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TKR defeat Guyana to win CPL Crown

The Trinbago Knight Riders are champions of the Caribbean Premier League once again, clinching their fifth title after defeating the Guyana Amazon Warriors in a nail-biting final at the Providence National Stadium in Guyana.

The Warriors, who won the toss and chose to bat, struggled to build momentum and managed only 130 runs from their allotted 20 overs. Many fans and analysts have since criticized skipper Imran Tahir's decision to bat first, calling it a costly gamble.

In pursuit of 131, TKR faced anxious moments. Tahir gave his side a brief spark of hope in the 16th over when he dismissed Kieron Pollard

and Andre Russell off consecutive deliveries. Shortly after, opener Alex Hales—who anchored the innings with 26 off 34 balls—fell to Shamar Joseph in the 17th over, sparking further nerves as TKR lost three wickets in just five deliveries.

But the experienced Akeal Hosein, blasting 16 off 7 balls, combined with Kacey Carty to steady the chase and carry TKR to victory by three wickets.

The Knight Riders become only the second team in CPL history to win the title after progressing through both the eliminator and semifinal stages—the Jamaica Tallawahs being the first to achieve the feat. *More on Page 28*

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- Delivered medical supplies during war
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ABOUT ME

- Wannabe goaltender born in Halifax; a Torontonion for 40 years
- Trained in psychology, law and business (B.Sc., LL.B./JD, MBA)
- Family is a testament to Canada's diversity: wife born in Ukraine, three sons share Guyanese and Canadian descent, eldest daughter born in Macedonia, married in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Lived, worked and thrived in many countries (e.g. Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan; Southeast and Central Asia, Eastern Europe)
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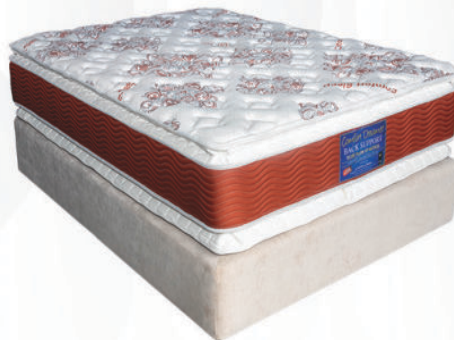
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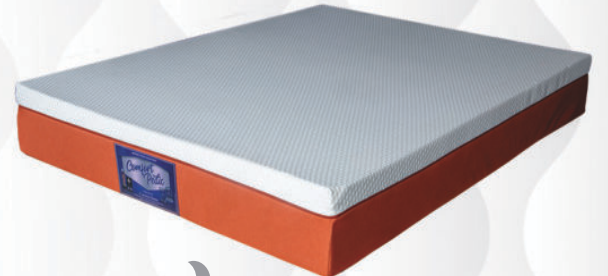
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Guyana moves to develop 35,000 acres to boost agriculture productivity

On Monday, Agriculture Minister, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, along with Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency, and Implementation, Hon. Zulfikar Ally, met with a group of cane farmers from the Corentyne Coast as part of ongoing government engagement to fully utilize lands to increase productivity.

Minister Mustapha said that the government was working with the cane farmers to develop 35,000 acres to cultivate cane, citrus, and coconuts.

“Last week, President Ali met with a number of cane farmers from the Upper Corentyne area, and he instructed that I, along with other ministers, work with the groups. We have a number of farmers who indicated that they were interested in getting back into cane cultivation, while others said that they wanted to cultivate citrus and coconuts. We’ve already begun to map out the area to do the necessary soil testing. We’ve also engaged the Private Sector to construct a juice plant so that the citrus being planted there can be extracted and processed into juices,” he noted.

While speaking on cane cultivation at Skeldon, Minister Mustapha said that GuySuCo is expected to cultivate approximately 1,000 hectares by the end of November.

“GuySuCo has already started the cultivation of cane in Skeldon. Hopefully, by the end of November, they will be cultivating approximately 1,000 hectares, with the eventual target being 5,000 hectares



Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha

cultivated by the corporation at Skeldon. Also, with the additional farmers who have between 10,000 to 12,000 acres, cane cultivation will see a turnaround at Skeldon,” he added.

Minister Mustapha also said that, as it relates to infrastructure to support the cultivation of the various crops, a contract was awarded for the construction of an 18-kilometer all-weather road to support the initiative. He also said that the government, through the ministry’s National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), will be establishing the main drainage and irrigation infrastructure.

“Farmers had requested that we upgrade the Moleson Creek road to an all-weather road. The contract was awarded for work to commence on the construction of an 18-kilometer all-weather road. The cost for that is just over \$800 million. That is one of the main projects in that area and it is expected to start shortly. From the ministry, we’ll be working with the farmers to develop all of the main drainage canals and other infrastructure to enhance the area,” Minister Mustapha said.

Last Wednesday, H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali met with a group of cane farmers at the Skeldon Estate, during

which the Head of State emphasized the importance of linking state support to results on the ground. He told the farmers that ongoing government investments in infrastructure must be matched by tangible increases in productivity.

During his address, the President laid out an ambitious vision for a multi-crop agricultural model where traditional sugarcane cultivation can co-exist with high-value crops such as citrus. He said this transition would be guided by scientific planning, supported by modern technology, and driven by market needs.



THAG, Minister Rodrigues to boost tourism, hospitality sector

THE Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) Executive Team, on Monday, met with the newly appointed Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, in a bid to foster collaboration and align strategic priorities for the country’s tourism sector.

During the meeting, discussions centred on Minister Rodrigues’ initiatives aimed at advancing tourism and hospitality in Guyana. THAG shared key sectoral issues and proposals, exploring potential partnerships to support the Ministry’s plans and promote broader industry development.

THAG expressed satisfaction with the inaugural engagement, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening public-private partnerships, facilitating constructive dialogue, and advancing advocacy efforts to ensure the sustainable growth of Guyana’s tourism and hospitality industry.

The meeting marks an important step in fostering co-operation between the government and private stakeholders as the nation seeks to enhance its tourism

offerings and strengthen economic opportunities within the sector.

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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

21st Century Healthcare System

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, September 20 2025

GUYANA'S health sector is standing at the cusp of a technological revolution. For decades, the country's hospitals and clinics have struggled with inefficiencies, shortages of essential drugs, expired medications gathering dust in storerooms, and patients forced to endure long waiting times for basic services.

These gaps have eroded public confidence in the healthcare system, and exposed weaknesses that became even more glaring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is against this backdrop that President Dr. Irfaan Ali's announcement of a sweeping modernisation of the healthcare system must be understood.

The overhaul of the Material Management Unit (MMU), supported by Ernst & Young, signals the government's intent to place Guyana among the ranks of countries deploying artificial intelligence (AI) and digital systems to manage critical medical supply chains.

This is not merely a cosmetic change; it addresses the very core of a long-standing problem: Inefficiency and waste in drug procurement and distribution.

The construction of regional drug

bonds across five regions is particularly significant. For too long, hinterland and rural health facilities have faced chronic shortages due to logistical bottlenecks.

An AI-driven supply chain, complete with real-time alerts and predictive analytics, promises to ensure that drugs reach patients before shortages or spoilage occur. If implemented effectively, it will mean fewer mothers turned away without prenatal vitamins, fewer patients struggling to access insulin, and fewer communities waiting weeks for basic supplies.

Equally transformative is the move towards digitising patient records.

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation has already begun this process, with a nationwide rollout expected by 2026.

In a country where paper files are still shuffled from desk to desk, this shift will bring greater accuracy, accountability, and accessibility. An electronic health record system also enables continuity of care, ensuring that a patient's medical history follows them across facilities and regions, reducing the risk of errors, and improving treatment outcomes.

The pilot Online appointment system at the Festival City Polyclinic is another welcome step.

If scaled into a national app-based

service, this initiative could finally address one of the most frustrating aspects of Guyanese healthcare: The endless queues at clinics and hospitals. Appointments booked in advance, notifications sent directly to patients, and integration with the electronic records system could save time, cut down overcrowding, and restore dignity to the patient experience.

Beyond efficiency, the government's US\$15 million investment in a Level Three laboratory system and pandemic preparedness is critical.

COVID-19 taught the world that disease surveillance is no longer optional, it is a matter of national security.

By upgrading labs, recruiting specialists, and strengthening pandemic response mechanisms, Guyana is aligning itself with international best practices while ensuring its population is not left vulnerable when the next health crisis emerges.

At the same time, President Ali has rightly emphasised that modernisation must not overshadow prevention. With 25 new health centres established in the last three years, and another 10 on the way, the government is placing services closer to the people.

Each of these centres is expected to provide at least 116 services, including screenings for non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension,

which are among the leading causes of illness and death in Guyana.

Complementary initiatives such as the School Health Programme and the Women's Health Programme, which will expand breast cancer screenings, underscore a commitment to tackling health issues at their roots. Early detection, regular checkups, and improved access to data can save lives and reduce the burden on hospitals in the long run.

The road ahead, however, will not be without challenges. Technology can only deliver results if matched by trained personnel, robust infrastructure, and consistent oversight. Implementation gaps, corruption risks, and the digital divide could easily undermine these reforms.

To succeed, the government must pair investment in systems with investment in people: doctors, nurses, technicians, and administrators who are empowered to adapt to these changes.

Still, the scale and ambition of the current reforms cannot be dismissed. Guyana is laying the foundation for a healthcare system that is not only more efficient but also more humane, equitable, and resilient.

When these reforms are sustained, 2026 may well be remembered as the year Guyana's health sector finally entered the 21st Century.

Lifestyle Tourism: What's in a name?

Dear Editor,

FOR too long, tourism in Guyana and much of the wider Caribbean has been imagined primarily in terms of natural wonders—forests, rivers, and beaches. While these remain invaluable, a more powerful and sustainable form of tourism is emerging worldwide: lifestyle tourism.

This is not about monuments or "big events" but about the rhythms of daily life—how and where people gather, eat, drink, and socialise. In this sense, what's in a name is everything: lifestyle tourism signals not just travel, but participation in a modern way of living.

In Guyana, the traditional rum shop has long been a social hub, espe-

cially for men. But its culture often leans toward overconsumption, quarrels, and exclusion. Modern tourism, and modern society, requires different spaces. Open-air cafés, stylish restaurants, rooftop bars, and riverside terraces represent not just new physical places but new cultural habits: meeting to converse, to network, to share ideas, to enjoy food and music in a welcoming environment for men and women, young and old, Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Guyanese alike.

Just as Parisian cafés became symbols of intellectual and cultural vitality, and London's pubs evolved into gastro-bars attracting global visitors, Guyana too can reimagine its social venues as places of refinement, creativity, and in-

clusivity.

Paris has turned the café into an emblem of urban sophistication, where tourists and locals alike gather for conversation and leisure. London has modernised the pub into a cosmopolitan space blending tradition with innovation.

Brazil's beach bars and botecos showcase a lifestyle of music and community, attracting global admiration.

Caribbean neighbors are slowly shifting from rum-shop stereotypes to open-air restaurants and entertainment districts that welcome families and visitors.

These examples show that lifestyle tourism thrives not in grand monuments but in the small, everyday places where

people gather.

Guyana today stands at a crossroads. With rapid economic growth and international attention, the country must project an image of modernity. One powerful way to do this is to reimagine the social spaces that define daily life.

Open-air cafés in Georgetown, riverfront terraces in Berbice, seafood courts in Essequibo, and family-friendly bars across Linden or Bartica could all become lifestyle tourism anchors.

These spaces would offer not only recreation but also opportunities for small business growth, creative industries, and cross-cultural exchange.

Sincerely,
Dr. Walter H. Persaud



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Toronto experiencing severe housing downturn, only 118 condos sold in August

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

A builders’ group in the Greater Toronto Area is urging governments to step in as new home sales continue to languish at what it calls “rock bottom levels.”

A report released by Altus Group for the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) shows just 300 new homes sold across the GTA in August, a 42 per cent decline from the same month in 2024.

Of those sales, only 118 were condominiums or stacked townhouses, while 182 were single-family homes.

“GTA new home sales in August 2025 remained at rock bottom levels,” said Edward Jegg, research manager at Altus Group. “New launches—especially high-rise projects—over the past year have been at a record low, even as completions have reached record highs.”

Condo sales plunged 59 per cent from a year earlier and sit 90 per cent below the 10-year average, the report noted.

Single-family home sales fell 21 per cent year over year and are down 59 per cent compared with the 10-year norm.

Jegg warned that the steep decline in sales, combined with a surge in completed builds, could put construction jobs at risk.

“As more projects wrap up, tradespeople face the growing likelihood of unemployment, adding pressure to the wider economy,” he said.



Condo sales have plunged 59 per cent from a year ago

Justin Sherwood, BILD’s senior vice-president of communications, research, and stakeholder relations, echoed that concern.

“With pre-construction inventory dropping dramatically, the signs are clear that the new residential sector in

the GTA is basically stopping,” he said.

BILD is calling for federal and provincial action, including suspending the GST on new homes priced under \$1 million and urging municipalities to reduce fees and development charges.

According to the report, the benchmark price for a new single-family home sold in August was \$1,462,342, while the benchmark price for a new condominium was \$1,028,782.

Transport Canada audit confirms strong aviation security at CJIA

A TRANSPORT Canada team has completed a comprehensive assessment of aviation security operations at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), reaffirming Guyana’s adherence to international standards.

The evaluation, conducted in a manner similar to the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reviews, follows Guyana’s successful outcome in a recent International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) audit.

During the assessment, auditors examined all critical aspects of aviation security, including screening procedures, infrastructure, operational practices, and

regulatory oversight. Their review found no issues of significant concern, signalling that Guyana’s aviation sector continues to maintain a robust and effective security framework.

CJIA’s Security Director, Mr. Manmohan Balram, welcomed the positive outcome, describing it as a reflection of the airport’s commitment to passenger safety. “The findings of the Transport Canada team reaffirm our commitment to maintaining the highest security standards. This positive outcome is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our security personnel and aligns with our goal of ensuring the safety of all passengers and air travel operations,” Balram said.



A Canadian official works with a CJIA official during the inspection

UN General Assembly, the Genocide in Gaza and Caricom

By Former Guyana President
Donald Ramotar

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is meeting for the 80th time since its formation in 1945. On this occasion it is confronted by some of the issues that it had pledged to never happen again at the time that it was formed. Wars and threats of wars are raging in many parts of the world.

Without doubt though, the situation that is facing the Palestinian people is the worst of all. Every day for more than seven hundred days, we listen to the news to be informed how many Palestinians were killed in the Gaza in particular but on the West Bank of the Jordan and in East Jerusalem as well.

A genocide is being carried out in plain view of the whole world!

At the time of writing, on the 710th day of the massacre some 65,000 persons were killed by bombs or bullets fired by the Israeli army. Of these 75% are women and children. All these killings were deliberate as it is clear that the intention of the Netanyahu regime is to kill every single person if they do not remove themselves from the Gaza and the West Bank.

Many experts believe that the real number of dead are much higher than the known figure. Thousands are missing, believed to be under the mountain of rubble that is Gaza today. Hundreds have died from starvation and thousands more from injuries caused by the shootings and bombing of the population. At the same time starvation is taking even more lives.

Some educated guesses believe that as much as six hundred and eighty thousand (680,000) is the real death toll.

The massacre is both indiscriminate and targeted. So far, we know that 1581 health workers are among the murdered, 252 journalists and 346 United Nations staff members are among the targeted



Ongoing violence in Gaza dominates world attention

killings.

As we write these few lines, Gaza city is being flattened by Israel's air force.

The condition of existence is really horrible. Words are inadequate to describe the misery that Israel has visited on the Palestinians.

Since October 7th, 2023, more than ten thousand Palestinians have been detained in the most horrific conditions. Those people are tortured and humiliated on a daily basis. Some seventy-five of them have died at the hands of their jailers.

Two years ago, no one would have thought that this could have been possible. Now we know that there seem to be no limits to the sufferings that some can inflict on others. Now we know that it is made possible because of the system that we live under.

Greed is the driving force behind today's holocaust. Already plans exist to make Gaza another Nevada for the rich and idle. Human lives of the poor and oppressed to the master minds are cheap and expendable.

The United Nations Committee have provided facts and figures to show

the billions in profits that are being made on the blood and tears of the Palestinians by Western corporations.

The United States and many European countries have given full support to Israel in the conduct of this Genocide. They are not merely complicit to the crimes of the fascists in West Jerusalem, but more partners in this open massacre.

Some of the European countries are beginning to mutter some protests. However, many of them continue to profit from the killings.

The US and others have even moved to repress their own people who take to the streets to protest the beastality of the Israeli regime.

Brave civilians of the US and European countries who take to the streets are confronted by heavily armed police and army personnel, many are beaten and detained. Students are being denied graduation and faced with expulsion from institutions of learning.

United Nations personnel eg. Francesca Albanese are being sanctioned by the US for exposing what is happening in Palestine. Judges from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and from the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

are faced with the same hostility.

The mainstream Western media have been playing the role of support to Isreal. They are either not reporting the terrible sufferings of the poor, helpless people or they are distorting facts to justify the atrocity. They could teach Herr Goebbels a thing or two.

International law and institutions are being undermined and discredited. For instance, Iran has made a strong case for denying the International Energy Agency (IEA) from inspecting its nuclear facilities. They accuse officials of that body of spying for the US and Israel. That is how the names and addresses of their top scientists were known and executed by Israel's bombings.

In the Caribbean we must acknowledge the brave stance taken by Belize. That country is the only one in the region that has given tangible support to the suffering and struggling people of Palestine. It broke off diplomatic relations with Israel.

And now finds itself under attack. We see Guatemala's military on Belize's border, even making incursions into one of CARICOM's members territory.

It would not be unreasonable to assume that Guatemala is being encouraged to harass Belize because of its bold stance against Israel. It fits the pattern of the US defence of Israel.

Caricom leaders must not leave Belize to hang out in face of the aggression and provocation. We must take a stand to support the Government and people of Belize.

At this session of the UN General Assembly, I wish to urge Caricom leaders to announce that the region will break relations with Israel! Anything less than this is being complicit.

Let this 80th Anniversary session be remembered for the bold stance of Caricom to defend Human lives & Human Rights in Palestine!



Brian Tiwarie, OMC, AA - CEO



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Canadians are cutting back on dining out, says new national report

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

A growing number of Canadians are cutting back on dining out, according to a new Restaurants Canada report released Monday.

The 2025 Foodservice Facts study found that three in four Canadians—about 75 per cent—are eating at restaurants less often as the cost of living continues to climb.

Among younger adults aged 18 to 34, that figure jumps to 81 per cent.

“While conditions have improved somewhat over the past year, this remains a very challenging market,” said Kelly Higginson, president and CEO of Restaurants Canada.

“Canadians are still facing an affordability crisis, and rising operational costs are squeezing operators’ margins.

”Spending habits have also shifted. Back in 2019, the average Canadian spent slightly more at full-service restaurants (\$1,165) than at quick-service spots (\$1,150). By 2025, those numbers have flipped: per-capita spending is now \$1,035 at full-service restaurants compared with \$1,135 at quick-service locations.

“Millennials remain the most frequent customers, with 51 per cent buying from a restaurant at least once a week, followed by 47 per cent of Gen Z.”

Overall, 65 per cent of Canadians say they substitute a snack for a full meal at least once a month.

Generational differences are clear. More than half of millennials (53 per



Canadians are not only dining out less, but also drinking less alcohol, says the new report

cent) and half of Gen Z (50 per cent) do this weekly, while only 42 per cent of Gen X and 32 per cent of baby boomers say the same.

“Cost-of-living concerns are hitting everyone right now, especially younger generations,” said Sara Hamdy, a research analyst with Restaurants Canada

and one of the report’s authors.

“Canadians still want to dine out or order in, but they are seeking more value for their dollar.”

Return-to-office policies have driven a 7.6 per cent increase in the lunchtime rush at quick-service outlets. Delivery remains popular too: 64 per

cent of Canadians ordered food to their door in the past six months, with Gen Z leading at 79 per cent compared to just 49 per cent of baby boomers.

Alcohol consumption is also declining. The report notes that 41 per cent of Canadians say they are drinking less than they did a year ago.

Canadians continue to look beyond the USA for travel

By Denise Singh
LJI REPORTER

Canadians continued to look beyond the United States for travel in July 2025, marking the seventh straight month of declining cross-border visits.

Statistics Canada reported Tuesday that just 2.6 million Canadian residents returned from trips to the U.S. that month—a 32.4 per cent drop from July 2024.

By contrast, 3.3 million U.S. residents travelled north, a three per cent decrease year over year.

It was only the second time since June 2006—aside from the pandemic-disrupted months of August and September 2021—that more Americans visited Canada than Canadians headed south.

Instead, Canadians spent their tourism dollars farther afield. Return trips from overseas destinations rose 8.3 per cent, even as overall travel abroad, including U.S. visits, fell 24.2 per cent.



Canada welcomed close to 1 million visitors

Journeys to the United States still made up 65 per cent of all Canadian trips outside the country.

Overseas tourism to Canada surged in the same

period. Trips by foreign residents climbed 10.3 per cent, with Europe and Asia driving the gains.

About 1.9 million Canadians travelled to and from the U.S. by car in July, down 35.8 per cent from a year earlier; roughly 60 per cent of those were same-day excursions.

Air travel also slipped, with 563,500 Canadians returning by plane—a 16.2 per cent decline.

Canada welcomed 999,600 overseas visitors during the month, 81.7 per cent of whom arrived by air. Nearly one-third of those travellers came from just three countries: the United Kingdom (134,700), France (104,100) and India (68,300).

“This summer, Canadians chose to explore more of their own country, supporting local businesses and keeping their travel dollars at home. That speaks to the quality, diversity and innovation of our tourism experiences,” the Tourism Industry Association of Canada said in a statement.



Ali told the New York Times that his country is using the resources from oil to finance energy transition

Using oil wealth to secure a sustainable future

Guyana sits atop the global stage, balancing a unique title of being a leader in climate change solutions and a young oil-producing nation.

The fastest-growing economy in the world, led by President Irfaan Ali, just two weeks into his second term in office, was interviewed by David Gelles of The New York Times on how Guyana is balancing its oil industry with being a leader in climate change.

Here is an excerpt of the Q&A-style article:

NYT: Is the global community actually making the financing available so that nations like Guyana can undergo the energy transition?

President Ali: Absolutely not. It’s ridiculous sometimes to listen to the pledges, because none of the pledges is actualized. When you ask the developing world to adopt measures to limit the impact of whatever we are doing on climate, you’re asking us to transition when we have major issues on energy equality, energy poverty, energy access.

And then to complicate issues, these very countries are asked to function in a digital world, so they are already suffering from immense poverty because they were never able to adapt to the Industrial Revolution. Now they are moving into the digital revolution with A.I. that they will never be able to catch up with. And at the same time, basic things like clean water, access to electricity — major segments of the population don’t have this. This is something that has severely impacted the quality and equity of global policy-making. And there is no clear path and no clear plan as to how we are going to address these issues.

NYT: One thing that has not stagnated is temperature rise. What will this mean for the people of Guyana?

President Ali: If we did not have the type of revenue stream that we have now, it would have meant debt. It would have meant destruction. It would have meant our economy just falling apart. Guyana is a new oil producer,

but we are using the resource to finance our energy transition, to build resilient infrastructure, to support the region that we are in, to invest in livelihood options that will keep our forest standing, which stores many gigatons of carbon. We’re investing in solar farms, hydro, natural gas, wind and biomass, all aimed at transitioning to a low-emission energy grid. We are building off-grid systems, solar farms, wind farms for the hinterland community, where the Indigenous people live.

NYT: You talk about how, for Guyana, the answer to coping with a hotter world is in fact being funded by the production of more fuels that are causing that warming. That of course is sort of the conundrum in a nutshell, right?

President Ali: I don’t see it as a problem. Your question in the context of Guyana is quite different from your question in the Middle East, or your question in one of the industrial countries. For us, it’s quite different. How

do you see away out? We have this standing forest that has been there for all our lives, which the world does not see a value in. It’s easy. If the world says, “We’re going to pay a fair-market rate for the forests that have ecological and biodiversity sources that also have a price,” then it will allow countries like ours that are forested to then use the revenue from that to protect our land, to invest in health, to invest in education, human development and infrastructure, to remain competitive and to build a strong and resilient economy. So the moral question is: Who can produce what the world needs in the least environmentally damaging way? Because let’s be clear on this too. We can’t be naïve. The world will need fossil fuel a long time into the future.

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Guyana’s oil output to hit 1.5M bpd as financing for Hammerhead readies

GUYANA’S march toward becoming a top global oil producer has taken another leap, with ExxonMobil, on Monday, announcing a final investment decision (FID) for the US\$6.8 billion Hammerhead development, its seventh project in the Stabroek Block.

Scheduled for startup in 2029, Hammerhead will add 150,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) to national output, pushing total production capacity across the block to an unprecedented 1.5 million bopd.

The Ministry of Natural Resources confirmed that it has granted approval for the Hammerhead Field Development Plan (FDP) and issued the Petroleum Production Licence (PPL), making way for what will be one of the largest off-shore expansions in the country’s history.

President of ExxonMobil Upstream Company, Dan Ammann, hailed the milestone as proof of the company’s long-term partnership with Guyana.

“We continue to set a new standard in Guyana – advancing an impressive seventh project just 10 years after first discovery,” Ammann said.

“In collaboration with the people and government of Guyana, we’ve helped build a thriving new oil-and-gas industry in the country that is creating jobs, supplier opportunities, profits and follow-on investments.”

The Hammerhead project will utilise a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) conversion FPSO being built by Japanese contractor MODEC and will be developed with 18 wells, 10 production and eight injections.

Over its lifespan, Hammerhead is



Hammerhead will add 150,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) to national output

expected to yield 445 million barrels of oil.

Government stressed that the licence goes further than previous agreements by tightening environmental and operational safeguards.

It is aligned with the new Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Responsibility Act 2025, features stronger management of production levels, and sets new conditions on off-specification fluid discharges. Importantly, associated gas from Hammerhead must be transferred to the Gas-to-Energy (GtE) pipeline network.

“These enhancements reflect the government’s ongoing commitment to responsible resource management and sustainable development,” the ministry noted.

Hammerhead raises total committed investments across seven sanctioned projects in the Stabroek Block to more than US\$60 billion.

To date, Guyana’s Natural Resource Fund has received over US\$7.8 billion in oil revenues since first production in 2019. ExxonMobil and its contractors have also spent US\$2.9 billion with Guyanese suppliers; while employing

more than 6,200 nationals, 70 percent of the workforce tied to block operations.

Current output stands at 650,000 bopd, with the recent startup of the ONE GUYANA FPSO expected to push that to 900,000 bopd by year-end. Production from Uaru (2026) and Whiptail (2027) will follow, before Hammerhead comes online in 2029.

Hammerhead, discovered in 2018 in the southwestern portion of the Stabroek Block, is operated by ExxonMobil Guyana Limited with a 45 percent stake, alongside Hess (30 per cent) and CNOOC (25 per cent).

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Guyana launches Georgetown City revival plan to modernize capital

The government of Guyana has reaffirmed its commitment to transforming Georgetown into a sustainable, modern capital while preserving its unique heritage and identity.

Speaking at a news conference, President Irfaan Ali said, “The mismanagement and inefficiency through which the city is managed can no longer be tolerated. It is time for us, as citizens and as a country, to take charge of the situation. We are advancing the rescue of Georgetown.” He added that the initiative forms part of a broader national strategy for sustainable urban development, starting with the capital and its surrounding region.

Over the past five years, the government has invested billions of dollars in drainage upgrades, road improvements, housing expansion, and a high-span bridge over the Demerara River, all aimed at improving quality of life and supporting economic growth.

The new City Revival Plan, launched in collaboration with the



The City of Georgetown


King’s Foundation, envisions Georgetown as a sustainable “Garden City” that highlights Guyana’s biodiversity, cultural heritage, and inclusive development. Flagship projects include recreational spaces, heritage restoration, and the rehabilitation of historic landmarks such as the old Transport and Harbours building and the train station, which will host a new museum and training hub.

The Stabroek Waterfront Development will modernize the waterfront and market areas, celebrating Georgetown’s identity as the “land of many waters.” Other components include drainage canal upgrades in a touristic style, restoration of urban landscapes, and the Lamaha Railway Courtyard project, offering a visual walk-through of Guyana’s history.


President Ali said the plan aligns with the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, ensuring sustainability and inclusivity. “We are progressing with a clearly defined plan for the city. Every stakeholder will play a critical role in advancing this transformation of our capital. Georgetown must be repositioned as one of the finest cities in the world,” he said.

In addition to Georgetown, the government will pursue demonstration projects such as the outer Georgetown low-carbon market town and the Silicon City master plan, designed to pilot models of sustainable urban growth. Ali emphasized that these initiatives aim not only to improve infrastructure but also to foster civic pride and a renewed identity for the capital.

The remarks come as local government elections could be called within the next year. While the opposition People’s National Congress Reform-led A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) controls 19 City Council seats, the ruling People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) holds 11. Ali said residents will choose “the type of leadership” that ensures the city is transformed and effectively managed.

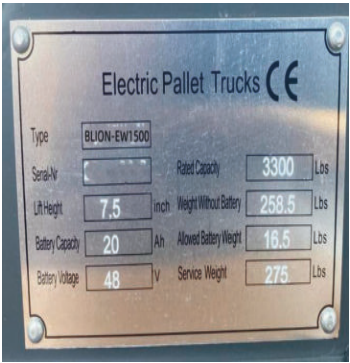



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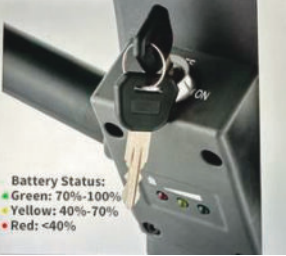
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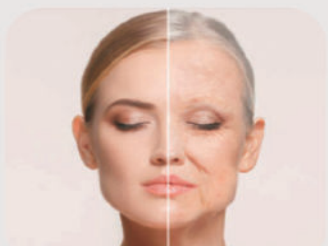


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AFC Leader Nigel Hughes resigns after party’s poor election showing

Leader of the Alliance for Change (AFC), Nigel Hughes, has resigned, taking full responsibility for the party’s dismal performance in the Guyana September 1 general and regional elections.

In a letter to the party’s General Secretary, Hughes said the decision takes immediate effect, describing it as a privilege to have led the AFC but acknowledging that the outcome of the polls was “beyond disappointing.”

“The responsibility rests solely on my shoulders,” Hughes wrote, while thanking the party for the opportunity to serve.

The AFC secured just 3,610 votes across all ten electoral districts — its weakest showing since its formation in 2005. At its peak in 2011, the party won 35,333 votes and seven seats in Parliament.

Hughes, who was elected leader in June 2024, stepped down barely a year into his tenure. His resignation comes amid questions about the AFC’s relevance after a steady decline in support over the last decade.

Following Hughes’ announcement, AFC General Secretary Raphael Trotman confirmed receipt of what he described as an “updated letter” of resignation. He said the National Executive Committee would meet in an emergency session to discuss the matter and encourage Hughes to reconsider.

“Should he remain adamant in his decision, then the Party’s constitutional provisions will be used to guide the way forward,” Trotman said.

Party sources noted that the resignation letter was undated, and discussions are underway on whether Hughes should remain in place until a new leader is chosen. In his letter, Hughes expressed confidence that the AFC still has a role to play in Guyana’s political landscape and extended best wishes to its executive.



Nigel Hughes — result was beyond disappointing



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Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony receives his flu shot

Guyana launches first National Influenza Vaccine Programme

In a historic move to strengthen its healthcare system, Guyana’s Ministry of Health officially launched the country’s first National Influenza Vaccine Programme on Friday, beginning at the Eccles Health Centre. The initiative aims to reduce the spread of influenza, protect vulnerable populations, and enhance national health security.

The vaccine will be administered annually to priority groups, including pregnant women, children under 15, the elderly, and healthcare workers. Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, said Guyana procured 15,000 doses for this year, which are set to expire within 12 months. The flu season in Guyana typically runs from August through the end of the year.

Registered Nurse/Midwife Tenisha Hope was the first person to receive the vaccine, marking the official rollout. “This moment marks a major step in strengthening our healthcare system, protecting our most vulnerable,

and aligning Guyana with global best practices in disease prevention,” Dr. Anthony said.

Highlighting the global burden of influenza, Dr. Anthony noted that the disease affects about one billion people worldwide annually, with three to five million developing severe illness and up to 650,000 deaths each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). “Influenza is an acute viral respiratory disease, mainly caused by influenza A and B viruses. The virus changes every year, which is why annual vaccination is necessary,” he explained.

Dr. Anthony also emphasized Guyana’s progress in influenza surveillance, including participation in the WHO FluNet reporting system and contributing viral samples to inform the formulation of vaccines. “We’ve already sent samples from Guyana that were used to formulate this year’s vaccine, meaning Guyana is actively contributing to the global fight against

influenza,” he said.

The Health Minister reassured the public of the vaccine’s safety, noting that side effects are generally mild, such as slight fever or soreness at the injection site, and stressed that the benefits far outweigh any minor discomfort.

Dr. Garoma Denbeli, Health Systems and Services Advisor for PAHO/WHO, praised Guyana’s initia-

tive, noting that influenza is highly contagious but preventable. He reiterated PAHO/WHO’s support for the nationwide rollout of the vaccination programme.

Dr. Anthony described the initiative as “not just another health programme,” but a comprehensive step to strengthen healthcare, safeguard vulnerable populations, and save lives.

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Zubeen Garg's versatility broadened his fan base

Fans flock to mourn iconic Indian singer Zubeen Garg

Indian singer-composer Zubeen Garg has been cremated with state honours and a 21-gun salute in Guwahati city in India's north-eastern state of Assam.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to mourn the death of the 52-year-old singer who drowned on 19 September in Singapore, where he had gone to perform at a live concert.

Garg's cremation was held after a second autopsy on the body was conducted to rule out any foul play in his death, Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

At the cremation ground, the crowd sang lines from one of his most popular songs - Mayabini. Garg was a cultural icon in Assam, singing in more than 40 languages and dialects in a career spanning 33 years.

His hit Hindi song Ya Ali from the 2006 film Gangster made him nationally famous.

Assam declared three days of mourning after his death, with prominent politicians and musicians joining fans from across the region who travelled to Guwahati to pay their last respects to the singer.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier mourned Garg on X, saying he would be remembered for his "rich contribution to music".

Garg's career took off when he was just 19 and still in college. His first music album, Anamika, released in 1992, became an instant chartbuster.

His rise to stardom coincided with a period of violence linked to separatist groups in Assam. His lively melodies about love, hope and despair - embellished with catchy riffs - brought a breath of fresh air to an otherwise tense social milieu.

By 2000, when Garg made his acting and directorial debut with an Assamese movie Tumi Mor Matho Mor, his popularity had touched new heights.

His face was regularly splashed on big billboards and his songs could be heard in markets and buses, and at college events and social gatherings.

He was a fashion icon among Assam's youth and built a larger-than-life persona with his sartorial choices, which included trendy sunglasses and ripped jeans.

Garg was also the most sought-after artist dur-

ing Bihu – a cultural festival celebrated in Assam in mid-April every year. Throughout the month, he would travel around the state singing in live concerts, which were attended by thousands of people.

Large sections of Garg's fans identify him as an "emotion" - a pop culture figure akin to no one. He could sing a rock song with the same ease as regional folk music and spiritual sub-genres such as Borgeet, Bihu and Zikir. This versatility broadened his fan base across generations and communities.

Beyond music, Garg was also known for his activism, even though he never associated himself with a political party.

He regularly condemned violence by separatist groups in the region, despite receiving threats.

In 2019, he played a significant role in mobilising people against a controversial new citizenship law that offered citizenship to non-Muslim religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

In 2024, Garg joined Guwahati residents protesting against the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government for cutting trees to build a new flyover.

Garg's admirers saw him as someone who never thought twice before ruffling feathers.

"He feared nobody. He spoke his heart out. And he was extremely generous. Can you think of any other celebrity like that?" asked Bimugdha Goswami, a fan who was part of a large gathering in Guwahati on Monday.

In 2020, during the Covid pandemic, Garg offered his apartment to the government for use as an isolation centre.

Over decades, people from towns and villages across Assam have testified to receiving financial help from Garg for medical treatment, school admissions, college admissions, marriages, funerals and more.

In an interview to a regional TV channel in 2018, Garg spoke about how his fan clubs across cities and districts in Assam had made these activities possible.

The same clubs are now managing crowds and organising tributes as they bid him farewell.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): With Mars, your ruling planet, moving through the most secretive area of your chart you must keep what you know about a certain situation to yourself. If you give away too much information now it could cause a great deal of panic later on.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Mars in your opposite sign of Scorpio means you must expect some resistance from those you deal with on a one-to-one basis. Be that as it may this is not the time to have second thoughts about what you know must be done. Do it immediately!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): Cosmic activity in the work and wellbeing area of your chart will give you the energy to push ahead with plans that are sure to provoke resistance from people who don't see the need for change. Think before you act but then act swiftly and decisively.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): This is one of the best times of the year to get serious about creative projects of one kind or another. Set yourself targets that stretch you but are still within reach and then go after them with passion and purpose. You might just change the world.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): If you act in a domineering manner today the responses you get will at the very least be unpopular and may even cause some people to go out of their way to obstruct you. Try being more of a team player. It's not that difficult.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): You may not be one of the more sociable members of the zodiac but you have your moments and with Mars moving through the most outgoing area of your chart you will find it easier than usual to indulge in small talk – which could lead to big opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): You need to find an outlet for all that pent-up energy and one way might be to focus on ways to make money. Even if you are well-off already, having a dollar figure to aim for will encourage you to aim higher and accomplish more creatively.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You will find it extraordinarily easy to get things done now that Mars is moving through your sign, but you must be selective about your goals. Also, don't let other people distract you from what is of most importance to you personally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): The best way to change the world for the better is to change the way you choose to live. Forget about what the headlines say and focus only on what is going on in your own life and the lives of those you are directly connected to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Sometimes you fail to take radical action because you worry what other people might think about it, but now you must put those fears out of your mind and do what you know in your heart to be right. Listen to your conscience and ignore everything else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Mars in the career area of your chart will bring both opportunities and challenges, so you must be ready to act at a moment's notice. You don't need to run your plans past anyone, not even your professional superiors. If it feels right then do it!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Don't worry if you find yourself loaded up with new responsibilities because you have what it takes to make a success of them. You may have a reputation as one of the more laidback members of the zodiac but you also possess skills that other people lack.

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Caribbean resilience must lead development, says Trinidad PM

Caribbean nations must leverage their resilience to navigate global uncertainty, Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said Thursday during the launch of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) 2025 Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Speaking at the high-level event in Port of Spain, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar emphasized the region’s capacity to rise above vulnerability, calling on leaders, institutions, and communities to act decisively. “Why should geography determine dignity? The Caribbean knows vulnerability—but we also know resilience. We know how to rise, and we must rise together. Not just for ourselves but for the generations to come,” she said.

The Prime Minister framed the UNDP report, titled “Under Pressure: Recalibrating the Future of Human Development,” as a guide for creating more inclusive and future-ready development strategies. She stressed that these challenging times demand “quick action with long-term vision” and a recalibration of traditional development models to better serve all citizens.

Persad-Bissessar’s remarks highlighted the region’s dual reality of vulnerability and innovation. She called for a renewed social contract that reduces inequality, strengthens civic trust, and safeguards fundamental freedoms,



T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

including health, education, and economic opportunity.

The UNDP report underscores these points, noting that the Caribbean faces multiple crises—from climate-driven disasters and economic shocks to fragile governance structures—yet the region has consistently grown in human development terms over recent decades. It recommends building resilience through smarter policies, stronger institutions, and more robust

physical and digital infrastructure.

Mischelle Muschett, UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, echoed the Prime Minister’s focus on resilience. She said, “Building resilience is not optional—it is a necessity in the world we live in today... It requires investing in people, strengthening institutions, and re-imagining the social contract for a new era of uncertainty.”

The report also highlights the criti-

cal role of digital technologies in fostering resilience but notes persistent gaps in access. Less than 40% of Caribbean households have a computer, prompting UNDP to advocate for investments in digital literacy, affordable devices, and inclusive digital ecosystems.

An interactive digital version of the report is available, offering country-specific data, visualizations, and policy recommendations.

Opposition boycotts as Juliet Holness named Speaker

Member of Parliament for St Andrew East Rural, Juliet Holness, has been reappointed as Speaker of the House of Representatives, despite strong objections from the Opposition People’s National Party (PNP).

Holness, who previously served as Deputy Speaker from 2020 to 2023 and as Speaker since September last year, was sworn in on Thursday at the official opening of the 2025 parliamentary term. Heroy Clarke was also returned as Deputy Speaker, while Floyd Green was named the new Leader of Government Business in the House.

In the Upper House, Senator Tom Tavares Finson was re-elected President. Thirteen Government Senators and eight Opposition Senators have already taken their oaths, with Members of Parliament currently being sworn in. The proceedings were guided by Clerk to the Houses of Parliament, Colleen Lowe.

The PNP had earlier declared that it would not support the reappointment of either Holness or former Speaker Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert, arguing that the office demands impartiality and



Juliet Holness reappointed as Speaker of the House

fairness that, it said, had been undermined in recent years.

“The Speaker must serve the people of Jamaica as an impartial umpire of parliamentary proceedings, not partisan interests,” said PNP chairperson Dr

Angela Brown Burke in a Wednesday release. She pointed to delays in the tabling of reports from the Auditor General and Integrity Commission as evidence that trust in the Speaker’s office had eroded.

The governing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) later rejected the Opposition’s position. JLP General Secretary Dr Horace Chang dismissed the PNP’s objections as “baseless and spurious,” accusing the party of trying to block “two eminently qualified women” from leadership.

“We will not take directives from the PNP or any group as we execute our new mandate to govern Jamaica with confidence, purpose and humility,” Chang said, adding that the Opposition’s stance “smacks of misogyny and arrogance” at a time when the country should be supporting women in leadership.

Both Dalrymple-Philibert and Holness have previously held the Speaker’s chair. Dalrymple-Philibert served between 2020 and 2023, while Holness assumed the role in September 2023.

The opening of Parliament marks the formal start of a new legislative term, with the JLP reaffirming its majority control and the PNP sharpening its stance on accountability in the House.

CARICOM calls for renewed commitment to gender equality

Speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), St. Kitts and Nevis delivered a statement Monday marking 30 years since the Beijing Declaration, emphasizing the need to translate promises into concrete action for women and girls.

“Thirty years later, if we appraise the outcomes of our actions, we find clear signs of regression—promises re-neged, actions unfulfilled, and the spirit of the Declaration under-served,” the statement said. Despite their critical roles in society, women continue to face unequal burdens, limited opportunities, and persistent threats to safety and autonomy, compounded by poverty, climate change, and gender-based violence. Globally, women hold just 26.9% of parliamentary seats, perform 2.5 times more unpaid care work than men, and earn 20% less than men for work of equal value.

CARICOM highlighted the region’s progress while acknowledging ongoing challenges. The Community pointed to its three democratically elected female Heads of Government and reaffirmed its commitment to gender-responsive policies, legislative reform, and increased international financing that incorporates the needs of women and girls. The statement also underscored the importance of gender-responsive climate action and educational and digital sector reforms.

Last Friday, CARICOM, in partnership with Ireland, facilitated the passage of a Resolution on the Revitalisation of the Commission on the Status of Women, signaling renewed global commitment to advancing gender equality.



Dr. Joyelle Clarke, Minister of Sustainable Development, St. Kitts and Nevis

“Another thirty years should not greet us speaking of potential, possibilities, or aspirations—let us make good on our shared ambition to leave no one behind,” the statement concluded, calling for sustained political will, targeted resources, and actionable measures to achieve full gender empowerment across the Caribbean and globally.

Trinidad PM hails historic World Championships medals

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has congratulated athletes Keshorn Walcott (pictured) and Jereem Richards on their record-breaking performances at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, calling their achievements “a source of immense pride and distinction” for the nation.

Walcott, the 2012 Olympic javelin champion, struck gold with a throw of 88.16 metres, becoming the first Trinidad and Tobago athlete to win both Olympic and World Championship titles. On the same day, Richards stormed to a silver medal in the men’s 400 metres, setting a new national record of 43.72 seconds and becoming only the second Trinidad and Tobago athlete to reach the World Championship 400m podium.

“Together, these outstanding athletes produced Trinidad and Tobago’s best-ever World Championship performance, proving once again that greatness can emerge from a small island state when talent is nurtured and dreams pursued,” Persad-Bissessar said in a statement.

The prime minister announced that the government will formally reward both athletes and reaffirmed her administration’s commitment to strengthening the country’s sporting infrastructure, from upgrading facilities to providing scholarships and youth programs.



“Our athletes carry more than medals; they carry our spirit, our resilience, and the image of our nation before the world,” she said, pledging continued investment in sports as a “pillar of national development.”

Persad-Bissessar praised the athletes’ perseverance and credited their families, coaches, and support teams, adding that their victories will inspire a new generation of young Trinidadians and Tobagonians to dream big and aim high.

Amnesty International warns against US airstrikes in Caribbean

As the US government steps up military operations in the Caribbean Sea, Amnesty International is warning that any airstrikes authorised by Congress could violate international human rights law and may amount to unlawful executions.

Responding to reports of a draft resolution circulating in the US Congress to authorise the use of military force against alleged drug traffickers, Amnesty International USA’s Director of Security and Human Rights, Daphne Eviatar, said that if US legislators approve military action against suspected drug traffickers, “it would not change the fact that such lethal strikes amount to extrajudicial executions and have no legal justification whatsoever under international human rights law.”

“Congress must not rubber stamp further unlawful strikes and should instead work to hold the administration accountable for its illegal actions,” Eviatar added. Reports indicate that the draft resolution would authorise military force against “groups that the executive branch designates as terrorists and that the US government determines, in consultation with Congress, have either trafficked in drugs to finance terrorist activities or used terrorist tactics to advance narcotics-related enterprises.”

Recent incidents include US military strikes on vessels allegedly carrying drugs in the Caribbean, reportedly resulting in multiple deaths.

“Under international human rights law, intentional lethal force can only be used when strictly necessary to protect life from an imminent threat, and when no less harmful means, such as capture, are available,” Eviatar said. “Moreover, any use of lethal force must be propor-



Amnesty International USA’s Director of Security and Human Rights, Daphne Eviatar

tionate to the threat faced in the prevailing circumstances, particularly with a view to minimising risks posed to human life and personal integrity.”

On Friday, US Senators Tim Kaine and Adam Schiff introduced a War Powers Act resolution to block the use of US Armed Forces against certain non-state organisations, following multiple unauthorised military strikes on unverified alleged drug trafficking operations in the Southern Caribbean Sea.

“US authorities have no legal mandate to launch strikes or use mili-

tary force in the Caribbean or elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere,” said Kaine, Democrat of Virginia, noting that the administration has refused to provide Congress with basic information about the strikes, including who was killed, why it was necessary to put servicemembers’ lives at risk, and why standard interdiction operations were not conducted.

Schiff, Democrat of California, added, “While we share with the executive branch the imperative of preventing and deterring drugs from reaching

our shores, blowing up boats without any legal justification risks dragging the United States into another war and provoking unjustified hostilities against our own citizens.”

The resolution emphasises that trafficking of illegal drugs does not itself constitute an armed attack or imminent threat justifying military action, and that designating an entity as a foreign terrorist organisation does not give the US government legal authority to use military force.

B’dos confirms 3 new MPox cases

Barbados’ Ministry of Health has confirmed three new cases of Mpox, bringing the country’s total to six since the virus was first detected locally in 2022.

The three patients—one woman and two men—were identified in August, the ministry announced on Saturday. None of the individuals have a recent travel history, though two are known to have been in contact with each other. All have been able to isolate at home as health officials continue contact tracing.

Mpox, a viral infection that spreads through close contact with an infected

person, can be transmitted via intimate or sexual contact, everyday household interactions, or within healthcare settings where protective equipment is not properly used. Contaminated materials such as clothing and linens can also carry the virus.

Symptoms typically include a skin rash or lesions in the mouth, nose, or genital area, along with fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes. Illness generally lasts two to four weeks, and while most people recover fully, a small percentage of cases worldwide have resulted in death.



Venezuela accuses Trinidad and Tobago of backing US military moves

Venezuela has sharply escalated its war of words with neighboring Trinidad and Tobago, accusing the twin-island nation of supporting U.S. military operations in the Caribbean and announcing a new military campaign to crack down on smuggling and alleged criminal activity along their shared maritime border.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López said Sunday that Operation Cumanagoto 200 is now underway in the eastern state bordering the Caribbean Sea, with 60 military units deployed across 15 municipalities to conduct reconnaissance and root out “terrorist groups or drug trafficking organizations” operating illegally in the region.

“There’s a lot of smuggling of fuel, weapons, ammunition, and human trafficking along the axis between Macuro, La Punta, Paria Promontory and Trinidad and Tobago,” Padrino said. “This is an order from our commander-in-chief ... to ensure Operation Cumanagoto 200 is carried out in the eastern Caribbean.”

The move follows public statements by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar, who recently voiced support for U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to deploy military warships in the Caribbean, describing the action as a necessary step to combat drug trafficking. Persad Bissessar also said her country would be willing to allow U.S. forces to operate from Trinidad and Tobago if Venezuela were to invade Guyana, a fellow Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member.

The remarks have drawn fierce condemnation from Caracas. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez



Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López

last week ridiculed comments by Trinidad and Tobago’s junior minister Phillip Edward Alexander, who speculated that India might “nuke” Venezuela to protect the island nation. In a scathing Facebook post, Rodríguez accused Trinidad and Tobago’s government of bowing to Washington and urged it to focus on domestic issues

rather than “plans to exploit Venezuela’s resources.”

The tensions come as the U.S. military continues operations in the Caribbean, with Trump claiming American forces have bombed three vessels allegedly carrying drugs, killing more than 14 people. Venezuela has called on the United Nations to investigate

what it describes as “serial executions” of Venezuelans during the U.S. missions.

Padrino warned that any attack on Venezuelan territory would be met with a forceful military response, underscoring the region’s growing volatility amid heightened geopolitical friction.

Santokhi to take up seat in National Assembly

Former Suriname President Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi announced Sunday that he will take up his seat in the National Assembly, reaffirming his commitment to serve as a representative of the people and uphold the principles of the opposition Progressive Reform Party (VHP).

Speaking at a ceremony marking the birthday of late VHP founder Jagenath Lachmon, Santokhi—who lost the May 25 general elections—said his role in Parliament will focus on dialogue, communication, and bridge-building despite the challenges of leading the country’s only opposition party.

“I was elected as a representative of the people. My responsibility is to serve the people, even from the opposition,” Santokhi told reporters. “You’re not there as a party leader or former president, but as a parliamentarian. And that demands a strong role, in terms of dialogue and communication.” He con-



Former Suriname President Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi

firmed that he has sent a letter to Speaker Ashwin Adhin regarding his return, with a date to be set when legislators next meet.

Santokhi also underscored Suriname’s potential to contribute to global

and regional peace, invoking Lachmon’s legacy of unity. “We must transcend all differences and take a national position as a country. Peace begins in the heart, and that is the message we can also convey internationally,” he said.

Lachmon’s birthday, declared a Day of National Brotherhood and Unity by the Santokhi government in 2020, coincides with the United Nations’ International Day of Peace. The former president used the occasion to warn against social media rhetoric that fuels division, urging political leaders to condemn inflammatory statements.

“For Lachmon, brotherhood wasn’t a thing of the past, but a future. That’s the message we must convey to our young people,” Santokhi said, vowing that the VHP will continue to champion peace and inclusion despite its current opposition status.

In a statement, the VHP reaffirmed Lachmon’s vision of balance and mutual respect, calling on all Surinamese to “find common ground in a shared interest: peace, unity, and progress,” and to keep his dream alive for a harmonious and prosperous nation.

Jamaican man deported to prison in Eswatini returns home, says gov't

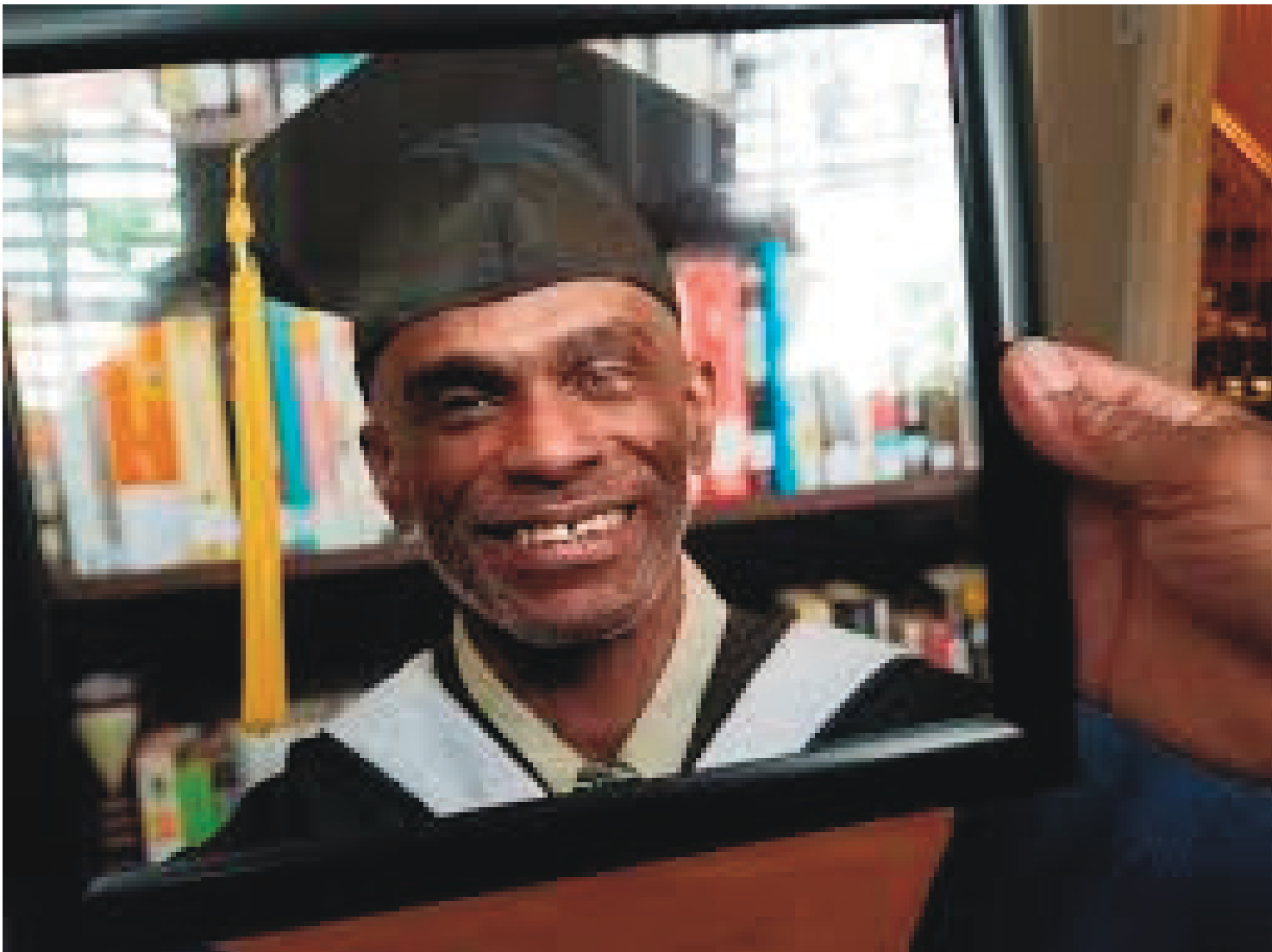
Jamaica’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamina Johnson Smith says the Jamaican man who was deported by the United States to Eswatini and held in a maximum-security prison for more than seven weeks without charge is now back home in Jamaica.

Orville Etoria was deported to Eswatini in July and detained in the African nation until his return this week. On Monday evening, Johnson Smith said the Jamaican Government was “pleased to welcome Etoria back home” and urged Jamaicans to respect his desire for a quiet return.

“We reaffirm that the wellbeing of Jamaicans overseas is a constant priority for the Government and note that this case is another example of the importance of international cooperation and the role of our diplomatic network in protecting the rights of Jamaican nationals abroad,” Johnson Smith said.

She added, “We are grateful to the Government of Eswatini for its cooperation in this matter and for the duty of care it has exercised. We also thank the IOM [International Organization for Migration] for its direct support and commend our High Commission in Pretoria for their hands-on engagement. Together, our combined efforts ensured Mr Etoria’s safe return.”

Etoria was the first of at least 20 deportees sent by the United States to various African nations in the last two months to be identified publicly. The deportations are part of the Trump administration’s largely secretive third-country programme to crack down on immigration.



Orville Etoria was deported to an Africna prison by US authorities

The 62-year-old Etoria was convicted of a serious crime in the U.S. in 1997 and was released from prison on parole in 2021, the New York-based Legal Aid Society said in a statement. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security

said in a post on X that Etoria had been convicted of murder.

The Legal Aid Society said the U.S. government had “falsely claimed that Jamaica refused to accept him back.” Homeland Security, when announcing the deportation of a total of five men to

Eswatini in mid-July, claimed they were “so uniquely barbaric that their home countries refused to take them back.” Homeland Security said at the time the men were “dangerous criminals from Jamaica, Cuba, Laos, Vietnam and Yemen” but did not identify them by name.



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TKR crushes hopes of Guyana Amazon Warriors to lift CPL trophy

Akeal Hosein took two big wickets to help restrict Guyana Amazon Warriors to 130 and then scored a quick and unbeaten 16 off seven balls in the dying moments of a tense chase to lift Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR) to their fifth CPL title. Hosein went out to bat when TKR were 116 for 7, needing 15 from 22 balls, and he finished things off in dramatic fashion with a six and four in consecutive balls off Gudakesh Motie to spark off their celebrations.

The home fans in Providence were left stunned after their 46-year-old captain Imran Tahir had given them hopes of lifting the trophy with his 3 for 34, which included the wickets of Kieron Pollard and Andre Russell on consecutive deliveries.

That it wasn't a great outing for the batters was evident in Alex Hales scratching his way to 26 off 34 balls in the chase, as he saw six wickets fall while dropping anchor. The highest score by any batter across both innings was Iftikhar Ahmed's 30 for Amazon Warriors, who required contributions from their middle and lower orders after being 65 for 5 in 12 overs.

Once Amazon Warriors opted to bat, Russell struck in the first over by having Quentin Sampson caught for a duck, but Ben McDermott countered soon after. He went for 4, 6, 4 off Ho-

sein to end the fourth over even as Shai Hope took his time at the other end. Saurabh Netravalkar ended the 38-run stand in the last over of the powerplay when McDermott found the fielder at deep midwicket to depart for 28 off 17 balls, which began a collapse of 4 for 24.

Hosein bowled Hope for 12 off 19, Usman Tariq cleaned Moeen Ali up for 10, and Hosein got his second by having Shimron Hetmyer find long-on for 4. But Iftikhar, Dwaine Pretorius (25 off 18) and Romario Shepherd (13 off 9) doubled Amazon Warriors' score in the last eight overs. Netravalkar dismissed both Pretorius and Iftikhar to finish with 3 for 25.

Halfway into the third over of TKR's chase, it looked like the target was too little to challenge Colin Munro, who hammered three fours in a 22-run second over that saw five wides from Shepherd. Pretorius, however, dismissed Munro next over to check TKR's progress.

TKR captain Nicholas Pooran huffed and puffed to 1 off eight balls before finding mid-off, and TKR were 55 for 3 after eight overs, with Darren Bravo being trapped lbw by Tahir. Just 12 runs came off the next three overs without a single boundary as Moeen and Tahir didn't allow the TKR batters



TKR Players celebrate their fifth CPL title

to break free. But Sunil Narine brought TKR back by heaving Motie for two sixes in the 12th over to bring the equation under run a ball.

The twists and turns continued when Shamar Joseph had Narine caught at mid-off for 22, and Pollard hit back by launching Tahir for three sixes in the 14th over, to make the equation a lot more comfortable at 22 required off

36. But Tahir gave TKR another scare. He bowled Pollard with a googly and had Russell caught at slip first ball. When Joseph took a return catch off Hales in the 17th over, Amazon Warriors believed a miracle was coming, but Hosein washed away all their hopes with a match-winning cameo.

Jamaica cops probe murder of top jockey

The St Andrew South police have launched a probe into the murder of 49-year-old Oneil Ricardo Mullings, a well-known jockey who was shot and killed along Thompson View Avenue in St Andrew on Sunday evening.

Mullings, otherwise known as "Jockey" and employed at Caymanas Park, was reportedly near a premises on Thompson View around 6:42 p.m. when he was approached by a gunman who opened fire, hitting him in the head. He was rushed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

According to The Jamaica Gleaner, the killing followed an alleged dispute over payment for renovation work at Mullings' house on Thompson View Avenue. Sources said one suspect was handling steelwork while the other was responsible for carpentry. Tensions reportedly escalated when payment for the steelwork was questioned before the carpentry began, sparking a confrontation with Mullings. His partner reportedly tried to chase one of the attackers after witnessing the shooting but was unable to catch them.

Investigators have since named 37-year-old Samuel Brown, otherwise called "Shooter" or "Mark," a labourer and mason of Four Forty Drive, Kingston 11, as a suspect in the case, along with his



Oneil Ricardo Mullings

brother Shaun Brown, also of the same address. Anyone with information on the Browns' whereabouts is urged to contact the Hunts Bay police at 876-923-7111, Crime Stop at 311, the Jamaica Constabulary Force tip line at 811, or the

nearest police station. Mullings who has been in the saddle since 2002, celebrated his 400th win aboard Princess Aki-lah on August 6, 2024.



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Baguio Hot Longaniza 腸仔 375g Reg: \$4.99 **3.99 ea**

Mekeni Orikins/Kikiam Fish Roll Series 250g 魚丸 Reg: \$3.99 **2.99 ea**

Golden Saba Sliced Steamed Bananas 454g 香蕉片 Reg: \$2.99/ea **2/\$4.00**

GROCERY

Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce 是拉差香甜辣椒醬 793g Reg: \$7.99 **4.99 ea**

LKK Panda Brand Oyster Sauce 907g 李錦記熊貓牌鮮味蠔油 Reg: \$6.99 **4.59 ea**

Pearl River Bridge Superior Light Soy Sauce 500ml 珠江橋牌生抽王 Reg: \$2.99 **1.79 ea**

Knorr Chicken Broth Mix 1kg 家樂雞粉 Reg: \$13.99 **8.88 ea**

NG Fung Ricevermicelli 銀絲米粉/麵粉 300g-400g Reg: \$2.59 **1.59 ea**

Nongshim Instant Noodle 豚骨拉麵 6x101g Reg: \$15.99 **12.99 ea**

Mr. Goudas Long Grain Rice 黃米 8kg Reg: \$17.99 **14.99 ea**

Shan Ginger Garlic Paste 姜蒜汁 700g Reg: \$5.99 **3.99 ea**

Mang Tomas All-Purpose Sauce 550g 調味醬 Reg: \$3.59 **1.99 ea**

Monde Butter Coconut Biscuit 168g 黃油椰子餅乾 Reg: \$1.99 **1.29 ea**

Oishi Pillows Choco Filled Crackers 150g 巧克力夾心餅乾 Reg: \$2.59 **1.59 ea**

Lotte Pepero Almond Biscuit Sticks 128g 餅乾棒 Reg: \$4.99 **2.99 ea**

Jack'n Jill Maxx Candy Series 糖果 200g Reg: \$1.99 **1.39 ea**

OKF Aloe Drink Series 500ml 蘆薈汁系列 Reg: \$1.99 **99¢ ea**

Cocorico Natural Coconut Flavored Soda 6pk 椰子蘇打水 Reg: \$7.99 **5.99 ea**

Gatorade Sports Drink Series 運動飲料 591ml Reg: \$1.99 **99¢ ea**

Ting Sparkling Grapefruit Beverage 300ml 氣泡飲料 Reg: \$1.79 **1.18 ea**

Listerine Mouth Wash 1.5L 漱口水 Reg: \$9.99 **6.99 ea**

SEAFOOD

Live Blue Crab 生猛藍蟹 Reg: \$5.99 **3.99 lb**

Fresh Yellow Tail Snapper 新鮮黃尾立 Reg: \$8.99 **7.99 lb**

Fresh Whole Salmon 新鮮整條三文魚 Reg: \$5.99 **3.99 lb**

Frozen Fresh Pompano 冰鮮黃立鯧 Reg: \$5.99 **4.99 lb**

Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美白蝦 Reg: \$5.99 **4.99 lb**

Elect

Zakir Patel

FOR SCARBOROUGH – ROUGE PARK

Getting Things Done!

A Strong, Reliable Voice for Scarborough Rouge-Park



ADVANCE POLLS
Saturday, September 20
& Sunday, September 21
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

ELECTION DAY
September 29
10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Need ride to vote, please call:
437 267 6843
647 249 8528

Leadership, Service and Commitment to Community

Public Service Leadership Roles:

- ✓ Vice-Chair - Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
- ✓ Chair - Finance, Budget & Enrollment Committee, TDSB
- ✓ Member - Special Education Advisory Committee, TDSB

Community & Volunteer Involvement:

- ✓ Secretary - Scarborough Cricket Association
- ✓ Volunteer - Scarborough Health Network (SHN) Scarborough Muslim Community

Recognition & Achievements:

- ✓ Urban - Hero Award - Metroland Media Recognized for Pandemic Community Support
- ✓ Remarkable Father's Award Nigerian Canadian Newspaper Canada



WARD 25

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

-  Volunteer
-  Request a lawn sign
-  Make a donation

On September 29, vote Zakir Patel for City Councillor – Ward 25

SEAFOOD & MEAT

Fresh Red Snapper
新鲜红鸡
Reg:\$8.99



\$6.99
LB

Squid
鱿鱼
Reg:\$7.99



\$6.99
LB

Mackerel
池鱼
Reg:\$3.99



\$2.99
LB

Frozen Fresh B.C Crabs
冰鲜温哥华蟹
Reg:\$5.99



\$4.99
LB

Pork Feet
猪手
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.99
LB

Beef Outside Round Steak
外牛切片
Reg:\$8.99



\$7.99
LB

Beef Tendon
牛筋
Reg:\$6.99



\$4.99
LB

Salted Pork Tails (5LB)
咸猪尾 (5磅)
Reg:\$25.99/EA



\$19.99
EA

PRODUCE

Cherry
车厘子
Reg:\$5.99



\$3.58
LB

Pineapple
菠萝
Reg:\$5.99



\$2.88
EA

Hothouse Tomato
温室番茄
Reg:\$1.59



98¢
LB

Carrot 2Lb
2磅装红萝卜
Reg:\$1.99



2/\$1.98

BAKERY

Crispy roti
薄饼
Reg:\$3.99



\$2.99
EA

Regal cake bar
夹心蛋糕
Reg:\$3.99



\$2.99
EA

Universal pandesal
早餐包
Reg:\$3.99



\$2.99
EA

Bauli chocolate croissant
巧克力夹心牛角包
Reg:\$4.99



2/\$5.00

Cedar Pita
阿拉伯皮塔饼
Reg:\$1.79



99¢
EA

Happy Thanksgiving

FUSION SUPERMARKET 嘉禾超市

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416 281 1222

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Mr. Goudas Sweetened
Condensed Whitener 380g
Reg:\$1.99



\$1.00
EA SPECIAL

Y&Y Brand Glutinous Rice Flour/
Rice Flour 400g
Reg:\$1.99



\$1.00
EA SPECIAL

Hereford Corned Beef 340g
Reg:\$5.99



\$4.00
EA SPECIAL

Guyanese Pride Long Grain
Parboiled Rice 10LB
Reg:\$9.99



\$6.00
EA SPECIAL

DelMonte Orange Juice
橙汁 2.5L
Reg:\$6.99



\$5.99
EA SPECIAL

White egg (Large) 30pcs
白鸡蛋 (大)
Reg:\$11.99



\$9.99
EA SPECIAL

BlackDiamond cheese shreds
芝士碎 320g
Reg:\$6.99



\$4.99
EA SPECIAL

Golden pompano
金鲷鱼
Reg:\$4.99/LB



\$2.99
LB SPECIAL

Gala Apple
新西兰苹果
Reg:\$1.99



98¢
LB SPECIAL

South Africa Sweet
Clementine 南非甜桔
Reg:\$1.99



98¢
LB SPECIAL

Sliced Pumpkin
切片南瓜
Reg:\$1.99



88¢
LB SPECIAL

Lime
青柠
Reg:5for\$3.00



5/¢98
SPECIAL

Fresh Salmon Fillet
新鲜三文鱼柳
Reg:\$10.99



\$9.99
LB SPECIAL

Yellow Tail Snapper
新鲜黄尾立
Reg:\$8.99



\$7.99
LB SPECIAL

Beef Short Ribs
嫩牛仔骨
Reg:\$7.99



\$6.29
LB SPECIAL

Pork Belly
猪腩
Reg:\$4.99



\$4.29
LB SPECIAL

GROCERY

Grace Plantain Chips
85g
Reg:\$1.99



99¢
EA

Wei Jue Xiao Zi Biscuit
300g
Reg:\$3.59



\$2.29
EA

Cocon Yogo Ice With Milk
& Juice 450ml
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.29
EA

Oasis Pineapple
Juice 960ml
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.79
EA

Grace Peanut Punch
250ml
Reg:\$1.99



\$1.29
EA

G7 Instant Coffee Mix
3in1 288g
Reg:\$4.99



\$3.39
EA

Grace Dry Pigeon
Peas 540ml
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.79
EA

Maggi Seasoning
800ml
Reg:\$11.99



\$7.99
EA

Suka Pinakurat Extra Hot
Spiced Natural Coconut
Vinegar 250ml
Reg:\$4.99



\$2.79
EA

Maggi Magic Sarap
All-in-One Seasoning
Granules 96g
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.79
EA

Maseca Instant Corn
Masa Flour 1.8kg
Reg:\$10.99



\$6.29
EA

Noodles House Home
Style Dried Noodle
900g-912g
Reg:\$5.99



\$2.99
EA

FROZEN & DAIRY

Red fish
去头去肚红鱼 750g
Reg:\$8.99



\$6.99
EA

GoldenSea sardine
沙丁鱼 800g
Reg:\$6.99



\$3.99
EA

Savera&AT paneer
印度奶酪 340g
Reg:\$5.99



\$4.99
EA

WingWing Chinese style
sausage 菜腊肠 375g
Reg:\$6.99



\$4.99
EA

Surasang kimchi
泡菜 1.2kg
Reg:\$9.99



\$5.99
EA

IceTalk fruit drinks
水果饮料 230ml
Reg:\$1.59



2/\$2.00

Smoked ham
烟熏火腿
Reg:\$6.99/LB



\$4.99
LB

Mezban&Lazeez
paratha 20pcs
煎饼
Reg:\$6.99



\$4.99
EA

PinoyDelight siopao
猪肉&鸡肉包子 6pcs
Reg:\$9.99



\$7.99
EA

Kroger shrimp headless
31/40 去头开背白虾 454g
Reg:\$7.99



\$5.99
EA

Cavendish hash brown
薯饼 1.2kg
Reg:\$7.99



\$4.99
EA

Bulacan banana
leaves 香蕉叶 454g
Reg:\$2.99



2/\$3.00

FuYang cut crab
454g 福洋冻切蟹
Reg:\$6.99



\$4.99
EA

Smoked turkey
烟熏火鸡
Reg:\$9.99/LB



\$7.99
LB

BBQ

Royal Oak Charcoal
Lighter Fluid 946ml
Reg:\$6.99



\$3.99
EA

Wang Korea BBQ Sauce
840g
Reg:\$6.99



\$3.99
EA

Strongmor Quality
Aluminum Foil 25ft x 18in
Reg:\$2.99



\$1.59
EA

Royal Oak Hardwood
Lump Charcoal 8.81LB
Reg:\$15.99



\$10.99
EA

AlSafa Halal Beef Burger
清真牛肉饼 800g
Reg:\$12.99



\$8.99
EA

7B squid skewer 580g
7个篮子龙珠串
Reg:\$10.99



\$7.99
EA

Frozen Lamb Shank
急冻羊腿
Reg:\$7.99



\$5.99
LB

Frozen Goat Shoulder
Chop 急冻羊扒
Reg:\$6.99



\$5.99
LB

Fresh Corn (5pcs)
新鲜玉米 (5条装)
Reg:\$3.99



\$2.98
PK

Little Potatoes
迷你烧烤薯仔
Reg:\$4.99



\$2.88
BAG

Japanese Sweet Potato
日本小番薯
Reg:\$3.99



\$1.68
LB

Buttercup Squash
妈咪瓜
Reg:\$1.59



88¢
LB

RESTAURANT

AJI-NOMOTO
Umami Seasoning
50LB
Reg:\$138.00



\$113.99
EA

Huy Fong Chili
Garlic Sauce 3.5L
Reg:\$31.99



\$22.99
EA

Value Drain-Off
强力通渠剂 1L
Reg:\$7.99



\$5.99
EA

Lee Kum Kee
Hoisin Sauce
1.75L
Reg:\$12.99



\$8.99
EA

Extra Large White
Eggs 180Pcs
Reg:\$70.00



\$57.00
Box

Bean Sprout
Reg:\$23.99



\$19.98
BUCKET

Chub mackerel
9kg
Reg:\$72.00



\$50.00
Box

PINOY TASTE FILIPINO KITCHEN

PINOY TASTE Catering Order: 647-608-3130

Pork Embotido
1pc
Reg:\$10.99



\$9.99
EACH

Grilled Mackerel
1pc
Reg:\$10.99



\$9.99
EACH

Pork Spring Roll
1pc
Reg:\$0.70



60¢
EACH

Asian Cuisine 亚洲美食 (Every Day Lunch Special)

Catering Order: 647-410-7668

Fried Chicken 5pcs
Reg:\$9.99



\$8.99
ORDER

Pancit Bihon
Reg:\$15.99



\$14.00
ORDER

Chicken Inasal
Reg:\$4.99



\$4.00
EA

Pork BBQ 1pc
Reg:\$4.00



\$3.50
EA

Vegetable Spring Roll
10pcs
Reg:\$4.00



\$3.49
ORDER

SUSHI

SUSHI Catering Order: 416-281-1222

Maki tray 48pcs
Reg:\$28.99



\$26.99
ORDER

Spicy Crabmeat Roll
Reg:\$4.59



\$3.99
ORDER

Sushi Full Menu



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