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National Healthcare initiative extended

Dr Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, today announced a five-year extension of the National Healthcare Initiative to transform Guyana's public health system with world-class healthcare services accessible to every Guyanese citizen.

This next phase of the initiative, launched in 2022 by the Government of Guyana in collaboration with the Mount Sinai Health System and Hess Corporation, will include establishment of a national cancer centre, continued modernisation of national health facilities including Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, and the implementation of one of the world's most advanced digital health systems.

The continued collaboration will build on significant progress made in the first phase of the national healthcare initiative, where Mount Sinai supported the Guyana Ministry of Health in rolling out the Government's health system innovations, including over 35,000 child health screenings, the Ministry's training programmes that will graduate nearly 900 nursing assistants in 2025, and a new state-of-the-art pathology lab.

The initiative will continue to be funded jointly by Hess Corporation and the Government of Guyana and led by the Arnhold Institute for Global Health, the arm of Mount Sinai dedicated to advancing the institution's mission.

US will help Guyana succeed

WITH rapidly growing oil production, Guyana is on the verge of becoming the world's largest oil producer per capita, surpassing Qatar and Kuwait.

"It's probably one of the greatest stories of the last five years. It's seen as some of the greatest offshore opportunities in the world," US Special Envoy for Latin America, Mauricio Claver-Carone, told a Tuesday press briefing ahead of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Guyana.

Claver-Carone (pictured) said that the US administration is keen on supporting countries like Guyana, recognising the immense potential of its oil development.

He related: "We saw in the previous administration, in the Biden administration, that countries like Guyana were asked to almost halt

their development and progress in favour of renewables."

While the US acknowledges the importance of renewables, it views them as complementary to oil production rather than a replacement.

The administration is focused on helping Guyana succeed while also safeguarding it from emerging threats to its energy sector.

Claver-Carone said: "We want to see Guyana succeed. We want to see it develop. We believe renewables are complementary in that regards and are not a substitute. So, we want to support Guyana in this development but protect it also from the threats being posed."

He related that Guyana's security too remains a 'key priority' as the country continues to face aggressions from Venezuela.

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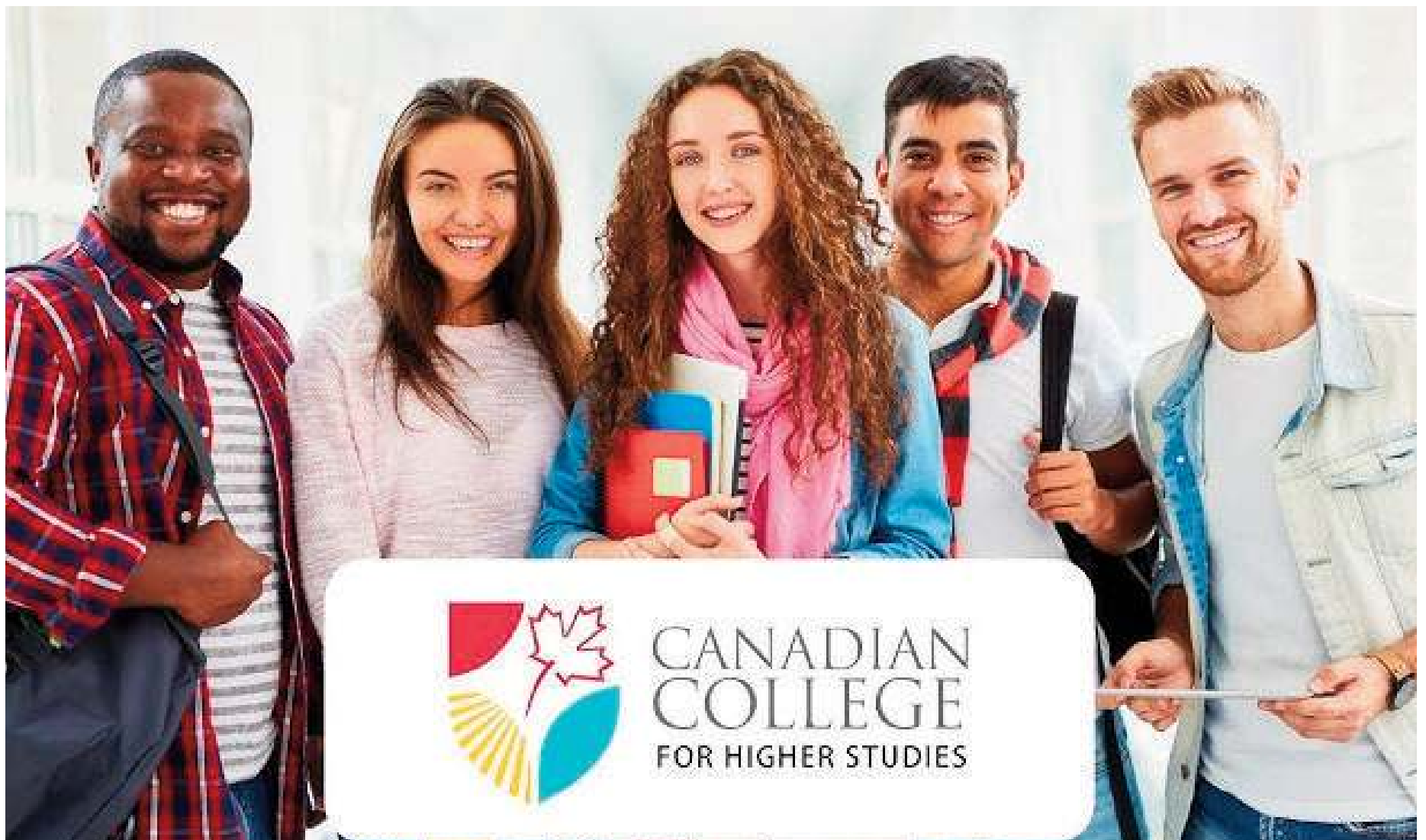
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Alberta Premier Smith under fire for appearing to ask US to use tariffs to influence elections

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's recent comments to right-wing U.S. media outlet Breitbart News have quickly drawn reaction from party leaders seeking to position themselves as the best option to manage a contentious relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Over the weekend, a resurfaced March 8 interview with Breitbart made the rounds on social media, in which Smith said the threat of "unjust and unfair tariffs" had boosted Liberal support.

"What I fear, is that the longer this dispute goes on, politicians posture, and it seems to be benefiting the Liberals right now," Smith said.

"So I would hope that we could put things on pause, is what I've told administration officials. Let's just put things on pause so that we can get through an election. Let's have the best person at the table make the argument for how they would deal with it — and I think that's Pierre Poilievre."

Smith went on to say that, "on balance, the perspective that Pierre would bring would be very much in sync with, I think, with the new direction in America. And I think we'd have a really great relationship for the period of time they're both in."

The interview took place before Mark Carney was named leader of the Liberal Party, and before the election call. Sam Blackett, Smith's press secretary, told CBC News on Sunday that any suggestion that Smith asked the U.S. to interfere in the Canadian election was "offensive and false."

During a news conference held Monday, Stéphane Perrault, Canada's chief electoral officer, was asked about Smith's comments and whether he considered them to be foreign election interference.

Perrault said "elections interference" was not a term that is used in the Elections Act, but that there were a number of provisions in the act that may be relevant to foreign interference.

"For example, there is a provision on undue influence by foreign entities. There are rules on spending, and third-party activities," he said. "The facts that you refer to do not trigger any of these."

Speaking in Montreal on Monday, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh called the



Alberta Premier Danielle Smith with US President Donald Trump

interview "shameful."

"She's talking about taking steps to harm the Liberals and to prevent tariffs in a political manner, to create a political outcome. She should be talking about stopping tariffs to protect Canadians, to just stop them entirely," Singh said.

"To me, it's very shameful what she's doing. She's literally playing games with people's lives. Like, this isn't a game. The tariffs aren't a game to win or lose elections. It's about people losing their jobs."

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre was also asked Monday by a reporter about Smith's comments that he was "more aligned" with Trump's agenda than his counterparts.

"People are free to make their own comments. I speak for myself," Poilievre said.

"Let's talk about my agenda. My agenda is to put Canada first for a change. There's a reason why Donald Trump wants the weak, out-of-touch Liberals in power."

Also on Monday, Liberal Leader Mark Carney was asked by reporters whether he had spoken to Trump since he took office, and what his government was doing to prepare for the promised April 2 tariffs.

"The president is waiting for the outcome of the election, and ... who has a strong mandate from Canadians," he said. "Is that someone who is, to quote Danielle Smith, who's in sync with

him?"

Lisa Young, a University of Calgary professor of political science, said Smith's comments don't meet the threshold of "political interference" as defined by Elections Canada, but could still prove problematic.

"[Smith] really hasn't done

Poilievre and the Conservatives any favours here. There's a quote about him being more favourable to working with the United States, that I think is likely to end up on a Liberal campaign ad at some point," she told the Calgary Eyeopener on Monday.

While the comments may not meet the threshold of "political interference," Young said Smith's comments did "sound like inviting a foreign country to get involved" in the election to try to influence the outcome.

"It certainly isn't illegal. I think the question is whether it's appropriate for a provincial premier to be doing this," she told CBC News.

Speaking to reporters on Monday afternoon, Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi suggested that Smith "proudly" invited a foreign country to interfere in Canada's elections, "to the benefit of her chosen candidate."

"This goes beyond the premier's usual incompetence. This goes into behaviour that is antithetical to democracy. The premier plays fast and loose with Canada," Nenshi said.



NEW COURT: Hon. Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC MP, Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs joined the Judiciary to turn the sod for the construction of a yet another Magistrate's Court on the East Bank of Demerara, at Providence. In 2023, the Government of Guyana allocated this plot of land for the construction of a Magistrate's Court and the monies to do so were approved in the 2025 Budget. With the explosion of the population growth on the East Bank corridor, this facility will enhance the access to justice objectives of our Government. It will add to the 2 other Magistrates Court nearing completion on the East Bank.

On TikTok: Raul's Jewellery (Number 1 for Guyana Jewellery on TikTok Mocha, East Bank Demerara Phone number/WhatsApp: +592-644-0543)

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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Standing tall in the face of threats

*From the Guyana Chronicle,
March 19 2025*

MAKING a firm stance, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali has clearly stated that Guyana will have no more talks with Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, unless Venezuela ceases its bare-faced disrespect for the Argyle Declaration and the guidance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

This firm stance is a reaffirmation of Guyana's unflinching commitment to protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly in the light of Venezuela's ongoing aggression.

The Argyle Declaration, which was signed on December 14, 2023, was supposed to foster peace and dialogue between the two nations. Venezuela's actions, though, have never been in support of this accord.

The worst example is Venezuela's plan to hold elections in Guyana's Essequibo region, a move that not only violates the Argyle Declaration but also international law and the orders of the ICJ.

Guyana's resolve is not solely for national honour; it is a necessary response to Venezuela's increasing provocations. In pursuing leave for interim

measures at the ICJ to prevent these election activities, Guyana is employing international law to protect its sovereignty. The ICJ's acceptance of this application indicates the merits of Guyana's case and the urgency that exists.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has likewise weighed in with its affirmation of support for Guyana, being concerned over Venezuela's intentions and calling on them to desist from any action that invades Guyana's territory. This regional affirmation serves to underscore the broader stakes of Venezuela's actions,

which do not merely threaten Guyana but regional stability as well.

With these developments in mind, President Ali's stance is not merely justified but required. Guyana cannot afford to compromise on its sovereignty, especially in the context of a neighbour that has shown little regard for international norms. The path forward must be set by the terms of the Argyle Declaration and the rulings of the ICJ. Until Venezuela demonstrates an actual desire to comply with such values, Guyana's adamant position remains the only practical response in upholding its national interest.

FDI growth shows confidence in Guyana's economy

Dear Editor,

IN a strong endorsement of President Ali and his government's management of Guyana's economic policies, the Reuters news agency reported on January 17, 2025, that the economy grew by an impressive 43.6 percent in 2024.

This growth was primarily driven by the oil and gas sector, but it also reflects significant increases in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Guyana.

The implications of these investments extend beyond economic metrics, they illustrate how global investors perceive the government's management of the economy and its fiscal policies designed to foster both economic and social development.

The surge in FDI is interpreted by economists as a key indicator of the political and economic stability in Guyana. High levels of FDI signal a stable and transparent economic environment, assuring investors that their capital will be both safe and potentially profitable.

Investors' confidence reflects their satisfaction with the functioning of the government, judiciary, and legislative branches. Businesses are unlikely to jeopardise their investments—totalling USD 7.2 billion—if they did not view Guyana as a safe and favourable investment destination.

Moreover, a recent report highlighted by the Economic Commission

for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) noted the significant rise in investment inflows to Guyana, positioning it as one of the most attractive destinations for foreign capital in the Caribbean.

Most recently, President Ali's comment regarding governance and economic confidence: "The IMF's 2025 Article IV Consultation praises our rapid economic transformation, strong growth outlook, and sound fiscal policies. Our government's commitment to stability, sustainability and inclusive growth continues to strengthen the economy, enhance transparency and modernise key sectors for long-term resilience."

Beyond the oil and gas sector, the government's priorities for 2025 include strengthening various industries, particularly agriculture; promoting tourism; investing in critical infrastructure; ensuring energy security; enhancing education and healthcare services and improving the overall business climate.

These strategic investments are more than just figures on paper; they represent tangible benefits across all regions of Guyana, positively impacting every citizen. The projects not only stimulate the economy, but also generate employment opportunities and income streams for households, exemplifying Guyana's progression toward prosperity.

FDI also entails substantial investments in infrastructural projects such as roads, ports, and other vital structures.

The overall value of these infrastructural initiatives reflects President Ali's commitment to economic growth, attracting foreign investment and improving the quality of life for all Guyanese citizens. The Government of Guyana projects that these infrastructural investments could reach several billion USDs over the next decade, with estimates suggesting spending may exceed \$10 billion as the country modernises its facilities.

Additionally, the benefits of FDI are evident in housing, transportation, and public services across all regions of Guyana. For instance, as of 2025, the Guyana government has distributed a total of 40,808 house lots since embarking on an ambitious pledge in 2020 to allocate 50,000 lots within five years.

In 2024 alone, approximately

10,797 house lots were allocated, and for 2025, the government plans to distribute at least 25,000 house lots by year's end, with over 15,000 lots expected to be allocated by June 2025.

This initiative promotes development throughout Guyana, ensuring that economic benefits translate into tangible assets for citizens. These assets can serve as a foundation for future generational wealth.

In addition to economic infrastructure, FDI is also directed toward social amenities such as healthcare and education, aiming to enhance the quality of life for residents and meet the needs of a growing population.

Undoubtedly, the ongoing growth of FDI reflects a robust economic confidence in the government, while also living up to the People's Progressive Party (PPP) manifesto ensuring prosperity of the nation for all Guyanese.

Respectfully,
Dr. Tilokie Arnold Depoo,
Economist

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Canada joins Europeans in issuing travel advisories for the USA

Canada has joined a growing list of countries issuing travel advisories for the United States, as the Trump administration intensifies immigration enforcement.

Canadian travelers are now being warned that failing to comply with new U.S. entry requirements could lead to penalties, fines, or even misdemeanor prosecution.

On Friday evening, the Canadian government updated its official travel guidance, advising visitors that they must register with U.S. authorities if they plan to stay in the country for more than 30 days. The advisory directs travelers to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website to determine if they are required to register and how to do so.

Prior to this change, Canada citizens could visit the U.S. for up to six months without a visa, provided they declared their intended length of stay upon entry. There was no requirement for registration with U.S. authorities for longer stays. However, starting April 11, 2025, the U.S. government will begin enforcing



Canada warns that new US entry requirements could lead to problems

ing a longstanding but previously unenforced rule requiring visitors planning to stay over 30 days to register with

USCIS.

This process includes submitting personal information and fingerprints for a background check.

The shift is part of broader efforts by the Trump administration to tighten border security and immigration oversight. The updated guidelines come as several European nations have also issued travel warnings regarding entry into the U.S.:

United Kingdom: British citizens are advised to strictly comply with all entry conditions, as failing to do so may lead to arrest or detention.

Germany: A travel advisory warns that Germans are not guaranteed entry to the U.S. even with a visa or entry waiver, following reports of several German nationals being detained.

Denmark: Danish authorities are specifically advising transgender travelers to contact the U.S. embassy in Copenhagen before traveling.

Finland: Similar to Denmark, Finland has issued a warning for transgender travelers heading to the U.S.

The changes reflect heightened immigration scrutiny under the Trump administration as the U.S. continues to enforce stricter border policies.

Woman in hijab attacked at Ajax library

A woman who was attacked inside an Ajax Library by a suspect who allegedly attempted to set her hijab on fire says that the incident has shook her confidence “in the safety of our community spaces” and has left her unable to sleep properly.

The incident happened at Ajax Public Library’s Main Branch near Harwood Avenue and Kingston Road on Saturday afternoon.

Police have said that the victim was studying when she was approached by an unknown female, who yelled profanities at her and threw objects at her head.

The suspect then allegedly tried to remove the victim’s hijab, while pouring an unknown liquid on it and attempting to set it on fire.

However, security intervened and the suspect was not successful.

A 25-year-old woman, identified as Kaley-Ann Freier, was apprehended a few hours after the incident and is facing two counts of assault with a weapon and three counts of fail to comply with probation order.

“I never imagined that a visit to my favourite, quiet corner of the library would turn into one of the most terrifying moments of my life,” the victim, a Muslim woman from Ajax, said in a statement read at a press conference held by community leaders on Monday.

“I always assume the best in people, and never thought someone would wish harm upon me – especially when I was just sitting there, minding my own business.”

Police have described the incident as an “unprovoked attack” but have offered few details beyond that.

In her statement, the victim shared details of what led up to the attack, saying she was at the library studying, when she heard a woman muttering profanities under her breath.

She said she tried to ignore the woman and turned her chair to avoid confrontation, but the woman began to throw objects at her.

“I turned around, still unable to believe that this was an act of hatred. I thought maybe she was struggling with something or needed help,” she said.

The victim said she considered speaking with the librarian, but before she could, the “situation escalated.”

She said the woman stood up and “violently grabbed” at her hijab in an attempt to remove it before pouring liquid all over her scarf.

“And then, to my absolute horror, she pulled out a lighter and tried to set me on fire. She kept trying, flicking it again and again, repeating her threats,” she said.



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Guyana on Venezuelan aggression: We will not be intimidated

GUYANA stands resolute in defending its sovereignty, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has stated, while affirming that any threats from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will be resisted.

The President outlined Guyana's position during his address at the commissioning of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Air Corps' Hangar at the Eugene F Correia International Airport, Ogle, on Friday.

In a stirring call for unity, the President urged Guyanese at home and abroad to reject fear, embrace strength, and recognise the power of solidarity.

"To my fellow Guyanese at home and abroad, let us stand united. Let us reject fear. Let us embrace strength. A divided people is a vulnerable people. A united people is an unstoppable force," President Ali said.

Further, he thanked the international community for standing with Guyana in upholding its territorial sovereignty.

President Ali said: "To our friends in the international community, we value your partnership. We appreciate your support. We stand with the principles of international law, and we call upon you to do the same. This is not just about Guyana. This is about respect for borders, for sovereignty, and for the rule of law."

President Ali also rejected the continuous spurious claims being made by the Bolivarian Republic over Guyana's territory.

President Ali said: "To Venezuela, the message is simple: Respect our sovereignty. Threaten our sovereignty, and we will resist.

"Guyana will not be intimidated; Guyana will not be coerced. And let me repeat for those who still doubt: We will defend every square inch of our land. We will protect every drop of water in our seas. We will safeguard every citizen of this Republic. Amidst adversity, the true character of a nation emerges. This is a



Guyana President Irfaan Ali: Sovereignty is not a matter for negotiation

defining moment of our nation, and we must meet it with determination and an unbreakable spirit."

He also said: "We will continue to stand firm in our sovereignty, because this is our land. This is our home, and we will never surrender it."

The President also highlighted how the government will make every investment necessary to ensure that Guyana, its sovereignty, and territorial integrity is secured.

He said, however, that while Guyana stands for diplomacy, it does not stand for dialogue under duress.

President Ali said: "We believe in diplomacy, and we believe in dialogue, but not dialogue under duress. Our neighbours would have chosen, on more than one occasion, to violate the ICJ's orders and also the Argyle Declaration.

"The very fact that they would seek to hold elections in territory which does not belong to them tells you that they are not serious about dialogue. They are not serious about the Argyle Declaration,

and we will not be drawn into any discourse under duress. We are all for dialogue- but dialogue with respect, dialogue with dignity, dialogue with a sense of purpose, and dialogue that we can trust.

"So, therefore, if Venezuela wants to talk, let it first undo the acts that have violated the Argyle Declaration and the orders of the ICJ. Let it first demonstrate

what faith is. Let it first respect the rule of law. Until then, there will be no talks. Sovereignty is not a matter for negotiation."

Dr. Ali also underscored the importance of investing in GDF and affirmed that despite Guyana pursuing diplomacy and international law, it recognises the reality of the world.



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GDF being boosted for protection, not war, Ali says at hangar opening

INVESTING in and prioritising national security is the foundation for stability and prosperity, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President, Dr Irfaan Ali maintained while emphasising the importance of strengthening the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), on Friday.

The President underscored that investing in the security sector is essential for national development, during his remarks at the commissioning of the GDF Air Corps' Hangar at the Eugene F Correia International Airport, Ogle.

President Ali told the nation that the GDF Air Corps will be better equipped and better resourced.

He said that the government will ensure that the nation's pilots and airmen have the tools they need to patrol the borders, respond to threats and support national development.

"We will fly higher, stronger, and with purpose. This is why this hangar, centrally located, is so important to our plans to strengthen the GDF's Air Corps," the President firmly stated.

Further, the Head of State responded to those who question the government's investments in the military.

He said: "Security is not an expense, it is an investment. A nation that cannot defend itself is a nation that cannot develop itself. A safe Guyana is a prosperous Guyana. A secure Guyana is a stable Guyana."

"Every dollar spent on strengthening our Defence Force is a dollar spent on safeguarding our economic potential, ensuring that investors have confidence in our stability, and protecting the very foundation upon which development is built.

"Without security, businesses cannot thrive, communities cannot flourish and progress cannot be sustained. That is why our investment in defence is not about preparing for war, it is about guaranteeing peace, deterring aggression, and creating an environment where every citizen can work and live without fear.

"We are not arming ourselves for aggression. We are arming ourselves for protection. We are not building a Defence Force for war. We are building



The new Defence Force hangar at Ogle Airport

a Defence Force for resilience. We are not preparing for conflict. We are preparing for any eventuality."

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces said that the nation's military must be ready to not only defend its borders, but also to assist in times of disasters and contribute to national development.

Whether it is delivering aid in times of flooding, assisting communities in times of crisis, or safeguarding Guyana's natural resources, the President said that the GDF will stand as a "strong and solid rock" that secures the nation and the people.

He then told the servicemen and women that the country will also stand with them.

The commissioning of the GDF Air Corps' Hangar was more than just putting a facility into service; it also demonstrated the government's firm commitment to the modernisation and transformation of the nation's security architecture, the President said.

He also stated that the government has demonstrated its commitment to in-

vesting in the necessary tools and equipment that will enhance the nation's capability and capacity to not only protect the country, but also to ensure that there is positive contribution to national development.

"Very quietly, without much fanfare, the Guyana Defence Force executes every single year maybe hundreds of humanitarian flights from saving lives, addressing emergencies or participating in some sort of search and rescue, whilst at the same time, they also support other law-enforcement agencies in various initiatives and efforts to ensure our national security is not compromised in any way," the President stated.

He further said that the facility also offers better opportunities in terms of operability and integration.

President Ali said: "Today, we mark a critical step forward in that mis-

sion with the opening of this hangar at Ogle. This facility is not just a building; it is a statement. It says that Guyana is prepared, that our Defence Force is evolving and that our skies will be watched and protected and it will be sure to serve our people. Our eyes will be sharper. Our reach will be longer. Our response will be swifter."

Between 2021 and 2024, in trading and development of the human resource in the Air Corps alone, the government invested more than \$400 million.

"These investments cannot be taken for granted, and they form part of our overall defence strategy that is linked to our search-and-rescue strategy and capability, our humanitarian capability and then our core defence and military capability," the Head of State said.

Abandoning Cuban medical workers ‘not an option’, more dialogue needed: Ali

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has stated that he does not view abandoning Cuban medical workers as a viable option and intends to engage with the United States regarding its recent visa restrictions on the workers.

At the sidelines of an event on Saturday, President Ali told reporters that Guyana, along with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is seeking clarity and further dialogue on the matter. This issue was also addressed during a recent CARICOM emergency meeting on Friday.

“I’ve already made Guyana’s position clear, that is, we’re employing whether, Cuba, India, Nigeria, in our healthcare system and all of that follows the local laws and international law,” the Head of State emphasised.

He further highlighted the crucial role that Cuban workers play in Guyana and the healthcare systems across the CARICOM region.

“I don’t see abandoning Cuba as part of this equation...“What is clear is that the Cuban health workers are part of the regional health care system.”

The President further clarified that the concerns raised by the U.S. are focused on the workers, not on Cuba as a country.

“It is surrounding an issue and the U.S. is contending that with the informa-



Cuban medical workers in Guyana

tion before them, they don’t believe that the Cuban health brigade system is following the international best practices and laws.”

The President pointed out that the region depends on Cuban healthcare workers because of the challenges it experiences.

He said: “We are faced with an added challenge as a region and that is the recruitment of our own healthcare workers and that is because of the English language for the EU healthcare system, the UK, Canadian, and U.S.

healthcare system.”

According to the President, the U.S. government has been notified that no laws have been breached. Dr. Ali previously underscored that the U.S. is an important partner to Guyana and therefore, the Guyana Government is willing to work with them on any issue.

“We already said to the U.S., if there’s any particular information or any specific issue that they wish for us to address, we are more than willing to work with them because the U.S. is a very important partner for Guyana and we work

closely on many issues.

“We are very confident that they are working in strict conformity with international labour laws and local labour laws,” Dr Ali previously said.

In February, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the country’s plans to expand a visa restriction policy targeting Cuban officials that are believed to be affiliated with a labour programme that sends Cuban workers overseas, especially those in the health sector. The US administration believes that Cubans may be part of a forced labour programme.

The announcement further went on to state that all who are involved would be deemed complicit in the “exploitation and forced labour of Cuban workers.”

“This expanded policy applies to current or former Cuban government officials, and other individuals, including foreign government officials, who are believed to be responsible for, or involved in, the Cuban labour export programme, particularly Cuba’s overseas medical missions. This policy also applies to the immediate family of such persons. The Department has already taken steps to impose visa restrictions on several individuals, including Venezuelans, under this expanded policy,” the U.S. said.

Diaspora finding Guyana a safe space again: Jagdeo

MOTIVATED by a renewed sense of security and expanded opportunities for all, People’s Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary, Bharrat Jagdeo says that Guyanese living abroad are returning home. He made these comments during a recent press conference at the party’s headquarters, Freedom House.

Jagdeo attributed the return of members of the diaspora to the government’s forward-thinking vision, which has created an environment of stability and growth.

“They are finding Guyana to be a safe place,” the General Secretary remarked, recalling a conversation with a member of the diaspora who praised the way the country is being managed.

While certain critics attempt to disparage the government, the General Secretary, who also serves as Guyana’s Vice-President, used the government’s track record to challenge the naysayers.

From education and investment opportunities to housing, the Vice-President highlighted the boundless opportunities available to all. He emphasised that regardless of age, the government has made provisions for individuals to be trained or retrained for employment.

The government has prioritised training and education for Guyanese, offering free university education, awarding scholarships through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL),



Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

and facilitating programmes at institutions like the Board of Industrial Training (BIT).

While Guyana has experienced unprecedented growth due to its thriving oil and gas sector, Jagdeo pointed out that the government is also expanding the non-oil sector to diversify the economy.

The Vice-President also highlighted the measures being implemented to prioritise citizens’ well-being, including investments in state-of-the-art security for homes across the country.

“That is why we’re investing so much in technology, these predictive softwares, the cameras, facial recognition cameras, so that our crime fighting capability would improve,” the Vice-President stated. He also pointed to the efforts to modernize the banking system.

Additionally, initiatives that target the well-being of children are also being rolled out by the government as Jagdeo pointed out. He said: “There is a philosophy behind everything we do, and so our policies support the vision. We want people to keep more money. If they work harder, they must keep more of that money for themselves. We support families, we support education and health.”

Over the past four years, the government has approved more than 1,200 re-migrant applications, a testament to

the growing allure of Guyana as a destination for its diaspora. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh, had noted during his budget presentation that Guyana’s policies are reversing adverse changes to the re-migrant scheme, ensuring that the skills and expertise of overseas Guyanese are effectively harnessed for national development.

In 2020, the PPP/C administration resuscitated the Diaspora Unit and rekindled stakeholder engagement through targeted programmes. Virtual conferences, webinars, and international job fairs—held in New York, Trinidad, and Suriname—have been instrumental in rekindling interest among diasporic communities.

While strengthening ties with its diaspora, Guyana has simultaneously expanded its diplomatic footprint. In 2023, the establishment of new embassies and missions in Qatar, the UAE, and The Dominican Republic marked a significant step in elevating Guyana’s global visibility.

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U.S. tariffs, Venezuela's aggression discussed at Caricom emergency meeting

CARICOM leaders have been engaged in discussions on various issues impacting the region, including U.S. tariffs, Venezuela's recent aggression, and other significant matters.

On the sidelines of an event in Georgetown on Saturday, President Ali told reporters that the recent emergency meeting of CARICOM leaders was a crucial session that addressed several important issues. One key topic was Venezuela's recent incursions into Guyana's waters, with CARICOM offering its full and unwavering support for Guyana's territorial sovereignty.

"Of course, CARICOM reiterated its strong commitment and support to Guyana, our sovereignty and territorial integrity. I had the opportunity to update CARICOM on all aspects of the matter," the President said.

Further, United States President Donald Trump's plan to impose tariffs on China-made vessels was also addressed by CARICOM leaders. President Ali emphasised that this would have a major impact on the region's shipping industry.

"That, of course, can have effects on the cost of goods coming into the region, the cost of transport coming into the region... This is a policy that was alluded to, so there are some discussions that will have to occur. So, all of these things are key regional issues that we are discussing together," the President said.

President Ali stated that countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana,



President, Dr. Irfaan Ali speaking with reporters on Saturday

and Suriname will need to specifically assess the potential consequences for tankers and other vessels transporting gas and oil. He emphasised that while the U.S. policy has not yet been implemented, early discussions are necessary to mitigate or minimise its impact.

"The U.S. is our partner. The region recognises that the U.S. is an important partner and the regional private sector will be having some conversations with the U.S. We will also be having conversations with various actors in the U.S. system."

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to visit Guyana next week as part of a Caribbean tour that will also include stops in Jamaica and Suriname. The visit aims to discuss important regional issues. This upcoming trip will mark the third visit by a U.S. Secretary of State to Guyana in less than five years, following Mike Pompeo's visit during the Trump administration in 2020 and Antony Blinken's visit under the Biden administration in 2022.

According to an article published

by the Miami Herald on Thursday, Rubio's tour will commence in Jamaica, where he is expected to meet with Prime Minister Andrew Holness. Subsequently, he will travel to Guyana to engage in discussions with President Ali, followed by a visit to Suriname for talks with President Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

The discussions will likely focus on a range of pressing issues, including regional security, economic co-operation, democratic governance, and the escalating humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

World Guyanese Congress

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

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Gov't considering new airstrip at Charity to improve nationwide connectivity

MINISTER of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill has announced that the government is considering granting approval for the construction of a new airstrip at Charity.

The minister made this disclosure during a meeting with residents at Charity on Friday.

He said that this consideration is part of a broader plan to improve nationwide transportation connectivity.

Minister Edghill emphasised that while a private company has submitted the proposal for the airstrip, the facility must be accessible to the public.

“The government’s policy is that even if a private company builds the airstrip, it must be open to the public for all to benefit,” he told the gathering.

He highlighted the significant role the airstrip could play in the region’s development, particularly in medical emergencies and tourism. Once completed, the facility will help to reduce travel

time for residents and visitors.

“Once that airstrip is completed, you won’t have to fly to Hampton Court and then drive here. You will be able to fly directly from Ogle to Charity and back,” Minister Edghill explained.

Additionally, the government is focused on upgrading the Anna Regina Aerodrome to enhance its functionality. Planned renovations include a waiting area and other features to improve passenger convenience. The aerodrome, located near the popular Lake Mainstay Resort, is expected to further support the growing tourism sector and economic activity along the Essequibo Coast.

Minister Edghill also noted that infrastructure improvements would extend beyond the airstrip itself.

“Of course, once we do the airstrip, we also have to do the road, because we can’t get to the airstrip if we don’t have a road,” he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Regional Chairperson



Juan Edghill

Vilma De Silva said she is happy for the many developments that are happening in the region.

DeSilva said the projects will transform Charity. She is happy for the

airstrip and said it will boost tourism.

Since returning to office, the PPP/C government has been fulfilling its commitments and exceeding expectations, particularly in the public works sector.

JetBlue adds second daily flight to Guyana

THE Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) has announced that JetBlue Airways will introduce a second daily flight between Georgetown (GEO) and New York (JFK), effective June 12, 2025.

According to information from CJIA, this expansion doubles JetBlue’s service on this route, providing passengers with significantly enhanced travel convenience.

This development also underscores CJIA’s remarkable growth in re-

cent years, the airport said in its press release.

Since 2020, the airport has more than doubled the number of international carriers serving Guyana, welcoming notable additions such as LIAT 2020, Avianca Airlines, Sky High Dominicana, InterCaribbean Airways, British Airways, and United Airlines.


Additionally, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is set to commence operations between Amsterdam (AMS) and Georgetown via St. Maarten (SXM) in June 2025, further enhancing Guyana’s global connectivity, particularly with a direct link to Europe.

Currently, CJIA is served by 12 international airlines, offering flights to 14 destinations. The airport has witnessed significant passenger growth, recording a 17 percent increase last year and a 20 percent increase in passenger numbers thus far in 2025, com-


pared to the same period in 2024.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CJIA, Ramesh Ghir, commented, “The addition of JetBlue’s second daily flight is a testament to the robust growth we are experiencing at CJIA and the increasing demand for travel to and from Guyana.”

He added too that, “This expansion and the influx of new international carriers demonstrate the positive impact of the Government’s continued investment in Air Service Development, which aims to provide additional travel options at affordable costs. This growth is not just about numbers; it is about connecting Guyana to the world, fostering economic success, and driving tourism development. The increased connectivity facilitates trade, investment, and cultural exchange, contributing significantly to our nation’s prosperity.”






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Digital health strategy being developed, electronic records coming: Dr Anthony



Dr Frank Anthony, Minister of Health

THE Ministry of Health is advancing efforts to modernise healthcare delivery through the development of a comprehensive digital health strategy.

This is according to Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, who made this disclosure following the contract-signing for the implementation of the electronic health records system.

Dr. Anthony noted that officials have come up with a digital health strategy for the ministry and this has been drafted.

The initiative he said is being supported with resources from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through which the establishment of a digital health department was facilitated within the ministry.

“We have started to build a digital health department within the ministry, and we have a number of consultants that we’ve been able to hire, working with us,” Dr Anthony said.

He added, “So they would be able to oversee some of the things and how it’s being rolled out.”

According to the minister, the tran-

sition towards a more digital and efficient health system is a crucial step in improving healthcare services.

“We hope that with the partners having gone through this very lengthy process, that our partners will be able to deliver [a] quality product and make sure that we are able to do this in a timely manner.”

The government he added has also been collaborating with the British government on various initiatives related to digital health.

Further, he noted that there now exists a roadmap of where they want to go in relation to digitisation over the next few years.

Looking ahead, the ministry is also focusing on integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the health sector and work is ongoing to develop an AI health strategy for the country.

The development of the digital health strategy marks a significant step toward the modernisation of Guyana’s healthcare system, ensuring improved service delivery and efficiency.

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Bridge tolls to be eliminated from August 1, says President Ali

AS of August 1, 2025, the tolls for the Berbice, Demerara, and Wismar bridges in Guyana are set to be abolished.

This was revealed on Sunday by President Dr. Irfaan Ali during his address to thousands of persons gathered at Babu John, Berbice, to commemorate the life of the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) founder and former President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

“This is investment, this is development,” the President said to welcoming applause from the mammoth crowd.

“We did not even commit this to you in the election but last year we said that we are going to make the crossing at the Wismar, Demerara and Berbice bridges free of cost... With effective from August 1, the crossing at the Demerara, Berbice and Wismar is free of cost.”

Currently, the toll to cross the Berbice River Bridge using a car is \$1,900 while the toll to cross the Demerara River is \$200. The cost for crossing the Wismar Bridge in Linden is \$60.

The toll varies for motorcycles and lorries.

President Ali had first made the commitment last August at the opening of a new throughway in Region Three.

Currently several massive infrastructure projects are being pursued to create new transportation links to help ease traffic woes and promote interregional trade.

These include the building of the New Demerara Bridge—which will span approximately 2.65 kilometres with a driving surface width of around 23.6 metres. The bridge will also feature two carriageways and four lanes.

Additionally, works are progressing on the new Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge in Linden. The 220-metre-long edifice will have four lanes.

Aside from these two major bridges, works are ongoing on several new highways.

“We are your constant, we are your everyday, we are your reliable partner, and we are your relentless fighter; the People’s Progressive Party/Civic,” the President said while highlighting the government’s commitment to improving lives.

He continued: “Life and development is not about a seasonal gift, it’s about hard, tireless work. It’s never opportunistic, it’s about full commitment.”



The Demerara Harbour Bridge: crossing will be free of tolls from August 1

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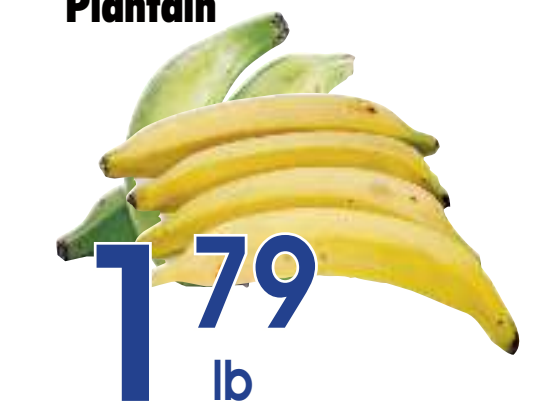
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Promises to fisherfolk kept: Mustapha

Agriculture Minister Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha and Minister within the Ministry of Public Works Hon. Deodat Indar (pictured above) recently met with residents and fisherfolk from Zeeburg, West Coast Demerara.

While addressing those present, Minister Mustapha emphasized the significant improvements made in the last four and a half years, pointing out that for the first time in the country's history, a government has delivered on all its manifesto promises.

The ministers also highlighted the region's transformation, noting that if the previous government had remained in power, the region would have faced economic challenges, particularly after the closure of the Wales estate, which placed thousands out of work.

Shrimp cleaners, predominantly female single parents, will also receive additional support from the Ministry of Agriculture in the form of black giant chicks to improve their livelihoods.

Minister Mustapha also committed to working with the fisherfolk to develop additional infrastructure in the area.



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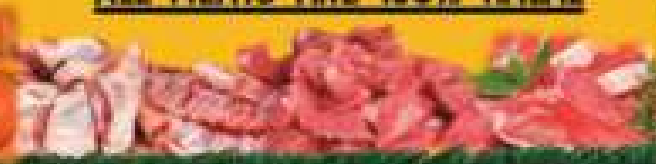


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New regional hospitals to be staffed with 8,000 persons: Jagdeo

AS the government continues to transform healthcare in Guyana, it has been revealed that the 12 new regional hospitals, that are being constructed, will be staffed with 8,000 persons.

This was announced by People's Progressive Party General Secretary and Guyana's Vice-President, Bharrat Jagdeo during his address to the thousands of persons gathered at Babu John, Berbice, to commemorate the life of the PPP/C founder and former President, Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

He said: "Every group of Guyanese, regardless of their race, has seen that the PPP stands by its word... that our word is our bond, and when we make these promises that President Ali spoke about in the next term, you bet that they will be delivered."

"That we'd have the best health care in anywhere in the world, because of the 12 hospitals that we're building now, we'd hire 8,000 people to make them functional right across this country, including specialists."

President, Dr. Irfaan Ali had announced last month that by 2028, the government will have constructed and operationalised 12 state-of-the-art regional hospitals.

This is in keeping with the objective of delivering world-class healthcare services.

The President had said six of these institutions will be commissioned in the second and third quarters of 2025.

These are the Lima, De Kinderen, Enmore, Diamond, Bath and the No 75 Regional Hospitals in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six respectively.

These hospitals will possess 24-hour Accident and Emergency, 24-hour labs, a suite of imaging services including ultrasound, digital X-Ray, and CT scans, along with operation theatres and more.

Alongside these major facilities, the government has also injected significant investments to improve healthcare delivery for residents residing in hinterland communities.

The Moruca Regional Hospital, the Kato Regional Hospital and the Lethem Regional Hospital, according to the President, are scheduled to become operational by 2027.



Some of the new doctors being employed at the regional hospitals

In Kamarang, Region Seven, a modern hospital will also be built.

Just last Saturday, the President turned the sod for the state-of-the-art \$831 million Campbellville polyclinic, marking the government's commitment to transforming the healthcare sector.

The government's commitment to providing more efficient and equitable

services for all citizens is not just empty rhetoric but is backed by concrete action.

As stated by the President, the government will continue to enhance the system, ensuring that individuals have access to the highest quality care at every stage of life.

He said: "What we are witnessing

here is not just an expansion of services, it is transformation. We are changing the game. We are bringing in a new era of healthcare, one where access is within easy reach, diagnosis is swifter, treatment is more effective, and outcomes are better for all Guyanese. This is not just another clinic. This is a revolution."



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Badar Khan Suri, a scholar of conflict studies, was arrested on 17 March over terror charges

Indian scholar arrested in US over father-in-law's Hamas link

It was an invitation from a classmate 15 years ago that changed the life of Badar Khan Suri, an Indian scholar now facing deportation from the US over accusations he is linked to a Hamas member.

On that summer evening, Mr Suri had been sitting outside his department at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia university when a classmate announced that an international aid convoy was set to go to Gaza - the Palestinian territory run by the armed Islamist group Hamas and under blockade by Israel.

To students of conflict studies, the caravan - of more than 150 people from several Asian countries - offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness one of the world's most contentious disputes up close.

Mr Suri happily agreed to participate, a classmate recalled.

It was during this trip that he met Mapheze Saleh, a Palestinian and the daughter of a former Hamas adviser, whom he married a few months later.

After living in Delhi for almost a decade, the couple moved to the US where Mr Suri joined the prestigious Georgetown University as a postdoctoral fellow.

He had been living in Virginia for nearly three years when the police knocked on his door on the evening of 17 March and arrested him.

Three days later, on 20 March, Tricia McLaughlin, the assistant secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, tweeted that Mr Suri was being detained for his "close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, a senior adviser to Hamas". He has denied the allegations.

This action follows President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigrants and activists involved in pro-Palestinian campus protests which authorities have accused of fuelling antisemitism and supporting Hamas. The group is designated a terrorist organisation by the US. India, however, has not banned Hamas.

Although Mr Suri, who entered the US legally on a student visa, has had his deportation blocked by a US court, the Trump administration's allegations have shocked those who know him

back home.

His acquaintances describe him as a soft-spoken, shy and hardworking student with a broad knowledge of the world, while his classmates and teachers said they found allegations of him having ties with Hamas "tenuous".

India has historically supported the Palestinian cause. But it has also developed close, strategic ties with Israel in recent years, with Delhi often refraining from criticising Israel's actions.

Even then, "by no stretch of imagination can Suri be associated with anything unlawful", one of his professors from Jamia said.

"Having a view on the ongoing conflict is not a crime. As a conflict studies scholar, it is well within his professional mandate to share his analysis of the war in Gaza."

Those who accompanied him on the trip held similar views.

Feroze Mithiborwala, one of the organisers of the caravan, remembered Mr Suri as an intelligent, young man.

"He always took a secular stance in our discussions. He was not some right-wing Islamist type of character," he said.

The trip began in December 2010 from Delhi. As India's neighbour Pakistan refused to give a travel permit to the group, the convoy had to travel to Iran, Turkey, Syria and Egypt before finally reaching Gaza.

The route, most of which was covered by bus, offered much for a student of peace and conflict studies, one of Mr Suri's friends who also went on the tour said.

Throughout the trip, he was deeply moved by the sufferings he witnessed in Gaza and focused on providing aid to the widowed and elderly, he added.

The caravan, in many ways, "brought Mr Suri closer to the Palestinian cause", but his interest was largely academic, said another classmate who was in touch with him until days before his arrest.

The second and the last time Mr Suri went to Gaza was for his own wedding with Ms Saleh.

A US citizen, Ms Saleh had been working as a translator and volunteer in Gaza.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): Some people say that what does not destroy you only makes you stronger and you will get the chance to put that claim to the test today. The bigger the challenge the more you will have to raise your game to win. Defeat is not an option.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): There may be times today when you wish you were some place else but the fact is you are in exactly the right situation at exactly the right time to learn the lessons the universe is trying to teach you. Forget about wishful thinking and act!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): If your inner voice tells you to be careful today you would be a fool to ignore it, especially as Mercury, your ruler, links with Pluto, planet of power. If you take unnecessary risks someone in a position of authority will come down hard on you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): You have a talent for sensing which way the wind is blowing and if it is blowing in a direction that could spell trouble then you must take evasive action. Above all you need to avoid getting sucked into other people's meaningless feuds.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): Be careful what you say over the next 24 hours because retrograde Mercury's link to Pluto could bring the kind of attention you would be wise to avoid. Even if your remarks are clearly said in jest others are unlikely to see the funny side.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): It may be tempting to pretend that a challenging situation does not worry you but that will only postpone the day of reckoning. Face up to the matter and find creative ways to deal with it. And don't keep your feelings bottled up inside.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): If anyone tries to hold you back from what you want to say or do you must let them know in the most direct way possible that you won't be giving up your freedom of expression or freedom of movement. Make them wish they had kept quiet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): The more you allow yourself to fantasize about what you want to be doing in the near future the more likely it is those fantasies will become your reality. Pluto, your ruler, linked with mind planet Mercury will bring extra power to your thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): You may believe you can get away with anything today but the powers that be will come down on you hard if you try to cut corners or bend the rules. Do what you have to do Sag but, just this once, do it by the book.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): The more you are able to control your feelings the more likely it is you will reach the lofty goals you have set yourself. Others can run around crying that life is unfair if they want but you know it is composure and know-how that bring success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): A positive outlook on life is an absolute must at the moment. Even when things seem to be going badly for you just keep telling yourself it is part of a higher cosmic plan and that it won't be long before it all makes perfect sense.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You must come to terms with the fact that nothing stays the same forever and that whatever changes are taking place in your life they are there for a reason. If you quiet your mind and ignore outside chatter the universe will reveal its secrets.

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US ends legal status for over 500,000 Cuban, Haitian, and other migrants

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Friday that it is revoking humanitarian parole (or legal status) for approximately 532,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans who arrived in the U.S. since October 2022.

These individuals had been allowed to live and work legally for two years under a Biden-era program requiring financial sponsorship.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem stated that those affected will lose their legal status on April 24, 2025, or 30 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register. DHS emphasized that parolees “must depart” before their termination date unless they obtain another legal status.

The Trump administration has defended the move as necessary for border security, migration control, and national sovereignty. DHS stated that the humanitarian parole program had become an “incentive for mass migration”, leading to increased crossings and straining U.S. resources. Officials argue that ending these temporary protections is part of a broader effort to restore order at the border and ensure that immigration programs are used selectively, rather than as a backdoor to residency.

Additionally, the administration contends that the U.S. should not be providing temporary legal status to individuals from adversarial nations like Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, which have been unwilling to cooperate on deportation efforts.

The decision follows President Donald Trump’s Executive Order 14165, “Securing Our Borders”, which directs DHS to end broad-based humanitarian parole programs. The administration has argued that CHNV parole—originally introduced under President Joe Biden—was a “broad abuse” of parole authority and contributed to increased migration.

Under the Biden administration, the U.S. allowed up to 30,000 people per month from the four countries to enter with temporary work permits. In return, Mexico agreed to accept deportations of the same number of people from these nations. However, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua have either limited or refused U.S. deportation flights, while Haiti has accepted them despite ongoing instability.

This move comes just weeks after DHS reversed Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS) extension, another key immigration policy shift under the Trump administration.

In August 2024, former President



Migrants being deported in the United States

Joe Biden had extended Haiti’s TPS until February 3, 2026, citing ongoing violence, political turmoil, and humanitarian crises in the country. However, in February 2025, Secretary Noem rescinded that extension, meaning Haiti’s TPS designation will now end on Au-

gust 3, 2025, unless further extended.

Since 2010, Haiti has been under TPS due to the devastating earthquake that year. The number of Haitians qualifying for TPS has grown significantly—from 57,000 in 2011 to an estimated 520,694 by July 2024, ac-

ording to DHS data. The Trump administration argues that such protections encourage further migration and has sought to roll them back.

The latest order places hundreds of thousands of migrants at risk of deportation in the coming months.

JA Opposition leader renounces UK citizenship

According to *The Gleaner*, Opposition Leader and People’s National Party (PNP) president Mark Golding has allegedly provided documents to confirm his renunciation of British citizenship. *The Gleaner* reports that Golding shared what he claims to be official documentation from the United Kingdom Home Office, including a cover letter and a declaration of renunciation, purportedly showing that he ceased to be a British citizen on August 5, 2024.

Golding, who reportedly obtained British citizenship by descent through his father, Sir John Golding, had long faced questions about his allegiance. The letter, which *The Gleaner* attributes to the UK Home Office and is said to be addressed to Golding, allegedly states:

“I’m writing to inform you that the above-named is now registered as having renounced British citizenship. Endorsed is the declaration of renunciation bearing a stamp of registration. This confirms the date on which the applicant ceased to be a British citizen under section 12(1) of the British Nationality Act of 1981.”

The letter also reportedly notes that any British travel documents he held should be returned and that his renunciation affects his right to reside in the United Kingdom. The document is said to be signed by Lesley Davis of the UK Home Office.

Golding’s disclosure comes in response to persistent

challenges from Cabinet Minister Daryl Vaz, who has repeatedly demanded proof of his renunciation.

“Mark Golding has shown zero evidence of the renunciation of his UK citizenship. Now that he has made such statements in Parliament, we again ask Mark Golding to present evidence,” Vaz posted on X on March 18.

Vaz, the minister of science, energy, telecommunications, and transport, has also criticized Golding’s national identity, referencing his reading of Jamaica’s national song during his Budget Debate speech.

Vaz himself has faced similar scrutiny in the past. He was disqualified from Parliament in 2007 due to his dual U.S. and Jamaican citizenship but later renounced his U.S. citizenship and won a court-ordered by-election in 2009. Alongside St Catherine South Western MP Everaldo Warmington, Vaz has been among those leading the charge against Golding’s suitability for prime ministerial candidacy. Warmington has even gone as far as suggesting that Golding’s race disqualifies him.

Golding had first announced in June 2024 that he would begin the renunciation process, following confirmation of his UK citizenship the previous month. This decision came amid growing public discourse about whether political leaders should hold dual nationality.

US tariffs on Chinese-built ships will impact Antigua economy: PM

Antigua's Prime Minister Gaston Browne has voiced concerns over the potential economic fallout from a proposed United States levy on Chinese-built ships operating in US ports. The measure, introduced by the United States Trade Representative, would impose fines of up to US\$1.5 million on China-made vessels or fleets that include Chinese-manufactured ships.

Speaking on his weekly radio program over the weekend, Browne revealed that his administration has been discussing the matter in cabinet meetings for several weeks, fearing a significant economic impact on the twin-island nation.

"An analysis has been done, and we have been advised that shipping a container could increase by about US\$3,000 to US\$4,000," Browne explained. "If that happens, we are looking at an increase in prices of between eight and 10 per cent, which would be extremely inflationary, especially given the current elevated inflation rate of approximately 4.5 per cent. This could push inflation to as high as 12 or 14 per cent."

The issue has also garnered attention at the regional level. Guyanese President Irfaan Ali noted that CARICOM leaders discussed the matter during a recent emergency virtual meeting with the Regional Private Sector Organ



Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne

isation. "The US is an important partner, and the Regional Private Sector will be engaging in discussions with American officials, including the Secretary of State," Ali stated. "Additionally, CARICOM's Chair will seek a meeting

with the White House to discuss these challenges and foster better understanding between the parties."

Browne warned that the proposed levy could have a devastating effect on Antigua and Barbuda's economy and

consumers. He indicated that his government is considering a range of options in response, should the measure take effect.

He also revealed that CARICOM has asked Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the current chair of the 15-member regional bloc, to write to US President Donald Trump outlining the severe impact the move could have on the Caribbean, warning that it could "literally destabilize the region."

"What we are asking for is a 'carve-out' under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI)," Browne explained. "One of the CBI's objectives is to ensure economic and social stability in the region. The United States should be concerned about its 'third border' to the south and mitigate any unintended consequences of its policies."

While emphasizing that the region does not wish to be entangled in geopolitical disputes between the US and China, Browne stressed that where policies affect the Caribbean, Washington must be engaged. He reiterated that regional leaders believe CARICOM states should receive favorable consideration.



Guyana concerned tariffs could affect tankers

Guyana's President Irfaan Ali has voiced concern over U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to impose tariffs on ships and vessels manufactured in China, warning that such a move could have significant implications for trade in Guyana and the wider Caribbean region.

Trump is reportedly drafting an executive order that would levy fines of up to \$1.5 million for Chinese-built or Chinese-flagged vessels docking at U.S. ports. The Trump administration argues that these and other proposed fees would help curb China's expanding commercial and military dominance on the high seas while promoting domestically-built vessels.

In a statement on Saturday, Ali emphasized that Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago would need to assess the potential impact on tankers and other vessels used for transporting oil and gas.

"That, of course, can have effects on the cost of goods coming into the region, the cost of transport coming into the region," Ali stated.

While the policy has not yet been implemented, Ali stressed the importance of early discussions to minimize any negative effects. "This is a policy that was alluded to, so there are some discussions that will have to occur. All of these things are key regional issues that we are discussing together," he added.

The concerns were also raised by the regional private sector during an emergency virtual meeting held by CARICOM heads. Ali noted that the region values its partnership with the United States and intends to engage in discussions with U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, as well as the CARICOM Chair, who will seek a meeting with the White House.

"The US is our partner, the region recognizes that



Guyana said the US tariffs on Chinese ships could affect the tankers that service Guyana

the US is an important partner, and the regional private sector will be having some conversations with the US. We will also be having conversations with various actors in the US — [the] secretary of state for example — and also the chair of Caricom will be seeking to have a meeting with the White House to go through some of these challenges that we may face, and to have a better understanding of each other's positions," Ali said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio

is set to visit the Caribbean next week, making stops in Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname. His tour will include high-level meetings with regional leaders, beginning with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness before traveling to Guyana to meet with President Ali and then to Suriname for talks with President Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

China is likely to be one of the key issues on Rubio's agenda during his visit.

Jamaica experiencing strongest economy since independence, says Holness

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has declared that Jamaica is now experiencing its strongest economy since gaining independence.

Speaking during his 2025/26 Budget Debate presentation in the House of Representatives on March 20, Dr. Holness outlined the nation's significant economic achievements, including a sharp reduction in the debt-to-GDP ratio, record-low unemployment, controlled inflation, and a stable currency exchange rate.

Dr. Holness reported that the debt-to-GDP ratio has fallen to approximately 68.7 per cent, keeping the government on track to meet its target of 60 per cent by March 2028. It's the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio in nearly 30 years, a key milestone in the country's financial stability and economic progress.

He also highlighted a dramatic decline in the unemployment rate, which has dropped from 13.7 per cent in 2016 to a historic low of 3.5 per cent, signaling near full employment. Youth unemployment, which previously stood at 32 per cent, has also seen a significant reduction.

"Young people, who once faced limited opportunities, now see doors opening; mothers and fathers who struggled to make ends meet are now securing stable employment," Dr. Holness stated.

Meanwhile, Jamaica's annual inflation rate now stands at 4.4 per cent,



Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness

within the Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) target range of four to six per cent.

"Through well-managed fiscal and monetary policy, we have brought inflation back down to sustainable levels," the Prime Minister said.

Dr. Holness also cited the stability of the Jamaican Dollar as further evidence of the country's economic progress, noting that over the past nine years, the local currency has depreci-

ated at an average rate of 2.9 per cent per year against the US dollar – the lowest rate since independence.

"These achievements are not just incremental improvements. They are historic breakthroughs that have placed our beloved nation in the strongest economic position ever since gaining independence," he emphasized.

Reaffirming his Administration's commitment to economic stability and

improving citizens' quality of life, Dr. Holness said, "The numbers do not just tell a story of improvement. They tell a story of transformation—of an economy that has overcome decades of instability, uncertainty, and crisis to achieve a level of stability, strength, and resilience that Jamaica has never before experienced."

Jamaican Rum must be made in Jamaica: JIPO

Rum is more than just a drink in Jamaica—it's a deep part of the island's culture and identity, with a history dating back to the 17th century. Introduced by European colonists and perfected by enslaved Africans, Jamaican rum became known for its rich, complex flavors, thanks to traditional pot-still distillation and unique aging techniques. Today, it remains a symbol of national pride and craftsmanship.

But a heated dispute is brewing over what qualifies as authentic Jamaican rum, as reported by the BBC.

The controversy started last October when Jamaica's Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) approved stricter rules under the country's geographical indication (GI) designation for Jamaica Rum. This GI, first established in 2016, ensures that only rum meeting specific standards can use the label "Jamaican Rum." The major change? Rum aged outside of Jamaica can no longer be called Jamaican.

The rule change was pushed by the Spirits Pool Association (SPA), a trade group representing Jamaica's six major distilleries, including Appleton, Hampden Estate, and Worthy Park. Their goal is to get official recognition for Jamaican rum in key export markets like the US and the EU, which they believe will boost its reputation and prevent copycats.

However, not everyone is on board. National Rums of Jamaica (NRJ), which owns Long Pond and most of Clarendon distillery, is challenging the deci-



Jamaican Rum must be made in Jamaica

sion. The issue? NRJ's business model depends on exporting rum in bulk and aging it overseas—a practice now banned under the new rule.

NRJ argues that Jamaica has been exporting and aging rum abroad for centuries, and the new restrictions could cripple its operations. The disagreement has led NRJ to appeal JIPO's ruling, with a hearing scheduled for April 28.

Christopher Gentles, general manager of the SPA, sees it differently. "What we're saying is, if you

truly believe in Jamaica rum, age it in Jamaica," he told the BBC. He argues that aging the rum overseas weakens its authenticity and takes away economic benefits from the island, including jobs in refining, bottling, and rum tourism.

The debate boils down to how strict Jamaica should be about defining its signature spirit. If the GI rules are upheld, Jamaican rum would join the ranks of Scotch whisky and Champagne—products protected by strong geographical regulations that add prestige and economic value. According to Professor Dev Gangjee from the University of Oxford, products with a GI can command prices up to 2.7 times higher than unprotected versions.

Beyond price, strong GI protections keep a product from becoming generic—like cheddar cheese, which was once tied to a specific place in the UK but is now a generic term worldwide. SPA wants Jamaican rum to be globally recognized and safeguarded in the same way.

The fight over Jamaica's most famous spirit is as much about business as it is about heritage. As one editorial on the issue published in *The Gleaner* put it: "When foreign entities become owners of uniquely Jamaican products, there should be a commitment to robustly maintain the integrity of the brand."

For now, the rum industry waits to see if the new rules will hold or if a compromise will be reached.

Tobago wants Sandals hotel, but on its own terms: THA boss

Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Chief Secretary Farley Augustine has made it clear that while the island welcomes a Sandals-branded hotel, it must be on its own terms.

Speaking at the Tobago People's Party (TPP) convention and presentation of candidates at Rovanel's Resort, Augustine dismissed claims made by former Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley that Tobagonians outright rejected the project six years ago.

Augustine responded directly to Rowley's accusations that he and Progressive Democratic Patriots (PDP) leader Watson Duke were responsible for the collapse of the Sandals deal. He insisted that the original proposal was rejected because it was undemocratic, lacked economic feasibility, and failed to meet environmental standards.

"Tobagonians never had a problem with Sandals or any branded hotel whatsoever," Augustine stated. "It is unfair to suggest that Tobago rejected Sandals just for the sake of rejecting Sandals. That is untrue. The project simply did not meet our standards."

His comments come in the wake of renewed discussions about Sandals potentially investing in Tobago. At the opening of the ANR Robinson International Airport terminal on March 15, Rowley revealed that he had re-engaged Sandals' executive chairman, Adam Stewart, to reconsider the investment. Rowley also urged Augustine and Duke to participate in future discussions with the company and Prime Minister Stuart Young.



The Sandals Hotel chain plans for Tobago was rejected over 6 years ago

However, Augustine stressed that the THA must lead any negotiations concerning Tobago's tourism industry. "For you to sit in Port of Spain and decide for us, this is what you want, I am saying to you, there is a Tobago House of Assembly, and in the Fifth Schedule is tourism. If it is a matter relative to tourism, it starts and ends with the Tobago House of Assembly, not with a one percent prime minister."

The Sandals project has become a focal point in the ongoing political battle ahead of the April 28 general election. Augustine declared that the TPP

was ready for the fight, emphasizing that the election is crucial for Tobago's autonomy.

"This may be Tobago's last opportunity to be in a strong negotiating position on autonomy," he warned, adding that the TPP's candidates, David Thomas (Tobago East) and Joel Sampson (Tobago West), will push for a more favorable autonomy bill in Parliament if elected.

Rowley had defended his efforts to bring Sandals to Tobago, lamenting that one of his greatest regrets as prime minister was failing to secure the hotel

project. He maintained that Sandals had been interested in Tobago but was driven away by opposition voices. "We chased them away. Accused them of all manner of evil," he remarked, insisting that Tobago's economic potential remains untapped.

As discussions over the Sandals project continue, Augustine reaffirmed that Tobago remains open to negotiations with Sandals or any other major hotel brand—provided they respect the island's economic, environmental, and democratic standards.

Suriname to get over US\$60 million from IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the ninth and final review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement for Suriname, unlocking US\$62 million in new funds. This brings the total financial support provided under the program to US\$572 million.

The IMF executive board also granted Suriname a waiver for non-observance of the end-December 2024 performance criteria on the central government primary balance, citing corrective actions already undertaken by the authorities.

Suriname's EFF arrangement was approved in 2021 as part of a broad economic reform strategy aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability while fostering long-term, inclusive growth. The program prioritized fiscal and debt sustainability, protection for vulnerable populations, monetary and banking sector reforms, and improvements in governance and anti-corruption efforts.

"The authorities' reforms under the EFF-supported program—the first ever to be completed by Suriname—are increasingly bolstering macroeconomic stability and investor confidence. The economy is growing, inflation is approaching single digits, international bond spreads are at record low levels, and donor support is increasing," said Kenji Okamura, IMF Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair.

Okamura emphasized the importance of establishing strong institutional frameworks, particularly in



light of Suriname's recent Final Investment Decision regarding its oil resources. He stressed that fiscal rules, transparency measures, and accountability safeguards would help the country manage its resource wealth responsibly and ensure long-term economic stability.

"The near-term priority is to maintain the path for debt reduction while protecting the vulnerable from the burden of the adjustment. Gradually phasing out electricity subsidies and strengthening tax administration will help create fiscal space for higher, targeted social assistance and infrastructure spending," Okamura stated.

He also underscored the need for full implementation of the newly finalized social assistance reform plan to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Additionally, strengthening financial management controls within the state-owned electricity sector—including the regular publication of audited financial statements—would enhance accountability and oversight.

According to the IMF, Suriname's debt restructuring process is nearing completion, with agreements reached with all official creditors and all but one commercial creditor. The country has also cleared its domestic debt arrears, and the IMF urged continued efforts to improve budgetary controls and cash management to prevent further arrears.

Okamura noted that a restrictive monetary policy has supported disinflation and highlighted the recent implementation of a central bank recapitalization plan as a crucial step in ensuring financial stability and autonomy. He also reaffirmed the importance of a flexible, market-determined exchange rate in supporting reserve accumulation.

Moving forward, Okamura encouraged Suriname to persist with its ambitious structural reform agenda, which includes strengthening institutions, enhancing governance, improving data quality, and addressing gender gaps. He assured that these efforts would continue to receive support from the IMF and other development partners.



Kamla Persad-Bissessar with a supporter during the party's general election campaign launch

Kamla claims 10 years of incompetence — 'PM, Government out of touch'

SLAMMING the almost ten-year-old PNM government in Trinidad and Tobago as being one only for the elites, which is controlled by the elites, Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar said only a leader who as a teenager walked the streets with her mother, selling door to door, could know the pain of the common man.

Speaking at the launch of the UNC's general election campaign on the evening of March 24 for the April 28 general election at Naparima College in San Fernando, Persad-Bissessar said, "You can't fake real, and you can't fake love!"

She sought to paint a picture, on the one hand, of a man who was selected – not elected – and handed the office of Prime Minister without earning it.

While on the other hand, there is a woman who earned the right to be prime minister by first being elected political leader of a party and then by winning a general election.

"Only a leader who has walked the same roads as you, can truly understand your feelings, pains and ambitions and make decisions in your best interest," she said.

"So when political leaders come to you asking for your vote, ask them, where is your track record? What is your track record?"

She revealed that her mother Rita Persad was a socially ostracised garden worker, housemaid, shop-cleaner, roti seller, roadside pholourie vendor, jewellery street seller and part-time seamstress, "who created and moulded the first female Attorney General, the first

female Leader of the Opposition and the first female prime minister."

Slamming the government as one that did not care for the common man, Persad-Bissessar claimed government showed no remorse in paying almost \$50 million to their "eat-ah-food" lawyers in a commission of inquiry, yet not giving one cent to the families of the divers who died in the Paria diving tragedy.

"Tonight, I demand that the government pay the families of the dead divers the compensation they are asking for before the elections. If they don't, I will pay it when we return to the government!"

Four divers – Kazim Ali Jr, Yusuf Henry, Fyzal Kurban and Rishi Nagassar – were killed on February 25, 2022, when they were sucked into the pipeline in Pointe-a-Pierre harbour while carrying out maintenance work. A fifth diver, Christopher Boodram, survived the ordeal.

Persad-Bissessar delivered the feature address after speeches by UNC deputy political leaders Dr Roodal Moonilal and Jearlean John, PEP leader and UNC/Coalition of Interests candidate for Port of Spain North/St Ann's West Phillip Edward Alexander, and OWTU president general Ancel Roget.

Several of the party's candidates were announced during the meeting on Monday including Devesh Maharaj (Aranjuez/St Joseph), Wayne Sturge (Toco/Sangre Grande), Saddam Hosein (Barataria/San Juan), Ernesto Kesar (Pt Fortin), former CWU head Clyde Elder (La Brea) and others.

Persad-Bissessar said Prime Minis-

ter Stuart Young had no shared experiences with the rank-and-file PNM members so then how could he hope to have that with the people?

She said having no shared experience with the common man, the prime minister and the PNM has resorted to fabrications and paid, scripted interactions.

"He can never understand or appreciate your circumstances, so you will never win with him."

Persad-Bissessar said a UNC government would work to decrease taxes on people's retirement benefits and private pensions.

She said the proliferation of noise pollution emanating from homes, fetes, bars and clubs was an intolerable scourge on the mental health of citizens. A UNC government will amend noise pollution laws to protect people from noisy residential neighbours and businesses.

She said that a UNC government will establish a National Commission on the Banking and Financial Sector to ensure citizens are not exploited via predatory fees and interest rate spreads and that banks and financial institutions perform their essential developmental role of converting national savings into national investment.

She said this commission will also work to ensure a fair distribution of forex and deregulate financial bureaucracy to facilitate business transaction processing.

She also promised an end to the property tax as well as lower food prices and no electricity and water rate in-

creases.

She said a UNC government will ensure in all schools, the full complement of required deans of discipline, security officers, schools safety officers and police officers in schools to protect children.

She also hit the PNM's planned campaign slogan: All In.

"The PNM has chosen a slogan that says 'All In' because they are all in to make your life harder. The PNM is all in with high fuel prices.

"The PNM is all in with high food prices, the PNM is all in on potholes and traffic tickets. The PNM is all in with taking away your pensions. The PNM is all in with cutting GATE.

"The PNM is all in on property tax. The PNM is all in against you and your families. The PNM is all in against legal firearms for law-abiding citizens. The PNM MPs are all in the pocket of young family financiers. They are all incompetent, they are all insensitive and all inhumane."

Hitting Prime Minister Young's promise of a Ministry of Implementation and Efficiency if the PNM wins the election on April 28, she said this latest gimmick was Young's public admission that his government failed to implement anything during its ten-year long tenure in power.

"This is an admission that the PNM government was incompetent during its past ten years in power. The nerve and gall of this man to so shamelessly declare such a ministry as if he has found the solution to all of the country's problems."

CWI, Players Association to probe claims of sexual misconduct

Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) say they are reviewing their policies following allegations of sexual harassment within the West Indies women's team during the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia.

In a joint media statement on March 21, both organisations say they take such matters seriously and remain fully committed to ensuring a safe, professional, and supportive environment for all players and staff.

"In light of this, WIPA and CWI will convene to review all aspects of athlete safeguarding within West Indies cricket. This joint effort reflects our commitment to upholding the highest standards of player welfare and ensuring that all safeguarding policies remain robust and effective."

The organisations did not delve further into the allegations.

Both organisations say they have already taken significant steps to enhance player protection. In 2021, improved safeguarding measures were introduced for women's tours.

In May 2023, CWI implemented additional policies, including single-



Some West Indies women players have made claims of sexual misconduct during the T20 World Cup

room accommodations for the West Indies women's team on all international assignments, ensuring parity with the men's team. These are among other policy initiatives within the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027.

"Furthermore, we have implemented and strictly adhered to Unicef's

Children Protection Policy, ensuring that minors never share rooms with adults under any circumstance. Additionally, we have mandated ongoing training for all officials to reinforce and uphold these standards.

WIPA and CWI say they remain committed to fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and professionalism within West Indies cricket.

"There will be continuous evaluation of all aspects of policy to ensure every player deserves to feel safe, valued, and fully focused on their career. Through this upcoming review, we will continue working to strengthen safeguards and reinforce our unwavering support for all athletes."

Windies women set for World Cup qualifiers in Pakistan

Allrounder Hayley Matthews will lead a 15-member West Indies women's squad into the International Cricket Council Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers in Lahore, Pakistan from April 9-19.

A Cricket West Indies (CWI) release said the West Indies team were scheduled to depart for a pre-tournament camp in the UAE on March 24. With two qualifying spots up for grabs for the October-November 2025 tourney which will be held in India, Matthews' charges must navigate the threats of Bangladesh, Ireland, Pakistan, Scotland and Thailand to cement their spot in the World Cup.

The two successful teams in the qualifiers will join Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and hosts India in the main draw of the tourney.

West Indies will begin their qualifying campaign on April 9 against Scotland at the Lahore City Cricket Association, before taking on Ireland at the Gaddafi Stadium on April 11. They will then round off their qualifying campaign with matches against Pakistan (April 14), Bangladesh (April 17) and Thailand (April 19).

West Indies coach Shane Deitz said preparations have been going well.

"It's going to be a tough tournament with some really good teams to play against, but we're right up for the challenge," Deitz said.

"We know how important it is to qualify for the World Cup...but obviously, all teams will be doing everything they can to get those two spots in the World Cup.

"We have to be at our best in every game, pre-



West Indies Stafanie Taylor

pare well off the field, trust our skills, play our best cricket and the result will take care of itself."

The squad announcement sees the welcome return of former skipper Stafanie Taylor, along with allrounder Chinelle Henry who featured in the 2025 Women's Premier League for UP Warriorz.

The team has been dealt a blow, though, as star allrounder Deandra Dottin, who returned to the international circuit last year, has been ruled out through injury alongside Nerissa Crafton and Djenaba Joseph.

Matthews said she and her teammates are focused on playing their best cricket without distract-

tions.

"As we head into the World Cup qualifiers, we know we've prepared well for this moment. The team environment feels like a family and we've all been enjoying ourselves out on the park."

West Indies women's squad:

Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbell (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabiki Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Chenille Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mungru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams.



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Pain comes in many shapes and sizes. One of the most debilitating being the burning and tingling that comes with peripheral neuropathy. A disease that comes with years of shooting, stabbing pain that gradually ends in numbness, balance problems, and on occasion, amputations. A disease that was once classified as irreparable.

Michael R. of East York was facing such a fate.

“I stopped golfing. I wasn’t taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went, my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?”

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the hands and feet. This causes nerves to begin to degenerate due to a lack of nutrient flow. Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

“It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner,” shares Michael, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Teresa Lau of TLC Medicine in Riverdale, Toronto. Teresa and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. And they’re doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

“Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged nerves, preventing them from dying off,” tells Teresa Lau. “We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance Bio Therapy” which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair.”

Three months later Michael is thrilled with his progress, “I can walk barefoot on the beach again!”

Success stories like Michael’s are not atypical for the staff at TLC Medicine. “We have a 90% success rate at treating neuropathy,” shares Teresa.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 85% nerve damage TLC Medicine offers hope where there once was none.

While Michael’s peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Teresa’s treatment can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

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