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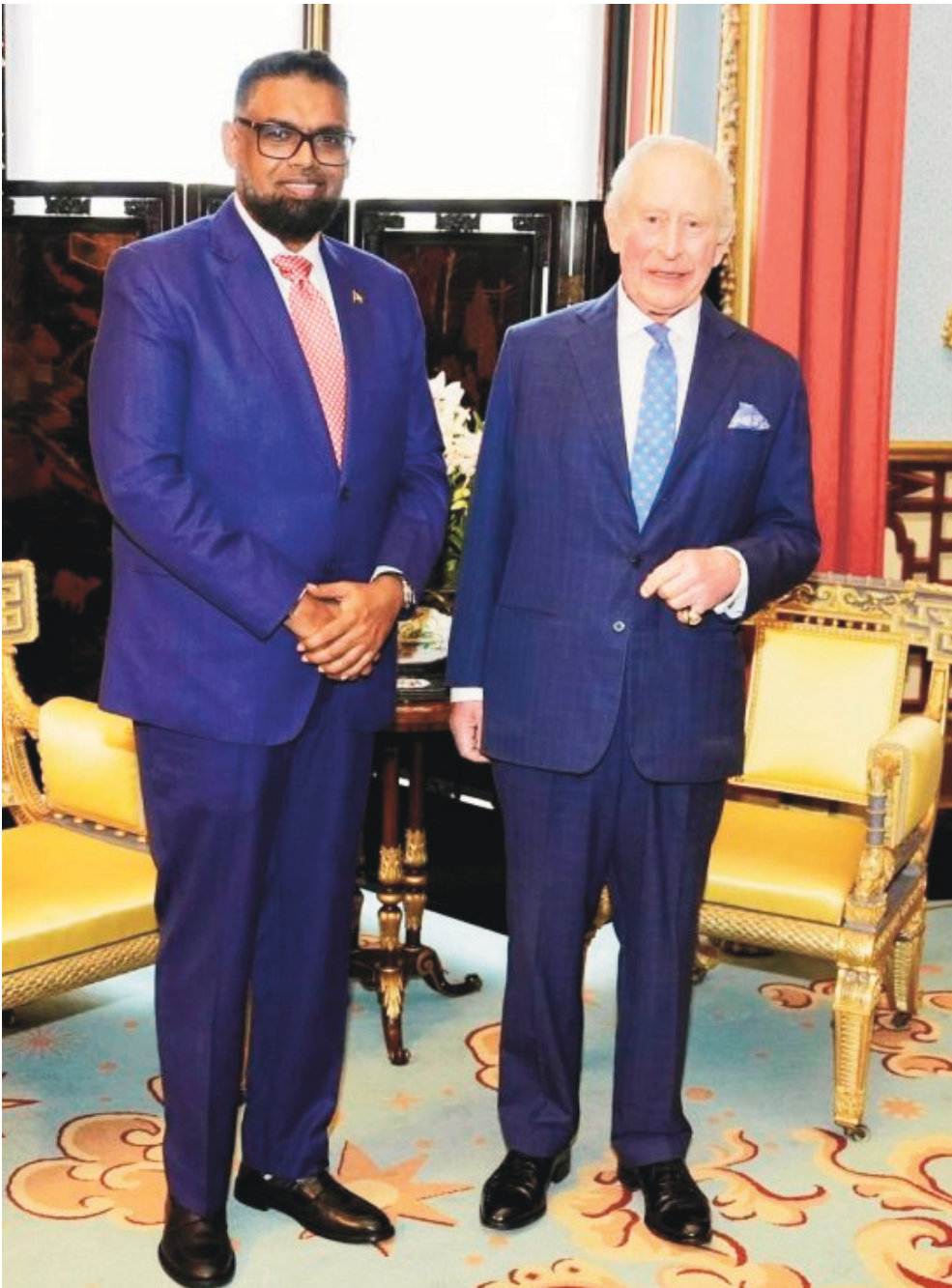
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Guyana tables historic \$1.558 trillion budget with grants and tax relief



Presenting the budget, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, said Budget 2026 is designed to translate sustained economic expansion into tangible investments that improve livelihoods, strengthen communities and modernise national infrastructure. *More details inside*

President Ali, King Charles III discuss environment

President Irfaan Ali on Tuesday met with Britain’s King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, where they engaged in discussions on ongoing collaboration in the areas of environmental protection, biodiversity, and climate action. A release from the Office of the President said that Ali also met with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey. The release stated that a key outcome is an agreement to collaborate on strategic initiatives to support the Global Biodiversity Alliance. A Joint Working Team will advance efforts to establish an International Biodiversity Centre of Excellence based in Guyana.

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Countries join to fight gold smuggling

Police and prosecutors from Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname have joined forces in their first ever transnational operation to combat illegal gold mining.

The cross-border operation involved over 24,500 checks on vehicles and individuals and led to almost 200 arrests. These include the detention in Guyana of three men on suspicion of gold smuggling and money laundering. They were carrying unprocessed gold and USD 590,000 in cash and are alleged to be members of a major organized crime group with possible links to a leading Guyana gold exporting firm.

INTERPOL Secretary General Valdecy Urquiza said: "The surge in international gold prices in recent years has resulted in increased illegal gold mining making it the fastest-growing revenue stream for organized crime groups, including in Latin America. At INTERPOL, we are committed to working with our partners to disrupt those networks and prevent more damage to this remote and environmentally fragile region."

The operation also led to the seizure in Guyana and Suriname of cylinders of mercury with a value of over USD 60,000. Mercury is commonly used in illegal gold mining to separate the gold extracted from other metals and is extremely harmful both to the environment and human health. The cylinders seized were being transported by bus, concealed in solar panels.



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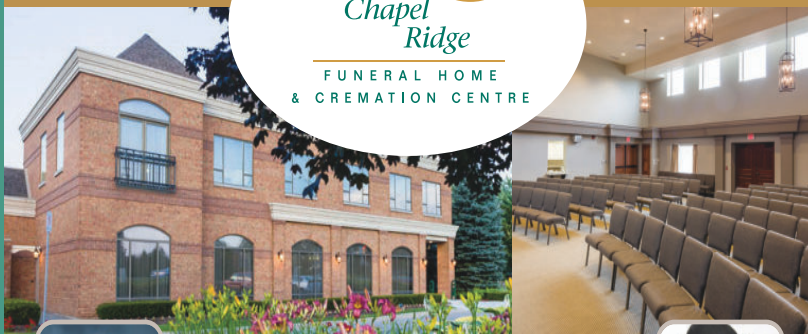
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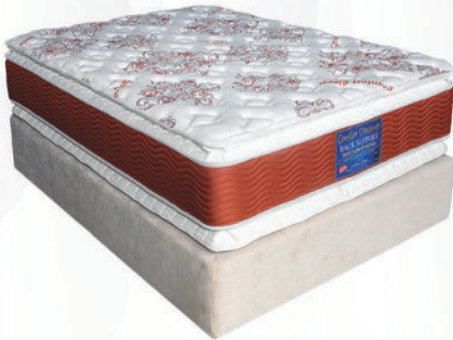
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Buxton farmers credit collaboration with the gov't for advancing agriculture

Members of the Buxton/Friendship Grantees Registered Proprietors Cooperative Society have maintained that many farmers in the area have benefited from several government interventions that have allowed them to be productive.

Chairman of the society, Leroy Hamer, said that over the years, farmers in the area have benefited from assistance from the government, resulting in easier access to farmlands and an increase in production.

Mr. Hamer also said that since members of his group approached the government for assistance, a lot has been done to resuscitate and expand agriculture in the area. He said that the ministry developed farm-to-market roads, which have allowed greater access to cultivation areas.

"There has been no discrimination here. Over the years, we faced challenges. When we got it (farm-to-market road), it encouraged a lot of people because it made things easier for a lot of farmers. One of the things I have to give the minister credit for is the dam initiative. We are now getting access to certain areas that we weren't getting access to. We asked for land clearing since in the previous administration, but we didn't get any. Also, one thing we must thank the Vice President for is the sucker dam. The lands in that area needed draining. For some time, that area was blocked up because no maintenance was done in that area. So, about a week after we raised it, the Vice President sent in a machine. The contractor came in and cleared off (the land) in about a week,"



Minister Mustapha is praised by farmers for government intervention

he explained.

Mr. Hamer also said that, before the end of the year, additional farmers, especially young farmers, are expected to join the co-op.

Curt Adams, another farmer from Buxton, said that because of the infrastructural work done in the area, people now have access to come and purchase crops directly from his farm.

"When I came here to start farming, I had challenges. This area was all mud. When the rain fell, you couldn't come through with your produce. When Minister Mustapha came into office, we went to him and told him we were having is-

suues with the dam. He said we will try to assist you. After that, we saw people coming to measure the dam, and they started working. As a farmer, I am thankful for that because I know the kind of challenges we got coming into our farm. So, I am thankful to the government for coming in to help because this is farm-to-market. If someone wants to come into the area to buy something, they can drive and come straight to the farm, whether it rains or not. I have more work to do, and I will work with the ministry. We need more food in the country, and we are prepared to plant a lot of food," he explained.

Another farmer said that while their group is engaging the government and benefiting from assistance to develop their farms, other farmers in the area are not organized and lack internal leadership and cooperation. He said that they were able to come together and, through the effective leadership of the co-op's chairman, a lot was accomplished. He said the other farmers should organize themselves and make their needs known to their appointed government officials, adding that their lack of cooperation and proactiveness continues to hamper their productivity.

"As a man, I can't sit down and wait and cry for things. I have to go out and get it because I have a family to support. We worked together and went to the Minister, and we got help. Some other farmers don't even want to help themselves. We used to clean these drains because it was the responsibility of the NDC, and nothing was being done. When we met with the minister, we told him that we want to get the contract, and he agreed. Now look, these canals are maintained, and we are having drainage. To be successful in farming, you need access, drainage, and irrigation. If you don't have all three, you cannot be successful," he explained.

The farmers said over the years they benefited from farming inputs such as seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, tools, land clearing, maintenance of drainage and irrigation structures, and tubes to develop internal drainage channels in their farms.

Budget 2026 puts people first, says Pres. Ali

FROM direct cash transfers to investments in targeted fiscal measures, Budget 2026 themed 'Putting People First', charts the way forward in realising the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration's vision for growth and development.

This was according to President Dr. Irfaan Ali, during a video posted on his official page, on Tuesday.

The President said this year's fiscal package brings to life the government's five-year development plan.

"What is interesting is if you look at Budget 2026, it is actually telling a story that we may very well surpass every single one of the commitments we made, because in this first instalment of real benefits, more benefits for the people, you will see a clear direction as to how the investments are being made to improve lives, expand income, create more disposable income, create jobs, give you safer community, better health care and education," the President reasoned.

He said that the measures in this year's fiscal package go just beyond



President Irfaan Ali

cash transfers, with the government implementing policies and creating investment engines to support small businesses, co-investment opportunities and create better facilities for the delivery of enhanced health and education.

The Head of State said: "We have direct cash in people's hand, and many times, people only look at this measure,

direct cash transfer, which is only one of the methods through which we are transferring wealth, creating wealth and opening up opportunities."

During his budget presentation on Monday, Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh told the National Assembly that the government,

in 2026, will introduce Special Development Zones with fiscal incentives intended to attract investment into strategically selected locations.

This will complement anticipated reductions in electricity costs that are expected to significantly improve the competitiveness of manufacturing operations when the flagship Gas to Energy (GtE) comes on stream.

In addition to this, the 2026 budget makes provisions for the removal of corporate taxes on agriculture and agro-processing which is expected to free up resources for reinvestment.

The fiscal package also creates space for the expansion of export allowances to include value-added forestry products and the removal of VAT on locally made furniture and jewellery.

This, the Finance Minister said, will lower production costs, incentivise downstream processing and strengthen the capacity of local industries to compete in regional and international markets.

Guyanese businessman facing US extradition elected opposition leader

From the UK Guardian:

A Guyanese businessman facing extradition to the US on gold-smuggling and money-laundering charges has been elected as the country’s opposition leader, six months after he formed a political party that quickly became the second largest in the South American country.

Azruddin Mohamed, 38, was confirmed as Guyana’s opposition leader after 16 lawmakers from the We Invest in Nationhood party (Win) and another from a single-seat outfit voted in his favor. The tally made Win the second-largest party in parliament, securing Mohamed’s election even as a magistrate’s court hears state arguments for his extradition to the US.

Mohamed and his father, Nazar Mohamed, were indicted last year in Florida on federal charges of gold smuggling and money laundering.

The indictments came just over a year after the US treasury department also sanctioned the duo for allegedly smuggling more than 10,000 kilograms (22,000 pounds) of gold to the US from Guyana, and evading more than \$50m in taxes.

The case has underscored persistent government corruption in the oil-rich South American country.

The family had been among Guyana’s largest gold buyers and exporters. They

also ran one of the most successful foreign exchange outlets and possess extensive real estate holdings. Authorities have since shuttered all their businesses and commercial bank accounts once the sanctions were announced.

Monday’s brief session, attended exclusively by opposition lawmakers, took place amid simmering pressure from western countries and civil society groups, which had accused authorities of delaying calling a parliamentary session to allow his election. Until Monday, parliament had met only once since its dissolution in July ahead of the September general elections.

Addressing the possibility that he and his father could be extradited, Mohamed said that “a person is innocent until proven guilty”.

He contended that efforts to exile him have much to do with the fact that WIN is opposing the ruling People’s Progressive Party (PPP) with success, noting that “that is why they are fighting me down”.

“I announced my candidacy because of the people of this country,” he said. “The people asked me. I would not have had any court issues if I did not contest this election. I am ready to serve the people of this country,” he told reporters outside parliament.

The house speaker, Manzoor Nadir, publicly expressed his unease with Mo-



Azruddin Mohamed — new Guyana Opposition leader

hamed’s election, describing himself as being in a “difficult position” for having to oversee the appointment of a fugitive as the nation’s opposition leader. He nevertheless chaired Monday’s brief proceedings, and ultimately congratulated Mohamed on his victory.

Destination Guyana features in Good Travel Experiences

Destination Guyana has proudly been featured in the Green Destinations – Good Travel Experiences (GTE) platform, highlighting three flagship eco-tourism experiences: Rewa Eco Lodge: Arapaima Conservation & Research Initiative, Caiman House Eco Lodge: Yupukari River Turtle Conservation Project, and Atta Rainforest Lodge: Iwokrama Canopy Walkway Trail.

This international recognition is the result of collaborative efforts undertaken in 2025 between the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce/Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and Green Destinations, showcasing Guyana’s commitment to sustainable tourism and community-led conservation.

The Good Travel Alliance, of which Guyana is a founding member, is a global collective of destinations, tourism boards, tour operators, and experience providers dedicated to developing travel products, attractions, and trails that maximise social and economic benefits for local communities, minimise negative impacts on the climate, environment, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

By being part of this alliance, Guyana continues to strengthen its position as a leading eco-tourism destination, offering travellers authentic experiences that protect nature while

empowering communities.

In collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and Green Destinations, this project is designed to elevate sustainability across Guyana’s tourism sector through a structured, multi-phase approach. The initiative begins with a Country Baseline Assessment to evaluate Guyana’s current sustainability performance, identify gaps, and establish a pathway toward achieving country-level certification.

At the business level, the project included workshops for the GTA and local tourism operators, equipping them with practical tools to implement sustainable practices. Following this, up to 50 businesses will undergo the Business Sector Sustainability Scan (BSSS), a remote assessment to benchmark their sustainability efforts. High-performing businesses will then advance to Level 1 certification under the Good Travel Seal, a globally recognized standard for ethical and eco-conscious tourism.

Through these efforts, the project aims to foster measurable improvements in sustainability practices across the industry, secure certifications that enhance market competitiveness, and position Guyana as an emerging leader in sustainable tourism—all while generating actionable insights to guide long-term policy and industry development.



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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Inclusive and Lasting

Editorial from the Guyana Chronicle, January 27 2026

Budget 2026 is not just a record-breaking \$1.558 trillion package; it aims to turn rapid growth into overall human development, guided by the theme of Putting People First. It shows continuity in the government's economic strategy while also focusing more on sharing growth widely and sustainably.

The most striking aspect is the increase in direct transfers and targeted relief for households without introducing new taxes. The budget enhances cash grants, pensions, public assistance, and adjustments to tax thresholds.

Together, these measures significantly increase disposable incomes for low and middle-income families. They

reinforce the idea that citizens should benefit from the oil economy in their wallets, not just in broad economic figures.

Education and health are the key areas for long-term change. By expanding school construction, digital learning, and family support through the Because We Care and transport grants, the budget addresses both supply and demand issues in education.

The commitment to free university education and support for examination fees takes policy beyond mere access to true equality of opportunity. In health, the push for specialised care, modern hospitals, and digital records suggests that Guyana seeks more than small improvements; it is building a modern health system that can keep talent and handle complex conditions locally.

On the productive side, the housing initiative, major transport projects, and the creation of the Guyana Development Bank work together. Affordable housing, new highways and bridges, along with concessional financing for small and medium enterprises create an environment where private business can thrive.

The zero-interest, zero-collateral lending model is particularly groundbreaking. It acknowledges that lack of collateral, not lack of ideas, has held back many ordinary Guyanese from fully engaging in the growth story.

Also encouraging is the focus on important but softer aspects of development: security sector modernisation, community safety, and the Orange Economy. Improvements in surveillance, better conditions for law enforcement, and increased stipends for

community workers go beyond just security measures; they support investor confidence and social stability.

Meanwhile, targeted support for culture and creative industries shows a more nuanced view of development—one that values identity, heritage, and innovation as economic assets rather than afterthoughts.

No budget is perfect, and successful execution will be key to realising these goals. Public service capacity, timely project completion, and careful monitoring will all be crucial. However, Budget 2026 offers a clear, people-focused framework that balances growth with fairness. It deserves recognition not just as the largest budget in Guyana's history, but as one of the most thoughtfully designed to ensure that prosperity is both inclusive and lasting.

Budget 2026: A plan that truly puts people first

Dear Editor,

BUDGET 2026, presented under the theme "Putting People First," lived up fully to its title. The document and the minister's presentation make clear that the central objective of fiscal policy is not abstract growth alone, but the direct improvement of the daily lives of Guyanese citizens.

The budget is framed not as a ledger of macro targets, but as a blueprint for daily lived experiences. Every pillar is tied to tangible outcomes: better health, better schooling, safer and more affordable housing, reliable water and power, and thriving communities.

The implicit contract is that national wealth should translate into household wellbeing, and policy choices should be judged by their impact on ordinary people's lives.

Across its pillars, the budget places the human being at the centre of

development. Massive investments in health, education, housing, water, sanitation, and community infrastructure are not framed merely as capital projects, but as instruments to raise quality of life, expand opportunity, and reduce inequality.

The emphasis on world-class hospitals, modern schools, expanded housing schemes, and reliable utilities reflects a deliberate strategy to convert national wealth into household wellbeing.

Equally important is the focus on incomes and cost-of-living relief. Continued tax reductions, public-sector wage growth, cash grants, pensions, and targeted social programmes demonstrate a commitment to protecting purchasing power and ensuring that growth is broadly shared.

These measures are complemented by job creation through infrastructure,

energy expansion, agriculture, and services, ensuring that dignity through work remains a core national value.

The budget also looks to the future by investing heavily in education, skills training, digitalisation, and youth development, preparing citizens to participate meaningfully in a modern, diversified economy.

At the same time, it strengthens resilience through climate adaptation, food security, and prudent management of oil revenues via the Natural Resource Fund, safeguarding today's

gains for tomorrow's generations.

In substance and in spirit, Budget 2026 demonstrates that "Putting People First" is not a slogan, but a governing philosophy translated into policy, programmes, and priorities that place the welfare, dignity, and opportunity of every Guyanese at the heart of national development.

Sincerely,

Tilokie Depoo, Ph.D.

Economist

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Ease at the check-out line: Federal government tackles food security

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The federal government announced a series of new measures meant to reduce costs for Canadians at grocery stores and for other basic household needs, according to a government news release. The measures include changes to Canada’s tax credit system and funding aimed at strengthening food supply chains and supporting food banks.

Prime Minister Mark Carney introduced the package of measures in Ottawa on January 26, saying that the moves are designed to address ongoing cost issues in households. The government stated food prices have remained high in recent years, and that the new steps are intended to provide immediate relief and long term support.

At the centre of this package is a redesign to the Goods and Services tax credit, known as GST, which the government said will be rebranded as the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit beginning in July 2026. Under these changes, the amount of the benefit will be increased by 25% for five years, and a one time top up equivalent to a 50% increase will happen this year.

The government also says the combined increases mean that a family of four could receive up to \$1890 this year and \$1400 annually over the four years after, while a single person would receive up to \$950 this year and around \$700 in the following four years. The benefit is expected to reach over 12 million Canadians.

The measures announced on Monday also include steps made for food production and supply chains. The government said it will allocate \$500 million from the Strategic Response fund to assist businesses in managing costs related to supply chain issues without passing these costs onto consumers. In addition to this, a \$150 million Food Security Fund will be created under the existing Regional Tariff Response Initiative to support small and medium businesses and organizations.

To support domestic food production, the government said it will allow immediate spending for greenhouse buildings acquired on or after November 4, 2025, through to the year 2030, as well as \$20 million to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund to sup-



Prime Minister Mark Carney

port food banks and community organizations that supply food to people that are in need. The funding is intended to help these organizations deliver healthier food to anyone who needs it.

Government officials said a National Food Security Strategy will be created to strengthen Canadian food production and improve access to affordable and nutritious food. The strategy is expected to include measures such as unit price labels and support for monitoring competition by the competition bureau across supply chains.

The government said the new affordability measures build on previ-

ous cost saving steps, including reductions to the personal income tax rate for middle income Canadians, changes to the GST for first time homebuyers, and the cancellation of the federal consumer carbon tax, which government sources said helped to bring down the price of gas. Agriculture and Agri-Food minister Heath MacDonald said at the announcement that many Canadians have experienced cost pressure for a while and the new measures are meant to help both the consumer and producer.

These measures, combined with Budget 2025, which was tabled last year, included other initiatives meant to cover affordability, such as

making the National School Food Program permanent and rolling out automatic federal benefits, which are made to ensure eligible low income Canadians receive benefits they qualify for.

The government said the combination of the tax changes, increased benefits, and new strategic investments is supposed to provide short term relief while contributing to long term economic resilience. The government also stated the supply chain disruptions and other global factors have contributed to higher food prices in recent years, and that their new measures are a part of a larger strategy to address these problems.

Central Bank holds key interest rate

The Bank of Canada held its benchmark interest rate steady Wednesday and forecasts a gradual economic recovery from the U.S. tariff shock.

The policy rate remains at 2.25 per cent after the central bank’s first decision of the year.

Economists had widely expected the hold.

Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem said in prepared remarks that the economy has evolved broadly in line with the central bank’s expectations since hitting pause on its interest rate easing cycle in December.

But he also warned that uncertainty remains “unusually high,” particularly around geopolitical risks and the upcoming review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico agreement.

Macklem said it’s “too early to tell how well the Canadian economy will adjust to current tariffs and ongoing uncertainty.”

He said the central bank’s governing council sees the policy rate as “appropriate” based on the central bank’s outlook, but the “timing or direction of the next change in the policy rate” is difficult to predict.

The Bank of Canada released updated forecasts for the economy and inflation alongside Wednesday’s rate decision.

Coming off strong annual gross domestic product growth in the third quarter, the central bank now expects the economy stalled in the final quarter of 2025. Swings in export volumes and other business activity responding to tariffs are driving volatility in the quarterly GDP readings, monetary policymakers noted.

The Bank of Canada is expecting annual GDP growth averaged 1.7 per cent last year. The central bank sees more modest growth of 1.1 per cent in 2026 and 1.5 per cent in 2027 as businesses adjust to the new trade realities.

Globally, the Bank of Canada sees GDP growth higher at a little over three per cent for the coming years.

Projected drop-offs in net exports are a primary factor for Canada’s relative economic weakness, but forecasters at the central bank also cited slowing population growth as a drag on activity.



MINISTER of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, on Saturday met with rice farmers in Region Five to discuss the ongoing development of the rice sector and to formally distribute certificates of title under the government’s rice- insurance programme. The engagement formed part of the government’s wider efforts to strengthen farmer resilience, safeguard livelihoods and ensure long-term growth and stability within the rice industry. The insurance programme was launched in 2025 by President, Dr Irfaan Ali and forms part of its broader agricultural transformation agenda. The programme was introduced to provide rice farmers with protection against losses arising from flooding and other climate-related risks, while strengthening confidence and stability within the sector. (Ministry of Agriculture)

UK joins Global Biodiversity Alliance spearheaded by Guyana

THE United Kingdom has joined the Global Biodiversity Alliance, an international initiative spearheaded by Guyana, outgoing British High Commissioner Jane Miller announced on Friday evening.

The High Commissioner made this disclosure during her farewell reception at her official residence, which

was attended by President Dr Irfaan Ali and other officials.

She confirmed that President Ali will soon travel to the United Kingdom for further discussions aimed at advancing the alliance and strengthening international co-operation on biodiversity protection.

Miller underscored the importance of the UK joining the alliance as part of the global effort to combat biodiversity loss, while also commending Guyana’s rich natural heritage and its commitment to sustainable environmental



President Dr Irfaan Ali and outgoing British High Commissioner to Guyana, Jane Miller at the High Commissioner’s farewell reception

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Highly sustainable, peopled-centred tourism industry being built

GUYANA’S tourism industry has entered a remarkable phase of growth, marked by record-breaking visitor arrivals, expanded accommodation, and new international flight connections that show strong global confidence in the destination.

The government is deepening its investments in 2026 to create a more sustainable, diversified, and people-centered tourism economy. While presenting Budget 2026 to the National Assembly, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh, said the administration’s main focus is to transform the sector.

This includes ensuring sustainable and world-class tourism experiences, expanding air and domestic connectivity, and empowering communities through job creation and economic opportunities.

The minister announced that Guyana welcomed a record 453,489 visitors in 2025, the highest number ever recorded. Building on this success, the government plans to review, update, and implement the National Strategic Tourism Action Plan. This plan will guide development over the next five years, emphasizing community-led tourism, product diversification, and affordability for both residents and visitors.

Since returning to office, the government has addressed two key challenges in the sector: accommodation and airlift. Over the last five years, hotel room capacity has grown by 42 percent, with 738 new rooms added in 2025 alone. By the end of 2026, over 1,000 additional rooms are expected, raising the country’s total room count to 5,600, an increase from just over 3,200 in 2020. Interest in luxury and eco-tourism keeps growing, with 24 expressions of interest



Guyana has been awarded the Destination of the Year in the Ecological Tourism category

received from investors for high-value eco-lodges and resorts.

These projects will follow design and sustainability guidelines developed with international eco-architects last year. The minister also highlighted rapid growth in short-term rental options, with new Airbnb-registered properties adding nearly 70 rooms to the sector in 2025, bringing the total to 115 establishments offering 544 rooms. On the connectivity side, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines started operations in June 2025, adding 1,650 seats weekly to Amsterdam.

Meanwhile, Air Transat launched in

December, providing twice-weekly flights to Toronto and adding another 796 seats weekly. Dr. Singh confirmed that talks are ongoing with other major carriers to expand international airlift further. Diversifying Guyana’s tourism offerings remains a key part of the government’s medium-term plan. In 2025, 56 communities across the country were added to key tourism circuits.

This introduction brought more experiential and community-based products, along with niche markets in sports tourism, cultural festivals, and events aimed at the diaspora, like conferences,

weddings, and reunions.

“These initiatives ensure that more of the tourism revenue stays within communities, creating sustainable livelihoods beyond traditional hotspots,” Dr. Singh emphasized.

A significant part of the 2026 plan is the completion of the new Hospitality and Tourism Institute, which will train over 700 individuals in technical and service-related fields. With an allocation of \$2.2 billion for its completion this year, the facility is expected to become the leading center for tourism and hospitality training in the region.

Baganara Island Resort expands with new executive cottages

GUYANA’S growing tourism sector received another boost on Saturday with the commissioning of ten new executive conference cottages at Baganara Island Resort, a private sector investment, government officials say supports the country’s wider push to develop sustainable, hinterland and conference tourism.

The expansion at the Essequibo River resort was highlighted by Prime Minister Brigadier Mark Phillips, who delivered remarks on behalf of President Dr. Irfaan Ali, along with Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, Chief Executive Officer of the Correia Group of Companies Michael Correia, and Chief Investment Officer Dr. Peter Ramsaroop.

The speakers described the proj-

ect as a sign of growing confidence in Guyana’s tourism and hospitality industry.

Delivering the President’s address, Prime Minister Phillips reflected on Baganara’s steady development over the years, noting that its gradual expansion has helped build confidence among investors while maintaining a focus on sustainability.

“This is an area that has immense potential for tourism, and I must commend all the members of the private sector, who, over the years, have invested in making this area an attractive area for tourism. And, of course, the private company, I must commend you, because you can’t help recognising the majestic building as you come up the Essequibo River, the main building here,” he said.

Prime Minister Phillips also pointed to the resort’s growing international profile, emphasising that Baganara’s success extends beyond physical expansion.

He noted that in 2024, the resort hosted the Concordia Amazonas Summit on Sustainable Development, bringing together regional leaders to discuss sustainability, responsibility, and development in harmony with nature.

He further highlighted that Baganara was selected as the venue for the launch of the World Tourism Awareness Fund, marking what he described as the resort’s confident entry into the conference and events tourism market.

“And today, with the opening of the new conference cottages, we mark

a new chapter in that journey. Cottages are bridges to opportunity, platforms for dialogue, and havens for ideas. Their spaces, their talks meet tranquility, and their conferences can now flourish in the heart of the world for us,” he said.

According to the Prime Minister, investments such as this have far-reaching economic and social benefits, particularly for surrounding communities. “The expansion represented by these conference cottages is a strategic and transformative investment. It will strengthen small conference tourism, and, combined with other resorts and hotels in Baganara, has the potential to support conference tourism on a much larger scale. Let us not view conference tourism as a small niche,” he said.



ARUWAI RESORT, ESSEQUIBO, GUYANA, SA

15,000 new house lots, 8,000 homes planned under 2026 housing programme

THE Government of Guyana will push forward with its housing development agenda in 2026, budgeting \$159.1 billion to increase access to affordable homes, build new communities, and upgrade infrastructure in existing areas.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, described the programme as a continuation of the significant growth seen in the housing sector over the past five years. This effort aims to achieve the national goal of homeownership for every Guyanese family.

During his presentation of Budget 2026 to the National Assembly, Dr. Singh noted that the government's housing initiatives have significantly transformed the Guyanese landscape, especially for low- and middle-income earners.

Over the last five years, more than 100 new housing areas have been developed, 53,000 house lots allocated, and 2,600 homes built for various income levels.

The Government also introduced several support measures for homeownership. These include removing

VAT on locally produced building materials, raising limits on low-income mortgages and housing loans, and the Steel and Cement Subsidy Programme.

In 2025 alone, infrastructure projects were completed in several key areas, such as Black Bush Polder, Success, Felicity, De Kinderen, Hauraruni, Linden, and Mahdia. That year also saw the allocation of 13,000 house lots, construction of over 570 housing units, and the issuance of 5,500 land titles and transfers.

Reflecting on these accomplishments, Dr. Singh stated that the government's housing policy is shifting from simply allocating house lots to building complete homes. This change is in response to evolving public needs and aims to speed up homeownership.

For 2026, the government plans to allocate 15,000 new house lots and build 8,000 homes across various regions.

Development will continue in Moleson Creek, Hogstye, Providence, Overwinning, Experiment, Le Ressouvenir, Chateau Margot, Wales, Hoff Van Aurich, Onderneeming, Bartica, Mabaruma, Wismar, Kwakwani, Lethem, and Silica City. More than

7,000 titles and transfers are expected to be issued this year. This will allow property owners to secure collateral for mortgages and obtain legal ownership.

The administration will keep its commitment to special programmes like the Lethem Housing Support Initiative, Laing Avenue Housing Grant, and the Yarrowkabra Homestead Project.

It will also continue the Steel and Cement Subsidy Programme to assist Guyanese families in affording quality home construction. Building approvals will benefit from the Single-Window Permit System. This system has simplified and digitalised the process for both residential and commercial construction, reducing waiting times and increasing service transparency.

Dr. Singh highlighted that housing development goes hand in hand with improving communities. In 2026, the government will invest in better drainage, recreational facilities, street lighting, and green spaces in established neighborhoods.

Specifically, \$8 billion is earmarked for building concrete interlock drains along village roads. New parks

and playgrounds will be created to foster safe, lively communities. Street lighting will be added at main access roads, junctions, and busy areas to enhance public safety and ease movement.

The government also plans to build mini-industrial zones within residential neighborhoods to support small businesses, which will help reduce dust and noise pollution in densely populated areas.

The flagship Silica City project continues to symbolise the future of sustainable, smart housing in Guyana. In 2025, over 200 new residential units were completed in the city's first phase, including 100 homes for young professionals.

Work will continue in 2026 on infrastructure and other amenities that support the goal of a model urban development based on sustainability, modern planning, and a high quality of life.

Dr. Singh stated that the development of Silica City represents a shift in the housing sector toward modern planning principles, environmental responsibility, and a focus on people.

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Gold mining to maintain place as a major anchor of local non-oil economy

GUYANA’S gold mining industry is set for significant growth, with both large-scale mining projects and small to medium operations showing strong potential, according to Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh.

In the National Assembly, while presenting the 2026 National Budget, Dr. Singh highlighted that the gold sector continues to attract substantial foreign investment. This investment brings modern technology, vital export earnings, and thousands of jobs for Guyanese workers.

He mentioned that the only large-scale operator at Aurora surpassed its 2025 production target and is expected to increase output this year as work on the mine’s underground development progresses. Among notable projects, the Oko West Project achieved a key milestone last December by receiving its mining licence, the last regulatory requirement for its development.

The project, which received formal approval for construction in October 2025, is expected to produce a total of 4.3 million ounces of gold over 12.3 years, averaging 350,000 ounces each year, with first production anticipated in 2027.

Meanwhile, the Oko Project, located north of Oko West, is also gaining traction. Its Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), released in December 2025, detailed a combined open-pit and underground operation with an estimated 14-year mine life and total production of 3.2 million ounces.

Annual output is projected at 298,000 ounces, with operations expected to start in 2029. Another large-



Gold mining will remain the mainstay of the non-oil sector

scale development, Toroparu, is moving forward steadily.

A PEA completed in October 2025 indicated a 21.3-year open-pit operation with anticipated annual production of 235,000 ounces. Simultaneously, exploration and drilling continue at Omai, where an updated PEA is expected by the second quarter of this year.

Dr. Singh noted these combined developments as clear signs that the large-scale sector is ready for significant growth in the medium term. In addition to large-scale mining, the government is also increasing efforts to improve governance, transparency, and adherence among small and medium-scale miners.

New measures include mandatory

local bank account requirements and compulsory updates of personal records for all miners and stakeholders. Authorities are elevating audits and enforcement actions to combat illegal practices affecting gold declarations, along with implementing advanced systems launched in late 2025 to enhance oversight and planning.

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

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

Key priorities of the WGC include:

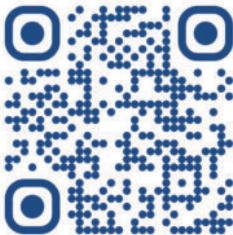
- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
- Engage diaspora communities in the social and economic development of Guyana.

World Guyanese Congress
5200 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

If you have any questions feel free to get in touch:
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Telephone: [1-800-317-0804](tel:1-800-317-0804)



Health facilities, digital systems dominate 2026 sector plans

THE Government of Guyana has set aside \$161.1 billion in 2026 to further modernise the country’s healthcare system.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, shared the plans for the health sector during his presentation of Budget 2026 to the National Assembly.

He shared a plan to expand medical infrastructure, improve access to modern equipment and medications, strengthen the healthcare workforce, and provide patient-centered care across all regions.

Dr. Singh emphasised the goal of creating a modern, integrated, and science-driven healthcare system that guarantees every Guyanese access to quality medical care, no matter where they live. This year’s focus is on completing crucial hospital projects, expanding digital health systems, enhancing drug distribution, and launching health and wellness programmes nationwide.

In 2026, \$24 billion will be allocated for the Pediatric and Maternity Hospital construction, as well as six regional hospitals in Moruca, West Demerara, New Amsterdam, Bartica, Kato, and Lethem.

Additionally, \$1.5 billion will improve the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and finish new polyclinics in Campbellville and Industry. Furthermore, \$12.6 billion is set aside for building, renovating, and maintaining health facilities across the country.

The government also plans to create a National Neurological Rehabilitation Centre for patients with brain and spinal injuries, along with a modern oncology centre for comprehensive cancer care, which is budgeted at \$1.1 billion.

To boost diagnostic and treatment capabilities, \$3.1 billion is designated for new medical equipment.

This includes installing an MRI scanner, CT scanner, and a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at GPHC, and expanding the telemedicine network to another 50 remote communities. Importantly, the government will start incorporating AI-based diagnostic systems to enhance clinical decision-making and improve healthcare outcomes.

A significant part of the health budget, \$34.9 billion, will finance the purchase and delivery of drugs and medical supplies while upgrading the national supply chain.



The new Diamond Regional Hospital

Five new regional drug distribution centres will open in Mabaruma, Onderneeming, Williamsburg, Lethem, and Bamia. These centres will benefit from a modern, technology-driven inventory management system to ensure accountability and reduce shortages.

A key project for 2026 is the continued rollout of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) System. This system aims to fully digitise patient information and boost service efficiency. With \$764 million allocated, this system, already launched at the Festival City Polyclinic, will enable online booking, digital medical histories, and data sharing across facilities.


Full implementation at GPHC is expected in the first half of the year, allowing for expansion to hospitals and clinics nationwide.

The government is making a substantial investment in training and grow-

ing the healthcare workforce. In 2026, \$1 billion is budgeted for building two Health Sciences Training Complexes with dormitories at Suddie and New Amsterdam.


Training goals target an additional 162 doctors specialising in neurosurgery, urology, anesthesiology, and intensive care; 5,440 nurses and allied professionals across the country; and launching a Pre-Med Programme in Regions Two, Three, Six, and Nine. These initiatives build on the 2,862 medical professionals trained in 2025.

The government will also continue to strengthen the University of Guyana’s College of Medical Sciences, which has expanded to accommodate 144 more students in Region Three. Additionally, a Digital Health Training Institute will be established to develop skills in medical informatics and data management.



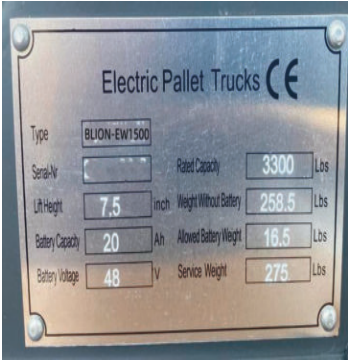

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
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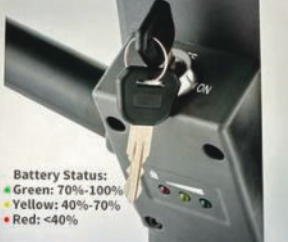
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\$196.1B budgeted to expand country’s transportation network

THE Government of Guyana has announced an extensive plan for road and bridge development in 2026, with the allocation of \$196.1 billion to expand the country’s transportation network and improve connectivity.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, highlighted these ambitious plans during the Budget 2026 presentation.

He emphasised that investing in transport infrastructure is crucial for boosting trade, connecting communities, providing access to markets, and improving the quality of life for citizens.

Dr. Singh reviewed several key achievements from the past five years. The construction of the Heroes Highway and the Ogle to Eccles Highway has significantly improved travel between the East Bank and East Coast of Demerara.

The completion of the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge and the Schoonord to Crane Highway has also enhanced access between regions. Additionally, the Linden to Lethem corridor has seen the construction of 85 kilometers of paved road and 45 concrete bridges.

Important hinterland roads, such as Kumaka to Kwebanna, Wauna to Settlement, and Karasabai to Paramakatoi, have been upgraded, improving connectivity for mining, forestry, and hinterland communities.

Looking ahead, the government plans to fully complete the Linden to Lethem corridor, which will include a new Kurupukari Bridge.

This bridge will connect southern Guyana to a future deep-water port in Berbice via a modern four-lane structure across the Berbice River.

In addition, the old Demerara Harbour Bridge will be dismantled and rebuilt to support a new crossing from Timehri to Sand Hills. Future connections to Leguan and Wakenaam Islands are also part of the plan.

In 2026, work will accelerate on several major projects across the country. The Railway Embankment four-lane highway, running from Sheriff Street to the Mahaica River, has been allocated \$6.1 billion.

The next phase, extending from Mahaica to D’Edward, is expected to begin later this year. The extension of the Ogle to Eccles Highway to Providence and Diamond has a budget of \$13

billion.

This will improve access to the Bharrat Jagdeo Bridge and ease traffic flow on the East Bank. The Heroes Highway will be extended from Buzz Bee Dam to Land of Canaan with a budget of \$28.6 billion. Additionally, \$13.1 billion will be used to upgrade the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

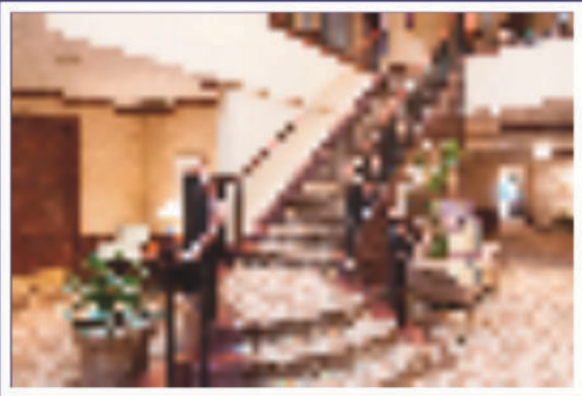
Other notable projects include completing the Linden to Mabura Hill Road with \$10.4 billion, starting work on the Mabura Hill to Kurupukari section with \$7.6 billion, and advancing the Palmyra to Moleson Creek four-lane highway.



Budget supports road and bridge development to improve connectivity

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GCCI commends govt’s people-centric, development-attuned Budget

THE Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has commended the Government of Guyana for its strategic focus on the development of its people and significant provisions to bolster the growth of the business community through targeted interventions in Budget 2026.

The Chamber, in a press statement, welcomed initiatives such as the removal of corporate tax on agriculture and agro-processing businesses; expansion of export allowance to include timber products; removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on locally made furniture and jewellery, and importation of security equipment, and the attention being paid on the development of the tourism sector.

Anticipated to have a transformational effect on the playing field for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises in particular, the GCCI applauded the provision for US\$100 million into

the development of the zero-interest development bank.

“When viewed in conjunction with measures such as the introduction of flat tax on double-cab pick-ups; the removal of VAT on new vehicles below 1500CCs and all-terrain vehicles, and the continuation of freight charge relief, these interventions by the government reflect commitment to the prosperity of the business sector and the people of Guyana,” GCCI said.

The GCCI congratulated the government on tabling the \$1.558 trillion budget that is expected to improve the lives of all Guyanese, and remains committed to working with the government for the advancement of Guyana’s business sector and economy.

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Guyana tables historic \$1.558 trillion budget with grants and tax relief

The Irfaan Ali Administration of Guyana presented its largest-ever National Budget on Monday, unveiling a \$1.558 trillion spending plan for 2026 designed to provide direct financial support to citizens, enhance social services, and stimulate economic growth.

Speaking to the 65-member National Assembly, Minister of Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, said the budget was crafted to advance President Irfaan Ali’s vision of a “modern” and “prosperous” Guyana. The 2026 budget is 12.7 percent larger than the previous year’s allocation and includes no new taxes.

As part of the government’s citizen-focused measures, every Guyanese aged 18 and older will receive a National Cash Grant of \$100,000, expected to total approximately \$60 billion.

School-aged children will benefit from a combined \$85,000 in grants, including an increase of the “Because We Care” (BWC) Cash Grant to \$60,000 per child, a \$5,000 uniform voucher allowance, and a newly introduced annual transportation support grant of \$20,000 per student. The measures will impact roughly 206,000 children in public and private schools, providing a total transfer of \$17.5 billion for 2026.

The government will also continue funding up to eight CSEC and CAPE subjects per child, benefiting nearly 14,000 students.

Old Age Pensions will increase from \$41,000 to \$46,000 per month, benefiting around 95,000 pensioners, while an annual \$20,000 transportation support grant will add another \$1.9 billion in annual transfers.

Public Assistance will rise from \$22,000 to \$25,000 per month. The government is also providing \$1.5 billion for co-investment in child care and elderly care facilities and removing corporate taxes on companies that provide these services.

Stipends for Pathway Workers, Community Enhancement Workers, Community Service Officers, and Community Policing Groups will increase from \$40,000 to \$50,000 monthly, totaling an additional \$14 billion annually.

To reduce the burden on citizens, the government is raising the income tax threshold from \$130,000 to \$140,000 per month, removing 5,000 people from



Dr Ashni Singh

the tax net and adding \$2 billion in disposable income. Net property taxes on individuals will also be removed, and a total of \$9 billion is set aside to offset the rising cost of living.

In the agriculture sector, corporate taxes on agriculture and agro-processing businesses will be removed, and additional products will qualify for export allowances, including timber value-added products.

The government will also remove VAT on locally manufactured furniture, jewellery, and hybrid vehicles below 2,000 cc, as well as duty and VAT on security equipment such as cameras and alarm systems. Import duties on double-cab pick-ups will be standardized to \$2 million for vehicles under 2,000 cc and \$3 million for those between 2,000 cc and 2,500 cc, irrespective of age. ATVs and outboard engines up to 150 horse-

power will also be exempt from import taxes.

Minister Singh described the 2026 budget as a blueprint for inclusive economic growth, saying it aligns with the government’s manifesto commitments to empower citizens, improve social welfare, and ensure equitable access to opportunities.

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Sir Mark Tully was cremated in Denhi after his passing at age 90

Modi joins tributes pouring in after passing of the ‘Voice of India’

Tributes have been pouring in for veteran BBC journalist Sir Mark Tully who has been cremated in the Indian capital, Delhi, a day after he died at the age of 90.

Hundreds of people - including friends and family - gathered at the Lodhi crematorium to bid their final goodbye to the broadcaster.

Sir Mark was widely regarded as the BBC's "voice of India" and was one of the most admired foreign correspondents of his generation.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Sir Mark as "a towering voice of journalism", adding that "his connect with India and the people of our nation was reflected in his works".

On Monday afternoon, mourners lined up around Sir Mark's body at the crematorium.

Wrapped in a white cloth, his body was laid on a platform on a bed of flowers, made up of rose petals and tuberoses. Marigold garlands and a wreath were placed on top.

Christian priests recited prayers and hymns were sung, before the body was taken for cremation.

Hundreds of people gathered to bid their final goodbyes to Sir Mark

Sir Mark, who died on Sunday at a Delhi hospital where he was undergoing treatment, has been described as a "chronicler of modern India".

Over a career spanning several decades, he reported on big historical moments that defined South Asia's trajectory, including the Indian army's storming of the Sikh Golden Temple, the birth of Bangladesh, periods of military rule in Pakistan, the Tamil Tigers' rebellion in Sri Lanka and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In 1992, while reporting on the demolition of the Babri mosque by Hindu hardliners, he faced threats from a mob and was locked in a room for several hours before a local official and a Hindu priest came to his aid.

Journalist Satish Jacob, who worked closely with Sir Mark at the BBC for nearly two decades and later co-authored a book with him, said he first met him on a flight in 1978, an encounter that "marked the beginning of a friendship that lasted

48 years".

In a personal tribute, Jacob recalled one of his fondest memories of his friend, from the night India won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.

"The match had been over 30 minutes before and we were on the terrace on a warm summer night in June while our Old Delhi mohalla [locality] was celebrating the win," he wrote on Facebook, adding that he soon heard Sir Mark's distinctive voice shouting, "Hum jeet gaya!" - meaning "we have won".

"There was Mark standing outside my house with a bottle of our favourite whiskey dancing in the street celebrating India's victory."

Author and historian William Dalrymple called Sir Mark a "giant among journalists and the greatest Indophile of his generation".

"As the voice of BBC India he was irreplaceable, a man prepared to stand up to power and to tell the truth, however uncomfortable," Dalrymple wrote in a post on X.

Senior journalists and academics across India have also spoken about Sir Mark's influence on them and the impact of his reporting.

Political scientist Pratap Bhanu Mehta wrote in The Indian Express newspaper that it "used to be joked that all Indians have a 'Sir Mark memory'". Mehta was a high school student when Sir Mark covered the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. When there was little reliable information, Sir Mark's despatches became the "only voice of Indian history as it happened", he recalled.

"It was only Sir Mark's voice, each evening, speaking with controlled despair, that provided any coherent picture of what was unfolding. There was something about the soft, rhythmic lilt of his delivery that paradoxically made the horror he described even more vivid," he added.

"During his decades of reporting for the BBC, he was the most recognised and trusted radio voice in India, at a time when the only real alternative was the completely government-controlled All India Radio," veteran journalist Coomi Kapoor wrote.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): If you feel the need to spend some time alone then do so and don't feel guilty about it. Even an Aries has days when it all gets too much and you need to keep the world at arm's length. You will be raring to go again tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): Like it or not you will have to show your face and maybe even say a few words today. You may be a very private person but with so much going on career-wise you can and you must get yourself noticed. Your future could depend on it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): It's not often you are this ambitious but over the next few days you will be determined to push ahead with your plans and push past obstacles that in former times might have held you back. Now they can be brushed aside with ease.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Something you found difficult in the past will come easier to you over the next few days and it won't be long before you become a bit of an expert at it. Make that expertise count by finding ways to make money from it.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): You have never been the sort to explain yourself and you are not about to start now. However much pressure friends and colleagues may bring to bear there is nothing they can do to force you to change your mind, still less to change your ways.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): If any of your rivals are hoping you will crack under pressure they are going to be disappointed. They may have all the power on their side at the moment but you have mastered the art of passive resistance – you just can't be beat.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): You will need to remind yourself today that a life in which you never take chances is hardly a life at all. Today's Mars-Pluto union could make you a bit reckless but even if you get something wrong it won't be the end of the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You should be feeling hugely positive about your prospects now both at work and in your private affairs. With Pluto, your ruler, linked to Mars today you can be a force to be reckoned with. You will also, inevitably, make a few enemies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): Resist the urge to get angry with someone who has failed to live up to your exacting standards. There is a real possibility that on this occasion, and maybe others, your standards are too high. Not everyone can be a superhero like you!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): It's good that you want to talk things through with friends and family members but don't give too much away. There is some information they don't need to know about – information that could embarrass you immensely if it became public knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Planetary activity in your birth sign will make it easy for you to win others round to your way of thinking. It will also make it easy to believe that you alone possess the key to long-term success, not those who judge your every move.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You will be thinking some really deep thoughts today and they may scare you a bit. The good news is that no matter how scary they may be they cannot possibly hurt you. Why? Because they are phantoms of the mind, nothing more.

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Grenada decriminalises cannabis, sets age of 21 for legal possession

Grenada’s Parliament has passed legislation amending the country’s marijuana laws, decriminalising cannabis for adults and laying the groundwork for a regulated medicinal and therapeutic cannabis industry.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell said he had preferred the legal age for cannabis possession to be 18, the age of civil responsibility, but ultimately settled on 21 following “passionate debate” and expert advice.

“There was passionate debate, we went back and forth...if you are an adult you are an adult, 18 is 18, we recognise 18, you can drive, you can vote, you can get married, so from my perspective you should be allowed at 18 if you do so wish to choose but I was in the minority,” Mitchell said during the debate on the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

“And so I cede graciously to the medical experts, to the mental health experts who recognise that at 18 a brain is still developing,” he added.

The government described the measure as a transformative milestone toward cannabis reform. Minister for Agriculture, Lands and Forestry, Economic Development and Planning Lennox Andrews said it prioritises “the health of individuals and safety of our youth, while finally unlocking therapeutic and economic power for all Grenadians.”

The legislation provides amnesty and automatic expungement of criminal records for minor cannabis offences and discontinues pending proceedings for specified small amounts. It also affirms the constitutional rights of the Rastafari community to use cannabis as a sacrament within registered places of worship and at special events, with allowances for cultivation.

Under the law, adults aged 21 and over may possess up to 56 grams of cannabis and 15 grams of cannabis resin, and register to cultivate up to four plants per household for private use. Public consumption remains prohibited and subject to penalties, and strict safeguards protect minors, including criminal penalties for supplying youth and rehabilitative approaches for those found in possession.

Prime Minister Mitchell noted the policy balances benefits and risks. “Yes, there is always the bright side and the dark side...We also recognise that there are serious medical risks and serious societal challenges that exist whether or not the policy continues to criminalise the use or possession,” he said.

Leader of Government Business and Minister of Health Phillip Telesford emphasized that recreational use remains prohibited. “Our policy of decriminalisation will be paired with strict regulations to protect the youths and accompanied by a robust public ed-

ucation campaign and strong enforcement against intoxication while driving. Medical use remains controlled and recreational use as per this Bill is not permitted. The Government prioritises health and safety over short-term economic gains,” he told Parliament.

Attorney General Senator Claudette Joseph highlighted the bill’s timeliness. “Grenada is one of the last

Dominica denies negotiating release of murder suspect

The Government of Dominica on Tuesday described as “malicious and misleading” social media reports suggesting it is negotiating with the United States over the release of an American national facing murder charges in the country.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade, and Energy said the reports, widely circulated online, were unfounded and appeared to be politically motivated. “While the Ministry is not in the business of responding to hearsay and baseless statements, it is felt that these particular statements, which are maliciously being peddled by the opposition, should be addressed,” the statement said.

The claims followed a video message by former opposition leader Hector John, in which he said the government had received a “third ultimatum” from the United States for Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit to release Jonathan Scott Lehrer, one of two US nationals charged in the 2023 double murder of Echo Resort owner Daniel Langlois and his partner Dominique Marchand. John alleged that Skerrit met with US officials on January 16 to “pave the way” for Lehrer’s handover.

Lehrer, 57, and Robert Snider Jr., 62, have been in remand awaiting trial for the murders of Langlois, a Canadian animation pioneer and philanthropist, and his 58-year-old longtime partner.

In response, the government clarified that, in line with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the US Embassy in Bridgetown has been granted permission to meet and hold discussions with its nationals since November 2024. The Ministry said such visits are “standard consular practice.”

jurisdictions to now move in the direction of the decriminalisation of cannabis and ultimately the establishment of a medical cannabis industry,” she said. Joseph stressed that decriminalisation does not mean unrestricted use; cannabis will remain controlled, with clear limits, defined offences, and enforcement mechanisms.

Grenada’s longest-serving Prime Minister Keith Mitchell exits politics

Former Grenadian Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has officially announced his retirement from active politics, ending a parliamentary career that spanned more than four decades.

Mitchell, 79, made the announcement on Thursday night, naming acting Clerk of Parliament Dr Adrian Joseph as his successor and caretaker for the St George North West constituency, which he has represented since 1984.

Addressing supporters in the constituency, Mitchell reflected on the trust placed in him by voters over the years, noting that he served as their parliamentary representative for more than 40 years and as prime minister for a combined 23 years.

“To the people of St George North West, you trusted me with the privilege of representing you in the Parliament of this country for over 40 years and 23 years of those you gave me the privilege to be prime minister Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique,” he said. “What more can any human being ask? How could I ever feel that I have been treated anything but special?”

Mitchell said the confidence shown by constituents formed the foundation of his public life and achievements. He recalled that during the last general election he had asked voters for “one for the road,” but acknowledged that it was now time to step aside.

“I have seen leadership in this country go on for so long to the point that they are not even able to physically walk,” he said. “And I said that will not happen to me. I was confident that I had to make the decision. I am making good on my promise.”

Mitchell is the founding leader of the New National Party (NNP) and the longest-serving prime minister in Grenada’s history. He led the party to successive clean sweeps of all 15 parliamentary seats in the 2013 and 2018 general elections. However, the NNP lost the June 23, 2022 general election to the National Democratic Congress (NDC) by a nine-to-six margin.

Dr Adrian Joseph, who was named as Mitchell’s successor for St George North West, is a seasoned diplomat and senior public administrator. NNP officials said his selection signals both continuity and renewal within the party, describing him as a bridge between the party’s established leadership and a new generation of public figures.

Mitchell’s departure marks the end of an era in Grenadian politics, closing a chapter defined by long-standing electoral dominance, political resilience and a central role in shaping the country’s modern political landscape.



Dr Keith Mitchell

Rwandan engineers help storm recovery

Engineers from the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) have arrived in Jamaica to assist in rebuilding communities devastated by Hurricane Melissa in October. The contingent of 101 members was officially welcomed on January 15 at the Caribbean Military Academy Headquarters in Kingston, with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, attending the ceremony.

Senator Johnson Smith thanked the Government of Rwanda, President Paul Kagame, and the Rwandan people for their support, saying the engineers’ expertise would help strengthen Jamaica’s recovery and resilience efforts.

” We are deeply grateful to President @PaulKagame for this strong show of solidarity and hope as Jamaica continues to recover from Hurricane Melissa. Collaboration will remain vital as we rebuild with resilience, and so we welcome the wider unity and perseverance also inspired by Rwanda’s generosity and cooperation,” she wrote via X.

Colonel Claudien Bizimungu, representing RDF leadership, reaffirmed Rwanda’s solidarity with Jamaica and highlighted the contingent’s experience in reconstruction and community-focused humanitarian work. Colonel Moses Kayigamba, the contingent commander, said the RDF engineers would work closely with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and national authorities to rebuild damaged infrastructure.

On January 19, RDF and JDF engineers began reconstruction work in Montego Bay, St James Parish, starting



with homes for families affected by Hurricane Melissa. Colonel Kayigamba emphasized that the mission goes beyond rebuilding houses, focusing on supporting communities and contributing to long-term resilience.

The deployment marks a concrete step in Rwanda’s commitment to international cooperation and humanitarian assistance, demonstrating close collaboration between the two countries in disaster recovery.

Jamaica’s recovery efforts have also received support from regional neighbors, including Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as international partners such as the European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan, and the United Nations.

Mottley defends Barbados election timing, says process followed the law

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has pushed back against criticism from Democratic Labour Party (DLP) leader Ralph Thorne over the timing of the upcoming general election, insisting that the process complied fully with the law and that opposing claims stem from a misunderstanding.

Thorne raised concerns at the DLP’s islandwide rally on Saturday, arguing that the election was announced before the Electoral and Boundaries Commission (EBC) had completed the voters’ list, which he said was due on January 31. He suggested that the early election call caused confusion and undermined the integrity of the process.

Responding later that evening while campaigning in St John, Mottley rejected the claim and cited provisions of the Representation of the People Act. She explained that the legislation requires the voters’ register to be published no later than January 31, not specifically on that date.

According to the prime minister, the register of electors was officially published on January 15, prior to the election announcement, making it the valid register for the 2026 general election. She also noted that once an election is called, preliminary voters’ lists are issued to allow for corrections, updates, and claims.

Mottley further reminded the public that the window for making changes to the voters’ list was quickly closing, with less than 48 hours remaining for individuals to verify their registration details or update their addresses.

Addressing allegations of irregularities, the prime minister said discrepancies in the voters’ list are not unusual



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley

and have occurred in every election cycle for decades. She dismissed suggestions that the issues were politically driven, pointing out that persons linked

to both major political parties have been affected.

Mottley again urged eligible voters to take personal responsibility for en-

suring their information is accurate, encouraging them to review the voters’ list before the deadline expires.

Concert series raises \$200M for hurricane aid

The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport has raised an estimated \$200 million through its I Love Jamaica concert series, supporting national recovery efforts following the passage of Hurricane Melissa in October 2025.

The concert series includes events staged locally and overseas, with support from international artistes alongside Jamaica’s reggae and dancehall fraternity. The initiative was launched as a cultural and humanitarian response to the widespread damage caused by

the hurricane. Speaking at the official launch of Reggae Month on Wednesday, January 21, at J. Wray and Nephew Limited’s head office in New Kingston, portfolio minister Olivia Grange said the funds raised to date are being channelled directly into the Support Jamaica account.

“Some is still being deposited, and we have concerts being lined up in the continent of Africa, as well as in the big leagues,” Grange said.

She praised the local music indus-

try for what she described as its swift and selfless response in the aftermath of the disaster, calling artistes “first responders” who used their talents to help lift national spirits during a difficult period.

“I’m very proud of the industry, all our artistes. I want to thank the industry for stepping up and going out there and being our brother’s and sister’s keeper,” Grange said. “We want to send a message of love and solidarity with the hopeful message that every little thing is going to be all right.”

The minister noted that Reggae Month 2026, which begins on February 1, will carry a special message of hope for western Jamaica, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Melissa.

“We are reaching out to our brothers and sisters in western Jamaica, and to our family and friends across the world facing various crises, as well as all who mourn at this time,” she added.

A full schedule of Reggae Month 2026 activities is available on the Reggae Jamaica App, which can be downloaded free from the Google Play Store.

T&T raises US\$1 billion in oversubscribed sovereign bond issue

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has successfully raised US\$1.0 billion through a sovereign bond issued on the United States market, with the offering oversubscribed by approximately 2.5 times, signalling strong international investor confidence in the country’s credit profile.

The bond was issued on January 22, 2026, and represents the largest bond transaction undertaken by Trinidad and Tobago in the past 10 years, according to the Ministry of Finance. Proceeds from the transaction fully address the Republic’s US\$1 billion external bond maturity due in August 2026 and materially extend the average life of the country’s external debt from 4.1 years to 6.3 years.

Commenting on the transaction, Minister of Finance Davendranath Tancoo said the outcome validates the country’s economic fundamentals and policy direction under the new administration.

“The successful issuance represents a clear validation of the sovereign’s credit fundamentals and the new disciplined policy framework,” Tancoo said. He added that achieving pricing tighter than benchmarks, while attracting an order book more than double the final issue size, reflects sustained investor confidence and an improved risk perception of Trinidad and Tobago.

The 10-year senior unsecured notes, due in 2036, were priced with a 20 basis-point compression from initial price talks and approximately 54.6 basis points tighter than the Republic’s original US\$1 billion issuance in 2016. The bond carries a 6.500 per cent coupon and was priced at 98.552 per cent. The notes will be listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and governed by New York law.

The transaction followed a three-day investor roadshow announced by the Ministry of Finance on January 16,



Davendranath Tancoo, Minister of Finance

involving both in-person and virtual meetings with key international fixed-income investors. The delegation, led by Minister Tancoo and Central Bank Governor Larry Howai, met with more than 50 investors to provide updates on the country’s sovereign credit and the rationale for the bond issue.

At the opening of business in New York on January 22, strong indications of interest from the roadshow

prompted joint bookrunners to recommend proceeding with the benchmark transaction. The order book grew rapidly throughout the morning, driven largely by real-money accounts, and exceeded US\$2.4 billion with more than 140 orders by midday.

Key highlights of the transaction include the largest investor order book for Trinidad and Tobago in the last five years, increased participation from a

broader and more diverse investor base, and the successful repositioning of the country’s credit despite two negative rating outlooks. The number of investors rose to 144 in 2026, compared with 93 in 2024.

The Ministry of Finance said the transaction meaningfully enhances Trinidad and Tobago’s sovereign funding profile and supports continued engagement with global investors on

Barbados tops Caribbean passport rankings again

Barbados has once again emerged as the holder of the strongest passport in the Caribbean, according to the Henley Passport Index 2026, marking the 11th consecutive year the country has led the region.

The Barbadian passport is ranked 19th globally, granting holders visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 162 destinations worldwide. It places Barbados ahead of all other Caribbean nations in terms of global travel mobility.

The Bahamas follows closely behind in 20th place globally, with access to 150 destinations. St Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 22nd with 156 destinations, while St Kitts and Nevis is 23rd with access to 155 destinations. Antigua and Barbuda rounds out the top five

Caribbean passports, ranking 24th globally with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 154 destinations.

Trinidad and Tobago is ranked 28th globally, allowing access to 146 destinations, while Grenada sits just above at 27th with 147 destinations. St Lucia and Dominica are both ranked 29th globally, each offering access to 145 destinations.

Several Caribbean countries fall into the mid-to-lower tier of the global rankings. Belize is ranked 49th with access to 99 destinations, followed by Guyana at 54th with 88 destinations. Jamaica ranks 56th globally, providing visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 86 destinations, while Suriname is ranked 61st with access to 78 destinations. The Dominican Republic places 67th with 72



destinations, Cuba ranks 77th with 58 destinations, and Haiti is ranked 85th globally, with access to 50 destinations.

On the global scale, Singapore holds the top position as the world’s most powerful passport in 2026, while Afghanistan ranks last.

The Henley Passport Index, which has tracked global mobility trends for more than 20 years, is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA). The index covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations and is updated monthly. It is widely regarded as the standard reference for assessing the relative strength of passports and the level of travel freedom enjoyed by citizens around the world.

More than 100 Ghanaian nurses arrive in Antigua and Barbuda

More than 100 nurses arrived in Antigua and Barbuda on Monday, January 26, as part of a major recruitment initiative aimed at strengthening the country’s health care system, according to the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

The nurses, who traveled from Ghana, are expected to serve at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, community clinics across the island, and within the mental health sector over the next three years.

They were welcomed at the V. C. Bird International Airport by Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph; Minister of State Michael Joseph; Permanent Secretary Stacey Gregg-Paige; Medical Director of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis; Nursing Director Jacqueline Jno Baptiste; and other officials and health-care staff.

Members of the Ghanaian delegation were also in attendance, including Samuel Appiahkubi, technical director in Ghana’s Ministry of Special Initiatives; Nelson Ndebugre, a presidential staffer in the Office of the President; and Gilbert Attipoe, a presidential aide in the Office of the President of Ghana.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph described the arrival as a historic and symbolic boost for Antigua and Barbuda’s health sector, noting that it represents one of the largest single delegations to cross the Atlantic from Ghana.

“This is truly a delightful moment in the history of Antigua and Barbuda,” Joseph said. Addressing the nurses, he spoke of shared heritage and kinship, telling them they had “rejoined your family,” and expressed gratitude to



Some of the African nurses as they arrived in Antigua

Ghana’s president for supporting the initiative.

An official welcome ceremony for the nurses is scheduled for Saturday.

The nurses have been contracted for a three-year period and will undergo a three-week orientation programme focused on cultural integration, clinical alignment and role-specific training before being deployed to health facilities

across the country.

Health officials estimate that Antigua and Barbuda requires approximately 400 nurses to operate its health system effectively. With about 260 local nurses and 33 Cuban nurses currently in service, the addition of the Ghanaian nurses is expected to push staffing slightly above the minimum operational threshold and improve the nurse-to-pa-

tient ratio, currently estimated at 1:10.

The government said the recruitment effort was influenced by positive experiences with Ghanaian nurses in other Caribbean countries, including Barbados and The Bahamas, where similar arrangements have helped to ease staffing shortages and improve patient care.



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Sampson in, Lewis out as West Indies name T20 World Cup squad

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed its 15-man squad for the 2026 ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, to be staged jointly in India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8.

The announcement was made on January 26 via a short video presentation released across CWI’s official social media platforms.

Barbadian wicketkeeper-batsman Shai Hope has been appointed captain, leading a side that blends established campaigners with emerging options as the two-time champions set their sights on another global title.

The selected squad features several players who formed the backbone of the West Indies’ most recent T20 World Cup campaigns. Among those retaining their places are Test captain Roston Chase, all-rounder Jason Holder, spinners Akeal Hosein and Gudakesh Motie, middle-order power hitters Rovman Powell and Sherfane Rutherford, and seam-bowling all-rounder Romario Shepherd.

The group reflects continuity in selection, with many players viewed as long-term fixtures in the Caribbean’s white-ball plans.

Notably absent from the squad are left-handed opener Evin Lewis and fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, who is continuing his recovery from injury. Lewis’ omission, in particular, marks a significant shift for a player long regarded as one of the most destructive T20 batters in West Indies history.

In a message posted to his Instagram story shortly after the squad announcement, the 34-year-old strongly hinted that his international career may have reached its conclusion.

“Just wanna thank everyone who supported me in my ten years of international cricket, but I think the time has come for me to depart,” Lewis said. “Stay tuned.”

Lewis exits the international stage with an imposing résumé, having represented the West Indies in 70 One-Day Internationals and 67 T20 Internationals. In the shortest format, he struck two centuries and 13 half-centuries, compiling 1,799 runs at an average of 29.01 and a strike rate of 152.07.

The most intriguing inclusion is Guyanese batter Quentin Sampson, who emerges as the wildcard selection in head coach Daren Sammy’s World Cup plans. The 25-year-old only made his international debut earlier this month during a three-match T20 series against Afghanistan.

Sampson impressed initially with a composed 30 off 24 balls on debut but followed with modest returns of two and three as the West Indies conceded the series 2-1. Despite the limited sample size, the selectors have placed faith in his power-hitting potential on the world stage.

West Indies have been placed in Group C, where they will face England, Italy, Nepal, and Scotland, the latter hav-



Shai Hope — named Captain

ing replaced Bangladesh in the tournament line-up. The Men in Maroon will begin their campaign against Scotland on February 7 at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, one of cricket’s most iconic venues.

With experience, firepower, and fresh intrigue in their ranks, the West Indies head into the tournament seeking to

reassert their dominance in the game’s shortest format.

Squad: Shai Hope (captain), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Quentin Sampson, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd.

JA bobsledders strengthen competitive edge with tech

The Jamaica Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (JBSF) has taken a significant step in strengthening its competitive platform, announcing a new apparel partnership with Backcountry and Xpore that will outfit Jamaican athletes with high-performance gear for both competition and training.

Revealed last week, the agreement brings together Backcountry, one of the world’s leading premium outdoor gear retailers, and Xpore, a cutting-edge, eco-responsible textile technology developed by BenQ Materials. The collaboration underscores Jamaica’s growing presence on the international winter sports stage while aligning performance excellence with environmental responsibility.

Under the partnership, Jamaican bobsleigh and skeleton athletes will receive a complete suite of official outerwear designed specifically for the extreme demands of winter competition. The full range of kits will cover both training and race-day requirements, ensuring athletes are properly equipped to perform in harsh, cold-weather environments.

Backcountry will supply the apparel through its in-house Backcountry

Gear & Apparel line, while Xpore will serve as the federation’s official textile technology partner, providing advanced uniform materials tailored for winter sports.

JBSF President Dr. Chris Stokes described the partnership as a milestone in Jamaica’s long-term vision of becoming a consistent force in international bobsleigh.

He emphasized that access to world-class equipment is essential for athletes aiming to compete at the highest level.

“Having partners like Backcountry and Xpore that make the environment a priority are partners we want,” Dr. Stokes said.

“This partnership with Backcountry and Xpore will equip our athletes with high-quality, technical gear for competitions, helping to provide them with a competitive edge while being friendly to the environment.”

Backcountry President Kevin Lenau welcomed the collaboration, praising the Jamaican program for its resilience, ambition, and growing global influence. “We are inspired by the Jamaican bobsleigh team and all they have accomplished this season.”



The Jamaica Bobseld team



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Nai Yu Miu 奶油苗 Reg:\$2.59	Red Pepper 紅椒 Reg:\$2.99	Broccoli 西蘭花 Reg:\$2.59	Long Hot Pepper 粗長青椒 Reg:\$2.99	White Long Bean 白長豆角 Reg:\$3.89	California Oranges 加州橙 Reg:\$1.39	Clementine With Leaves 有葉年桔 Reg:\$2.99	Ambrosia Sweet Apple 神仙蘋果 Reg:\$1.99
Asian Pear 水晶梨 Reg:\$1.59	Peru Sweet Mandarin 秘魯甜桔 Reg:\$1.99	Blackberry 黑莓 Reg:\$1.99/pk	Small Red Grape 小紅提 Reg:\$3.99	Avocado In Bag 袋裝牛油果 Reg:\$3.99	Blueberry 藍莓 Reg:\$5.99	Ataulfo Mango 呂宋芒 Reg:\$27.99	

RESTAURANT SPECIAL

Spanish Onion 大洋葱 22.00 case	Cabbage 椰菜 25.00 case	Red Pepper 紅椒 15lb 28.00 case	Chinese Carrot 中國紅蘿卜 29.00 case	Napa 紹菜 30.00 case	Broccoli 西蘭花 39.00 case
Lemon 黃檸檬 40.00 case	Green Onion 葱 60.00 case	Green Bean 青豆仔 72.00 case	Celery 西芹 95.00 case	Blue Jay California Citrus 藍鳥橙 55.00 case	Avocados 36s 牛油果 55.00 case
Frozen Panga Basa Fillet 魚柳 8x3.5lb 65.00 case	Headless White Shrimp 無頭白蝦 21-25 10x4lb 220.00 case	Frozen Banana Leaf 凍香蕉葉 20bags 40.00 case	Extra Large Egg 箱裝大雞蛋 56.99 case	Pork Intestine 豬大腸 10kg 50.00 case	Chicken Breast 雞胸肉 25kg 260.00 case
Gold Plum Dried Black Fungus Strips 5lb 木耳絲 29.99 case	Mr. Goudas Long Grain Rice 黃米 20kg 29.99 bag	Long Grain White Rice 優質絲苗米 20kg 29.99 bag	P.R.B Monosodium Glutamate 50lb 珠江橋牌味精 58.00 bag	ADM All Purpose Flour 面粉 20kg 19.99 bag	Capri Vegetable / Canola Oil 菜油/芥菜籽油 16L 32.99 case
Carnation Evaporated Milk 三花淡奶 48x354ml 90.00 case	Redpath Sugar 20kg 白糖 26.99 bag	EP-6 Hinged 250pc 餐盒 22.99 case	BBR 28 / BBR 38 150pc 一次性餐盒 27.00 case	NG-18 New Gen Eco-Friendly Packaging 一次性餐盒 19.99 case	E-Pack Wrap 914 保鮮膜 450mmx600m 20.00 case
Convenience Rolls 包裝袋 10.5x15 13lb 15.99 case	NF 200 Napkins 餐巾紙 45.00 case				

FROZEN

Ocean Royale Frozen Head On Shrimp 40/50 400g 速凍有頭蝦 Reg:\$6.99	Gia Phat Beef Tendon Ball 加發牛筋丸 390g Reg:\$9.99	Choysco Frozen Straw Mushroom 340g 草菇 Reg:\$5.99	Frozen Kumquat 400g 金桔 Reg:\$2.99/ea	Assorted Fried Fish Ball 韓國魚丸 500g Reg:\$5.99	Baguio Sweet Tocino 375g 臘肉 Reg:\$5.99
Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage 375g 金然棧臘腸(雞肉腸) Reg:\$5.99	Sanford New Zealand Greenshell Mussels 800g 紐西蘭半殼青回 Reg:\$12.99	Siren's World Frozen Cooked Oyster (I.Q.F) 400g 凍煮生蠔 Reg:\$7.99	Black Diamond Cheese Series 芝士 410g Reg:\$4.99	AA-1 Baby Cuttlefish 400g 墨魚仔 Reg:\$6.99	SH Clam Meat 300g 蜆肉 Reg:\$4.99

GROCERY

Fuze Lemon Iced Tea 200ml 檸檬茶 Reg:\$3.99	Oishi Potato Fries Plain Salted 50g 薯條 Reg:\$1.39/ea	Ding Dong Mixed Nut Series 零食 95g Reg:\$1.39	Jack' N Jill Presto Peanut Butter Cookie 餅乾 300g Reg:\$3.99/ea	DLY Breakfast Bread 400g 達利牌早餐包 Reg:\$5.99	Great Taste Coffee 10x30g 咖啡 Reg:\$3.99
Eulong Egg Cookie Roll 300g 元朗牛油蛋卷 Reg:\$6.99	Binbin Rice Cracker 150g 賓賓米菓 Reg:\$2.99	Natural Green Tea 6x455ml 綠茶 Reg:\$9.99	Gina Juice Drink 250ml 果汁 Reg:\$1.79	Nongshim Oolongmen Instant Noodle Series 農心烏龍麵/辛拉麵 60x75g Reg:\$9.99	AJ Ginaisa 16x8g 調味包 Reg:\$2.99
Temple Brand Fermented Salted Black Beans 180g 豆豉 Reg:\$2.59	Golden Panda Peeled Split Mung Beans/ Green Mung Beans 300g 金熊牌綠豆/綠豆 Reg:\$1.99	Cock Brand Tapioca Starch 麥粉 400g Reg:\$1.79	Terra Delyssa Extra Virgin Olive Oil 橄欖油 1L Reg:\$15.99	Jamaica Pride Dry Sorrel 洛神花 100g Reg:\$2.99	Dunn's River Ackee In Salted Water 540g 荔枝果罐頭 Reg:\$10.99
Pork Butt 梅頭 Reg:\$3.79/lb	Beef Rib Eyes 肥牛 Reg:\$9.99	Boneless Lamb Meat 無骨羊肉 Reg:\$9.99	Best Choice Sliced Beef Roll 牛肉卷 Reg:\$8.99	Chicken Drumstick 雞小腿 Reg:\$2.99	

SEAFOOD

Fresh Salmon Steak 新鮮三文魚扒 Reg:\$8.99	Fresh Salmon Head 新鮮三文魚頭 Reg:\$3.99	Fresh Frozen Squid 冰鮮魷魚 Reg:\$7.99	Frozen Fresh Head-On White Shrimp 冰鮮有頭南美白蝦 Reg:\$5.99	Frozen Fresh Pompano 冰鮮黃立鯧 Reg:\$5.99	Fresh Frozen Cat Fish 新鮮上水魴魚 Reg:\$3.99

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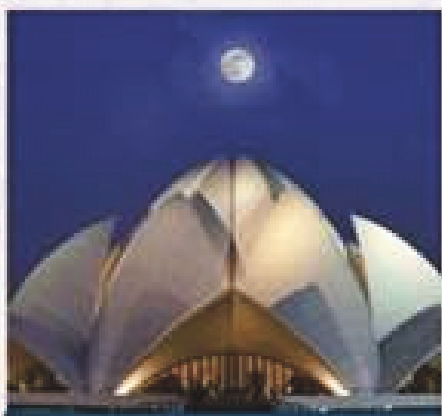
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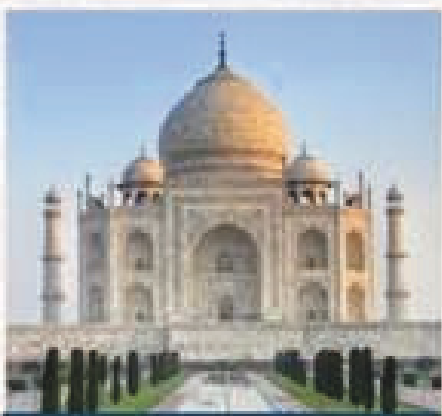
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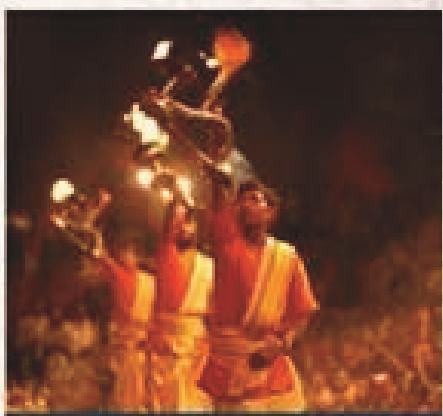
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MASHRAMANI

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BANKS MASH IN DE AVENUE FRIDAY JAN 16 16:00 HRS MAIN STREET	BANKS MASH IN DE AVENUE FRIDAY JAN 23 16:00 HRS MAIN STREET	MASHRAMANI POP-UP CONCERT SATURDAY JAN 24 17:00 HRS MAIN STREET NEW AMSTERDAM	MASH IN DE AVENUE FRIDAY JAN 30 16:00 HRS MAIN STREET	REPUBLIC BANK PANORAMA LAUNCH PARTY SUNDAY FEB 1 17:00 HRS SEAWALL ESPLANADE	BANKS MASH IN DE AVENUE FRIDAY FEB 6 16:00 HRS MAIN STREET	MASHRAMANI POP-UP CONCERT SUNDAY FEB 7 17:00 HRS BARTICA COMMUNITY CENTRE
CALYPSO MONARCH FRIDAY FEB 13 20:00 HRS MORUCA REGION 1	CHUTNEY MONARCH SATURDAY FEB 14 20:00 HRS BATH SETTLEMENT COMMUNITY CENTRE	DANCEHALL MONARCH SUNDAY FEB 15 21:00 HRS 1803 MONUMENT SITE KITTYS SEAWALL	REPUBLIC BANK MASHRAMANI PANORAMA (FREE WINE COMPETITION) THURSDAY FEB 19 18:00 HRS KINGSTON BEACH	Soca MONARCH FRIDAY FEB 20 20:00 HRS GEORGETOWN BUS PARK LINDEN	MASHRAMAMA SATURDAY FEB 21 20:00 HRS NATIONAL PARK	
SPLASHRAMANI SUNDAY FEB 22 20:00 HRS PROVIDENCE NATIONAL STADIUM	REPUBLIC FLAG RAISING SUNDAY FEB 22 22:00 HRS PUBLIC BUILDINGS	COSTUME & FLOAT PARADE MONDAY FEB 23 11:00 HRS GEORGETOWN				

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