kg) of gold from import and export declarations and avoided paying more than US\$50 million in duty taxes to the Government of Guyana.

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Farmers to benefit from drainage works at Canal Number Two

FARMERS from the Conservancy Dam at Canal Number Two in Region Three will soon benefit from drainage improvements, which will improve irrigation and boost agricultural production.

Planting materials and fertilisers will also be provided to approximately 40 farmers residing in the area.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, made the commitment on Saturday during a meeting at the Conservancy Dam.

The engagement follows several requests made by farmers for various agricultural interventions, since the flooding of their farmlands significantly affected crop productivity.

Minister Mustapha said an amphibious excavator will be deployed to the area in one week to carry out the works on the trench along the Dam.

“And we will send another long-reach excavator to clear the trenches that are high,” he added.

These interventions, he noted, will bring immediate relief to the affected farmers.

“We will fix the door [at the Koker] when the trench is cleared,” Minister Mustapha assured the farmers, noting that this will help to prevent the water from overtopping, which can result in flooding.

Acknowledging the land dispute issues in the area, he explained that a surveyor will visit to conduct an assessment to identify the landowners.

Region Three has been earmarked for major investments in the agriculture sector, which will boost crop production and improve livelihoods.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, delivers remarks during the meeting on Saturday

The agriculture minister revealed that the government will soon be allocating \$50 billion to construct six farm-to-market roads in Region Three.

Looking ahead, the minister noted that more investments will be made to help increase crop yields in the agricul-

ture sector.

Chief Executive Officer of Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo), Paul Cheong, and other representatives from the ministry were also present at the meeting.

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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:

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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

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Former T&T gov’t missed the boat on exploring oil & gas deal with Guyana: Moonilal

Trinidad and Tobago’s Minister of Energy, Dr. Roodal Moonilal, last week criticised the former administration for throwing away what he described as a prime opportunity to establish the twin-island state’s presence in Guyana’s booming oil and gas sector.

Speaking during the debate on the Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill for the 2025 fiscal year, Dr. Moonilal said it was a “sad reality” that despite over a century of experience in oil and gas industry, Trinidad and Tobago had

no official government-led presence in Guyana or Suriname, two CARICOM nations now rapidly advancing in energy production.

“Imagine the territory with the most expertise, with the major infrastructure, human capital, had no footprint in Guyana and Suriname. None,” Dr. Moonilal said.

He added, “It was the service contractors of Trinidad and Tobago who of their own will, by their own hard work, went to Suriname, went to Guyana...



T&T Energy Minister Roodal Moonilal

but they had no help from the government, none.”

Though Guyana’s population is more than 800,000, the minister outlined Guyana’s oil boom, noting that the country produces more barrels of oil daily than “it has people.”

Minister Moonilal had outlined T&T’s regional strategy to prioritise energy cooperation with Guyana, Grenada, and Suriname. He stressed that it is critical for T&T state enterprises to establish themselves as serious entities in Suriname, Guyana and Grenada. “That is our vision, that is how you will become the hub, you will not become the hub by out producing Guyana...we will not become the hub by out producing Suriname with gas,” Dr. Moonilal said.


Oil production offshore Guyana’s Stabroek Block, operated by ExxonMobil Guyana Limited (EMGL), began in December 2019. Since then, production has grown to 650,000 barrels per day (bpd) from three sanctioned projects: Liza Phase 1, Liza Phase 2, and Payara. This output is set to increase with the imminent start-up of Yellowtail, the fourth development, later this year. Exxon already has two other sanctioned projects under its belt, the Uaru and Whiptail. The company has already submitted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its seventh project, Hammerhead, with production targeted for 2029. The company has also filed an application for an eighth development named Longtail.

Dr. Moonilal said Trinidad missed the opportunity to capitalise on this boom due to what he labeled poor policy decisions by the previous government. “We discovered that even when there was a serious attempt by national energy to get involved in Guyana... the government of Trinidad and Tobago at that time said no...they said it was too risky and national energy should not participate in Guyana in that way. While you could have had a foothold in Guyana a few years ago,” T&T’s energy minister said.


Dr. Moonilal stressed that the lack of strategic regional engagement not only lost Trinidad and Tobago potential foreign exchange earnings, but also employment and economic opportunities that could have been gained through cross-border collaboration.

“There was no concerted attempt to get a footprint into energy-producing countries... where we could provide help, raise revenue, collect taxes, generate foreign exchange,” he stated.

Further, the minister reiterated that the current administration intends to correct course by strengthening ties with CARICOM nations such as Guyana, Grenada, and Suriname. The administration has set its sights on Guyana’s oil resources to support the restart of its refinery, as well as access to Guyana’s natural gas.



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Guyana, U.S. trade surpasses US\$4.7 billion over the past year

BILATERAL trade between Guyana and the United States of America (U.S.) has surpassed S\$4.7 billion over the past year and according to the U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Nicole Theriot, this is a new record reflecting the strong and rapidly growing economic ties between the two nations.

“Over the past year, we’ve reached another milestone. Bilateral trade in physical goods alone surpassed US\$4.7 billion, a new record. The number of U.S. companies working with Guyanese partners continues to grow, along with sustained investment across many sectors,” Ambassador Theriot said at the 249th U.S. Independence Day celebration last Friday.

She noted that since last year, the two nations have celebrated new ventures such as company launches and grand openings to ground-breaking partnerships.

“We’ve welcomed a new U.S.-branded hotel, joined in launching a new primary and secondary school partnership, brought a U.S. company to Guyana, offering the country’s first ever industrial 3D printing and marked the entry of a company specialising in welding and machining services.”

The continued partnerships, she noted, will not stop there.

“We’re collaborating on critical infrastructure projects, including the transformative deep seaport road project. These are nation-building investments that can shape the trajectory of a country for generations to come.”

Meanwhile, President, Dr Irfaan Ali during his remarks noted that while Guyana and the United States continue to pursue deeper bilateral trade ties, shared priorities such as peace and security remain a central focus too.

“As our country actively engages in strengthening our framework for bilateral trade, we continue to be optimistic about the diversification of our trade relations,” he said.

Through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the U.S. has initiated ongoing efforts to enhance law-enforcement and security co-operation between our countries and the Caribbean,” he added.

President Ali also spoke on the advisory received from the U.S. authorities regarding the threat posed by gold smuggling linked to undemocratic forces in the region.

With this, he assured the audience that Guyana is deploying substantial resources to dismantle such illicit net-

works.

“We want you to know that we are putting enormous resources into ensuring that the threat of illicit gold smuggling... is uprooted,” President Ali said.

In reaffirming Guyana’s stance on its territorial sovereignty, the President thanked the U.S. for its unwavering support amid the ongoing border controversy with Venezuela.

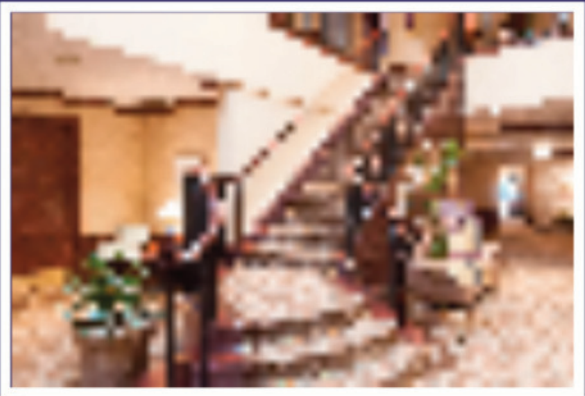
“Guyana wishes to acknowledge and thank the United States for its unwavering support in defending Guyana’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as we continue to advocate for this region to remain a zone of peace,” he added.



Dr Irfaan Ali with US Ambassador Nicole Theriot

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GCB Chief hails Ali as architect of Guyana’s sporting transformation

IN a stirring address at a recent awards ceremony, President of the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB), Bissoondyal Singh, delivered a heartfelt tribute to President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, lauding him as the driving force behind Guyana’s meteoric rise in both sports and national development over the past five years.

Singh, speaking to an audience gathered to honour outstanding contributors to Guyanese sport, urged attendees not to lose sight of the visionary leadership that has paved the way for sustainable progress across the nation.

“While he may not be on the list of awardees for tonight’s event, he is, without a doubt, the greatest contributor to this sport over the past five years,” Singh declared, referencing President Ali’s transformative impact.

Describing President Ali as “the architect of the transformation and modernising of this country,” Singh credited him with elevating Guyana onto the global stage, noting that the nation is now recognised as the fastest growing economy per capita in the world.

Singh praised Ali’s leadership qualities, highlighting his vision, courage, and compassion: “He leads with vision, courage, and firm resolve. But more importantly, he leads with heart. He inspires trust, cultivates unity, and brings out the best in those around him.”

Since assuming office, President Ali has championed a dynamic vision for inclusive development, Singh noted, ensuring that sports is no longer an afterthought but a pillar of national pride and unity.

Singh emphasised that under Ali’s guidance, teams have flourished, communities have grown stronger, and countless lives have been positively changed.

In a powerful moment, Singh called on the audience to rise in recognition of President Ali’s exceptional service and leadership.

“We are proud of you. We are inspired by you. And we stand with you,” Singh stated, offering the GCB’s full endorsement and support for Ali’s continued presidency and the leadership of the



GCB President, Bissoondyal Singh

People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C).

Singh’s remarks reflect a broader sentiment of gratitude and optimism within the sporting and wider national community.

As Guyana continues its remarkable trajectory of growth and development, the partnership between visionary leadership and grassroots engagement in sport stands as a testament to the nation’s bright future.

With the 2025-2030 horizon in sight, Singh concluded with a message of unity and hope: “May your leadership and guidance continue to uplift this great land we all love and call home.”

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Indian PM Modi with US President Trump

India-US ‘big beautiful trade deal’ could be in trouble

Is the "big, beautiful" India-US trade deal slipping out of reach?

With just days to go before a 9 July deadline set by US President Donald Trump's administration, hopes of clinching an interim trade pact between Delhi and Washington remain alive but increasingly entangled in hard bargaining.

Despite White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt hinting that the deal was imminent, and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's upbeat assertion that Delhi would welcome "a big, good, beautiful" agreement - in response to Trump's claim that a trade deal with Delhi is coming and would "open up" the Indian market - negotiators remain locked in tough discussions.

Key sticking points persist, particularly over agricultural access, auto components and tariffs on Indian steel.

Indian trade officials have extended their stay in Washington for another round of talks, even as Delhi signals "very big red lines" on farm and dairy protections, and the US presses for wider market openings. The tone remains optimistic - but the window to strike a deal appears to be narrowing.

Trump wants India to buy US corn - but here's why it probably won't

"The next seven days could determine whether India and the US settle for a limited 'mini-deal' or walk away from the negotiating table - at least for now," says Ajay Srivastava, a former Indian trade official who runs Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), a Delhi-based think tank.

That uncertainty hinges on a few key flash-points - none more contentious than agriculture.

"There are two real challenges to concluding an initial agreement. First on the list is US access to the Indian market for basic agriculture products. India will need to protect its basic agriculture sector for economic and political reasons," Richard Rossow, who tracks India's economy at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, said,

For years, Washington has pushed for greater access to India's farm sector, seeing it as a major untapped market. But India has fiercely protected it, citing food security, livelihoods and interests of

millions of small farmers.

Mr Rossow says the "second issue is India's non-tariff barriers. Issues like India's growing set of 'Quality Control Orders' (QCO) are significant obstacles to US market access and may prove tricky to meaningfully handle in a trade deal".

The US has raised concerns over what it calls India's growing and burdensome import-quality rules. Over 700 QCOs - part of the "self-reliant India" push - aim to curb low-quality imports and promote domestic manufacturing. Suman Berry, a senior member of a government think tank Niti Aayog, has also called these rules a "malign intervention" that restrict imports and raise costs for domestic medium and small scale industries.

Tariff cuts could pressure India to weaken key food policy safeguards like minimum support prices

The elephant in the room is farm exports. India-US farm trade remains modest at \$8bn, with India exporting rice, shrimp and spices, and the US sending nuts, apples and lentils. But as trade talks progress, Washington is eyeing bigger farm exports - maize, soya bean, cotton and corn - to help narrow its \$45bn trade deficit with India.

Experts fear tariff concessions could pressure India to weaken its minimum support prices (MSP) and public procurement - key protections that shield farmers from price crashes by guaranteeing fair prices and stable crop purchases.

"No tariff cuts are expected for dairy products or key food grains like rice and wheat, where farm livelihoods are at stake. These categories are politically and economically sensitive, affecting over 700 million people in India's rural economy," says Mr Srivastava.

Curiously, a recent Niti Aayog paper recommends tariff cuts on US farm imports - including rice, dairy, poultry, corn, apples, almonds and GM soya - under a proposed India-US trade pact. It's unclear, however, whether the proposal reflects official government thinking or remains a policy suggestion on paper.

"If the US were to say 'no deal' if India does not include access on basic agriculture, then clearly American expectations were not set correctly," says Mr Rossow.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): There is a lot of dead wood in your life at the moment and a big clean-out is needed. Start by getting rid of a few so-called friendships that are pretty much one-way traffic when it comes to who profits from them. They profit and you pay.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): If your workload is getting on top of you then it is time to make changes. Refuse to take on any more chores and responsibilities and start offloading some of those you already have on friends and colleagues who are clearly not pulling their weight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): You need to get serious about something of a creative or artistic nature, especially if you are the sort of Gemini who has half a dozen activities on the go at the same time. Focus on one, maybe two, goals and forget about the rest for a while.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): You have been finding it much easier to express yourself of late and that's a good thing, but you also need to know when to hold back so as not to give away information that could be of use to rivals and competitors. Knowledge is power!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): It may come as a shock to discover that someone you had total trust in has not been totally honest with you, but don't overreact. Most likely they have a very good reason for keeping secrets from you – so you can still be friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): Changes you made earlier in the year are beginning to bear fruit but if you are smart you won't harvest all the goodies just yet. If you can hold back from cashing in then your profits will double and maybe even treble over the next few months.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): You may not have accomplished as much over the first half of the year as you had expected to but you have still done a lot and can be proud of your efforts. A slight adjustment in your plans can make the second half of 2025 truly memorable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You are not the sort to give up on something just because the going is tough. On the contrary, the fact that you have been falling behind in recent weeks will make you even more determined to catch up with and then pass your rivals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): So many changes are taking place in the world around you that you may be getting worried as to where they might lead. The good news is that whatever happens in the weeks and months ahead your indomitable spirit will help you make the best of it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): You must stick up for yourself over the next 24 hours, because if you don't protect your interests you can be certain that no one else will. Don't worry if you make an enemy or two along the way – let others know you won't be bullied.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Someone you meet while on the move will intrigue you with their wit and wisdom but you must not believe every word they say. Just because they are good at communicating ideas does not mean those ideas can be allowed to supplant your own.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): If you want to make the most of your creative talents you will first have to let go of something that takes up too big a chunk of your time and energy. Be ruthless today and get rid of anything and everything that does not pay its way.

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Jamaica gov't to pay \$120M to man detained for 50 years without trial

The Supreme Court has ordered the Government of Jamaica to pay more than \$120 million in damages to George Williams, a mentally ill man who spent 50 years in custody without ever facing trial.

In a ruling delivered Thursday, Justice Sonya Wint-Blair awarded \$78.6 million in compensatory damages and \$42 million in vindictory damages to Williams, whose decades-long detention was described as a gross violation of his constitutional rights. The judgment stems from a wrongful imprisonment lawsuit filed by his attorney, John Clarke.

The Government had initially offered \$6 million in compensation, but the offer was rejected by Williams' family.

Justice Wint-Blair found that Williams' right to due process and a fair hearing within a reasonable time had been severely breached. The court also ruled that the state's failure to conduct periodic mental health evaluations to determine his fitness for trial amounted to a violation of his right to liberty in a democratic society.

Williams, a Rastafarian, was arrested on December 29, 1970, and charged with the murder of Ian Laurie, allegedly committed earlier that year. However, he was deemed unfit to plead and held "at the court's pleasure" — effectively imprisoning him indefinitely without trial.

His case gained national attention in 2020 after the Independent Commis-



George Williams — was detained in 1970 and held at the court's pleasure

sion of Investigations (INDECOM) released a report exposing the prolonged incarceration of mentally ill detainees. The report revealed that Williams was one of seven men who had each spent at least 40 years behind bars awaiting trial.

Among them was Noel Chambers, another Rastafarian, who died in 2020 at the age of 81 after four decades in custody. The INDECOM report described his body as emaciated and covered with bedsores, vermin bites, and live bedbugs.

The court's judgment marks a landmark decision in Jamaica's legal and human rights history and raises serious questions about the treatment of mentally ill individuals in the justice system.

JA PM expresses sympathy after family of 6 killed in FL crash

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has expressed his deep condolences to Errol Anderson, the Jamaican father and grandfather, mourning the loss of six family members who died in a tragic car crash in Florida over the weekend.

In a heartfelt message shared on social media Tuesday, Holness revealed that he visited Mr. Anderson on Monday to offer personal support amid the family's unimaginable grief. "Over the weekend Mr. Anderson received the devastating news that 6 members of his family overseas were travelling in a vehicle which collided with a semitruck, tragically killing all six persons. I can only imagine the deep pain and tremendous anguish this overwhelming loss has caused," the Prime Minister wrote. "Yesterday I visited Mr. Anderson to convey my condolences as he and his family process and navigate through grief."

Holness urged the nation to keep the family in their thoughts: "Let us hold these families in our hearts and



PM Holness with Errol Anderson

cover them in prayer." The fatal crash occurred Saturday afternoon in Osceola County, Florida, along State Road 60, just west of South

Kenansville Road. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the victims were traveling in a 2024 Hyundai Tucson when the driver reportedly at-

tempted to overtake several vehicles. The SUV lost control while re-entering the lane and collided head-on with an oncoming semi-truck. Both vehicles caught fire, and all six occupants of the Hyundai were pronounced dead at the scene.

The deceased include Anderson's daughters, Andreil and Keiosha, their three young children—one of whom was just four months old—and their god-sister, Yahshea Mullings. The family had been en route to celebrate the third birthday of one of the children when the tragedy occurred. All three adults were Jamaican nationals, while the children were U.S. citizens.

The driver of the semi-truck sustained minor injuries and was transported to Indian River Hospital. The Florida Highway Patrol is continuing its investigation into the crash.

The incident has sent shockwaves throughout both the Jamaican and Jamaican-American communities, prompting an outpouring of support and sympathy for the grieving family.

Prime Minister Holness hails JCF for reducing crime in Jamaica

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has commended the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) for its role in achieving a sustained reduction in crime and violence across the country, particularly through the dismantling of gang networks that once plagued several communities.

Speaking at the recently concluded ‘Transformations – People, Quality and Technology Expo 2.0’ held at the National Arena in Kingston, Prime Minister Holness highlighted the effectiveness of targeted security strategies, including the use of Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) and States of Public Emergency (SOEs).

“We had 20 communities that the rate of crime in these communities self-selected them for the implementation of a ZOSO or an SOE, because the crime was increasing and there was a threat to life and property,” the Prime Minister said. “Nowadays, you cannot think of such a community.”

He attributed this progress to the “excellent leadership” within the JCF, noting that the organization now operates with “a clear direction, a clear doctrine, a clear mission,” and emphasized that “the level of morale has never been higher.”

While applauding the gains made, the Prime Minister also underscored the importance of continued efforts to build trust between law enforcement and the public.

“Our job now is to close out that space,” he said, referring to the gap that sometimes exists between communities and the police. “There is much work to be done on the part of the se-



Prime Minister Holness with two police officers at the Expo in Kingston

curity forces to ensure that every action they take, the people of Jamaica will appreciate it, will understand what they’re doing, and we will feel safe.”

The JCF’s expo offered the public a behind-the-scenes look at how the

Force is transforming policing in Jamaica through people-centred leadership, quality service, and modern technology. The event featured thematic zones focused on operational innovation, community partnerships, and

key areas such as crime and security, strategic operations, Force development, logistics, and professional standards. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with the officers and decision-makers .

Sexual Harassment Tribunal now operational in Jamaica

The Sexual Harassment Tribunal, established under the Sexual Harassment (Protection and Prevention) Act, is now fully operational, Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Minister Hon. Olivia Grange announced during the 2025/26 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives.

The Tribunal is tasked with hearing and determining complaints of sexual harassment across all sectors and has the authority to make awards. It also mandates that every employer or institution create and enforce policies to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

“The Act, which became effective on July 3, 2023, is designed to ensure that workspaces are free from sexual harassment,” Minister Grange said.

She noted that the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) has facilitated the review of 42 Sexual Harassment

Workplace Policies and completed training for 18 of its members as Sexual Harassment Investigative Officers.

Additionally, the Sexual Harassment Investigation Unit (SHIU) has provided training for Human Resource professionals and conducted numerous sensitization sessions to raise awareness.

Minister Grange also highlighted outreach efforts at the community level, with sessions held in various educational institutions, police youth clubs, faith-based groups, and other community organisations.

“We have followed through on our commitment to create the conditions for our people to thrive and prosper, to improve their lives, to make their dreams come true, and to build a stronger, better Jamaica,” she concluded.



Olivia Grange

Grenada to pursue cannabis decriminalisation with strict restrictions

The Grenadian government has announced that when it takes proposed cannabis legislation to Parliament, it will do so with several strict restrictions in place, aimed at regulating recreational, medicinal, and religious use of the substance.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, speaking during his weekly ‘DMs with the PM’ programme on Tuesday, said the proposed legislative changes will “de-penalise” the use of small quantities of cannabis, with significant limits on who can consume it and where.

“We also want to make it clear that this will only be permissible most likely to persons 21 and over and there [are] still going to be significant restrictions on likely no smoking of marijuana in public, absolutely no smoking around educational or school institutions and so on,” Mitchell stated.

As Minister for National Security, Mitchell explained that the legislation will also allow individuals to grow a small number of cannabis plants for personal use. The specific quantity that will be legally permitted is still being finalized as part of the ongoing policy discussions.

The government is also aiming to develop a legal framework to support a medicinal cannabis industry, as well as to accommodate religious and sacramental use, beginning with the Rastafarian community, which has long advocated for recognition of its spiritual use of marijuana.

“We intend to establish a medicinal industry, a commercial as well as the religious and sacramental use of marijuana,” Mitchell said. “So, in the case of religious and sacramental, certainly we are starting with the Rastafarian community who we know uses it as



The Grenada government will consider expunging criminal records of people convicted of possession of ganja

part of their religious practices, and from an industry commercial perspective we are seeking to enact legislation that will actually permit, via a licensing and permitting process, the growth and

development of a medicinal marijuana industry.”

In a move toward restorative justice, the Prime Minister also announced that the government is considering an amnesty or expungement of criminal records for individuals previously convicted for possessing small amounts of marijuana.

“As part of this process, we are also looking to have an amnesty or expunging of records for persons who would have been convicted of possession of marijuana in the past, up to whatever is the amount we agree upon for small personal use,” he said.

Mitchell stressed, however, that while Grenada is committed to reform, it must also comply with its international obligations, as the country is a signatory to various global treaties con-

cerning the use of narcotics.

“I want to emphasize that this is not a straightforward and simple answer, as Grenada, like most of the world, is a signatory to certain treaty or conventions addressing the use of narcotics and we have to comply with our international obligations in relations to those issues as well,” he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated that law enforcement resources would be better spent elsewhere than targeting individuals for minor cannabis use. “We certainly don’t want our officers spending their time chasing someone for a marijuana spliff, we think there are certain better ways in which those resources can be utilised,” he said, underscoring again that restrictions will be an integral part of the legislative framework.



Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell



Carter Center launches observation mission for Guyana's election

The Carter Center has officially launched an international election observation mission in Guyana ahead of the country's general and regional elections scheduled for September 1. The mission comes at the invitation of Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

A core team of four electoral experts began arriving in Georgetown on June 30 from the United States, the state of Georgia, and the United Kingdom. They will be joined by additional electoral experts and observers in the weeks leading up to election day.

"We look forward to engaging with Guyanese stakeholders across the political spectrum and civil society to provide an independent and impartial assessment of the electoral process," said Jason Calder, Field Office Director for The Carter Center. "We hope our observation and reporting will help the Guyanese people assess the credibility of the elections, while providing useful recommendations for reform and encouraging transparency."

The Carter Center will conduct its work based on the 2005 Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, measuring the electoral process against national legal frameworks as well as international and re-



GECOM Head office in Georgetown

gional obligations for democratic elections. "The Carter Center has had a long-standing commitment to democracy in Guyana, and we are honored to launch this international election observation mission in support of the electoral process," said David Carroll, director of the Center's Democracy Program.

The organization has a deep his-

tory in Guyana, having observed elections there in 1992, 2001, 2006, 2015, and 2020. Beyond election monitoring, The Carter Center has supported a wide range of governance, legal, and civil society initiatives in the country. These include facilitating judicial reform, supporting women and youth empowerment, promoting peace and political dialogue, and advancing transparency

in the extractive industries through partnerships with government, industry, and civil society.

Globally, The Carter Center has organized over 125 election observation missions in more than 100 countries. Its efforts in Guyana continue to form part of a broader commitment to strengthening democratic institutions and promoting inclusive development.

Nigeria's President Tinubu receives top Saint Lucian honour

President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has been awarded one of Saint Lucia's highest national honours in recognition of his leadership and efforts to deepen African-Caribbean relations.

During a formal state ceremony at the Governor General's official residence on Monday evening, Governor General Errol Charles, acting on the advice of Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, conferred the title Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Lucia (KCOSL) on President Tinubu.

A statement from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) noted that the honour reflects Saint Lucia's appreciation for Tinubu's "commitment to fostering cooperation across key areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment, climate resilience, health-care, education, and cultural exchange."

The OPM added that the award also symbolizes a broader shared commitment to global South solidarity—anchored in historical connection and aimed at future collaboration between Africa and the Caribbean.

With the conferral of the KCOSL, the Nigerian leader will now be formally addressed as Sir Bola Ahmed Tinubu, KCOSL (Hon.).

President Tinubu said he was humbled to receive the honour. He noted that the recognition symbolised a



Bola Tinubu is awarded his knighthood by Governor General Errol Charles

deepening of historic and cultural connections between Nigeria and Saint Lucia.

He pledged to strengthen the ties between Nigeria and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member states.

"I am here as one of you representing that historical journey taken by our forebears, the history that we can-

not reserve, but are prepared for progressive understanding.

"I am greatly honoured, on behalf of my country, on behalf of nearly 220 million people in Nigeria, to stand before you to thank you very much. I came here as a president, but I'm leaving as a knight," President Tinubu said.

President Tinubu described the experience as "thrilling and exciting,"

praising the warmth and generosity of the Saint Lucian people.

"It cannot be more thrilling, more exciting, and welcoming than that. You are great people. I thank the Prime Minister and His Excellency the Governor-General for seeing me worthy of this honour and knighthood."

Short-serving T&T PM Young denied Prime Minister’s \$1M pension

The Trinidad and Tobago government secured the necessary votes it needed from independent senators to pass the Prime Minister’s Pension Amendment Bill 2025 in the Senate on June 30.

The bill amends the Prime Minister’s Pension Act Chapter 2:51 to require a person to serve at least one year as Prime Minister to qualify for the \$87,000 monthly pension.

This means Port of Spain North/St Ann’s West MP Stuart Young, SC, who was prime minister from March 17 to April 30 will no longer be entitled to the prime minister’s pension.

The bill, which needed a three-fifths majority (19 votes) for passage, was passed with 20 senators voting for it.

That number included all 15 government senators and five independent senators – Deoroop Teemal; Michael de La Bastide, SC; Alicia Lelite-Etienne; Courtney McNish; and Francis Lewis.

The remaining four independent senators (Anthony Vieira, SC; Candice Jones-Simmons; Dr Desiree Murray; Zola Phillips) and the six opposition senators abstained on the vote.

The bill was passed against a background of questions being raised about the independence of the nine independent senators.

Earlier in the sitting, Senate President Wade Mark said all senators had “the inalienable right to speak and vote freely, guided by conscience and without undue influence.”

At a news conference on June 29, UNC PRO Dr Kirk Meighoo claimed the independent senators could vote against the bill.

Leader of Government Business in the House of Representatives Barry Padarath, at the same briefing, called for the independent senators to support the legislation.

Before the Senate passed the bill, Opposition Senator Dr Amery Browne claimed there were attempts during the earlier debate to influence senators to vote a particular way on the legislation.

He claimed posts on different social media platforms “appear designed to pressure and intimidate members (senators) in the course of their deliberation and contemplation on how they would vote on matters.”

Browne reaffirmed the opposition’s commitment to the Constitution and democracy.

“We will have no hesitation in standing in the defence of others who might be menaced or pressured.”

Browne also claimed there was a group of public officials resorting to social media to undertake and present their own analysis of the Senate’s debate on the bill.

In his contribution, Opposition Senator Faris Al-Rawi signaled the PNM’s



Stuart Young served just over a month as T&T PM

attempt to abstain when the Senate was called to vote on the bill.

During the committee stage on the bill, government senators rejected separate proposals from Murray and Browne.

They proposed to either remove clauses two and five of the bill or have them altered.

Clause two proposed the bill come into force on March 10, “thereby giving it retroactive effect.”

Clause five proposed that a person serve at least one year as prime minister to be eligible to receive a pension under the Prime Minister’s Pension Act.

In her proposal to remove Clause 10, Murray said was unwise to have the perception the bill was targeting one person.

“I believe that it is in the best interest...in the public good to not have that perception and I am proposing that clause two be deleted.”

In his earlier contribution, Browne repeated the PNM’s support for overall amendment to the prime minister’s pension legislation and its concerns about the bill being retroactive from March 10.

He said he tried to find out why government regarded this date as significant to the legislation’s operationality.

Browne called on government “to put the cards on the table and expand the framing of this measure.”

He identified the war in Syria and a ban in British Columbia on alcohol imports from the US, as two events related to March 10.

“I did not see any trigger there.”

Browne said, “I do note that seven days...exactly seven days later there was a development in the politics of Trinidad and Tobago.”

He called on government say whether the bill is connected “to developments that took place on the 17th of March.”

Port of Spain North/St Ann’s West

MP Stuart Young was sworn in a prime minister on that day. He succeeded Dr Keith Rowley who resigned as prime minister on March 16.

Browne asked if this is so, “Why go back one week?”

He also asked, “What is the logic? What is the intelligence behind this particular drafting?”

In a Facebook post on June 27, Young said, “This bill specifically targets me as former prime minister. The bill’s retroactive application to March 10, 2025, is constitutionally illegal as it is ‘ad hominem’ (a law that targets a specific individual).” Murray also proposed to remove “March 10” from the bill and

replace it with “July 23.”

She reminded senators July 23, 1969, was the date on which the Prime Minister’s Pension Act was first established.

“There is a perception in the public domain that there is ad hominem.”

Murray said she understood an explanation given by Attorney General John Jeremie in his contribution to the debate, that this was not so.

But she added, “In order to alleviate that perception and assuage some of the difficulty some people have with that date (March 10) making the amendment retroactive to 23rd July, 1969, would help with that perception of bias.”

Murray said her proposed amendment “would then apply to all former prime ministers of the independent nation and subsequently the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.” Jeremie welcomed Murray’s proposals.

But he disagreed that the bill targeted any specific person.

“It does not impoverish anyone.”

He also repeated the government’s position that the legislation was not prejudicial to anyone.

“That is not the case.”

Jeremie said government did not introduce the question of prejudice into the debate on the bill at any time.

Murray said her proposals to amend clause five dealt with concerns that if a prime minister demitted office due to illness or injury after serving in office for less than a year.

She asked if the bill, in its current form, could deny that person, his or her spouse or children from benefiting from a prime minister’s pension.

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Windies captain Chase laments umpiring calls and fielding woes

For two and a half sessions, the West Indies could dream.

Australia had been dismissed for what captain Roston Chase called a “relatively low score,” the twilight sun gilded the stands at Kensington Oval, and an upset seemed possible. By Friday evening, however, the result was brutally plain: Australia won the first Test by 159 runs.

Facing reporters shortly after the handshake line, Chase—leading the side in his first match as full-time Test skipper—pulled no punches.

“This game is a frustrating one for me and for the team as well,” he began, tone clipped but resolute. “We bowled out Australia for a relatively low score. ... but there were so many questionable calls in the game and none of them went our way.”

The captain singled out two decisions in the West Indian first innings—both adjudged against a burgeoning partnership between himself and Shai Hope.

“Me and Shai Hope were going well and then obviously we had some questionable calls, and that really set us back.”

With a pitch that rewarded set batters once they survived the new ball, Chase believed the duo were poised for a decisive reply. Instead, the innings faltered.

Though he stopped short of detailing each incident, Chase painted a broader picture of frustration: a contentious catch Australia claimed in the field, a pair of leg-before verdicts overturned—or not—by thin margins, and an intangible sense that “nothing is going your way.”

“As a player you’re giving your all, fighting, and then nothing is going your way—it could be heartbreaking and breaking a lot of momentum,” he reflected.

Chase’s sharpest words were reserved for the custodians of the Laws.

“When we as players mess up ... we’re penalised harshly. Sometimes we’re even banned or handed a monetary fine, but the officials—nothing ever happens to them. One bad decision could make or break a guy’s career, so ... there should be an even playing ground.”

Such candor underscores the simmering debate over umpire review structures and sanctions within international cricket.

Still, the captain refused to blame the defeat solely on umpiring. Across



West Indies captain Roston Chase

Australia’s two innings, West Indies fielders grassed no fewer than seven chances, several in the cordon.

“There is nothing I can say to justify the guys dropping the catches,” he admitted. “It’s not nice when bowlers are putting in all the effort and you’re not holding the chances.”

Despite daily slip-catching drills—“30 to 40 catches a session”—

the real ball, edged at speed, exposed fragile hands and shakier nerves.

“I think it’s more of a belief ... when one goes down, guys tend to get a bit nervous and second-guess their catching ability and sometimes it can throw you off.”

The West Indies depart Bridgetown with bruised pride but a clear checklist: sharpen the eye, steel

the fingers, and hope the coin of fortune flips their way next time. As for Chase, his opening act as captain may have ended in defeat, yet his forthright insistence on accountability—both from his players and from the officials—signals a leadership ethos uncompromising in pursuit of justice and improvement.

Richie Richardson turns down Sports Boss job

In a surprising turn on Antigua’s sporting landscape, Sir Richie Richardson has stepped away from the anticipated role of Sports Commissioner.

Last year, the government heralded the cricket legend’s appointment after talks to make him a senator and junior minister fell through. Expectations soared that his leadership would inject fresh energy into local athletics, but those plans have now stalled.

Sports Minister Daryll Matthew revealed that Sir Richie’s obligations on the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees proved insurmountable. “There’s a lot more international cricket being played,” Matthew explained, “and with him being an ICC match referee, it’s just not giving him the time that we expected, and he probably expected to have, so he has agreed that he will step back from that appointment.” Intensive travel and a packed schedule left little room for the commissioner’s duties.

Rather than force a half-hearted commitment, all parties agreed Sir



Richie Richardson

Richie would withdraw. Matthew noted that ongoing conversations made clear the demands of top-tier cricket and public service could not coexist seamlessly. “Sir Richie Richardson, we’ve been having some conversations, and his time simply is not allowing him to be able to take up the position and to function in a way

that we have,” the minister said.

With Sir Richie’s withdrawal finalized, the government turned its attention to a seasoned educator ready for fresh challenges. Dr. Colin Greene, principal of Princess Margaret School for nearly 23 years, emerged as the leading candidate. His transformative leadership in academics and athletics—guiding PMS to multiple titles in the Antigua and Barbuda Inter-School Track and Field Championship—made him an ideal successor.

Dr. Greene’s name entered the conversation weeks ago when he expressed interest in redirecting his professional journey. “He has given enormous service to Princess Margaret. I don’t believe there are too many persons in Antigua and Barbuda who would dispute that he has transformed that school in an amazingly positive way,” Minister Matthew praised. As commissioner, Dr. Greene is poised to blend educational insight with athletic ambition, steering Antigua and Barbuda’s sports programs toward new heights.



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