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T&T signs US\$5B data centre deal

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with U.S. companies that could pave the way for more than US\$5 billion in investment, including two large-scale data centre projects that officials say could help diversify the country's economy and create more than 5,000 jobs.

One agreement with Ernst & Young LLP (EY) establishes a framework to develop a 300-megawatt data centre using the company's Energy to Intelligence (E2I) platform. A second MOU with Hummingbird AI Holdings LLC outlines plans for a proposed 150-megawatt AI infrastructure and data centre, with the potential to expand to 500 megawatts. *More on Page 27*

Farmers get \$113M cash grants

A total of 374 rice farmers in Region Four received \$113.14 million in government cash grants on Tuesday as part of ongoing efforts to support the rice industry and reduce production costs.

This is a commitment President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali previously made when he met with farmers earlier in the year.

Speaking at the distribution exercise at the Cane Grove Primary School, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said the grants will help farmers reinvest in their next crop while easing the financial burden caused by declining global paddy prices.

Farmers cultivating 50 acres or less receive \$15,000 per acre, while those cultivating more than 50 acres receive \$10,000 per acre, representing a total payout of \$113.14 million for the region.

The Region Four distribution marked the conclusion of the nationwide cash grant initiative.

“At the end of today’s exercise, we will be paying out to 5,106 farmers around the country who cultivated a total of 234,000 acres for the last crop, and a total sum of \$2,763,249 will be paid out when this exercise concludes...”, he said.

The agriculture minister noted that the government has consistently supported rice farmers through cash grants, fertiliser assistance, and tax concessions on fuel. He urged farmers to use the grants wisely by investing in their cultivation and encouraged them to explore integrated farming to diversify their income and strengthen their operations.

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Jamaican Minister of Culture and Sport Olivia Grange

Jamaica to petition King Charles III for slavery reparations on Sept. 6

The Jamaican Government will formally petition Britain’s King Charles III for reparations for slavery on September 6, a date Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange described as a “historic day.”

Grange made the announcement on Tuesday during her contribution to the 2026/27 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives.

She said September 6 marks the date in 1781 when the slave ship Zong departed West Africa for Jamaica carrying 442 enslaved Africans. During the voyage, the ship encountered difficulties and its captain ordered enslaved Africans to be thrown overboard in an effort to claim insurance for the loss of cargo.

A total of 140 enslaved Africans were killed, and the ship eventually arrived in Black River, St. Elizabeth, on December 21, 1781.

“We erected a monument to the murdered Africans in Black River where the ship docked. Interestingly, when Hurricane Melissa devastated the town, it was the only monument standing as if to remind us of our duty to seek reparatory justice,” Grange said.

She explained that the petition will ask the King to refer three questions to the Privy Council, Jamaica’s final appellate court, concerning the criminal nature of the transatlantic trafficking and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans in Jamaica.

The first question asks whether the forced transportation of African people from their homelands to Jamaica and their subsequent enslavement were lawful, given that the unauthorized removal and enslavement were contrary to fundamental principles of common law.

The second asks whether the forced transportation and enslavement of people of African descent up to 1838 constituted crimes against humanity under international law for which the United Kingdom bears responsibility.

The third seeks to determine whether, in light of those actions and their continuing consequences, the United Kingdom is obligated to provide a remedy to the Jamaican people for the unlawful transportation and enslavement of African people in Jamaica under British rule up to 1838.

“This request is made to His Majesty the King in his capacity as head of State of Jamaica and from whom we expect protection,” Grange said, adding that Jamaica has the full support of the Caribbean Community in pursuing the action.

Grange noted that the enslavement of Africans in Jamaica lasted for more than 300 years and that when emancipation was achieved in 1834, plantation owners were compensated for the loss of “property” while formerly enslaved people were subjected to a period of apprenticeship.

She also highlighted that on March 25, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Slave Trade, the Government of Ghana secured the adoption of a United Nations resolution declaring the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans to be the gravest crime against humanity.

“Jamaica and the rest of Caricom supported the declaration. Regrettably, all the countries of Europe abstained,” Grange said.

The minister invited all Jamaicans to join the national conversation and movement for reparatory justice on behalf of their ancestors.

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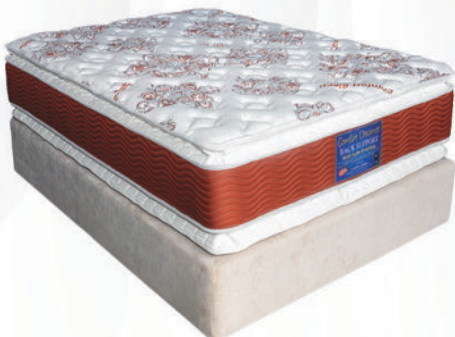
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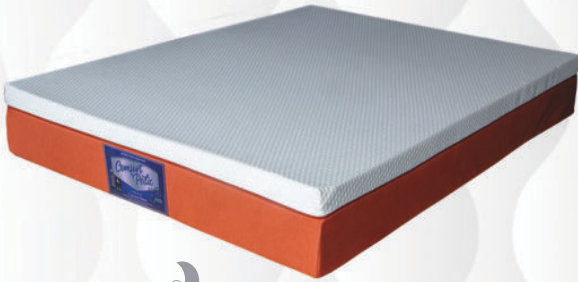
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Taylor eyes Windies Women clean sweep

Veteran West Indies batter Stafanie Taylor is oozing with confidence as her team stands on the precipice of a clean sweep against Ireland following a masterclass in batting at Bready Cricket Club on Sunday.

West Indies Women headed into the third and final One-Day International at press time on Wednesday looking to maintain their ruthless streak and secure the 3-0 sweep.

Speaking on the eve of the contest, Taylor reflected on a dominant performance in the second match in which she remained unbeaten on an even 100, sharing the spotlight with Captain Hayley Matthews who also notched a century.

The partnership propelled the West Indies to a comprehensive six-wicket victory, setting the stage for a potential whitewash.

“I love batting with Hayley Matthews; we do support each other because we know how each other plays,” Taylor said, “so it is easy to bat with her.”

The century carried significant emotional weight for the veteran. While she has been a prolific run-scorer globally, the milestone against Ireland was particularly personal. With the Windies chasing a target and wickets potentially tumbling, she emphasised the importance of mental discipline over raw aggression.

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Until we meet again, you will always be in our hearts.

With endless love,
Mom & Dad, Sisters: Sharda & Anita and the entire family



Guyana to launch mobile government services for diaspora communities

Guyanese living abroad will soon have easier access to essential government services as the administration moves to establish mobile service centres in countries with large diaspora populations.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced the initiative on Tuesday evening during an engagement with members of the Guyanese community in Saint Lucia, saying the programme aims to bring government services directly to citizens overseas.

“We want, at least once every year in the beginning, to take the mobile government service across every country where we have a large diaspora, so we can service that diaspora with one

unit, whether it’s NIS, birth certificates, replacement of any document and all of these things,” Ali said.

The president said the mobile service centres will complement Guyana’s ongoing digital transformation efforts, which have improved access to public services within the country.

He also announced that a mobile team will soon begin providing biometric passport services to Guyanese abroad, reducing the need for citizens to travel to Guyana to complete passport-related processes.

Ali highlighted the impact of newly established government service centres across Guyana, noting that they

have helped reduce processing times for several transactions from weeks to minutes by allowing multiple agencies to operate under one roof.

During the Saint Lucia engagement, attendees were invited to provide their names, contact information and details of issues requiring government assistance. The concerns will be recorded in a central database, allowing officials to begin addressing requests more efficiently.

The president also encouraged members of the diaspora to return home, invest in Guyana and contribute to the country’s continued development.



President Dr Irfaan Ali

T&T gov’t launches review of diplomatic passports

The Trinidad and Tobago Government has launched a sweeping review of diplomatic passports and will move to recover documents from several holders, including former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley, according to the Trinidad Guardian.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar confirmed that Rowley will be asked to surrender his diplomatic passport after a review found that hundreds of people were in possession of the travel documents without meeting the required criteria.

The announcement follows an earlier directive for former prime minister Stuart Young to return his diplomatic passport, making Rowley the latest high-profile figure affected as the Government moves to tighten oversight of the system.

Persad-Bissessar said the review was triggered after international partners raised concerns about the issuance and possible misuse of diplomatic passports.

“The Government was requested by our foreign counterparts to look into the issuance and abuse of Trinidad and Tobago-issued diplomatic passports,” she said.

She added that an internal probe found that 985 individuals held diplomatic passports despite most not qualifying for them.

According to the Prime Minister, the exercise is part of a broader admin-

istrative correction rather than a targeted political move. She said some holders would instead be issued official passports, others reverted to ordinary passports, while a smaller group would retain diplomatic status if they still qualify.

Rowley, she said, would be contacted by the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

“He is retired and he is not representing the country in an official capacity. Therefore, he should not be in possession of a diplomatic passport,” Persad-Bissessar said, adding that he would instead be issued an official passport.

She also clarified that diplomatic passports do not automatically confer immunity, noting that such privileges depend on accreditation by receiving states under the Vienna Convention.

Works and Infrastructure Minister Jearlean John downplayed the controversy, questioning the public attention around the matter and saying travel convenience was the main benefit of the documents.

The move comes amid wider political tension over diplomatic privileges, following the earlier decision to request Stuart Young’s return of his passport. The Opposition People’s National Movement has described the actions as politically motivated, accusing the Government of “revenge and pettiness.”



T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Festival worries

It is easy to get concerned when we see outbursts of deadly violence at street festivals in Toronto, especially since we all like to participate in them.

Indeed, summer festivals are almost a rite of passage in this city. It is where we get to experience the beauty and culture of the diversity around us, and who doesn't enjoy the food?

But last weekend's shooting at Salsa on St Clair, perhaps the most popular Latin festival in the city, which left two people dead and many others injured, has us worried.

After all, summer has only just started, and there are many more street and public events to which we look forward, one of them being our community's own Toronto Carnival, which begins at the end of this month.

There was a time when carnival -- then known

by its original name, Caribana -- was plagued by incidents of violence, including shootings.

Such was the concern that the organizers immediately took steps to protect the 1 million or more people who attend the annual parade, and eventually managed to return it to its original reputation as one of the safest events of its kind anywhere in the world.

We have no doubt that the Salsa shooting has energized the current Carnival organizers, who will surely be in talks with police and private security to make sure this event doesn't fall to a similar fate.

Given the fact that they have dealt with this before and came out looking good on the other side, we have confidence that those planning to attend the parade or the other main events that surround carnival can be assured they will be safe.

As for Salsa on St Clair and other events that are coming up, we trust that the Toronto Police Service is

doing its best to secure these and keep them safe.

We're certain that the city, as well, is taking steps to assure the public that they will not be jeopardizing their safety when attending.

We just have to look at the recently concluded FIFA events in the city as examples. All ran without a hitch, and these drew tens of thousands of locals and well as visitors into the city core without problems.

This means that the shooting at Salsa on St Clair was an aberration, not a pattern. From all reports, the men killed at the event were targeted. That means no amount of policing would have prevented it, but if anything, would have simply delayed the inevitable.

We urge our readers to go out and enjoy what Toronto has to offer this summer. Don't live in fear, but do keep an eye out for danger, in the unlikely event it rears its ugly head.

Have a great summer of festivals.

Opposition Mouth Sweet, Biting on Sugar

Dear Editor,

PLEASE allow me to share some information and remind my brothers and sisters of what truly occurred within the sugar industry.

I will not go back to the distant past, but instead deal with the reality that people, especially young people, need to know about the sugar industry, particularly since sugar workers were misled in 2015 by the PNC and AFC coalition government.

Leading up to the 2015 General and Regional Elections, sugar workers and their families were promised a better life. The APNU+AFC coalition repeatedly claimed that if elected they would make the sugar industry profitable again and improve the welfare of workers.

Between 2015 and 2020, the APNU+AFC government closed several sugar estates, including Wales, Rose Hall, East Demerara and Skeldon. More than 7,000 sugar workers lost their jobs directly, while thousands more who depended on the industry for transportation, vending, farming and small businesses were also severely affected.

The closure of estates destroyed livelihoods across sugar-dependent communities. Families struggled to put food on the table, children suffered, and many workers were forced into hardship and migration in search of employment. Starvation and suffering became the reality for many former sugar workers and their families.

The coalition government promised diversification and alternative employment, but many of those promises never materialised. Instead, entire communities were abandoned while the industry was pushed into decline.

Today, the same people who presided over the

destruction of the sugar industry are attempting to lecture the PPP government on management and workers' welfare.

Under the PPP/C government since 2020, thousands of workers have been rehired and several estates have resumed operations. Investments were made to reopen Rose Hall Estate and revive production in other areas. The government also restored severance payments owed to workers and continued support for communities that depend on sugar.

No one is saying the industry does not have challenges. Sugar remains a major industry with long-standing problems, and many of those issues cannot be solved overnight. However, there is a clear difference between a government trying to rebuild the industry and one that deliberately dismantled it.

Between 2015 and 2020, workers could hardly raise their voices without fear. Ministers of the former government showed little concern for the plight of sugar workers and their families. Workers felt abandoned.

Under the current PPP/C administration, workers at least have a government and a Minister of Agriculture who listens to their concerns and engages with them directly. Minister Zulfikar Mustapha has consistently met with workers, unions and management in an effort to address issues affecting the industry.

While management problems still exist within GuySuCo, and production targets are sometimes not met, those shortcomings cannot be placed solely at the feet of the government. Some members of management must also accept responsibility for inefficiency and poor decision-making.

Today, we are again seeing opposition elements

attempting to use sugar workers for political gain. Recently, Gobin Harbhajan of the WIN party using the same tactics employed by the AFC and PNC before 2015 — attempting to brainwash sugar workers with promises while ignoring the painful history of estate closures and mass dismissals under the coalition government.

The opposition's spokesman on agriculture remains silent on many critical issues affecting sugar because many of those same individuals supported policies that nearly destroyed the industry and left thousands of workers and their families to suffer.

Since 2020, I have seen leadership from a Minister who understands the struggles of the working class, especially sugar workers. I have seen efforts to restore dignity, jobs and hope to families who depend on the industry for survival.

Under Minister Mustapha's leadership, there has been improved direction and greater attention to workers' welfare. While GuySuCo still faces operational and production challenges, the government continues working to improve the industry rather than destroy it.

Recently, misinformation was spread claiming that workers would not receive retroactive payments. Yet these false narratives are being pushed by some of the same people who supported the firing of thousands of workers and the closure of estates during the coalition years.

Think carefully about who truly stood with sugar workers during the difficult years and who is standing with them today.

Respectfully,
Abel Seetaram



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Investments in new technologies crucial to int’l supply chains

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The federal government is making investments in new technologies and projects for the improvement of the critical minerals industry in Canada and its performance in terms of environment, in addition to playing an important part in international supply chains.

The announcement was made by Minister of Industry, Mélanie Joly. She highlighted the investments made by the federal government which are geared towards innovation in the field of mining and mine reclamation. The government officials have confirmed that these investments will help Canadian firms and organizations create innovations and develop new technologies in the field of extraction of minerals.

These investments will contribute to making Canada competitive in the field of critical minerals, which is growing at a fast pace. Some of the examples of critical minerals include lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite, and rare earth elements that are used in EV batteries, renewable energy, consumer electronics, and manufacturing systems.

As indicated by the government, the global demand for these resources is expected to increase significantly in the coming years due to the shift towards low emission energy production.

The new fund would be used in the development of projects geared at increasing efficiency and minimizing the negative impact on the environment. Innovation can assist companies in becoming more efficient in mining, which means that the companies would be able to extract higher volumes of useful minerals while minimizing waste and operational expenses.

Additionally, a portion of the money would go into the development of technologies of mine reclamation. Reclamation refers to the process of restoring lands that have been mined to its natural condition once the mining process is over. The government hopes that such investments would minimize the negative environmental impact and promote sustainable resource development.

According to Minister Joly, Canada has all the necessary resources for the promotion of innovative technologies and industries. Thus, she stated that innovations would help in the creation of sustainable supply chains and opportunities for local communities.

The Canadian strategy for critical minerals has been designed to develop domestic value chains and to attract investments in the production, processing and extraction of resources. It is important to note that the government of Canada has considered the critical mineral industry to require thorough strategies due to its importance for economic development and national security of the country.

Canada has numerous deposits of



The mining industry is critical in Canada to the international supply chains

some critical minerals and it is especially typical for such provinces and territories where mining is well-developed. There is an increased interest in regions of Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and the North among governments and private investors who want to implement mining projects in these regions.

According to experts, the problem of ensuring the supply of critical minerals has become topical for many states since they are increasingly considered necessary for some technologies related to electric transportation, energy storage, telecommunication and defense systems. In this connection, the governments all over the world have implemented some policy measures to ensure the development of domestic supply chains.

It is believed that increased innovations can make Canadian companies more competitive amid growing demand.

The Canadian government also pointed out economic incentives linked to innovations in the mining sector. Every year, the mining sector generates billions of dollars of revenue for the economy of Canada and employs thousands of people all over the country. According to officials, further investments into research and development may provide more employment and attract private investments.

Mining communities depend heavily on the industry as a major source of economic activity and employment. Government representatives say supporting innovation will help the sector

adapt to changing environmental and market demands.

Environmental considerations remain an important part of resource development. While mining continues to play a significant role in Canada's economy, projects undergo regulatory and environmental reviews to help protect ecosystems and nearby communities.

In recent years, the federal government has promoted responsible resource development, arguing that Canada can become a leading global supplier of critical minerals.

Industry groups have welcomed government investments in innovation, saying new technologies can address operational challenges and improve productivity. Researchers and mining companies continue developing more efficient methods of extracting minerals.

The announcement comes as countries compete for leadership in clean technology and advanced manufacturing. Access to critical minerals is widely considered essential for future industrial growth.

Federal officials say the latest investments represent another step toward strengthening Canada's critical minerals sector. Through these initiatives, the government hopes to position Canada as a leading supplier of the minerals needed for future technologies and industries.

As demand for critical minerals continues to grow, governments, industry leaders and researchers are expected to play an increasingly important role in resource development. Officials say continued investment in innovation will help Canada remain competitive in a rapidly evolving global market



Barbados PM rejects ‘asinine’ claim that Caribbean owes Britain

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has criticized as “asinine” suggestions from a United Kingdom lawmaker that former British colonies should repay Britain for its historical investments, as Caribbean leaders continue discussions on reparatory justice for slavery and colonialism.

Mottley responded after former UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman, now a member of the anti-immigration Reform UK party, argued that former colonies should compensate Britain for what she described as the country’s contributions to their development.

Braverman made the comments on X on July 3 in response to reports that Jamaica plans to submit a formal petition seeking reparations for slavery later this year.

“If the government is seriously thinking about this then former



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley

colonies should pay the British back for the considerable investment, effort and contribution that this country made which laid the foundations for many flourishing democracies today,” Braverman wrote.

Mottley rejected the argument, saying Caribbean nations are not seeking charity but justice for the historical impact of slavery, colonial extraction and discriminatory laws.

“I cannot believe we are being

asked to respond to the suggestion that the descendants of the enslaved should pay for the machinery that oppressed them,” Mottley wrote on X.

“The Caribbean does not owe Britain for slavery, for colonial extraction, or for laws that treated African people as chattel. We are not asking for charity. We are asking for justice, and history itself has already told the truth.”

Speaking at a press conference following the four-day Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit in St. Lucia, Mottley again criticized the suggestion that Caribbean nations should repay Britain.

“I’m not sure that you want me to reply to things that really are asinine and certainly the notion that we should pay the United Kingdom for oppressing us, for enslaving us and for treating us as chattel,” she said.

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Degree holders surge 56.7% as fewer young people remain outside education

GUYANA'S sustained investment in education, scholarships and skills training is translating into measurable gains for the country's young people, with data showing a sharp increase in university graduates alongside a significant decline in the number of youths who are neither studying nor working.

Statistics released by the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) to mark World Population Day 2026 indicate that the number of youths attaining a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification increased by 56.7 per cent between the third quarter of 2021 and the fourth quarter of 2024.

At the same time, the proportion of young people classified as not in education, employment or training (NEET) declined from 35.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2021 to 25 per cent by the fourth quarter of 2024.

The figures suggest that more young Guyanese are remaining in school, pursuing higher education or entering the labour market as government investments in human capital continue to expand.

The data forms part of Guyana's observance of World Population Day under the theme "Realising the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future."

In his World Population Day message, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, said Guyana's development strategy is centred on investing in people from infancy through adulthood.

"As Guyana progresses through the ongoing unprecedented transformation, our Government remains steadfast in our commitment to nurturing, enhancing and realising the potential of every Guyanese citizen," Dr Singh said.

"Our people-centred policy framework is geared towards supporting all Guyanese from infancy through adulthood. By empowering our youths from nursery to university and into the workforce, we are building the foundations of a sustainable and prosperous 'One Guyana'," he added.

According to the minister, those investments begin before birth through expanded maternal and paediatric healthcare, continue throughout the education system and extend into tertiary education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and home ownership.

Central to that strategy is the Government's policy of providing free education from nursery to university.

Dr Singh said that over the past five years more than 100 new schools have been constructed across Guyana while existing schools have undergone



Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh

extensive rehabilitation.

He noted that access to learning has also expanded through the Guyana Learning Channel, EdYouFM and the Digital School, helping to make educational resources available to students regardless of where they live.

Financial support for students has likewise increased substantially.

This year, families are receiving \$85,000 per child through the combined Because We Care grant and the school uniform and supplies grant, representing a single-year investment of approximately \$17 billion in school-children.

The Government has also maintained the full subsidisation of CSEC and CAPE examination fees for up to eight subjects while expanding the National School Feeding Programme, which now provides daily meals to more than 110,500 nursery and primary school learners.

Together, these interventions are intended to reduce financial barriers that might otherwise prevent children from completing their education.

The data also reflects growing interest in higher education.

According to Dr Singh, applications to the University of Guyana climbed from approximately 17,800 for the 2024/2025 academic year to around 26,000 for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Meanwhile, the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) has now awarded more than 54,000 scholarships, allowing Guyanese to pursue

certificate, diploma, bachelor's, master's and postgraduate programmes through international institutions.

The minister said the Government remains committed to expanding scholarship opportunities and investing in the country's academic and professional development.

SKILLED WORKFORCE

Beyond traditional academics, Government has increased investment in technical and vocational education to prepare young people for careers in Guyana's rapidly changing economy.

Dr Singh said more than 2,000 youths have completed specialised training through the Youth Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship Programme (YEAP).

Another 14,000 young people have benefitted from the Youth Entrepreneurial and Skills Training (YEST) programme administered through the Board of Industrial Training.

Additionally, approximately 2,500 youths have participated in robotics, coding and digital technology training through the Presidential Award for Youth, Entrepreneurship and Robotics (PAYR) initiative.

These programmes are designed to equip young Guyanese with practical skills for careers in construction, engineering, manufacturing, technology and the country's expanding oil and gas sector.

The Government is also seeking to cultivate a new generation of entrepreneurs.

According to Dr Singh, the Small

Business Bureau's Youth Entrepreneurship Programme has already trained more than 500 secondary school students in entrepreneurship and corporate fundamentals.

Participants can also access grants of up to \$400,000 to support viable business ideas.

Looking ahead, he said the soon-to-be-established Guyana Development Bank will further strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing accessible and affordable financing to young innovators and small businesses.

Chief Statistician Errol La Cruz said the latest figures demonstrate the value of using labour market data to guide national development.

He noted that the increase in tertiary qualifications and the decline in the number of young people outside education and employment point to positive changes in the country's human capital profile.

"Those gains demonstrate the importance of using labour-market information to align education, technical and vocational training with the changing needs of the economy," La Cruz said.

"Reliable data can help ensure that young Guyanese acquire the skills and competencies required to participate meaningfully in both established and emerging areas of economic activity."

He said official statistics also help policymakers anticipate future demands and identify emerging trends in education, employment and social development.



An artist's impression of the rehabilitated East Ruimveldt Market

Sod turned for \$528.3M East Ruimveldt Market construction

THE government on Saturday officially commenced the long-awaited upgrade of the East Ruimveldt Market with the turning of the sod for a \$528.37 million redevelopment project that will modernise the facility, create additional vending opportunities and improve amenities for both vendors and shoppers.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand led the sod-turning ceremony, describing the project as a direct response to concerns raised by vendors during a visit to the market earlier this year.

The project, which is expected to be completed in four months, will modernise the market while complementing a series of works already being undertaken by the Ministry of Public Works, including the desilting of drains, road improvements, the construction of a new bridge, and the rebuilding of the community centre and recreational facilities.

Speaking to market vendors and community members at the event, Manickchand said the project comes after a visit she made to the market in Febru-

ary, when she realised the facility had significant potential but was greatly deteriorated.

This assessment, she explained, had the government expand its focus beyond the market itself to include the wider East Ruimveldt community, with the aim of creating an environment that better supports vendors as well as residents and families.

“It was not only coming here because there was a market here. It is because we are looking at East Ruimveldt as an entire community. What would make it that community that allows us to use this as one of the communities in this country that will join all communities in this country to bring up happy, healthy, wholesome children and adults,” she said.

Since that visit, several projects have either started or entered the planning stage. Minister Manickchand said the Ministry of Public Works has already awarded contracts to clean and desilt every drain and alleyway in East Ruimveldt, while the community building has been demolished and will be rebuilt.

The new facility will be accompanied by a football field, basketball court, walking track, improved lighting, widened roads where necessary, additional seating areas and a new bridge serving the market.

Minister Manickchand noted that the development strategy for East Ruimveldt will be used as a model for community development across the country, stating, “It is creating a community for you that we’d like to see replicated across this country because we believe that you deserve no less.”

The minister further noted that the market design was completed after several rounds of revisions over the past months before being taken through the National Procurement and Tender Administration process.

To reduce construction time, the project was divided into five separate lots, allowing contractors to work simultaneously rather than waiting for one section to be completed before moving to another.

Speaking on the implementation process, she noted, “We had to go to public tender because we have a law, the

National Procurement and Tender Administration law, that tells us how we must procure for these markets,” she added, “This market will be built in five lots. You will have five contractors here simultaneously.”

The minister also highlighted the need to better utilise the existing market. While the facility currently contains 213 stalls, only 55 are actively operating, with many others being used for storage or remaining closed.

The reconstruction will add more than 20 additional stalls, while reorganising the layout to create more opportunities for vendors and improving the overall shopping experience.

As Minister Manickchand explained, “A lot of the stalls are used as a bond or a storage. Forty-seven stalls are closed, and 10 were repossessed. And this is the information we got from your market clerk and the committee in the market.”

Beyond expanded vending space, the upgraded market will include facilities intended to make it a community destination, rather than simply a place to shop.

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Hundreds of vertebrate species detected in Rupununi following study

THE Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWMP) Programme recently presented consolidated data from its eight years of implementation along with the preliminary results of the biodiversity component of the programme.

The findings were recently released during an event held at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) boardroom. The event provided an opportunity for review of the findings of the biodiversity component, sparking an insightful discussion.

The biodiversity component spanned two years and focused on seven Rupununi villages.

Six methods were analysed during the project. These included camera trapping, passive acoustic monitoring, bird counts, environmental DNA (eDNA), local ecological knowledge and fish stock assessments, and they focused on three taxonomic groups: fish, mammals and birds.

The aim of this component was to assess which method is most cost-effective. It provided the preliminary results from camera trappings, acoustic monitoring and eDNA.

The findings revealed that acoustic monitoring found 459, while camera trapping found 88 species. The highest rates of detection were recorded near Rewa, Katoka, and Maruranau.

Also, a regional AI model has been created and is capable of identifying 445 species classes. This is one of the largest regional identifying databases to date with 133 eDNA samples being collected and some 276 vertebrate species identified. Among these



The participants following the unveiling of the programme’s findings

species are 195 fishes, 32 mammals, 22 amphibians, 11 birds and 10 reptiles. Also identified were seven threatened species: four mammals, two turtles, and one fish.

Based on the summary of the findings, over 700 individual species have been detected so far by camera trapping, acoustic monitoring, and eDNA and consolidated findings showed that

camera trapping is best for identifying mammals. Acoustic monitoring was found to be best for identifying birds, while eDNA was best for identifying fish species.

At the end of the biodiversity project, the participating communities were presented with copies of the results, hard drives containing all the raw data and a dashboard with the analysed data

along with instructions on how to use the instrument.

The findings will be used to inform the monitoring design for the National Biodiversity Monitoring Initiative, which is the border-to-border biodiversity monitoring vision for Guyana.

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:

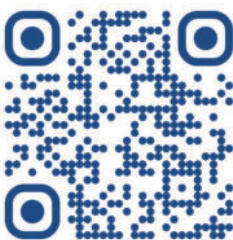
- Build a globally cohesive community with a focus on youth and women in business and civic leadership worldwide.
- Support social entrepreneurship and civic engagement in communities around the world.
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

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Oil firms face stricter scrutiny as Guyana strengthens local-content monitoring

THE government is moving to further strengthen oversight of Guyana’s local-content framework through increased monitoring and the introduction of a digital compliance system, as it seeks to ensure oil companies and their contractors continue to meet their obligations under the country’s legislation.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat made this position known during an appearance on the ‘Starting Point’ podcast on Saturday, when he disclosed that the Local Content Secretariat has expanded its capacity and is intensifying its oversight of companies operating in the petroleum sector, while plans are underway to digitise the monitoring process.

“We’re even working to strengthen the system,” Bharrat said, adding, “At some point in time everything will be digitised because that is the direction in which the President is heading. This local-content system will undergo that transformation too, to make it easier in terms of monitoring these companies and ensuring that they are following the legislation.”

The minister explained that beyond the mandatory reports companies are required to submit under the Local Con-



One of the floating offshore drilling platforms in Guyana

tent Act, the secretariat conducts regular field inspections to verify compliance.

According to Bharrat, the head of the Local Content Secretariat leads

weekly visits to companies to examine records, engage Guyanese employees and assess training programmes, while also gathering feedback from private-sector organisations and business chambers on the effectiveness of the legislation.

“This is besides the reporting because the reporting has to be done by law, but going and doing physical checks is very important,” he said.

The minister noted that oil companies are also required to submit annual work programmes detailing their planned activities, including the number of Guyanese they intend to train, the value of local goods and services they expect to procure, and their projected local-content targets.

These are measured against half-

yearly and annual reports submitted to the secretariat.

The minister said the strengthened oversight has given government confidence that the legislation is delivering tangible results.

“We are satisfied that there are 7,000 Guyanese who are working directly in the oil and gas sector,” he said.

He went on to add that graduates of the Port Mourant Training Centre are now securing employment aboard Guyana’s floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels.

Bharrat also maintained that Guyana’s Local Content Act has exceeded expectations despite early criticism that it would discourage foreign investment.

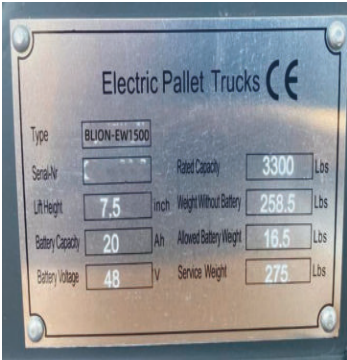


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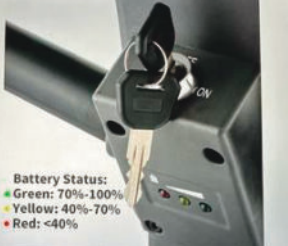
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Primary, secondary curriculum to go on-line through Guyana Digital School

THE Government of Guyana will make the complete primary and secondary school curriculum available online through the Guyana Digital School from the start of the new school term in September.

This announcement was made by Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, during the recent release of the 2026 National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) results, where she said the expanded digital platform will provide free access to curriculum content for learners from Grades One to 11.

The move represents the next phase of the Guyana Digital School initiative, which was officially launched by President Dr Irfaan Ali in December 2025 as part of the government’s wider education transformation agenda.

“We will take another significant step forward by making the complete primary and secondary curriculum available online,” Parag announced.

She explained that the digital school is intended to complement, rather than replace, classroom instruction by giving students access to curriculum-based resources outside of school hours.

“It is a school that will have all of the curriculum and content from Grades One to 11, and it will serve as a reinforcement to what is being taught in the classroom, free of cost to every single child in Guyana,” the minister said.

Parag made the announcement while highlighting the government’s continued investments in the education sector, noting that expanding digital learning resources forms part of a broader strategy that also includes constructing new schools, rehabilitating existing facilities, increasing access to textbooks and providing cash grants to help families meet educational expenses.

The September rollout will complete an expansion plan that has been progressing throughout the year.

Earlier this year, Parag had disclosed that the Guyana Digital School already offered content for Grades 10 and 11, with material for Grades Seven to Nine being added before work began on the primary curriculum. The completion of the full curriculum will now provide online learning resources spanning every grade from primary through the end of secondary school.

Fully funded by the Government of Guyana, the initiative is available

free of cost to participating CARICOM countries and is already serving more than 27,000 students across the region, including in Barbados, Grenada, Belize, and St Kitts and Nevis.

Developed in response to lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Guyana Digital School delivers live interactive classes aligned with the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) curriculum and is designed to ensure learning can continue during emergencies while expanding access to quality educational resources, particularly for students in remote and underserved communities.

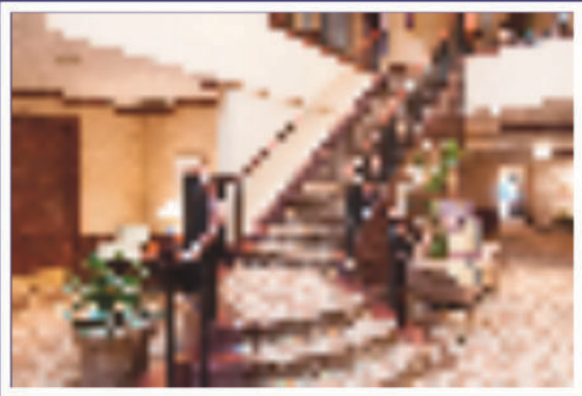


Minister of Education, Sonia Parag

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Gov't expands nationwide drainage push to unlock agriculture

THE Government is moving ahead with an ambitious nationwide drainage and irrigation expansion programme that is expected to transform agricultural production, reduce flooding and unlock thousands of acres of new land for cultivation and development.

The initiative, being implemented through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), includes the construction of several “Hope-like” canals across key agricultural regions, with billions of dollars allocated in Budget 2026 to modernise Guyana’s drainage infrastructure and improve climate resilience.

Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal recently said the programme extends well beyond traditional flood-control measures, describing it as a critical investment that will create opportunities for expanded agriculture, housing development and economic growth.

The works are planned for several regions, including Regions Three, Five and Six, where large-scale drainage canals modelled after the Hope Canal on the East Coast of Demerara will be constructed to channel excess water safely to the Atlantic Ocean while also supporting irrigation during dry periods.

The Hope Canal, commissioned to reduce flooding along the East Coast corridor, has long been regarded as one of the country’s most significant flood mitigation projects. The new canals are intended to replicate that success in other vulnerable areas while supporting Guyana’s rapidly expanding agricultural sector.

According to Minister Croal, im-



One of the flood control measures

proving drainage and irrigation infrastructure will make previously inaccessible lands suitable for productive use.

“Once you address drainage and irrigation, it allows us to open up new lands to access,” the minister said, noting that additional canals in Region Six will facilitate the expansion of agriculture into new areas.

He explained that opening these lands would allow for increased cultivation of a wider range of crops, including hemp in areas closer to Skeldon, while significantly boosting overall agricultural production.

Croal said the NDIA, operating under the Ministry of Agriculture, is

already investing heavily in what he described as a “massive new drainage programme” designed to meet both current and future development needs.

The initiative complements the government’s wider strategy of expanding agricultural output while strengthening the country’s resilience to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns associated with climate change.

Budget 2026 allocated \$81.9 billion for the continued improvement of drainage and irrigation systems across Guyana, representing one of the largest public investments in the sector.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar

Mustapha had earlier announced that this year’s programme includes the rehabilitation and construction of canals, sluices and pumping stations nationwide, alongside the development of approximately five major high-level canals in Regions Five and Six.

Those canals are designed to drain water directly from inland agricultural areas into the Atlantic Ocean, reducing the risk of prolonged flooding that has historically affected farming communities.

Construction of the Hope-like canals in Berbice is progressing steadily and remains on schedule for completion during 2026.

PSC commends members for humanitarian support to Ven.

THE Private Sector Commission (PSC) has expressed gratitude to its member organisations for contributing food, medicines and other essential relief supplies to assist communities affected by the recent earthquakes in Venezuela, as Guyana’s private sector joined a wider regional humanitarian response.

In a statement, the PSC said the collective effort reflected the generosity and solidarity of Guyana’s business community and underscored its commitment to supporting neighbouring countries during times of crisis.

The commission confirmed that the humanitarian shipment arrived safely at La Guaira Port in Venezuela on Sunday aboard the vessels Mega and Motti.

The relief supplies formed part of a regional assistance initiative spearheaded by President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, with support from CARICOM member states and the private sector.

The shipment was received by



PSC Members were urged to donate relief supplies to Venezuela

Venezuela’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvan Gil, in the presence of Guyana’s Ambassador to Venezuela Dr Richard Van-West Charles.

According to the PSC, the suc-

cessful delivery of the supplies demonstrates the value of regional co-operation and the importance of coordinated humanitarian action in responding to natural disasters.

The commission extended its appreciation to all member organisations that had answered the call for assistance, noting that their contributions of food, essential medicines and other relief items would help support communities affected by the earthquakes.

“The PSC sincerely thanks every member organisation that answered the call to assist,” the organisation said, adding that the response exemplified the private sector’s commitment to humanitarian service, regional co-operation and standing in solidarity with people in need.

The relief effort is part of a broader regional response aimed at providing emergency assistance to Venezuelan communities impacted by the recent seismic events.

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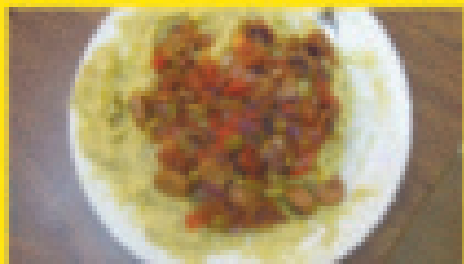
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T&T to provide ferry for CARICOM cargo transport pilot

Trinidad and Tobago will provide a ferry temporarily to transport mainly cargo among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states as the region advances plans to establish an affordable intra-regional ferry service.

The initiative was among the key issues discussed during CARICOM’s Fifty-First Regular Meeting in Saint Lucia, where leaders agreed to accelerate efforts to improve connectivity, trade and food security across the region.

Saint Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, who chaired the 15-member regional bloc, said the proposed ferry service would help strengthen movement within the Caribbean.

“We also accelerated work towards establishing an affordable intra-regional ferry service that will improve travel, facilitate trade, strengthen food security, and make our community more connected,” Pierre said during a news conference following the summit. He added that CARICOM had also made further progress toward expanding participation in the free movement of nationals under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), which allows for the movement of goods, skills, labour and services among participating member states.

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LCDS-funded eco-lodges creating jobs, supporting Mainstay/Whyaka's community

RESIDENTS of the Mainstay/Whyaka Village are benefiting from employment and increased tourism through an eco-lodge initiative funded under Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

Resident Valita Fredericks told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the facility, known as the Lake View Cabins, is managed by the Village Council and has been providing employment and generating income for the community since opening nearly a year ago. The eco-lodge is in a gated environment, a stone's throw away from the popular Lake Mainstay.

It consists of two cabins and an additional building with three self-contained rooms: a king room at an affordable \$15,000 per night, a queen room for \$12,000 per night, and a standard fan-cooled room offering visitors comfortable accommodation while exploring the Lake Mainstay area.

Fredericks explained that revenue earned from the facility is reinvested into the community.

"The village pays us as workers... and we make contributions. If a relative or somebody from the village dies, we assist," she said, noting that the initiative also supports wider community development. She described the opportunity



Lake View Cabins at Mainstay/Whyaka

to work at the eco-lodge as rewarding.

"It's really a great opportunity to work in my village and showcase this here," Fredericks said. "I think it's something really great to showcase

Mainstay, put us on the map, [and] know where people can locate us."

In addition to the eco-lodges, Mainstay/Whyaka Village is home to several other community projects, in-

cluding a cassava processing facility, a water treatment facility and a shade house, along with a caged fish initiative, which contribute to the village's continued development and economic growth.

Expanded social protection brings relief to seniors

THOUSANDS of senior citizens across Guyana are now benefitting from a new annual \$20,000 transportation-support grant, part of the government's broader effort to ease the cost of living while strengthening social protection for the country's ageing population.

The grant, the rollout of which began on July 8, is being distributed through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and represents an additional \$1.9 billion in direct support for old-age pensioners. Combined with the monthly old-age pension of \$46,000, the initiative will see more than \$54 billion transferred annually to eligible pensioners nationwide.

The transportation allowance forms part of a wider package of measures announced in Budget 2026 to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, alongside expanded healthcare services, enhanced residential care and increased financial assistance.

Beyond the new grant, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security continues to administer a broad range of programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable citizens, including old-age pensions, public assistance for persons with disabilities and individuals facing financial hardship, as well as child protection

and other social services.

Recognising the country's growing elderly population, the government has also committed to expanding home-based care services and improving access to healthcare through telemedicine, mobile health units and virtual clinics, particularly for seniors living in rural and hinterland communities.

Plans outlined in Budget 2026 also include co-investment in elderly care facilities, the construction of a new senior citizens' home and improvements to services and living conditions at the Palms Geriatric Home.

The new transportation grant has been welcomed by recipients, many of whom say the additional financial support will help offset rising everyday expenses.

One pensioner, whose name was not disclosed, described the distribution process as smooth and efficient.

"I didn't expect it to be so, and I get through very fast. I'm really thankful for it," she said.

Another senior noted that the grant comes at an important time, particularly as transportation costs continue to rise.

"I am happy that you get it because remember we always need money. We always need money for something. Be-



Minister Dr Vindhya Persaud

cause, remember passage going up... It used to be \$100 but now we are paying \$40 more," she explained.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud has encouraged pensioners to collect the grant at their convenience, noting that the distribution period extends until November 1, 2026.

In a video message, the minister explained that pensioners can have their vouchers stamped at any post office across the country or at the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security offices before collecting the payment.

She emphasised that there is no need for seniors to rush to distribution centres immediately, as the process is spread over several months to ensure orderly and convenient access.

To further simplify the process, pensioners who receive their monthly old-age pension through commercial banks or the MMG payment platform will have the \$20,000 transportation allowance deposited directly into their accounts before the end of July, eliminating the need to visit a payment location.

The transport grant reflects the administration's continued focus on strengthening social safety nets as Guyana's economy expands. In recent years, the government has steadily increased old-age pensions while introducing new benefits designed to improve the financial security and overall well-being of senior citizens.

Officials have said these investments are intended not only to provide immediate relief from rising living costs, but also to ensure that older Guyanese have greater access to healthcare, social services and dignified care as part of the country's long-term human-development agenda.

Guyana-led humanitarian aid arrives in Venezuela for earthquake victims

A Guyana-led humanitarian relief shipment for communities affected by the devastating June 24 earthquakes in Venezuela has arrived safely at La Guaira Port, marking the successful delivery of a regional assistance effort spearheaded by President Dr Irfaan Ali.

Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud announced on his social media page that the vessel Mega Motti, operated by BK International, reached the Venezuelan port on July 12, carrying food and medical supplies for earthquake-affected communities.

According to Persaud, the shipment forms part of a coordinated regional humanitarian response led by President Ali with the support of CARICOM member states and Guyana’s private sector.

The supplies were officially received by Venezuela’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvan Gil, alongside Guyana’s Ambassador to Venezuela, Dr Richard Van West-Charles.

“Guyana remains a reliable partner in times of crisis and stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people as they recover from the devastating impacts of the earthquake,” Persaud said.

The vessel departed Guyana last week after being loaded at the BK Wharf in Kingston, Georgetown, where Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, oversaw the dispatch of the humanitarian supplies on behalf of President Ali.

The shipment represented one of the largest regional humanitarian initiatives coordinated by Guyana and included contributions from the Governments of Belize, The Bahamas, St. Lucia, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In total, the cargo comprised 88 containers filled with food items, medical supplies and other relief materials, along with 300 black water storage tanks and two pieces of heavy earth-moving equipment to assist recovery efforts.

Prior to the vessel’s departure, Dr Singh had said the relief mission reflected President Ali’s immediate response to the tragedy, noting that the Guyanese Head of State had swiftly expressed condolences following the earthquake before mobilising both national and regional support.



Supplies were received by Venezuela’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yvan Gil

He had emphasised that the initiative attracted an overwhelming response not only from the Government of Guyana, but also from the local private sector, Guyanese citizens, Venezuelans living in Guyana and several CARICOM governments. Dr Singh also acknowledged the contributions of the participating CARICOM member states, describing the operation as both a na-

tional and regional humanitarian effort.

He stressed that the assistance demonstrated Guyana’s commitment to supporting its western neighbour during a time of immense hardship.

“Venezuela is our neighbour, the Venezuelan people are our neighbours, and so we consider this to be the least that we could do as a country in this moment of tragedy in support of our

Venezuelan brothers and sisters,” Dr Singh had said.

The Government had also indicated that the relief supplies would form part of the wider international humanitarian response already underway to assist communities impacted by the earthquake, reaffirming Guyana’s commitment to standing with the Venezuelan people throughout the recovery process.

New Circuit road a direct link to CJIA

GUYANA’S Ministry of Public Works, through its Special Projects Unit (SPU), has completed a major road network around the South Dakota Circuit, creating a direct link between the Soesdyke-Linden Highway and the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), while simultaneously rehabilitating the racing facility to international standards ahead of the GT Challenge de las Américas.

Providing a public update on the project, Head of the SPU, Colin Gittens, said the initiative, a brainchild of President Dr Irfaan Ali, was designed to improve connectivity and community access rather than simply providing access to the racing circuit.

Speaking on the project’s development, Gittens said the first phase, launched in 2024, involved upgrading approximately six kilometres of road from the South Dakota Circuit to the Timehri junction. “This road project is not merely about having access to the racing track. This project is the brainchild of His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali, and it started in 2024, where the SPU had upgraded a section of this road from the racing circuit heading to the Timehri prisons,” he said.

Since then, the SPU has significantly expanded the net-

work, completing approximately 10 kilometres of road linking the circuit to the Glass Factory and the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. The works included about 1.6 kilometres of rehabilitation on the Glass Factory Road and roughly seven kilometres of new construction on the connector road behind the circuit. Work has also progressed on the section leading to the Timehri Roundabout. Gittens added that a contractor is completing a further 1.3-kilometre stretch from the highway junction to the completed section of Glass Factory Road, which will complete the final link in the network.

Taken together, he said, the works create a continuous road connection between the Soesdyke-Linden Highway and CJIA. “In all, this road connects, or forms a connection, from the Soesdyke-Linden Highway to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport,” Gittens said.

He explained that the new route provides a significant shortcut for motorists travelling from Region Ten and Guyana’s hinterland, adding, “If someone is coming from Region 10, from Lethem, or Kwakwani, or even Linden itself, and they are going to the Timehri Airport, they don’t have to drive all the way around.”



Hindus consider cows sacred and killing them is illegal in many states

Muslim judge in India faces death threats after convicting 'cow vigilantes'

An Indian judge has become the target of online abuse and death threats days after she sentenced 14 men to life imprisonment for lynching a man to death.

On 12 June, the additional district and sessions judge of a court in Madhya Pradesh state, Tabassum Khan, found the men guilty of offences including murder, attempt to murder, rioting and wrongful restraint.

The crime took place in 2022, when 50-year-old Nazir Ahmad was transporting cattle at night and was intercepted by a group of self-styled "gau rakshaks" (cow protectors), armed with sticks and rods. Hindus consider cows sacred and killing them is illegal in many states.

The men dragged Ahmad and his two companions out of the vehicle and brutally assaulted them on suspicion of smuggling cows. Ahmad later succumbed to his injuries while his companions survived to tell the court what happened.

In her judgement, Khan noted that the crime was a clear case of mob lynching. But the verdict has made her the target of religious hate. In the days following the judgement, numerous videos abusing and threatening Khan, a Muslim, surfaced online. The videos implied that Khan had acted against the men because they were Hindu.

While judgments are often criticised, the attacks on Khan have focused not on her legal reasoning but on her religion. The scale of the abuse has prompted leading judicial bodies to rally behind her, and she has been given police protection.

The attacks on Khan began soon after the verdict, when family members of the convicted men gathered outside the courtroom reportedly protested against the judgement and attempted to stop the police convoy from transporting the men to prison. They alleged that the men were being punished for "saving cows".

Then began an online campaign of abuse, as videos of Hindu right-wing influencers abusing Khan with communal slurs and issuing rape threats and death threats against her began to surface.

In one video, a man warned of "bloodshed" across the country unless the convicted men were

freed within 10 days. At the time of writing, many of the videos remained online, attracting thousands of likes and shares. The speakers' faces and social media handles were clearly visible as they issued threats and incited violence.

An anchor of Sudarshan News, a right-wing Hindi news channel, expressed solidarity with the families of the convicted men, saying that "they might have never imagined that their family members, who had put everything on the line to save cows, would be imprisoned for it". He also urged his viewers to "speak up" as "now was the time to fight for the sake of the protectors of cows".

Many self-described cow protection organisations and Hindutva groups also held massive protests against the verdict.

On 22 June, the Gau Raksha Parishad (which roughly translates to the council of cow saviours) staged a protest in Punjab state during which protesters assaulted and burnt an effigy of Khan. Three days later, the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal held a protest in Uttar Pradesh state, demanding that the "cow protectors" be freed.

In a post of X, former Supreme Court judge Markandey Katju noted how these videos and protests did not merely criticise the verdict but sought to "delegitimise Judge Khan's authority as a judicial officer by reducing her identity to her religion. Her Muslim identity became the principal basis upon which the legitimacy of the judgement was questioned. This represented a dangerous inversion of justice. Judicial decisions are meant to be evaluated through legal reasoning, not through the religious identity of the individual delivering them," he wrote.

Katju later said Khan had sent him a message thanking him, saying that the abuse had traumatised her and made her feel like she had committed a crime by delivering her verdict.

Khan has also received support from prominent judicial organisations - the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) have condemned the threats against her and demanded that action be taken against the culprits.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): You must trust your instincts today, especially when dealing with partnership issues and family matters. The new moon will make it easy for you to tune in to other people's feelings so you can judge what is good for everyone, not just yourself.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): You will be on the move constantly today, but will you actually get a lot done or will you waste time on trivial pursuits? Focus on the two or three objectives that mean the most to you personally and ignore everything else.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): No matter how stormy your life has been in recent days what occurs over the next 24 hours will bring some degree of calm. That in turn will give you the room you need to think clearly and come up with solutions to a financial problem.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): Today's new moon in your sign is the starting gun for the rest of the year. Ready, steady, get going! Forget about what went before and focus on the great things you intend to do between now and the end of the year.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): If some rather strange thoughts come into your head today don't try to chase them away, because most likely it is your subconscious mind trying to nudge you in a new direction. The inside you knows what the outside you needs most.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): Something you have secretly desired for ages will come tantalizingly close to reality over the next few days. You may feel that you do not deserve to possess it but in fact no one deserves it more — so reach out and make it your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): What occurs over the next two or three days won't just change your life but will actually transform it. If you can maintain a positive outlook on what's going on in the world you will be one of the few to profit from coming upheavals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): There is no such thing as a perfect day but today's new moon in the most adventurous area of your chart means this one will come closer than most. Whatever your dream may be you can and you must go for it now with total self-belief.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): The more you try to ignore what is going on around you the more it will insinuate its way into your thoughts, so you might as well face it head-on. The world needs people who are not afraid to take difficult decisions. The world needs you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): If you keep telling yourself that current events, even the ones you don't enjoy, are going to be to your benefit you will feel a lot happier about facing the day. Be strong, be decisive, and be the one who isn't scared to make things happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): What occurs over the next 24 hours will help you understand why certain people have been acting in ways that don't seem to make sense. Most likely it's you who have missed the signs and need to bring your plans and your methods up to date.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): Your energy will be on a different level today, thanks to the new moon in the most dynamic area of your chart. If you make each and every minute count now the weeks and months to come will bring opportunities you cannot as yet imagine.

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CARICOM leaders outline measures to tackle rising cost of living across region

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders have agreed to strengthen regional cooperation and pursue a range of measures aimed at easing the burden of rising living costs across the region.

The issue was among the key matters discussed during the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government, held in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, from July 5 to 8 under the theme “CARICOM: From Resilience to Renewal in a Changing World.”

At a media conference following the meeting, CARICOM Chairman and Saint Lucia Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre said discussions were focused on addressing concerns affecting people in their daily lives.

“Our discussions over the past four days were guided by one central objective — ensuring that CARICOM delivers results that people can see and feel in their everyday lives,” Pierre said.

He said leaders agreed to strengthen regional cooperation to protect consumers, improve affordability and explore additional measures to provide relief to vulnerable households.

“We also agree to strengthen consumer protection and work together to address rising prices across the Community,” he said.

Pierre said the cost-of-living challenge is affecting countries throughout the region, with governments sharing strategies being implemented at the national level.

“Every island is suffering from an increase in the cost of living,” he said. “We decided to share the experience among ourselves. Several islands have taken certain measures to reduce the cost of living in their various islands. But there is one factor we have no control over, which is the price of fuel.”

In Saint Lucia, Pierre said the government has removed value-added tax from certain items as part of efforts to reduce costs for consumers.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley highlighted several initiatives being implemented in her country, including a cost-of-living allowance for all pensioners and a 30 per cent increase in welfare rates.

Mottley also pointed to efforts to improve consumer access to pricing information, including the possible use of applications that allow shoppers to compare prices across stores.

She identified the development of an inter-island ferry service as another major regional initiative aimed at lowering the cost of transporting goods and



Caricom Heads of Government at their recent meeting

improving connectivity.

Mottley said discussions were underway with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Godwin Friday and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar on using a Trinidad and Tobago vessel as a pilot project while private-sector operators acquire additional vessels.

She said the goal is to complete regulatory arrangements within three months, while private-sector efforts to secure vessels could take up to a year.

Mottley also said work was being done to establish arrangements for the mutual recognition of licences and insurance to allow cargo vehicles to move more efficiently between islands.

She noted that the initiative would also require an assessment of port infra-

structure, including the use of ramps and other facilities needed to support cargo movement.

Persad-Bissessar highlighted Trinidad and Tobago’s potential contribution through expanded regional access to healthcare services, including its national prosthetic centre and specialised children’s hospital.

“We’re talking about cost of living. And in this respect, in the medical field, if we partner together, again, we can bring down the cost of living,” she said.

Outgoing CARICOM Chairman and Saint Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew focused on energy costs, calling for faster development of renewable energy resources across the region.

Drew said greater use of wind, solar, geothermal and wave energy could help stabilise energy supplies and reduce economic pressures.

“Renewable energy can really help, from our perspective, to transform the Caribbean, to transform the Region, and help us to get on a sustainable path of really managing the cost of living of all of our people here in the Region,” he said.

CARICOM leaders also identified reducing fuel costs, improving regional trade, lowering freight expenses and expanding renewable energy as key areas requiring collective action as the region continues to navigate the effects of global economic pressures and geopolitical tensions.

A&B PM renews call for regional airline

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne has renewed his call for the establishment of an Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) airline, arguing that unreliable regional air connections are hindering movement between member countries.

Browne made the appeal on Thursday night during a ceremony marking the change in chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Monetary Council in Dominica, where he spoke about the challenges he faced travelling to regional meetings.

“The need for an OECS airline is even more apropos today, recognising the frustrations of perpetual flight delays and cancellations among existing carriers,” Browne said.

The OECS comprises Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla.

Browne said existing airlines operating in the region leave travellers “stranded daily,” recounting delays he experienced while travelling to Saint Lucia for the 51st Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit.

He said he missed the opening ceremony of the summit after spending six hours at the Barbados airport waiting for a flight to Saint Lucia.

“The wait time should have been one hour, but turned out to be six hours,” Browne said. “Even coming here to Dominica, even though we had a private charter, there were also delays. So we clearly have a problem when it comes to connecting OECS people.”

The Prime Minister warned that the situation could become more serious as some international carriers reduce services to Eastern Caribbean destinations. He said the possible reduction of flights by airlines such as British Airways makes the establishment of a regional carrier even more urgent.

Anguilla to get expanded U.S. and Canadian air service this winter

Travelers from the United States and Canada will have more options to reach Anguilla this winter as BermudaAir's AnguillAir brand expands its schedule with a new route from Toronto and additional flights from several U.S. cities.

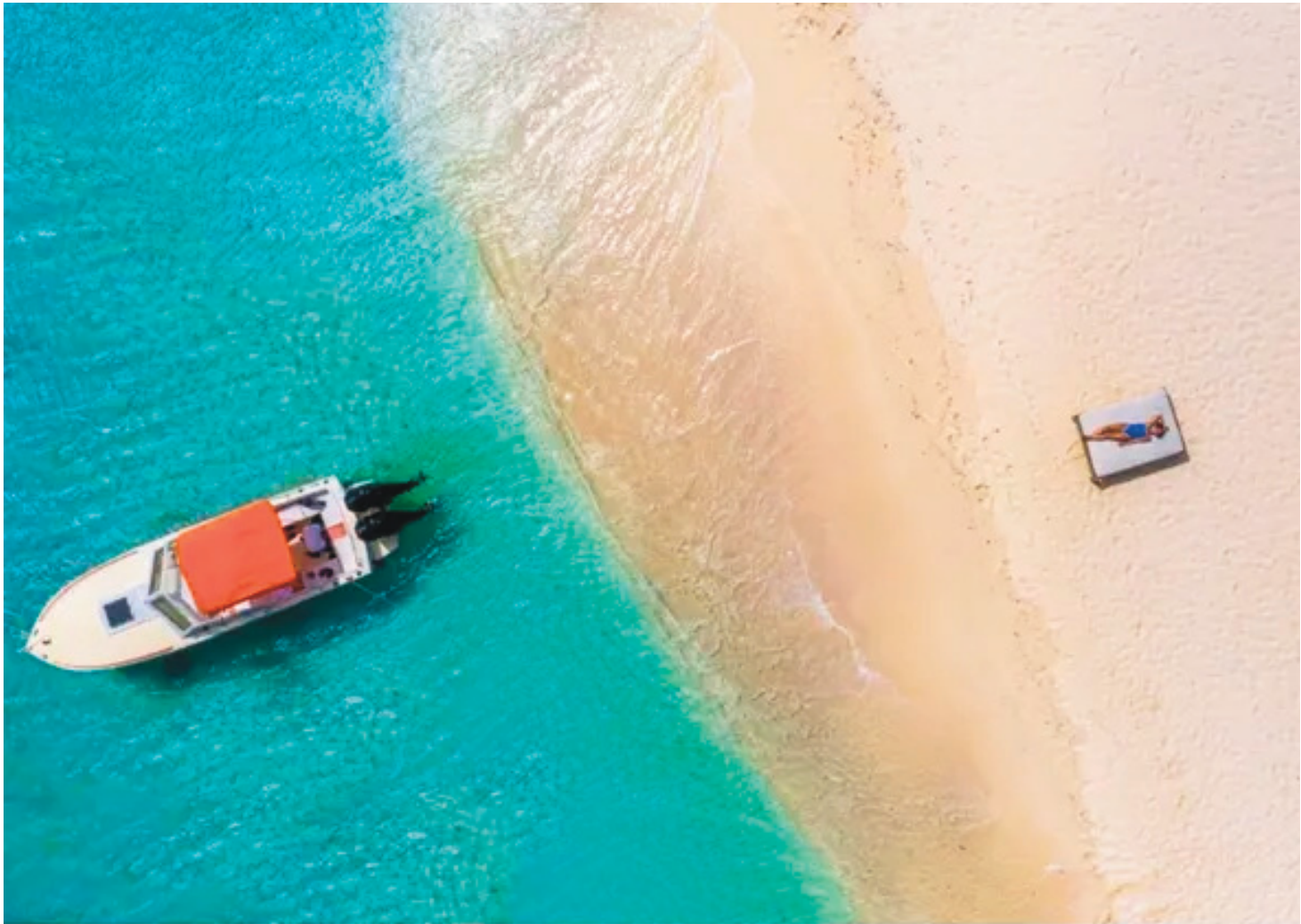
Beginning in mid-December, the carrier will increase service from key North American markets, including Boston, Newark, Baltimore-Washington and Tampa/St. Petersburg, while introducing weekly Saturday service from Toronto Pearson International Airport via Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands.

The new Toronto route will begin Dec. 19 and operate through May 1, 2027. Southbound flights will depart Toronto at 10:30 a.m. and arrive in Anguilla at 6:05 p.m., while return flights will arrive back in Toronto at 3 p.m.

The expanded U.S. schedule includes twice-weekly nonstop flights from Boston on Mondays and Fridays, twice-weekly nonstop service from Newark on Mondays and Fridays, plus a Saturday direct flight via Providenciales. Baltimore-Washington will receive weekly nonstop Monday service and an additional Thursday direct flight, while Tampa/St. Petersburg will gain twice-weekly service via Providenciales on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Flights will operate on Embraer E190 aircraft configured with two classes and no middle seats.

Officials said the expanded airlift will improve access to the island as it continues to attract visitors seeking its beaches, culinary offerings and luxury



accommodations.

"This expansion by BermudaAir strengthens regional and international air connectivity, enhances access to Anguilla, and reinforces ties across the British Overseas Territories," said Infrastructure Minister José Vanterpool. "We welcome BermudaAir's continued investment in expanding its network and look forward to the benefits this will bring to Anguilla and its people."

Tourism Minister Cardigan Connor said the additional flights will make it easier for travelers from Anguilla's primary source markets to visit the island.

"The significant increase in flights this winter from North America means more visitors from our most important markets can easily experience why Anguilla remains one of the Caribbean's premier destinations," Connor said. "Enhanced air service translates directly into

more opportunities for our tourism sector, supporting local businesses while offering travelers greater choice and convenience to enjoy our unmatched beaches, culinary scene and authentic island charm."

BermudaAir Founder and CEO Adam Scott said the airline is continuing to expand its Caribbean network following the success of AnguillAir's inaugural season.

Bdos search and rescue honored for Venezuela response

Members of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF) and the Barbados Fire Service have been awarded Venezuela's Hero of Venezuela Medal for their role in the humanitarian response following last month's double earthquake disaster.

The honor was presented by Acting Venezuelan President Delcy Rodríguez to members of Barbados' Urban Search and Rescue team, which was deployed to La Guaira, one of the areas that suffered extensive damage from the earthquakes.

Barbados' Ambassador to Venezuela, Commander Aquinas Clarke, announced the recognition as the team returned to Barbados on Thursday.

"I want to thank them for their outstanding representation of Barbados and the outstanding work they did while they were here in Venezuela," Clarke said.

The ambassador also provided an update on Barbados' ongoing humanitarian support, including the establish-

ment of a BDF Field Medical Hospital in Guarenas, which is expected to become operational early next week.

Clarke said 28 Barbadian personnel were already on the ground preparing the facility, which will provide medical services to communities affected by the disaster.

"At present, there are 28 persons from Barbados here setting up the hospital, and I suspect that by the end of today (July 10), the hospital will be set up," he said.

He added that electricity and water services had already been installed, while Venezuelan authorities were constructing a field bathroom facility for patients.

The hospital, which is being led by Lieutenant Commander Anderson Goodridge, is expected to begin receiving patients between Monday and Wednesday once additional medical personnel arrive from Barbados.

"We expect that there will be another 46 persons coming tomorrow on a

flight out of Barbados, which will comprise the doctors and nurses, and other members of the support team for the hospital," Clarke said.

"By tomorrow night, we shall have a complement of 74 persons for the hospital here in Venezuela, out of Barbados," he added.

Clarke said more than 5,000 people had been displaced in Guarenas, where schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure were damaged.

He praised the BDF Chief of Staff

and members of the Defence Force for their work in setting up the field hospital and encouraged healthcare professionals in Barbados to volunteer their services.

"You can deploy here for a period of two weeks. You can even deploy for a month if you have the time to assist at this critical juncture," Clarke said.

"Venezuela has always been a friend to Barbados, and I believe that this is an opportunity for us to give back," he added.



10 killed in Bahamas plane crash as gov- ernment grounds Flamingo Air flights

A small plane crashed in North Andros on Friday, killing all 10 people on board in a tragedy that cast a shadow over the Bahamas' 53rd Independence Day celebrations and prompted the government to temporarily suspend Flamingo Air's operations pending an investigation.

The aircraft, a Bahamian-registered Cessna 402 operated by Flamingo Air, departed Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau and was bound for San Andros when it crashed, according to the Bahamian Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority.

Prime Minister Philip Brave Davis initially said one person had survived the crash. However, he later confirmed during a press conference that the survivor had died from their injuries, bringing the death toll to 10. The victims have not yet been publicly identified.

"We gather beneath a cloud of great sorrow," Davis said during the press conference. "It has become a day of mourning."

"To every family that has received the devastating news that someone they love will not be coming home, we offer our deepest condolences," he added.

Earlier in the day, before the survivor's death was confirmed, Davis said he had been briefed by the Commissioner of Police and noted that authorities were still working to determine exactly what had happened.

"At this stage, the facts are still being established, and the relevant authorities are working to determine exactly what occurred," he said in a statement. "The families affected deserve compassion, privacy, and support as the investigation proceeds."

Following the fatal crash, the Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Aviation announced the temporary suspension of Flamingo Air's air operator certificate as a precautionary safety measure while investigators examine the circumstances surrounding the accident.

The ministry said the suspension follows two separate aviation safety incidents involving the airline on Friday.

Energy, Utilities and Aviation Minister JoBeth Coleby-Davis said the first incident occurred earlier in the day when another Flamingo Air aircraft,



The site of the Flamingo Air crash that killed 10 people

which was en route to Mayaguana, returned to Nassau after the pilot reported a concern. After the passengers safely disembarked, the aircraft caught fire. No injuries were reported in that inci-

dent, which is also under investigation. Officials have not indicated whether the two incidents are connected.

Authorities said investigations into

both events are ongoing as they work to determine the causes of the incidents. The government said the public will be updated as more confirmed information becomes available.

Jamaica Crime Stop arrests rise 38%

Arrests under Jamaica's Crime Stop Programme increased by 38.2 per cent in 2025, with 76 people apprehended through information provided to the initiative, while rewards paid to informants rose to approximately \$10.3 million.

The figures are contained in the Planning Institute of Jamaica's (PIOJ) Economic and Social Survey Jamaica 2025, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on June 30.

"These outcomes reflected the continued use of the programme as a mechanism for citizen engagement and operational support to policing efforts," the report stated.

The survey noted that although reporting levels and enforcement outcomes fluctuated compared with the previous year, the programme continued to support police operations through arrests, seizures and financial recoveries across several areas.

Meanwhile, Jamaica recorded declines in several major categories of violent crime by the end of 2025.

According to the report, murders declined by 41 per cent to 675 incidents, while shooting incidents fell by 30.8 per cent to 696 cases. Reported rapes also decreased by 26.3 per cent to 325 cases.



However, some categories increased, with aggravated assaults rising by 41.3 per cent to 465 cases. Robberies increased by 8.5 per cent, while break-ins rose by 17 per cent.

The survey reported that 1,528 people were arrested for Category One crimes during 2025.

Murder-related arrests accounted for the largest share, with 481 people arrested, followed by 395 arrests for shooting offences. Robbery accounted for 231 arrests, while 172 people were arrested for aggravated assault.

St. Andrew recorded the highest number of arrests during the year with 297, followed by St. Catherine with 197 and Kingston with 175.

Jamaica’s population grows by just 600 people as birth rates decline

Jamaica’s population was estimated at 2,764,200 at the end of 2025, compared with 2,763,600 in 2024.

This represents a net population increase of just 600 people and a growth rate of 0.0 per cent, according to the 2025 edition of the Economic and Social Survey Jamaica, a publication of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).

According to the survey, Jamaica recorded 28,900 births and an estimated 21,300 deaths in 2025, resulting in a natural increase of 7,600 people. However, migration accounted for a loss of 7,000 individuals, compared with 8,800 in the previous year.

In explaining the low population growth, the PIOJ said Jamaica is undergoing demographic changes consistent with the final stages of the demographic transition model, “which is characterised by low fertility and low mortality rates; this contributes to low or negative population growth.”

“At the same time, demographic shifts are exacerbated by climate-related shocks, which are intensifying vulnerability, as evidenced by the impacts of Hurricane Melissa,” the PIOJ added.

The population changes come amid growing concern over Jamaica’s declining fertility rate, with the country now recording fertility levels below the rate needed to replace its population.

Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton previously said the government is developing a National Fertility and Family Support Strategy aimed at addressing the social and economic challenges influencing family formation.

Tufton said the strategy is not about encouraging Jamaicans to have children for statistical reasons, but about creating conditions where families feel supported.

“The Government is not asking Jamaicans to have children for statistical reasons. It is committed to building conditions where family formation is genuinely affordable, structurally supported, and celebrated,” Tufton said.

The proposed strategy will examine measures including improved financial support for families, childcare assistance, parental leave, reproductive health services and stronger parenting support systems.

Tufton said Jamaica must have a broader national conversation about the factors affecting family decisions.

“It’s time to have a conversation in the interests of preserving families, our communities and society,” he said.

The PIOJ highlighted that Jamaica’s estimated population in 2025 also reflected changes in its age and sex composition. While a relatively large proportion of the population remains within the working age group



Jamaica is concerned over its declining fertility rate

(15–64 years), the country is seeing an increase in the dependent elderly population aged 65 years and over.

The share of the child population (0–14 years), however, continues to decline.

The PIOJ noted that “net migration loss, below replacement level fertility rates and population ageing have all had an impact on the population structure.”

The agency explained that over time, Jamaica has experienced a downward trend in both the crude birth rate and crude death rate. Other notable population trends include smaller household sizes and an increase in single-member households.

The PIOJ said several strategic initiatives continue to be implemented in response to Jamaica’s changing demographics. These initiatives align with national, regional and international frameworks, including Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan; the National Population and Sustainable Development Policy and Programme of Action; the National Policy on International Migration and Development; the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Special emphasis has been placed on social protection, population ageing awareness, below-replacement fertility rates, health and non-communicable diseases, as well as education and skills training.

The PIOJ said investment in these areas is critical to mobilising Jamaica’s relatively large working-age population to support economic growth and sustainable development.

In the areas of international migration, civil registration, and diaspora and development, the agency said collaboration continued among government entities, non-governmental organisations and international development partners.

Key initiatives included mainstreaming the national policy on inter-

national migration and development at the local project level; development of the five-year Implementation Plan for the National Diaspora Policy; updating the national migration database by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica; review of the draft CARICOM Regional Labour Migration Policy Framework and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and dissemination of findings from a study on high-skilled migration in Jamaica, Belize and Grenada.

US imposes sanctions on Cuba’s Tourism Ministry

The United States has imposed sanctions on Cuba’s Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR), accusing the government agency of serving as a major source of revenue for the Cuban regime.

The action was announced Monday by the U.S. Department of State as part of a broader package targeting 10 Cuban entities that Washington says support the government’s economic structure and alleged repression of the Cuban people.

According to the State Department, MINTUR was designated under Executive Order 14404 for being “a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the Government of Cuba.”

The department described MINTUR as Cuba’s government agency responsible for regulating tourism activities in and out of the country and said it “constitutes the largest single player in the tourism sector outside of” the Cuban military-linked business conglomerate Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A. (GAESA).

The sanctions are part of what the State Department called the Trump administration’s effort to target “interlocking pillars” of Cuba’s state apparatus, including entities it says generate revenue for the government and organizations involved in surveillance and repression.

Trinidad signs data centre deals worth potential US\$5 billion with US firms

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with U.S. companies that could pave the way for more than US\$5 billion in investment, including two large-scale data centre projects that officials say could help diversify the country's economy and create more than 5,000 jobs.

The agreements, signed Friday under the administration of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, establish frameworks for cooperation and due diligence on projects involving data centres, artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and the recommissioning of the Point Lisas iron and steel plant.

Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister Sean Sobers signed the MOUs on behalf of the government.

One agreement with Ernst & Young LLP (EY) establishes a framework to develop a 300-megawatt data centre using the company's Energy to Intelligence (E2I) platform.

A second MOU with Hummingbird AI Holdings LLC outlines plans for a proposed 150-megawatt AI infrastructure and data centre, with the potential to expand to 500 megawatts. Initial operations are targeted for the first quarter of 2028, subject to due diligence and the project moving forward.

The third agreement, with Pinnacle Steel and Vanadium Corporation, concerns the refurbishment and recommissioning of the iron and steel plant at Point Lisas. The government said the project could also position Trinidad and Tobago as a supplier of vanadium, a strategic metal used in aerospace and defense industries, with the potential to meet up to 50% of U.S. demand if fully



Kamla Persad-Bissessar

developed.

PLIPDECO, which owns the property where the plant is located, is also a party to the agreement.

A data centre is a highly secure facility that houses thousands of computer servers used to store, process and distribute digital information. They power everything from cloud computing, online banking and streaming services to artificial intelligence applications, government databases and business operations.

The facilities require massive amounts of electricity to keep servers

running continuously and significant cooling systems to prevent equipment from overheating. AI-focused data centres typically consume even more power than traditional facilities because of the intensive computing required to train and operate AI models.

Supporters say attracting hyperscale data centres could help Trinidad and Tobago diversify beyond its oil and gas industry while creating new opportunities in the technology sector.

Large facilities require construction workers during development and create permanent jobs in engineering,

cybersecurity, network management, electrical maintenance and facility operations. They can also attract related businesses, including cloud computing providers and technology firms.

The government said the three proposed projects together could generate more than 5,000 skilled and semi-skilled jobs if they proceed beyond the planning stage.

The announcement has also sparked debate over whether Trinidad and Tobago has the infrastructure needed to support such large facilities.

Data centres are among the most energy-intensive industrial facilities in the world, with AI centres requiring especially high electricity demand. Many also consume large quantities of water for cooling systems, although usage varies depending on the technology employed. Global electricity demand from data centres is projected to continue rising sharply over the remainder of the decade.

Those concerns are particularly relevant in Trinidad and Tobago, where some communities continue to face intermittent water supply. Critics have questioned whether additional demand from large data centres could place further strain on existing water and electricity systems without major infrastructure upgrades.

The agreements signed Friday are non-binding frameworks. Each project must still undergo technical, commercial and regulatory due diligence before any final investment decisions are made.

The government thanked the United States for helping facilitate the partnerships.



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Lennox's career-best spell turns the tide as New Zealand levels ODI Series

Jayden Lennox announced himself on the international stage with a spell to remember, producing a sensational maiden five-wicket haul that propelled New Zealand to a hard-earned five-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second One-Day International (ODI) at Providence Stadium on Monday.

The 22-year-old left-arm spinner, making only his seventh ODI appearance, carved through the West Indies batting lineup with extraordinary precision, returning figures of 5-19 from eight overs, the third-best ODI bowling figures ever recorded by a New Zealand spinner.

His inspired performance bundled the hosts out for just 138 in 36 overs after New Zealand elected to field, before the visitors overcame a few anxious moments during their chase to reach 141-5 in 32.4 overs, leveling the five-match series at 1-1.

For a brief period, the West Indies appeared well positioned to post a competitive total.

Openers John Campbell and Ackeem Auguste combined fluency with aggression, racing to a 63-run opening stand in fewer than 11 overs while keeping the New Zealand attack under pressure.

The breakthrough finally arrived when Michael Bracewell had Auguste caught at point for 18, and the innings unraveled almost immediately afterward.

Campbell, who struck an entertaining 43 from 41 deliveries, fell just three runs later when a sharply skidding delivery from captain Mitchell Santner stayed low and crashed into his off stump.

At 66 for two, the innings shifted dramatically.

Lennox, introduced as the sixth and final bowling option, transformed the contest with a devastating spell that dismantled the middle and lower order.

His first breakthrough came when Shai Hope attempted an ambitious drive, only to see the ball thread



Jayden Lennox

through his defenses and strike the stumps, leaving the West Indies at 86 for three.

Sherfane Rutherford briefly counterattacked, driving Lennox elegantly through extra cover for four, but the response was immediate. On the very next ball, Rutherford played defensively only to watch an inside edge ricochet onto his stumps.

The pressure intensified when Santner produced another gem, bowling Keacy Carty with a sharply turning delivery that clipped the outside of off stump to leave the home side reeling at 108 for five.

Lennox returned to finish the job in emphatic fashion, bowling both Gudakesh Motie and Matthew Forde in successive overs before trapping last

batter Vitel Lawes lbw without scoring to complete his memorable five-wicket haul.

The collapse was staggering. After cruising to 63 without loss, the West Indies surrendered their final 10 wickets for just 75 runs.

Santner complemented Lennox superbly with 2-21, while Bracewell chipped in with 2-51.

Although chasing only 139, New Zealand did not have everything their own way.

Openers Henry Nicholls and Will Young began confidently, adding 35 before Alzarri Joseph struck, trapping Young lbw for 28.

The drama intensified three deliveries later when Mark Chapman was brilliantly run out by Lawes following sharp fielding at cover, and New Zealand's position became more uncertain when Nicholls departed for 17 after his attempted sweep off Gudakesh Motie ballooned to short fine leg.

At 52 for three, the visitors suddenly had work to do.

The recovery came through the composure of Daryl Mitchell and Tom Latham, whose 42-run partnership steadied the innings and effectively wrestled back control.

The West Indies mounted one final challenge when left-arm spinner Khary Pierre dismissed Mitchell for 28 with a stumping before bowling Dean Foxcroft for a duck, reducing New Zealand to 96 for five.

Any hopes of a remarkable turnaround quickly faded, however, as Latham remained composed throughout. The wicketkeeper-batter finished unbeaten on 37, while Bracewell added an unbeaten 24, the pair combining for an unbroken 45-run partnership that carried New Zealand safely across the finish line. Pierre emerged as the West Indies' most effective bowler with 2-33 from nine overs, but Lennox's unforgettable spell had already ensured the visitors would leave Guyana with the momentum, and the series, back on level terms.

Hetmyer recalled as injured Greaves exits West Indies

Shimron Hetmyer has been handed a return to the West Indies' One-Day International (ODI) squad after all-rounder Justin Greaves was ruled out through injury, prompting a mid-series change ahead of the remaining matches against New Zealand.

The powerful Guyanese left-hander, who had initially been unavailable after receiving a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Cricket West Indies (CWI) to honor his Major League Cricket commitments, will now bolster the regional side for the second and third ODIs in Guyana.

Cricket West Indies confirmed the

squad adjustment in an official statement, explaining that Greaves will return home to Barbados to continue his recovery after suffering a back injury.

The 32-year-old all-rounder missed Saturday's opening ODI and will undergo further assessment before a decision is made on his availability for the remainder of the series and the upcoming Test campaign against Pakistan.

"Shimron Hetmyer has been named as a replacement for Justin Greaves in the West Indies ODI squad for the second and third matches of the series against New Zealand in Guyana.

"Greaves was ruled out of Satur-

day's opening ODI with a back injury and will return to Barbados on Monday to continue rehabilitation. He will be reassessed by the medical team ahead of the final two ODIs and the upcoming Test series against Pakistan," the CWI release stated.

Hetmyer's inclusion marks a swift change in fortunes after the 29-year-old was originally left out of the squad because of his Major League Cricket obligations. With Greaves unavailable, selectors have turned to the experienced stroke-maker to strengthen the batting lineup as the West Indies seek to maintain momentum in the five-match series.

Greaves enters rehabilitation on the heels of an outstanding Test campaign against Sri Lanka, where he was named Player of the Series after helping guide the West Indies to a 1-0 victory.

Cricket West Indies also announced that the squad for the final two ODIs, scheduled to be played at Kensington Oval in Barbados, will be named later this week. The West Indies and New Zealand split the opening two ODIs in the five-match series after the hosts' convincing seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first game and the visitors' five-wicket win in the second on Monday.



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Health investments turning Guyana into regional medical hub

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali says Guyana is increasingly establishing itself as a regional medical hub, with sustained investments in the country’s healthcare system reversing the long-standing trend of patients seeking specialised treatment abroad.

The head of state was at the time addressing members of the diaspora, during which he stated that the government’s transformation of the health sector is already producing measurable results, with more patients now travelling to Guyana for treatment while significantly fewer Guyanese require overseas medical care.

Citing the changes in Region Nine, the President said Lethem provides one of the clearest examples of how investments in healthcare infrastructure are improving access to specialised medical services.

“I’ll give you an example. In Lethem, just three years ago, once you had something serious to be done, you had to be medevacked out of Lethem to Georgetown,” the President said. He explained that at the time, approximately 98 per cent of serious medical cases required evacuation to Georgetown, while many patients also travelled across the border to Brazil to access treatment.

Today, however, that trend has been dramatically reversed.

“Less than two per cent are medevacked from Lethem, and we have more persons from Brazil coming to Guyana for treatment,” President Ali said as he attributed the shift to major investments in healthcare facilities and services.

He said the improvements form part of government’s broader vision of positioning Guyana as a world-class hub for healthcare, alongside energy, environmental services and food security.

Against this backdrop, President Ali indicated that the country’s expanding healthcare capacity is benefiting not only Guyanese but also citizens from neighbouring countries and members of the diaspora who are increasingly returning home to access medical services.

“We’re building this infrastructure not only for Guyanese; many persons in the region are benefitting, many persons from the diaspora are coming back now for that health service,” he said.

Further to this, President Ali noted that the transformation extends beyond new hospitals to the introduction of advanced medical procedures and technology.

He highlighted Guyana’s recent completion of what he described as the



President Irfaan Ali addressing members of the Diaspora

world’s longest-distance robotic surgery at the Georgetown Public Hospital, saying the achievement demonstrates the country’s growing capability to deliver specialised healthcare. The President also linked the

country’s health sector transformation to broader investments in technology and public services, noting that government is modernising systems to improve efficiency and accessibility.

As such, he affirmed that the gov-

ernment’s investment in healthcare forms part of a wider national development strategy aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens while positioning Guyana as a leader in key sectors across the region.



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