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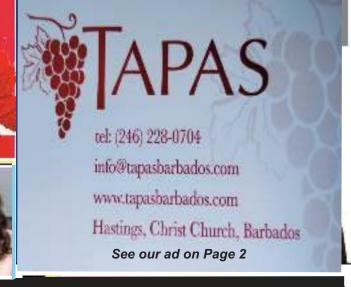


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NEW PM: Kamla Persad-Bissessar is pictured receiving her instruments of office as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from President Christine Kangaloo last Thursday. Persad-Bissessar was elected the twinisland's new Prime Minister on April 28 after winning a significant majority over the incumbent PNM, which had held office for the last 10 years. She takes office for the second time, as in 2010, she became the country's first female Prime Minister. Persad-Bissessar's newly formed government says they are committed to ending crime and pursuing new economic opportunities. The new government also committed to re-opening Petrotrin, the state-owned oil company that was closed in 2018 amid concerns of corruption and mismanagement. Persad-Bissessar's United National Congress (UNC), in alliance with the Coalition of Interests, secured a decisive victory in the April 28 snap elections, winning 26 out of 41 seats in the House of Representatives.

More stories, including the full list of new Cabinet Ministers, inside





MADE IN GUYANA: Guyana Office for Investment is playing a vital role in promoting the export of locally manufactured Guyanese products. The agency has recently expanded its services, establishing a "Technical Trade Department and Expanded Promotion Division" to help local producers increase their product visibility and access new export markets. A key part of this initiative is the sponsorship of the "Made in Guyana" certification to small businesses, aimed at raising the quality and international appeal of Guyanese products, said Dr. Peter Ramsaroop (above), Guyana's Chief Investment Officer and Agency Head of the Guyana Office for Investment (GoInvest).

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Prime Minister Mark Carney with US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday

Carney tells Trump that Canada 'won't be for sale, ever'

Mark Carney has told Donald Trump that Canada "is not for sale" as the president raised the prospect of the country becoming the 51st US state while welcoming the prime minister to the White House.

Carney won the election last month promising to "stand up" to Trump, who has imposed tariffs on some Canadian products and sometimes talks about annexing the country.

The former central banker responded with a firm but measured tone after the president proposed a "wonderful marriage" of incorporating Canada into the US.

Despite a strained relationship recently between the once-close neighbours, the two men also lavished praise on each other in what was a largely cordial Oval Office meeting.

Trump has imposed general tariffs of 25% on Canada and Mexico and sector-specific import taxes on cars, some of which have been suspended pending negotiations.

The US president, who accuses Canada of not doing enough to stop the flow of fentanyl south, has levied similar duties on steel and aluminium.

Tuesday's meeting was the first time the two had met since Carney won Canada's general election on 28 April, a victory many have credited to concerns in that country about Trump.

But the two leaders began with

warm words, with Trump describing Carney as "a very talented person".

He also hailed his guest's election win as "one of the greatest comebacks in the history of politics, maybe even greater than mine".

Carney said Trump was a "transformational president", with "a relentless focus on the American worker, securing your border, and securing the world" and said he had "revitalised" Nato.

But friction arose when Trump again argued that Canada would be better off as part of the US.

Carney came prepared with a carefully worded response.

"As you know from real estate, there are some places that are never for sale," he told property magnate Trump, likening Canada to the Oval Office itself and to Britain's Buckingham Palace.

"Having met with the owners of Canada over the course of the campaign in the last several months, it's not for sale. Won't be for sale, ever."

Trump replied: "Never say never."
The US leader traced his own red line when a journalist in the Oval Of-

fice asked if Carney could say anything to persuade him to lift tariffs.

"No," he replied. "It's just the way

"This was a very friendly conversation," he added. "But we want to

make our own cars."

Trump once again argued that the US was subsidising Canada's military and did not need Canadian goods such as aluminium and steel.

He said he and Carney would discuss "tough points" at their meeting, but "regardless of anything, we're going to be friends with Canada".

Trump also criticised his visitor's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, with whom he had an adversarial relationship.

Still, he said the meeting with Carney was in stark contrast to another recent Oval Office "blow-up" - a reference to a disastrous visit from Ukrainian President Volodomyr Zelensky in

Notably, Trump also downplayed the prospect of trade deals, even though his administration has repeatedly pointed to the over 80 countries the White House says are hoping to negotiate as a sign of progress.

"Everyone says, 'When, when, when are you going to sign deals?," Trump said. "We don't have to sign deals, they have to sign deals with us. They want a piece of our market. We don't want a piece of their market."

Carney said that he "pressed the case" to Trump on lifting tariffs, and found him to be "willing to have that negotiation".

"I think that's the main thing. That

doesn't presuppose the outcome of the negotiation," Carney added at a news conference at the Canadian embassy in Washington DC. "There'll be zigs and zags. Difficult aspects to it. But the prospect is there."

Carney did not speculate on timing, saying only that both leaders and their teams would speak again in the coming weeks.

Additionally, Carney said he again asked that Trump stopped calling for Canada to become a US state. He added that he believed it important to distinguish between "wish and reality".

"He's the president. He's his own person," Carney said. "He understands that we're having a negotiation between sovereign nations."

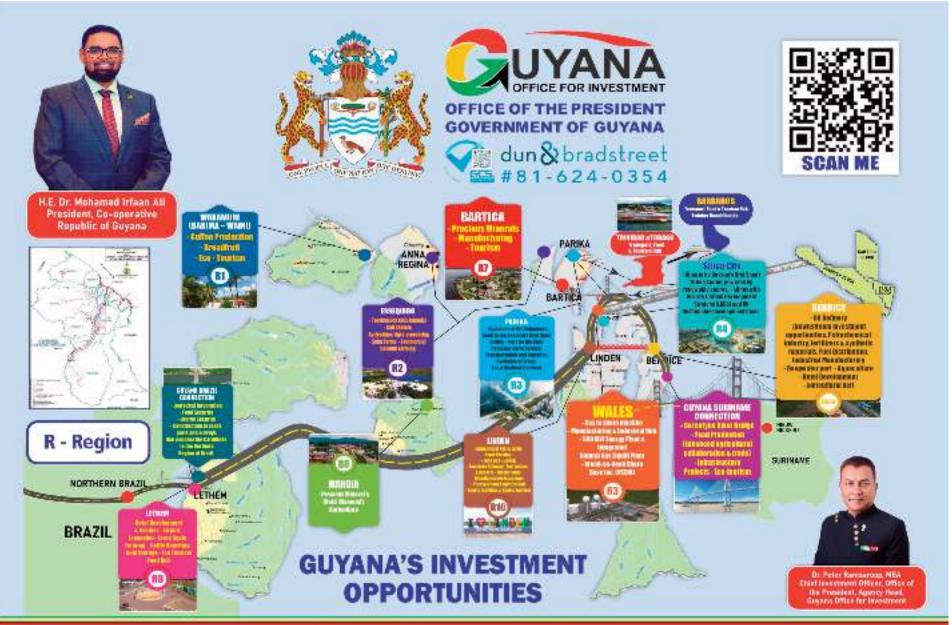
During Canada's election campaign, Carney argued he was the leader who could fight Trump's "betrayal", as well as push back against US threats to Canada's economy and sovereignty.

In his victory speech, the Liberal leader went as far as to say that the formerly tight US-Canadian relationship was "over" and that Canadians must "fundamentally re-imagine our economy" in the Trump era.

More than \$760bn (£570bn) in goods flowed between Canada and the US last year. Canada is the US' second-largest individual trading partner after Mexico, and the largest export market for US goods.

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Caribbean has lowest university enrollment in hemisphere: chancellor

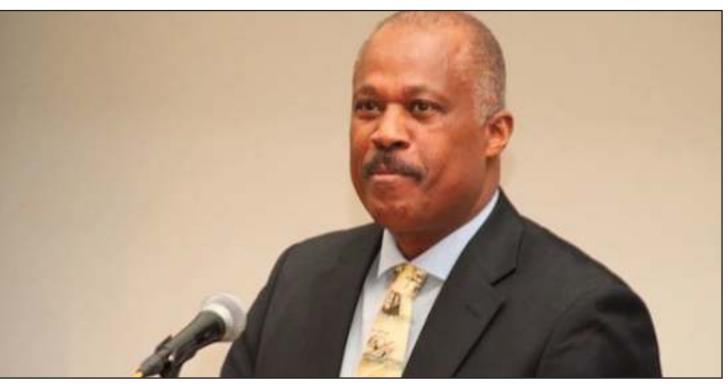
The Caribbean region is falling behind the rest of the Western Hemisphere in tertiary education enrollment, according to Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Sir Hilary Beckles.

Speaking at the UWI's 2025 Annual University Council Meeting on Friday, held at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, Sir Hilary revealed sobering statistics about the state of higher education in the region.

"We have to keep growing, and why do we have to keep growing? Because we are not in a comfortable space," said Sir Hilary. "Less than 15% of our school leavers go on to university. This is far too low. In fact, it is the lowest ratio in our hemisphere. We need to have up to 30, 40%."

Current data from the World Bank underscores the concern: while tertiary enrollment averages nearly 60% in North America and 52% in Latin America, the Caribbean falls below 25%, according to World Bank data. The disparities within the region are also stark. In Eastern Caribbean states, only about 15% of secondary school graduates pursue higher education, and less than 10% of adults have completed tertiary-level programs, according to the OECS Secretariat.

Sir Hilary also addressed ongoing



Sir Hillary Beckles

financial challenges facing the UWI system. He noted that regional governments, once responsible for 90% of the university's operational budget, now cover less than half.

"We have experienced, as a result of that, a shortfall in our budgetary processes. And this is significant. This is significant. The governments have been carrying this university from the very beginning. In the year in review, the governments have been funding 48% of

our operational cost."

In addition to budgetary concerns, the Vice Chancellor pointed to the need for institutional reform — including a rethink of how the university grants its degrees. Currently operating under a royal charter, UWI grants degrees on behalf of the British monarchy.

"UWI granting degrees on behalf of the British monarchy. That royal charter can be revoked. I do not know what circumstance it will take for a revocation of that royal charter, but theoretically, legally, it can be revoked. And if it is revoked, UWI would not exist."

Sir Hilary's remarks come as the region grapples with persistent challenges in access, funding, and institutional reform. With tertiary enrollment trailing far behind the rest of the hemisphere, his call for expanded access and sustainable financing underscores the urgency of higher education reform in the Caribbean.

Jamaica renews push to becoming a Republic

Jamaica's push to become a republic is drawing high praise from one of the country's leading academics. Dr. Lloyd Waller, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, has welcomed the proposed constitutional change, calling it both "necessary" and "strategic" for Jamaica's future.

Dr. Waller described the move as a pivotal milestone in the nation's development and a clear signal of Jamaica's growth as an independent state.

"This step signifies the maturation of our national identity and underscores our enduring commitment to self-governance and full sovereignty," he said. "Becoming a republic is more than a symbolic break from colonialism—it is a bold reclamation of our narrative and a powerful affirmation of our ability to chart our own destiny."

Although Jamaica has been an independent nation since 1962, the British monarch remains its Head of State. Dr. Waller argues that this colonial vestige has long represented an unfinished chapter in the country's sovereignty journey.

"Internationally, it reinforces the image of Jamaica as a confident, forward-looking nation. This transition supports our broader push for sustainable development by promoting unity, self-determination, and national pride—key ingredients for long-term progress."

He also views the transition as a chance to strengthen democratic en-

gagement and spur civic renewal. According to Dr. Waller, it's an ideal time for Jamaica to reflect on the effectiveness of its current governance structures.

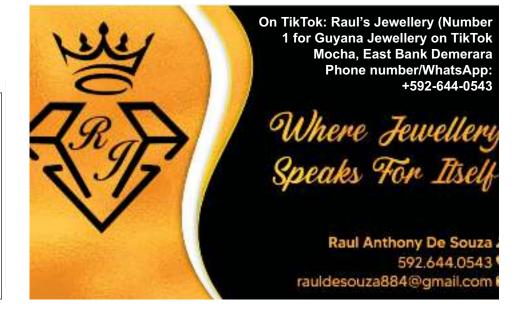
"This moment invites us to re-examine our constitutional and governance frameworks. It has the potential to catalyze reforms that better reflect our current values and aspirations. In doing so, it strengthens the foundations of our democracy and encourages more robust civic engagement."

Framing the move as both a symbolic and practical leap forward, Dr. Waller concluded that the shift to re-

publicanism signals a deeper confidence in Jamaica's ability to define its own future.

"Becoming a republic is a declaration of confidence in ourselves—a clear statement that we are ready to shape our own future, with institutions that reflect who we are and where we intend to go."





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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Kudos to two Strong Leaders

We congratulate two new leaders in our coverage region who were elected in the last week.

Mark Carney led the Liberals to a minority victory in Canada, while Kamla Persad-Bissessar led her UNC-Coalition of Interests party to an overwhelming victory in Trinidad and Tobago.

In Canada, the elation over the election of Carney was almost palpable. This country chose the steady hand of strong leadership at a time when it needed to show strength against threats by the leadership of our closest neighbour.

Canadians, clearly, felt that the leadership of the other party was far too aligned with the policies of the Trump administration, which are, at best, as anti-Canadian as you can get.

They elected, therefore, a man with a proven track record of leading countries through economic difficulties, as Carney was head of both the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada.

Carney was tapped by the English to set economic policy during their difficult Brexit period, while at home he was selected by a Conservative Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, to guide Canadian economic policy during the 2008 global economic crisis.

In both instances, Carney performed admirably. And since his election as Prime Minister, he has proven that he has earned the trust of the people, standing tall in a meeting with Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday.

When Trump made his claim about Canada becoming the 51st state in response to a reporter's question at the leaders meeting, Carney responded to him that he met recently "with the owners of Canada," and they have told him the country is absolutely not for sale.

Hopefully, that will shut down Trump's ambitions to annex Canada, or if not, at least stall any of his ambitions. Now he knows, from the country's leader, no less, that we want no part of his plan.

We expect more of such leadership from Carney during his tenure, especially since his position is tenuous, given the fact he does not control a majority in Parliament. The Prime Minister will face numerous challenges to his authority from the Conservatives, especially since that party's leader, who decisively lost his own seat in the election, has since signaled that he will run in a safe seat to remain as the country's opposition leader.

You would think that once he had been rejected not just by the entire country, but by the people in his own riding whom he served for 20 years, this leader would have gotten the message.

But no, he plans on contesting a safe seat in Alberta, the one province in the country that aligns with his Trump-style agenda.

We will be watching as this plays out.

In T&T, meanwhile, the 73 year-old Persad-Bissessar proved her mettle when she defeated the incumbent Stuart Young-led PNM by

a large margin. Young was hand-selected by former PM Keith Rowley to lead the party into the snap election, which the newly minted PM called within a day of being sworn in.

Persad-Bissessar, who has faced numerous challenges to her own leadership of the UNC, as well as many derogatory attacks from the PNM leadership, takes the highest elected office in the land for the second time. She previously served as the country's first female Prime Minister from 2010 - 2015.

(It's also interesting to note that the three most powerful offices in the country are now being held by women. The new Opposition leader is Penny Beckles, while the President is Christine Kangaloo.)

Persad-Bissessar has promised to lead a transparent government that will focus on the economy and fighting crime.

On the former, she has already engaged in talks with Guyana, Suriname and Grenada to work together, offering T&T's refinery, shuttered by the PNM, as a resource to process their gas. The UNC is planning to re-open the refinery in short order.

Newly minted Energy and Energy Industries Minister, Dr Roodal

Moonilal has already engaged with Guyana on a potential gas deal that would benefit both countries.

Suriname is also being engaged, while T&T and Grenada are in talks to exploit a gas field in the latter island's waters that was discovered in 2017.

In its crime fight, the new government is also committed to introducing "stand your ground" laws which will give homeowners and business people the right to defend their properties. It has also promised to make firearm users licenses available to all qualified persons.

The UNC has challenges ahead of it, as it needs to rebuild not just the oil and gas industry, but also diversify the economy through agriculture and manufacturing investments.

Given Mrs Persad-Bissessar's track record of the last time she was in government, we have no doubt that the new administration will find success.

We wish both Mrs Persad-Bissessar and Mr Carney God's speed as they set about doing their difficult jobs in the months and years ahead.

Congratulations to both. We've got your backs.

Send us your letters

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Alberta separatist feeling is justifiable, says Danielle Smith

"Albertans didn't start this fight but rest assured we will finish it."

That's the kind of line you hear when the good guys have had enough and face the final showdown with the bad actors who've been victimizing the locals.

That's the elephant everybody is talking about these days in these parts and beyond our borders, the growing number of Albertans who want the province to leave Canada.

"None of us knows what the future holds should Ottawa for whatever reason continue to attack our province as they have done over the last decade," says Smith.

"Ultimately that will be for Albertans to decide and I will accept their judgment."

The premier for the umpteenth time says she is no separatist. She wants to strike a better deal for Alberta within Canada. She still has hope.

Still, Smith did make it easier for Albertans to have the chance to vote on separating from Canada.

She lowered the number of signatures needed on a petition to get any question on a ballot.

Those supporting an Alberta exit from Canada will get the signatures. The numbers are out there. They've got more than the required amount.

Smith confirms the vote on Yes or No to Canada will be next year. You can take it to the bank.

"We are well aware there is a large and growing number of Albertans who have lost hope in Alberta having a free and prosperous future as a part of Canada," says the premier.

Some, including in Alberta, have written off these individuals as a tiny group of crazies.

Smith says that is far, far from the truth.

"The vast majority of these individuals are not fringe voices to be marginalized or vilified.

"They are loyal Albertans. They are quite literally our friends and neighbours who've just had enough of their livelihoods and prosperity attacked by a hostile federal government.

"They're frustrated and they have every right to be."

Smith speaks directly to those who are fed up.

"I know how frustrated so many of you have become with our country and the feeling of having politicians living thousands of miles away passing laws and rules that have cost you or your loved ones jobs, careers, dreams and opportunities for a better future."

The premier says Alberta can still fight through "much of Ottawa's damaging interference."



Damielle Smith: people are pushing back

Sh

feels attitudes across the country are changing, especially among young people.

People are pushing back. More folks understand the importance of developing natural resources. They are pushing back against cancel culture.

Smith will head up a panel hosting town halls to chew over ideas on how to protect Alberta from a hostile federal government.

The premier says Alberta has contributed hundreds of billions for Ottawa to use elsewhere in the country but Albertans are so frustrated with the direction of our country.

The "tidal wave of law, policies and political attacks aimed at Alberta." These attacks are "unbearable."

The "eastern politicians who chose to openly demonize and target Alberta."

The pipelines not there, the oil and gas projects deep-sixed.

The cap on oil and gas production, the emissions cap, scaring away half a trillion dollars in investments.

That's trillion with a T.

"The world looks at us like we've lost our minds," says Smith.

And many in Canada have lost their minds. Remember these are the people who fell for the Sunny Ways messiah.

Yes, Canada is where they landlock resources, force sales of oil and gas to one customer, the Americans, "while enabling polluting dictatorships to eat our lunch."

There are other destructive moves like the Liberal net-zero power regulations, to pick just one example.

Then there is this federal election. Albertans are pissed off because the Liberals, with many of the same ministers over

seeing the attacks on Alberta, have been returned to power.

Smith met Prime Minister Mark Carney last Friday. He said some promising things.

That doesn't cut it.

"Albertans are more of an action

speaks

louder than words kind of people."

Albertans need proof, especially from an Ottawa Liberal.

Smith is appointing negotiators to fight to get a new deal for Alberta from the Carney Liberal government.





May 9, 1945 One of the Most Important Dates in World History

By Donald Ramotar

On May 9, the progressive and peace loving people the world over will celebrate one of the greatest victories of the progressive forces over the worst tyrannical form of oppression, fascism. That victory came at a very high cost. Millions of persons, both military and civilians from many parts of the world perished. The figures of the dead vary between fifty million (50,000,000) and eighty million (80,000,000) people.

However, undoubtedly the two countries that lost the most people were the Soviet Union (mainly Russia) and China. The sacrifice of those two states in crushing fascist Germany and Japan is still not fully appreciated by many in the West who through various means, including films and other deliberate distortions of history are made to believe that the US and the UK were the main forces that defeated Hitlerite and Japanese Fascism.

The fact is that the whole foreign policy of the West was to push Hitler's military machine (then the strongest army in the world) against the Soviet Union. The UK always dreamed of crushing Russia since the revolution of 1917. Recall Churchill's famous statement shortly after the Revolution of crushing Bolshevism in its cradle.

So, they allowed Hitler to capture the Whole of Europe and then to attack the Soviet Union, which it did on June 22, 1941. In passing it is apposite to recall that when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, he did so not only with the force of Germany but the industrial and military power of Europe. That is similar to what is happening today when Russia is once again fighting the whole of NATO in the Ukraine, which is being used as a proxy.

Knowing that it had the tacit support from the West, Hitler concentrated almost all its forces against the Soviet Union.

In June 1941, the then US Senator Harry Truman (who became President before the end of the war in 1945) said "... If we see that Germany is winning the war, we ought to help Russia; and if Russia is winning, we ought to help Germany, and in that way let them kill as



A Russian celebration of Victory Day

many as possible ..." This was not just his personnel opinion it was the dominant thinking among the US ruling class at the time. That is why they did not open a second front against Hitler until the Red Army was almost at the gate of Berlin.

However, Russia's victory came at a very high price. Some twenty-seven million (27,000,000) soldiers and civilians died. 1,700 cities and towns and 70,000 villages razed to the ground and tens of thousands of factories and agricultural enterprises were totally destroyed.

By the end of the war twenty-five million Soviet citizens were homeless.

The role of China in the defeat of fascism is not well known in the West. Yet it was of enormous importance and its contribution to the world's freedom cannot be overexaggerated.

In 1931, Japan invaded China. It was at a time when China was going through a great civil war. The resistance to the Japanese aggression was done mostly by the Communist Party's Red Army.

The resistance was so great that when Germany attacked the Soviet

Union the Japanese could not open a second front against the USSR because it was held down in China. The Chinese resistance made it easier for the US to operate in the South Pacific as well.

China paid a high price for its victory over Japan. Some twenty million Chinese citizens died in that war.

The role of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was so great that it was recognised internationally. At the founding of the UN in 1945 at San Francisco the CPC was invited to send representation. Its delegate was Tung Pi-Wu. He and the People's Republic of China held the UN in high esteem.

Even though the PRC was kept out of the UN for more than two decades after its victory in October 1949 the CPC maintained its conviction that the UN must play an important role in maintaining peace in the world. Writing on the 10th Anniversary of the UN in 1955, Tung-Pi-Wu wrote "Our support for the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations is consistent... In order that the UN may work efficiently the charter of the UN must be respected by all nations..."

This is more important today than

when it was written seventy years ago.

Today we are celebrating this 80th Anniversary at a very difficult time. A genocidal war is being waged against the Palestinian people and Russia is once again being attacked by NATO using Ukraine to wage a proxy war.

Africa is also experiencing several wars some to complete their National Liberation and some instigated from outside, as once more we see imperialism in a great scramble for Africa's rich resources.

Other wars are also being waged. The United States has started a trade and economic war against many countries, but principally against China. In the process it is using tariffs and sanctions to try to weaken and retard China's socio-economic advances.

This attack on China is the main reason for much of the unstable, unpredictable situations in our world.

However, we are optimists. Let us take inspiration from the epic struggles against Hitlerite and Japanese fascism and chart our course for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous world.

Donald Ramotar is a former President of Guyana





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Better gains in store for local workforce as Guyana progresses

PRESIDENT, Dr. Irfaan Ali has acknowledged the legendary and heroic struggles of workers here in Guyana and throughout the world, who have fought day and night for "bread, justice, and dignity"-not just in the workplace, but in society as a whole.

In his Labour Day message, he reminded the nation that the rights and benefits workers enjoy today-better pay, better working conditions, and a higher living standard-are the long hard-won fruits of years of struggle and unity in the labour movement.

"These advances were not granted," President Ali emphasised, adding: "They were secured after decades of struggle, of courage, of unwavering solidarity."

President Ali honoured generations of past and present workers, who paved the way for today's accomplishments.

He assured the labour movement that his government is wholly dedicated to the protection and advocacy of workers' rights, indicating, "workers have a friend, not a foe, in my government."

President Ali called upon all Guyanese workers to remember that their strength lies in unity and solidarity, and asked them to build bridges,



President Dr Irfaan Ali

not make division or suspicion.

Turning to the future, President Ali outlined a vision for Guyanese workers, citing Guyana's rapidly expanding economy and the determination of the government towards inclusive national growth.

President Ali described a future where the workforce can anticipate even better gains in real wages, access to global-standard education and healthcare, and prospects for personal and inter-generational prosperity.

The Head of State also mentioned ongoing efforts to boost housing, lower energy cost, and improve water and sanitation service-all aimed at increasing the standard of living for every Guyanese worker.

President Ali reaffirmed his government's philosophy of service and accountability, and asserted that the government continues to be strongly committed to the advancement of the quality of life of all Guyanese through investment in health, education, housing, and infrastructure.

He called for closer cooperation and dialogue among government, unions, and workers' associations to continue to protect labour rights and provide more avenues of working-class empowerment.

Land certificates handed over to 78 families in Walton Hall

EXCITEMENT and gratitude filled the atmosphere in Walton Hall, Region Two, as 78 families finally received their official land transports—a life-changing moment that brought years of uncertainty to a close.

The initiative, led by Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., M.P., marked the fulfillment of a promise he made during a recent outreach to the community.

Accompanying him were Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Madanlall Ramraj; Azeena Baksh, Registrar of Deeds; Regional Chairwoman, Vilma De Silva; Regional Vice Chairman, Humace Oodit, and other regional officials and staff of the Deeds Registry.

"This isn't just a piece of paper," 62-year-old Patricia James, one of the beneficiaries, said, noting: "This is security for my children and grandchildren."

Another resident said: "For the first time, I feel like this land truly belongs to me."

Nandlall emphasised that the exercise was part of a broader national effort by the Government of Guyana to regularise land ownership and uplift communities across the country.

"Land ownership is empower-

ment," the Attorney General said, adding: "It brings dignity, confidence, and opportunity. Today, we are not just giving documents; we are granting peace of mind and the ability to build a future with certainty."

Nandlall said that the Ministry of Legal Affairs will continue to work and represent the interest of Guyanese. He said that the promise was made for residents to become land owners and his office worked to ensure same happened.

For many residents of Walton Hall, some of whom had been occupying lands for decades without legal documentation, this gesture represents a turning point.

Suresh Narine, a young entrepreneur and father of two said: "I can finally approach a bank for a loan to expand my farming business," adding: "This will change everything for us."

Ramraj said that during several community meetings, residents raised concerns of wanting their documents. He said the distribution is another fulfillment of a commitment by the Government of Guyana to ensure land ownership.

De Silva noted the government's ongoing efforts to ensure no community



AG Nandlall with one of 78 families finally received their land transports

is left behind.

She said: "This is just one of many exercises we will be conducting. We are committed to ensuring every eligible cit-

izen receives what is rightfully theirs."

The Regional Chairperson said that residents on several occasions had approached her office on this matter.



An aerial view of some of the new housing stock in Guyana

Construction progressing on first 100 Young Professional Homes at Silica City

CONSTRUCTION is progressing on the first 100 Young Professional Homes at Silica City, Guyana's first smart urban centre located on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

Back in August 2024, the government partnered with the University of Miami to complete the comprehensive plan for Silica City. The master plan for the city was later unveiled, showcasing

all the cutting-edge technologies and other amenities it will have.

The city will represent a significant step forward in Guyana's developmental strategy for a sustainable and climatesmart future. It is set to emerge as the most desirable area for ecologically conscious living.

Recreational parks, community centres, buildings, an electrical system,

and multi-specialty healthcare will all be part of the city, creating an atmosphere that improves enjoyment, productivity and well-being.

The ambitious undertaking will address the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise, as well as the issues associated with the growth of non-coastal urban settlements.

There are flat housing units and el-

evated ones.

The flat houses are priced between \$25,200,603 and \$25,290,178, while the elevated ones cost approximately \$33,980,153 to \$34,450,145.

Once completed, Silica City will be outfitted with the newest energy-saving technologies for wastewater management, energy management and water conservation.

Concept being developed for enhanced zoo

IN the government's pursuit of enhancing the aesthetic appeal of public recreational facilities for families and tourists to enjoy and find solace in a secure and comfortable environment, Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo stated, during his recent press conference, that a proper concept was being crafted for the enhancement of the zoo and botanical gardens.

Jagdeo emphasised that the dedicated team from the National Parks Commission and the Forestry Commission is fully committed to advancing the tree planting exercise.

Although it might appear that work is not advancing, the Vice-President noted that they are approaching the extensive initiative from a conceptual perspective to ensure that a comprehensive understanding of the envisioned layout of the zoo is established.

The team from the National Park

[Commission] is focused heavily on getting the tree planting exercise off; they are moving on that with the forestry commission. They have also started conceptually to look [at the initiative].

"We don't want to start anything until we have a proper concept in mind, that we know clearly what the picture will look like at the zoo," Jagdeo said.

He shared that there is no urgency to finalise the initiatives unless the concept is thoroughly discussed and completely agreed upon prior to starting the work.

In October 2024, the Vice-President led a collaborative effort involving a team from the National Parks Commission to the zoo and the botanical gardens.

The main objective of his visit was to attain a comprehensive understanding of the condition of the facilities, enabling their transformation to align with international standards.

He related that the restoration and development project aims to rejuvenate the beloved national landmarks, improving their attractiveness and infrastructure for the advantage of both residents and visitors.

With a passion for preserving nature and his love for the environment, Jagdeo's presence at the forefront of this initiative highlighted the significance of maintaining the natural beauty of the botanical gardens alongside the modernisation of the facilities.

While the project seeks to elevate the zoo and the botanical gardens to international standards, it also focuses on the enhancements in conservation, animal care, and public amenities, as well as the overall experience of visitors.

The Vice-President also held a public consultation for members of the community to give their input and perspectives on the enhancement projects.



Bharrat Jagdeo

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Ali to develop CARICOM strategy on evolving definition of media

AS the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) surges globally, Guyana's President, Dr. Irfaan Ali will soon present to his colleagues in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) a paper that he will develop on the evolving definition of media.

Speaking to media workers at a brunch he hosted at State House on Saturday in observance of World Press Freedom Day, the Head of State spoke at length about the evolving world of media, its definition, and the role that AI plays in changing its construct. He believes that the media and even regional leaders need to adapt.

"But can you survive if you don't adapt? These are key, key, key questions; mind-boggling questions. So, how do we ensure, in this environment of AI, that we pursue a path. And, for CARICOM, I am positioning this morning that we pursue a common path.

"Because we don't have the capacity individually to do this, to look at the intellectual and professional conduct of AI; that would look at the challenges, threats and opportunities of AI...that would look at policies, regulations and legislations that would ensure AI does not go unchecked.

"If we don't do it, it's a ticking time bomb. If we don't ensure that AI is utilised, especially when it comes to the press and information dissemination, because information is so powerful that it can destabilise instantaneously," President Ali said.

With the global shift from traditional media already taking place, Presi-



President Ali on Saturday hosted a brunch at State House for media workers

dent Ali pointed out that the way leaders choose to disseminate information is now completely different.

"Many leaders today would engage the media in public; would engage the media in an environment where there are other contributors to the discussion, because leaders realise that there is power behind every instrument.

"And if you want your message not to be distorted, you have to maximise the potential of the power behind every instrument... So, media personnel will be operating in a different environment as the future evolves.

"In my humble opinion, the historic and traditional press conferences and press media room are changing rapidly. Because everyone understands the changing nature of information dissemination, of information access, of information availability," the Head of State noted.

As the definition of media changes and the use of AI surges, the President said everyone must acknowledge that the "world is at reset now", and the question now lingers, "who constitutes the media?"

"Historically, we had a clear definition. But if the media is what gives news and information, then reach, responsibility, reliability and relevance are important. So, who is more relevant? Someone who can meet 300 million people in a second, or someone who will meet 3000 people in a day?

"Because the one who might be

reaching 300 million might have reach, but are they responsible and reliable? So, how do we manage in this environment?" the President asked.

He believes there is "tremendous danger" when ethics is put on the back burner, and urged the media to stay true to fact-based journalism.

"What is the truth, and who communicates the truth? What are facts? Do facts even have a role to play anymore in this race for information? Does science even have a role anymore?

"We have to answer these questions. Because, if information disseminators themselves are not relying on facts and science, and if they're more interested in that reach and impact and getting their force, then certain things will be sacrificed. And what we're seeing globally is that the most important aspects of fair and ethical reporting are sacrificed."

Noting that there is a change in the way news is now disseminated, President Ali noted that in the next 12 months, Guyana must have a clearly defined framework to include AI and digitisation in every sphere of national life.

As the media landscape changes, the President urged the various press associations to consider redefining "who are members" to include everyone who plays a role in disseminating information.

"You must also now contemplate whether the narrow, original confines of who are members must now be redefined to include the broader disseminators of information so that they can also be part of a responsible system;..."

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

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

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



















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

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

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GEPAC praised for uplifting lives in Guyana, Canada as it celebrates 28 years

tion of Canada (GEPAC) celebrated its 28th year of existence with a grand dinner and dance at the Peter and Paul Banquet Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Canada last Saturday night with Guyana's Honorary Consul in Toronto, Mani Singh and the association's president Floyd Blyden hailing the achievements over the years.

Singh, who delivered a message on behalf of His Excellency, President, Dr Irfaan Ali and the Government and people of Guyana, congratulated the mem-

THE Guyana Ex-Police Associabers of GEPAC for their many years of service to Guyana and their continued commitment to their birth land, more so in contributing to the annual bursary to schoolchildren in Guyana writing the "Common Entrance Exam."

> The Honorary Consul also recognised the presence of the several diasporaric organisations, who were present, for their contributions to the Guyanese-Canadian community.

> Singh took the opportunity to bring the audience up to date on the Guyana-Venezuela controversy, referring to



Honorary Consul Mani Singh addressing the audience

Venezuela's continued illegal claims to two-thirds of Guyana's land and maritime territories and the aggressive and outlandish rhetoric and behaviours by the Bolivarian Republic.

He pointed out that Guyana welcomes the recent Provisional ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), prohibiting Venezuela from conducting any election or referendum in the Essequibo area and warned not to disturb the status quo until its final judicial decision, expected sometime between the ending of 2026 and early 2027.

Touching on the recent internal turmoil in Guyana, Singh said, "We saw the unfortunate drowning of a little child and the deliberate throwing of acid on the bodies of three other little children. Guvana, like all countries of the world. also experienced occasional turmoil. But be assured that the situation is under control, thanks to our law-enforcement

personnel."

GEPAC's President Floyd Blyden reminded the appreciative audience that one of the aims of the association is to assist local community "in keeping with our mission statement and to maintain a close relationship with the Guyana Police Force. We provide fellowship and camaraderie to former police officers from Guyana. We are known for our social programmes which reach those in need in both Canada and Guyana."

Blyden disclosed that GEPAC's efforts are geared towards those who require educational, medical, and social assistance. "We also encourage youth in the ethnic community to pursue careers in law enforcement and other public service. We also make an annual contribution to Beyond 330, an after-school programme for middle-school students in unserved communities in Toronto.





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Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha on Monday visited the state-of-the-art AIEP hydroponic farm at Fort Wellington, West Coast Berbice

Minister Mustapha tours state-of-theart hydroponic farm at Fort Wellington

AGRICULTURE Minister Zulfikar Mustapha on Monday visited the state-of-the-art Agriculture and Innovation Entrepreneurship Programme (AIEP)'s hydroponic farm located at Fort Wellington on the West Coast of Berbice, where he hailed the facility as a symbol of Guyana's advancing agricultural transformation.

The AIEP hydroponic project, officially launched during the 2023 Agri-In-

vestment Forum and Expo, aims to promote hi-tech, sustainable agriculture while encouraging youth involvement in agribusiness. The facility represents a critical component of the government's broader push to modernise the agriculture sector and ensure food security through innovation.

During his visit, Minister Mustapha inspected ongoing preparatory works, including testing for Dutch buck—a

leafy vegetable crop selected for the first phase of cultivation. The official plant transfer into the hydroponic system is set for Wednesday, which will also mark the start of system testing.

Minister Mustapha commended the project's progress, describing it as a forward-thinking initiative that highlights the value of technology and public-private collaboration in agriculture. "This project demonstrates what's possible

when we combine technology, investment, and young talent to create a resilient agricultural sector," he stated.

The AIEP hydroponic farm is poised to become a model for modern agriculture not only in Guyana but across the Caribbean. It will also serve as a training hub for emerging agri-entrepreneurs, and contribute significantly to national and regional food security efforts.

Gov't will support youth retooling for the new economy

AS Guyana rapidly transitions into a more advanced and diversified economy, General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has emphasised the need for government-backed support to help young people retool and prepare for emerging opportunities.

Speaking during his weekly press conference on Wednesday, Dr. Jagdeo reflected on a recent engagement with students from the University of Guyana's Economics Society, where many inquired about career paths best aligned with the country's evolving economic landscape.

"I said, you're going to have a lot of jobs here, but you have to pick the right areas too... so people have to be retooled for this new economy," Dr Jagdeo recounted.

To this end, he stated that he spoke on some of the sectors where they can expect high-paying job expansion, such as smart agriculture, cybersecurity, and other areas focusing on artificial intelligence.

Dr Jagdeo added that many of the students from the Government Technical Institute (GTI) were interested in these fields, and as such, he indicated, "Now we have to support them to do those kinds of things."

While questions were raised about the possibility of job obsolescence with the rise of AI, he noted that while this may be a problem globally, it may not be so in Guyana and can be more of an opportunity.

"With the small workforce and the huge need for labour that will come in the future, we'll be able to accommodate our people, not so in many parts of the world," he added.

During his meeting with the youths at the last month at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Dr Jagdeo had stressed the importance of getting handson training and not just being taught theories.

He noted that while the government is already providing free education for its people, he is hoping the UG can now focus on other areas, such as addressing age-old issues and building capacity.

Many youths had raised the issue that the job market is calling for experience, but the university is focusing more on teaching theories.

The Vice President shared with the students: "When I was Minister of Finance, I made an offer to UG. At that time, I said to them, 'Why don't you allow students to come, particularly final year students, and be seconded to the office of the budget debt management, the Bank of Guyana, the Accountant General's department, all of these places; so when they come out of UG, they come out [with the] idea what the practical world of work looks like...'



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International community concerned over Adrianna protests

mount following the tragic death of Adriana Younge and the subsequent civil unrest across parts of Guyana, as diplomats from the United States, Canada, the European Union, and the United Kingdom have issued coordinated calls for peace, restraint, and adherence to the rule of law.

In separate statements released on Monday, the ambassadors and high commissioners extended condolences to the grieving family of 11-year-old Younge, whose death has sparked protests and pockets of violence in several communities.

"I express my heartfelt condolences following the tragic death of Adriana Younge and share my deep concern and sorrow over the crisis and civil unrest that have happened in Guyana," said U.S. Ambassador Nicole Theriot.

"I encourage all Guyanese citizens to remain calm and voice their concerns through non-violent means and to adhere to the rule of law. Looting and destruction of property are harmful to all. I strongly urge all involved to commit to peace as the Government works to resolve the situation."

Ambassador Theriot emphasised the United States' continued commitment to Guyana's democratic institutions, stating, "The United States remains committed to supporting the people of Guyana, our shared democratic principles, and the country's continued stability and prosperity."

Canadian High Commissioner Sébastien Sigouin also echoed the call for peace and solidarity during this tense period, while extending heartfelt condolences to Younge's family.

"I strongly urge all involved to commit to peace," Sigouin said.

Expressing deep concern and sorrow over the crisis and civil unrest that have happened in Guyana last week, he said: "I encourage all Guyanese citizens to remain calm and voice their concerns through non-violent means and to adhere to the rule of law. Looting and destruction of property are harmful to all."

Reaffirming his country's support Guyana, Sigouin emphasised, "Canada remains committed to supporting the people of Guyana, our shared democratic principles, and the country's continued stability and prosperity."

EU Ambassador Rene van Nes extended condolences to Adriana Younge's family and expressed "deep concern and sorrow" over the situation, urging citi-

International concern continues to zens to remain calm and express their perity. concerns through peaceful, non-violent

> He added, "I encourage all Guyanese citizens to remain calm and voice their concerns through non-violent means and to adhere to the rule of law. Looting and destruction of property are harmful to all. I strongly urge all involved to commit to peace as the Government works to resolve the situation."

> The EU Ambassador noted that the European Union remains committed to supporting the people of Guyana, our shared democratic principles, and the country's continued stability and pros-

British High Commissioner Jane Miller, in her statement, called for patience and trust in legal processes, while expressing sorry over Younge's tragic

"Whilst I understand the strength of feeling over this issue, I am confident that the right way forward is always through legal and non-violent means," Miller stated, emphasising that looting and destruction of property are harmful to all. "The UK remains committed to supporting the people of Guyana, our shared democratic principles, and the country's continued stability."



Adrianna Younge

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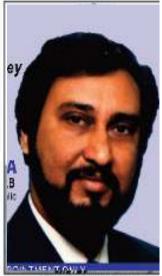
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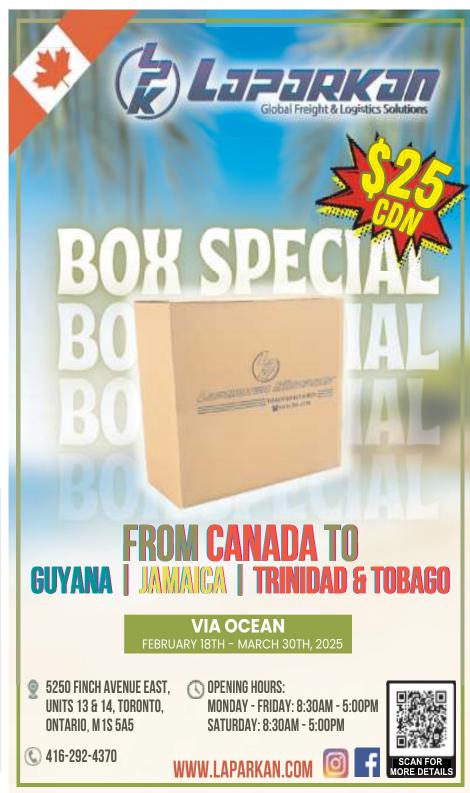
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ICJ orders Venezuela to halt election plans in Guyana's Essequibo region

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Thursday unanimously reaffirmed provisional measures initially granted in December 2023, ordering Venezuela to refrain from conducting or preparing to conduct elections in Guyana's Essequibo region.

The decision forms part of the substantive case before the ICJ concerning the Arbitral Award of October 3, 1899 — the ruling that established the boundary between Guyana and Venezuela and has long been recognized as granting Guyana sovereignty over the Essequibo territory.

"Pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shall refrain from conducting elections, or preparing to conduct elections, in the territory in dispute, which the Cooperative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control," the ICJ stated in its ruling.

Venezuela has recently issued notices introducing candidates for elections it intends to hold in Essequibo, a region it claims despite Guyana having exercised control there for over a century. The election, scheduled for May 25, 2025, is viewed by the Guyanese government as a violation of both the ICJ's previous orders and international law.

Guyana, maintaining that Essequibo is an integral part of its sovereign territory, welcomed the ICJ's reaffirmation.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, President Dr. Irfaan Ali said, "Today, the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the Arbitral Award of October 3, 1899, Guyana v Venezuela, the Court unanimously reaffirmed the Provisional Measures granted on December 1, 2023, and directed that it be immediately and effectively implemented.

"The Court further ordered that pending a final decision in the case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela must refrain from conducting elections or preparing to conduct elections in the disputed territory which the Co-operative Republic of Guyana currently administers and over which it exercises control. Once again, Guyana's position has prevailed. Once again, it has been

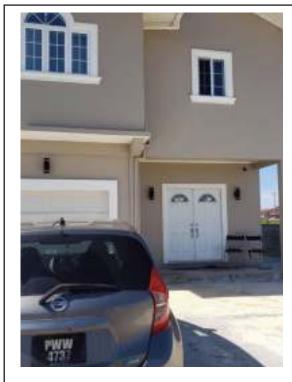


Mao shows the area of Guyana that Venezuela is laying claim on

demonstrated that Guyana position accords with international law. The Government of Guyana welcomes this

decision."

The ICJ's latest order strengthens Guyana's legal standing in the ongoing territorial dispute and adds pressure on Venezuela to cease its election activities in the disputed area.



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Cheaper Chinese imports have slowed down demand for viscose yarn made in India

India worried about Chinese 'dumping' as trade tensions with Trump escalate

The pace at 64-year-old Thirunavkarsu's spinning mill in southern India's Tamil Nadu state has noticeably slowed down.

The viscose yarn – a popular material that goes into making woven garments – he produces, now sits in storage, as orders from local factories have dropped nearly 40% in the last month.

That's because Chinese imports of the material have become cheaper by 15 rupees (\$0.18; £0.13) per kilo and flooded Indian ports.

With Donald Trump imposing tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese goods going into the US, manufacturers in China have begun looking for alternative markets.

India's textiles makers say they are bearing the brunt of the trade tensions as Chinese producers are dumping yarn in key production hubs.

While China is the leading producer of viscose yarn, India makes most of the viscose yarn the country needs locally with imports only bridging supply gaps.

Mill owners like Thirunavkarsu fear their yarn won't survive the onslaught of such competition.

"We can't match these rates. Our raw material is not as cheap," he says.

Jagadesh Chandran, of the South India Spinners Association, said nearly 50 small spinning mills in the textile hubs of Pallipalayam, Karur and Tirupur in southern India are "slowing production". Many say they'll be forced to scale down further if the issue isn't addressed.

India recently imposed a 12% tax on some steel imports

China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, has sent assurances to India that his country will not dump products and in fact wants to buy more high-quality Indian products for Chinese consumers.

"We will not engage in market dumping or cut-throat competition, nor will we disrupt other countries' industries and economic development," he wrote in an opinion piece for the Indian Express newspaper.

But anxieties about dumping are spread across sectors in India, as China - Asia's biggest economy - is the world's largest exporter of prac-

tically all industrial goods, from textiles and metals, to chemicals and rare minerals.

While pharmaceuticals - and later phones, laptops, and semiconductor chips - were exempted from steep tariffs, large chunks of Chinese exports still run into Trump's 145% tariff wall. It is these goods that are expected to chase other markets like

Their sudden inflow will prove "very disruptive" to emerging economies in Asia, according to Japanese broking house Nomura, whose research earlier revealed that China was flooding global markets with cheap goods even before Donald Trump took office earlier this year.

In 2024, investigations against unfair Chinese imports rose to a record high. Data from the World Trade Organization (WTO) shows nearly 200 complaints were filed against China at the forum - a record - including 37 from India.

India, in particular, with heavy dependencies on Chinese raw materials and intermediate goods, could be hit hard. Its trade deficit with China - the difference between what it imports and exports - has already ballooned to \$100bn (£75bn). And imports in March jumped 25%, driven by electronics, batteries and solar cells.

In response, India's trade ministry has set up a committee to track the influx of cheap Chinese goods, with its quasi-judicial arm probing imports across sectors, including viscose yarn.

India also recently imposed a 12% tax on some steel imports, locally known as a safeguard duty, to help halt an increase in cheap shipments primarily from China, which were pushing some Indian mills to scale down.

Despite such protections - and a loud marketing campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to boost manufacturing locally - India has found it hard to reduce its reliance on China, with imports rising even when border tensions between the two neighbours peaked after 2020.

That's because the government has only had "limited success" with its plans to turn India into the world's factory through things like the production linked subsidies, says Biswajit Dhar, a Delhibased trade expert. And India continues to depend heavily on China for intermediate goods.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): Turn on the charm today and make sure everyone knows you are in one of those moods when you want nothing more than to help other people. But don't do things for them without being specifically asked to. Not everyone will want a helping hand.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Venus, your ruler, links with power planet Pluto today, which means you will get your way by combining affection with confidence. Who in their right mind would want to refuse someone whose outlook on life is so happy and helpful?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): Don't make too big a fuss over an issue you feel strongly about. You may have every right to be annoyed but if your rivals get the impression that you are thinking emotionally rather than logically they will see it as a weak spot to be exploited.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): According to the planets you are not pushing yourself forward enough on the work front. It may not be in your nature to make much of a noise but on this occasion you must speak up and let everyone know about your big ideas.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): If you approach a tough assignment from an unusual angle today you will handle it with ease and impress your superiors. The only danger may be that having seen how well you dealt with the situation they then pile even more work on your shoulders.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): You may not agree with how a loved one is behaving but is it your place to intervene? Probably not. Unless they are actually doing something illegal your best course of action is to leave them to it. If you get involved you may regret it.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): Keep your opinions to yourself over the next 24 hours because even if your words are well-intentioned they will almost certainly be taken the wrong way. You may win the argument but what's the point if you end up losing a friend?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Try not to be quite so intense today. As your ruler Pluto is on good terms with Venus the less pushy you are the better. You can be quite charming when the mood takes you and if it takes you today you'll have a ton of fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): You may be enthusiastic about a cause of some sort but you cannot expect friends and family members to share your passion. By all means get more deeply involved today but don't make the mistake of trying to force others to join you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Something that looked difficult yesterday will look ridiculously easy today and you will give yourself a mental kick for missing the obvious solution. Don't be too hard on yourself though as you may be the only one who managed to work it out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Let loved ones know how you feel today but keep what you say on a friendly level. Pluto's influence in your sign means that passions are running high at the moment and if you come on too strong you could face an uncomfortable backlash.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Forget about pleasing other people today and do only what makes you feel good. That may sound a bit selfish but the fact is you have done enough for friends, colleagues and even family members and must now look out for yourself.

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Gonsalves warns US tariffs could turn St. Vincent into haven for regional criminals

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has expressed concern that escalating U.S. tariffs could create ripple effects across the Caribbean, potentially turning St. Vincent and the Grenadines into a haven for criminals fleeing economic hardship in neighboring nations.

Speaking in Parliament this week, Gonsalves cautioned that the knock-on effects of Washington's tariff regime – particularly on Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana — could lead to an uptick in regional crime spilling over into St.

"If there's a real challenge there, we can find the knock-on effect of more people leaving Trinidad, more criminals, that Trinidad and Tobago can become a security problem for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, more than it is at the moment," said Gonsalves, who also holds the national security portfolio.

His remarks follow U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to temporarily suspend, for 90 days, most of the tariffs his administration had imposed globally. However, most Caribbean countries still face a 10 percent base tariff, while imports from Guyana face a steep 38 percent duty. Gonsalves argued that these economic shocks could have national security consequences.

Referring to the energy-dependent economy of Trinidad and Tobago, Gonsalves highlighted that the country exported nearly US\$2.7 billion in goods to the United States in 2024. He pointed out that any sustained disruption — such as the recent revocation of Trinidad's OFAC license to work on Venezuela's Dragon Gas Field — could further destabilize the country's econ-



SVG Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

omy and, by extension, its security.

Gonsalves said these concerns likely weighed on voters in Trinidad and Tobago's recent general election, where the Kamla Persad Bissessar-led United National Congress (UNC) defeated the incumbent People's National Movement (PNM).

Drawing from a just-received report by the Caribbean Community's Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (Caricom IMPACS) titled "Po-

tential Implications of U.S. Protectionist Tariffs," Gonsalves stressed that the region must prepare not only economically but also from a security standpoint.

"We know that we talk about shooters come up on hire and all the rest of it, and we know the problems with guns and bullets from the U.S. That's a major problem," he said.

On Guyana, Gonsalves disputed the headline 38 percent tariff, saying the actual burden may be closer to 11 to 12 percent based on how it's calculated. Still, he warned that any strain on Guyana's economy could also have cross-border consequences.

"The problem is not so much for the economy as a whole, the 10 per cent tariff on the exports, but it's on the imports and the currency and the security questions which would follow," he said.

Jamaican PM is now 'Dr Holness' after getting degree

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness has added a historic academic milestone to his already distinguished résumé, officially earning a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Law and Policy from Northeastern University's College of Professional Studies.

Holness participated in the university's Doctoral Commencement ceremony on May 1, 2025, held at Matthews Arena in Boston.

During the investiture ceremony, Holness received his doctoral hood in front of peers, faculty, and dignitaries. His dissertation, titled "From the States to the Streets: The Impact of US Gun Laws on Gun Violence in Jamaica," examines how U.S. firearm legislation influences the illegal arms trade and the proliferation of violence in Jamaican communities.

"The Most Honorable Andrew

Holness, Doctor of Law and Policy," read the official program, underscoring the significance of the achievement. The ceremony, which recognized all doctoral candidates who completed their degrees between Spring 2024 and Winter 2025, was livestreamed to accommodate viewers around the world.

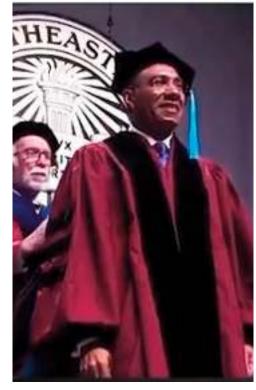
Holness began his doctoral studies shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, balancing academic research with the demands of national leadership. He has described the accomplishment as a "lifelong achievement," marking him as the first sitting Jamaican Prime Minister to earn a Ph.D. while in office.

This milestone is the latest in a series of academic achievements for Holness. Just last year, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Delaware State University, where

he made history again—this time as the first head of government to deliver the school's commencement address in its 132-year history.

Reflecting on his educational journey, Holness often cites his humble beginnings. At 19, he entered the University of the West Indies, Mona, supported by student loans, part-time jobs, and the sacrifices of his parents—a civil servant and a small farmer. He earned both a B.Sc. in Management Studies and an M.Sc. in Development Studies before embarking on his path in public service.

Holness' latest academic pursuit not only reflects his deep commitment to education but also signals a continuing investment in evidence-based policy, particularly in addressing gun violence—a pressing issue in Jamaica and across the Caribbean.



Dr Holness gets his PhD

Media Institute of the Caribbean warns of Al's threat to journalism

As the world marks World Press
Freedom Day under the theme "Reporting in the Brave New World – The
Impact of Artificial Intelligence on
Press Freedom and the Media," the
Media Institute of the Caribbean (MIC)
is warning that while Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds great promise, it also
poses serious risks—particularly for
small and vulnerable media ecosystems
in the Caribbean.

AI is rapidly transforming journalism around the globe, automating everything from news production to audience engagement. But while major media markets have the infrastructure and funding to adapt, Caribbean outlets are grappling with deep-rooted challenges: limited advertising revenue, small populations, economic fragility, and increasing environmental threats.

"AI could democratize information access, but without guardrails, it may erode the financial sustainability of Caribbean media," cautioned Kiran Maharaj, President of the MIC. "We must advocate for equitable AI governance that prioritizes public interest journalism."

Advertising revenue in the region continues to shift toward digital giants like Meta and Google—platforms that now absorb as much as 25% of the Caribbean's advertising spend. At the same time, the rise of freely distributed AI-generated content, often promoted by opaque algorithms, is placing added pressure on newsrooms already stretched thin.

"Caribbean media must adopt AIdriven verification tools and invest in digital literacy programs. Our survival depends on retaining public trust through accuracy and transparency," said Wesley Gibbings, Vice President of the MIC.

That trust is under increasing



threat. In recent years, AI-powered misinformation campaigns have undermined elections and public health efforts across the region, aggravating social divisions and damaging democratic institutions. A 2023 study conducted by the MIC and the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM) documented this growing crisis.

Further complicating the landscape are the recurring natural disasters that plague the Caribbean. Hurricanes, earthquakes, and other environmental shocks have repeatedly disrupted media operations and drained limited financial resources. The series of devastating storms between 2017 and 2024 revealed just how vulnerable the region's media infrastructure remains.

Despite the challenges, the MIC sees opportunity. Properly implemented, AI can enhance disaster preparedness through forecasting tools and real-time alerts. The organization is advocating for media inclusion in national emergency protocols and better training to equip journalists as first responders.

To address the growing influence of AI, the MIC has issued a regional Call to Action:

Implement regional policies to tax tech giants and reinvest in journalism;

Develop AI-powered revenue models like personalized subscriptions; Establish a Caribbean AI Ethics Task Force to audit algorithms and set verification standards;

Integrate AI into disaster management plans with safeguards to prevent misuse.

These recommendations will be a focal point at the upcoming Caribbean Media Summit in Guyana on May 23–24, where regional leaders will discuss "Enhancing Business Models in Turbulent Times" and examine AI's impact on media sustainability.

As the Caribbean navigates the dawn of a new digital era, the MIC is urging cooperation and strategic planning to ensure that AI becomes a tool that strengthens—not threatens—democracy and press freedom.

Bajans to get \$300 solidarity allowance

Barbadians will begin receiving the long-awaited one-off BB\$300 (US\$150) Solidarity Allowance starting Wednesday, May 14, as part of this year's Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement.

Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Ryan Straughn, made the announcement during a media conference, stating that payments will first go out to individuals aged 18 and over whose banking details are already on file in the government's systems. Those not yet registered can expect their payments starting the following Wednesday, May 21.

To facilitate the rollout, several government agencies will be responsible for distributing payments based on specific categories. The Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) will handle payments to private sector employees



Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Ryan Straughn

registered in the tax system with banking details, while the National Insurance and Social Security Service (NIS) will

cover self-employed individuals, pen-

sion-

ers, and other eligible recipients.

The allowance is available to a wide cross-section of Barbadians, including:

Anyone who contributed to NIS within the past 12 months

All contributory and non-contributory pensioners

Persons receiving invalidity bene-

Recipients of the Special Needs

Grant
Clients of the Welfare Department

fare
Persons who have not worked in

Individuals not currently on wel-

the past 12 months

For those who do not fall under

For those who do not fall under any of the listed categories, Minister Straughn said special provisions will be made to register them for payment.

The Solidarity Allowance is part of the government's broader effort to provide relief to citizens facing economic challenges.

PM Holness, nation mourn with Usain **Bolt at funeral for Wellesley Bolt**

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness on Sunday joined family, friends, and dignitaries in celebrating the life of Wellesley Bolt, the father of Olympic legend Usain Bolt, at a heartfelt thanksgiving service at the Falmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Holness lauded Wellesley Bolt's pivotal role in raising a national icon, calling him a model parent whose values helped shape the man the world now knows as the fastest sprinter in history.

"Usain is a global icon, a national hero, a national asset, and every Jamaican is grieving at this time with Usain and his family," Holness said in a brief but poignant tribute.

"Usain has said that whatever he is today, it is because of his parents. His humility and gratitude remind us all that greatness begins at home. It's not easy to be a world champion, and I am certain that his village-raising was instrumental in shaping his extraordinary journey," the Prime Minister noted.

Wellesley Bolt, 68, died on March 31 after a period of illness. A former labourer at the Jamaica Coffee Board and a beloved shopkeeper in Sherwood Content, Trelawny, he was remembered not just as Usain's father, but as a community pillar, mentor, and man of deep integrity.

Culture and Sport Minister Olivia Grange echoed Holness's sentiments, saluting Wellesley Bolt's consistent support of his son's sporting dreams and his broader influence in his community. "He was a pillar of strength," she said, "a guiding force not only for his family but who gave generously—even at his own



Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness extends his sympathy to Usain Bolt at the funeral

also for those around him."

A visibly emotional Usain Bolt recalled his father's values and discipline, crediting his dad for shaping his own approach to life and parenting. "When it comes to respect, anyone who knows me knows that I am very respectful ... that is one of the biggest lessons I learnt from my dad," he said. "No one could go in his shop and behave bad... if you have no respect, you cannot come in there."

Bolt described his father as a man

expense. "That shop cost me a lot of money, because all he did was give," he said to light laughter from mourners. "Anybody from Sherwood Content can tell you—they could always go to him and say, 'Mr Bolt, I'll pay you tomorrow,' and he would give."

The service, which lasted over three hours, was attended by a wide cross-section of Jamaica's political, cultural, and sporting leadership. Among those present were former Prime Minister Bruce Golding; National Security Minister Dr Horace Chang; Trelawny North MP Tova Hamilton; and Dr Wykeham Mc-Neill, the PNP's candidate for the constituency. Cricket legend Chris Gayle, Olympic medalist Nesta Carter, and longtime coach Glen Mills were also in attendance.

Musical tributes and speeches were delivered by family members, church officials, and representatives from institutions connected to Bolt's life, including the Jamaica Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

Jamaicans warned against buying drugs online

Jamaicans are being urged to avoid purchasing pharmaceutical drugs promoted on social media platforms, amid rising concerns about the circulation of counterfeit and unregistered medications in the country.

The warning came from Chair of the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica, Dr. Ernestine Watson, who spoke at the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce's inaugural Anti-Illicit Trade Forum held on Wednesday, April 30, at the AC Hotel by Marriott Kingston.

Despite existing government safeguards, billions of dollars' worth of illicit goods-including pharmaceutical products—continue to enter the island. Dr. Watson said a growing number of these unauthorized drugs are now being marketed on platforms like Instagram, sometimes disappearing just after being contacted by potential buyers.

"You see on IG Ozempic being advertised, and as Chair of the Pharmacy Council, I get all of the links," she explained. "After the second call, the site goes away, or the number that you called is no longer

Ozempic, which has gained popularity for weight loss, is one of several drugs being offered locally without approval. Dr. Watson cautioned that these drugs are often unregistered or not approved for



Ozempic is one of the drugs being sold online

distribution in Jamaica, making them potentially dangerous.

"As consumers, we have to be very vigilant and do our own research," she added. "It's our body, so we need to know what we're putting inside."

The dangers of counterfeit drugs are not theoretical. Dr. Watson shared troubling examples, including a cancer patient treated with a drug later found to be fake, and a kidney failure patient who spent weeks

undergoing ineffective therapy due to counterfeit medication for anemia.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner of Police Dr. Anthony McLaughlin, head of the Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime (CTOC) Branch, described the illicit drug trade as widespread and deeply embedded. He recounted seeing medicalgrade saline bags being sold from handcarts in downtown Kingston and warned about the difficulty of spotting fake medications like Viagra, which often mimic genuine tablets almost exactly.

"Unless you know exactly what to look for, it can be passed on to you as a genuine product," ACP McLaughlin noted, referencing training they received from Pfizer representatives to identify subtle differences in counterfeit pills.

Both Dr. Watson and ACP McLaughlin strongly urged citizens to purchase medicines only from licensed pharmacies and approved outlets, as the country grapples with the growing threat of illicit pharmaceuticals.



New T&T Ministers sworn in, here's the full list of names

T&T President Christine Kangaloo has officially sworn in the new Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago. Below is the full list of Cabinet appointments:

PRIME MINISTER: Kamla Persad-Bissessar

ATTORNEY GENERAL: John Jeremie

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND FISHERIES: Senator Ravi Ratiram

MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MIN-ISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Devesh Maharaj

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Michelle Benjamin

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Dr Narindra Roopnarine

MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Wayne Sturge

MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Dr Michael Dowlath

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES: Dr Roodal Moonilal

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUS-TRIES: Ernesto Kesar

MINISTER OF FINANCE: Davendranath Tancoo

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS: Sean Sobers

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIG AND CARICOM AFFAIRS AND



T&T PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar poses with members of her new Cabinet

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MIN-ISTER: Nicholas Morris

MINISTER OF HEALTH: Dr Lackram Bodoe

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Dr Rishad Seecharan MINISTER OF HOMELAND

SECURITY: Roger Alexander
MINISTER OF HOUSING: Dr
David Lee

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING: Anil Roberts

MINISTER OF LABOUR, SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: Leroy Baptiste

MINISTER OF LEGAL AF-FAIRS AND MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND FISHERIES: Saddam Hosain

MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES: Barry Padarath

MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES: Vandana Mohit

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF THE PEOPLE, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES: Dr Natalie Chaitan-Maharaj

MINISTER OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND DE-VELOPMENT: Kennedy Swaratsingh MINISTER OF PUBLIC AD-

MINISTRATION AND ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE: Dominic Smith MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY

OF PUBLIC UTILITIES: Clyde Elder PARLIAMENTARY SECRE-TARY IN THE MINISTRY OF PUB-LIC UTILITIES: Shivana Sam MINISTER OF RURAL DEVEL-OPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERN-MENT: Khadijah Ameen

MINISTER OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS: Phillip Watts MINISTER OF TERTIARY EDU-

MINISTER OF TERTIARY EDU CATION AND SKILLS TRAINING: Dr Prakash Persad

PARLIAMENTARY SECRTRAY
IN THE MINISTRY OF TERTIARY
EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING: Hansen Narinesingh

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM: Colin Neil GosIne

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION: Eli Zakour MINISTER OF WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Jearlean John

Air Canada to return to T&T after 5 year hiatus

AFTER the five-year hiatus, Canada's largest airline, Air Canada, has resumed flights between Toronto Pearson Airport and Piarco International Airport beginning May 2.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft, featuring in-seat entertainment and free WiFi will operate three times weekly, on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

The flights initially stopped in 2020 owing to challenges brought on by the covid19 pandemic, however, TT Airports Authority general manager Hayden Newton said Air Canada's return signalled the continued recovery of international air travel.

"This is a strong vote of confidence in our twinisland state and a testament to the enduring appeal of our destination," he said during the recommencement ceremony, at Piarco Airport on May 2.

"The new linkage brings with it a host of benefits. It opens doors to new markets, boost tourism, enhances trade and provides greater accessibility for the diaspora. It also offered greater confidence, convenience, direct access and at more competitive prices.

"...Our review of the data supports the fact that the capacity exists in the Canadian market and that Air Canada's return to TT will be a productive and profitable one and a sustainable business."

Recently appointed Canadian High Commissioner to TT Michael Callan applauded Air Canada's return and its role in strengthening the relationship between Canada and TT.



Piarco International Airport

"The resumption of this flight means much more than comfort and convenience. This flight is about connection and relationships. And it seems to me that in a world increasingly characterised by change, uncertainty and distance, connections never mattered more.

"We know that the resumption of this flight will carry, not just passengers, but possibilities."



Newly elected Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

New T&T Government eyeing gas deals with Guyana, Suriname and Grenada

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar says the first order of business for her newly sworn-in administration is to get boots on the ground and start working.

Addressing invitees at the President's House in Port of Spain after the ceremony on May 3, Persad-Bissessar said they have a lot of work to do.

She said first on her agenda was to fulfil her campaign promises such as repealing the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Act, implementing stand-your-ground laws, home invasion laws and the necessary regulations to grant firearms to law-abiding citizens.

"Those are very low-hanging fruits and will not require too much money but it's the will and the fact that we really want to bring these things into place."

Additionally, she said she has mandated her Minister of Energy and Energy Industries Dr Roodal Moonilal to seek out new sources of oil and gas for the country.

"We have one of the oldest oil industries in the world so we have that competitive advantage which we can use that to our advantage to market to our Caricom neighbours right here and, of course, further field, but my Minister of Energy has been mandated from day one (to) let us explore the offer being made by Guyana to bring gas to TT. Let us explore as well what we can do (with) Suriname (which is) also energy producing. Again, we can partner with them."

She added: "But I have a surprise for you, I intend to send my Minister of Energy to Grenada because I'm being told Grenada offshore has more gas and oil than the Dragon Field. So shall we explore that? Let us explore that so we can live and work together here in the Caricom."

She later said the Dragon Field gas deal with Venezuela was dead.

She said Minister of Finance Dave Tancoo has been mandated to assess the status of the Treasury.

She said her Minister of Trade, who was not sworn in, and other Cabinet members will work on their plan to generate revenue for the country. She said Tobago would not be left out of these plans.

The TT Government is eyeing the Nutmeg field, a relatively unexplored oil and gas reserve discovered about 100 km south west of the island just inside the Grenadian border, in 2017.

The Nutmeg field was located at a shallow depth, about 180m, by the Nutmeg 2, an exploration well that was side-tracked from the Nutmeg 1. The reserves are believed to have gas trapped in the Miocene reservoirs – a rock formation made of sandstone and carbonate rocks.

The same year the field was discovered, Grenada sought to incentivise foreign investment by passing hydrocarbon incentive laws.

This isn't the first time the government and state-owned enterprises have engaged with Grenada on the possibility of collaboration in regional oil and gas.

In 2012, during the People's Partnership administration, TT and Grenada signed an memorandum of understanding to advance joint exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the maritime areas between the two countries

Then TT energy minister Kevin

Ramnarine and Grenadian finance and planning minister Nazim Burke signed that agreement. The agreement would have seen collaboration on development and implementation of technical programmes, projects and activities between the two islands, as well as joint seismic surveys, joint exploration projects, joint development plans for unitisation of hydrocarbon reservoirs and joint bid rounds.

In 2018 under the PNM-led government, the National Gas Company (NGC)

finalised a commercial agreement with the sole operator of the Nutmeg gas field, Russian-based Global Petroleum Group (GPG).

The deal would see that NGC has first preference for the purchase of any natural gas discovered in the Nutmeg field. In return, NGC would use its existing infrastructure, similar to what it planned to do for the Dragon gas field, to aggregate and produce natural gas for the downstream.



Windies ODI squad revealed, Rampaul joins coaching staff

TRINIDAD and Tobago's Jayden Seales, Evin Lewis and Amir Jangoo have been named in the West Indies one-day squad for tours of Ireland and England later this month.

West Indies will play three ODIs against Ireland from May 21-25 and three matches against England from May 29 to June 3.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) unveiled the 15-member squad in a media release on May 5, including the nucleus of players who were successful during recent home series wins.

CWI said the tours provide an opportunity to focus on building the ODI team ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

WI coach Daren Sammy said, "These matches form a critical component towards the 2027 World Cup and there are signs of the team building consistency following the series sweep against Bangladesh and the win over England late last year."

Sammy said he expects the players to face challenging conditions, "but we



West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales

are creating a culture and mindset which emphasise playing the brand of cricket that is taking us closer to some of our overall objectives."

CWI also announced changes to the coaching staff for the tour. Former West Indies fast bowler and 2012 World Cup champion Ravi Rampaul will be the team's bowling coach, replacing James Franklin. CWI will also utilise the services of former Ireland allrounder Kevin O'Brien as part of the coaching staff during the Ireland leg of the tour. West Indies ODI Squad: Shai

Hope (Captain), Jewel Andrew, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales and Romario Shepherd.

Guyana pacer Quenten Sampson banned for illegal action

GUYANA Rainforest Rangers fast bowler Quenten Sampson has been suspended from bowling.

In a media release on May 2, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said Sampson was reported for a suspect bowling action during a match against the Jamaica Titans in the ongoing West Indies Breakout League at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium, Tarouba, on April 29.

As part of the process, once a player is reported for a suspect bowling action, video footage from the match in which the player was reported is provided to CWI. The video footage, along with the written report, is sent to Loughborough University for analysis using an opinion report.

CWI said the opinion report by the independent assessor at Loughborough University has found Sampson's bowling action to be illegal and, as such, he has been suspended from bowling in all West Indies and regional matches, with immediate effect.

The assessment revealed that Sampson's deliveries exceeded the level of tolerance for extension of the elbow permitted under playing regulations. As per the International Cricket Council regulations, the suspension will also apply to all other domestic leagues worldwide.

Sampson will now undergo remedial work under the supervision of the Guyana Cricket Board. He will be eligible to apply for reassessment once he has modified his bowling action, either through another opinion report from Loughborough or via analysis from another accredited testing centre.



Guyana Rainforest Rangers pacer Quentin Sampson bowls against Jamaica Titans on April 29

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Leeward Islands earn first win in Women's T20 Blaze

Dawnisha Hector and Qiana Joseph played valuable knocks as the Leeward Islands Women earned their first win in the Women's T20 Blaze by defeating Barbados Women by six wickets here on Saturday.

After sending Barbados in to bat at the Arnos Vale Playing Field, the Leeward Islands restricted their opponents to 95 for eight from their 20 overs.

Hector then scored 40, while Joseph made 34, to lead their team to 95 for four in 12.3 overs to improve their record to 1-1, while keeping Barbados winless through their first two games.

Leeward Islands used a balanced bowling attack to restrict Barbados' batters, who struggled to gain any momentum.

Barbados also lost wickets at regular intervals, which further added to their woes, slipping from 23 for one to 50 for five in the 14th over

Naijanni Cumberbatch tried her best to keep the innings together scoring a patient, unbeaten 22 from 30 balls, but she got little support from the other batters, with Kycia Knight needing 24 balls for her 14, while her twin sister Kyshona made 12 from 20 balls to be the next highest scorers.



Qiana Joseph scored 34 in a winning cause for the Leeward Islands Women

Medium pacer Shawnisha Hector (2-15) and off spinner Davronique Maynard (2-16) were the Leeward Islands' best bowlers.

The Leeward Islands' run chase got off to a horrible start when

Shamilia Connell had Melicia Clarke caught and bowled for a duck with one run on the board.

However, her departure brought Hector to the crease and together with Joseph they added 77 runs in nine overs to put the Leeward Islands in a dominant position.

And even though they both fell with the score on 78, the damage had already been done and they coasted to victory with 45 balls remaining.

WI Breakout league: T&T take decisive win

Navin Bidaisee and Crystian Thurton both cracked half centuries to steer the Trinidad and Tobago Legions to a comprehensive six-wicket win over the Windward Islands Infernos in the West Indies Breakout League on Sunday.

The Infernos posted a respectable total of 162 for seven from their 20 overs after being sent in to bat at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Bidaisee then scored an unbeaten 56, and Thurton hit an even 50, as the home side cruised to 164 for four off 18.1 overs, to rebound from a loss to the Leeward Islands Thunder on Friday.

The pair added 49 runs for the third wicket after the Legions had slipped to 63 for three following a blazing start.

And when Thurton was dismissed by pacer Shadrack Descarte after facing 32 balls and striking four fours and three sixes, Bidaisee joined forces with Jyd Goolie, who ended on 18 not out, in an unbroken stand of 52 to help the Legions overhaul their target.

Bidaisee faced 40 balls in his match-winning knock, and hit six fours and two sixes.

Earlier, the Infernos were given a good start by their openers Johann Jeremiah and Ryshon Williams, before suffering a dramatic collapse.

The two put on 69 runs in just under nine overs until Bidaisee claimed Jeremiah's wicket for 40 to set off a chain of dismissals that saw four wickets tumble for the addition of one run, as the Infernos crumbled to 70 for four.

It took the efforts of Teddy Bishop, who scored 31 from 26 balls, and Descarte, who lashed 36 from 18 balls to help stage a recovery.

Jyd Goolie was the Legions' best bowler, with 2-16, while Bidaisee took 2-18



Navin Bidaisee of the Trinidad and Tobago Legions (right) celebrates his half century with Jyd Goolie

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