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Guyana, Saudi Arabia make pact

President Dr. Irfaan Ali on Monday met with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. The two leaders held discussions on strengthening bilateral ties, ensuring material results of potential opportunities in hajj, biodiversity, energy, food, sports, infrastructure, and investment and development cooperation.

According to a statement shared by President Ali, the discussions focused on “ensuring material results of potential opportunities in hajj, biodiversity, energy, food, sports, infrastructure, and investment and development cooperation.”

During the meeting, both leaders agreed to establish an implementation and follow-up mechanism aimed at advancing the outcomes of their discussions.

President Ali described the engagement as one between “two results-driven leaders”, reflecting a shared commitment to deepening collaboration and achieving tangible progress.

The bilateral ties between Guyana and Saudi Arabia have been marked by growing diplomatic and economic cooperation since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. Continued cooperation between the two nations has led to significant agreements such as a \$150 million financing Memorandum of Understanding with the Saudi Fund for Development for infrastructure projects in Guyana, including housing, and the Wismar Bridge in Linden.



Toronto charity ready to respond

Hurricane Melissa has slammed into Jamaica as one of the strongest Atlantic storms ever recorded – a catastrophic Category 5 system packing sustained winds of around 295km/h (185mph) and an estimated central pressure of 892 millibars.

In Kingston, Montego Bay and Negril, entire streets are reported to be underwater. Trees have been torn from their roots, cars flipped, and roofs sheared off.

The Jamaican government has declared a national emergency, urging people to remain indoors and avoid any attempt to travel – even when the eye passes overhead.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness warned that “no infrastructure in Jamaica is built to withstand a Category 5 storm of this magnitude.”

In Toronto, local charity GlobalMedic is offering to send aid to Jamaica. Rahul Singh, the organization’s executive director, said it has told the Jamaican government that it can send water purification units, drones and family emergency kits if needed. "Everything is on standby," Singh said.

"There's so many Jamaican Canadians that live here. It's important for them to know that we've got their back," he said. "When people need our help, we're there." If you’d like to donate or assist, please call 416-916-0522.



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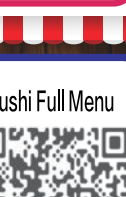
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**GUYANA SHINES BRIGHT
WITH DIWALI JOY**

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Warm smiles and bright lights, the First Family marks Diwali at State House, celebrating harmony and renewal.



INVESTOR CONFIDENCE GROWS
- CHATEAU MARGOT MALL BREAKS GROUND

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SOMA HOTEL COMMISSIONED AS GUYANA'S
HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ACCELERATES

PAGE 2



WORLD TRADE CENTRE EORGETOWN LAUNCHED
AMID HISTORIC ECONOMIC GROWTH

PAGE 3

SOMA HOTEL COMMISSIONED AS GUYANA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ACCELERATES



President Ali delivering remarks at the commissioning ceremony of SOMA Hotel

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali commissioned the SOMA Hotel, a modern hospitality facility located in Houston, Greater Georgetown, marking another significant milestone in Guyana's rapidly expanding tourism and investment landscape.

The president said the opening of the SOMA

Hotel reflects the success of his government's vision to make Guyana a premier destination for business, leisure, and investment. **"It was once a time when we were desperately trying to get one hotel,"** he recalled. **"Now, they are here in abundance."**

President Ali reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting both local and foreign investors, emphasising that Guyana's transformation is still in its early stages. **"What we are going to be building by 2030 is the most amazing, outside-of-the-box, imaginative, diversified, forward-looking economy the world has ever seen,"**



CEO of Go-Invest, Dr Peter Ramsaroop

he declared.

Developed by CampBOSS Inc., the hospitality arm of TOTALTEC Inc., the SOMA Hotel represents the company's first major venture in the hospitality sector. TOTALTEC, a leading Guyanese firm in the energy and construction industries, said the project underscores its commitment to national development and local excellence.

TOTALTEC's Chief Executive Officer, Lars Mangal, described the hotel as a symbol of collaboration and progress. **"SOMA stands as a demonstration of what private initiative, national collaboration, and Guyanese excellence can achieve together,"**



Founder of the SOMA Hotel, Lars Mangal

he said.

Go-Invest's CEO, Dr Peter Ramsaroop, commended the steady rise of locally funded and owned hotels across the country, noting that this growth reflects confidence in the Guyanese economy.

Featuring 52 luxury rooms, with plans to expand to more than 100, the SOMA Hotel offers a full-service restaurant, spa, fitness centre, modern conference facilities, and a rooftop pool terrace.

The commissioning of SOMA Hotel highlights the growing dynamism of Guyana's hospitality industry and the government's continued push to ensure local investors lead the nation's development story.



Ribbon cutting for the new SOMA Hotel



SOMA Hotel



SOMA Hotel



SOMA Hotel

INVESTOR CONFIDENCE GROWS - CHATEAU MARGOT MALL BREAKS GROUND

Investor confidence in Guyana's fast-growing economy continues to strengthen, as President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali led the groundbreaking ceremony for the highly anticipated Chateau Margot Mall, a state-of-the-art commercial hub set to transform the East Coast Demerara corridor.

The major investment is being spearheaded by Trinidad-based conglomerate ANSA McAL and will be developed on private land adjacent to the historic Chateau Margot Chimney. The mall will feature over 110,000 square feet of retail, dining, and entertainment space, combining modern elegance with functionality. It will house a blend of global brands and local



The sod-turning event of the new Chateau Margot Mall

businesses, offering an inviting atmosphere for shopping, fine dining, and leisure.

In his address, President Ali emphasised that the project reflects growing trust in Guyana's investment climate and long-term economic prospects. **"The decision to build is a vote of confidence in our people, in our economy, and in the bright future that lies ahead for this region**

and for Guyana as a whole," he stated.

He noted that the development aligns with the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government's broader vision of fostering economic diversification and community growth. The President encouraged the developers to integrate opportunities for small and women-led businesses within the project, ensuring

inclusivity across all levels of enterprise.

President Ali also urged collaboration with the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) to optimise outdoor and open spaces for local vendors and micro-entrepreneurs. He challenged ANSA McAL to use its extensive regional distribution network to promote Guyanese-made products throughout the Caribbean.



The sod-turning event of the new Chateau Margot Mall

"I have a duty and responsibility as President to look out for every Guyanese," he said. **"We want to see our products, our honey, sauces, and condiments, on supermarket shelves across the region."**

ANSA McAL Group Chairman, Anthony Sabga, welcomed the challenge and commended the President's leadership,

pledging to work closely with local producers. He also reaffirmed the company's commitment to preserving the historic Chateau Margot Chimney and supporting community initiatives.

"When a country prospers, everyone prospers," Sabga remarked, noting that Guyana's rapid development and stability continue to inspire regional investor confidence.



President Ali and Chairman of the ANSA McAL Group, Anthony Sabga

WORLD TRADE CENTRE GEORGETOWN LAUNCHED AMID HISTORIC ECONOMIC GROWTH

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, has hailed the establishment of the World Trade Centre Georgetown (WTCG) as a “timely and visionary step” in Guyana’s economic development.

Delivering the feature address at the official launch in Kingston, Georgetown, Dr. Singh highlighted that the launch coincides with a period of unprecedented economic growth and expanding global trade opportunities for the country.

He congratulated the Chairman of Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL) Group, Komal Samaroo,

and his team for their leadership in bringing the global brand to Guyana. **“President Ali attaches tremendous importance to this initiative. Georgetown and Guyana are now joining the family of great cities around the world that host World Trade Centres. This is indeed a historic milestone,”** Dr. Singh stated.

Dr. Singh praised DDL’s foresight in pursuing membership and licensing through the World Trade Centres Association (WTCA), calling the launch a reflection of the company’s long-standing commitment to global competitiveness.



Minister Singh and representatives of the World Trade Centre Guyana, Panama and Denver

Reflecting on discussions at recent IMF–World Bank meetings in Washington, D.C., Dr. Singh noted that small states like Guyana face challenges, including limited domestic markets and distance from major trading

partners. However, he emphasised that the Ali Administration has pursued strategies to **“enlarge the economic space in which we operate,”** citing priority projects such as the Linden–Lethem road to Brazil and the Corentyne River

Bridge to Suriname. **“With improved connectivity, we envision a Guyana where producers can move goods efficiently across our region, unlocking new trade flows,”** he said, noting that the country’s rapid economic expansion provides a strong foundation for WTCG’s success. Citing the IMF’s latest World Economic Outlook, Dr. Singh pointed out that Guyana continues to record the highest growth rate in the Western Hemisphere, averaging nearly 40 per cent annually since 2021.

The launch of WTCG, the first World Trade Centre in CARICOM, underscores

the government’s commitment to building a globally competitive non-oil economy. The Centre, occupying approximately 37,500 sq. ft in a modern seven-floor building in Georgetown, offers flexible office spaces, seminar and meeting facilities, ICT and cybersecurity infrastructure, and opportunities for trade missions and long-term rentals.

The World Trade Centre Georgetown is poised to become a hub for trade, investment, and innovation, linking Guyana to global markets while supporting the growth of the private sector.

NEW SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK TO UNLOCK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES NATIONWIDE

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has confirmed that work is progressing on the establishment of the Special Development Bank, a key commitment outlined in the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) 2025 Manifesto.

Speaking with the media recently, Dr Jagdeo said the bank is being designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly those led by women and young entrepreneurs, who often face significant challenges accessing finance.

“The structure of the bank is already being examined,” Dr Jagdeo explained. **“We want it to provide zero-percent interest loans up to a certain level, giving more Guyanese the opportunity to start their own businesses.”**

For loans beyond that threshold, the government plans to collaborate with commercial banks, sharing part of the risk to allow for lower interest rates and longer-term credit. **“All these options are actively**

being explored to move the initiative forward,” Dr Jagdeo said.

The Special Development Bank is expected to operate nationwide, with lending programmes available in all regions of Guyana. It is part of a broader PPP/C plan to boost entrepreneurship, create jobs, and strengthen the non-oil economy.

Earlier this month, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali revealed that US\$200 million will be injected into the fund to support SMEs, which are a vital component of

the country’s economic growth. Beyond financial support, the bank will also provide mentorship and guidance to help businesses grow and succeed.

“The development bank remains a priority commitment of this administration,” Dr Jagdeo said, emphasising that it was shaped through consultations and surveys conducted during the PPP/C’s five years in office.

This initiative forms part of a suite of measures aimed at



The Special Development Bank is expected to operate nationwide

increasing access to that Guyanese financing and promoting entrepreneurs have the innovative investment tools and support needed opportunities, ensuring to thrive.



Attorney General meets with banking and finance sectors

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall SC MP, met on October 15, 2025, with key representatives from Guyana’s banking and financial sectors to address legislative and regulatory concerns affecting the industry.

The meeting followed consultations

with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and included Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal; Minister of Tourism, Susan Rodrigues; Finance Secretary, Sukrishnalall Pasha; Registrar of Commerce, Reza Manraj, and Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit,

GOVT AND BANKS TEAMING UP TO SIMPLIFY BUSINESS

Matthew Langevine.

Discussions focused on implementing the Security Interests in Movable Property Act 2024, the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 2023, and the Condominium Act 2022—laws designed to modernise Guyana’s financial framework and support accelerated local and foreign investments.

Key issues addressed included operationalising the Security Interests in Movable Property Act, stakeholder training, the use of digital



Attorney General meets with banking and finance sectors

signatures under ECTA, and registration of condominium mortgages. Clarifications were provided, and timelines and guidelines for full implementation were agreed upon.

Minister Nandlall also emphasised AML/CFT compliance, noting Guyana’s high rating, and encouraged financial institutions to use measures like Supervision Guideline

13 to simplify account setup.

The meeting concluded with commitments from both government and banks to strengthen dialogue, address legislative gaps, and ensure Guyana continues to be a business-friendly destination. Representatives from Republic Bank, Citizens Bank, Scotiabank, Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, New Building Society, Bank of Baroda, Demerara Bank, and the Bank of Guyana attended.

GUYANESE JURIST DR. BULKAN JOINS CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE BENCH

G u y a n e s e legal luminary Dr. Christopher Arif Bulkan was sworn in as a judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), becoming the third Guyanese to serve on the regional court's bench.

Dr. Bulkan took the oath of office before President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali during a formal ceremony at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown. The ceremony was attended by CCJ President Justice Winston Anderson, members of the judiciary, the Guyana Bar Association, and senior government officials.

E x t e n d i n g congratulations, President Ali described Dr. Bulkan's appointment as a moment of national pride and regional celebration.

"Justice Bulkan's distinguished career

is a model of public service," the President stated. **"He has served his country in**



Guyanese excellence honoured as Dr. Bulkan sworn In to CCJ

multiple capacities, as a magistrate, appellate judge, scholar, and teacher, advancing the study of constitutional law

and public life."

In his remarks, Dr. Bulkan expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and pledged to serve **"with competence, efficiency, and u n w a v e r i n g integrity."** He cautioned against the misuse of authority, noting that **"privilege and power have never guaranteed success at the CCJ, and that should mean a great deal to the people of this region."**

Dr. Bulkan was appointed by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission in August to fill the vacancy created by the elevation of Justice Winston Anderson to the presidency of the CCJ in July 2025.

An accomplished jurist with more than three decades of experience, Justice Bulkan holds degrees from the University of the West Indies,

University College London, and York University, Canada. His career includes service as Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, magistrate, and appellate judge in both Guyana and Belize. He has also lectured at the University of the West Indies and served as vice chairperson of the UN Human Rights Committee. He currently sits on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

President Ali



Dr. Bulkan joins CCJ bench

reaffirmed Guyana's strong commitment to the CCJ, describing it as one of the Caribbean's



President Ali addressing the swearing of Dr. Christopher Bulkan as CCJ judge

greatest achievements and a symbol of unity and independence.

"The CCJ is not an abstraction, but a vibrant Caribbean institution, sustained by creativity, intellect, and inspired by Caribbean pride," he said. **"It is more than a court; it is a declaration of confidence in ourselves and the maturity of our independence."**



Guyanese excellence honoured as Dr. Bulkan sworn In to CCJ



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., during the site inspection

The Government is moving forward with plans to establish

Guyana's first law school, marking a historic milestone in the nation's

legal education system. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, S.C., announced that construction will soon commence at the University of Guyana's Turkeyen Campus.

This follows the September 2025 approval by the Council for Legal Education (CLE), granting formal consent for Guyana to host its own law school, an achievement long

pursued by successive administrations.

Minister Nandlall recently visited the proposed eight-acre site, located in the southwestern section of the university. He explained that access to the site required the clearing of a new road since the university has reserved its front lands for other development projects. The road now links the main campus to the back section where

the law school will be built.

The establishment of the law school is expected to transform access to professional legal training, eliminating the need for local graduates to travel abroad, a challenge that has long posed financial and logistical barriers.

The initiative aligns with the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration's

broader goal of strengthening tertiary education. Plans are also underway to expand medical and engineering programmes across Regions Two, Three, Six, and Nine, creating 200 new seats for students in these fields.

Together, these projects aim to equip Guyanese with the skills needed to support national development and drive the country's expanding economy.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY SESSION TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 3 PRESIDENT ALI ISSU ES OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has officially proclaimed that the 13th Parliament of Guyana will be opened on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 14:00 hrs.

In a live national broadcast on Thursday, President Ali announced that the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) will serve as the venue for both the opening ceremony and future sittings of the National Assembly.



President Ali during his live social media address

The announcement follows the dissolution of the 12th Parliament

in June 2025, in keeping with Article 70(2) of the Constitution and

Proclamation No. 1, which cleared the way for the General and Regional Elections held on September 1, 2025.

The upcoming opening marks a new chapter in Guyana's democratic journey, as elected representatives prepare to take their oaths and commence legislative business under the newly constituted Parliament.



13th Parliament to open at Arthur Chung Conference Centre



The Maple Leaf Gala hosted by the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce

Guyana’s trade and investment partnership with Canada is poised for expansion, as President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has urged both nations to move beyond the export of raw materials and focus on value-added production, innovation, and knowledge-based collaboration.

Addressing business leaders at the Maple Leaf Gala hosted by the Canada-Guyana

GUYANA-CANADA TRADE PARTNERSHIP READY FOR NEXT STAGE

Chamber of Commerce at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, President Ali said Guyana’s economic transformation depends on shifting from a resource-driven model to one rooted in innovation and refined production.

“Guyana must move from being a supplier of raw materials to being a producer of refined and high-value goods,” the President stated. **“This is how we will unlock greater growth and resilience in our economy.”**

He noted that Guyana offers significant opportunities in mining, agriculture, forestry,

fisheries, and energy, and emphasised that collaboration with Canada can help enhance export value and competitiveness.

Merchandise trade between the two countries reached CAD\$272.7 million in 2023, with Guyana exporting CAD\$230.5 million and importing CAD\$59.1 million. While modest, President Ali believes these figures signal the potential for a stronger, more diversified partnership built on innovation and technology.

Highlighting Guyana’s rapid digital transformation, President Ali said the government is modernising the



Attendees at the Maple Leaf Gala, organised by the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce

banking system and digitising public services to improve business efficiency and attract new investments.

“To show the world that we are a destination for technology and investment, we must build our economy on a digital and data-driven foundation,” he said.

The President described Guyana as a **“frontier of opportunity”** citing

its young and talented workforce, expanding infrastructure, and commitment to modernisation as key strengths for investors. He also pointed to tourism and infrastructure as part of a broader strategy to diversify the economy and create new industries.

Canadian High Commissioner Sébastien Sigouin reaffirmed his country’s deep and enduring partnership with Guyana, noting that recent business missions demonstrate Canada’s commitment to exploring new opportunities for collaboration and investment.

TRADE EFFICIENCY SOARS AS NEW BRIDGE ELIMINATES COSTLY DELAYS

The recently commissioned Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge (BJDRB) is proving to be the catalyst for a monumental leap in Guyana’s trade efficiency, successfully tackling the long-standing issue of costly delays that plagued marine and road transport.

The modern infrastructure is already being celebrated by the business community for its role in cutting operational costs and fuelling economic competitiveness.

For years, the old Demerara Harbour

Bridge forced cargo ships arriving in Guyana into frustrating and expensive waiting patterns. This not only slowed the movement of goods, but also generated substantial extra costs, from payments to ship operators for downtime to increased fuel consumption.

Khishan Singh, Operations Director of GAICO Construction and General Services Inc., underscored the immediate financial relief the new bridge brings. **“What this bridge [BJDRB] will allow is for**

more businesses to come and develop themselves and start ports and start more businesses... manufacturing as well, because now we have the marine transit easier,” he stated.

Beyond simply speeding up bridge passage, the BJDRB directly addresses a critical logistics bottleneck: trans-shipment. Due to the shallow water on the south side of the Demerara River, larger cargo vessels had to dock in Georgetown and

transfer their goods onto smaller boats to reach upriver destinations. This multi-step process added layers of cost and time, which were ultimately passed on to the consumer.

The improved marine transit facilitated by the BJDRB means simplified operations and a more direct flow of goods. These savings are expected to lead to lower costs for importers, more efficient consumer good delivery, and greater stability in local consumer prices.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

emphasised during the commissioning that the BJDRB is far more than a transport project, it is a strategic national asset aimed at connecting communities, facilitating commerce, and firmly positioning Guyana as the leading logistics hub in South America.

With costly delays now eliminated and the logistics chain streamlined, companies like GAICO are looking at a future with easier access to international markets. As Singh noted, **“People can make their product and ship it out to the**



One of GAICO's fuel vessels

Caribbean, the US, Europe, wherever you may be.” The BJDRB now stands as a critical artery, driving prosperity and ensuring that Guyana’s trade moves with unprecedented speed and efficiency.



Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally

Guyanaese business owners and entrepreneurs are being encouraged to broaden their ambitions and pursue opportunities beyond local markets. Minister of Public Service,

Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, issued this call during his address at the International Business Conference (IBC) 2025, held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Kingston.

GUYANESE ENTREPRENEURS CHALLENGED TO GO GLOBAL

Now in its third edition, the IBC brings together business leaders, policymakers, and innovators from across the region to chart the course for future economic growth.

Minister Ally highlighted Guyana’s remarkable transformation, noting that the country is among the fastest-growing economies in the world and is committed to turning its prosperity into opportunities for citizens and regional partners.

“Guyana today is not the nation of yesterday. We must use this moment of strength to build the foundation for lasting prosperity. This is our window to transform short-term boom into long-term growth,” he said.

He emphasised that the country’s economic expansion is driven not only by oil and gas, but also by the opportunities the sector enables across various industries.

According to Minister Ally, the IBC is

evolving into a lasting institution that supports trade, investment, and business development, where ideas serve as the true currency.

“This is your time to build and expand, but don’t stop at the shoreline. Don’t limit your ambitions to the local market. The real opportunity lies in building a regional footprint,” he urged.

Minister Ally also reflected on the vision behind the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME),

which sought to promote regional integration and enable Caribbean firms to compete globally. He said that vision remains alive, but requires entrepreneurs with courage and vision to bring it to fruition.

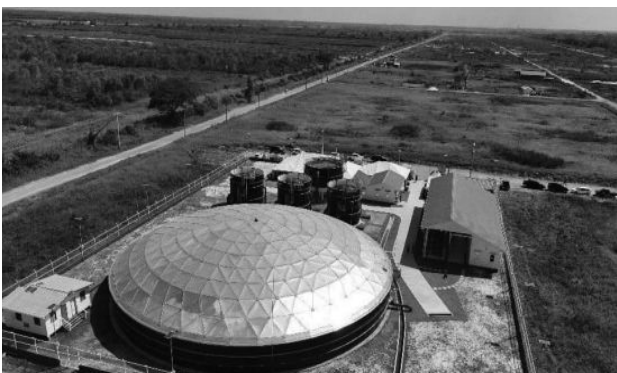
Themed **“Bridging Businesses for Regional Prosperity”**, IBC 2025 featured over 125 speakers, 800 delegates, and 2,000 participants from more than 30 countries.

\$1.3B CUMMINGS LODGE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ENHANCES WATER ACCESS FOR 10,000 RESIDENTS

For the first time, residents of Cummings Lodge are turning on their taps to enjoy clean, treated water, thanks to a new \$1.3 billion water treatment plant commissioned by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Constructed by Sigma Engineers Ltd, the state-of-the-art facility has the capacity to treat 12 million litres of water per day and store 3.6 million litres. It delivers water that far exceeds World Health Organisation standards, containing only 0.06 milligrams of iron per litre, well below the safe limit of 0.3 milligrams.

President Ali described the facility as a major leap forward in Guyana's water sector, one that puts people and public health at



The new Cummings Lodge Water Treatment Plant

the centre of national development. **“Water is not just a utility, it is life itself,”** he affirmed. **“It keeps our children healthy, our farms fertile, and our industries alive.”**

The plant will serve more than 10,000 residents in Cummings Lodge, Cummings Park, Ruimveldt, Lamaha, Festival City, Tucville, Stevedore, and communities along Heroes Highway. It is one of three new plants

built in Region Four, alongside facilities at Bachelor's Adventure and Caledonia.

Dr. Ali reminded citizens that while rainfall is free, clean, drinkable water requires significant investment. **“Over the last five years, we have invested more than \$51 billion in the water sector, about \$69,000 per man, woman, and child, to ensure that every**

Guyanese has access to safe, reliable water,” he said.

Those investments have lifted national access to potable water to 98.4 percent, one of the highest rates in the Caribbean, while hinterland access has nearly doubled to 92 percent and is projected to reach 96 percent by 2026.

The Coastal Water Treatment Infrastructure Programme (CWTIP), a \$40 billion initiative, is driving this progress. It includes seven large and 15 small water treatment plants, upgrades to 12 others, and 200 kilometres of new transmission mains to enhance water quality and supply in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five, and Six.

President Ali also

linked the project to the wider transformation of Cummings Lodge, where thousands of homes,

Cummings Lodge are the largest ever constructed in Guyana, designed to meet the needs



President Ali enjoying a glass of water from the newly treated water plant at Cummings Lodge

roads, and utilities are being developed. **“We are not just providing water, we are building an ecosystem for growth and sustainable urban living,”** he said.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, noted that the tanks at

of a rapidly growing community.

“This is what transformation looks like,” President Ali concluded. **“We are building communities that support families, industries, and the future of a modern Guyana.”**

CUMMINGS LODGE TO HOST GUYANA'S FIRST DEDICATED SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Construction progressing on the school

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, visited the construction site of Guyana's first

dedicated school for the deaf at Cummings Lodge, East Coast Demerara, highlighting the project

as a national priority for inclusive education.

During her visit, Minister Parag emphasised the importance of timely and high-quality completion, noting that the school should serve as a model of excellence for accessible and equitable education. She expressed confidence that the facility, valued at \$194.4 million and being built by Superior Supplies and General



Construction progressing on the school

Construction, will be ready as scheduled in November 2025.

The new school will provide a modern learning environment for 30 deaf learners and

reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to closely monitor progress until the school officially opens its doors.

Once completed, the Cummings Lodge facility will mark a transformational milestone in Guyana's education sector, advancing the government's promise to create inclusive and empowering spaces for all learners.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (MoLGRD) has handed over two new trucks to Georgetown's Mayor Alfred Mentore, strengthening the city's ability to manage solid waste and enhance municipal services.

Mayor Mentore expressed gratitude for the addition, noting that the trucks will help address longstanding waste management challenges while improving the overall environment for residents and visitors. **“This is an important step in building a cleaner and more sustainable Georgetown,”** he said.

D e p u t y

Permanent Secretary (Administration) Dr. Josh Kanhai highlighted the ceremony's significance, describing it as a demonstration of the strong collaboration between central government and local authorities in sustainable urban development. **“These efforts are crucial for maintaining a healthy and vibrant capital city,”** he added.

The truck handover aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's City Revival Plan, unveiled in September, which aims to transform Georgetown into a modern, sustainable capital reflecting Guyana's culture, pride, and progress. During the

NEW TRUCKS BOOST GEORGETOWN'S WASTE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

recent commissioning of the Cummings Lodge Water Treatment Plant, President Ali outlined plans for a comprehensive mapping and condition survey of every drain in the city.

“I've already directed that the full mapping and condition survey of every drain in the city be done and placed on GIS,” the President said. **“After that, we will launch a massive drainage programme across every street, every alley, every single area in Georgetown.”**

President Ali explained that the drainage initiative forms part of a broader effort to rescue and revitalise Georgetown, including improvements to housing, recreational spaces, and urban infrastructure. **“Your government is actively pursuing the full rescue of Georgetown,”** he affirmed. **“We have to clean it up, fix it up, nice it up, and place it among the most beautiful cities in this region.”**

He added that detailed mapping of



Construction progressing on the school

housing stock and recreational facilities will guide the creation of a sustainable urban housing plan, improving residents' quality of life. Citizens are encouraged to actively participate in

the transformation, as revitalising Georgetown is central to the government's wider development agenda, creating a cleaner, greener, and more liveable capital for all.

GUYANA EMERGES AS STRONG VOICE FOR PEACE ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has highlighted Guyana’s growing influence on the international stage, describing the country as a **“solid voice for peace and the rule of law”** during its current two-year term on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Guyana began its tenure on the Council in January 2024 and, though still early in the term, Dr Jagdeo said the government is proud of the country’s performance so far. **“We’ve outlined our principles and priorities, and Guyana has consistently advocated for international peace, respect for the rule of law, and humanitarian initiatives globally,”** he stated during a press briefing.

Central to Guyana’s diplomatic visibility is its Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, a former foreign minister. Dr Jagdeo praised her as **“a huge asset”** whose credibility and respect within the Council have elevated Guyana’s profile internationally. **“She has lifted our country’s profile in New York and at the Security Council,”** he said, noting that Ambassador Rodrigues-Birkett continues to receive guidance from President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Guyana’s leadership was further demonstrated when it held the rotating presidency of the Security Council in June 2025, chairing several high-level meetings on global conflict, development, and security issues.

During its term, Guyana has championed priority issues including conflict prevention, the link between security and development, the impact of climate change on peace, protection of children in armed conflict, and advancing women, peace, and security.

Dr Jagdeo emphasised that Guyana’s active engagement has strengthened its reputation as a principled, credible actor on the international stage.

Guyana’s current Security Council term runs until December 2025, building on its previous stints in 1975–1976 and 1982–1983, further cementing the country’s legacy of constructive and values-driven diplomacy.



Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

SENIOR COUNSEL TITLE CONFERRED POSTHUMOUSLY ON LEGAL LUMINARY RINEE KISSOON



Kissoon’s funeral service at the Memorial Gardens Crematorium

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali posthumously conferred the title of Senior Counsel on the late Attorney-at-Law Rinee Kissoon, recognising her outstanding contributions to law and justice in Guyana. The announcement was made during Kissoon’s funeral service at the Memorial Gardens Crematorium.

President Ali highlighted that Kissoon earned the distinction through her mastery of the law, unwavering dedication to justice, and the example she set for younger members of the Bar. **“She will forever be remembered as a brilliant legal mind, a woman of principle, and now, officially, as Senior Counsel Rinee Kissoon,”** the President said. He added that she **“walked softly, but left deep and lasting footprints on all the lives she touched,”** praising her exceptional commitment to her clients and describing her work as a sacred duty to serve humanity.

Rinee Kissoon, who passed away on October 7, 2025, at the age of 55, was a distinguished Guyanese Attorney-at-Law and a trailblazer in the nation’s legal community. Admitted to the Guyana Bar in 1995, she quickly earned respect for her legal acumen and advocacy skills, often prevailing in complex cases. Her dedication extended beyond financial remuneration, as she represented clients of modest means and maintained her commitment even during periods of ill health.

Kissoon’s expertise was internationally recognised when she earned distinction at the New York Bar. She returned to Guyana following the judicial appointment of her husband, Justice Navindra Singh, with whom she had two children. Coming from a family of legal professionals, her brother, Justice Sandil Kissoon, serves as a Puisne Judge, while her late uncle, Justice Nandram Kissoon, was a Justice of Appeal.

Attorney General Anil Nandlall, S.C., described Kissoon as **“brilliant, eloquent, and charming,”** praising her ability to excel in a male-dominated profession. Minister of Local Government Priya Manickchand added that attaining Senior Counsel status reflects the pinnacle of a legal career and excellence in contributing to the development of law.



Kissoon’s funeral service at the Memorial Gardens Crematorium

GUYANA WEIGHS RISKS, BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING EMISSIONS AGREEMENT

Guyana is taking a measured approach to the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) Net-Zero Shipping Framework (NZF), with Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo noting that the country has yet to decide whether it will formally endorse the global emissions plan.

The framework, aimed at aligning international shipping with the 2050 net-zero goal, targets greenhouse gas emissions from large oceangoing vessels. It applies to ships over 5,000 gross tonnes, which account for over 85 per cent of global shipping emissions. Operators with higher fuel intensity could face financial penalties, while cleaner vessels would be rewarded.

Speaking to the media, Vice President Jagdeo acknowledged the growing global momentum to decarbonise the shipping industry, but questioned the fairness of such measures for developing countries. He cited the United States as a major emitter that has expressed reluctance to fully adhere to the agreement. **“My point is, the whole world is retreating from their obligations under the UNFCCC,”** he said. **“If the United States and other developed countries are limiting their participation, why should developing nations, which contribute only a fraction of global emissions, bear the burden?”**

Dr Jagdeo also raised concerns about the practical enforcement of the framework. **“People sometimes sign on to these things, and later there’s no enforcement mechanism. How would emissions be measured? Which port collects the fines? Who ensures compliance?”**

The vice president added that even drastic emission cuts by countries like Guyana would have a negligible impact globally. **“If we stopped emitting entirely, the effect would still be minimal, 0.2% of 0.2% of global emissions,”** he said.

He emphasised that Guyana supports **“common-sensical”** environmental policies, but remains cautious about international measures that could increase costs or impose unfair restrictions on trade.

Dr Jagdeo noted that while discussions are ongoing at the CARICOM level, he has not been deeply involved, and that the government will carefully examine any commitments before taking action.

As Caribbean nations prepare to sign on to the IMO framework, Guyana’s approach reflects a careful balancing of environmental responsibility with the economic realities faced by developing states.



A ship on Guyana’s waters

GDF WELCOMES 26 NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, officially commissioned 22 new Second Lieutenants and conferred State Warrants to four Warrant Officers of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF).

The ceremony, held at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive in Georgetown, was attended by family, friends, and senior military officials, including Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan.

President Ali emphasised that

the Instruments of Commission and State Warrants signify not only the officers' personal achievements, but also their solemn duty to serve and protect the nation. **"The Instrument of Commission is not a**

gift. It testifies to your competence earned through rigorous training, sacrifice, and consistent demonstration of leadership potential," he stated.

He reminded the officers that their

authority carries responsibility, urging them to lead with fairness, humility, and integrity. **"Remember, the authority you now hold does not make you masters over others; it makes you servants of a higher duty—to lead by example, to inspire by character, and to care for those entrusted to your command,"** the President said.

President Ali also highlighted the evolving role of the GDF in national development, disaster response, and regional security, stressing the importance



President Ali, Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan; Colonel Sheldon Howell, Director of the National Intelligence and Security, and National Security Advisor, Gerry Gouveia, with the four new Warrant Officers

of continuous training and adaptation to modern technology. **"The modern officer must be as comfortable with data and digital tools as with discipline and drills,"** he noted.

The 26 officers recently completed Standard Officers'

Course (SOC) No. 56 and were formally commissioned at Base Camp Ayanganna. Their induction reflects the GDF's commitment to strengthening leadership, professionalism, and operational readiness in service of the nation.



Officers take their oath of office

PRESIDENT ALI REAFFIRMS GUYANA'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL PEACEKEEPER

transnational crime, illicit drugs, and any destabilising activities that threaten the security of Guyana and the region," President Ali stated.

He clarified that Guyana's defence spending is not aimed at war, but rather at ensuring peace, protecting prosperity, and safeguarding the nation's democracy and territorial integrity. The President reaffirmed adherence to international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, particularly regarding the ongoing case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). **"Guyana**

rejects all forms of aggression and any attempt to impose solutions through coercion," he added.

Acknowledging evolving security challenges, including cybercrime, trafficking, and terrorism, President Ali highlighted efforts to equip the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) with advanced technology, tools, and training. **"We will protect every inch of Guyana's territory with vigilance and resolve, adaptable and ready to respond, on land, at sea, in the air, and in cyberspace,"** he said.

The President also emphasised regional

and international collaboration. **"The Caribbean looks to Guyana as a partner**

Clarifying that Guyana's dispute is not with the Venezuelan people, he stressed that



Graduates of SOC No. 56

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to maintaining Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, while pledging to confront transnational crime, the illicit drug trade, and any threats to regional stability.

Delivering the feature address at the Commissioning Parade for Standard Officers' Course (SOC) No. 56 at

Base Camp Ayanganna, the Commander-in-Chief reminded the newly commissioned officers that safeguarding peace and sovereignty requires both strength and principled leadership.

"Guyana supports the aspiration of keeping Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, but equally, we embrace every partnership and action to combat



Graduates of SOC No. 56

in stability, security, and service. When one nation stands strong, the entire region is fortified," he noted.

the nation will defend its sovereignty with partners who uphold freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

GUYANA STRENGTHENS RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WITH STRONGER PROTECTIONS AND SUPPORT

Guyana has advanced its Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response, emerging as one of the most comprehensive systems in the Caribbean and Latin America. Key reforms in the Family Violence Act 2024 allow survivors to remain in their homes while perpetrators are removed, and enable police to enter premises without a warrant in suspected cases, with charges required within 48 hours.

The Act now covers violence by any family

member, broadening protections beyond intimate partnerships. These measures aim to reduce domestic violence

and ensure victims receive timely support.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya

Persaud, highlighted the government's commitment to ending GBV during an interview with Starting Point. She noted that while legislation is vital, the root causes of violence remain deeply personal and complex.

Minister Persaud drew attention to alarming trends, including 12 partner-related deaths in 2024. Historically, reported GBV cases ranged from 18 to 23 annually between 2020 and 2023, with a spike during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Every life for me is important. It's not a statistic," she said.

Since assuming office, Minister Persaud has overseen a complete overhaul of the GBV framework. The 914 hotline now operates 24/7, receiving over 10,000 calls annually. Crisis teams work with the Guyana Police Force, while shelters, rental assistance, trauma counselling, and financial aid provide vital support.

Additionally, about 1,200 trained Community Advocates assist with reporting, early intervention, and survivor care nationwide. Minister Persaud



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud

stressed, **"This issue is multi-dimensional. We know we can't do it alone,"** reaffirming the government's dedication to protecting all victims of GBV.



A silhouette of gender based violence enacted

JUSTICE GEORGE-WILSHIRE, JUSTICE SINGH TO CONTINUE IN ACTING JUDICIAL POSTS



Justice George-Wilshire, Justice Singh to remain in acting roles

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that Justice Roxanne George-Wilshire will continue as Acting Chancellor of the Judiciary, while Justice Navindra Singh will remain as Acting Chief Justice.

The decision follows a request from Madam Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards to proceed on pre-retirement leave from October 27, 2025.

“I take this opportunity to thank Madam Justice Cummings-Edwards for her long service to the judiciary and the people of Guyana. I express my personal appreciation for her many years of public service,” the President said.

In a separate ceremony at State House, President Ali administered the oath of office to Justice Singh as

a member of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), where he will serve a three-year term.

The JSC, reconstituted in 2023 after a six-year hiatus, is responsible for judicial appointments and disciplinary oversight.



GUYANA SECURES US\$156M WORLD BANK LOAN FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES UPGRADE

Guyana’s transport sector is set for a major boost with the signing of a US\$156 million loan agreement between Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh and World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, Susana Cordeiro Guerra. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 2025 World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C.

The loan will fund the Integrated Transport Corridors Project (ITCP), approved earlier this year by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors. The project aims to rehabilitate and upgrade Guyana’s road

infrastructure, focusing on selected regions to provide safer, more resilient, and reliable transport networks capable of withstanding natural hazards.

Delivering remarks before the signing, Dr. Singh welcomed the World Bank’s support, highlighting the project’s potential to unlock productivity in Guyana’s non-oil economy. **“This project will improve farm-to-market roads, enhance trade, and strengthen connectivity between communities,”** he said.

The ITCP aligns with Guyana’s national development objectives, including improving market access to boost agricultural exports and



Senior Minister in the Office of the President Dr Ashni Singh and World Bank Vice President, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Susana Cordeiro Guerra

food security, unlocking housing and tourism potential, reducing traffic fatalities through safer road designs, and

health and education while integrating climate-resilient infrastructure solutions.

Under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the PPP/C government has undertaken transformative infrastructural projects over the past five years, including the construction and upgrading of roads, highways, and bridges. Notable achievements include the commissioning of the new Demerara River Bridge linking Regions Three and Four, with another bridge across the Berbice River to connect Regions Five and Six set to commence shortly, supporting cargo transport and industrial growth.

The government’s 2025–2030 manifesto also outlines plans to upgrade the Linden–Lethem and Linden–Soesdyke highways, expand the East Bank Demerara highway to four lanes to Cheddi Jagan International Airport, and construct bridges at Kurukupari, Puruni, and across the Corentyne River to connect with Suriname, opening new regional markets.

With the ITCP, Guyana continues on a path of rapid infrastructure modernisation, improving the quality of life for citizens while driving economic growth and regional integration.

GROVE AND AUBREY BARKER ROADS TRANSFORM COMMUTE

Major road projects along Guyana’s East Bank corridor are set to revolutionise daily travel, easing congestion and improving connectivity for residents and commuters alike.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, recently visited the Grove East Bank Access Road and the Aubrey Barker Road to assess progress and engage contractors and engineers. At Grove, the 1.6-kilometre, 17-metre-wide access road from Diamond to Good Success has been fully paved, ending chronic traffic bottlenecks that once stretched east to



A section of the access road at Grove

Prospect and west to Land of Canaan.

Minister Edghill highlighted several interventions implemented to manage traffic during construction, including opening a west-to-east access road into Diamond and creating a bypass from Jimbo Bridge to Diamond.

“The scale of work was a herculean task,” he said, noting that engineers excavated 1.6 metres of base material, rebuilt the roadbed, and applied high-quality asphalt to prevent recurring damage, all while traffic remained heavy.

The next phase includes road marking,

installation of traffic signs, and safety devices, along with the restoration of access for residents and businesses. The project also introduced new utility poles carrying coded arrangements for multiple service providers, including Guyana Power and Light, Enet, Digicel, and the National Data Management Agency.

Meanwhile, the 3.8 kilometre Aubrey Barker Road expansion, stretching from Mandela to the Ogle/Eccles Interlink Road and continuing to Enmore, is well underway. Four of its sections are complete,



Section of the Aubrey Barker Road Project

with the fifth in progress and sections six and seven substantially finished. Completion is expected by November 30, 2025, following adjustments for resident relocation and GWI pipeline works.

Minister Edghill underscored the transformative impact of these projects, noting that travel from Mandela to Eugene F. Correia International Airport will now take just seven

to eight minutes. Beyond easing congestion, the upgrades are expected to raise property values, support businesses, and modernise Guyana’s transport network.

“These works are about more than roads,” Minister Edghill emphasised. **“They improve lives, strengthen our economy, and ensure safe, efficient mobility for all Guyanese.”**

WALES GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT ENTERS 24-HOUR OPERATIONS AS CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATES



Another major concrete pour, recently took place at the site, marking steady progress on the project

The government's flagship Wales Gas-to-Energy project has entered round-the-clock operations, marking a new phase of accelerated progress toward delivering one of Guyana's most transformative energy developments.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced this during a visit to the project site, which coincided with the final concrete pour for the fourth turbine foundation, a key milestone in constructing the 300-megawatt power plant.

"Work here is accelerating," President Ali said. **"The contractor,**

consultant, and project team are now working 24/7, increasing not only man-hours, but also manpower. The engineering and labour force will more than double in the coming weeks so that we can get back on schedule as quickly as possible."

The President described the progress as **"tremendous"**, highlighting the government's determination to deliver infrastructure critical to Guyana's long-term energy security and industrial growth. He noted that the completion of the fourth turbine foundation represents a pivotal

moment, bringing the project closer to completing all four turbine bases by the end of December.

"There's a lot of intricate, complex engineering work happening here," he added. **"The team has accelerated progress, and both the contractor and**

moment, bringing the project closer to completing all four turbine bases by the end of December. **"There's a lot of intricate, complex engineering work happening here,"** he said. **"Before, trucks had to wait until late at night to cross. Now, full-weight transport can move freely, speeding up**

at the site, with 24-hour operations now fully underway. EIL engineers reported that the project includes over 9,300 piles, with 665 dedicated to the turbine and plant areas, of which only 40 remain to be installed. All piling work is expected to conclude within days, paving the way for the next construction phase.

Once completed, the power plant will anchor the Wales Development Zone, a 1,400-acre hub expected to host a fertiliser plant, data centres, agro-processing facilities, and manufacturing industries.

"This project is not only about delivering reliable and cheaper energy," President Ali emphasised. **"It's about unlocking new**



President Ali at the Wales Gas-to-Energy project site

opportunities for industrialisation, job creation, and economic resilience."

When operational in 2026, the Gas-to-Energy project will provide up to 300 megawatts of low-cost power, reducing electricity costs nationwide and strengthening Guyana's foundation for sustainable growth.



Workers on the project site

are committed to working 24/7 to maintain momentum."

President Ali also credited the new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge for significantly improving the project's efficiency. With the bridge now accommodating heavy

construction."

Project updates were shared by representatives of CH4/Lindsayca, the main contractor; Engineers India Limited (EIL), the engineering consultant; and project coordinator Winston Brassington. Currently, about 400 workers are stationed



The President inspecting the man camp that will be hosting workers of the project

PRESIDENT ALI ORDERS IMMEDIATE ACTION TO EASE EAST BANK TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Following days of heavy traffic congestion that have caused widespread frustration among commuters, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has taken a firm stance against the contractors and consultants managing the rehabilitation and expansion of the East Bank Public Road.

The Head of State convened an urgent meeting with key stakeholders, including

representatives from the Ministry of Public Works, the Guyana Police Force, the Coast Guard, the contractor China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), and the consultant Sheladia Associates Inc., to address what he described as poor project management and the resulting hardship faced by the travelling public.

"It is clear to me that enough effort is not placed

in the contract management and the workflow plan, and as a result, you are causing tremendous hardship on the people who are using this road," President Ali stated, expressing disappointment with the pace of work.

He warned that he would no longer tolerate inefficiency and directed the immediate implementation of new management measures to improve traffic flow. Among these, contractors must now coordinate daily work plans with the traffic control team, ensuring that any sections opened overnight are made usable by morning.

President Ali also instructed Commissioner of Police Clifton Hicken to establish a permanent command presence along the corridor, complete with a containerised control system and 24-hour drone surveillance



President Ali convened a high-level meeting to address the traffic woes on the East Bank Public Road

to monitor traffic movement and identify violations. **"All the trucks that are breaking the laws, forming three and four lanes, you have to charge the drivers,"** he ordered.

To accelerate progress, the President directed that a new work plan be drafted immediately, detailing how additional machinery and manpower will be

deployed to speed up completion. He noted that late-night inspections revealed minimal activity despite earlier instructions to increase night shifts. **"For this project to be completed with less disruption, you have to put in people at night, increase your machinery, and increase your workforce,"** he said.

President Ali further announced an early

warning system using drone technology to detect congestion and ensure rapid response. He emphasised the need for **"coordination, teamwork, and precision"** to get the job done efficiently.

Additionally, the President directed the Coast Guard and the Marine Unit of the Police to remain on standby to transport passengers by boat if needed, ensuring uninterrupted access to the airport during construction.

Issuing a final warning to all parties involved, President Ali made it clear that penalties will be imposed on contractors, consultants, and engineers who fail to fulfil their responsibilities as the government pushes to deliver infrastructure improvements with minimal inconvenience to citizens.



President Ali convened a high-level meeting to address the traffic woes on the East Bank Public Road

DIWALI CELEBRATION AT STATE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS UNITY IN DIVERSITY



The Diwali celebration hosted on the lawns of State House

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision of a united Guyana came vividly to life, as he hosted a pre-Diwali celebration on the lawns of State House. The event brought together spiritual leaders, government officials, and citizens from all walks of life, reflecting the nation's rich cultural diversity.

In his remarks, President Ali emphasised that **"Our diversity is not a challenge to overcome; it is a blessing to be celebrated."** He noted that hosting Diwali and other cultural observances at State House underscores **"a profound respect for the faiths and traditions that enrich our nation."**

The evening featured cultural performances and traditional Indian cuisine, fostering connection and community among attendees. **"Tonight is not meant to be formal,"** the President said. **"It is a night of spiritual upliftment, of socialising, and sharing in the wonderful tradition of our seven curry in the leaf."**

President Ali highlighted that such events strengthen national unity. **"When we honour each other's beliefs, we strengthen the bonds that hold us together as one people,"** he

said. Guests were invited to share a traditional feast, symbolising family, community, and togetherness.

Acknowledging the support of corporate partners, President Ali praised Clifford Reis and the Banks DIH family, including Citizens Bank, for helping make the celebration possible. He hinted at **"exciting**

with music, lights, and the glow of diyas, the President reflected on Diwali's timeless message: **"Diwali reminds us that darkness can never overpower light, and ignorance can never triumph over knowledge. The spirit of Diwali reminds us that light is meant to be shared... Let us be**



The Diwali celebration hosted on the lawns of State House



President Ali at the Wales Gas to Energy project site

news" for next year's Diwali and Phagwah festivities, linking national celebrations to corporate milestones.

As the night unfolded

the lamps that light our country's path forward together, brighter, united."



The Diwali celebration hosted on the lawns of State House



The Diwali celebration hosted on the lawns of State House



ONE GUYANA SPIRIT SHINES BRIGHT AT DIWALI MOTORCADE

Thousands of Guyanese lined Vlissengen Road and the East Coast Demerara corridor, their faces lit with excitement and devotion, as glittering floats illuminated the streets in a grand celebration of Diwali—the Hindu Festival of Lights.

The vibrant spectacle, filled with music, colour, and unity, once again showcased Guyana's rich cultural harmony.

As he has done with other major religious observances, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali immersed himself in the festivities, walking among citizens, greeting families, and posing for photos with enthusiastic onlookers. His warm interactions reflected his enduring commitment to the "One Guyana" vision, an inclusive nation built on respect, togetherness, and shared joy.

This year's Diwali

motorcade featured 40 elaborately decorated floats crafted by temples and cultural organisations across the country. The procession began at the Shri Krishna Mandir in Campbellville, journeyed along Sandy Babb Street and Vlissengen Road, and culminated at the La Bonne Intention (LBI) Community Centre Ground in a dazzling finale of lights and performances.

At the LBI ground, President Ali joined thousands for the cultural programme and award ceremony, commending the Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha and its President, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, for their leadership in preserving Guyana's vibrant cultural identity.

"This is not just a spiritual moment; it is a celebration of a rich tradition and a beautiful culture," President Ali said,



noting that such grand celebrations are unique to Guyana. He praised the temples, elders, and youth involved, emphasising the importance of nurturing young people through cultural values.

While trophies were awarded for the best floats, the President reminded the crowd that **"no prize could capture the**

greatness of these extraordinary young people."

Joined by ministers, diplomats, and citizens, President Ali called on all Guyanese to light their homes and hearts with love, patience, and unity, celebrating Diwali as one nation, together in hope and harmony.

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GUYANA SHINES BR

Across the country, the glow of Diwali lit up homes, streets, and hearts. From colourful diyas and twinkling lights to beautifully dressed families sharing sweets and laughter, every corner of Guyana sparkled with celebration.

Communities came together in a spirit of unity and love, decorating spaces, exchanging gifts, and joining in vibrant cultural displays and motorcades. The Festival of Lights once again reminded us that kindness, hope, and togetherness will always outshine the darkness.



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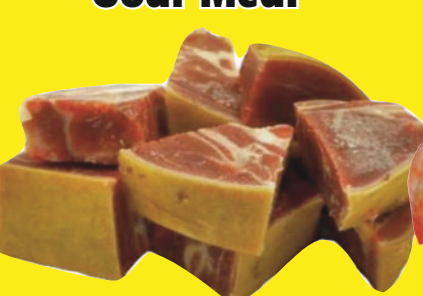
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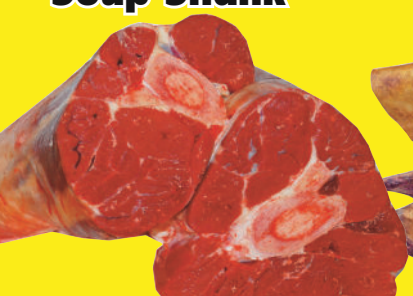
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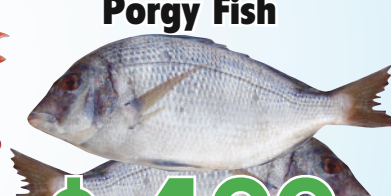
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KINGSTON SEAWALL FARMERS' MARKET SHOWCASES GUYANA'S AGRO-PROCESSING SUCCESS



President Ali at the farmers' market

The Kingston Seawall came alive as local farmers and agro-processors displayed their creativity and hard work at a two-day farmers' market hosted by the Office of the First Lady in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, accompanied by First Lady Mrs. Arya Ali, their son Zayd, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, and Minister of Tourism and Culture Susan Rodrigues, toured the market, where they interacted with producers and patrons. The initiative created a space for local farmers to sell fresh produce directly to consumers while highlighting Guyana's growing agro-processing industry.

Stalls brimming with colourful fruits, vegetables, and locally made goods showcased

the diversity of Guyanese products. Agro-processors offered a range of unique items including sorrel jelly, pepper jelly, sweet potato bread, bunjal paneer, fresh milk, and honeycomb. Many patrons expressed appreciation to government officials for supporting such production. He noted that the development of agro-processing is helping farmers move beyond traditional cultivation into value-added production and export.

Significant investments have already been made to support this shift. The \$23.6 million agro-



President Ali at the farmers' market

helping farmers improve productivity, enhance product quality, and access new markets.

The Karaudarnau facility in Region Nine has been particularly impactful, increasing efficiency and helping farmers overcome challenges related to technology and labour.

Meanwhile, through the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), over 20 local products have been certified as "Made in Guyana", boosting consumer confidence and expanding market access both regionally and internationally.

These initiatives reflect the government's continued commitment to empowering local producers, strengthening the agro-processing sector, and advancing Guyana's role as the Caribbean's food basket.



President Ali at the farmers' market



President Ali at the farmers' market

initiatives that connect small-scale producers to wider markets.

President Ali's visit underscored the government's vision of modernising agriculture, boosting food security, and positioning Guyana as a major player in regional food processing facility in Watooka, Linden, for example, now services more than 600 persons, offering equipment, training, and technical support. Similar facilities established in Parika, Sophia, Ann's Grove, Maruranau, Bina Hill, and Karaudarnau are



President Ali at the farmers' market

SH VEGA CRUISE SHIP BRINGS INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS TO EXPERIENCE 'DESTINATION GUYANA'

Seventy-five passengers and crew aboard the SH Vega Cruise Ship recently experienced the best of "Destination Guyana" when the vessel docked at the Guyana National Shipping Corporation's (GNSC) wharf on October 15, 2025.

The luxury cruise, carrying visitors from the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, and Panama, offered passengers an immersive introduction to Guyana's vibrant culture. Upon disembarking, tourists were welcomed with an exhibition of authentic arts and crafts, alongside an array of local beverages, giving them a taste of the country's rich heritage.

One passenger, John Welling, recalled his previous visit during



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, presenting Captain Varyvoda with a local art piece

Guyana's independence celebrations and expressed excitement at returning. "I was very much looking forward to visiting Guyana and other countries as we sail down the coast," he said.

Captain Oleksii Varyvoda highlighted the significance of including Guyana in the cruise's itinerary after receiving approval from the Guyana Maritime Administration Department (MARAD). He also noted plans to share the experience with the ship's sister vessels, SH Minerva and SH Diana, expanding Guyana's presence in international cruise travel.

During the 12-hour stay, passengers enjoyed guided tours featuring the nation's cultural landmarks, eco-tourism sites, and other attractions that showcase

Guyana's diversity. The SH Vega, originally designed for polar expeditions, has visited remote regions such as Greenland, Antarctica, and Canada, as well as warmer destinations in the Caribbean, including Belize and Jamaica.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, participated in the welcoming ceremony, presenting Captain Varyvoda with a local art piece and emphasising the importance of continued collaboration between Guyana's tourism sector and international cruise operators to boost visitor arrivals.



Passenger John Welling



Passengers disembarking the SH Vega Cruise Ship



The SH Vega Cruise Ship

Guyana, India collaborate on US\$1M project to modernise agro-processing facility

AGRICULTURE Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, on Monday, met with a delegation from NABCONS (NABARD Consultancy Services) and officials from India’s Ministry of External Affairs to discuss the implementation of the Quick Impact Development Project (QIDP).

The initiative, funded through a US \$1 million grant from the Government of India, will support the upgrade and modernisation of the New Guyana Marketing Corporation’s (GMC) Central Packaging Facility at Sophia.

The project will introduce modern, automated processing equipment for fruits, vegetables, and coconuts, aimed at boosting efficiency and productivity in the agro-processing sector.

Minister Mustapha welcomed the collaboration, emphasising that the investment aligns with the government’s broader strategy to expand value-added production,

Guyana plans to manufacture drugs

WITH moves underway to bring Guyana into local pharmaceutical manufacturing, Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, has said that discussions are underway for partners with Guyana to produce drugs equivalent to well-known drugs like Ozempic.

The Minister made this known during the graduation ceremony for a recent cohort of new pharmacists.

Dr Anthony stated that the government’s long-term vision is to transform Guyana into a biomedical and life sciences hub, an initiative designed to foster pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, among other things.

“We aim to move beyond clinical care and become a producer of pharmaceuticals. Our biodiversity provides a rich source of natural compounds that can lead to new medical discoveries. We need scientists and pharmacists who can help us harness these resources responsibly and effectively,” he said.

Further to this, he disclosed that discussions are underway with several international pharmaceutical companies interested in partnering with Guyana to produce biosimilars, medicines equivalent to well-known drugs such as Ozempic.

Ozempic, a prescription medication, is used for adults with diabetes to lower their blood sugar levels.

It works by increasing insulin release, slowing stomach emptying and reducing sugar production by the liver.

The Health Minister went on to add that the partnerships will open doors for industrial pharmacy and local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

improve food safety standards, and enhance Guyana’s ability to access regional and international markets.

“The modernisation of the Central Packaging Facility will increase processing efficiency, reduce post-harvest losses, and provide greater support to our farmers and agro-processors as we continue to advance Guyana’s agri-food transformation agenda,” Minister Mustapha said.

The QIDP reflects Guyana’s ongoing commitment to strengthening its agricultural infrastructure and positioning the country as a competitive player in the regional and global agri-food market.



Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, met with Indian officials

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AIRCRAFT LANDING PERMITS GO FULLY DIGITAL IN GUYANA

Aircraft operators seeking permission to land in Guyana can now apply digitally, following the launch of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority's (GCAA) new e-services landing permit platform. The system, unveiled at the GCAA's Kingston headquarters, positions Guyana as the only CARICOM state offering such a digital service.

The initiative aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision to move Guyana toward a fully digital era, modernising public services and enhancing efficiency.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar praised the GCAA for its forward-thinking approach, noting that the new system brings Guyana in line with international aviation standards. He added that drone operators will soon be able to file applications online, expanding the scope of digital services in the sector.

While acknowledging initial challenges, Minister Indar said the platform represents a crucial step

in improving response times, especially for medical evacuation flights that require quick authorisation.

GCAA's Director General Lt. Col. (ret'd) Egbert Field described the achievement as a milestone in strengthening aviation safety, efficiency, and accessibility. He emphasised that it demonstrates the government's commitment to creating a modern, service-oriented public sector.

Operators can access the platform at <https://permits.civilaviation.gy>, where they are required to log in or register. Applications must include five key documents: valid medical and licence for the flight crew, aircraft registration, airworthiness certificate, and insurance.

With this upgrade, the GCAA will digitise more than 1,600 files, streamlining its operations and improving record management.



Minister of Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar



GCAA's Director General, Lt Col (ret'd) Egbert Field

GOVT UNVEILS PLANS FOR 11 TOURISM VENTURES, NEW AIRPORT



EOIs will be published both locally and internationally

Govt unveils plans for 11 tourism ventures, new airport

The Government will soon invite expressions of interest (EOIs) for 11 new tourism projects across several regions, as part of its plan to build a world-class tourism sector supported by modern infrastructure.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement during his address at the Maple Leaf Gala recently hosted by the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

“Tourism is one of the world’s fastest-growing industries, and Guyana offers massive potential with our rainforests, rivers, and rich cultural heritage,” President Ali said, urging investors to capitalise on Guyana’s growing tourism and hospitality market.

He explained

that the EOIs will be published both locally and internationally to attract private sector proposals for new eco-tourism and adventure tourism initiatives nationwide.

“These 11 projects will be advertised internationally to push our tourism sector,” he confirmed.

President Ali also revealed plans for a new regional airport in Lethem, Region Nine, which will enhance connectivity and support tourism expansion.

“That airport will be supported by 2,000 hectares of development, especially in agro-products,” he added.

These initiatives, he said, form part of the government’s broader strategy to diversify the economy and strengthen non-oil growth through investment and job creation.

TWENTY-FIVE WOMEN FORM BANAKARI GRADUATE AS CERTIFIED CULINARIANS

Twenty-five women from Banakari Village along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are now certified culinarians after successfully completing a four-month commercial food preparation course under the Ministry of Labour’s Board of Industrial Training (BIT) programme.

The graduation ceremony was held at the multipurpose building in Tigerbone, where Alexandra Maria DeAbreau and her peers received their certifications. DeAbreau expressed excitement about the accomplishment and shared her ambition to open a small catering business. **“It’s a very beneficial course and it is nothing difficult,”**

she told the Department of Public Information (DPI), noting her eagerness to pursue more advanced training in the future.

Another graduate, Yeanat John, reflected on how completing the course fulfilled a long-standing dream. **“A few years ago, I wanted to participate in a similar programme, but could not. Now I am certified, and I tell my friends that this course has been good, and I am able to make something of myself,”** she said.

For Arlene Alexander, the training has sparked confidence to start her own business to support her family. **“I would like to encourage all youths to join this course because I have learnt so much,”** she noted.



Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning Keoma Griffith handing over a trophy to the best graduating student, Judith Mendonca



Graduate Arlene Alexander



Graduate, Yeanat John



Graduates Alexandra Maria DeAbreau

Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith, praised the women for their dedication, highlighting that there were no dropouts. He encouraged graduates to transform their skills into sustainable businesses that benefit their communities.

BIT Chief Executive Officer Richard Maughn emphasised that the government’s investment aims to produce tangible results. He noted that BIT would follow up with the graduates to ensure their skills are fully utilised for personal and community development.

Discussions are underway for the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to visit Banakari Village to advise the graduates on starting and managing their own businesses, ensuring that the training translates into meaningful economic opportunities.

DR. JAGDEO PROMISES CRACKDOWN ON GOLD SMUGGLING AND GAMBLING

Vice President of Guyana and People’s Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, recently addressed a wide range of national issues during a press briefing at Freedom House, Georgetown. He highlighted key government initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and economic growth, while addressing social concerns affecting citizens.

STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Jagdeo announced that the Government of Guyana (GOG) will move to amend legislation to enable the launch of a dedicated procurement website next year. The new portal is designed to broaden access to government-funded projects, providing more opportunities for local contractors and businesses.

“Currently, the state spends heavily on advertising, such as the \$800 million spent in 2024, but the results are often unsatisfactory,” Dr. Jagdeo explained. “Once ads are published in newspapers for a day, except for online editions, they disappear. This website will ensure sustained visibility and wider reach, including hinterland communities.”

He also emphasised that the initiative will reduce government expenditure on traditional advertising platforms and leverage online media outlets to reach more people, aligning with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public procurement.

MONETISING GUYANA’S GAS RESOURCES

Dr. Jagdeo reaffirmed the government’s commitment to monetising Guyana’s gas assets through private-sector-led initiatives in collaboration with ExxonMobil. He addressed recent

remarks by ExxonMobil President Alistair Routledge, who indicated that converting associated gas to liquified natural gas (LNG) is not a current priority for the company.

“The government’s intention has always been to pursue a tripartite arrangement that ensures productive use of associated gas,” Dr. Jagdeo said. He noted that if ExxonMobil does not prioritise the project, other contractors will be considered to advance gas monetisation, ensuring the country benefits from its resources.

Dr. Jagdeo stressed that infrastructure for alternative uses would take longer to develop and that the government does not intend to invest directly, leaving project leadership to the private sector. “Anything that monetises the gas, either for industry or for the people, will be a priority for us,” he stated.

The Vice President recalled that President Ali had announced plans in January 2024 to accelerate monetisation of the nation’s gas resources, estimated at 17 trillion cubic feet (tcf), and that Expressions of Interest (EOIs) have since been received to develop a viable model for the sector.

CALL FOR INVESTIGATION INTO GOLD SMUGGLING

Highlighting government’s efforts to safeguard national resources, Dr. Jagdeo called for a full investigation into alleged gold smuggling involving the Mohamed family, estimated at US\$50 million. He urged the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) and the police to investigate officials and Gold Board personnel who may have been complicit in the scheme.

The Vice President referred to the indictment by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, which charges Nazar Mohamed and his son Azruddin with wire fraud, mail fraud,



Vice President, and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

and money laundering related to the export of gold to the U.S., noting that taxes and royalties lost amounted to over US\$50 million.

Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that the investigation should cover the APNU-led 2015–2020 period, as well as the current government’s tenure, maintaining that no political vendetta would influence the probe. “We did not want these matters to be dealt with during the election period. That time is now,” he stated.

REGULATING GAMBLING TO PROTECT FAMILIES

Addressing the rising social impact of gambling, Dr. Jagdeo announced that the government will introduce regulatory reforms and stricter taxation to curb the negative effects of uncontrolled betting, particularly through mobile applications.

“What we have

now is gambling on demand. It’s in every home; it’s an app,” he said, warning that unregulated gambling is creating significant social problems, especially among single parents and mothers. He called for a shift to high-cost, tightly regulated gambling to discourage excess while respecting citizens’ rights.

The Vice President highlighted that gambling, initially intended to support the hotel industry, has expanded uncontrollably to hundreds of small outlets across the country. “This is destroying people. If they want to gamble, they should do so at designated venues, not from home using their salary or children’s money,” he urged.

Religious organisations have raised concerns, prompting the government to act swiftly to prevent further social harm.

ACCELERATING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Jagdeo also outlined government plans to build 40,000 new housing units over the next five years, urging local contractors to form consortia to meet national demand and avoid delays seen in previous projects. He stressed that contractors must adopt innovative approaches to planning, construction, and execution, noting that more than 8,000 homes must be built annually to meet targets.

“This is not about giving out a few houses to a contractor who delivers slowly with poor-quality materials,” he said. Dr. Jagdeo encouraged exploring prefabricated housing and partnerships with international firms to accelerate construction.

Additionally, the government is reviewing multiple models to assist

citizens in building their own homes, including village funds and material grants, with tailored approaches for coastal and hinterland communities. Dr. Jagdeo assured that the next national budget would include allocations to support this ambitious housing programme.

He recalled that between 2020 and 2025, the PPP/C government allocated over 50,000 house lots, exceeding its initial targets, laying a strong foundation for the next phase of national housing development.

Through initiatives in procurement, gas monetisation, gold smuggling investigations, gambling regulation, and housing development, Dr. Jagdeo emphasised the government’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and strategic development for the benefit of all Guyanese.

GDF CELEBRATES 60 YEARS WITH MEDAL PRESENTATION PARADE HONOURING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) marked its 60th anniversary with a solemn and pride-filled Medal Presentation Parade at Base Camp Ayangana, where President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, decorated Officers and other ranks for their faithful, exemplary, and distinguished service.

A total of 871 special medals were approved for issuance, with 32 conferred at the parade.

The remaining recipients will receive their medals at a later date.

Addressing the assembled ranks, President Ali described the occasion as a celebration of six decades of unwavering commitment to national security and sovereignty. **“Each medal conferred today tells a story, a moment of sacrifice, an act of leadership, a mission fulfilled, and a record of dedicated service,”** he said.

Medals awarded included the Military Efficiency Medal, recognising officers and ranks who complete 10 years of continuous service without disciplinary issues, and the Border Defence Medal, which honours personnel protecting Guyana’s frontiers with patience, perseverance, and pride. **“The mark of Guyana on that medal is a promise that our land will always be defended by those who love it**

most,” President Ali emphasised.

Five new medals were also introduced to recognise excellence across diverse operations, including Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Response, Engineering and Border Operations, Special Operations, and Joint Services Operations. President Ali highlighted that these medals honour service beyond combat, from saving lives during



President Ali greeting one of the recipients at the Medal Presentation Parade

floods to building partners to uphold bridges, delivering relief, national peace and and working alongside safety.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has expressed concern over

conflicting statements made by the Venezuelan Ambassador in Georgetown regarding a visit by Mr. Nazar

FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLS FOR HONESTY FOLLOWING EMBASSY VISIT CONFUSION

Mohamed to the Venezuelan Embassy for a visa application.

The Ministry noted that the Ambassador’s recent denial contradicts his earlier account provided during a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. At that meeting, the Ambassador had confirmed Mr. Mohamed’s visit,

providing details about the documentation submitted and the purpose of the engagement.

A discrepancy also emerged regarding the timing of the visit. While the event referenced in the visa application was said to be scheduled for July 2025, the actual visit to the Embassy occurred in August 2025. This timeline was

confirmed directly by the Ambassador during the clarification meeting.

Describing the recent denial as troubling and inconsistent, the Ministry emphasised the importance of transparency and accountability in diplomatic interactions.

The Ministry reaffirmed that all foreign mission representatives accredited to Guyana

are expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty, professionalism, and respect for established diplomatic norms.

For transparency and reference, the Ministry has attached the invitation letter related to Mr. Mohamed’s Embassy visit, providing documentation of the matter in question.

ANKLE MONITORS AND SAFE CITY TECH TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME PROTECTION FOR DV VICTIMS

As part of national efforts to combat domestic violence, the Government of Guyana is introducing innovative measures to protect victims and hold offenders accountable. Among these initiatives are ankle monitoring systems, enhanced surveillance technology, and alert apps.

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, explained that ankle monitoring bracelets will allow authorities to track

offenders in real time, sending automated alerts if they approach restricted areas or come near a victim. This proactive approach aims to prevent further violence and provide victims with greater peace of mind.

Minister Walrond also highlighted the expansion of the Safe City Initiative, which uses facial recognition, vehicle tracking, and license plate recognition to support investigations and speed up response

times. An accompanying alert app, functioning like a panic button, enables persons in danger to quickly contact authorities for emergency assistance.

“The government has a mandate to deliver a safe and secure country. People should be able to walk freely with their children without fear,” Minister Walrond stated, emphasising that the initiatives are part of a broader commitment to



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

public safety.

The minister noted that building trust between citizens and the Guyana Police Force

is crucial, stressing transparency and accountability at every step.

In addition to these

safety measures, the Ministry prioritises the juvenile justice system, focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that help young people rebuild their lives.

Minister Walrond underscored that addressing the root causes of crime, alongside technology-driven solutions and support systems, is essential for national security. These measures reflect the government’s determination to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all Guyanese.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr, represented Guyana

Guyana has achieved a major milestone in international sports governance, being elected to the Approval Committee of the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, its first-ever leadership role within a global anti-doping body.

The election took place during the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against

GUYANA EARNS SEAT ON GLOBAL ANTI-DOPING FUND COMMITTEE

Doping in Sport, held at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris, where Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr, represented Guyana.

This achievement highlights the country’s growing reputation and commitment to clean and fair play in sports, as well as its expanding

influence in global sports administration.

The Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, created in 2008, supports nations in developing and executing effective anti-doping programmes. By securing a seat on its Approval Committee, Guyana will now play

a key role in evaluating and approving funding for anti-doping projects worldwide.

Since its establishment, the fund has channelled over USD \$5 million into more than 200 initiatives, prioritising education, policy development, and capacity-building—

especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Guyana’s election marks a proud step forward in advancing integrity and fairness in international sport.

NAMILCO UNVEILS \$10B PLAN FOR GUYANA

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali welcomed executives of the National Milling Company of Guyana (NAMILCO) as they unveiled a \$10 billion investment plan to transform the country's flour milling industry and strengthen regional food security.

Owned and managed by Seaboard Corporation, a Fortune 500 agribusiness and transportation company, NAMILCO's expansion will fund the construction of a state-of-the-art processing mill, expanded wheat storage facilities, and an enhanced wharf to



President Ali meets NAMILCO Executives on major expansion plans

support both domestic consumption and growing export demand. **"This expansion represents more than an investment in infrastructure. It's an investment in people, skills, and the sustainable future of Guyana's food industry,"** said Mr.

Jack Bresky, CEO and President of Seaboard Overseas Trading Group. He emphasised that the project aligns with President Ali's vision for regional food security and value-added production. The new mill is expected to boost production

capabilities, create significant employment opportunities, and incorporate modern technologies and training programmes to develop local expertise in advanced milling operations. Construction is slated to begin in early 2026, with commissioning targeted for 2027.

In addition to flour production, NAMILCO is exploring the commercialisation of cassava flour, supporting agricultural innovation and national self-sufficiency. The company is also assessing potential ventures in integrated pork production and

LNG distribution, reflecting Seaboard's long-term confidence in Guyana's economy. This investment follows the successful commissioning of NAMILCO's Mixing Plant in 2023, which laid the groundwork

for expanded value-added food production. Mr. Bresky said, **"Together, we're building a stronger, more resilient food system for Guyana, the Caribbean, and beyond."**



President Ali meets NAMILCO Executives on major expansion plans

PRESIDENT ALI MEETS BLUMBERG GRAIN'S EXECUTIVES ON FOOD HUB EXPANSION



President Ali meets Blumberg Grain executives to advance regional food hub plans

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with an executive team from Blumberg Grain and Logistics, the United States-based agriculture company partnering with the Government of Guyana to strengthen

the country's position as a regional food hub and expand export capacity. The visiting team was led by U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Her Excellency Nicole Theriot, and included Blumberg Grain's Chief

Executive Officer, Mr. Phillip Blumberg, and Senior Vice President, Mr. Jeff Speaks. During the meeting, President Ali received updates on the progress of ongoing works since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the company and the Government of Guyana in July 2025. The discussions also explored new areas of expansion to enhance Guyana's agro-logistics capabilities and improve regional food distribution and export systems.

Particular emphasis was placed on creating opportunities for small farmers and local agro-processors to integrate into the supply chain, ensuring that the benefits of the initiative reach producers at every level. President Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to building a resilient and modern agricultural sector, underscoring that investments in logistics, storage, and technology are key to achieving food security for Guyana and the wider Caribbean.

Also present at the meeting were Minister of Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, and Director of Presidential Affairs, Mrs. Marcia Nadir-Sharma. The collaboration between Blumberg Grain and the Government of Guyana is expected to play a pivotal role in the administration's Food Security and Agro-Industrial Development Agenda, supporting the nation's goal of becoming a leading food producer and exporter in the Caribbean region.



President Ali meets Blumberg Grain executives to advance regional food hub plans

FROM 44 TO 48 BAGS - FARMERS SEE BENEFITS OF NANO UREA FERTILISER

Rice farmers in Guyana are already seeing the benefits of the country's first nano urea fertiliser, introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB).

Launched at the GRDB facility in Burma, Mahaicony, Region Five, the fertiliser is designed to improve nutrient uptake, reduce wastage, and lower environmental impact, supporting higher yields and more sustainable farming practices.

Farmer Tekram Sankar of Region Two shared that before using



Rice farmer Tekram Sankar of Region Two

the nano fertiliser, his rice production averaged 44 bags per acre. Over the past year, with the new fertiliser, his output has increased to 48 bags

per acre, highlighting the tangible benefits for local farmers. Addressing attendees at the launch, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha emphasised the government's commitment to innovation and efficiency in the rice sector. **"This investment in this type of fertiliser will do a number of things for the rice industry, and we have to change our culture and change the way we do things,"** he said. The minister also noted the PPP/C administration's efforts to support farmers, spending over \$4 billion in fertiliser nationwide

since 2024. While the area under cultivation has not significantly increased, production has grown thanks to GRDB's research, which introduced three new rice varieties in the last five years: GRDB 16, GRDB 18, and bio-fortified rice capable of withstanding drought conditions. To ensure proper use of the product, GRDB will host workshops nationwide, helping farmers maximise yields. The launch was also attended by GRDB General Manager Badrie Persaud, TERI Director Dr. G.R. Narsimha Rao, and Second Secretary of the Indian High



Guyana launches first Nano Urea Fertiliser

Commissioner's Office, Suman Singh. The nano urea fertiliser marks a significant step forward for Guyana's rice industry, offering farmers

higher productivity, cost efficiency, and environmentally sustainable practices.

NEW HOMES FOR 28 FAMILIES



More families celebrate fresh start as government and IDB expand access to sustainable housing (3)

Twenty-eight American Development Bank (IDB) Country Representative, Lorena Solórzano-Salazar. Also present were Director of Community Development, Gladwin Charles, Deputy Director Donell Bess-Bascom, and staff of the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA). The keys were handed over by Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, alongside Minister within the Ministry, Vanessa Benn, and Inter-

selected during the programme's open application phase, which has since concluded. To date, 176 homes have been handed over, including the 28 presented recently. Each 400-square-foot core home features two bedrooms, a kitchen area, and a washroom, with beneficiaries contributing GY\$100,000 toward construction, a modest investment in a foundation for a better future. For many recipients, the homes represent a long-awaited fresh start. Cindy Sookhoo, who had been living in a deteriorating structure, expressed relief, saying the new home would greatly improve her standard of living. Sharon Shepherd, previously residing with relatives and friends, shared her excitement: "I

won't have any more problems at nobody house or anything. I'm so happy I have my house to move in." Meanwhile, Lynette James noted the new home would make a meaningful difference for her and her sons, giving them a "cosy little home" to call their own. Addressing the event, Minister Croal reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that housing is a right, not a luxury. "Our commitment is that every Guyanese must have access to adequate housing and improved living conditions, regardless of income or circumstance," he said. Minister Benn encouraged families to take pride in their new homes, highlighting that they were designed

for future expansion to accommodate growing families. Solórzano-Salazar emphasised the IDB's continued partnership with the government to bridge housing gaps among low-income families, noting the programme's broader socio-economic impact. The \$5.8 billion AHUAP comprises three components: Affordable and Sustainable Housing, Consolidation of Existing

Housing Schemes, and Institutional Strengthening. Its reach spans Georgetown, Grove on the East Bank, Haslington on the East Coast, and several West Bank communities, including Westminster, Onderneeming, Recht-



More families celebrate fresh start as government and IDB expand access to sustainable housing

COLLATERAL REGISTRY NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL —MAKING LOANS EASIER FOR BUSINESSES

Access to credit has become easier for Guyanese entrepreneurs as the Collateral Registry is now fully operational, allowing business owners to use movable property, such as vehicles or equipment, as collateral for loans. During the "Issues in the News" programme, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, explained that the registry was established

under the Security Interest in Movable Property Act No. 20 of 2024, housed within the Deeds and Commercial Registry. "This legislation allows persons to take out credit or buy movable properties on credit using those same properties, or other movable assets, as collateral," Minister Nandlall said. The system marks a major step in



The system marks a major step in modernising Guyana's business landscape

modernising Guyana's business and financial landscape, aligning with the country's fast-growing economy. While initial technical delays slowed implementation, the Attorney General confirmed that all issues have been resolved and the registry is now fully functional. Training sessions have been completed for banking and commercial stakeholders, as well as registry staff, to

ensure seamless service delivery. The government has also repealed the outdated Bills of Sale Act, removing barriers to efficient transactions. Minister Nandlall reaffirmed the PPP/C administration's commitment to improving the ease of doing business through ongoing legislative reform.

NEW GENERATION OF AGRICULTURISTS JOINS DRIVE FOR FOOD SECURITY

Twenty-one-year-old Shannon Wilson of Ithaca Village, West Bank Berbice, is among 84 graduates from the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) ready to apply their skills to advance Guyana's growing food sector. At the school's graduation ceremony held at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown, Wilson reflected on his journey, marked by early mornings, late nights, and a disciplined mindset. "The government's investments are just



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Education Sonia Parag, and Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Vickash Ramkissoon with the 2025 GSA graduates

encouraging, and it feels great that I'm now moving on to greater things in life," Wilson said. "Agriculture provides a foundation, so even

if you branch off into other fields, it's a good place to start." Wilson plans to continue his studies while contributing to his community and the nation's agricultural

development. Another graduate, Alyah McDonald, expressed optimism about the opportunities available to young people in the sector. "It's a great support

and initiative that helps young people own businesses, explore, and bring revenues into their communities," she shared. The graduates received diplomas in animal health, veterinary public health, and agriculture, as well as certificates in forestry and agro-processing. Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, joined by Minister of Education Sonia Parag and Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture Vickash Ramkissoon, congratulated the class

of 2025 and underscored the importance of their role. "You are leaving with a mandate, to improve agricultural productivity in sustainable, inclusive, and innovative ways, and to lead with science, technology, and data-driven solutions," Minister Mustapha urged. This year, the GSA recorded one of its highest enrollment rates, reflecting growing youth interest in agriculture as a vital, rewarding career.

FARMERS WIN BIG WITH NEW NAREI FACILITIES

As Guyana celebrates Agriculture Month 2025, farmers across the country are set to reap the benefits of two new cutting-edge facilities at the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI). The newly commissioned composting unit and ant bait production facility are designed to support sustainable, climate-smart agriculture while boosting productivity and reducing reliance on imported products.



The equipment in the laboratory that will be used to produce the ant bait

The composting unit uses red wigglers to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich vermicompost, providing farmers with a natural, eco-friendly alternative to chemical fertilisers. NAREI's Research Assistant Lauren Paddy praised the initiative, saying, **"This unit promotes environmentally friendly practices and gives farmers a sustainable option to improve soil fertility."**

The ant bait production facility addresses one of agriculture's most persistent challenges: pest control. Equipped with a semi-automatic mixing and pelleting system, it produces approximately 30,000 packs of ant bait annually. The bait contains attractants that target colonies at the source, helping farmers manage infestations effectively while

supporting integrated pest management practices.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, highlighted the significance of these investments. **"Without agriculture, we cannot achieve food security. That is**



Lauren Paddy, research assistant at NAREI

why the government



The newly commissioned Composting Unit at NAREI

is committed to modernising the sector," he said during the commissioning ceremony.

By providing locally produced compost and ant bait, NAREI is empowering farmers with practical, cost-effective solutions to protect crops, improve yields, and promote sustainability. These facilities reflect the

government's broader vision for a resilient, self-sufficient agricultural sector driven by research, innovation, and community empowerment.

With these new tools, Guyana's farmers are better equipped to overcome challenges, boost productivity, and contribute to national food security, marking a major win for the agricultural community.

CARICOM EXTENDS "25 BY 2025" FOOD PLAN



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha during the meeting

Ministers of Agriculture from across the Caribbean have officially endorsed the "25 by 2025 + 5" Implementation Plan during this year's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). The initiative is part of CARICOM's

broader Agri-Food Systems Strategy, aimed at boosting regional food production, reducing import dependency, and strengthening food security.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, who chairs CARICOM's Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security, highlighted the progress made in the initiative's first phase despite challenges posed by climate change, rising input costs, and global market shocks.

"At the regional level, achievement rates for our 2025 production targets

have grown from 57% in 2022 to 82% in 2024, reflecting an overall production increase of 23.1%," Minister Mustapha said. **"Accelerated growth was recorded at 8.9% between 2022-2023 and 13% between 2023-2024."**

The extension of the initiative to 2030 provides the opportunity to consolidate gains, scale up production, and deepen regional cooperation. Minister Mustapha noted that the collective goal is to reach 4.3 million tonnes of regional food production by 2030, which will reduce the

food import bill, enhance intra-regional trade, and improve technical collaboration across CARICOM.

He stressed the importance of partnerships and the removal of trade barriers for the success of the initiative. **"For Guyana, our 2030 targets include over one million tonnes of rice, nearly 500,000 tonnes of vegetables, 300,000 tonnes of coconut, and 100,000 tonnes of poultry. We are also scaling production of corn, soy, root crops, fruits, honey, and fisheries. Achieving these goals depends on strong collaboration with the regional private sector, international partners, and technical capacity-**



Chairman and Barbados' Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Indar Weir and CARICOM Rep. Shaun Baugh

building for farmers," he said.

Regional officials noted that while import volumes have declined, rising global prices require strategic adjustments to ensure the initiative remains effective. Guyana's leadership, including President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Minister Mustapha, was praised for advancing the regional Food Security

Agenda and serving as a model of agricultural diversification and resilience.

The Agri-Food Systems Strategy, originally aimed at reducing CARICOM's food imports by 25% by 2025 with priority on crops such as rice, poultry, corn, and niche vegetables, will now continue to 2030 to further strengthen food security in the region.

The Government's determined push toward national food security and self-sufficiency, continues to gain strong backing from the local private sector, with key industry leaders pledging their full support.

Managing Director of Bounty Farm Limited, David Fernandes, speaking on the *Starting Point* podcast, commended the government's vision to transform the agriculture sector and urged greater collaboration among stakeholders to make that goal a reality.

"The



Managing Director of Bounty Farm Limited, David Fernandes

government's plan for food security and self-reliance cannot succeed without a collective effort. For

us to truly achieve self-sufficiency, we need a large percentage of the population engaged in feeding the nation," Fernandes emphasised.

He noted that Guyana's growing agricultural drive presents enormous opportunities, not only for existing farmers, but also for young people eager to contribute to national development.

"The next

generation of entrepreneurs must step up, dream big, and put their muscles to the wheel, not just talk about it," he said, underscoring the importance of discipline, innovation, and hard work in revitalising the sector.

Fernandes encouraged young Guyanese to look beyond online activities and instead embrace the practical, rewarding

work of food production, which he described as central to the country's long-term prosperity.

He reaffirmed that the private sector stands ready to partner with government to ensure the success of the national food security agenda. **"It's about creating a culture of productivity and purpose, where we all play a role in sustaining our nation,"** he added.

Bounty Farm Limited, the Fernandes family enterprise, is Guyana's largest poultry producer and a major contributor to local agriculture, milling, and shipping. The company's long-standing presence in the sector reflects the private sector's vital role in advancing Guyana's food production goals and supporting the vision of a self-sufficient nation.

INVESTING IN GIRLS STRENGTHENS GUYANA'S FUTURE - PM PHILLIPS



The inaugural 'Mantle of Deborah' Builders' Summit at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, has emphasised that Guyana's continued transformation must be guided by moral leadership, integrity, and the full participation of women in national development. Delivering the keynote address at the inaugural 'Mantle of Deborah' Builders' Summit at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, the Prime Minister noted

that true leadership is measured not by power or position, but by purpose, conviction, and service to others. He described the launch of the Guyana chapter as a meaningful step toward fostering moral renewal, inclusion, and leadership rooted in values and service. Highlighting the government's commitment to women's empowerment, Prime Minister Phillips pointed to the increasing number of women in senior leadership roles. Women now lead key ministries including Home Affairs, Education, Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Local Government and Regional Development, and Housing. They also serve as permanent secretaries, CEOs, members of parliament,

and senior officers within the security and defence forces. "Development cannot be sustained unless women are given the space to lead, the tools to prosper, and the respect they deserve," he said. "For decades, women have been the quiet yet powerful force behind progress in this country. Today,

we are ensuring that this quiet strength is matched by visible opportunity." He highlighted initiatives such as the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), which has trained over 11,000 women in entrepreneurship, leadership, and vocational skills. Many have launched businesses and now lead

community projects. He also referenced the expansion of day and night care centres, the Homestead Programme for single mothers, and the Family Violence Act 2024, which strengthens protection for women facing abuse. Drawing inspiration from the biblical figure Deborah, Prime Minister Phillips underscored leadership as a moral duty. "The Mantle of Deborah reminds us that leadership is born of service, it is not only administrative but also ethical," he said, adding that faith-based movements support Guyana's pursuit of transparency, compassion, and ethical governance. The Prime Minister further highlighted

investments in education and youth development, particularly for girls, including tuition-free tertiary education at the University of Guyana and the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), benefiting over 39,000 students, more than 40 per cent of whom are women. "When we invest in the girl child, families thrive, communities prosper, and economies grow," he stated. Prime Minister Phillips urged all citizens, institutions, and communities to collaborate in advancing women's empowerment and moral leadership across Guyana. The summit was attended by Minister of Education Sonia Parag, Minister of Labour Keoma Griffith, and Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn.



The inaugural 'Mantle of Deborah' Builders' Summit at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown



Ashanti Jeffery

Over 90 individuals, including 88 new graduates, have completed training under the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) as the government continues to invest in skills development to meet the growing demands of Guyana's job



Chandra Geer

market. The graduation ceremony was held at Tipperary Hall, Buxton. The four-month programme offered courses in Food and Commercial Preparation, Agro-Food Processing, Information Technology, and Furniture Making, fields



Euffa McLenna

designed to empower communities and create opportunities across all regions. Among the graduates was Ashanti Jeffery, who completed the Food and Commercial Preparation course. She shared that she joined the programme

BIT GRADUATES URGED TO 'PUSH BEYOND THE LIMIT'

to strengthen the skills she first developed in secondary school, encouraging others to "try new things." Mabevi Ramnaraine and Chandra Geer, both teachers, pursued Agro-Food Processing to better guide their students. Geer, of Good Hope Secondary School, noted that the training will help her students apply their knowledge to everyday life and future careers in agriculture. From the agricultural village where she lives,

Euffa McLenna said she enrolled to learn ways to reduce food waste through preservation and processing. BIT's Chief Executive Officer, Richard Maughn, in addressing the graduates, urged them not to be content with their certificates but to "push beyond the limit". He highlighted that over the past five years, the government has invested in training more than 15,000 Guyanese, including 4,571 from Region Four.

"This is not just about numbers," Maughn stressed. "It's about stories of success, people acquiring skills that match the rapid pace of development and the opportunities it brings." In total, the government has invested more than \$310 million in BIT over the past five years to equip citizens with the tools to improve their livelihoods and contribute to national growth.

YOUNG WOMEN INSPIRED TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

The Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA) of the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security joined the global observance of International Day of the Girl Child under the theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead." The celebration began with an opening ceremony at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown, followed by a day of engaging discussions and fun-filled activities at the Kingston Seawall, all aimed at inspiring and empowering girls to

embrace their potential and leadership. Delivering remarks, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, highlighted the importance of creating supportive spaces where girls can connect, learn, and be inspired by one another. She noted that empowerment begins with understanding one's worth and believing in one's ability to lead change. The mentorship sessions brought together accomplished women from diverse



professions who shared personal stories about their challenges, sacrifices, and successes. Minister Persaud said such exchanges help to foster trust, understanding, and

confidence among young girls. "This event is about heartfelt moments—hearing from women who were once girls like you, their struggles

and triumphs, and how they made it to where they are today," she said. The day's activities continued with a vibrant march to the Kingston Seawall, symbolising unity and strength, where the girls celebrated their shared power to achieve their dreams. The afternoon featured cultural performances, yoga, sports, and traditional games that promoted wellness, teamwork, and joy. Minister Persaud reminded participants

that each girl possesses limitless potential. "The intention is to help young women understand that within their 24 hours, they can do anything and everything they aspire to," she affirmed. Through the celebration, the ministry reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing confident, capable, and compassionate young women who will shape Guyana's future. The International Day of the Girl focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

UG MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPANSION EXAMINED IN REGION SIX

As part of ongoing efforts to expand and decentralise medical education, Education Minister Sonia Parag recently visited potential sites in Region Six to identify spaces suitable for University of Guyana (UG) medical students who cannot be accommodated at the Turkeyen Campus.

Minister Parag, accompanied by Advisor on Education Reform Dr. Kofi Dalrymple and Regional Executive Officer Narindra Persaud, expressed satisfaction with the facilities at UG's Tain, Berbice campus, noting that they meet the



Minister Sonia Parag examining possible sites for the UG medical school in the region

academic and logistical requirements needed for the programme.

In September, Minister Parag and Minister of Health, Dr.

Frank Anthony met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Paloma Mohamed and UG officials to discuss the expansion and decentralisation of

the university's medical studies. The initiative is part of the Government's commitment to ensure that all qualified students have access to medical education, despite space limitations at the Turkeyen Campus.

The need for expansion has grown since UG became tuition-free, resulting in a significant increase in eligible students. The first phase of the programme will focus on extending medical studies to Regions Two, Three, and Six.

Officials note that the move will not only accommodate more students, but also



Minister Sonia Parag examining possible sites for the UG medical school in the region

address labour gaps in the health sector, which has recently seen the addition of six new state-of-the-art hospitals, with specialty facilities planned for the near future.

Minister Parag reiterated that expanding

medical education across regions will strengthen Guyana's healthcare system while providing more opportunities for aspiring doctors to pursue their studies locally.



The session with the Maths Monitors

As part of efforts to expand and intensify the Mathematics Intervention

Programme, Minister of Education Sonia Parag met with a group of 'Maths Monitors'

EDUCATION MINISTER ENGAGES MATHS MONITORS TO STRENGTHEN INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

to review progress and identify areas for improvement. The programme has already achieved a five percent increase in passes at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examination.

During the session, Minister Parag emphasised the importance of honest assessment, encouraging educators

to acknowledge and address any gaps in the programme. **"For this to happen, we have to start from a point of honesty,"** she said.

The Minister highlighted that the five percent improvement represents over 500 students, and praised the monitors for their dedication and hard work. **"We thank you all for all the hard**

work that you have put into making that happen," she added.

Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussain reminded the monitors of their authority to implement necessary changes in the best interest of Guyana's children. Minister Parag expressed confidence that with collective effort, the Maths Intervention Programme will achieve

even greater results.

Also participating in the discussions were Permanent Secretary Shannielle Hoosein-Outar; Chief Planning Officer Mischka White-Griffith; Assistant Chief Education Officer for Secondary Education Sherwyn Blackman; and Mathematics Intervention Coordinator Sir Leon Beaton.

MINISTER PARAG INSPIRES NEW TEACHERS TO SHAPE GUYANA'S FUTURE

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, has called on the new cohort of trainee teachers at the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE) to embrace their crucial role in building the nation's future.

She highlighted that education is a lifelong journey and praised Government's efforts

that have boosted teacher training, with 98% of teachers now trained through CPCE, up from 68% in 2020.

For the first time, CPCE will offer specialised programmes in Geography, History, Chemistry, Physics, French, Portuguese, and Health and Family Life Education.

New initiatives also include a one-year training programme for Guidance and Counselling Officers and a six-week programme for supporting children with special needs.

Minister Parag urged trainees to uphold integrity, professionalism, and patience, stressing that

teachers shape not only minds, but also the moral and emotional development of students.

"Teach with passion, serve with pride, and inspire with purpose. Your students become your children; nurture them as such," she said.

She congratulated



The minister addressing the trainee teachers

the trainees and reaffirmed the Ministry's continued support

throughout their journey at CPCE.

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is set to launch a Women and Girls Network, a programme designed to provide mentorship and transformative skills training, empowering young girls in Guyana to pursue success and self-discovery.

Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud announced the initiative during a programme marking International Day of the Girl Child at the Umana Yana in Kingston, Georgetown.

MENTORSHIP AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR GIRLS TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN NEW INITIATIVE



Scene from the event at the Umana Yana in Kingston

She emphasised that the network aims to prepare girls for the challenges they will face as they transition into womanhood.

"We live in a world where we cannot divorce reality, and that reality is that girls experience many challenges," Dr. Persaud said. **"It is about sharing your experiences and providing**

mentorship to guide them toward an exciting future."

The initiative will provide participants with access to programmes and support mechanisms through the Child Care and Protection Agency and the Ministry of Human Services.

Dr. Persaud also highlighted the strides girls are making in education. **"More girls are completing**

high school, and at the University of Guyana, female students outnumber males," she noted.

Event participants engaged in mentorship sessions led by influential women from across the country, as well as interactive games aimed at fostering teamwork, self-esteem, and personal growth.

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PRESIDENT ALI LEADS GUYANA POLICE FORCE'S XI TO VICTORY IN MEMORIAL CRICKET MATCH

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali showcased his cricketing skills as he led the Guyana Police Force's Select XI to a convincing



The memorial match honouring the late Detective Randolph Holder

72-run victory over the visiting New York Police Department Veterans team in a memorial match honouring the late Detective Randolph Holder, a proud Guyanese American who died in the line of duty in 2015. Batting first at Eve Leary, the Police Force XI posted a strong total of 229-5. Troy Benn starred with a brilliant century, scoring 100 runs, while Michael Newland added 39 and Deputy Commissioner Ravindrada Budhram contributed 27, setting a challenging target for the visitors. In response, the NYPD Veterans were restricted to 157-9 in their 20 overs. Ivor Trotz led the bowling attack with an impressive 3-27, supported by Ronald Ali's 2-28. President Ali also made key contributions with the ball, claiming two crucial wickets, including visiting captain Gurmeet Singh (LBW for 1) and Toufique Chowdury (caught for 9), helping secure the win. The match was played in tribute to Detective Holder's legacy and highlighted the strong camaraderie and sporting spirit shared between law enforcement communities. President Ali's



The memorial match honouring the late Detective Randolph Holder

participation and leadership on the field underscored his commitment to honouring fallen heroes while promoting community engagement through sport.

NEW AMSTERDAM STADIUM TAKING SHAPE, TRACK INSTALLATION TO BEGIN SOON

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport recently announced that construction of the New Amsterdam Track and Field stadium has reached over 85 per cent completion, marking significant progress in the development of Region Six's first modern athletic facility.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr., accompanied by Minister within the Ministry Steven Jacobs, regional officials, and representatives from Regupol, the German company responsible for installing the synthetic track, provided the update during a recent



An aerial view of the soon-to-be completed New Amsterdam Synthetic Track

site visit. Minister Ramson confirmed that installation of the synthetic track is imminent, and will take approximately five to six weeks to complete. He further noted that the multi-purpose facility remains on schedule for completion this year, provided that favourable weather conditions continue. Highlighting the government's commitment to expanding sports infrastructure across Guyana, Minister Ramson said such investments are key drivers of economic

growth, community development, and national pride. He pointed to the transformative impact of the Guyana National Stadium at Providence, which spurred hotel construction, housing development, and the expansion of culinary and entertainment services in the surrounding area. "The same thing will happen here. You will start to see hotels being built, restaurants and entertainment facilities opening, and more jobs being created," he stated. Minister Ramson added that these facilities also help to position

Guyana as a regional sports destination, capable of hosting international events. "Cricket and other sports have evolved, and hosting them now requires greater investment and government involvement," he said, reaffirming the administration's support for sports as a pillar of social and economic progress. Once completed, the New Amsterdam Track and Field Stadium will serve as a major hub for athletics, youth development, and community engagement in Berbice.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson (Third from left) and Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs (First from left) during their visit

ROSANNA FUNG MAKES HISTORY AS GUYANA'S FIRST IFBB WORLD CHAMPION



Fung becomes the first Guyanese athlete to claim a World Championship title in bodybuilding

Guyana is celebrating as Rosanna Fung has won the IFBB World Championship in the Wellness category at the Binous Classics in Dubai, becoming the first Guyanese athlete to claim a World Championship title in bodybuilding. Competing against elite international athletes on one of the Middle East's most respected bodybuilding stages, Fung delivered an outstanding performance, demonstrating exceptional dedication, discipline, and skill. Her achievement not only

highlights her personal excellence, but also showcases the talent and potential of Guyanese athletes on a global platform. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali extended his heartiest congratulations to Fung, noting that her triumph represents more than just a personal accomplishment. "Rosanna's victory is a symbol of national pride and a milestone in Guyana's growing presence in global fitness and bodybuilding," he said. "She has shown that Guyanese talent can rise to the very top of the world." This historic win not only highlights Fung's personal achievement, but also cements Guyana's growing presence in global fitness and bodybuilding, inspiring future generations of athletes to aim high and achieve greatness.



Fung becomes the first Guyanese athlete to claim a World Championship title in bodybuilding



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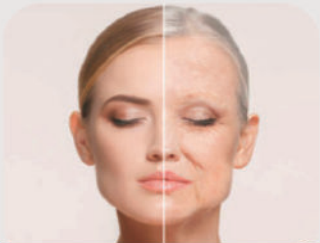
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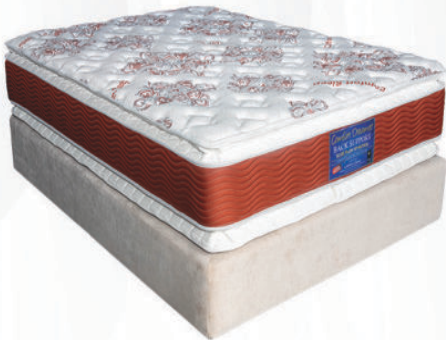
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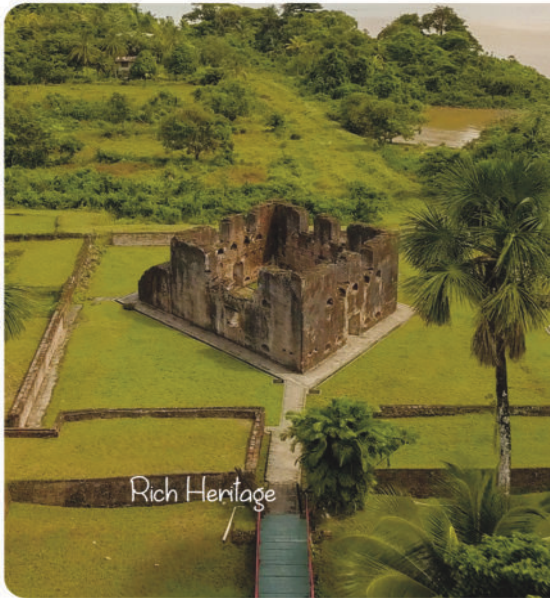
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